

UNCLASSIFIED

DOCUMENT_ID: 168130425
INQNO: DOC40D 00099509
DOCNO: TEL 007812 96
PRODUCER: VIENNA
SOURCE: STATE
DOCTYPE: IN
DOR: 19961202
TOR: 113727
DOCPREC: 0
ORIGDATE: 199612021637
MHFNO: 96 6195297
DOCCLASS: U

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
2000

CIA HAS NO OBJECTION TO
DECLASSIFICATION AND/OR
RELEASE OF CIA INFORMATION
IN THIS DOCUMENT

HEADER
OO RUEAIIB
ZNR UUUUU ZOC STATE ZZH
MSI1215
OO RUEHZL RUEHC
DE RUEHVI #7812 3371637
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
O 021637Z DEC 96
FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6982
INFO RUEHLJ/AMEMBASSY LJUBLJANA 2190
RUEHVB/AMEMBASSY ZAGREB 2152
RUEHVK/AMEMBASSY MINSK 0315
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 1089
RUCPDC/USDOC WASHDC
RUEHKV/AMEMBASSY KIEV 0713
RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE
RUEHTV/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV 4484
BT

CONTROLS
UNCLAS VIENNA 007812

DEPT FOR EUR/DAS WAYNE AND EUR/AGS VAN HEUVEN

USDOC FOR U/S EISENSTAT

USEU FOR H. MOORE

USVIENNA FOR USDEL OSCE AND UNVIE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TEXT
TAGS: PGOV, EFIN, PHUM, PREL, AU
SUBJECT: "NAZI GOLD" IN AUSTRIA: A NEW (OLD) STORY

1. SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED. PLEASE TREAT ACCORDINGLY.
2. IN ITS DECEMBER 2 EDITION, THE INDEPENDENT WEEKLY MAGAZINE "PROFIL" CARRIES A REPORT ON "HIDDEN NAZI GOLD" IN THE PROVINCE OF UPPER AUSTRIA. BASING ITS REPORT ON A JULY 1947 U.S. COUNTER INTELLIGENCE CORPS (CIC) DOCUMENT,

UNCLASSIFIED

Page 1

DECLASSIFIED

Authority *NAD 36822*
By *SW* NARA Date *2/8/05*

UNCLASSIFIED

THE AUTHORS OF THE ARTICLE, "PROFIL" CHIEF EDITOR HERBERT LACKNER AND THE JOURNALIST ROBERT BUCHACHER MAINTAIN THAT "SEVERAL CHESTS CONTAINING GOLD AND FOREIGN CURRENCY" WERE STORED BY THE NAZIS IN THE LAST DAYS BEFORE THE END OF WORLD WAR II ON THE "BLAA ALM" NEAR ALTAUSSEE IN THE PROVINCE OF UPPER AUSTRIA. THE 40-PAGE CIC REPORT WAS REPORTEDLY COMPILED BY CIC SPECIAL AGENT FRANK P. DITRICKY AND WAS ENTITLED "CONCEALED GOLD, JEWELRY, FOREIGN EXCHANGE, AND WEAPONS, BELIEVED TO BE LOCATED IN THE SALZKAMMERGUT, IN ZELLER SEE, LAND SALZBURG, AND IN THE TYROL." THE JOURNALISTS DID NOT COMMENT ON HOW THE REPORT CAME INTO THEIR POSSESSION.

3. "PROFIL" CLAIMS THAT THE NAZI GOLD WAS BROUGHT TO THE BLAA ALM BY A GROUP ASSOCIATED WITH **ADOLF EICHMANN**. THE ARTICLE QUOTES THE CIC REPORT AS SAYING THAT, IN 1947, THE GOLD WAS THOUGHT TO BE STILL ON BLAA ALM. LEAVING OPEN THE QUESTION WHETHER THE GOLD IS STILL THERE, THE JOURNALISTS ALLEGE THAT, IN THE 1970'S AND 80'S, CHILDREN OF NAZIS BOUGHT LAND ON BLAA ALM. "PROFIL" ALSO NOTES THAT THE GOLD WAS USED TO ENABLE NAZIS TO ESCAPE. THE ARTICLE EXPLAINS THAT THE GOLD IS, ACCORDING TO THE CIC REPORT, PRIMARILY OF AUSTRIAN ORIGIN, STEMMING FROM CHURCHES, BANKS, PRIVATE AND STATE PROPERTY. "PROFIL" ALSO NOTES THAT PART OF THE GOLD WAS REVENUES DERIVED FROM MONEY RECEIVED FOR JEWS "RANSOMED" BY FOREIGN JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS.

COMMENT

4. "PROFIL" REPORTS ON EXTENSIVE INVESTIGATIONS BY THE AUSTRIAN AUTHORITIES AND THE AMERICAN OCCUPATION FORCES AFTER THE WAR TO TRY TO FIND THE HIDDEN NAZI TREASURE, AS WELL AS EFFORTS BY PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS TRYING TO LOCATE THE GOLD WHILE "HIKING" OR "MUSHROOM HUNTING" ON BLAA ALM. HIDDEN NAZI GOLD HAS BEEN THE SUBJECT OF PUBLIC SPECULATION IN AUSTRIA FOR DECADES; ONE LEGEND CONCERNED A NOTORIOUS TREASURE IN LAKE TOPLITZ IN UPPER AUSTRIA. REGARDLESS OF THE ACCURACY OF THE CIC REPORT, IT REMAINS QUESTIONABLE WHETHER THE NAZI TREASURE STILL EXISTS, AND IF SO, WHETHER IT COULD EVER BE FOUND. A REPORT IN THE DECEMBER 2 EDITION OF THE DAILY "KURIER" CONTAINS THE COMMENT THAT, IN CONTRAST TO THE CASE OF NAZI GOLD HIDDEN IN SWITZERLAND, OWNERS OF ANY TREASURE HIDDEN IN UPPER AUSTRIA WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO TRACE. HUNT

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Page 2

DECLASSIFIED

Authority *NWD 36822*
By *SW* NARA Date *2/8/05*