

EHRI Online Course in Holocaust Studies

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Persecution and Deportation in Western Europe – The Expropriation and Economic Destruction of the Jews in Germany and Western Europe

Translation: *A06 Letter of the Security Police's Commander-in-Chief of the collection of Jewish assets in the Netherlands*

Commander of the Security Police and Security Service

for the Occupied Territory of the Netherlands

[Befehlshaber der Sicherheitspolizei und des SD für den besetzten niederländischen Gebiets]

The Hague, 21 June 1941

Re: Summary of developments in collecting of Jewish assets

#### I. Note

1.) The Security Police had proposed at the meeting held on 19.5.1941 chaired by the Reich Commissioner in the presence of the General Commissioner to begin with preparations for collecting all Jewish assets in the Netherlands by setting up an emigration fund. The Reich Commissioner had decided in principle to approve the collection of Jewish assets and use them to finance the final solution. He wishes however to delegate the carrying out of this to his foremost economic advisor, Minister Dr Fischböek. Minister Dr Fischböek has developed plans for the step-by-step attainment of the overall goal, which are as follows:

a) De-Jewification [Entjudung] of trade and industry, transference of the proceeds to a foundation yet to be established.

b) A unified administration of all of the Jewish property through a realty company. Later, when the overview is complete, corresponding transfer of ownership, initially to a single agency. De-Jewification of property ownership through individual purchasers would take too long, therefore the interceding of a legal entity that can arrange for gradual sale at a later date.

c) Agricultural de-Jewification decree

d) Decree on compulsory depositing of cash and securities, to be deposited in a single bank.

e) Other assets not covered by the aforementioned measures.

2.) From the consultation with Dr Bauer, head of the Bureau of Economic Investigation (Wirtschaftsprüfstelle), on 13.6.1941, it emerged that Dr Fischböek's idea of creating a foundation has been dropped. Instead, an investment and bonds corporation is to be founded in The Hague which will collect the proceeds from the de-Jewification of trade and

industry. Dr Hols, Laan Copes van Cattenburg 44, currently working for the head of the special department of Dr Meijert, has been designated for the post. An advisory board will also be set up. Dr Schröder from Enemy Assets (Feindvermögen) is to also be involved in some capacity. Mr Bauer estimated the value of Jewish business enterprises, including their outstanding accounts, to be between 700 million and one billion Dutch guilders. In total there are 21,000 Jewish business enterprises (this figure covers all commercial operations in the broadest sense, from the smallest broker through to a large industrial corporation). Of these 21,000 enterprises only 1,000 to 1,500 are to be de-Jewified, the rest will be liquidated.

Cash and securities are to be registered on the basis of a special decree. Registration and depositing bureau is to be the bank Lippmann, Rosenthal & Co in Amsterdam. This bank was Jewish and is currently run by the trust administrator Flesche, the President of the German Chamber of Commerce in the Netherlands.

With regard to agricultural property, a de-Jewification decree has already been issued. In the first instance the tenants are to be considered as de-Jewification applicants. Whether the purchase price is to be lodged directly with the Jews and then on the basis of the deposit decree with Lippmann, Rosenthal & Co or through the purchaser with Lippmann, Rosenthal & Co is yet to be decided.

As far as real estate is concerned, according to Mr Bauer's description, the procedure is to be as follows: under Mr Münster a realty company is to be founded with which all properties, including city properties, are to be registered. Over time this company is to take over administration of the Jewish properties and if necessary purchase them. Dr Müller, formerly head of the properties department in the Assets Transfer Bureau [Vermögensverkehrsgesellschaft] in Vienna, is to be designated as staff member for this realty company. Finally, the remaining Jewish assets and properties are to be seized by a special decree.

3.) From the consultation held between Dr Fischböek with SS Lieutenant Rajakowitsch [SS-Obersturmführer] on 19.6.1941, it emerges that the idea to create a special agency to register Jewish property ownership was dropped. Instead, acquisition is to proceed through the investment and bonds corporation. This will achieve a concentration of important items of Jewish assets (namely real estate and proceeds from business, trade and industry) in one agency. No new points have emerged regarding cash and securities.

Minister Dr Fischböek is considering transferring the administration of the collected assets to Senator Böhmek. The Reich Commissioner has however rejected this so far.

translated by Paul Bowman