

II-1/1

RG 84

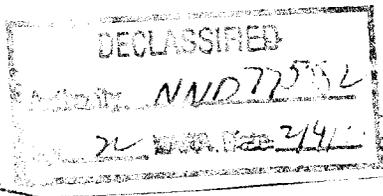
LONDON EMBASSY

GEN'L RECORDS

1944: ~~8-2-807.9~~ 851.5 861.5

Box 299 FOLDER 861.5 GOLD

PURCHASES



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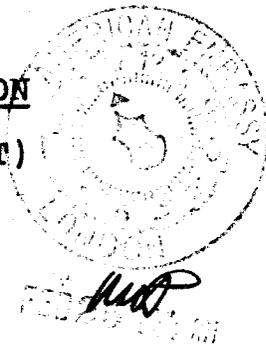
Rec'd. Feb. 22, 1944

10:10 a.m. Feb. 25

INCOMING TELEGRAM

MR. CASADAY FOR ACTION

(FROM THE DEPARTMENT)



AMEMBASSY

LONDON

CIRCULAR, Twenty-second.

There is quoted below the text of a declaration issued by the Secretary of the Treasury at 12 noon Eastern War Time, February 22, 1944. A similar declaration was issued by the United Kingdom and U.S.S.R. Treasuries.

"On January 5, 1943, the United States and certain others of the United Nations issued a warning to all concerned and in particular to persons in neutral countries that they intend to do their utmost to defeat the methods of dispossession practiced by the governments with which they are at war against, the countries and peoples who have been so wantonly assaulted and despoiled. Furthermore it has been announced many times that one of the purposes of the financial and property controls of the United States Government is to prevent the liquidation in the United States of assets looted by the Axis through duress and conquest. One of the particular methods of dispossession practiced by the Axis Powers has been the illegal seizure of large amounts of gold belonging to the nations they have occupied and plundered. The Axis Powers have purported to sell such looted gold to various countries which continue to maintain diplomatic and commercial relations with the Axis, such gold thereby providing an important source of foreign exchange to the Axis and enabling the Axis to obtain much needed imports from these countries. The United States Treasury has already taken measures designed to protect the assets of the invaded countries and to prevent the Axis from disposing of looted currencies, securities and other looted assets on the world market. Similarly the United States Government cannot in any way condone the policy of systematic plundering adopted by the Axis or participate in any way directly or indirectly in the unlawful disposition of looted gold. In view of the foregoing facts and considerations the United States Government formally declares that it does not

851.5 Gold Purchases

and

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INCOMING TELEGRAM

and will not recognize the transference of title to the looted gold which the Axis at any time holds or has disposed of in world markets. It further declares that it will be the policy of the United States Treasury not to buy any gold presently located outside of the territorial limits of the United States from any country which has not broken relations with the Axis or from any country which after the date of this announcement acquires gold from any country which has not broken relations with the Axis unless and until the United States Treasury is fully satisfied that such gold is not gold which was acquired directly or indirectly from the Axis Powers or is not gold which any such country has been or is enabled to release as a result of the acquisition of gold directly or indirectly from the Axis Powers."

⤵ You are instructed to bring the above declaration to the attention of the appropriate officials of the Government to which you are accredited and to inform such officials that it is our sincere hope that their Government will take parallel action. Please repeat to Schoenfeld for transmission to the Governments to which he is accredited. Please also inform the Luxembourg Government in an appropriate manner.

STETTINIUS ACTING

MR. SCHOENFELD (2 Copies to) *wp*

MR. GALLMAN

MR. CASADAY (Copy to) *wp*

MR. ADAMS (2 Copies to)

DR PENROSE (Copy to) *wp*

Original and 10 copies.

| | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| ACTION..... | <i>L. H. ...</i> |
| FILE..... (initials) | <i>J. H. E.</i> |