

Mr. Anderson



PRESS RELEASE

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The Department of External Affairs announced today that the Allied Kommandatura in Berlin on February 16 issued an Order to the City authorities concerning claims to be made by victims of Nazism who were deprived between January 30, 1933, and May 8, 1945, of identifiable property in Berlin because of their race, religion or political opinions. The Order does not apply to property having a total value of less than RM. 1,000 at the time it was confiscated.

Under this Order all persons who were so deprived of their property may now file their claims for restitution with the Treuhaender der Amerikanischen Britischen und Franzoesischen Militaerregierungen Fuer Zwangsverbertragene, Vermoegen, Berlin W.30; Nuernberger Strasse 53/55. Claims in respect of property in any part of Berlin will be accepted by the Claims Registry at the above address, but in present circumstances it will not be possible to take any further action in respect of property in the Eastern Sector of the city.

Claims should be made in triplicate on forms which can be obtained from the Department of External Affairs, Ottawa.

Any person who has already registered his claim to restitution of property in Berlin with the Central Claims Registry for the British Zone at Bad Nenndorf need not submit to Berlin a fresh claim in respect of the same property.

Present owners of property subject to the Order and persons who have knowledge of such property are required within 6 months of the date of the Order to file at the above address in Berlin, declarations in triplicate of the circumstances leading to its present ownership.

The Order will be followed by legislation in the three Western Sectors of Berlin which will provide for the establishment of machinery for the adjudication of claims.