

for Messrs Lippmann Rosenthal & Co. under his control, to supply statements to the managers *appointed by the Netherlands Government*, it would be contrary to the general policy and might be construed as a *recognition* of their *rights*.

Again you intimated that companies transferred would be recognized and that the difficulties would be examined in cooperation between the Canadian and Netherlands authorities. I refer to the above letter of August 4th, 1942.

It has come to my notice however that the Custodian has left a request for release of assets in Canada from one of these companies, Rembours and Industrie Bank, unanswered for over a year.

No attempt to examine difficulties in cooperation with the Legation has been made.

Again you intimated in your letters respectively of November 4th, 1942, No. 86<sup>†</sup> and November 17th, No.90<sup>†</sup>, that the authorities were not averse to the appointed Managers of Lippmann Rosenthal & Co. approaching Barclays Bank for the purpose of persuading that Bank that they are the lawful representatives of said Company.

What I really asked was: "may I take it that it is left to the appointed managers to persuade Barclays Bank that they are the lawful representatives of Lippmann Rosenthal & Co. and that, if they succeed in doing so the Canadian authorities will not prevent the Bank from giving information?"

After some correspondence I received an answer from you, stating that, without prejudice to the Custodian's rights in this matter, he will not object to the Managers approaching Barclays Bank for the purpose of persuading that Bank that they are the lawful representatives of Lippmann Rosenthal and Company. As the second part of my question was left unanswered, I had no reason to believe that the attitude of the Custodian in respect thereof would be different from what he knew was my supposition.

Nevertheless, the Custodian has apparently informed the Bank of Montreal that he declined to authorize them to send to the Managers the statement and details for which they asked.

Apart from the above, which reflects the official attitude in the matter, it is interesting to note that Lippmann Rosenthal & Co. were advised by Barclays Bank as well as by the Royal Bank of Canada that these Banks would be ready to give consideration to the request for information, if the Managers would submit to them a request signed by the authorized officers of Lippmann Rosenthal & Co. as mentioned in the list of signatures on file.

You will no doubt be aware that one of the essential purposes of the Decree A 1 is to prevent business intercourse between Netherlanders abroad and those in occupied territory. These two Banks however formulate requirements, the fulfilment of which would necessitate such intercourse.

I should be grateful to you if through your kind assistance a solution for all these various incidental difficulties could be found on a basis likely to promote harmonious cooperation in future.

I have etc.

F. E. H. GROENMAN