

REQUEST FOR RECORDS DISPOSITION AUTHORITY		LEAVE BLANK (NARA use only)	
To: NATIONAL ARCHIVES & RECORDS ADMINISTRATION 8601 ADELPHI ROAD, COLLEGE PARK, MD 20740-6001		JOB NUMBER <i>NI-131-08-3</i>	
1. FROM (Agency or establishment) Department of Justice		Date Received <i>9/19/08</i>	
2. MAJOR SUB DIVISION Civil Division		NOTIFICATION TO AGENCY	
3. MINOR SUBDIVISION Office of Alien Property		In accordance with the provisions of 44 U.S.C 3303a, the disposition request, including amendments is approved except for items that may be marked "disposition not approved" or "withdrawn" in column 10.	
4. NAME OF PERSON WITH WHOM TO CONFER Larry J. Easterling <i>Larry Easterling</i>	5. TELEPHONE (202) 616-8074	DATE <i>23 NOV 09</i>	ARCHIVIST OF THE UNITED STATES <i>[Signature]</i>
6. AGENCY CERTIFICATION <i>9/14/2008</i> I hereby certify that I am authorized to act for this agency in matters pertaining to the disposition of its records and that the records proposed for disposal on the attached _____ page(s) are not needed now for the business of this agency or will not be needed after the retention periods specified; and that written concurrence from the General Accounting Office, under the provisions of Title 8 of the GAO Manual for Guidance of Federal Agencies, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> is not required <input type="checkbox"/> is attached; or <input type="checkbox"/> has been requested.			
DATE <i>9/12/2008</i>	SIGNATURE OF AGENCY REPRESENTATIVE <i>Jeanette Plante</i> Jeanette Plante		TITLE Director, Office of Records Management Policy, JMD Department of Justice
7. ITEM NO.	8. DESCRIPTION OF ITEM AND PROPOSED DISPOSITION	9. GRS OR SUPERSEDED JOB CITATION	10. ACTION TAKEN (NARA USE ONLY)
	See attached sheets RECORDS OF THE OFFICE OF ALIEN PROPERTY (RG-131), CIVIL DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE Records of the Overseas Branch (Munich Field Office) (1945-1983) In late-1945, the Justice Department established a "Mission" in Berlin to conduct investigations and to mine and collect documentation in Europe related to the vesting of enemy property and assets under the Trading with the Enemy Act by the Office of Alien Property. As cold war tensions rose between east and west, the Mission moved to Munich in 1948 and became known as the "Overseas Branch." Staffed by as many as 22 attorneys and investigators and 60 to 90 support staff, members of this office traveled widely to obtain testimony and documentary evidence concerning enemy ownership of property vested during World War II and through 1953. The information gathered permitted the vesting of additional property and justified the government's claim to the property already seized. It also provided support for U.S. claim to such property in		

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1.	<p>significant litigation that involved hundreds of millions of dollars. One large special investigation, the German Records Screening Project, uncovered and documented official German government cloaking of assets through an examination of the records of various Reich Ministries.</p> <p>By 1959, the office had concluded most of its routine work, but the remaining claims and litigation cases were substantial, complex, and hard-fought. The largest of these involved the Interhandel (I.G. Chemie) case, which ultimately resulted in the government's sale of the G.A.F. corporation on the New York Stock Exchange for \$330,000,000. By 1967, most of the important alien property cases had closed, but the work of the office continued in other areas. It provided substantial assistance to the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission's disbursement of liquidated enemy property to American persons or corporations. In this effort, the office used its experience, contacts, and access to obtain evidence and information from both Western and Eastern Europe. Additionally, demand increased for the office's assistance in non-alien property litigation matters for the Department of Justice. While the office had always provided some such assistance, the need increased dramatically in the 1950s and 1960s as a result of U.S. political and military involvement in Europe. With the growth of such cases, the office came under the direction of the Civil Division's "Foreign Litigation Unit" (later renamed the "Office of Foreign Litigation") in 1967 and formally became a Civil Division field office in 1971. This non-alien property litigation function of the office continued, and the Civil Division later relocated the office to London.</p> <p>Organization and History of Overseas Branch (Munich Field Office) (1945-1967)</p> <p>Documentation concerning the history of the Overseas Branch of the Department of Justice; its founding; the nature and evolution of its responsibilities; its relationship with other U.S. government agencies (including the State Department and the U.S. High Commissioner for Germany [HICOG]); and its relationship with the German government with respect to the conduct of its duties and the taking depositions from German citizens within Germany. (1 cubic foot)</p> <p>Disposition: PERMANENT. Transfer to WNRC immediately. Transfer to National Archives in the year 2010.</p>		

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2.	<p>Interhandel Case File Materials (1920-1965)</p> <p>Extensive documentation gathered by the Overseas Branch for use in the Interhandel litigation (Societe Internationale pour Participation Industrielles Et Commercials S.A. v. Attorney General of the United States; Office of Alien Property litigation file number 9-21-1335). The Swiss holding company Interhandel (also known as I.G. Chemie) brought suit against the Attorney General in October 1948 for return of 93 percent of the stock of General Aniline and Film Corporation (GAF), which the Office of Alien Property had vested under the provisions of the Trading With the Enemy Act. After long and contentious litigation, the parties settled the case in 1963, and the United States sold its interests in GAF on March 9, 1965, in what was the largest competitive auction in Wall Street history, for \$330 million. Through the settlement, Interhandel netted \$122 million from the sale, after having offered to settle the case in 1950 for \$14 million. (74 cubic feet) (The National Archives accessioned 295 cubic feet of litigation case file records for the Interhandel case through NARA Job No. N1-131-86-24.)</p> <p>Disposition: PERMANENT. Transfer to WNRC immediately. Transfer to National Archives in the year 2010.</p>		
3.	<p>German Records Screening Project (1929-1952)</p> <p>The German Records Screening Project reviewed and copied an enormous quantity of German government and company records. The records here consist of summaries, extracts, and copies of key documents of the Reich Ministries of Economics and Finance, of the much-feared Foreign Exchanges Control Offices (Devisenstellen), of foreign trade authorities, and of banks active in foreign trade. It also includes records of large companies engaged in foreign trade and commerce and of auditing firms (including, e.g., Price-Waterhouse and similar firms). The project's research and document collection emphasized U.S. assets and interests. Additionally, the project included "Forms MGAX," which all Germans who owned assets abroad had to file, as required pursuant to Military Government Law No. 53, sub. II. (19 cubic feet)</p> <p>Disposition: PERMANENT. Transfer to WNRC immediately. Transfer to National Archives in the year 2010.</p>		
4.	<p>Conspiracy of Cloaking Documentation (1930-1959)</p> <p>As a sub-project of the "German Records Screening Project," the Overseas Branch reviewed and collected records that documented the German government sponsored scheme ("conspiracy") of cloaking German-owned foreign assets (including, especially, those located in the U.S.) . German "cloaking" efforts sought to preserve sources of German revenue and to avoid seizure of those foreign assets by the various Allied powers. (18 cubic feet)</p> <p>Disposition: PERMANENT. Transfer to WNRC immediately. Transfer to National Archives in the year 2010.</p>		

REQUEST FOR RECORDS DISPOSITION AUTHORITY – CONTINUATION	JOB NUMBER	PAGE
		4 OF 9

7. ITEM NO.	8. DESCRIPTION OF ITEM AND PROPOSED DISPOSITION	9. GRS OR SUPERSEDED JOB CITATION	10. ACTION TAKEN (NARA USE ONLY)
5.	<p>Reciprocal Rights of Inheritance under German Law (1941-1954)</p> <p>A detailed study of German law, with examples and supporting documents from probate records, conducted in Germany between 1948 and 1951 at the request of the Office of Alien Property in Washington, D.C. The study was of great importance to the implementation of part of the Trading with the Enemy Act, in as much as ten states in the United States "required" reciprocity. The study, with samples of records, showed that inheritance from estates of Germans by American heirs was recognized, even during the war years. The right of the Office of Alien Property to collect vested estate assets of German ("enemy") heirs depended on the existence and proof of "reciprocity." (8 cubic feet)</p> <p>Disposition PERMANENT Transfer to WNRC immediately. Transfer to National Archives in the year 2010.</p>		
6.	<p>Assistance to Foreign Claims Settlement Commission (1964-1980)</p> <p>Various documents related to the assistance that the Overseas Branch provided to several programs of the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission (FCSC) to disburse liquidated enemy property to American persons and corporations seeking compensation for damages and injuries suffered through military or other means during World War II. For the FCSC's General War Claims Program (1964-1968) and East German Claims Program (1977-1981), the Overseas Branch provided the FCSC with direct employee assistance and used its experience, contacts, and access to research information about the property involved, producing about 25,000 documented reports for the FCSC. (3 cubic feet)</p> <p>Disposition: PERMANENT. Transfer to WNRC immediately. Transfer to National Archives in the year 2010.</p>		
7.	<p>Bank voor Handel & Scheepvaart (Baron Thyssen Bornemisza) (1952-1972)</p> <p>Documentation associated with the collection of information for and participation in U.S. v. Bank voor Handel & Scheepvaart (Baron Thyssen Bornemisza), an important Alien Property litigation in the Dutch courts, eventually rising to that country's Supreme Court. Although this was an Alien Property litigation, the main case file for it in Washington, D.C., was maintained as an ordinary Justice Department case in the duplex-numeric classification system, as DJ number 163-28-3. That file (consisting of 9 sections) was lawfully, but unwisely, destroyed in 1991. The files from the Munich office contain only correspondence and copies of evidentiary documents. The Office of Alien Property's vested asset case files associated with this matter are D-49-263 and D-49-254. (2 cubic feet)</p> <p>Disposition: PERMANENT. Transfer to WNRC immediately. Transfer to National Archives in the year 2010.</p>		

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8.	<p>Assistance to Investigations of War Criminals (1977-1983)</p> <p>Various documentation associated with assistance that the Overseas Branch gave to the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations (Criminal Division) in its pursuit of war criminals from World War II. (1 cubic foot)</p> <p>Disposition: PERMANENT. Transfer to WNRC immediately. Transfer to National Archives in the year 2010.</p>		
9	<p>Litigation Case Files (1941-1967)</p> <p>Files in the Overseas Branch associated with Alien Property litigation handled in Washington, D C The Washington case files (class 9-21-NS files) transferred to the National Archives as permanent records through NARA Job No. N1-131-86-27, Item 2. The files here contain documentation associated with the investigation of facts and the collection of evidence involved in these cases. (50 cubic feet)</p> <p>Disposition: PERMANENT. Transfer to WNRC immediately. Transfer to National Archives in the year 2010.</p>		
10	<p>Intercustodial and Foreign Funds Files (1949-1954)</p> <p>Various minor files where the Overseas Branch investigated the whereabouts or ownership of property either thought to belong to an Alien Enemy (file 037-40) or to involve intercustodial questions (037-51). Similar files were appraised as Permanent records through NARA Job No. N1-131-87-1, Item 13. (1 inch)</p> <p>Disposition: PERMANENT. Transfer to WNRC immediately. Transfer to National Archives in the year 2010.</p>		
11	<p>Vested Asset Report Case Files (1941-1967)</p> <p>Case files maintained in the Overseas Branch that pertain to specific alien property, its vesting, management, and disposition These files carry the same file numbers as the primary vested property files maintained in Washington, D.C., and contain documentation related to the efforts of the Overseas Branch to investigate ownership of the property and to collect any relevant documentation. As such, they supplement the corresponding Washington, D.C., files, which are scheduled as Temporary records through NARA Job No. N1-131-01-1, Item 23. (6 cubic feet)</p> <p>Disposition: PERMANENT. Transfer to NARA in the year 2010.</p>		

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12	<p>Cases To Be Developed (1946-1957)</p> <p>Correspondence and investigative reports of the Overseas Branch concerning estates, legacies, trusts, etc., under consideration for vesting. Classified in the "017-" file series. Similar files were appraised as Temporary records in NARA Job No. N1-131-00-2, Item 6.B.2. (3 inches)</p> <p>Disposition: PERMANENT. Transfer to NARA in the year 2010.</p>		
13.	<p>Litigation Binders (1949-1973)</p> <p>Binders containing copies of mostly outgoing correspondence from the Overseas Branch to the Litigation Branch of the Office of Alien Property in Washington, D.C. This correspondence conveys information, reports, and documents that the Overseas Branch had collected in Europe at the request of the Litigation Branch, which was responsible for litigation involving most Alien Property matters other than estates and trusts in courts of first instance. These binders also include correspondence conveying information and reports to other components of the Department of Justice concerning some non-Alien Property civil and criminal matters. Organized alphabetically by name of the subject of investigation. Documentation of record value should be located in relevant Washington, D.C., files. (4 cubic feet)</p> <p>Disposition: PERMANENT Transfer to NARA in the year 2010.</p>		
14.	<p>Claims Correspondence Binders (1948-1965)</p> <p>Binders containing copies of correspondence and reports conveying information and documents that the Overseas Branch had gathered in Europe at the request of the the Claims Branch in Washington, D.C. The Claims Branch (later the Claims Section) processed all Alien Property title claims for the return of property and all debt claims. Documents in the binders are organized alphabetically by name of the subject of the investigation. Documentation of record value should be located in relevant Washington, D.C., files. (8 cubic feet)</p> <p>Disposition: PERMANENT Transfer to NARA in the year 2010.</p>		

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15.	<p>Estates and Trusts Binders (1949-1957)</p> <p>Binders containing copies of outgoing correspondence and reports that the Overseas Branch made to the Estates and Trusts Branch of the Office of Alien Property in Washington, D.C. The Estates and Trusts Branch used the provided information in executing an integrated estates and trusts program covering the pre-vesting participation of the Office in probate matters; the vesting of estates, trusts, and interests in insurance policies; the post-vesting management of estates and trusts; and litigation involving estates and trusts in courts of first instance. Documents in the binders are organized alphabetically by name of the subject of the investigation. Documentation of record value should be located in relevant Washington, D.C., files. (4 cubic feet)</p> <p>Disposition: PERMANENT. Transfer to NARA in the year 2010.</p> <p>Operations Binders (1943-1953)</p>		
16.	<p>Binders containing copies of outgoing correspondence and reports that conveyed requested information and documents to the Operations Branch of the Office of Alien Property in Washington, D.C. The Operations Branch used the provided information in the identification, establishment of proof of ownership, and the vesting of certain enemy-owned assets; the collection and custody of vested securities and other tangible property, including their reduction to possession, cash collection, and processing of securities; the vesting and administration of patents; and the management and sale of real estate, mortgages, and tangible personal property. Documents in the binders are organized alphabetically by name of the subject of the investigation. Documentation of record value should be located in relevant Washington, D.C., files. (5 cubic feet)</p> <p>Disposition: PERMANENT. Transfer to NARA in the year 2010.</p> <p>Liquidation Binders (1954-1969)</p>		
17.	<p>Binders containing copies of outgoing and incoming correspondence between the Overseas Branch and the Office of Alien Property in Washington, D.C., concerning the collection of information and documentation in Europe needed to effect the liquidation of property vested by the Alien Property Custodian. Organized alphabetically by name of the party or company being investigated. Documentation of record value should be located in relevant Washington, D.C., files. (1 cubic foot)</p> <p>Disposition: PERMANENT. Transfer to NARA in the year 2010.</p>		

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18.	<p>Intercustodial Binders (1951-1959)</p> <p>Binders containing copies of Overseas Branch correspondence to the Office of Alien Property in Washington, D.C., concerning the collection of information and documents in Europe related to intercustodial matters. These involved vested property where multiple allied powers had conflicting claims to enemy property seized within the borders of those allied powers through their respective enemy asset seizure programs. These conflicts were resolved through negotiations and multinational agreements rather than litigation. Organized alphabetically by name of the individual or company associated with the property. Documentation of record value should be located in relevant Washington, D.C., files. (1 cubic foot)</p> <p>Disposition: PERMANENT. Transfer to NARA in the year 2010.</p>		
19.	<p>Trademark Files (1953-1957)</p> <p>Working files related to a small number of specific trademarks vested through the Alien Property program. Documentation of record value should be located in relevant Washington, D.C., files (1 cubic foot)</p> <p>Disposition: PERMANENT. Transfer to NARA in the year 2010.</p>		
20.	<p>Miscellaneous Subject Files (1944-1975)</p> <p>Minor files maintained in the Civil Division's Munich Field Office until the mid-1990s dealing with miscellaneous topics that did not fall within larger subject file collections. The files are associated primarily with the business of the Office of Alien Property in post-war Europe, but some also pertain to the foreign litigation business of the Civil Division of the Justice Department. (2 cubic feet)</p> <p>Disposition: PERMANENT. Transfer to NARA in the year 2010.</p>		
21.	<p>Miscellaneous Reference Publications (1945-1975)</p> <p>Reference publications concerning Germany, employed in the conduct of the work of the Overseas Branch. (1 cubic foot)</p> <p>Disposition: PERMANENT. Transfer to NARA in the year 2010.</p>		
22.	<p>Handbooks of German Stock Corporations (1951-1952)</p> <p>Copies of Handbuch der Deutschen Aktien Gesellschaften, employed in the work of the Overseas Branch. (2 cubic feet)</p> <p>Disposition: PERMANENT. Transfer to NARA in the year 2010.</p>		

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23	<p>Allied Occupation Law (1945-1955)</p> <p>Gazettes proclaiming laws, regulations, directives, and decisions of the Allied High Commission for Germany. (2 cubic feet)</p> <p>Disposition: PERMANENT. Transfer to NARA in the year 2010.</p>		
24	<p>Berlin Telephone Directories (1946-1953)</p> <p>Berlin telephone directories from the late 1940s and early 1950s, apparently used in the Justice Department's Overseas Branch. (1 cubic foot)</p> <p>Disposition: PERMANENT. Transfer to NARA in the year 2010.</p>		