DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652, Sec 3(E) and 5(D) or (E) NNDG# 760050

894.51611/1-145--12-3146 - 47. 48-49

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652, Sec 3(E) and 5(D) or (E) NNDG# 760050

CHARGE SLIP

File No. 894.51611

Enclosure	Charge to—	Date	Clerk's initials	Remarks
2-15-46	SEA	4-16-46	mf	A24 apr 15 to B

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 1—1433

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652, Sec 3(E) and 5(D) or (E) NNDG# 760050

CHARGE SLIP

File No. 894.51611

CHARGE TO—	DATE	CLERK'S INITIALS	REMARKS
SEA	4-16-46	mp	A 24 apr 15 to Bangkok

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652, Sec 3(E) and 5(D) or (E) NNDG# 760050

SEA
DC/R

TO BE TRANSMITTED
SECRET
CONFIDENTIAL
RESTRICTED

AIRGRAM SENT

Department of State

UNRESTRICTED

NO. A-24

Washington,

TIME

1513

American Legation,

Bangkok, (Siam).

1513
April 15, 1946

x R & UD.5-1 FC 92

894.5611 / 2-1846

The Department has been advised by the Alien Property Custodian that the superintendent of banks in the State of New York, who is supervising the liquidation of the Sumitomo Bank, Ltd., of New York, has been unable to find any reference in the books of the bank to the Pisal Panite Trading Company of Bangkok (URDES 49 FEB 18). It is entirely possible that the account of the Pisal Panite Trading Company has been recorded in the books of the Sumitomo Bank under the name of another corporation, possibly the Banca Commerciale Italiana, Torino, Italy, and search for such account is now being made.

x R
740.00113 PW
840.51 FC 92

The Alien Property Custodian has suggested that the Legation supply the Department with further information on the Pisal Panite Trading Company's account with the Sumitomo Bank, including the date on which the account was opened, the name or names under which the account was carried and the amounts deposited to the account. The Alien Property Custodian believes that rapid disposition of the Pisal Panite Trading Company's claim can be made upon its proper identification.

Byrnes

(Robert Lowe Meffer)

Byrnes

894.5611/2-1846
CS/A

DCI OFD Unit	
Anal	mgs
Rev.	
Cat.	
Dist.	

SEA:WSBLacy:oc
4/12/46

ES
cleared with
Mr. Cc. Baker
2089L

CR
APR 12
5 PM
P.M.

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652, Sec 3(E) and 5(D) or (E) NNDG# 760050

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

RECEIVED
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
1946 MAR 12 PM 1 59
DC/R
RECORDS BRANCH

AMERICAN LEGATION

Bangkok, Siam
February 18, 1946.

No. 49.

UNRESTRICTED

SUBJECT: Frozen Account of Siamese Firm in Sumitomo Bank, Ltd. in New York.

The charge d'affaires has the honor to report that a letter has been received from the Ministry of Foreign Affaires in Bangkok concerning the dollar account of a local firm which is frozen in New York and requesting information regarding the possibility of having this released.

The local firm is the Pisal Panite Trading Company of Bangkok and it is stated that during 1941 before the outbreak of war in the Pacific they had an account with the branch office of the Sumitomo Bank, Ltd., New York with a credit balance of $6,455 which sum had been remitted from the Banca Commerciale Italiana, Torino, Italy, by order of the Bank of Asia for Industry and Commerce, Bangkok, Siam.

Judging by the name the New York bank presumably was Japanese and no further information regarding details of the account have been furnished but the Legation will appreciate a report on the status of the matter which can be furnished to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on behalf of the local firm.

851.6

CEBrookhart:hhl

Original and hectograph to the Department.

UNRESTRICTED.

DIVISION OF FINANCIAL AFFAIRS
APR 3 1946
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS
APR 12 1946
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN AFFAIRS
APR 16 1946
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF ECONOMIC SECURITY CONTROLS
APR 18 1946
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF JAPANESE AFFAIRS
APR 16 1946
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DCI
Dist.
APR 19 1946
HECTO
~~OZALID~~
SENT TO FR

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652, Sec 3(E) and 5(D) or (E) NNDG# 760050

IN REPLY, PLEASE REFER TO FILE NUMBER

F-39 - 177

PB:CJH:FMR

OFFICE OF ALIEN PROPERTY
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

Instructions drafted and letter sent

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
RECEIVED
FEB 18 1947
DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

January 21, 1947

Mr. Walter S. Surrey, Chief
Division of Economic Security Controls
Department of State
Washington 25, D. C.

Re: The Yokohama Specie Bank, Ltd. (New York)
Vesting Order Number 915

Dear Mr. Surrey:

It will be appreciated if a request can be made to the appropriate diplomatic or consular officials for an investigation in China to obtain information needed in connection with the liquidation of the above-named bank. This liquidation is being conducted under the supervision of the Office of Alien Property by the Superintendent of Banks of the State of New York.

The information is desired to assist the Superintendent of Banks in meeting a claim for the recovery of $60,387.73 from the New York agency of The Yokohama Specie Bank, Ltd. This action is referred to as Neil C. Potter v. The Yokohama Specie Bank, Ltd.

The Yokohama Specie Bank, Ltd., prior to the war, was licensed by the Superintendent of Banks to maintain an agency in the City of New York for the purpose of doing a limited banking business. Upon the outbreak of the war on December 8, 1941, the Superintendent of Banks took possession of the business and property in New York of The Yokohama Specie Bank, Ltd. for the purpose of liquidation under the provisions of the Banking Law of the State of New York. Under Section 606(4) of the Banking Law, only certain creditors of Yokohama Specie Bank, Ltd. are permitted to share in this liquidation. On February 26, 1943, the Alien Property Custodian, by Vesting Order No. 915, vested the excess proceeds which may remain after liquidation.

In the event that the plaintiff in this action is not entitled to prove his claim and the action is dismissed, whatever surplus the Alien Property Custodian vested on behalf of the Government would be correspondingly increased. It is therefore in the interest of the Federal Government, as well as the Superintendent of Banks as liquidator, that the desired information be obtained from China.

DOR
Anal
Rev
Dat
Dist

927
Hahn: DCR
#660 approved (2 copies) to
(1) draft communication to China
(2) Reply to attaching O.A.P. attaching copy of communication

894.5161/1-2147

CS/A Sec. 5161/1-2147

FILED

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652, Sec 3(E) and 5(D) or (E) NNDG# 760050

The following is a summary of the circumstances which gave rise to the action by Neil C. Potter referred to above:

1. On July 18, 1941, a cable was received by the New York Agency of Yokohama Specie Bank from the Shanghai office of Yokohama Specie Bank advising that Hua Hsing Commercial Bank of Shanghai had opened a confirmed and irrevocable letter of Credit B#14, in favor of Neil C. Potter, the seller, for the account of a concern known as Maruzen Sekiyu Kabushiki Kaisha, the purchaser, of #16 The Bund, Shanghai. This letter of credit was to the extent of $221,000.00, covering 10,000 barrels of lubricating oil to be sent from New Orleans to Shanghai, and the letter of credit expired on August 15, 1941. Upon receipt of the cable, the New York Agency confirmed the letter of credit to Neil C. Potter. Under the confirmation of the letter of credit, Potter presented on July 25, 1941 Bills of Lading and received payment of $151,896.10. On the same date, the New York Agency, in connection with that payment, sent a letter to Yokohama Specie Bank, Ltd., Shanghai, a copy of which is enclosed herewith. Thereafter, the State Department refused to permit shipment of oil from New Orleans to Shanghai consigned to the purchaser.

2. Potter claims that by cable communication with the purchaser in Shanghai, he arranged for modification of the original agreement. As to this alleged modification and transactions thereunder, the Superintendent has not been able to obtain any information whatsoever. Under this modification, Potter claims he agreed with the purchaser as follows:

(a) The letter of credit should be extended to November 15, 1941.

(b) Potter was permitted to ship the oil to the purchaser at Manila instead of Shanghai.

(c) Potter would be entitled to payment upon forwarding the bills of lading directly to the purchaser in Shanghai instead of surrendering the bills of lading to the New York Agency of Yokohama Specie Bank.

3. Potter claims that under the alleged modification, the purchaser received shipment of 2,376 barrels of oil subsequent to September 26, 1941 at Manila, from the S/S Zoella Lykes, but that he has never received payment for these 2,376 barrels totalling $60,387.73 either from the purchaser in Japan or from any other source.

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652, Sec 3(E) and 5(D) or (E) NNDG# 760050

In order that the Superintendent of Banks may be properly prepared to meet this claim, it is important that the following facts be obtained:

(a) What was the exact transaction between Hua Hsing Commercial Bank and Yokohama Specie Bank, Ltd. in Shanghai, under which Hua Hsing requested Yokohama Specie Bank to confirm and make irrevocable in New York the letter of credit which Hua Hsing issued in favor of Potter? In this connection, did the purchaser, Maruzen Sekiyu Kabushiki Kaisha, deposit any security or "cover" with Hua Hsing for the issuance of the letter of credit? If so, what was the nature of the security or "cover" and what disposition has been made of it? Likewise, did Hua Hsing deposit any security or "cover" with the Shanghai office of Yokohama Specie Bank for the confirmation of the letter of credit by Yokohama Specie Bank in New York? If so, what was the nature of the security or "cover" with Yokohama Specie Bank and what disposition was made of it?

(b) What were the exact terms of the modification which Potter claims he effected with the purchaser as set forth in the paragraph numbered 2 above, under which, instead of shipping the oil to Shanghai, it was shipped to Manila and instead of presenting the bills of lading to the New York Agency of Yokohama Specie Bank, he forwarded the bills of lading directly to the purchaser? In connection with this alleged modification, what arrangements did Potter make with the purchaser for payment of $60,387.73 when the purchaser received the bills of lading and the oil at Manila? It does not seem likely that Potter would voluntarily surrender the bills of lading to the purchaser at Shanghai without in some way arranging for payment to himself. It is quite conceivable that Potter may have already been paid for this $60,387.73 through some credit set up in his favor either in Shanghai or Manila.

(c) Did the Hua Hsing Commercial Bank or did Yokohama Specie Bank, Ltd., Shanghai, participate in any respect in making the alleged modification and if so, what was the actual extent of their participation?

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652, Sec 3(E) and 5(D) or (E) NNDG# 760050

On October 2, 1946 the Office of the Superintendent of Banks addressed inquiries on this matter to Hua Hsing Commercial Bank in Shanghai and the representative of The Yokohama Specie Bank, Ltd. in Shanghai, but to date has received no reply. A request for information was also made to the representative of The Yokohama Specie Bank, Ltd. in Manila, the response being that the bulk of the records of that bank have been destroyed.

This Office will greatly appreciate the assistance of the State Department in obtaining the desired information.

Very truly yours,

Philip Blacklow

Philip Blacklow, Acting Chief
Division of Vesting

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652, Sec 3(E) and 5(D) or (E) NNDG# 760050

C
O
P
Y

July 25, 1941

THE YOKOHAMA SPECIE BANK,LTD.
SHANGHAI

Re: Hua Hsing Commerciale Bank L/C #14
favor of Neil C. Potter

Gentlemen:

In connection with the above Letter of Credit, we hereby confirm our cable to you of today reading as follows:

"Convey the following message to Hua Hsing Commercial Bank your Letter of Credit 14 we have negotiated against same as follows $151896.10 cable charges $4.87".

We have debited "Shanghai Their H.H. a/c" with the above amount of $151896.10 plus $4.87 for the cost of our cable.

The relative documents are enclosed herewith as follows:

1 receipt for $90,489.11 1 invoice 2/3 bills of lading	) -	covering 4,569 barrels Lubricating Oil
1 receipt for $61,406.99 1 invoice 2/3 bills of lading	) -	covering 3,034 barrels Lubricating Oil

Shipments per SS "Zoella Lykes" from New Orleans to Shanghai

The remaining documents consisting of duplicate receipt, 1 invoice and 1/3 bill of lading, for each set, will be forwarded to you with the duplicate of this letter.

We shall appreciate your remitting our commission of 1/16% by C/N.

Kindly acknowledge receipt of the enclosures.

Yours very truly

THE YOKOHAMA SPECIE BANK, LIMITED

P.P. Agent.

GRF:MJ
ENC

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652, Sec 3(E) and 5(D) or (E) NNDG# 760050

FEB 141947

RESTRICTED

No. 248

To the
Officer in Charge of the American Mission,
Nanking.

The Secretary of State transmits herewith a copy of a letter dated January 21, 1947 addressed to Mr. Walter S. Surrey, Chief, Division of Economic Security Controls, Department of State, from Mr. Philip Blacklow, Acting Chief, Division of Vesting, Office of Alien Property, Department of Justice, concerning the Yokohama Specie Bank, Ltd. of New York.

It is requested that an appropriate investigation be conducted to obtain the information requested in the attached letter and that the results of such investigation be forwarded to the Department for transmittal to the Department of Justice.

Enclosure:

Copy of letter from Mr. Philip Blacklow, Department of Justice, dated January 21, 1947.

DCR OFD Unit
A true copy of the signed original

ZS:EMAdams:ejm 1-29-47 EE/E CA

894.5161/1-2147
CS/A

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652, Sec 3(E) and 5(D) or (E) NNDG# 760050

1358

FEB 14 1947

In reply refer to
ES

894.516II/1-2147

My dear Mr. Blacklow:

Reference is made to your letter of January 21, 1947 concerning the Yokohama Specie Bank, Ltd. (New York) Vesting Order No. 915.

Your letter is being transmitted to the American Embassy at Nanking with the request that an appropriate investigation be conducted to obtain the information desired. When the results of such investigation are transmitted to the Department of State, we will forward them to you.

Sincerely yours,

Walter S. Surrey
Chief
Division of Economic Security Controls

DCR OFD Unit

pk

als

kb

A/SC

A true copy of the signed original.

Mr. Philip Blacklow, Acting Chief,
Division of Vesting,
Office of Alien Property,
Department of Justice,
Washington 25, D. C.

1
2K
OR

FEB 14 1947 P.M.

ES:EMAdams:bbw 2-10-47 EE/E CA

A true copy of the signed original.

6712-1/1195 768

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652, Sec 3(E) and 5(D) or (E) NNDG# 760050

1649

JUN 24 1947

894.5161 11/5-2747

UNCLASSIFIED

No. 519

To the

United States Political Adviser to the

Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers,

Tokyo.

The Secretary of State requests the assistance of the Office of the Political Adviser in determining whether the records of the Sumitomo Bank, Osaka, Japan indicate credits in the amount of $6,455.00 in favor of a Siamese firm named Pisal Panite Trading Company. The Royal Siamese Embassy at Washington, which has solicited the aid of the Department in tracing the account mentioned, states that the credits originated with the Banca Commerciale Italiana, Torino, Italy, sometime before the United States entered the war against Japan. These credits were reported to have been transferred to the New York branch of the Sumitomo Bank instead of direct to Japan because of foreign exchange restrictions. However, there appears to be considerable doubt about the latter transfer, since the Liquidation Bureau, Foreign Department, State of New York Banking Department has been cited by agents of the Pisal Panite Trading Company as stating that,

> "...the record disclosed that the sum in question represented the unutilized portion of a credit established on behalf of Pisal Panite Trading Company which was transmitted on February 27, 1941 by the Torino Office of the Banca Commerciale Italiana to the Osaka Office of the Sumitomo Bank via the New York office of the respective banks; that the amount in question was actually received by the Sumitomo Bank, New York, from the Banca Commerciale Italiana, New York, and credited by it to the Osaka Office of the Sumitomo Bank; that thereafter Sumitomo Bank, Osaka, requested Sumitomo Bank, New York, to repay the amount to the Torino office of the Banca Commerciale Italiana but Torino refused to accept payment; that as matter stood the records of Sumitomo Bank, New York, did not reflect any amount due and owing to Pisal Panite Trading Company; and that the fund received from Banca Commeriale Italiana had been transferred by cable to Osaka and so it would appear that Pisal Panite Trading Company has a claim against Sumitomo Bank, Osaka".

It is

CS/JRC

(4-47-5/11915.744)

DOR - OFD Unit
Anal
Rev.
Cat.
Dist.

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652, Sec 3(E) and 5(D) or (E) NNDG# 760050

1141

751b

It is realized, of course, that even if the account mentioned is found in the records of the Sumitomo Bank at Osaka, no means exist for the current transfer of such private funds located in Japan. However, the possession of such information as the Office of the Political Adivser may obtain will enable the Siamese Government to advise the named firm of such facts as are forthcoming as well as to any procedures relative to making claims for restitution as may be indicated.

amr GS

FN:GStrong:mjt
6-10-47

KPf SEA

PAW JK

Sam L/E

AHD

JUN 20 1947 P.M.

DCR OFD Unit
Final
Rec
Dat
Dist.

amr

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652, Sec 3(E) and 5(D) or (E) NNDG# 760050

No.867/2490

JUN 24 1947

EMBASSY
THE ROYAL SIAMESE LEGATION
WASHINGTON 8, D. C.

DIVISION OF FINANCIAL AFFAIRS
JUN 9 1947
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

May 27, 1947.

Reply drafted 6/11/47 mjt
6-10-47

894.51611/2-1846

My dear Mr. Moffat,

A matter has been brought to my attention on which, I am afraid, I have to solicit your kind assistance for clarification of certain points. It concerns the claim of a Siamese firm, named Pisal Panite Trading Co., against the Sumitomo Bank, Ltd., New York, for the sum of $6,455.00. The facts of the case appear to be as follows :

The above-mentioned Siamese firm had at one time opened credits with the Banca Commerciale Italiana, Torino, Italy. In the year 1941 a credit balance of $6,455 was left, which amount the firm instructed the Banca Commerciale Italiana to transfer to the Sumitomo Bank in Japan. Owing possibly to war time restrictions, instead of transferring the amount mentioned direct to the Sumitomo Bank in Japan, the Banca Commerciale Italiana transmitted it to the New York branch of the Sumitomo Bank. Though at that time the war in Asia had not yet started, it happened that your Government had amended the regulation relating to transaction in foreign exchange and foreign owned property....

894.51611/5-2747
CS/JRC

Streng - 637
Hamburg 2157
Cook 2231

Mr. Abbot L. Moffat,
Chief, Division of Southeast Asian Affairs,
Department of State,
Washington, D.C.

DIVISION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN AFFAIRS
JUN 3 1947
OFFICE OF FAR EASTERN AFFAIRS
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Rec'd 6-5-47

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652, Sec 3(E) and 5(D) or (E) NNDG# 760050

property and the firm was informed by the Sumitomo Bank in Japan by a letter dated August 2, 1941, that its New York Office was unable to remit the sum mentioned to its head office in Japan. The war in Asia then intervened and the firm was under the impression that the sum of $6,455 was still at the New York Office of the Sumitomo Bank. So when peace came, it asked Muller, Maclean & Co. Inc. to make enquiry on its behalf. Muller, Maclean & Co. got in touch with the State of New York Banking Department, Liquidation Bureau-Foreign Department and was informed by the latter that the record disclosed that the sum in question represented the unutilized portion of a credit established on behalf of Pisal Panite Trading Co. which was transmitted on February 27, 1941 by the Torino Office of the Banca Commerciale Italiana to the Osaka Office of the Sumitomo Bank via the New York office of the respective banks; that the amount in question was actually received by the Sumitomo Bank, New York , from the Banca Commerciale Italiana, New York, and credited by it to the Osaka Office of the Sumitomo Bank; that thereafter, Sumitomo Bank, Osaka, requested Sumitomo Bank, New York, to repay the amount to the Torino office of the Banca Commerciale Italiana but Torino refused to accept payment; that as matter stood the records of Sumitomo Bank, New York, did not reflect any amount due and owing to Pisal Panite Trading Co.; and that the fund received from Banca Commerciale Italiana had been transferred by cable

to...

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652, Sec 3(E) and 5(D) or (E) NNDG# 760050

to Osaka and so it would appear that Pisal Panite Trading Co. has a claim against Sumitomo Bank, Osaka.

In view of the letter it had received from Sumitomo Bank, Osaka, in 1941, Pisal Panite Trading Co. are not convinced that the money had been transferred to the Bank in Japan and thought that there may be some mistake in the record and that the money is still with the New York Office of the Sumitomo Bank. It had approached the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Bangkok with a view to finding out the exact whereabout of the money and how it can be claimed. The Ministry had referred the matter to this Embassy in April of last year and in looking over the file I find that Mr. Bhakdi had once mentioned the matter to you and that you stated that the question of claim was very complicated, informations were not completed and nothing could be done for a long time yet.

As the Ministry have now sent me a reminder in this connection, I wonder if by now you would have anything further to add to the statement you made to Mr. Bhakdi. I should, particularly, like to be able to tell the Ministry of the exact whereaboutsof the money in question, the formalities required for claiming it and the prospect, if any, of the Company obtaining satisfaction in this respect. I shall be deeply grateful, if you could be so good as to put me in a position to inform the Ministry on the above-mentioned points.

Yours very sincerely,

Wan Waithayakon

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652, Sec 3(E) and 5(D) or (E) NNDG# 760050

The Secretary of State presents his compliments to

His Royal Highness, the Ambassador of Siam and has the

honor to refer to the Ambassador's ~~acknowledge the receipt of~~ letter addressed

to ~~the~~ Chief, ~~Division~~ of the Division of Southeast

Asian Affairs, concerning the location or status of an

account in favor of a Siamese firm named Pisal Panite

Trading Company against the Sumitomo Bank, Ltd., New York,

or the Sumitomo Bank in Osaka, Japan. In accordance with

the request contained in ~~your~~ the letter, the Department of

State is inquiring of its representatives in Tokyo, Japan,

whether the described account can be found upon the

records of the Sumitomo Bank at Osaka, Japan. Upon receipt

of the report of the American Mission in Tokyo, the ~~Embassy~~ Ambassador

will be informed of any findings affecting the account of

the

894.5161/5-2747

Anal. fle
Sec. fa
Cat. Asia
Dist.

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652, Sec 3(E) and 5(D) or (E) NNDG# 760050

the Pisal Panite Trading Company.

In the event the account mentioned is located in Japan, there are at present no means by which private foreign claims against Japanese nationals or businesses can be presented for payment. It is hoped that such means can be agreed to and established in due course.

Department of State,

Washington, June 24, 1947.

A true copy of the original copy. sml

JUN 20 1947 P.M.

FN:GStrong:mjt
6-10-47

SEA JK Le/E

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652, Sec 3(E) and 5(D) or (E) NNDG# 760050

JUN - 5 194

894.5161/5-2747

My dear Mr. Ambassador:

The receipt is acknowledged of your letter of May 27 addressed to Mr. Moffat on the subject of the credit balance of a Siamese firm named Pisal Panite Trading Co. with the Sumitomo Bank, Ltd., New York.

894.5161 all / 2-1846

Mr. Moffat is at present absent from the Department and I am accordingly replying in his behalf. The questions which you have raised in connection with the foregoing subject are being referred to the appropriate officials and a further reply will be sent you at the earliest possible date.

Sincerely yours,

Kenneth P. Landon

His Royal Highness

Wan Waithayakon,

Ambassador of Siam.

SEA:KPLandon:mtb 6/4/47

CS/A 894.5161/5-2747

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652, Sec 3(E) and 5(D) or (E) NNDG# 760050

1358.

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

American Embassy,
Nanking, China, July 21, 1947.

No. 891

RESTRICTED

Subject: Information for Department of Justice in regard to Claim of an American Citizen against Yokohama Specie Bank

DIVISION OF JAPANESE AND KOREAN ECONOMIC AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT OF STATE JUL 31 1947

RECEIVED DEPARTMENT OF STATE 1947 JUL 25 PM 3 49 DC/M FILES BRANCH

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

894.51611/1-2147 FS LE/F CA

I have the honor to refer to the Department's airmail instruction No. 248 dated February 14, 1947, transmitting a copy of a letter dated January 21, 1947, addressed to Mr. Walter S. Surrey, Chief, Division of Economic Security Controls, Department of State, from Mr. Philip Blacklow, Acting Chief, Division of Vesting, Office of Alien Property, Department of Justice, in regard to a claim presented by an American citizen for recovery of $60,387.73 from the New York agency of the Yokohama Specie Bank, Ltd., for a shipment of lubricating oil made in 1941 to the Maruzen Sekiyu Kabushiki Kaisha, a Japanese firm.

A copy of Mr. Blacklow's letter was referred by the Embassy to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs by note No. 785 dated March 24, 1947. Under date of July 10, 1947, the Ministry made a response, a translation of which is enclosed. In making acknowledgment of this note, the Embassy is requesting the Ministry to ask that the appropriate Chinese authorities charged with the inspection of the account books of the Hua Hsing Bank be instructed to make certain that no record of the case in question can be found. However, as all of the Bank's international remittances, except with Japan, reportedly were handled through the Yokohama Specie Bank, it does not appear likely that pertinent records, applicable to this case, will be found.

Respectfully yours,

For the Ambassador:

William T. Turner
First Secretary of Embassy

Enclosure:
Translation of Foreign Office Note dated July 10, 1947.

Original and ozalid to the Department

360
CHBoehringer:ieo

ACTION CS/A
COPIES TO: LE/E FE DC/R CIG OAP

CS/A

DCR - OFD Unit
Anal.
Rev.
Cat.
Dist.

FILED AUG 11 1947

894.51611/7-2147

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652, Sec 3(E) and 5(D) or (E) NNDG# 760050

Enclosure to Despatch No. 891 dated July 21, 1947
from American Embassy, Nanking.
(Translation)

Third Person Note

From: Ministry of Foreign Affairs
To: American Embassy

Dated: July 10, 1947 No. Tung-36/14458

Rec'd: July 11, 1947.
Trans: ECC
Check: CWC

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs presents its compliments to the American Embassy and has the honor to refer to the Embassy's third person note of March 24, 1947, in which it was requested that the appropriate authorities be asked in turn to investigate the circumstances under which the Hua Hsing Commercial Bank at Shanghai, opened a letter of credit which was confirmed and made irrevocable by the Yokohama Specie Bank for the Maruzen Sekiyu Kabushiki, Shanghai, for a shipment of lubricating oil from Mr. Neil C. Potter of the United States between July and September of 1941.

The Embassy is informed that the matter was referred to the Ministry of Finance for investigation and reply and that a response has been received as follows:

Upon instructions, the Shanghai Office of the Bank of China reported that no entry with respect to this case appears on the table showing guaranteed liabilities upon the taking over by that Bank of the Shanghai office of the Yokohama Specie Bank. Further, according to a reply received from the Central Bank of China's Office for the Liquidation of the Hua Hsing Bank, the old account books of the Hua Hsing Bank have not yet been checked and handed over, and hence the case in question cannot be verified. However, at the time of the taking over (of the bank), the office in question inquired of the staff members of this puppet bank concerning its affairs in regard to international remittances. It was stated that, with the exception of Japan, all the international remittances and letters of credit of the Hua Hsing Bank were handled through the Yokohama Specie Bank, and that the puppet bank had no direct dealings with its foreign (banking) colleagues. Again, there is no record of this letter of credit in the books of the said puppet bank at the time of its closing, which is sufficient proof that the payment may long since have been computed and settled.

If the American citizen in question wishes to pursue his claim, based on this letter of credit, it would seem that he might negotiate direct with the Yokohama Specie Bank for the settlement thereof.

(Stamped) MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA

ecc

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652, Sec 3(E) and 5(D) or (E) NNDG# 760050

1353

file

IRVING TRUST COMPANY

ONE WALL STREET

NEW YORK 15, N.Y.

F. HARTMAN
VICE PRESIDENT

July 29, 1947

DIVISION OF JAPANESE AND KOREAN ECONOMIC AFFAIRS
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JUL 31 1947

file
Draft dispy
OJM 8/4/47

Mr. Edwin M. Martin, Chief
Division of Japanese and Korean
Economic Affairs
Room 18, Old State Department Building
Department of State
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Martin:

With reference to our letter of June ~~25~~ 26 to the Department of Commerce regarding the resumption of foreign exchange transactions by Japanese banks and the present status of the Yasuda Bank, Ltd., Tokyo, we understand that the inquiry was directed to you.

It has now come to our attention through press sources that the Korean Foreign Exchange Bank, Ltd., Seoul, Korea, has begun operations. We are desirous, therefore, of supplementing our original inquiry with the request that the questions raised concerning banks in Japan be applied, also, to banks in Korea. For your convenience, these questions are restated as follows:

1. Under what conditions do native Korean banks now function?

2. Are there at present any plans which envisage permission for these banks to resume transactions involving foreign exchange?

3. In particular, what is the current status of the Korean Foreign Exchange Bank, Ltd., Seoul.

Your kind cooperation in this matter will be most helpful, and any assistance that you may be able to give us, of course, will be for our own confidential use.

Yours very truly

F. Hartman

Vice President

FILED
AUG 25 1947

894.516/7-2947
CS/A 894.516/7-2947

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652, Sec 3(E) and 5(D) or (E) NNDG# 760050

1355

file

IRVING TRUST COMPANY

ONE WALL STREET

NEW YORK 15, N.Y.

F. HARTMAN
VICE PRESIDENT

July 29, 1947

DIVISION OF JAPANESE AND KOREAN ECONOMIC AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT OF STATE JUL 31 1947

file
Drafted reply
OVM 8/4/47

Mr. Edwin M. Martin, Chief
Division of Japanese and Korean
Economic Affairs
Room 18, Old State Department Building
Department of State
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Martin:

With reference to our letter of June ~~25~~ 26 to the Department of Commerce regarding the resumption of foreign exchange transactions by Japanese banks and the present status of the Yasuda Bank, Ltd., Tokyo, we understand that the inquiry was directed to you.

It has now come to our attention through press sources that the Korean Foreign Exchange Bank, Ltd., Seoul, Korea, has begun operations. We are desirous, therefore, of supplementing our original inquiry with the request that the questions raised concerning banks in Japan be applied, also, to banks in Korea. For your convenience, these questions are restated as follows:

1. Under what conditions do native Korean banks now function?

2. Are there at present any plans which envisage permission for these banks to resume transactions involving foreign exchange?

3. In particular, what is the current status of the Korean Foreign Exchange Bank, Ltd., Seoul.

Your kind cooperation in this matter will be most helpful, and any assistance that you may be able to give us, of course, will be for our own confidential use.

Yours very truly

F. Hartman

Vice President

FILED AUG 25 1947

894.516/7-2947
CS/A 894.516/7-2947

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652, Sec 3(E) and 5(D) or (E) NNDG# 760050

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Office of International Trade
Washington 25, D. C.

July 14, 1947

IT-1040-JFV

Mr. F. Hartman, Vice-President
Irving Trust Company
One Wall Street
New York 15, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Hartman:

Reference is made to your letter of June 25, 1947, in which you request information with regard to the conditions under which native Japanese banks now function, plans in prospect with regard to such banks resuming transactions involving foreign exchange, and the current status of the Yasuda Bank, Ltd., of Tokyo, Japan.

Since this is a policy matter relating to the permitted activities of Japanese banks under the direction of the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers in Japan (SCAP), your letter is being referred for consideration or appropriate action to Mr. Edwin M. Martin, Chief, Division of Japanese and Korean Economic Affairs, Room 18, Old State Department Building, Department of State.

If this Division can be of additional assistance, please call upon us again, either directly or through our New York Regional Office located on the 60th Floor, Empire State Building, Mr. L. L. Horch, Regional Director.

Very truly yours,

Charles K. Moser, Chief
Far Eastern Division

JFVance:elc
cc New York Office
Dept. of State
OIT files (2)
OIT # B 242192

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652, Sec 3(E) and 5(D) or (E) NNDG# 760050

AUG 12 1947

In reply refer to
JK

May 1 - 86

My dear Mr. Hartman:

Reference is made to your letter of June 25, 1947 to the Department of Commerce which has been referred to the Department of State for reply, and to your letter of July 29, 1947 to Mr. Edwin M. Martin of this Division. You request information regarding the conditions under which native Japanese and Korean banks now function, plans for these banks to resume foreign exchange transactions, and specific information regarding the status of the Yasuda Bank, Ltd. of Japan, and the Korean Foreign Exchange Bank, Ltd. of Korea.

In respect to your first question on native Japanese banks, the operations of these institutions are now confined to the domestic Japanese economy. All relations between Japanese banks and their former external branches and correspondents have been severed, and their external assets are either vested or blocked by the governments of the areas in which they were located. However, subject to the regulations of the Japanese Government outlined below, Japanese banks have, generally speaking, been permitted to carry on ordinary commercial and investment banking operations within Japan, subject to the blocking of certain accounts such as those of nationals of former enemy countries other than Japan, prohibited societies or organizations in Japan, and accounts owned or controlled by persons residing outside of Japan. These latter accounts include those of United Nations' Nationals which have been blocked for purposes of protecting these funds, pending their return to their legitimate owners. Banks as other institutions and individuals in Japan, are not permitted to transact business in foreign currencies, or in any evidences of ownership of Japanese external or foreign exchange assets.

The most important restrictions imposed by the Japanese Government on domestic banking institutions, are contained in the Emergency

Financial

Mr. F. Hartman,
Vice-President,
Irving Trust Company,
One Wall Street,
New York 15, N. Y.

DCR - OFD Unit
Anal.
Rev.
Cat.
Dist.

894.5116/7-2947
CS/A

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652, Sec 3(E) and 5(D) or (E) NNDG# 760050

Financial Measures adopted in February 1946, and the Financial Institutions Reconstruction and Reorganization Law of October 1946. The Emergency Financial Measures were adopted as an inflationary control device, and did not in themselves impair the assets of the financial institutions. They consisted of a currency conversion program accompanied by the blocking of deposits, and restriction of withdrawals therefrom to certain stipulated monthly amounts. The Financial Institutions Reconstruction and Reorganization Law was adopted pursuant to the extraordinary tax imposed by the Japanese Government on war claims against the government. Since this tax, which was in effect a cancellation of a very high percentage of war insurance and war indemnity claims against the government, resulted in the loss by the banks of part of the credit extended to industrial and insurance companies, it resulted in quite drastic reductions in the assets of financial institutions which had, of course, to be offset by corresponding write-downs of bank liabilities, including deposits. In order not to interfere unduly with normal banking processes, bank assets and liabilities have been divided into two categories of accounts, the first of which consists of the smaller deposits, and the sound assets which are relatively free from restriction as to withdrawals, and which have been guaranteed by the Japanese Government. The second category of deposits and assets cannot be utilized at this time pending complete appraisal of the impact of the extraordinary tax program.

In Korea, prior to the liberation of that country, nearly all banks and financial institutions were branches of Japanese organizations. The Japanese interest in these institutions has been vested in the Military Government of Korea, and, in general, these branches are now operating autonomously under Military Government supervision. As in the case of Japanese banks, however, their activities are confined to domestic business. It is not believed that any important strictly native banks have yet been established in Korea. No program of blocked accounts, similar to the Japanese, has been involved in Korea.

Regarding your second question on plans which envisage the resumption of foreign exchange operations by banks in Japan or Korea, it is anticipated, of course, that eventually foreign exchange rates will be established between the Japanese yen, the Korean won, and the dollar and other foreign currencies. It is impossible to state at this time just when this may be accomplished, although the matter is under continuous study, both here and in the theater. At present, financial conditions are not sufficiently stable to permit the establishment of exchange rates with any degree of assurance that they would not require early revision. In the meantime, limited private foreign trade has been reopened in both Japan and Korea, with

all

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652, Sec 3(E) and 5(D) or (E) NNDG# 760050

1355

all the imports and exports and transactions relating thereto being carried on in dollars and other foreign currencies.

With regard to your question concerning the current status of the Yasuda Bank, Ltd., it continues to rank among the five top private commercial banks in Japan. However, as a subsidiary of the Yasuda Holding Company (Yasuda Hozensha), it was placed on the "List of Restricted Companies" as prescribed by Imperial Ordinance No. 657, 1945. Prior approval of the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers is therefore required for transactions affecting the capital and capital assets of the company; transfer or lease of the business; entrance into a new field of activity; payments (other than salary); donations, or loans to officers; payment or declaration of dividends (except those paid out of earned income and not in excess of 5 percent of the paid-up capital per annum); and expenditure of funds or borrowing for any purpose except normal operating expenses.

The Korean Foreign Exchange Bank, Ltd., as you may know, has just been established by Ordinance of the Military Government, Korea, for the purpose of facilitating foreign trade transactions between Korea and foreign countries. It will act on behalf of the Military Government to maintain accounts in dollars and other foreign currencies, and to transmit and receive from its appointed correspondents and other approved agents, bills of exchange and other documents in connection with imports from and exports to Korea. In view of the recent establishment of this institution, it is not possible to furnish complete information on its organization and methods of operation at this time.

I trust that the information furnished above may be of some assistance to you. You will, of course understand, that many important aspects of the questions you raised cannot be adequately covered in this brief outline. If you should desire further information or wish to examine some of the Ordinances and regulations affecting these problems, I would be glad to make the necessary documents available to your representative should you care to have him call to pursue the matter further.

Sincerely yours,

Roswell H. Whitman
Associate Chief
Division of Japanese & Korean
Economic Affairs

CE
AUG 12 1947 P.M.

JK:OJMcDiarmid:mw 8/4/47 — OFD ESP NA NWB A-H

2564

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652, Sec 3(E) and 5(D) or (E) NNDG# 760050

UNITED STATES POLITICAL ADVISER
FOR JAPAN

Tokyo, September 13, 1947

UNCLASSIFIED

No. 1276

RECEIVED
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
1947 SEP 24 AM 8 28
DC/S
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

SUBJECT: Credits of the Siamese Firm, Pisal Panite, in the Sumitomo Bank of Osaka.

FU SEA JK LE/E
894.51611/5-2747

894.51611/9-1347

The Counselor of Mission has the honor to refer to the Department's instruction no. 519 of June 24, 1947 concerning the credits of the Siamese Firm, Pisal Panite, in the Sumitomo Bank of Osaka.

This matter was referred to the Civil Property Custodian Section of this Headquarters which has now forwarded a report from the Sumitomo Bank, submitted through the Japanese Government, which is enclosed together with covering memorandum from Japanese Finance Ministry dated August 25, 1947.

Enclosures:

1. Report from Sumitomo Bank, Osaka, dated August 21, 1947 signed Ken'ichiro Mizugaki.

2. Memorandum from Japanese Finance Ministry, signed S. Miyakawa, dated August 25, 1947, to Civil Property Custodian, GHQ.

ACTION (FN)
COPIES TO:
FE
LE/E
ITP
OCD
OFS
DCPP
CIS

RECEIVED
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
1947 SEP 25 PM 3 41
DC/L
LIAISON

DIVISION OF FINANCIAL AFFAIRS
SEP 30 1947
Note accepted FN: Gistrong:mjp
file

RECEIVED
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
1947 OCT 31 PM 1 07
FILED
CS/N

Original and ozalid to Department

701.97
LNJohansen:hp

FLT
AN

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652, Sec 3(E) and 5(D) or (E) NNDG# 760050

Enclosure No. 1 to Despatch No. 1276 dated September 13, 1947 from the Political Adviser for Japan, Tokyo, on the subject "Credits of the Siamese Firm, Pisal Panite, in the Sumitomo Bank of Osaka".

COPY

MINISTRY OF FINANCE
THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT

L. O. 2818 (AD/FP) 25 August 1947.

MEMORANDUM FOR: CIVIL PROPERTY CUSTODIAN, GHQ

SUBJECT : Report on account of Pisal Panite Trading Company with Sumitomo Bank.

1. Reference:

SCAP Memorandum, File 004.2 (25 July 1947) CPC/FP, Subject: Account of Pisal Panite Trading Company with Sumitomo Bank.

2. In accordance with the reference your memorandum, we herewith submit a report concerning the caption. As a result of an investigation we have been ascertained that the Sumitomo Bank has not any balance outstanding of the account of Pisal Panite Trading Company, Siam. A report from the Sumitomo Bank to the Chief of the Administration Bureau, The Ministry of Finance, dated August 21, 1947, Subject, re: account of Pisal Panite Trading Company with Sumitomo Bank, is herewith submitted to you for your information as per attached paper.

FOR THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE:

s/ S. Miyakawa
for/ Takeshi Watanabe
Director of Liaison Office.

One Encl.: Letter from Sumitomo Bank.

K/S

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652, Sec 3(E) and 5(D) or (E) NNDG# 760050

Enclosure No. 2 to Despatch No. 1276 dated September 13, 1947 from the Political Adviser for Japan, Tokyo, on the subject "Credits of the Siamese Firm, Pisal Panite, in the Sumitomo Bank of Osaka".

COPY

THE SUMITOMO BANK, LIMITED

Osaka, August 21, 1947.

H. Nagamuma Esq.,
The Chief, Administration Bureau,
The Ministry of Finance,
Tokyo.

RE ACCOUNT OF PISAL PANITE TRADING COMPANY WITH SUMITOMO BANK

Sir:

We beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of July 28, instructing us, in accordance with the memorandum for your Ministry from GHQ, SCAP, 004.2 (25 July 1947) CPC/FP., to submit a report on the outstanding balance of the account of Pisal Panite Trading Comapny, Siam, with this Bank, Osaka.

In reply we would inform you that through our records etc. the following facts have been ascertained:-

In March, 1941, our New York Agency received the sum of $6455.00 from Banca Commerciale Italiana, New York City, for account of Pisal Panite Trading Co. by the order of "Bankasia" but having had no instructions from Japan on the matter at that time, they cabled their Head Office, Osaka, advising the receipt of this money and requesting to investigate and confirm the matter. In the meantime they placed the sum of money received to their "Head Office Account".

On receiving the above telegram, our Head Office, Osaka, had looked into the matter but could not trace it and they had no instructions from any one in this respects. Meanwhile the circumstances changed and the money was frozen in New York by the U. S. Government Order.

According to our records received from our New York agency, the money had not been paid by them to any one on or before Oct. 23, 1941, but we can not trace its fate after Oct. 23, 1941, as no report has been received from New York on the matter, and it is certain that the money was not transferred to this country, and all our offices in Japan have no account with Pisal Panite Trading Co., Siam. The above is all we can say at the moment and we would suggest that if you will be able to investigate the records and documents of our New York agency, now in the hand of the liquidator designated by U. S. Government, the matter can be made clear.

Trusting the above will meet your requirement.

Yours truly,

The Sumitomo Bank, Ltd.

s/ Ken'ichiro Mizugaki
(Ken'Ichiro Mizugaki)
Manager, Liaison Department

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652, Sec 3(E) and 5(D) or (E) NNDG# 760050

1694

609c

OCT 23 1947

894.51611/9-1347

In reply refer to
FN 894.51611/9-1347

The Secretary of State transmits to the Attorney General for the attention and appropriate action of the Office of Alien Property, Department of Justice, copies of communications received consisting of a letter from His Royal Highness, the Ambassador of Siam, dated May 27, 1947 and a letter from the Sumitomo Bank, Limited, of Osaka, Japan, dated August 21, 1947, concerning the location or status of an account in favor of a Siamese firm named Pisal Panitc Trading Company against the Sumitomo Bank, New York, or the Sumitomo Bank in Osaka, Japan. The latter letter was forwarded to the Department of State pursuant to a request issued to the Office of the United States Political Adviser.

The contents of the last mentioned letter are being conveyed to the Embassy of Siam with the further advice that the matter is being referred to the Office of Alien Property, Department of Justice with a view to the possible clarification of the status of the account of the Pisal Panite Trading Company with the Sumitomo Bank. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that any information on this matter possessed by the Office of Alien Property be forwarded to the Department of State together with any comments as may be indicated.

894.51611/9-1347

CS/V

Enclosures:

1. Copy of letter from His Royal Highness, the Ambassador of Siam, May 27, 1947.
2. Copy of letter from Sumitomo Bank of Osaka, Japan, August 21, 1947.

A true copy of the signed original

FN:GStrong:mjt
10-14-47

95

SEA OE

1694 ORIN

Le

OCT 23 1947

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652, Sec 3(E) and 5(D) or (E) NNDG# 760050

The Secretary of State presents his compliments to His Royal Highness, the Ambassador of Siam and has the honor to make further reference to the Ambassador's letter addressed to the Chief of the Division of Southeast Asian Affairs, concerning the location or status of an account in favor of a Siamese firm named Pisal Panite Trading Company against the Sumitomo Bank, Ltd., New York, or the Sumitomo Bank in Osaka, Japan.

The Office of the United States Political Adviser for Japan has made inquiries in Japan in accordance with the advice which was conveyed in the noted dated June 24, 1947 from the Department of State to the Embassy of Siam, and has forwarded the statements of the authorities and of the Sumitomo Bank, Ltd. of Osaka, to the effect that

DOE OFD Unit

894.516II/9-1347

CS/V

894.516II/9-1347

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652, Sec 3(E) and 5(D) or (E) NNDG# 760050

that the latter bank does not have a balance outstanding in the account of the Pisal Panite Trading Company.

The following paragraphs are quoted from the statement of the Sumitomo Bank, Ltd. of Osaka:

"In March 1941, our New York Agency received the sum of $6455.00 from Banca Commerciale Italiana, New York City, for account of Pisal Panite Trading Company by the order of "Bankasia" but having had no instructions from Japan on the matter at that time, they cabled their Head Office, Osaka, advising the receipt of this money and requesting to investigate and confirm the matter. In the meantime they placed the sum of money received to their "Head Office Account."

"On receiving the above telegram, our Head Office, Osaka, had looked into the matter but could not trace it and they had no instructions from any one in this respects. Meanwhile the circumstances changed and the money was frozen in New York by the United States Government Order.

"According to our records received from our New York agency, the money had not been paid by them to any one on or before October 23, 1941, but we can not trace its fate after October 23, 1941, as no report has been received from New York on the matter, and it is certain that the money was not transferred

to this

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652, Sec 3(E) and 5(D) or (E) NNDG# 760050

to this country, and all our offices in Japan have no account with Pisal Panite Trading Company, Siam. The above is all we can say at the moment and we would suggest that if you will be able to investigate the records and documents of our New York agency, now in the hand of the liquidator designated by United States Government, the matter can be made clear."

In view of this information the Department of State is requesting that the Office of Alien Property, Department of Justice, make a search of its records to determine if any further trace of the account of the Pisal Panite Trading Company can be found. Upon receipt of the response of the Office of Alien Property to this inquiry, any further information which may be available will be conveyed to the Embassy.

Department of State,

Washington, October 23, 1947.

894.51611/9-1347

S.S.
G. Strong
FN-[redacted]:mjt
10-[redacted]47

SEA OE
KPJ

A TRUE COPY OF THE ORIGINAL

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652, Sec 3(E) and 5(D) or (E) NNDG# 760050

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

D-158

No. 1074

American Embassy,
Nanking, China, October 28, 1947

RESTRICTED

PARKE

Subject: Supplementary Information for Department of Justice in regard to Claim of an American Citizen against the Yokohama Specie Bank

DIVISION OF OCCUPIED AREAS
ECONOMIC AFFAIRS
NOV 10 1947
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

894.5161/11-2847
DC/L ESP
copies LE/E FE

ACTION TO: OFD LE FE FN DC/R OAP

The Ambassador has the honor to refer to the Embassy's despatch No. 891, July 21, 1947, regarding the claim presented by an American citizen to the Department of Justice for recovery of $60,387.73 from the New York agency of the Yokohama Specie Bank, Ltd., for a shipment of lubricating oil made in 1941 to the Maruzen Sekiyu Kabushiki Kaisha, a Japanese firm.

There are now enclosed copies of the Embassy's note No. 1031 dated July 22, 1947, to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and of the Ministry's response (note No. Tung-36/22742) dated October 25, 1947.

In its note, the Embassy requested that the Chinese authorities concerned, when they inspect the account books of the Hua Hsing Commercial Bank, make certain that those books contain no record of the transaction and credit in question. In reply, the Ministry stated that the Ministry of Finance had instructed the Central Bank of China to comply with the Embassy's request.

Enclosures:

1/ Copy of Embassy's note to Foreign Office No. 1031, July 22, 1947; and

2/ Translation of note No. Tung-36/22742 dated October 25, 1947, from Foreign Office.

File No. 360
CHBoehringer:mes

Original and hectograph to the Department

RECEIVED
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
1947 NOV 5 AM 10 35
DC/M
FACILITIES BRANCH

RECEIVED
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
1947 NOV 7 PM 12 53

DCR - CLAIMS UNIT
Dist.

RESTRICTED

894.5161/10-2847

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652, Sec 3(E) and 5(D) or (E) NNDG# 760050

Enclosure 1/
Despatch No. 1074
October 28, 1947
Nanking, China

RESTRICTED

Copy

No. 1031

The Embassy of the United States of America presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of China and has the honor to acknowledge receipt of the Ministry's third person note No. Tung-36/14458 dated July 10, 1947, in regard to a claim by an American citizen against the Yokohama Specie Bank for a shipment of lubricating oil made in the latter part of 1941 to Maruzen Sekiyu Kabushiki Kaisha, a Japanese firm then with office at Shanghai.

The Embassy very much appreciates the efforts made by the authorities concerned to investigate this matter. Although it would appear that the account books of the Hua Hsing Commercial Bank, which have not yet been inspected, might have no record of the letter of credit in question, it is suggested that the Ministry may wish to ask the authorities concerned with the liquidation of that Bank to make certain of this point when the books are subjected to inspection.

The Ministry's cooperation in this regard will be appreciated.

Nanking, July 22, 1947

Copy to American Consulate General Shanghai
360
CHBoehringer/ieo

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652, Sec 3(E) and 5(D) or (E) NNDG# 760050

Enclosure 2/
Despatch No. 1077
October 28, 1947
Nanking, China

RESTRICTED

Copy

(Translation)

Third person note

From: Ministry of Foreign Affairs
To: American Embassy

Dated: October 25, 1947 No. Tung-36/22742

Rec'd: October 27, 1947
Trans: ECC
Check: RNC

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs presents its compliments to the American Embassy and has the honor to refer to the Embassy's third person note no. 1031 of July 22, 1947 requesting, in connection with a bill of exchange transaction which the puppet Hua Shing Bank at Shanghai guaranteed for an American firm through the enemy's Yokohama Specie Bank, that the appropriate authorities (responsible for) the liquidation of the aforementioned bank be approached to look it up when they scrutinize the bank's account books.

The matter was referred to the Ministry of Finance for attention and appropriate action, and a reply has now been received stating that a further telegram has been sent to the Central Bank of China (with the request) that the instructions necessary to cause action to be taken accordingly and a report submitted for transmittal be issued. Pending receipt of the report (called for), when a further note will be addressed to the Embassy, the Ministry has the honorto indite this preliminary reply.

(Stamped) MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF THE REPUBLIC OF China

RESTRICTED

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652, Sec 3(E) and 5(D) or (E) NNDG# 760050

Held for 10 days for reply from Justice Dept. as if not shown to Mr Strong anyway

EWD FN GS IFE OEE LE

No. 1754/2490

THE ROYAL SIAMESE EMBASSY
WASHINGTON 8, D. C.

DIVISION OF FINANCIAL AFFAIRS
EWD
NOV 4 1947

Held for further info from alien property

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

FN SLE A OE LE

DC/R

The Siamese Ambassador presents his compliments to His Excellency the Secretary of State and has the honour to acknowledge the receipt of His Excellency's Note No. 894. 51611/9-1347 dated October 23, 1947, on the subject of the account in favour of a Siamese firm named Pisal Panite Trading Company against the Sumitomo Bank, Ltd., New York, or in Osaka Japan.

It is noted that according to the statement of the Sumitomo Bank Ltd. of Osaka the money was not transferred to Japan and that the State Department has kindly undertaken to request the Office of Alien Property, Department of Justice, to make a search of its record to determine if any trace of the account of the said firm can be found.

894.51611/10-2947

CS/A

October 29, 1947.

2nd copy

RECEIVED
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
1947 OCT 30 AM 11 34
DC/M
FACILITIES BRANCH

CC to FE

FN

B

Note

11/5 894

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652, Sec 3(E) and 5(D) or (E) NNDG# 760050

Pending
country file

Oct 23, 1947

also 3rd person letter to Attorney Gen.

The Secretary of State presents his compliments to His Royal Highness, the Ambassador of Siam and has the honor to make further reference to the Ambassador's letter addressed to the Chief of the Division of Southeast Asian Affairs, concerning the location or status of an account in favor of a Siamese firm named Pisal Panite Trading Company against the Sumitomo Bank, Ltd., New York, or the Sumitomo Bank in Osaka, Japan.

The Office of the United States Political Adviser for Japan has made inquiries in Japan in accordance with the advice which was conveyed in the noted dated June 24, 1947 from the Department of State to the Embassy of Siam, and has forwarded the statements of the authorities and of the Sumitomo Bank, Ltd. of Osaka, to the effect that

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652, Sec 3(E) and 5(D) or (E) NNDG# 760050

that the latter bank does not have a balance outstanding in the account of the Pisal Panito Trading Company.

The following paragraphs are quoted from the statement of the Sumitomo Bank, Ltd. of Osaka:

"In March 1941, out New York Agency received the sum of $6455.00 from Banca Commerciale Italiana, New York City, for account of Pisal Panito Trading Company by the order of "Bankasia" but having had no instructions from Japan on the matter at that time, they cabled their Head Office, Osaka, advising the receipt of this money and requesting to investigate and confirm the matter. In the meantime they placed the sum of money received to their "Head Office Account.

"On receiving the above telegram, our Head Office, Osaka, had looked into the matter but could not trace it and they had no instructions from any one in this respects. Meanwhile the circumstances changed and the money was frozen in New York by the United States Government Order.

"According to our records received from our New York agency, the money had not been paid by them to any one on or before October 23, 1941, but we can not trace its fate after October 23, 1941, as no report has been received from New York on the matter,

and it is certain that the

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652, Sec 3(E) and 5(D) or (E) NNDG# 760050

to this country, and all our offices in Japan have no account with Pisal Panite Trading Company, Sian. The above is all we can say at the moment and we would suggest that if you will be able to investigate the records and documents of our New York agency, now in the hand of the liquidator designated by United States Government, the matter can be made clear."

In view of this information the Department of State is requesting that the Office of Alien Property, Department of Justice, make a search of its records to determine if any further trace of the account of the Pisal Panite Trading Company can be found. Upon receipt of the response of the Office of Alien Property to this inquiry, any further information which may be available will be conveyed to the Embassy.

Department of State,

Washington, Oct 23

894.51611/9-1347

FW:EWDoherty:mjt
10-15-47

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652, Sec 3(E) and 5(D) or (E) NNDG# 760050

Pendergast
country bule

Oct 23, 1947

In reply refer to
FN 894.51611/9-1347

The Secretary of State transmits to the Attorney General for the attention and appropriate action of the Office of Alien Property, Department of Justice, copies of communications received consisting of a letter from His Royal Highness, the Ambassador of Siam, dated May 27, 1947 and a letter from the Sumitomo Bank, Limited, Of Osaka, Japan, dated August 21, 1947, concerning the location or status of an account in favor of a Siamese firm named Pisal Panite Trading Company against the Sumitomo Bank, New York, or the Sumitomo Bank in Osaka, Japan. The latter letter was forwarded to the Department of State pursuant to a request issued to the Office of the United States Political Adviser.

The contents of the last mentioned letter is being conveyed to the Embassy of Siam with the further advice that the matter is being referred to the Office of Alien Property, Department of Justice with a view to the possible clarification of the status of the account of the Pisal Panite Trading Company with the Sumitomo Bank. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that any information on this matter possessed by the Office of Alien Property be forwarded to the Department of State together with any comments as may be indicated.

Enclosures:

1. Copy of letter from His Royal Highness, the Ambassador of Siam, May 27, 1947.
2. Copy of letter from Sumitomo Bank of Osaka, Japan, August 21, 1947.

FN:HELtrong:mjt
10-14-47

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652, Sec 3(E) and 5(D) or (E) NNDG# 760050

SEA
FW

IN REPLY, PLEASE REFER TO FILE NUMBER
DS:JMcD:lm

OFFICE OF ALIEN PROPERTY
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

November 19, 1947

DC/R

894.51611/11-1947

Mr. Abbot L. Moffat, Chief
Division of Southeast Asian Affairs
Department of State
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Moffat:

Reference is made to the State Department's transmittal note of October 23, 1947, (FN 894.51611/9 -1347), enclosing copies of correspondence from the Royal Siamese Embassy requesting the assistance of the State Department in locating an account in which Pisal Panite Trading Company has an interest.

The records of this Office do not disclose any information relative to the account in question. We have requested our New York Office to advise us if any records in their possession disclose the account of Pisal Panite Trading Company. We will advise you further upon receipt of a reply from our New York Office.

Sincerely yours,

David L. Bazelon

David L. Bazelon
Assistant Attorney General
Director, Office of Alien Property

DIVISION OF FINANCIAL AFFAIRS
NOV 26 1947
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Note to Congress drafted
FN: Lang: mgt 2-2-48

DIVISION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN AFFAIRS
NOV 25 1947
OFFICE OF FAR EASTERN AFFAIRS
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DIVISION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN AFFAIRS
NOV 20 1947
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DOR - OFD Unit

CS/A

894.5-1611/11-1947

FILED

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652, Sec 3(E) and 5(D) or (E) NNDG# 760050

DIVISION OF OCCUPIED ECONOMIC AFFAIRS
DEC 31 1947
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

No. 1150

American Embassy
Nanking, China, December 12, 1947

RESTRICTED

Subject: Transmission of Translation of Note from Foreign Office regarding Claim of an American Citizen against the Yokohama Specie Bank

894.5111/10-2847

The Ambassador has the honor to refer to the Embassy's despatch No. 1074, October 28, 1947, regarding the claim presented by an American citizen to the Department of Justice for recovery of $60,387.73 from the New York agency of the Yokohama Specie Bank, Ltd., for a shipment of lubricating oil made in 1941 to the Maruzen Sekiyu Kabushiki Kaisha (Maruzen Oil Company, Limited), a Japanese firm.

There is now enclosed a translation of note No. Tung-36/26315 dated December 8, 1947, addressed to the Embassy by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, stating that examinations of the books of the Hua Hsing Bank and the Yokohama Specie Bank, both at Shanghai, failed to reveal any record of the case in question.

Enclosure:

1/ Translation of note No. Tung-36/26315 from Foreign Office

File No. 360
CHBoehringer:mes

Original and hectograph to the Department

RESTRICTED

894.5111/12-1247

RECEIVED
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
1947 DEC 30 AM 10 52

CS/A
RECEIVED
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JAN 19 1948

FILED

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652, Sec 3(E) and 5(D) or (E) NNDG# 760050

Enclosure 1/
Despatch No. 1150
December 12, 1947
Nanking, China

RESTRICTED

(Translation)

Third person note

From: Ministry of Foreign Affairs
To: American Embassy

Dated: December 8, 1947 No. Tung-36/26315

Rec'd: December 9, 1947
Trans: ECC
Check: RNC

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs presents its compliments to the American Embassy and, in connection with the confirmed letter of credit issued by the puppet Hua Hsing Bank in Shanghai in favor of an American firm, has the honor to refer to the Embassy's third person note no. 1031 of July 22, 1947 requesting that the authorities concerned with the liquidation of that bank be asked to make certain of this transaction when the books are subjected to inspection.

The matter was referred to the (party concerned) for action and a reply from the person responsible for the taking over of the puppet Hua Hsing Bank has now been transmitted to the Ministry which states as follows:

No record of such a letter of credit appeared in the account books of the puppet Hua Hsing Bank, because the said bank formerly handled foreign exchange and foreign firms' bill of exchange transactions by commissioning the Yokohama Specie Bank to undertake them on its behalf. It did not then have direct connections with foreign banks for making transfers of funds. It is therefore impossible to verify (the transaction) from the accounts of the puppet Hua Hsing Bank.

In this connection, the Ministry has the honor to state that no record of this case appeared in the table of guaranteed liabilities of the Yokohama Specie Bank at Shanghai. This was ascertained from the Shanghai branch of the Bank of China which was (responsible for) the taking over of the said bank and was communicated to the Embassy by note no. Tung-36/14458 of July 10, 1947.

In connection with the Embassy's note on the above subject, this note is indited with the request that the American firm involved be advised to make inquiries direct to the Yokohama Specie Bank.

(Stamped) MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA

RESTRICTED

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652, Sec 3(E) and 5(D) or (E) NNDG# 760050

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum · UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

DATE: 1/22/48

TO : FN: Mr Doherty

FROM : SEA: Miss Cobates KC

SUBJECT: Pisal Panite Trading Company

Relative to our telephone conversation, I am forwarding this letter to you for action.

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652, Sec 3(E) and 5(D) or (E) NNDG# 760050

SEA
SMDFN

DE/R

IN REPLY, PLEASE REFER TO FILE NUMBER
DS:JMcD:lm
F-39-184

OFFICE OF ALIEN PROPERTY
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

January 13, 1948

DIVISION OF FINANCIAL AFFAIRS
Note Siamese Legation FN 894.51611/9-1347
JAN 23 1948 1-23-48
Please return Enclosure to FN
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Mr. Abbot L. Moffat, Chief
Division of Southeast Asian Affairs
Department of State
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Moffat:

Reference is made to State Department's transmittal note of October 23, 1947 (FN 894.51611/9-1347) enclosing copies of correspondence from the Siamese Embassy requesting the assistance of the State Department in locating a credit account in the amount of $6455.00 in which Pisal Panite Trading Company, Siam, has an interest. Reference is also made to our letter of November 19, 1947 advising your office that this matter had been referred to our New York Office.

The files of this Office contain no further information with respect to the credit balance of Pisal Panite Trading Company with the Sumitomo Bank, Ltd., New York Agency, than is contained in the Siamese Ambassador's letter of May 27, 1947, a copy of which was enclosed with the State Department transmittal note under reference. We have been advised by our New York Office that the file of the New York Agency of Sumitomo Bank, Ltd. relating to this matter has not been found and that many of the records of the New York Agency were destroyed before the War. Information taken from the files of Banca Commerciale Italiana, however, discloses that the sum in question represented the unutilized portion of a credit in favor of Pisal Panite Trading Company, which was transmitted on February 27, 1941, by the Torino Office of Banca Commerciale Italiana to the Osaka Office of Sumitomo Bank via the New York offices of the respective banks. The amount in question was actually received by Sumitomo, New York, from Banca Commerciale Italiana, New York, and credited by it to the Osaka Office of Sumitomo Bank, Ltd. Whether Osaka ever actually accepted the credit in question does not appear from available records. It does appear, however, that Osaka requested Sumitomo, New York, to repay the amount to the Torino Office of Banca Commerciale Italiana, but that Torino refused to accept the repayment and so advised Sumitomo, New York, via Banca Commerciale Italiana, New York.

As matters stand, the records of Sumitomo, New York, do not reflect any amount due and owing to Pisal Panite Trading Company or to anyone else with respect to the transaction. The fund receiv-

894.51611/1-1348

9S/A
1-7

DCR SPD Unit
Anal B
Ce E
Ap
Dist

March 16, 1948.

DIVISION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN AFFAIRS
JAN 15 1948
OFFICE OF FAR EASTERN AFFAIRS
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

FE FN
1/22/47

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652, Sec 3(E) and 5(D) or (E) NNDG# 760050

ed by it from Banca Commerciale Italiana, New York, was transferred by cable to Osaka and, according to the interpretation of the attorney for the Superintendent of Banks of the State of New York who is in the process of liquidating both Sumitomo Bank, New York Agency, and the Banca Commerciale Italiana, New York Agency, it would appear that Pisal Panite Trading Company has a claim against Sumitomo, Osaka, for the amount in question. We note, however, that Sumitomo Bank, Osaka, has advised that it has no record of having received the credit balance in question.

In his letter of May 27, 1947, the Siamese Ambassador requests information from the Department of State with respect to the formalities required for filing a claim to recover the credit balance in question. Ordinarily one of two procedures for filing a claim could be followed in a matter of this kind, one against the New York Agency of Sumitomo Bank, Ltd. in Liquidation, and the other against the Office of Alien Property under the provisions of Public Law 671, 79th Congress. It would appear, however, that at the present time Pisal Panite Trading Company is barred from filing a claim under either procedure.

The time limit within which claims against the New York Agency of Sumitomo Bank were to have been filed expired in 1942. Under New York law the Superintendent of Banks does not have the power to accept a claim after the expiration of the time within which claims must be filed. Consequently, a claim by Pisal Panite Trading Company against the liquidator could not be allowed at this time. However, there is presently pending in the courts of the State of New York litigation involving the effectiveness of the bar date against creditors who were prevented from filing their claims or instituting suit on rejected claims within the statutory period because of failure of communications due to the outbreak of war. In the event that a decision favorable to the claimant is granted in this case, Pisal Panite Trading Company may then become eligible to file a claim against the New York Agency of Sumitomo Bank.

Under Public Law 671 of the 79th Congress, this Office is authorized to accept and process claims of creditors against the vested assets of their debtors. Under the provisions of this Public Law, however, eligible claimants are limited to United States citizens and persons who have resided in the United States since December 7, 1941. It would appear, therefore, that Pisal Panite Trading Company is ineligible to file a debt claim with this Office for the recovery of the credit balance in question. We are enclosing a copy of Public Law 671, 79th Congress, for transmittal to the Siamese Embassy.

Sincerely yours,

David L. Bazelon

David L. Bazelon
Assistant Attorney General
Director, Office of Alien Property

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652, Sec 3(E) and 5(D) or (E) NNDG# 760050

The Secretary of State presents his compliments to His Royal Highness, the Ambassador of Siam and has the honor to transmit further information, as submitted by the Office of Alien Property, United States Department of Justice, concerning the location or status of an account in favor of a Siamese firm named Pisal Panite Trading Company against the Sumitomo Bank, Ltd., New York, or the Sumitomo Bank in Osaka, Japan. The Embassy's latest communication to the Department of State on this subject was dated October 29, 1947.

The statement of the Office of Alien Property includes the following pertinent paragraphs:

"The files of this Office contain no further information with respect to the credit balance of Pisal Panite Trading Company with the Sumitomo Bank, Ltd., New York Agency, than is contained in the Siamese Ambassador's letter of May 27, 1947, a copy of which was enclosed with the

State Department

894.516/11-1348
CS/A
894.516/11-1348
DCF OFD Unit
Ltr
Mem
Cbl
Dis

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652, Sec 3(E) and 5(D) or (E) NNDG# 760050

State Department transmittal note under reference. We have been advised by our New York Office that the file of the New York Agency of Sumitomo Bank, Ltd. relating to this matter has not been found and that many of the records of the New York Agency were destroyed before the War. Information taken from the files of Banca Commerciale Italiana, however, discloses that the sum in question represented the unutilized portion of a credit in favor of Pisal Panite Trading Company, which was transmitted on February 27, 1941, by the Torino Office of Banca Commerciale Italiana to the Osaka Office of Sumitomo Bank via the New York offices of the respective banks. The amount in question was actually received by Sumitomo, New York, from Banca Commerciale Italiana, New York, and credited by it to the Osaka Office of Sumitomo Bank, Ltd. Whether Osaka ever actually accepted the credit in question does not appear from available records. It does appear, however, that Osaka requested Sumitomo, New York, to repay the amount to the Torino Office of Banca Commerciale Italiana, but that Torino refused to accept the repayment and so advised Sumitomo, New York, via Banca Commerciale Italiana, New York.

"As matters stand, the records of Sumitomo, New York, do not reflect any amount due and owing to Pisal Panite Trading Company or to anyone else with respect to the transaction. The fund received by it from Banca Commerciale Italiana, New York, was transferred by cable to Osaka and, according to the interpretation of the attorney for the Superintendent of Banks of the State of New York who is in the process

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652, Sec 3(E) and 5(D) or (E) NNDG# 760050

the process of liquidating both Sumitomo Bank, New York Agency, and the Banca Commerciale Italiana, New York Agency, it would appear that Pisal Panite Trading Company has a claim against Sumitomo, Osaka, for the amount in question. We note, however, that Sumitomo Bank, Osaka, has advised that it has no record of having received the credit balance in question.

"In his letter of May 27, 1947, the Siamese Ambassador requests information from the Department of State with respect to the formalities required for filing a claim to recover the credit balance in question. Ordinarily one of two procedures for filing a claim could be followed in a matter of this kind, one against the New York Agency of Sumitomo Bank, Ltd. in Liquidation, and the other against the Office of Alien Property under the provisions of Public Law 671, 79th Congress. It would appear, however, that at the present time Pisal Panite Trading Company is barred from filing a claim under either procedure.

"The time limit within which claims against the New York Agency of Sumitomo Bank were to have been filed expired in 1942. Under New York law the Superintendent of Banks does not have the power to accept a claim after the expiration of the time within which claims must be filed. Consequently, a claim by Pisal Panite Trading Company against the liquidator could not be allowed at this time. However, there is presently pending in the courts of the State of New York litigation involving the effectiveness of the bar date against creditors who were prevented from filing their claims or instituting suit on rejected claims within the statutory

period

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652, Sec 3(E) and 5(D) or (E) NNDG# 760050

period because of failure of communications due to the outbreak of war. In the event that a decision favorable to the claimant is granted in this case, Pisal Panite Trading Company may then become eligible to file a claim against the New York Agency of Sumitomo Bank.

"Under Public Law 671 of the 79th Congress, this Office is authorized to accept and process claims of creditors against the vested assets of their debtors. Under the provisions of this Public Law, however, eligible claimants are limited to United States citizens and persons who have resided in the United States since December 7, 1941. It would appear, therefore, that Pisal Panite Trading Company is ineligible to file a debt claim with this Office for the recovery of the credit balance in question. We are enclosing a copy of Public Law 671, 79th Congress, for transmittal to the Siamese Embassy."

The enclosure mentioned in the last paragraph of the quoted statement by the Office of Alien Property is herewith attached.

Attachment

Copy of Public Law 671.

Department of State,

Washington, March 16, 1948.

MAR 15 1948 P.M.

894.51611/9-1347

FN:GStrong:mjt 2-2-48

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652, Sec 3(E) and 5(D) or (E) NNDG# 760050

Sid Gross (OAP)
OAP 197-977

Says no decision reached and no way of telling when one will be reached. Also - Certain to be appealed when One is reached.
He has advised them to keep in touch with N.Y. bank examiners.

FILE OR REF. NO. 894.5 1611/3-1748			DATE DUE 5/29/52
DATE OF DOC.	DOC. NO. note 440/2421	SECURITY CLASS.	DATE CHARGED 4/29/52
TO/FROM Seamans Treas.		ENCLOSURES	
CHARGE TO			OFFICE SYMBOL OSF

Form DS-933a (9-1-51) (Signature) DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

THE LEGAL ADVISER

File

To FN - Mr Doherty

From: G Mannes L/E

See note below

Believe you can ignore request

GG

DIVISION OF FINANCIAL AFFAIRS
MAY 13 1948
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652, Sec 3(E) and 5(D) or (E) NNDG# 760050

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

DC/R

TO : OE — to L/E has.
FE

DATE: March 25, 1948

FROM : FN - Edward W. Doherty EWD

SUBJECT: Attached note from Siamese Embassy

File
M. 2/E

Unless either OE or FE objects, FN does not propose at present to respond to the indefinite request contained in the last paragraph of the attached note from the Siamese Embassy. All information available from Office of Alien Property and from USPOLAD Tokyo has been furnished. FN, with concurrence of Le/C, does not believe Department can take responsibility of reporting on problematical developments at indefinite time in future. Therefore it is proposed to ignore request, unless it is repeated.

DIVISION OF OCCUPIED AREAS
ECONOMIC AFFAIRS
MAR 26 1948
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

E.W.D.
FN:EWDoherty:mjt

L/E - can't L/E inform the Siamese at the proper time? WAS

FILED
JUN - 9 1948

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652, Sec 3(E) and 5(D) or (E) NNDG# 760050

RECEIVED
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
1948 MAR 18 PM 12 06

No. 444/2491

DC/M
FACILITIES BRANCH

LEGAL ADVISER
S-140
JUN 2 - 1948
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

THE ROYAL SIAMESE EMBASSY
WASHINGTON 8, D. C.

DIVISION OF FINANCIAL AFFAIRS
MAR 19 1948
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

The Siamese Ambassador presents his compliments to His Excellency the Secretary of State and has the honour to acknowledge the receipt of His Excellency's Note of March 16, 1948 (894.51611/9-1347), in which he was good enough to transmit further information, as submitted by the Office of Alien Property, United States Department of Justice, concerning the location or status of an account in favour of a Siamese firm named Pisal Panite Trading Company against the Sumitomo Bank, Ltd., New York, or the Sumitomo Bank in Osaka, Japan.

The Ambassador is deeply appreciative of the assistance rendered by the State Department and the Office of Alien Property in clarifying the matter. He notes that according to the interpretation of the attorney for the Superintendent of Banks of the State of New York who is in the process of liquidating both Sumitomo Bank, New York Agency, and the Banca Commerciale Italiana, New York Agency, it would appear that Pisal Panite Trading Company has a claim against Sumitomo, Osaka, for the amount in

894.51611/3-1748
CS/V
894.51611/3-1748

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652, Sec 3(E) and 5(D) or (E) NNDG# 760050

in question; that there are two procedures for filing the claim, one against the New York Agency of Sumitomo Bank, Ltd. in liquidation, and the other against the Office of Alien Property under the provisions of Public Law 671, 79th Congress; but that as matter stands, it would appear that Pisal Panite Trading Company is barred from filing a claim under either procedure. The Ambassador also notes that Pisal Panite Trading Company may however become eligible to file its claim, if a favorable decision is given in litigation pending in the courts of the State of New York involving the effectiveness of the bar date against creditors who were prevented from filing their claims or instituting suit on rejected claims within the statutory period because of failure of communication due to the outbreak of war.

As it would seem that the only possibility left to Pisal Panite Trading Company to file their claim is dependent upon the decision to be given by the courts of the State of New York in the above-mentioned litigation, the Ambassador would greatly appreciate it, if he could be informed of the decision of the courts when given.

March 17, 1948.

ROYAL SIAMESE EMBASSY WASHINGTON, D.C.

EAR

CC/FE

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652, Sec 3(E) and 5(D) or (E) NNDG# 760050

~~DC/R~~ OP

ADDRESS OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS TO
THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON
DIVISION OF PROTECTIVE SERVICES

File

May 5th, 1949

To : Mr. Walter Chappell - DS

From : K. ~~K.~~ O- Okami - DS, Former Japanese Embassy in Custody of the Dept. of State

Subject : Cash Found in the San Francisco Files.

While looking through documents obtained from the former Yokohama Specie Bank in San Francisco, California, I discovered a small yellow envelope containing a dollar bill, and a Japanese paper currency of one yen.

This envelope was found among snapshots belonging to Motoyoshi, Mitsuhiro, the former branch manager of the above-mentioned bank. As there were many official Japanese documents in the same folder, it is difficult to determine whether or not this cash personally belonged to Motoyoshi.

Although there are several roughly written figures, and notes in pencil on the envelope, they are incoherent, and some of them are unintelligible. It is apparent however, that Motoyoshi had something to do with this money because all other contents in the folder are his personal correspondence, and business records relating to his work with the bank.

As instructed, I have returned the Japanese money (one yen in the original envelope)in the folder which has been filed under S.F. 4-2, in the chancery of the former Japanese embassy.

Enclosure: One dollar($1.00)in cash.

This Document Must Be Returned To DC/R
894.5151/5-549
CC

DC/R
Anal No
Rev
Cat

given to OS' "Kitty" on 1/18/52 wfc