

Mr. Alan Steinberg
World Jewish Congress
501 Madison Ave.,
New York, NY 10022

Harold Weisberg
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Dear Mr. Steinberg,

Not Jews alone but all the world is in debt to you, Brannfman, Singer and others! I add my personal thanks to this for your referring those two women reporters to me. In speaking to Bardack I was reminded ~~of~~ what I'd forgotten in some of my own writing and thus was able to add it. Diana Schemo was here. She is a Very pleasant and a thoughtful woman who sent me a copy of Bower's masterpiece Nazi Gold. I hope she is continuing her inquiry.

The Reuters story the Washington Post carried two days ago is headed with those words so traditional for the Swiss, "Swiss Holocaust Fund Pledges Prompt Distribution of Money." The story does not state, however, whether this represents a final settlement.

Even if it does and even if the Swiss start behaving like human beings, I think more should be done not only to perfect history's record but also to serve as more of a lesson for all countries for the future.

The Swiss were fronts for the Nazis in many ways. Bower has a few mentioned of I.G. Chemie, which may have been the biggest. There were a number of Swiss fronts for the Nazis, for what remained Nazi despite these fronts. The only Swiss bank involved in those I remember was the Swiss Bank Corporation.

There was the Swiss corporation Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals and one called Foreign Inventions, of Chepha and Forinvent. At least the first of these was the paper owner of the Schering operations in the U.S. It even counterfeited the Nazi label to make it look as though the British blockade had been broken in South America. The plexiglas manufacturer Rohm & Haas was another. There were several that were vested as alien property after my exposes. But I do not ~~allege~~ *allege* my stories had that result. I do not know.

Some records should exist and should be ^accessible under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) with the added advantage that with the passing of time fewer withholdings can be made for privacy.

That work in the Department of Justice was under anti-trust, which was headed by Thurman Arnold. I knew him and some of his lawyers but most of my contacts were with Joe Borkin. He was then an economist but he became a lawyer. He did the fine book I.G., later. I took what I developed to Joe. When I tried to recover some of it under FOIA I was told he had taken it with him when he left the government. No objection! He made fine use of it.

Other agencies had related responsibilities but I do not remember which they were. However, a request of Justice under FOIA could be a beginning. For a reporter or for a bright doctoral candidate seeking a thesis that could make a worthwhile book.

There will be questions of delicacy from ^{Some of} the involvements of United States corporations and with the British at least of Imperial Chemicals. I could not get that published then when it should have been because of its hurtfulness to the war effort.

If this is done I think an effort should be made to see if any papers Joe Borkin left exist.

I was wrong on the title. It is "The Crime and Punishment of I.G. Farben" published by Macmillan's Free Press. (No McCloy in the index.)

The FBI also did investigating on those cases and its files do go back that far, from my experience with them.

If this Swiss business had not reached its end more of this coming to light might be useful. In any event, it would be good for the world to know.

Many thanks for the fine work you are doing.

Sincerely,



Harold Weisberg

Please excuse my typing. I'm 84 and that I've survived all I have has my doctors amazed.

A student can use FOIA without any lawyer, as can a reporter. ^{w/} But in time a lawyer may help.