

*unofficial translation*

Department of the Interior of the Czech Republic

State Central Archive in Prague

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Re: Property of Ferdinand Bloch-Bauer family in Panenské Břežany

Dear Sir,

in reference to your letter of December 14, 1999, we want to inform you that we have done an extensive archive search concerning the Bloch-Bauer family property in Panenské Břežany.

Relevant documents were found in the following archive caches: Gestapo Prague (101), State Secretary to the Reichsprotector (109), Land National Committee in Prague-Department of Land Reform, Interior Settlement and Administration of Enemy Property (ZNV), The State Administration of Historical Monuments in Prague (SPS) and the State Forests and Estates in Prague (URSLS).

The following can be concluded from the archive documents: Ferdinand Bloch-Bauer family owned real property in Panenské Břežany, including the building of the so-called new castle. The so-called old castle belonged to another Jewish family, the Gerstl family. These facts interfere in the located documents, and it is not always possible to distinguish whose property is being dealt with.

The property of both families was probably confiscated by the Gestapo already in 1940, based on the "order of the Reichsprotector on the confiscation of property in the Protectorate Böhmen und Mähren" of October 4, 1939. The property rights were acquired by the German Reich represented by the Reichsprotector in Bohemia and Moravia. Reichsprotector Konstantin von Neurath chose Panenské Břežany as his residence, which the documents of Gestapo Prague make evident. These documents contain various regulations concerning the guards in the surroundings of the castle, as well as securing the road between the Černín Palace in Prague and Břežany. On September 27, 1941, Neurath was replaced in his office by Reinhard Heydrich. Heydrich also moved his family to the castle. This fact is evident from the papers of the State Secretary to the Reichsprotector, which, however, come only from the time after the assassination of Heydrich, i.e. after May 27, 1942. Lina Heydrich, Reinhard Heydrich's widow, is referred to as the owner of the so-called old castle (or lesser castle, or Gerstl's house), that she made available, together with the garden, as the summer residence to Karl Herman Frank, the State Secretary and later the State Minister for Bohemia and Moravia. Lina Heydrich was probably the owner of the whole estate in Panenské Břežany and she