

OCT. 19, 1944

PLAIN

October 17, 1944

CIRCULAR TELEGRAM

TO CERTAIN AMERICAN DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS

CIRCULAR, SEVENTEENTH

With respect to Bretton Woods Resolution VI, the following statement was released to the press on October 4:

QUOTE On October 2 the Government of the United States requested the neutral governments to institute measures to prevent enemy governments and leaders and their collaborators from retaining their loot under neutral protection and from finding safe haven for their wealth in neutral territories. These representations were made in keeping with Resolution VI of the Bretton Woods Conference, and were directed at objectives similar to those of the United Nations Declaration of January 5, 1943, with respect to looted property, and the Declaration of February 22, 1944, concerning looted gold. Similar representations were made by the British Government.

QUOTE The problem of uncovering and disentangling enemy and looted property is one of international character which can be most effectively handled in cooperation with the neutral countries. The enemy has been taking property of occupied countries and their nationals by open looting and plundering, by forcing transfers under duress, and by subtle and complex devices. The enemy has often operated through the agencies of puppet governments to give the cloak of legality to his robbery. The enemy has also been attempting to conceal his assets by passing the chain of ownership and control through occupied and neutral countries. In anticipation of impending defeat, the enemy is increasing those activities in order to salvage his assets and to perpetuate his economic influence abroad, and his power and ability to plan future aggrandisement and world domination.

QUOTE This Government, in presenting its note to the neutrals, indicated that it considered cooperation in this matter to be of "primary importance to the welfare of occupied nations and to the protection of the lives and property of their nationals and to the peace and security of the post-war world."

cc: 10/21/44

For Information - Messrs. Schmidt, Richards, Sachs, Gilbert, Miss Scullen, Feig, J. C. Jones, Mrs. Lewis, Lunn, Blake, O'Flaherty, Brenner, Bennett, Robinson, Alk, Lesser, Day, Mrs. R. Shwartz, Moskovitz, General Records: "Flight of Axis Capital", NY Fed.

QUOTE A copy of Resolution VI, adopted by the delegates assembled at the United Nations Monetary and Financial Conference at Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, is attached. UNQUOTE

HULL
(SJR)

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10/5/44

WE EM BG NE WT AD NOE