

BANK FOR INTERNATIONAL SETTLEMENTS, CH-4002 BASLE

PRESS COMMUNIQUÉ

7th July 1997

OPENING OF BIS WARTIME ARCHIVES

On 12th May 1997 the Bank for International Settlements announced in a press communiqué its decision to open to the public the Bank's historical archives: *"Documents older than 30 years will be made available from early 1998. However, as a preliminary measure, major documents relating to the BIS's wartime activities will be made available to historians and researchers from July of this year"*.

The Bank's major wartime documents (see the list below) have now been microfilmed and are available to researchers for consultation as from Tuesday, 8th July 1997. The microfilms can be studied on the BIS's premises every weekday from 9 a.m. to 5.30 p.m., except on the days of Board Meetings. To make an appointment, please telephone the Bank's Historical Archive Service on +41-61-280 82 81 or +41-61-280 85 04, or write to:

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The opening of other BIS records more than 30 years old is scheduled for early 1998.

Overview of files being made available from 8th July 1997

CATEGORY 1 : ORGANISATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE BIS

1a - BIS Board of Directors:

Report on BIS Operations, 1939-1946.
Banking Policy of the BIS during the Second World War.

1b - Banking Policy:

Banking Policy of the BIS. Gold Operations 1930-1959.
Banking Policy of the BIS. Second World War.
Gold Deposits and Accounts of Central Banks of Baltic States with the BIS.

CATEGORY 2 : BANKING

2a - Central Banks (Policy, Gold Operations, Banking Operations):

Deutsche Reichsbank, Berlin
List of Gold Bars received from the Reichsbank
Bank von Danzig, Danzig

Deutsche Golddiskontbank, Berlin
Federal Reserve Bank of New York, New York
Bank of England, London
Banque de France, Paris
Banca d'Italia, Rome
Banque Nationale de Belgique / Nationale Bank van België, Brussels
National Bank of Yugoslavia, Belgrade
Sveriges Riksbank, Stockholm
Schweizerische Nationalbank / Banque Nationale Suisse, Zurich
Eesti Pank, Tallinn
De Nederlandsche Bank, Amsterdam
Narodni Banka Ceskoslovenska, Prague
Magyar Nemzeti Bank, Budapest
Geldinstituts-Zentrale, Budapest
Danmarks Nationalbank, Copenhagen
National Bank of Romania, Bucharest
Banco de Portugal, Lisbon
Lietuvos Bankas, Vilnius
Banco de España, Madrid
Latvijas Banka, Riga

2b - General:

Banking Department. Contract Books 1931-1949.
Résumés Hebdomadaires 1938-1949 (weekly statements of banking transactions).
Gold Register. Accounts Closed (gold held by the BIS, by depositor and location).
Gold Earmarked at Central Banks. Total Accounts 1935-1950 (ledger).
Monthly Statements 1930-1950 (BIS Balance Sheet at month-end).

CATEGORY 3 : BIS HISTORY

3a - Personal Files Paul Hechler, Assistant General Manager of the BIS 1935-1945:

Exchange of Correspondence with the Reichsbank, Berlin.
Thematic Files.
Personal Diaries 1935-1945 (in shorthand; partially transcribed).

3b - Personal Files Roger Auboin, General Manager of the BIS 1938-1958:

Mouvements d'or BRI 1937-1946 (monthly overview of gold operations).
Thematic Files.
Notes and Publications.
Exchange of Correspondence with the Banque de France, Paris.

3c - Looted Gold:

Gold Identified as Forming Part of the Gold of the Banque Nationale de Belgique.
Dutch Gold.
Total Looted Gold Received from the Reichsbank during the War.

3d - BIS History Papers (12th May 1997):

Introductory Note on the Bank for International Settlements 1930-1945.
Note on Gold Operations involving the Bank for International Settlements and the German Reichsbank, 1st September 1939 - 8th May 1945.