Records of the Office of the Assistant Legal Adviser for Educational, Cultural, and Public Affairs, 1945–1997, Subject Files

Part 1: Records on the Disposition of German Assets

During World War II, the United States built up a large storehouse of enemy assets. The U.S. State Department’s Office of the Assistant Legal Adviser for Educational, Cultural, and Public Affairs was charged with the disposal of these assets after the war.

Types of claims addressed

Records in this collection present

- claims against the United States for the taking of enemy-owned or enemy-controlled property during World War II; and
- the disposition of external German assets seized during the war.

Seeking resolution through diplomacy

The claims records reveal that resolutions were sought through diplomacy. Among the records are those of Internationale Industrie und Handelsbeteiligungen AG of Switzerland, and Manfred Weiss and his heirs of Hungary. Many of the records on disposition of external German assets concern German assets in Japan.

In addition, there are records relating to

- the disposition of German property in Brazil, Luxembourg, and other countries;
- the drafting of legislation for dealing with compensation payments under the German Equalization of Burdens legislation and other funds;
- attempts by former Yugoslav nationals to receive compensation for time spent as German prisoners of war;
- the disposition of external Japanese assets;
- the settlement of Greek claims against Germany for destruction of merchant vessels and other property prior to Greece’s entry into the war; and
- State Department compliance with Executive Order 12372, which sought to foster intergovernmental partnership and a strengthened federalism.

Source


