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April 9, 1946

My dear Professor Rappard:

I have your letter of April 4, 1946, concerning looted gold, in which you request a considerable amount of additional information. Although some of this information may be relevant to the general problem of looted gold, other is immaterial. Moreover, in our opinion none of the information requested has any relevance to acceptance by you of the principle advocated by the Allied Delegation that you will restore to the Allies looted gold which was acquired from the Germans.

When agreement has been reached on this principle, the Allied Delegation will be prepared to furnish the Swiss Delegation with necessary additional information. However, it must be understood that the Swiss Delegation will for its part make available to the Allied Delegation the pertinent information, including that which has been requested by the Belgian National Bank in this connection. Accordingly, I should like again to invite a statement of the Swiss position on the principle involved.

The information now in the hands of the Swiss Delegation is adequate to enable the Swiss Delegation to state whether it is prepared to return the equivalent of all looted gold received from the Germans. It is our view that it would be more profitable to decide the basic issue before considering details, including those listed in your letter of April 4, 1946. In this connection the Allied Delegation deems it appropriate to state that they consider as looted gold all gold acquired by the Germans under conditions such as those set forth in the United Nations Declaration of January 5, 1943.

With reference to the question posed in the penultimate paragraph of your letter, I am in a position to state that in the event Switzerland agrees to restore looted gold to the Allies, appropriate arrangements can be made for the protection of the Swiss Government.

This letter is written on behalf of my Allied colleagues as the United States Delegation.

Sincerely yours,

(s) Randolph Paul

Professor William Rappard  
Legation of Switzerland  
Washington, D. C.