

UNITED NATIONS TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL



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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

PETITION FROM DR. HEINZ LANGGUTH ON BEHALF OF MR. TOM ADALBERT VON PRINCE CONCERNING TANGANYIKA

(Circulated in accordance with rule 85 of the rules of procedure for the Trusteeship Council. Circulated in summary form, because of its length, in accordance with rule 85, paragraph 3, of the rules of procedure).

Summary of petition from Dr. Heinz Langguth on behalf of Mr. Tom Adalbert von Prince 1/

Dr. Heinz Langguth states that Mr. Tom Adalbert von Prince, a Danzig national residing in Tanganyika, was wrongfully interned at the outbreak of the Second World War, that his assets were wrongfully seized and that he was wrongfully deported in January 1940. He requests that directions be given to the Tanganyika Government that Mr. Tom Adalbert von Prince be given full compensation for all damages suffered by him in these three matters, and that a committee of experts be appointed to compute the measure of the damages.

Regarding the past history of Mr. Tom Adalbert von Prince, it is stated that he was born in Tanganyika and is today a British subject. In 1924 he emigrated from the Free City of Danzig to Tanganyika as a Danzig national and lived there from 1924 to 1939. At the outbreak of the Second World War on 3 September 1939, he was placed in an internment camp at Dar es Salaam and his assets were seized and became vested in the Custodian of Enemy Property as from 3 September 1939. In 1940 he was deported to Germany. Subsequently, in accordance with the "Law for the Settlement of Questions of Nationality" dated 22 February 1955 enacted in the Federal Republic of Germany by which all Danzig nationals of German stock acquire German nationality retroactively as from 1 September 1939 unless they expressly renounce it, Mr. Tom Adalbert von Prince renounced German nationality and was issued a certificate of renunciation to the effect that he did not acquire German nationality following the incorporation of the Free City of Danzig into the German Reich on 1 September 1939.

1/ See also the petition from Dr. Heinz Langguth on behalf of Messrs. Bertram von Lekew and Tom Adalbert von Prince concerning the Longuza Sisal and Cocoa Estate Co. (document T/PET.2/200).

It is further stated that on 7 March, 24 March and 22 April 1954 Mr. von Prince submitted an application and supplementary applications to the Member for Lands and Mines for the restoration to him of his property and assets seized by the Custodian of Enemy Property at the outbreak of the Second World War in September 1939 and for compensation and that by letter of 9 January 1954 the Member of Lands and Mines replied that directions had been given for the release of his assets. Mr. von Prince believed however, that he was entitled to far greater payment than that received. An itemized list of claims for compensation and restitution include a share of fifty per cent in the Longuza Estates Ltd., Tanga District Plot No. 210; the Kwata Sisal Estate in the Kosogwe District, including buildings, machines and other equipment; all property located at the Kihuhwi Saw Mills near the railway station of Kihuhwi, Tanga District which are said to have been leased by the petitioner and which includes lumber of all descriptions, barracks, stores, furniture and household goods, three passenger cars and one lorry; all funds credited with the Consolidated Sisal Estates at the Bombuera Sisal Estate and Ngomeni Sisal Estate; and claims which are registered in the Office of the Custodian of Enemy property.

Attached to the petition are the following annexes:

1. Copy of the deed dated 21 September 1954 appointing Dr. Heinz Langguth as the attorney of Mr. Tom Adalbert von Prince;
2. Copy of a letter dated 9 June 1954 from the Custodian of Enemy Property agreeing to release the net proceeds of the realization of the property of Mr. Adalbert von Prince;
3. Copy of the certificate of renunciation issued on 29 November 1955 in accordance with the Law for the Settlement of Questions of German nationality of 22 February 1955 stating that Mr. Tom Adalbert von Prince had not acquired German nationality;
4. Copy of a letter dated 21 November 1955 from the Vice President of the Provincial Government of Lower Franconia stating that Mr. Adalbert von Prince had renounced the German nationality collectively conferred upon him;
5. Copy of a summarized account of the present day value of Mr. Tom Adalbert's Kwata plantation less the valuation of the Kwata Estate;

6. Copy of an affidavit dated 13 December 1955 of Mr. Tom Adalbert von Prince concerning his losses arising from the seizure of his property at the outbreak of the Second World War;
7. Copy of a statement showing the approximate average prices of British East Africa Sisal No. 1.
