

CONFIDENTIAL

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-3. Mar 1959

AIDE MEMOIRE

1. Am 2.1.59. an Mr. Wolden  
 (Brk. Bruckhoff) Hamburg  
 2. Ref. 504  
 3. m.v. 73

The Naval Attaché to Her Majesty's Embassy has in his possession and control a yacht known as the "Prince Charles" (formerly "Karin"); the yacht is at present moored at Oberwinter.

This yacht was apparently seized by the British forces in the area of Hamburg in the early days of the Occupation, i.e. in late 1945 or early 1946. She was then used by the Royal Navy at Wilhelmshaven until 1950, when she was brought down to Krefeld and attached to the Rhine Squadron. When the Rhine Squadron was disbanded in 1958 the yacht was transferred into the possession and control of the Naval Attaché.

Shortly before the Rhine Squadron was disbanded, Flag Officer (Germany) received a letter from a firm of lawyers acting on behalf of the heirs of Goering claiming that this yacht had been the private property of Goering at the time of its seizure in 1945, and requesting its return. The lawyers submitted in support of this assertion certain evidence which establishes a prima facie case that the yacht was the private property of Goering at the time of the outbreak of war in 1939. No evidence is available to the British authorities to indicate that the yacht was requisitioned or taken over by the German Navy during the war.

On the evidence so far available to them, Her Majesty's Government feel unable to assert title to the yacht. On the other hand, the Embassy are reluctant to enter into negotiations with the lawyers acting on behalf of Goering's heirs since there is a possibility that certain claims may be outstanding against Goering's estate as a result of proceedings for confiscation taken under the provisions of de-Nazification legislation in the various Laender. An approach has already been made to the Land Government of North-Rhine/Westphalia with a view to their taking over the yacht and securing its confiscation under the terms of de-Nazification legislation in that Land; as a result of legal difficulties, however, the Land Government are reluctant to accept possession of the yacht. Similarly, an attempt by the Embassy to dispose of the yacht to the authorities of Land Berlin has also failed for technical reasons.

Her Majesty's Embassy would be grateful to know whether in these circumstances the Federal Government would be prepared to take possession of the yacht against an indemnity, either with a view to retaining or confiscating it under whatever powers they may possess, or with a view to handing it over to some other Land Government which might have the necessary legal powers to order its confiscation.

February 28, 1959.

1. ~~Handwritten text~~  
 2. ~~Handwritten text~~  
 3. 12.58 - 1.1 - 0258 (Spring)

CONFIDENTIAL

H.B.M. Naval Attaché,

British Embassy,

BONN.

I, Captain B. D. O. MacIntyre, D.S.C., Royal Navy,  
Her Britannic Majesty's Naval Attaché in Bonn, hereby  
authorise on behalf of the Lords Commissioners of the  
Admiralty Mr. J. W. Lasky, Legal Adviser, Headquarters  
Joint Services Liaison Organisation to sign the attached  
agreement for the disposal of the yacht "PRINCE CHARLES"  
(otherwise known as "KAREN II").

Signed .....  
(B. D. O. MacIntyre)  
Captain, Royal Navy

Date ..... 29<sup>th</sup> June 1960.



*J. W. Lasky*