

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 26, 1945

The United States Government is removing from Germany to the continental United States certain perishable German art objects not readily identifiable as looted property, with the sole intention of keeping such treasures safe and in trust for the people of Germany or the other rightful owners. The United States Government will retain these objects of art in its possession only as long as necessary to insure their physical safety or until such time as it may be possible to return them to their rightful owners. The return of readily identifiable looted art objects to the liberated countries from the American Zone in Germany already is under way.

When the appropriate Allied bodies determine the rightful owners or the return of conditions in Germany whereby the safety of the objects to be stored in the United States can be definitely assured, they will be distributed according to the directives of such Allied groups. When objects of art are definitely established as being of bona fide German ownership, they will be returned to Germany when conditions there warrant.

The reason for bringing these perishable art objects to the United States is that expert personnel is not available within the American Zone to assure their safety. At present these perishable objects are being stored under conditions which would bring about their deterioration. For many of these art objects there are not adequate housing facilities in Germany.

The National Gallery of Art, through the Chairman of its Board of Trustees, the Honorable Harlan Fiske Stone, Chief Justice of the United States, has been requested, on behalf of the government, to arrange for the storage and protection of these works of art while in this country.

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