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TO: JEREMY\_GUNN @ JIK-AND.GOV @ INTERNET.CO. (CC: Jeremy Gunn/ARRB)FROM: David Wei @ aol.com @ Internet @ WORLDCOM Date: 01/18/97 09:46:33 PM CSTSubject: Fwd: Banker Criticizes Swiss Leaders-----  
-----Forwarded message:From: AOLNewsProfiles@aol.netDate: 97-01-17 19:33:54 EST<HTML><PRE><I>.c  
The Associated Press</I></PRE></HTML> By CLARE NULLIS Associated Press Writer GENEVA (AP) -- An international commission searching for the assets of Holocaust victims is unlikely to find more than the \$28million already identified by Swiss bankers, a commission membersaid Friday. However, Hans Baer criticized the Swiss government for failing to adequately address allegations the country colluded with Hitler's Germany, siphoned off Jewish assets and laundered Nazi gold during World War II. "We still do not have a strategy on how to get out of this impossibly difficult situation," Baer told the American International Club of Geneva. As an example of government incompetence, he cited the nightwatchman who was suspended from his job and faces possible prosecution for rescuing old documents belonging to Switzerland's biggest bank. Guard Christoph Meili said he found the documents in two containers waiting to be shredded at the Union Bank of Switzerland. The government has imposed a ban on destroying records that could shed light on Nazi-era transactions. Meili turned the documents over to the Hebrew Congregation of Zurich, which gave them to police. Zurich District Attorney Peter Cosandey described the documents as "politically sensitive." Nevertheless, Meili could face prosecution because Swiss law provides for fines or jail sentences for people who disclose banking secrets. Abraham Foxman, head of the New York-based Anti-Defamation League, hailed Meili as a hero Friday at a news conference in Zurich, and said the group had set up a \$36,000 defense fund for him. Union Bank of Switzerland officials say the documents are unrelated to allegations of Nazi-era financial wrongdoing. But Zurich Jewish groups dispute that, saying they include information on loans to German clients, including mortgages in Berlin during the Nazi era. Jewish organizations say Swiss banks hold about \$7 billion in assets and accumulated interest belonging to Jews killed during the Holocaust. But the Swiss Bankers Association said last year its own search had uncovered only \$28 million. Baer belongs to a commission set up to investigate the Nazi-era bank records and headed by former U.S. Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker. The commission has appointed three independent auditors to carry out the search. "My suspicion is that nothing plus or minus will be found," Baer said in a speech to 400 businessmen and diplomats. "But that is not the point of the search. The search is to get a certificate of clean health." Baer said he opposes using the unclaimed assets to compensate Holocaust victims and their heirs, as the Swiss government has suggested. "To even think, at government level, that this money can be used to buy ourselves out of the corner in which we  
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