

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

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DISMISSAL OF GENERAL ROATTA
OCT., NOV. 1943

2590

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

*This folder
important*

ALLIED MILITARY MISSION - OUTGOING MESSAGE

SVC/RELAY NR:

M/C NR: 15/16

CLASS: SECRET

REF NR: 444

PREC: ROUTINE

FILED: 161807A Oct

FROM: ~~XXXXX~~ Italian High Command

REC'D:

TO: FREEDOM (for Castellano)

FOLLOWING FROM COMMANDO SUPREMO PD TO FREEDOM FOR CASTELLANO FROM FATIMA SIGNED TAYLOR
PD QUOTE ONE NINE NINE THREE SLANT OP IT HAS BEEN STATED IN THE BRITISH HOUSE OF
COMMONS, THAT GENERALS AMBROSIO AND ROATTA ARE MEMBERS OF THE BADOGLIO GOVERNMENT PD
THESE GENERALS NEVER BELONGED NOR DO THEY NOW BELONG TO THE BADOGLIO GOVERNMENT PD
THEY HOLD THE SAME MILITARY APPOINTMENTS THEY HELD IN THE PAST PD REQUEST ALLIED
COMMAND TO BE KIND ENOUGH TO ISSUE A PUBLIC STATEMENT, IN THE WAY THEY DEEM PROPER,
CORRECTING THE MATTER SIGNED AMBROSIO UNQUOTE

AUTHENTICATED:

MAXWELL D. TAYLOR
Brig. Gen., U.S.A.
Acting Chief of Mission

2085

Office of the Resident
Minister at A.P.H.Q.,
5, rue Professeur Curtillet,
Algiers.

21/150/5.

To: Mr. Caccia
From: Mr. Makins.

I enclose for your information the text of some questions and answers in the House about Roatta and Ambrosio.

Mr. Law. I am aware of the accusations that are made against Generals Ambrosio and Roatta. They are being investigated and if they are discovered to be well founded appropriate action will be taken.

Sir A. Southby. Will My Right Honourable Friend say whether it is or is not a fact that General Roatta has been put on the Yugoslav list of war criminals. Also may I ask whether General Badoglio is on the list submitted by the Emperor of Ethiopia.

Mr. Law. With regard to General Roatta I have seen reports in the press that he is on the List of War Criminals of the Yugoslav Government, but that Government have not made any official communication to His Majesty's Government on that point.

Head of the Mission

23rd Oct. 1943.

Pol

23
10 21
208

INCOMING

SECRET

4/29

PRIORITY

3504

FREEDOM

282040A Oct

FATEM.

290320A

A telegram has been received from the Department stating that the question of the continuation of General Roatta and Ambrosio on Marshal Badoglio's staff has been raised by the British who feel that steps should be taken looking toward the removal of at least General Roatta. (To FATEM for Murphy from Chapin signed Eisenhower cite FHCIV.) The Department states it is principally interested in being informed of the effect if any which the removal of Roatta would have on the war effort of Italy and whether there exists from a military standpoint at the present a competent replacement. This would appear to be a matter to be discussed by you with General Eisenhower on your return and the Department is being so informed.

INCOMING

SECRET

1/02

PRIORITY

5088

FREEDOM

011752A Nov

FATIMA

012350A

As you know, General Roatta, Chief of the Staff of the Italian Army, has been violently attacked in the British press and Parliament on the ground of his war record. He is on the Yugoslav list of war criminals. FOR LASON MACEDARLANE FROM CINC CITE PECOS. At the suggestion of the British Government and with the agreement of the United States Government, General Eisenhower approves that you should take steps to secure his dismissal. Macmillan and Murphy agree. Doubt you will use your own discretion in the method by which you approach Badoglio but the problem will arise of his disposal and he is of an intriguing nature and might be dangerous. We suggest that it would be well if he were told to live quietly in Sicily and undertake to engage in no political or military activities.

OUTGOING

MOST SECRET

15

IMMEDIATE

725

FATIMA

021920A Nov

FREEDOM for EISENHOWER cite FHCOS
rptd AFHQ ADV CP at AMILCAR

YOUR NUMBER FIVE ZERO EIGHT EIGHT PD TO FREEDOM FOR EISENHOWER CITE FHCOS RPTD AFHQ
ADVANCE COMMAND POST AT AMILCAR FROM FATIMA SIGNED MACFARLANE PD I TOLD BADOGLIO
THAT ROLTA MUST BE REPLACED PD BADOGLIO QUITE UNDERSTOOD THE SITUATION BUT SAID
THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO GET THE KINGS APPROVAL BEFORE TAKING ACTION PD HE STATED
THAT HE WOULD HAVE GREAT DIFFICULTY IN REPLACING ROLTA AND HOPED VERY MUCH THAT WE
MIGHT BE ABLE TO LET HIM HAVE ONE OF THE ITALIAN GENERALS CAPTURED BY US RETURNED
TO FILL THE APPOINTMENT PD HE MENTIONED THE NAME OF MERSE BUT SAID HE WOULD LIKE
TO THINK THE MATTER OVER FURTHER PD I TOLD HIM THAT I THOUGHT THAT YOU WOULD PROBABLY
SYMPATHETIC
GIVE THIS REQUEST YOUR ~~XXXXXXXX~~ CONSIDERATION AND PERSONALLY I THINK IT MIGHT BE A
GOOD THING TO COMPLY WITH IT PD WILL LET YOU KNOW FURTHER IN DUE COURSE

AUTHENTICATED:

F. H. MASON MACFARLANE
Lieutenant General
Chief of Mission

2082

OUTGOING

SECRET

7

ROUTINE

773

FATIMA

0511401 Nov

FREEDOM for EISENHOWER, MURPHY AND MACMILLAN
rptd AFHQ ADV CP at AMILCAR

GENERAL SCATTA INJURED YESTERDAY IN MOTOR ACCIDENT PD TO FREEDOM FOR EISENHOWER
MURPHY AND MACMILLAN RPT AFHQ ADVANCE COMMAND POST AT AMILCAR FROM FATIMA SIGNED
MACFARLANE PD WILL BE ON THE SICK LIST FOR SEVERAL DAYS PD THIS MAY MAKE EXCUSE
WHICH WILL HELP BADOGLIO TO GET RID OF HIM PD I DID NOT REPEAT NOT ARRANGE THE
ACCIDENT

AUTHENTICATED:

F.N. MASON MACFARLANE
Lieutenant General
Chief of Mission

ALLIED MILITARY MISSION - INCOMING MESSAGE

/ta

SVC/RELAY NO.

M/C NO: 20/07

CLASS: ROUTINE

REF NO: 7715

PREC : Not Given

FILED : 071537A

FROM : FREEDOM

REC'D : 071610A

TO : FATIMA

N2

ITALY
0001 POLITICS
201 ROATTA
210.458 OFFICERS, RELIEF FR DY

Increasing pressure especially in London (TO FATIMA FOR MACFARLANE SIGNED
EISENHOWER CITE FHMGs REFERENCE OUR 5088 NOVEMBER 1) makes desirable early
compliance with suggestion that Roatta be eliminated.

DISTRIBUTION:

- 2 - AG Files
- 1 - Diary
- 1 - M/C
- 1 - Major Doe (ACTION)

Gen. 771

Answered
ben
1

File
2080

U. S. SECRET
Equals British MOST SECRET
OUTGOING

MOST SECRET

IMPORTANT

FATIMA

FREEDOM RPTD AFHQ ACP AT AMILCAR

/afe

01/08

822

081010A

do

ITALY 0001 PORTU
501.80/577A
310.456 354. 08/10/57
201. MESSAGE

YOUR NUMBER SEVEN SEVEN ONE FIVE PD THE ACTUAL REMOVAL OF ROATTA CAN ONLY BE ORDERED BY THE KING PD TO FREEDOM FOR GENERAL EISENHOWER CMA MURPHY AND MACMILLAN RPTD AFTER ADVANCE COMMAND POST AT AMILCAR CITE FIMES FROM FATIMA SIGNED MACFARLANE PD BADOGLIO IS PUTTING UP THE QUESTION TOGETHER WITH MY WRITTEN INSTRUCTIONS ON THE SUBJECT VERY STRONGLY INDEED TODAY PD BADOGLIO IS TELLS ME THAT HE UNLIKELY TO NOMINATE A SUCCESSOR AND THAT ROATEAS DEPUTY WILL CARRY ON PD BADOGLIO INTENDS KEEPING MARSHAL MESSE AT ITALIAN GOVERNMENT HEADQUARTERS AS HIS PERSONAL ADVISER PD HE PROPOSES TO APPOINT ONE OF THE OTHER RETURNING PRISONERS OF WAR GENERALS TO THE COMMAND OF THE THIRTY FIRST CORPS IN CALABRIA PD I HOPE TO REPORT FURTHER PROGRESS REGARDING REMOVAL OF ROATTA TONIGHT PD IN THE MEANTIME HE IS UNLIKELY TO BE OUT OF HOSPITAL AFTER HIS MOTOR ACCIDENT FOR ANOTHER MONTH

AUTHENTICATED:

file

F. N. MASON MACFARLANE
Lieutenant General
Chief of Mission

DISTRIBUTION:

2 - AG
1 - Diary

U. S. SECRET
Equals British MOST SECRET

2079

OUTGOING

MOST SECRET

20/9

IMMEDIATE

855

FATIMA

092319Z Nov

FREEDOM

PADOGLIO INFORMED ME THIS EVENING THAT THE KING HAS APPROVED THE REMOVAL OF
GENERAL ROATTA PD TO FREEDOM FOR GENERAL EISENHOWER CIA MURPHY AND MACMILLAN
FROM FATIMA SIGNED MACMILLAN PD PAREN AND PADOGLIO IS ISSUING ORDERS ON THE SUBJECT
IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE

AUTHENTICATED:

F.N. MASON. MACMILLAN
Lieutenant General
Chief of Mission

2070

OUTGOING

SECRET

11/10

URGENT

867

FATIMA

101245A Nov

FREEDOM

I HAVE JUST RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM MARSHAL BADOGLIO REGARDING THE RELIEF OF GENERAL ROATTA AS CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE ARMY PD TO FREEDOM FROM FATIMA SIGNED JOYCE PD QUOTE I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL IF YOU WILL INFORM THE AMERICAN AND BRITISH GOVERNMENT THAT HIS EXCELLENCY GENERAL ROATTA CEASES TO FUNCTION CMA FROM TOMORROW ON CMA AS CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE ROYAL ARMY PD GENERAL ROATTA IS NOW IN THE HOSPITAL HAVING BEEN SERIOUSLY INJURED IN A CAR ACCIDENT PD HE WILL PROBABLY HAVE TO REMAIN IN THE HOSPITAL CMA EVEN THERE ARE NO COMPLICATIONS CMA FOR AT LEAST A MONTH AND A HALF PD UNQUOTE IN THE ABSENCE OF INSTRUCTIONS TO THE CONTRARY I SHALL RELEASE THIS INFORMATION TO THE PRESS HERE TOMORROW

AUTHENTICATED:

MAXWELL D. TAYLOR
Brigadier General, USA

2077

INCOMING

SECRET

23/10

URGENT

9112

FREEDOM

1018138 Nov

FATMA

1018404

Press release concerning (TO FATMA FOR JOYCE SIGNED EISENHOWER CITE FMCG REFERENCE
YOUR 867 10 NOVEMBER) Reatta should be made by Radoglio rather than you.

2078

TRANSLATION

12 November 1943

THE CHIEF OF GOVERNMENT

TO: General Joyce
Chief of the Allied Commission.

General Ambrosio, Chief of General Staff of the Italian Armed Forces, in answer to a communique of the London Radio, has sent me the enclosed memorandum-clarification.

Since General Ambrosio is a very distinguished officer who occupies a very high post, I submit this matter to you in order that said memorandum may be forwarded to the Allied Governments.

Very truly yours,

/s/ BADOLLO

To: Col. Dudley Smith
Acknowledge this has
been forwarded AFHQ
Maz

2075

000.1 - Politics
✓ - Ambrosio
✓ - Rostke

TRANSLATION

15 October 1943

CLARIFICATION

The London Radio has broadcast that the House of Peers, Lord Edison has criticized the inclusion of Generals AMBROSIO and ROATTA in the Badoglio Government.

Lord Cramborne answered: "I shall not try to absolve the Generals, but we shall make the most accurate investigations."

It is best, then, to clarify immediately, in regards to General AMBROSIO, a situation which must have had its origin in inaccurate news and which does not correspond to that which Lord Edison referred. Such news and information on the activities of General AMBROSIO, who is not a part of the Badoglio Government, but occupies the position of Chief of General Staff, must certainly have reference to the time when he was in command of the Second Army, in occupied countries lately a part of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia. The territory of this Army included a zone annexed to Italy and a zone belonging to the new state of Croatia up to a "line of demarcation" beyond which German troops were in control.

As soon as the Croat Government was constituted, after the dissolution of the Serb-Croat-Slovene Kingdom, with Doctor Ante Pavelic at the head, assisted by the Minister of the Interior Quaternic, a national "Ustascia" 207

party was formed, similar in nature to the Fascist Party. All those who have had the chance to spend some time in the countries of this new Kingdom will know with what turbulent elements this organization was formed, and that, rather than a party, it was from the start a conglomeration of real bandits who, not respecting any morals or human law, began to sow terror within the country. The "Ustascia" rather than fired by political ideals began to perpetrate personal vendettas with the sole purpose of robbing everything in the possession of Serbs, Jews and Orthodox citizens. Towns and villages were attacked at night by these bands of criminals who atrociously assaulted women, aged and children, compelling able men to flee to the mountains in order that they not be taken as hostages or killed, and so that they might afterwards seek revenge for the abuses committed upon their families and themselves.

If photographic documents collected by the Photographic Sections of the 5th, 6th and 11th Corps of the Second Army had not been destroyed, they would have given ample testimony to what has been stated above. The "Ustascia" party's most intensive hate was directed against Jews.

The Germans, unsurpassed masters of cruelty against these people, had the Croats as their best followers who could apply in practice destructions and tortures in a manner more refined and atrocious than the Germans themselves. With premeditation, entire families were taken at night, beginning with the largest cities such as Zagabria, Karlovac, Ogulin, Banja-Luca, Mostar, then those on the Dalmatian coast, and ending up with the smallest villages in Bosnia and Herzegovina, where to the pursuit of Jew was added that of Orthodox.

2073

These unfortunates, led to railroads stations, were crammed into cattle cars, and after long and endless halts during the trip, were grouped in concentration camps surrounded by double barbed wire fences, in the most unhealthy zones, furthest away from centers of communication, without barracks, water, exposed to the elements summer and winter.

There most of them suffered the worst of deaths, either thru the "Ustascia" sentries, or by torments caused by hunger, thirst or disease.

Amid this evidence of bestial ferocity and inhuman hate, in those tragic days when the life of the people subjected to Italian Control was at the mercy of cruel Croatia criminals who commanded life and death, General VITTORIO AMEROSIO, with sound judgment and humanity, exercised his rights to command in every occasion and circumstances towards the Zagabria Government and "Ustascia" Prefects that governed the various provinces, at first work of pacification and of reaction to provocation, then of strong opposition to illogical and inhuman acts. Army Headquarters issued orders that Italian troops stationed in occupied towns should protect in every way and by whatever means persecuted citizens and that they should suppress any violations of order provoked by responsible elements of the Croat Government and those caused by irresponsible local factions. Our Headquarters and our soldiers, with that sentiment of high humanity which is instinctive in Italians, did so well in this respect that they earned the gratitude and affection of that people. If this resulted, it was thru the meritorious deeds of the Army Commander who daily visited cities, towns and villages and personally controlled the execution of his orders with precision and understanding. Wherever the automobile of General AMEROSIO appeared the roads were cleared in Italian as well as rebel occupied zones.

2072

The rebels, thru their leaders, often stated that they would never attempt to offend his person in any manner. He was esteemed for his high intellectual, mental and hearty attributes. The Balkan people have a high regard for men of character and bravery.

Many crimes, massacres and much bloodshed was avoided by the timely intervention by General AMEROSIO against the Croatian authorities, and in some cases against the German authorities who asked for the return of Jews and Serbs who had found refuge in zones under Italian control.

In Cinquenzia more than 3,000 Jews found shelter and protection under the vigilant eye of the 5th Corps Headquarters. And many more from Karlovac, across Slovenia, came to Italy, to Valli Di Pasubio (Prov. of Venice). These poor families that had travelled all over Croatia escaping death, finally found in the understanding of the Italians a bit of tranquillity.

To whom the credit? To General AMEROSIO.

Serbs, Jews, Orthodox, Czechs and rebels, members of any political party, made known verbally and in writing to the Army Commander their strong gratitude, assuring him that they would retain a vivid memory of he who had so humanely taken to heart the fate of their people.

The Zagabria Government could scarcely tolerate this attitude of General AMEROSIO, and, by some means, did everything possible to put him in a bad light towards the Rome Government.

2071

The initial strife increased and provoked from the beginning fridity in the relations between the authorities of Zagabria and the Army, and finally blazed forth into strong opposition. Doctor Pavelic, spurred by the Germans, who never had any sympathy for General AMBROSIO, turned directly to Mussolini, accusing said General of partisanship, of being non-sympathetic with the "Ustascia" party, and even of pro-Serbian sentiments.

This is one of the reasons why General Ambrosio was transferred to the Second Army in Rome in January 1941.

After the liberation of Yugoslavia from the German-Croatian forces of occupation, many citizens of that nation of whatever party, social standing, or creed, will be in a position to testify concerning the conduct, honesty, and just comportment of this General.

The assertion of what has been stated above could have been amply supported by numerous documents which were kept in the Archives of the Second Army. If these had not unfortunately been destroyed.

2070



MINISTERO DEGLI AFFARI ESTERI

Brindisi, 11 12.11.1943

N. 301

My dear General,

I have been instructed by the Head of the Italian Government to forward to you the enclosed aide memoire of the subject of the attitude of the Italian military authorities in territories by them formerly occupied.-

Believe me,

sincerely yours.-

R. Rumel

Major General

Kenyon Joyce

Deputy President

Allied Control Commission

2069

Handwritten notes:
C.S.
Lack
To Austria.

Handwritten note (vertical):
Italy - 040 - Government of Republic of Salvo



IL CAPO DEL GOVERNO

MEMORANDUM

A proposito della campagna in corso da qualche tempo sulla stampa Alleata - che ha avuto un'eco anche nelle Camere Britanniche - circa presunte atrocità che sarebbero state commesse da alcune Autorità militari nei Balcani, il Regio Governo tiene a sottolineare quanto segue:

1° - Il Governo Italiano, nell'attuale deplorabile stato delle comunicazioni colle sue Rappresentanze all'estero, non ha che notizie frammentarie e indirette su tale campagna e sulle accuse generiche e specifiche che sarebbero mosse al riguardo contro alcune Autorità militari italiane. Di tali notizie esso ignora sia la fonte, sia l'attendibilità, sia i tramiti per cui sono venute a conoscenza dell'opinione pubblica alleata.-

2° - Il Governo Italiano ricorda, e prega i Governi Alleati di voler tener presente, che la situazione Balcanica è stata sempre ed è, particolarmente dopo qualche anno di Guerra, estremamente intricata e complessa. I giudizi sommari, le valutazioni affrettate su situazioni e persone, sono in conseguenza molto spesso errate, quasi sempre arbitrarie. La somma di odii, di rivalità, di vendette pubbliche e private che si è accumulata nella Penisola Balcanica è tale, da rendere qualsiasi problema di occupazione, sia pure concepita e condotta coi migliori propositi di equità, di giustizia e di umanità, estremamente difficile e complesso.-

3° - Il Governo Italiano confida per conseguenza che, in accordo coi principi proclamati dagli Alleati e che completamente condivide, ogni accusa di questo genere sia attentamente e preventivamente vagliata e assicurata da parte sua che considera come suo dovere e suo interesse di agire per suo conto e con la maggiore energia nello stesso senso.-

4° - Il Governo Italiano è comunque convinto che quando sarà possibile fare la vera storia dell'occupazione italiana nei Balcani e altrove, risulterà soprattutto evidente sia l'umanità di tale occupazione, (le popolazioni sovietiche in Ucraina potranno ad esempio sin da ora fornire utili e conclusive testimonianze in proposito), sia gli sforzi effettuati dalle Autorità militari italiane per salvare vite umane, attenuare e neutralizzare l'azione tedesca, evitare effusione di sangue, reprimere vendette e persecuzioni razziali. Il Governo Italiano non può infine non ricordare il sacrificio delle sue

2058

divisioni che hanno dovuto di recente piegare nella Penisola Balcanica dinanzi alla superiorità tedesca di armi e di equipaggiamento, divisioni di cui ignora la sorte indubbiamente durissima e di cui alcune combattono tuttora nel Montenegro e in Albania, in condizioni particolarmente difficili, contro il comune nemico tedesco.-

5° - Il Regio Governo sarà molto grato se quanto precede sarà portato a conoscenza dei Governi Alleati.-

Brindisi, li 12. Novembre. 1943

Italy 040 - Int. Agents & Agency

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 512

DE-S/jjf

In reply refer to:
No. 312.1

16 November 1943.

Signor R. Prunas

Secretary-General, Royal Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Deputy President, Allied Control Commission presents his compliments to the Secretary-General, Royal Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and acknowledges receipt of letter No. 307, dated 12.11.1943 with an enclosed memorandum on the subject of the attitude of the Italian Military Authorities in territories occupied formerly by them. This memorandum has been forwarded to Allied Force Headquarters.

M. D. Hendley Smith
(initials)
for MAXWELL TAYLOR
Brig-General U. S. Army.

2067

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 512

No. 201-Roatta
210.456

16 November 1943.

SUBJECT: Memorandum by Italian Government on attitude of Italian
Military Authorities in territories formerly occupied by them.

TO : Major General W. B. Smith, Chief of Staff, A.F.H.Q.

1. Attached is a copy of a translation of a memorandum on the attitude of the Italian Military Authorities in territories occupied formerly by them. This memorandum has been forwarded to the Commission by the Royal Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the instructions of the Head of the Royal Italian Government.

2. It is desired to point out that the preparation and submission of this memorandum are undoubtedly connected with the relief of General ROATTA as Chief of Staff of the Army, reported in our cable No. 867 dated 10 November 1943.

MAXWELL TAYLOR
BRIG. General U. S. Army.

2058

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 512

No. 312.1

16 November 1943.

Signor R. Prunas
Secretary-General, Royal Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Deputy President, Allied Control Commission presents his compliments to the Secretary-General, Royal Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and acknowledges receipt of letter No. 397, dated 12.11.1943 with an enclosed memorandum on the subject of the attitude of the Italian Military Authorities in territories occupied formerly by them. This memorandum has been forwarded to Allied Force Headquarters.

2085

for MAXWELL TAYLOR
Brig-General U. S. Army.

TRANSLATION

THE CHIEF OF THE GOVERNMENT

MEMORANDUM

2054

Regarding comments by the Allied Press on the current campaign - which have also been echoed in the British Parliament - anent alleged atrocities said to have been committed by some Military Authorities in the Balkans, the Royal Government wishes to state the following;

1. The Italian Government, considering the present deplorable state of communications with its Representatives abroad, has but fragmentary and indirect news about this campaign and about general and specific accusations bearing upon some of the Italian Military Authorities. The Government is ignorant of the sources, dependability or channels through which Allied public opinion got its information.
2. The Italian Government remembers, and wishes the Allied Governments to keep in mind, that the Balkan situation has always been, and is now, particularly after about a year of war, extremely intricate and complex. Summary judgments, hurried evaluations on situations and persons, are consequently often subject to error, almost always arbitrary. The sum total of hates, of rivalries, of public and private vengeance which accumulate in the Balkan Peninsula is such that it makes any problem of occupations, be it even conceived and conducted with the best intentions of equity, justice and humanity, extremely difficult and complex.
3. The Italian Government, therefore feels that, in accordance with the principles proclaimed by the Allies, which it shares wholeheartedly, all accusations of this sort should be carefully evaluated beforehand, and it makes assurances that it considers as its duty and interest to act on its own account and with great energy toward the same aim.
4. The Italian Government is thoroughly convinced, that when it shall be possible to have the true story of Italian occupation in the Balkans and elsewhere, there will be evidence of both the humaneness of that occupation (the Soviet people of the Ukraine can, for example, at this very moment, furnish useful and conclusive testimony on the subject), and of the efforts made by Italian Military Authorities to save human lives, minimize and neutralize German activity, prevent bloodshed, repress racial revenge and persecutions. Finally, the Italian Government cannot fail to remember the sacrifice of its divisions which were forced to give way to German superiority of arms and equipment in the Balkan Peninsula, the undoubtedly hard fate of which the Government knows nothing, and some of which fight even now in Montenegro and Albania, under particularly difficult conditions against the common German enemy.
5. The Royal Government shall be very grateful if the foregoing is brought to the attention of the Allied Governments.

Brindisi, 12 November 1943

TRANSLATION

THE CHIEF OF THE GOVERNMENT

MEMORANDUM

2063

Regarding comments by the Allied Press on the current campaign - which have also been echoed in the British Parliament - anent alleged atrocities said to have been committed by some Military Authorities in the Balkans, the Royal Government wishes to state the following;

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2. The Italian Government remembers, and wishes the Allied Governments to keep in mind, that the Balkan situation has always been, and is now, particularly after about a year of war, extremely intricate and complex. Summary judgments, hurried evaluations on situations and persons, are consequently often subject to error, almost always arbitrary. The sum total of hates, of rivalries, of public and private vengeance which accumulate in the Balkan Peninsula is such that it makes any problem of occupations, be it even conceived and conducted with the best intentions of equity, justice and humanity, extremely difficult and complex.

3. The Italian Government, therefore feels that, in accordance with the principles proclaimed by the Allies, which it shares wholeheartedly, all accusations of this sort should be carefully evaluated beforehand, and it makes assurances that it considers as its duty and interest to act on its own account and with great energy toward the same aim.

4. The Italian Government is thoroughly convinced, that when it shall be possible to have the true story of Italian occupation in the Balkans and elsewhere, there will be evidence of both the humaneness of that occupation (the Soviet people of the Ukraine can, for example, at this very moment, furnish useful and conclusive testimony on the subject), and of the efforts made by Italian Military Authorities to save human lives, minimize and neutralize German activity, prevent bloodshed, repress racial revenge and persecutions. Finally, the Italian Government cannot fail to remember the sacrifice of its divisions which were forced to give way to German superiority of arms and equipment in the Balkan Peninsula, the undoubtedly hard fate of which the Government knows nothing, and some of which fight even now in Montenegro and Albania, under particularly difficult conditions against the common German enemy.

5. The Royal Government shall be very grateful if the foregoing is brought to the attention of the Allied Governments.

Brindisi, 12 November 1943