

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

ACC

10000/101/430

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

/430

ROME, "OPEN CITY"
MAR. - AUG. 1944

2414

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

SECRET

ACTION ACC REPEATED AAI

AFHQ SIGNED SACRED

FX 84727

AUG 18NFT

6/19

SECRET

PRIORITY

CITE: FHGCT

In reply to your ACC 1929 dated 17th Aug. As in past in case of Rome, we will try to avoid causing unnecessary damage and suffering but we are not repeat not prepared to declare Bologna an open city.

ACC DIST

Act - Pol. Sec
Info- A/CC
File

041.112

FILES A ()
#20

SECRET

1435

AUG 190810B

Bologna

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

AFHQ RPTD HQ AAI

ACC

1929

AUG 17

SEC ET

PRIORITY

POLITICAL

VATICAN HAS COMMUNICATED TO AMERICAN CHARGE D'AFFAIRES TO HOLY SEE INFORMATION RECEIVED BY IT FROM CARDINAL ARCHBISHOP OF BOLOGNA SAYING THAT THE ECCLESIASTICAL AND CIVIL AUTHORITIES OF THAT CITY HAD ADDRESSED AN APPEAL TO GERMAN COMMAND IN ITALY TO DECLARE BOLOGNA QUOTE AN OPEN CITY UNQUOTE AND THAT THIS PROPOSAL WAS RECEIVED FAVORABLY BY HIGH GERMAN MILITARY AUTHORITIES PD PAREN TO AFHQ PERSONAL FOR SACRED RPTD HQ AAI PERSONAL FOR GENERAL ALEXANDER FROM ACC FROM STONE PERSONAL PAREN CARDINAL ARCHBISHOP THEN REQUESTED VATICAN TO INTERVINE WITH ALLIED COMMAND TO THIS SAME END PD VATICAN SUPPORTS DESIRE OF CARDINAL ARCHBISHOP AND EXPRESSES HOPE THAT ALLIED COMMAND WILL NOT FAIL TO TAKE THE NECESSARY STEPS TO AVOID INCREASE IN NUMBER OF VICTIMS AND DAMAGE ALREADY SUFFERED BY CITY OF BOLOGNA

POLITICAL SECTION

(COPY)

BOLOGNA

1434

29-11-50
 11-11-50
 11-11-50

241,4

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

SECRET

6009

ALLIED MILITARY MISSION

INCOMING MESSAGE

26 Mar 1944

JTB

See. Gen.

SVC/ 207

M/C NO 3/21

SECRET

REF NO 22869

FRICTORY

FILED 261020A

FREEDOM

RECD 261100

FATIMA



SIGNED CINC CITE FHQCT F22869 FOR ACTION TO FATIMA

REFERENCE MESSAGE NUMBER 2450 OF 22 MARCH 1944.

AS A RESULT OF PREVIOUS EXAMINATION, IT WAS DECIDED THAT IT WAS NOT PRACTICABLE THAT SIENA SHOULD BE DECLARED AN OPEN OR HOSPITAL CITY, IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT IT IS A ROAD AND RAILWAY CENTER AT PRESENT HELD BY THE ENEMY. A LETTER WAS THEREFORE DISPATCHED TO CINC AAI RPT AAI AND AIR CINC MAAT EMPHASIZING THAT EVERY PRECAUTION WOULD BE TAKEN TO SAFEGUARD THE HOSPITALS AND ART TREASURES IN THE CITY. BUT THAT MILITARY OPERATIONS MUST HAVE FIRST CONSIDERATION.

DESIRE THAT YOU INFORM THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT WE REGRET THAT NO DEPARTURE CAN BE MADE FROM THIS POLICY.

Handwritten signature and date 21/21

ACC DIST

ACTION-POLITICAL SEC
INFO SECY GEN
DEP CC
CA BR
FILE 1433
FLOAT

SECRET

SIENA

LIST OF PAPERS

File under No. 094

ROME - OPEN CITY

TOP SECRET

HQ ACC
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY GENERAL

SERIAL NUMBER	FROM-	DATE	TO-	SYNOPSIS
1) FILE 1326	BADOGGIO	17 MAR.	CC	OUTLINES SITH. TO DATE OF ROME AS AN "OPEN CITY"
2) FILE 880	"	24 "	"	FWDs. RPT. ON BOMBING OF ROME & REQUESTS MEASURES TO AVOID REPETITION.
3) CC/P/156	CC	26 "	GEN. HARDING	FWDs. COPY OF (R)
4) CC/P/159	CC	29 "	C. J. S., AFHQ	FWDs. COPIES OF (1) TO BE RELAYED TO LONDON & W.T.O.
5) CC/P/160	CC	29 "	BADOGGIO	INFORMS OF (4).
6) FILE 1836	BADOGGIO	31 "	CC	FWDs. REPORT ON GERMAN COMMUNIQUE ON ROME AS "OPEN CITY"
7) CC/G/182	CC [MR. REBER]	6 APRIL	C.O.F.S., AFHQ	FWDs. (6)
8) CC/G/185	CC [MR. REBER]	6 "	BADOGGIO	INFORMS OF (7)
9) —	GEN. GAMMELL	8 "	HQ., A.C.C.	NO DICE ON (4), BUT COPIES RELAYED AS REQUESTED.
10) —	"	14 "	"	RE (7). AFHQ AIRS VIEWS ON ROME-O.C.
11) CC/G/287	CC	13 May	CGS, HQ AA1	BAS: "No German type in Rome, etc."
12) SG 094	Doc	18 "	Mr. Reber " Kirk " Sir Noel Charles	Fwded drafts of (16) for comment.
13) 7571	AMSSO	15 "	Gen. Wilson	State Dept views on Rome - O.C.
14) # 3040	Badoglio	16 "	CC	Belgians latest " " "
15)	Chief Comm.	3 June	P. W. B.	Rep. Alexander agreed on lines of directive regarding ROME as an open city.
16) CC/G/305	CC	18 May	SAC-MED.	
—	SIR NOEL CHARLES	" "	CC	
—	ALEX KIRK	" "	CC	

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3) CC/17/106	CC	26	GEN. HARDING	FWDJ. COPY OF (2)
4) CC/P/159	CC	29	C. A. S., AFHQ	FWDJ. COPIES OF (1) TO BE RELAYED TO LONDON & W'YON.
5) CC/P/160	CC	29	BADOGGIO	INFORMS OF (4)
6) FILE 1836	BADOGGIO	31	CC	FWDJ. REPORT ON GERMAN COMMUNIQUE ON ROME AS OPEN CITY
7) CC/G/182	CC [MR. REBER]	6	C.O.F.S., AFHQ	FWDJ. (6)
8) CC/G/185	CC [MR. REBER]	6	BADOGGIO	INFORMS OF (7)
9) —	GEN. GAMMELL	8	HQ, A.C.C.	NO DICE ON (4), BUT COPIES RELAYED AS REQUESTED.
10) —	"	14	"	RE (7). AFHQ AIRS VIEWS ON ROME-O.C.
11) CC/G/287	CC	13	CGS, HQ AA1	BAB: "No German type in Rome, etc."
12) 56091f	Doc	18	Mr. Rabin " Kirk " Sir Noel Charles	Forda Draft of (14) for comments.
13) 7571	- AMSSO	15	Gen. Wilton	State Dept. views on Rome - O.C.
14) # 3040	Badoglio	16	CC	Belgians listed " " "
15) Chief Comm.	Chief Comm.	3 June	P. W. B.	Ag. Alexander agreed on lines of directive regarding ROME as an open city.
16) CC/G/305	CC	18 May	SAC-MED.	
—	SIR NOEL CHARLES	" "	CC	
—	ALEX KIRK	" "	CC	

1432

TOP SECRET

INSTRUCTIONS.—When papers on a subject become numerous they will be numbered serially and brief entries made on this form.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015FILE UNDER NO. *094 - Rome "Open City"*

INDEX SHEET

SYNOPSIS

*Copies of telegrams on whether or not Rome should
be treated as open city.*

*Forwarded with letter AF-122, 18
May 44, COS/56.*

DOCUMENT FILED UNDER NO. *430.**094
760*

INSTRUCTIONS - Under «Synopsis» make brief entry showing date of communication and from whom received and synopsis sufficient to identify the papers. When these index sheets become numerous under a subject they will be entered on the consolidated index sheet and then destroyed.

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

TOP SECRET

AFHQ MESSAGE CENTER

OUTGOING MESSAGE

URGENT

TOP SECRET

TO: FOR ACTION: AMHQ ADV OF PERSONAL FOR GENERAL WILSON

REF NO: F 46931

FROM: GENERAL GANDY

SIGNED: SAC

DATE: 1945

1. The Political Committee has considered COSMED 108 and we feel there can be no question of declaring ROME an open city or of entering into negotiations on the lines of para 2 (b) of COSMED 108. Reference para 2 of your telegram 212657 of 10 May. The facilities offered by ROME will be essential to us in pursuing the campaign north of ROME and we feel we cannot afford to risk any action now which might subsequently hamper our full use of these facilities.

2. We recommend that the course suggested in the first sentence of para 2 (c) of COSMED 108 be urged and that a public statement on the following lines be issued. "Allied military authorities pained by ruthless enemy in ITALY have taken and will continue to take every possible precaution to spare from destruction innocent civilians and cultural and nonmilitary edifices. They are interested solely in the destruction and obliteration of the German forces. The city of ROME has consistently been spared by Allied Commanders and airmen and the Allies will do everything in their power consistent with essential military requirements to safeguard the sympathetic civilian population of ROME as well as their homes, monuments and cultural structures. The fact that ROME is a religious center of great historical and current importance has been constantly and actively in the minds of Allied Military Commanders, soldiers and airmen. The Allies have only taken and will only take military action against ROME insofar as the Germans use the city for their military purposes. If the Germans choose to defend ROME the Allies will be obliged to throw them out by military action. When the Allies occupy ROME they will defend it against German attack as successfully as they have defended other cities in ITALY."

TOP SECRET

1430

BT OUT 1430

COPY No. 48

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

MC OUT 4128

REF NO: F 46937

3. A statement on the above lines would avoid the difficulty raised in para 3 of COSMED 100.

ORIGINATOR: G/3

AUTHENTICATION: J.H. LASCELLES, COLONEL

INFORMATION: G/3

IS & FS
G/3 RARO
G-2
G-3
G-5
CINC MED
JHM
MCAP
MS MURPHY
MR MACMILLAN
G/3
AG RECORDS

MC OUT 4128

17 May 44

1207B

Ref No: F 46937

k/L/GS

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015**TOP SECRET****SECRET EQUALS BRITISH MOST SECRET****AFSCA
MESSAGE CENTER****INCOMING MESSAGE**

JAWK

TCO: 151340

AFSC N 575/13
152115Z
TAB

ROUTED

TOP SECRET

FROM: AMSSC

TO : AFHQ REPEATED DELETED WASHINGTON

REF NO THIS MESSAGE: 9542, 15 May 1944.

COSMET NO. 100.

Following for General WELTON from Chiefs of Staff.

State Department has raised question of declaring ROME an open city subject to reservation of transit rights for both belligerents.

2. Foreign Office have suggested that 3 courses seem open to us.

- (A) Maintain our objections on Military grounds.
- (B) Abandon our objections and agree to negotiate some arrangement subject to the reservation of transit rights for both belligerents. The term "transit rights" would be as defined by General WELTON last November to include provision for staging sites, rest camps, and all other facilities as are required in connection with transit through the area.
- (C) Decline to enter any arrangement for declaring ROME an open city, but to issue combined Anglo-American statement, making it clear that Allies have only taken and will only take Military action which might endanger ROME insofar as the Germans use the city for their Military purposes, and that as the Germans have declared ROME an open city, it has nothing to fear from us so long as the Germans continue to treat it as such.

TOP SECRET**SECRET EQUALS BRITISH MOST SECRET**

COPY NO.

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1429

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49

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REF: N975/15, REF TO THIS MESSAGE: 2571, Continued.

3. By accepting 2(C) use of transit facilities would be denied to you when you reach ROME. By altering text however to read "making it clear that Allies have only taken and will only take Military action against (last word underlined) ROME insofar as the Germans use the city for their Military purposes", our subsequent use of the city would be less liable to counter-charge.

4. If you require only (repeat only) transit facilities through ROME we could accept course 2(B).

5. If you require additional Military requirements other than transit facilities in ROME course 2(A) only remains.

6. Request your views urgently and that these should be given in full so that we can inform WASHINGTON.

7. In drawing your reply will you consider possibility of approving issue of public statement which would have political value without forfeiting any of your essential military requirements.

NOTE: HAS BEEN DELAYED BY DIFFICULTIES

ACTION: G-3

INFORMATION: G-3
 1/2 PAGE
 15 a 25
 MR. TUBBIN
 MR. CACCIARELLI
 G-5
 G-2
 CINC. IED
 DSS
 MRAC
 AG 1.6 JORDAN
 22

MC IN 9371 15 May 44 C-300 REF NO: 2571 2/3/B

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

TOP SECRET

AFHQ MESSAGE CENTER

OUTGOING MESSAGE

OPS PRIORITY

TO FOR ACTION: AFR MINISTRY FOR SPECIAL SIGNAL OFFICE FOR JEW

FROM: G-2 FREEDOM FROM: JIG

REF NO: N34309

SIGNED: WILSON

CITE: PROBI

Further to our P 38698 dated 17 April
year 02 1975 dated 15 April.

Recent photo cover ROME Area shows no
indication construction new roads by passing city.

ORIGINATOR: G-2

AUTH: M F STRACHAN MAJ

INFORMATION: SCS
MR MURPHY
MR MACNILEAN
G-3
ISAPS /
20

HG 00T 4717

19 Apr 44

1141B

Ref No

P34309

g/s/p

TOP SECRET

1428

COPY No 29

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

TOP SECRET

SECRET

AFHQ MESSAGE CENTER

OUTGOING MESSAGE

OPERATIONAL PRIORITY

TO FOR ACTION: AIR HQ FOR SPECIAL SIGNAL OFFICE
FOR

FROM: C-2 WASHINGTON

REF NO: F 33598

SIGNED: WILSON

Your 02-0915 dated 16 April.

1. Your Para 1. No confirmation new roads by passing ROME and no interpretation most recent photos arranged.

2. Your Para 2. Denial of denial of ROME rail facilities. Would it be possible to obtain on MF lift either to transport supplies from railroads north of ROME to front or to transload supplies from railways north of ROME to railways south of ROME and an interval line TIVOLI-AYEZZANO-SULMONA. Denial of use of marshalling yards would cause serious difficulties in distribution of rolling stock. These difficulties, combined with disruption of communications by air attacks and heavy expenditure of supplies as result of any future period of increased activity might well jeopardize success of German operations south of ROME. In these circumstances Germans would not hesitate to make full use of through road and rail traffic.

3. Overriding consideration however appears to be that when we have captured ROME and are fighting north of it, ROME communications will be essential to us. Demilitarization therefore out of question.

ORIGINATOR: C-2 AUTH: M. J. STRACHAN, MAJOR

INFORMATION: SGE
MR MURPHY
IS & PS

NO OUT 4286 17 Apr 44 17450 REF NO: F 33598 w/S/P

TOP SECRET

1427 30

COPY No. 29

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015**TOP SECRET****SECRET EQUALS BRITISH MOST SECRET****NAFOUSA
MESSAGE CENTER****INCOMING MESSAGE**

JAUUK

WOO: 15 April

AFSC X 82/16
160339Z
GZV

OF PRIORITY

TOPSEC

FROM: AIR MINISTRY FROM JAG

TO : FREEDOM AFHQ TO JIC FOR STRONG

REF NO THIS MSG: ON 1975, 15 April 1944

1. Have you any confirmation of report that Germans have built 2 new roads, one to East and one to West, bypassing ROME?

2. Reference your P29502, our general conclusion on the use of ROME is that the de-militarisation of ROME would cause Germans inconvenience, but would have no decisive effect on their ability to maintain their positions South of the city. This appears to be in conflict with paragraph 1 of your telegram, of which the logical conclusion seems to be that total denial of military rail traffic through ROME, whether by Allied action or by effective demilitarisation, would mean that Germans would be forced to retreat North of ROME.

3. Grateful for earliest reply.

NOTE: F 29502 IS MC OUT 1959 G-2 2/4/44

ACTION: G-2

INFORMATION: IS & IB / G-3 SSS

MC IN 9413 16 APRIL 44 ACTION REF NO: ON 1975 10/2/3

TOP SECRET**SECRET EQUALS BRITISH MOST SECRET**COPY NO. 14264

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TOP SECRET

AFHQ MESSAGE CENTER

OUTGOING MESSAGE

OPERATIONAL PRIORITY

TO FOR ACTION: AIR MINISTRY FOR AIC
 FROM : G-2 FREEDOM
 JIC
 REF NO : F 29502
 SIGNED : WILSON CITE: FHGBI

Reference your 02 1832 of 5 April following
 is our reply.

1. Your Para 24 when rail conditions permit through traffic from north of ITALY ROME becomes most forward main marshalling point. Recent PR to show scale of activity in marshalling yards lacking and in any case this traffic at present much restricted by our attacks north of ROME. However Germans have made considerable use of the railways both through and south of ROME and it is considered that their present dispositions must compel them to continue to do so as far as our air attacks permit.

2. Your Para 23 for some time Germans believed to have restricted entry into ROME of all ranks not actually employed in city to essential liaison visits and recent ground reports mention throwing out of Eqs and Office Staffs also quoted by German radio. Nevertheless evident that complete evacuation impossible. Available facilities make some administrative use of the city inevitable and security considerations require large numbers Police Troops. Security conditions known to be most exacting and civilian movement very restricted.

3. Conclusions to above are that Germans have certain obvious advantages in getting ROME declared open city and we consider attempt being made to prove they are observing necessary conditions with least possible inconvenience to themselves.

4. Your Para 20 bombing attacks on Italian transportation targets are designed to reduce enemy supplies to level where he will not be able to resist determined

TOP SECRET

COPY No. 23

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ground attack and will be driven north of ROME. At present all through lines from northern ITALY to ROME cut on general level FANO AREZZO POGGIORENSI CECINA. Of total about 20 blockages some 14 are caused by destruction of bridges. With prospect of better weather this situation should be maintained during the next month. Present estimated result is to throw strain on limited enemy MT lift thus causing increased fuel consumption and distribution difficulties. While distribution difficulties unlikely to reduce enemy's resistance during present low scale of fighting we consider that important results may be achieved during any future period of sustained fighting.

ORIGINATOR : G-2

AUTH: M F STRACHAN, MAJOR

 INFORMATION: SGB
 G-3
 **

ADD. DISTRIB. IS & IS 18/5/44

MC OUT 1959 6 Apr 41 18568 REF NO: F 29502 W/L/H

~~US SECRET~~ ~~EQUALS~~ ~~BRITISH~~ ~~SECRET~~

A.F.H.Q.

MESSAGE CENTER

OUTGOING MESSAGE

OF PRIORITY

TO FOR ACTION: ALL PRIORITY FOR BRITISH CHIEFS OF STAFF

FOR INFO: AMEMB WASHINGTON FOR US JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF, HQ MAF

REF NO: F29489

SIGNED: WILSON

CARE: FIGOT

THIS IS MESSAGE 35.

Following for Chiefs of Staff from Maj WILSON.

1. We are in full agreement with your view expressed in Para 6 of COSM 81. In point of fact we are already treating Rome itself as an open city in that we enforce the strictest orders against bombing within a line that includes virtually the whole city but excludes the railway yards. Whatever the Germans may say for propaganda purposes there is ample evidence that these yards are extensively used for military traffic. We suggest that any statement in reply to the German statement should include a passage to the above effect, but should add that while we shall maintain this attitude and not deliberately bomb the city of Rome as distinct from the rail yards, we shall keep a close watch on the enemy use of Rome and the communications leading through it, and shall not hesitate to take action against any enemy installation in the city or troops passing through it by rail or road if we consider that essential in the interest of operations.

2. We have no doubt not overlooked the fact that we ourselves will be compelled to use the communications leading through Rome in the future. We should be most careful not to do or say anything that may subsequently embarrass us in this regard.

MS OUT 1951

1424

30

~~US~~

~~SECRET~~ ~~EQUALS~~ ~~BRITISH~~ ~~SECRET~~

COPY No. 50

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3. HQ (AF) are now producing reply to CI 1882.
 In general our view is that it would be quite impossible to
 maintain an army south of Rome without using the communica-
 tions leading through Rome and that the German statement is
 pure propaganda having no relation to the military facts.

ORIGINATOR: G-3 (JPS) MEM

AUTH: DANIEL MOORE, MAJ GEN

INFORMATION:

SCS
 G-2
 MGS
 MR HURFEX
 MR MONTGOMERY
 CDR JED
 GR HAVE
 HAF
 G/S HAF
 CAS
 etc

COORD WITH: MGS
 MAAP
 G-2

ADDED DISTRIB. IS & IS 18/5/44

AC OUT 1951

E APR 44

10335

REF NO: P29409

4/1/5

2 4 2 9

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

1832
OZ

TOP SECRET

AFHQ MESSAGE CENTER

INCOMING MESSAGE

File #3
C

JADK

AFSC X 318/06
062248B
afg

TOO: 06/WT00

OPERATIONAL PRIORITY

TOP SECRET

FROM: AIR MINISTRY

TO : AFHQ ALGIERS

REF NO THIS MESSAGE: OZ 1832, 06 April 1944.

F 2950 2 *last min*

FROM JIC FOR JIC (AF).

Reference COSMED 81.

1. Examination being carried out by Strategical Section JPS in conjunction with JIC.

2. JIC have been asked to cover following aspects of problem:

(A) Military value of ROME and its marshalling yards to Germans.

(B) Have Germans actually demilitarised ROME as recently reported?

(C) Effect on Germans of present bombing attacks on transportation targets in ITALY and results likely to be achieved by these attacks during the next month.

3. Grateful for your views, earliest, regarding paragraph 2 above.

TOP SECRET

1423

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NOTE: COSMED 81 is ref OZ1806 MC IN 2762 5/4/44 G-3
HAS BEEN RELAYED TO HQ MAAF

ACTION: G-2

INFORMATION: SGS
MAAF
CINC MED
USN
MR. MURPHY
MR. MACMILLAN
G-3
**

MC IN 3476

7 Apr 44 0028B REF NO OZ 1832 W/T/H



Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015**SECRET****U.S. SECRET EQUALS BRITISH MOST SECRET****AFMUSA****MESSAGE CENTER****INCOMING MESSAGE**

100 05 April

AFSC 2 273/5
2519545
hgt

CONFIDENTIAL

OFFICER ONLY

FROM: AIR MINISTRY WROTH PARADISE

TO: AFHQ AIRSTAFF WASHINGTON 1 S M WASHINGTON

REF NO. THIS MESSAGE: 100 05 April 1944

Following for General WILSON from Chiefs of Staff
COMBOD 81.

1. Foreign Office have asked for our views on the question of the demilitarisation of ROME.

2. They base their enquiry on statement published in "MESSAGE" by German High Command, claiming that German troops have been withdrawn from ROME and that no military traffic of any kind passes through the city.

3. Publication of this statement coincides with what is clearly a concerted Roman Catholic appeal to the Allies, inspired by VATICAN to avoid damage to ROME.

4. Foreign Office point out that from propaganda point of view to accept leave German statement unchallenged. They suggest that we can either, (A) State publicly that, for military reasons, we must reserve all our rights as a belligerent, and cannot consider any proposals for treating ROME as an open city, or alternatively, (B) Offer to accept ROME as an open city, subject to conditions of our own framing.

100 IN 2762

1422

SECRET**U.S. SECRET EQUALS BRITISH MOST SECRET**

COPY No. 49

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Equals British SECRET

9 JAN 1944

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION INCOMING MESSAGE /mip

SVC/RELAY NO.

M/C NO : 5/9

CLASS: SECRET

REF NO: 25859

PREC : PRIORITY

FILED : JAN 082113A

FROM : FREEDOM SIGNED CINC REFERENCE YOUR
1607 OF 23 DECEMBER

REC'D : JAN 090236A

TO : FATIMA FOR JOYCE

All we know as regards paragraph 1 is that Cardinal Secretary of State has made more than one appeal to German Ambassador as also to the United States and British Ministers to ask his Government to take all possible steps to spare Rome the horrors of war. Italian Ambassador Madrid is being asked to request Nuncio to elucidate.

You should continue to base any statement you may make to Badoglio Government on our telegram number 4602 of November 23. You may also say that the United States and British Governments have no intention of departing from their present attitude which is to ignore all appeals addressed to them on this subject.

DISTRIBUTION:

- 2 - AG
- 1 - Diary
- 1 - General Taylor - INFO

U. S. SECRET
Equals British SECRET

1421

094-02

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Equals British SECRET

COPY

OUTGOING

HAC/dmd

SECRET

25/83

URGENT

1607

FATIMA

Dec 231758A

FREEDOM FOR EISENHOWER CMA MACMILLAN AND MURPHY

BEFORE PASSING ON MESSAGE CONTAINED IN YOUR TELEGRAM ONE SEVEN EIGHT EIGHT FIVE OF TWO
TWO DECEMBER IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO KNOW CIN PAREN TO FREEDOM FOR EISENHOWER CMA
MACMILLAN AND MURPHY FROM FATIMA SIGNED JOCE PAREN ONE PD WHAT MEASURES THE POPE IS
TAKING WITH GERMANS TO DECLARE ROME AN OPEN CITY PD TWO PD WHAT OUR ATTITUDE WOULD BE
IF PADOGLIO ACTS ON REQUEST OF CARDINAL SECRETARY OF STATE AND TAKES UP THIS QUESTION
WITH ALLIED CINC PD AS TO TWO OUR LATEST STATEMENT TO ITALIAN AUTHORITIES WAS BASED
ON YOUR TELEGRAM NUMBER FOUR SIX ZERO TWO OF TWO THREE NOVEMBER

AUTHENTICATED:

ROBERT E. DOE
Major, A.G.D.
Secretary of the Commission

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- 1 - Diary
- 1 - Mr Caccia

U. S. SECRET
Equals British SECRET

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

23 DEC 1943

U. S. SECRET
Equals British SECRET

INCOMING

/mip

SECRET

17/25

ROUTINE

17885

FREEDOM G-2 SIGNED CINC CITE FROBI

DEC 221914A

VATIMA FOR MARSHAL BADOGLIO

DEC 230700A

Please arrange transmission of telegram number 1263 of December 16 from the Italian Ambassador at Madrid to Marshal Badoglio. Apostolic Runcio has asked me in the name of the Cardinal Secretary of State to inform Your Excellency of the measures the Pope is taking with the Germans to declare Rome an open city and thus save it from destruction. Cardinal Secretary of State will be very grateful if Your Excellency will take similar action with the Commander of the Allied Forces as you consider desirable.

DISTRIBUTION:

- 2 - AG
- 1 - Diary
- 1 - General Taylor - INFO
- 1 - Mr. Caccia - ACTION

U. S. SECRET
Equals British SECRET

1419

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

INCOMING

/arr

U. S. SECRET
Equals British SECRET

SECRET

OPERATIONAL PRIORITY

FREEDOM

PATIMA

18/23

4602

Nov 231520A

Nov 231650A

Transmit following to Badoglio. Reference your 894 of 11 November and letter to General Joyce N 754 Di Pret of 11 November from Badoglio. SIGNED CINC. The Allied Governments never have accepted Rome as an open city. Status of Rome is under constant study but no change is contemplated at present.

DISTRIBUTION:

- 2 - AG
- 1 - Diary
- 1 - M/C
- 1 - General Taylor - ACTION
- 1 -

U. S. SECRET
Equals British SECRET

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

PMS/rj

Shaw to Jm *23*Ref. 00/0/205.

18th. May. 1944. •

MEMORANDUM:

TO: General Sir Henry Maitland Wilson, GBE, KCB, DSO, ADC,
 Supreme Allied Commander, Mediterranean Theatre,
 Headquarters, Allied Armies in Italy.

SUBJECT: Rome - Open City.

13

1. References the telegram you gave me yesterday on the above subject, I think it is more useful that I should let you know briefly the main points involved as regards the political and civil affairs aspect of the question rather than comment in detail on the three alternatives suggested in Para 2..

2. The over-riding considerations must naturally be the military ones and from our angle we have nothing to say about that.

3. I had a discussion this morning with Ambassador Alexander Kirk and Sir Noel Charles and as a result I submit the following administrative and political considerations:-

4. Administrative.

(a) It is essential that order be kept in Rome. Unless order is maintained, the city may well suffer greater damage than would be the case under sporadic German aerial attack.

When the Germans evacuate Rome the bulk of the Republican/Fascist administration of the city will probably flee and the entire administration will be completely dislocated. The German and Republican/Fascist forces of law and order will equally disappear. With a large population on the verge of famine and in a state of great excitement, reprisals, and rioting and looting will be inevitable and it is most doubtful if Benicivengo and his organisation will be able to maintain order.

We clearly cannot permit any possibility of this situation arising and it will

be necessary

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

- - 2 - -

be necessary to provide an administration by AMG utilising naturally Italian resources as far as possible. The maintenance of law and order must equally be assured by the earliest possible importation of our 2,500 Carabinieri. Furthermore, it will be necessary to have troops close at hand to deal with major disturbances in emergency and although some of these might be provided from CIL there must obviously be a reserve of reliable Allied troops close at hand.

(b) We shall find a very large population almost certainly on the verge of famine and they must be fed. The food can be brought into Rome only by military transport and in view of the probably disturbed state of the city, the stock piles within Rome will certainly require guarding.

(c) Whatever the Germans may openly declare, we cannot rule out the possibility of "delayed action" mines and sabotage organisations. From this angle alone, apart from intelligence possibilities or potentialities, the entry of "G" force into Rome at the earliest possible moment would appear essential.

(d) Presumably, even if Rome is not declared an open city, the less use we make of Rome the smaller will be the temptation for the Germans to attack it, thus also reducing the danger to the Vatican. It is considered, therefore, that in principle dumps and stock piles of all forms of munitions should not be made in the city area and that the number of troops in the city area should be reduced to a minimum and headquarters placed outside. Apart from everything else, including the Vatican problem, black market, currency difficulties, and requisition complications will be considerably reduced if we keep the number of troops in Rome to the lowest possible figure.

(e) It will be most important from the point of view of administration to get R.S.B. with its radio installed in the Rome area as early as possible. The mobile wireless station could, however, if necessary be erected outside the confines of the city and that of R.S.B. could equally if necessary be confined to internal activities without indulging in offensive propaganda.

5. Political.

It appears probable that depending naturally upon the situation at the time it may well prove very desirable to install the Italian Government in Rome at the earliest possible date that this should be possible. If considered necessary, the three service Ministries could be located outside Rome and away from the rest of the Government in the same way as they now are.

1416

6. I send you

16

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

- - 3 - -

6. I send you the above points which are purely from our angle so that you will be able to consider them in conjunction with the many other factors affecting the problem.

NORM MACDON MACFARLANE,
Lieutenant-General,
Chief Commissioner.

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

OFFICE OF THE BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER IN ITALY,

Via Agostino de Pretis,
NAPLES.IMMEDIATE.

May 18th. 1944.

My dear General

Many thanks for your draft to General Sir Henry Maitland Wilson giving the views, which we discussed this morning, regarding the political and civil aspects of the question of recognizing Rome as an open city. I agree with all you say.

*Yours very sincerely**Paul Marks*General Sir Noel Mason Macfarlane, K.C.M.G., M.C., D.S.O.,
etc.,

Allied Control Commission,

Rome.

1414

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

UNITED STATES MEMBER
ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR ITALY

SECRET

May 18, 1944
Naples

My dear General Macfarlane

Thank you for the draft of your reply to General Wilson on the "open city" question of Rome which appears to reflect the principles on which we agreed this morning. I have taken the liberty of suggesting certain changes in the text of the draft which are underlined in the enclosed copy and are submitted for your consideration. You will note that in this copy the order of the considerations listed in your Paragraph 3 has been shifted in order to give emphasis to the factors of order and food which you stressed at our meeting this morning.

Sincerely yours,

A. Kirk
Alexander Kirk

Enclosure:
Amended draft

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TOP SECRET

305.

DRAFT

MEMORANDUM,

TO: General Sir Henry Maitland Wilson, GBE, KCB, DSO, ADC,
Supreme Allied Commander, Mediterranean Theatre,
Headquarters, Allied Armies in Italy.

SUBJECT: Rome - Open City.

1. Reference the telegram you gave me yesterday on the above subject, I think it is more useful that I should let you know briefly the main points involved as regards the political and civil affairs aspect of the question rather than comment in detail on the three alternatives suggested in Para. 2
2. The over-riding considerations must naturally be the military ones and from our angle we have nothing to say about that.
3. I had a discussion this morning with Ambassador Alexander Kirk and Sir Noel Charles and as a result I submit the following ~~points~~
admission of them and political
(a) 4. Admission It is essential that order be kept in Rome. Unless order is maintained, the city may well suffer greater damage than would be the case under sporadic German aerial attack.

Continued

When the Germans evacuate leave the bulk of the Republican/Resist

1. Reference the telegram you gave me yesterday on the above subject, I think it is more useful that I should let you know briefly the main points involved as regards the political and civil affairs aspect of the question rather than comment in detail on the three alternatives suggested in Para. 2

2. The over-riding considerations must naturally be the military ones and from our angle we have nothing to say about that.

3. I had a discussion this morning with Ambassador Alexander Kirk and Sir Noel Charles and as a result I submit the following ~~points~~ *administration and political*
(a) It is essential that order be kept in Rome. Unless order is maintained, the city may well suffer greater damage than would be the case under sporadic German aerial attack.

When the Germans evacuate Rome the bulk of the Republican/Fascist administration of the city will probably flee and the entire administration will be completely dislocated. The German and Republican/Fascist forces of law and order will equally disappear. With a large population on the verge of famine and in a state of great excitement, reprisals, and rioting and looting will be inevitable and it is most doubtful if Dencivenga and his organisation will be able to maintain order.

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2 4 4 4

We clearly cannot permit any possibility of this situation arising *utilizing resources that are not available* and it will be necessary to provide an administration by AMG/ ~~and~~ *that should be avoided* The maintenance of law and order by the earliest possible importation of our 2,500 Carabinieri. Furthermore, it will be necessary to have troops close at hand to deal with major disturbances in emergency and although some of these might be provided from CIL there must obviously be a reserve of reliable Allied troops close at hand.

(b) We shall find a very large population almost certainly on the verge of famine and they must be fed. The food can be brought into Rome only by military transport and in view of the probably disturbed state of the city, the stock piles within Rome will certainly require guarding.

(c) Whatever the Germans may openly declare, we cannot rule out the possibility of "delayed action" mines and sabotage organisations. From this angle alone, apart from Intelligence possibilities or potentialities, the entry of "S" force into Rome at the earliest possible moment would appear essential.

(e) It will be most important from the point of view of administration to get P.W.B. with its radio installed in the Rome area as early as possible. The mobile wireless station could, however, if necessary be erected outside the confines of the city and the of P.W.B. could

verge of famine and they must be fed. The food can be brought into Rome only by military transport and in view of the probably disturbed state of the city, the stock piles within Rome will certainly require guarding.

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(c) ~~It~~ It will be most important from the point of view of administration to get P.W.B. with its radio installed in the Rome area as early as possible. The mobile wireless station could, however, if necessary be erected outside the confines of the city and the of P.W.B. could equally if necessary be confined to internal activities without indulging in offensive propaganda.

~~(d)~~ ¹⁴¹¹ Presumably, even if Rome is not declared an open city, ~~the~~ ^{less, we make} of Rome the smaller will be the temptation for the Germans to attack it, ^{thus also reducing the danger to the Vatican.} It is considered, therefore, that in principle dumps and stock piles of all forms of munitions should not be made in the city area and that the number of troops in the city area

should be reduced to a minimum and headquarters placed outside.

~~is including the~~ Apart from everything else, Black market, currency difficulties,

and recruitment complications will be considerably reduced if we keep the number of troops in Rome to the lowest possible figure.

5 P. H. H. It appears probable that depending naturally upon the situation at the time it may well prove very desirable to install the Italian Government in Rome at the earliest possible date that this should be possible. If considered necessary, the three Service Ministries could be located outside Rome and away from the rest of the Government in the same way as they now are.

6. I send you the above points which are purely from our angle so that you will be able to consider them in conjunction with the many other factors affecting the problem.

NOEL MASON MACGILLIVRAE
Lt-Col. Chief Commissioner

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

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A. I send you the above points which are purely from our angle so that you will be able to consider them in conjunction with the many other factors affecting the problem.

NOEL MASON MATTHEWLINE
-Lt-Gen. Chief Commissioner

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

SECRET

NOTES FOR P.W.D.

- Spoke General ALEXANDER who agreed lines of directive regarding Rome as an "Open City" which I indicated this morning.
2. The point should be brought out that Rome is not an operational objective. The objective remains the destruction of the German Army.
 3. General ALEXANDER agrees that no publicity should be given in advance to the fact that we are proposing to impose A.M.G. on Rome.

3rd. June, 1944.

NOEL MASON MACFARLANE,
Lieutenant-General,
Chief Commissioner,
Allied Control Commission.

1409

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

HQ ACC, APO 394

Sec'y Gen.

Jan. 1. Rec'd 17 May 1950

By ATG

Salerno, 16 May 1944

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF THE GOVERNMENT

No. 3040

My dear General:

I return to a matter upon which I already have had occasion to call the attention of the Allied Governments a number of times: the question of Rome--open city. This is a problem which is taken to heart not only by myself, the Government and the entire Italian public opinion on both sides of the lines, but also, as you are aware, by the entire civilized world in general. So that I firmly believe that a favorable solution of this problem by the Allied Governments would undoubtedly constitute a moral victory as certain as any other, wherever it might take place.

In one of my previous communications I have stated the problem simply in its legal aspects. I must now add that from all sources of information in our possession it appears indubitably, that the demilitarization of the open city of Rome is practically effective today. German operational commands, troops and stores have in fact been transported outside of the capital where there are today only police units with their relative stores. It likewise appears that military traffic has been diverted beyond the limits of the open city, where now as a matter of fact it is reduced to some night traffic of absolutely sporadic character and absolutely negligible. Finally, it appears that new bridges have been built over the Tevere, outside of the city, in view of eventual retreats, precisely so as not to make use of the Roman bridges. The two million citizens who live there today, among others, can testify to this, among them being the members of the diplomatic corps accredited to the Holy See, who are observers as attentive as they are impartial, because in great majority they belong to countries which compose the United Nations.

If this, as appears certain, is correct, I am led to believe in the hope that Rome can be spared, not only in the course of the operations which will result in its conquest, but also in the future, when it will be a part of liberated Italy. This, of course, presumes the permanent demilitarization of the city until the end of hostilities. In fact, it is clear that an eventual Allied occupation of Rome would provoke an even greater German reaction against it, so diligent is the present German aim to keep it demilitarized. That is, it would provoke the same very grave prejudices which today we are trying to avoid, without in any way bringing about consequent military advantages.

do not know
Of course, I ~~ignore~~ how effective are the plans and proposals of the Allied Governments in the matter. But I believe it my strict duty to concern you with my preoccupations and those of my Government, which I know on the other hand are perfectly shared both in Washington and London, for the salvation of a city which spiritually belongs to all mankind and it will certainly be a cause for pride to all for generations to come after the din and rancor of war have ended, to have contributed to its survival, like Athens and Cairo.

1408

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

TRANSLATION (continued)

No. 3040

16 May 44

I would be very grateful to you, my dear General, if you will bring the above to the attention of the Allied Governments, above all emphasizing the necessity for the permanent demilitarization of Rome, both present and future, and the parallel need that the plans of the Allied Commands be arranged accordingly.

With many warm thanks, I remain

Cordially Yours,

/s/ Badoglio

Lieutenant General
Sir Noel F. Mason MacFarlane
Chief Commissioner
Allied Control Commission
NAPLES

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

IL CAPO DEL GOVERNO

No 3140

HQ ACC, APO 394

Sec'y Gen.

Rec'd 17 May 1945By AFB

Salerno, 16 maggio 1944

Caro Generale,

Ritorno su un argomento su cui ho avuto già occasione di attirare a più riprese l'attenzione dei Governi Alleati : la questione di Roma città aperta. E' questo un problema che sta estremamente a cuore non solo a me, al Governo e a tutta l'opinione pubblica italiana al di qua e al di là delle linee, ma, anche, com'Ella sa, a tutto il mondo civile in generale. Sicchè io fermamente credo che una soluzione favorevole che fosse data dai Governi Alleati a tale problema, costituirebbe indubbiamente una vittoria morale altrettanto certa quanto qualunque altra, comunque conseguita.

Ho posto, in una mia precedente nota, ampiamente, il problema nei suoi termini giuridici. Debbo ora aggiungere che, da tutte le fonti d'informazione in nostro possesso, risulta in modo indubbio che la demilitarizzazione della città aperta di Roma è, oggi, praticamente effettiva. Comandi operativi, truppe e magazzini germanici sono stati infatti trasportati fuori della capitale, ove trovansi attualmente soltanto reparti di polizia coi relativi depositi. Risulta altresì

Lieutenant General
Sir Noel F. Mason MacFarlane,
Chief Commissioner
Allied Control Commission,
N A P L E S.

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IL CAPO DEL GOVERNO

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che il traffico militare è stato istradato oltre i limiti della città aperta, ove esso è infatti ridotto a qualche transito notturno di carattere assolutamente sporadico e di entità assolutamente trascurabile. Risulta infine che nuovi ponti sono stati costruiti sul Tevere, fuori della città, in previsione di eventuali ritirate, appunto per non utilizzare i ponti romani. E di tutto ciò possono, fra gli altri, far testimonianza i due milioni di cittadini che oggi vi risiedono, fra cui tutti i membri del Corpo diplomatico accreditato presso la Santa Sede, i quali sono osservatori altrettanto attenti quanto imparziali, perchè, nella loro stragrande maggioranza, appartenenti a Paesi che fanno parte delle Nazioni Unite.

Se ciò, come par certo, è esatto, mi sia permesso sperare che Roma possa essere risparmiata, non solo nel corso delle operazioni che condurranno alla sua conquista, ma anche in avvenire, quando essa farà parte dell' Italia Liberata. Ciò che per altro naturalmente presume la permanente smilitarizzazione della città sino alla fine delle ostilità. E' in-fatti chiaro che una eventuale occupazione Alleata di Roma provocherebbe una tanto maggiore reazione germanica contro di essa, quanto più attenta è l' attuale cura tedesca per mantenerla smilitarizzata. Provocherebbe cioè gli stessi gravissimi pregiudizi che oggi si tenta di evitare, pur senza in alcun modo apportare conseguenti vantaggi militari.

Ignoro naturalmente quali effettivamente siano i piani e i propositi dei Governi Alleati al riguardo. 1405 credo

./.

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

IL CAPO DEL GOVERNO

-3-

mio stretto dovere farLe parte delle preoccupazioni mie e del mio Governo, che so del resto perfettamente condivise sia a Washington che a Londra, per la salvezza di una Città che spiritualmente appartiene a tutto il genere umano e che sarà certamente ragione di orgoglio per tutti, sopiti i clamori e i rancori della guerra, aver contribuito a risparmiare, come Atene e il Cairo, per le generazioni che verranno.

Le sarò molto grato, caro Generale, se vorrà portare a conoscenza dei Governi Alleati quanto precede, sopra tutto sottolineando l'opportunità della permanente smilitarizzazione di Roma, sia attuale che futura, e la parallela convenienza che i piani dei Comandi Alleati siano predisposti in conseguenza.

Mi creda, con molti e vivi ringraziamenti, cordialmente.

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

TOP SECRET

C O P Y
AFHQ MESSAGE CENTER
INCOMING MESSAGE

TOP SECRET

TIME FILED:
15 MAYFBSO F 28/16
150630

ROUTINE

OFFICER ONLY
TOP SECRET

FROM: AMBASSADOR FROM CHIEFS OF STAFF

TO : GENERAL WILSON RPTD BRITAIN WASHINGTON

INFO: FAIRBANKS BY RELAY

REF : THIS MESSAGE: 2571

COSMET NO. 103

1. State Department has raised question of declaring ROME an open city subject to reservation of transit rights for both belligerents.

2. Foreign office have suggested that 3 courses seem open to us.

(a) Maintain our objections on military grounds.

(b) Abandon our objections and agree to negotiate some arrangement subject to the reservation of transit rights for both belligerents. The term "Transit Rights" would be as defined by General EISENHOWER last November to include provision for staging sites, rest camps, and all other facilities as are required in connection with transit through the area.

(c) Decline to come to any arrangement for declaring ROME an open city, but to issue combined Anglo-American statement, making it clear that Allies have only taken and will only take military action which might endanger ROME insofar as the Germans use the city for their military purposes, and that as the Germans have declared ROME an open city, it has nothing to fear from us so long as the Germans continue to treat it as such.

3. By accepting 2(c) use of transit facilities would be denied to you when you reach ROME. By altering text, however, to read "making it clear that Allies have only taken and will only take military action AGAINST ROME insofar as the Germans use the city for their military purposes", our subsequent use of the city would be less liable to counter-charge.

4. If you require only transit facilities through ROME we could accept course 2(b).

5. If you require additional military requirements other than transit facilities in ROME course 2(a) only remains.

6. Request your views urgently and that these should be given in full so that we can inform WASHINGTON.

7. In framing your reply will you consider possibility of approving issue of public statement which would have political value without forfeiting any of your essential military requirements.

ACTION: SGS

INFO: WAR ROOM
AIR CINC
CINC MED

1403/3

TOP SECRET

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

Secretary General

Rome - Open City

Mr. Samuel Reber

SG 094

18 May 1944*

I am directed by the Chief Commissioner to forward the attached document subject "Rome - Open City", and am to request that your comments be conveyed to the Chief Commissioner not later than 1800 hours this evening.

ROBERT E. DOE
Major, A.G.D.
Secretary General

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

SG 094

18 May 1944

MEMORANDUM TO: The Hon. Alexander Kirk
American Ambassador

1. I am directed by the Chief Commissioner to forward the attached documents subject "Rome - Open City", and to request that your comments be conveyed to the Chief Commissioner not later than 1800 hours this evening.

2. Please sign and return the attached receipt by the messenger who brings this document.

ROBERT E. DOE
Major, A.C.D.
Secretary General

1 Incl:
Draft ltr "Rome-Open City"
to SAC MED.

16

12

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

SG 094

18 May 1944

MEMORANDUM TO: Sir Noel Charles, Bt., K.C.M.G.
British High Commissioner in Italy

1. I am directed by the Chief Commissioner to forward the attached document subject "Rome - Open City", and to request that your comments be conveyed to the Chief Commissioner not later than 1800 hours this evening.

2. please sign and return the attached receipt by the messenger who brings this document.

ROBERT E. DOE
Major, A.G.D.
Secretary General

1 Incl;
Draft ltr "Rome-Open City"
to SAC MED.

16

1401

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

FNIM/rj

NF
also SFRef. CC/G/287.

13th. May, 1944.

MEMORANDUM:

TO: Chief of General Staff,
Headquarters, A. A. I..

1. During my last talk with Badoglio he told me that a recent reliable escapee from Rome had told him that for some time past there had been practically no German troops in Rome and only a minimum number of German police.
2. He made the point that if we put a large number of troops into Rome this would have an unfortunate effect on the population who would get the impression that we mistrusted the Romans more than the Germans had done.
3. I told the Marshal that for reasons which must be perfectly obvious to him it would be absolutely necessary for us to locate troops in Rome and that the question was an operational one which I was not prepared to discuss. I told him that I would bring his point to the notice of the Allied Commander-in-Chief and that he might rest assured that the number of Allied troops in Rome would be limited to the numbers required for operational and administrative duties.
4. Put briefly, I made it quite clear to the Marshal that we would put just as many troops into Rome as we thought fit. I would, however, like to make the point that from the point of view of the problems of the civil administration of Rome it will be very desirable to cut down the numbers of troops in Rome to the minimum required by the situation with which we find ourselves confronted.

NOEL MASON MACFARLANE,
Lieutenant-General,
Chief Commissioner

1400

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

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S-1666

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
Office of the Chief of Staff18 Apr. 1945
HAG

14 April 1944.

SUBJECT: Declaration of ROME as an "Open City".

TO : Headquarters, Allied Control Commission.

Reference your CC/G/182 of 6 April.

1. Further communication from Marshal Badoglio on the subject of ROME as an "open city" is not considered necessary. The Combined Chiefs of Staff and the British Chiefs of Staff are fully in the picture on this matter and have our views that it is impractical to declare ROME an "open city".

2. Marshal Badoglio should be advised that in point of fact we are treating ROME itself as an "open city" in that we enforce the strictest orders against bombing within a line that includes virtually the whole city but excludes the railway yards. The Germans must and do use the railways through ROME for military traffic, restricted only by our air attack on these communications outside of ROME.

3. Close observation will be kept of the enemy's use of ROME and the communications leading through it, and while we shall not deliberately bomb the city of ROME as distinct from the railway yards, we shall not hesitate to take action against enemy installations in the city or troops passing through it if it is essential in the interest of operations.

4. The fact that we ourselves have to use ROME in the future gives the Germans obvious advantages in getting it declared an "open city". We consider the Germans are attempting to prove they are civilised humanitarians at minimum cost to their own operations, while simultaneously imposing great disadvantages on our future advance. Any statements made by the Germans are mainly for propaganda purposes and have little bearing on military facts.

By command of General WILSON:

Lawrence R. ...
J. A. H. GAMMELL,
Lieutenant General,
Chief of Staff.

HEADQUARTERS

18 APR 1945

SECRET

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

SECRET

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
Office of the Chief of Staff

HQ AFCE, APO 304

Sgt. V. Gen.

Rec'd 11 Apr 1945

By JD

8 April 1944.

SUBJECT: Declaration of ROME as an "Open City".

TO : Headquarters, Allied Control Commission.

Reference your CC/G/159 of 29 March.

1. There are no new factors which would lead to the conclusion that ROME could be declared an open city.

2. Marshal Badoglio's memorandum on the subject, which you forwarded, has however been forwarded to the British and U.S. Governments, and he should be informed accordingly.

By command of General WILSON:

J. A. H. Gammell
 J. A. H. GAMMELL,
 Lieutenant General,
 Chief of Staff.

000-1

*no answer
 12-21
 4
 1/9/45*

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SECRET

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

CC/P/185

SECRET

NE
also Capt. Stone

6 April 1944.

I have received your letter No. 1836 of the 31st March with further regard to the question of the status of Rome as an open city. I have forwarded your letter to the Supreme Allied Commander at Algiers with reference to your earlier communication on this subject.

NOEL HASON MACFARLANE
Lieutenant General,
Chief Commissioner.

S. E. Marshal Pietro Badoglio
Capo del Governo.

1397

SECRET

(8)

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

Ref CC/G/182

SECRET

NF

also Capt. Stone
plus all enclosures

6 April 1944

MEMORANDUM:

TO: Allied Force Headquarters.
(ATTENTION Chief of Staff).

1. I refer to my Memorandum of 29 March 1944 transmitting a copy of a letter from Marshal Badoglio on the subject of regarding Rome as an open city.
2. I enclose a copy of a further communication from Marshal Badoglio on this same subject, together with copies of the only German communiques on this subject which have been brought to the attention of the Allied Control Commission.

NOEL MASON MACFARLANE
Lieutenant General,
Chief Commissioner.

1396

(7)

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

ROYAL MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

No. 1836

HQ AGO, APO 371

Rec'd 4 Apr. 1945
by EJM(NB)

Salerno, 31 March, 1944

Dear General:

Following my letter No. 1326 of March 17, in regard to "Rome Open City" I wish to call your attention to the communiqué of the German Command concerning Italy issued on March 22, which reconfirms the status of Rome established by the Italian declaration of August 19.

I believe that the Governments at London and at Washington at a moment when the catholic world and all the Italian people look with trepidation at Rome, could consider to spare the horrors of war to the Eternal City after having ascertained the veracity of the German statement through a neutral power or the Holy See.

Very Cordially yours,

/s/ Badoglio

*Political Section**Comments?**Genl. Alex says nothing doing under any circumstances.**Am 5
4 1395*

⑥

R. MINISTERO
DEGLI
AFFARI ESTERI

No 1836

46/1715
Eson (108)
RISERVATA

Salerno, 31 Marzo, 1944.

Caro Generale,

facendo seguite alla mia lettera n. 1326 del 17 corrente, relativa a "Roma città aperta", desidero richiamare la Sua attenzione sul comunicato del Comando tedesco per l'Italia del 22 corrente, che ribadisce lo status di Roma stabilito dalla dichiarazione italiana del 18 agosto.

Penso che i Governi di Londra e di Washington, in un momento in cui il mondo cattolico e tutto il popolo italiano guardano con trepidazione a Roma, possano considerare di risparmiare gli errori della guerra alla città eterna non senza controllare l'effettività dell'assunto germanico attraverso una potenza neutrale e la Santa Sede.

Mi creda, caro Generale, con sincera cordialità.

Baron Luy

facendo seguito alla mia lettera n.1326 del 17 corrente, relativa a "Roma città aperta", desidero richiamare la Sua attenzione sul comunicato del Comando tedesco per l'Italia del 23 corrente, che ribadisce lo status di Roma stabilito dalla dichiarazione italiana del 19 agosto.

Penso che i Governi di Londra e di Washington, in un momento in cui il mondo cattolico e tutto il popolo italiano guardano con trepidazione a Roma, possano considerare di risparmiare gli orrori della guerra alla città eterna non senza controllare l'effettività dell'assunto germanico attraverso una potenza neutrale o la Santa Sede.

Mi creda, caro Generale, con sincera cordialità.

Lieutenant General
Sir Noel F.W. Mason Mac Parlane
Chief Commissioner
Allied Control Commission
N a p l e s .

Barlas

1392

6

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

orientale.-

U T I M E N O T I Z I E
-----*Translated by
EK*(Miniform - New York) - COMUNICATO DEL COMANDO MILITARE TEDESCO DI
ROMA -

Un telegramma stampa del corrispondente della Miniform a Berna informa che secondo la stampa svizzera odierna il comando militare tedesco a Roma ha pubblicato un comunicato ufficiale riguardo all'attuale situazione della capitale come città aperta. "L'autorità tedesca, dice il comunicato, rileva una situazione di fatto che non può essere ignorata nel campo nemico." Il comunicato afferma categoricamente che è proibita qualsiasi forma di occupazione di Roma e che i rifornimenti militari ed i trasporti per il fronte meridionale non passano per la città. Il comunicato afferma che le linee ferroviarie e le strade automobilistiche della città non verranno adoperate per questo scopo. L'alto comando tedesco afferma che le ragioni per cui viene pubblicato il comunicato sono dovute al fatto che è giunto il momento che ciascuno assuma la sua responsabilità.-

23/3/44

1393

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

TRANSLATION

New York, March 23, 1944.

COMMUNIQUE OF THE GERMAN HIGH COMMAND IN ROME

A press telegram from the Miniform correspondent in Bern states that according to today's Swiss press, the German High Command in Rome has published an official communique with respect to the present status of the capital as an open city. "The communique says that the German authorities underline a situation of fact which can not be disregarded by the enemy." The communique states categorically that any form of occupation of Rome is prohibited and that military reinforcements and transport for the Southern Front do not pass through the town. The communique states that the railway lines and automobile roads of the town are not used for this purpose. The German High Command states that the reasons why this communique is published are because of the fact that the time has come when someone must assume responsibility in this matter.

2468

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 71569

GERMANS TO TAKE ACTION IN ROME (28 marzo 1944)

Conrad

- Rome : The German High Command in Italy has issued a declaration in which it is said:

"There are no German combat units nor other military installations of the Wehrmacht in Rome which are serving directly in the conduct of the war. No military traffic is taking place within or through the city. If Badoglio elements or communist members are trying to use this generous measures for cowardly attacks, then the German Command will find itself obliged ~~to~~ to undertake military measures which it considers as necessary in the interest of the conduct of the war in Italy.

Thus the fate of the city of Rome and of its civilian population has been handed over to the population of Rome as such, apart from the behavior of the English and the Americans"

1391

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015RADIO ROME ITALIAN TO ITALY 22IM 23:00 MARCH 20GERMANS TO "PROTECT" TREASURES

An office for the protection of artistic treasures, archives and libraries has been opened in Florence. The main object of the new service is the removal of art treasures and documents threatened by enemy raids, to Rome and Florence, which are considered by the Germans as open cities. These two centers are not defended and do not contain any German headquarters. The newly appointed service is also entrusted with the care of villas, palaces and castles of artistic and historic value, which must not be requisitioned for military use. The German authorities collaborating with this service have taken residence in Florence.

1390

(6)

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

CC/P/160

NF

FNMF/rj

29th. March, 1944.

Thank you for your letter No. 1326 of the 17th. March with which you enclosed your memorandum on Rome 'open city'.

I have forwarded this to the Supreme Allied Commander at Algiers with the request that he should forward it to London and Washington.

NOEL MASON MACFARLANE,
Lieutenant-General,
Chief Commissioner.

S.E. Marshal Pietro Badoglio,
Capo del Governo.

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

Ref. CC/G/159.

SECRET

FMG/rj

29th. March, 1944.

MEMORANDUM:

TO: Allied Force Headquarters.
(ATTENTION Chief of Staff).

- attached*
1. I enclose herewith a copy of a letter from Marshal Badoglio enclosing a memorandum on the subject of regarding Rome as an 'open city'.
 2. I have given General Alexander a copy of the memorandum and he is naturally of opinion that it is impossible to contemplate agreeing to Rome being given the status of an 'open city'.
 3. Badoglio has, however, specifically asked that his proposals should be communicated to both London and Washington and I am, therefore, sending them to you for onward transmission with such comments as the S.A.C. may wish to make, and I am informing Badoglio that I have done so.

NOEL MASON MACFARLANE,
Lieutenant-General,
Chief Commissioner.

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

CC/P/156

FNM/rj

26th. March, 1944.

I enclose copy of a note which I have just received from Badoglio.

Damage of this sort is probably inevitable but I am telling Badoglio that I have passed on his message and that I am sure every care is taken to avoid unfortunate damage of this description.

Dont bother to answer.

NOEL MASON MACFARLANE.
Lieutenant-General.
Chief Commissioner.

Lieut-General J. Harding, C.B., D.S.O.,
Chief of General Staff,
Headquarters, A. A. I..

transl.:
20

See File 111

1387

2473

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

TRANSLATION

NF
(also SF)

25 Mar 1945
718

File No. 880

Salerno, 24 March 1944

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF GOVERNMENT

TO: General Noel Mason MacFarlane
Chief of the Allied Control Commission
Naples

My dear General MacFarlane;

I have received from Rome a telegram which I deem opportune to transcribe to you in its original version;

"I INFORM YOU THAT LAST BOMBINGS HAVE HIT BUILDINGS
NOMENTANO AND POLICLINIC CAUSING MANY VICTIMS STOP NO
MILITARY OBJECTIVES IN THESE AREAS STOP SUCH CONDUCT
OF WAR EXASPERATES POPULATION HELPS GERMAN AND FASCIST
PROPAGANDA CAUSING SHARP REACTION AGAINST ALLIES AND
ELEMENTS FAITHFUL TO THE CAUSE STOP."

I have pointed out this grave inconvenience to the new Chief of the Aviation Section who came today with General Forster to call on me, but I wish to inform also you so that, in view of the grave moral repercussions, you might intervene promptly to avoid its repetition.

Very cordially yours,

(sgd) BADOGLIO

make a note for this

*Copy sent to
A.A.I.*

h. v. 4

1386

Nº 680 DI PROT



IL CAPO DEL GOVERNO

SALERNO, 24 MARZO 1944

HQ ACC. MO. 271

Rec. 25 Mar 1530
By [Signature]

AL GENERALE NOEL MASON MAC FARLANE
CAPO DELLA COMMISSIONE ALLEATA DI CONTROLLO
N A P O L I

CARO GENERALE MAC FARLANE,

MI PERVIENE DA ROMA UN TELEGRAMMA CHE RITENGO
OPPORTUNO TRASCRIVERLE INTEGRALMENTE :

""SEGNALO CHE BOMBARDAMENTI SCORSI HANNO COLPITO QUAR-
TIERI ITALIA NOMENTANO ET POLICLINICO CAUSANDO MOLTE
VITTIME ALT NESSUN OBIETTIVO MILITARE SETTE ZONE ALT
TALE CONDOTTA GUERRA ESASPERA POPOLAZIONE GIOVA PRO-
PAGANDA TEDESCA ET FASCISTA DETERMINANDO SENSIBILE
REAZIONE CONTRO ALLEATI ET ELEMENTI FEDELI CAUSA ALT"".

HO SEGNALATO IL GRAVE INCONVENIENTE AL NUOVO
CAPO DELLA SEZIONE D'AVIAZIONE VENUTO OGGI, COL GENE-
RALE FORSTER, A FARMI VISITA, MA DESIDERO INFORMARNE AN-
CHE LEI PERCHÈ, DATE LE GRAVI RIPERCUSSIONI MORALI, VO-
GLIA INTERVENIRE PRONTAMENTE PER EVITARNE IL RIPETERSI.

MOLTO CORDIALMENTE.

Bada li

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

R. MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

File No. 1326

My dear General;

HQ ACC. 490 371

Rec'd 20 Mar 1945

Salerno, 17 March 1944

*Copy of paper with Alex.
Handing running up
to morning, 24-1*

I enclose a Memorandum, wherein the question of Rome as an "Open City" is taken up in specific form, and the steps and diplomatic acts which refer thereto.

I firmly believe that in this phase of military events, the question can, and in fact should be, re-submitted.

All arguments in favour of respecting the City of Rome have already been made, nor is it necessary to repeat them to you, for you certainly are fully aware of them. It will be sufficient to state again, and with extreme conviction and assurance, that the eventual destroyers of Rome would assume, without a possible dispute and doubt, a truly heavy burden and responsibility before the world and history.

Consequently, I have no doubt that you will agree with me in believing that no effort should be spared on our part and the Allies to reach an objective of which we all share the extreme human importance. I recall that Athens and Cairo have, after all, been spared.

I well know - and I would certainly not doubt it - that your Governments are greatly and deeply concerned with all this. And it is rather for this that I ask you to forward to them the enclosed Memorandum, so that it be submitted for their urgent and careful study.

I must add that all news which reaches us from Occupied Italy insists unanimously on the sense of deep depression which the recent extension of Allied aerial bombardment of all of Italy causes in all strata of the population. The great mass of Italians, which is spiritually on our side, risks to be progressively discouraged thereby and progressively disillusioned.

It is superfluous to tell you that I am perfectly aware of the military reasons which dictate the orders of your Commands, but I believe that such military reasons, which I do not dispute, should on the other hand be appraised very carefully also by the standards of counteracting effects produced on populations who are, and whom we desire to be insurgent against German oppression.

I will be very grateful if you will find it possible to make an explicit communication to both London or Washington of this, in addition to the Allied High Command. I am, my dear General, with sincere cordiality.

/s/ BADOGLIO

TO: Lieutenant General
Sir Noel F. N. Mason Mac Farlane
Chief Commissioner
Allied Control Commission
Naples

*Answer
Badooglio*

1384

Copy given to Alex. 24-1

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

R. MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

MEMORANDUMROME "OPEN CITY"

On August 19th last, the Royal Government, by a communication broadcast at 1700 hours, and immediately thereafter made known to the Allied and Neutral Powers, declared Rome an "open city".

The Royal Government had for some time considered the necessity to take this step, repeatedly also requested by the Holy See. Negotiations regarding this matter had been initiated in December 1942, but difficulties of military order on one hand, and news of an assurance given by the President of the United States to the Pope in regard to the immunity of Rome from bombardments on the other, had induced the Government of Rome to postpone its completion.

The first bombing of Rome, the fall of the Fascist Government, substantially contrary to the measure invoked, further pressure of the Vatican determined the decision of the new Government, which did not overlook all the reasons compelling this declaration. The second bombardment of Rome accelerated the measure, and therefore, overcoming some technical delays, the statement of August 19th was made.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs entrusted to the then Secretary General of the Ministry, Ambassador Rosso, the task of presiding over a Commission, composed of representatives of the Departments concerned and the High Command, and constituted to translate into effect the declaration itself, in accordance with the principles of international law. The Commission decided to adopt the following provisions, which, after approval by the Chief of the Government, were immediately ^{put into effect} ~~made~~ carried out, and were known to Switzerland and to the Holy See for further communication to the Anglo-Saxon Powers:

- 1) Removal of all Italian and German troops from the open city;
- 2) Transfer of all Italian and German Commands from the open city;
- 3) Remaining in the open city of forces of Italian Police to assure the safeguard of public order;
- 4) Transfer of all military establishments and those used for war production;
- 5) The Railroad stations and yards of Rome no longer used for military purposes. The Railroad Center of Rome transformed into a simple line track.

The Commission furthermore fixed the perimeter of the open city - which largely included, in addition to the center of the city, the monument area of Rome - and set the limits, which after approval by the competent Authorities, were described in a drawing and a photoplan, attached to the ~~VERBODEN~~ Minutes addressed to the Holy See and the Legation of Switzerland in Rome, for notification to Great Britain and the United States.

The German Government, which had been kept informed of the intent 1383

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

the Royal Government to carry into effect the declaration of August 19th, although having initially made every reservation for all that concerned the supply of German troops operating in Southern Italy, approved the Italian decisions (according to the telegram of the then Charge d'Affaires at Berlin, Hitler personally was said to have concerned himself with the matter). On the same day, on which Switzerland and the Holy See were informed, the Royal Government forwarded to the Embassy of the Reich at Rome a similar note, accompanied by drawings and photoplans. Subsequently an official spokesman described to the foreign newspapermen assembled at the Press Conference of the Ministry of Popular Culture, the international significance and the details of the actual execution of the provisions for the demilitarization of the open city.

The Governments of Washington and London had no time to acknowledge receipt of the Italian Notes, because the Armistice intervened.

Under a legal-international aspect it is pointed out:

1) Germany has accepted the declaration of Rome as "open city" in unequivocal fashion, which not only has been confirmed by the effective withdrawal from the Capital of the German troops who were there, but has been clinched after the events of September 8, when, even if for a "fictio juris", the German Command respected the limits of the open city and recognized the existence of a "Command of the open city of Rome".

2) According to the customs and principles of intergovernmental law, the unilateral declaration of the open city is internationally valid and relevant: the reservation made by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Great Britain and the United States on the necessity that it should be carried into effect, took nothing from its validity, which, after the necessary measures of demilitarization had been carried out, became full.

Rome therefore is and continues to be an open city.

The Allies have every interest in recognizing such a status of the Italian Capital, naturally with the understanding that the German Commands continue to respect, as they had done in September last, the conditions foreseen for the purpose. Consequently, it appears possible and opportune, that the Allies declare to accept what the Italian Government had notified in this connection and at the same time make incumbent upon the Germanic Government compliance and respect for the obligations to which it is held. Compliance and respect which could be controlled with all necessary guarantees by representatives of the Holy See or Neutrals. It is superfluous to emphasize particularly the necessity that a clear and unequivocal demonstration of good will be given in this regard by the Allied Powers and the consequent opportunity that Germany be equally explicitly faced with the full weight of the responsibility which would devolve upon her, if her troops violated a solemn obligation formerly assumed by her Government for respecting a city which ideally belongs to the entire civilized world and which ideally forms a part of the most precious heritage of humanity.

R. MINISTERO
DEGLI
AFFARI ESTERI

N° 1326

19 Mar 1940
A. S. S.

Salerno, 17 Marzo, 1944.

Caro Generale,

Accludo un promemoria dove e' esposta in modo preciso la questione di Roma "citta' aperta" ed i passi ed atti diplomatici che vi si riferiscono.

Credo fermamente che, in questa fase degli avvenimenti militari, la questione possa ed anzi debba essere riproposta.

Tutti gli argomenti in favore del rispetto della citta' di Roma sono stati gia' detti, ne' conviene ancora ripeterli a Voi, che ne siete certamente al corrente. Bastara' riconfermare e con estrema convinzione e sicurezza che gli eventuali distruttori di Roma, si assumerebbero, senza possibilita' di contestazione e di dubbio, un davvero pesante fardello e responsabilita' di fronte al mondo e alla storia.

Non ho in conseguenza alcun dubbio che converrete con me nel pensare che nessuno sforzo debba essere risparmiato da parte nostra e Alkara per giungere ad un fine, di cui tutti quanti condividiamo l'estrema importanza umana. Ricordo che Atene e il Cairo sono state, dopo tutto, risparmiate.

So bene - e mi guarderei bene dal porlo in dubbio - che i Vostri Governi hanno di tutto cio' viva e profonda preoccupa-

2 4 7 9

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So bene - e mi guarderei bened al porlo in dubbio - che i Vostri Governi hanno di tutto cio' viva e profonda preoccupazione. Ed e' anzi per questo che Vi prego di far loro pervenire il promemoria accluso, affinche' sia sottoposto al loro urgente ed attento esame.

All.

Lieutenant General

Sir Noel F.N. Mason Mac Farlane,

Chief Commissioner

Allied Control Commission

N a p l e s .

13

R. MINISTERO
DEGLI
AFFARI ESTERI

-2-

Debbo aggiungere che tutte le notizie che ci pervengono dall'Italia occupata insistono unanimemente ~~nel~~ senso di profonda depressione che la recente estensione dei bombardamenti aerei Alleati su tutta l'Italia provoca in tutti gli strati della popolazione. La grande massa degli italiani, che e' spiritualmente al nostro fianco, rischia di esserne progressivamente scoraggiata e progressivamente delusa.

E' superfluo vi dica che io mi rendo perfettamente conto delle ragioni militari che dettano le disposizioni dei vostri Comandi, ma credo che tali ragioni militari, sulle quali non discuto, debbano peraltro essere, e molto attentamente, valutate anche alla stregua degli effetti controproducenti provocati su popolazioni che sono e che desideriamo insorgenti contro l'oppressione tedesca.

Molto grato se anche di cio' troverete modo di fare esplicito cenno sia a Londra che a Washington che presso l'Alto Comando Alleato, credetemi, caro Generale, con sincera cordialita'.

Barloghetti

dall'Italia occupata insistono unanimemente nel senso di
profonde depressione che la recente estensione dei bombardamenti aerei Alleati su tutta l'Italia provoca in tutti gli strati della popolazione. La grande massa degli italiani, che e' spiritualmente al nostro fianco, rischia di esserne progressivamente scoraggiata e progressivamente delusa.

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Barclay

R. MINISTERO
DEGLI
AFFARI ESTERI
--

PROMEMORIA

ROMA "CITTÀ APERTA"
=====

Il 19 agosto u.s. il Regio Governo, con una comunicazione radiodiffusa alle ore 17, e notificata subito dopo alle Potenze alleate e neutrali, dichiarava Roma "città aperta".

Il Regio Governo aveva da tempo considerato la necessità di adottare tale provvedimento, sollecitato anche e ripetutamente dalla Santa Sede. Trattative al riguardo erano state iniziate nel dicembre del 1942, ma difficoltà di ordine militare, da un lato, e la notizia di una assicurazione data dal Presidente degli Stati Uniti al Pontefice circa l'immunità di Roma dai bombardamenti, dall'altro, avevano indotto il Governo di Roma a rinviare il perfezionamento.

Il primo bombardamento di Roma, la caduta del Governo fascista, sostanzialmente contrario al provvedimento invocato, ulteriori pressioni del Vaticano determinarono la decisione del nuovo Governo, cui non sfuggivano tutte le ragioni militanti a favore della dichiarazione stessa. Il secondo bombardamento di Roma accelerò i tempi, e così, superando alcune remore tecniche, si venne alla dichiarazione del 19 agosto.

Il Ministro degli Esteri affidò all'allora Segretario Ge-

2 4 8 3

radioattiva alle ore 17, e notificata subito dopo alle potenze alleate e neutrali, dichiarava Roma "città aperta".

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Il Ministro degli Interni affidò all'allora Segretario Generale del Ministero, Ambasciatore Rosso, il compito di presiedere ad una Commissione, formata da rappresentanti dei Dicasteri interessati e del Comando Supremo, e costituita per tradurre in atto, secondo i principi del diritto internazionale, la dichiarazione stessa. La Commissione decise di adottare il righello i seguenti

R. MINISTERO
DEGLI
AFFARI ESTERI

- 2 -

provvedimenti che, approvati dal Capo del Governo, ebbero subito principio di esecuzione, e furono notificati alla Svizzera ed alla Santa Sede per l'ulteriore comunicazione alle Potenze anglosassoni:

- 1) Allontanamento di tutte le truppe italiane e tedesche dalle città aperte;
- 2) Trasferimento di tutti i Comandi italiani e tedeschi dalla città aperta;
- 3) Permanenza nella città aperta di forze di polizia italiana, per assicurare la tutela dell'ordine pubblico;
- 4) Trasferimento di tutti gli stabilimenti militari e di quelli adibiti alla produzione bellica;
- 5) Le stazioni ed i parchi ferroviari di Roma non più usati ai fini militari. Il nodo ferroviario di Roma trasformato in un semplice binario di corsa.

La Commissione stabiliva inoltre il perimetro della città aperta - che comprendeva largamente, oltre che il centro della città, la zona monumentale di Roma - e ne fissava i limiti che, approvati dalle Autorità competenti, venivano descritti in uno schizzo e in un fotogramma, allegati alle Note Verbali dirette alla Santa Sede e alla Legazione di Svizzera in Roma, per la notifica alla Gran Bretagna ed agli Stati Uniti.

Il Governo germanico, che era stato tenuto al corrente

la città aperta;

2) Trasferimento di tutti i Comuni italiani e tedeschi della città aperta;

3) Permanenza nella città aperta di forze di polizia italiana, per assicurare la tutela dell'ordine pubblico;

4) Trasferimento di tutti gli stabilimenti militari e di quelli adibiti alla produzione bellica;

5) Le stazioni ed i parchi ferroviari di Roma non più usati ai fini militari. Il nodo ferroviario di Roma trasformato in un semplice binario di corse.

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Il Governo germanico, che era stato tenuto al corrente della intenzione del Reale Governo di dare pratica attuazione alla dichiarazione del 19 agosto, pur avendo inizialmente avanzato ogni riserva per tutto quanto atteneva al rifornimento delle truppe germaniche operanti nell'Italia del Sud, approvava le decisioni italiane (secondo il telegramma dell'allora Incaricato d'Affari a Berlino, Hitler personalmente si sarebbe occupato della questione).

R. MINISTERO
DEGLI
AFFARI ESTERI

- 3 -

Nello stesso giorno in cui la Svizzera e la Santa Sede venivano informate, il Regio Governo indirizzava all'Ambasciata del Reich a Roma una analoga nota, corredata da sedici e fotofiori. Successivamente veniva da un portavoce ufficiale illustrata ai giornalisti esteri riuniti alla Conferenza stampa del Ministero della Cultura popolare, la portata internazionale e i dettagli della pratica attuazione dei provvedimenti per la smilitarizzazione della città aperta.

I Governi di Washington e di Londra non ebbero il tempo di accusare ricezione delle note italiane, perchè sopravvenne l'amnistia.

Sotto l'aspetto giuridico-internazionale si osserva:

- 1) La Germania ha accettato la dichiarazione di Roma "città aperta" in un modo inequivocabile, che non solo è stato confermato dallo effettivo allontanamento dalla capitale delle truppe tedesche che vi si trovavano, ma è stato ribadito dopo gli avvenimenti dell'8 settembre, quando, sia pure per una "fictio juris", il Comando tedesco rispettava il limite della città aperta e riconosceva l'esistenza di un "Comando della città aperta di Roma".
- 2) Secondo le consuetudini e i principi del diritto internazionale, la giustificazione unilaterale della città aperta è internazionalmente valida e rilevante: la riserva avanzata dai Ministri degli Esteri di Gran Bretagna e degli Stati Uniti sulle neces-

sivamente veniva da un portavoce ufficiale illustrata ai giornalisti esteri riuniti alla Conferenza stampa del Ministero della Cultura popolare, la portata internazionale e i dettagli della pratica attuazione dei provvedimenti per la smilitarizzazione della città aperta.

I Governi di Washington e di Londra non ebbero il tempo di accusare ricezione delle note italiane, perché sopravvenne l'armistizio.

Sotto l'aspetto giuridico-internazionale si osserva:

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2) Secondo le consuetudini e i principi del diritto internazionale, la dichiarazione unilaterale della città aperta è internazionalmente valida e rilevante: la riserva avanzata dai Ministri degli Esteri di Gran Bretagna e degli Stati Uniti sulle necessità che essa dovesse tradursi in atto, nulla toglieva alla sua validità che, attuate le misure di smilitarizzazione necessarie, di venne piena.

Roma quindi è e continua ad essere città aperta.

Gli Alleati hanno tutto l'interesse al riconoscimento di tale status della capitale italiana, naturalmente perché i comandi tedeschi continuino a rispettare, come avveniva fatto nel

R. MINISTERO
DEGLI
AFFARI ESTERI

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settembre scorso, le condizioni allo scopo previste. Senza in conseguenza possibile ed opportuno che gli Alleati richiedano di accettare quanto al riguardo il governo Italiano aveva notificato e richiedano in pari tempo il governo Germanico all'osservanza e rispetto degli obblighi cui è tenuto. Osservanza e rispetto che potrebbero essere controllati con tutte le garanzie del caso da rappresentanti della Santa Sede o neutri. E' superfluo sottolineare in modo particolare la necessità che una chiara e inequivocabile dimostrazione di buona volontà sia data in proposito dalle Potenze Alleate e la conseguente opportunità che la Germania sia posta altrettanto esplicitamente di fronte a tutto il peso della responsabilità che ricadrebbe interamente su di essa, ove le sue truppe violassero un impegno solenne già assunto dal suo governo per il rispetto di una città che appartiene idealmente a tutto intero il mondo civile e che fa idealmente parte del più prezioso patrimonio dell'umanità.

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representanti della Santa Sede o neutri. L' superfluo sottolineare in modo particolare la necessità che una chiara e inequivocabile dimostrazione di buona volontà sia data in proposito dalle Potenze Alleate e la conseguente opportunità che la Germania sia posta altrettanto esplicitamente di fronte a tutto il peso della responsabilità che ricadrebbe interamente su di essa, ove le sue truppe violassero un impegno solenne già assunto dal suo governo per il rispetto di una città che appartiene idealmente a tutto intero il mondo civile e che fa idealmente parte del più prezioso patrimonio dell'umanità.

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