

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785021

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10000/103/6

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ARCHIVES FUTURE, ACCOMODATIONS FOR AC
ARCHIVES
JULY - SEPT. 1945

Ministero degli Affari Esteri

A I D E - M E M O R I E
kind attention of Capt. Collins.

Subject: German property in Italy.

- 1.- Reference is made to Capt. Collins memorandum dated September 14th. 1945, addressed to Marchese Cittadini Cesi.
- 2.- The custodian of the former German Embassy has been informed of the intended visit of Capt. Collins to the premises of the Embassy.
- 3.- As to the possible use of the a/m. Embassy building by the Allied Commission, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs beg to recall that the Italian Government, on September 6th, have taken up the custody of the building as "trustee", being clearly stated that such "trusteeship" was conferred upon them until the final disposition of German official property will be decided by the four Powers participating in the control of Germany, whether by "ad hoc" agreement or through the machinery of the Allied Control Council (see para. 2(b) of the Allied Commission's note n. 6531/55/EC, dated September 1st. 1945).
- 4.- In view of the above the Ministry for Foreign Affairs feel that any request concerning the destination of the building in question should be officially made by the Allied Commission, in the name of the four Powers participating in the Control of Germany.

Rome, September 21st. 1945.

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ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
INTER OFFICE MEMO

From: ARCHIVES BRANCH

SUBJECT: VILLA WOLKOWSKY

FILE No.

TO: Marchese Cittadini, Liaison Officer
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

14 Sept 1945

Brigadier Lush has instructed me to visit the Villa Wolkowsky in order to ascertain whether the premises would be suitable for use as a repository for the Archives of the Allied Commission. I understand that the keys of the Villa have been handed over to the Italian Government. Would you please be kind enough to arrange for me to have access to the premises at 14.15hrs on Saturday 15 Sept 45.

A.J. COLLINS,
Capt. R.E.
Archivist.

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W/COMMANDER FRONT.

With reference to your recent request, I regret that I am unable to produce either Property Control or Legal files of Tuscany Region solely because I have no physical space in which to sort out and unpack the crates.

The lack of suitable and adequate accommodation for the Archives has embarrassed my work since February, and has now become extremely acute. If sub-Commissions are going to require access to the files of Tuscany and the other five Regions which are about to close, I must have sufficient floor space to permit the crates to be spread out. The stacking of crates - a method I have hitherto been compelled to adopt - is quite impracticable.

It is difficult to predict with any accuracy how much material is likely to be received from the northern Regions. Compared with Regions whose records have already been received, the northern Regions have been operating for a short time only, but this is the only comparison upon which it is possible to frame an estimate. Upon this basis, it will be necessary to provide a total of approximately 2500 square feet of floor space, i.e. 400 square feet for each of the following Regions -

Tuscany	Piemonte
Basilicata	Lombardia
Liguria	Venezia

It is emphasized that the above figures are necessarily conjectural. Work is now proceeding in the Umbria/Marche records; these are unpacked and are occupying an additional 800 square feet.

No allowance has been made in the above figures for the records of Offices at H.Q., but it is assumed that the closing down of sub-Commissions will be staggered and that the problem, although large, will therefore be simpler to handle.

RAAC have been asked to search for premises which would provide about 6000 cubic feet of storage space (permanent 'consolidated' storage); it is probable that some of this space could be used for the preliminary sorting in a horizontal plane, before it was required for permanent storage in a vertical plane.

JY

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
(Archives Branch)

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17th July, 1945.

SUBJECT : Accommodation for A.C. Archives.
TO : H.Q. Commandant (Billeting Officer).

The question of accommodation for the Archives of the Commission is presenting several problems.

Records which have been deposited up to the present amount to about 1700 cubic feet, and whilst it is impossible accurately to predict the final figure, it is considered that provision ought to be made for storage space of 5000 - 6000 cubic feet. In addition, working space will be necessary so that records which have not yet been dealt with can be spread out and examined before being consolidated for storage.

The work will continue for a considerable time after the Commission has ceased to exist and it is contemplated that the Archives will remain in Base for an indefinite period - I should say a minimum of 2 years, but more probably five. It might extend to 5 or 10 years, and the possibility should not be excluded that the Archives will remain permanently in Base.

The Executive Commissioner feels that there would be advantages in seeking a separate building for the Archives. In view of the expected influx of a large volume of records during the next few months, it is thought desirable to institute immediate inquiries to ascertain the possibility of securing suitable premises at an early date - i.e. any time during the next 6 or 8 weeks.

Brigadier Lusk has not authorized the completion of any arrangements on these lines, but he has instructed me to make preliminary inquiries and to report the result to him.

Will you please raise the matter with H.A.A.G. and let me know the prospects?

I have given a good deal of information about the proposed future of the Archives, since the question is not one of physical space alone, and it will be useful to you to know exactly what is involved. Please regard this aspect of the matter as confidential at present.


A.J. COLLINS,
Captain, R.E.
Archivist.

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