

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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ITAL GOV'T, RELATIONS WITH ITALIANS &
ITALIAN OFFICERS
MAY - SEPT. 1944

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9/30/48 ✓

File

Admin Section

20 SEP 1944

JOINT COMMUNIQUE
AMERICAN AND BRITISH GOVERNMENTS

The President and the Prime Minister held further discussions Monday and Tuesday, September 18th and 19th at Hyde Park on subjects dealing with postwar policies in Europe. The result of these discussions cannot be disclosed at this time for strategic military reasons and pending their consideration by our other Allies. The present problems in Italy also came under discussion and on this subject the President and the Prime Minister issued the following statement:

"The Italian people freed of their Fascist and Nazi overlordship have in these last twelve months demonstrated their will to be free to fight on the side of the democracies and to take a place among the United Nations devoted to principles of peace and justice. We believe we should give encouragement to those Italians who are standing for a political rebirth in Italy and are completing the destruction of the evil Fascist system. We wish to afford the Italians a greater opportunity to aid in the defeat of our common enemies. The American and the British people are of course horrified by the recent mob action in Rome but feel that a greater responsibility placed on the Italian people and on their own government will most readily prevent a recurrence of such acts. An increasing measure of control will be gradually handed over to the Italian administration subject of course to that administration's proving that it can maintain law and order and the regular administration of justice. To mark this change the Allied Control Commission will be renamed the Allied Commission. The British High Commissioner in Italy will assume the additional title of Ambassador. The United States Representative in Rome already holds that rank. The Italian Government will be invited to appoint direct representatives to Washington and London. First and immediate considerations in Italy are the relief of hunger and sickness and fear. To this end we instructed our representatives at the UNRRA conference to declare for the sending of medical aids and other essential supplies to Italy. We are happy to know that this view commanded itself to other members of the UNRRA Council. At the same time first steps should be taken toward the reconstruction of an Italian economy. An economy laid low under the years of the misrule of Mussolini and ravished by the German policy of vengeful destruction. These steps should be taken primarily as military aims to put the full resources of Italy and the Italian people into the struggle to defeat Germany and Japan. For military reasons we should assist the Italians in the restoration of such power systems, their railways, motor transport roads and other communications as enter into the war situation and for a short time send engineers, technicians and industrial experts into Italy to help them in their own rehabilitation. The application to Italy of the Trading With The Enemy Acts should be modified so as to enable business contacts between Italy and the outside world to be resumed for the benefit of the Italian people. We all wish to speed the day when the last vestiges of Fascism in Italy will have been wiped out and when the last German will have left Italian soil and when there will be no need of any Allied troops to remain, the day when free elections can be held throughout Italy and when Italy can earn her proper place in the great family of free nations."

Reproduced at
Headquarters ACC
29 September 1944

1858

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U.P. Admin

ALY

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
R.C. & M.C. Section
APO 394

CONFIDENTIAL

Ref/388/11/CA.

17 June 1944.

SUBJECT: Relations with Italians.

TO : R.C.'s Regions I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII & Rome.
SCAD's 5th and 8th Armies.
V.P.'s Admin. & Economic Sections.

1. A copy of a directive from C.-in-C. on the subject of relations with Italians was forwarded to you on 14 June 1944.
2. You are requested to ensure that all officers serving under you are informed of the contents of this letter. As stated in the last para of the directive it should not be circulated below addressees to whom this letter is sent.

WIS/RAC.

NORMAN E. FISKE
Colonel,
Deputy Executive
Commissioner.

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Rec'd with of U.P. Admin. by Meeting. 20 Jun. 44

20 Jun 44

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CA. L. H. de... & inform... & rel...

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Subject: Relations with Italians.

CG FIFTH ARMY
EIGHTH ARMY (Main)
EIGHTH ARMY (Rear)

5 Corps
1 District
2 District
3 District

CONFIDENTIAL

Headquarters
Allied Armies in Italy,
C.M.F.
5063/3/A(PS)-

11 June 44.

When Allied troops invaded ITALY in September 43, I issued a directive (15 Army Group signal MGA140 of 26 Sep. 43), regarding their behaviour towards the Italians. In brief, I said that their attitude should be correct but not familiar, as befitted the soldiers of a victorious Army entering a conquered country.

The time has come when I consider it desirable to modify this directive.

During the past eight months we have had valuable and sincere co-operation from the Italian armed forces and population in occupied ITALY. The people have had a hard time and have borne their lot well. Their combat troops have acquitted themselves well in the line, others have done good work in our bases and ports. Their Navy and Air Force have given important assistance.

ITALY has not yet been accorded the status of ally. It is not the policy of the Allied Governments that this status should be given to her yet. It is not, therefore, my wish that we should treat with the Italians on those terms of cordiality and familiarity which obtain between allies.

On the other hand I do consider that we should show sympathy for their difficulties and consideration for their legitimate needs. I have in mind, for example, such questions as the requisitioning of accommodation, in which our attitude in the past may perhaps, in some cases, have been dictated more by consideration of convenience than of military necessity. I also feel strongly that we should be fighting by the side of our own should be tre-

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In brief, while the Italian Government, troops and people co-operate with us in the defeat of Germany, I consider it to be proper and expedient that we should show them good-will without formality and consideration without weakness.

This document must not be circulated below Brigade, Regiment or equivalent H.Q., but commanders are requested to ensure that all officers serving under them are aware of my wishes and respect them.

(Signed) H.R. ALEXANDER,
General,

Commander - in- Chief.

BHR/amb

Copies to:- CG HQAF
CG WATAP
POWIT

POTALL
CG PBS
ACC. ✓

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File

SOME CAUSES OF MISUNDERSTANDING BETWEEN
ACC REPRESENTATIVES IN THE FIELD

AND

ITALIAN OFFICIALS

Since the restoration of territory to the Italian Government which took place over three months ago, a day has not passed without reports of small or serious misunderstandings between A. C. C. representatives and Italian officials reaching this HQ.

This was only to be expected, but as the volume of these incidents appears to be on the increase rather than the decline, it may be of use to try and classify roughly some of the generic and also specific reasons, which though known to many officers at HQ, seems to have escaped the comprehension of most of ACC personnel in the field.

It is obviously a waste of time to emphasize that some of the members of ACC are so insular in their outlook or so convinced of the universal superiority of their methods of government, that they will hardly condescend to study or discuss the utility of even the smallest number of local customs or institutions, which may have been in existence since the Risorgimento.

It is also useless to complain about the poor quality or the lack of standing of many of the Italian officials, especially in small towns and in Southern Italy.

Both these facts are due to geographical and historical causes, which cannot be altered for many generations to come, it is therefore impracticable to try and do it now.

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Both these facts are due to geographical and historical causes, which cannot be altered for many generations to come, it is therefore preposterous to try and do it now.

Another point of the Italian temperament which appears to have remained unknown to many of ACC officers is their individualism. The Italian for many reasons just as historical as the others thinks of himself and his family by mere extension of his own personality first and foremost, sometimes he may have the welfare of his "paese" or his friends at heart, he seldom feels that national problems are his personal concern, unless he can derive some personal and immediate benefit from them.

Finally the Italian whether communist or royalist is class conscious. The ACC officer in the field is either a "signore" or not. If he is he must behave like one. He must be above everything a just man, have good manners, a kindly contempt for the

people he supervises administrates, he must possess a large car, a comfortable house and a number of servants.

A democratic simplicity is seldom understood by the Italians, on the other hand they are quick to realise whenever someone acts too big for his shoes.

Apart from these generalities, the main causes for trouble can be classified under the following headings:

A) - To the debit of the Allies.

1. Bad discipline of the Allied troops.

To decent Americans and Britishers, it is most galling to have to admit, but it is useless to try and conceal the facts. Every day reports of robbery, gangsterism, unlawful requisitions, death and injuries due to careless driving, V.D. troubles etc. etc. are received from all parts of restored or controlled territory.

No serious attempt to restore proper discipline appears to have been made to date.

Thus the feelings between the Italian population and the occupant are unnecessarily embittered thus rendering administration or control more difficult.

2. Inconsistency in the administration of Justice.

This is deeply resented by the Italians. For instance AGC always request the Italian Government to urge their courts to be extremely severe for crimes against food regulations, prostitution etc. AGC Courts give heavy sentences against this type of offenders. On the other hand Allied military personnel, ~~are~~ caught blackmarketing, get ridiculous sentences from Allied Courts. Some very unpleasant cases could be cited. The army wants all prostitutes to be interned, but hardly any sanctions are taken against the real offender.

If an Italian is caught with five packets of cigarettes or three slips of bully beef he gets six months, but the Allied soldier who very often has committed the first offence, is never even summoned at the trial.

Consequently in spite of increased severity little progress is made in that field. Furthermore, it will be extremely hard to obtain heavy sentences from the Italian Courts as their natural reaction will be:

- (a) to protect their nationals as much as possible.
- (b) to obtain an average justice by showing clemency towards those they consider only partly and certainly less responsible for the alleged offence.

3. Use of AMG Methods in restored territory.

It must be realized by AMG officers in restored territory that they are no longer responsible for the administration of the land and hold no power to give direct orders to Italian officials.

4. Appointment of Officials.

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4. Appointment of Officials.

It must be understood that appointment by AMG does not mean final promotion over the heads of all other officials. To start with it is impossible to maintain such promotion after the peace treaty and furthermore it would upset the whole Italian system quite unnecessarily.

5. Total lack of interest in Italian history, art and customs.

The net result being that educated Italians, extremely and justly proud of their past history and art, consider many officers as illiterate and therefore unable to understand local problems.

To the debit of the Italians.

1. The lack of interest in the future of Italy and the existing political machinery (especially financial).
 2. The physical impossibility to present a difficult case openly and frankly, but the use of extremely/direct methods to achieve any purpose.
in
 3. The total lack of moral consciousness of the younger generation of lower and even middle classes and the fact that it appears that no effort is even being made to make them acquire such sense.
 4. The prevalence of the concept "Damn you Joe, I am all right" and as a result
and Central administration
 5. The overcrowding of Ministries/in spite of the scarcity of officials in the provinces, because of better conditions of life.
- These are very wide classifications, but should always be borne in mind by ACC officers in their dealings with the Italians.

2. The gift of plausible explanation is indispensable
for the success of any plan. The gift of plausible explanation is indispensable
(without which no plan can be carried out)
The gift of plausible explanation is indispensable
for the success of any plan. The gift of plausible explanation is indispensable

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 75016

REAR HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394

9/3.2/48

3 May 1944

SUBJECT: Meeting - Relating with Italian Officers.

TO : Public Safety, Legal, Education.

The ICC wishes the undermentioned officers to attend the meeting convened by 24 Pub Area to discuss relations with Italian Officers to be held at the BEMA Theatre at 1100 hrs on 6 May.

Public Safety - Col MEANEY
Education - Lt. Col SMITH
Legal - Major RANWORTH

Will you please arrange accordingly.

H. H. White
S H WHITE, Major
for USO
Admin Section

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U.S. SECRET Equals British MOST SECRET

11 FEB 1944

INCOMING

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PRIORITY

FREEDOM HIGHWAY CINC SITE PRIORITY

ARMY FOR GENERAL ALEXANDER RYD FAYINA FOR MACFARLANE

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Allied CINC desires considered report on probable effect conferred on personnel of various levels within Italian army, navy and airforce of abdication of King Victor Emmanuel. Bearing in mind the difficulty of securing objective data as to exposing attitudes of officers and men, will you cause a report to be made on the situation. You will no doubt draw upon sources of information in AGC and elsewhere and take account of circumstances in which abdication might be brought about for example voluntarily, under pressure from his own people or through active intervention of Allies.

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DISTRIBUTION:

- 2 - AG Files
- 1 - Dep Chief Commissioner - Info
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- 1 - Main BR AGC (DRL)
- 1 - Political Section - Info

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