

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017

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10000/109/307

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

785017

10000/109/307

CAMPIONE COMMUNE
JUNE - DEC. 1945

TD: Executive Commissioner.

Reference Your Minute 1, attention is invited to minute 5 above and to folio 7.

Leon Sec
21 Jun 45
Tel: 415

[Signature]
E. B. MCINLEY
Brigadier General, USA
Acting Vice President

[Signature]

13
for your info please note min 8 & 9 folio 12.

[Signature]

4/30/7. *[Signature]*

I agree in principle but we must reply
to 5 (a), (b) & (c) of 1.

DS (3/1/11)

15

[Signature] Not to be submitted.

15/11/77
At present please note min 8 9, plus 12.

20/11/77

20/11/77

I agree in principle but are must reply

to 5 (a), (b) & (c) of 1.

20/11/77

15

Explain Reply to p. 1 Submitted.

20/11/77

20/11/77

21.

19 to note - 17 & 18 refer. 18/12

20/11/77

20/11/77

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785017

2

CAMPIONE is on shores of Lake Lugano, is immediately South of LOCANO.

File

3

Econ Sec for Finance S/C.

Ref folio 1, as stated, CAMPIONE is an "island" commune, being surrounded by de Swiss frontier. When frontier control is eased its admin will be facilitated. However four views on para 5(b) are requested.

G. Horder

Office of EC.
19/6/45

4

To: Finance S/C

Request your comments, please, as per minute 3 above, and return through the office.

Econ Sec
19 June 45
T.D. 415

WMA

(Signed)
CLIFF B. HIGLAND, JR.
ECONOMY, MEANTIME

5

view

Examined by S.T.

de Swiss frontier. When frontier control is eased its admin will be facilitated. However your views on para 5(b) are requested.

E. Horder

Office of EC.
19/6/45

4

To: Finance S/C

Request for comments, please, as per minute 3 above, and return through the office.

E. H. S. C.
19 June 45
T.B. 415

W.H.

(Signed)
C. B. HIGLAND, Jr.
CHIEF, HONORARY

5

view

Economic Section:

1. Attached is copy of letter we have addressed to Regional Finance Officer, Lombardia. We will require a reply to this letter and consultation with the Minister of the Treasury before a final opinion can be given.

B. H. Horder
Major
Finance S/C

20 June, 1945
Tel. 297

785017

544 46
-25
ALLIED [REDACTED] COMMISSION
INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Stamps in use in Cambodia FILE NO. P 34
TO : Executive Commissioner 14 12 1945

The matter has been brought to a head by the letter from the French Postal Administration to the French Ministry of Posts proposing to cease the present arrangements as from 1st Jan & suggesting that French stamps should be used from that date.

The attached reply has been prepared with the approval of the Executive Commissioner.

(1533)

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
Communications Sub-Commission

480/ans

P.34.30/CS

17th December 1945
DEC 17 1945

Subject: Campione d'Italia - Postage Stamps.
To : Director General for Posts and Telecommunications.

With reference to your 420870/42645/1.2.3. of 16th December 1945 and the relative enclosures.

1. It seems quite clear that the reintroduction of normal Italian postage stamps for use on internal and external correspondence originating in Campione is dependent on a solution being found to the currency question.

2. If it were possible to fix a satisfactory price in Swiss currency for the various values of Italian postage stamps there would seem to be no strong reason why the change-over to Italian stamps and Italian rates of postage should not be made at an early date. In view of the forthcoming transfer of the Northern Regions to the Italian Government this is a matter which you may wish to discuss with the Ministry of the Treasury.

3. The alternatives would appear to be

(a) To ask the Swiss Postal Authorities to allow the present arrangements (involving the use of Swiss stamps for external services) to continue until such time as the currency question is settled.

(b) To use the present series or introduce a new series of special Campione stamps for all such purposes.

4. Alternative (b) would probably result in the sale of the issue for philatelic purposes being out of all proportion to its consumption for legitimate postal purposes which is no doubt a reason why under the original agreement, enclosed with the letter 506.4.3 of 20th November 1945 from the Direction General of the Swiss Post Office, the use of these stamps for International mails purposes was not approved and the Royal Italian Legation was asked not to press its request to the Universal Postal Union for the recognition and normal distribution of samples of these stamps. If, however, it is decided that this is the only practical way of meeting the exceptional conditions it is suggested that the proposal should be submitted to the Universal Postal Union with a request for its concurrence or advice.

5. In the meantime you may wish to reply to the Swiss Postal Administration indicating the difficulties and asking that the present arrangements may be allowed to continue temporarily pending a decision by the Italian Government after the forthcoming restoration of this territory to its jurisdiction.

Copies to: Executive Commissioner (ref. 394/480)
Finance Sub-Commission
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, DGAS Office I
(ref. Direzione Generale Poste Serv. IV letter 829459.V.I/410115 9 Dec.

H.A. SCURER
Colonel, Sig.O.
Director.

230
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017

Ref: 594/20

4 August 1945

SUBJECT: Campione - Province of Como

TO : Finance Subcommittee

1. Reference is made to your 13221/F of 26 July.
2. In regard to paragraph 3, please see attached copy of our 594/19/EO of 2 August to EO, Lombardia Region.
3. As requested in paragraph 2, copy of the report from the Provincial Finance Officer, Como, (ref. Fi-3.8/Co 264, 13 July), and the Swiss Price List are being returned herewith.

A. B. ARNOLDY.

Chief Staff Officer
To Executive Commissioner

3 Incls:
as above

See M. 21

5119

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017

17

Ref: 594/19/ED.

2 August 1945.

SUBJECT: Campione - Province of Como.

TO : Regional Commissioner,
LOMBARDIA Region.

①

Reference your letter R/0186 of 15 June 45.

1. In view of the probable handover of this territory to the Italian Government in about five weeks time, I do not feel that any action should be taken by AMG regarding paras 5(b) and (c).
2. As regards para 5(a), the question of the opening of the whole Italo/Swiss frontier is at present under consideration at AFHQ and I will further press the question with them.

Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

Free 19

BU
13/8
[Signature]

DRAFT.

Subject: Campione

To: Regional Commissioner,
LOMBARDIA.

Reference your letter R/0186 of 15 June. In view of the probable handover of this territory to the Italian Government in about five weeks time, I do not feel that any should be taken by AMG action/regarding paras: 5(b) and (c). As regards para 5(a) The question of the opening of the ^{White} Italo/Swiss frontier is at present under consideration. ^{not a problem} If this is finally agreed there will be no further difficulty. *and will put in from the*

Brigadier
Executive Commissioner.



5117

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
FINANCE SUB-COMMISSION.

13221/F.

26 July 1945.

SUBJECT : Campione - Province of Como.

TO : Executive Commissioner,
Hq., Allied Commission.

1. Reference is made to letter R/0186 of 15 June addressed to you by the Regional Commissioner, AMG Lombardia.

2. Attached is report from the Provincial Finance Officer Como, together with the Swiss Price List in use in Campione. I shall be grateful if you will return the attachment after perusal.

3. It does not appear that there is any great distress in Campione but, as you see, there are the usual difficulties of exchange that exist in all enclaves of this sort. I strongly recommend that AMG take no action particularly in view of the probable hand-over in five weeks time.

AD Grassey Smith

Brigadier
Joint Director
FINANCE SUB-COMMISSION.

(Copy destroyed)

See M 13 to 15

17-15

COPY of a Copy

A.H.G. COMO PROVINCE

Como, 13th July 1945

Ref: F/3.8/Co 264

Subject: Campione d'Italia - Province of Como

To: R.F.O. - Lombardia Region

Copy to: Provincial Commissioner - Como Province

1. In accordance with instructions of your Fin/3.26/54 dated 25 June and Finance Subcommittee letter of 20 June the following report is made on the Commune of Campione, 700 population.

2. The present Commissario, Lucio Sebastiani, was sent down from Berne in May 1945 to administer the Commune, he is a career official of the Italian diplomatic service. He is doubtless very able and has sound ideas but he admits that Campione has currency and taxation problems that need careful consideration by technicians. The previous Commissario was Premio Bizzolo who was appointed by Rome through the Legation in Berne. This was of course, after Rome was liberated, previously the Commune had been part of Como Province under its Prefect.

In September 1943 Campione was non-fascist and in Jan. 1944 declared itself for the Royal Government and separated from Como and was then administered from the Royal Legation in Berne.

Commissario Bizzolo was not universally popular and being in the electric business, selling power to the Commune, a change was thought to be desirable.

3. COMMUNAL EXPENSES is 12,000 francs per month; there are three Communal employees. The Commissario has not had his salary from Berne for 3 months. Being cut off from Italy the Commune has to pay the state employees, 2 Post Office officials, 3 teachers and 10 Carabinieri (the Maresciallo said 8 but the Commissario said he did not include himself and a sick one). There are 3 other employees who are not working and are not wanted but they have to be paid, 1 ex Police Commissario, 1 Communal secretary and 1 other communal employee. These are people to be considered by the Epuration Commission. The removal of these would save 2-3000 francs per month.

5 Carabinieri would be sufficient.

Other heavy expenses are pensions and family allowances.

4. COMMUNAL INCOME. The same taxation as in Italy was paid until 1943, since then none. In March 1944 permission was obtained from Switzerland to issue special stamps in Swiss francs; the stamps were obtained from Switzerland. This has been the sole source of communal income since.

Income and expenses have balanced the budget but they are not selling so many stamps now.

Previous to 1937 the business and income of the Commune and its people was the Casino (practically the whole population worked for the Casino in one way or another) but in that year the Casino was closed down by the Italian Government. After that the Commune ran a deficit and six million lire was obtained in 1941 to clear the accumulation.

5. CURRENCY. An official rate of exchange of 4.41 lire per franc was set with the Swiss Government. There was a great deal of business in currency exchange. The lire steadily vanished, some may still be in hiding in the Commune but most was exchanged in Switzerland as the lire depreciated more and more until 1944 when the stamps were issued it had disappeared entirely.

10
There are no current conversions between franc and lire.
To replace fr and lire would not be a simple matter, rate of exchange, the fact that most people work in Switzerland are difficult problems needing consideration at a high level.

No estimate could be obtained on this visit of the amount in francs circulating.

6. BANKS. There are no banks. The Banca Popolare di Lecco was the Ricevitore and Treasury but it has been closed 2 years. The post office is the only financial institution.

7. ECONOMIC. The Commissario summed up the problem of the Comune very briefly by saying:-

- (a) Casino
- (b) Contraband
- (c) Clearing

Otherwise the people have to work in Switzerland. There is practically no industry, a small amount of ceramic.

Campione is included in the Swiss ration scheme for that is the source of official food. This Swiss ration is sufficient and an official price list is attached. The ration card is an elaborate affair covering all necessities.

All prices and business are in Swiss francs.

There are 30-40 really poor people needing assistance though, of course, many more plead poverty.

Contraband by water on Lake Lugano is heavy most of it being food from Italy into Switzerland: rice is the first commodity mentioned.

8. POLICE. The Carabinieri say they can do nothing about contraband until the frontier is opened: if they arrest anybody they have no jail to put him in. The only crime reported was a house breaking by from refugees.

There are 33 refugees. The list has been handed to P.S.O. for repatriation arrangements to be made.

9. GENERAL REMARKS AND SUGGESTIONS

- (a) The Prefect of Como is expected to visit Campione about 13 July: it is suggested that a tax expert accompany him to study the situation with a view to recommending taxation on the present Italian system or a modification of it.
- (b) A postal service to Italy will add to the income from the stamps, the value to collectors is high. If all stamps on hand are sold the revenue will support the Comune for at least six months during which time taxation, currency and such problems can possibly be dealt with and arrangements made.
- (c) The Commissario says the people are not well pleased with connection with Como Province. They think Como has no interest in Campione: he suggests the election of a local Sindaco and direct connection with Rome or the Legation at Berne.

10. It is hoped that further information can be obtained on another visit. An idea of the amount of Swiss francs in circulation may be obtained and by circulating among the people the rates of wages being earned by the workers in Switzerland may be ascertained. Full details of communal expenses, amount of pensions and family allowances may be useful information.

(signed)

Capt/
P.F.O. Como Province

311/

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017

9

Ref: 594/9/RO.

Tel: 478201

2 July 1945.

SUBJECT: CAMPIDON - Province of COME.

TO : Regional Commissioner,
LOMBARDIA Region.

The problems raised in your letter of 15 June 1945 are being considered and it is hoped to let you have a reply shortly. Meantime, letter was written to your Regional Finance Officer on 20 June, reference 13221/P, as action arising out of your letter under acknowledgment.

[Signature]
Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

3/10
14/7
16/7
8/4
8/6
16/7

BU
9/7
Held

5:11

17/12

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY
FINANCIAL SECTION, COMBINED
HEADQUARTERS, COMBINED

22 June 1945

21 JUN 1945

13221/F

SUBJECT: Campione - Survivors of Cash
TO: Regional Finance Section, Lombardy

1. Attached is a copy of a letter to this HQ from the Lombardy Regional Finance Section regarding the situation of the currency of Campione.

2. It was requested to give our opinion on the above of the referenced letter. To answer that the Finance Section will advise that Campione receive the use of money it has currently as much as possible, and we are requesting the view of the Ministry of the Treasury at this point. Meanwhile, we should appreciate receiving from you a more detailed report upon the monetary system of Campione, including the following:

- (a) The estimated amount of Swiss francs circulating in the commune.
- (b) The exact manner in which the commune changed from the use of lire to Swiss francs.
- (c) Assuming that it is decided to make the shift from Swiss francs to lire, how this could best be done and over what period of time.
- (d) Names of any banks or other financial institutions operating in Campione.
- (e) The actual rate of exchange used in Campione for any current conversions of lire into Swiss francs.
- (f) An examination of the costs of living price structure in Campione in comparison with various possible rates of exchange. For example OCS has recommended that the Italian Government adopt a rate of exchange of 20,31 Italian lire equal one Swiss franc. What would be the effect in Campione if all Swiss francs were converted into lire at this rate, bearing in mind the cost of essentials.

Handwritten signature and date: 30/6

5112

Handwritten initials: M 8 PA 22/6

-3-

Campione - Province of Como

(g) Are all prices in Campione quoted in terms of Swiss francs?

3. We should also appreciate your observations upon the revenue situation of the comune, in view of the statement in para. 2 of Colonel Polatti's letter that sale of a special issue of postage stamps is the only source of revenue.

Signed: ROBERT B. MENAPACE.
Colonel.

Joint Director,
Finance Sub-Commission

Incl: per para 1.

BELT/din

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
LOMBARDIA REGION
APO 394

R/0186

15 June 1945

JUN 18 1945

SUBJECT: Campione - Province of Como

TO : Executive Commissioner
Headquarters, Allied Commission

1. This is all a rather abnormal situation - Campione is a commune of the province of Como, but it is entirely surrounded by Swiss territory. This little town of 800 or 900 people is presently being run by a Vice Consul of the Italian Consulate in Bern, and he is serving as a Commissario. His name is Lucio Sebastiani.

2. The town is completely cut off from the Prefettura of Como. The Commissario cannot come to Como and none of the officials of Como province can go to Campione.

3. Commencing about a year and a half, the town changed its monetary system to Swiss francs. It also prints its own stamps which it sells in rather large quantities. The sale of these stamps is the only source of revenue. There are eight Italian Carabinieri on duty there and a temporary Pretore has been functioning. No taxes have been collected. The ration system is the Swiss one inasmuch as the supplies all come from Switzerland.

4. I have talked to the officials of Campione and also to a large number of the people and they all desire resumption of governmental contacts with the province of Como. It is not correct that the people wish to set themselves up as a separate republic. They are Italians and want to continue to be.

5. We feel that the problems raised questions that we cannot solve at the regional level. AG HQ, we believe, should assist us in the following manner:

a. Obtaining permission from AFHQ for Italian officials from Campione to come to Como and for Como officials to go to Campione on governmental business.

b. A guide as to whether and when we should shift from Swiss francs to Italian lire.

c. Clarification of the postal situation.

6. There are some refugees and some Italian soldiers in Campione, but we believe we can arrange to get them into Italy when the frontier is opened up for the others.

Charles Polatti

Colonel

Regional Commissioner

see M 273
4,597 total

2377