

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

ACC

10000/109/341

M0
SE

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

10000/109/341

MOVE OF AFHQ TO ROME
SEPT. 1945 - NOV. 1946

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

Chief Commissioner.

63
Attached is submitted for your ^{approval} signature
information

649

25/1/46 M. C. B. B. B.
E. C.

✓
25/1/46

65.
Lso. (1) ~~John~~ Letter at folio 64 for
signature please. Folio 63 &
52-53 refer.
(2) I can find no trace of enclosure
mentioned at 62.
J WPC-M 25/10

Co for 6 Embassies.

Servia Sub Come

MS/8/5.

CSO 4/15/5

49

Folio 48 for info please *ARB 2/10*

52.

CSO Ex Comm.

Folio 51 for info please. *ARB 7/10*
MS/8/5

54

Chief Commissioner.

53

Approved
Attached is submitted for your signature

You may wish to discuss this matter with Mr. Hamlen.
17/x/46
Mr. Hamlen.

MS/8/5 19/10

56

Phase see folio 55 for info.
J. info. 19/10

59.

Phase see folio 58 for info.

645

11/11/46

52.

cc Ex Comm.

folio 51 for info, please. ack. 7/10
H.S. 7/10

54

Chief Commissioner.

53

Approved
Attached is submitted for your signature
information

You may wish to discuss this matter with Mr. Hamilton.
17/x/46
McLanahan.

057 12 646

56

19/10

esp. Please see folio 55 for info.
D. inform. 19/10

59.

esp. Please see folio 58 for info.
D. inform. 21/10

645

60.

Chief Commissioner.

58

Approved
Attached is submitted for your signature
information

22/x/46
McLanahan
Ex Comm.

OCT 22 1946

617

C.S.O.

29

It would be imperative to make any recommendation
 at this stage: AFHQ are very sensitive about
 the word and accommodation. Send the letter to

AFHQ & merely add " ~~write~~ I would point out

that 3/4 of the N. building has been derequisitioned

(if there is in fact the case here) and it is in possession

It takes

of industrial concern

Referring to p. 28,
 amended.

NS/27/4.

30.

Ex Comm.

Amended letter of 28 submitted for signature.
 NS. 28/4

NS/30/4

34.

Ex Comm.

See 4 33 NS. 6/5.

35.

642

AFTER & merely add " ~~with~~ ^{to} would point out
that 3/4 of the M. building has been derequisitioned
(if there is in fact the case type) and is in possession
of Industrial concern " ^{Referring to p. 28,}
NS (27/4) ^{amended.}

30.

Ex Comm.

Amended letter of 28 submitted for signature.
NS. 28/4

NS (30/4)

34.

Ex Comm.

see 23 NS. 4/5.

642

35.

P 33 to Bar Dubok

NS (7/5)

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

15

Chief Commissioner.

Attached is submitted for your

~~approval~~
signature
information

Noted by AC
[Signature]
643

P 12813

MS/SLM

PA/Ex. Com.

Has Ex. Com. seen P. 73d.

He has 2 like already seen P. 1-6

7/5

DR/161x.

9

FRU
12/10

"

D/Ex. Com.

P 10. for inf.

12/10 J

FRU
12/11

11.

Ex. Com.

Gotio 12 for inf.

FRU
4/12

(2/13)

642

22.

D/Ex. Com.

P 10- for info.

12/10 J

~~12/11~~

14.

Ex. Com.

Folio 12 for info.!

~~12/11~~ 4/12.

(213)

642

A/c.c.

22.

F's 20 + 21 for info. H.S. 16/14

Also 23, reply to page 18.

^{24.}

No reply. 17/16/14

29

CSO A/c.c.

Folio 18 for signature please, Folios 24-8

and Dr. Bombardieri's conversation notes

H.S. Quid 2-7/14

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

64

RCZ: 621/8/72

25 November, 1946

SUBJECT: Requisitioning of Property in India.

TO : Director
Economic Division.

52

1. Reference is made to your letter No. 3.06 of 10th October, 1946, addressed to General Officer Commanding HQ No. 5 District - C.M.F., copy to office of Chief Commissioner.
2. A copy of the letter from Sig. Dario was forwarded to G-5 AFHQ and the following reply has been received:

"It is regretted that the investigation of the re-requisition of the Hotel Regina and any further contemplated requisitioning of property in India has not been completed. It is expected to be soon in a position to reply."

BY SIGNATURE OF YOUR ALMIGHTY SIGNATURE:


Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

641

PA 28

785017

620 83686 NOV 25 1946

EX-13

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 512

G-5: 926.11R

21 November 1946.

SUBJECT: Requisitioning of Property in Padua

TO : Chief Commissioner,
Allied Commission,
APO 794.

Reference CC letters, 620/53/EC of 17 October
1946 and 4045 of 15 November 1946.

1. It is regretted that the investigation of the
re-requisition of the Hotel Regina and any further con-
templated requisitioning of property in Padua has not
yet been completed.

2. It is expected to be soon in a position to
reply.

BY COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL LEE:

A. L. Hamblen
A. L. HAMBLIN
Colonel, G. S. C.
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-5

649

J/land 11.17.

*PA 26
11
UR*

620 b

NOV 16 1946

62

CC 4045

15 November 1946

SUBJECT: Contemplated Requisitioning in Padua

TO : G-5, AFHQ, APO 512

1. Forwarded herewith is a translation of a letter received from the Undersecretary of State to the Presidency of the Council of Ministers requesting the intervention of the competent Allied authorities to avoid the contemplated requisitioning of some of the principal shops and firms in the city of Padua.

2. Your attention is invited to letter file 620/53/EC, subject: Move of GHQ to Padua, dated 17 October 46, copy enclosed, concerning the assurances I made to the Italian Government that the move would not involve any further requisitioning of property.

3. It is requested that I be advised of what reply I can make to Avv. Cappa.

/s/ Ellery W. Stone

ELLERY W. STONE
Rear Admiral, USNR
Chief Commissioner

2 Incls:

Incl 1 - Trans ltr 10859.104/7.2,

8 Nov 46, fr Avv Cappa;

Incl 2 - Cy ltr 620/53/EC, 17 Oct 46,
sub: Move of GHQ to Padua

639

H.S.
CC EX COMM
Capt K.

14
15 Nov 46

620

INCOMING MESSAGE

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

OCT 24 1946

Originator's Reference: SDO 161

Date / Time of Origin:

Message Centre No.: H/7389

Date Time Rec'd: OCT 23 1545

Precedence: ROUTINE

FROM: GHQ CEF

TO :

ATOUSSA MELP KFOR BTT COMD GIBRALTAR COMD MALTA BAS FRANCE INFO 1 ARMED DIV 88
 US DIV DISTRICT 1 AGR 2 AA FOR 86 AREA RAAC ALCON PBS AHQ ITALY (ADV) TRANS-
 PORTATION (BRIT) HQ GRAVES REGISTRATION ENQUIRIES HQ PUBLIC RELATIONS

SECRET
~~SECRET~~ Confidential

SECRET

FURTHER TO OUR SIG SDO 021 OF 05. REF PARA ONE (B) AFHQ REMAIN RESPONSIBLE
 FOR PUBLIC RELATIONS. REF PARA FIVE. IT HAS ALSO BEEN AGREED THAT GHQ CEF WILL REMAIN
 RESPONSIBLE FOR BOTH PAY SERVICES AND CHAPLAINCY MATTERS IN BOTH CEF AND BTA.

AC DIST

INFO ACTION : EX COMMISSIONER 2

INFO : CHIEF COMMISSIONER

EX OFFICER B

FILE

SKELETON

INFO - ACTION

638

0500

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

Date/Time of Origin:

Date Time Rec'd: OCT 23 1945

Precedence: ROUTINE

FROM: GHQ CEF

TO :

INTOUSA MEMP EXOR BTT COMD GIBRALTAR COMD MALTA HAS FRANCE INFO 1 ARMD DIV 88

~~US DIV DISTRICT 1 AGR 2 AA 208 56 AREA PLAC ALCOH PPS AHQ ITALY (ADV) TRANS~~

PORTATION (ERIT) HQ GRAVES REGISTRATION ENQUIRIES HQ PUBLIC RELATIONS

SECRET **Confidential**
~~SECRET~~

SECRET

FURTHER TO OUR SIG SDO 621 OF 05. REF PARA ONE (B) AFHQ REMAIN RESPONSIBLE FOR PUBLIC RELATIONS. REF PARA FIVE. IT HAS ALSO BEEN AGREED THAT GHQ CEF WILL REMAIN RESPONSIBLE FOR BOTH PAY SERVICES AND CHAPLAINCY MATTERS IN BOTH CEF AND BTA.

AC DIST

INFO ACTION : EX COMMISSIONER 2

INFO : CHIEF COMMISSIONER

EX OFFICER B

FILE

SKELETON

638

INFO - ACTION

OCT 23 1945

SECRET

(CART 4)

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

620 A

CIV-APP
2762
58Subject: Location and Address of Civil
Affairs Branch, CMF.G-5, AFHQ (BR)
C.M.F.

G-5:

18 October 1946

To : Director of Civil Affairs,
The War Office,
Hotel Victoria,
Northumberland Avenue,
London, W.C.2.

OCT 21 1946

1. As a result of the move of GHQ, CMF, from CASERTA to
PADUA, it has become necessary to revise the official address of
the Civil Affairs Branch which remains located in the Royal
Palace at CASERTA.

2. Accordingly, as from the date of receipt of this letter,
it is requested that all correspondence which was originally
addressed to Civil Affairs Branch, GHQ, CMF, now be addressed to:-

Deputy Director Civil Affairs,
G-5, AFHQ (BR),
CMF.

Copy to: ALCOM ROME.

F. G. A. PARSONS,
Colonel,
Deputy Director of Civil Affairs.

FGAP/FGJ/az .

637

See 1759.60

(J/long mem)

J
22/10/46

785017

620 ^d

Ex Comm ⁵⁷

O 65667

OCT 191019A

H/7290

OCT 191500

ROUTINE

AFHQ G-5

WAROF LONDON ,INFO: GHQ CMP ALCOM ROME

WAROF LONDON FOR CIVIL AFFAIRS ,INFO: GHQ CMP ALCOM ROME

OCT 21 1946

UNCLASSIFIED:

Last sentence should read quote signals on CA matters sould be addressed AFHQ
unquote.

Ref O-65633 of 18 October.

AC DIST

INFOA CIV AFFA 2

INFO - CHIEF COMMISSIONER

EX COMM

FLOAT

FILE

OCT 1 1946

636

J. McNeil

(J. McNeil)

PA 21/49

620

Ex Comm.
55

C 65633

H/7271

OCT 181307A

OCT 191015

ROUTINE

AFHQ G-5

TROOPERS LONDON ,INFO: GHQ CMF ALCOM ROME

OCT 19 1946

FOR CIVIL AFFAIRS

UNCLASSIFIED:

In view move of GHQ CMF to Padua , postal address of former Civil Affairs Branch is
now " G-5 , AFHQ (BR) , ". Signals ~~or~~ C A matter should be addressed AFHQ.
OK

AC DIST

INFO ACTION - CIV AFF 2

INFO - CHIEF COMMISSIONER

EX COMMR

FLOAT

FILE

OCT 1 21946

635

See m 56

See F-57

(-copy mem)

21/10/46

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

785017

Ref: 620/53/EO

17 October 1946

SUBJECT: Move of GHQ to PADUA
TO : Allied Force Headquarters
Attention: G-5 Section

1. The attached representation as regards the re-requisition of an hotel at Padua is forwarded to your Headquarters. It has already been transmitted on 10 October 1946 to 3 District with a view to this re-requisition being avoided. According to the records of this Commission the late Executive Commissioner (Brigadier Lush) was advised by the Chief of Staff, AFHQ, at some date prior to 28 August 1946 that the move of AFHQ would involve no additional requisitioning of property as sufficient accommodations were already under requisition in the areas under consideration and I so advised the Italian Government.

2. In view of the above undertaking can early consideration be given to this matter and action taken to avoid this re-requisition and any further requisitioning of property in Padua.

[s] Ellery W. Stone

ELLERY W. STONE
Rear Admiral, USNR
Chief Commissioner

634

CA 18/10/46

See 7-62

This to go
also to GS
pointing out
that this program
understanding that
no further requesting
PADVA would
take place me

785017

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

APC 794

ECONOMIC SECTION

52
OCT 15 1946

Tel. 489081 - Ext. 589

HJB

Ref. ES/5.06

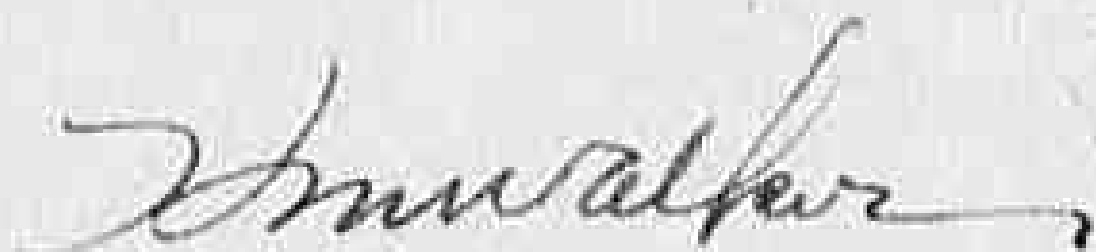
10 October 1946

SUBJECT : Requisitioning of Albergo Regina - Padua.

TO : General Officer Commanding
HQ No. 3 District - C.M.F.

1. Ref attached letter received by the Chief Commissioner.
2. It is the Chief Commissioners wish that this matter be given every consideration with a view to avoiding a second requisition.
3. Could this Headquarters please be informed whether this request can be granted.

For the Chief Commissioner :



H.M. WALKER
Colonel, C.E.
Director,
Industry & Utilities Branch

Copy : Office of the Chief Commissioner.

633

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

785017

TRANSLATION.

FROM : Albergo Regina - Padoa.

TO : Admiral Stone
Grand Hotel - Rome.

1 Oct 46

I, the undersigned, Camillo Desio, owner and manager of Albergo Regina, located in Padoa, Via E. Filiberto 2, take the liberty in pointing out the following:

In September 1943 the a/m Hotel was requisitioned by the Germans and used to April 1945 to billett German Troops who seriously damaged its furniture and fitting.

In April 1945 the Hotel was occupied by the Allies who improved its management. Notwithstanding I met with a new loss as I was not in a position to directly manage my hotel and realize the necessary profit.

In October 1945 the Allied derequisitioned the Hotel, thus at last I could run it again and gain the money required to repair damages made by the Germans.

Now, however, I am informed by the Town Major of Padoa that my Hotel will be requisitioned a second time by Allied Military Authorities on 20 inst.

Albergo Regina is the only hotel in Padoa which can give hospitality to trades-men, travelling clerks, tourists, etc. as the other hotels of 1st and 2nd category have been requisitioned by the Allies. Therefore I request the Allied Commission to order the a/m requisitioning to be suspended not only to give the undersigned the possibility of realizing a profit after so many losses, but also to assure a comfortable hotel to people transiting Padoa.

The local authorities, population, and commercial and tourist bodies back my request also in consideration of the fact that lackage of hotels is very danger us to all activities (exchanges, business, private enterprises, etc.) concerning reconstruction.

I remain at your disposal for any further information.

Trusting you will comply with my request, I thank you in advance.

/s/ Camillo Desio,

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

50/51

CABLE SD 0021

DATE 708 46 631

Transferred to Crypto Cable file
folio 88

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 7850176004
48
INCOMING MESSAGE

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

Originator's Reference: FX 72202

Date/Time of Origin: SEPT -----

Message Centre No: H/6835

Date Time Rec'd: SEPT 261345B

Precedence: ROUTINE

FROM: G(SD) CMF

TO : INFO: RAAC, ALCOM, TRANSPORTATION (BRIT), HQ PUBLIC RELATIONS

ERATION AND ENQUIRES, 2 CLAIMS AND HIE INGS, HQ PUBLIC RELATIONS

(CM)

SECRET

SECRET

1. Comd 13 Corps is assuming title GOC in CMF and amalgating with GHQ CMF with effect 1 Oct. (Further our FX 72085 of Sept 19) not to all.

2. All matters affecting BTA and Brit Tps in Italy and Venezia Giulia will be dealt with from that date by GOC in CMF direct with Troopers also all MS SD JAG and A matters affecting BRIT Tps in Italy and Venezia Giulia.

3. BTA will deal direct with Troopers on MS SD JAG and A matters as from 1 Oct. BTA will cease to be under comd GHQ CMF for such matters. However certain A matters are being made an exception of which are now under discussion with Troopers and on which BTA will still deal with GHQ CMF. BTA already dealing with Troopers on operational matters.

4. Integrated subjects I.E. OPS int Civ Affairs and Liaison will ~~be~~ still be dealt with AFHQ British Element on the British side. SACMED is still responsible to the CCS for carrying out their instructions in Italy, and his position is unchanged.

5. GHQ CMF closes CASERTA CCCIB hrs 1 Oct and opens Podug time. AFHQ and HQ MTCUSA remain at Caserta.

AC DIST

Precedence: ROUTINE

FROM: G(SD) CMF

TO : INFO: RAAC, ALCOM, TRANSPORTATION (BRIT), HQ CMF, **Confidential**
ERATION AND ENQUIRES, 2 CLAIMS AND HIRINGS, HQ PUBLIC RELATIONS
(CM)

SECRET

SECRET

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3. BTA will deal direct with Troopers on MS SD JAG and A matters as from 1 Oct. BTA will cease to be under comd GHQ CMF for such matters. However certain A matters are being made an exception of which are now under discussion with Troopers and on which BTA will still deal with GHQ CMF. BTA already dealing with Troopers on operational matters.
4. Integrated subjects I.E. OPS int Civ Affairs and Liaison will ~~be~~ still be dealt with AFHQ British Element on the British side. SACMED is still responsible to the CCS for carrying out their instructions in Italy, and his position is unchanged.
5. GHQ CMF closes CASENTE 0001B hrs 1 Oct and opens Padua 630 time. AFHQ and HQ MCOUSA remain at Caserta.

AC DIST

NOTICV - O-TH

Info Action: Executive Commissioner(2)
Info: Chief Commissioner File
Executive Officer (B) Skeleton

seen by EC 27/9/46
(left)

See 57-49

SECRET

SEP 26 1946

CONFIDENTIAL

47

Ref: 620/47/EE.

14 August 1946.

SUBJECT: Italian Views on Location of AFHQ.

TO : G-5 Section, AFHQ.

44

47A

Your letter G-5: 323.35-1 of 8 August 1946 refers.

1. The substance of paragraph 2 of your letter was communicated to the Office of the President of the Council of Ministers which replied by letter on 13 August, a copy of which is enclosed.

2. Undersecretary Cappa has informed me that if the Italian Government's suggestion that an Italian representative join a reconnaissance group be adopted, a qualified officer will be selected immediately for this purpose.

3. Will you inform me if the Italian Government's suggestion is acceptable.

/s/ Elmer W. Stone

ELMER W. STONE
Rear Admiral, USNR
Chief Commissioner

See by EC
for

629

Copies to: C.C.
US/UK Embassies
Land Forces S/C
Navy S/C
Air Forces S/C

CONFIDENTIAL

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017TRANSLATIONTHE PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
No. 77961/19.10

Rome, 13 August 1946

The Italian Government is aware that, for practical and economic purposes, Allied Military Headquarters might eventually amalgamate, and cannot but consider such an event favorably.

As far as choice of locality is concerned, the Italian Government wishes to point out that, apart from the offices of PBS General Headquarters being in Leghorn, Padova would be the more suitable and more preferable of the two places estimated, both for greater arrangement facility, and to avoid the unfavorable impression which might result if the Italian Command were removed from Udine.

This amalgamation will, unfortunately, bring about the occupation of new premises in the chosen zones. The Italian Government highly recommends that requisitions be limited to the strictly indispensable, and possibly be made in the suburbs, because, especially in Leghorn, the centre of the town is extremely damaged, and the number of homeless people still considerable. The Italian Government wishes that these requisitions be studied and prepared in collaboration with an Italian representative, who will be sent at your request. It is also necessary that the requisitioning of commercial and industrial premises be avoided, as this would result in furthering unemployment which is already causing much anxiety.

The inevitable inconveniences that will result owing to this amalgamation, should, however, bring about an improvement in the general situation south of the Appenines. Regarding this, it would be appreciated and desirable that, especially in Rome, the situation of the hotels be alleviated.

The Italian Government wishes to point out that it will do all in its power to facilitate this change.

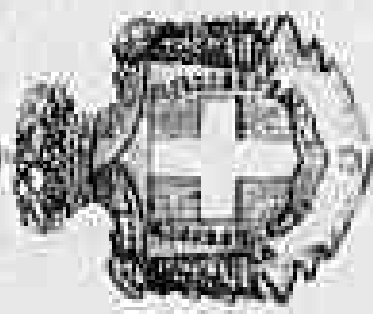
(For) The President

(s) Paolo Cappa

Brig. Gen. M. S. Lush
Executive Commissioner
Allied Commission
Rome

628

0 5 1 3



Presidenza
del Consiglio dei Ministri

GABINETTO

N. 77981/19.10

Risposta al Foglio del

N. 2

Min. 455

Roma, 13 agosto 1946

476

Al Brig. Gen. M. S. LUSH
Ufficio del Commissario Capo della
Commissione Alleata

R O M A

OGGETTO

Il Governo si rende conto che ragioni di opportunità e di economia passano pressimamente consigliare una eventuale unificazione del Comandi militari Alleati, e, da parte sua, non ha nulla in contrario a considerare favorevolmente tale eventualità.

Per quanto riguarda le località da scegliersi per la suddetta unificazione, rende noto che, a suo avviso, oltre la sede di Livorno che già ospita il Quartiere Generale della P.B.S., sarebbe più idonea e preferibile, fra le due preventivate, quella di Padova per maggiore facilità di sistemazione e ad evitare l'impressione sfavorevole che potrebbe arrecare l'allontanamento del Comando Italiano da Udine.

I movimenti che dovranno seguire alla progettata unificazione ne porteranno purtutto alla necessaria occupazione di nuovi

627

GABINETTO

N. 77981/19.10

Risposta al Foglio del

N. 77981/19.10

OGGETTO

Ufficio del Commissario Capo della
Commissione AlleataR C M A

Il Governo si rende conto che ragioni di opportunità e di economia passano pressantemente consigliare una eventuale unificazione dei Comandi militari Alleati, e, da parte sua, non ha nulla in contrario a considerare favorevolmente tale eventualità.

Per quanto riguarda le località da scegliersi per la suddetta unificazione, rende noto che, a suo avviso, oltre la sede di Livorno che già ospita il Quartiere Generale della P.B.S., sarebbe più idonea e preferibile, fra le due preventivate, quella di Padova per maggiore facilità di sistemazione e ad evitare l'impressione sfavorevole che potrebbe arrecare l'allontanamento del Comando Italiano da Udine.

⁶²⁷
I movimenti che dovranno seguire alla progettata unificazione porteranno purtroppo alla necessaria occupazione di nuovi locali nelle zone prescelte. A tal riguardo il Governo desidera raccomandare, nel modo più vivo, che le requisizioni siano limitate allo stretto indispensabile e possibilmente effettuate in località periferiche, perchè specialmente a Livorno, a

see 47A
//.

causa degli eventi bellici, il centro cittadino è assai sinistrato e il numero dei senza tetto è tuttora elevato. Il Governo desidera che tali requisizioni siano studiate e preparate colla collaborazione di un rappresentante italiano che si riserverebbe designare a Vostra richiesta. E' altresì da raccomandare che siano evitate le requisizioni dei locali adibiti a stabilimenti industriali o commerciali, che porterebbero ad un gravoso aumento della disoccupazione operata che, in quelle località, è molto preoccupante.

Gli inevitabili inconvenienti che, per effetto della unificazione dei comandi si produrranno nelle zone suindicate, dovrebbero portare però ad un corrispettivo alleggerimento della situazione generale a sud degli Appennini. A tal riguardo è da segnalare che sarebbe anche desiderabile che specialmente nella città di Roma venga alleviata la situazione alberghiera la cui disponibilità si rende giornalmente più sentita.

Il Governo tiene comunque ad assicurare che non mancherà di dare tutto il suo appoggio perchè il mutamento delle sedi militari, ove venga disposto, si svolga nel miglior modo possibile.

p. IL PRESIDENTE DEL CONSIGLIO

Roberto Cappa

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

785017

45.

Ref: 620/45/NO.

10 August 1946.

My dear Mr. Prime Minister:

The Chief Commissioner has been directed by the Supreme Allied Commander to inform you that in view of the necessity of economy in manpower and for other reasons, a consolidation of Allied Military Headquarters may be directed by the Combined Chiefs of Staff.

Consideration of presently known factors indicates that UDINE or PADOVA are the logical sites for a consolidated headquarters consisting of the present XIII Corps Headquarters, the present General Headquarters, Central Mediterranean Force, and a portion of Headquarters Mediterranean Theatre of Operations. The remainder of Headquarters, Mediterranean Theatre of Operations probably would consolidate with Headquarters, Peninsular Base Section at LIVORNO.

The consolidations and resulting moves will undoubtedly necessitate some additional requisitioning of real estate at and in the neighbourhood of the finally selected locations, but that taken as a whole more space will be released in Southern Italy than will be used in these selected locations.

Reconnaissances have already been started at LIVORNO, PADOVA and UDINE. These reconnaissances are simply exploratory in order that full information may be in hand, and they do not mean that consolidation and movement orders have been or will be issued.

The Supreme Allied Commander has directed the Chief Commissioner to point out that the presence of Allied troops in Italy serves as a protection of Italian interests in areas of unrest and dispute.

While such a change of location of Headquarters may cause some local inconvenience it will, in the opinion of the Supreme Allied Commander, result in an appreciable benefit to the Italian economy in port, rail, real estate and telecommunication facilities South of the Apennines.

The Supreme Allied Commander hopes that the Italian Government will appreciate the motives which may require the changes, will consider the overall benefits, will view the subject with sympathy and give its cooperation to the end that should the changes be directed they can be made with the least possible inconvenience and fanfare.

Finally, the Chief Commissioner is directed to ask you to give the views of the Italian Government on the anticipated change, particularly with regard to the locations predicted and to assure you that these views will be given full consideration.

Very truly yours,

626

Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

Dr. Alcide de Gasperi,
President of the Council of Ministers,
Italian Government,
ROME.

Copy to: 6. Com
US/UK Embassies
Land Forces
NAVY
Air Forces.

785017

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
67 215
ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 512

C. Comm.

G-5: 323.35-1

8 August 1946

SUBJECT: Italian Views on Location of AFHQ.

TO : Chief Commissioner,
Allied Commission,
APO 794.

1. At a conference conducted by the Supreme Allied Commander on 6 August 1946, at which the Executive Commissioner was present, it was decided that the Italian Government would be consulted and its views considered in connection with plans for a possible move of AFHQ either to Udine or Padua.

2. It is desired therefore that you inform the Italian Government:

a. That in view of the necessity of economy in manpower and other reasons, a consolidation of headquarters may be directed by the Combined Chiefs of Staff.

b. That consideration of presently known factors indicates that Udine or Padua are the logical sites for a consolidated headquarters consisting of the present XIII Corps Headquarters, the present GHQ CMF and a portion of HQ. MTO. The remainder of HQ. MTO probably would consolidate with HQ. PBS at Livorno.

c. That the consolidations and resulting moves will undoubtedly necessitate some additional requisitioning of real estate at and in the neighborhood of the finally selected locations, but that taken as a whole more space will be released in southern Italy that will be used in these selected locations.

d. That reconnaissances have already started at Livorno, Udine and Padua, but that these reconnaissances are simply exploratory, in order that full information may be in hand, and do not mean that consolidation and movement orders have been or will be issued.

e. That the presence of Allied troops in Italy serves as a protection of Italian interests in areas of unrest and

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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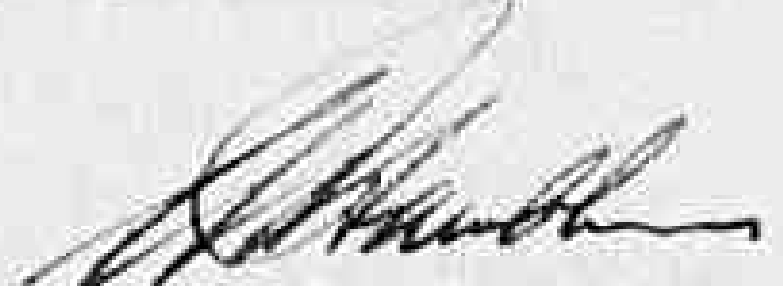
dispute, and that if manpower considerations result in a directive to consolidate, the new headquarters must be located in an area where it can perform with the utmost economy all the essential missions now performed by the separate headquarters.

f. That while such a change of location of headquarters may cause some local inconvenience it will result in an appreciable benefit to the Italian economy in port, rail, real estate and telecommunication facilities south of the Appennines.

g. That it is hoped that the Italian Government will appreciate the motives which may require the changes, will consider the overall benefits, will view the subject with sympathy and give its cooperation to the end that should the changes be directed they can be made with the least possible inconvenience and fanfare.

h. That the views of the Italian Government are requested and that these views will be given full consideration.

BY COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL MORGAN:


A. L. Hamblen
Colonel, G.S.C.
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-5

Dist
Act: Ex Comm
Inf: C. Comm.

624

TOP
SECRET

Confidential
TOP SECRET

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-3 SECTION

FILE : G-3 AFHC/187

SUBJECT: Organization and Location of ~~AFHC~~

5 August 1946

Copy No. 12.

1. In accordance with terms of reference received from the Chief of Staff the attached draft NAF has been prepared.
2. Those recipients who are attending the SACMED Conference tomorrow, 6 Aug 46, are requested to be in possession of a copy of the draft NAF.

BY COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL MORGAN.

OFFICIAL:

J. D. A. Anderson

J. D. A. ANDERSON,
Brigadier, G.S.
AC of S, G-3.

T. S. AIREY,
Major General,
Chief of Staff.

DISTRIBUTION:-

ADDRESSEE

Supreme Allied Commander
Deputy Supreme Allied Commander
Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean, thru NLO
Commander, United States Naval Forces,
Mediterranean (thru SACS)
Air Commander-in-Chief, RAF ITALY
GOC, XIII Corps (thru SACS)
Chief Commissioner, Allied Commission (c/o SACS)
Chief of Staff
Deputy Chief of Staff
G-1
Asst. Chief of Staff, G-2

COPY NO.

623

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16

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J. D'A Anderson

J. D'A ANDERSON,
Brigadier, G.S.
AC of S, G-3.

T. S. AIREY,
Major General,
Chief of Staff.

DISTRIBUTION:-

ADDRESSEES

Supreme Allied Commander
Deputy Supreme Allied Commander
Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean, thru NLO
Commander, United States Naval Forces,
Mediterranean (thru SACS)
Air Commander-in-Chief, RAF ITALY
GOC, XIII Corps (thru SACS)
Chief Commissioner, Allied Commission (c/c SACS)
Chief of Staff
Deputy Chief of Staff
G-1
Asst. Chief of Staff, G-2
G-3 AFHQ
Asst. Chief of Staff, G-3 HTOUSA
G-4 Plans
G-5
Brigadier i/c Administration
Chief Engineer
Chief Signals Officer
POLAD
POLAD
SACS
Nav & In
Plans
Mission Section, AFHQ
SACD) CMF

COPY NO.

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DRAFT

Confidential

TOP SECRET

TO: AGWAR WASHINGTON FOR CCS
CABINET OFFICES WHITEHALL FOR BRITISH CHIEFS OF STAFF.

This is NAF ____.

1. In accordance with F.N 671, I have been examining the possibility of a move of AFHQ to NE ITALY and the organisation of an appropriate Allied HQ. in the new location.
2. In view of the many political factors inherent in the final discharge of Allied commitments in ITALY, I consider that it is of the utmost importance to retain an Allied HQ and the appointment of SACRED so long as these Allied commitments remain.
3. With the announcement of a proposed settlement in VENEZIA GIULIA and of the establishment of a Free Territory of TRIESTE, there is now a reduced risk of invasion of Zone 'A' by the JUGOSLAVS. The focus of Allied commitments in ITALY lies increasingly in VENEZIA GIULIA. The bulk of Allied Forces is now located in NE ITALY. Certain residual commitments mainly concerned with the disposal of depot stocks, PW and SEP remain in Southern and Central ITALY. It is estimated that (excluding LECHORN area) these commitments will in the main be disposed of

by 1 Dec 46.

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4. For these reasons it now seems appropriate to me to move AFHQ to NE ITALY so that it can control more effectively the Allied troops under command and supervise more closely the many problems which will arise out of the final settlement in VENEZIA GIULIA and the establishment of the Free Territory of TRIESTE, if required to do so.

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- 2 -

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5. AFHQ has been the product of integrating, where necessary, HQ MTOUSA and GHQ CMF located together. However, after careful investigation, certain conflicting considerations now arise:-

(a) British -

With the paramount necessity for economy in British manpower, it is no longer possible to maintain both GHQ and HQ XIII Corps in being. As HQ XIII Corps is already located in the area where the ultimate Allied commitments are bound to lie, has knowledge of local conditions and can provide the necessary tactical staff for the direct control of troops, I consider that HQ XIII Corps, provided with the necessary increments, should be retained as the British element of AFHQ and that GHQ CMF should be disbanded. In addition, such an arrangement would produce the greatest overall saving of British manpower.

(b) United States -

United States ceiling has been drastically cut and is now the minimum acceptable for its tasks. Any move of HQ MTOUSA to NE ITALY to form Allied HQ with HQ XIII Corps, will require an increase in personnel. Moreover, it will involve considerable expenditure of

621

(a) British -

With the paramount necessity for economy in British manpower, it is no longer possible to maintain both GHQ and Hq. XIII Corps in being. As Hq XIII Corps is already located in the area where the ultimate Allied commitments are bound to lie, has knowledge of local conditions and can provide the necessary tactical staff for the direct control of troops, I consider that Hq XIII Corps, provided with the necessary increments, should be retained as the British element of AFHQ and that GHQ C&F should be disbanded. In addition, such an arrangement would produce the greatest overall saving of British manpower.

621

(b) United States -

United States ceiling has been drastically cut and is now the minimum acceptable for its tasks. Any move of Hq MTOUSA to NE ITALY to form Allied HQ with Hq XIII Corps, will require an increase in personnel. Moreover, it will involve considerable expenditure of funds to move personnel and equipment as well as to prepare suitable accommodation. Neither of these disadvantages has any compensating advantage to MTOUSA.

6. After careful discussion with General LEE, I have come to the conclusion that, if Allied Headquarters is to be moved to NE ITALY, the only solution lies in compromise and the following plan should be adopted:-

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND

No.

785017

- 3 -

TOP SECRET

- (a) That Allied HQ should be established at PADUA.
- (b) That AFHQ should thereafter be composed of HQ, XIII Corps and such elements of HQ MTOUSA as are necessary to achieve essential integration. There should continue to be naval, air and political representation.
- (c) That HQ MTOUSA should move to LECHORN simultaneously with the move of AFHQ to PADUA.
- (d) That GHQ CMF, less those elements required as increments to XIII Corps, should be disbanded.
- (e) That the target date for the opening of AFHQ at PADUA would be about 8 weeks after approval of the plan and provision of funds.

7. The effect of this plan will be:-

(a) Manpower -

(i) Estimated British saving - 180 Officers
1000 O.Rs.

(ii) Estimated United States
increase

620

(b) Cost:-

(i) Forecasted British cash expenditure to cover works services necessary to prepare accommodation in PADUA is not expected to exceed Twenty thousand Pounds.

(ii) Forecasted United States immediate expenditure to cover move to PADUA

remove essential integration. There should continue to be naval, air and political representation.

(c) That HQ MTOUSA should move to LECHORN simultaneously with the move of AFHQ to PADUA.

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(b) Cost:-

(i) Forecasted British cash expenditure to cover works services necessary to prepare accommodation in PADUA is not expected to exceed Twenty thousand Pounds.

(ii) Forecasted United States immediate expenditure to cover move to PADUA and LECHORN and preparation of accommodation is not expected to exceed dollars, and the forecasted cost of monthly maintenance at PADUA and LECHORN is not expected to exceed dollars.

(c) Estimated size of total HQs at PADUA:-

(i) British (incl AFHQ element)

230 Officers
1500 ORs.

(ii) United States (AFHQ element only)

118 Officers
674 ORs
13 Civilians

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Confidential

- 4 -

TOP SECRET

8. I request, therefore, that you approve the plan outlined in para. 6 above and that the War Office and War Department be asked to authorize the necessary expenditure, details of which will be submitted as soon as possible.

9. General IEE is unable to concur in this plan and is sending a separate Signal to the Joint Chiefs of Staff in WASHINGTON.

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

619

9. General LEE is unable to concur in this plan and is sending a separate Signal to the Joint Chiefs of Staff in WASHINGTON.

619

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

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

G.H.C., C.M.F.

6261/7/Q24 Jun 46

JUN 7 1946

SUBJECT: AccommodationTO: HQ 3 District

1. It has now been ruled that the majority of accommodation in the MILAN area, provisionally earmarked for the possible accommodation of AFHQ and its associated HQ may now be released.

2. In general, accommodation should only be retained to meet :-

(a) Local British requirements.

(b) Requirements of HQ MTOUSA for the operation of Swiss and Paris Tours.

3. With regard to the requirements for Swiss Tours, HQ MTOUSA will arrange for a representative of the Swiss Tours organisation to contact HQ 59 Area and arrange details of accommodation required. In this connection, it is hoped, that in order to secure the maximum release of accommodation, it will be possible to operate some suitable hotel in MILAN as an Allied Hotel on the same lines as the EXCELSIOR in FLORENCE. This has been agreed in principle by GHQ CMF and HQ MTOUSA and details should be agreed between HQ 59 Area and the representative of US Swiss Tours. Final proposals will be submitted to this Headquarters for approval.

4. When considering British Army requirements will you please ensure that provision is made for a continuing British Transit commitment in connection with No. 19 Ven Park MONZA.

5. It is hoped that HQ Allied Commission and the **ML 618** will be able to arrange for some of the Barrack accommodation which will now be vacated to be allocated for the accommodation of Displaced Persons. It is understood that the Barracks at NOVARA would be particularly suitable for this purpose.

M.C.E. Skerf

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M. C. E. Sharp

M.C.E. SHARP, Brigadier,
for Major-General,
MGA.

JWJF/AG

Copy to: HQ 59 Area

HQ Allied Commission

MMA

DPs Sub Commission HQ AG

CAC

SACS

G-1

G-3 AFHQ

G-4

Work

ST

Ord

REMG

EPI

Postal

*See by CSO
or file 635/50
11/6*

Miller

*af Ex-Off (16)
(CSO)*

36.

Ref. : 620/31/DC

10 May 1946.

SUBJECT: Requisitioning of MONTECATINI BUILDING

TO : AG CLO LOREBARDA

33+32

I am directed by the Executive Commissioner to forward for your information copy of a letter he has received from G-5 Section 4TH regarding the rumored re-requisitioning of the MONTECATINI building.

A. W. Knisely.

Chief Staff Officer
to Executive Commissioner.

617

[Handwritten mark]

[Handwritten signature]

785017

COL. F. G. A. PARSONS
G-5, AFHQ, CEF

G-5: 386.2

3 May 1946

MAY 6 1946

Dear Lush,

With reference to our letter (520/31/EC) of 30 April 1946, about the MONTICATINI Building, I am afraid we cannot give any definite assurance on the question at present. Your official letter of 29 April 1946 has now arrived (by the same post as your D.O.) and has been referred to the CAO's office. There is little likelihood however that they will be able to give any definite reply. As you know, the project to move to Milan is in no way firm and it is improper that the Italian press should have gotten hold of it. I attach a copy of a signal which was sent out by the CAO in connection with a telegram addressed to SAC from the President of the MONTICATINI Company. I am afraid that for the time being nothing more definite than this can be expected.

Yours

Sincerely,

Incl: Signal as above

Brig. E. S. Lush, CB, MC
Headquarters, Allied Commission
APC 394

616

See Ltr. 34. 35.

g
(CSO)

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

COPY

ORIGINATORS FILE No. 32

AFHQ MESSAGE FORM

CLASSIFICATION SECRET DATE - TIME OF ORIGIN 231400 Z
SPACE BETWEEN HEAVY LINES FOR SIGNAL USE ONLY

ACTION TO: BISTAO

Confidential

INFORMATION TO:

(REF No.)

SECRET (.) PASS FOLLOWING TO SENATOR MARIO ARRIATE PRESIDENT
SUCIETA MONTECATINI FROM SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER IN ANSWER TO
TRIUDHAM (.) REGINS (.) RECONNAISSANCE HAS RECENTLY BEEN
CARRIED OUT IN MILAN AND ELSCHERE IN A VIEW TO FINDING
ACCOMMODATION WHICH WOULD BE SUITABLE FOR OCCUPATION BY A MILITARY
HEADQUARTERS BUT NO PLANS HAVE AS YET BEEN MADE TO REQUISITION THE
MONTECATINI BUILDING OR ANY OTHER BUILDING FOR THIS PURPOSE (.)
ENDS (.) SIGNED SACRED

615

COORD: '1' GHQ CDP
G-4, RTORSA

See 36

DISTRIBUTION

SACS
G-3 AFHQ
G-4 GHQ CDP
G-4 RTORSA

PRECEDENCE: Routine

ORIGINATING
SECTION: G-3

CONTENT AND CLASSIFICATION AUTHENTICATED
BY:

NAME TYPED: AC DUFF MAJOR GENERAL
TEL No. FREEDOM 7

TIME HANDED IN

Ref: 620/31/EC.

30. April 1946

28

I sent an official note the other day (Ref: 620/28/EC dated 29 Apr 46) about the Montecatini Building in MILAN. The whole of the firm is now buzzing round the Allied Commission office in MILAN and ROME "high pressuring" us against the possible occupation of their building. It would help enormously if you could let me tell them that it will NOT repeat NOT be re-requisitioned.

M. S. LUSH

Colonel F.G.A. Parsons,
G-5 Section,
ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS.

MSL 215

MSL/JG.

See 33 614

PA 2/3 2

785017

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

APO 394

Office of the Executive Commissioner

28

Ref: 620/28/EC.

29 April 1946.

SUBJECT: Requisition of Property - MILAN.

TO : G-5 Section,
Allied Force Headquarters.

27

1. I forward the attached correspondence from the President of the MONTECATINI Industrial Society and a press extract of 13 April 46 concerning the possible requisition by Allied Force Headquarters of the MONTECATINI building in MILAN.

2. I would point out that three-quarters of the MONTECATINI building has been derequisitioned, and is in the possession of Italian industrial concerns.

For the Chief Commissioner:

M. S. LUSH

Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

613

Incls.

See in 29-30
of 31

AF 29/4

785017

To the Allied Commission
Rome.

Translation

April 13-1946

P.E. 7744/017/111/1

APR 18 1946

Subject: Announcement of requisitioning the premises of the
Societa' Montecatini of Milan.

An article appeared today in the Milanese press stating that the premises of the Montecatini Society in the capital of Lombardy would probably be requisitioned to serve as offices for GIK who are about to leave Caserta for that city.

In industrial circles this news has been received with justifiable anxiety. This anxiety is shared by the undersigned Confederation as they know that such a measure would cause serious repercussions other than to the firm in question.

Such an action would affect the Society just at the time when the new directors - recently elected by the members - are commencing the administrative and productive re-organization of this important industrial concern which has greatly suffered as a result of the military and political conditions of the country.

In the general interests what particularly concerns this firm is that the normalizing of the management and of the administrative offices of the Montecatini Society is indispensable for the renewed activity of its many factories. This is urgently required not only so as to give employment to workmen but also to provide many products which are unobtainable in the country.

We have set forth these points in order to explain the reasons which have prompted this Confederation to submit this urgent appeal to your Commission, and we hope that you will see your way to take steps to avoid these much feared measures.

Trusting to receive your kindly reassurances on the subject, we thank you warmly in advance and remain

Yours faithfully,

For the President
A. Costa
Signed M. Segre'

612

REC'DIST-18 Apr
ACTION - EX COMPAR
INFO - CC

See 428
in 29.30.

(50)

26

C O P I A

13 Aprile 1946

P.F. 7714/017/111/1

Annuncio di requisizione
della Società Montecatini
di Milano

ALLA COMMISSIONE DI CONTROLLO
ALLEATO

ROMA

Un trafiletto oggi comparso sulla stampa milanese ha dato l'annuncio che sarebbe probabile la requisizione del palazzo della Montecatini nella capitale lombarda, per farne sede del Comando Alleato in procinto di trasferirsi da Caserta in detta città.

La notizia è stata appresa negli ambienti industriali con giustificata ansietà di cui la scrivente Confederazione deve farsi doverosamente eco per la consapevolezza che il tenuto provvedimento avrebbe conseguenze certamente gravi e non limitate alle sole sorti della ditta di cui trattasi.

Il provvedimento infatti sorprenderebbe la Società proprio nel momento in cui i nuovi suoi dirigenti -testé eletti dall'Assemblea dei soci- stanno ponendo mano alla riorganizzazione amministrativa e produttiva di quell'importante complesso industriale che è stato durante e particolarmente provato dalle note vicende belliche e politiche del Paese.

Or bene, l'interesse generale che si connette a quello particolare della ditta, sta in ciò che la normalizzazione dei quadri direttivi e degli uffici amministrativi della Montecatini è condizione indispensabile per la ripresa di attività dei suoi numerosi stabilimenti, il che urge di realizzare non soltanto per le aspettative di occupazione operaia ma ben anche per l'atteso approvvigionamento di molti prodotti di cui il Paese difetta.

Abbiamo tutto ciò voluto esporre per chiarire le ragioni di interesse generale che muovono questa Confederazione nel rivolgere a codesta On.le Commissione la più calca preghiera affinché voglia evitare il tenuto provvedimento.

Nella fiducia di ricevere cortesi assicurazioni al riguardo, porgiamo sentiti ringraziamenti e deferenti ossequi.

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della Società Montecatini
di Milano

ALLA COMMISSIONE DI CONTROLLO
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P. IL PRESIDENTE
(A. Costa)
(F. to V. Segré)

NOTE FOR THE ATTENTION OF REAR ADMIRAL ELLERY
STONE, CHIEF COMMISSIONER ALLIED COMMISSION
T T A L Y

RDG/tt

APR 18 1946

SUBJECT : G HQ - Montecatini HQ Milan.

On the 13th of April the Milan daily press released the information that the G HQ - Caserta would soon move to Milan and that the new site selected would be our Company HQ building at Via Albania 18.

Informations subsequently collected from different sources seem to confirm the possibility that G HQ may finally decide to transfer their offices to Milan.

The news were received at our Company HQ with the greatest concern, because if the facts related by the press would become effective the whole activity of our Group would be totally disorganized.

We feel our duty to point out that Montecatini is the largest single industrial Group in Italy and our activities throughout the whole Country with 150 between factories and mines gives to day employment to some 50.000 labourers and employees.

In latest months the improved conditions of the transport facilities on land and sea made possible notable movements of domestic raw materials such as pyrites, coal, salt, etc.-

609

The recent increase in the import of basic raw materials like phosphate rock and copper and the UNRRA import program enabled our Company to revive many activities in most of our factories both in Northern and Peninsular Italy.

The change was particularly noticeable in the fertilizers field, so strictly connected with the solution of pre-

On the 13th of April the Milan daily press released the information that the E.H. - Caserta would soon move to Milan and that the new site selected would be our Company HQ building at Via Albana 16.

Informations subsequently collected from different sources seem to confirm the possibility that E.H. may finally decide to transfer their offices to Milan.

The news were received at our Company HQ with the greatest concern, because if the facts related by the press would become effective the whole activity of our Group would be totally disorganised.

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609

The recent increase in the import of basic raw materials like phosphate rock and copper and the UNRAA import program enabled our Company to revive many activities in most of our factories both in Northern and Peninsular Italy.

The change was particularly noticeable in the fertilisers field, so strictly connected with the solution of present grave food problem and also in many other key activities (such as coal and pyrites mining in Tuscany, sulphur mining in the Marche - Romagna, production of chemicals for the industry, copper sulphate for the agriculture, etc.) the situation was improving rapidly.

2

Our new President, our managing directors and the new Board of directors that were appointed only a few weeks ago, at the end of the temporary "Commissioner regime", are now in a position and were looking forward to give an even stronger impulse to the Company policies for her complete reorganization and for future larger scale operations.

We beg to add further that the welfare of many other Italian companies and activities depends, to a large extent, on the safe operation of our Group and therefore the feared decision of C HQ largely exceed what may be termed our personal interest in the question.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, of Industry and Commerce, of Agriculture and the Confindustria share our views in full and we have already received their assurances that they will support us to the utmost in view of the general interests of the Country.

But, quite apart from these considerations, we are convinced that the Chief Commissioner, with his profound knowledge of the general Italian situation and his comprehension of our economic problems, will appreciate to the maximum the damage which would be inflicted to our Group and to the national economy if the Montecatini would be deprived of their HQ, from which all the activities of the Group are managed and channelled.

We accordingly earnestly request the kind assistance of the Chief Commissioner of the Allied Commission to the effect that the occupation of our HQ in Milan, if under consideration by C HQ, be definitely avoided.

608

Società Generale per l'Industria Mineraria e Chimica

Edgewart

Rome 17th April 1945

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

785017

We beg to add further that the welfare of many other Italian companies and activities depends, to a large extent, on the safe operation of our Group and therefore the feared decision of G HQ largely exceed what may be termed our personal interest in the question.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, of Industry and Commerce, of Agriculture and the Confindustria share our views in full and we have already received their assurances that they will support us to the utmost in view of the general interests of the Country.

But, quite apart from these considerations, we are convinced that the Chief Commissioner, with his profound knowledge of the general Italian situation and his comprehension of our economic problems, will appreciate to the maximum the damage which would be inflicted to our Group and to the national economy if the Montecatini would be deprived of their HQ, from which all the activities of the Group are managed and channelled.

We accordingly earnestly request the kind assistance of the Chief Commissioner of the Allied Commission to the effect that the occupation of our HQ in Milan, if under consideration by G HQ, be definitely avoided.

"L C N T C A T I N I" 608
Società Generale per l'Industria Mineraria e Chimica

Refused

Rome 17th April 1945

785017

PERSONAL and
CONFIDENTIAL.

CAC/117.

Ma. General A.C. DUFF,
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER,
ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS.
C.M.F.

16th Apr 46.

Dear Mamie,

Your 620/18/EC of 8 Apr 46 would have been answered sooner, but I have been away for some days at Milan and only returned yesterday to Caserta.

In the first place, the decision as to whether and when AFHQ will move from Caserta depends upon the decision as to whether AFHQ is to continue in its present form or to give way to a reconstructed AFHQ based on XIII Corps. You were present at the Rome discussions and realise the questions involved. On this preliminary issue we still have no decision, nor any sign of one in the near future.

In the second place, informal discussion with the Prime Minister has already taken place. I do not think that Allied Commission would have anything to add to what has been said, and I am clear that it would be better for you to stand out.

In the third place, surely the Prime Minister realises that we have no desire to disrupt Italian interests, but that any move of AFHQ from Caserta Palace is bound to cause an accommodation problem.

Yours sincerely,

Alan Duff

Brigadier M.S. LUSH, CB, CBE,
Executive Commissioner,
HQ Allied Commission,
ROME.

ACD/ojb.

607

See min. 24.

620-88
21

HEADQUARTERS
LOMBARDIA REGION LIAISON GROUP
ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394

Office of the Chief Liaison Officer

LOME/CLO/1

13 April 1946.

APR 15 1946

SUBJECT: Reported Move AFHQ to Milan

TO : Executive Commissioner, Allied Commission, A.P.O. 394

1. Further to my personal letter to Brig. Lush dated yesterday evening, I send you hereto attached a cutting from the "Corriere d'Informazione" of this morning's date. Similar notices have appeared in most Milan papers.

(19) *Thompson*
h. 20

John A. Dunlop
John A. Dunlop,
Brigadier,
Chief Liaison Officer

Encl.

606

See M. 22

LOMBARDIA REGION LIAISON GROUP
ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394

Office of the Chief Liaison Officer

LOMB/CLO/1

13 April 1946.

APR 15 1946

SUBJECT: Reported Move AFHQ to Milan

TO : Executive Commissioner, Allied Commission, A.P.O. 394

*Thompson
of h. 20*

(19)

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John F. Dunlop
John F. Dunlop,
Brigadier,
Chief Liaison Officer

Encl.

606

See M. 22

*LA. 174
P. 14*

(150)

TRANSLATION

=====

THE ALLIED COMMAND OF THE MEDITERRANEAN WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO MILAN

General Morgan left last evening for Caserta. The visit to our city of the high British Officer is connected with the rumour, which has been circulating for some time past, of an imminent transfer to the North of Italy, of the Allied Supreme Command of the Mediterranean from the actual seat of Caserta. According to the "ANSA" the new seat of the Command will be Milan, where the Supreme Command will take residence in the Palace of the Montecatini. The transfer from Caserta to Milan will take place in May next.

From: "CORRIERE D'INFORMAZIONE"

13 April 1946.

From: Corriere ¹⁹ Informazione
13 April 1946

**Il Comando alleato del Mediterraneo
si trasferirebbe a Milano**

Il gen Morgan è ripartito ieri sera per Caserta. La visita nella nostra città dell'alto ufficiale britannico si ricollega con le voci circolanti da qualche tempo, di un prossimo trasferimento nell'Italia settentrionale del Comando supremo alleato dello scacchiere mediterraneo dall'attuale residenza di Caserta. Nuova sede del comando a quanto comunica l'Ansa sarebbe Milano, dove lo Stato maggiore risiederebbe nel palazzo della Montecattini. Il trasferimento da Caserta a Milano avverrebbe entro il prossimo maggio.

see 20
604

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

785017

PERSONAL and CONFIDENTIAL.

18

Ref: 620/18/EC

8 April 1946.

You are, I know, considering alternative locations for AMHQ if and when it is removed from CASERTA. PADOVA has been mentioned and I understand General LEE has been examining the possibility of MILAN.

I want to suggest that you bring the Allied Commission into the picture from the start in this matter and allow us to consult the Italian Government in order that we can obtain advice from them. I recommend this not because I think that SACRED is debarred from making his HQ where he desires or that the Italian Government is released from any of the obligations to place accommodation at his disposal, but because I do think we should, by making an early (and quite firm) approach to the Italian Government, obtain from them the maximum degree of willing assistance as opposed to slightly indignant apathy and possible obstruction if they are faced with a 'fait accompli'.

Could you, therefore, let me know what is in your mind and authorise me to discuss quite confidentially with the Prime Minister. I am sure this course will convince him of your real intention to disrupt Italian interests as little as possible.

(Sgd) W. S. Lush

Major-General A.C. Duff, CB, CBE, MC,
Chief Administrative Officer,
ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS.

See 23
603

MSH/JG.

J. H. 9/14

PA
9/14

17
Milan, 5th April 1946

My dear Maurice

I confirm our phone conversation of this morning regarding the possibility of G. H. & moving into Milan on or about 1st June next.

Gen. Lee suddenly dropped in on G. O. C. 2 Dist. at mid day yesterday & together with his staff offrs. was accompanied to the Montecattini Building for a "look-see". From the 19 questions that were put I judge that the intention might be to requisition the entire building & offer alternative office accommodation to the Montecattini group of companies. If such intention were implemented, the hardship that would ensue is likely to cause unfavourable repercussions, as the basement of the building is equipped with a bakery, kitchens & restaurant to

16

provide meals in three daily shifts for some 2800 people.

The problem of providing accommodation in this city for 800 odd officers, some presumably with families, plus OP/EM's & female personnel will put such a strain on an already over-populated, war damaged city with a civilian housing problem of some magnitude, that considerable ill-feeling is to be expected.

Am handing this in haste to you for safe hand delivery

Yours ever

Arthur H. Hanson

785017

620 + 509. 46

ET/72

HEADQUARTERS
MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS
UNITED STATES ARMY
APO 512

15

AG 322/596 C-0

1 December 1945

SUBJECT: Planning Directive.

TO: All Concerned

1945

1. Letter, this headquarters, file and subject as above, dated 26 October 1945, and letter, this headquarters, file AG 322/512 C-0, dated 7 November 1945, subject: "Planning for Close-out of Headquarters Command Allied Force", are rescinded.

2. The following assumptions are applicable for future planning:

a. The Mediterranean Theater of Operations will not be combined with the European Theater of Operations.

b. Headquarters MFOUSA will continue to function substantially as at present and in its present location.

c. Peninsular Base Section will continue operations as at present.

d. Rome Area, MFOUSA, will continue to function as at present.

e. Headquarters Command, Allied Force, will continue to function as an Allied area command and insofar as its US responsibilities are concerned will perform the mission of furnishing housekeeping facilities for the US personnel in Headquarters MFOUSA and in integrated sections of AFHQ.

f. Occupational air forces in Italy will pass to operational command of HAFB on 1 December. (Responsibility for administration is at present undetermined.)

g. Naples Air Forces General Depot, which has replaced AAFB/ITO as an air force major command and whose mission is substantially to liquidate surplus air force stocks in the theater, will continue assigned to this headquarters until its mission is complete and it is closed out.

3. It is desired that the Commanding Officer, Headquarters Command, Allied Force, prepare plans for the reorganization of the US element of his command with a view to economizing in personnel by reducing requirement to the numbers necessary to meet US service responsibilities and a proportionate share of Allied responsibilities in the Headquarters Command area.

600

seen on file 509/EC
PA/12

Ltr, Hq MTOUSA, AG 322/996 C-O,
dtd 1 December 45 (Cont'd)

4. All commanders will study the effect of paragraphs 2a (a) above, and submit such recommendations and comments as may be necessary to facilitate readjustment of the theater.

BY COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL RIDGWAY:

/s/ C. W. CHRISTGERSKY

/t/ C. W. CHRISTGERSKY
Colonel, AGD
Adjutant General

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"W" & "X"
2 - CAO
2 - G (Maint)
2 - G(SD)
2 - G-3 (AMIO)

620

(13)

Chief Commission
DEC 4 RECD *Allied Commission,*
SACS

P/313 (final)

RESTRICTED 31

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS

Mediterranean Joint Planning Staff

29 November 1945

LOCATION OF AFHQ

In accordance with terms of reference received from the Chief of Staff
the M.J.P.S. has prepared the attached final paper.

D. PEEL YATES,
Brigadier, GS.,
Chairman.

599

DISTRIBUTION:

'A'

Mediterranean Joint Planning Staff

29 November 1945

LOCATION OF AFHQ

In accordance with terms of reference received from the Chief of Staff
the K.J.P.S. has prepared the attached final paper.

D. PEELE YATES,
Brigadier, GS.,
Chairman.

599

DISTRIBUTION:

'A'

EX-DIST - 4 DA

CHIEF COMINT.

EX COMINT.

see M.H. 15.

P/318 (Final)

RESTRICTED

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS

Mediterranean Joint Planning Staff

29 November 1945

LOCATION OF AFHQOBJECT

1. To examine the desirability of moving AFHQ and its associated headquarters from CASERTA to any location other than one in the vicinity of ROMA.

Factors Governing Desirability of Move.

2. Our arguments in favour of moving AFHQ to ROMA were largely based on the necessity for maintaining close touch with the Italian Government and associated Headquarters and institutions. There is no practicable site nearer ROMA than CASERTA and as it is not possible to move to the ROMA area, a move elsewhere would only be desirable in order to improve accommodation and welfare amenities.
3. Owing to the difficulty of installing Signals communications and preparing accommodation a move of AFHQ would not be possible before 1 February at the earliest. Shortage of manpower will preclude the simultaneous preparation of accommodation in a new area and the necessary improvements to accommodation at CASERTA. If it were decided to move AFHQ, therefore, personnel would have to remain in unsuitable quarters through the worst of the winter months. On the other hand, if it is decided to remain in CASERTA, an all-out effort can be made forthwith to improve living conditions. We should begin to reap the benefit of this work before Xmas and not have to wait until March in a new site.

Naval Considerations.

4. If AFHQ were to move from the NAPLES area to any place other than ROMA, it would not be practicable to provide Naval representation by more than a small liaison party and that only if the Admiralty agreed to provide the necessary personnel.

Air Force Considerations.

5. It is not possible to move the Air Transport terminals from NAPLES, as to do

29 November 1945

LOCATION OF AFHQ

OBJECT

1. To examine the desirability of moving AFHQ and its associated headquarters from CASERTA to any location other than one in the vicinity of ROME.

Factors Governing Desirability of Move.

2. Our arguments in favour of moving AFHQ to ROME were largely based on the necessity for maintaining close touch with the Italian Government and associated Headquarters and Institutions. There is no practicable site nearer ROME than CASERTA and as it is not possible to move to the ROME area, a move elsewhere would only be desirable in order to improve accommodation and welfare amenities.
3. Owing to the difficulty of installing Signals communications and preparing accommodation a move of AFHQ would not be possible before 1 February at the earliest. Shortage of manpower will preclude the simultaneous preparation of accommodation in a new area and the necessary improvements to accommodation at CASERTA. If it were decided to move AFHQ, therefore, personnel would have to remain in unsuitable quarters through the worst of the winter months. On the other hand, if it is decided to remain in CASERTA, an all-out effort can be made forthwith to improve living conditions. We should begin to reap the benefit of this work before Xmas and not have to wait until March in a new site.

Naval Considerations.

4. If AFHQ were to move from the NAPLES area to any place other than ROME, it would not be practicable to provide Naval representation by more than a small liaison party and that only if the Admiralty agreed to provide the necessary personnel.

Air Force Considerations.

5. It is not possible to move the Air Transport terminals from NAPLES, as to do so would disrupt entirely the whole of Transport Command's network and schedules covering the whole of Europe and North Africa. In order to obviate the necessity for travel within ITALY as a preliminary to journeys to N. AFRICA, GREECE, and AEGEAN it is desirable that AFHQ remain in the NAPLES area.

Conclusion.

6. It is not desirable to move AFHQ to any location other than one in the vicinity of ROME.

Recommendation.

7. That AFHQ remain in its present location.

785017

INCCOMING MESSAGE

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

Originator's Reference: IK 52581

Date/Time of Origin: NOV 10/1645A

Message Centre No: G 3342

Date Time Rec'd: NOV 10/1700A

Precedence: URGENT

NOV 12 1945

FROM: AFHQ SIGNED SACRED CITE EXECUT

TO : ACTION: FOR BRITISH CHIEFS OF STAFF AGWAR FOR COMBINED CHIEFS OF STAFF AND TO
CABINET OFFICES INFO: USFET MAIN TSFET MAIN AND ALCOM MIDEAST FOR COMMANDERS IN
CHIEF

SECRET

Confidential

SECRET.

This is NAF 1088 and is in continuation of NAF 1075.

1. In para 6 of NAF 1075 I informed you that I intended unless issued instructions to the contrary of move this HQ to ROME about 1 December.
2. Further consideration has reinforced my view that the move of this HQ to ROME is essential for the efficient and economical performance of its functions.
3. Reconnaissance has shown that of the personnel moving to ROME with this HQ about 1/2 will be accommodated in camps and barracks several miles outside the city.
4. Meanwhile preparations for moving to ROME are proceeding but as yet I am not committed to this move and shall not be so until 20 November. Unless you instruct me otherwise before 20 November, AFHQ will open in ROME and close at CASERTA 15 December.

DIST

ACTION : IK COMMISSIONER(2)

INFO : CHIEF COMMISSIONER

POLAD (A)

POLAD (B)

EST SEC

CA SEC ECON SEC (2)

FILE

ACTION

HEADQUARTERS

NOV 10 1945

SECRET

See M. 11

PA 13

(CSO)

785017

Translation

The President of the Council of Ministers

Rome, 11 October 1945

00:15 1945

Dear Admiral,

I delayed in expressing my opinion about the possibility which you brought to my attention, of transferring A.F.H.Q. from Caserta to Rome, for I thought it was my duty to consider this matter from all points of view.

I am sorry to say that, after taking this matter in consideration, the Italian Government finds itself unable to advise such a transfer. Even if it didn't bring about more requisitions of public buildings, it would make de-requisition impossible in this field, and a certain number of private premises would certainly have to be taken from the population. As I often insisted on this matter, you know that it is more and more necessary for the town of Rome to have some hotels, schools, barracks and other public premises made available, which we need to give, - wouldn't say a rational, but a possible accommodation to the ministries and other important offices of the State, which are at present divided and scattered in a way which is most prejudicial to their functioning.

I don't want to hide from you that motives of political advisability induce me to pronounce myself against the transfer. After the failure of the London negotiations, and the ensuing postponement of peace with Italy, the transfer of the Supreme Allied Command to Rome would seem to be a reinforcement of the Allied military control on the Government and on the internal policy, with unfortunate repercussions on the political parties, and also a weakening of the authority of the Government.

I would have liked to give you a different answer, for I consider it my duty to please the Allied Command, to whom Italy owes such gratitude, if the transfer is desired. I am sincerely sorry not to be able to express a different opinion.

Believe me,

Yours very truly,

G. Ferruccio Parri

Admiral Stone
Chief Commissioner
Allied Commission - Rome

trans. e/c

CC DIST 13 OCT 45

ACTION: Chief Commr 596
INFO: Exec Commr
Pol Advsr (A)
Pol Advsr (B)

Signal #7013, 12 Oct 45, quotes
this letter to AFHQ.

(CSO)

785017

AFHQ

12 OCT 1945

7013

12 OCTOBER

PRIORITY

CONFIDENTIAL PD

REFERRING TO MINUTE NINE PAREN BAKER PAREN OF SAC CONFERENCE OF TWO SEVEN
SEPTEMBER AND MINUTE SEVEN OF SAC CONFERENCE OF FOUR OCTOBER CMA I HAVE RECEIVED
A LETTER FROM PRIME MINISTER PARRI OF WHICH THE FOLLOWING IS A TRANSLATION OF THE
TEXT CIN

9 PAREN TO AFHQ FOR CHIEF OF STAFF FROM HQ ALCOM FROM STONE CITE ACSEC PAREN

QUOTE I DELAYED IN EXPRESSING MY OPINION ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY WHICH YOU BROUGHT
TO MY ATTENTION CMA OF TRANSFERRING AFHQ FROM CASERTA TO ROME CMA FOR I
THOUGHT IT WAS MY DUTY TO CONSIDER THIS MATTER FROM ALL POINTS OF VIEW PD
PARA I AM SORRY TO SAY THAT CMA AFTER TAKING THIS MATTER INTO CONSIDERATION
CMA THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT FINDS ITSELF UNABLE TO ADVISE SUCH A TRANSFER PD
EVEN IF IT DID NOT BRING ABOUT MORE REQUISITIONS OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS CMA IT
WOULD MAKE DEREQUISITION IMPOSSIBLE IN THIS FIELD CMA AND A CERTAIN NUMBER
OF PRIVATE PREMISES WOULD CERTAINLY HAVE TO BE TAKEN FROM THE POPULATION PD
AS I OFTEN STRESSED THIS MATTER CMA YOU KNOW THAT IT IS MORE AND MORE
NECESSARY FOR THE TOWN OF ROME TO HAVE SOME HOTELS CMA SCHOOLS CMA BARRACKS
AND OTHER PUBLIC PREMISES MADE AVAILABLE CMA WHICH WE NEED TO GIVE CMA I

Chief Commissioner

222

ELIHU W. STONE
Rear Admiral, USNR
Chief Commissioner

SEE F 9

595

(CSO)

OUTGOING MESSAGE NO. 7013 TO AFHQ CONT'D

WOULD NOT SAY AS A RATIONAL BUT AS A NECESSARY ACCOMODATION TO THE MINISTRIES AND OTHER IMPORTANT OFFICES OF THE STATE WHICH ARE AT PRESENT DIVIDED AND SCATTERED IN A WAY WHICH IS MOST PREJUDICIAL TO THEIR FUNCTIONING PD

PARA I DO NOT WANT TO HIDE FROM YOU THAT MOTIVES OF POLITICAL ADVISABILITY INDUCE ME TO PROOUNCE MYSELF AGAINST THE TRANSFER PD AFTER THE FAILURE OF THE LONDON NEGOTIATIONS AND THE ENISHING POSTPONEMENT OF PEACE WITH ITALY CMA THE TRANSFER OF THE SUPREME ALLIED COMMAND TO ROME WOULD SEEM TO BE A REINFORCEMENT OF THE ALLIED MILITARY CONTROL ON THE GOVERNMENT AND ON THE INTERNAL POLICY CMA WITH UNFORTUNATE REPERCUSSIONS ON THE POLITICAL PARTIES AND ALSO A WEAKENING OF THE AUTHORITY OF THE GOVERNMENT PD

PARA I WOULD HAVE LIKED TO GIVE YOU A DIFFERENT ANSWER FOR I CONSIDER IT MY DUTY TO PLEASE THE ALLIED COMMAND TO WHOM ITALY OWES SUCH GRATITUDE CMA IF THE TRANSFER IS DESIRED BY THE ALLIED COMMAND PD I AM SINCERELY SORRY NOT TO BE ABLE TO EXPRESS A DIFFERENT OPINION PD UNQUOTE

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American Ambassador
British Ambassador
Political Adviser (A) Hq AC
Political Adviser (B) Hq AC
Exec Comm
CC Files

SECRET

5

Extract from Minutes of a Meeting of the Supreme Allied Commander's Conference held in the G-3 War Room at 1030 Hours on Thursday 4th October 1945.

"7. MOVE OF AFHQ TO ROME

2

(Previous reference SAC (45) 6th Meeting - Minute 9)

MAJOR GENERAL LEMNITZER reported that the cable to the Combined Chiefs of Staff, which was discussed at the last meeting, had been despatched * A detailed reconnaissance of the accommodation in ROME was at present being made.

REAR ADMIRAL STONE said that, as instructed at the last meeting, he had sounded the Italian government on this subject. The Prime Minister hoped to give him a definite answer during the coming week. His initial reaction, however, had not been one of enthusiasm and he had appeared somewhat worried about the amount of accommodation in ROME remaining requisitioned.

MAJOR GENERAL DUFF said that for some time it had been the policy that requisitioned accommodation in ROME should not be returned to Italian ownership as it became vacant, in case it should be required for this Headquarters. It was intended that the main offices should be in the Air Ministry building which had previously been occupied by the British Element of the Allied Commission for AUSTRIA. Detailed reconnaissance might show that it would be possible to surrender certain of the accommodation at present requisitioned and still retain sufficient to accommodate the Headquarters in ROME if required.

THE ACTION SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER:

Took note of the above.

* NAF 1075 despatched as MC OUT 5465 of 30 September 1945

6204509
Jan

SECRET

FX 46681
SEP 302300A



CF/9607
OCT 011300A

IMMEDIATE
OCT -1 1945

(4)

AHQ SIGNED ALEXANDER CITE PHCOS

(1) AGWAR FOR COMBINED CHIEFS OF STAFF, (2) CABINET OFFICES WHITEHALL FOR
BRITISH CHIEFS OF STAFF (3) INFO MIDEAST FOR COMMANDERS IN CHIEF (4) USFET
MAIN, (5) TSFET MAIN (6) AICOM

Confidential

SECRET.

1. In view FAN 601 and FAN 608, it is thought desirable to report the present status of plans for the future of AHQ and its associated headquarters. (This is NAF 1075).

2. GHQ, CMF, is being activated effective 1 October 1945 to conduct purely British Army matters in this theatre. United States matters will continue to be handled by HQ MTOUSA. AHQ as such will then become a comparatively small integrated HQ whose activities will be restricted to essentially Allied matters.

3. HQ MTOUSA will be dissolved about 1 December 1945. Subject any directions that you or the US Joint Chiefs of Staff may give as a result of the review of the appointment Supreme Allied Commander foreshadowed in FAN 608, it is understood that a detachment of U.S. personnel under the administrative control USFET will then be provided to play their part in the remaining Allied activities in ITALY.

4. Meanwhile the British Naval Headquarters of C in C MED is already in the process of moving to MALTA and HQ RAF MEDME will have completed its move to MIDEAST by the end of October, leaving a small subordinate air headquarters in ITALY. GHQ, CMF, will also decrease in size as British commitments in ITALY are reduced.

5. Location in ROME of the military headquarters responsible for ITALY would have substantial military advantages and would facilitate closer contact with ALLIED

SECRET

SECRET

- 2 -

Confidential (3)

(EX 46681 cont'd)

COMMISSION and its sub commissions and with British and United States Ambassadors. Up till now however practical difficulties moving and accommodating headquarters so large as AFHQ has prevented such a step.

6. After dissolution of MTOUSA these difficulties will no longer be serious. It is estimated location headquarters in ROME would then involve at the most the move of the following approximate numbers of personnel:

AFHQ British personnel 150 all ranks AFHQ U.S. personnel 100 all ranks GHQ, CEF, and associated units (additional British personnel 4500 all ranks air HQ RAF ITALY 750 all ranks.

7. My U.S. and British political advisers have pointed out that move to ROME raises political issues which State Department and Foreign Office will represent to you. I do not however consider these factors override military advantage which I have referred to above. Moreover in the event of reduction function of the ALLIED COMMISSION location Allied military headquarters in ROME would be all the more desirable in order contact could be made with the Italian Government through the appropriate channels.

8. It is therefore intended that unless you issue instructions to the contrary headquarters listed in paragraph 6 above should after dissolution MTOUSA move to ROME.

DIST

INFO-ACTION: Ex Commissioner 2

INFO: Chief Commissioner

POLAD (A)

POLAD (B)

Est Sec

CA Sec

Icon Sec 2

File

591

SECRET

SECRET

Extracts from Minutes of a Meeting of the Supreme Allied Commander's Conference held in the G-3 War Room at 1030 hours on Thursday 27th September, 1945.

"9. MOVE OF AFHQ TO ROME

Confidential

THE CONFERENCE had before them a study by the Joint Planning Staff setting out the advantages and disadvantages of a move to ROME after 1 December, together with a note by the Chief of Staff recommending that the proposal to move be agreed and attaching a draft signal to the Combined Chiefs of Staff and other Headquarters concerned, informing them accordingly.

MR BROAD said that the proposed move might be misinterpreted by the Italians as a tightening of Allied control and a means of bringing pressure against the Italian government, at a time when the general policy was to relax such control. Personally, however, he considered that the move was desirable and the British Ambassador in ROME was of the same opinion.

MR. OFFIE said that the United States Ambassador was opposed to the move and hoped that it would not be undertaken without full consideration of the political factors involved. He therefore thought that the proposed signal to the Combined Chiefs of Staff should request that due consideration be given to these factors.

REAR ADMIRAL STONE observed that he would like to be authorised to ascertain the reactions of the Italian government on the matter before a final decision was taken. He believed that they would be sensitive of the fact that the move would involve continued requisitioning of considerable accommodation in ROME as the general policy was to hand back such accommodation to their control.

THE SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER pointed out that after December 1st, when it was proposed the move should take place, the Headquarters would be much smaller and would alter its complexion. The Joint Planning Staff had estimated that the move would involve some 6000 personnel. However, he believed that this estimate was based on the war establishment of GHQ CMF as at 1 October. This would be reduced by 1 December. He believed, therefore, that the additional personnel to move to ROME would be smaller than had been suggested, and he felt that the question of accommodation would not be an overriding factor. If tactfully handled, therefore, the Italian government might be induced to invite the Headquarters to move to ROME. From the military point of view there was no doubt that a move to ROME was in every way desirable. As staffs were cut down it would become more than ever necessary to be centrally located in ITALY and the bulk of the military problems remaining at that time would be of an administrative and political nature requiring contact with the Embassies and the Allied Commission. Moreover, the fact that the United States authorities required to remove the FREEDOM switchboard and certain other United States equipment from CASERTA as soon as possible after 1 December meant that considerable signals and similar work would be required even if the Headquarters remained at CASERTA.

MR. BROAD said that the proposed move might be misinterpreted by the Italians as a tightening of Allied control and a means of bringing pressure against the Italian government, at a time when the general policy was to relax such control. Personally, however, he considered that the move was desirable and the British Ambassador in Rome was of the same opinion.

MR. OFFIE said that the United States Ambassador was opposed to the move and hoped that it would not be undertaken without full consideration of the political factors involved. He therefore thought that the proposed signal to the Combined Chiefs of Staff should request that due consideration be given to these factors.

REAR ADMIRAL STONE observed that he would like to be authorized to ascertain the reactions of the Italian government on the matter before a final decision was taken. He believed that they would be sensitive of the fact that the move would involve continued requisitioning of considerable accommodation in Rome as the general policy was to hand back such accommodation to their control.

THE SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER pointed out that after December 1st, when it was proposed the move should take place, the Headquarters would be much smaller and would alter its complexion. The Joint Planning Staff had estimated that the move would involve some 6000 personnel. However, he believed that this estimate was based on the war establishment of GHQ CMF as at 1 October. This would be reduced by 1 December. He believed, therefore, that the additional personnel to move to Rome would be smaller than had been suggested, and he felt that the question of accommodation would not be an overriding factor. If tactfully handled, therefore, the Italian government might be induced to invite the Headquarters to move to Rome. From the military point of view there was no doubt that a move to Rome was in every way desirable. As staffs were cut down it would become more than ever necessary to be centrally located in Italy and the bulk of the military problems remaining at that time would be of an administrative and political nature requiring contact with the Embassies and the Allied Commission. Moreover, the fact that the United States authorities required to remove the FREEDOM switchboard and certain other United States equipment from CASERTA as soon as possible after 1 December meant that considerable signals and similar work would be required even if the Headquarters remained at CASERTA.

GENERAL MCNARNEY said that from a military point of view he had no objection whatever to the proposed move. He considered, however, that certain amendments should be made to the draft signal to the Combined Chiefs of Staff. He did not consider that it had always been true that the location of the Headquarters in Rome would have considerable advantages but agreed that this would be so after 1 December. He thought it desirable to include in the signal an estimate of the size of the Headquarters which would move.

AIR MARSHAL GARROD pointed out that the trunk air services to destinations outside Italy were based on the NAPLES complex of airfields. It would not be possible to move these terminals for some time. This would lead to some inconvenience to officers travelling by air from the Headquarters in Rome to destinations outside the theatre.

①
CAPTAIN GAMBIER said that Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean, wished to point out that naval representation at Headquarters in Rome would necessarily be sparse. It might be therefore that, if the Headquarters moved to ROME, operational decisions involving naval factors would have to be delayed until a naval assessment could be obtained. Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean, was also in some doubt as to whether the expense of moving was justified in view of the short life which AFHQ was likely to have after the move.

THE SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER agreed that operational decisions on matters having naval implications would be delayed by the move. However, he considered that such operational decisions were now secondary and the main problems were non-operational in nature. In regard to the expense of moving he pointed out it was probable that some form of Headquarters, responsible for ITALY, would be required for a considerable time.

BRIGADIER GENERAL FERRIE said that the signals work in preparing the ROME Headquarters would take some two months from the decision to move being taken. It was therefore necessary that this decision should be made as soon as possible.

THE SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER:

(a) Instructed the Chief of Staff,

(i) to revise the signal circulated under paper No. SAC (45) 21 in the light of the above discussion and with particular reference to the views of the Deputy Supreme Allied Commander at 'X' above, and subsequently to despatch it. (1 A) See 4)

(ii) To put in hand all preparations for the move of the Headquarters to ROME, including the preparation of accommodation and the installation of signals facilities, so that the new Headquarters would be ready for occupation on 1 December 1945.

(b) Instructed the Chief Commissioner, Allied Commission, to state informally to the Italian Prime Minister that the Supreme Allied commander would like to move a reduced Headquarters to ROME during December. The Chief Commissioner should point out that not only would efficiency and economy thereby be increased but that, by being in closer touch with the Italian government, speedier and greater help could be rendered to that government as required. An invitation to move to ROME would be very welcome.

(See folio 7) 589

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ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
Supreme Allied Commander's Secretariat
AF752

SECRET

SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER'S CONFERENCE

MOVE OF AFHQ TO ROME

Note by Chief of Staff

1. By 1 December AFHQ will be a comparatively small Headquarters, and will be mainly British. It will continue to decrease rapidly in size, but it is likely to continue in some form at least until the summer of 1946.

2. Many of its important duties would be considerably lightened by being in close contact with the British and U.S. Ambassadors, the Allied Commission and MMIA. In fact, in every respect it would be able to carry out its duties more economically and efficiently if located in ROME rather than in CASERTA.

3. The morale factor must also be considered. Winter accommodation and facilities for recreation in CASERTA are very poor. It is important now that the war is over to house and entertain all ranks as well as can be economically arranged.

4. It is, therefore, recommended that the move to ROME should be agreed and the telegram at Appendix "A" notifying all concerned should be approved for despatch.

(intd) W.D.M.

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APPENDIX "A"

TO: AGWAR FOR COMBINED CHIEFS OF STAFF
CABINET OFFICES WHITEHALL FOR BRITISH CHIEFS OF STAFF

INFO: MIDEAST FOR COMMANDERS IN CHIEF
USFET MAIN
TSFET MAIN
ALCOM

This is NAP ____.

1. In view of FAN 601 and FAN 608, it is thought desirable to report the present status of plans for the future of AFHQ and its associated Headquarters.

2. GHQ, CMP, is being activated effective 1 October 1945 to conduct purely British Army matters in this Theatre. United States matters will continue to be handled by HQ MTOUSA. AFHQ as such will then become a comparatively small integrated headquarters whose activities will be restricted to essentially Allied matter.

3. Subject to any directions that you or the United States Joint Chiefs of Staff may give, as a result of the review of the appointment of Supreme Allied Commander foreshadowed in FAN 608, it is intended that Headquarters MTOUSA should be dissolved about 1 December 1945. It is understood that a detachment of United States personnel under the administrative control of USFET will then be provided to play their part in the remaining Allied activities of AFHQ.

4. Meanwhile the British Naval Headquarters of CINCPAC is already in the process of moving to MALTA and Headquarters RAF MEDAE will have completed its move to MID EAST by the end of October, leaving a smaller subordinate Air Headquarters in ITALY. GHQ, CMP, will also decrease in size as British commitments in ITALY are reduced.

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5. It has always been true that the location in ROME of the Military Headquarters responsible for ITALY would have considerable advantages, particularly by facilitating closer contact with the Allied Commission and its Sub-Commissions and with the British and United States Ambassadors. Up till now, however, the practical difficulties of moving and accommodating a Headquarters so large as AFHQ have prevented such a step. After the dissolution of MTOUSA the Headquarters will be sufficiently reduced for these difficulties no longer to be prohibitive. It is intended, therefore, that at this stage, AFHQ and the Headquarters remaining associated with it should move to ROME.

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