

0457

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

785017

ACC

10000/109/357

REORGANIZATION
MINISTRIES
MAR., APR. 1946

0.458

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785017

10000/109/357

REORGANIZATION OF ITALIAN SERVICE
MINISTRIES
MAR., APR. 1946

0459

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785017

9.

Ms. 1214

To CSO - Letter at folio 8 for A.C.C.'s info, please
ack. 11/4

1280

0460

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

785017

Chief Commissioner.

Draft 1B

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

*I have discussed this matter with Big Lush before he
went on tour and also with Maj Gen. Brownney.
You may wish to speak.*

*E.C.
OK with slight
modifications M.C. 10/3/46*

*My dear Boy
for Ex. Comm. 1279*

785017

2. Mr. May Gen Browning. The Gen is comment on prepared verbal amendments. MC
19/3.

3.

and faces S/C.

Draft approued with slight modifications -
1 refers. 8/19/3.

5.
Executive Commissioner

Thames. I entirely agree with
Chief Comm's amendments.
The letter has been retyped 278
for this signature.

ROSE
20 Mar 46.

d. Browning
May 6/3.

0 4 6 2

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

785017

55213/1.2.2

637
Translation

IL PRESIDENTE
DEL CONSIGLIO DEI MINISTRI

Rome, 9 April 1946.

APR 17 1946

Dear Admiral,

I hasten to assure you that your suggestions as contained in letter No. 637/4/ E.C. dated 21.3.1946 for a rapid reorganization of the Italian land and air Armed Forces, have been sent by me to the competent Administration, so as they will be quickly and attentively examined, and consequent measures taken.

As soon as possible I will communicate on the subject.
Please accept my cordial salutations

/s/ De Gasperi

(AB)

Admiral Ellery W. STONE
Chief Commissioner, A.C.

R O M E

ECDIST - 11 Apr

1277

ACTION - EX COMM.

INFO - CC

- Navy s/c

- Land Forces s/c

- Air Forces s/c

PTA

12/4

1 0 4 8 3

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

785017

65213/3.2.2



Roma, 9 aprile 1946.

*Il Presidente
del Consiglio dei Ministri*

Caro Ammiraglio,

mi premuro assicurarla che i suggerimenti da Lei proposti con la lettera n.637/4/EC del 21-3-46., per una rapida riorganizzazione delle forze armate italiane di terra e dell'aria, sono da me state segnalate alle Amministrazioni competenti, perché formino oggetto di attento e sollecito esame per gli opportuni provvedimenti di conseguenza.

Nel riservarmi di farle appena possibile comunicazioni al riguardo, La prego di gradire i miei cordiali saluti.

Luigi

All'Ammiraglio
Ellery W. Stone
Comissario Capo della
Commissione Alleata

R O M A

1276

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

785017

~~SECRET~~

(4)

Ref: 637/W/NO.

21 March 1946.

My dear Mr. Prime Minister:

The evolution of the post-armistice Italian Land Forces into their present form has been dictated largely by the sequence of events. Before the German surrender the primary requirement was to develop at speed ad hoc forces to take their part in the fighting against Germany. Since May 1945 the problem has been to demobilize the older classes and reorganize the Army on to a reduced peace basis.

To avoid confusion, the pre-war set up of the Ministry of War has been maintained to date.

The crystallization of the present "Interim" Army is now well advanced and the merging of this into the Peace Treaty Army should not present undue difficulty.

The Ministry of War, however, remains organized on the traditional lines of the past and contains many features out of keeping with modern thought and developments, particularly in view of the changed circumstances of the Italian Army, both in respect of size and armament. I might mention that considerable reorganization has begun to take place both in the British War Office and the U.S. War Department.

I feel strongly, therefore, that in order to achieve economy and efficiency in Italy's own interest, the time has now arrived when the organization of the Ministry of War should be examined comprehensively.

I would suggest that the first step should be to appoint a strong committee within the War Ministry to examine, with the assistance of my Land Forces Sub-Commission, its existing organization and to make recommendations for such reorganization as may be required.

The above remarks apply to the Italian Air Ministry as well, and I understand that a similar study, with the assistance of my Air Forces Sub-Commission, is already in progress.

The exploration of this problem will take time and should not be unduly delayed. I would therefore be glad to have your concurrence as soon as possible.

cc: Navy Sub-Commission, AC.
Land Forces Sub-Commission, AC.
Air Forces Sub-Commission, AC.

Yours very truly,

1275

see 7.11.46 ELLERY W. STONE

Dr. Alcide De Gasperi
President of the Council of Ministers,
Italian Government,
Rome.

ELLERY W. STONE
Rear Admiral, USNR
Chief Commissioner

see 175-6

PA
2/3/46
2

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

785017

637

~~SECRET~~

1A

SUBJECT:- Reorganization of the Ministries of War and Air.

Land Forces Sub-Commission, A.C.
(M.M.I.A.)

G/6

14 March 1946.

Executive Commissioner,
Allied Commission.

MAR 15 1946

Further to the above and your recent talks with Brig. HOPE:-

1. I attach a suggested DRAFT of a letter to be sent by Chief Commissioner to the Prime Minister.
2. I feel that we should:-
 - (a) Explain why we have not proposed this reorganization before and why we do so now. Then the proposal will not come as a "sinister bomb-shell".
 - (b) Explain why it is so necessary and that the British W.O. and U.S. W.D. are doing the same. That will "save face" for them.
 - (c) Take a firm line and say it must be done now. Otherwise they may stall and procrastinate, fearing the political implications and the tackling of such a major change now.
3. The Navy say they want no change, so the answer is to start the exploration within Army and Air Ministries. Later, in the course of discussion, we can see whether it is possible or advisable to consider a combined supply service for all three service Ministries, but there is no need to raise that aspect yet.
4. The above has been agreed by Air Forces Sub-Commission, A.C.

R. Browning

LB/c

Major General,
M.M.I.A.Copy to:- Naval Sub-Commission, A.C.
Air Forces Sub-Commission, A.C.

1274

LS

(csd)

DRAFT

SUBJECT:- Reorganization of the Ministries of War and Air.

1B

My dear Mr.
TO - Prime Minister

1. (a) The evolution of the post-armistice ITALIAN Land Forces into their present form has been dictated largely by the sequence of events. Before the GERMAN surrender the primary requirement was to develop at speed ad hoc forces to take their part in the fighting against GERMANY. Since May 1945 the problem has been to demobilize the older classes and reorganize the Army on to a reduced peace basis.
- (b) To avoid confusion, the pre-war set-up of the Ministry of War has been maintained to date.
2. (a) The crystallization of the present "Interim" Army is now well advanced and the merging of this into the Peace Treaty Army should not present undue difficulty.
- (b) The Ministry of War however remains organized on the traditional lines of the past and contains many features out of keeping with modern thought and developments, particularly in view of the changed circumstances of the ITALIAN Army both in respect of size and armament. I might mention that considerable re-
organization ^{has begun} ~~is due~~ to take place both in the BRITISH War Office and the U.S. War Department.
3. (a) I feel strongly therefore that, in order to achieve economy and efficiency in ITALY's own interest, the time has now arrived when the organization of the Ministry of War should be examined comprehensively.

- 2 -

3. (b) I could suggest that the first step should be to appoint a strong committee within the War Ministry to examine, with the assistance of Land Forces Sub-Commission, A.C. (LSCA), its existing organization and to make recommendations for such reorganization as may be required.

4. ~~mutatis mutandis~~, ^{as well} the above remarks apply ~~equally~~ to the ITALIAN Air Ministry and I understand that a similar study, with the assistance of Air Forces Sub-Commission, A.C., is already in progress.

5. The exploration of this problem will take time and ~~is urgent~~ ^{should not be unduly delayed.}
I would therefore be glad to have your concurrence as soon as possible.

c/

Rear Admiral, USNR,
Chief Commissioner,
ALLIED COMMISSION.

