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

785017

ACC

10000/109/434

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

785017

10000/109/434

PALACE OF LUCERA
AUG. - OCT. 1944

2158

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

785017

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIES CONTROL COMMISSION
Maison Division
APO 394

14

Ref: 809/14/cos

6 October 1944

The Honorable Myron Taylor
2 Via Boncompagni
Rome

7610

Dear Mr Ambassador,

You will find inclosed copies of reports concerning the Palace of
Laocera forwarded by the Office of the Regional Commissioner of the Southern
Region AOC.

These reports are forwarded to your office for your information.

Sincerely yours,

EB/ac

ENOCH BROWN,
Lt Col, AUS

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

THE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
TO HIS HOLINESS THE POPE
2, via Boncompagni, Rome.

Rec'd
6 Oct

13

October 5, 1944.

Dear Colonel Brown:

I am enclosing a copy of a memorandum dated August 19, 1944 addressed to Headquarters, Allied Control Commission by this Mission, regarding the episcopal palace of Lucera, together with a copy of Note No. 82332/S dated August 17, 1944 from the Holy See, giving full details in the matter.

Your courtesy in taking the question up with the appropriate authorities and informing this Mission of the present status of the case will be much appreciated.

Sincerely yours,



Myron C. Taylor

Lt. Col. Enoch Brown,
Liaison Division,
Allied Control Commission,
Rome.

Enclosures:
Copy of Memorandum.
Copy of Note.

See 14

4901

2160

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

785017

C O P Y

2, via Bencomagni, Rome

To Headquarters,

Allied Control Commission,

Ministry of Corporations.

Subject: The Holy See intervenes on behalf of the Bishop of Lucera, who maintains that the episcopal palace of Lucera was used for profane purposes during its occupation by Allied troops and that this resulted in moral, material and economic damage to himself and his diocese. The Bishop requests that the Allied Authorities take steps to safeguard his residence, repairing the damage done and indemnifying him for the rent which would have accrued if the palace had not been occupied by the troops.

Rome, August 19, 1944.

4900

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

785017

C O P YSEGRETARIA DI STATO
DI SUA SANTITA'

Dal Vaticano, le 17 August 1944

No. 82332/3

The Secretariat of State of His Holiness presents its compliments to the Personal Representative of the President of the United States of America and begs to transmit for his kind attention the following case presented by His Excellency, the Most Reverend Domenico Vendola, Bishop of Lucera.

In October 1943 the episcopal palace of Lucera was occupied by Allied Troops. The Bishop states that this occupation has resulted in moral, material and economic damage to himself and to his Diocese.

The palace has been used for profane purposes entirely out of keeping with its character as an episcopal residence; for example, it has been used as a dance-hall, club and bar.

Considerable material damage also has been done to the walls, floors and fittings of the palace, which is a part of the artistic patrimony of the city. It is noted that part of the building was used even as a garage.

The occupation of the building has meant an economic loss to the Bishop in that since October 1943 no rent has been paid for its use. Formerly this rent was one of the principal supports of the Bishop.

The Bishop of Lucera, therefore, requests the kind attention and consideration of the Allied Authorities in this matter with a view toward safeguarding his residence, repairing the damage done to it and indemnifying him in the amount of the rent which would have accrued if the palace had not been occupied by the troops.

In transmitting this urgent and necessary request, the Secretariat of State of His Holiness renews the expression of its high esteem and consideration.

Seal of Secretariat of State
of His Holiness

His Excellency
Mr. Myron Taylor
Personal Representative of the President of the U.S.
Via Boncompagni 2
Rome.

2162

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

785017

809
cos.

Capt. L.B.

HEADQUARTERS
SOUTHERN REGION, ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394, U. S. ARMY

R/2055

2 October 1944

SUBJECT: Palace of LUCERA

23 OCT Recd

TO : R. C. & M.G. Section
HQ, A. C. C.

1. Reference your 804/4/CA dated 30 September 1944.
2. The attached, hereto, is a file covering the above subject including a report of the Zone Commissioner in Foggia.

For the Regional Commissioner:

Guy I. Warren
GUY I. WARREN
Lt. Col. Sp. Res. AUS
Executive Officer

INCLS.

Letter from Col. Fiske 804/4/CA dated 30 Sept.
Col. Bright's letter, Foggia Zone dated 20 Sept.
A full report dated 15 Sept. 1944 on Palace of Lucera by Lt. Edwards
Letter from Col. Brown, your Ref. 804/CA dated 2 Sept. 1944
Letter from Mr. Tittman dated 19 August 1944.

HEADQUARTERS
3 - OCT 1944
A. C. C.

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

785017

1-2-44 1944

1510

HEADQUARTERS
FEDERAL CONTROL COMMISSION
R.C. & M.G. Section
APO 394

Exo

7743.

Ref/804/4/CA.

30 Sep 44.

SUBJECT: Palace of LUCERNA.

YO : R.C. Southern Region.

Please let us have your reply to this HQ letter
804/CA dated 2 Sep 44.

Encl-Burn At Jol
for

NORMAN E. FISKE,
Colonel,
Deputy Executive
Commissioner.

4897

2164

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

785017

C O P Y

Ref: -FP/1201

20 Sept 44

To: -HQ

Southern Region.

From: -A.C.C. Foggia Zone, Lucera.

Reference your R/3028 dated 4 Sept 44.

1. I attach a full report in connection with the alleged misuse of the Bishop of Lucera's Palace.

2. I am satisfied that the premises which form part of the Palace, but are not used by the Bishop, have suffered no more than reasonable damage owing to their occupation by many different Allied units since October 1943.

3. The Bishop's allegations that the premises have been used for profane purposes is unwarrantable. When interviewed, his explanation of the expression "profane purposes" cannot be accepted in their ordinary meaning.

4. The economic loss of L. 450 per month to the Bishop, might be accepted as a serious loss, if in fact this amount was one of the principal emoluments of the Bishop.

5. It is my opinion that the complaint of the Bishop is frivolous, and should not have been made when many thousands of his fellow country men are suffering much greater privations.

/s/ H. N. BRIGHT,
Lt. Colonel,
Zone Commissioner,
A.C.C. Foggia Zone.

HNB/EBI.

4896

2165

H.Q. A.C.C. FOGGIA ZONE
IN CERA.

Subject: PALACE OF LUCERA.

To: PROVINCIAL COMMISSIONER - FOGGIA ZONE.

Sir:-

Interview with His Excellency the Most Rev.
DOMENICO VENDOLA; Bishop of Lucera.

Attached correspondence H.Q. A.C.C. Liaison Division
APO 324. Ref. 804/CA dated 2 Sept. 1944 and copy of letter
addressed to Mr. Myron Taylor by the Secretariat of State Vatican
City, reference 82332/5 dated 17 Aug. 1944. refers.

An interview with the Bishop of Lucera was first
requested on 7 Sept. 44. His Excellency being absent from Lucera
the interview did not take place until 10:00 hrs. on Sept. 14-44.

The interview proceeded along the basis of complaints
made as detailed in the Secretariat letter 32332/5 d/d 17 August
44 and subsequently numbered by me as 1-5.

The palace was occupied in part by Allied Troops from
1 Oct. 44, not continually, but at irregular intervals. It was
occupied in ~~turn~~ by Military Police, R.E. Survey; Polish Officers,
Canadians; and finally by a Church of Scotland Canteen. It has
not been occupied by Military Units or personnel since July 1944.

DESCRIPTION OF OCCUPIED PART.

This consists of 3 large rooms, 1 large lounge, 1
small billiard room, 1 entrance foyer, 1 toilet with two lavatories,
1 cabinet, with one wash hand basin (attached schedule of Condition
refers.)

This suite of rooms is on the ground floor of the right wing of
the palace and opens on to the courtyard and garden and has two
entrances on to the street.

It is immediately beneath the suite occupied by His Excellency.

PREVIOUS HISTORY.

This suite of rooms was not used as part of the
Official residence but had been let to the Dopo Lavoro Club.
It is understood to be a Fascist Social Club. The Club was

Sir:-

Interview with His Excellency the Most Rev.
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This suite of rooms is on the ground floor of the right wing of
the palace and opens on to the courtyard and garden and has two
entrances on to the street.

It is immediately beneath the suite occupied by His Excellency.

PREVIOUS HISTORY.

This suite of rooms was not used as part of the
Official residence but had been let to the Dopo Lavoro Club.
This club I understand to be a Fascist Social Club. The Club was
in occupation of the premises from 1940 until the premises were
taken over by the Military Authorities on 1st October 43. The
Club paid a rental of 450 Lire per month and paid for the use of
water. His Excellency explained that the water consumption of
the palace was recorded by a meter which is in the part of the
residence occupied by himself. He further explained that the rent
was, very low in consideration of the Club painting, decorating,
fitting, and maintaining its premises at its own expense.

REQUISITIONING.

Although occupied by the Military Authorities on 1 October 43 no official requisition was made until July 44. I saw the document issued over the signature of the Town Major of Lucera. It is dated 1 October 43, describes the condition, as "fair" and the occupiers as being the Church of Scotland Canteen; this was the case in June/July 44.

His Excellency explained that he had addressed himself to the Town Major on several occasions with regard to the requisitioning of the premises and as to the condition of them. He stated that an interview was arranged but that the Town Major did not keep the appointment.

SCHEDULE OF CONDITION AND INVENTORY.

No schedule of condition or inventory of furniture and fittings has been made. His Excellency explained that the furniture and fittings are the property of the Dopo Lavoro Club, I have therefore excluded them from the attached schedule of condition as being outside the scope of this inquiry.

2.

This complaint was the subject of careful discussion. His Excellency explained that he had no allegation of improper conduct to make against the Allied Troops.

The use of the expression "profane purposes" is the natural one for a Church Dignitary to use concerning almost any worldly activities carried on within the precincts of an Official Church residence. He said that dancing and merry making on Good Friday was the incident which he had in mind when penning the phrase. He also said that the dancing etc. ceased upon a request from himself.

3.

As to "considerable material damage" please see attached Schedule of Condition.

4.

The occupation of the premises by the Military Authorities has meant an actual loss of 450 Lire per month to His Excellency plus the cost of the water used by the troops during the period 1 October 43 to date.

5.

His Excellency stated that he would like the premises reconditioned and restored to ^{him} the Banco di NAPOLI and the Dopo Lavoro Club wish to rent them.

CONCLUSION.

I am of the opinion that very little damage other than that incidental to the passage of Troops has occurred.

This was the case in June/July 44.

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CONCLUSION.

I am of the opinion that very little damage other than that incidental to the passage of Troops has occurred. Certainly there is evidence in one case only - the destruction of a built in cupboard for firewood - of wilful damage. In the absence of a Schedule of Condition and Inventory for the date of the first occupation by Allied Forces it is not possible to determine how much of the damage might fairly be attributed to them. Certainly not all the damage noted by me in the attached schedule. The whole of the damage is however of relatively little importance and the premises could I think be restored at comparatively small cost.

Should it be possible, I think it would be as well to restore the
(over)

premises to His Excellency. Billets of this type occupied in these circumstances must inevitably lead to numerous irritations and complaints.

I have the honor to be Sir;

Your obedient Servant;

C. S. Leonard

Lacera,
15 Sept. 1944.

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

2169

PALACE OF LUCERA - PIAZZA CATTEDRALE.

LUCERA.

SCHEDULE OF CONDITION OF THAT PART OF THE PALACE
REQUISITIONED BY THE TOWN MAJOR - LUCERA FOR USE BY THE ALLIED
FORCES.

DESCRIPTION OF REQUISITIONED PREMISES.

A suite of seven rooms comprising; 3 large rooms; 1 large lounge; 1 small billiard room; 1 entrance hall or foyer; 1 toilet with 2 lavatories; 1 cabinet; fixtures 1 wash hand basin. The suite is situated on the ground floor in the right wing of the residence and is immediately under the suite occupied by the Bishop. All rooms are intercommunicating and there are entrances on to the courtyard, garden and street. The structure is sound throughout.

1. Toilet. Hand basin badly cracked. - Cabinet. Small wall cup board minus door. Tiled wall above wash basin has 2 large nails driven in to it. Lavatories - Cisterns minus chains water supply needs inspection.
2. Large room adjoining toilet. - Walls some superficial damage to plaster and defaced in part by smoke. Two skirting boards 4" x 6" torn off walls. Cup board doors broken. Doors into garden need repair as to frames and one of them needs new glass. Small entrance yard to garden contains a field oven, stone work defaced by smoke. Area floor has minor damage.
3. Room communicating. - 1 door minus glass. Walls - superficial damages water supply needs repair. Built-in-cupboard destroyed completely.
4. Room communicating. Both outer doors minus glass. Walls Superficial damage.
5. Cloak room. Both inner doors off hinges and minus glass.
6. Lounge; dividing doors, one needs glass; outer doors to garden 1 needs glass. Both outer doors to street need glass. Roller shutters to street need adjustment and minor repair.
7. Billiard room. Walls superficial damage.

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A suite of seven rooms comprising; 3 large rooms; 1 large lounge; 1 small billiard room; 1 entrance hall or foyer; 1 toilet with 2 lavatories; 1 cabinet; fixtures 1 wash hand basin. The suite is situated on the ground floor in the right wing of the residence and is immediately under the suite occupied by the Bishop. All rooms are intercommunicating and there are entrances on to the courtyard, garden and street. The structure is sound throughout.

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5. Cloak room. Both inner doors off hinges and minus glass.

6. Lounge; dividing doors, one needs glass; outer doors to garden 1 needs glass. Both outer doors to street need glass. Roller shutters to street need adjustment and minor repair.

7. Billiard room. Walls superficial damage.

8. Garden trees and plants generally down trodden.

N.B. This schedule drawn up by me on 14 Sept. 44, takes no account of damage to furniture and fittings the property of the Dopo Lavoro Club.

Lucera,

15 Sept. 1944.

C. S. Edmunds

2172

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

785017

Suspense
14 Sept - File
June 1945

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Liaison Division
APO 394

Ref. 804/CA

2 September 1944

SUBJECT: Palace of Lucera

TO : Regional Commissioner
Southern Region, ACC
APO 394 - U.S. Army

1. You will find inclosed a complaint made by the Bishop of Lucera which has been referred to ACC by Mr. Tittman of the U.S. Legation to the Holy See.
2. It is requested that an investigation be made through ^{your} office and that a report of the findings be sent to this office.
3. The Liaison Office is writing you directly at the suggestion of the Civil Affairs Branch ACC.

EB/ac

EB
EROSH BROWN,
Lt Col, AUS

R/3028 1st Ind. FR/bb
HQ, SOUTHERN REGION, ACC, APO 394, U.S. Army, 4 September 44.
TO: Commissioner, Foggia Zone.

4891

1. For investigation and report.
 2. Please return inclosure with report.
- By order of Colonel TEMPERLEY:

P.P.
PAUL REVERE,
Major, A.C.D.,
Adjutant.

2173

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

785017

2, via Boncompagni, Rome.

TO: Headquarters
Allied Control Commission
Ministry of Corporations.

Subject: The Holy See intervenes on behalf of the Bishop of Lucera, who maintains that the episcopal palace of Lucera was used for profane purposes during its occupation by Allied troops and that this resulted in moral, material and economic damage to himself and his diocese. The Bishop requests that the Allied Authorities take steps to safeguard his residence, repairing the damage done and indemnifying him for the rent which would have accrued if the palace had not been occupied by the troops.

Rome, August 19, 1944

*Signed
by Mr. H. H. Tilton
US Legation to the Holy See*

4899

2174

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

785017

HEADQUARTERS
ARMED CONTROL COMMISSION
R.C. & M.G. Section
APO 394

Ref/804/L/CA.

30 Sep 44.

SUBJECT: Palace of LUCERA.

YO : R.C. Southern Region.

Please let us have your reply to this HQ letter
804/CA dated 2 Sep 44.

3

NORMAN E. FISKE,
Colonel,
Deputy Executive
Commissioner.

4889

Noted
[Signature]
702

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

785017

HEADQUARTERS
ARMED GUARDS COMMISSION
Liaison Division
APO 394

Ref. 804/CA

2 September 1944

SUBJECT: Palace of Lincora

TO : Regional Commissioner
Southern Region, AOC
APO 394 - U.S. Army

1. You will find inclosed a complaint made by the Bishop of Lincora which has been referred to AOC by Mr. Tilton of the U.S. Legation to the Holy See.
your
2. It is requested that an investigation be made through office and that a report of the findings be sent to this office.
3. The Liaison Office is writing you directly at the suggestion of the Civil Affairs Branch AOC.

EB/ag

THOMAS BRADY,
Lt Col, AOC

4888

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

Colonel Brown-Liaison Section
8044 2

2, via Boncompagni, Rome.

31 AUG Recd

Rec'd
30 Aug

To Headquarters,

Allied Control Commission,

Ministry of Corporations.

Subject: The Holy See intervenes on behalf of the Bishop of Lucera, who maintains that the episcopal palace of Lucera was used for profane purposes during its occupation by Allied troops and that this resulted in moral, material and economic damage to himself and his diocese. The Bishop requests that the Allied Authorities take steps to safeguard his residence, repairing the damage done and indemnifying him for the rent which would have accrued if the palace had not been occupied by the troops.

Rome, August 19, 1944.

H.H.V.

4887

17 August 1944

No. 82332/S

The Secretariat of State of His Holiness presents its compliments to His Britannic Majesty's Legation to the Holy See and begs to transmit the following case presented by His Excellency, the Most Reverend Domenico Vendola, Bishop of Lucera.

In October 1943 the episcopal palace of Lucera was occupied by Allied Troops. The Bishop states that this occupation has resulted in moral, material and economic damage to himself and to his diocese.

The palace has been used for profane purposes entirely out of its keeping with its character as an episcopal residence; for example, it has been used as a dance-hall, club and bar.

Considerable material damage also has been done to the walls, floors and fittings of the palace, which is a part of the artistic patrimony of the city. It is noted that part of the building was used even as a garage.

The occupation of the building has meant an economic loss to the Bishop in that since October 1943 no rent has been paid for its use. Formerly this rent was one of the principal supports of the Bishop.

The Bishop of Lucera, therefore, requests the kind attention and consideration of the Allied Authorities in this matter with a view toward safeguarding his residence, repairing the damage done to it and indemnifying him in the amount of the rent which would have accrued if the palace had not been occupied by the troops.

In transmitting this urgent and necessary request, the Secretariat of State of His Holiness renews the expression of its high esteem and consideration.

For information and such action as may be possible.

A. C. C.	4086
DOCUMENTS FIVE ARTS & ARCHIVES	
22 AUG 1944	
FILE NO.	

HEADQUARTERS

His Britannic Majesty's Legation to the Holy See
Vatican City

20 AUG 1944

A. C. C.

17 August 1944

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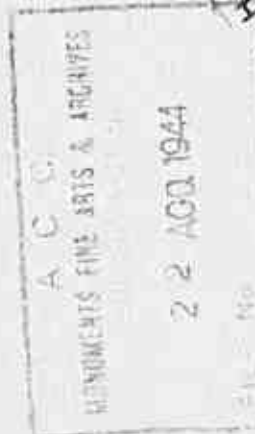
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For information and such action as may be possible.



High Holy Mary

His Britannic Majesty's Legation to the Holy See
Vatican City



