

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

785017

ACC

10000/109/532

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

785017

10000/109/532

REPATRIATION OF ITALIANS, FROM ER
NOV. 1944 - JAN. 1947

C&S

5 came yesterday ref visit here of Brig MacCarley
 6 is in further ref to same visit & gives more
 information. Subject is 5000 Eritrean repatriates,
 folio 4 refers. action taken on Dispen file.

2/12

TW/3/11

E.H.

17

C&S

as 16 opposite is the telegram to MEF about Uthman,
 in Eritrea which you agreed with Brig MacCarley.

TW/4/11

27

E.H. 14/12

Ex Com 1

you shd see 25 & 26. CA. See is
 drafting a reply.

15/5/45

E.H.

28

This should go to HAFHQ for review.

TW/1/15

5211

WV/14/100

27

Ex Com 1

For shd see 25 - 26. CA. See is
drafting a reply.

15/5/45

Sh.

28

This should go to AFHQ full record.

15/5/45

5211

29.

28 is answered by 30.

Sh.

21/5 PA

32

Note

Spoke with N. Halliday re 31

15/5/7.

2213
JAN 11 1947 47
Caserta, 7 January 1947

To: Admiral Stone -
Chief of the Allied Commission
Rome.

Sir,

I, the undersigned, Lucio MAIENZA, employed with the Allied Forces in Caserta since 9 December 1943 as an interpreter and presently as a translator, a 21 year-old University student, take the liberty to beg you to intervene with the Italian Ministry of Italian Colonies (Ministero dell'Africa) so that my brother Vincenzo MAIENZA, an official of the same Ministry, presently in Asmara (Eritrea), East Africa, may be repatriated with the next voyage of the ship "Toscana".

The only reason, Sir, why I have dared to apply to you directly, is that, in my opinion, my brother's case may be classified as a compassionate one. In fact, he has been in Africa for the past eight years; meanwhile, two other brothers of mine have died while serving their Fatherland in war. You can imagine how the morale of my mother and father, both about 60 years old, has been affected by these losses, and by the absence of their beloved second son.

Sir, I am certain that, your heart being touched by the painful moral conditions in which both my family and I are living, you will recommend to the competent Italian Ministry the expedite repatriation of my brother.

In this certainty, I thank you in advance for what you will do on behalf of my parents and beg you once again to pardon me for my daring to bother you.

Respectfully yours,

Lucio Maienza

Lucio MAIENZA
Via S. Antica No. 25
Caserta

5210

M 49 info.

Cap V

SA

785017

2213 40

DEC 9 1946

45

73965CA2(B)
DEC 07163QA

H/8406
DEC 090900

TROOPERS

MIDEAST ,INFO: HQ ALQOM BMA ERITREA

IMMEDIATE

BU

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED:

N.R.

Your 83347/OCT 5 December.

Repatriation from Eritrea to Italy.

1. Italian Government have now informed Embassy they are not prepared to accept repatriation of 20000 from Eritrea. They propose to send mission to Eritrea which from tone of Italian note to Embassy probably intends to dissuade Italians from volunteering to return to Italy.
2. Foreign Office do not consider it politic to return mission to Italy forthwith pending further representations to the Italian Government but missions activities should be restricted minimums. They could be permitted to discuss individual cases with BMA.

AC DIST

INFO ACTION : DISPATCH 2

INFO : CHIEF COMMISSIONER

5203

EX COMGR

FILE

SKELTON

Polad A
B

DEC 9 - 1946

RESTRICTED

J/long 11-17

PA 10

2213 A
RESTRICTED

Exc Comm.

NOV 18 1946

43

920200A(B)

NOV

H/7894

NOV 151630

IMPORTANT

TROOPERS
MIDEAST ,INFO: EAST AFRICA AICOM

RESTRICTED:

Subject is repatriation of italians from Eritrea.

1. Position of shipping available fro repatriation of italian civilians greatly ~~improved~~ improved and we are anxious to get shipping bids in earliest possible. In the event of italian Government accepting repatriation of 20000 Italians from Eritrea grateful for phased programme giving estimated details of how many of the above can leave at one time and approximate dates.

AC DIST

INFO ACTION - DISPERS 2

INFO - CHIEF COMMISSIONER

EX COMMR

FILE

SKELETON

5,080

See Min 44
RESTRICTED

NOV 15 1946

Hand M. M.

785017

UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION
ITALIAN MISSION

UNRRA/3/MAZZA/G2/IT

23 March 1946

TO : General Consulate of the S. Marino Republic,
Rome.

FROM : R.W. Roth, Chief Repatriation Officer
By : H. Mannock

SUBJECT : MAZZA Marino.

1. Reference is made to your 2213/40/EC dated 19 March 1946.
2. The attached documents are returned herewith and you are invited to refer to our UNRRA/3/GALA/G2/IT, 27 March 1946 for suggested action.

KMANNOCK/es

cc: HQ, Allied Commission,
your 2213/40/EC dated 19 March 1946
refers

(CARTK)

J. M. M. 26/3

27/3

2213 41
1903/41

MAR 25 1946

UNRA/3/GALA/G2/IT

21 March 1946

TO : General Consulate of Marino
ROME.

FROM : R.W.Roth, Chief Repatriation Officer

SUBJECT : GALASSI Giovanni
MASI Augusto

1. Reference is made to your memorandum No. 5008 V/3 dated 8 March to HQ., Allied Commission, ROME, which has been passed to this Office.

2. Since the above named S. Marino citizens are in possession of Passports, it is no longer necessary for them to apply to Military Authorities for Allied Forces Permits.

3. It is suggested, however, that if they meet with difficulties, they should apply to the British Military Authorities, ASMAR and ask assistance from the Italian Mission which is at present at Asmara.

4. It is regretted that no advice can be given on the subject of the transport of motor cars and it is thought that this would depend entirely on availability of shipping space.

WMANROCK/es

Copy to : Office of Executive Commissioner,
Allied Commission, Headquarters.

R.W.Roth
Chief Repatriation Officer
By *R. W. Roth*
Chief Repatriation (11)
Displaced Persons Division.

5.00

1. Reference is made to your memorandum No. 5008 V/3 dated 8 March to HQ., Allied Commission, ROMS, which has been passed to this Office.

2. Since the above named S. Marino citizens are in possession of Passports, it is no longer necessary for them to apply to Military Authorities for Allied Forces Permits.

3. It is suggested, however, that if they meet with difficulties, they should apply to the British Military Authorities, ASMARA and ask assistance from the Italian Mission which is at present at Asmara.

4. It is regretted that no advice can be given on the subject of the transport of motor cars and it is thought that this would depend entirely on availability of shipping space.

KMANNOCK/es

Copy to : Office of Executive Commissioner,
Allied Commission, Headquarters.

R. W. Roth
Chief Repatriation Officer
BY *R. W. Roth*
Chief Repatriation (11)
Displaced Persons Division.

5008

785017

Ref. : 2213/40/RC

19 March 1946.

SUBJECT: Repatriation.

TO : U.M.R.R.A (Italy)
(D.P. Brandi)

1. The enclosed copy of letter ref. N.4942 U/3 dated 25 February from the Consul General of S. Marino to this HQ is forwarded to you for any action you consider necessary.
2. It is requested that you reply direct to the Consul General of San Marino, with a copy to this office for information.

For the Chief Commissioner

G. SANDSON

Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

See 7-42

5.65

[Handwritten signature]

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

785017

General Consulate of S. Marino Republic
Rome.

Rome, 25th February 1946

Ref. 4942 U/3

To the Allied Commission

The Secretary's Office for the Foreign Affairs of S. Marino Republic sent to me the enclosed letter from Mr. Marino Mazza living in Asmara (Eritrea). who requests to return to reach his family.

I beg the Allied Commission to take interest in the matter and let me have information on the subject.

The General Consul

signed: Mario Morescalchi

5205

See 39 & 40

TRANSLATION

37

Geom. MARINO MAZZA
ASMARA
Via Dei Tornabuoni n.57

TO SECRETARY'S OFFICE of
S. MARINO REPUBLIC

The undersigned, Mr. Mazza Marino of Primo, citizen of S. Marino Republic, with passport No. 3513 issued on the 8th November 1935 has the absolute necessity to come back to Italy to reach his family at Savignano sul Rubicone, from whom he has been away for ten years.

He requests repatriation for health and business reasons.

He made the same request to the Headquarters of B.M.A. at Asmara from where it has been transmitted to Cairo General Headquarters, M.E.F. (C.A.B.)

All permits to re-enter Italy are controlled by the Allies and they must be approved by the Allied Commission - Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Rome.

He begs the Secretary's Office to take interest and to recommend his request for repatriation, to the above mentioned G.H.Q. of M.E.F. at Cairo, through Allied Commission - Rome.

He informs you, at the same time, that the British Authorities have considered the people of S. Marino "Citizens of neutral State" and for this reason he has received the blue identity card no. 001225.

His previous requests had the following reference numbers:-

- 1) Asmara Headquarters of BMA 78/A/165
- 2) Cairo Headquarters of MEF, CAB No. 11169/A/11/CA

Hoping that the Allied Commission will take interest in the matter he thanks very much.

/s/ Marino Mazza

5203

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

APO 394

Office of the Executive Commissioner

Ref: 2213/36/23 ✓

14 March 1946

SUBJECT: Repatriation.

TO : UNRRA (Italy)
(Disper Branch).

1. The enclosed copy of letter No. 5008 V/3 of 8 March from Consul General of S. Marino to this HQ is forwarded to you for any action you consider necessary.

2. It is requested that you reply direct to the Consul General of San Marino, with a copy to this office for information.

For the Chief Commissioner,

15/ Awk. Capt
Brigadier
Executive Commissioner

5202

Ref: 2213/35/80

14 March 1946

SUBJECT: Repatriation.

TO : The Consul General of San Marino
Rome.

Galassi Giovanni, Passport No. 3311.
Mari Augusto, Passport No. 3737.

1. Receipt is acknowledged of your letter no. 5008 V/3 of 8 March on the a/n persons.
2. This has been passed to UNHRA Mission to Italy for action and they have been asked to reply to you direct.

For the Chief Commissioner,

H. A. K.
Capt
Brigadier
Executive Commissioner

5201

2213 46 34

TRANSLATION

GENERAL CONSULATE OF S. MARINO

ROME

Rome, 8th March 1946.

TO : the ALLIED COMMISSION
Rome

Ref. No. 5003 V/3

MAR 11 1946

The undersigned citizens of Marino:

Galassi Giovanni of Clelio - Passport no. 3311
Masi Augusto of Tito - Passport no. 3737

actually living at Gagiret (Asmara-Eritrea) with the Radio-Navy,
they need to repatriate, at once, to the S. Marino Republic.

The above people when they went to Africa took with them two cars
(one for each) and they wish to take them back to S. Marino.

We beg this Allied Commission to issue the requested permission.

Yours very truly

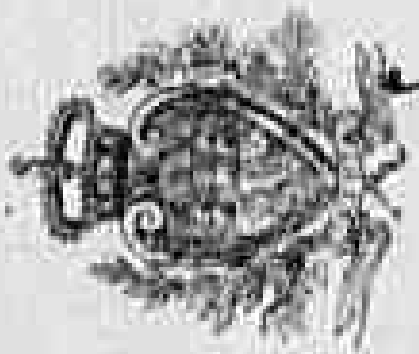
/s/Mario Morescalchi

cu 35

5203

(Capt B)

See Folio - 41



CONSOLATO GENERALE
DELLA REPUBBLICA DI SAN MARINO
ROMA

Prot. N° 5008 U/3

On. Commissione Alleata

Sez. 9° Ufficio Politico

R O M A

Roma 8 Marzo 1946/1645 d.F.R.

I sottoscritti cittadini Sanmarinesi:

Galassi Giovanni di Clelio - passaporto n. 3311

Masi Augusto di Tito - passaporto n. 3737
attualmente residenti a Gagret (Asmara-Eritrea) presso la Radio Marina, hanno necessità di rimpatriare subito nella Repubblica di San Marino.

I medesimi, nel portarsi in Africa, hanno anche condotto due autocarri (uno per ciascuno) e desidererebbero poter riportare a San Marino anche i loro automezzi.

Si prega codesta On. Commissione Alleata di voler rilasciare il necessario permesso.

Con ossequio.

IL CONSOLE GENERALE
(Mario Moreschini)

Moreschini

attualmente residenti a Gagiret (Asmara-Eritrea) presso la Radio Marina, hanno necessità di rimpatriare subito nella Repubblica di San Marino.

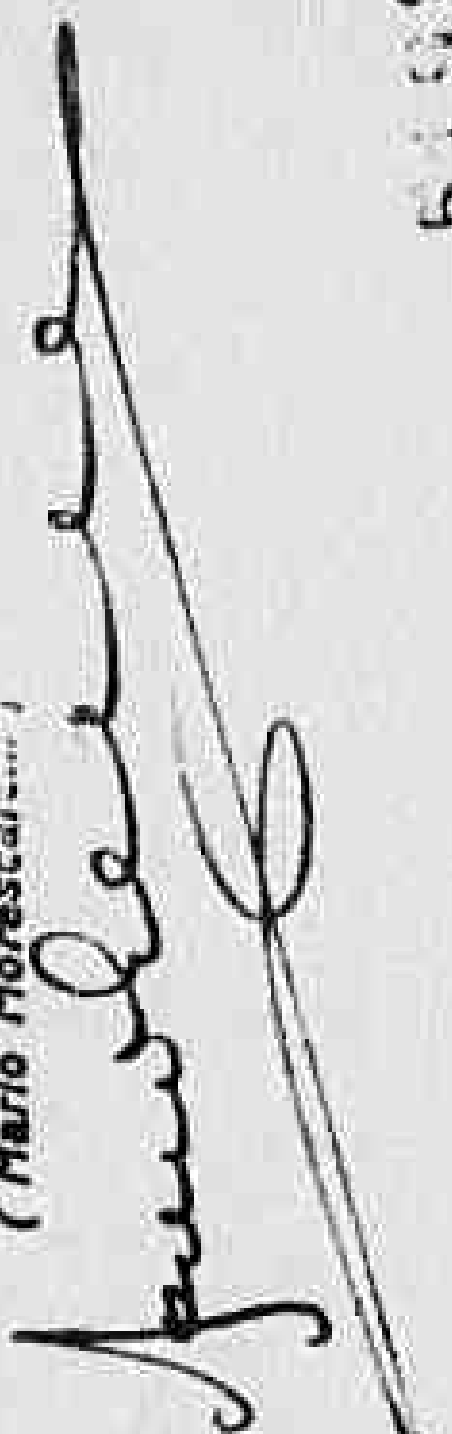
I medesimi, nel portarsi in Africa, hanno anche condotto due autocarri (uno per ciascuno) e desidererebbero poter riportare a San Marino anche i loro automezzi.

Si prega codesta On. Commissione Alleata di voler rilasciare il necessario permesso.

Con ossequio.

IL CONSOLE GENERALE

(Mario Morescalini)



5193

785017

2213

169/45

Chief Staff Officer
to Executive Commissioner

JUL 3 - 1945

Subject: Repatriation of Italians in Eritrea

The British Embassy is informed that the questions of the repatriation of Italians in Eritrea and of the return of Italian refugees to Libya have recently been under discussion between the Foreign Office and the Civil Affairs Branch of the War Office.

2. These two departments have agreed, in order to avoid possible misunderstandings, and subject to the views of Allied Force Headquarters, that it is desirable that any negotiations with the Italian authorities in regard to these questions should be conducted by the Allied Commission who should be made acquainted with the views of the British Government through War Office channels. This arrangement will not preclude direct communication on matters of detail between the Allied Commission and Middle East and East Africa Commands.

3. As regards the repatriation of Italians from Eritrea, the policy of the British Government is indicated in telegram No. 38590 of 25th April to Allied Force Headquarters. (A copy of this telegram has not been made available to the British Embassy). The War Office observes however that the relatively "unscathed" condition of Northern Italy may facilitate a more rapid recovery in Italy than was originally anticipated, with consequent bearing on the ability of the country, from the practical point of view, to accept more repatriates. They also point out that, while the Allied Commission appear generally to appreciate the situation in Eritrea, there is one point which does not fully accord with what they understand Brigadier McCarthy to have in mind. While he was anxious to arrange for the repatriation of 5,000 Italians in the course of the current year, he only wanted the agreement in principle of the Italian Government to the eventual repatriation of the remainder of the surplus population of Eritrea when Italy was in a fit state to receive them and shipping became available. No immediate movement was in mind and in any case a mass repatriation in excess of 5,000 would seriously disrupt the economy of Eritrea. In connection with this point I noticed a cable on the Fleet File a few days ago from Brigadier McCarthy in which he declared that the Italian Government had agreed to the repatriation of 5,000 Italians. My impression is that while Signor Fanfani agreed in principle last August subject to confirmation from his Government, that confirmation never materialised and there is therefore no agreement in fact.

4. As regards the request for the return of Italian refugees to Libya

(11 Extract of para 4 on file 2202/EC .)

Check
X

5138

1/11
5/7

2213

CONFIDENTIAL

(30)

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

6/13.5/CA.

19 May 45

Dear Mr. Prunas,

96
MAY 19 1945

Your letter of 5th May 45 (reference 11/06657) appears to have been written under some misunderstanding.

No Commission has met either under the chairmanship of Lt. Colonel Oliver or any other officer, to study the measures for receiving and settling in Italy repatriates from Eritrea. The circumstances are as follows:

On 5 May 45 a meeting was held in Brigadier Upjohn's office at which the following were present:

Brigadier Upjohn,
Brigadier McCarthy (Eritrea)
ME Zaniboni (High Commissioner for War Refugees)
Messrs Bruno and Pagnatti (Ministry of Africa)
Mr. Angiolotti (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
Lt. Col. Fothergill
Lt. Col. Oliver

At this meeting it was agreed that owing to the complete uncertainty now existing with regard to the number of refugees in the North of Italy, the question of reception of 1,500 persons for Eritrea could be reviewed by the Allied Commission and the Italian Government in a month's time. No further meeting on the subject has been held.

It was also agreed that the Italian Government would accept 500 compassionate cases to be selected by Eritrea, all to have relatives with homes to go to in Italy. Eritrea to send a list of names and destinations for checking. It was further proposed to send from Italy 50 dependents of workers in Eritrea, these dependents to be nominated by Eritrea. I have no doubt Mr. Angiolotti, who was present at the meeting would be able to give you first hand information or any amplification you require on this matter.

Sincerely,

Dr. Prunas,
Il Segretario Generale,
Ministero degli Esteri.

PA 21

G.R. UPJOHN, Brig.
VP CA Section.

21/5
4806

Copy to D.P. & R. S/C
Executive Commissioner (2)

(CLAS McROEN)

EXTRACT

2213
SECRET

COPY (29)

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
Office of the Executive Commissioner

Ref: 210/163/EC

11 May 1945

MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE COMMISSIONER'S MEETING - 11 May.

1. Minutes of Last Meeting.

* * * * *

- (c) Repatriation of Italians from Eritrea. CA Sec
had a number of discussions with Brig. McCarthy and
the Embassies. It had been agreed that at the
present moment the Italian Government could not be
asked to accept even the 5,000. The case was
adjourned for a month until the position in the
North could be seen. Large scale repatriation
was a matter which would be handled through
diplomatic channels and not through AC.

EXTRACT

2213
COPY 1

Ex ConnR (26)

rough-translation

MINISTERO DEGLI AFFARI ESTERI

Il Segretario Generale

Rome, 5th May 1945

MAY 13 1945

Dear Admiral,

it has indirectly come to my knowledge that the plan of repatriating Italians from Eritrea would be again under consideration. As you may recall, some months ago you had the opportunity of interesting yourself in the question, stating yourself contrary to a transportation of persons which did not appear to be warranted on grounds of urgent necessity and which would doubtlessly have rendered even more serious the Italian food situation.

A Commission has now met under the Chairmanship of Colonel Oliver with a view to studying the measures for receiving and settling in Italy the aforesaid repatriates.

You well know, my dear Admiral, the relief problems which this Country will have to face in the near future. Only yesterday we received a telegram from the International Red Cross asking for aid in favour of 75,000 former prisoners of war who are crossing the Alps on foot and of whom more than 50,000 are suffering from tuberculosis.

In these circumstances I do not think it the case to talk of repatriation from Eritrea where, according to general admission, the food situation is very good.

I enclose an Aide-Memoire stating our point of view on the matter and copy of a letter addressed by General Upjohn to President Bonard confirming the Allied Commission's previous point of view.

I trust in your kind intervention in the matter and beg you to believe me, dear Admiral,

Sincerely yours

signed : Prunas.

Encl.

EC Hist - 12 May 45

ACTION: CA JEG 98

INFO: CHIEF ConnR

EXEC ConnR

see M27-28429

(MAJ MORDEN)

(25)

MINUTA

AIDE - MEMOIRE

The eventual repatriation of unemployed Italians from Eritrea, had already been submitted to the Italian Government who had pointed out all the difficulties and shortcomings of such a plan. They stated themselves willing, however, should the British Government insist upon it, to take it into consideration in due time.

To this effect the Italian Government suggested appointing a joint Anglo-Italian Commission with a view to studying, first in Italy and subsequently in Eritrea, all the sides of the problem.

General Mac Carthy who, in the month of December, had come expressly to Italy in order to deal with the question, had acknowledged the consistency of the difficulties and agreed to the plan of a joint Commission. The necessity had furthermore been recognized of planning the repatriation on the basis of the following principles :

1. Grant priority to those persons considered useful in the interests of the war effort and reconstruction and who could find immediate employment in Italy.
2. grant priority to the persons who have in Italy their family, their home, and their principal business centre;
3. avoid repatriating those persons who, having established years ago their residence in Eritrea, lack a family or an economic interest in Italy.
4. compensate the repatriation to Italy of the unemployed by returning to Eritrea those persons who have in that region a house and family and the possibility of carrying out an economic activity.

It should be recalled in this connection that in Eritrea there does not exist a food shortage and that territory could maintain a population vastly superior to the present one. This is proved by the surplus of products in the local markets. Unemployment therefore is a consequence of an imperfect economic equilibrium which might be counteracted through the exchange of unemployed persons, with others, who, before the war, carried out there a permanent economic activity.

The Italian Government had heard nothing more of the plan in question until a few weeks ago when Brigadier General Upjohn of the Allied Commission mentioned it to President Bonomi, stating himself contrary to it for the time being.

It should in fact be born in mind that in the next months the Country will have to face very serious problems due to the repatriation of hundreds of thousands of prisoners and internees who are, in greater part, suffering of very bad health and would therefore need all the relief facilities not only of the competent Italian Authorities, but also of those Allied Bodies interested in the same problem.

see 26

Headquarters Allied Commission
APO 394
Civil Affairs Section

DER/18/2/C-2 (IT)

24 March 1945

My dear Mr. Prime Minister,

As promised, I attach hereto notes of your meeting yesterday on the subject of the repatriation of Italians from Eritrea to Italy.

Should you find any inaccuracy therein I should be grateful if you would let me know as soon as possible as a copy of these notes has been transmitted to the Supreme Allied Commander for his information.

At the same time may I express the Commission's gratitude to you for your expression of intention to appoint General Taddei to the post of Deputy Commander of the CC.RR. and also say that this Commission fully supports your intention to remove General Delachiesa from his position as Chief of Staff.

Very Truly yours,

G.R. UPJOHN, Brig.
Vice President
Civil Affairs Section

Encl:

5194

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
Civil Affairs Section

DER/18/2/G-2 (IT)

24 March 1945

Notes of a Meeting between the Prime Minister
and Brigadier Upjohn at 1730 hours 23 mar 45.

Brig. Upjohn stated that the Supreme Allied Commander desired to know the view of the Government on the question of the repatriation of Italians from Eritrea to Italy. Brigadier Upjohn made it clear that SAC was only considering the question for repatriation during hostilities or during the immediate post-hostilities period and that was no question at the present time of considering any long term policy in this matter.

Brig. Upjohn pointed out that there were some 40,000 Italians in Eritrea and that the normal economy of the country could not support such a number and that it was the urgent desire of the Administration in Eritrea to repatriate during the year 1945 some 19,000 to 25,000 Italians to Italy.

Brigadier Upjohn said that the opinion of the Allied Commission was that non such repatriation should take place in the first place. The refugee problem in Italy was already acute and with the liberation of Northern Italy would become even more so and that the reception and housing and clothing of an additional 20,000 Italians would create a very big problem.

Secondly, Italians in Eritrea were understood to be receiving a higher ration than is at present in operation in Italy and that the reception of some 20,000 persons and placing them on a lower ration scale would inevitably lead to discontent and unrest.

Thirdly, food supplies were already short in this country and it was undesirable to bring in at the present time an additional 20,000 mouths to feed.

Finally, Brigadier Upjohn pointed out that many of these Italians were ardent fascists and their re-introduction into Italy would only be a cause for additional unrest.

On the other hand, Brigadier Upjohn continued, the situation from the point of view of the Eritrea Administration was desperate and there were several reasons making the repatriation of some 20,000 Italians to Italy very desirable. 5133

On the first place, a large number of Italians were unemployed and were receiving civilians relief.

In the second place, owing to the distress amongst the Italians, some rich natives were employing Italians and this was greatly effecting the prestige and morale of Italians in Eritrea.

./.

In the third place, many Italians who had invested capital in small trades during the boom were now living on that capital and shortly a large number would be on civilian relief.

Finally, there was much discontent amongst Italians due to the very high cost of living in Eritrea.

Before asking the views of the Prime Minister, Brigadier Upjohn reminded His Excellency that in August the Italian Government had expressed an opinion against any large scale repatriation, but in December Sig. Prunas has expressed the view that repatriation was desirable at some stage.

Brigadier Upjohn then asked His Excellency whether he was prepared to express any views on this problem or whether he would like to have an opportunity of considering the matter.

His Excellency replied, without hesitation, that he entirely agreed with the views of the Allied Commission. The refugee problem that would be created was alone sufficient to make it undesirable to have any large scale repatriation during the period under review.

Brig. Upjohn, after pointing out that in any event repatriation would depend on the availability of shipping, asked whether he might take the views expressed by His Excellency as being the official views of the Italian Government which he could communicate to the Supreme Allied Commander.

His Excellency replied in the affirmative.

G.R. UPJOHN, Brig.
Vice President
Civil Affairs Section,

DFR/13/2/G-2 (IT)

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Extract of Minutes of Executive Commissioner's Meeting - 20 March.

+++++

Repatriation of Italians from ERITREA.

CA Sec said that AFHQ had agreed with the views of the Commission and had asked us to take the matter up with the Italian Government. CA Sec were opposed to approaching the Italian Government on this question. Ex C directed CA Sec to send an interim reply to the AFHQ letter, saying that the matter was being studied and adding that we did not think that the proposed visit by Brig. MCCARTHY would serve any useful purpose.

5192

Ref: DPR/18/2/G-2 (IT)

2 Feb 45.

SUBJECT: Repatriation of Surplus Italians
in Eritrea to Italy.

FEB 2 1945

TO: AFHQ, G-5 Section.

- 1 In November CAB GHQ MEF stated that there were 5,000 unemployed and 2,000 Italians on relief in Eritrea and that the War Office, in a telegram No. 71805 of 27th August 1944, had referred to you the question of repatriating 5,000 Italians to Italy. At that time you considered this number could be accepted provided repatriation was carried out in small shipments (with a preference for agricultural workers) and did not begin for several months.
- 2 On the 22nd November CAB GHQ MEF were informed, after consultation with the Italian Government, that:
 - (a) Priority must be given to agricultural workers, which class can most easily be given employment. Clerical and professional classes and general labourers are unlikely to improve their position by repatriation at the present time.
 - (b) Only those desiring return to liberated Italy could be accepted as otherwise the refugee problem, already large, would be increased.
 - (c) Persons who desired repatriation to certain areas where much destruction has occurred, or which for other reasons would be unsuitable, were to be excepted. This would exclude repatriation to the provinces of Frosinone, Chieti, Foggia, Pescara and Littoria.
 - (d) It would be desirable that repatriation should not commence before the end of the winter, and then in small groups at well spaced intervals.
 - (e) Before repatriation takes place nominal rolls with address of destination should be submitted.

(COPY RETAINED FOR 'A' FILES)

5191

18 -

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- 3 On 13th December 1944, Brigadier McCarthy, Chief Administrator of Eritrea, visited this Commission in connection with the subject of repatriation of Italians from Eritrea. From information in our possession and obtained from documents, copies of which are forwarded to you as per Appendix "A", it is apparent that there is a surplus of Italian population in Eritrea of 20,000 persons. Owing to the fact that the population of Eritrea is non-European and that these Italians are drawing relief, or otherwise maintained by the State, the Eritrean authorities are necessarily anxious to get rid of this commitment.
- 4 Brigadier McCarthy when in Rome visited the Italian Government and discussed the situation with them. It appears from Brigadier McCarthy's report that the Government indicated that they were in favour of this large scale repatriation at some stage and promised to write to the Chief Commissioner on the subject.
- 5 This Commission does not favour any large scale repatriation at the present time for the following reasons:
 - (a) The refugee problem is already acute in this country and may, as northern Italy is liberated, become even more so. Great difficulty is already being found in clothing and housing war refugees and to accept a liability for a further number in the region of 20,000 during the continuance of hostilities is to court disaster.
 - (b) The food position in the country is already most unsatisfactory and to accept a liability for feeding an extra 20,000 mouths cannot be contemplated.
 - (c) Persons in Eritrea are, it is understood, receiving a higher ration than in Italy, and to bring them here and feed them on the present low ration scale might give rise to serious trouble and disorder.
- 6 For the foregoing reasons this Commission has not made any approach to the Italian Government who has not itself yet communicated with this Commission on the subject since Brigadier McCarthy's visit. Indeed, this Commission has been informed unofficially that the Italian Government is unwilling to raise the question of repatriation from Eritrea until the broader question of repatriation to Libya has been discussed.
- 7 The CCAD MEF has however taken the matter up with the War Office asking for their assistance in the matter, particularly with regard to the provision of shipping. A copy of this letter dated 30th December is forwarded. No reply has, as far as this Headquarters is aware, yet been received.
- 8 On the 30th December GHQ MEF wrote to this Headquarters stating that they hoped, with our assistance, to repatriate 20,000 Italians by the end of this year. This letter has been acknowledged and they have been advised that the matter is being taken up with you.

- 3 -

19

- 9 This Commission recommends that while Italy remains a theatre of war and until the question of accommodation and feeding can be solved, no repatriation be permitted except of the 5,000 persons mentioned in para 1 above, who could be repatriated on the terms mentioned in para 2.
- 10 May the instructions of SACMED on the general policy please be communicated to this Commission and GHQ MEF.

/s/ Ellery W. Stone

ELLERY W. STONE
Rear Admiral, USNR,
Chief Commissioner.

Copy to: CA Branch, GHQ MEF
(Your 11688.119/CA of 30 Dec 44 refers.)
Political Section.

Encls.

5189

APPENDIX "A"

List of Documents forwarded:

1. Copy Memorandum on repatriation of Italians to Italy prepared by B.M.A. Eritrea, dated 6th December 1944, with relative appendices.
2. Copy Report by Chief Administrator, Eritrea, on his visit to Italy in connection with repatriation, dated 15th December 1944.
3. Copy letter (11628/110/CA) dated 30th December 1944, from GHQ MEF to HQ AC.
4. Copy letter (11628/111/CA) dated 30th December 1944, from GHQ MEF to the War Office.
5. Copy letter (DPR/18/2/G-2(IT)) dated 17th January 1945, from HQ AC to GHQ MEF.

785017

2213

(OS) (16)

24 DEC 1944

GHQ, MID EAST FOR GENERAL HEWER AND BRIG. ARUNDELL

8158

131730

PRIORITY

SECRET PD

PARA ONE PD ARRIVED ROME TEN VISITING MOVEMENTS AFHQ THIRTEEN CMA HOPE
LEAVE NAPLES AIR FOURTEENTH SEE YOU MORNING FRIDAY FIFTEENTH PD PLEASE
RESERVE PASSAGE AIR EIGHTEENTH DEPT EIGHTEENTH DECEMBER FROM CAIRO FOR
ASMARA PD

PAREN TO GHQ, MID EAST FOR GENERAL HEWER AND BRIG ARUNDELL FROM HQ AL COM
FROM BRIG MCCARTHY PAREN

PARA TWO PD FOLLOWING IS POSITION HERE PD EMBASSY AGREE IN PRINCIPLE
ALLIED COMMISSION CANNOT AGREE UNLESS ITALIAN GOVERNMENT MAKES FIRST
APPROACH ITALIAN GOVERNMENT ACCEPT IN PRINCIPLE VERBALLY AND STATE THEY
WILL MAKE WRITTEN APPLICATION PD HAVE HAD SATISFACTORY PRELIMINARY
INFORMAL CONVERSATIONS WITH ITALIAN OFFICIALS PD

PARA THREE PD ALLIED COMMISSION CANNOT IN ANY CASE ACCEPT REPATRIATION
PAREN ABLE PAREN FOR NORTH ITALY UNTIL SOME MONTHS AFTER LIBERATION THAT
TERRITORY THIS AFFECTING ONE EIGHT ZERO ZERO ZERO PAREN BAKER PAREN FOR

5187

PA 15/12

5986

15
THOSE AREAS IN CENTRAL ITALY DEVASTATED BY BATTLE WOUNDS AFFLICTED

UNSPECIFIED PD

PAPA FOUR PD CHIEF DIFFICULTIES SHIPPING FEEDING ACCOMMODATION AND
ABSORPTION ALL OF WHICH REMAIN MOST UNLIKELY ANY REPATRIATION BEFORE
SUMMER EXCEPT POSSIBLY SPECIAL CONSIGNMENTS SUCH AS DRIVERS AGRICULTURISTS
WHO MAY BE USEFUL IN ITALY EARLIER IF SHIPPING IS AVAILABLE

UNSPECIFIED PD

PARA FOUR PD CHIEF DIFFICULTIES SHIPPING FEEDING ACCOMMODATION AND
ABSORPTION ALL OF WHICH HENIER MOST UNLIKELY ANY REPATRIATION BEFORE
SUMMER EXCEPT POSSIBLY SPECIAL CONSIGNMENTS SUCH AS DRIVERS AGRICULTURISTS
WHO MAY BE USEFUL IN ITALY EARLIER IF SHIPPING IS AVAILABLE

CA Sec 437
Re

N.W. DIMAGGIO
Asst. Dir. for
Adm. Serv.

5188

1587

785017

(14)

Office of the Chief of Staff.

Registration of Italians from RUSSIA. 2413/008 4
Civil Affairs Section 13 December
(For Displaced Persons & Registration Sub-C mission)

1. I found for your reference paper relating to the registration of Italians from RUSSIA, brought here by Brigadier HOLMES.

2. This is the only copy in this Headquarters.

22

Chief Staff Officer,
To the Chief of Staff.

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
DISPLACED PERSONS AND REPATRIATION SUB COMMISSION

DPR/18/ GII (IT)

11 December 1944.

MEMORANDUM ON REPATRIATION FROM ERITREA TO ITALY:

1. This is a bigger problem than appears at first sight, as similar situations will arise in other former Italian colonies, such as Tripolitania.
2. Italy is already full, destruction is widespread, and dispersion of population difficult.
3. The food and clothing problems are acute, and these should be more easily overcome in Eritrea than in Italy.
4. Of the 25,000 it is desired to return to Italy, more than 18,000 are from Northern Italy, therefore probably industrialists. As Northern Italy is still in German hands this repatriation cannot be effected, and in any case the need in Italy is for agriculturalists.
5. The intense Fascist and Communist characters of those for repatriation makes their entry into Italy at the present time most undesirable.
6. Any repatriation must be based on D.O. letter DPR/18/GII (IT) dated 22-11-44 to Brigadier ARUNDELL from Brigadier LUSH.

C. B. Findlay
C. B. FINDLAY,
Colonel,
Director.

5185

785017

221314801
RESTRICTED

ONT/67918
DEC 08/1159

0/3253
DEC 08/1705
ROUTINE

From: MEDHAST
To: HQ ALCON FOR LUSH

8 DEC 1944

RESTRICTED.

Personal for LUSH. Brig MCCARTHY and Lt Col ALLEN STA 9 December.

DIST.

Action: CoS (2)
Info: Chief Commissioner
Est Sec
File
CA Sec
Disper SC.



seen by Col Shipp
& Capt Norden on file 801/cos.

RESTRICTED

5184

PA

785017

7702

11

CHIC MEF

7702

6 Dec

PRIORITY

Col. Hogg

RESTRICTED PD

YOUR OBOE KASY TARE SLANT SIX SEVEN ONE ONE THREE OF FIVE DAGGER PD
PAREN TO CHIC MEF FOR BRIG CD MOCARTY CARE OF CIVIL AFFAIRS BRANCH
FROM HC ALON FROM LUSH PAREN

LUSH WILL BE HERE PD

SUGGEST YOU CME AS ORIGINALLY ARRANGED

DISTRIBUTION:

CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION
DISPLACED PERSONS AND REPARATION S.C.

5183

7702

6 Dec

PRIORITY

RESTRICTED PD

10
YOUR CBCE EASY TARE SLANT SIX SEVEN ONE ONE THREE OF FIVE DECEMBER PD
PAREN TO GHO MEF FOR BRIG CD MCCARTHY CARE OF CIVIL AFFAIRS BRANCH
FROM HQ ALON FROM LUSH PAREN

LUSH WILL BE HERE PD

SUGGEST YOU COME AS ORIGINALLY ARRANGED

DISTRIBUTION:

CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION
DISPLACED PERSONS AND REPATRIATION S.C.

CHIEF OF STAFF.

300.

N. W. DRAGNETT
MAJOR, AGED
ADJUTANT

5183

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

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

ONT/67113
IEG 051745

From: MIDEAST
To: FATIMA ACC ROME

FOR INFORMATION ONLY
RESTRICTED

C/2956
DEC 060815
IMMEDIATE

6 DEC 1944

9
RESTRICTED.

Your 7585 of 4 December.

Am not clear whether both LUSH and UPJOHN will be away till 18th. If either present do not wish put off MCCARTHYs visit. Signal reply immediate.

DET

see 11
ACTION C & SEC (2)
INFO CHIEF COMMISSIONER
Cos
FILE

RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS 82
1-DEC1944
A. C.

785017

(9)

CEC REF

7585

4th December, 44.

PRIORITY

6 DEC 1944

RESTRICTED PD

PARA ONE PD PROCEEDING ELSEWHERE FOR TEN DAYS COMMENCING SIXTH
DECEMBER PD

PARA TWO PD FOR BRIG CD MCCARTHY CASE OF CIVIL AFFAIRS BRANCH FROM
HQ ALCON FROM CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION FOR UNJOHN PAREN

PARA TWO PD WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE FOR CONFERENCE YOU PROPOSE BEFORE
EIGHTEENTH DECEMBER SUGGEST YOU COME ON OR ABOUT TWENTIETH DECEMBER

See 1018

CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

608

5181

N.W. DRAGOSKY
MAJOR AGO
Adjutant

1594

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

785017

(8)

MIDNIGHT

7527

3 000

(5)

(6)

ROUTINE PRIORITY

UNRECORDED PD

YOUR OFFICE EAST TARE SLANT SIX FIVE SIX FIVE FOUR OF THIRTY NOVEMBER
AND OFFICE EAST TARE SLANT SIX FIVE SEVEN THREE ZERO OF THIRTY NOVEMBER
REPAIR PD

PAGE TO MIDNIGHT FOR AMUSELL FROM ALCON SIGNED LISA PAPER PD
WILL RECODE VISIT FROM BRIGADIER MC CARRY

DISTRIBUTION

C.A. SMITH
DISPATCH PERSONS AND REPATRIATION S.O.

5180

5.33

CHIEF OF STAFF

289

NICHOLAS PIERRE
CWO USA
ASST ADUTANT

PA

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

INCOMING MESSAGE
HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

Originator's Reference: OET/65730

Date/Time of Origin: NOV 302000

Message Centre No: C/2478

Date Time Rec'd: DEC 011636

Precedence: ROUTINE

FROM: MIDEAST

1 DEC 1944

TO: FATIMA, ARMYCHARGE ROME

ACTION

RESTRICTED.

Personal for LUSH from ARUNDELL. Further my OET/65654 of 30 November your letter No DPR/18/G II (IT) of 22 November refers

DIST

ACTION CoS (4)
INFO CHIEF COMMISSIONER
FILE

*Copies sent by office,
chief of staff to:*

*C A Sec.
Dispers S.C.*

see Minute 7-8

5173

RESTRICTED



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

RESTRICTED
INCOMING MESSAGE
HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

Originator's Reference: 77/688 OCT/65654
Date/Time of Origin: NOV 30 1700B

Message Centre No. C/2422
Date Time Rec'd: DEC 01 1215A
Precedence: ROUTINE

FROM: MIDEAST

TO: AC ROME

1 DEC 1944

ACTION

RESTRICTED.

Personal for LUSH from ARUNDELL.

CINC desires Brig MCCARTHY to visit your HQ with view discussing
repatriation of Italians from ERITREA. ETA 8 December.

DIST

ACTION: Co.S. 4
INFO: Chief Commissioner
File

Copies sent by
office, C.Y.S. to:

C.A. Sec.
Inspector S.C.

see Minute 798

RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS
5478
A. C.

DPS/r/d-11 (IT)
Ref. #213/8/008.

22 November 1944

Thank you for your letter No. 11512/D/112/CA of 6 Nov 44.

I have been considering the manner in which we can best help you on the question of the 5,000 repatriates from Eritrea, at the same time dispensing with the maximum amount of restriction. Our difficulties are many and I thought it desirable, before replying to you, to obtain the views of the Italian Government who, of course, are now in control of all of Southern Italy. As a result the following conditions emerge, with which I concur:

- 1) Priority must be given to agricultural workers, which class can most easily be given employment. Clerical and professional classes and general laborers are unlikely to improve their position by repatriation at the present time.
- 2) Only those desiring return to liberated Italy could be accepted as otherwise the refugee problem, already large, would be increased.
- 3) Certain areas where much destruction has occurred or which for other reasons would be unsuitable have to be excepted. We should have to exclude therefore repatriation to the provinces of Grosinone, Chieti, Foggia, Pescara and Littoria.
- 4) It would be desirable that repatriation should not commence before the end of the winter, and then in small groups at well-spaced intervals.
- 5) Before repatriation takes place nominal rolls with address of destination should be submitted.

By all means include in your nominal rolls names of individuals in any category who have received any guarantee of work on arrival. The Italian Government undertakes to examine each individual case of this kind.

See by C. H. H. H.
PA 3
20/11

-2-

3

When you have had time to go into this it may prove a bigger outlet for you than appears at first sight and will, I hope, prove satisfactory to us all.

M. S. LUSH

Brig. R. D. H. Arundell,
Civil Affairs Branch,
CHQ. MEET.

After you have perused this you may think it not as fruitful as you would like but you can rely on me to do my best.

785017

2213

(2)

Ext: 300

8266/101

Ref: 97/221

11 November 1944

SUBJECT: Repatriation of Italians from Eritrea.

TO : Civil Affairs Section.
(Attention: Displaced Persons & Repatriation Sub-Commission)

1. I forward a DO letter (No. 11512/D/112/CA dated 6 November 1944) from Civil Affairs Branch, GSO, ISF, to Brigadier Ingh, concerning the possible repatriation of some 5,000 unemployed Italians from Eritrea.
2. The War Office telegram referred to in paragraph 2 has not been received at this Headquarters. It does not seem to me a particularly propitious moment for adding to our repatriation difficulties by accepting a further 5,000 from this remote colony, but it may be that you would be able to find some means of accepting *Swiss* numbers over a well spaced out period.
3. Would you please prepare, in draft, a reply to Brigadier Ansdell for the signature of the Chief of Staff.

Edh
Chief Staff Officer,
To the Chief of Staff.

Encl.

See
4

BU 17/5.75
11/11
Noted 11/11
15/11

785017

COPYNo. 11512/D/112/CACivil Affairs Branch
CHQ., MHP.

6 November, 1944

Dear Lush,

Despite all efforts to develop useful industries and to find employment for Italian workers outside the Territory, unemployment figures in Eritrea are steadily mounting. At the end of October there were about 5,000 unemployed and 2,201 Italians on relief. As you well know, Eritrea owed its large Italian population to Italy's annexation of Ethiopia. Alone the country cannot absorb anything like the present Italian population of nearly 49,000, the majority of whom will presumably have to be repatriated to Italy sooner or later.

In War Office telegram No. 71805(CA1) of 27th August, 1944, we were informed that the question of repatriating 5,000 Eritrean Italians to Italy had been referred to AFHQ, who considered that this number could be accepted provided the repatriation was carried out in small shipments and did not begin for several months. They expressed a preference for agricultural workers.

I am informed by the Chief Administrator that 5,000 volunteers for repatriation would be readily forthcoming. It is unlikely, however, that more than 10% at the outside would be agricultural workers. 30% would be likely to belong to the professional and clerical classes, many of whom are desirous of educating their children in Italy; the remainder would be artisans and general workers. The proportion of workers to dependents might be expected to be two to one. Few of the repatriates would have homes to go to in Italy but most would have relatives there. The above estimated breakdown of repatriates is of course provisional since volunteers have not yet been called for.

My object in writing to you is to ascertain whether and when repatriation might begin and in what numbers. Naturally we do not want to add to your difficulties, but at the same time the situation in Eritrea demands a drastic remedy. As the C. in C. is taking a personal interest in this matter, I should be grateful for an early reply to this letter.

Yours sincerely,

R. ARTHUR

Brigadier M. S. Lush, CHQ., MHP.,
HQ., ACC., MHP.

5174

1601