

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

785017

ACC

10000/109/561

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

785017

10000/109/561

INCIDENT AT POLISH REFUGEE CAMPS,
BARLETTA & TRANI
DEC. 1945 - JULY 1946

64. (continued)

The suggested reply to paragraphs 5 and 6, however, appears to me to be somewhat contradictory. For example, in paragraph 5, draft reply states "certificates of identity have been issued but these are in no sense an official document or passport", while in paragraph 6 you say "the certificate of identity mentioned is a means of verifying the nationality of the displaced persons". I question the tactics of denying the certificates of identity in one paragraph and using them as evidence of nationality in another.

Paragraph 6 (1) of the Ambassador's letter undoubtedly refers to his earlier complaint in paragraph 4 and it might be well in your reply to emphasize or refer to your earlier answer to paragraph 4.

In paragraph 6 (2) it is considered desirable to indicate the places where the visits of representatives of the Polish Government would not be well received. The last sentence might read: "at the same time the probability of such visit not being well received by the inmates at Harletta and Treni camp has been clearly indicated".

J. Wesley Jones
J. Wesley Jones
Political Adviser (A)

June 25, 1946.

(65)

I agree

Shank

27/6 Polad R.

(66)

Executive Commissioner.

Attached herewith for your approval and signature reply to Dr. Kot's letter folio 59.

The reply is based on Polad A and B comments with regard to points as set out by this Sub-Commission, folio 60,

(ifollowup)

June 25, 1946.

(65)

Agree
Hunt 27/6 Polad R.

(66)

Executive Commissioner.

Attached herewith for your approval and signature reply to Dr. Kot's letter folio 59.
The reply is based on Polad A and B comments with regard to points as set out by this Sub-Commission, folio 60,

2 July 1946
TX 392

(Follis)

C. P. FOTHERGILL
Lt. Colonel
Deputy Director

1632

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

785017

785017

Sit

On pp 53, 24, 3 & K in this file the Duppa sub

Com. has transgressed the very clear direction that

communication to higher HQ will be signed for the

Chief Commission. If the Director cannot comply

with orders he must send his correspondence to

his V.P. for signature.

SS:-

~~V.P. A.S.~~

Proper A/C.

Please note in 54 above. H.S. 25/5. P.S. 28/5.

58:-

C.A. Section

hoted. signature guidance.

H.S. 31/5.

OSL 57
28/5/57

61

CSO to Comm.

Please see folio 58 and letter to

A.F.H. at 60 for info. Act 28/6 H.S. 21/6

~~V.P. L.A.S.~~
Jupiter M.C.

Please note in 54 above. H.S. 25/5. P.S. 28/5.

C.A. Section

56.

hofs. for future guidance.

H.S. 31/5.

OSL 27
28/5/11

61

CSO to Comm.

Please see folio 58 and letter to

A.F.H.G. at 60 for info. Aut ref H.S. 24/6

62. Let me see P.D. 24/6.

1031

63

9 P. 24/6
" " 24/6

Please comply with min 62. Aut 24/6

CSO:

64.

I am not in a position to comment on the charges made by the Polish Ambassador in his letter of June 14 (Folio 58) as I am not well informed on the condition of the inmates or the administration of the camps. Generally speaking, the suggested reply at Folio 60 seems appropriate.

The

De Comm.

1645047 - m 46 for info. M.L. 11/5

M.L. 11/5
V.P.C.A.S. 42
3) Diaper

I dislike this reply. Diaper should have kept in touch & reported to his V.P.C.A.S. instead of writing

MS/14/67

50

Refer

See Mm. 49. I was away on tour at the time of this incident and cannot recollect ever having seen the letter at 23. I have seen to have taken to Dept's pursuant to the action initiated at Mm. 23. I presume you are now taking action on another file and that you are responsible and M.L. P.S. Sp. as indicated at 45. in the file.

15/5/46

Mdm. Bayader
V.P.C.A.S.

51

V.P.C.A.S.

The 1st & 2nd reports have not been submitted

I was away on tour at the time of the incident and cannot recollect ever having seen the letter at 23. I have seen to have taken in Dept's pursue the action initiated at 23.

I presume you are now taking action on another file and that your S/C is responsible and W.P.S. S/C. as indicated at 45. in the file.

McLan Byader
V.P.C.A.S.

15/5/46

51

V.P.C.A.S

It is regretted that an earlier report has not be submitted but due to misunderstanding and indifferent communication between Home and Basletter-Toni. The report on action taken regarding the accident at Basletter-Toni has been delayed. Copy for your retention of letters to GS attached herewith and copy for Ex Comm's file appended.

Stollery L760

23/5/46.

53.

Ex Comm. be S/C. At 52 is a copy of the letter which I hope S/C have sent to 95.

McLan Byader
V.P.C.A.S.

24/5/46

2437

Dispen.

41.

May the Es Com have your. cur an
folio 40, please. *Ally 6/4*

42

may think - my last letter was very quick
clearly 1500 to the like process & I consider
that a further answer is neither required
or expedient.

C.B. 257 107

6.4.46.

43.

Don't copy 10/4

I agree. See that copies of these papers go

to G & Dr. Cambridge. One is responsible

for the mal arrangements referred to -

Dr Dzygowski's last paper. Result to the young *Ally*

in subject

C.B. 107

6.4.46.

43:

per 10/4

C.S.O.

I agree. See that copies of these papers go

to B.G. & Br. Embassy. One is responsible

for the mal administration referred to

Mr Dzygalski's last paper.

Result to 10/4

10/4

44

10/4

To P.S. 9c

may this office please have a copy of
your reply to folio 15 for Ex Comm's info.

Aut 9/5

46

47

C.S.O.

Copy of cable attached. This
material is being dealt with by
Panda R. S/C.
10.5.46

E. J. Dye Colonel

10.5.46

Chal Commission

33

I think it inadvisable to continue the
correspondence. Mr KOT is in London. His allegations
have been unfounded in general more less than the

one in question.

34 D4/25/2 FEB 27 1940 316

F.L. I'm sorry - but because para 4 is
unfounded, it must be denied. He has
placed entire blame on F.L. 25/2 End cc

Dispen.

At CO Fitzgill to draft reply before 4 alone

175/25/2

Executive Commission

36

Draft reply to para 4 submitted herewith for your approval

4/3

(11) 4/3. M.L. 4/3.

35.

Disfer.

At EO Fothergill to draft reply before 4 alone

MS/26/2

36

Executive Commission

Draft reply to para 4 submitted herewith for your approval

MS 4/3

(II) 4/3.

MS. 4/3.

37

Issue for C.C. to see 1028

MAR 6 RECD

38

Chief Commissioner.

Information-
Attached is submitted for your approval
signature

MS/26/3

39

40

26

A/CSO

Ex C. may wish to see min 25. Feb 2012

19/2

29.

Ex Comm.

- i) See p 28 for reply from Polish Ambassador.
- ii) See p 24 for info. JH. 2012

3/6

29.

Chief Commission.

I propose that we take no action on page 28 except to send it with your letter to AFRO. We understand that Dr. Felt had a strong interview with British Ambassador before leaving London.

1/5/2012

FEB 27 2012
1727

30.

F.C. Joyce, except I would like you to see the letter to the Ambassador.

I propose that we take no action on page 28
except to send it with your letter to AFHQ.
The Embassy. I understand that Dietrich had a strong
interview with British Ambassador before leaving

for London.
FEB 27 1947
1727

F.C. Sayce except I would like you
to get Dietrich about para 4 (marked).
Did HC insist on the visit - If so, why?

23 II
31
END CC
1027

Chief Commissioner

No they did not. I made sure of that before
the visit.

F.C. Then I can't agree with him. 29 I must
request that para 4 be flatly denied
26 II
END CC
FEB 25 1947
1283

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

APO 394

Office of the Executive Commissioner

Chief Commissioner.

CD Finckley, I think, accompanied the party - quite a rough house!

W/7/2

FEB 8 - 1964

0826

Chief Commissioner.

Attached is submitted for your signature ~~approval~~ information

E.C.
An excellent letter
18/II
JWS
cc

FEB 8 1946

092

E.C.
An excellent letter
18/II
TWS
cc

Attached is submitted for your signature
~~approval~~
information

Cleared with both Embassy & AFHQ.

KD's letter is at p 9. Refat at p 21.

Could I have the letter signed now so that it can go to KD who leaves Rome tomorrow.
TWS (18/2)

LTCA [unclear]

23 18/2

Enc Com

The reply (folio 23) was delivered by hand to the Polish Embassy & receipt signed for it at 16.5 hrs on 18.2.46.

The officer who delivered the reply was informed it would be given to the Polish Ambassador at once

19.2.
(11)

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 794
DISPLACED PERSONS AND REHABILITATION SUB-COMMISSION

DIR/9/C-II(01)

18 June 1946

SUBJECT : Complaint by Polish Ambassador regarding
Barletta and Trudi camps.

JUN 19 1946

TO : ROAD (B)
ROAD (A)

58

1. Forwarded herewith copy of the Polish Ambassador's letter
31/3/46 dated 14 June 1946.

2. Before replying we should be most grateful if we might have your
advice as to whether you are in agreement with the basis of our reply.

For convenience I have numbered the paragraphs of Ambassador
Kot's letter and base our reply on the following statement of facts.

Para 1

Allied Commission is responsible for the feeding and general care
of Displaced Persons in Italy, and the size and functions of the British Group
Staff at Barletta and Trudi is in line with normal Allied Commission practice.
If more Allied Officers with adequate knowledge of the Polish language were
available, use of members of II P LINGUA would not be necessary. Unfortunately
this is not the case.

Para 3

Group Commanders have been instructed that political propaganda
is not allowed within Displaced Persons camps. Every effort is made to enforce
this instruction.

Para 4

No temporary passports have been issued since the arrival of your
representatives.

Para 5

Certificates of identity have been issued but these are in no sense
an official document or passport. They have been used solely as a means of
clarifying the nationality of these Displaced Persons.

Para 6

I cannot agree with the statement that 20% of the refugees at
Barletta-Trudi are not Poles. The certificates of identity mentioned in a
number of replies to the Polish Ambassador's letter are in no sense

60

of Displaced Persons in Italy, and the size and functions of the British Army Staff at Barietta and Grand is in line with normal Allied Commission practice. If more Allied officers with adequate knowledge of the Polish language were available, use of members of the Polish staff would not be necessary. Unfortunately this is not the case.

Para 3

Group Commanders have been instructed that political propaganda is not allowed within Displaced Persons Areas. Every effort is made to enforce this instruction.

Para 4

No temporary passports have been issued since the arrival of your representatives.

Para 5

Certificates of identity have been issued but these are in no sense an official document or passport. They have been used solely as a means of classifying the nationality of these Displaced Persons.

Para 6

I cannot agree with the statement that 50% of the refugees at Barietta-Grand are not Poles. The certificate of identity mentioned is a means of verifying the nationality of the Displaced Poles.

Para 7

It is true that the size of Barietta and Grand is so small that it is possible that un-identified may obtain information through false pretenses. This condition is investigated a very small number of times and after the necessary evidence has been obtained, they will be dealt with.

Para 8

(1) I can assure your Excellency that no such false documents as you mention are being issued.

(11) This Commission has always considered that a representative of the Polish Government should be granted permission to visit a camp housing displaced persons of Polish nationality. At the same time the probability of such a visit not being well received has been clearly indicated.

See M 6162-163

1-23
1-23
1-23

(cont)

7827

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

785017

59

-2-

(iii) Barletta's and lamps are removed for refugees of Polish nationality.

(iv) It is requested that shortage of Allied officers who speak Polish be not made this possible.

for the Director

(Hollis)

C. J. HOLLIS,
Lt. Colonel,
Deputy Director.

Copy to: - Executive Commissioner.

58
COPY

June 14th 1946

AMBASSADE DES POLONAIS
a. ROME

Via Pompeo Magno 9
Tel. 375.622
375.623

No. 31/34/46
TM/H3

1. The Polish Embassy would like to call the Allied Commission's attention once more to the highly abnormal conditions in which the POLISH civilian refugees in Barletta and Trani camps are living.

These camps, formerly under Allied Commission's supervision and destined exclusively for Polish civilian population, are in reality under complete control of the military personnel of the 2nd Corps.
2. The Embassy is enclosing herewith photocopies, which are proving the military character of Barletta and Trani Camps.

No. 1 issued by the Commandant of the garrison (!) ~~EXEMPTED~~ at Trani;
No. 2 and 3 issued by the Command (!) of Barletta community;
3. The direct result of rendering the control over these camps to the 2nd Corps, was the creation of an anti-government propaganda center in the form of "Polish communities". The "communities" are recognizing only the Polish ex-government in London and are acting according to its "instructions". This standpoint was clearly expressed several times in the press of the 2nd Corps.
4. After the official recognition of the Polish Government of National Unity and after the liquidation of the consultations of the ex-government in London, there have been issued "passports" (enclosure No. 4) and "certificates" of Polish citizenship (enclosure No. 5) provided with the seal of "Consulate General of Poland in Rome" and signed "for the Consul General of Poland" by R. Adamowski, who is (enclosure No. 6) the chief of the office, British Embassy, Polish Welfare Office, Barletta Branch.

5. About 7,000 inmates of Barletta and Trani Camps are registered for the award of such "certificates" and "passports"

2. The Embassy is enclosing herewith photocopied, which are proving the military character of Barletta and Tarni Camps.

No.1 issued by the Commandant of the garrison (1) ~~enclosed~~ at Tarni;

No.2 and 3 issued by the Command (1) of Barletta community;

3. The direct result of rendering the control over these camps to the 2nd Corps, was the creation of an anti-government propaganda center in the form of "Polish communities". The "communities" are recognizing only the Polish ex-government in London and are acting according to its instructions. This standpoint was clearly expressed several times in the press of the 2nd Corps.

4. After the official recognition of the Polish Government of National Unity and after the liquidation of the consulates of the ex-government in London, there have been issued "passports" (enclosure No.4) and "certificates" of Polish citizenship (enclosure No.5) provided with the seal of "Consulate General of Poland in Rome" and signed "for the Consul General of Poland" by R. Adamowski, who is (enclosure No.6) the chief of the office, British Embassy, Polish Affairs Office, Barletta Branch.

5. About 7,000 inmates of Barletta and Tarni Camps are regarded as Polish citizens on the ground of such "certificates" and "passports" issued by the representative of London ex-government.

6. There is in Embassy's possession a list of the inmates of some civil-quarters in these camps clearly indicating that about 50% of the inhabitants of Barletta-Tarni are not Polish citizens. Most of them are Ukrainians, Russians and Byelorussians having their origin in the territories, which were ceded by Poland to U.S.S.R. in accordance with the Yalta agreements. According to the treaties concluded between Poland

to the

Allied Control Commission Headquarters

in Rome

..2

See 7-60

57

and U.S.S.R., they lost their Polish citizenship and became citizens of USSR. Among the above mentioned there are also individuals, who never were Polish citizens.

The people coming from Barletta-Grani names stated several times at the Consular Offices of this Embassy, that the percentage of non-Polish citizens in these camps is much higher than 50%. It is difficult to ascertain now whether these persons declared themselves Polish citizens under the pressure exerted by the 2nd Corps authorities, or have done so for different other unknown reasons.

7. The same people state, that there is quite a number of Germans and their collaborators of different kind, who even now didn't change their anti-Polish attitude, and who under the cover of their "Polish citizenship" occupy the posts of the camps militia and are persecuting and terrorizing the inhabitants.

According to the principles of the international law generally respected, to determine the citizenship of Polish people is authorized only the Polish Government of National Unity and its consular offices abroad.

8. It is to hope that the Allied Commission will solve these problems which arise from the abnormal situation in Barletta and Grani camps, and especially:

1. The Allied Commission will bring to the end the present unlawful practice of issuing false documents by the representatives of the ex-government in London. This illegal action is misleading the people concerned and the Italian, the Allied and the Polish authorities.

2. The Allied Commission will facilitate the Polish authorities to ascertain the Polish citizenship of the inhabitants in Barletta and Grani camps, in order to eliminate the German element and all the "quillings" acting under the cover of "Polish citizens".

3. After having stated the citizenship of the inmates, the Barletta-Grani camps should be left to the Polish citizens only, as it was originally intended.

4. The Allied Commission should liquidate the military control of the 2nd Corps, which mainly is responsible for the present situation.

2433

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

It is to hope that the Allied Commission will solve these problems which arise from the abnormal situation in Barletta and Grand Camps, and especially:

1. The Allied Commission will bring to the end the present unlawful practices of issuing false documents by the representatives of the ex-government in London. This illegal action is misleading the people concerned and the Italian, the Allied and the Polish authorities.
2. The Allied Commission will facilitate the Polish authorities to ascertain the Polish citizenship of the inhabitants in Barletta and Grand Camps, in order to eliminate the German element and all the "quintlings" acting under the cover of "Polish citizens".
3. After having stated the citizenship of the inmates, the Barletta-Grand Camps should be left to the Polish citizens only, as it was originally intended.
4. The Allied Commission should liquidate the military control of the 2nd Corps, which mainly is responsible for the present situation.

// A. Kot

ALEXANDER.

1021

OFF/BEH

CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 794
DISPLACED PERSONS AND REPATRIATION SUB COMMISSION

DER/2/C-II(DP)

Tel: 489001 Ext 392

23 May, 1946.

MAY 24 1946

SUBJECT: Incident at BARLUTTA-TRANI Camps

TO : C-5, A.F.H.Q.

1. Reference your signal P 65571 dated 1 May, 1946.

2. It is regretted that an earlier report has not been submitted but due to misunderstanding and indifferent communication between ROMS and BARLUTTA-TRANI the report on action taken regarding the incident has been delayed.

3. The following action was taken regarding those responsible for Camp Administration and those involved in the incident :

(1) The Polish Camp Commandant, Major ROMANOWICZ, was dismissed for not having taken sufficient precautions.

(11) Captain POLJASKI was confined to camp for four weeks for failing to control the boys courses.

(111) The officer responsible for informing all persons to take no action has been removed from the camp and returned to duty with Policarje.

(1V) Three persons involved in the incident received 2 months' detention.

(V) The woman who struck the representative was found to be of unsound mind and has been admitted to an asylum.

(1) The Polish Camp Commandant, Major DOMBAROWICZ, was dismissed for not having taken sufficient precautions.

(ii) Captain POLASZAK was confined to camp for four weeks for failing to control the boys courses.

(iii) The officer responsible for informing all persons to take no action has been removed from the camp and returned to duty with Polcaris.

(iv) Three persons involved in the incident received 2 months' detention.

(v) The woman who struck the representative was found to be of unsound mind and has been admitted to an asylum.

For the Director:

1270
(Hollis)

see 17.53-54-56
S.F. ROBINSON,
Lieut-Colonel,
Deputy Director.

Copy to:

Executive Commissioner
C.A. Section
POLAD (B)



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

2228 47
DPR/9/G-II (DP)

HQ ACDPR ALCON

May 1946

(1) GEORGE FIVE SECTION ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS

MAY 11 1946

2857

CONFIDENTIAL

45
PARA ONE PD REFERENCE YOUR CABLE FOX SIX FIVE FIVE SEVEN ONE
DATED ONE MAY IN RESPECT OF ACTION TAKEN AGAINST RINGLEADERS
OF BARLETTA INCIDENT ON SIX FEBRUARY PD
PARA TWO PD ENQUIRIES ARE BEING MADE AND REPORT THEREON WILL
BE SUBMITTED SOONEST PD

File
PRIORITY
DISPER

1019
see MK6-49-51
7752
SEXTON E. HUMPHREYS
CWO USA Asst. Adjt.

201
(CSO)

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

165571
1MAY1248B

H/2549
2MAY0900
ROUTINE

A FHE, SIGNED SACRED CITE FHEB
ALCON FOME

CONFIDENTIAL

MAY 2 1946

CONFIDENTIAL

1. HAS ANY ACTION BEEN TAKEN IN CIVILIAN COURTS AGAINST THE RINGLEADERS OF THE INCIDENT WHICH OCCURRED AT BARLETTA/TRANI CAMP ON 6 FEBRUARY.
2. IF NOT PRESS SUCH ACTION SOONEST
3. PLEASE REPLY TO PARA 1 ON REPORT ACTION TAKEN REGARDING PARA 2

AC DIST
P. 5 SUB COM.
ACTN: ~~DISPER~~ SC 2
INFO: CHIEF COMBANDI OVER
EX COMM
SAFETY SC DISPER
FLOAT 2
FILE

NOTE: ACTION
changed by ClifComm



See m. 46. 48.
p. 47

1618

CONFIDENTIAL

(CAPT. K)

3/5

243A
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017

Ref: 2228/44/EC

44
10 April 1946

SUBJECT: Incident at Polish Refugee Camp.

TO : G-5, AFHQ.

22
Ref your G-5-254 of 15 Feb 46 I am enclosing for your information
copies of the correspondence that has passed between the Polish Ambassador
and this Commission on the a/q subject, since the date of the a/q letter.

A. W. Knisely.

Brigadier,
Acting Chief Commissioner.

Copy to: Poland "A".
Poland "B".

Cherry

PA 10/4
1-17 R.P.G.

AMBASSADE DE POLOGNE
& ROME

Via Virgilio 44
Tel. 35061

No. 17/44/46
MM/HS

Rome, 14 March 22nd 1946

APR 5 1946

Your Excellency,

The Ambassador Prof. St. Kot being in Warsaw at present, I will answer some of the questions raised in your letter of March 17th 1946.

First of all I would like to point out once more, that the Embassy has never expressed any doubts about the good faith and the good will of the members of D.P. & R. Sub-Commission in the whole question of our visit to Barletta-Trani camps.

Therefore, I am a little surprised with the fact that my proposal during the meeting with Col. Findlay and Major Simcock on January 31st of postponing the visit, is so strongly denied in your letter.

My reference to the Ambassador had only the purpose to ascertain whether he considered the moment to visit the camp as propitious as it had seemed at first relegating to the second place the question of the number of representatives.

The summing up of the situation was already made in our letter of January 31st to D.P. & R. S.C.

I am sorry to say, but even when we decided to send only one member of the Embassy, the officials of A.C., in a very friendly way though made pressure on me suggesting I should also go there too.

I was never advised that "the occasion was as propitious as any other", but, on the contrary I was told many times that the occasion was an exceptionally good one.

39

17-th 1946.

First of all I would like to point out once more, that the Embassy has never expressed any doubts about the good faith and the good will of the members of D.P. & R. Sub-Commission in the whole question of our visit to Barletta-Trani camps.

Therefore, I am a little surprised with the fact that my proposal during the meeting with Col. Findlay and Major Simcock on January 31st of postponing the visit, is so strongly denied in your letter.

My reference to the Ambassador had only the purpose to ascertain whether he considered the moment to visit the camp as propitious as it had seemed at first relegating to the second plan the question of the number of representatives.

The summing up of the situation was already made in our letter of January 31st to D.P. & R. S.C.

I am sorry to say, but even when we decided to send only one member of the Embassy, the officials of A.C., in a very friendly way though made pressure on me suggesting I should also go there too.

I was never advised that "the occasion was as propitious as any other", but, on the contrary I was told many times that the occasion was an exceptionally good one.

I am deeply convinced, that the members of A.C. strongly believed the visit would be a success (and probably other would follow Col. Findlay actually said), and that they were themselves desagreeably surprised, when the incident occurred.

His Excellency ELLERY W. STONE

Rear Admiral, USNR

Chief Commissioner in Allied Commission

R O M E

JP

(copy K)

1610

See Tr. 41-43

Copy sent to JPM
5/4/46

- 2 -

Personally I believe, that the A.C. officials might have had good reasons to expect that even the irresponsible Polish elements governing the Camps would refrain themselves from such an act as a direct assault against a member of an Allied Embassy visiting the Camps in company of high rank British officers!

If, contrary to the provisions made, the incident nevertheless happened, it has given only one proof more, that the real master in these Camps is General Anders's Military Command of Barletta-Trani Settlement, (Dowództwo Osiedli Wojskowych Barletta-Trani) and that they are under complete control of II-nd Corps' political officers.

It seems useful to me to clear out this whole question, once for all as otherwise the A.C. may get a wrong impression precisely that on insisting on what it may be called a historical side of the whole incident, the Embassy has the intention to attribute to members of your staff any direct responsibility for the deplorable incident. Such was never been our intention.

This incident only demonstrates the absolutely abnormal situation created in Italy, when a representative of an Allied Government is deprived of the possibility of approaching the citizens of his country residing here!

I wish Your Excellency would kindly excuse my rather late answer, but your letter addressed to Ambassador Kot was first sent to the so-called Polish Welfare Office of the British Embassy, and thence came to our Embassy with a certain delay.

Very truly yours

W. Wysocki
W. Wysocki
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

2440

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

785017

Ref: 2225/EO.

7 March 1946.

My Dear Mr. Ambassador:

I write with reference to the letter which your Excellency addressed to me on 13th February 1946.

At the meeting on 30th January 1946, as Mr. Wyszynski will recollect, he was advised that it was considered that if a visit had to be made the occasion chosen was as propitious as any other. The question which Mr. Wyszynski stated he would refer to your Excellency was the size of the party to visit the camps. At the meeting it was suggested that owing to the feeling in the Camps that two persons should represent your Embassy rather than a party of three as originally requested by you. This Commission wished to assist any visit which would result in representatives of your Embassy being able to approach the civilian refugees in BARLETTA and TRANI. At the same time, it was clearly indicated that the party should not exceed two.

Your letter of 31st January 1946 suggested that a Secretary would best represent your Embassy rather than an official visit, and this was agreed to.

In conclusion, taking into account the above facts, I am unable to agree with your Excellency that you were in any way pressed by my staff or by myself to send a representative to the camp at BARLETTA and TRANI.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Ellery W. Stone

ELLERY W. STONE
Rear Admiral, USNR
Chief Commissioner

His Excellency H. Kot,
Polish Ambassador,
Polish Embassy,
ROME.

Copy to: Displaced Persons S/C.

See By CSO. 7/3

1-1 PA 4/3



AMBASSADE DE POLOGNE
à ROME

Via Virgilio 44
Tel. 35.061

No. 11/44/46
WV/AK

Your Excellency,

I received your letter of Febr. 18th just before my leaving for Warsaw and I wish to answer you without any delay.

First of all I wish to thank you very much for your kind words about the regrettable incident of Barletta. I entirely agree with you that it is to be hoped that such incidents will not happen in the future. Personally I am convinced that the normalization of the whole situation of Poles abroad is to be expected sooner or later, and that an end will be put to the so far abnormal conditions in which they are living now.

Nevertheless I am sorry to say I cannot agree with some statements made in your letter.

I did not mention in my note about the Embassy being forced by the A.C. to send somebody to Barletta. But it is a fact that during the meeting with Col. Findlay and Major Simsek on January 31st Mr. Wyszynski proposed to postpone the visit, and only under their pressure agreed to refer to me. We had many doubts as to its advisability, but the A.C. representatives insisted that the moment for such a visit was most propitious. Till the last moment they even demanded to increase the number of our delegates to two persons.

Once more I wish to make it clear that I have no doubts as to the good intentions and the good faith of these officers. But at the same time it seems to me there is no doubt that the Barletta - Trani camps are not under proper control of the A.C.

I am aware that there is some kind of self-government in every camp. My representatives visited f.i. camps in Bologna and Reggio Emilia, and these were really under the command of the A.C. officers.

Barletta - Trani camps are in fact governed by the special Command of Civil Settlements, headed by Col. Sobrowski on behalf of General

Rome, 19 February 18th 1946

22259

28

First of all I wish to thank you very much for your kind words about the regrettable incident of Barletta. I entirely agree with you that it is to be hoped that such incidents will not happen in the future. Personally I am convinced that the normalization of the whole situation of Poles abroad is to be expected sooner or later, and that an end will be put to the so far abnormal conditions in which they are living now.

Nevertheless I am sorry to say I cannot agree with some statements made in your letter.

I did not mention in my note about the Embassy being forced by the A.C. to send somebody to Barletta. But it is a fact that during the meeting with Col. Findlay and Major Simecek on January 31st Mr. Wyszynski proposed to postpone the visit, and only under their pressure agreed to refer to me. We had many doubts as to its advisability, but the A.C. representatives insisted that the moment for such a visit was most propitious. Till the last moment they even demanded to increase the number of our delegates to two persons.

Once more I wish to make it clear that I have no doubts as to the good intentions and the good faith of these officers. But at the same time it seems to me there is no doubt that the Barletta - Trani camps are not under proper control of the A.C.

I am aware that there is some kind of self-government in every camp. My representatives visited f.i. camps in Bologna and Reggio Emilia, and these were really under the command of the A.C. officers.

Barletta - Trani camps are in fact governed by the special Command of Civil Settlements, headed by Col. Bobrowski on behalf of General Anders.

I think Your Excellency is aware of a specific kind of political activity and propaganda made by the 2nd Polish Army Corps. The Barletta incident is only one more example of this activity, directed against the legal Polish Government. I am therefore obliged to be extremely sceptical as to the "spontaneity" in such cases.

His Excellency
Admiral Ellery W. STONE
Chief Commissioner in Allied Commission
R O M E

See in Reg. - 33-38
4.39

2452

785017

1.



AMBASSADE DE POLOGNE
à ROME

Reçu le

19

(27)

On Febr. 16th, at 1 a.m. individuals in 2nd Polish Army Corps uniforms came in a military lorry and "spontaneously" destroyed, by throwing stones prepared beforehand, the show window put out by my Press Section at Corso Umberto 355.

We are in possession of information proving the Barletta incident was carefully prepared beforehand by the 2nd Corps.

This kind of activity is encouraged to a certain extent by the general attitude of the Allied Authorities here. These are not willing to give reason to our justified complaints, but at the same time they show surprising tolerance for outbreaks of excesses on the part of the 2nd Polish Army Corps.

Some months ago my complaints with regard to such excesses did not go beyond ~~these excesses~~ questions of printed propaganda, speeches etc. Now I am forced to point acts that threaten personal security.

Therefore I think it my duty to draw the attention of all interested authorities here to the consequences such a situation may create in the future.

Yours very sincerely,

S. H. R.

225
/EC
24
CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
DISPLACED PERSONS AND REPATRIATION SUB COMMISSION

DPB/9/G-II (DP)

Tel. 489081 Ext 392

19 February, 1946.

FEB 19 1946

SUBJECT: Incident at Polish Refugee Camps BARLETTA and TRANJ.

TO : Polad (A) Allied Commission
Polad (B) Allied Commission
G-5, A.F.H.Q. (2)

1. Attached herewith copy of this H.Q.'s letter 2225/EC dated 18 February '46 in reply to Polish Ambassador's note 9/23/46 dated 11 February '46.

2. The reply was delivered by hand to the Polish Embassy and receipt signed for at 1645 hours on 18 February '46. The Allied Commission Officer who delivered the note was informed it would be given to the Polish Ambassador at once.

For the Director:

(Ffolkesjill)
C.F. POTTERGILL,
Lieut-Colonel,
Deputy Director.

Information: Executive Commissioner
Copy not enclosed as copy on your
file 2225/EC.

CONFIDENTIAL

1611

CHT C)

2445

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

785017

23

Ref: 2225/EC.

18 February 1946.

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

I write with reference to the letter which your Excellency addressed to me on 8th February 1946 concerning the unfortunate incident which occurred on 6th February during the visit of your representative, Mr. Martynowicz to the Barletta Displaced Persons Camp. Please let me express at once to your Excellency my profound regret at this deplorable happening. I should be grateful if you would furthermore convey my sincere sympathy to the victim, who I trust has by now substantially recovered from the injuries which he received. I should like further to inform you that the senior officer at Barletta camp has been instructed to take all possible steps to identify Mr. Martynowicz's assailants so that they can be brought to justice. JA

The whole of the facts relating to the incident have now been assembled and fully examined and I should like to make some observations on a number of points raised in your Excellency's letter.

In the first place I regret that I am unable to accept the suggestion that you were in any way pressed by my staff or by myself to send a representative to the camp. On the contrary, while it was not considered proper that a representative of the Polish Government should be refused permission to visit a camp housing displaced persons of Polish nationality, I am satisfied that the probability of his not being well received was made abundantly clear to Mr. Wyszynski. All possible precautions were taken to guard against organised demonstrations and it was considered that if a visit had to be made the occasion chosen was as propitious as any other. Moreover, I am sure that your Excellency will agree that for Mr. Martynowicz to have been accompanied by a military escort would have defeated the object of his visit, and, for this reason alone, would have been in the highest degree undesirable. It was for this reason that the British Commandant of the camp gave instructions for the Polish Military Police to be held in reserve out of sight of the people in the camp.

In regard to your suggestion that the disturbance was premeditated, I can find no evidence to support such a view. I have personally satisfied myself that the incident arose from a spontaneous outburst on the part of a few persons who apparently allowed their feelings to overcome them, and that the bulk of the crowd which collected was not actively hostile to Mr. Martynowicz. Furthermore, I can assure your Excellency that your information that members of the Polish Forces in uniform were present in the crowd is entirely erroneous. Not one officer or other rank was there except for the Military Police who were held in reserve as I have explained above. In the confusion of the incident, however, I could quite understand it if Mr. Martynowicz had a different impression.

I am sorry that you thought it necessary to refer to a lack of signs of "interference" in the camp's affairs by the two British members of the permanent staff. I would point out that the Allied Commission

1010
25
28

2446

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

785017

-2-

is responsible for the feeding and general care of displaced persons in Italy, and the size and functions of the British Camp Staff at Barletta and Trani is in line with normal Allied Commission practice. For this purpose only a very small administrative staff is provided in each camp. The camps are in no sense administered under military discipline and are organized on a community basis in accordance, as far as possible, with the wishes of the displaced persons. The executive work of camp administration is, when practicable, entrusted to duly elected officials of the same nationality as the refugees. In the furtherance of this policy it has been found necessary at Barletta and Trani camps for certain of the officials in charge of such technical services as Medical, Supply, Transport, Engineers, etc., to be provided by II Polish Corps. If more Allied officers with adequate knowledge of the Polish language were available, use of members of II Polish Corps would not be necessary. But this alas is not the case, as I am sure you will understand.

I am unable to find evidence to support the painful allegation made in your letter that the four British officers who accompanied Mr. Martynowicz failed to do all in their power to protect him. I have satisfied myself that they did their utmost to shield him from his assailants and that but for their decisive and tactful action, together with the competent intervention of the Polish Military police, the incident might have had even more serious consequences.

I much regret that the telephone message passed to your Embassy did not describe the incident in its correct perspective. I understand that this was partly due to the indifferent telephone communication between Bari and Rome, partly to language difficulties and partly to the reluctance of the caller to pass a full report over a public line.

In conclusion I should like to repeat my deep regret over the whole affair. Very elaborate precautions were taken, but in the event the very thing occurred, which these precautions were designed to avoid. I have now carefully considered whether more could or should have been done to guard against the inescapable risk attached to such a visit. I have reached the definite conclusion that no more could have been done without increasing the probability of trouble.

Very truly yours,

ELIJAH W. STONE
Rear Admiral, USNR
Chief Commissioner

His Excellency H. Kok,
Polish Ambassador,
Polish Embassy,
ROME.

1509

2225
3824
~~SECRET~~
Ex Comm
658 22
CONFIDENTIAL
ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 512

X
G-5: 254

15 February 1946.

FEB 18 1946

SUBJECT: Incident during visit of Polish Embassy
Representative to Barletta Displaced
Persons Camp.

TO : Headquarters, Allied Commission,
APO 394.
(Attn: Executive Commissioner).

In confirmation of telephone conversation Brigadier Lush -
Brigadier Parsons of 15 February, you are authorized to reply to
the Polish Ambassador's note of 8 February in the sense of the
attached agreed draft.

BY COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL MORGAN:

(222)
F. G. A. PARSONS
Brigadier
Acting Assistant Chief of Staff, G-5

Encl: as above.

Copy to: Kaiser S/C

CONFIDENTIAL
1638
~~SECRET~~

224

~~SECRET~~

BASIS FOR REPLY BY ALLIED COMMISSION TO MR. KOT'S NOTE OF 8 FEBRUARY
ON THE INCIDENT WHICH OCCURRED AT BARLETTA DISPLACED PERSONS CAMP ON
6 FEBRUARY 1946

In regard to the complaints raised in the letter which your Excellency addressed to me on 8 February 1946 concerning the unfortunate incident which occurred on 6 February during the visit of your representative Mr. MARTYNOWICZ to the BARLETTA Displaced Persons Camp, I regret that I am unable, after careful examination of the facts, to concur in your conclusions.

In the first place, I am unable to accept the suggestion that you were in any way pressed by my Staff or by myself to send a representative to the camp. On the contrary, while it was not considered proper that a representative of the Polish Government should be refused permission to visit a camp housing displaced persons of Polish nationality, I am satisfied that the probability of his not being well-received was made abundantly clear to Mr. WYSZINSKI. Indeed, your Excellency's admitted decision to reduce the party to one representative proves this contention.

Nor am I able to accept the suggestion that the precautions against a disturbance were inadequate. In fact, all possible precautions were taken to guard against organized demonstrations and it was considered that, if a visit had to be made, the occasion chosen was as propitious as any other. Moreover, I am sure that your Excellency will agree that for Mr. MARTYNOWICZ to have been accompanied by a military escort would have defeated the object of his visit, and, for this reason alone, would have been in the highest degree undesirable. It was for this reason that the British Commandant of the camp gave instructions for the Polish Military Police to be held in reserve out of sight of the inmates.

In regard to your allegation that the disturbance was premeditated, I can find no evidence to support such a view. On the contrary, I am satisfied that the incident arose from a spontaneous outburst on the part of a few inmates who apparently allowed their feelings to overcome them. Furthermore, I can assure your Excellency that your allegation that members of the Polish Forces in uniform were present in the crowd is entirely without foundation. Not one officer or other rank was there except for the Military Police who were held in reserve as I have explained above.

You refer to the lack of signs of "interference" in the camp's affairs by the two British members of the permanent staff. I would point out that the Allied Commission is responsible for the feeding

taken to guard against organized demonstrations that, if a visit had to be made, the occasion chosen was as propitious as any other. Moreover, I am sure that your Excellency will agree that for Mr. MARTYMONICZ to have been accompanied by a military escort would have defeated the object of his visit, and, for this reason alone, would have been in the highest degree undesirable. It was for this reason that the British Commandant of the camp gave instructions for the Polish Military Police to be held in reserve out of sight of the inmates.

In regard to your allegation that the disturbance was premeditated, I can find no evidence to support such a view. On the contrary, I am satisfied that the incident arose from a spontaneous outburst on the part of a few inmates who apparently allowed their feelings to overcome them. Furthermore, I can assure your Excellency that your allegation that members of the Polish Forces in uniform were present in the crowd is entirely without foundation. Not one officer or other rank was there except for the Military Police who were held in reserve as I have explained above.

You refer to the lack of signs of "interference" in the camp's affairs by the two British members of the permanent staff. I would point out that the Allied Commission is responsible for the feeding and general care of Displaced Persons in Italy. For this purpose, the only a very small administrative staff is provided in each camp. The camps are in no sense administered under military discipline and are organized on a community basis in accordance, as far as possible, with the wishes of the inmates. The executive work of camp administration is, when practicable, entrusted to duly elected officials of the same nationality as the inmates. In the furtherance of this policy, it has been found practicable at BARLETTA and TPANI Camps for certain of the officials in charge of such technical services as Medical, Supply, Transport, Engineers, etc. to be provided by 2 Polish Corps. The size and functions of the British Camp Staff are therefore in line with normal Allied Commission practice.

~~SECRET~~

228

I am unable to find evidence to support the painful allegation made in your letter that the four British officers who accompanied Mr. MARTYNOWICZ failed to do all in their power to protect him. I have satisfied myself that they did their utmost to shield him from his assailants and that but for their decisive and tactful action, together with the competent intervention of the Polish Military Police, the incident might have had even more serious consequences.

I much regret that the telephone message passed to your Embassy did not describe the incident in its correct perspective. I understand that this was partly due to the indifferent telephone communication between BARI and ROME, partly to language difficulties and partly to the reluctance of the caller to pass a full report over a public line.

In conclusion, I wish to express to your Excellency my profound sympathy with the victim of this regrettable incident, and to inform you that the Senior British Officer at BARLETTA Camp has been instructed to take all possible steps to bring to justice those of Mr. MARTYNOWICZ's assailants who can definitely be identified. At the same time I am sure your Excellency will agree with me in deprecating the publication of the misleading accounts of the incident which have appeared in the Italian Press.

-0-0-0-0-

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

785017

1906

CONFIDENTIAL

~~SECRET~~

0-0-0-0-0

2225
~~SECRET~~ 21

Ex Comm

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
FEB 13 1946

Subject: Incident during visit of Polish
Embassy Representative to the
Allied Commission, London, W.C.2.

To : The Under Secretary of State,
War Office (Civil Affairs),
Hotel Victoria,
Northumberland Avenue,
London, W.C.2.

Copy to: Headquarters, Allied Commission,
Rome.

1. Reference is made to this Headquarters signal FX 60245 of 6 February 1946, which conveyed an interim report on an incident which occurred at the BARLATA Camp for Polish Displaced Persons when a representative of the Polish Embassy, Rome, was assaulted.
2. Attached are 2 copies of the full report on the incident, which has been compiled from the evidence of Colonel C.B. FINLAY, the Director of the Displaced Persons Sub-Commission, Allied Commission, and Major N.A. CHIFFINIS-JONES of 26 British Liaison Unit, both of whom were eye-witnesses of the incident.

F. G. A. Parsons
F. G. A. PARSONS,
Brigadier,
Acting Lieutenant General,
Commander-in-Chief, Madhya Pradesh

Encls:

1. Reference is made to this Headquarters signal FK 60243 of 6 February 1946, which conveyed an interim report on an incident which occurred at the BARLINTA Camp for Polish Displaced Persons when a representative of the Polish Embassy, Rome, was assaulted.
2. Attached are 2 copies of the full report on the incident, which has been compiled from the evidence of Colonel C.B. FINDLAY, the Director of the Displaced Persons Sub-Commission, Allied Commission, and Major N.A. GRIFFITHS-JONES of 26 British Liaison Unit, both of whom were eye-witnesses of the incident.

Encs: 2
as above

F. G. A. Parsons
F. G. A. PARSONS,
Brigadier,
Lieutenant General,
Commander-in-Chief, Med Theatre
1805

Copy to Displaced Persons Sec 14 Feb

CONFIDENTIAL

[Signature]

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

20/

~~SECRET~~ CONFIDENTIAL

IN ORDER TO PREVENT THE DISSEMINATION OF THIS
INFORMATION TO THE PUBLIC, THE INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED AND IS NOT TO BE RELEASED
TO THE PUBLIC WITHOUT THE WRITTEN AUTHORIZATION OF THE
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.

A general request was made by the Polish Embassy in November 1945 for Polish Representatives to visit Polish Refugees in D.P. camps. On December 4th, 1945 a written request was received from the Polish

December 1945 some 1,200 Polish civilians were repatriated from this camp.

3. On the instructions of AFHQ, the resources and assistance of 2 Polish Corps were enlisted in the administration of these camps.

a. The camps are commanded by a British officer representing the Allied Commission with a small staff.

b. The Polish civilian inmates have themselves set up their own administrative organization and a series of committees, eg: BALTIC and TRANSIT each have a Mayor and Council elected by the inmates. The British Commandants' orders are executed through these duly elected representatives and committees.

c. Control of the camp remained vested in the Allied Commission. 2 Polish Corps provides the Medical Staff and equipment of one 600 bedded hospital, engineers, Supply and Transport personnel, detachment of military police, and educational and welfare personnel.

4. Origin of the Visit.

A general request was made by the Polish Embassy in November 1945 for Polish Representatives to visit Polish Refugees in D.P. camps. On December 4th, 1945 a written request was received from the Polish Embassy asking permission to visit the Polish Displaced Persons in the refugee centres at BARLETUA and TRANSIT.

After discussion with the British Political Adviser to AFHQ, a reply was sent agreeing to the request, provided the representative was accompanied by Col. Hindley or Col. Fothergill (the Director and Deputy Director of the Displaced Persons and Repatriation Sub-Commission, Allied Commission).

On 16th January 1946: the Polish Embassy wrote and asked if the necessary arrangements had been made for the visit.

On 25th January 1946: the Polish Embassy was informed that Col. Hindley proposed to visit the camps during the first week in February.

On 28th January 1946: the Councillor of the Polish Embassy called personally at Headquarters of D.P. & R Sub-Commission and arrangements for

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

the visit were discussed. It was suggested that it was informed that, owing to the difficulty of obtaining only 2 could be agreed to.

On 29th January 1946: the Polish Embassy wrote nominating three representatives.

On 30th January 1946: the Councillor of the Polish Embassy was warned verbally as to the feeling in the Polish Camps. He was also informed that it was considered essential that their representatives should be escorted by British officers and that a third representative might make the party inconveniently large.

He was also informed verbally at this point that General AUBREY had issued personal orders to the Military Personnel who were assisting in the running of the camp to give every assistance to the visit.

On 31st January 1946: the Polish Embassy wrote appreciating the desirability of the visit but suggested that a Secretary would best represent the Embassy rather than that it should take the form of an official visit.

On 1st February 1946: after consultation with the British Political Adviser one representative was agreed to.

5. Preliminaries to the Visit.

Owing to the explosive material in the camp amongst the Civilian Refugees, many of whose relatives had been killed, it was considered that every possible precaution should be taken, apart from an actual armed escort with the Representative which would nullify the effect of a personal visit.

The following is an outline of the preliminary precautions taken on February 4th and 5th.

2. The whole camp was informed by loudspeakers of the proposed visit. All persons were instructed to maintain order and make no demonstration as the representative was under the protection of the British. A clear statement was made that no efforts would be allowed to force any refugee to return to Poland.

3. A Polish Civilian Camp Official spoke to a 1,000 people in each camp stressing the reasons that there should be no demonstration whatever.

5. Preliminaries to the Visit.

Owing to the explosive material in the camp amongst the Civilian Refugees, many of whose relatives had been killed, it was considered that every possible precaution should be taken, apart from an actual armed escort with the Representative which would nullify the effect of a personal visit.

The following is an outline of the preliminary precautions taken on February 4th and 5th.

- a. The whole camp was informed by loudspeakers of the proposed visit. All persons were instructed to maintain order and make no demonstration as the representative was under the protection of the British. A clear statement was made that no efforts would be allowed to force any refugee to return to Poland.
- b. A Polish Civilian Camp Official spoke to a 1,000 people in each camp stressing the reasons that there should be no demonstration whatever.
- c. The Polish Military Commandant held a conference of all Chief Officers and representatives of the Civilian Camp Committee. He stressed General ANDERS' directive forbidding demonstrations of any description. These orders were also relayed by loudspeakers to the Civilian Block Commanders. He also issued instructions to all Priests and the Heads of Polish Institutes in the area on the necessity of maintaining order.

d. Col. Findley, Director of D.P. & R Sub-Commission with 1603 British officers who were to accompany him, spent the whole of the 5th February visiting all parts of the camp with the following objects:

- (1) To ensure himself that all possible precautions were in hand.
- (2) To show himself and the British officers with him to the inmates to ensure that they would be recognised next day.

The British officers, on the 5th, were given an almost

785017

embarrassingly warm reception and a fine line given messages of thanks to ARMQ. British courtesy was fully appreciated. A resolution in writing from the Civilian Social Council was presented that they would do their utmost to maintain order.

6. The immediate precautions taken on 6th February were as follows:

- a. 2 of the Civilian Camp Police were stationed in each Block.
- b. The Polish Military Police Unit was held in reserve in the Guard Room.
- c. The Male Youth Group in the "Trades Training School", carried out their programme, which involved all of them being out of the camp for the period of the visit.

7. Visit of the Polish Representative to BARLETTA Camp on the 5th.

The Polish Representative arrived with Col. Findlay in his car and was duly introduced to the Civilian Polish Camp "Mayor", who was to accompany him on his visit and also the 2 officers of the camp. An officer of 26 BUU was in attendance at the request of General ANDERS. The "Mayor" shook hands and conducted the party to the Social Council Offices where the Representative was introduced and shook hands with those present.

From there the Representative was conducted to various camp activities where the Heads of Depts shook hands or bowed.

During this time there was no followers or any sounds of protest.

The Party then proceeded to a married quarters block; some cries of "Russian" etc. were heard, and a small crowd followed the Party.

Inside the married quarters a young civilian said something and a woman then said with great emotion "How can I return to my Father and Mother when they were killed in Siberia."

A scuffle then ensued which was quelled by the "Mayor" and the British officers with the Civilian Police helping. It was decided to proceed towards the main camp exit. A crowd of some 200 had collected and there was great excitement and shouting. Eventually there was a rush and attempts were made to strike the Representative. Some of the blows were ward off by the British officers and the "Mayor". Some persons succeeded in striking the Representative. Matters were becoming increasingly serious in striking the Representative. Matters were becoming increasingly serious and acting excellently and decisively.

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

785 017

8. Conclusion.

a. The visit took place as the result of several requests of the Polish Embassy. A refusal to allow the visit would have resulted in misrepresentations being made on the part of the Polish Embassy as to the attitude of the refugees. It was not considered desirable to refuse the request.

COMPLET

8. Conclusion.

CONFIDENTIAL

d. The incident was spontaneous and not premeditated. Any allegation that General AMERS was behind it is absurd, since none of his soldiers were present and his writ on orders, carried by a British officer, were implicitly obeyed.

9. Subsequent Action.

Instructions have been issued to the British Camp Commandant that all possible steps are to be taken to bring to justice any of the assailants who can be definitely identified.

Ch. 11

11 February 1966.

QUESTION

2461

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

785017

C.M.F.

11 February 1946.

—○—○—○—○—○—

CONFIDENTIAL

1301

~~SECRET~~

2225
~~SECRET~~

CFF/edg

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
DISPLACED PERSONS AND REPATRIATION SUB COMMISSION

DPR/9/G-II(DP)

Tel 489081 Ext 379.

13 February 1946

SUBJECT: Incident at Polish Refugee Camps - BARLETTA and TRANI

TO : Executive Commissioner

1. Attached herewith report in draft form as requested by G-5, AFHQ and submitted on 11 February 1946.

2. At the same time a draft reply to the Polish Ambassador's note was submitted to Brigadier Parsons, G-5 AFHQ. This reply will be considered at AFHQ by POLAD American and British and forwarded to Allied Commission.

For the Director:

C. Fothergill
C. F. FOTHERGILL,
Lt. Colonel,
Deputy Director.

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

DRAFT

Report on the circumstances in which the Second Secretary of the Polish Embassy at ROME while making a visit was removed for his own personal safety from BARLETTA Camp for Displaced Persons.

1. Introduction.

After the cessation of hostilities, arrangements had to be made throughout ITALY for the reception and accommodation of Displaced Persons. The policy was laid down that, so far as possible, Displaced Persons would be concentrated by nationalities.

2. In line with this policy, and in accordance with the instructions of Field Marshal Alexander, the Polish Displaced Persons were concentrated in two Assembly Centres in the area of BARLETTA and TRANI. Those Poles who stated they wished to return to Poland were sent to a Camp in Northern Italy to await repatriation. Subsequently any Poles expressing a wish to return home have been sent to this Camp. During December 1945 some 1,200 Polish civilians were repatriated to Poland from this camp.

3. On the instructions of AFHQ, the resources and assistance of 2 Polish Corps were enlisted in the establishment of these camps.

- a. The camps are commanded by a British officer representing the Allied Commission with a small staff.
- b. The Polish civilian inmates have themselves set up their own administrative organisation and a series of committees, e.g; BARLETTA and TRANI each have a Mayor and Council selected by the inmates. The British Commandants orders are executed through these duly selected representatives and committees.

return to Poland were sent to a Camp in Northern Italy to await repatriation. Subsequently any Poles expressing a wish to return home have been sent to this Camp. During December 1945 some 1,200 Polish civilians were repatriated to Poland from this camp.

3. On the instructions of AFHQ, the resources and assistance of 2 Polish Corps were enlisted in the establishment of these camps.

a. The camps are commanded by a British officer representing the Allied Commission with a small staff.

b. The Polish civilian inmates have themselves set up their own administrative organization and a series of committees, e.g.; BAFLETTA and TRANI each have a Mayor and Council selected by the inmates. The British Commandants orders are executed through these duly selected representatives and committees.

c. Control of the camp remained vested in the Allied Commission. 2 Polish Corps provides the Medical Staff and equipment of one 600 bedded hospital, engineers, supply and transport personnel, detachment of military police, and educational and welfare personnel.

4. Origin of the Visit.

A general request was made in November 1945 for Polish Representatives to visit Polish Refugees in D.P. Camps. On December 4th, 1945 a written request was received from the Polish Embassy asking permission to visit the Polish Displaced Persons in the refugee centres at BAFLETTA and TRANI.

After discussion with Polad, a reply was sent agreeing to the request,

6
provided the representative was accompanied by Col. Findlay or Col. Fothergill (The Director and Deputy Director of the Displaced Persons and Repatriation Sub-commission, Allied Commission).

On 16th January 1946: The Polish Embassy wrote and asked if the necessary arrangements had been made for the visit.

On 25th January 1946: The Polish Embassy was informed that Col. Findlay proposed to visit the camps during the first week in February.

On 28th January 1946: The Counsellor of the Polish Embassy called personally at Headquarters of D.P. & R. Subcommission and arrangements for the visit were discussed. He suggested 3 representatives, but was informed that owing to the difficulty of obtaining air passage, only two could be agreed to.

On 29th January 1946: The Polish Embassy wrote nominating three representatives.

On 30th January 1946: The Counsellor of the Polish Embassy was informed verbally that owing to the feeling in the Polish Camps it was considered essential that their representative should be escorted by British Officers and that a third representative might present serious difficulties.

He was also informed verbally at this point that General ANDERS had issued personal orders to the Military Personnel who were assisting in the running of the Camp to give every assistance to the visit.

On 31st January 1946: The Polish Embassy wrote appreciating the desirability of the visit but suggested that a Secretary would best represent the Embassy rather than an official visit.

On 1st February 1946: After consultation with POLAD one representative was agreed to.

5. Preliminaries to the visit.

Owing to the explosive material in the camp amongst the civilian refugees,

On 29th January 1946: The Polish Embassy wrote nominating three representatives.

On 30th January 1946: The Counsellor of the Polish Embassy was informed verbally that owing to the feeling in the Polish Camps it was considered essential that their representative should be escorted by British Officers and that a third representative might present serious difficulties.

He was also informed verbally at this point that General ANDERS had issued personal orders to the Military Personnel who were assisting in the running of the Camp to give every assistance to the visit.

On 31st January 1946: The Polish Embassy wrote appreciating the desirability of the visit but suggested that a Secretary would best represent the Embassy rather than an official visit.

On 1st February 1946: After consultation with POLAD one representative was agreed to.

5. Preliminaries to the visit.

Owing to the explosive material in the camp amongst the civilian refugees, many of whose relatives had been killed, it was considered that every possible precaution should be taken, apart from an actual immediate armed escort, with the representative, which would nullify the effect of a personal visit.

The following is an outline of the preliminary precautions taken on
February 4th and 5th. 1598

a. The whole camp was informed by loudspeaker of the proposed visit. All persons were instructed to maintain order and make no demonstration as the representative was under the protection of the British. A clear statement was made that no efforts would be allowed to force any refugee to return to Poland.

b. The Polish Director of Education spoke to 1,000 people in each camp, stressing the reasons that there should be no demonstration whatever.

c. The Polish Military Commandant held a conference of all Chief Officers and representatives of the Civilian Self Government. He stressed General ANDERS' directive forbidding demonstrations of any description. These orders were also relayed by loudspeakers to the Civilian Block Commanders. He also issued instructions to all Priests and Polish institutes in the area on the necessity of maintaining order.

d. Col. Findlay, Director of D.P. & R.S.C., with the British Officers who were to accompany him, spent the whole of the 5th February visiting all parts of the camp, with the following objects:

- (1) To ensure himself that all possible precautions were in hand.
- (2) To show himself and the British Officers with him to the inmates to ensure that they would be recognised next day.

The British Officers, on the 5th, were given an almost embarrassingly warm reception everywhere. Col. Findlay was also given messages of thanks to AFHQ, British Embassy and Allied Commission. A resolution in writing from the Civilian Social Council gave assurance that they would do their utmost to maintain order.

6. The immediate precautions taken on 6th February were as follows:

- a. Two of the Civilian Camp Police were stationed in each Block.
- b. The Polish Military Police Unit was held in reserve in the Guard Room.
- c. The Male Youth Group in the "Trades Training School", carried out their programme, which involved all of them being out of the camp for the period of the visit.

The British Officers, on the 5th, were given an almost embarrassingly warm reception everywhere. Col. Findlay was also given messages of thanks to AFHQ, British Embassy and Allied Commission. A resolution in writing from the Civilian Social Council gave assurance that they would do their utmost to maintain order.

6. The immediate precautions taken on 6th February were as follows:

- a. Two of the Civilian Camp Police were stationed in each Block.
- b. The Polish Military Police Unit was held in reserve in the Guard Room.
- c. The Male Youth Group in the "Trades Training School", carried out their programme, which involved all of them being out of the camp for the period of the visit.

7. Visit of the Polish Representative to BARLETTA Camp on the 5th.

The Polish Representative arrived with Col. Findlay in his car and was duly introduced to the Civilian Polish Camp "Mayor", who was to accompany him on his visit and also the two officers of the camp. An officer of 26 ELU was in attendance at the request of General ANDERS. The "Mayor" shook hands and conducted the representatives to the Social Council Officers where the representative was introduced and shook hands with those present.

From there the Representative was conducted to various camp activities where the Heads of Depts shook hands or bowed.

During this time there were no followers or any sounds of protest.

4
The party then proceeded to a married quarters block, some cries of "Russian" etc. were heard, a small crowd followed the party.

Inside the married quarters a young civilian said something and a woman then said with great emotion "How can I return to my Father and Mother when they were killed in Siberia".

A scuffle then ensued which was quelled by the "Mayor" and the British Officers with the Civilian Police helping. It was decided to proceed towards the main camp exit. A crowd of some 200 had collected and there was great excitement and shouting. Eventually there was a rush and attempts made to strike the Representative. Some of the blows were warded off by the British Officers and the "Mayor". Some persons succeeded in striking the Representative. Matters were becoming increasingly serious when the Polish Military Police appeared and acting excellently and effectively escorted the representative to the car.

Two British Officers went with him while the other two stayed behind to delay and restrain the crowd. The Representative unfortunately had received a visible blow on his forehead and eye and had also been kicked on the leg. There is no doubt he received other blows although Major Owen, the Camp Commandant, and other officers guarded his back continuously while the "Mayor" was on his left and Col. Findlay was on his right. The Polish speaking British Officer whose presence had been arranged was unfortunately unavoidably absent.

8. Conclusion.

a. The visit took place as the result of several requests of the Polish Embassy. A refusal to allow the visit would have resulted in misrepresentations being made on the part of the Polish Embassy as to the attitude of the refugees. It was not considered desirable to refuse the request.

Two British officers. The Representative unfortunately had received a blow on his forehead and eye and had also been kicked on the leg. There is no doubt he received other blows although Major Owen, the Camp Commandant, and other officers guarded his back continuously while the "Mayor" was on his left and Col. Pindlay was on his right. The Polish speaking British Officer whose presence had been arranged was unfortunately unavoidably absent.

8. Conclusion.

- a. The visit took place as the result of several requests of the Polish Embassy. A refusal to allow the visit would have resulted in misrepresentations being made on the part of the Polish Embassy as to the attitude of the refugees. It was not considered desirable to refuse the request.
- b. Every reasonable precaution to prevent an incident and to protect the Representative of the Polish Embassy was taken.
- c. The Polish Military Police behaved admirably and came to the assistance of the Representative as soon as they saw the crowd getting out of hand.
- d. The incident was spontaneous and not premeditated. Any allegation that General ANDERS was behind it is absurd, since none of his soldiers were present and his written orders, carried by a British Officer, were implicitly obeyed.

13 Feb. 46.

¹²²⁵
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

3
OFF/aru

IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE
APR 308

DISPLACED PERSONS AND REPATRIATION SUB COMMISSION

WPA/9/6-11107).

Vol 18/082 Ext 379.

13 February 1946

FEB 14 1946

SUBJECT:- Incident at Polish Refugee Camps - BARCZKA and TRANI.

TO:- U.S.A., Embassy, Rome.
British Embassy, Rome.
POLAR (A) Allied Commission.
POLAR (B) Allied Commission.
G-3, A.P.S.

1. The attached copy of an apology from the Social Committee, BARCZKA and TRANI Camps addressed to COMPTON G. B. FURLEY, Director, D.P. and R. Sub Commission is forwarded for information.

2. On the day following the incident, all the refugees assembled and individually made apology for the incident to Major Gen. Officer in Command BARCZKA and TRANI Camps.

For the Director.

(Ffolkes)

G. B. FURLEY,
Lt. Colonel,
Deputy Director.

Copy to: Executive Commissioner,
Allied Commission.

CONFIDENTIAL

2872

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

785017

2

REF.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

POLISH SETTLEMENTS IN ITALY

February 6, 1946.

Dear Colonel Findlay,

As chairman of the Social Committee of Polish Refugees in the Polish Settlements and of the Barletta Camp we hasten to convey to you our most sincere apologies that you should have been subject to the deplorable incidents which took place this morning.

To avoid any such occurrences we had held a number of meetings not only of the Social Committee but also of block seniors and heads of various social organizations to ensure that the necessity of keeping a dignified bearing during the visit of the representative of the Polish Provisional Government should be made apparent to all individuals in the Camp. We regret deeply that owing to the nervous tension of some of the inmates of the camp we failed to accomplish this purpose and particularly that the disturbances took the form of physical violence. It is a matter of even more regret to us that British Officers should have been subject to these incidents.

Yours sincerely

777

Vice-President

777

President

Colonel C. B. FINDLAY CBE MC
DP & R Subcommission
Allied Commission

R O M E

1594

Note for file.

Col. Fothergill returned from AFHQ 11 February to report on what action taken by AFHQ. British Embassy NOT taking any action. American Embassy have not had the letter from Polish Ambassador. Answer to Polish Ambassador's letter to go from AC direct and not through Embassies.

12 Feb. 46.

H.S.

CSO.

Ref: 2225/EC.

14 February 1946.

Your Excellency:

I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 9/23/46 dated 8th February 1946, addressed to Admiral Stone, and to express my sympathy with Mr. Martynowicz for the injuries suffered by him.

I am studying a report on the incidents submitted to me by the Displaced Persons Sub-Commission and will reply to your letter in detail in the course of the next few days.

Yours sincerely,

M.S. LUSH

Brigadier,
Acting Chief Commissioner.

His Excellency H. Kok,
Polish Ambassador,
Polish Embassy,
ROME.

MSL/JG.

2225 41
ADVANCED ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
LIAISON SECTION

Rome, 9th February, 1946.

Tels.

PRIVATE AND PERSONAL.

6 6 3 4 7

6 6 3 4 6

To Brigadier M. Lush. CBE.MC.

FEB 11 1946

Allied Commission.

Subject ; MARTYNOWICZ Polish incident at Barletta.

1. I enclose herewith extracts and comments on two newspaper articles dealing with this incident, for your information.

The allegations against the Polish Corps contained in the GIORNALE DEL MATTINO are serious, and may have to be considered at the same time as the interview given to UNITA by Colonel SIDOR.

2. Colonel Findlay was present when the incident took place at Barletta.

3. I understand that a report is being prepared at AFHQ which may go to high level, Foreign Office, State Department etc.

Th. de Falco Lt. Colonel.

2476
to Lt. Colonel Count de Salis

ADVANCED ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
LIAISON SECTION

Rome, Saturday 9th February, 1946

AFL. 3 2 3

To ; Liaison Section. AFHQ.CMF.

Subject ; MARTYNOWICZ Polish incident at BARLETTA.

ESPRESSO.

1. In the Italian newspaper ESPRESSO of Friday 8th February last night, there is an article on the incident which I translate as below ;

" IT IS NOT THE AMBASSADORE FAULT.

BUT THE FIVE AGGRESSORS DO NOT KNOW THE PENAL CODE

A Polish Diplomat was attacked yesterday and " furiously " beaten-up by five unknown men for reasons also unknown. He is called Taddeus MARTINOWICZ, born at WARSAW, 33 years old, and lives in Rome at VIA MONTEDORO 16.

About ten oclock last night (Thursday 7th February, the a/n Diplomat was quietly walking in VIA BARI when five men approached him, and very speedily without uttering a word rained on him numerous blows with sticks.

The wretched man lost consciousness. The motive for the aggression is completely unknown. The a/n Diplomat recovered consciousness after ten minutes with his forehead enormously swollen. He also had two ~~symmetrical~~ perfectly symmetrical bruises on each eye for which he was taken to the HOSPITAL SAN GIACOMO.

2. GIORNALE DEL MATTINO. Saturday 9th February, 1946.

A POLISH DIPLOMAT ATTACKED BY COMPATRIOTS AT BARLETTA.

" The ANSA Agency circulates the following communique from the Polish Information Agency P.A.P. "

On the invitation of the Allied Commission, Mr. Taddeus Martinowicz, attache to the Polish Embassy in Rome, went to the camp at BARLETTA where Polish citizens, ex-Prisoners of War of the Germans, are quartered.

While Mr. Martinowicz, accompanied by four Senior British Officers of the Allied Commission was visiting the camp, and conversing with the ex-prisoners

1946
M

1390

he was attacked by a group of individuals, of whom some were in POLISH

Military Uniform.

From the way in which the incident occurred, it clearly appears that the attack was most carefully prepared by the Polish Command of the Camp, which Command depends on the the Allied Commission, but which is in practice (in fact) under the exclusive control of the 2nd Polish Corps.

It is evident that the 2nd Polish Corps, in view of their early dissolution, is endeavouring to vindicate themselves by acts of barbarous aggression.

It is with similar acts of " propaganda " that this Corps is seeking to force the Poles who have sought refuge in the Camps to remain in Italy. "

3. I happened to meet Mr. Malcolm this morning, and I informed him that this matter was being reported to the State Department of the U.S. He thought that the Foreign Office would have to be informed in addition, i.e. with regard to the whole incident.

Th. de Falis
Lt. Colonel

2225/40
K
CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
DISPLACED PERSONS AND REPATRIATION SUB-COMMISSION.

DPW/9/8-II (DP)

Tel. 489081 Ext. 301

9 February 1946.

SUBJECT: Incident at Polish Refugee Camps at BARLETTA and TRANI.

TO : U.S. Embassy, Rome.
British Embassy, Rome.
POLAD (A) A.C..
POLAD (Pr.) A.C..
G-5 Section. A.F.H.C..

1. Attached herewith for your information sequence of events regarding visit of Polish Representative to Polish Refugee Camps at BARLETTA and TRANI.

For the Director.

C. F. FOTHERGILL.
Lt. Colonel.
Deputy Director.

Copy to:

Executive Commissioner. —
Allied Commission.

1588

(COPY B)

2479

785017

Sequence of events regarding visit of Polish representative to the Polish Camps at BARLETIA and TRAMT.

Date	To	Letter	Subject
31 Oct.	A.C. Travel Order		Visit by Mr. WYKREKAL and Mr. SIKAS, Polish Embassy, to Polish D.P.s at BUCOVIA Camp.
8 Nov.	Polish Embassy	DPASC	General request to approach Polish refugees in D.P. Camps.
4 Dec.	Polish Embassy	DPASC	Written request to permit representative of the Polish Embassy to visit the Polish displaced persons in BARLETIA and TRAMT Camps.
5 Dec.	DPASC	Polish Embassy	Reply by DPASC to Polish Embassy agreeing to representatives visiting BARLETIA and TRAMT if accompanied by either Colonel FINDLAY or Lt. Colonel F. THORNTON. As these two officers are away, no action can be taken until their return.
16 Jan.	Polish Embassy	DPASC	Polish Embassy referred to their letter of 5 December 1945 and asked if the necessary arrangements have already been made.
25 Jan.	DPASC	Polish Embassy	Letter stating Colonel FINDLAY proposed to visit Camps at BARLETIA and TRAMT during first week in February and asking the Polish representatives to discuss arrangements.
26 Jan.	DPASC	Polish Liaison Officer, 2 POL-GRPS	Letter requesting co-operation and directive regarding the avoidance of factors likely to cause disturbances.
29 Jan.	Polish Embassy	DPASC	Letter nominating 3 members of party.
31 Jan.	Polish Embassy	DPASC	Letter stating that Polish Embassy appreciated the desirability of the visit to BARLETIA and TRAMT, but suggested

2480

785017

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

16 Jan.	Polish Embassy	DPSC	Polish Embassy referred to their letter of 5 December 1945 and asked if the necessary arrangements have already been made.
25 Jan.	DPSC	Polish Embassy	Letter stating Colonel FINDLAY proposed to visit Camps at BARIKATA and TRANI during first week in February and asking the Polish Representatives to discuss arrangements.
26 Jan.	DPSC	Polish Liaison Officer, 2 POL-CORPS	Letter requesting co-operation and directive regarding the avoidance of factors likely to cause disturbances.
29 Jan.	Polish Embassy	DPSC	Letter nominating 3 members of party.
31 Jan.	Polish Embassy	DPSC	Letter stating that Polish Embassy appreciated the desirability of the visit to BARIKATA and TRANI, but suggested that a Secretary would best represent the Embassy, rather than an official visit of the Polish Embassy delegates.
6 Feb.	CHQ. CEF.	Troopers	Interim report on incident at BARIKATA and TRANI.

1557

AMBASSADE DE POLOGNE
& ROME

Via Virgilio 44
Tel. 35061

No. 9/23/46
WV/HS

Your Excellency

FEB 11 1946

FR 9 - RDT

Received February 8th 1946

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

I wish to draw your special attention to the deplorable incident which occurred last Wednesday during the visit of an Embassy's representative to Barletta-Franchi Camps of Displaced Persons.

On January 20th the Polish Embassy was informed by a telephone call from the Displaced Persons and Repatriation Sub-Commission, Allied Commission, that a visit to these camps for the Embassy's representatives had been prepared.

The Embassy had requested many times since October last to be acquainted with the conditions in which D.P., Polish citizens, lived in different camps under the control of Allied Commission, and possibly to visit these camps and have the opportunity to approach directly the Polish inmates there. The question of the Barletta-Franchi camps where, according to the information obtained from A.C., a considerable number of Poles were concentrated, had been especially put forward.

Last December, the Embassy received a letter dated December 5th from D.P. & R.S.C. (copy enclosed) stating the visit would take place shortly and the Embassy's representatives would be accompanied by the Director or the Sub-Director of the Sub-Commission.

Receiving no further news on the subject, the Embassy reiterated this request in a letter sent to the Sub-Commission on January 16th 1946 (copy enclosed).

The above mentioned telephone call was the result of this last letter.

The Sub-Commission proposed the date of the visit for February 6th, which was agreed to, and consequently the Embassy communicated the names of the Embassy's delegates by a letter sent to A.C. on January 20th (copy enclosed). The delegates were to be accompanied by the Director of the Sub-Commission, Col. Mindley.

incident under consideration. Representative to Barletta-Trani Camps of Displaced Persons.

On January 28th the Polish Embassy was informed by a telephone call from the Displaced Persons and Repatriation Sub-Commission, Allied Commission, that a visit to these camps for the Embassy's representatives had been prepared.

The Embassy had requested many times since October last to be acquainted with the conditions in which D.P., Polish citizens, lived in different camps under the control of Allied Commission, and possibly to visit these camps and have the opportunity to approach directly the Polish inmates there. The question of the Barletta-Trani camps where, according to the information obtained from A.C., a considerable number of Poles were concentrated, had been especially put forward.

Last December, the Embassy received a letter dated December 5th from D.P. & R.S.C. (copy enclosed) stating the visit would take place shortly and the Embassy's representatives would be accompanied by the Director or the Sub-Director of the Sub-Commission.

Receiving no further news on the subject, the Embassy reiterated this request in a letter sent to the Sub-Commission on January 16th 1946 (copy enclosed).

The above mentioned telephone call was the result of this last letter.

The Sub-Commission proposed the date of the visit for February 6th, which was agreed to, and consequently the Embassy communicated the names of the Embassy's delegates by a letter sent to A.C. on January 29th (copy enclosed). The delegates were to be accompanied by the Director of the Sub-Commission, Col. Findlay.

On January 30th, there was a new telephone call from the Sub-Commission to inform the Embassy, that the number of delegates should be limited to two persons only. At first technical reasons were put forward to explain this.

His Excellency

Admiral E.W. Stone

Chief Commissioner in Allied Commission

R O M E

(copy)

785017

- 2 -

The number of representatives being very important to enable a direct approach of inmates in so large a camp as that of Barletta-Trani, the Embassy consequently asked for more detailed information.

These had been given during the subsequent meeting which took place on Thursday, January 11st, between the representatives of the D.P. & R.S.C. Col. Findlay, and Major Simcock on one part, and the Embassy's Counsellor Mr. W. Wyszynski on the other.

The general conditions in the Camps, as they were exposed by the representatives of the A.C. did not seem suitable to Mr. Wyszynski for an official visit of an Embassy's delegation to Barletta-Trani, and this for many reasons.

I shall enumerate only some of them. First of all it was made to understand that these Camps were ruled in fact by Poles (it means, by the II Polish Army Corps), and the number of British Officers attached to the D.P. & R.S.C. in the area amounted to two persons only and these appeared in the camps only incidentally. Then the outlooks for a direct approach of the inmates on account of their number were rather poor. Finally even the question of personal security of the Embassy's delegates was put forward and given as a reason for the limitation of their number to two only.

Nevertheless, the D.P. & R.S.C. representatives insisted many times on the fact, that the moment for an "approach" between the inmates and the Embassy was apparently exceptionally favourable, and that the visit would certainly be a success. It was even mentioned, that the II Polish Army Corps's authorities have agreed not to oppose to the visit.

In these circumstances, Mr. Wyszynski, who at first proposed to postpone the visit to Barletta-Trani camps, because of the above mentioned difficulties, finally agreed to consult me on the course to be taken.

In consequence of the consultation, which took place at the Embassy on the same day, a letter exposing the Embassy's point of view was sent at once (copy enclosed). *VB*

In this letter the Embassy reiterated the opinion, that although it did not consider the moment to be a favourable one for an official visit of a delegation, taking into consideration the views expressed by the A.C. representatives, the Embassy would be ready to envisage the possibility to send one of its members to the Barletta-Trani camps, in company of Col. Findlay.

In answer to a telephone call from the D.P. & R.S.C. (February 1st), the same of Mr. Wyszynski.

at Habsburg. In the camps only incidentally. Then the outlooks for a direct approach of the inmates on account of their number were rather poor. Finally even the question of personal security of the Embassy's delegates was put forward and given as a reason for the limitation of their number to two only.

Nevertheless, the D.P. & R.S.C. representatives insisted many times on the fact, that the moment for an "approach" between the inmates and the Embassy was apparently exceptionally favourable, and that the visit would certainly be a success. It was even mentioned, that the II Polish Army Corps's authorities have agreed not to oppose to the visit.

In these circumstances, Mr. Wyszynski, who at first proposed to postpone the visit to Barletta-Trani camps, because of the above mentioned difficulties, finally agreed to consult me on the course to be taken.

In consequence of the consultation, which took place at the Embassy on the same day, a letter exposing the Embassy's point of view was sent at once (copy enclosed). ⁶

In this letter the Embassy reiterated the opinion, that although it did not consider the moment to be a favourable one for an official visit of a delegation, taking into consideration the views expressed by the A.C. representatives, the Embassy would be ready to envisage the possibility to send one of its members to the Barletta-Trani camps, in company of Col. Pindlay.

In answer to a telephone call from the D.P. & R.S.C. (February 1-st), the name of Mr. T. Martynowicz was given.

On Saturday, February 2nd, there was again a short meeting in A.C. attended by Col. Pindlay, Lt. Col. Fothergill, Major Simcock, Mr. Wyszynski and Mr. Martynowicz.

The A.C. representatives once more reiterated their opinion, that the moment for such a visit was very favourable.

AMBASSADE DE POLOGNE

à ROME

No. 9/25/46

Rome February 8th 1946

- 3 -

The visit took place on February 6th, Mr. Martynowicz being accompanied by Col. Findlay, Major Owen, Opt. Eberstein from the A.C. and Lt. Col. Jones, Liaison Officer to the II Polish Army Corps.

In Barletta at first there were no incidents and the attitude of the inmates was quite correct, but later on in one of the barracks Mr. Martynowicz was insulted and assaulted by some individual. This was not all. Immediately afterwards he was again attacked and this time by a band of men and badly beaten in the presence of four British high rank officers, whose sight did not seem to impress very much the assailants. The Polish Military Police in British uniforms made finally appearance but only after the attacks had already taken place.

It is necessary to point out, that the men in the II Polish Army Corps's uniforms had been seen among the crowd shouting and insulting the Embassy's representative shortly before the whole incident occurred.

Naturally, the visit had to be interrupted. Mr. Martynowicz was put into a car and sent to Bari. He came to Rome by air yesterday and was examined by a doctor immediately after his return (copy of legal medical certificate enclosed).

It seems to me, that this regrettable incident, which I was obliged to report to my Government at once, is unfortunately a direct result of abnormal conditions, created by the fact, that the A.C. had given authority to some irresponsible Polish elements to exercise their power over a number of Polish citizens who should be under the direct care of the A.C. and whose contacts with the legal representatives of the Polish State should not be hampered.

There are in Barletta and Trani hundreds of General Anders's officers and men under pretext of either being occupied in the camps's administration or working in different institutions depending on the II Polish Army Corps and employed in these camps. The camps are militarily ruled and in the same time there are no signs of a real interference in the camp affairs on the part of the two above mentioned British Officers, Major Owen and Opt. Eberstein. There is also no doubt, that among persons who are to be found in the camps there are such who have as a matter of fact no right to be there not belonging to the category of Displaced Persons.

The unrepresented fact, that a representative of the Embassy on the

Police in British uniforms made finally appearance but only after the attacks had already taken place.

It is necessary to point out, that the men in the II Polish Army Corps's uniforms had been seen among the crowd shouting and insulting the Embassy's representative shortly before the whole incident occurred.

Naturally, the visit had to be interrupted. Mr. Martynowicz was put into a car and sent to Bari. He came to Rome by air yesterday and was examined by a doctor immediately after his return (copy of legal medical certificate enclosed).

It seems to me, that this regrettable incident, which I was obliged to report to my Government at once, is unfortunately a direct result of abnormal conditions, created by the fact, that the A.C. had given authority to some irresponsible Polish elements to exercise their power over a number of Polish citizens who should be under the direct care of the A.C. and whose contacts with the legal representatives of the Polish State should not be hampered.

There are in Barletta and Trani hundreds of General Anders's officers and men under pretext of either being occupied in the camps's administration or working in different institutions depending on the II Polish Army Corps and employed in these camps. The camps are militarily ruled and in the same time there are no signs of a real interference in the camp's affairs on the part of the two above mentioned British Officers, Major Owen and Opt. Eberstein. There is also no doubt, that among persons who are to be found in the camps there are such who have as a matter of fact no right to be there not belonging to the category of Displaced Persons.

The unprecedented fact, that a representative of the Embassy on the invitation of the A.C. and visiting a camp ruled in theory by the D.P. & A.S.C. in company of its representatives and a representative of the British Command, was brutally assaulted and beaten by an organized gang, makes any comments superfluous and shows clearly by itself, that decisive steps putting an end to such a situation must be immediately taken.

I would like to point out, that I have not the slightest intention to put in doubt the good faith of the A.C. representatives who organized this visit to Barletta-Trani camps, but at the same time I leave to your own judgement the fact whether the British officers who witnessed the scene and saw a disarmed man attacked have done on their own part all that should have been expected from them.

..

= 4 =

On the other hand, I have not the slightest doubt, that the attack against "Polish traitors and foreign agents" (as the members of my staff are daily called in the gen. Anders's press), was carefully prepared beforehand by the above mentioned irresponsible elements, who are governing Barletta-Franci camps on behalf of the A.C., without sufficient control on its part of what is happening there.

Also it does not seem to me, that the purport of the incident has been fully understood by persons concerned, because on February 6th, in the afternoon, the Embassy had a telephone call from the D.P. & R.S.C. to the purpose that the visit was "all right" and only "a slight incident without signification" had happened.

I hope Your Excellency will find that the matter is sufficiently important as a whole to be taken into serious consideration.

I am aware, that the Allied or British Authorities here are taking care of Poles, who for some reason or other do not wish to return to their country or to recognize the legal Polish Authorities for the time being.

But this fact does not seem to me a sufficient reason for the representatives of the Polish State to be exposed to brutal assaults, when exercising their duties and especially in full agreement with the Allied authorities and, as it was in Barletta, under their presumable protection.

5 enclosures.

THE AMBASSADOR

Yours very sincerely
S. V. Rost

6
co pia

7 febbraio 1946

PRONTO SOCCORSO - S. GIACOMO

Certifico che il 7.II.1946 a questo Pronto Soccorso è stato visitato il signor

MARTYNOWICZ Tadeusz di Filippo cui venivano riscontrate le seguenti lesioni:

Contusione di ambo le bozze frontali; Echinomi palpebrale bilaterale ed iperemia congiuntivale; Contusione escoriata al ginocchio destro.

Tutte le lesioni suddette venivano giudicate guaribili in dodici giorni, salvo complicazioni.

In carta libera

7 febbraio 1946

Dott. (firma illeggibile)

PRONTO SOCCORSO - S. GIACOMO

conforms all'originale:

AVRANCE PELLE POLICENTRO
L. BOMAR

Agree: translation

I certify that Signor Martynowicz Tadeusz
of Filippo was examined at the First Aid Post
and that the following

In carte libera

7. febbraio 1946

Dott. (firma illegibile)

PHOTO SCORRISO - S. GIACOMO

conforms all'originale:

ALBERTO POLLOCK

A ROMA

Agente: translation

I certify that Signer Martynowicz Tardus
of Filippo was examined at this point and that
on 7/12/46 was seen to have the following

injuries -

Bruises on the forehead

1564

Two black eyes

Eye infection of some description (conjunctivitis)

Open wound on right knee

All the above will be cured within 12 days.

except in any case of complications arising

AMBASSADE DE POLOGNE
à Rome

Via Virgilio 44
Tel. 35061

No. 9/34/46
MM/HS

C O P Y

Rome, January 31-st 1946

Confidential

With reference to the conversation between the Representatives of the Displaced Persons and Repatriation Subcommission Allied Commission and the representative of the Embassy on January 31-st on the subject of the visit of the Embassy's delegates to the Barletta and Trani Camps, the Polish Embassy has the honour to communicate as follows.

Unfortunately, it does not seem to the Embassy that the present circumstances as they were exposed by the Representatives of the Displaced Persons and Repatriation Subcommission could be considered as an adequate basis for an official visit of the Polish Embassy's delegates to these camps.

One of the essential factors of such a visit is a free and full opportunity to approach Polish citizens, inmates in the camps mentioned above.

However, taking into consideration the suggestions expressed by the Representatives of the Displaced Persons and Repatriation Subcommission that there are at present favourable conditions to enter into relations with the local camps' representatives, the Embassy would be inclined to envisage a possibility of sending one of its members to Barletta and Trani on this purpose.

The Embassy takes this opportunity to express its gratitude for all the efforts made by the Displaced Persons and Repatriation Subcommission in aim to resolve the delicate problem of Polish refugees in Italy. The Embassy is convinced that these efforts will greatly contribute in the future to find an adequate solution of this problem.

For the Ambassador

the Embassy on January 1st on the subject of the visit of the Embassy's delegates to the Barletta and Trani Camps, the Polish Embassy has the honour to communicate as follows.

Unfortunately, it does not seem to the Embassy that the present circumstances as they were exposed by the Representatives of the Displaced Persons and Repatriation Subcommission could be considered as an adequate basis for an official visit of the Polish Embassy's delegates to these camps.

One of the essential factors of such a visit is a free and full opportunity to approach Polish citizens, inmates in the camps mentioned above.

However, taking into consideration the suggestions expressed by the Representatives of the Displaced Persons and Repatriation Subcommission that there are at present favourable conditions to enter into relations with the local camps's representatives, the Embassy would be inclined to envisage a possibility of sending one of its members to Barletta and Trani on this purpose.

The Embassy takes this opportunity to express its gratitude for all the efforts made by the Displaced Persons and Repatriation Subcommission in aim to resolve the delicate problem of Polish refugees in Italy. The Embassy is convinced that these efforts will greatly contribute in the future to find an adequate solution of this problem.

For the Ambassador

/s/ W. Wyszynski
Counsellor

Displaced Persons and Repatriation Subcommission

Allied Commission

R C M E

in conformity:

ALL
ROMA

AMBASSADE DE POLOGNE

à Rome

Via Virgilio 44
Tel. 35061

No. 6/34/46
WW/HS.

Rome, January 29-th 1946

copy

E.

According to our conversation of yesterday, I would like to inform you, that the following persons will represent the Embassy during the visit to Barletta and Trani camps:

Mitold WISZNIEWSKI, Counsellor of the Embassy
Przemyslaw ORODZINSKI " " "
Stefan SLIMA, Attaché " " "

M. Wyszynski
Counsellor

Major V.E. Simcock

Displaced Persons and Repatriation Subcommission

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

785017

According to our conversation of yesterday, I would like to inform you, that the following persons will represent the Embassy during the visit to Barletta and Trani camps:

Witold WYSZYNSKI, Counsellor of the Embassy

Przemyslaw OGHODLINSKI " " "

Stefan SLEMA, Attaché " " "

W. Wyszynski
Counsellor

Major V.E. Simcock

Displaced Persons and Repatriation Subcommittee

Allied Commission Headquarters

E O M E

1562

in conformity:

AMBASSADE POLONOISE
A ROME

AMBASSADE DE POLOGNE

à ROME

Via Virgilio 44
Tel. 35061

No. 1/34/46
TW/HS

copy

Rome, January 15th 1946

I should highly appreciate if you would give me up-to-date information concerning the quarters of the Displaced Persons Camps in Italy with Polish inmates and the number of them in each of these camps.

Referring to your letter from December 5th 1945, NEW 9/
G-II (DP) on the subject of proposed visit of the representatives of Polish Embassy to Barietta and Trani Camps, could you kindly inform me if the necessary arrangements have been already made.

/s/ W. Wyszynski
Counsellor

Major V.E. Simcock

Headquarters Allied Commission

I should highly appreciate if you would give me up-to-date information concerning the quarters of the Displaced Persons Camps in Italy with Polish inmates and the number of them in each of these camps.

Referring to your letter from December 5th 1945, DPA/9/ C-II (DP) on the subject of proposed visit of the representatives of Polish Embassy to Barletta and Trani Camps, could you kindly inform me if the necessary arrangements have been already made.

W. WYSZYNSKI
Counselor

Major V.E. Simcock

Headquarters Allied Commission

Displaced Persons and Repatriation Subcommission

R O M E

1561

In conformity:
AMBASADE DE POLONE
ROME

COPY 9

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

APC 394

DISPLACED PERSONS AND REPARATION SUB COMMISSION

DER/9/G-II (DP)

Tel. 429081 Ext. 201

5 December 1945

SUBJECT: Proposed Visit of Polish Representatives to Barletta.

TO : The Polish Embassy,
44, Via Virgilio, Rome

1. Reference is made to your 30/25/45 dated 4 December 1945 in respect of arrangements being made for your Representatives to visit Barletta and Trani Camps on Saturday 7 December 1945.

2. It was agreed that either Colonel FINDLAY or Lt. Col. FOTHERGILL would accompany your Representatives on this special visit to the a/m D.P. Camps, but as the former is now in Northern Italy on temporary duty and the latter is in England, it is deeply regretted that this visit cannot be arranged until Col. FINDLAY returns to this Headquarters, when your request will be submitted for the necessary action to be taken.

3. You will be informed as soon as the necessary arrangements have been made for your Representatives to visit the a/m Camps.

For the Director

/s/ V.L. SIMCOCK
Major G-II

1730

1. Reference is made to your 30/25/45 dated 4 December 1945 in respect of arrangements being made for your Representatives to visit Barletta and Trani Camps on Saturday 7 December 1945.

2. It was agreed that either Colonel FINDLAY or Lt. Col. FOTHERGILL would accompany your Representatives on this special visit to the a/m D.P. Camps, but as the former is now in Northern Italy on temporary duty and the latter is in England, it is deeply regretted that this visit cannot be arranged until Col. FINDLAY returns to this Headquarters, when your request will be submitted for the necessary action to be taken.

3. You will be informed as soon as the necessary arrangements have been made for your Representatives to visit the a/m Camps.

For the Director

/s/ V.E. Simcock
Major G-II

1500

in conformity:

AMBASSADE DE POLOGNE

[Signature]

2225 50
CONFIDENTIAL

VER/ed

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
DISPLACED PERSONS AND REPATRIATION SUB COMMISSION

IPR/9/0-II (IP)

Tel. 489081 Ext. 201

8 February 1946.

FEB 9 1946

SUBJECT : Incident at Polish Refugee Camps. - BARLUTTA and TRANI.
TO : U.S.A. Embassy, Rome.
British Embassy, Rome.
POLAD (A) A.C.
POLAD (Br.) A.C.

1. The attached preliminary report is submitted herewith
for your information.

2. Copies of the full report and any further details that
may be received, will be forwarded to you.

For the Director.

V.E. Simcock
V.E. SIMCOCK
Major G-II

Copy to:
Executive Commissioner ✓
Allied Commission.

1579

(CAPT 10)

2495

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

785017

Eq. Comm. A

FX 60248
FEB 6 2130A

CIPHER

G/8836
FEB 7 1200

IMMEDIATE

GHQ GMP CIVIL AFFAIRS

TROOPERS

INFO: ALCON

~~SECRET~~

CONFIDENTIAL

SECRET.

1. MR MARTYNOWICZ, SECOND SECRETARY TO POLISH EMBASSY ROME, TODAY VISITED BARIETTA CAMP FOR DISPLACED POLES. VISIT ARRANGED BY ALLIED COMMISSION UNDER WHOSE SUSPICES CAMP IS RUN, AND COORDINATED WITH THIS HEADQUARTERS. MARTYNOWICZ WAS ACCOMPANIED BY BRITISH OFFICERS OF ALLIED COMMISSION AND 26 BLU AND ALL REASONABLE PRECAUTIONS WERE TAKEN TO AVOID INCIDENTS.
2. MARTYNOWICZ AND PARTY ENTERED CAMP AT 1000 HOURS. AT 1040 HOURS MARTYNOWICZ WAS FORCIBLY EJECTED BY SOME 500 INMATE INMATES. INJURY WAS AVOIDED THANKS TO ENERGETIC INTERVENTION OF MILITARY POLICE OF 2 POLISH CORPS WHO BEHAVED ADMIRABLY.
3. MR WYSCYNSKI, COUNCELLOR OF EMBASSY WAS ORIGINALLY TO HAVE MADE VISIT. HE WAS FULLY WARNED IN ADVANCE BY ALLIED COMMISSION OF POSSIBILITY OF NOT BEING WELL RECEIVED BUT INSISTED ON SENDING REPRESENTATIVE.
4. THIS IS INTERIM REPORT. FULL REPORT FOLLOWS SOONEST AFTER ARRIVAL AT THIS HEADQUARTERS OF BRITISH OFFICERS.

CIPHER TELEGRAM

7 FEB 1946

This message will not be distributed outside British or U.S. Government Headquarters, and will be destroyed without being passed on to other agencies (O.T.P. need not be passed on).

AC LIST

INFO ACTION:
INFO:

DESPHS S/C 2
CHIEF COMMISSIONER
EX COMMISSIONER
SKELETON
FILE

(cso) 148. 8/2.

PA
9/2

2500