

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND

No.

785017

ACC

10000/109/817
(VOL. I)

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

10000/109/817
(VOL. I)

RUK RECORDS IN BOLZANO
DEC. 1945 - AUG. 1946

101

To C.S.O. Ex. Commr.

(Report on folios "ACTION" File 4063 EC)

- FOLIO 82 Authority under which Italian Govt. officials may investigate RUK documents, awaiting decision US/UK Govts as to who will administer RUK files. POLAD (A)-(E) in touch.
- 88
- 89 Explanation by Actg. E.C. to Chief Commissioner in at fo. 96
- 90 Draft to G-5 revised at fo. 100
- 91 NO action Archives Branch necessary, ~~or permitted.~~
- 92 Para 2 POLAD (A) letter. No action Archives Branch on letter to G-2 (A) (B) through A F H Q.
- 93 SITREP (para 5) Action continued Archives Branch pending reversal of Policy by AFRA AFHQ... i.e.
(a) Microfilm preparation in full swing.
(b) Correspondence ~~and~~ acknowledged and callers interviewed personally by me. Information placed in relevant RUK file and NO information given to enquirers.
- 95 NO action Archives Branch beyond Brigdr Carr informed on July 29th that letter at fo. 16 appears to conflict with AFHQ (80) unless CCoS reverse their decision.

422

July 31 1946

TTC

J. M. Carr
Chief Archives Officer.

To Executive ~~Commissioner~~

Subject. Ruk Files

1. Reference letter to Chief Commissioner from Minister of Foreign Affairs 24200/54 dated 22 July.

2. AFMA-ARHQ have ruled in their letter AFMA/1/230 (File E.C. 9265 refers) that until approval is received from COOS, extra copies of these files may not be distributed.

3. I am further told by Microfilm Unit that any further copies than the TWO at present authorised, will seriously interfere with their present programme, since each extra copy will increase their work by 2 to 3 Million photographs. (the estimated total of Ruk documents.)

4. On the other hand, I understand that the American and British Embassies [although this requires confirmation by Polads (A) (B)] are asking their Governments for permission to continue the work of Investigation under the direction of the JOINT DIPLOMATIC RESEARCH SECTION and using the present staff of German/Austrian/Czech experts, after Microfilming is finished, probably in two months time.

5. May it please be stated what action is therefore required to be taken by Archives Branch.

26/7/46

W.M. Harrison
Major
Chief Archives Officer.

98

Brig. Can - 1
A new letter
on this has been
rec'd from Acting
Stal Chief -
returned to [unclear]

423

Folio 95 ref

No. 140
80 in 4035EC

3. I am further told by Microfilm Unit that, any further copies than the TWO at present authorized, will seriously interfere with their present programme, since each extra copy will increase their work by 2 to 3 Million photographs. (the estimated total of Ruk documents.)
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26/7/46

N.M. Harrison
Major
Chief Archives Officer.

98

Brig. Can - 1
A new letter
on this has been
rec'd from ^{Polad} ~~Polad~~
Stal Cofit - ^{F. H. H. H.} ~~F. H. H. H.~~
referred to ^{ALROD} ~~ALROD~~
"Archives". But
the latter should
not be "Active"
or send a letter
27/7/46

423

— Folio 95 up

Ex. Commissioners.

91 8b.

Ref Min 85.

Telephone message to Polad (B) on July 22^o
and again yesterday (26th) confirms matter still being
discussed. The draft (for 80) is as submitted at min 85.

27.7.45

RMHavussue

May

Chugarchus ffuer.

Ex Commr.

Ref 1069, herewith reply from AFRA for information.

Matter is ~~under~~ ^{awaiting} decision by CCOS in para 6-

16-7-46

~~MM Harsman~~ ^{Major}
Chief Archivist Officer

83.

Ex Commr.

Ref 1082 & further to mem 74(3), Army investigation of documents at present will seriously interfere with Microfilm planning by AFRA due to Commence August & upon which all civilian staff is at work.

It will also offer loophole for leakage of information under the present condition in the building.

I suggest that all RUK documents be numbered, microfilmed & placed in sealed boxes in M/F depot.

That these boxes are delivered to whatever authority is deputed to supervise investigation and that the set of conditions under para 3. (1082) be drawn up by 413

that authority.

~~MM Harsman~~ ^{Major}
Chief Archivist Officer

83.

Ex Commr.

Ref fo. 82 + further to min 74(3), Army
investigation of documents at present will seriously
interfere with microfilm planning by AFRA due
to Commr. August + upon which all civilian staff
is at work.

It will also offer loophole for leakage of
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I suggest that all RUK documents be numbered,
microfilmed + placed in sealed boxes in M/F depot.

That these boxes are delivered to whatever authority
is deputed to supervise investigation and that the
set of conditions under para 3. (fo 82) be drawn up by 413
that authority.

17.7.46

~~xxxxxx~~
Major
Chief Archivist, Office

84.

Please discuss: also the allegation made

in para 2 of 1671 Early 15/12/47

Ex Commr. H. H. 17 85

in accordance with your instructions I am seeing P. O. B.
with draft reply to G. S. + will report comments by 18/2/48 if cleared by him -
18/2/48 NMH

785017

70

C.S.O. to Com.

Ref folio 67 letter at folio 68 for

the Chief Comm's signature, please. *Authy*

H.S. 947

at:

Ex. Comm.

(1) Ref to. 71, all action under par 2 has been stopped in accordance with these instructions.

(2) Microfilming will commence on Aug. 1st.

(3) Today Lt. Col. Cameron Curry stated that E/E are requesting F/O that they may take over the two Germans and one Austrian as soon as they can be spared for Research under direction of Joint Diplomatic Research Section. I have stated that your instructions regarding Microfilming must first be carried out with their help as advisers and as soon as this is completed (probably 2 months) they will be available.

(4)

Will you please also consider whether the RuK Files shall therefore be sent to J D R S after filming or remain under the care of Archives A.C.

13.7.46 CSO

Is.

N.M. Harrison
Chief Archives Officer

What action is U.S. Embassy taking?

Chief Archives Officer.

178/131

Please reply to min 75. *Authy*

78.

Ex Comm.

Ref M. 75 - Poland (B) states that U.S. Embassy attended the meeting at which (3) was discussed - on speaking to P. 138(A), however, I am told the matter is under consideration & a decision will

Sh. 138(A)

accordance with these instructions.

(2) Microfilming will commence on Aug. 1st.

(3) Today Lt. Col. Cameron Curry stated that B/E are requesting F/O that they may take over the two Germans and one Austrian as soon as they can be spared for Research under direction of Joint Diplomatic Research Section. I have stated that your instructions regarding Microfilming must first be carried out with their help as advisers and as soon as this is completed (probably 2 months) they will be available.

(4) Will you please also consider whether the RuK Files shall therefore be sent to J D R S after filming or remain under the care of Archives A.C.

13.7.46 CSO

Is:

N.M. Harrison
N.M. Harrison
Chief Archives Officer

What action is U.S. Embassy taking?

Chief Archives Officer.

178/1312

Please reply to min 75. Acknowledged 15/7/46

Ex Command.

Ref M. 75 - Poland (B) states that U.S. Embassy attended the

meeting at which (3) was discussed - on speaking to ~~Poland~~ (A), however, I am told the matter is under consideration & a decision will be communicated in due course. Am therefore retaining the staff pending decision (as advisers) until m/filming is completed.

Presume instructions as to disposal (4) will also be issued at the same time

15/7/46

Ex Command

N.M. Harrison
Chief Archives Officer
15.10.17

To CSO

53.
 Ref folios. / suggest that the
 locks be fitted with duplicate keys.
 1 Key to stay with the occupant of
 the room and the 2nd to be placed
 in a sealed envelope with the
 duty officer for use in case of fire etc.

I agree. H.S. 29/5

Ex Comm. 59

CSO: Folio 58 and enclosures for info per
 H.S. 15/6

Ex Comm.

64

CSO/Folios 62-3 for information.

25/5 19/6 H.S. 20/6

Chief Commissioner.

65

417

785017

in a sealed envelope with the
only officer for use in case of fire etc.

I agree. H.S. 19/5
Ex Comm. 59
CSC. Folio 58 and enclosures for info per
H.S. 15/6
CSC. 19/5

7/17/6
Ex Comm. 64
CSC/Folio 62-3 for information.
15/5 19/6. H.S. 20/6

Chief Commissioner.

Approval
Attached is submitted for your signature
information

PP 63784

17/5/46

E.C.

25/5/1

✓ GND

cc

413

36 37

A.L.C.

Ref. 35. Letter at 36 for Signature, please
folios 32-33 refer. July 24

2) See 4 40 for info. July 27/4

July 30/4

45

V.P. Ecom Sec.

P 44.

All our efforts must be turned towards
liquidating the C.E.M. as soon as possible.
Even if permission is obtained I doubt whether

the Director should leave. July 22/4

46

To Ex Com.

Sayre. We will hold up any present trip to
Germany by Dir C.E.M. unless cleared by you

Office

C.W.W. 23/5

49

V.P. Ecom Sec.

418

V.P. Ecan Sec.

P 44.

All our efforts must be turned towards liquidating the C.E.M. as soon as possible. Even if permission is obtained I doubt whether

the Director should leave. DD/22/4

44

To Ex Com.

I agree. We will hold up any present trip to Germany by Dir C.E.M. unless cleared by you

Office

CWW 23/5

49

V.P. Ecan Sec.

418

In view of P 48 we will drop the idea of anyone going DD/27/4

50

Ex Com. 18/15-

Noted

CWW 28/5

785017

A/C.C. 26.
1 25 for info. H.S. 15/14

C.S.O. 27
Place B to see 2, 2 hope, concert.
Why was he not at the meeting?
H.S. 16/14

C.S.O. 28
I came in 1.25.
I wasn't asked to attend the meeting!

A/C.C. Econ. Sec. 29
Ref union 27 & 8. may the app please be
informed why Colad B' was not invited to
meeting of April 5? Folie 25 refers. C.S.O. 1/14

A/C.C. 30
16 April 1946

Reference 29 has been explained orally to A/C.C.

Charles W. Walton
Colonel AG - 4/14
H.S. 18/14 415

778/16/4

C.S.O. 28
I came in 1.25.
I went about 5 hours the morning!

APR. Econ. Sec. 29
Ref union 27 & 8. may the app plane be
informed why Colad B' was not invited to
meeting of April 5? Folio 20 refers. *20/4*

17/4

30

A/C.C.

15 April 1946

Reference 29 has been explained orally to A/C.C.

Charles D. Waller
OFFICIALS V. WALTON
Colonel AG - 1/4/46
H.S. 1814 415

34

A/C.C. Ref + 33. Do you approve these?
35
H.S. 20/4

Refer 1 to B.H.F.R. in a letter.

43/20/4

Forward "For the Sec" H.S. 29/4

7

A/C.C.Y.
cc. Attached correspondence on RUK files re for
signature of Actg C.C. Folio 7 refers to this letter.

M.H. 10/12
S.H.H.
14/2/46

Ex Comm. 19
C.S.O. Please see 17 & 18.18 S.K. 3/4.
I will forward to Polads for
info after you have seen. M.H. 4/14

20
In the meantime we have told the PM
(vide p 16) that we intend to put copies in
disposal after microfilm 17 & 18/44

21
Aug H. 1) Send copies of 17 to Polads.
2) See Com Sec. on the point made by
Ex Comm in re 20. M.H. 4/14
Done R.H.H.

23
C.S.O. Folio 22 passed to you for information
S.K. 9/4
Please see also 24-25 S.K. 9/4.

Further to Min 20 & 21 above, Enc sent print to ~~ATG~~
that in 5/16 we are undertaking to see that copies
are put at I G disposal. This is being done (see 17)
by ATG's action in referring the ~~matter~~ matter for
consideration to the Disposal Office. Par 5 & 17 is

In the meantime we have told the DM
(vide p 16) that we intend that copies - then
disposal after microfilm 178/44

21.

Aug H. 1) send copies of 4 17 to Polad.
2) see Gen Sec. on the point made by
Ex Comm in m 20. H.S. 4/14
DOW/JP/4

23

C.S.O. Folio 22 passed to you for information
SK 9/4
Please see also 24-25
SK 9/4.

Further to Min 20+21 above, Com Sect points out that in 5 16 we are undertaking to see that copies are put at IG disposal. This is being done (see 17) by AFHQ's action in referring the ~~disposal~~ matter for decision of State Dept & Foreign Office. Par 5 5 17 is being accomplished in that Capt Campbell CEM branch must pass on all requests for access to these files. F.S. does not feel we have our neck out inasmuch as they believe the State Govt will probably get access to the files any way.

SKH
11/4/46

785017

DRAFTHEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 794
ARCHIVES BRANCH

Revised

100

Ref. : 26/AB.

1 August 1946

SUBJECT : Access to the NUK Records by the Italian Government.

TO : AMHQ - G-5 Section.

82

1. Reference is made to AMHQ letter G-5 963.10 R of 6 July 46 in which it was stated that access could not be granted to NUK Files by Italian Government and to AMHQ letter G-5 963.22 dated 13 July 46 granting permission but under certain conditions.

2. Para 2 of above letter suggest that the Staff of NUK Files were extracting information for "individuals and firms". This is incorrect. Information was only being collected for release through the Italian Government when permission was granted and has now ceased pending the establishment of an authority to continue this investigation.

3. Arrangements to microfilm NUK Files has been temporarily postponed pending decision of OGCs Washington as to future policy.

4. The preparation for filing is being carried out in the meantime by the Goman Staff and certain selected Italian Civilians under Archives supervision and the first 100,000 documents are now ready (boxed) for delivery to the Microfilm Unit.

FOR THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER

Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

413

413

Not sent

See ~~here~~ Vol II
File fo.2

see 17.101

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

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 794
ARCHIVES BRANCH

Ref. : 28/AB.

31 July 1946

SUBJECT : Handover of Files and Films (RUK)

TO : O.E.M. Branch.

Reference your OMB/58 of 30 July.

Upon checking the 2 sacks of 126 films delivered by your staff yesterday to this office it was found that 11 tins of films were without labels and upon putting these through the microfilm cameras, 2 tins of films are missing.

The missing tins are JOB No. 64 and JOB No. 67 and investigation as to the films which these refer is proceeding.

W. H. Harrison
W. H. HARRISON, Major
Major,
Chief Archives Officer.

Copy to: Executive Commissioner (A063/80). ✓

785017

96
JUL 26 1946

2nd IND.

To: Chief Commissioner.

89
26th July, 1946

I have discussed this matter with Colonel Walton.

Colonel Walton states that he raised this matter in order to draw attention to the fact that correspondence was still coming on RUK files and that it was important that action should be taken on these letters and on the files in general. Files in action are being kept segregated by Archives and current letters will be acknowledged by Ex. Commissioner's Section.

Colonel Walton did not mean to propose that all files should be returned to CEM branch which might be taken as the course of action implied in Lt. Colonel Campbell's letter of 16th July 1946.

The present position is as follows:

It was agreed by all concerned, including Polads and Colonel Walton (although Director CEM branch may not have concurred) that these files should be taken over by Archives with a view to their being microfilmed. Arrangements have been made for microfilming (two copies) to start on August 1st. The question of an additional copy for the Allied authorities in Berlin is under consideration between AFHQ and CCS.

There is no intention that these files should become dead records and the question of future action on them is under active consideration with Polads, Econ Section, and all others concerned.

Authority was received recently from AFHQ under a letter dated 13th July 1946 for the Italian Government to have access to these files under certain specified conditions. Colonel Walton had not seen this letter and he agrees that this is a very satisfactory step. — Why?

None
If you have no comments at this stage I will have these papers put on the appropriate file and draw the attention of the E.C. to them on his return.

M Carr Brigadier

M. Carr, Brigadier.
A/c Executive Commissioner.

411

because
it has only
arrived
recently
M.C.

Buz. Can

This should not be handled by "Archives" but by you

TRANSLATION

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

24200/54

Tus

23 July 1946.

Dear Admiral,

You had the kindness to inform me with your letter of 9 March 1946 that the documents existing in Bolzano with regard to the installations, machineries and other economic items taken out of the Italian territory by the Germans and normally known as RUX archives, were going to be reproduced in several copies, some of which would be put at my disposal.

As now we are preparing the prospects of the installations taken from the various Italian firms and enterprises (some of these have already been presented to Allied authorities with a view to recuperation), it would be particularly useful to be able to dispose of the abovementioned documents in order to complete the prospects and facilitate the recuperative action of the competent Allied authorities, especially with regard to the final destination and the present whereabouts of the looted items.

I take therefore the liberty to appeal to your usual kindness asking you kindly to give the necessary orders for the re-issuance of some copies of the documents concerned.

Thanking you sincerely for the steps you are going to take in this matter, I remain with kindest regards

Yours truly,

/s/ De Gasperi

Admiral Ellery W. Stone
Chief Commissioner
Allied Commission
Rome.

*Archives already
presented. Archives
have passed to EC
section for action*

EC note 25 July

Action 10/11/46

Info: EC

" : EC

see 1797 + 98.101

see 7121

APJ

Il Ministro degli Affari Esteri

22 MAR 1946

242/54

94

Caro Ammiraglio,

con la cortese lettera del 9 marzo u.s. Ella si compieque comunicarmi che i documenti giacenti in Bolzano, relativi agli impianti, macchine ed altri beni economici esportati dai tedeschi dal territorio italiano, di cui si fa normalmente menzione come archivi RUK, stavano per essere riprodotti in più esemplari, alcuni dei quali sarebbero stati messi a mia disposizione.

Siccome si stanno ora predisponendo i prospetti degli impianti esportati alle diverse imprese e ditte italiane (alcuni di essi sono stati già consegnati alle Autorità alleate ai fini del corrispondente recupero), sarebbe particolarmente utile poter disporre dei documenti summenzionati onde completare i prospetti e poter agevolare l'azione di recupero delle competenti Autorità alleate, specialmente per quanto concerne la definitiva destinazione ed ubicazione attuale dei beni esportati.

Mi permetto, pertanto, Signor Ammiraglio, far ricorso alla Sua abituale cortesia, affinché voglia compiacersi voler impartire le necessarie disposizioni per la trasmissione di alcune copie dei documenti di cui si tratta.

La ringrazio sentitamente per quanto vorrà disporre

405

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La ringrazio sentitamente per quanto vorrà disporre al riguardo e Le prego, caro Ammiraglio, di voler gradire i miei più cordiali saluti.

All'Ammiraglio Ellery M. Stone
Capo della Commissione Alleata

R. U. M. A.

DeJany

see 95

4063 ~~90~~
N.M. HARRISON Chief Archives Officer

30 July 1946

TO : Executive Commissioner, Allied Commission.

Reference Ruk Files SITREP to date. (Letter V.2. Economic Section of 18th July to Chief Commissioner refers.)

1. TAKE OVER. Since taking over these files from CEM Branch on July 4 considerable reorganisation has had to be done.

2. REVIEW. In the fourteen days since July 4 it has been established that the information given to me at that date was not sufficiently accurate to carry out and guarantee the Microfilming of the whole Ruk in one month in that :-

(a) the verbal statement by Lt/Cpl Campbell to me that the files were ready for microfilming is in no way correct. The documents are half of them in a very disorganised state - merely bundles tied together and labelled - and that Ex.Com Directive No.7 was not in any way carried out.

(b) the estimated total of 750,000 is grossly understated and that between one to two million documents is a nearer idea.

3. RE-ORGANISATION Steps were immediately taken in the first week to divide the duties of the Section into its functions of :-

(i) Numbering each document and preparing for microfilming.

(ii) Investigation of those cases already commenced by CEM.
9th

4. G-5 ATHQ A letter was received on July 24th cancelling any further investigations which was welcomed, as the whole Staff both the 4 German experts and additional Archives personnel had had to be called upon to complete sufficient work in (i) to be ready for microfilming on AUGUST 1st. 22

5. INVESTIGATION On July 17 (fo 82/111 4063 30-) another letter arrived from G-5 authorising investigation work to continue. My Minute (83) to Executive Commissioner was discussed by Brig. LUSH on 17th who gave me instructions to prepare a draft letter- in collaboration with POLAD (B) to G-5 that it was suggested that :-

(a) Microfilming should be completed first

408

(b) that Investigation should be deferred until this was finished and the files disposed to whoever was deputed to handle this. Possibly under the JOINT DIPLOMATIC SECTION.

6. PRESENT POSITION. Preparation for filming is busily under way and daily output established but which requires stepping up all is to be finished in two months.

407

Microfilming of the whole RUK in one month in that :-

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(i) Numbering each document and preparing for microfilming.

(ii) Investigation of those cases already commenced by CEM.
9th

4. G-5 AFTER A letter was received on July 24th cancelling any further investigations which was welcomed as the whole Staff both the 4 German experts and additional Archives personnel had had to be called upon to complete sufficient work in (i) to be ready for microfilming on AUGUST 1st. 22

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(a) Microfilming should be completed first 408

(b) that Investigation should be deferred until this was finished and the files disposed to whoever was deputed to handle this. Possibly under the JOINT DIPLOMATIC SECTION.

6. PRESENT POSITION. This DRAFT is still with POLAD (B) for the Embassy comments. Preparation for filming is busily under way and daily output established but which requires stepping up all is to be finished in two months. 407

7. SECURITY. Security has had to be tightened since more than one visitor has attempted to contact the RUK Staff on behalf of individual. Yesterday the whole Section was sealed off from the rest of the building and all enquirers referred to me personally.

N.M. Harrison

N.M. HARRISSON Major
Chief Archives Officer.

(c50)

785017

4063 A
HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

Office of Political Adviser (A)

92

To : Executive Commissioner, AC

JUL 23 1946

With reference to our previous conversations regarding RUK files, the American Embassy has been considering Major Harrisson's suggestion that we and the British Embassy take over the German civilians presently working on these files after the Archive Branch has finished with their services, that is, in approximately two months' time. I have discussed this problem with the American side of Joint Diplomatic Research Section, who have made the suggestion that, since the original files are German archives and thus ultimately the property of ACC Berlin, at the appropriate time the German civilians be transferred from AC jurisdiction to the jurisdiction and responsibility of the British and American representatives in ACC Berlin to continue to work on "these German archives" in Italy in the same manner as German civilians are employed by our military authorities in Germany to exploit German archives in that country. I am told that this would not necessarily affect the local jurisdiction of these archives passing to the JDRS since operations of this sort are being carried out under State Department jurisdiction in the American zone in Germany with American military and German civilian personnel.

Could AC, before its jurisdiction over these civilians comes to an end, submit this proposal to the appropriate British and American G-2 Sections in Berlin, through AFHQ, it being understood that they will work under the authority of the JDRS when the latter eventually takes over these files?

J. Wesley Jones
J. Wesley Jones

Rome, July 22, 1946.

Copies to:
Major Harrisson, Director, Archives Branch
POLAD B.

7408

* German civilians

(cso)

785017

FX 69006
JUL. 25 1545B

4063 98

Exp. Comm.

H/5022 91.
JUL. 26 1215

ROUTINE

AFHQ SIGNED SACRED CITE FHAGE
AGWAR WASHINGTON FOR COMBINED CHIEFS OF STAFF INFO: CABINET OFFICES
WHITEHALL FOR BRITISH CHIEFS OF STAFF C IN C MED ALCOM ROME

CONFIDENTIAL

JUL 26 1946

CONFIDENTIAL.

Subject is RUK (Ruestrung und Kriegsproduktion) records.
This is Mat 1035. In view urgency of clarifying status these
records and establishing procedures for final processing if
approved for microfilming early reply to our cable MAT 1021 1012
dated 25 April 1946 would be appreciated.

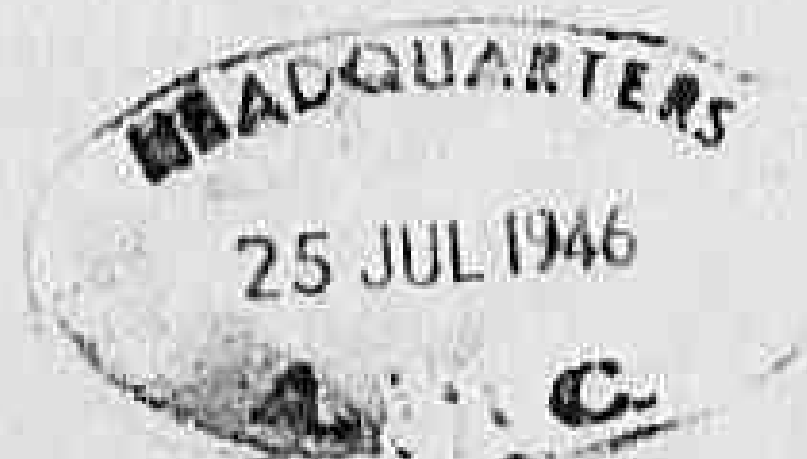
40

AC DIST

INFO (ACTION)
INFO

ARCHIVES BR
CHIEF COMMISSIONER
EX COMM
FILE
FLOAT 2
SKELETON

CONFIDENTIAL



405

(cso)

DRAFT.

90

TO : AFHQ G-5 Section

SUBJECT : Access to the RuK Records by the Italian Government.

REF : 28/AB

82

1. Reference is made to AFHQ letter G-5, 963.10 R of 6 July in which it was stated that access could not then be granted to RuK files by Italian Government and to AFHQ letter G-5 963.20 P dated July 13 1946 granting permission but with certain stipulations.

2. Para.2 of 963.10 R. The information gathered at the meeting on Archives on 1st July by Lt.Col.WHILE suggesting that the Staff were extracting information from RuK files " for individuals and firms " is incorrect. This information would only be released through the Italian Government when permission was granted. Investigation has now ceased in accordance with your instructions in above quoted letter.

3. During the period between dispatch of MAT 1012 and present receipt of Archives ALCM, arrangements have been made to

(a) photograph these records by Microfilm Depot, commencing approximately August 1st.

(b) Deliver these documents in sealed boxes to the Joint Diplomatic Research Committee after filming, for safe custody and investigation work.

4. It is emphasized that any arrangements to permit access to, or or investigation of these records prior to this delivery, will interfere with the Microfilm Depot's programme and constitute an added risk to the security of documents already of national importance, since under instructions of your 963.10 para.3, no ALCM staff will be employed and the 4 German civilians are fully engaged upon the preparation of Microfilm on August 1st.

5. It is suggested the matter be deferred until after microfilm is completed, probably in two months time.

Copy to US Polad
Copy to HR Polad
Copy to 9265/EO info.

*Yes but in the meantime I need
but not draw up a set of
conditions*

*This draft cannot stand if
microfilm programme is changed as
Mr Harrison indicated to me*

403

see 791

785017

4063
1ST IND.

JUL 17 1946

CHARLES W. WALTON, Colonel, A.C., Acting Vice President, Economic Section,
Allied Commission, 18 July 1946.

TO : Chief Commissioner, Allied Commission.

JUL 19 1946

1. In the basic letter the Director, CEM Branch, shows concern, in
which I concur, that:

- (a) the RUK files be looked upon merely as a historical record, and
- (b) the Branch be definitely relieved of further responsibility for action on the RUK files.

2. The rather extensive correspondence that was carried out with the object of making collections from Italian firms indebted to the RUK organization has resulted in some collections, in some admissions of indebtedness, and in some unsound claims that there is no indebtedness. If, in the face of AFHQ directive (copy attached), the matter is not actively pursued, it is entirely probable that serious criticism will be made of the A.C. for its handling of the matter.

3. It is my recommendation that the Branch now charged with the responsibility of the RUK files take all steps necessary to insure that the files do not become dead records.

Charles W. Walton
CHARLES W. WALTON
Colonel, A.C.
Acting Vice President

CC: CEM Branch

see 796
403

(CSO)

785017

4063 R

88

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 794
CAPTURED ENEMY MATERIALS BRANCH

CEM/92/

16 July 1946.

SUBJECT: Handover of RUK Files

TO : Chief Commissioner,
HQ Allied Commission.

THRU: A/VP. Economic Section.

Reference instructions contained in Executive Commissioner's letter 28/AB dated 10 July 46, to transfer the RUK Files to Archives Branch.

1. I must point out that the withdrawal of these files from the CEM Branch makes it impossible for this Branch to carry out the instructions issued by AFHQ regarding the collection of Captured Enemy funds. (Copy of AFHQ letter attached at Appendix "A"). In connection with this question 117 firms had been approached by us up to 6 June 46, and out of this number 51 freely acknowledged the claims against them, 33 gave evasive answers which have to be further investigated and 12 definitely dispute the claims.

It is presumed that this Branch has no further responsibility in the matter.

2. There are many questions concerning CEM in the RUK records, which can only be handled by daily reference to the files and the removal of the files from the Branch must of necessity curtail or close down this work.

3. Although the CEM Branch are only interested in the files, as ways and means of locating material and funds which come under the heading of CEM, there are many other questions which come up to the Branch from different Italian ministries concerning the return of machinery, material, etc, on which the only information is contained in the RUK records.

4. It is understood that all records concerning the German command are the property of the Control Commission in Germany and that the RUK and other records are only held in this Theatre to assist in the rehabilitation of Italian industry and to help in the collection of CEM.

see 89993.

87

5. In putting the above on record I would also express as my opinion the likelihood of considerable controversy regarding these records and that before turning the files into Archives and stopping all work on the records, the better policy would have been to await a reply to MAT 1012
()

40

J.A. Campbell
J.A. CAMPBELL, Lt-Col.
Lt Colonel,
Director.
CEM BRANCH.

Encls : Appx "A" ()

86

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 SECTION
APO 512

G-5 : 386.3

20 December 1945

SUBJECT : Handling of German Property in Italy.

TO : HQ., Allied Commission, APO 394.

1. Reference is made to your letter 13074/F of 8 December 1945, subject as above.

2. The funds falling within the categories set out in paragraph four of your letter should continue to be treated as captured enemy funds and should be recovered. They can be regarded in the same light as captured enemy material. Not to do this would unjustly enrich the Italian firms or persons holding such funds.

By command of Lieutenant General Morgan:

Sdg. A.L. HAMBLIN,
Brigadier General, GSC.
Asst Chief of Staff, G-5.

COPY

785017

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 512

4063
Archives Br 82
Ex Comm
9265
4063

G-5: 963.20P

13 July 1946
JUL 17 1946

SUBJECT: Access to the RUK Records by the Italian Government.

TO : Chief Commissioner,
Allied Commission,
APO 794.

1. Reference is made to AFHQ letter G-5: 619.3-6 dated 28 March 46, in which it was stated that the Department of State and the Foreign Office had been asked for a ruling in the matter of the Italian Prime Minister's request (in his letter 44/05935 dated 23 Feb 46) that Italian technicians be allowed access to the RUK records for consultation of their contents.

2. Favorable replies have now been received in both instances, but with stipulations that effective security measures must be taken to safeguard the records whilst they are under examination.

3. You will therefore draw up a set of conditions under which the archives may be entered by officials of the Italian Government, and under which examinations may be undertaken. These conditions will include provisos that:

*a. investigation of the documents is done under continuous and close supervision of an Allied official;

*b. there is an Allied official permanently in the room with the Italians;

*c. no document be removed either from its file, or taken away from the archive;

*d. the documents in use by the Italians are signed for;

*e. all documents are returned at the end of each day, checked and accounted for.

4. The existing German staff may be permitted to assist the Italians during periods of examination in any reasonable manner.

5. Please confirm that you are in a position to comply with these conditions; in particular those marked with asterisk in para 3 above. The Foreign Office have stated that unless the latter are fulfilled they are not prepared to agree to the Italians seeing the files.

6. Subject to your agreeing to the foregoing, you may make the necessary arrangements with the Italian Government forthwith.

See G-136 Vol. II - 1 -

see 783-85
90493

81

7. It is emphasized that this authority has been granted in respect of accredited officials of the Italian Government only. Access to the archives will not be permitted to private individuals or to representatives of firms, neither will any information contained in the records be communicated to such persons by other means. In this connection your attention is directed to AFHQ letter G-5: 963.20R dated 6 Jul 46.

71.
BY COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL MORGAN:

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

Copy to:

US Polad (Your Memo dated 10 May refers)

Br Polad (Your Memo ref 19/150/0 dated 5 July 46 refers).

AC DIST

ACTION - ARCHIVES BR

INFO - E.C.

80

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
APO 512

Allied Force Records Administration,
AG Section,
Allied Force Headquarters,
C.M.F.

JUL 17 1946

13 July 1946

Ref : AFRA/I/230

Subject : Disposition of Microfilm - RUK Records.

To : Headquarters, Allied Commission, (Archives Branch).

1. Reference is made to your letter I-5/496 dated 10 July 1946, addressed to the Allied Force Microfilming and Records Depot.
2. This headquarters has been directed by the Combined Chiefs of Staff to microfilm the records of Allied Commission ensuring that one copy of the completed film is available for each of the United States and British Governments.
3. With the present equipment, only two photographs of each document can be taken simultaneously. The request contained in your above quoted letter would therefore entail complete rephotography of the RUK files. This is not considered practicable at the present time.
4. Many requests have been received for photographic copies of these records and representation has been made to the Combined Chiefs of Staff for direction in this matter. No extra disposition of film of these records can be made without the approval of the Combined Chiefs of Staff.
5. It is possible that direction may be received to arrange for the production of photographic prints from the films of these records in sufficient numbers to meet all requirements.
6. In view of your request, further representation will be made to the Combined Chiefs of Staff for a decision in this matter.



PAUL N. HORNELL,
Lt. Colonel, Inf.,

Allied Force Records Administrator.

Copies to: I-5,
A.F.R.D.
Depot.

397

77

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 794
Office of the Executive Commissioner

Ref. 28/AB

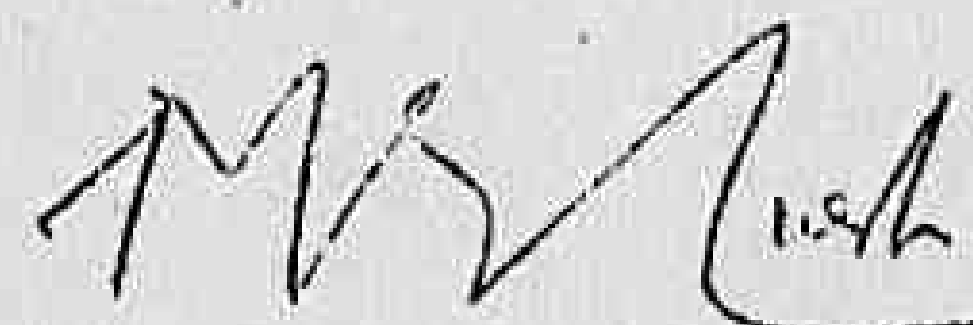
13 July 1946

SUBJECT: RUK Files.

TO : Vice President, Economic Section,
HQ. AC.

1. The custody and administration of the so-called "RUK Files" (including such CEM Branch files as deal with RUK matters) is transferred from Economic Section (Captured Enemy Materials Branch) to Executive Commissioner's Office (Archives Branch), with effect from 3rd July 1946.
2. Actual handover to be made by Lt.Col. CAMERON-CURRY to Major N.M. HARRISON forthwith.

For the Chief Commissioner,



Brigadier
Executive Commissioner

Distribution:

Action : Lt.Col. Cameron-Curry
Maj. N.M. Harrison
Info : A.C. of S. AFHQ, G-5
MGA, CHQ, CMT
Polad 'A'
Polad 'B'
AFRA, AFHQ
CLO Lombardia Reg. (for CEM Br)
CLO Bolzano
Lt.Col. J.A. Campbell (CEM Br)
Allied Financial Agency
Microfilm Depot AFHQ
Joint Diplomatic Research Section
HQ. Commandant
Message Centre, ALCOM.

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76

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 794
Captured Enemy Materials Branch

OMM/92/119

12 July 1946

SUBJECT: Correspondence on R.U.K. Files

TO : Executive Commissioners Office
Archives Branch.

Reference your letter 02/495 dated 9 July 46.

1. All files appertaining to R.U.K. matters will be physically transferred to Archives on 12 July 46.
2. If and when further R.U.K. correspondence is received it will be passed over without delay.
3. Assistance in any matter in which the Branch can be of service will at any time be gladly given.

Frank Bates, Jr.

F.C.G. BATES
Major R.A.S.O.
Acting Director,
CEM Branch.

(Captured Enemy Materials Branch)

12 JUL 1946
5034

1. Copy to: Executive Commissioners

1. " " : Economic Section.

RFW
(CAPT K)

395

394

11/13/46
R.

4063 *ad*

73

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 794
ECONOMIC SECTION

REF: ES/ 108

9 July 1946

JUL 11 1946

SUBJECT: Transfer of RUK files.

TO : Director
Captured Enemy Material Branch

1. This will confirm my oral instructions to you to transfer the RUK files, and all files pertaining thereto, to the Archives Section, in compliance with orders from the Executive Commissioner.

(Signed)

CHARLES W. WALTON

Colonel, A.C.

Acting Vice President

CHARLES W. WALTON

Colonel, A.C.

Acting Vice President

393

Copy to Exec Comm

[Signature]

(1 APR 47)

[Signature]

785^17
4063 *AI*

72

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APD 794
SPECIAL BRANCH of ARCHIVES

/a
9 Jul 46

SUBJECT: Correspondence on RUK-Files.

TO : Director CEM Branch, Attn. Lt. Col. J.A. CAMPBELL, MC

Ref. : C 2 / 497

Ref. Directive No. 28 AB dated 6 July 46.

1. It is understood that certain correspondence in regard to RUK is still being retained in CEM Branch.

2. Will you please arrange for these files to be handed over this week in order that the work can be carried on in them.

N.M. Harrison
N.M. HARRISON
Major,
Chief Archives Officer

Copy to: Executive Commissioner. ✓

393

393

(CAPT K)

See 7-76

2063

71

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 512

G-5: 963.10 R

6 July 1946

SUBJECT: RUK Files.

JUL 9 1946

TO : Chief Commissioner,
Allied Commission,
APO 794.

66
for attn. sec. Com.

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Refer your signal 3955 of 1 July.

1. No reply has yet been received to MAT/1012 and in the meantime access to the Records can still not be granted to the Italian Government. The importance of the matter to them is realized.

2. At the recent meeting on Archives on 1 July, these files were mentioned and it was gathered that Staff were being employed in extracting facts from these files for individuals and firms. If this is so, will you please arrange for this work to cease.

3. When permission has been granted making the files available, access under supervision will be granted to persons and firms to enable them to do their own research. Allied Commission Staff will not be employed for such work. Nor will facts ascertained by Allied Staff be communicated to any individuals or firms.

BY COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL MORGAN,

See M 74 75.

A. L. Hamblen

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

392

392

Original Archives Br (ACTION)
Copy Evon Sec (INFO)

2
144

9
CART K

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

APO 394

Office of the Executive Commissioner

Ref. 4063/69/20

9 July 1946

SUBJECT: RUC Files.

TO : Chief Archivist
A.O.

Reference the attached copy of letter dated 23 June 1946 on the a/q subject.

Please arrange for a completed copy when microfilmed to be sent to the U.S. Ministerial Collection Centre, Berlin - Tempelhof.

BY ORDER OF REAR ADMIRAL STONE,

A. W. Knisely.

Brigadier
Executive Commissioner

Encls. as above.

391

396

Ref. 4063/69/20
9 July 1946
2

785017

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
Office of the Chief Commissioner
APO 794

Ref. : 4063/68/HC.

// July 1946.

My Dear Mr. Key,

Thank you for your letter of 28 June 1946 on the subject of copies of the RUM documents for use by the Military Government Office of the United States in Germany.

I have given instructions for the distribution list of the completed copies to be amended according to your suggestion.

Yours Very Sincerely,

(S) WILLIAM W. STARR
Rear Admiral, USNR
Chief Commissioner

See 69.

David Mck. Key,
Charge d'Affaires ad interim,
U.S. Embassy,
Rome.

388

390

785017



E.C.

4063
Also prepare
adv for
my sig - to handle
8/11/46
CL

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICAJUL 8 1946
1450

67

Rome, June 28, 1946

JUL 8 1946

Dear Admiral Stone,

The American Political Adviser, Berlin, has informed me that several agencies within the Office of Military Government, United States, are interested in the RUK documents and Mr. Murphy as a consequence has requested a microfilm copy of the documents for use at the Ministerial Collection Center, Berlin-Tempelhof. It is my understanding that the RUK files will be microfilmed shortly by a microfilm unit from AFHQ. May I suggest, therefore, that the request from Berlin be borne in mind when copies of the complete microfilmed set are being made?

Sincerely yours,

Dwight D. Keen

Rear Admiral Ellery W. Stone,
Chief Commissioner,
Allied Commission,
Rome.

see 68

389

see 68-69

(CAPT K)

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 794
Office of the Executive Commissioner

July 1946

Ref. 28/AB

SUBJECT: RUK Files.

TO : Vice President, Economic Section,
HQ. AC.

1. The custody and administration of the so-called "RUK Files" (including such CEM Branch files as deal with RUK matters) is transferred from Economic Section (Captured Enemy Materials Branch) to Executive Commissioner's Office (Archives Branch), with effect from 3rd July 1946.

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For the Chief Commissioner,


Brigadier
Executive Commissioner

Distribution:

Action : Lt.Col. Cameron-Curry
Maj. N.M. Harrison
Info : A.C. of G. AFHQ, G-5
MGA, CHQ, CMF
Polad 'A'
Polad 'B'
AFRA, AFHQ
CLO Lombardia Reg. (for CEM Br)
CLO Bolzano
Lt.Col. J.A. Campbell (CEM Br)
Allied Financial Agency
Microfilm Depot AFHQ
Joint Diplomatic Research Section
HQ. Commandant
Message Centre, AICOM.

388

785017

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HQ ALCON from ECONOMIC SECTION for GEM BRANCH

010915B

PRISON for SACRED

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SECRET

REFERENCE YOUR SIGNAL FOR IRAY SIX FIVE TWO SIX THREE DATED TWO FIVE APRIL ONE
NINE FOUR SIX CMA MAT ONE ZERO ONE TWO CMA ON THE SUBJECT OF ROGER UNCLE KING
PARAN HUNTERING UND KILINGPRODUCTION PARAN RECORDS NOW IN ROME PD ITALIAN
GOVERNMENT IS CONTINUOUSLY PRESSING FOR ACCESS TO THESE FILES CMA MAY THIS
PERMISSION NOW BE GIVEN PD THIS NOW QUEEN HAS BEEN NO REPLY TO MAT ONE ZERO
ONE TWO ADDED TO COMBINED CHIEFS OF STAFF

Internal Distribution:

Chief Commissioner.
Executive Commissioner.
Econ Section - 2.
Folad (A)
Folad (B)

387

IMPORTANT

GEM BRANCH

288

Colonel, A.C.
Asst V.P. Econ Sec.

NICHOLAS FLORENCE,
CWO, USA. Asst AG

(CPT K)

COPY

COPY

HEADQUARTERS
MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS
UNITED STATES ARMY
APO 512

Ref. : AG 386.3/002 B-0

JUN 18 1946

SUBJECT: Restitution of Italian Property From
Germany and Austria.

TO : Chief Commissioner
Allied Commission
APO 394

Attached is a corrected copy of letter, this headquarters,
file and subject as above, dated 10 June 1946.

BY ORDER OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL BEE:

/s/ M. FRANCES AMAT
Captain, AGO
Asst Adjutant General

1 Incl
AMG ltr, 8/3

See M 64-65

EC DIST-18 June

ACTION- ECON SEC (2)

INFO- CC

- EC

386

Handwritten signature and initials

(CONT'D PAGE 2)

785017

COPY

COPY

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
APC 512corrected copy
destroy all others

AE 386.3 GEG-C

10 June 1946

SUBJECT: Restitution of Italian Property from
German and Austria.TO : General Officer Commanding, British Army on the Rhine
General Officer Commanding, British Troops in Austria

1. Transmitted herewith is a copy of a letter from the Allied Commission, File 23/5.46, dated 27 May 1946, with which is enclosed a request from the Italian Government that they be allowed to send a Technical Mission to Germany and Austria with the object of locating Italian property removed by the Germans.

2. It is considered that the application is reasonable, and it has the support of this headquarters.

3. Vast quantities of material were removed from Italy during the period of German domination. Preliminary lists, extracted from the RUK (Ruestung und Kriegsproduktion) records left behind by the Germans, run into 100 foolscap pages and show this material as having been dissipated to all parts of Germany and Austria. The value has been estimated at Lit. 28,426,075,890 on the cessation of hostilities in Italy, or \$ 1,406,303,694 at the rate of Lit 20 to the dollar.

4. So far as is known, none of this material has as yet been recovered.

5. At present the Italian Government must use diplomatic channels when representing these questions. Executive action must, however, ultimately rest with the military agencies of the occupying powers. The existence of an Italian Mission, accredited to your headquarters, and to those in the other zones of occupation, and working alongside them would, it is believed, considerably simplify the present arrangement.

6. It would be appreciated, therefore, if you would state whether your headquarters would be prepared to receive such a mission to operate in the zone under your control. Details of its composition and the proposed date of its arrival will then be forwarded.

FOR THE SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER, MEDITERRANEAN THEATRE:

385

2 Incls:

- 1 - JACOM Ltr, 23/5.46
27 May 1946
2 - Ltr, Italian Govt, 34400.2/3.1.10
30 April 1946

RALPH C. TILLEY
Colonel, AGC
Adjutant Generalcorrected copy
DESTROY ALL OTHERS

785017

COPY

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
Office of the Chief Commissioner

Ref: ES/5.16

27 May 1946

SUBJECT: Italian Technical Mission to Germany

TO : The Supreme Allied Commander

1. The Prime Minister has requested assistance in obtaining authority to send an Italian technical delegation to Germany with the purpose of locating Italian material which was taken there by the Germans (copy of letter inclosed). In the letter it is made clear that an approach, already made through diplomatic channels, has not been successful.

2. It would appear that the desire of the Italian Government might be met, in the American Zones, under the provisions of instructions from the Joint Chiefs of Staff to US Commanders. It is suggested that your Headquarters obtain the view of the Commander American Zone, Germany, on a visit of an Italian technical delegation to his zone.

3. With respect to British, French and Russian Zones it would appear that further authorization from the three Governments will have to be awaited. Provided there is no objection on your part, I shall inform the diplomatic representatives of the three Governments in Rome, of the need for the restoration of Italian material.

4. In this connection the Italian Government would be greatly aided if their officials were given access to the RUK records, now in Rome. It is my considered opinion that such permission should be granted in order that the Italian Government can formulate a more effective recovery program.

Therefore, I ask your favourable consideration to granting permission to Italian officials to have access to the RUK records, under supervision of Allied Officers. I understand from the U.S.A. Embassy that the State Department is favourable to such an authorization.

/s/ Ellery W. Stone
/t/ ELLERY W. STONE
Rear Admiral,
Chief Commissioner

Encl: Letter from the Prime Minister to
Brig. General M. S. Lush, 30 Apr 46.

Letter to the Prime Minister
from Adm. Stone

Directives to Commanders in Chief U.S. Zones
of occupation. - Germany and Austria

COPY

384

785017

COPY

60

THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

Rome, 30 April 1946
34100.2/3.1.10

Dear General:

The Industrial Institute of Reconstruction controlling many firms which have been heavily plundered by the Germans, has pointed out for many months the advisability of sending to Germany a delegation composed of four technicians to locate the material which has been taken there.

Due to the nature of the proposal, it was broached through diplomatic channels with the four great powers who occupy Germany. It has not been possible however up to date to arrive at a completely favourable decision. France has declared herself unfavourable to the sending of the a/m delegation, Russia has not yet made known her ideas on the subject and America and Great Britain are at present studying the question which should, in the interests of national economy, be resolved as quickly as possible so as to avoid the increasing probability of the disposal of the machinery.

In view of this last consideration and of the fact that Admiral Stone, who was approached some time ago by the I.R.I., promised his support, I deemed it advisable to inform you of the present position of this important question of recovering the Italian material and installations taken to Germany. Although I fully recognize that this matter comes strictly within the jurisdiction of the powers who occupy Germany, I hope that your personal intervention with the representatives in Italy of the four Nations interested, will induce them to consider favourably the Italian request and agree to it within as short a time as possible.

I thank you in advance for what you feel able to do in the matter and with best wishes remain,

/s/ ???????????

Brig. General M. S. Lash
Executive Commissioner,
Allied Commission, Rome

383

2612

785017

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 794
CAPTURED ENEMY MATERIALS BRANCH

C/z
13 June 46

SUBJECT: RuK files
TO : distribution below
Ref. : C-1/337

JUN 14 1946

1. Attached is brief Pro-memoria on subject of
RuK files.

J.A. Campbell
J.A. CAMPBELL
Lieut.-Colonel
Director
CEM-Branch

Distribution:

Executive Commissioner
Mr. Malcolm, First Secretary, British Embassy
Mr. Wesley Jones POLAD(A)
Mr. A.G. Halford POLAD(B)
Major Squair, J.D.R.S.

See M 59

Alb
(CAPT K)

382
[Signature]

Confidential.

PRO - MEMORIA

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

1. The so-called RuK files⁺ contain the records of the transactions of the various German economic and financial agencies whose task it was to harness Italian industry to the German war materials production programmes.

2. The files constitute in effect a detailed record of the work of the Bodies which acted during the twenty months of German occupation of North Italy as though they were Italian Ministries.⁺⁺

During this Period the Germans were able to increase the production capacity of northern Italian industry to a pitch never before reached. As no parallel Italian records for this period exist the RuK material alone makes it possible to reconstruct this picture. Thus the importance of the RuK papers to the Italian Government is evident.

3. The files contain inter alia authentic detailed evidence on the following main subjects, namely:

- a) actual production capacity of all important Italian firms -
- b) whereabouts and particulars of Italian plant, machinery, raw materials and goods removed by the Germans into Germany, Austria, Poland and Czechoslovakia -
- c) disposal of large amounts of material and money (several Billion Lire) advanced by the Germans but not declared by North-Italian firms -
- d) German participation in or ownership of Italian concerns -
- e) disposal of approx 160,000,000,000.- German printed Lire -
- f) collaborationism.

4. The interest of the Allies in these records is manifold, including, inter alia:-

a) to establish the total value of goods and monies owed by Italian firms to the former German Organisations with a view to either:-

A) the recovery of these assets for Allied a/c, or
B) enabling the Italian Government so to do, in order that the total amount may be considered at the time of the settlement of the financial terms of the Peace Treaty;

b) to recover, either on Allied or Italian a/c, the plant etc. or value thereof removed by the Germans;

c) to make a complete survey of Italian industrial war **and 384** production capacity;

d) to establish the extent of still existing German capital in Italian industry;

e) to control the sequestration, liquidation and administration now being carried out by the Italian Government of German owned firms and assets which, by the Potsdam declarations,

these German economic and financial agencies task it was to harness Italian industry to the German war material production programmes.

2. The files constitute in effect a detailed record of the work of the Bodies which acted during the twenty months of German occupation of North Italy as though they were Italian Ministries.++

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- c) disposal of large amounts of material and money (several Billion Lire) advanced by the Germans but not declared by North Italian firms -
- d) German participation in or ownership of Italian concerns -
- e) disposal of approx 160,000,000,000.- German printed Lire -
- f) collaborationism.

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- A) the recovery of these assets for Allied a/c, or
- B) enabling the Italian Government so to do, in order that the total amount may be considered at the time of the settlement of the financial terms of the Peace Treaty;
- b) to recover, either on Allied or Italian a/c, the plant etc. or value thereof removed by the Germans;
- c) to make a complete survey of Italian industrial war **an 284** production capacity;
- d) to establish the extent of still existing German capital in Italian industry;
- e) to control the sequestration, liquidation and administration now being carried out by the Italian Government of German owned firms and assets which, by the Potsdam declarations, are reserved on a/c reparations for the Western Allies;
- f) to enable the Italian Government to recover taxation and excess profits due by private firms and to provide data for the settlement of war damage claims.

- 2 -

5. It is recommended that the custody of the files be vested in the Joint Diplomatic Research Section and that two suitably qualified Allied Officers or civilians (1 American, 1 British) be put in charge jointly of the work. The total establishment must include the staff of experts, partly Germans, presently employed on this work, total payroll Lit 150,185.- per month.

6. Meanwhile microfilming should restart on 1 July with written AMHQ authority (work hitherto carried out in Belzano was on oral instructions from Lt.Col.Earnes,G-5.)

+ Generalbeauftragter für Rüstung und Kriegsproduktion (Italian Branch of War production Ministry)

ROGES GmbH (Raw Materials Company)
Rüstungskontor (Armaments Finance House)
Unione Centrale Siderurgica (Iron & Steel Industry Control Board)
Oberster Kommissar für die Operationszone Alpenvorland
(High Commissioner for Alto Adige)

German Embassy

++ Finance ; Industry & Commerce; Treasury ; Ferrbriguerra.

13 June 46

380

785017

4063
HEADQ RTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

AFPO 794

CAPTURED ENEMY MATERIALS BRANCH

S/t

3 June 46

JUN 6 1946

SUBJECT : Security of RuK-Files

TO : The Adjutant Headquarters Allied Commission

Ref. : C/300

1. Please find enclosed an envelope with 3 duplicate keys (to the rooms in which RuK-Files are set up) to be handed over to the Night Duty Officer.

J. Cameron-Curry
J. CAMERON-CURRY.
Lt. Col.
CEM-BRANCH.

Copy to : Chief Staff Officer to the Executive Commissioner
Headquarters Commandant

379

(CAPT K)

PA 1A 1/2
2 RO.

785017

ADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

A P O 794

Office of the Executive Commissioner

54

Ref: 4063/EG.

30 May 1946.

SUBJECT: Security of RUK Files.

TO : VP, Economic Section.

Reference your letter ES/5.16 dated 27 May 1946 on the above subject.

1. Duplicate keys will be fitted to the doors of rooms 56 and 33 (3rd Floor Annex) on application to the HQ Commandant.
2. One key will be kept by the occupier and the second will be placed in an envelope clearly labelled and marked "For use only in case of emergency" and handed to the Adjutant for inclusion with the documents handed to the Night Duty Officer.

BY COMMAND OF REAR ADMIRAL STONE: A. W. Knisely.

Chief Staff Officer,
To the Executive Commissioner.

Copy to: HQ Commandant.

377

378

PA 2/3
22

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 794
ECONOMIC SECTION

Ref: ES/516

27 May 1946

MEMO

MAY 27 1946

SUBJECT: Security of RUK files

TO : Executive Commissioner.

1. Request your consideration of waiving the fire regulations, said to prohibit the use of locks on office doors.

2. It is deemed highly important that the security of the files be adequately guarded, which cannot be done without the use of locks on the room doors.

3. Furthermore it is believed that the custodian of the records cannot be held responsible for their security unless locks are provided.

Charles W. Walton
CHARLES W. WALTON
Colonel AC
Acting Vice President

377

See MS 754

(CAPT DE 9)

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

APO 794

CAPTURED ENEMY MATERIALS BRANCH

SUBJECT: Security of RUK-FILES.

TO : HQ COMMANDANT

Ref. : CEM/

C/A
17 MAY 46

1. In view of the high degree of secrecy attaching to the material in the so-called RUK-FILES, it is considered essential that the doors to rooms 56 and 33 - 3rd Floor annex - be provided with locks.

2. Authority for the provision of such locks is requested.

Blumbaronibund

J. CAMERON-CURRY.

Lt. Col.

CEM BRANCH.

Vol Ganka

OG

see 52

376

INCOMING MESSAGE

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

Originator's Reference: C 44907
Date/Time of Origin: MAY. 23 1557Z
Message Centre No: H/3235
Date Time Rec'd: MAY. 23 1735
Precedence: PRIORITY 27 1946

FROM: AFHQ.
TO: ALCOM INFO ACABRIT BERCOMB BTA

UNCLASSIFIED.

Authority granted for director Cem Branch to visit minden only.
Us authorities disapprove his entry into us zone (Frankfurt) as they are not prepared as yet to discuss restitution with Italian Government.
Authority to enter Austria cannot be given as reparation deliveries and restitution Branch Aca(Be) State that while absence of any directive from Hmg authorising restitution from Austria to Italy they are unable to assess what purpose might be served by proposed discussions.
Your 4063/35/EC dated 29 April refers.

AC DIST
ACTION C.E.M. 2
INFO CHIEF COMMISSIONER
ECON
FLCAT 2
FILE
EXEC. COMMISSIONER
375

HEADQUARTERS

Message Center
 Date Time Rec'd: MAY. 23 1735
 Precedence: PRIORITY 27 1946

Originator's Reference: C 44907
 Date/Time of Origin: MAY. 23 1557B

FROM: AFHQ.
 TO: ALCOM INFO ACABRIT BERCOMB ETA

UNCLASSIFIED.
 Authority granted for director Cem Branch to visit minden only.
 Us authorities disapprove his entry into us zone (Frankfurt) as
 they are not prepared as yet to discuss restitution with Italian
 Government.
 Authority to enter Austria cannot be given as reparation deliveries
 and restitution Branch Aca(Be) State that while absence of any
 directive from Hmg authorising restitution from Austria to Italy
 they are unable to assess what purpose might be served by proposed
 discussions.

36
 Your 4063/35/EC dated 29 April refers.

AC DIST
 ACTION C.E.M. 2
 INFO CHIEF COMMISSIONER
 ECON
 FLOAT 2
 FILE
 EXEC. COMMISSIONER
 375

HEADQUARTERS

27 MAY 1946

A. C.

17495507

785017

GSIB/935
MAY 22 1700B

H/3207
MAY 23 1015B

ACABRIIT

ROUTINE

MAY 24 1946

B T A BERCOMB ALCOM FREEDOM FOR G-2 BERCOMB FOR CTSB ALCOM FOR PSSC FOR
TRAVEL CONTROL

UNCLASSIFIED:

Your C 4219 of 2 May and 043148 of 14 May director C E M Branch visit to Austria.
Regret cannot authorize travel on information available. Reparation delivered and
restitution Branch ACA(BE) state that in the absence of any directive from H M G
authorising restitution from Austria to Italy they are unable to assess what
purpose might be served by proposed discussions would appreciate comment and further
information so that we can submit case again to R D and R if you desire.

AC DIST

INFO ACTION: ECON SEC FOR CEM

INFO: CHIEF COMMISSIONER

PUBLIC SAFETY (TC)

EXEC COMMISSIONER

FILE

FLOAT 2



374

37

(CAPT-K)

785017

4063 A
44
INCOMING MESSAGE

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

Originator's Reference: C 43146

Date/Time of Origin: MAY 14 1047B

Message Centre No: H/2927

Date Time Rec'd: MAY 14 1345

Precedence: PRIORITY

FROM: AFHQ

TO: ACARBIT BECOMB, INFO: BTA ALCON

MAY 14 1946

UNCLASSIFIED:

41
Request reply to our C 41219 of 2 May.

AC DIST

INFO ACTION - EX COMER 2

INFO - CHIEF COMMISSI ONER

FLOAT 2

FILE

INFO - ACTION

HEADQUARTERS
373

14 MAY 1946

A.C.

785017

Message Centre No: E/2927

Date Time Rec'd: MAY 14 1345

Precedence: PRIORITY

MAY 14 1346

Reference: U 43148

Date/Time of Origin: MAY 14 1047B

FROM: AFEQ

TO : ACABRIT BERGOMB . INFO: BTA ALCOM

UNCLASSIFIED:

Request reply to our C 41219 of 2 May.

AC DIST

INFO ACTION - EX COMER 2

INFO - CHIEF COMISST ONER

FLOAT 2

FILE

INFO - ACTION

HEADQUARTER 373

14 MAY 1946

A. C.

(K)

785017

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION:

A P O 794

Office of the Executive Commissioner

43

Ref: 4063/45/EC.

13 May 1946.

SUBJECT: Tour to AUSTRIA and GERMANY
of Director, CEM Branch.

TO : VP, Economic Section.

1. Confirming telephone conversation (Lt.Col. Webster -
Maj. Hind-Smith) the Executive Commissioner directs me to say that
he does not wish the proposed tour of the Director, CEM Branch, to
take place without further reference to him.

2. Letter No. 4063/35/EC dated 29 April 46 to AFHQ refers.

(36)

/s/ N.W. HIND-SMITH
MAJ

Chief Staff Officer,
To the Executive Commissioner.

372

PA
13/5
2

785017

42

ALABAMA CITY AGRIC

6 MAY 1946

APR

2002

UNCLASSIFIED

41

REFERENCE YOUR CHARLES FOUR ONE TWO ONE NINE DATED TWO MAY PD ROAD TRANSPORT
REQUESTED PD

BU

13/5

IMPORTANT

Executive Commissioner

300

A. W. Knisely

SECTION 2 - SECURITY

CH
Asst

CH
Asst

21

96

1201

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

785017

4063-4
INCOMING MESSAGE

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

Message Centre No: H/2580
Date Time Rec'd: MAY 030900B
Precedence: IMPORTANT

Originator's Reference: G 41219
Date/Time of Origin: 021330B

FROM: AFHQ

TO: ACABRIT BERCOMB INFO BTA ALCOM

MAY 3 1946

UNCLASSIFIED

Request clearance for director CEM branch Alcom to visit directors CEM branches, control commissions Vienna, Frankfurt and minden to discuss restitution of italian materials removed from Italy by Germans. Duration of visit approximately 10 to 14 days including travelling time. Please state mode of travel required. You 4063/35/EC of 29 April refers.

3b
AC DIST

INFO ACTION: EX COMMISSIONER

INFO: CHIEF COMMISSIONER

CEM BR

FILE

FLOAT 2

INFO - ACTION

HEADQUARTERS

3 MAY 1946

371

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

Message Centre No: H/2580
 Date Time Rec'd: MAY 03 0900B
 Precedence: **IMPORTANT**

MAY 3 1946

FROM: AFHQ
 TO: ACACRIT BERCOMB INFO BTA ALCOM

UNCLASSIFIED

Request clearance for director CEM branch Alcom to visit directors CEM branches, control commissions Vienna, Frankfurt and minden to discuss restitution of italian materials removed from Italy by Germans. Duration of visit approximately 10 to 14 days including travelling time. Please state mode of travel required. You 4063/35/EC of 29 April refers.

3b
AC DIST

INFO ACTION: EX COMMISSIONER

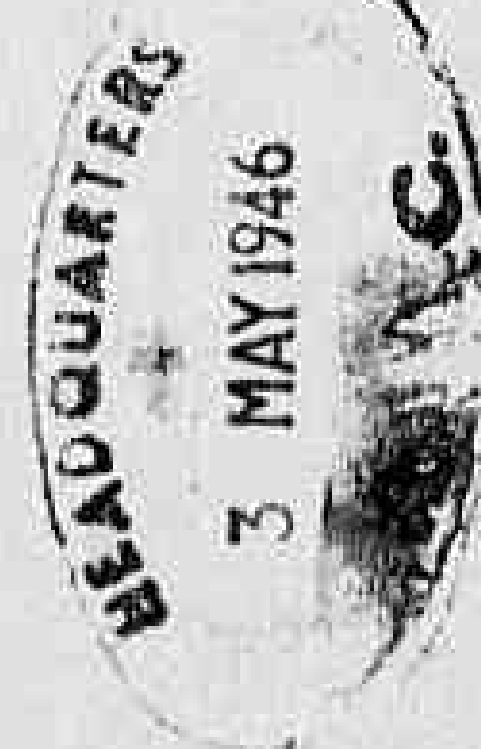
INFO: CHIEF COMMISSIONER

CEM BR

FILE

FLOAT 2

INFO - ACTION



See 7-44

371

9/ (copy K)

785017

FX 65263

CIPHER

H/2372

APRIL 251200B

APRIL 261000

FREEDOM SIGNED SACRED

AGWAR WASHINGTON FOR COS FOR COAC

INFO: CABINET OFFICES WHITEHALL FOR BCS C IN C MED AICOM ROME

ROUTINE

APR 26 1946

HEADQUARTERS
APR 26 1946

SECRET.

THIS IS MAT 1012 SUBJECT IS RUK (ROESTRUNG UND KRIEGSPRODUKTION) RECORDS AT BOLZANO.

1. THE IMPORTANCE OF THE RUK RECORDS TO VARIOUS ALLIED COUNTRIES AND THE NECESSITY FOR THEIR EARLY DISPOSITION BECAUSE OF THE REDEPLOYMENT SITUATION. REQUEST YOUR INSTRUCTIONS THEREON
2. THE RECORDS ARE THOSE OF THE ITALIAN BRANCH OF THE GERMAN ARMAMENT AND WAR PRODUCTION ORGANIZATION AND OF ITS SUBSIDIARY BANKING CONCERNS ROGES AND RUSTONISKUTER, THOSE FROM WHICH THE LISTS REFERRED TO IN OUR MAT 977 WERE COMPILED TOGETHER WITH THOSE OF THE RUK BRANCH OFFICES AT COMO, MILAN AND EISENBERG, HAVE NOW BEEN CONCENTRATED INTO A CENTRAL ARCHIVE AT BOLZANO, ORIGINALLY FOUND IN SOME 300 CASES, THESE FILES RUN INTO MANY THOUSANDS OF COVERS.
3. THEY CONTINUE TO BE TREATED AS CAPTURED ENEMY MATERIAL AND ARE HELD IN CUSTODY OF CAPTURED ENEMY MATERIALS BRANCH OF AICOM WHO PENDING A DECISION AS TO THEIR DISPOSAL, HAVE EMPLOYED THEIR OFFICERS, TOGETHER WITH 2 INDIVIDUALS OF THE ORIGINAL GERMAN STAFF, ON SORTING AND CLASSIFICATION THIS WORK IS HOWEVER BEING IMPEDED BY DISTANCE FROM ROME AND LACK OF MANPOWER. MOREOVER IN THEIR PRESENT SITUATION THE PROBLEM OF SAFEGUARDING THEM IS A DIFFICULT ONE.
4. THE MAIN FUNCTIONS OF THE RUK ORGANIZATION APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN:
 - A. THE EXERCISE OF ABSOLUTE ECONOMIC AND OPERATIONAL CONTROL OVER THE ITALIAN ARMAMENT INDUSTRY FROM SEPTEMBER 1943 TO THE CAPITULATION IN MAY 1945.
 - B. EXPORT OF ITALIAN FINISHED WAR PRODUCTS.
5. THE RECORDS OF THESE ACTIVITIES INCLUDE IN GREAT DETAIL:
 - A. STATISTICAL DATA OF THE ENTIRE ITALIAN WAR INDUSTRY.
 - B. PRODUCTION PROGRAMMES.

SECRET

785017

CIPHER TELEGRAM

W/2372

This message ~~CIPHER~~ not be distributed outside
British and Foreign Government Departments or
Headquarters of the armed forces even in Cipher
Without a special order (Messages marked
O.T.P. should be treated as such).

CONFIDENTIAL

SECRET

SECRET.

PAGE 2

- C. PARTICULARS OF ALL EXPORTS AND DEALINGS WITH GERMAN, AUSTRIAN, AND SWISS FIRMS.
D. DETAILS OF NEW INVENTIONS, AND TECHNICAL DETAILS OF GERMAN WEAPONS OF WAR.
E. FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS AND ACCOUNTS OF ALL TRANSACTIONS.
F. 4 OR 5 THOUSAND COMMERCIAL CONTRACTS TOGETHER WITH DOCUMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE PERTAINING TO THE DEALINGS OF RUK WITH ITALIAN FIRMS.
6. THESE DOCUMENTS ARE OF CONSIDERABLE MONETARY VALUE TO THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT AS THEY PROVIDE INFORMATION ON THE LOCATION OF EQUIPMENT REMOVED BY THE GERMANS FROM ITALY. THEY WOULD APPEAR ALSO TO BE OF VALUE TO THE US, BRITISH, FRENCH AND RUSSIAN GOVERNMENTS IN LOCATING EQUIPMENT AND IN SETTLING REPARATIONS CLAIMS. FOLLOWING ESTIMATED FIGURES GIVE AN INDICATION OF THE SUMS INVOLVED TAKING THE PRESENT RATE OF EXCHANGE:
- A. RUK INVESTMENTS IN ITALIAN FIRMS 720,000,000 DOLLARS.
B. VALUE OF TRANSFERRED PLANTS AND MACHINERY 125,004,772 DOLLARS.
C. CLAIMS BY ITALY FOR WAR MATERIALS EXPORTED TO GERMANY AND AUSTRIA AND NOT PAID FOR 17,777,777 DOLLARS.
D. SUM OWED TO THE GERMAN RUK BANKS BY ITALIAN FIRMS FOR MONEY RECEIVED FOR WAR MATERIALS NOT DELIVERED AND FOR RAW MATERIALS RECEIVED AND NOT PAID FOR 11,000,000 DOLLARS.
7. THE FRENCH AND RUSSIANS AS WELL AS THE ITALIANS ARE AWARE OF THE EXISTENCE OF ~~369~~ ³⁶⁹ ~~RECORDS~~ AND THEIR LOCATION. PUBLICITY HAS ALSO BEEN GIVEN TO THEM IN US PRESS AND ON EUROPEAN RADIO.

SECRET

8. THE RECORDS ARE EVIDENTLY OF GREAT VALUE TO THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT AND OTHERS MAY WANT TO CONSULT THEM FOR HISTORICAL AND STATISTICAL INFORMATION AND IT APPEARS DESIRABLE THAT PROPER ARRANGEMENTS BE MADE FOR THEIR PRESERVATION AND ULTIMATE ACCESSIBILITY TO THOSE

(CONT. PAGE 3)

785017

CIPHER

E/2372

38

~~SECRET~~

CIPHER TELEGRAM

This message will not be distributed outside British or U.S. Government Departments or Headquarters of the Commission without being marked O.T.P. (need not be so phrased).

SECRET.

PAGE 3

ENGAGED IN RESEARCH.

9. THE QUESTION OF ACCESS TO THE ARCHIVES BY THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN RAISED AND HAS BEEN REFERRED THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND FOREIGN OFFICE FOR A DECISION. WHILST IT IS CONSIDERED REASONABLE THAT SUCH FACILITIES SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE FILES MAY CONTAIN INFORMATION WHICH IF MADE AVAILABLE TO THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT AT THIS STAGE MIGHT PREJUDICE ALLIED INTERESTS AND SOME PRECAUTION AGAINST THIS IS NECESSARY. IT IS REPHRASED THAT AS THE RECORDS HAVE LITTLE LOCAL MILITARY SIGNIFICANCE AND HAVING REGARD TO MANPOWER LIMITATIONS NO STUDY OF THEM BY AFHQ IS CONTEMPLATED OR IN FACT PRACTICABLE.
10. IT IS PLANNED TO MOVE THESE RECORDS IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO ROME AND PLACE THEM TEMPORARILY UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE ALLIED COMMISSION TO BE LOGGED WITH OTHER RECORDS OF THE COMMISSION.
11. IF IT IS DECIDED THAT THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT SHOULD HAVE UNRESTRICTED ACCESS TO THE RECORDS IT COULD BE MADE PARTIALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR CUSTODY AND PROCESSING.
12. IF CONSIDERED SUFFICIENTLY IMPORTANT TO YOU THE PRACTICABILITY OF PRODUCING PHOTOGRAPHIC COPIES FOR DISTRIBUTION TO ALLIED OCCUPATIONAL AUTHORITIES IN GERMANY AND AUSTRIA AS WELL AS TO THE BRITISH US AND ITALIAN GOVERNMENTS AND THE ROME EMBASSIES WILL BE DETERMINED.

368

~~SECRET~~

INFO ACTION: CEM BR

INFO: CHIEF COMMISSIONER

ECON SEC
ECON COMMISSIONER 2

POLAD (A)

POLAD (B)
FILE
BRITTON

785017

36

Ref. : 4065/35/10

29. April 1946.

SUBJECT: Restitution of material of Italian origin.

TO : AFM

Your authority is requested please, for the Director of the CMI Branch of the Allied Commission to visit the Directors of the CMI Branches, Control Commission, Austria (Vienna) and Germany (Frankfurt and Birmen) to discuss ways and means of restitution of Italian materials removed from Italy by the Germans.

The main points of the proposed visit are:-

- a) To contact American, British and French Staffs on the question of restitution of Italian heavy and power-driven industrial machinery and equipment, and other material to the Italian Government.
- b) To investigate with Control Commission staffs the ways and means and priorities for the return of material urgently required in Italy.
- c) To provide such information as is available from RUC records, showing proposed destination in Germany and Austria for machinery which left Italy.
- d) To discuss general questions with regard to Italian material in these countries and ascertain as far as possible the Austrian and German Control Commission's views on the subject of restitution of material of Italian origin to Italians.
- e) To explain the RUC Files in so far as to the type of information which is available and which may be useful and helpful in questions in which they are interested.

The duration of the visit would be approximately 10-14 days including travelling time.

In the C.Cm.

M S. LUSH

Refugee,
Executive Commissioner.

Copy to:- Economic Section
Attention Col. Walton

367
H/1/143
See

785017

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 324
ECONOMIC SECTION

Ref: ES/219

18 April 1946
APR 18 1946

SUBJECT: Restitution of material of Italian origin

TO : The Acting Chief Commissioner

1. I recommend in principle the approval of a trip for the Director of the SEM Branch to the Control Commissions, to discuss ways and means of restitutions of Italian materials removed from Italy by the Germans. Prior to departure the Director should bring to this Headquarters appropriate list of material so disposed, which list should give destinations and indications of the financial arrangements on which the transactions were made.

2. In view of the directive of the joint Chiefs of Staff regarding the American Zones, it would appear that such information could be helpful.

Charles W. Walton
CHARLES W. WALTON
Colonel AC
Acting Vice President

1 Incl
memo from Dir CE & M

368

*See memo 3435
7.36*

COPY

32

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
CAPTURED ENEMY MATERIALS BRANCH

10 April 1946

REASONS FOR SUGGESTED VISIT OF DIRECTOR, GEN BRANCH TO
CONTROL COMMISSION, AUSTRIA (VIENNA) AND GERMANY (FRANKFURT AND MINDEN)

a 1. To contact American, British and French Staffs on the question of restitution of Italian heavy and power-driven industrial machinery and equipment, and other material to the Italian Government.

b 2. To investigate with Control Commission staffs the ways and means and priorities for the return of material urgently required in Italy.

c 3. To provide such information as is available from RUK records, showing proposed destination in Germany and Austria for machinery which left Italy.

d 4. To discuss general questions with regard to Italian material in these countries and ascertain as far as possible the Austrian and German Control Commission's views on the subject of restitution of material of Italian origin to Italians.

e 5. To explain the RUK Files in so far as to the type of information which is available and which may be useful and helpful in questions in which they are interested.

6. Tour of duty would take approximately 10 - 14 days, to include time for travelling.

See #146 365

COPYCOPY11/1768
APR 081715B
PRIORITY

LT COL CAMERON CURRY OS NFI

LT COL CAMPBELL DIR CEM BRANCH A.C. ROME INFO AFHQ FOR AFRA

R E S T R I C T E D

RESTRICTED

Maj Shey and cap Von Dorster A F records administration arrived today to discuss continuation microfilming RUK records. Impossible for them to provide facilities in Bolzano. If it is decided to remove records to Rome arrangements can be made to handle material there either by sending down to Caserta in weekly lots or subject to working out satisfactory administration details by Afra by moving small staff and equipment to Rome. It is represented that Afra could cope with all remaining documents better if able to start earliest as they have other commitments starting about July. JCameron - Curry Lt Col.

AC DIST

ACTION
INFO~~CEM~~
CEM BR
CHIEF COMMISSIONER
ECON SEC 2
FILE 2
FLOAT

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
AFO 394
ECONOMIC SECTION

#063.

Ref: ES/5.16

5 April 1946

APR 9. 1946

SUBJECT: RUK Files

TO : Executive Commissioner

1. A meeting was held in my office today with the following present:

Colonel Walton
Major Bates
Capt. Morgan
Mr. Wesley Jones, U. S. Embassy(a) The Problem: What information from the RUK files does
ALCOM have which it deems expedient to turn
over to the Italian Government?(b) Factors Bearing On The Problem:

- (1) AFHQ has authorized ALCOM to turn over such information from the RUK files to the Italian Government as it deems expedient.
- (2) A note verbale has gone to the Italian Government from the United States Embassy informing that Government of the intention to facilitate the return of certain property transferred from Italy to U. S. Zones in Germany and Austria.
- (3) Instructions have gone to the Commanders of U. S. Zones in Europe from the Joint Chiefs of Staff, that under certain conditions they will make possible the return of Italian property from their Zones.

2. Information Furnished To Date: The Italian Government has been given a preliminary list (made shortly after liberation) showing the sources and destinations of Italian property removed by the Germans.3. Further Information Available: As a result of the analysis of RUK files which has taken place up to this time, it is believed that there are some comprehensive summaries, more up to date than the list referred to in the preceding paragraph, which would be of great value to the Italian Government in determining the points of origin and destinations of property. Capture of Enemy Materials Branch is being directed to have these summaries sent to Rome immediately with a view to considering at this Headquarters the suitability of turning the lists over to the Italians.

363

M. 26. 27

(Capt. E.)

SR 9/4.

PA

- 2 -

24

4. It was concluded that, pending the receipt of these lists, further action would be withheld. This may be considered as an interim report.

Charles W. Walton
CHARLES W. WALTON
Colonel, AC
Acting Vice President

Copies To:

Major Bates
Capt. Morgan
Mr. Wesley Jones

4063 / 90
Ex Comm R 22
Subject: RUK Records.

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS

AFHQ/5081/Q(GEMS)

4 Apr 46

To : HQ, Allied Commission,
Rome.

1. Authority is given for the following officers to inspect the RUK Records at Bolzano with a view to ascertaining the technical problems involved in the microfilming of the RUK Records.

Major F.W. SKEY (British)
Capt. R.H. von DORSTER (U.S.)

} Allied Force Records Adm.
Microfilming Depot.

2. It is requested that every facility be given to these officers in the execution of their assignment.

J. McLachlan Maj
A. McLACHLAN, Major,
for Major General,
Chief Administrative Officer.

AMOL/co.

Copy to: HQ, No. 2 District.

HQ Lombardia Liaison Group, Allied Commission, APO 394
(Attn. GEM Branch, Milan Office)

Allied Force Records Adm. (2) - Officer to contact at ALCOM, Bolzano -
Lt. Col. CAMERON-CURRIE.

Econ Section

Econ Sec.
361

SK 9/4
(NAJH)

see 11.23

785017

4063 / 92

18

ROUTING AND WORK SHEET

APR 3 1946

SUBJECT: RUK FILES

No	Date	To	REMARKS	From
1	2 Apr.	Exec. Comm.	1. In accordance with our understanding, I am sending you herewith copy of the response from G-5, AFHQ, with reference to the request of the Italian Government to have access to the RUK Files. <i>Charles W. Walton</i> CHARLES W. WALTON Colonel, A.C. Acting Vice President	Acting V-I Economic Sec.

see M19.20.

363

PA

see M19.20

363

SR 3/11
(H H H H)

COPY

6063 98

17

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 512

G-5: 619.3-6

28 March 1946

SUBJECT: RUK FILES

TO : Headquarters, Allied Commission,
APO 394

1. Your letter ES/516 of 9 March 1946, enclosing a copy of a request from the Prime Minister for access to the RUK records at Bolzano, is acknowledged.
2. The matter has been referred to the Department of State and the Foreign Office for a ruling.
3. The importance to the Italian Government of the information contained in these files has been represented, and it is hoped that a favourable reply may be given.
4. Since, however, Allied interests are also involved, and no study of the records has yet been undertaken, it is not desired that access to the archives, except by accredited Allied Persons, be sanctioned until the views of the Department of State and Foreign Office are received.
5. In the meantime there is no objection to your imparting such information to the Italian Government as you consider expedient and as can be conveniently obtained from the files by AC officers.

BY COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL MORGAN:

s/ A.L. HANSEN
Brigadier General, G.S.C.
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-5/

Copy to: Q(AE) CEM
G-2
USPOLAD
Br POLAD

785017

4063 96
Ref. ES/5.16

16
1 March 1946

WAD 11 1016

My dear Minister:

14
In response to your letter of 26 February I wish to inform you that documents located in Bolzano, usually referred as to the RUK files, are being microfilmed with a view to making the files more widely available. After reproduction I shall undertake to see that copies of the documents are put at your disposal. During the period of reproduction it would cause some inconvenience if further technicians were working with the documents. However I shall explore the question and advise you further.

Very truly yours

/s/ Ellery W. Stone
ELLERY W. STONE
Rear Admiral, USNR
Chief Commissioner

Doctor Alcide de Gasperi
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Italian Government
Rome

Copy to: G. Gen.

Ex. C. ✓



358

(MAT 14) 5/13/46

785017

Ref. ES/5.16

7 March 1946

WDD 11 1946

My dear Minister:

In response to your letter of 23 February I wish to inform you that documents located in Bolzano, usually referred as to the RUK files, are being microfilmed with a view to making the files more widely available. After reproduction I shall undertake to see that copies of the documents are put at your disposal. During the period of reproduction it would cause some inconvenience if further technicians were working with the documents. However I shall explore the question and advise you further.

Very truly yours

/s/ Ellery W. Stone
ELLERY W. STONE
Rear Admiral, USNR
Chief Commissioner

Doctor Alcide de Gasperi
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Italian Government
Rome

Copy to: G. Can.
Ex. C. ✓

WDD 11 1946

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(MAY 11) 11/3/46

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MAR 11 1946

Reference: ES/SIG

9 March 1946

SUBJECT: Italian Government access to RUE files.

TO : C-5 AFHQ

1. A request, copy attached, has been received from the Prime Minister for access to the RUE files in Palermo as an aid to their building up information on the disposal of Italian machinery acquired under RUE contracts. This is considered to be a reasonable request and I recommend its approval.

/s/ Ellery W. Stone

ELLEERY W. STONE
Rear Admiral, USNR
Chief Commissioner

copy to: C. C. ✓
C. C. ✓

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(Mas H) SRAH
11/3/44

See 7-18-17

See 7-138 Vol-II

TRANSLATION

44/05935

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Rome, 23 February, 1946

Dear Admiral,

Thank you for the list of installations and Italian property carried away by the Germans, enclosed in your letter, ES/5.16, of 12 January last. Though this list has been very useful, and has enabled us to compare notes with our Companies, it only gives us data relative to the original destination of the goods, whereas, in many cases, owing to bombing, the expeditions routed or were stopped when still in Italian territory. I would therefore be grateful if you would authorize your competent offices to communicate the following to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

a) A list of the ultimate destination of the expeditions, according to archives found in Bolzano.

b) A list of the goods still in Italian territory.

Perhaps the drawing up of these lists would be made easier if Italian technicians were authorized to consult the documents in Bolzano, and compare them with their own information.

I would like to know your view in the matter.

With regards,

Yours truly,

(s) De Gasperi

Admiral Ellery W. Stone

Chief Commissioner, A.C.

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for. bur.

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Ref. ES/5.16

28 February 1946

MAR 4 1946

SUBJECT: RUK Files, Bolzano

TO : Supreme Allied Commander
Mediterranean Theatre

1. A major portion of the files, covering operations in Italy, of the German parasatal organization, Ruestung und Kriegsproduktion (RUK) is located in Bolzano, in custody of the Captured Enemy Materials Branch, Allied Commission. They consist of from four to five thousand commercial contracts with business documents and correspondence pertaining to the dealings of RUK with Italian firms.

2. The documents are of interest to the Allies and may have considerable monetary and material value to the Italian Government. The files include :-

(a) Information on

- (1) German equipment
- (2) German operations with Swiss firms
- (3) German war expenditures
- (4) German handling of the Italian (Republican Government) budget

(b) Basis for claims

- (1) on Italian firms for refunds of advance payments, loans, or advances of material
- (2) on German/Austrian firms for money on account of material or machinery furnished these firms by the German Government
- (3) by Italian Government for equipment removed by the Germans
- (4) of Italian firms (subcontractors) against other Italian firms (prime contractors)
- (5) by persons who were removed to Austria after voting for German nationality and had returns from the sale of their Italian property deposited in a SAT account, Bolzano.

3. The present CEM work on these files consists of detailed examinations, of the contents, logical sorting and classification, and the piecing together of information, all with the objective of organizing the material in a form in which it would be most useful.

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page 12

There have been a few claims presented to Italian firms, roughly at an approximate valuation of 5,000,000 lire, of which 4,800,000 lire have been paid by the firms. It is conservatively estimated that the files contain the basis for claims amounting to 2½ billion lire.

4. Requests have been made by the Italian Government for the files or for access to them. (See inclosure No. 1) Thus far permission has not been granted. A copy of a report from the files, on plants and machinery removed from Italy into Germany has, however, recently been transmitted to the Italian Government.

5. Some newspaper and radio publicity on the nature and the location of the files has been noted. The inclosed article from the Chicago Sun (see inclosure No. 2) which contains many inaccuracies is an example of the publicity. A broadcast from Hamburg discussed the files as did a broadcast from an Austrian station.

6. The files have been further described as presented in considerable detail in an earlier report from the Captured Enemy Materials Branch.

7. A question is raised as to the legal title of the files. As they were originally the property of the German Government there is the possibility that these files may legally be the property of the four Governments represented on the Allied Council in Berlin as the successors of the German Government. (In this connection it should be noted that the German Embassy premises in Rome are legally vested in the four powers and have been transferred to the custody of the Italian Government as trustees for those powers). Some of the material to be reclaimed from Germany is in the French and Soviet Zones and there is a possibility that the French and USSR may claim a share in the control of the documents. The French and Soviet representatives on the Allied Commission are aware of their existence.

8. The files are considered to be important. The main problems raised by the files are :

- (a) Completion of the files
- (b) Security and safeguarding
- (c) Accessibility
- (d) Reproduction and use
- (e) Custody
- (f) Procedure and plan for using the files
- (g) Ultimate disposition

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page 3.

9. The files are not complete. It is understood that G-4, IV Corps gave instructions as to the disposition of certain elements of the files which are important. Effort is being made to contact the responsible officer with the hope that he may have some record or recollection of the matter.

10. Security. The files are stored in the basement and ground floor of an apartment building with no special means for security except the presence of the working personnel, one of whom remains on duty with the files throughout the night hours. A request was presented to the Sub-Area Commander at Bolzano, for armed military guards but he reported that he had no guards available.

11. Accessibility. The files are not readily accessible to Allied or Italian authorities, except to the personnel of the GEM Branch who are working with them. It appears important that the Italian Government should eventually have access to the files.

12. Reproduction and Use. Consideration is being given to the reproduction of the files by microfilming in order that copies could be furnished to the interested agencies and governments. It has been learned informally that the files can be reproduced by this means in a period of about 8 weeks.

13. Custody. Custody over the files has been vested in Captured Enemy Materials Branch. However, it is becoming apparent that the interest in the files is so varied that consideration might well be given to changing both the custodian and the location. A central location for the original files, such as Rome, is suggested with a body of US/British and possibly Italian representatives in control.

14. Procedural Plans for Using the Files. It appears that the Italian Government should eventually have access to the material in the files. The formation of a tripartite group of British, U.S. and Italian representatives for the continued supervision and examination of the files would appear to provide the necessary information to the Italian Government and at the same time furnish adequate protection to Anglo-American interests.

15. Recommendations. It is recommended that:

- a. A decision on the ultimate disposition of the RUE files be sought from Combined Chiefs of Staff.
 - b. The Commanding General of Number 2 District be directed to furnish adequate security to the RUE files in Bolzano.
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pg 4.

- c. That the files be reproduced by photographic means and a sufficient number of copies obtained for transmission to the U.S. and British Governments, the U.S. and British Embassies, Italy, the occupation authorities in Germany and Austria, the Italian Government, and the people who are working on the files.
- d. That the original files be removed from their present location to a more central and secure location.
- e. That jurisdiction over the files be given to a tripartite body, U.S., British and Italian Government which body would continue the present and such other activities with the files as maybe necessary.

/s/ Ellery W. Stone

ELLERY W. STONE
Rear Admiral, USNR
Chief Commissioner.

cc :- Mr. Hopkinson, British Embassy
Mr. Jones, American Embassy

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(8)

Walden
 Goldsmith, G. V. S. Army
 American & War Production

Files were in custody of G. S. V. Army June - July
 NHD then took on Goldsmith, ^{Walden} as part of Sub
 Commission & with him the files July.
 NHD discussed with Gen Brinkley & Brig Anderson
 on question of land back demanding to 9 Sub
 Delinquent August - October. Then Powell took
 over & files referred regularly to Economic Section
 in December. H.H. became involved.

Swend in the Grain ——— ideal.

Sgt G.

Hold until letter from Econ Sec a
 Ruk file comes along

Dr/6/12

351

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND

No.

785017

Draft memo not
received, but has
now been submitted
in final form for
signature in Econ Sec
file attached.

Office of Br. Ish
Political Adviser

Mr. H. Cleveland,
Vice-President,
Economic Section, AC.

NR

FEB 11 1946

I agree with the draft memorandum on the RUK files subject to the following observations.

(1) I feel that some reference ought to be made to the possibility that these files may legally be the property of the four Governments represented on the Allied Council in Berlin as the successors to the German Government. (In this connection it should be noted that the German Embassy premises in Rome are legally vested in the four powers and have been transferred to the custody of the Italian Government as trustees for those powers.) It is a point which SACMED or the Combined Chiefs of Staff may wish to ignore but having regard to the fact that a considerable part of the material to be reclaimed from Germany is in the French Zone with a smaller part in the Soviet Zone, there is a risk that French and USSR may claim a share in the control of the documents and the steps which may be taken to clear up the situation arising from them.

SACMED and the Combined Chiefs may consider that the documents constitute war booty the disposal of which lies in the hands of the SACMED as representing the United States and United Kingdom Governments. The existence of these files is of course known to the French and Soviet representatives on the Allied Commission as it was mentioned at the last Vice-Presidents' meeting.

(2) I think that reference should be included to the important missing files which were last

/known

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See

- 2 -

known to be in the hands of Colonel
Weller, G-2 of the U.S. 4 Corps and
that it should be stated what steps
are being taken to recover them.

(Sgd) H. Hopkinson

7.11.46

Polad (BR)

Copy to Excom
Polad(A)
British Embassy

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Dis. tech filed to Chicago Sun on Jan 7, 1946, by M. Klein: Bolzano, Italy. (5)

The bankruptcy of American foreign policy is about to hand over to the British by default the only existing means of controlling the fate of an estimated \$5,000,000,000 worth of Italian industry looted by the Germans during the war, according to evidence available here.

The same official indifference also is on the point of cancelling American claims against Italian businessmen who dealt with the Nazis amounting to as much as \$90,000,000 or exactly one-fifth of the sum allotted to Italy under the UNRRA appropriation passed last month by Congress.

The key to the situation lies in more than 300 large packing cases of files kept during the last 2½ years of the war by the Italian branch of the Nazi Ministry of Armaments and War Production (Ruestung und Kriegsproduktion) commonly known by the initials RUK.

In one of the biggest documentary finds of the war, the RUK files were recovered by and for the moment are under the guardianship in the Bolzano area of a lonely American first lieutenant from the Captured Enemy Materials Section of the Allied Commission - John S. Nardini, Pueblo, Colo.

With usual German thoroughness the files include data on every Nazi financial operation in Italy since the Badoglio surrender in September 1943. They also include records of secret deals with neutral firms, of secret trade agreements, new inventions and, of course, they are of untold value as evidence against Italian collaborators.

Assisted by five of the 2,500 former employees of RUK offices in Milan and Como, Nardini has used the files to locate Italian machinery and other property in more than 1,500 places in Germany and Austria

- 2 -

(4)

through the more than 4,000 contracts recorded in the files.

The Germans moved out this "displaced industry", usually whole plants at a time, during the period after the Salerno landing when they doubted they could hold Italy. It was one of the largest and brutalest looting jobs of the war since the Italians owners never were paid for their property.

The value of the machinery involved is estimated conservatively at 100,000,000,000 lire at the pre-war rate of 20 to \$1, making its present value 400,000,000,000 lire or \$5,000,000,000 at the fixed rate of 100 lire to \$1.

All the machinery involved is legal Allied war booty. But it also could be classified as loot and thus become the biggest single claim Italy will have if she ever is allowed reparations from Germany.

Whatever the final decision, the RUK files are the only means by which the machinery ever can be located. Much of it was taken to the Ruhr which now is under British control, making it interesting that the British have made several attempts to get the files away from AC control.

Obviously, if the files are "lost" the Italian machinery will disappear forever with the other wreckage of the Nazi war potential.

The second most important value of the RUK files is the fact they are the only means with which the Allies can trace what happened to 80,000,000,000 lire at the pre-war rate, or roughly \$4,000,000,000 that the Germans invested in the Italian industry they allowed to remain in Italy.

Most of this investment was returned to Germany in the form of 347 completed items but it is believed about 3,000,000,000 pre-war lire or \$150,000,000 worth still is here either in cash, materials or unfinished

articles which the Italians were making for the Germans.

This \$150,000,000 - of which Nardini already has located \$50,000,000 - is legal war booty owed to the Allies by the Italian firms possessing it. Under an inter-Allied agreement, the United States is allowed 60% Britain 30% and the other Allied nations 10% of all the war booty captured in Italy.

The United States thus has claim to \$90,000,000 in this category. Since she already is making huge investments to help Italian recovery, The United States clearly would not want to claim these assets, but by turning them over to the Italian government she could make a gesture of great political value.

In addition to the fact that nearly all these assets are being concealed illegally by the Italian firms possessing them with the hope the records have been lost, \$90,000,000 would almost double the anticipated income of the Italian government for the current fiscal year.

An interesting sidelight of the situation is the fact that the Germans paid their \$4,000,000,000 investment in Italy with unbacked occupation lire which they printed themselves in Italy.

In other words, figuring in the \$5,000,000,000 worth of machinery which they carried out of Italy without payment, the Nazis made a clear profit of \$9,000,000,000 by prevailing upon Mussolini to form his Fascist Republican government to carry on the war after the Badoglio surrender.

The Italians, however, are not in a position to try to cancel out the Allied claim on the \$150,000,000 in remaining Nazi investments because the phony nazi money now has become the core of the country's monetary structure.

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Nardini has attempted repeatedly through letters, personal visits, telephone calls and other Army "channels" to convince the U.S. Army and State Dept. of the importance of the files under his guardianship. He has been unable to get anyone to come up here to look at them.

The British, on the other hand, being a have-not nation themselves, have shown intense interest in the RUK files and the wealth to which they could lead. They already have made several circuitous efforts to obtain control of them from the AC.

More recently a British major arrived in Bolzano to set up a new office to handle the files, and Nardini, who is under the direct command of the British 2 district with headquarters in Milan, expects orders momentarily to turn them over to the major.

If the Americans continue to ignore the situation it will be difficult to criticize the British if they take over the whole thing to exploit as they see fit.

This could be either by grabbing the tremendous assets involved for reconstruction of their own economic empire, or by returning all or part of them to the Italians as a token of British "generosity".

(end)

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①
translation.

OBSCURE AFFAIRS AT MONTECATINI FIRM.

Materials of several millions of dollars illegally released to Fascist Magistrates under the protection of Allied officers.

Rome 22 January.

On the EPOCA to-day Ronald Downes makes clear how some business men are behaving nowadays judging from a matter which appears to be a particular expression of their mentality.

In the surroundings of Bolzano, at Castelletto, the Montecatini firm had a factory for the construction of a big hydro-electrical plant. After September 1943 the Todt organisation requisitioned the factory using it as a warehouse.

After the liberation the Montecatini firm declared that the Todt organisation had to pay a sum of 3 millions lire for the use of electric power and other expenses; this amount would have been reduced to 800,000 lire as per agreement reached between the fascist administration of Montecatini firm and the fascist government. As a compensation, said agreement was contemplating the release to Montecatini firm by the Todt organisation of all material located at Castelletto warehouse for a value of several millions of dollars. Standing the illegal quality of such a transaction and the evidently excessive value of the material released, the C.E.A. Branch (Captured Enemy Materials Branch) of Allied Commission sent a representative Lt. Nardini, who immediately started transferring the German material from the Montecatini depots to those of C.E.A.

But only the C.E.A. Branch of Milan ordered to stop transferring the material, evidently under influence of Montecatini firm. Lt. Nardini sent a letter to Allied Commission Milan protesting against such decision, and found support by the British Captain A.E. Davies who answered him to stop immediately the transfer. But before this letter was reaching Bolzano, Capt. Davies ordered to him by a telephone conversation to suspend all transferring work. 342

Lt. Nardini wrote another letter, this time to Maj. Drew, British officer and officer in charge of the CEM office of Milan; that letter had no reply. Successively Maj. F.I. Bowerth, in order to make an enquiry, asked Maj. Drew to revise the orders as per which the Todt material had to remain a Montecatini property. In his letter to Maj. Drew he writes: "It seems to be something obscure in these transactions."

At the end of December this material was still the property of Montecatini firm.

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