

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

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10000/109/941

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

10000/109/941

MONTE CATINI
OCT., NOV. 1944

25

TO: Office of Chief of Staff. (Attention: Captain Oden)

When signing attached letter the Chief Commissioner commented that he considered it too detailed a letter and too much concerned with procedure to go out under his signature, and that such details should not be discussed at the level of Undersecretary of State and Chief Commissioner. If a similar instance reoccurs, perhaps you would cause the reply to go out under signature of COS or even DEOS.

J.A. Quayle

J. A. QUAYLE
Major, R. A.
Staff Officer to CC

22 November 1944

- - - - - 30 - - - - -

To: Econ Sector note minute as 25
Don't read right. encl. 22/11
Done
Placed 23/11

1267

TO: Chief Staff Officer,

L. Economic Section have a good deal of information regarding "Montecintid". Several of their Sub-Commissions have had dealings with this large organization.

2. I believe an interim reply should be made as per the ^{draft opposite} attached and then the subject passed to Economic section for study.

3. The criticism is rather generalized but it is not suggested that details be invited from the Minister at this time.

4. Econ. Sec. approve.

13 October 44

encl.
Capt.

See folio 7 opposite

13/10 11

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Economic section (For the attention of Industries Sub-Committee)

1. AT (22) is a further letter from H. Gurn. asking urgently for a reply to their letter of Oct. 7th, for which we asked you in para. 6 of our ~~minute~~ memo. Ref. 5007/20/cos - at 20.

2. could we please have this reply for the AFCE's signature - prepared according to instructions in office memorandum No 18 of 1st Nov. - to-day if possible -

(5m 127) : 50.2

7. 11. 54

4705-7ca

3) 1. Economic Section

Industry S/C has prepared a letter on Montecatin

Ref. M. 5557/2nd - 15 Nov. - Copy in original attached for
documental.

125-11-71

4) 20 COS - There is attached letter for signature of Chief Commissioner as requested in your Memorandum. Ref. 5007/20 COS 30 October. Will Carbone please be

2007

See folio 8 opposite

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23

Economic Section (For the attention of Industry Sub-committee)

1. At (22) is a further letter from H. Gov. asking urgently for a reply to their letter of Oct. 7th. For which we asked you in para. 6 of our ~~memo~~ memo Ref. 5007/20/COS - at (20)
2. could we please have this reply for the A/C's signature. prepared according to instructions in office memorandum No 18 of 1st Nov. - to read if possible -

C.O.S. (EXT. 457)
T. H. 44
H. Mason J/can.

- 3) To: Economic Section
Industry S/C has prepared a letter on Montecatini

Ref. M. 5507/Ind - 15 Nov. - Copy or original ¹²attached for ¹²transmittal.
16-11-44

- 4) To COS - There is attached letter for signature of Chief Commissioner as requested in your memorandum Ref. 5007/20 COS 30 October. Will Carbone please be returned for filing in Economic Section?

20 Nov 44
B. D. Mack, Maj
Comm. Sect.

24

SO to E.C.: attached letter for sig by E.C.
Flags at A, B & C for guidance

over 20/11

NOV 20 1944
REC'D

BDM/ram

21 November 1944

AC/557/IND

My dear Marchese Visconti Venosta:

This is in reference to your letters of October and 5 November Nos. 44/02517/8 and 44/03609/11 respectively, on the subject of the operations of Montecatini Company.

A response to your two letters on the above subject has been delayed so that we could make available to you the fullest information on the present circumstances surrounding the operations of the various plants which constitute the Montecatini enterprise.

There has now been prepared by the Allied Commission a communication to Conte Faina of the Montecatini Company in which is described in complete detail, the operating condition of each plant, the production now going on therein, and also a further discussion of availability of certain raw materials. There is also discussed certain steps which the Montecatini Company should take promptly in order to make further production possible. A copy of this letter is enclosed.

I think that this information will fully acquaint you with the condition of the Montecatini plant and will also make clear that all possible steps have been taken to bring it to the highest production possible under existing circumstances.

Of course, I am in full agreement that the derequisitioning of industrial productive capacity should take place in all parts of Italy at the earliest moment that military necessity will permit.

The creation of the Industrial Coordination Committee of which I am Chairman will improve the position with respect to derequisitioning considerably. The terms of reference of this Committee provide for the study of military and essential civilian requirements in respect to factories, industrial plant and machinery, warehouses, storage space, all commercial and industrial facilities. The Committee will recommend appropriate action to the end that all possible productive capacity is made available to meet the requirements of essential

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21
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- 2 -

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A procedure has now been worked out with the Minister for Industry, Commerce and Labor, whereby firms will present their cases to the Italian Government in the first instance. The Minister will investigate the matter and make a recommendation to the Allied Commission (Industry Sub-Commission) for action in the light of:

- a. State of the premises and plant, and possibilities of repair or rehabilitation.
- b. Essentiality of the production for urgent civilian needs.
- c. Availability of electric power, coal, and transportation.

The case will then be presented to the Industrial Coordination Committee, where the competing claims of the military and civilian economies will be reviewed.

This procedure means that a fair hearing will be given in each case and that we can, through the work done by this Committee, assure the maximum possible use of productive capacity.

Sincerely yours,

ELLERY W. STONE
Commodore, USNR
Chief Commissioner

H. E.
G. Visconti Venosta
Under-Secretary of State
for Foreign Affairs
Italian Government
Rome

Enclosure (1)
Com. to Conte Pajna of
Montecatini Company

1284

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ALLAN W. STONE
Commodore, USNR
Chief Commissioner

H. E.
G. Visconti Venosta
Under-Secretary of State
for Foreign Affairs
Italian Government
Rome

Enclosure (1)
Com. to Conte Faina of
Montecatini Company

c.c. Industry Coordinating Committee.
Economic Section.
Industry Sub-Comm.
Local Resources Board.

1204

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
INDUSTRY SUB-COMMISSION

WJM/hh

Tel: 328

15 November 1944

Ref.: AC/5557/IND

SUBJECT: Industrial Rehabilitation: Montecatini Works

TO : Montecatini - Attention Conte Faina

1. As must be well known to you, your Company has received high priority in assistance from AMG and AC. This for numerous reasons, chief of which are: -

- (a) the necessity of providing the greatest possible quantity of food for the civil population; this is dependent upon adequate fertilizer supply.
- (b) the necessity to conserve precious shipping space for war materials and essential rehabilitation materials, by means of increased domestic production of foodstuffs.

2. With this end in view the reactivation of Montecatini Fertilizer Plants has received more attention and assistance by officers of this Sub-Commission than any other industry. Plants have been saved from requisition, assistance has been given for cannibalization and for the transport of materials. Efforts to derequisition plants are being pushed. Necessary travel for your engineers is secured. Further, in spite of the fact that shipping space is primarily devoted to war purposes for the liberation of Italy, ships have been put at the disposal of this Commission to transport Phosphate Rock to the Montecatini Factories. At the cost of much effort, sulphur and pyrites have also been moved to the fertilizer plants, in spite of scarcity of the former and the heavy world demand for it on all sides.

3. It follows from the above that a very large proportion of the time and energy of the small number of Allied specialist officers available to Industry Sub-Commission has been devoted to rehabilitation and reactivation of factories of the Montecatini Combine. As a result the following is the situation of the various plants: -

CAMPORANCO (Agrigento)

Normal monthly production superphosphate . . . 1,860 tons.
Factory now producing and supplier of phosphate rock, sulphur and nitric acid on hand.

TOMMASO NATALZ (Palermo)

Normal monthly production superphosphate . . . 2,500 tons.

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CAMPORAMICO (Agrigento)

Normal monthly production superphosphate . . . 1,360 tons.
Factory now producing and supplies of phosphate rock, sulphur and nitric acid on hand.

TOMMASO NATALE (Palermo)

Normal monthly production superphosphate . . . 2,500 tons.
Now awaiting imminent arrival of phosphate rock to commence operations.

MILAZZO (Messina)

Normal monthly production superphosphate . . . 1,200 tons
Awaiting imminent arrival of phosphate rock to commence operations.

MICOCOA (Catania)

Normal monthly production superphosphate . . . 1,400 tons
Plant under repair, phosphate rock should be available when
the plant is in a position to commence operations.

LICATA (Agrigento)

Normal monthly production superphosphate . . . 2100 tons
Plant is under repair and not ready to operate until March '45.
The necessary supplies for this factory are in course of requisition
and should be available in due time.

CROTONENitrogenous fertilizers

Requisition covering ammonia catalyst and collateral materials has
been accepted by combined Chiefs of Staff.

14,000 KW of electric power have been allocated to this plant on
recommendations made by this Sub-Commission. This is to enable
you to recommence the manufacture of Ammonium Sulphate.

Superphosphate Fertilizer

Phosphate Rock to the extent of 4200 tons has been shipped from
North Africa to this plant. Pyrites have also been delivered to
enable sulphuric acid manufacture to start.

Production of Superphosphate Fertilizer per month should be . . .
2,000 tons.

BARLETTA

Sulphur has been supplied by Industry Sub-Commission to this plant
from stocks discovered at Bari, thus enabling sulphuric acid
(electrolyte) manufacture to start, and substantial quantities of
this material have been sold to British Ordnance.
Phosphate rock to the extent of 1,420 tons has now been delivered,
more is on the way and monthly production of superphosphate
Fertilizer should eventually be . . . 3,000 tons.

PORTICI

The following work has been done by Industry Sub-Commission in the
interest of this plant.

(1) Arrangements with the unit occupying the Portici
plant that rehabilitation work be allowed.

(2) Arrangement for transportation of 60 tons concentrated
sulphuric acid from Bagnoli to Portici.

DATA (Agrigento)

Normal monthly production superphosphate . . . 2100 tons
Plant is under repair and not ready to operate until March '45.
The necessary supplies for this factory are in course of requisition
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interest of this plant.

- (1) Arrangements with the unit occupying the Portici
plant that rehabilitation work be allowed.
- (2) Arrangement for transportation of 60 tons concentrated
sulphuric acid from Bagnoli to Portici.
- (3) Arrangement for release of sulphur originally scheduled
for agricultural purposes for use at the Portici Plant.

1202

- 27
- (4) Arrangement for transport of sulphur from Altavilla Irpina mine (Benevento) to Portici.
 - (5) Release of 400 tons ammonium nitrate originally scheduled for agricultural purposes, for producing nitric acid required by the Portici plant.
 - (6) Arrangement with units occupying the Pontecagnano plant for release to Portici of 120 qts of nitric acid stored there. Arrangement for transportation of the nitric acid to Portici.
 - (7) Continuous assistance of AC - Naples Zone Industrial Section Officer. (At that time Region IV - Industrial Branch)

Phosphate rock for three months is at the plant which is producing Superphosphate Fertilizer at a monthly rate of . . . 1,900 tons.

This Commission has made many efforts to obtain derequisition of the two plants belonging to your Company at Brindisi and Pontecagnano, but until military urgency declines and the shipping position improves, there is little possibility of their release. Under today's supply conditions it is more than doubtful that they could start production even if they were free and in perfect order.

4. An additional plant practically destroyed by the Germans is that at Bagnoli. So far as superphosphate production is concerned this plant is beyond immediate repair and reactivation. There remains only the copper sulphate plant, which is at the present occupied by an American Heavy Maintenance Unit. Many efforts have been made to obtain derequisition of this works and it now appears that the unit in occupation will be leaving in a very short time. Subject to the possibility of importation of copper scrap, provision of imported fuel, and delivery of sulphuric acid from Portici the plant will then be able to work. As you are aware many efforts have been made by this Commission to provide copper and/or brass scrap from domestic resources in preparation for renewed activity, but these efforts have not provided sufficient materials for work to restart. A requisition for importation of copper scrap will be prepared as soon as your requirements, authorized by the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Labor, are received.

5. In September last you requested this Commission to preserve from requisition 121 tons of scrap lead lying at your Tuscolana Plant in Rome. This lead was controlled by the AFR Board, and was urgently needed for military purposes, yet as a result of the action of the Sub-Commission the lead, which comprised the remains of your acid chambers which had been torn to pieces by the Germans, was preserved for you.

6. Your Company undertook to commence work immediately at the Tuscolana Factory in order to have it ready within 3 months. A copy of a report from an inspecting officer of this Commission is attached to this letter and indicates the extremely unsatisfactory state of

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6. Your Company undertook to commence work immediately at the Tuscolana Factory in order to have it ready within 3 months. A copy of a report from an inspecting officer of this Commission is attached to this letter and indicates the extremely unsatisfactory state of affairs. Little work has been done and the number of personnel employed on the job is much too small to complete the task in reasonable time. The lead preserved for you has not even now been utilized, after the lapse of two months. As a result even should

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raw materials be available to you immediately for this plant it could not go into production.

7. It is felt that it is only necessary to call your attention to this matter to ensure that the necessary cooperation be given by your plant management to the AC programme for the Tuscolana factory.

For the Chief Commissioner:

W. S. VAUGHAN
Director,
Industry Sub-Commission

1 Encl.

Maj. Lister's Report on Montecatini
Tuscolana Plant - Rome

cc: Economic Section,
Ministry of Industry, Commerce & Labor
Lazio-Umbria Region (Industry Div.)

1230

5007
R. MINISTERO
DEGLI
AFFARI ESTERI

22
ROUGH TRANSLATION

Rome, 5 NOV 1944

9
16 NOV Recd

Dear Admiral,

When I wrote you on October 7th ult., I drew your kind attention on the difficulties encountered and represented by one of the most important Italian industrial concerns, the "Montecatini", due to the requisitioning by the Allied Military Authorities of industrial plants without, it appears to me, taking into sufficient account the detriment to the industrial rehabilitation of the liberated territory.

In your reply of October 16th, you kindly stated that you fully appreciated the importance of the subject and you assured me that it was being carefully studied.

If I, to-day, take the liberty to write to you again on the subject, it is because it becomes daily more important and urgent.

As you know, the "Montecatini", manufactures, inter alia, phosphates for use as fertilizer, which are indispensable to Italian agriculture in order to obtain the most abundant crop possible. Therefore, the re-activation of the abovementioned concern is of the greatest interest, both from the standpoint of feeding the Italian population, and from that of the efforts that the Allies are obliged to make to satisfy the essential needs of the population.

It is undoubtedly more convenient, both for Italy and the Allies, that Italian agricultural production should correspond, in the largest possible measure, to the needs of the Italian people, than to have to import large quantities of cereals in order to meet these needs.

On the other hand the question is urgent, inasmuch as, even when, as I hope, the "Montecatini" plant or some of them, will be de-requisitioned, a certain period of time will be needed to place them again in working condition.

1259
The rehabilitation of Italian industrial activity, within the limits allowed by military needs, is, generally speaking, an Italian interest of paramount importance; and the rehabilitation of the concerns that supply the essential agricultural needs of the country, is of still greater importance.

I trust you will excuse my persistence, my dear Admiral, and that you will appreciate the reasons of high public interest that

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I trust you will excuse my persistence, my dear Admiral, and that you will appreciate the reasons of high public interest that inspire it.

Trusting that the question will be speedily and favourably solved, believe me, together with my best thanks in advance,

Yours sincerely,
sgd. G. VISCONTI VENOSTA

See 31

*Al Sottosegretario di Stato
per gli Affari Esteri*

Roma, li 15 NOV 1944

Caro Ammiraglio,

con mia lettera 7 ottobre richiamo mai la sua cortese attenzione sopra gli inconvenienti, fatti presente da una delle principali imprese industriali italiane, la "Montecatini", derivanti dalle requisizioni di stabilimenti industriali, alle quali procedono le Autorità militari alleate senza, a quanto a me sembra, tenere sufficientemente conto del danno che ne deriva alla ripresa dell'attività industriale del territorio finora liberato.

Ella con lettera del 16 ottobre mi ha cortesemente risposto, riconoscendo che la questione è di grande importanza e assicurandomi che essa è sottoposta a uno studio accurato.

Se mi permetto oggi tornare sull'argomento, è perchè la questione riveste un carattere di sempre maggiore importanza e urgenza.

Come Ella sa, la "Montecatini", produce, tra l'altro, fertilizzanti fosfatici, che sono indispensabili per l'agricoltura italiana, ~~ed~~ ^{già} vuole che i raccolti siano quanto più abbondanti possibili, e perciò la rimessa in funzione delle fabbriche suddette presenta il più grande interesse, sia dal punto di vista dell'alimentazione della popolazione italiana, sia da quel-

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Admiral Ellery W. STONE, U.S.N.R.,
Acting Chief Commissioner,
Allied Commission.

R O M E.

See transcript
22

E' evidentemente più conveniente, sia per l'Italia che per gli Alleati, che la produzione agricola italiana corrisponda nella più larga misura possibile ai bisogni alimentari del Paese, che non dover importare grandi quantità di cereali dall'estero, per sovvenire a tale necessità.

D'altro canto la questione è urgente, perchè, anche quando sarà avvenuta, come spero, la derequisizione degli stabilimenti "Montecatini" o di alcuni di essi, occorrerà un certo tempo per rimetterli in funzione.

La ripresa dell'attività industriale italiana, entro i limiti consentiti dalle necessità militari, è, generalmente parlando, un interesse primordiale di questo paese. Ma la ripresa dell'attività industriale delle fabbriche, che provvedono ai bisogni essenziali dell'agricoltura, è un interesse ancora più importante.

Ella vorrà scusare, caro Ammiraglio, la mia insistenza e vorrà comprendere le ragioni di alto interesse pubblico, che la muovono.

Augurandomi una sollecita favorevole soluzione dell'importante questione; Le anticipo i miei ringraziamenti, mentre La prego di gradire i miei migliori saluti.

Lipson (Penny)

Tel Ext 451

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO #394
Office of the Chief of Staff

CRO/el

20

Ref. 5007/20/COS

30 October 44

MEMORANDUM TO: Economic Section (Attention: Industry Subcommittee)

SUBJECT : Montecatini Chemical Plants

1. Reference is made to your AGO/5557/IND of 25 October 44.
2. Your above reference gives a comprehensive picture of the Montecatini plants, and, apart from the two at Crotona and Barletta, it is evident that production is being retarded as the result of military occupancy.
3. The Acting Chief Commissioner has already gone on record that we should press for the derequisitioning of industrial plants, and a copy of his letter on the subject, dated 23 October 44, reference A/CC/004.04 has been forwarded to the Economic Section. *file 5008/COS*
4. While the brief statement made by you on the Montecatini plants does not enable us to say definitely that all of these should be derequisitioned, it would appear that a strong case can be made for certain units.
5. The Acting Chief Commissioner has requested that a separate paper be prepared on each plant whose derequisitioning we propose to request. Accordingly, will you prepare drafts for his signature directed to the proper military authority requesting release of the Montecatini units which you feel have either served their military purpose and where it can be demonstrated that their civilian need is of utmost importance. ✓
6. The Chief of Staff also directs that you prepare a letter to the Italian Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (for the Acting Chief Commissioner's signature) giving a detailed statement in reply to the Minister's letter of 7 October 44, of which you have a copy. It is suggested that the line to be taken in this reply be one of general agreement that derequisitioning should follow the advance of the Armies northward and as rapidly as the plants are not required for military usage. As you have done in your letter of 25 October 44, you may point to the Montecatini conversion to civilian economy that has already been accomplished by the Allied Commission. ✓
7. Your early attention to this matter is requested.

BU
3 Nov.
(CAPT ODEN) *PA 39/X.*

enf
Chief Staff Officer
To the Chief of Staff

HQ A.C.C. ECONOMIC SECTION

28-10-44
(Date)

Fr.	To
☒	ECONOMIC SECTION
☐	AGRICULTURE SUB-COMMISSION
☐	COMMERCE " "
☐	FINANCE " "
☐	FOOD " "
☐	INDUSTRY " "
☐	LABOR " "
☐	P.W. & U. " "
☐	REQUISITION DIVISION
☐	TRANSPORTATION SUB-COM.
☐	SHIPPING SUB-COMMISSION
☐	CHIEF COMMISSIONER
☐	CHIEF OF STAFF
☐	DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF
☐	CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION
☐	ESTABLISHMENT SECTION
☐	CHIEF OF STAFF ☒
For:	Appropriate action
	Remarks/Recommendation
	Investigation & Report
	Information
	Noting and Return
	Noting and Retention
	Signature
	Dispatch
	File copy
	Noting & circulation

Remarks:

LETTER REF -
5007/7/C09 of
A/cc 16 Oct
is SUBJECT OF
ATTACHED REPLY

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
INDUSTRY SUB-COMMISSION

APO 394
(CHEMICALS DIVISION)

WJM/ee

Tel. 328

Ref. ACC/5557/IND

25 October 44

SUBJECT : Montecatini Chemical Plants

TO : Economic Section

28 OCT Recd

сш 30/10

1. Reference attached copy letter to the Chief Commissioner from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
2. Industry Sub-Commission is well acquainted with the situation of all Montecatini installations in liberated Italy. The position is as under :

Crotone - rehabilitated with the assistance of ACC. At a meeting of the Electric Power Committee on 21 Oct 44, Industry Sub-Commission requested, and obtained, an allotment of 10,000.000 Kwh monthly to enable production of Nitrogenous Fertilizers to be undertaken at Crotone to the total of 2100 tons per month. The superphosphate department has been rehabilitated, and phosphate rock is now on the way from North Africa against ACC requisitions. Many months of time of officers of Industry Sub-Commission has been devoted to this plant.

Brinsisi - This plant is in a position to operate very quickly if freed from military occupancy. It serves as an Ordnance Depot, and it has not so far been possible to obtain derequisition.

Barletta - A very great deal of assistance has been given to Montecatini in connection with this plant, now reactivated and producing Sulphuric Acid. Phosphate rock is now on the way and superphosphate fertilizer will soon be in production. A military unit occupies part of these premises but does not interfere with production.

Portici - Here also a British military unit (R.A.O.C.) is in occupation of part of the plant. They have been most cooperative and at ACC request have moved over in order to free that part of the premises necessary for manufacture. This plant is working and has materials for three months with further tonnages requisitioned.

Ref.ACC/5557/IND

- 2 -

WJM/EC
25/10/44

Pontecagnano - This plant is in first class condition but is occupied by British Ordnance as a depot. ACC requested here-requisition on 26 May 44. Copy of reply is attached. A further request was made by the Chief Commissioner on 22 June 44 as per attached copy.

Rieti - Military occupation of this plant as troops billets is now threatened. Montecatini informed Industry Sub-Commission on the 20th inst. of this situation, and a request that the premises be not requisitioned was lodged the same day.

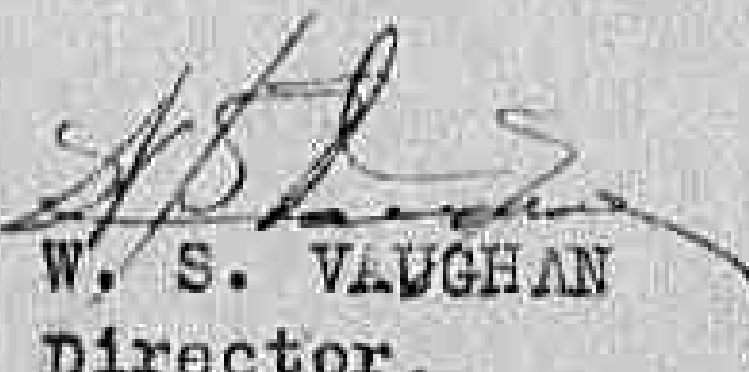
3. It would seem that stronger representations to CAO. HQ. AF.HQ are necessary in order to free fertilizer and chemical plants. Up to the moment every step possible to ACC has been taken, but the matter appears to be one of vital policy which needs action at a higher level than through the Local Resources Board.

4. It is perhaps apposite to remark that great difficulty has been experienced in obtaining phosphate rock from North Africa, and in fact requisitions filed in April last are only now being filled, on account of shortage of shipping space. Therefore, even if the plants had been freed, they could not have worked. Rock now arriving is only sufficient for the "free" plants.

4 Encls.

- Cpy lett. to Chief Commissioner from Ministry of Foreign Affairs n.44/02517/8 dtd 7/10/44
- cpy reply to Ministry of Foreign Affairs n.Ref.5007/7/COS dtd 16/10/44
- Cpy lett.HQ.AAI,CMF 2115/Q2 10 Jun 44
- Cpy lett.ACC/5057/IC 22 Jun 44

cc. To Chief of Staff
cc. File 5599


W. S. VAUGHAN
Director,
Industry Sub-Commission.

1255

C O P Y

Subject: - Fertilizer Plant - 557 AOD

HQ AAI,

C.M.F.

2115/Q2

10 June 44

HQ,
ACC.

Reference your SG.091.33 of 2 June, 44

1. It is regretted that it is not possible to release the Montecatini Fertilizer Plant at PONTECAGNANO to its owners.

2. Whilst the importance of ensuring production of fertilizers is fully appreciated, the factory buildings are a key part of 557 AOD and their release would dislocate the working of the depot and cause considerable delay in the despatch of important stores to the Armies in the field. When it is possible to move our Base Installations forward, the building in question will be released to its civilian owners.

???

For Major-General,
Chief Administrative Officer.

Copy to :- Ord (5043 of 7 June, 44, refers)
2038/7/Q2

C O P Y

Ref. AOC/5057/IC

WJM/jfl

22 June 1944

SUBJECT: Fertilizer Production

TO : Major General Robertson
Chief Administrative Officer, HQ AAI

1. Your letter under reference 2115/Q2 of 10 June 44 with regard to the Pontecagnano Fertilizer plant of Montecatini is acknowledged.
2. I know that a great deal of work and expense has been involved in converting the establishment into a first-class Ordnance Depot.
3. At the same time we have to consider every possibility of increasing food production and decreasing imports. The Pontecagnano Fertilizer plant is one of five which formerly served Meridional Italy, and this and the Portici factory are the only ones left undamaged.
4. It therefore it can at any time be made convenient to return the plant to its original purpose, the action will be greatly appreciated.

NOEL MASON MACFARLANE
Lieutenant General
Chief Commissioner

1253

C O P Y

EWS/afe

Ref 5007/7/COS

16 October 1944

Dear Marchese Visconti Venosta:

I have received your letter of the 12th of October in which you refer to the industrial concern "Montecatini". The subject is one of great importance and the points you make demand careful study. I have instructed my staff to make such a study and I will write to you further concerning "Montecatini" at an early date.

Very truly yours,

ELLERY W. STONE
Commodore, USNR
Acting Chief Commissioner

H.E. Marchese Visconti Venosta
Undersecretary of State for Foreign Affairs
Italian Government
Rome

cc: Economic Section
(with copy of original letter for action)
C of S Section
A file

1252

COPY

ROUGH TRANSLATION

MINISTERO DEPLI
AFFARI ESTERI

Rome, 7th October, 1944

N. 44/02517/8

Dear Admiral,

Quite recently the General Manager of one of our most important industrial concerns, the "Montecatini", has spoken to me regarding certain questions connected with the relations between the above mentioned industry and the Allied Authorities and on which I should like to draw your kind attention.

It happens, in fact, that whilst the directors of the above Company have always found the Allied Commission most ready to understand and appreciate the needs of the Company, circumstances have arisen, connected perhaps with the general situation, but often due to the measures issued by the Allied Military Authorities, which render most arduous the complete revival of all the activities of the industry in question and have often prejudiced its active rhythm.

I refer, above all, to the requisition measures that the Allied Military Authorities apply in respect of this industry. The "Montecatini" has, in effect, still today several factories in full efficiency in various regions of Southern Italy, at hundreds of Kilometers from the front (for instance, at Taranto, Naples and in Sardinia) and in the territories now under complete Italian administration. These factories are today immobilized because they are requisitioned and still occupied by allied military units, whilst, instead, they could be more usefully utilized, not only in the interest of Italian economy, but also in that of the common war effort. Other requisitions take place in respect of machinery and raw materials, the property of the said industry, that are absolutely irreplaceable (such as, engines, pipes, metal plates, bags, timber, iron), and of practically all their transport means.

I fully realize the military needs of the units operating in Italy, but I wonder whether the Military Authorities, in effecting the requisitions in question, apply in each and every instance the necessary discriminatory criteria in order to avoid affecting those organizations that can unfold a useful activity not only towards the national rehabilitation but, ultimately, also in favour of the common war aims.

I would not submit to your particular attention the above circumstances were I not aware of your sincere wish to be fully informed, in this serious

moment, of all that concerns the needs of our Country and if I did not realize that the representations of the "Montecatini" Company reflect a situation of general paralysis of all our industries in liberated Italy, which is engendered not only by war contingencies (such as lack of raw materials, destructions, etc.) but often by handicaps created by the Allied Military Authorities.

I feel sure you will agree with me that it will never be possible to start in Italy any serious work of rehabilitation if, even today, with the war shifted to the north of the Pisa-Rimini line, the activities of the industries located in Southern Italy and the Islands are being constantly handicapped.

Furthermore, it should be borne in mind that Italian industry is actually concentrated in the North and that, therefore, if the few factories that in Central, and the very few in Southern Italy, which are unable even in normal times to satisfy local needs, are not validly aided, the productive capacity of the liberated zones will be reduced to nil.

I consider it all the more opportune to draw your kind attention on the above considerations inasmuch as every step intended to facilitate the activity of our industry cannot but confirm, on the practical terrain, those guiding principles expressed in the joint Roosevelt-Churchill declaration of Hyde Park when the rapid rehabilitation of Italy and of its motive and productive power was auspicated.

I trust, my dear Admiral, that both through the competent channels of the Allied Commissions and, eventually, through the Military Commands, you will be able to meet the absolute and urgent needs of the Italian industry which occupies one of the most important places in the general economic revival of the Country.

With my sincere thanks in advance for the kind interest I feel sure you will take in this matter,

Believe me,

Yours very sincerely,

Admiral Ellery W. Stone, U.S.N.R.
Acting Chief Commissioner
Allied Commission
R O M E

Sgd G. VISCONTI VENOSTA

1250

① Mr Antolini -
Information

② Industry S/c
Action

18/10-44

T. P. Deussen
Col. S. A. C. S. O.

INDUSTRY
SUB-COLLISION
ROUTING SLIP

Date 20.10.44

FROM	TO
MR. W. S. VAUGHAN	(1)
ADJUTANT	
Capt. T. P. HUNTER	
BUILDING MATERIALS DIVISION	
Maj. H.C. THORNTON SMITH	
Capt. T.G. ELLIOTT	
Lieut. G.E.J. BENN	
CHEMICALS DIVISION	
Maj. W.J. LASKREY	
Maj. H.G. REID	
Capt. T.A. GATCHELL	
Lieut. J.E.L. BURY	
Mr. V. DORNOVICH	
Dr. R.S. ORATOWSKI	
TEXTILE DIVISION	
Maj. E.E.R. KILNER	
Capt. J.F. HARRIS	
LINING DIVISION	
Lt. Col. C.S. CARTER	
HELP DIVISION	
Lt. Comdr. J. SCHLEE	
COAL DIVISION	
Lt. Col. C.W. OXLEY	
<i>Maj. W.E. Hughes</i>	
Chief Clerk	
Economic Section	
FOR	

Necessary action
Investigation and Report
Recommendation & Remarks
Information
Approval
To note & return/pass on
Signature
Discuss
File
B/F

REMARKS:

FROM MR. W. S. VAUGHAN (1) TO
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FOR

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Discuss
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REMARKS:

20 OCT 1944

EWS/afe

Ref 5007/7/008

16 October 1944

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27th 10th

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Very truly yours,

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Acting Chief Commissioner

H.E. Marchese Visconti Venosta
Undersecretary of State for Foreign Affairs
Italian Government
Rome

cc: Economic Section ✓
(with copy of original letter for action)

*Col S Section
A file*

1249

*7 Oct
37*

C O P Y

ROUGH TRANSLATION

MINISTERO

Degli
AFFARI ESTERI

OCT 1944
10 9/4
Rome, 7th October, 1944

N. 44/02517/8

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It happens, in fact, that whilst the directors of the above Company have always found the Allied Commission most ready to understand and appreciate the needs of the Company, circumstances have arisen, connected perhaps with the general situation, but often due to the measures issued by the Allied Military Authorities, which render most arduous the complete revival of all the activities of the industry in question and have often prejudiced its active rhythm.

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I fully realize the military needs of the units operating in Italy, but I wonder whether the Military Authorities, in effecting the requisitions in question, apply in each and every instance the necessary discriminatory criteria in order to avoid affecting those organizations that can unfold a useful activity not only towards the national rehabilitation but, ultimately, also in favour of the common war aims.

I would not submit to your particular attention the above circumstances were I not aware of your sincere wish to be fully informed, in

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Furthermore, it should be borne in mind that Italian industry is actually concentrated in the North and that, therefore, if the few factories that in Central, and the very few in Southern Italy, which are unable even in normal times to satisfy local needs, are not validly aided, the productive capacity of the liberated zones will be reduced to nil.

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With my sincere thanks in advance for the kind interest I feel sure you will take in this matter,

Believe me,

Yours very sincerely,

Sgd. G. VISCONTI VENOSTA.

1217

Admiral Ellery W. Stone, U.S.N.R.
Acting Chief Commissioner
Allied Commission
R O M E.

Not
57

500/50.
R. LONISTERO

DEGLI

AFFARI ESTERI

N.44/02517/8

ROUGH TRANSLATION

Rome, 7th October, 1944

12 OCT Recd

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Admiral Ellery W. Stone, U.S.N.R.,
Acting Chief Commissioner,
Allied Commission.
R C M E.

See 6

R

R. MONISTERO
DEGLI
AFFARI ESTERI

-2-

K/

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sgd. G. VISCONTI VENOSTA

Roma, 7 ottobre 1944

Caro Ammiraglio,

In questi giorni il Direttore generale di uno dei nostri più importanti complessi industriali, la "Montecatini", mi ha intrattenuto in merito ad alcune questioni che riguardano i rapporti tra l'industria preletta e le Autorità alligato e su cui desidero attirare la Sua cortese attenzione.

Si è infatti verificato che, mentre i dirigenti della predetta Società hanno sempre trovato nei rappresentanti della Commissione Alleata il più pronto interessamento e la più viva comprensione per le esigenze della Società stessa, circostanze inerenti forse alla situazione generale, ma spesso volte attribuibili a disposizioni emananti dalle Autorità militari alleate, hanno reso molto ardua alle industrie in parola una ripresa completa della loro attività e ne hanno spesso compromesso il ritmo produttivo.

Si tratta soprattutto delle requisizioni che le Autorità militari alleate compiono nei riguardi delle industrie predette. La "Montecatini" ha infatti ancora oggi fabbriche pienamente efficienti in varie regioni dell'Italia meridionale, anche a centinaia di chilometri dal fronte (per es. a Taranto, a **124**, in Sardegna) e in territorio passato ormai sotto la completa amministrazione italiana. Oggi tali fabbriche sono immobilizzate perchè requisite e tuttora occupate da reparti militari alleati, mentre potrebbero essere utilizzate in modo vantaggioso non solo per l'economia italiana, ma anche comune. Altre requisizioni vengono effettuate per

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Rear Admiral ELLERY W. STONE

U.S.N.

Acting Chief Commissioner

Allied Commission

2
Il Sottosegretario di Stato
per gli Affari Esteri

- 2 -

macchinari e materie prime delle industrie predette, del tutto insostituibili (motori, tubi, lamiera, seconi, legnami, ferro), e per le quasi totalità degli automezzi.

Mi rendo pienamente conto delle esigenze delle unità che operano in Italia, ma mi domando se le autorità militari nell'effettuare le requisizioni di cui trattasi usano ovunque e in ogni caso i criteri discriminativi necessari per evitare che vengano colpiti quegli organismi che possono spiegare un'attività utile, non solo per la ricostruzione nazionale, ma, in definitiva, anche per gli scopi di guerra comuni.

Non sottoporrei alla Sua particolare attenzione le circostanze esposte, se non la sapessi animato dal più vivo desiderio di essere il più possibile ragguagliato, nell'attuale così grave momento, in merito alle necessità del nostro Paese e se non mi constasse che quanto mi è stato testé segnalato dalla Società "Montecatini" rispecchia una situazione di paralisi generale di tutte le nostre industrie dell'Italia liberata, determinata non solo dalle contingenze belliche (quali mancanza di materie prime, distruzioni ecc.), ma specialmente anche da impedimenti creati dalla Autorità militari alleate.

Sono certo che Ella riconoscerà con me che non si può mai porre mano a un lavoro serio di ricostruzione in Italia, ancora oggi, con la guerra spostata al nord della linea Pisa-Rimini, viene intralciata l'attività delle industrie situate nell'Italia meridionale e nelle isole.

E' poi da tener presente che la vera concentrazione industriale italiana trovasi nel Nord e che quindi, se le poche fabbriche del centro e le pochissime del sud Italia, che non sono in

Mi rendo pienamente conto delle esigenze delle unità che operano in Italia, ma mi domando se la Autorità militari nell'effettuare le requisizioni di cui trattasi usano ovunque e in ogni caso i criteri discriminativi necessari per evitare che vengano colpiti quegli organismi che possono spiegare un'attività utile, non solo per la ricostruzione nazionale, ma, in definitiva, anche per gli scopi di guerra comuni.

Non sottoporrei alla Sua particolare attenzione le circostanze suesposte, se non la sapessi animato dal più vivo desiderio di essere il più possibile ragguagliato, nell'attuale così grave momento, in merito alle necessità del nostro Paese e se non mi constasse che quanto mi è stato testé segnalato dalle Società "Montecatini" rispecchia una situazione di paralisi generale di tutte le nostre industrie dell'Italia liberata, determinata non solo dalle contingenze belliche (quali mancanza di materie prime, distruzioni ecc.), ma specialmente anche da impedimenti creati dalle Autorità militari alleate.

Sono certo che Ella riconoscerà con me che non si potrà mai porre mano a un lavoro serio di ricostruzione in Italia, ancora oggi, con la guerra spostata al nord della linea Pisa-Rimini, viene intralciata l'attività delle industrie situate nell'Italia meridionale e nelle isole.

E' poi da tener presente che la vera concentrazione industriale italiana trovasi nel Nord e che quindi, se le poche fabbriche del centro e le pochissime del sud'Italia, che non sono in grado di sopprimere alle necessità locali neppure in tempi normali, non saranno validamente aiutate, la capacità produttiva delle zone liberate sarà ridotta a zero.

Tanto più mi sembra opportuno attirare la Sua attenzione su quanto precede in quanto ogni passo inteso a facilitare

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*Al Sottosegretario di Stato
per gli Affari Esteri*

L'attività delle nostre industrie non farà che confermare sul terreno pratico quelle che sono le direttive ispiratrici della dichiarazione congiunta del Presidente Roosevelt e del Primo Ministro Churchill ad Hyde Park, ove viene auspicata una rapida ricostruzione dell'Italia e della sua forza motrice e produttiva.

Confido, caro ammiraglio, che, sia a mezzo degli organi della Commissione Alleata che, eventualmente, svolgendo passi presso i Comandi militari, Lei saprà venire incontro a quelle che sono le imprescindibili e urgenti esigenze dell'industria italiana, la quale tanta importanza ha per la ripresa economica generale del Paese.

Con ringraziamenti anticipati per l'interessamento che Lei vorrà svolgere, Le invio le espressioni della mia migliore cordialità.

Giuseppe Venturi

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