

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

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SUBSTITUTION OF SOLDIERS (...)
OCT, NOV. 1944

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INFORMATION FILE

~~NOT TO BE RELEASED~~

OFFICE OF

CHIEF OF STAFF

SUBSTITUTION OF SOLDIERS
FOR CIVILIANS IN UNITS AT
CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES

2905-2908

ACTION FILE ON THIS SUBJECT WAS
PASSED TO ECONOMIC SECT

[Handwritten signature]

109/965

CHIEF OF STAFF

SUBSTITUTION OF SOLDIERS
FOR CIVILIANS IN UNITS AT
CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES

2905-2908

ACTION FILE ON THIS SUBJECT WAS
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THIS FOLDER

CONTAINS PAPERS

FROM OCT-1944

TO NOV-1944

CATALOGUE.

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Posiz. D

MINISTERO DELLE CORPORAZIONI

DIREZIONE GENERALE DELLE ASSOCIAZIONI PROFESSIONALI

Ufficio Dirigenti Sindacali

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P 3.

CSO: PLO

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Col. to see 1-3. In her memorandum to AFHQ that the proposed sinking of civilians be considered by a Joint Committee.

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2908

17 November 1944

19 NOV Recd

REF : LAD. 031.411

SUBJECT : Use of Italian Civilian Labor at Conclusion of Hostilities.

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

1. The Air Forces Sub-Commission of the Allied Commission has been advised by H.Q. M.A.A.F. (NAAF/7040/PEP, dated 11 October 1944), that plans are under consideration for the discharge of Italian civilian workers at the conclusion of hostilities in Europe, with the suggestion that such workers be replaced by surplus OR's awaiting disposal from the theater at the close of operations.

2. The question of the policy to follow concerns virtually all Services of the Allied Forces, which are hiring a total of approximately 800,000 Italian civilian employees throughout Italy. Their replacement, under the circumstances stated, would have serious repercussive effects on the Italian economy generally and upon labor conditions specifically.

3. It is contended that Italian civilian employees should not be continued as employees of the Services upon the cessation of hostilities, because of the cost to British and American taxpayers. The fact must be faced, however, that there are at present great numbers of unemployed in the areas where the military forces are not now employing civilians. This group of unemployed may constitute a real financial burden on the United States and Great Britain through such media as the Red Cross, U.N.R.R.A., and certainly on Italian relief organizations. Furthermore, upon the cessation of hostilities, not only will there be less of a demand for the direct employment of Italian civilians, but presumably most of the Services' contracts will be cancelled and it must be remembered that much of Italian industry today is dependent upon these contracts. Such changes will constitute a still further burden on the Italian economy and increase the relief problem which the Allies are committed to assist the Italian Government in solving.

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4. If several hundred thousand people are suddenly disengaged, without income, it must be presumed that labor unrest will be the inevitable result, and any action displacing such a large number of Italian civilian workers by OR's and EM's might well involve the maintenance of order by armed force.

5. It is understood that the War Department in Washington has been making plans for the continued education of its EM's at the cessation of hostilities, and that such education might be arranged within the country where the EM's will be located until embarkment. Would it not be possible to emphasize such a program and thus avoid entirely a problem which will be created by the suggestion of H.C. M.A.A.F.?

6. The Allied Commission proposes, therefore, that a joint committee be set up to insure over-all planning which will give due consideration to the major military and civilian questions involved. Your comments are requested.

ELLEAY W. STONE
Commodore, USNR
Chief Commissioner

Inclosure

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FROM: HEADQUARTERS, MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCES.

TO: HEADQUARTERS, AIR FORCES SUB-COMMISSION,
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION.

DATE: 11th October 1944.

REF: MAAP/7040/PWP.

CIVILIAN LABOUR

1. At the conclusion of hostilities in Europe, it has been suggested that it would be possible to substitute Italian civilians at present employed in Units such as Maintenance Units, with B.O.R.'s who will be rendered surplus with the cessation of operations.

2. The importance of keeping B.O.R.'s usefully and happily employed whilst awaiting disposal from this theatre is obvious, but before arrangements are proceeded with your observations as to the discharge of Italian civilians in view of the possibly large numbers involved are requested.

3. It should be noted that the above scheme of substitution is only in the planning stage, and your observations have been requested in order that the plan could reach a finalisation stage.

(Sgc). W. A. Coll S/Ldr,
for Air Vice-Marshal,
Air Officer i/c Administration.

