

1013

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

785017

ACC

10000/109/1017
(VOL. II)

SEIZURE OF ITALY
SEPT. 1943; JAN. - 3

1014

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10000/109/1017
(VOL. II)

SEIZURE OF ITALIAN BOATS BY YUGOSLAVS
SEPT. 1943; JAN. - JUNE 1946

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184
 To CSO Ex Comm.

Suggested draft to AFHQ on the
 subject of piracy at 183 for your
 approval please. Aut 3/5 JH 3/15

193

CSO Letter at 192 for signature please.
 The draft has been approved. Aut 3/6

Issue. DV 3/6

5744

CSO~~197~~ 197

Please see C in C med's signals at
 folios 194-b. Info in 194 is what
 we requested in our "piracy" letter
 dated 4 June at folio 197.

Aut 3/6

785017

162.

Ex Comm.

Letter at 154, 5+6 resubmitted for signature. Ref min 158. Polado A+B at min 160+161 agree this as the only course of action. Ans 7/5.

CSO

Letter at 163+4 ¹⁶⁵ for signature please. Info obtained verbally from Navy Sec Ans 20/5

167.

Ex Comm.

166 for info. H.S. 20/5
What is the next step? Ans 20/5

172.

5743

CSO.

Ref min 168. Please see folio 166. No further action can be taken until a reply has been received from the 2 Embassies in Belgrade, which ⁱⁿ the M. can will come through the Foreign Office. Ans 23/5

Ex Comm.

145.

- 1) 143 for info. I cannot trace any previous correspondence or report on this particular incident.
- 2) Ref 140. Do you think we should take any action on this matter we hear from M.F.A.?

M.F. 27/4

146.

1. PD acls to see.

Notes Polads in distribution.

2. Inform M.F.A. Done. NY 29/4

M.F. 29/4

157

Ex Comm.

To see. Letter at 154, 5 + 6 for signature, please.
Folio 147 refers. NY 2/5 M.F. 3/5.

C.S.O.

158

Are you certain that this is a matter for reference to - Embassy.

I should like PD acls

reference to - Embassy.

NY 4/5

5742

acceptance of the procedure.

Polad B.

Polad A.

159

Ref min 158. Your concurrence, please

2/5

C.S.O.

160

I don't suppose that we shall get any satisfaction out of the Yugoslavians. But the Brit. Embassy is prepared to

785017

from M.F.A. H.L. 27/4

Note: Polads in distribution

1. PO acls to see.

2. Inform M.F.A. Done. NY/29/4 H.L. 29/4

157

to Comm.

Letter at 154, 5 + 6 for signature, please.

Folio 147 refers. A.B. 3/5

C.S.O.

158

Are you certain that this is a matter for

reference to Embassy.

I should like P.O. acls

5742

acceptance of the procedure.

158/4/5

159

Polage 13'

Polad 'A'

Ref-min 158. Your concurrence, please A.B. 3/5

C.S.O.

160

I don't suppose that we shall get any satisfaction out of the Yugoslavs, but the Brit. Emb. is prepared to take this up with the Em. at Belgrade - in an independent attempt.

2/1/16

161

I concur - W. J. Jones (Am) May 7-46

A. J. Jones (Am) May 7-46

Note

121

To spoke Major ~~Rea~~ J. - Miss Sampson. The letter at 120 is being answered by CA Sec. Copy of reply has been requested.

E/J 14/4.

G.S.O.

125

122

Please see folio 122. Your comment is requested as to whether or not it should be sent to Deon Sec for action. Or ??

SR 28/5

Capt. ~~Deon~~ Rio.

122

124

No. 122 should go to CAS for action

ES. 29/5

Done 29/5 J.R.G.

Z.C.

125

Original of folio 122 forwarded to Food & Agriculture Sec. (Deon Section) who will take action on the letter.

3 April 1946

J.R. Peakes Maj. CA Sec

129

cc Alce.

Folios 116, 7 for file info of the Comd, please
Folios 126, 7-8 refer. *Alce. 7/4*

You asked to see the
correspondence regarding the seizure of
station roomers by fugitives. MS. 614

11/2

778/6/4

To 830

Ref folio 133. Drafts ~~alce~~ for ACCH 141
approval, please *Alce. 13/4* OK

cc

Drafts ~~134~~ 135 for signing please *Alce. 16/4*

Alce.

cc Folios 136, 7 for Signation, please *Alce. 17/4*
MS. 1614

17/2

Cent. Regio.

124

122

No. 50 should go to CAS for action

HS. 29/5

Done 29/5 J.R.G.

E.C.

125

Original of folio 122 forwarded to Tool & Agriculture Br. (Foon Section) who will take action on the letter.

3 April 1946

J.R. Reakes Maj. CA Sec

129

cc - Alce,

Folios 116, 127 for file info of Ex Comm, please
Folios 126, 128 refer. *Alce 15/4*

You asked to see this
correspondence regarding the seizure of
station roomers by fugitives. *HS. 6/4*

11/4

7/5/6/4

To *CSO*

Ref folio 133. Drafts *classifies* for *ACC 5741*

approval, please

Alce 13/4 OK

cc

Drafts *classifies* for *typing* please *Alce 15/4*

Alce.

Folios *136/7* for *Signal*, please *Alce 15/4*
HS. 16/4

7/5/6/4

14/4.

cc - Signal at 14/4 for info, please *Alce 16/4*

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Office Note.

118.

Gy/AT 120

It appears that the recommendations of the Embassies at Folio 79 and 87 have never been communicated to AMHQ G-5 or interested parties of this Headquarters such as Civil Affairs Section.

AMHQ G-5 have issued a letter (No. G-5:383.7-2 of 27th February 1946 in C.A. File 4-29.8 C.A.) to this Headquarters, and have a further letter under consideration - being dealt with in C.A. Section - which severely restricts Dr. Smolaka's dealings with this Headquarters and AMHQ, which is completely at variance with the recommendations contained in 79 under which Dr. Smolaka, for certain purposes, would act as Yugoslav Representative in Italy.

The Polads here feel that AMHQ should have been aware of these recommendations through the Polads at AMHQ.

The matter was discussed at the C.C.'s Political meeting on 20th March. It was decided that copies of the Embassy letters should be sent to AMHQ G-5 (and other Sections interested) at this Headquarters.

It was confirmed that if the matter was an Allied Commitment (as appears to be the case of three Italian schooners recently detained by the Yugoslavs at Parenzo), the matter should be referred to the Embassies for action through diplomatic channels.

21/3/46

M. Carr Bay
M. Ex. Comm.

119

C.S. Miss.

Will you take action on A 2000. In forwarding the Embassy letter to AMHQ G-5, we should say that it is not known whether Polad at AMHQ are aware of the recommendations which appear to have considerable bearing on AMHQ letter G-5:383.7-2 of 27 Feb. which is under consideration at this HQ.

21/3

M. Carr Bay
M. Ex. Comm.

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112
 Afeso. 113 folio 111 for info. please advise 11/3

111
 Ex. 1000
 113 for info - on advice of Polads details of
 Italian ships which were seized by Lugs in
 v.g. waters were sent to the J.E.C. for
 settlement. Result nil - of course.
 There seems nothing else to do except 5739
 just wait. 11/3
 Copies of 113 will go to Polads.

115

785017

102

to Com.

Letter at 98 re-submitted for signature (date has been altered - we spoke last night). It is sent in accordance with recommendations of Polads at 91 & 92, and does not refer to ships seized in V.C. waters. See 4 99. I will advise Polads of reply from C.S. at 101. J.H. 7/12

103

Chief Commissioner.

Attached is submitted for your signature and approval information

MS/72

FEB 1 1955

1755 JMD cc

Head

106.

at 104 is letter to Joint Economic Committee, regarding forwarding details of ships seized in V.C. waters. In presentation to the sup. delegates of the Committee, you know one ship has already been presented to them. Spoke to Isid & who said this action was preferable to approaching Embassies again. It is letter to R.F.A. telling them of this.

107

A/C.C.

Ref in 106 & two letters submitted for signature. Minutes of meeting referred to in 104 para 1 are in attached file at 4057/EC at 4 61.

J.H. 15/12

I will advise Polads of reply
from 6-5 at 101.

J.H. 7/2

103

Chief Commissioner

41

Attached is submitted for your signature
information

Ms 7/2

FEB 7 1955

Ed. Sent to Indonesia

Help at 104 is letter to Joint Economic Committee, Tuesday

forwarding details of ships seized in U.S. waters,
in presentation to the sup. delegates of the
Committee. As you know one had been already
presented to them. Spoke to Island # who
said this action was preferable to approaching
Embassies again.

At 105 is letter to N.F.A. telling them of this.
14/2

107

A/C.C.

Ref in 106 & two letters submitted for signature.
Minutes of meeting referred to in 104 found
are in attached file at 4057/EC at 61.

H.S. 15/2

APCW

110

MM 1/2

Chase to Swadlaka submitted for signature
at 109.
H.S. 5/3

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5609 786
200
INCOMING MESSAGE
HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

Originator's Reference: FX 67210

Message Centre No: H/3627

Date/Time of Origin: 041931B

Date Time Rec'd: JUNE 051100B

Precedence: PRIORITY

FROM: AFHQ SIGNED SACRED CITE FHGEG

TO: ALCOM ROME

INFO CINC MED

181
RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

Para 1. Reference your 3391 of 30 May and final paragraph of note at foot of list attached to your letter 5609/EC of JUNE 4 June.

Para 2. Please forward urgently names and ports of registration of 12 vessels referred to, together with all available details of seizure including if possible positions at the time.

Para 3. Information required as material for report to combined chiefs of staff.

AC DIST

ACTION: EX COMMISSIONER 2

INFO: CHIEF COMMISSIONER

- POLAD A

- POLAD B

- NAVY

- FILE

- FLOAT 2

ACTION

RESTRICTED

see 207
HEADQUARTERS 5737

- 5 JUN 1946

(CAPTK)

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199

From: MINISTRY OF MARINE (Cabinet)
 To : A.G. - H.S.O.
 Date: 31st May 1946
 Ref.: 2043/CF

See 201

Subject: Capture of 10 Italian M.P.Vs. by Yugoslav Minesweeper

1. In the early morning of 19th May last a Yugoslav minesweeper captured 10 Italian M.P.Vs. while they were fishing not less than 7 miles from the islands of the Lissa group and from the islands and mainland of Dalmatia.

The following are the M.P.Vs. concerned :

- ANTONIA MADRE
- LA VITTORIA
- NUOVA ROSINA
- LUIGI II^o
- LUIGI III^o
- ANNA
- GERMANA
- EMERSON II^o
- SANTA RITA II^o
- MEDAVERA

LIDIA

The vessels and their crews were taken to Split.

The above details have been given by the M.P.V. "S. VITTORIO" which was also captured when 15 miles north of S. Andrea Island and succeeded in escaping while proceeding to Split.

2. It is known to be an undisputed principle of international rights that fishing on the high seas is free to all States; the ships engaged in fishing on the high seas are only obliged to observe the laws of the country to which they belong, which alone is authorised to exercise acts of dominion over them.

The action of the Yugoslav minesweeper described in paragraph one above is obviously illegal, therefore, since the capture of the Italian M.P.Vs. took place while they were fishing outside of Yugoslav territorial waters which are 6 miles wide, as is known.

5756

W. H. K. K. K.

1027

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3. As will be remembered, similar incidents have already taken place and the Allied Commission was advised of them in our letters : 3042/UT of 26th November 1945, 3091/UT of 8th December 1945, 1266/UT of 6th April 1946 and 1712/UT of 13th May 1946.

Their increasing repetition determines a situation which is not considered acceptable and which can cause serious incidents.

4. The Allied Commission is requested, therefore, to take action with the Yugoslav authorities to obtain the release of the 10 captured R.F.Vs. and their crews, as well as an assurance that episodes of this kind will not be repeated.

For its own part this Ministry, through the Port Captaincies, has reminded Italian fishermen of the Adriatic seaboard that they are prohibited from fishing in Yugoslav territorial waters.

THE MINISTER

60/P.

4

5735

1028

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5609
RB.

196

D 14 (R) NOIO TRIESTE
 CS 15
 FOLI
 CAPTAINS DESTROYER FLOTILLAS MED FLEET

JUN 4 1946

CINCMED
021218SECRET IMPORTANT

A requirement has arisen for two destroyers to reinforce the Northern Adriatic by June 12th. It is therefore necessary for H.M.S. CHEVIOT and CHILDERS to return direct to Malta on completion of bombardment at BAS EL KANAYIS to complete stores and provisions before sailing for Trieste on June 10th.

2. Arrangements will be made for these two ships to be relieved in order to carry out their half-yearly docking Malta about July 1st.

DTC 021218 June

T/P H.CY. 'W' CR 97

FOR 1428/2
2hrs 10min

WJCH

306460

DIST:- 0 - 3. logs

See by Palace
 for CC only

5734

see 1197

(CAPT K)

1029

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NOIC TRIESTE (R) POLI

CINCOMED
021208

SECRET

JUN 4 1946

Reference my 011345 June intend to reinforce you with two
destroyers in about 10 days' time.

DTG 021208 June

T/P N.CY 'W' GR 33

TCR 1430/02
2hrs 22mins

WJCB 3.6.46.

REF:- Patrol of Northern Adriatic to be instituted.

DIST:- 0 - 6, 12g

5733

NOIO TRIESTE (R) POLI
ADMTY
NLO SACHSD

CINCPED
011345

JUN 4 1946

SECRET

In view of report of recent seizure of Italian fishing vessels in the Adriatic you should institute a patrol by one of the destroyers or escorts allocated to you of area north of 42 degs North in which Italian fishing vessels normally operate.

2. Ships on patrol should attempt to establish the identity of vessels met but may not (R) NOT board unless

- (a) A definite act of piracy is observed on the High Seas
- (b) A request for assistance is received from the master or crew of a fishing vessel

3. Any vessel arrested should be brought into Trieste. On no account are Yugoslav territorial waters to be entered for any purpose whatsoever

4. H.M. Ships employed on this duty should embark an interpreter and a local fisherman with knowledge of the fishing grounds and vessels if practicable.

DTG 011345 May

CAN W.CY. "W" GR 175 TOR A.M. 2nd

WJCB 2.5.46.

DIST: 0-6, log.

5732

(COPY X)

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

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Always seen by [unclear]

when I [unclear]

~~Ref 201215~~

Keep f. Shes

Big
Cott

{ flagrant
M W + U.
Treasury

6" see Leon

Rm

1032

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

A P O 794

Office of the Executive Commissioner

SECRET

Ref: 5609/EG.

June 1946.

SUBJECT: Yugoslav Piratical Activities.

TO : G-5 Section,
Allied Force Headquarters.

1. Since April 1945 I have received complaints from the Italian Government about the action taken by the Yugoslav authorities against Italian fishing and other craft in Adriatic waters.
2. These complaints I have passed, if occurring in VERBIA GULIAN waters, to the American and British Ambassadors, and if occurring in the remainder of the Adriatic, to Dr. Medelka, Deputy Representative of YUGOSLAVIA to the Advisory Council for ITALY for representation in BELGRADE. This is in accordance with your directives contained in letter G-5: 561 HGI dated 3 October 1945 and your unnumbered letter dated 25 August 1945. I understand that a recent dispatch has been sent on this subject to the Foreign Office by the British Ambassador. 43
29 HGI
3. The facts, as reported by the Italian Government, whom I have every reason to believe, show that a state of piracy exists in the Northern waters of the Adriatic conducted by Yugoslav nationals with or without the assent of the Yugoslav Government. 178
4. Such acts are not infrequently accompanied by machine gun fire and general terroristic actions by the Yugoslavs who do not hesitate to use naval craft for this purpose. 178
5. I enclose for easy reference a tabulated list of Italian vessels seized by acts of piracy by the Yugoslavs in the Adriatic waters.
6. The latest and most serious of these acts occurred on 12 May when twelve big Italian fishing motor boats were attacked 25 miles off the coast of YUGOSLAVIA by Yugoslav naval authorities and were compelled to proceed to GATTARO.
7. 110 Italian sailors from these vessels are missing.
8. These boats are under contract to supply fish to the Allies in the ANKONA area.
9. It appears that the Yugoslav warship operated on a previously prepared plan as sufficient armed personnel were on board to furnish escort crews to each of the twelve Italian boats. 5-30

/cont.

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191

Ref: 9609/EC.

- 2 -

SECRET.

10. The Italian Government is in a peculiarly difficult position in this respect. They naturally would like to take action to suppress such piracy. They are, however, restricted at present not only by shortage of craft and the condition of the de Courten - Cunningham agreement but also by the fact that they are not in administrative control of the territorial waters of VIOLETA GIBRA.

11. Under the terms of the revised Armistice they will be in an even worse position because any act committed - even in the interests of law and order - against Yugoslav nationals in these waters will be construed as an act detrimental to Yugoslav interests and therefore a transgression of clause 7 of that document.

12. The Italians are unable to take actions the Yugoslavs have done nothing to show that they intend to improve the situation. The waters in which some of these acts take place are as much disputed areas as the land they wash.

13. As is shown by the recent firing on two of H.M. ships in the Southern Adriatic, piracy will spread, and it occurs to me that it is in the interests of the Allies, if not an obligation, to take the matter into their own hands and to establish law and order on the seas of the Adriatic. There are many precedents for the elimination of piracy in foreign waters by both the British and U.S. Fleets. I recommend that appropriate action be taken to this end by the Allied Naval Authorities. Would it be possible to use a boat or decoy to accompany the fishing fleet?

14. Should this for any reason not be possible, I recommend the loan to the Italian authorities of an Allied vessel suitable for protecting these fishing fleets from such acts of aggression that are so regularly performed by the Yugoslavs.

For the Chief Commissioner:

S/S M. S. L. V. S. H.
Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

5729

Encl.

Copy to: U.S. Embassy.
British Embassy.
Navy Sub-Commission.

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

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DATE	ITEM NO.	NAME OF SHIP	ACTION
3/16	14	LIBERTA	At Pianona, loaded with wood and making for Venice, se- questered by Yugoslavs.
3/45	15	ANTONIO N.	" " " " " " " "
3/45	16	NUOVA PROV- VIDENZA	Of Venice Maritime Division seized in Fiume.
3/45	17	VOLANO	Of Comacchio Maritime Division seized in Arsia.
3/45	18	LIBERTA' E ANTONIO N.	Of Comacchio Maritime Division seized in Pianona.
NOTE The cargo of these ships (firewood and coal) was unloaded and the ships have been used for transport of coal from Arsia to Fiume on account of the Yugoslav Maritime Inspectorate of Fiume.			
3/45	19	GIUSEPPE	Of Comacchio, empty, seized in Rovigno.
3/45	20	FLORIDO	Of Ravenna, cargo of salt bound to Venice, seized in Par- enza
3/45	21	DIVINA MADRE	Of Ravenna, cargo of coal bound to Venice, " " "
3/45	22	NICOLETTA	Of Chioggia, cargo of cement bound to Chioggia, " " "
3/45	23	ARDITO PREDATORE	Of Chioggia, cargo of silicate bound to Venice, " " "
3/45	24	ROMANO B	Of Chioggia, cargo of firewood bound to Chioggia, " " "
3/45	25	REMO	Of Chioggia, cargo of firewood bound to Chioggia, " " "
3/45	26	MOTOVELIERO SICI- LIANO	Cargo of wine bound to Venice, seized in Arsia.

1036

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DATE

ITEM NO.

NAME OF SHIP

ACTION

27

Two wherries and one tug-boat, cargo of coal bound to Venice, seized in
Ardia.

H.B. Vessels Nos. 16-27 were seized as a countermeasure for the supposed
Allied Requisitioning of the vessels ZVIR and LABOR (see my
5609/15/EC dated 7 May 1946).

Finally, 12¹⁰ vessels seized 25 miles off the Slav coast and com-
pelled to enter GATTA O. (140 Italian sailors are staying.)

moved (as per 563)

L 0 3 7

785017

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5609

187

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 512

COPY

COPY

G-5 : 912.23-2

24 May 1946.

JUN 1 1946

SUBJECT: Return of Yugoslav Ships.

TO : Headquarters, Allied Commission,
APO 794.

1. The Yugoslav Delegation has informed the Advisory Council that it has requested through the Allied Commission but without success that the under mentioned Yugoslav ships should be restored by the Italian Government to Yugoslavia.

<u>Names of Ships</u>	<u>Yugoslav Ref</u>
JADRAN	Br. 221/46 on 16 Feb. 46
KOEJAK	
JURAJ SUBIC	
TOMASO	
VOJICE	
ZEMANA	ditto
Tugboat JP 1	
M/S BUDIMIR	Br. 226/46 on 16 Feb. 46
Dredger br. 2	Br. 227/46 on 16 Feb. 46
Dredger br. 4	Br. 228/46 on 16 Feb. 46
Tugboat BOJANA (ZARA)	Br. 314/46 on 9 April 46
Dredger JUMO	Br. 443/46 on 9 April 46
Dredger ARBE	Br. 442/46 on 8 April 46

2. Can you please say what the present position as to these requests are including if known;

- a. the whereabouts of each boat,
- b. in whose possession it is,
- c. how employed,
- d. the port of Registration,
- e. whether Yugoslavia has made out a satisfactory title.

3. If any of the boats are owned or registered in Zone B Yugoslavia as such has no title, but she may claim that they should be returned to Zone B. Will you please differentiate such boats, if any, in your report.

BY COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL MORGAN:

5725

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

Handwritten:
ACTION on file 5602/EC
Copy to 5609/EC

PA

5609
R
186
TRANSLATION

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTS
Central Office for Fishing and Hunting
Division III
File No. 4675

Rome, 23 May 1946.

JUN 1 1946

SUBJECT: Fishing motorboats captured by the Yugoslavs.

TO : Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Cabinet, Rome.

This Ministry is particularly interested in the regrettable affair of the wellknown seizure by the Yugoslavs of several fishing motorboats belonging to the Maritime Department of Ancona.

Since it is not difficult to calculate the enormous damage deriving from this serious incident to the whole class of the shipowners and seamen as well as to the alimentation of the Country, especially in this particular and delicate moment, your Ministry is most urgently requested to take all the possible steps so that the captured boats may be as soon as possible returned to their owners, especially if the reasons for the operated seizure cannot be ascribed to them.

However, it is chiefly necessary to prevent the repetition of similar incidents. And since the expiration of the Brioni Convention will unfortunately bring such unlucky consequences, it is necessary to draw the attention of the Allies to the fact that any territorial mutilation of Italy along the coasts of the Eastern Adriatic must at least be counterbalanced by the renewal of an Agreement similar to that of Gorizia with Austria, which allowed our fishermen to fish along the coasts of Quarnero and of Dalmatia, i.e. to save the economic unity of the Adriatic and the rational exploitation of its resources.

It appears therefore that a conference of the Mediterranean Nations for the regulation of fishing, as proposed by Admiral Stone and similar to that recently held in London by the Nations interested in the exploitation of the North Sea, would have been most advisable.

This is, in fact, an economic problem of general interest concerning the alimentation of Europe and not only the interests of Italy.

5724
THE MINISTER
/s/ Gullo

A true copy.
THE GENERAL CHIEF INSPECTOR
/s/ Brunella

cc to:
Ministry of the Navy, Rome
Allied Commission, Rome.

EC DIST - 1946

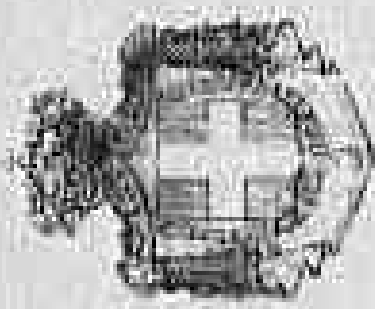
ACTION:- EC

INFO - NAVY S/C

- POLAD'D

POLAD'D

(CAPT R)



Ministero
dell'Agricoltura e delle Foreste

UFFICIO CENTRALE PER LA PESCA E PER LA CACCIA

Divisione III^a Sec.
Prot. N. 4678 Allegati

Mod. 31

Roma 13 MAG. 1946

185

MINISTERO DEGLI AFFARI
ESTERI - Gabinetto -

= ROMA =

e. per conoscenza:

- Oggetto: motopescherecci catturati dagli Jugoslavi.
- MINISTERO DELLA MARINA = ROMA =
 - ALLA COMMISSIONE ALLEATA = ROMA =

Proposta al Regio del
Gen.

Questo ministero è particolarmente interessato nella incresiosa vicenda della nota cattura, da parte degli Jugoslavi, di parecchi motopescherecci appartenenti al compartimento Marittimo di Ancona.

Poichè non è difficile calcolare il danno enorme che ne deriva dal grave incidente sia alla classe degli armatori e dei marittimi come all'alimentazione del paese, specie in questo particolare e delicato momento, si prega assai vivamente codesto On. Ministero perchè, nella sua competenza, voglia spiegare tutte le possibili azioni perchè i natanti catturati vengano al più presto restituiti agli armatori proprietari, specie se ad essi non siano da attribuirsi le ragioni della operata cattura.

Ma occorre soprattutto prevenire che incidenti simili si ripetano. Poichè la decadenza della convenzione di Brioni porterà purtroppo tal funeste conseguenze, occorre prospettare agli Alleati che qualunque mutilazione territoriale dell'Italia, lungo le coste dell'Adriatico Orientale, dovrà almeno essere controbilanciata dal ripristino di una convenzione simile a quella di Gorizia coll'Austria.

EC DIST - 1 June
ACTION - EC
INFO - NAVY %

*Ministero
della Agricoltura e delle Foreste*

UFFICIO CENTRALE PER LA PESCA E PER LA CACCIA

*Divisione III^a Sec.
Prot. N. 4672 Allegato*

*MINISTERO DEGLI AFFARI
ESTERI - Gabinetto -*

= ROMA =

e, per conoscenza:

*Risposto al Foglio del
Dir.*

3/2

*-- MINISTERO DELLA MARINA
= ROMA =*

*-- ALLA COMMISSIONE ALLEATA
= ROMA =*

*OGGETTO: motopescherecci cat-
turati dagli Jugoslavi.*

Questo Ministero è particolarmente interessato nella incresciosa vicenda della nota cattura, da parte degli Jugoslavi, di parecchi motopescherecci appartenenti al Compartimento Marittimo di Ancona.

Poichè non è difficile calcolare il danno enorme che ne deriva dal grave incidente sia alla classe degli armatori e dei marittimi come all'alimentazione del Paese, specie in questo particolare e delicato momento, si prega assai vivamente codesto On. Ministero perchè, nella sua competenza, voglia spiegare tutte le possibili azioni perchè i natanti catturati vengano al più presto restituiti agli armatori proprietari, specie se ad essi non siano da attribuirsi le ragioni della operata cattura.

Ma occorre soprattutto prevenire che incidenti simili si ripetano. E poichè la decadenza della Convenzione di Brioni porterà purtroppo tal funeste conseguenze, occorre prospettare agli Alleati che qualunque mutilazione territoriale dell'Italia, lungo le coste dell'Adriatico Orientale, dovrà almeno essere controbilanciata dal ripristino di una Convenzione simile a quella di Gorizia coll'Austria

EC DIST - 1 June

ACTION - EC

INFO - NAVY 5/6

- PMAO 'A'

- PMAO 'B'

1.

gmc

e che permetterà ai nostri pescatori la pesca lungo le coste del Quarnero, della Dalmazia, ossia salvare l'unità economica dell'Adriatico e lo sfruttamento razionale delle sue risorse.

Apparece quindi quanto sarebbe stata opportuna una conferenza delle Nazioni mediterranee per la regolamentazione della pesca, come aveva proposto l'Ammiraglio Stone, simile a quella tenuta di recente a Londra dalle Nazioni interessate allo sfruttamento del mare del Nord.

Si tratta infatti di un problema economico di interesse collettivo che riguarda l'alimentazione Europea e non solo gli interessi dell'Italia.

IL MINISTRO

F.to GUILLO

F. C.C.

L'ISPETTORE GENERALE CAPO

Brucoli



30

DIARY.

Ref: 5609 / 35.

June 1946.

STATUS: Yugoslav Activities.

TO : Allied Force Headquarters.

4. Since April 1945 I have received continued complaints from the Italian Government about the action taken by the Yugoslav authorities against Italian fishing and other craft in Adriatic waters.

2. These complaints I have passed, if occurring in VENETIA GIULIAN waters, to the American and British Embassies, and if occurring in the remainder of the Adriatic, to Dr. Smolarka, Deputy Representative of YUGOSLAVIA to the Advisory Council for IMM for representation in EMERUDE, in accordance with your directives contained in letter G-5:561 72.2.13

III dated 3 October 1945 and your unnumbered letter dated 25 August 1945.

~~Recent~~ ^{has} ~~been~~ sent on this subject to the Foreign Office
by the British Ambassador. — *folios 178 - Vol II*

3. The facts, as reported by the Italian Government, whom I have every reason to believe, show that a state of piracy exists in the Northern waters of the Adriatic conducted by Yugoslav nationals with or without the assent of the Yugoslav Government.

4. Such acts are not infrequently accompanied by machine gun fire and general terroristic actions by the Yugoslavs who do not hesitate to use

→ naval craft for this purpose
→ Germany Hofschaler card of attack in the Bay of Biscay
The Italian Government is in a peculiarly difficult position in

under the terms of the revised armistice they will be in an even

1043

785017

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

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MEMO dated 3 October 1945 and your unnumbered letter, dated 25 August 1945.

A recent dispatch has been sent on this subject to the Foreign Office by the British Ambassador. - folio 178 - vol II

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naval craft for this purpose. The Italian Government is in a peculiarly difficult position in this respect. They naturally would like to take action to suppress such piracy. They are, however, restricted at present not only by shortage of craft and the conditions of the de Courten-Cunningham agreement but also by the fact that they are not in administrative control of the territorial waters of VENETIA GIULIA.

Under the terms of the revised armistice they will be in an even worse position because any act committed - even in the interests of law and order - against Yugoslav nationals in these waters will be construed as an act detrimental to Yugoslav interests and therefore a transgression of clause 7 of that document.

13 VOL I

29 VOL I

has

Indicated by A

folio 178 vol II

10 to

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

- 2 -

improver

812 The Italians are unable to take action; the Yugoslavs are unwilling to do so. *have done nothing*
 The waters in which these acts take place are as much disputed areas as the land they want. *Some of*

913 As is shown by the recent firing on two of H.M. Ships in the Southern Adriatic, piracy will spread, and it occurs to me that it is in the interests of the Allies, if not an obligation, to take the matter into their own hands and to establish law and order on the seas of the Adriatic. There are many precedents for the elimination of piracy in foreign waters by both the British and U.S. fleets. I recommend that appropriate action be taken to this end by the Allied Naval authorities. *What if it is possible to use a decoy to accompany the fishing fleet?*
 1014 Should this for any reason not be possible, I recommend the loan to the Italian Authorities of an Allied vessel suitable for protecting these fishing fleets from such acts of aggression that are so regularly performed by the Yugoslavs.

For the Chief Commissioner:

N
 Brigadier,
 Executive Commissioner.

Copy to: U.S. Embassy.

British Embassy.

Navy Sub-Commission.

5721

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

785017

HQ ADCOM CITE ACCEXG

30 MAY 1946

AMHQ FOR NLO

C IN C MED

3391

RESTRICTED

SUBJECT IS PIRACY IN ADRIATIC PD
REFERENCE DISCUSSION WITH SACMED AT ADCOM TWO NINE MAY AND
CONVERSATION LUSH DASH LLOYD OWEN LATEST COMPLAINT IS THAT
ONE TWO SHIPS PAREN NOT RPT NOT TWO FIVE PAREN WERE SEIZED
BY JUGOSLAVS TWO FIVE MILES FROM YUGOSLAVIA COAST AND
COMPELLED TO ENTER GATTARO PD CREWS NUMBERING ONE ONE
ZERO ITALIAN FISHERMEN ARE MISSING

Copy to:

Polad (A)
Polad (B)
Navy Sub-Commission

PRIORITY

Executive Commissioner

371 A. W. Knischy.

NICHOLAS PIONBINO
OWO, USA
Asst Adjutant

5720

Rear Admiral Ellery W. STONE
USNR, Chief Commissioner,
Allied Commission, Rome.

My dear Admiral Stone.

It is a long time I have been thinking of writing to you a confidential letter, believing that you as a sailor more exactly can understand the feelings of another sailor; because, due to the experience of my long sea life, I know that sailors although of different nationality have sometime many things in common, and they understand each other better than other individuals. Furthermore I think we may understand better each other because I have been in the United States for some time, I married in Boston (Mass) an American lady, Jim LELAND, daughter of the late Dr. George Adams LELAND Sr. I love America, I understand the mentality of the Americans and I know that with them you can talk freely, and express with loyalty your feelings and discuss with them with serenity.

What I want to tell you is this: In 1921 as soon as the Italian troops left Dalmatia, after two years of occupation I, in command of the destroyer AUDACE, was ordered to Sebenico as Superior Naval Commander to protect the Italian residing there and under the Yugoslav jurisdiction. I have spent many years of my career in Africa, but I have never met people so barbarous as the Yugoslavs; I had a very hard time in Dalmatia, and I performed my duty with calm, patience, energy and sometimes with force. The Yugoslavs systematically destroyed everything which reminded them of the Italian ^{Switzerland} ~~Switzerland~~, and which had been kept intact during the Austrian-Hungarian occupation. They insulted in the streets the Italians, they shot at my sailors and officers, so much so that on Christmas Eve of 1921 I was forced to machine-gun them and keep them away from the range of my guns, whilst I was awaiting for the answer to a radio message I sent to my Admiral commanding the Pola Naval Base. Cruisers and battle-ships arrived to defend my energetic and just conduct. So the Yugoslavs were subdued.

For several months keeping the naval command I acted as Italian Consul at Sebenico, and I obtained more success when the Italian schools were finally opened again, notwithstanding the obstructionism of the Captain of the District; I obtained also that in the Tribunal the trials be held in Italian language as it was done during the Austrian-Hungarian occupation. At the beginning, when I was acting as Consul the Yugoslavs of the islands were taking possession of some Italian fishing boats, but as soon as I was informed, I sent a destroyer with instructions to ask energetically the Yugoslav Authorities ^{if} ~~if~~ release immediately the fishing boats, using if necessary also force. Therefore, after this action the Italian fishing boats were no longer molested.

Now I have read in the newspapers that the Yugoslavs are again doing what they did after the first World War, with the difference that now we have no fleet, were are under the Allied occupation, we are no longer an independent nation and we have no means to obtain

freedom which is due to us. I think that the Allies must do something

785017

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Now I have read in the newspapers that the Yugoslavs are again doing what they did after the first World War, with the difference that now we have no fleet, were are under the Allied occupation, we are no longer an independent nation and we have no means to obtain respect which is due to us. I think that the Allies must do something to prevent as armed nation from using supreme power and robbery against a disarmed nation tied hands and feet by her Armistitial position. Can you do something to prevent that our fishing industry in the Adriatic be stopped by the Yugoslavs unjustified action? You know our economical condition, it would be very bad if our fishing boats could not remain at sea on account of the Yugoslavs.

1048

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

785017

Cannot the Allied Navy patrol the area where the Italian boats go fishing? I think it would be an act of justice and policy at the same time, because it is wiser to avoid all motives for allowing the hate against the Yugoslavs grow wider. This hate has existed for centuries and if the Allies do not give Italy a just peace, the hate will be increased.

The AUDACE on November 4th 1918 was the first Italian man-of-war with R.M. the King of Italy Vittorio Emanuele III, entered the port of Trieste. Trieste must be Italian as the people are Italian; if the Allies give Trieste and Istria to the Yugoslavs they make a very great mistake, they will wound Italy in her heart.

Very sincerely yours,

Salvatore Casano

Dear Admiral

*Villa Manica
Cape Pola
Trieste*

5718

COPY

Despatch no. 284

60/68/46

British Embassy,
Rome.

24th May, 1946.

Sir,

With reference to my despatch no. 254 of 14th May, I have the honour to report that I have received a letter from the Italian Prime Minister in which he informs me that, on the 12th May, twelve large Italian motor fishing vessels were intercepted at a distance of twenty-five miles from the Yugoslav coast by the Yugoslav maritime authorities and obliged to put into Cattaro. One Italian vessel was able to elude her captors and return to an Italian port. One hundred and ten Italian sailors are reported missing. Signor de Gasperi observes that this act of open piracy on the part of the Yugoslav authorities is only the latest of a series of similar incidents against which the Italian Government wish to protest in the most energetic manner. Signor de Gasperi continues by asking for my intervention in order that the seized vessels and their crews may be set free and allowed to return to Italy without further let or hindrance and at the same time he requests the competent Allied military authorities to increase their vigilance on the Adriatic seaboard or at least to permit the Italian authorities to take appropriate steps to prevent the continuation of a state of affairs which violates all the views of Allied Force Headquarters conveyed to you in Mr. Broad's telegram No. 153 of 4th April.

2. As I ventured to observe in my despatch under reference, these incidents cause the profoundest anxiety in this country and can only militate against that renewal of friendly Italo-Yugoslav relations which the Allied Governments are so desirous of bringing about. I therefore hope that you will feel able to instruct His Majesty's representative at Belgrade to request from the Yugoslav Government a report on this incident and, if possible, to urge them to take immediate action to release the ships in question and their crews.

3. I am sending a copy of this despatch to His Majesty's Ambassador at Washington, to Mr. Clutton at Belgrade and to Mr. Broad at Caserta.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

with great truth and respect,

Your most obedient, humble Servant,

Noel Charles.

The Right Honourable

Ernest Bevin, M.P.,

etc., etc., etc.,

Foreign Office, S.W.1.

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

785017

1049

Sir,

With reference to my despatch no. 254 of 14th May, I have the honour to report that I have received a letter from the Italian Prime Minister in which he informs me that, on the 12th May, twelve large Italian motor fishing vessels were intercepted at a distance of twenty-five miles from the Yugoslav coast by the Yugoslav maritime authorities and obliged to put into Cattaro. One Italian vessel was able to elude her captors and return to an Italian port. One hundred and ten Italian sailors are reported missing. Signor de Gasperi observes that this act of open piracy on the part of the Yugoslav authorities is only the latest of a series of similar incidents against which the Italian Government wish to protest in the most energetic manner. Signor de Gasperi continues by asking for my intervention in order that the seized vessels and their crews may be set free and allowed to return to Italy without further let or hindrance and at the same time he requests the competent Allied military authorities to increase their vigilance on the Adriatic seaboard or at least to permit the Italian authorities to take appropriate steps to prevent the continuation of a state of affairs which violates all the views of Allied Force Headquarters conveyed to you in Mr. Broad's telegram No. 153 of 4th April.

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with great truth and respect,

Your most obedient, humble Servant,

Noel Charles.

The Right Honourable
Ernest Bevin, M.P.,
etc., etc., etc.,
Foreign Office, S.W.1.

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

785017

FLORIO
178

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

785017

DATE	FOLIO No.	NAME OF SHIP	LETTER FROM....	ACTION TAKEN
29/4/45	1 E	ARDUINO	Minister of Marine Stated that this ship was requisitioned by the Slav Partisans	Matter held in abeyance. (Folio 10).
16/7/45	1	DE LEINO SAN NICOLA NUOVA MARIA S. TERESA S.M. ARCAANGELO	Minister of Foreign Affairs stated that all 5 boats had either disappeared or else been captured by by Slavs	Letter to G-5 AFHQ asking for an investigation (Folio 8) copy to Embassies (Folios 9+10).
1/6/45	14	PUNTO BLANCA	Ship salvaged by RN and taken away by Slav partisans	No action (See Folio 12) (See also folio 43).
3/8/45	19	SANTA TERESA SAN NICOLA DIANA	Fishing Coop. states that these vessels whilst fishing were ordered to sail to Yugoslavia	Referred to G-5 (Folio 25) who stated in Folio 29 that this should be referred to Slav Repre to ACI. We disagreed in folio 31. Letter at Folio 43 agreed to matter being referred to Embassies. (See Folio 47.)
6/8/45	23-4	ARDITA AURELIO P. MALCO DAHE	Minister of Foreign Affairs states that all were seized by Slavs	G-5 AFHQ advised (Folio 25) answer at Folio 43 as above.

At this point please see Folio 26.

Folio 28 from Minister of Marine contains a further complaint including one new name: the "NUOVA ITALIA".

17/10/45	43	AUDACE NORA NUOVO AVVENIRE	Seized Sequestered Requisitioned	} by Slav Authorities	Referred to Embassies in general form.
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Letter on machine-gunning of Italian Ships by Slavs at Folio 49

10/11/45	61	as per Folio 61 5716	Slav claim to these ships as war booty	G-5 AFHQ in Folio 101 state that this should be referred to Embassies. Matter referred to Slav Repr. to ACI.
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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No.

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See Folios 62-68. It contains list of 94 vessels. Sunk & afloat in Slav Territorial waters. Referred to G-5 AFHQ in 74 & Slav Repr. to AGI at Folio 90. See also 104.

Legal opinion at Folio 73 A for info.
Letter from U.S. Embassy at Folio 79.

Slav complaint at Folio 122.

23/3/46	126	WRESTO L. ROMANO Z. ARDITO P.	Referred to Embassies at Folio 126	
8/4/46	140	GIUSEPPE F. VOLANO LIBERTA I ANTONIO M.	Letter showing that Slav Authorities sequestrated these vessels in latter half of March.	All referred to Embassies
27/4/46	147	13 crafts <i>2 detained</i>	All seized as reprisals against the assumed Allied requisitioning of the Slav vessel SVIR	This vessel was not in fact requisitioned. See 151.

See minutes of meeting held 5 April 46 by Economic Section of Shipping (Joint Economic Committee in Venezia Giulia at folio 154).

10/5/46	170	12 Vessels	Seized by Slav authorities.
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AWK
copy
27/5

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

785017

See Volume 12-13. It contains list of 21 vessels. But a check is made to show that the vessels listed are not the same as those listed in the 1941-42 report. See also 104.

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5715

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

785017

5609 *Sp. Comm.* 176

TRANSLATION

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

41/17704/31

Rome, 26 May 1946.

170 MAY 28 1946

Dear Admiral,

Following my letter No. 3/547 of 20 May, I wish to bring to your knowledge some details which confirm the "piratical" nature of the action carried out by the Yugoslavs against the Italian fishing boats:

- 1) These fishing boats were outside Yugoslav territorial waters;
- 2) The Yugoslav war ship operated according to a plan prepared beforehand, as is proved by the fact that it had aboard sufficient armed personnel to form many pillage crews and that, having begun the raids on Saturday evening, it went on with the pursuits until Sunday morning.

To this I must add that the Italian boats were fishing for the Allied Command of Ancona, with which they had a contract for the supply of fish.

As things are and considering the excitement this sad event has caused in the Italian public opinion, the Italian Government expects that this matter be soon settled in a way which may prove satisfactory to Italy and to justice.

Thanking you in advance for your kind interest in this matter, believe me

Truly yours

/s/ De Gasperi

Admiral Ellery W. Stone
Chief Commissioner
Allied Commission
Rome.

EC DIST - 28 May 571

ACTION - EC
INFO - NAVY

(copy)

copy sent to Navy S/O 3/5.
Att.

Il Ministro degli Affari Esteri

41/ 17704/31

Rec. 22 maggio 1946

Caro Ambasciatore,

Facendo seguito alla mia lettera n° 3/547 del 20 maggio 46, mi prego porre a Sua conoscenza alcuni dettagli atti a confermare la natura personale dell'azione compiuta da parte jugoslava ai danni dei pescherecci italiani:

- 1) Questi pescherecci si trovavano fuori delle acque territoriali jugoslave;
- 2) L'unità di guerra jugoslava ha operato secondo un pieno preavviso, come dimostra il fatto che aveva a bordo personale armato sufficiente a costituire molti equipaggi da preda e che, anziché i suoi quattrocento uomini separati del sabato, si ha presenza mediante intercettamento fino alla mattina della domenica.

A questo riguardo che i battelli italiani stavano pescando per conto del Comando alleato di Ancona, ad quale erano legati da un contratto di fornitura di pesce.

Così stando le cose e data la condizione suscitata dal triste avvenimento nell'opinione pubblica italiana il Governo italiano si attiene che la questione venga presto regolata in modo soddisfacente per l'Italia e per il diritto.

5713

Nel ringraziarla di ciò che per il suo cortese interessamento mi crederò cordialmente

Amiraglio Ellery W. Stone

Capo della Commissione Alleata in Italia

R. C. M. 4

W. Stone

Roma, 22 maggio 1947

41/ 17704/31

Caro Ambasciatore,

Facendo seguito alla mia lettera n° 3547 del 20 maggio us. ha pregio porre a Sua conoscenza alcuni dettagli atti a confermare la natura piratesca dell'azione compiuta da parte jugoslava ai danni dei pescherecci italiani:

- 1) Questi pescherecci si trovavano fuori delle acque territoriali jugoslave;
- 2) L'unità da guerra jugoslava ha operato secondo un piano prestabilito, come dimostra il fatto che aveva a bordo personale armato sufficiente a costituire solidi equipaggi da preda e che, individuati i suoi rastrellamenti nella serata del sabato, - ha proseguiti i raid anche domenica fino alla mattina della domenica.

A questo aggiungo che i battelli italiani stavano pescando per conto del Comando Alentejo di Alentejo, al quale erano legati da un contratto di fornitura di pesce.

Così stando le cose e data la commissione suscitata dal triste avvenimento nell'opinione pubblica italiana il Governo italiano si attende che la questione venga presto regolata in modo soddisfacente per l'Italia e per il diritto.

Nel ringraziarla fin d'ora per la sua cortese interessamento mi creda, cordialmente

Ambasciatore Eljery H. Stettin

Capo della Commissione Alentejo in Italia

R. G. H. A.

Re. f. p. p.

5713

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785017

785017

机

Since April 1943?

~~The facts, as reported by the Italian Government whom I have every reason to believe, show that a state of Piracy exists in the Northern waters of the Adriatic, conducted by Yugoslav nationals with or without the assent of the Yugoslav Government.~~

4 Under the terms of the revised armistice they will be in an even worse position because any act committed - even in the interests of law and order - against Yugoslav nationals in these waters will be construed as an act detrimental to Yugoslav interests and therefore a transgression of clause 7 of that document.

✓ piracy will spread. It occurs to me therefore that it is in the interests of the Allied ⁵ if not an obligation to take the matter into their own hands and to establish law and order on the seas of the Adriatic. There

During the last few months I have received continued complaints from the Italian Government about the action taken by the Yugoslav Authorities against Italian fishing and other craft in Adriatic waters. I have passed these complaints through diplomatic channels for representation in Belgrade.

The facts, as reported by the Italian Government whom I have every reason to believe, show that a state of Piracy exists in the Northern waters of the Adriatic, conducted by Yugoslav nationals with or without the assent of the Yugoslav Government.

The Italian Government is in a peculiarly difficult position in this respect. They naturally would like to take action to suppress such piracy. They are however restricted at present not only by shortage of craft and the condition of the de Courfain-Cunningham ^{agreement} but also by the fact that they are not in administrative control of the territorial waters of Venezia Giulia.

Under the terms of the revised armistice they will be in an even worse position because any act committed - even in the interests of law and order - against Yugoslav nationals in these waters will be construed as an act detrimental to Yugoslav interests and therefore a transgression of clause 7 of that document. 5712

The Italians are unable to take action: the Yugoslavs unwilling to do so. The waters in which these acts take place are as much disputed areas as the land they wash.

Piracy will spread. It occurs to me therefore that it is in the interests of the Allied if not an obligation to take the matter into their own hands and to establish law and order on the seas of the Adriatic. There are many precedents for the elimination of Piracy in foreign waters by both the British and U.S. fleets. I recommend that appropriate action be taken to this end by the Allied Naval Authorities.

DRAFT

SUBJECT: Seizure of Italian Vessels.

TO : DR. JOSEF SACCHANA
Deputy Representative to the
Advisory Council of Italy

The Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has informed us that on 12 May, 25 miles off the Yugoslav coast 12 big Italian fishing motorboats have been compelled by force, by Yugoslav naval authorities to enter Cattaro.

110 Italian seamen are missing.

This is considered by the Italian Government to be piracy on the part of the Yugoslav authorities and is the latest of a series of such acts.

It is requested that you refer this matter to your Government in Belgrade with a view to having these boats together with their crews returned to the Italian authorities with the minimum delay.

For the Chief Commissioner

Copy to: United States Embassy
British Embassy
C-3 Sec. AFHQ
Nav. S/C

Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

5711

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

1059

DRAFT

SUBJECT: Seizure of Italian boats by Yugoslav Authorities.

TO : C-5 Sec AMHQ

Enclose is copy of letter from the Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs No. 5/547 dated 20 May 46 is forwarded for any action that you consider necessary with regarding Para 5.

As is stated in para 4, this is the latest of a long list of similar seizures, but as the ~~com~~ ^{previous acts were performed} in the Venezia Giulia area, they have been taken up with the British and United States ~~Embassies~~ ^{Embassies}.

For the Chief Commissioner

Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

Copy to: U.S. Embassy

British Embassy

Nav/ S/C

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

785017

1060

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

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

APO 394

Office of the Executive Commissioner

Ref: 5609/171/EC

22 May 1946

SUBJECT: Seizure by Yugoslav Authorities
of Italian Vessels.

TO : The Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

I have to thank you for your Memorandum no. 6/1383/795
dated 29 April 1946 and am able to inform you that the matter has
been referred to the appropriate authorities.

For the Chief Commissioner,

A. W. Knisely.

Brigadier
Executive Commissioner

5769

1062

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

785017

TRANSLATION

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Urgent 3/547

Rome, 20 May 1946.

MAY 23 1946

Dear Admiral,

1 I am informed that on 12 May, 25 miles from the Yugoslav coast, twelve big Italian fishing motorboats have been compelled with force by Yugoslav naval authorities to enter Cattaro.

2 A boat navigating at the tail succeeded to elude the vigilance and to make return to an Italian port.

3 110 Italian sailors are missing.

4 This gesture of real piracy from the Yugoslavs is nothing but the last of a whole series of analogous acts, against which my Government protests in the most energetic form and manner.

5 Bringing the above to your knowledge, I beg you to intervene so that the seized fishing boats and their crews be allowed without delay to return to Italy and I shall be most grateful if you will kindly ask the competent military authorities either to reinforce the watch on the Adriatic coasts, or to grant us the permission to do so in order to prevent the continuation of a state of affairs which is absolutely contrary to every international law.

6 Thanking you sincerely for your kind interest in the matter,
I am

Cordially yours,

/s/ De Gasperi

Admiral Ellery W. Stone
Chief Commissioner
Allied Commission
Rome.

5708

P.S. I think it might be advisable to remind you that in the Memorandum 6/1883/795 of 27 April addressed to the Allied Commission, your intervention was requested for the release of other 13 Italian motorboats which had been abusively seized by the Yugoslavs and whose crews had been interned. Also in this respect the Government is anxious to receive a satisfactory reply.

Copy to Navy s/c 31/5

PA

Il Ministro degli Affari Esteri

Roma, 29 marzo 1947

3/547

Caro Ammiraglio,

Sono informato che il 12 corrente, a 25 miglia al largo della costa jugoslava, dodici grossi motopescherecci italiani sono stati costretti con la forza dalle autorità marittime jugoslave ad entrare a Cattaro.

Un battello navigante in coda è riuscito ad eludere la vigilanza e a rientrare in un porto italiano.

Centodieci marinai italiani sono mancanti.

Questo gesto di vera e propria pirateria da parte jugoslava non è che l'ultimo di tutto una serie di fatti analoghi, contro i quali il mio Governo protesta nel modo e nella forma più energica.

Nel portare quanto precede a Sua conoscenza, La prego di voler intervenire perché i motopescherecci sequestrati e i loro equipaggi sieno autorizzati senz'altro a rientrare in Italia e Le sarò vivamente riconoscente se Ella vorrà cortesemente pregare le competenti autorità militari sia di rafforzare la vigilanza nonché sulle coste adriatiche, sia di consentire a noi di effettuarla allo scopo di impedire la continuazione di uno stato di fatto, assolutamente contrario ad ogni norma internazionale.

Nel ringraziarLa vivamente del Suo cortese interessamento mi creda cordialmente

Ammiraglio Ellery W. STONE
Capo della Commissione Alleata

R O M A

Lyman

Caro Ammiraglio,

Sono informato che il 12 corrente, a 25 miglia al largo della costa jugoslava, dodici grossi motopescherecci italiani sono stati costretti con la forza dalle autorità marittime jugoslave ad entrare a Cattaro.

Un battello navigante in ceca è riuscito ad eludere la vigilanza e a rientrare in un porto italiano.

Centodieci marinai italiani sono mancanti.

Questo gesto di vera e propria pirateria da parte jugoslava non è che l'ultimo di tutta una serie di fatti analoghi, contro i quali il mio governo protesta nel modo e nella forma più energica.

Nel portare quanto precede a Sua conoscenza, La prego di voler intervenire perché i motopescherecci sequestrati e i loro equipaggi sieno autorizzati senz'altro a rientrare in Italia e Le sarò vivamente riconoscente se Ella vorrà cortesemente prega e le competenti autorità militari sia di rafforzare la vigilanza non che sulle coste adriatiche, sia di consentire a noi di effettuarla allo scopo di impedire la continuazione di uno stato di fatto, assolutamente contrario ad ogni norma internazionale.

Nel ringraziarLa vivamente del Suo cortese interessamento mi creda cordialmente

Ammiraglio Allery W. STONE
Capo della Commissione Alleata

R O M A

P.S. - Credo opportuno rimmentarle che con il memorandum 0/1883/795 del 27 aprile diretto alla Commissione Alleata,

./.

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

785017

venire richiesto il suo intervento per il rilascio di altri
La motovelieri italiani ebbene sono state sequestrate dagli jugo-
slavi ed i cui equipaggi verranno internati. Anche a tal vi-
stuale il governo è ansioso di ricevere una soddisfacente
risposta.

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

BRITISH EMBASSY,
ROME.

60/61/46

15th May, 1946.

MAY 20 1946

My dear Lush,

I am grateful for your letter no. 5609/156/EC of May 7th regarding the seizure of Italian vessels in Istrian waters by the Yugoslav authorities.

2. Your letter usefully summarizes the information which has reached me from different sources and I shall use it as the basis for my representations to the Foreign Office.

3. I agree that there seems to be a strong case for raising this question at Belgrade on behalf of the Italian Government, particularly as the Yugoslav representative here has now officially asked for action to be taken by the Supreme Allied Commander to order the Italian Government to restore, salvage and repair Yugoslav ships in Italian waters.

I am sending a copy of this letter to my United States colleague.

Yours sincerely

Dorothy

Brigadier M.S. Lush, C.B., C.B.E.,
Executive Commissioner,
Allied Commission,
Rome.

5706

see M.167-168

(CSO) (CAITK)

1067

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

785017

164

Ref. : 5609/164/EC

17 May 1946.

My Dear Mr. Key,

With further reference to my letter No. 5609/155/EC dated 7 May 1946, I have now been advised by the Italian Ministry of Marine that the motor-schooner "RAVING" was seized by the Yugoslav Authorities at LUSIN/DOOL on 14 March 1946.

I would appreciate it if this ship could be included in the earlier list submitted to you.

Very truly yours,

N. W. HIND-SMITH

Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

Mr. David M. Key,
Charge d'Affaires ad Interim,
American Embassy,
Via Vittorio Veneto 119
Rome.

5705

see M165

Copy to:- Navy Sub-Commission.

PK
M165
21

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

785017

163

Ref. : 5609/163/80

May 1946

My Dear Sir Noel,

With further reference to my letter No. 5609/156/80 dated 7 May 1946, I have now been advised by the Italian Ministry of Marine that the motor-schooner "CALVINO" was seized by the Yugoslav Authorities at LUSITANOPOLIS on 14 March 1946.

I would appreciate it if this ship could be included in the earlier list submitted to you.

Yours very sincerely,

H. W. EIND-SMITH

Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

Sir Noel Charles, Bt., KCMG,
British Ambassador,
Rome.

Copy to: Naval Sub-Commission.

see 7165 5704

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

785017

156

Ref. : 5609/156/BO

7 May 1946.

My Dear Sir Noel,

The seizure of Italian vessels by the Yugoslav authorities is reaching large proportions.

I have already advised you on two occasions since March 23 under this reference of the seizure of a total of 13 Italian craft and I have now been informed by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs that according to information received from the Prefetto of Venice, the Yugoslav Maritime Inspectorate of Fiume has instructed all Harbour Masters Offices to seize all Italian ships lying at anchor or sailing in the waters of the B Zone Istrian coast.

It appears that these instructions were issued as a retaliation measure for the requisition by the Allies in Venice early in March of the motor-schooner SVIR belonging to the Fiume Maritime Division, which was sent to Venice by Yugoslav authorities with a cargo of coal.

As a result of these instructions the following Italian motor-schooners have been seized and their crews held aboard:

- "NUOVA PROVVIDENZA" of Venice Maritime Division seized in Fiume;
- "VOLANO" of Comacchio Maritime Division seized in Anzio;
- "LIBERTA' E ANTONIO M." of Comacchio Maritime Division seized in Pianosa.

The cargo of these ships (firewood and coal) was unloaded and the ships have been used for transport of coal from Anzio to Fiume on account of the Yugoslav Maritime Inspectorate of Fiume.

The following vessels have also been seized:

- "GIUSEPPE" of Comacchio, empty, seized in Ravenna;
- "FLORIDO" of Ravenna, cargo of salt, bound to Venice, seized in Parenzo;
- "DIVINA MARIA" of Ravenna, cargo of coal, bound to Venice, seized in Parenzo;
- "NICOLETTA" of Chioggia, cargo of cement, bound to Chioggia, seized in Parenzo;
- "ARDITO PESCATORE" of Chioggia, cargo of silicate bound to Venice, seized in Parenzo;

See 7-166

see 163

PA
9/5

1070

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

785017

156A

- "ROMANO B" of Chioggia, cargo of firewood, bound to Chioggia, seized in Parenzo;
- "REMO" of Chioggia, cargo of firewood, bound to Chioggia, seized in Parenzo;
- "MOTOVELIERO SICILIANO" cargo of wine, bound to Venice, seized in Parenzo;
- Two wherries and one tow-boat, cargo of coal bound to Venice, seized in Arsia.

The two wherries have been used for transport of coal on account of Yugoslav authorities between Arsia and Pium.

It appears that the a/n Yugoslav authorities have stated that they are going to set free the a/n Italian vessels only when the Allied authorities release the motor-schooner SVIR.

As will be seen from the u/q extract from the minutes of a meeting held at 10.30 hours on 5 April 1946 in Economic Section on Shipping (Joint Economic Committee), the SVIR is not only de-requisitioned but the Slav authorities in Venezia Giulia are aware of this fact:

"The Yugoslavs asked for further information on:

SVIR
LABOR

which ships, they stated, were being prevented by the Allies from returning to Zone B.

Major COOPER replied that both SVIR and LABOR had been engaged on taking coal from ARSA to VENICE. The coal had been impounded by Italian Government authorities. The ships, however, were released immediately.

The SVIR and LABOR were both inspected by an R.A.S.G. Water Transport Coy. in VENICE and the SVIR was requisitioned, without the knowledge of A.M.G. As a result of action by A.M.G. with the military authorities, the SVIR was released, is now in BARI, and the Captain of the ship is free to sail wherever he wishes.

5702

The LABOR is undergoing repair in VENICE, but is free to sail wherever the Captain wishes.

Therefore it will be seen that neither the SVIR nor the LABOR are in any way under the control of the Allies and are free to return to Zone B."

1071

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

785017

156B

May the Foreign Office please be asked to instruct their
Embassy in Belgrade to take up this matter as it is causing grave
concern in this country.

Very truly yours,

M. S. LUSH

Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

Sir Noel Charles, Bt., KCMG.,
British Ambassador,
Rome.

Copy: Mary s/c ✓

1072

785017

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

155

Ref: 5609/155/RO

7 May 1946.

My dear Mr. Key,

see 126 + 137

The seizure of Italian vessels by the Yugoslav authorities is reaching large proportions.

I have already advised you on two occasions since March 25 under this reference of the seizure of a total of 13 Italian craft and I have now been informed by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs that according to information received from the Prefetto of Venice, the Yugoslav Maritime Inspectorate of Fiume has instructed all Harbour Masters Offices to seize all Italian ships lying at anchor or sailing in the waters of the B Zone Istrian coast.

It appears that these instructions were issued as a retaliation measure for the requisition by the Allies in Venice early in March of the motor-schooner SVIR belonging to the Fiume Maritime Division, which was sent to Venice by Yugoslav Authorities with a cargo of coal.

As a result of these instructions the following Italian motor-schooners have been seized and their crews held aboard:

- 16 "NUOVA PROVVIDENZA" of Venice Maritime Division seized in Fiume;
- 17 "VILANO" of Comacchio Maritime Division seized in Arsia;
- 18 "LIBERTA' E ANTONIO M." of Comacchio Maritime Division seized in Pianosa.

The cargo of these ships (firewood and coal) was unloaded and the ships have been used for transport of coal from Arsia to Fiume on account of the Yugoslav Maritime Inspectorate of Fiume.

The following vessels have also been seized:

- 19 "GIUSEPPE" of Comacchio, empty, seized in Rovigno;
- 20 "FLORIDO" of Ravenna, cargo of salt bound to Venice, seized in Parenzo;
- 21 "DIVINA MADRE" of Ravenna, cargo of coal bound to Venice, seized in Parenzo;
- 22 "NICOLETTA" of Chioggia, cargo of cement bound to Chioggia, seized in Parenzo

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8

see 164

1073

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

785017

155A

23 "ARDITO PESCATORE" of Chioggia, cargo of silicate bound to Venice, seized in Parenzo;

24 "ROMANO B" of Chioggia, cargo of firwood bound to Chioggia, seized in Parenzo;

25 "RINO" of Chioggia, cargo of firwood bound to Chioggia, seized in Parenzo;

26 "MOTOVELIERO SICILIANO" cargo of wine bound to Venice, seized in Parenzo;

27 Two wharves and one tow-boat, cargo of coal bound to Venice, seized in Arsia.

The two wharves have been used for transport of coal on account of Yugoslav Authorities between Arsia and Piuma.

It appears that the a/n Yugoslav Authorities have stated that they are going to set free the a/n Italian vessels only when the Allied Authorities release the motor-schooner SVIR.

As will be seen from the u/q extract from the minutes of a meeting held at 10.30 hours on 5 April 1946 in Economic Section on Shipping (Joint Economic Committee), the SVIR is not only de-regulationed but the Slav Authorities in Venezia Giulia are aware of this fact:

"The Yugoslavs asked for further information on:

ZVIR
LABOR

which ships, they stated, were being prevented by the Allies from returning to Zone B.

Major COOPER replied that both ZVIR and LABOR had been engaged on taking coal from ARSIA to VENICE. The coal had been impounded by Italian Government Authorities. The ships, however, were released immediately.

The ZVIR and LABOR were both inspected by an R.A.S.C. Water Transport Coy. in VENICE and the ZVIR was requisitioned, without the knowledge of A.M.C. As a result of action by A.M.C. with the military authorities, the ZVIR was released, is now in BARI, and the Captain of the ship is free to sail wherever he wishes.

5659

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

785017

155B

Therefore it will be seen that neither the ZVIR nor the LABOR are in any way under the control of the Allies and are free to return to Zone B ".

May the State Department please be asked to instruct their Embassy in Belgrade to take up this matter as it is causing grave concern in this country.

Very truly yours,

M. S. LUSH

Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

Mr. David McK. Kay,
Charge' d'Affaires ad Interim
American Embassy
Via Vittorio Veneto 119
Rome.

5698

154

Ref. : 5609/15/10

7 May 1946.

SUBJECT: Seizure of Italian Craft by Yugoslavs.

TO : G-6 Section,
A.P.H.C.

Reference your letter No. G-5 561.6 dated 2 April 1946,
I enclose a copy of memorandum No. G/1033/795 dated 27 April from the
Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

As will be seen from paragraph 5, these latest seizures are
a consequence of the requisition by the Allied authorities of the
Slov vessel *SVIR* or *SVIR*.

The u/q extract from the minutes of a meeting held at 10.30
hours on 5 April 1946 in Economic Section on Shipping (Joint Economic
Committee) is given to show that not only is the *SVIR* de-registralional
but that the Slav authorities in Venezia Giulia are aware of this
fact:

"The Yugoslavs asked for further information on

SVIR
LABOR

which ships, they stated, were being prevented by the Allies
from returning to Zone B.

Major COOPER replied that both *SVIR* and *LABOR* had been
engaged on taking coal from ARSO to VERONE. The coal had
been impounded by Italian Government authorities. The ships,
however, were released immediately.

The *SVIR* and *LABOR* were both inspected by an R.A.S.C.
Water Transport Coy. in VERONE and the *SVIR* was requisitioned,
without the knowledge of A.M.C. As a result of action by
A.M.C. with the military authorities, the *SVIR* was released,
is now in DAKI, and the Captain of the ship is free to sail
wherever he wishes.

5697

1076

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

785017

The LABOR is undergoing repairs in VIETNAM, but is free to sail wherever the Captain wishes.

Therefore it will be seen that neither the SWIS nor the LABOR are in any way under the control of the Allies and are free to return to Zone B".

For the Chief Commissioner:

M. S. LUSH

Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

Copies to:- Poles 'A'
Poles 'B'
Navy Sub-Commission

5896

1077

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

785017

153

Ref: 5609/153/EG

2 May 1946.

SUBJECT: Seizure of Italian Craft by Yugoslav Authorities.

TO : Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Rome.

147

Ref your memorandum no. 6/1883/795 dated 27 April 1946.

The motor-schooner SVIR was released by the Allied Authorities prior to 5 April 1946 and is at present in BARI, the captain being free to sail whenever he wishes and the Yugoslav Authorities in Venezia Giulia are aware of this fact.

see 155 & 156

The contents of your memorandum have been referred together with this information to the British and American Embassies with the request that the matter be taken up in Belgrade.

For the Chief Commissioner,

A. W. Knisely.

Brigadier
Executive Commissioner

5695

see 154

92

1078

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

785017

148
152

Ref. : 5609/143/83

1 May 1946.

SUBJECT: Seizure of Italian Boats by Yugoslavs.

TO : Navy Sub-Commission,
A.C.

148-151

The attached copy of minutes of a meeting of The Joint Economic Committee are forwarded.

As you will see, para 3 deals with the ZVIR and LABOR.

For the Chief Commissioners.

A. W. Knisely,

Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

Copy to:- Polad 'A'
" 'B'

5694

96

151

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD AT 10.30 HRS ON 5 APR 46
IN ECONOMIC SECTION ON SHIPPING (JOINT ECONOMIC
COMMITTEE)

PRESENT :

Major BYRLES) Yugoslav representative
Mr. MEDARIS)
Mr. DREHSTIN)

Major K. COOPER, Economics (Chairman)
Major H. ST.G. FRENCH, Security Joint Economic
Committee.

Lieut. M.J. LISTER, Economics.

Major A.E. GOLD, Legal.
Comdr. E.B. TANDON, EN - D/MIC.

IN ATTENDANCE:

1. The Yugoslav representatives produced a list of ships registered in Zone B in the year 1939 for whose return, in view of shortage of shipping space, they ask urgently:-

1. MOENIGO - In CIVITAVECCHIA, used for communication.
2. RIGMONDO - Requisitioned by the Allied Navy in Northern Italy.
3. POEA - Requisitioned by the Allies.
4. LIPSSINIO - Requisitioned by the Allies.
5. SAN VITO - Requisitioned by the Allies.
6. ABRATIA - Requisitioned by the Allies, now in Taranto.
7. LAVRANA - Requisitioned by the Allies.
8. STAMIRA - Given to Greece by the Allies.
9. ROSSINI - According to information, in the Aegean Sea.

Major COOPER promised to forward the list to the appropriate authorities, if requisitions were not in accordance with Morgan-Jovanovic Agreement.

2. The Yugoslavs produced in addition the names of ships registered in Zone B, and now sunk, also requesting their return:-

1. BACIC - Relieved sunk off LIVORNO or SPERIA.
2. SCARPANTO - No information as to whereabouts.
3. JADERA - " "
4. LAUREZO MARCELLO - Believed sunk off Greece.

Major COOPER stated no action was possible at present as ships were sunk but the request would be forward to higher authorities for comment.

3. The Yugoslavs asked for further information on:

ZVIR
LABOR

which ships, they stated, were being prevented by the Allies from returning to Zone B.

Major COOPER replied that both ZVIR and LABOR had been engaged on taking coal from AREA to VENICE. The coal had been impounded by Italian Government authorities. The ships, however, were released immediately.

The ZVIR and LABOR were both impounded by an R.A.S.C. Motor Transport Coy. in VENICE and the ZVIR was requisitioned, without the knowledge of A.M.G. As a result of action by A.M.G. with the military authorities, the ZVIR was released.

PRESENT :

Major BULIS)
Mr. MEDARIO) Jugoslav representative
Mr. DEKUSTIN)

Major K. COOPER, Economics (Chairman)
Major H. ST. G. FRANK, Security Joint Economic
Committee.
Lieut. H. J. LISTER, Economics.

Major A. E. GOLD, Legal.
Comdr. E. B. TAMMOK, EM - D/MOIO.

IN ATTENDANCE:

1. The Jugoslav representatives produced a list of ships registered in Zone B in the year 1939 for whose return, in view of shortage of shipping space, they ask urgently:-

1. MOETICO - in GERVINACCHIA, used for communication.
2. RIMONDO - Requisitioned by the Allied Navy in Southern Italy.
3. POLA - Requisitioned by the Allies.
4. LUSSINO - Requisitioned by the Allies.
5. SAN VITO - Requisitioned by the Allies.
6. ABBAZIA - Requisitioned by the Allies, now in Taranto.
7. LAVTANK - Requisitioned by the Allies.
8. STAMIRA - Given to Greece by the Allies.
9. ROSSINI - According to information, in the Aegean Sea.

Major COOPER promised to forward the list to the appropriate authorities, if requisitions were not in accordance with Morgan-Jovanovic Agreement.

2. The Jugoslavs produced in addition the names of ships registered in Zone B, and now sunk, also requesting their return:-

1. BACIO - Believed sunk off LIVORNO or GENOA.
2. SCARANTO - No information as to whereabouts.
3. JADRA - "
4. LAUREZO MARCELLO - Believed sunk off Greece.

Major COOPER stated no action was possible at present as ships were sunk but the request would be forward to higher authorities for comment.

3. The Jugoslavs asked for further information on:

ZVIR
LABOR

which ships, they stated, were being prevented by the Allies from returning to Zone B.

Major COOPER replied that both ZVIR and LABOR had been engaged on taking coal from ARSA to VENICE. The coal had been impounded by Italian Government authorities. The ships, however, were released immediately.

The ZVIR and LABOR were both inspected by an I.A.S.D. War Transport Coy. in VENICE and the ZVIR was requisitioned, without the knowledge of A.M.C.

As a result of action by AMG with the military authorities, the ZVIR was released, is now in BARI, and the Captain of the ship is free to sail wherever he wishes.

The LABOR is undergoing repair in VENICE, but is free to sail wherever the Captain wishes.

Therefore it will be seen that neither the ZVIR nor the LABOR are in any way under the control of the Allies and are free to return to Zone B.

785017

1 0 2 0

3. (Contd) The Jugoslavs asked for the return of the following ships in addition to those already listed above :-

1. ISICK II - Believed to be based on ANCONA and operating under Allied between BRINDISI and ANCONA.
2. TRILJA - Previously called WILLIAM. Was operating as a ship in 1944 under German in 1944, but was subsequently sunk. Reported to have been salvaged recently by divers STULZEN, PIVKAVIC and TRILJA. No knowledge of present whereabouts.
3. RITA - Motor sailing boat registered at BUSTO ARSIZIO, owner CAMERON DOMINICO. No knowledge of present whereabouts.

An investigation of these facts, and the legal implication, was provided by Major COOPER.

4. Major COOPER then produced a list of the following ships, which it was reported, were being held in Zone B by Jugoslav Authorities :-

1. In PALERMO :
 NICHOLITA
 DIVINA MADRE
 ARDUA RESCATORS
 ROMANO B
 ERUSTO LIGOR

Was it a fact that these ships were being held in Zone B as reprisals for the alleged holding of the ZVIR and LABOR by the Allies.

The Jugoslav Delegation replied that this was a fact, and the ships were being held in Zone B until ZVIR and LABOR sailed into a Zone B port.

Major COOPER stated that the ZVIR and LABOR were perfectly free to sail wherever they wished, and that the act of holding five ships by the Jugoslavs by force, was contrary to International Law. We had no alternative but to take the matter up on the highest level. We had fulfilled our part of the bargain by releasing the ZVIR from requisition and it was up to the Jugoslav Military Government to reciprocate. The fact that the Jugoslavs have seized, and are holding by force in Zone B, ships from ITALY will have the effect of stopping coastal trade with Zone B. This is hardly in the best interests of the Jugoslav Military Government.

5. Major COOPER then referred to a list of ships which had been removed from the Port of Trieste by the Jugoslav forces during their occupation, without any form of receipt or requisition. The Jugoslav Military Government had been given this list on 17 JAN 46 for the second time (Appendix A to the fourth meeting of Joint Economic Committee held on 19 JAN 46), having been handed the list for the first time on 9 AUG 45. What action had been taken by the Jugoslavs in this matter?

The Jugoslav Delegate replied that this was outside the competence of Jugoslav Military Government and the list had been passed to the Jugoslav Navy, whose matter it was. He would press for a reply but he understood that the Jugoslav Navy considered all shipping apart from Allied shipping found in Trieste Harbour as War Booty of Jugoslavia, and therefore they were perfectly within rights to remove the ships. From the same viewpoint they had not given requisition receipts as they considered the vessels no longer owned by the previous Italian owners.

Major COOPER stated that in view of the fact that the Jugoslavs considered this shipping as War Booty, we should take the matter up on a higher level.

785017

3. RITA

... previously called ... was operating as ... ship in ... under Germans in 1941, but was subsequently sunk. Reported to have been salvaged recently by divers STUBBS, FIVETAYNE and THOMAS. No knowledge of present whereabouts. Motor sailing boat registered at DUSSELDORF, owner CARL RICH DOWNTON. No knowledge of present whereabouts.

An investigation of these facts, and the legal implication, was provided by Major COOPER.

4. Major COOPER then produced a list of the following ships, which it was reported, were being held in Zone B by Yugoslav Authorities :-

- 1. In PALERMO : NICOLETTA
- DIVINA MADRE
- ANGELA PESCATORE
- ROMANO B
- ERNESTO LEONE

Was it a fact that these ships were being held in Zone B as reprisals for the alleged holding of the ZVIR and LABOR by the Allies.

The Yugoslav Delegation replied that this was a fact, and the ships were being held in Zone B until ZVIR and LABOR sailed into a Zone B port.

Major COOPER stated that the ZVIR and LABOR were perfectly free to sail wherever they wished, and that the act of holding five ships by the Yugoslavs by force, was contrary to International Law. He had no alternative but to take the matter up on the highest level. He had fulfilled our part of the bargain by releasing the ZVIR from requisition and it was up to the Yugoslav Military Government to reciprocate. The fact that the Yugoslavs have seized, and are holding by force in Zone B, ships from ITALY will have the effect of stopping coastal trade with Zone B. This is hardly in the best interests of the Yugoslav Military Government.

5. Major COOPER then referred to a list of ships which had been removed from the Port of Trieste by the Yugoslav forces during their occupation, without any form of receipt or requisition. The Yugoslav Military Government had been given this list on 17 JAN 46 for the second time (Appendix A to the tenth meeting of Joint Reconnoitre Committee held on 19 JAN 46), having been headed the list for the first time on 9 AUG 45. What action had been taken by the Yugoslavs in this matter?

The Yugoslav Delegate replied that this was outside the competence of Yugoslav Military Government and the list had been passed to the Yugoslav Navy, whose matter it was. He would press for a reply but he understood that the Yugoslav Navy considered all shipping apart from Allied shipping found in Trieste Harbour as War Booty of Yugoslavia, and therefore they were perfectly within rights to remove the ships. From the same viewpoint they had not given requisition receipts as they considered the vessels no longer owned by the previous Italian owners.

Major COOPER stated that in view of the fact that the Yugoslavs considered this shipping as War Booty, we should take the matter up at a higher level.

6. A discussion then ensued on the question of para 1 (ships the Yugoslavs wished returned to Zone B).

The Yugoslav Delegation stated that at a meeting held in MARSE on 20 JULY 45, between Ministry of War Transport and the Yugoslav Government, the Allies had agreed to return all shipping to Zone B which had been registered there.

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6. (Contd.) Major COOPER replied that he had no knowledge of such an agreement but would make enquiries to ascertain whether or not such an agreement has been made and he told the Yugoslav delegates to produce such agreement; if, in fact, it did exist.

7. On para. 4 (ships seized by the Yugoslavs in 1940) the Yugoslavs made a further statement to the effect that force was not used and that the ships were in Zone B of their own free will. In fact the crews were so fond of Zone B they had asked permission to bring their families over there.

Major COOPER stated that this information was contrary to the reports given to him and the Royal Navy by the Captains of the vessels.

8. Major COOPER then stated that it had been reported that the following Motor/Sailing vessels had been seized by the Yugoslavs in Zone B (at FINE). What was the position?

1. NEOVA PREVIDENZA
2. COMAGINA
3. VOJANG
4. LITENKA
5. APTONIO

The Yugoslavs first denied that these vessels were held in Zone B by force and repeated their assertion that the crews had applied for permission to bring their families into Zone B.

They then stated that until the return of the CIVIL and LABOR to Zone B ports they could not discuss the return of the vessels to Zone A.

9. Major COOPER then raised the question of the Motor-Boat P.A.M. which had been laid up in CARMENIA and was reported as having been seized by the Yugoslavs.

The Yugoslavs promised to investigate.

10. Major COOPER then stated that he had been approached by the owner of a vessel called LA BIE PIZ which was being built in the HANAUER shipyard GARDISTRIA. Another vessel, the HORA owned by the same man had been completed in the same yard and then towed to TRIESTE for the fitting of its engine. Would the Yugoslavs have any objection to the same thing being done in the case of LA BIE PIZ.

The Yugoslav delegates stated that they had no objection and that the owner should proceed to CARMENIA and make the necessary arrangements.

11. S.S. RY.

Major COOPER asked whether the Yugoslavs would agree for a representative of the Italia Line, the alleged owners of the RY, to meet them in order to discuss the question of guards, as pilfering was still going on.

The Yugoslav delegates then stated that the Yugoslav Government was the owner of the S/S RY, which was War Booty of the Yugoslavs. The Italia Line therefore need not interest itself in the question of guards, as Yugoslavia would protect its own property.

Major COOPER took exception to this point.

12. Major COOPER then asked for information on a motor-ship, the FRIJOL which was reported as having been last seen in the Osmlich dockyard at SPIT.

The Yugoslav delegates stated that SPIT was Yugoslavia proper

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that the ships were in Zone B of their own free will. In fact the crews were so fond of Zone B they had asked permission to bring their families over there.

Major COOPER stated that this information was contrary to the reports given to AMJ and the Royal Navy by the Captains of the vessels.

8. Major COOPER then stated that it had been reported that the following Motor/Sailing vessels had been seized by the Yugoslavs in Zone B (at FIJES). What was the position?

- 1. NUOVA PROVINCIA
- 2. COMACINA
- 3. VOLANO
- 4. LITHEDIA
- 5. ANTONIO

The Yugoslavs first denied that these vessels were held in Zone B by force and repeated their assertion that the crews had applied for permission to bring their families into Zone B.

They then stated that until the return of the CIVIL and LABOR to Zone B ports they could not discuss the return of the vessels to Zone A.

9. Major COOPER then raised the question of the Motor-boat P.A.M. which had been laid up in CAPONTERIA and was reported as having been seized by the Yugoslavs.

The Yugoslavs promised to investigate.

10. Major COOPER then stated that AMJ had been approached by the owner of a vessel called LE RUS PIR which was being built in the REMANIER shipyard CAPONTERIA. Another vessel, the MORA owned by the same man had been completed in the same yard and then towed to TRIESTE for the fitting of its engine. Would the Yugoslavs have any objection to the same thing being done in the case of LE RUS PIR.

The Yugoslav Delegates stated that they had no objection and that the owner should proceed to CAPONTERIA and make the necessary arrangements.

11. S.S. REV. 5091

Major COOPER asked whether the Yugoslavs would agree for a representative of the Italia Line, the alleged owners of the REV, to meet them in order to discuss the question of guards, as pilfering was still going on.

The Yugoslav Delegates then stated that the Yugoslav Government was the owner of the S/S REV, which was War Booty of the Yugoslavs. The Italia Line therefore need not interest itself in the question of guards, as Jugoslavia would protect its own property.

Major COOPER took exception to this point.

12. Major COOPER then asked for information on a motor-ship, the REV which was reported as having been lost seen in the Gosulich Dockyard at SPIT.

The Yugoslav Delegates stated that SPIT was Jugoslavia proper and as the vessel had never been in Zone B, the Yugoslav Military Government could not do much about the matter.

They further stated that the REV was a German-occupied vessel and therefore War Booty and a question for the Peace Conference.

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In conclusion, both the representative of the Yugoslav Military Government and Major OGDEN for the Anglo-American side, agreed that apparently from a legal principle the wishes of the legal owner of a ship determines where a ship must sail in the absence of agreements to the contrary or regular requisition by military powers during war.

LYN

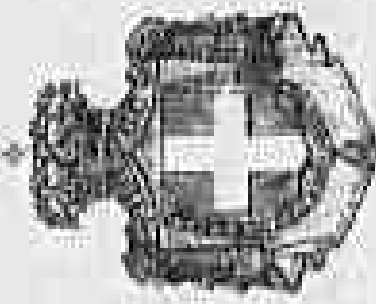
KENNETH OGDEN
Major, AUS,
Economic Section.

DISTRIBUTION

1. Joint Economic Committee.
2. Yugoslav Military Government (2 copies)
3. Economic Section, US 13 Corps.
4. W.C.I.C. THINSTE.
5. Pilot.

- 4 -

5090



St/Se

Ministero degli Affari Esteri

→ "FLORIDO"
147

APR 29 1946

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ALLIED COMMISSION

Subject: Seizure by Yugoslav Authorities of Italian vessels.

1. The Ministry for Foreign Affairs beg to inform the Allied Commission that, according to information received from the Prefetto of Venice, the Yugoslav Maritime Inspectorate of Fiume has instructed all Harbour Masters Offices to seize all Italian ships lying at anchor or sailing in the waters of the B zone Istrian coast.

2. It appears that these instructions were issued as a retaliation measure for the seizure by the Allied Command in Venice early in March of the motor-schooner SVIR belonging to the Fiume Maritime Division, which was sent to Venice by Yugoslav Authorities with a cargo of coal.

3. As a result of these instructions the following Italian motor-schooners have been seized and their crews held aboard:

- "NUOVA PROVVIDENZA" of Venice Maritime Division seized in Fiume;
- "VOLANO" of Comacchio Maritime Division seized in Arsia;
- "LIBERTA' E ANTONIO M." of Comacchio Maritime Division seized in Fianona.

The cargo of these ships (firewood and coal) was unloaded and the ships have been used for transport of coal from Fiume to Fiume on account of the Yugoslav Maritime Inspectorate of Fiume.

4. The following vessels have also been seized:

- "GIUSEPPE" of Comacchio, empty, seized in Rovigno;
- "FLORIDO" of Ravenna, cargo of salt bound to Venice, seized in Parenzo;
- "VIVINA MADRE" of Ravenna, cargo of coal bound to Venice, seized in Parenzo;
- "NICOLETTA" of Chioggia, cargo of cement bound to Chioggia, seized in Parenzo;

St/Sa

Ministero degli Affari Esteri

"FLORIDO"
147

APR 29 1946

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- "MIVINA MADRE" of Ravenna, cargo of coal bound to Venice, seized in Parenzo;
- "NICOLETTA" of Chioggia, cargo of cement bound to Chioggia, seized in Parenzo;
- "ARDITO PESCATORE" of Chioggia, cargo of silicate bound to Venice, seized in Parenzo;

See 7-356 Vol. III
see M 157158-161-162 p.t.o.

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

- "ROMANO B" of Chioggia, cargo of firewood bound to Chioggia, seized in Parenzo;
- "REMO" of Chioggia, cargo of firewood bound to Chioggia, seized in Parenzo;
- "MOTOVELIERO SICILIANO" cargo of wine bound to Venice, seized in Parenzo;
- Two wherries and one tow-boat, cargo of coal bound to Venice, seized in Arsia.

The two wherries have been used for transport of coal on account of Yugoslav Authorities between Arsia and Fiume.

5. It appears that the a/m Yugoslav Authorities have informed that they are going to set free the a/n Italian vessels only when the Allied Authorities will have released the motor-schooner SVIR and she will have reached Fiume.

6. Allied Commands in Trieste and Venice are already informed of this arbitrary seizure, which, besides the damage caused, has created a state of alarm among hundreds of families whose next-of-kin belong to the crews of the a/n vessels.

7. The Ministry for Foreign Affairs, in view of the serious situation which the arbitrary action of the Yugoslav Maritime Inspectorate of Fiume has created, would be grateful to the Allied Commission if they could take the proper steps with the Yugoslav Authorities for the release of the a/n Italian vessels and crews.

Rome, April 27th, 1946



B. 100

INCOMING MESSAGE

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

Originator's Reference: EA 65310

Date/Time of Origin: 26 APR 1946

Message Centre No: H/2381

Date Time Rec'd: 26 APR 1430

Precedence: IMPORTANT

FROM: AFHQ SIGNED SAGGED CITE FHOFG

TO: AGWAR WASHINGTON INFO: CABINET OFFICES WHITEHALL - CINC MED - ALCON ROME - 13 CORES FOR CCS FOR ECC, CINC MED,

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL.

1. ON 18 MARCH THE ITALIAN M/V SAIPA ON VOYAGE FROM TRIESTE TO POLA UNDER AUSPICES OF AMG VENEZIA GIULIA HAS STOPPED BY MACHINE GUN FIRE FROM A JUGOSLAV MOTOR BOAT NEAR PUNTA GROSSA AND BOARDED BY MEN IN PLAIN CLOTHES.

THIS IS NAF 1133. THE VESSEL WAS ORDERED TO CAPODISTRIA IN ZONE B WHERE AN AUTOMOBILE AND CERTAIN SPARE PARTS BELONGING TO BASELLI UGO, AN ITALIAN RESIDENT IN TRIESTE, WERE REMOVED, ALLEGEDLY BY THE ORDER OF JUGOSLAV MILITARY AUTHORITIES. A RECEIPT FOR CARGO REMOVED WAS GIVEN TO MASTER OF VESSEL WHICH WAS LATER ALLOWED TO PROCEED ON ITS VOYAGE.

2. AS A RESULT OF REPRESENTATIONS TO JUGOSLAV DELEGATION ON VENEZIA GIULIA JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE, PROPERTY REMOVED HAS NOW BEEN RETURNED AND HEAD OF DELEGATION HAS STATED THAT HE BELIEVES THAT THE GUILTY PERSON WILL BE PUNISHED, NO APOLOGY OR ASSURANCE THAT THERE WILL BE NO REPETITION OF SUCH INCIDENTS HAS HOWEVER BEEN GIVEN.

3. OTHER INSTANCES AND HAVE BEEN REPORTED BY ALLIED COMMISSION TO BRITISH AND U S EMBASSIES AT REQUEST OF ITALIAN GOVERNMENT. THIS HOWEVER IS FIRST INSTANCE OF INTERFERENCE WITH A VESSEL MOVING UNDER AMG AUSPICES BETWEEN P 2 PORTS IN ALLIED OCCUPIED TERRITORY.

4. IT APPEARS LIKELY THAT, UNLESS STRONG ACTION IS TAKEN IN THIS CASE, FURTHER LAWLESS ACTS MAY OCCUR, WHICH MIGHT RESULT IN THE CESSATION OF ISTRIAN COASTAL TRAFFIC, AND THEREBY ADVERSELY AFFECT THE ECONOMIC SITUATION IN AREAS UNDER AMG.

PLAYS INFO - ACTION

CONFIDENTIAL



INCOMING MESSAGE

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

Originator's Reference: **EX 65310**

Date/Time of Origin: **26 APR 1138**

Message Centre No: **H/2381**

Date Time Rec'd: **26 APR 1430**

Precedence: **IMPORTANT**

FROM: **AFHQ, SIGNED SACRED CITE YHFG**

TO: **AGWAR WASHINGTON INFO: CABINET OFFICES WHITEHALL - CING MED - ALUM ROME - 13 CORRS FOR CCS FOR DCO, CING MED.**

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL.

1. ON 18 MARCH THE ITALIAN M/V SALPA ON VOYAGE FROM TRIESTE TO FOLA UNDER AUSPICES OF AMG VENEZIA GIULLA HAS STOPPED BY MACHINE GUN FIRE FROM A JUGOSLAV MOTOR BOAT NEAR PUNTA GROSSA AND BOARDED BY MEN IN PLAIN CLOTHES.

THIS IS NAF 1133. THE VESSEL WAS ORDERED TO CARODISTRIA IN ZONE B WHERE AN AUTOCOBILE AND CERTAIN SPARE PARTS BELONGING TO BASELLI UGO, AN ITALIAN RESIDENT IN TRIESTE, WERE REMOVED, ALLEGEDLY BY THE ORDER OF JUGOSLAV MILITARY AUTHORITIES. A RECEIPT FOR CARGO REMOVED WAS GIVEN TO MASTER OF VESSEL WHICH WAS LATER ALLOWED TO PROCEED ON ITS VOYAGE.

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PLA 8 INFO - ACTION

CONFIDENTIAL



INCOMING MESSAGE
HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

Originator's Reference: SHEET 2 Message Centre No: H/2981
Date/Time of Origin: _____ Date Time Rec'd: _____
Precedence: _____

FROM:

TO :

CONFIDENTIAL

5. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE MATTER SHOULD BE TAKEN UP THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS WITH THE JUGOSLAV GOVERNMENT WITH A VIEW TO OBTAINING:

A. AN EXPLANATION OF THIS INCIDENT WITH A STATEMENT OF THE IDENTITY OF THE JUGOSLAV BOAT AND THE AUTHORITY UNDER WHICH SHE WAS ACTING.

B. AN ASSURANCE THAT THE OFFENDERS WILL BE PUNISHED AND THAT STEPS WILL BE TAKEN TO ENSURE THAT NO SIMILAR ACTS OF INTERFERENCE WITH LEGITIMATE SHIPPING WILL OCCUR IN THE FUTURE.

6. IT MAY AT THE SAME TIME BE CONSIDERED APPROPRIATE TO REMIND THE JUGOSLAV GOVERNMENT THAT SUCH ACTS OF PIRACY MAY COMPEL ME TO EXERCISE THE AUTHORITY RECOGNIZED IN APPENDIX G OF THE MORGAN/JUVANOVIC AGREEMENT.

AC DIST

INF ACTN: EX COMM
INFO: CHIEF COMMISSIONER
ECON SEC
FOLAD (A)
FOLAD (B)
C A SEC
FLOAT 2
FLOAT FILE

CONFIDENTIAL

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HEADQUARTERS
26 APR 1946

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

785017

5609 9th

171

NSC/4867
8 April 1946.

APR 24 1946

From: Navy Sub-Commission, Hq. Allied Commission.
To : Ministry of Marine, Rome.
Subject: Further Information on Requisitioning of the Italian
Ship LABOR - request for.
Reference: (a) Ministry of Marine dispatch 180803 of March 1946.

1. It has come to the attention of the Navy Sub-Commission that Allied Force Headquarters has no record of the alleged requisitioning of the LABOR by Allied authorities.

2. It is therefore requested that all details in the possession of the Ministry of Marine in regard to the requisitioning of the LABOR be furnished the Navy Sub-Commission.

REAR ADMIRAL
CHIEF, NAVY SUB-COMMISSION, AC.

Copy to: Am Emb } sent 26/4.
Br Emb }

5686

[Signature]
(CAPT R)

1093

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

785017

5609

Translation

To Admiral Stone,
Hq. Allied Commission,
Rome.

Comacchio, 8 April 1946

APR 19 1946

During the second half of March the Yugoslav authorities sequestered in Istrian ports the following steam sailing ships:

GIUSEPPE F. at Rovigno, destined for Pianona to load wood,

VILANO at Ansa, loaded with coal and making for Venice,

PIRELLA at Pianona, loaded with wood and making for Venice,

ANTONIO M. " " " "

Sequestered
by Daps

Practically nothing is known of the fate of the crews whose families are in great anxiety.

The undersigned shipowners have informed the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of these facts in order that they should take steps in the matter, but at the same time they are taking the liberty of bringing to the notice of your Excellency the distressing condition of the families of the sailors who have been so hardly hit by the Yugoslavs. During the German occupation they suffered the greatest hardships because the men in charge refused to submit to the oppressors and sunk or sabotaged the steam sailing ships in order that the enemy could not make use of them. After the liberation, by great sacrifices, the a/m steam sailing ships were repaired and the crews risked navigating in the Adriatic in order to provide food for their families. This act of the Yugoslavs has again thrown the latter into poverty and distress.

Your Excellency will understand the humane reasons which impel us to invoke the assistance of high-placed authority and the undersigned shipowners, also in the name of the crews of the ships and of their families, desire to express their gratitude together with their respectful esteem.

(Signatures)

see 139.

5665

see M 1452 146

P/A-JS.

1007 R

Comacchio 6 Aprile 1946

a S.E. l'AMIRAGLIO STONE
Alto Comandante Alleato

R O M A

Nella seconda quindicina di marzo le autorità jugoslave hanno sequestrato nei porti istriani i motovelieri:

- GIUSEPPE F. - a Rovigno, diretto a Pianona per caricare legna,
- VOLANO - ad Arsa, già carico di carbone e diretto a Venezia,
- LIBERTÀ - a Pianona, già carico di legna e diretto a Venezia,
- ANTONIO M. - c. s.

Poco o nulla si sa della sorte degli equipaggi le cui famiglie sono allarmate.

I sottoscritti armatori, oltre a segnalare quanto sopra al Ministero degli Esteri italiano, per le iniziative del caso, si permettono far presente all'Eccellenza Vostra lo stato di grave disagio in cui versano le famiglie marinare colpite dall'arbitrio jugoslavo. Durante l'occupazione tedesca esse patirono le maggiori durezze perchè i loro capi non si piegarono a servire gli oppressori e affondarono o sabotarono i motovelieri onde non servissero al nemico. Dopo la liberazione, con gravi sacrifici, i detti motovelieri furono riparati e gli equipaggi rischiarono la navigazione adriatica per dare pane alle loro famiglie. L'atto jugoslavo le getta ora nuovamente nella miseria e nell'angoscia.

Vostra Eccellenza certo comprende le ragioni umane che ci sospingono a invocare l'alto e risolutivo interessamento, mentre i sottoscritti armatori, anche a nome della gente imbarcata e delle loro famiglie, esprimono la più riconoscenza insieme ai sensi della più deferente considerazione.

*Marconi Carlo
Cavallari Antonio
Giuseppe Janssen
di Vignola*

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

785017

137

Ref: 5609/137/23

18 April 1946

My dear Mr. Key,

Further to Admiral Stone's letter of 23 March 46 on this subject, I have now been informed by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs that, according to information received from the Italian Cabinet, the Yugoslav Naval Authorities in Fiume have, a few days ago, seized ten Italian motor schooners from harbours in Istria, belonging to the Harbour Masters Offices of Venice, Chioggia and Cambricchio.

The crews of these ships have also been held.

Such seizures by the Yugoslav Authorities create considerable alarm among the people of Italy whose relations are concerned in the fishing and other industries in this area and they have an extremely bad effect on any possible scheme for the re-introduction of diplomatic relations between Italy and Yugoslavia.

These ten ships are the latest of a long list of outrages against Italy by Yugoslavia and I would suggest most strongly that adequate steps be taken to ensure the release of the above mentioned vessels to their Italian owners, the release of their crews and measures taken to prevent further such seizures of Italian vessels by the Yugoslav Authorities.

Yours very truly,

5683

M. S. LUSH

Brigadier,
Acting Chief Commissioner.Mr. David McKey,
Charge d'Affaires ad interim,
American Embassy,
Rome.Copy to: G-5 Section, AFHQ
Colad 'A'
Colad 'B'.

1096

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

785017

136

136

Ref: 5609/136/MC

16 April 1946.

My dear Sir Noel,

Further to Admiral Stone's letter of 23 March 46 on this subject, I have now been informed by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs that, according to information received from the Italian Cabinet, the Yugoslav Naval Authorities in Trieste have, a few days ago, seized ten Italian motor schooners from harbours in Istria, belonging to the Harbour Masters Offices of Venice, Chioggia and Cambricio.

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5682

Yours very truly,

M S. LUSH

Brigadier,
Acting Chief Commissioner.

Sir Noel Charles, Bt., KCMG.,
British Ambassador
Rome.

Copy to: G-5 Section, AFHQ
Filed 'A'
Filed 'B'.

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

5609 *Exemption*
6/1674/703 133



Ministero degli Affari Esteri

APR 11 1946

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ALLIED COMMISSION

Subject: Seizure by Yugoslav Authorities of Italian motor-schooners

1. The Ministry for Foreign Affairs beg to inform that, according to information received from the Italian Cabinet, the Yugoslav Naval Authorities in Fiume have seized a few days ago in several harbours of Istria ten Italian motor-schooners belonging to the Harbour Masters' Offices of Venice, Chioggia and Comacchio.
2. Crews of a/m ships were held as well.
3. The Ministry for Foreign Affairs would be grateful to the Allied Commission if they could require the Yugoslav Authorities to restore immediately the a/m ships and their crews, underlining that operations of this kind create alarm among people whose next-of-kin undergo such measures, hamper food supplies and eventually delay the resumption of normal trade.
4. The Ministry for Foreign Affairs, while pointing out that normal diplomatic relations have not yet been resumed between Italy and Yugoslavia and that the a/m seizures are the last of a long series of outrageous abuses against Italy, would ~~abandon~~ ^{beg} particularly appreciate if the Allied Commission could take the proper steps so that such unlawful proceedings may be discontinued.

A



Roma, April 8th, 1946

See *in* 134. 135. 138.
f. 136. 137.

Handwritten signature/initials

Ministero degli Affari Esteri

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Rome, April 8th, 1946



Lu hr. 134. 135. 136.
g. 136. 137.

ca/
Quar
(cont. X)

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

785017

File 5609 -

3

132

Ref: 578/20

10 April 1946

SUBJECT: Italian Yugoslav Relations.

TO : C-5 Section, AFHQ.

120

1. I discussed your C-5: 383.7/2 of 27 Feb 46 with the United States and British Ambassadors who are the chief diplomatic representatives through whom Dr. Smolke would communicate, under your interpretation. I have found however that your directions are at variance with the views of the two Ambassadors who in turn have received instructions from their Governments.

2. The original terms of Reference of the Allied Commission included a directive to the effect that it would handle relations between the United Nations and the Italian Government in the absence of direct relations between Italy and the individual United Nations. (Admin. Memo 74 of 2 Nov 45).

3. The Yugoslav Government does not have direct relations with the Italian Government and it therefore seems questionable whether the Yugoslav representative could take up problems relating to the Italian Government "through diplomatic channels".

4. I consider that the recommendation made by the British and American Ambassadors should be followed, viz that problems be referred by the Allied Commission directly to the Yugoslav representative on the Advisory Council for Italy. Such problems etc., could be referred to Dr. Smolke as Yugoslav representative in Italy and not to the Advisory Council as a body.

5600

5. Moreover, such procedure may be a means, through which the Yugoslavs can, in reciprocity, be induced to take measures in Yugoslavia to the advantage of the Italian Government.

6. In this connection I have received a letter from the British Embassy dated 1 April, copy enclosed, stating that it is the policy of the United States and British Governments to endeavour to promote

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- 2 -

the resumption of direct relations between Italy and Yugoslavia. In pursuance of this policy the British and United States ambassadors at Belgrade have recently been instructed to suggest to the Yugoslav authorities that the latter will doubtless wish to arrange with the Italian Government for the continuation of whatever Yugoslav consular offices they wish to maintain in Italy. This decision has been reached by the Allied Government since the Allied Military authorities in Italy are no longer competent to sanction the continued functioning of consular offices of foreign powers in territory which has been transferred to the Italian Government's administration.

7. The following (other than questions arising out of the Allied occupation of Venezia Giulia) give an indication of matters which need to be transacted between the Italians and Yugoslavs.

- (a) The Italian Government frequently alleges that small Italian vessels are seized on the high seas by the Yugoslavs and retained by them, and that in many cases traces of the crews of these vessels are lost.
- (b) The Yugoslav Government has recently alleged that Italian fishing boats have been contravening the laws regarding fishing in Yugoslav waters.
- (c) The Yugoslavs, on many occasions allege that the Italian Government are wrongfully detaining Yugoslav subjects in prison or concentration camps. The Italian Government on its part, maintains that such individuals are not Yugoslav subjects, or that they are being rightfully detained.

M. S. LUSH 5679

Brigadier,
Acting Chief Commissioner.

Copy to: Pinal "A"
Pinal "B"
Ex Comr (5609/23)
VF C.A. Section.

70/53/46

1st April, 1946.

In continuation of my letter no. 70/35/46 of March 11th, I am writing to inform you that, in pursuance of the United States and British policy of endeavouring to promote the resumption of direct relations between Italy and Yugoslavia, the British and United States Ambassadors at Belgrade have recently been instructed to suggest to the Yugoslav authorities that the latter will doubtless wish to arrange with the Italian Government for the continuation of whatever Yugoslav consular offices they wish to maintain in Italy. This decision has been reached by the Allied Governments since the Allied Military authorities in Italy are no longer competent to sanction the continued functioning of consular offices of foreign powers in territory which has been transferred to the Italian Government's administration.

2. It is also my understanding that the British and United States Ambassadors at Athens have also been instructed to take analogous action with the Greek Government in respect of the continuance of Greek consular offices in Italy.

3. I should be grateful if you would be so good as to inform the President of the Council of the foregoing.

Noel Charles

5678

S. E. Don Renato Prunas,
Secretary General,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
Palazzo Chigi,
Rome.

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

5609 af
128

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 512

G-5: 561.6 NSI

2 April 1946

APR 5 1946

SUBJECT: Seizure of Italian Craft.

TO : Headquarters, Allied Commission,
APO 394.

Reference WSC/4786 dated 25 March 1946.

1. Schooner ZUIR was recently requisitioned by Allied Authorities and is about to be released.
2. There is no record at this Headquarters of the requisition or use of the schooner LABOR by Allied Authorities. Any additional information pertaining to the alleged requisition of the ship, LABOR would be appreciated.
3. Information as to the seizure of the Italian ships is being requested and you will be advised.

BY COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL MOROAN:

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

5677

Italian Paper
to Naval Sub/Powman

(info copy)
to Powman

See Min-129

Copy to: An Ent
.. Br Ent } *26 Apr*

(COPY)

PA
6/1/46

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

1103
COPY

ref: NSC/4786

5609 9/ 127
25 March 1946.

APR 5 1946

SUBJECT: Seizure of Italian Fishing Craft.

TO : Allied Force Headquarters.

1. Enclosures (A) and (B) are forwarded for information.
2. Confirmation is requested of the alleged requisition of the Yugoslav schooners at Venice by Allied Authorities.
3. It is requested that the incidents be examined from a military standpoint as well as from an economic standpoint.

/s/ Ellery W. Stone

ELLERY W. STONE
Rear Admiral, U.S.N.R.
Chief Commissioner.

- 126
Enclosure (A) Copy Allied Commission ltr. of 23 March 1946 to the American Embassy.
- (B) Copy Allied Commission ltr. of 23 March 1946 to the British Embassy.
- 126

5676

see M129

Same lett. sent to Br. Ambassador on same date

23 March 1946

APR 5 1946

My dear Mr. Key:

I am in receipt of a dispatch from the Ministry of Marine in which the latter advises the Navy Sub-Commission, Allied Commission, of the seizure of three Italian schooners by Yugoslav Authorities at Parenzo, apparently in retaliation for the requisitioning by Allied Authorities of the Yugoslav Schooners ZUIR and LABOR, recently requisitioned at Venice.

The details, as reported to me by the Ministry of Marine, regarding the seizure of the above mentioned Italian schooners are as follows:

Schooner ERNESTO LEONI	- 64 tons gross - registered at Porto Topodocle.
Schooner ROMANO Z	- 16 tons gross - registered at Chioggia.
Schooner ARDITO PESCATORE	- 33 tons gross - registered at Chioggia.

The Yugoslav schooners requisitioned at Venice by the Allied Authorities were registered at Fiume (ZUIR) and Pireno (LABOR).

Arbitrary seizure of Italian merchant schooners and fishing craft presents a grave matter and impugns the sovereignty of the Italian Government. During the last ten months there have been a number of instances whereby Yugoslav Authorities have captured or seized Italian fishing vessels and other craft, retained the vessels and placed the crews in concentration camps. I am enclosing herewith a brief summary of such seizures, in a number of cases captured on the high seas while engaged in fishing operations.

I strongly recommend that adequate steps be taken to insure the release of the above mentioned vessels to their Italian owners and to prevent further arbitrary seizure of Italian fishing vessels and other craft.

Very truly yours,

ELLERY W. STONE
Rear Admiral, USNR
Chief Commissioner

Mr. David McK. Key
Charge d'Affaires ad interim
American Embassy
Via Vittorio Veneto 119
Rome

See Folio 117-137

see M129

JUGOSLAV DELEGATION
TO THE ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR ITALY

Br. 353/46

25 March 1946

SUBJECT: Italian fisher boat in Yugoslav waters.

TO : Chief Commissioner, Allied Commission

1. The Yugoslav Government informed us that on 22, 26 and 27 January 1946 Italian fisher boats were fishing in Yugoslav waters at the distance of 4-7 miles.

2. The Yugoslav Government would appreciate that the competent Italian Authorities be informed about the a/m case, since the Convention on fishing, concluded on 19 September 1921 between the ex Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes and Italy, allowing mutual fishing in territorial waters of the High Contracting Parties, is not more in vigour.

/s/ Dr. Sloven J. SMODLAKA

Deputy Representative of
Yugoslavia
Advisory Council for Italy.

See Minute 124
PR 3/4
EC. Dist. 29³/46.

CA Section - Action Forthcoming Br. (Even Section)

EC.

Info.

(MAJ H)



COPY

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS.
G-5 SECTION.
APO 512.

C-5 383.7-2

27 February 1946.

SUBJECT: Release of Yugoslav Nationals.

To: Headquarters, Allied Commission
APO 594.

1. Will you please inform Dr. Smolakov that apart from questions as to War Criminals as to which instructions have already been issued, he will only refer to Alcom questions relating to matters which are within the province of the Advisory Council and that if the matter is one not within the province of that Council his proper course, if he wishes to make any representation, is to make it through diplomatic channels for which Alcom is not a substitute. X

2. The allegation that the Allies have wrongfully detailed a Yugoslav is not a matter for the Advisory Council which deals with the affairs of Italy. So far as his letter of the 20 January is concerned representations had already been made through the proper channels and the persons mentioned had already been returned to Yugoslavia. The matter referred to in his letter of the 23 January was also already in hand and instructions for the repatriation of the persons named had already been issued.

3. Will you please note that matters which are not within Alcom's province of the affairs of Italy should not be forwarded to this Headquarters.

BY COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL MORGAN.

5673

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

Copy to "A"
BR POLAD
US POLAD

Action Copy
to G-5 Section

See 1118.119.121
see 1119
PA 29/3

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

117
20th March 1946.

To: Naval Sub-Commission.
Attention: Captain Montz.

Ref: 5609/EC.

116
With reference to the attached telegram, this matter was discussed at the Chief Commissioner's Political meeting this morning. It was decided that as this matter appeared to be a Venezia Giulia matter and, therefore, an Allied Commitment, it was one which should be referred to the U.K. and U.S. Embassies for action through diplomatic channels.

AFHQ should also be given the information contained in the attached telegram and be informed as to the way in which it was being handled. I feel we should also ask AFHQ whether the two schooners referred to had been requisitioned recently at Venice, and whether these schooners were registered at Fiume and Parenzo.

mc
To Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

5072

1108

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

785017

COPI.

116

NAVY. SUB COMMISSION.

MINISTRY OF MARINE.

U/C.

No. 55129

We are advised that the Yugoslav Authorities have detained a number of Italian schooners at Iarenzo including:

Schooner, *EREMIA LEONI* - 64 tons gross, registered at Porto Empedocle.

Schooner *REMIANO 2* - 16 tons gross - registered at Chioggia.

And Schooner *ARLITO PESCATORE* - 35 tons gross also registered at Chioggia.

It appears that holding of these schooners relates to the requisitioning of schooners *ZUR*, registered at Fiume, and *LAVOR*, registered at Pirano. These were requisitioned recently at Venice, by the Allied Authorities.

It is requested that the Allied Commission may take urgent action to effect release by Yugoslav authorities of the schooners which they have detained.

18030 Mar. De Dourten.

Dis. 05.10 RSC (4) TO EMILICOTT.

2/P ITALIAN P/L TOR AN. LAG 18/3.

see 117

see 126

527

5609 56
JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE
HQ AMG 13 CORPS
CMF.

Ex Comm 113

JEC/4.

12 MAR 46.

SUBJECT : Seizure of Italian ships in Venezia Giulia.

MAR 15 1946

TO : Headquarters,
Allied Commission.

108
154
1. Receipt of your 5609/108/EC of 5 MAR 46 is acknowledged and it is regretted that no reply to your 5609/EC of 16 FEB 46 can be made at present.

2. The whole question of shipping taken by the Jugoslavs during the time of their occupation is being investigated, and it is hoped to arrange a special meeting to discuss the points at issue, but so far no cooperation on this matter has been received from the Yugoslav side, who keep postponing their replies to questions involving shipping.

3. It is felt here that in many cases the ships, which were removed from this area, may have been requisitioned, and under such circumstances no return of these vessels can be expected, as the Jugoslavs appear to have been entitled to requisition shipping during the time of their occupation.

4. As soon as any definite information is obtained concerning the Yugoslav attitude to the return of ships of Italian ownership, you will be informed.

See M 114

5670
J.R. SNOWDEN,
Major, DAQMG,
Secretary,
Joint Economic Committee.

JRS/LVW

COPY TO:

Col. F.J. Armstrong,
DSCAO, AMG 13 Corps.
Economic Section,
AMG 13 Corps.

Copy to POLADA
POLADIC

(Miss S)

JUGOSLAV DELEGATION
TO THE ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR ITALY

Pov.br. 294/46

9 March 1946

TO: Headquarters Allied Commission
Executive Commissioner

We have the honour to acknowledge your letter Ref. 5609/109/EC
of 6 inst.

On receipt of your letter 5609/94/EC of 8 Feb. 1946 we
informed the Yugoslav Government about. You will be informed about
the answer as soon as it will be received.

Dr. JOSIP SMODLAKA
Yugoslav Representative to the
Advisory Council for Italy

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

785017

5609

TO THE ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR ITALY

Fov.br. 294/46

9 March 1946

TO: Headquarters Allied Commission
Executive Commissioner

We have the honour to acknowledge your letter Ref. 5609/109/EC
of 6 inst.

On receipt of your letter 5609/94/EC of 8 Feb. 1946 we
informed the Yugoslav Government about. You will be informed about
the answer as soon as it will be received.

Ed. A. Wapner

Dr. JOSIP SMODLAKA
Yugoslav Representative to the
Advisory Council for Italy

See office 112

5609

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

785017

92
(MISS)

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

Ref. : 5609/109/EC

6 March 1946.

Dear Dr. Smoljak,

I would be grateful if you could inform me whether any action is being taken by your Government on my letter 5609/9/EC of 8 February 1946.

Yours very truly

N. W. HIND-SMITH

Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

Dr. JOSIP SMOLJAK
Yugoslav Representative to the
Advisory Council for Italy
Rome

see M110 71150082

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

Ref. : 5609/108/EC

5 March 1946

SUBJECT: Seizure of Italian ships in Venezia Giulia
waters by Yugoslavs.

TO : Joint Economic Committee
c/o HQ AMB Venezia Giulia

A reply would be appreciated to this HQ's letter 5609/EC
of 16 February 1946.

For the Chief Commissioner

B. SAMPSON

Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

5667

Ref: 5609/80

16. February 1946

SUBJECT: Seizure of Italian fishing boats by
Yugoslav authorities.

TO : The Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Italian Government
Rome.

1. Further to this HQ's letter 5609/93/80 of 31 January 1946.
2. Correspondence relating to the seizure of Italian boats by Yugoslav authorities in Venezia Giulia waters has been referred to the Joint Economic Committee in Trieste for presentation to the Yugoslav delegates of the Committee.
3. Any reply which may be received will be forwarded to you.

M. S. LUSH

Brigadier,
Acting Chief Commissioner.

5666

785017

104

Ref: 5609/80

16 February 1946

SUBJECT: Seizure of Italian Ships in Venezia Giulia Waters
by Yugoslavs.

TO : Joint Economic Committee
c/o HQ AMG Venezia Giulia.

1. Reference appendix A of minutes of 10th meeting held by
the Joint Economic Committee on 19 January 1946.

2. This H.Q. has received from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
details of Italian ships in Venezia Giulia waters alleged to have
been seized by the Yugoslavs. As it is noticed that a list of
such ships has already been handed to the Yugoslav delegates to
the Committee, it is requested that a further list be prepared
from the information forwarded herewith and a return of these
ships to their owners urgently requested.

M. S. LUSHI

Brigadier
Acting Chief Commissioner

Copy to: Polad 'A'
Polad 'B'
Navy R/C.

Incl:-
Extracts folio 68, para 1 b, d, e, 2 & 3.
" " 24, para 1, 2 (i) (ii) (iv) (v)
" " 50, para 2, b, c, d, 3.
folio 104A.

7-113.
see M. 106
5609807
F. 108

PA
102
24

785017

104A

LIST OF ITALIAN VESSELS WHICH WERE IN TERRITORIAL WATERS CAPTURED
BY THE YUGOSLAV FORCES.

<u>Type</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Displacement</u>	<u>Where located on Sept 8th, 43.</u>
S/S	SARDEGNA		Sunk at Lussino.
"	RANS III	4960	Sunk at Fiume.
"	NUMIDA	7675	Sunk near Varenzo.
"	PALESTRO	2397	Sunk near Fiume.
M/S	POSCIA	2198	Sunk near Pola.
MPB	AMPLEA		Sunk near Cittanova.
"	STELLA D'ITALIA		Sunk at Fiume.
"	EMMA		Sunk at Isola d'Istria.
"	PERINA MADRE	2674	Sunk at Pola.
"	PAGLA	3171	Sunk at Pola.
"	LEONE MADRE	2304	Removed from Pola to Val di Fico and probably sunk there.

See 104

5664

5609
for
ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 512

G-5: 561.6 NEI.

29 January 1946

SUBJECT: Seizure of Italian Boats by Jugoslavs.

TO : Headquarters, Allied Commission, *(49)*
APO 394.

1. Reference your letter 5609/EC 19 January 1946 and 5609/EC 10 December 1945.

2. Instructions contained in letter, G-5: 561.6 NEI 3 October 1945, apply in this case.

BY COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL MORGAN: *(143)*

F. G. A. Parsons Col
F. G. A. PARSONS
Brigadier
Acting Asst. Chief of Staff, G-5.

OK. 11/2.

5963

See M. 102

R/
(miss)

1118