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

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10000/109/1075

RETURN
MAR. 1945

0898

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

10000/109/1075

RETURN OF POLITICIANS TO ITALY
MAR. 1945

0899

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

C.S.O.

(9)

Please see 1st c.

74. 27/5/45

2477

Political Advisers (B & A).

The Chief Commissioner directs me to ask you if you would be so good as to give the Commission the benefit of your advice in respect of Page 2 on this file to enable him to reply to the Acting President.

Chief Staff Officer,
To the Executive Commissioner.

17 March 1945.

5

CSO

The line which has been followed in the past is that the Allied Commission were not prepared to facilitate the return to Italy of political personages unless specifically requested to do so by the Italian Government. Of the cases mentioned in paragraph 4 of Signor Togliatti's letter the only two contained in our records are those of Mr. Berti and Mr. Donini. In these cases a request was received from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the matter was referred to G-5. It will be seen however that we showed little enthusiasm for the proposal and it was turned down by G-5 "in view of the absence of any recommendation from the Italian Government for their employment".

2. I have no doubt that if the request was renewed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and if a particular indication could be given of their reason for wishing the return of these two individuals, we could obtain a reversal of the decision. To meet Signor Togliatti's not altogether unreasonable request I think we might suggest this to him. Before doing so however the U.S. Embassy might prefer to ask the State Department to get some particulars of the men from the FBI.

3. In replying to Signor Togliatti we might also inform him that if the Ministry of Foreign Affairs were willing to apply for the return of Mr. Vitali and Miss Levi, giving their reasons as suggested above, we would be willing to refer them to the proper authorities.

17.3.45

Political Adviser (BR)

6

Mr. Dowling CSO

1. On 22 September 1944, Political Section transmitted to AFHQ a request from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the repatriation of Montagnana, Vidale and Frola with the statement that action in these cases had been requested by Togliatti. The request was refused by AFHQ.

2. The procedure suggested in paragraph 3 of Mr. Hopkinson's minute above would seem to be the best solution at the moment.

Acting Political Adviser(A)

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

Trulbot Mag

17 March 1945.

Chief Staff Officer,
To the Executive Commissioner.

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H.H.

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Political Adviser (BR)

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Acting Political Adviser(A)

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0902

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6522 ~~3613~~ Ex. Comm.

SECRET

(8)

FX 81386
MAY 241830B

E/2325
MAY 251840B
IMPORTANT
MAY 26 1945

From: FREEDOM SIGNED SACMED CITE FHGBI
To: IV CORPS FOR C.G. INFO 15 ARMY GP FOR G.S.O.2. (BR) M.A. BERNE, AICOM

SECRET

Please facilitate entry from SWITZERLAND of approx 350 Italian diplomats and Govt officials. They will carry Allied Force permits issued by Passport Control Office BERNE to each group of persons travelling together. Revelant nominal rolls will be attached. Please despatch permits and nominal rolls to this Hq after withdrawal.

To M.A. BERNE. Please ask P.C.O. BERNE to issue permits and attach to nominal rolls of parties any person approved by this HQ. Please cable this HQ if Rear Admiral DE ANGELIS travels.

HEADQUARTERS
26 MAY 1945
A. C.

Dist

Info-Action - Liaison Div 2
Info - A/President
Chief Commissioner
Exec Comm 2
File

per M.9.

SECRET

(Min L)

2480

0903

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

(7)

21st March, 1945.

My dear Signor Togliatti,

Thank you for your letter of the 14th March about the question of the repatriation of members of the Italian Communist Party.

If the Italian Government will put to me the names of any members of your Party for repatriation such as those mentioned in your letter, together with its reasons for requesting the return of these persons, I will gladly refer the request to the proper authorities.

Believe me,

Yours sincerely,

Harold Macmillan.

Signor P. Togliatti,
Partito Comunista Italiano,
Il Segretario Generale,
ROMA.

0904

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

6522

(3)

16th March, 1945.

TO:- Chief Commissioner.
(Copy to Executive Commissioner). MAR 16 1945

FROM:- Office of the Acting President.

(2)

The Acting President has received from Signor Togliatti a letter (a translation of which is attached) on the question of the return to Italy from abroad of members of the Communist Party.

Mr Macmillan would be grateful for the comments of the Commission on Signor Togliatti's letter.

Also attached is a copy of Mr Macmillan's letter to Signor Reale, reference to which is made in the first paragraph of Signor Togliatti's letter.

(1.)

see M 445,86

2473

Translation

(2)

Italian Communist Party

To Mr. Harold MacMillan, M.P.
President of the Allied Commission

My dear Minister,

I thank you for your kind intervention (which, alas had no result) to obtain for me the permission to attend the Congress of my party in Florence, and I want to draw your attention to another problem which is very important to me.

It concerns the return to Italy of well known militant members of the Communist Party, who are still in exile. If I am not mistaken, only four militant communists (Ruggero Griece, Edoardo D'Onofrio, my wife and myself) have till now been allowed to return to Italy. The four of us were in Moscow, in the Soviet Union. In all other cases, the permission was refused, or such difficulties were made that the journey to Italy was rendered impossible. On the contrary, as you well know, a great number of politicians of all opinions came back to Italy from England as well as from the United States and other American states. Some of them, as Mr. Tarchiani, have already found the means of going abroad with an official charge from the Government.

You will easily understand that this fact seems strange and almost inexplicable, and all the more so when it is noted that among those who have been authorized to return to Italy are also some elements whose action in Italy tends to break the unity of the national forces, and is therefore opposed to the war effort of the United Nations. Of course, I think it was a good thing to facilitate the return of these people, as conform to the principles of liberty; but I cannot help pointing out that the militant members of the party which has been and is doing the most efficacious and logical work for the unity of the Italian people, and therefore for the United Nations, are being prevented from coming back to Italy.

I want to mention the cases of Mr. Giuseppe Berti and of Mr. Ambrogio Donnini, who are both residing in New York, and who have been denied the right to come back to Italy; of Mr. Mario Montagnana and of Mr. Vittorio Vidali, residing in Citta del Messico; of Miss Laura Levi, residing in Cairo.

I feel certain you wil take an interest in this problem. In case we shouldn't obtain a favourable solution, I mean to have this question examined in a meeting of the Advisory Council for Italy, which already, in my own case, especially, pronounced itself in favour of our requests.

I remain, my dear Minister,

Sincerely yours,

s. Palmiro Togliatti

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

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I remain, my dear Minister,

Sincerely yours,

s. Palmiro Togliatti

Rome, 14 March 1945

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e.c.

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

0907

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

(1)

COPY. 10th March, 1945.

Private and Personal.

Dear Signor Reale,

With reference to your call here this morning, I find that Signor Togliatti wrote on March 1st to Admiral Stone asking permission to go to Florence between the 9th and the 12th of March to deal with questions concerning his party.

Brigadier Lush, on behalf of Admiral Stone, replied on the 2nd March calling Signor Togliatti's attention to Admiral Stone's letter of the 23rd of October to the Prime Minister respecting visits of Ministers of the Government to areas still in the military operational zone.

I regret that I cannot advise the Chief Commissioner that the attendance of a meeting of party organizers should be regarded as constituting a reason for making an exception to this general rule.

Believe me,

Yours very truly,

Harold Macmillan.

Signor Reale,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

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