

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

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SACIG
JUNE 1944

12 JUL Recd

VIA N. MARTELLI 1
TEL. 871-222

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Rome, June 28th 1944.

Dear Colonel,

I am in receipt of your letter of June 26th and I tender you my best thanks for having disposed the removal of the guard from the premises of the S.A.C.I.G.

I feel also particularly grateful to you for your kind appreciation of the work I had the opportunity to accomplish in Greece.

Yours very sincerely

Giuseppe Campalto
(Count G. Viola di Campalto)

Colonel NORMAN E. FISKE
Deputy Executive Commissioner
HQrs. (Fwd) Allied Control Commission
R o m e

2045

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SACIG.
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HEADQUARTERS
(Fwd.)
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394

26 June 1944

Dear Count Campalto:

Your letter of 16 June 1944 was both interesting and helpful. Your humanitarian work must make you justly proud of the thing which you have accomplished in the face of a trying situation.

A guard was placed on the premises of the S.A.C.I.G. as it was an all important agencies connected with the Italian Government, to protect the property and interests of the people of Italy. In times of war we must be prepared for any extremity.

It is now felt that the guard is no longer necessary and it has been removed.

Very sincerely,

NORMAN E. FISKE
Colonel
Deputy Executive Commissioner

Conte Guido Viola di Campalto
Via Vittorio Veneto
c/o Watson Italiana
Roma

2043

SH PJA

Colonel Blake.

This was one of the targets of "S" Force, and a guard was placed on the premises pending completion of the search.

The guard has now been withdrawn and the keys restored to the firm.

St. Harvey.
Maj.
24.6.44.

Drop
24/6 letter in
reply -

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File
2042

• • 19 June 3
Security Br -
Please give
me information
upon which
to base a
reply.

W. G. Z.

7 June
2041

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Conte Guido Doria di Campalto
Ambasciatore della Maestà del Re e Imperatore
Risidente
Società Anonima Commerciale Italo Greca S.A.G.I.C.
Via Vittorio Veneto 1
Tel. 181000 C/o Watson Italiana Roma
181000

12 JUL 1944

SOCIETÀ ANONIMA COMMERCIALE ITALO GRECA

ROMA

All Presidente

Rome, June the 16th 1944.

TO
the ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
Hq. 5th Army - Civil Affairs

R o m e

On the 7th of June inst. Mr. Gerald J. Weber Special Agent of the C.I.C. Hq. 5th Army took possession of the head-office of the Società Anonima Commerciale Italo-Greca (S.A.C.I.G.) at Corso d'Italia, 11, -Rome, according to an order of the Allied Military Authorities.

Mr. Weber when requested about the reason of the said order declared not to be aware of.

Therefore we think it advisable to furnish the A.M.G. with the following informations regarding the Company. Further details will be given if requested:

In summer 1941, after the occupation of the greek territory by the italian troops, the alimentary conditions of the country and particularly of the town of Athens, appeared to be more and more difficult; starvation and illnesses were causing great losses among the civil population, whose conditions were becoming day by day more unbearable.

Consequently it was decided by the italian authorities to relieve the greek population through periodical shipments of wheat and other commodities.

In order to carry out this program, early in September 1941 was established the "Società Anonima Commerciale Italo-Greca" (S.A.C.I.G.) with a capital entirely advanced by the italian State Treasury; the presidency of the Company was intrusted to H.E. Count Viola di Campalto-Royal Ambassador at disposal who at the time was in Athens as a member of the International Financial Commission of Control of the Greek Public Debt.

During the first ten months of its activity S.A.C.I.G. succeeded in exporting to Greece 65.000 tons of wheat, which was practically subtracted to the italian civil population although the latter was already hardly pressed by lack of food.

The timely intervention of S.A.C.I.G. succeeded in a **2048** for Greece and its Capital the horrors of starvation.

A plan of inter-exchanges was then established to partially clear the cost of the purchase and export to Greece of wheat and other foodstuffs; the actuation of this plan was intrusted to the S.A.C.I.G.

The working of the plan was based on a perfect economical

Rome, June the 16th 1944.

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SOCIETÀ ANONIMA COMMERCIALE ITALO GRECA

ROMA

Il Presidente

reciprocity. The goods bought in Greece to be exported to Italy were paid to the producers upon indications of the Greek authorities at the prices of the freemarket exchange, considering fluctuations, and the same was applied to the Italian goods.

A dispassionate examination of the whole question reveals that exportations to Greece greatly exceeded the importations, for their intrinsic as well as for their economic value.

The S.A.C.I.G. can affirm to have saved from starvation thousands of lives and also largely contributed to the improvement of the Greek economical conditions, on a plan of absolute reciprocity.

The S.A.C.I.G. has also organized in Greece two transport concerns, one by motor-cars and lorries for passengers and goods and another by motor-sailing-ships, both resulting much to the benefit of the Greek population, as the S.A.C.I.G. cared to carry and to distribute between the islands and the different regions of the continent oil and many other agricultural products of main importance for the alimentation.

Soon after the armistice of September 1943 the Agency of the Company in Athens was seized by the Germans and put under their control. The employees were almost all interned. The Managing Director of that Branch, Mr. Italo Rossi, who refused to adhere to the republican pseudo-government, was after a while let free owing to his old age, and tried his best to protect the interests of the Company against the Germans, succeeding in putting in the Greek home-consumption great stocks of goods imported from Italy, like yarns, tissues, medicinals etc.

In Italy the presidency and the managers of the S.A.C.I.G. set themselves against the transfer of the Branch to North-Italy as well as the displacement of the capitals and other resources of the Company.

From all stated above it appears that the S.A.C.I.G. has well deserved the gratitude of Greece: has acted at the same time for the safeguard of an important economic patrimonial position, subtracting it to the disposal of the republican pseudo-government.

We cannot therefore understand the reasons of the seizure of the Company by the Allied Authorities. The consequences of this measure are chiefly being borne by the staff who, having collaborated very much, will remain with no means of earning their lives.

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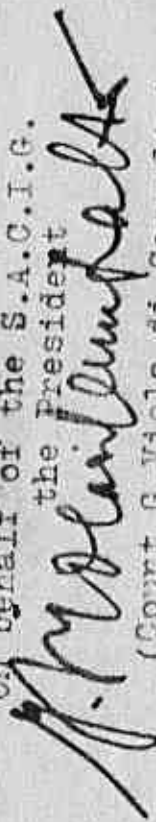
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We trust that the Allied Authorities will re-examine the matter and revoke the order of seizure.

on behalf of the S.A.C.I.G.

the President



(Count G. Viola di Campalto)

Rt. Ambassador

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