

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

ACC

10000/109/1891

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No.

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POLICY, FRENCH FORCES
JULY, AUG. 1944

late Message from Major Friend James:

AAI have written to AFHQ to say they are not in favour of the proposals. The CAO will confer with the CGS AFHQ on this tomorrow.

As items will be taken over by AFHQ in due course AAI have taken the line that AFHQ should deal with the matter. If ACC have any strong views on the subject they should present them direct to AFHQ.

9
28/8

EC has
seen

pa.
28/8

MINISTERO DELLE CORPORAZIONI

Memorandum per

E. Lomen

message received by Maj
Friend James that he had heard
from Capt Oden that he +
"W. Cunningham MA & Col had
seen the B. G. S. regarding the
letter concerning the French. The B. G. S.
is studying + will advise on it.

AAI had been brought into the picture previously but not in such detail.

They are opposed in principle
to the idea in general.

W. H. Thiriot
28/8.

DRAFT.

SECRET

TO : G-5 Section, A.P.H.Q.

3 28 AUG Recd

1. Below are my comments requested in your G-5: 091.741-6 (France)

of 20th August 1944.

2. I cannot, of course, comment on the military reasons put forward for the establishment of a French Territorial Command in Italy, vide II(1) and (2).

3. The maintenance of the prestige of French arms in Italy is a natural desire on the part of the Provisional Government. I can only say that, apart from their acknowledged powers in combat, the French troops recently in this theatre did little to enhance the prestige of their country. Their conduct towards the civil population had already been represented to you and it suffices to say that it brought dishonour on the French and Allied Armies.

4. I cannot believe that it is necessary to provide an armed force to safeguard French interests in Italy. This can be done by the accredited representative on the Advisory Council and to the Allied Control Commission, and any consular representatives which may be provided.

5. The provision of a garrison command, with an honour guard and communication troops in Rome, would appear both unnecessary and contrary to the policy of AAI and AFHQ to reduce the number of Allied troops in Rome to a minimum consistent with security. A small French detachment attached to Rome Area Command would appear to be sufficient to deal with French troops transient through Rome.

6. I cannot comment on the necessity of a communications element in

Siene.

of 20th August 1944.

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6. I cannot comment on the necessity of a communications element in Siena.
7. I would urge in the strongest possible terms that whatever may be decided, the French force should not be composed of French Colonial troops. As has been proved, their presence must lead to disorder and the discredit of the Allied Armies.

ELERY W. STONE
Captain, USNR
Acting Chief Commissioner

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cc for info. Com. & Ref. Sec.

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EWS/afe

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A/CC OL.13

26 August 1944

28 AUG Recd

Subject: French Territorial Command in Italy

To: G-5 Section, Allied Force Headquarters, APO 512

1. Below are my comments requested in your G-5: 091.711-6 (France) of 20th August 1944.

2. I cannot, of course, comment on the military reasons put forward for the establishment of a French Territorial Command in Italy, vide II(1) and (2).

3. The maintenance of the prestige of French arms in Italy is a natural desire on the part of the Provisional Government. I can only say that, apart from their acknowledged powers in combat, the French troops recently in this theatre did little to enhance the prestige of their country. Their conduct towards the civil population had already been represented to you and it suffices to say that it brought dishonor on the French and Allied Armies.

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6. I cannot comment on the necessity of a communications element in Siena.

7. I would urge in the strongest possible terms that whatever may be decided, the French force should not be composed of French Colonial troops. As has been proved, their presence must lead to disorder and the discredit of the Allied Armies.

Hq. A.C.C. Sec'y Gen.

DISPATCHED

Date: 27 Aug 1944

Via: Hq.

Initials: JSC

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MILLY W. STONE
Captain, USAR
Acting Chief CommissionerSen. Executive Commissioner
Political Section

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5

26th August 1944

Acting Chief Commissioner.

Draft reply submitted to G-5: 091.711-6 (France) d/d 20. Aug.
I understand that
AAI and RAAC are opposing garrison command and honour
guard in Rome. We must exclude French Colonial troops
and their concomitant excesses.

V. P. P. Sec. agrees

17.5/26/8.

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hm

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**ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
INTER OFFICE MEMO**

From: Office of the Acting Chief Commissioner

SUBJECT: French Territorial Command in Italy

FILE No.

24 August 1944

TO: Brigadier M. S. Lush

1. Reference is made to attached letter from G-5 091.711-6 (France) of 20 Aug 44, subject "French Territorial Command in Italy", together with copy of translation of a decision issued 22 July relative to above subject.

2. G-5, AFHQ has requested ACC comments.

3. It will be appreciated if you will confer with AAI and draft appropriate reply for my signature.

4. Since G-5 has indicated that this matter is urgent, may your action be expedited, please.

2 Incls:

as in para 1 above.

WJ
Stone **SECRET**

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ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 512

TBJ/jjr

G-5: 091.711-6 (France)

20 August 1944

SUBJECT: French Territorial Command in Italy.

TO : Headquarters, Allied Control Commission
APO 394

1. Attached is a copy of a translation of a decision issued 22 July concerning the creation of a French Territorial Command in Italy.

2. Your comments are requested urgently on this, please.

For the Asst. Chief of Staff, G-5:

/s/ T. B. Jackman
/t/ T. B. JACKMAN
Lt. Colonel.

Incl:
as above.

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TRANSLATION

Presidency of the Provisional Government of the French Republic

General Staff of National Defense

Algiers, 22 July 1944

G-3

No. 754/DN/3.8.

DECISION

I. A French Territorial Command in Italy, depending directly on the Commissariat for War (General Staff, "War") will be activated on 1 August 1944 in Naples.

II. The French Territorial Command in Italy in liaison with Allied authorities is entrusted with:

- 1) Procedure for settlement and liquidation of French military affairs in Italy arising from the campaign of the French Expeditionary Corps.
- 2) Assurance of liaison between the Commissariat for War (General Staff, "War") through the offices of the French military mission with AFHQ (established by decision No. 727/DN/38 of 20 July
- 3) Maintaining the prestige of French arms and participating eventually in the safeguarding of French interests in that country.

As long as elements of Army "B" remain in Italy, the command will serve as a communications unit for the Headquarters; it will facilitate in this role the task of Army "B", insofar as the preliminary operations for the embarkation of its units are concerned.

III. The French Territorial Command in Italy will include, under the orders of a general officer:

- A Command organization.
- A territorial base, separate from the base which is to follow Army "B" (General Instruction No. 611 DN/3TS, 3 July 1944)
- A garrison command for French units in Rome with an honor guard and communication troops.
- Eventually and provisionally a communications element at Sienna.

The territorial Base will include in particular a Headquarters, some transit services *, 1 Headquarters and Casual Company, 2 battalions of service troops and 1 motor transport company.

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Particular attention will be paid to the organization of a cemetery service, entrusted with the management and maintenance of graves. This service will be replaced as soon as possible by a French memorial section to be established in Italy through the offices of our diplomatic representative when further instructions are given.

IV. The Commissariat for War (General Staff, "War") will be responsible for the preparation of elements selected to form the French Territorial Command in Italy.

Initially these elements will be drawn from the last elements to leave with Army "B", to be replaced as soon as possible by elements proceeding from French North Africa.

In addition, the greatest effort will be made to utilize civilian labor and means of transportation to be found on the spot.

V. On the authority of the General of the French Territorial Command in Italy will depend:

- a) The garrison commander in Rome.
- b) The French Military Mission with AFHQ (except for its use)
- c) The various French liaison officers currently assigned to Allied commands in Italy. (With the exception of those of "B" Army's Military Mission with the Seventh Army).

VI. The determination of means necessary for the French Territorial Command in Italy, the organization of its administration and activation will be the responsibility of the Commissioner for War, who will bring together for this purpose competent authorities to settle the question.

General de Gaulle
President of the Provisional Government
of the French Republic.

/s/ de Gaulle

PS. General of Army Corps Bethouart
Chief of Staff of National Defense.

/s/ Bethouart

*Translator's note:

Includes Ordnance, Engineers, Quartermaster, Finance,
etc.

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