

1508
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785-016

ACC-Italy

10000/119/38

23 p.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785-016

10000/119/38 14G - Miscellaneous Shipping
Dec. 1943 - March 1944

23 pp.

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File
2/35
Acc
CIPHER MESSAGE OUT

Date-Time of Origin

141015

FROM: PLAMBO

TO : FREEDOM

INFO: SOS MATOUSA PENBASE ADRIATIC BASE DEPOT GROUP

ORIG. NO: USTN-476/ *2287*

U.S. SECRET (.) REFERENCE YOUR UGS-35 DIVERSION MEETING (.) DUKO CAN ACCEPT THE SIXTEEN SHIPS SHOWN IN YOUR COMSIST DATED 6 MARCH (.) CHAM CAN ACCEPT THE FOUR VESSELS (.) REQUEST AND DECIDE AT YOUR MEETING WHERE SHIPS FOR ITS ACCOUNT WILL DISCHARGE (,) VIZ. (,) WEST ITALY (,) EAST ITALY (,) SICILY (,) ETC.

If liable to be intercepted or Originators Instrns
fall into enemy handsthis message Degree of Priority
must be sent IN CIPHER

SIGNED:

James Teller Immediate
Col R

THI or TNOH _____

Internal Dist: by USTN 14 Mar. 44

TIME CLEARED _____

G-4

"Q"

May/5

ACC

NOTE TO CIPHER:

PENBASE sent by DR.

14 G

1505

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785-016

AFRICAN ADVANCED ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION
Military Government Section, Advance
APO 400

1 February 1944

SUBJECT: Imports

TO: Chief Commissioner, Allied Control Commission
Attn.: Director, Food Sub-Commission

Your letter of 29 January 1944 is returned. The reference letter from Region II was forwarded to Military Government Section, A. F. H. C., with the request that action be taken to prevent repetition.

A. I. HENDERSON,
Lt. Col., A. U. S.,
Chief, WGS Advance.

2 Incl.

- 1 - Ltr. Hq AOC, Food Sub-Comm. 29 Jan 44
- 2 - Ltr. Hq AFG Reg. II, 31A/2057/40, 23 Jan 44
Imports.

1504

14G

1512

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785-016

MOVEMENTS ADV. ADV. SECTION WORKING INSTRUCTION No. 28

CONTROL OF SCHOONERS.

Nov 5/3/1
31 Jan 44

A Schooner Control Dept has been set up to allocate schooners against tonnage bids. The Dept will operate from DSTO Italy under MEDO.

The following procedure has been agreed :-

- (a) All tonnage bids will be submitted to Movements Adv. Adv. Section who will advise all concerned of schooner allocated.
- (b) Schooners will be operated from a Pool and will not be allocated to individual Services or Depots unless exceptional circumstances prevail.
- (c) When necessary "Q" ... H.Q., will decide priority.
- (d) D.S.T.O. Italy has ruled that petrol will not be loaded in schooners, unless suitably fitted and passed as such by the local I.M.F.A. Surveyor.
- (e) Steps are being taken to bring all outstanding schooners into the Pool and Movements No 1 District are requested to advise pending if any schooners operating from Sicily under services or Depots.
- (f) In order to get the utmost service from schooners and reduce unnecessary delay waiting for cargo it is requested that all concerned give full co-operation.

Agreed

Signature

Capt R.N.
D.S.T.O. Italy.

Distribution.
M.G. A.G.M.F. (3)

A.S.H.Q.
Mov 5 Army
Mov 5 Italy (3)
Mov 7. Italy (3)
Mov No 1 District (3)
Mov Eighth Army (3)
Port Commandant Naples
Port Commandant Bari
Port Commandant Brindisi
Port Commandant Taranto
Port Commandant Barletta
Port Commandant Catania
Port Commandant Syracuse
P.S.T.O. Med
Total
Powit

Cd.
P.H.S.
M.G.S.
Force 133
Q
... M.G. Schooner Dept (6)
Int. Transportation ... C.C. (6)
C.A.C. ... M.G. (6)
Coal Section
Pet Section
R.A.F. Movements
Works
P & S.S.
V.A. & S
Calanina Movements
Med

Signature
Brigadier
Movements

1313

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- (d) D.S.T.O. Italy has ruled that petrol will not be loaded in schooners, unless suitably fitted and passed as such by the local A.S.A. Surveys.
- (e) Steps are being taken to bring all outstanding schooners into the food and Movements No 1 District are requested to advise names of any schooners operating from Sicily under services or Depts.

- (f) In order to get the utmost services from schooners and reduce unnecessary delay waiting for cargo it is requested that all concerned give full co-operation.

Agreed

Signature

Capt R.N.
D.S.T.O. Italy.

Distribution.
H.G. A.C.M.F. (3)

A.S.H.G.

Nov 5 Army

Nov 5 Italy (3)

Nov 5 Italy (3)

Nov No 1 District (3)

Nov Eighth Army (3)

Port Commandant Naples

Port Commandant Bari

Port Commandant Brindisi

Port Commandant Taranto

Port Commandant Barletta

Port Commandant Civitavecchia

Port Commandant Syracuse

P.S.T.O. Med

Postal

Rowit

D.S.T.O. Italy

Mello Italy

S.S.T.O. Adriatic Ports

S.S.T.O. Bari

S.S.T.O. Brindisi

S.S.T.O. Taranto

Tn A

C4
P.B.S.
M.G.S.
Perco 133

Q
M.G. Schooner Dept (6)
Int. Transportation ... C.G. (6)
C.I.C. ... M.G. (6)

Coal Section

Port Section

R.A.F. Movements

Works

P & S.S.

V.C. & S

Galician Movements

Med

Postal

R.P.I.

Tn

R.E.M.N.

Salvage

Chief Clerk Nov

Piles Nov 5/8/1

Nov 5/555/5

1503

14 G

Signature
Brigadier
D.P.G.M.G. (Movements) M.H.L.

1514

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785-016

CIPHER MESSAGE OUT

Date-Time of Origin
26 Jan File
W

FROM: FLANBO
TO : CJ MATOUSA
INFO: CJ PER SURETY TOTALI POWIT

ORIG. NO: ~~USIN-256~~ 256/11872

U.S. SECRET (.) INFORMATION IS REQUESTED AS TO WHO ORDERED THE ITALIAN STEAMSHIP
SENIA INTO BUNK (.) THIS VESSEL IS NOT REQUIRED IN THIS PORT EITHER BY US OR
BRITISH FORCES AND IS TAKING UP ANCHORAGE SPACE IN THIS HARBOR UNNECESSARILY (.)
IT IS FURTHER REQUESTED THAT ITALIAN COASTERS OR CARGO VESSELS NOT BE PERMITTED
TO SAIL TO NAPLES UNLESS THEY ARE CARRYING CARGOES THAT HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED IN
THIS PORT BY PROPER AUTHORITIES

If liable to be intercepted or
fall into enemy hands this message
must be sent IN CIPHER

Originators Instructions
Degree of Priority

SIGNED: _____

TIME OF TRANSMISSION _____
TIME CLEARED _____

Internal Lists by USIN - 26 Jan. 44

04
MOV/5
BMS
SHIPP INT
NOTE TO CIPHER:
PMS sent by BR

14 G

1502

1515

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785-016

To HCS, AF110.
~~It is requested that not be taken~~
~~to parents~~
Familiar of and under as 7
be affluence 10.

1501

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
REGION II

Ref : BGA/2057/40

Subject : Imports

To : A.F.H.Q.; Adv. Adm. Echelon,
Central Economic Committee.

23 Jan 44

1. The following extract from a letter from the Supply Officer, Reggio, is forwarded to you for information.
2. "The Liberty ship SS 'Houston Volunteer' docked yesterday, at 1530 hrs in REGGIO. According to manifest the cargo is 1563 tons of grain and miscellaneous engineering stores.

The grain is packed in about 10 different kinds of sacks of exceedingly bad quality, every sack of a different size, some half, some three-quarters full. The sacks break open, and loose a good percentage of their contents during the short transport from dock to A.M.G. warehouse. While I am doing my best to ascertain the weight of the unloaded grain by weighing loaded trucks and lorries on a railway weighbridge, I cannot accept any responsibility as to the complete accounting of this shipment of grain.

I also have to report that the grain in two hatches is loaded below repeat below engineering stores. These engineering stores will have to be unloaded to permit us to get the grain out of the hatches. A report, both about the state of the grain and the loading of the ship, is also being made by Mov & Tn, Reggio to Mov & Tn, AFHQ."

3. May the necessary steps be taken to avoid a repetition, please.
4. On 20 Jan 44, 1400 tons only had been discharged from this vessel owing to the difficulties met with in handling the grain.

DAWR/CAB

Davidson
D.A.W. Ruck. Lt. Col.
Regional Supply Officer,
R.C.A.O.
for

The grain is packed in about 10 different kinds of sacks of exceedingly bad quality, every sack of a different size, some half, some three-quarters full. The sacks break open, and loose a good percentage of their contents during the short transport from dock to A.M.G. warehouse. While I am doing my best to ascertain the weight of the unloaded grain by weighing loaded trucks and lorries on a railway weighbridge, I cannot accept any responsibility as to the complete accounting of this shipment of grain.

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3. May the necessary steps be taken to avoid a repetition, please.
4. On 20 Jan 44, 1400 tons only had been discharged from this vessel owing to the difficulties met with in handling the grain.

Davidson
D.A.W. Ruck, Lt. Col.,
Regional Supply Officer,
for R.C.A.O.

DAWR/CAS

Copy to :- H.Q., AEG, Industry & Commerce for Col. Evans.

1500

AFHQ ADVANCED ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION, MGS ADVANCE, APO 400 28 Jan 1944
1st Ind.
TO: Military Government Section, A. P. H. Q., APO 512

Forwarded for such action as may be appropriate.

A. I. MENDERSOHN,
Lt. Col., A. U. S.,
Chief, MGS Advance.

14 B

1518

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785-016

To 765, 07140
~~It is requested that not be taken~~
~~to present a~~
Familiar of each other on 7
be affluence 10

1501

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CENTRAL ECONOMIC COMMITTEE
ROUTING SLIP

FOR:

1944
INITIALS

☐ Lt. Col. Henderson
☐ Lt. Col. Merrill
☐ Lt. Col. Legg
☐ Lt. Col. Reiter
☐ Lt. Col. Hermann
☐ Major Skellwood
☐ Major Todd
☐ Capt. Plummer
☐ Capt. Northland
☐ Capt. Curran
☐ Capt. Morse
☐ Capt. Austin
☐ Mr. Shanley

☐ Set. Collins

FOR:

--- ACTION ---

☐ Coordinate with _____ & Take ACTION.
☐ Info and retain.
☐ Info and return.
☐ Read and see me.
☐ See me with all info.
☐ File
☐ Circulate to All.
☐ Prepare reply and signature

REMARKS:

Initials: J

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
REGION II

Ref : ECA/2057/40

Subject : Imports

To : A.F.H.Q., Adv. Adm. Echelon,
Central Economic Committee.

23 Jan 44

1. The following extract from a letter from the Supply Officer, Reggio, is forwarded to you for information.

2. "The Liberty ship SS 'Houston Volunteer' docked yesterday, at 1530 hrs in REGGIO. According to manifest the cargo is 1563 tons of grain and miscellaneous engineering stores.

The grain is packed in about 10 different kinds of sacks of exceedingly bad quality, every sack of a different size, some half, some three-quarters full. The sacks break open, and loose a good percentage of their contents during the short transport from dock to A.M.G. warehouse. While I am doing my best to ascertain the weight of the unloaded grain by weighing loaded trucks and lorries on a railway weighbridge, I cannot accept any responsibility as to the complete accounting of this shipment of grain.

I also have to report that the grain in two hatches is loaded below repeat below engineering stores. These engineering stores will have to be unloaded to permit us to get the grain out of the hatches. A report, both about the state of the grain and the loading of the ship, is also being made by Mov & Tn, Reggio to Mov & Tn, AFHQ."

3. May the necessary steps be taken to avoid a repetition, please.

4. On 20 Jan 44, 1400 tons only had been discharged from this vessel owing to the difficulties met with in handling the grain.

DAWR/CAS

Sanford
D.A.W. Ruck, Lt. Col.,
Regional Supply Officer,
R.G.A.O.
for

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 715-016

1521

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 715-016

1530 hrs in REGGIO. According to manifest the cargo is 1563 tons of grain and miscellaneous engineering stores.

The grain is packed in about 10 different kinds of sacks of exceedingly bad quality, every sack of a different size, some half, some three-quarters full. The sacks break open, and loose a good percentage of their contents during the short transport from dock to A.M.G. warehouse. While I am doing my best to ascertain the weight of the unloaded grain by weighing loaded trucks and lorries on a railway weighbridge, I cannot accept any responsibility as to the complete accounting of this shipment of grain.

I also have to report that the grain in two hatches is loaded below repeat below engineering stores. These engineering stores will have to be unloaded to permit us to get the grain out of the hatches. A report, both about the state of the grain and the loading of the ship, is also being made by Mov & Tn, Reggio to Mov & Tn, AFHQ."

- 3. May the necessary steps be taken to avoid a repetition, please.
- 4. On 20 Jan 44, 1400 tons only had been discharged from this vessel owing to the difficulties met with in handling the grain.

Submitted
 D.A.W. Ruck, Lt. Col.,
 Regional Supply Officer,
 R.C.A.O.

DAWR/GAS

Copy to :- H.Q., AMG, Industry & Commerce for Col. Evans. 1500

AFHQ ADVANCED ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION, 1st Ind.
 TO: Military Government Section, A. F. H. Q., APO 512
 Forwarded for such action as may be appropriate.

A. I. HENDERSON,
 Lt. Col., A. U. S.,
 Chief, MGS Advance.

14 B

1522

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785-016

CENTRAL ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

1st Indorsement

19 Jan 44

CENTRAL ECONOMIC COMMITTEE, APO 400

To: Military Government Section, AFHQ, APO 512

Forwarded for any action which you consider desirable.

For the Committee:

COH

A.I. HENDERSON,
Lt. Col., AUS,
Chief Executive,
Central Economic Committee.

*Baris was lettered
from Reg III to CEC
enclosing list of 17
Italian ships laid
up in Spanish &
Portuguese ports &
suggesting their
recovery & use.
H*

1459

146

SECRET

CENTRAL ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

AFD 400

18 January 1944

SUBJECT: Schooner Procurement.

TO : AMG Region IV
(Attn: Major R.S. KATE, Base Planning)

1. This letter is authority for you to take over and load the following schooners and is also confirmation of my conversation with Captain GRAHAM, 15th Army Group AMG.

SECRET	450 tons
I DUE FRATELLI	110 tons
SAN FRANCISCO DI PACLA	220 tons
I BEONI AMICI	140 tons
SENEPINA I.	70 tons

2. I have obtained also detailed cargo of the following ships:

S. S. NGIA	Flour	284 tons
	Milk	117 tons
	Miscellaneous	98 tons

S.S. EXTINE	Flour	222 tons
-------------	-------	----------

SECRET CROCE	Milk Powder	121 tons
	Milk Tinned	55 tons
	Macaroni	86 tons
	*Canned Meat & Vegetables	185 tons

*This item was marked to be discharged Naples. Have no knowledge. Can you explain or contact warehouse No. 676.

4 lost.

CHAS SMALLWOOD
Major R.A.
Central Economic Committee

SECRET

1498

14G

1524

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U.S. ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
INDUSTRY & COMMERCE SUB-COMMISSION
APO 394

WGA/jr

AMS/5201/10

15 January 1944

SUBJECT: Shipping & Imports--Civilian

TO : Mr. C. H. R. Smallwood
Central Economic Committee

Reference your GIB/via GIB/227 of the 10th Jan., as this has been
addressed to Regions I, II, & III, their replies will embody fully our
methods.

W. F. EVANS
Colonel *W. F. Evans*
Director, Industry & Commerce
Sub-Commission

Smallwood 17

146

1497

17

(Z)

CENTRAL ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

7 January 1944

SUBJECT: Shipping

TO : Lt. Col. A. I. Henderson, A. U. S.

From : Major C. E. R. Smallwood, R. A.

1. The normal procedure will be as follows:

- (a) If it is required to move supplies from A to Z, we will contact Movements at AFHQ. Col. Fuller or Capt. Black or any other specialised officer. They will decide with us how cargoes may best be moved.
- (b) If shipping is required we contact the DSTO. Capt. Langdon, R.N. or his representative Lieutenant Grimsey, with our requirements and all necessary details. This is done in conjunction with Movements.
- (c) A Water Transport Royal Army Service Corps Company is being formed to, eventually, control the schooner (shipping) pool. Schooners will be manned by RASC personnel one or two men as guards etc., complete duties not yet defined.
- (d) The actual shipping will be chartered by the Italian Shipping Commission. Admirals Baroni and Casadi, who will hand ships over to those who require them fed, gassed and paid, i. e. completely ready to load cargo and depart.
- (e) Movement will be controlled by Royal Navy in conjunction with Movements AFHQ. (Water Transport Company RASC)

2. Shipping Present Situation.

- (a) Some thirty five (35) schooners are on their way to Naples.
- (b) We have approximately 1000 tons of schooners at Baia full details of number, tonnage etc., is being compiled by Capt Graham 15 A.G. AMO and has been promised for today 8. 1. 44.
- (c) DSTO and Movements have lists of schooners now on their way and will be given copy of Capt Graham's list showing number etc., at Baia.
- (d) DSTO and Movements have been told to earmark a total of 3500 tons in accordance with orders of General Robertson (priority one).
- (e) As none of the normal channels are functioning completely, at the moment the domestic handling of the schooners, which should be covered by the Italian Mercantile Commission (Admiral Baroni) are as follows:
 1. Pay for crews. Col. Barrett, AMO 5th Army (Imprest A/C)
 2. Food for crews Authorized by NSA, M.W.T. (Medbo) and collected by 15 A.G. representative from Navy Victualling Stores and delivered to Baia by vehicle arranged by 15 A.G.

1436

14 G

1526

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Shipping (continued)

3. Fuel arranged by 15 A.G. and an allocation made by Petroleum Sub-Commission.
4. Guards, arranged by 15 A.G. and supplied by Guardia Financia, stationed at Pisa and also guards for individual ships.
5. Repairs arranged at Pisa by 15 A.G.
6. There are permanent officer representatives now at Pisa and at Naples to control movement, loading etc., of schooners.
7. Pay additional data; understood that certain pay advances have already been made by British Mission (Medeo) attention Mr. Hogarth. This is being adjusted and sorted out.
8. Five schooners have been loaded.
9. At Naples in the Hebe 700 tons Biscuits partially unloaded.
- X 10. At Naples in the "Empire Tern" approximately 500 tons miscellaneous cargo (Rome Floating Reserve). There will be approximately 1000 tons extra cargo space to fill, if required.
11. I have consulted with Movements and ISIC., regarding possible use of L.S.T. craft. This will be brought up at next meeting. We would require only 3 L.S.T./loaded vehicles could be drive straight off ships to warehouses.
12. Have stressed No 1. Priority; could General Robertson use his influence and authorise.
13. Schooners may have to unload offshore, therefore provision of lights if available, or "ducks" must be considered.

C. E. R. Smallwood

C. E. R. Smallwood, Major R.A.
Shipping Warehousing.
C. E. C.

X 1 - Not applicable. 1500 has ordered discharge, as ship required operationally. Understand when coastal vessels will be made available at a later date.

2: S.S. "SALVORE" has arrived complete A.M. cargo, floating reserve.

C. E. C.

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ADDITIONAL NOTES ON 'FOOD FLEET' CORRESPONDENCE FROM DCAO AND D/DCAO:

Note to D/DCAO

D/DCAO:

Will you please discuss this matter with Col. Henderson and Brig. Fellows.
I think it is most important to get this 'food fleet' going.

Signed/
DCAO

9/1

Note to Col. Henderson:

Col. Henderson: CEC

Please note the attached correspondence. Note also that General Robertson is in favor of the Food Fleet. Whether it should operate under ACC or CEC direct is of no great importance. If under ACC, CEC could give overall supervision. Please consider the matter, discuss it with all concerned and let me know what you propose to do.

D/DCAO

9 Jan. 44

14G - Miscellaneous

1494

1528

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ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
Military Government Section

JCH/CHR/jm

27 December 1943

SUBJECT: Shipment of Civilian Supplies into ITALY (Mainland)

TO : HQ
ACC

1. It is already difficult to get sufficient supplies into the Mainland, due to the very few ports that will take liberty ships, and as you know, the amounts to be imported will increase with every coming month.
2. I am sure this matter is receiving your active attention but it is clearly among the most pressing and important problems that C.R.C. will have to tackle, and I wish to be kept posted on your proposals to deal with it.

The following outlines our thinking in that connection:

- (a) that the overflow of supplies necessary for the Mainland should be offloaded from U.S. and U.K. convoys in SICILY or SARDINIA (or both).
- (b) that warehouses be established at two or more of the following ports - SYRACUSA; CATANIA; CAGLIARI; PALERMO, i.e., wherever berthing facilities are not overcrowded.
- (c) that a pool of special food ships be organized for transshipping supplies from these warehouses to small ports on the EAST and WEST coast of ITALY.

It is visualized that the provision, manning and management of the a/m warehouses would be made the responsibility of the ITALIAN Govt (under ACC) as also the control of the SPECIAL FOOD FLEET.

3. If this thinking is in line with your proposals can you provide vessels from those already allocated to you or will it be necessary to supply additional coasters?
4. Attached correspondence bears on this subject and it is requested ¹⁴⁹³ you make appropriate reply (see "B" attached, para 2).

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5. This H.Q. has approached MEDRO here (see "C" attached) and it is requested that you also make representation on your side.
6. It is anticipated that we shall have to deal with 'overflow' Mainland supplies quite early in the new year and it is necessary we be advised, soonest possible, what arrangements you make in this connection so that convoy diversions can be made accordingly.



W. J. C. HOLMES
Brigadier General, G.S.C.
Chief, Military Government Section

Copy to:
Lt. Col. A. I. Henderson, AUS ✓
Vice Chairman, Central Economic Committee
D/GAO, AFMC Adv. Adm. Ech.
D.C.G.A.G. AMG 15th Army Group
MGS Adv

1492

1530
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MINISTERO DEGLI AFFARI ESTERI

C O P Y

December 3, 1943

N. 453

My dear General Smith,

On the occasion of my passage through Algiers, you were good enough to suggest that I might refer to your personal attention any question of particular importance in which you might be in a position to give us your direct assistance. Recalling your kind reception and encouraging assurances I am now taking the liberty of informing you on a matter which is urgently concerning the Italian Government - and which, I wish to underline, is already being examined in a spirit of cordial cooperation by the technical allied authorities - namely the problem of food supplies for the civilian population throughout liberated Italy.

As you know there are at present great difficulties in that field and although I am sure that Italian farmers will do their very best to contribute substantially to the nation's necessities and those of all armed forces operating in this country we shall nevertheless have to rely on imports from the outside world.

I understand that the present deficiency in food supplies from beyond the Atlantic is not so much due to an insufficiency in tonnage as to a question of space in the sense that the important available harbours in southern Italy cannot take care, at the same time, of ships conveying food and those with military supplies which undoubtedly have unquestioned rights of priority.

Therefore it has been very rightly suggested that should the Italian Government be in a position of having the food cargoes removed from the bigger ships and transferred to smaller craft the latter could berth and unload in all harbours, even the smallest ones, all along the Tyrrhenian and Adriatic coastline: the transshipment operations could take place in some North African port or even in Sicily now that the strictly operational zone has moved up northwards.

However to accomplish all this, which according to expert advice, could nearly solve the present dearth in food supplies, it would be necessary that the Italian Government should have at their disposal the necessary vessels. Instead, as you well know, pursuant the Armistice clauses, the bulk of Italian merchant navy has been placed at the disposal of the North African Shipping Board with the exception of small craft under 300 tons.

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- 2 -

For this reason the Royal Government has already suggested to the Taranto representative of the M.A.S.B. and, informally, to Col. Edward Foley of the A.C.C. the necessity that at least the 18 ships, all under 1500 tons, listed in the enclosure, should be returned to us; they would be quite sufficient to put the plan into effect while it is not believed that their loss would be detrimental to the Allies.

As you see we are not asking for much and I am sure, my dear General, that I can count on your friendly support in order that the matter be favourably solved.

With those 18 small ships we could normalize a situation that would have consequences I do not hesitate in describing as very serious: famine causes despair, while a steady influx of supplies would check the black market and the headlong rise in prices that is now taking place.

Moreover, sufficient food will undoubtedly bring calm and faith throughout the country inducing it to face, with every stronger determination, all difficulties and sacrifices lying ahead in order to attain the common goal, namely to win the war.

Awaiting to know the decisions that will have been taken and that I earnestly hope shall be favourable, I avail myself of this opportunity to send you, my dear General, my most friendly regards.

Hoping to see you soon in Italy,

Sincerely yours,

/s/ R. Prunay

1490

11 5 3 2

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LIST OF SHIPS UNDER 1500 GROSS TONS TURNED OVER TO
NORTH AFRICAN SHIPPING BOARD

NAME OF SHIPS	GROSS TONNAGE
Refrigerated Ship	
ACILIA	328
" "	
ANITA CAPANO	1215
" "	
APUANIA	381
Motor Vessel	
ARSIA	709
" "	
CITTA' DI BARI	228
Ship	
COSTANTE	634
"	
EZILDA CROCE	1229
"	
GIAMPAOLO	358
"	
LANGANO	1243
"	
MONTESILLO	569
"	
PALLADE	1131
"	
PELAGOSA	668
"	
RENUCCI	1216
"	
MONTECUCCO	400
"	
MONTEKRAPPA	400
"	
TRITON MARIS	1457
"	
TUNISINO	997
"	
CONTARINI	1016

1489
1400

1 5 3 3
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785-016

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
Military Government Section

JCH/CHL/jm

27 December 1943

SUBJECT: Civilian Supplies - Italy

TO : The Chief of Staff

1. Ref attached correspondence and letter from General Secretary for Foreign Affairs (Italian).

2. Copy of this letter has been taken and forwarded to HQ ACC, and Central Economic Committee, with recommendation that they consider the formation of a special Food Fleet (coasters) for transporting supplies from ports outside the Mainland to small ports on the East and West coasts of Italy. A.C.C. has further been instructed to make an appropriate reply to the Italian authorities.

3. The problem of getting sufficient supplies into the Mainland in the face of limited port capacity is receiving the active attention of the C.E.C., and to solve it additional coasters will certainly need to be made available. Whether this can best be done by releasing additional ships to A.C.C. control or whether the existing machinery should continue has to be decided. C.E.C. have been requested to take up the question from their side and M.G.S. will approach MEDBO here. We will keep you advised of progress.

J. C. HOLMES
Brigadier General, G.S.C.
Chief, Military Government Section

1 Incl:
ltr from HQ ACC, Ref 400.38,
7/12/43, and 1 incl.

1488

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14G

Subject. Ship ment civilian supplies.
 To Col Henderson.
 From Maji ~~W. B. R.~~ Wood.

- Para. 2 (a) Yes. Sicily for Adriatic & in step
 Sardinia for West coast.
 (b) Yes. information has already been
 obtained for Sicily, warehousing in
 Sardinia would have to be revised.
 (c) Yes. not para 1.
 " " " " with AMG up to watch
 AMG interests.

1 The general idea is very good but first, will
 not operate until Rome Requisitioners completed
 have got the navy to signal for new list of ships
 affected Rome Reserve. Some ships anyway are
 those shown on list attached. There must be no
 further shipping confusion at this stage.

2 Who should operate

a. Italian Mercantile not capable at the moment &
 from what have seen of schooner handling not likely
 to be for some time.

b. C.E.C. cannot operate as only advisory & policy

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- c. ACC. shipping sub commission not capable in its present form.
- d. MED Bo. not capable as would incorporate present ACC. Major the Rantochan.
- a. Solution appears to be, that when shipping available. a good new ACC shipping sub commission be formed to handle in cooperation with Italian Mercantile Ent. under direct supervision of Shipping Section C.E.C.

Walter Mallowood
Major PA.

1536

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Col. Henderson: CEC.

Please note the attached correspondence. -
Note also that Genl Robertson is in favor of
the Food Flat. Whether it should operate
under ACC or CEC direct is of no great
importance. If under ACC, CEC could give
overall supervision. Please consider the
matter, discuss it with all concerned and let
me know what you propose to do.

Wor 1485

9 Jan

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785-016

1/9/44 *64* (3476) 1240

6 January 1944

SUBJECT: Shipment of Civilian Supplies into ITALY

TO : D/CAO, AFHQ Advanced Adm. Echelon

Forwarded at request of A.F.H.Q., M.G.S.

(Received today by Fast Air)

W. Driffield White
W. DRIFFIELD-WHITE
Major, G.L.
AMG, HQ.

DW CAO.

*Will you discuss this with
Col Henderson and King following
I think it is most important to get
the food plot going.*

WJ
9/485

I 538