

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

10000/119/1

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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105/c/L - AXIS Diplomats
Dec. 1944 - March 1945 (5563)
(5622)

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 7850116

THE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
TO HIS HOLINESS THE POPE
2, via Boncompagni, Rome.

March 23, 1945.

Dear Captain Ranfurly:

Referring to your telephone enquiry concerning the transfer of funds to the German diplomats interned in Taormina and to your letter dated March 10, 1945 (Ref: 105/61C/EC(L) in this connection, I have pleasure in enclosing herewith a copy of Note No. 88782 dated March 23, 1945 relative to this matter.

It appears that the Banca Commerciale has informed the Vatican authorities that the sum of money to be placed at the disposition of the interned diplomats was transferred to Lt. Colonel J. H. Walker on March 12, 1945.

Sincerely yours,



Myron C. Taylor

Enclosure:
Copy of Note

Captain The Earl of Ranfurly,
Liaison Division,
Headquarters Allied Commission,
Rome.

5622

March 23, 1945

88782.

The Secretariat of State of His Holiness presents its compliments to the Personal Representative of the President of the United States and, in reference to the latter's Note N° 390, desires to communicate for the information of the competent Allied Authorities, that the Banca Commerciale was authorized to transfer the sum of money to be placed at the disposition of the diplomats at Taormina to Lt. Col. J. H. Walker on March 8th, 1945. The Banca Commerciale has since informed the Vatican Authorities that this transaction was effected on March 12, 1945.

The Secretariat of State of His Holiness avails itself of the present occasion to renew to the Personal Representative of the President of the United States to the Holy See its

compliments to the Personal Representative of the President of the United States and, in reference to the latter's Note N° 390, desires to communicate for the information of the competent Allied Authorities, that the Banca Commerciale was authorized to transfer the sum of money to be placed at the disposition of the diplomats at Taormina to Lt. Col. J. H. Walker on March 8th, 1945. The Banca Commerciale has since informed the Vatican Authorities that this transaction was effected on March 12, 1945.

The Secretariat of State of His Holiness avails itself of the present occasion to renew to the Personal Representative of the President of the United States to the Holy See its sentiments of distinguished consideration.

5621

His Excellency
Mr. Myron C. Taylor
Personal Representative of the President
of the United States of America
to His Holiness

ROME.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

INC MING MESSA GE
HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

Liaison 389

Originator's Reference: CITE REQ 426
Date/Time of Origin: MAR 16NFT

Message Centre No: D/5299
Date/Time Rec'd: MAR 171250A
Precedence: PRIORITY

FROM: ALCOM SICILY (CAFR)
TO: HQ ALCOM ROME FOR LIAISON SECTION

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL.

1. Subject is Axis diplomats.
2. Urgent reply requested to this office letter RC/091.112 of 26 February requesting authority to provide International Committee of Red Cross with full particulars.

ACTION

DIST

ACTION: Liaison Div
INFO: A/President
Chief Commissioner
File 2
Float

see 65



CONFIDENTIAL

5620

②

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

**ALLIED COMMISSION
SICILIA REGION HEADQUARTERS
APO 394**

38

**OFFICE: REGIONAL COMMISSIONER
PHONE: 15535 EXT 1**

FILE: RC/091.112

19 March 1945

SUBJECT: Axis Diplomats - Gaormina

TO : Headquarters Allied Commission
R O M E
(Att: Liaison Division)

see 67

65

With reference to your 105/65C/EC (L) of 14 MAR, no appropriate reply has yet been received from the Public Safety Sub-Commission.

This Headquarters letter RC/091.112 of 26 FEB and attached correspondence asks whether a list of all German diplomatic personnel accommodated in Sicily could be given to the local Delegate of the International Red Cross. The letter received from the Public Safety Sub-Commission merely states that the address of and the state of health of the interned diplomats can be made known to the Delegate of the International Red Cross.

In view of the delay which has taken place in this matter a list of the Axis diplomats is being given to the Delegate of the I.R.C.

M. Far Bizadeu

M. FAR
Brigadier
Regional Commissioner

①

5619

37

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
Liaison Division
Office of the Executive Commissioner

Tel: No. 473001

Ref: 105/65G/2(L)

14 March 1945

SUBJECT: Interned German Diplomats

TO : Regional Commissioner
Sicilia Region
APO 394

55

1. Reference your RG/091/112, 26 February 1945 regarding the above subject.

2. Your request was referred to the Public Safety Sub-Commission, this Headquarters and they replied directly to you on 12 March 1945.

see 66

64

ABA/mcz

Officer in Charge
Liaison Division

5618

SECRET

36

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
A.P.O. 394
PUBLIC SAFETY SUB COMMISSION
SECURITY DIVISION

REF : SD/550.07-1

12 March 1945

see 65, 67

SUBJECT : Interned German diplomats

TO : Regional Commissioner Sicily Region

1. A letter c/b 37 dated 15 Feb 1945, from the delegate of the International Red Cross, Palermo, has been passed to this division for reply.

2. Authority has been given for the delegate to be informed of the address of the interned diplomats (Hotel Miramare, Taormina) and also of the state of their health.

3. In view of the probable early movement of all these diplomats, AFHQ request a nominal roll of the party and an estimate of the total weight of their baggage.

4. Please treat request in para 3 as urgent.

see 56 / *G. Hayes*
JOHN W. CHAPMAN, *Capo*
Colonel J.A.G.D.,
Director Public Safety,
Sub Commission.

CBH/nb

Copy to : Liaison Division A.C.

5617

SECRET

5770

35

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
Liaison Division

Tel: No. 476001

Ref: 105/630/EC(L)

12 March 1945

SUBJECT: Axis Diplomat

TO : The Honorable Myron C. Taylor
2, Via Boncompagni
Rome

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

I refer to your letter of 21 February 1945, regarding Mr. Charles Gustav Wollenweber, Counsellor of the German Embassy to the Holy See, who is interned at Taormina.

Your inquiry was duly forwarded to the appropriate authorities who now inform me that Dr. Karl Gustav Wollenweber was operated on by Gr. Uff. Prof. U. Benedetti at the "Casa di Cura Chirurgica", Catania on 1 March 1945 for the cist in the vicinity of his right eye.

His condition has been satisfactory since the operation and he is making very good progress being already up and able to go out of doors.

It is anticipated that he will remain in the hospital for one week. It appears that the patient's condition had become considerably worse since his examination by a British Medical Officer in October last when an operation was not considered necessary.

I trust that the foregoing information, which I would appreciate your passing on to the Holy See, answers your inquiry.

Sincerely yours,

5618

ABA/mof

A.B. ARNOLDY
Capt. Sp. Res. AUS

ALLIED COMMISSION
SICILIA REGION HEADQUARTERS
APO 394

34

FILE: RC/091.112

7 March 1945

SUBJECT: Axis Diplomats.

TO : Headquarters, Allied Commission - APO 394.
(Attn: Liaison Division) 52

1. Reference your letter 105/526/EC(L) of 22.2.45.
2. I have now ascertained that Dr. Karl Gustav WOLLENBERGER was operated on by Gr. Uff. Prof. U. Benedetti at the "Casa di Cura Chirurgica", Catania on 1 March 1945 for the cist in the vicinity of his right eye.
3. His condition has been satisfactory since the operation and he is making very good progress being already up and able to go out of doors.
4. It is anticipated that he will remain in the hospital for one week. It appears that the patient's condition had become considerably worse since his examination by a British Medical Officer in October last when an operation was not considered necessary.
5. Due to the absence from this Headquarters of the Regional Commissioner who was personally dealing with this matter the letter from Mr. Taylor is not available to the writer and it is not known what details he requested. It is hoped however that the above information will be sufficient for your purpose.

H. H. H. H. H.

Major,
for the Regional Commissioner
absent on Duty. 561

sf

33

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
Liaison Division
Office of the Executive Commissioner

Tel: No. 473001

10 March 1945

Ref: 105/610/EC(1)

SUBJECT: Transfer of Funds to interned
German Diplomats

TO : The Honorable Myron C. Taylor
2, Via Boncompagni
Rome

see 60, 10
43

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

I would refer to your letter of 8 February 1945 regarding the above subject and my reply of 12 February 1945 ref: 105/430/005(L).

It seems that the sum of Lire 250000 requested by the German Diplomats was never received at Taormina and it now appears that a sum of Lit. 500000 is required to meet all of their personal expenses.

The Finance Sub-Commission, has authorized the transfer of the sums indicated in your letter of 8 February and I informed you of this in my letter of the 12th February.

It would be appreciated if you would inquire of the Vatican Authorities whether they had in fact, communicated with Lt. Col. H.J. Walker, Provincial Commissioner, eastern Sicily, Allied Commission, Catania regarding these funds, and advise me.

Sincerely yours,

Wm J. Nelson
21/3/45

5617

ABA/mcc

A.B. ARSOLBY
Capt. Sp. Res. AUS

Copy to:

Finance Sub-Commission
(Attn: Maj. Timmons
Maj. Stewart)

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

ALLIED COMMISSION
SICILIA REGION HEADQUARTERS
APO 394

OFFICE: REGIONAL COMMISSIONER
PHONE: 15555 EXT 1

FILE:RG/091.112

27 Feb 1945

SUBJECT: Baggage of interned Axis Diplomats.

TO : Headquarters Allied Commission
R O M E
(Att: Liaison Division)

see 59

*57, 57A
45*

With reference to your 105/453/EC(L) of 19 FEB,
enclosed please find copy of a report giving full partic-
ulars of the baggage in question.

N Carr Brigadier

N. CARR
Brigadier
Regional Commissioner

5613

Encl- Copy of report re baggage of Axis Diplomats, 25/2/45.

On August 22nd, 1944, the day when we were taken prisoner at Marseille, we were transported to the Prefecture where we lived in the apartment of the former Prefet Regional for 22 days. We had then with us 45 pieces of baggage. On August 24th, 1944, we were brought to a third-class hotel, named "Imbert". The greater part of our baggage was forwarded on the same day to this hotel by members of the regular French police, however 11 pieces were missing and never showed up, in spite of repeated immediate reclamations.

When we were taken from the hotel "Imbert" to the prison of "Les Beaumettes" on September 11th, 1944, we were told by Mr. R. Herriot that all our baggage which we were not allowed to take along (34 pieces). would be kept by the French authorities at our disposal. It was locked in a room of the hotel "Imbert". Later, however, we learned the following from Colonel Scheer, U.S. Army: One day between the 11th of Sept. and the 11th of Oct. 1944, an unknown young man had called at the hotel in order to transport the baggage from there to the prison. The owner of the hotel (name and address unknown) handed over everything without any receipt. Since that time the whereabouts of the baggage could never be made out.

Taormina, Febr. 25th, 1945

- 1) Address of Hotel "Imbert"
Marseille, Blvd. Louis Salvadore (near Prefecture)
- 2) Address of prison:
Marseille, prison "Les Beaumettes"
- 3) R. Herriot, Commissinaire Divisionnaire,
at present in Paris.
- 4) Pierre Tissier, Commissinaire Regional
- 5) Luggage:

a) Baron von Spiegel, Consul General	1 hat-box (leather) 5 suit-cases
---	-------------------------------------

Taormina, Feb. 25th, 1945

1) Address of Hotel "Hubert"
Marseille, Blvd. Louis Salvadore (near Préfecture)

2) Address of prison:
Marseille, Prison "Les Beaumettes"

3) R. Herriot, Commissaire Divisionnaire,
at present in Paris.

4) Pierre Missier, Commissaire Régional

5) Luggage:

a) Baron von Spiegel,
Consul General

b) Count Thun,
Consul

c) Mr. Eulink,
Canceller

1 hat-box (leather)
3 suit-cases

1 suit-case (leather, red) **5612**
1 big suit-case (patent leather, black)

1 big suit-case (grey)
1 big suit-case (vulkan-fibre, brown)

1 suit-case (leather, brown)
1 travelling-bag (vulkan-fibre with leather-corners, brown)

1 big canvas-bag (green-grey)
1 big knapsack (green with leather)

1 small knapsack (green)

1 hat-box (leather, black)

1 hat-box (black-brown)

1 case for umbrellas, etc.

1 net-bag with men's underwear

1 hand-bag (canvas with leather, red-brown)

1 suit-case (vulkan-fibre, brown)

1 travelling-bag (leather, brown)

1 travelling bag (leather, black)

1 hat-box (brown)

~~34~~
d) Mr. V.D. Cazzen,
Consular Secretary

3 flat trunks (wood, painted grey)
1 square hat-box (brown-grey)
2 suit-cases (vulcan-fibre, brown).

e) Mr. Anders,
Antsgerilife

3 suit-cases (vulcan-fibre, brown)
1 big canvas-bag (grey-green)

f) Mr. Meissner
Hilfsamtsgerilife

1 suit-case (leather, black)
1 big canvas-bag (light-grey)

g) Miss Vogts-Johannis

1 suit-case (leather)
1 hat-box

TOTAL: 34 pieces.

Recd
15

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

5611

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
Liaison Division
Office of the Executive Commissioner

Tel: No. 478001

Ref: 105/560/EG(J.)

4 March 1945

SUBJECT: Request of interned German Diplomats

TO : H.Q. A.C.
Public Safety Sub-Commission

54

1. Enclosed is a copy of a request from the representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross which was sent to this office by the Regional Commissioner of Sicilian Region.

2. It would be appreciated if you would inform this office what reply may be given Brigadier M. Carr.

ABA/mof

see 64

A
Officer in Charge
Liaison Division

Encl: Letter from the International
Committee of the Red Cross.

5610

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

**ALLIED COMMISSION
SICILIA REGION HEADQUARTERS
APO 394**

30

OFFICE: REGIONAL COMMISSIONER

PHONE: 15555 EXT 1

FILE: RC/091.112

26 Feb 1945

SUBJECT: Diplomatic Internees

TO : Headquarters Allied Commission
R O M B
(Att: Liaison Section)

see 56, 65, 66

With reference to attached request ⁵⁴ from the representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross, I presume that there is no objection to his being furnished with full particulars. Please confirm.

A very early reply is requested

M Carr Brigadier

M. CARR
Brigadier
Regional Commissioner

Encl- Letter (copy) Mr. Ganz (Le Délégué du C.I.C.R.) to Major Skene, Catania, HQ 204 Sub Area re diplomatic Internees, cb/37, 15/2/45.

See letter 64 dated 17 March 1945 from Public Safety Sub Com in reply to this one 5609

COPY

Palermo, 15 Feb 1945

Ref 00/37

To Major Skene
Catania 14011
HQ 204 Sub Area
C.M.F.

This delegation has received a cable from the
International Committee of Geneva enquiring about

Count and Countess Heinrich Thun, ex

German consul at Marseille, and the

German general consul von Spiegel,

last known address in November 1944: PWE 452 MPOUSA, now
probably transferred to Taormina.

We would therefore be grateful if you could give
us their present address and inform us about their present
health, having heard that one person of the German Consulate
died recently in Taormina.

It would also be greatly appreciated if you could
give us the list of all the German diplomatic personnel
interned in this zone.

Thanking you for the interest you will kindly
take in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

/s/ E. Ganz - Le délégué du C.I.C.R.

5608

29

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
Liaison Division
Office of the Executive Commissioner

Tel: No. 478001

Ref: 105/520/EC(L)

22 February 1945

SUBJECT: Axis Diplomats

TO : Regional Commissioner
Sicily

- 13 50 + 51
1. Reference your RC/091.112 of 3 January 1945.
 2. Further correspondence has been received from the Secretariat of State and from Myron Taylor, in regard to Mr. Wollenweber's request to come to Rome in order to undergo an eye operation. This correspondence is attached herewith.
 3. May this office be informed of the details requested in Mr. Taylor's letter so that a suitable reply may be given to the Secretariat of State.

see 62

Officer in Charge
Liaison Division

5607

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

1 THE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
TO HIS HOLINESS THE POPE
2, via Boncompagni, Rome.

February 21, 1945.

Dear Captain Ranfurly:

Referring to my letter of December 11, 1945 and to your reply thereto dated January 6, 1945 concerning the request of Mr. Charles Gustave Wollenweber, Counselor of the German Embassy to the Holy See, at present interned at Taormina, to come to Rome to undergo an eye operation, I am now enclosing a copy of a second Note from the Holy See dated February 19, 1945 on the same subject.

The Secretariat of State of His Holiness sets forth in this Note that, since a particular responsibility attaches to the Holy See in all that concerns the welfare of the Axis diplomats interned at Taormina until they are safely repatriated, it is requested that further details be supplied in regard to medical consultation in the diagnosis effected, the present condition and the relative medical care of Mr. Wollenweber, in order that proper assurances may be given that due consideration is being observed of his special diplomatic status. It is noted by the Secretariat of State that, according to the statement of Mr. Wollenweber, four doctors concurred in the need for the operation in question.

I should greatly appreciate it if you would be so kind as to take this matter up with the appropriate Allied authorities and let me know the nature of the reply which may be made to the Holy See.

Sincerely yours,

Myron C. Taylor

Myron C. Taylor

Enclosure:

Copy of Note No. 89435

Captain The Earl of Ranfurly,
Liaison Division,
Headquarters Allied Commission,
Rome.

28A

C O P Y

89435

February 19, 1945

The Secretariat of State of His Holiness in presenting its compliments to the Personal Representative of the President of the United States to His Holiness has the honor to refer to its note of November 30th relative to the need of an operation on the part of Mr. Charles Gustav Wollenweber, Counsellor of the German Embassy to the Holy See, actually interned at Taormina. A reply was later received to the effect that such an operation was unnecessary, according to a declaration of an Officer Commanding a detachment of an Allied General Hospital.

Since a particular responsibility attaches to the Holy See in all that concerns the welfare of these diplomats until the moment they are safely repatriated, the Secretariat of State of His Holiness would ask that further details be supplied in regard to medical consultation in the diagnosis effected, his present condition and the relative medical care of Mr. Wollenweber in order that proper assurances may be given that due consideration is being observed of his special diplomatic status. It is noted that, according to the statement of Mr. Wollenweber, four doctors concurred in the need for the operation in question.

A similar Note has been communicated to His Britannic Majesty's Minister to the Holy See.

The Secretariat of State avails itself of the present occasion to renew to the Personal Representative of the President of the United States to His Holiness the expression of its distinguished consideration.

His Excellency
Mr. Myron C. Taylor
The Personal Representative of the President
of the United States to His Holiness.

Dec-52 153

5605

219

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
Liaison Division
Office of the Executive Commissioner

Tel: No. 470001

Ref: 105/49C/EC(L)

21 February 1945

SUBJECT: Interned German Catholic Priests.

TO : The Honorable Myron C. Taylor
2, Via Boncompagni
Rome

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

I would refer to your letter of 8 February 1945 regarding interned German Catholic Priests.

This matter has been submitted to the appropriate authorities for consideration and I have been informed that the Provost Marshall General who had been shown a copy of your letter has made the following comments regarding the question raised by you:-

" 1. A War Department Directive, subject "Commentary Proof of German Protected Personnel", provides:-

- a) Ordained ministers and priests who are recognized as chaplains in the German army will be accorded treatment as protected personnel under the category of chaplains.
- b) Ordained ministers and priests serving in the German forces but not recognized as chaplains will not be accorded the status of chaplains even though they perform such duties during internment. However if they are members of a sanitary formation, (and most of them are) they will be accorded the status of protected personnel under the category of sanitary personnel.
- c) If ordained ministers and priests are captured as line soldiers, they will be treated as prisoners of war.

2. By agreement with the German government, chaplains may be retained by the detaining power on the ratio of 1 per thousand prisoners of war. All surplus must be 560/

49a

repatriated. However, due to the small number of chaplains captured with the German forces, no surplus have been repatriated and it is not anticipated that any will be.

3. Sanitary corpsmen, all over 6 per 1,000 PW, must be repatriated. However, in view of the small number of German chaplains available it is not anticipated that any ordained minister or priest will be repatriated as a surplus sanitary corpsmen. They will be retained as sanitary personnel necessary for the care of German PW in U.S. custody.

4. Ordained ministers and priests if prisoners of war will only be repatriated if eligible because of illness or wounds in accordance with the provisions of the Geneva convention."

I trust that the foregoing answers your inquiry, and it would be appreciated if you would pass on as much of this information as you deem advisable, to the proper Vatican Authorities.

Sincerely yours,

A.B. ARRIOTEN
Capt. Sp. Res. AUS

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

105C
ALLIED COMMISSION
SICILIA REGION HEADQUARTERS
APO 394

2-15

OFFICE: REGIONAL COMMISSIONER
PHONE: 15555 EXT 1

FILE: RC/091.112

16 Feb 1945

SUBJECT: Axis Diplomats - Taormina
TO : Headquarters Allied Commission
R O M E
(Att: Liaison Section)

46
With further reference to my RC/091.112 of 20 JAN 45,
attached herewith please find a statement from one of the
Axis personnel at Hotel Miramare, Taormina, which is for-
warded for whatever action you consider desirable.

M. Carr

M. CARR
Brigadier
Regional Commissioner

1 Encl-Letter, Count Heinrich Thun to whom it may concern,
7 FEB 45.

5602

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
Liaison Division
Office of the Executive Commissioner

Tel: No. 476001

Ref: 105/450/30(L)

19 February 1945

SUBJECT: Baggage of Interned Axis Diplomats.

TO : Regional Commissioner
Sicily Region

1. Reference is made to your letter of 16 February 1945 regarding the above subject.

2. Before any steps can be taken to trace this luggage it would be appreciated if more detailed information could be had. i.e.:-

- a) Exact location of Hotel Imbert;
- b) exact location of the prison of Los Baunettes;
- c) location of Mons. R. Herviot, and who he is;
- d) location of Mons. Pierre Tlesier, and who he is;
- e) whose luggage is missing; - name and description if possible of baggage.

see 58

A
Officer in Charge
Liaison Division

5601

105C
ALLIED COMMISSION
SICILIA REGION HEADQUARTERS
APO 394

23

OFFICE: REGIONAL COMMISSIONER
PHONE: 15555 EXT 1

FILE: RC/091.112

16 Feb 1945

SUBJECT: Axis Diplomatic Internees - Baggage

TO : Headquarters Allied Commission
R O M E
(Att: Liaison Section)

Enquiries have been made by the nine internees who arrived from France on 31 DEC 44, respecting a quantity of baggage left behind by them, about 34 articles of baggage in all.

The internees, it is understood, were ordered to leave this luggage behind when they were transferred from the Hotel Inbert to the prison of Les Baumettes on 11 SEP 44.

We have been informed that the person responsible for this luggage was a Departmental Commissioner Monsieur R. Herviot who acted under the orders of Monsieur Pierre Tissier.

May representations please be made with a view to ascertaining the possibility of recovering the luggage in question.

M. Carr

M. CARR
Brigadier
Regional Commissioner

5600

2/2

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
Liaison Division
Office of Chief of Staff

Tel: 478001 Rome

Ref: 105/430/COS(L)

12 February 1945

SUBJECT: Transfer of Funds to interned
German Diplomats.

TO : The Honorable Myron C. Taylor
2, Via Boncompagni
Rome

Dear Mr. Ambassador,

I refer to your letter of 8 February 1945, regarding
the above subject.

A copy of your letter was forwarded to the Finance
Sub-Commission who inform me that there is no objection to the
forwarding of the sum mentioned to the German diplomats at
Taormina. It is suggested that the office in the Vatican han-
dling this matter remit the funds through the Banca d'Italia,
to Lt. Col. H.J. Walker, Provincial Commissioner eastern Si-
cily, Allied Commission, Catania, who will supervise the expen-
diture of the funds by the internees for authorized purchases
(clothing etc.)

Sincerely yours,

A.B. ARNOLDY
Capt. Sp. Res. AUS

see 42, 60, 61

5599

105/c
21

THE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
TO HIS HOLINESS THE POPE
2, via Boncompagni, Rome.

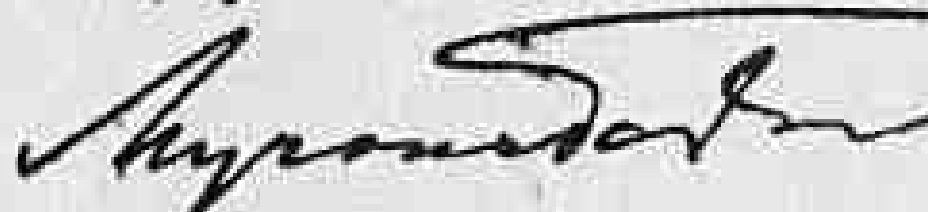
February 8, 1945.

see H1
39
Dear Captain Ranfurly:

I am enclosing herewith a copy of Note No. 90121/SA dated February 7, 1945 which I have received from the Holy See, concerning the situation of German Catholic priests who are detained in prisoner of war camps. It is stated that it is thought not unlikely that such priests, in view of their calling, might be considered when an exchange of prisoners of war is arranged. However, the Holy See expresses the desire that these priests should not be included in such exchanges, in view of the useful and important ministry which they are now permitted to exercise among their fellow prisoners and also because of the uncertain nature of their eventual disposition and employment should an exchange be effected. The Secretariat of State of His Holiness requests, therefore, that its point of view on this question be brought to the attention of the competent Allied authorities in the hope of receiving favorable consideration therefor.

Your courtesy in taking this matter up with the appropriate Allied authorities and letting me know the nature of the reply which may be made to the Holy See will be much appreciated.

Sincerely yours,



Myron C. Taylor

Enclosure:
Copy of Note

Captain The Earl of Ranfurly,
Liaison Division,
Headquarters Allied Commission,
Rome.

5598

February 7, 1945

American Mission
to the Holy See
received

FEB 7 1945

Rome

M. 93121/SA.

The Secretariat of State of His Holiness presents its compliments to the Personal Representative of the President of the United States to His Holiness and would take the liberty of referring to the situation of German Catholic priests actually detained in camps as prisoners of war.

It has been thought not unlikely that the priests in question might be considered by virtue of their state of life as subjects of an exchange of prisoners whether on preferential or other grounds. In view of the useful and important ministry which they are now permitted to exercise among their fellow prisoners and, on the other hand, of the uncertain nature of their eventual disposition and employment should an exchange be effected, the Secretariat of State of His Holiness would express the desire that these priests should not be included in such exchanges of prisoners of war.

The Secretariat of State of His Holiness in renewing to the Personal Representative of the President of the United States to His Holiness the sentiments of its highest esteem would request that its viewpoint in this matter be presented to the competent Allied authorities for a favorable consideration.

It has been thought not unlikely that the priests in question might be considered by virtue of their state of life as subjects of an exchange of prisoners whether on preferential or other grounds. In view of the useful and important ministry which they are now permitted to exercise among their fellow prisoners and, on the other hand, of the uncertain nature of their eventual disposition and employment should an exchange be effected, the Secretariat of State of His Holiness would express the desire that these priests should not be included in such exchanges of prisoners of war.

The Secretariat of State of His Holiness in renewing to the Personal Representative of the President of the United States to His Holiness the sentiments of its highest esteem would request that its viewpoint in this matter be presented to the competent Allied Authorities for a favorable consideration.

His Excellency
Mr. Wyratt C. Taylor
Personal Representative of the President
of the United States to His Holiness

5597

THE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
TO HIS HOLINESS THE POPE

2, via Boncompagni, Rome.

February 8, 1945.

Dear Captain Ranfurly:

I enclose herewith a copy of Note No. 88782 dated February 7, 1945 which I have received from the Holy See, concerning the request of the German Ambassador to the Holy See that authorization and facilitation be given for the transfer of funds from the "Istituto Opere di Religione" of the Vatican City to the German diplomats interned at the Miramare Hotel in Taormina.

The German Ambassador has informed the Holy See that the members of the German Consulate General at Marseille, who are now at Taormina, left France without sufficient winter clothing and other articles of daily use and without adequate funds and that they have requested him to send them a substantial amount of money. He states that he is desirous, therefore, of sending them by the quickest means available, by telegram if possible, the sum of 250,000 lire. The Holy See further states that the German Ambassador has already advised the "Istituto Opere di Religione" to put this sum at the disposition of the Secretariat of State for forwarding to the interned diplomats, and that at the same time permission was requested to send at a later date the sum of 750,000 lire to the diplomats in question and to forward, immediately if possible, the sum of 75,000 lire which Mr. Carlo Gustavo Wollenweber, Counsellor of the German Legation to the Holy See, has authorized the "Istituto Opere di Religione" to send him for his personal needs.

Captain The Earl of Ranfurly,
Liaison Division,
Headquarters Allied Commission,
Rome.

The

see 42, 61 559

-2-

The Holy See recommends that the good offices of the competent Allied Authorities be requested in order to obtain the desired authorization, and states that a similar communication is being conveyed to His Britannic Majesty's Minister to the Holy See.

Your courtesy in taking this matter up with the appropriate Allied Authorities and letting me know the nature of the reply which may be made to the Holy See would be much appreciated.

Sincerely yours,



Myron C. Taylor

Enclosure:
Copy of Note

February 7, 1945

American Mission
to the Holy See
Received

FEB 7 1945

Rome

M. 33732.

The Secretariat of State of His Holiness presents its compliments to the Personal Representative of the President of the United States to His Holiness and takes the liberty to refer to the request of the German Ambassador to the Holy See that authorization and facilitation be given for the transfer of funds from the "Istituto Opere di Religione" of Vatican City to the German diplomats interned at the Miramare Hotel in Taormina.

The German Ambassador relates that the members of the German Consulate General at Marseilles, who are now at Taormina, left France without sufficient winter clothing and other articles of daily use and without adequate funds and that they have requested him to send them a substantial amount of money. He states that he is desirous therefore, of sending them by the quickest means available, by telegram if possible, the sum of 250,000 liras. He has already advised the "Istituto Opere di Religione" to put this sum at the disposition of the Secretariat of State for forwarding to the interned diplomats. At the same time, permission was requested to send at a later date the sum of 750,000 liras to the diplomats in question and to forward, immediately if possible, the sum of 75,000 lire which Mr. Carlo Gustavo Wollenweber, Counsellor of the German Legation of the Holy See, has authorized the "Istituto Opere di Religione" to send him for his personal needs.

A similar communication is being conveyed to His Britannic Majesty's Minister to the Holy See.

The Secretariat of State of His Holiness takes this oc-

The German Ambassador relates that the members of the German Consulate General at Marseilles, who are now at Taormina, left France without sufficient winter clothing and other articles of daily use and without adequate funds and that they have requested him to send them a substantial amount of money. He states that he is desirous therefore, of sending them by the quickest means available, by telegram if possible, the sum of 250,000 liras. He has already advised the "Istituto Opere di Religione" to put this sum at the disposition of the Secretariat of State for forwarding to the interned diplomats. At the same time, permission was requested to send at a later date the sum of 750,000 liras to the diplomats in question and to forward, immediately if possible, the sum of 75,000 lire which Mr. Carlo Gustavo Wollenweber, Counsellor of the German Legation of the Holy See, has authorized the "Istituto Opere di Religione" to send him for his personal needs.

A similar communication is being conveyed to His Britannic Majesty's Minister to the Holy See.

The Secretariat of State of His Holiness takes this occasion to renew to the Personal Representative of the President of the United States to His Holiness the expression of its most distinguished consideration, and would recommend that the good offices of the competent Allied Authorities be requested in order to obtain the desired facilitation.

His Excellency
Mr. Myron C. Taylor
Personal Representative of the President
of the United States to His Holiness

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785011e

B9

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 724
Idleness Division
Office of Chief of Staff

Tel: No. 470001

Ref: 105/1471

27 January 1945

SUBJECT: Baroness von Weissacker

TO : Harold H. Tittmann
2, Via Boncompagni
Rome

Dear Mr. Tittmann:

This is to confirm our telephone conversation of this afternoon regarding the above subject.

I regret to inform you that Rome Allied Area Command with whom this matter was taken up, has refused to grant permission for the Baroness to attend the ceremony mentioned in your letter of 23 January 1945.

Sincerely yours,

A.B. ARSOLBY
Capt. Sp. Res. AUS

32

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b.8

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
Liaison Division
Office of Chief of Staff

Tel: No. 473001

Ref: 105/333/L

24 January 1945

SUBJECT: Baroness von Weissacker

TO : R.A.A.C.

31

32

1. The Honorable Myron C. Taylor has transmitted to this office a note from the Vatican, concerning the desire of Baroness von Weissacker, wife of the German Ambassador to the Holy See to attend a ceremony to be held on 28 January at 3p.m. by the sisters of the Beatae Mariae Virginis Institute at 250 Via Nomentana, Rome.

2. This request has been also submitted by the Vatican through the British Minister to the Holy See, who has probably already communicated direct with your H.Q.

3. It would be appreciated if this office could be informed what reply should be given to Mr. Taylor.



Officer in Charge
Liaison Division

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

THE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
TO HIS HOLINESS THE POPE
2, via Boncompagni, Rome.

January 23, 1945.

Dear Captain Ranfurly:

I am enclosing herewith a copy of Note No. 89732 dated January 22, 1945 which I have received from the Vatican, concerning the desire of Baroness von Weizsäcker, wife of the German Ambassador to the Holy See, to attend a ceremony to be held on January 28 at 3 p.m. by the Sisters of the Beatae Mariae Virginis Institute at 250 via Nomentana, Rome in honor of Sister Mary Ward, the Founder of the Institute.

Your courtesy in taking this matter up with the appropriate Allied Authorities and letting me know the nature of the reply which may be made to the Holy See will be much appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Harold H. Tittmann

Harold H. Tittmann
Assistant to the Hon. Myron C. Taylor

Enclosure:
Copy of Note

Captain the Earl of Ranfurly,
Liaison Division,
Headquarters Allied Commission,
Rome.

5591

22 janvier 1945

American Mission
to the Holy See
Received

JAN 28 1945

Rome

89732.

La baronne Von Weizsäcker, femme de l'Ambassadeur d'Allemagne près le Saint-Siège, a été invitée par les Soeurs de l'Institut Beatae Mariae Virginis, 250 via Montana, à une cérémonie organisée pour le 28 janvier, à 15 heures, en l'honneur du troisième centenaire de la mort de leur fondatrice Soeur Mary Ward.

On serait reconnaissant aux autorités compétentes si elles voulaient bien donner les autorisations nécessaires pour que la Baronne Von Weizsäcker puisse sortir du Vatican le jour indiqué, à 14h 30, pour se rendre à cette invitation.

Une note semblable est adressée à Son Excellence le Ministre de Grande-Bretagne près le Saint-Siège.

See 32

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A Son Excellence
M. Myron C. Taylor
Représentant Personnel du Président
des Etats-Unis d'Amérique près le Saint Siège

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
Liaison Division
Office of Chief of Staff

Tel: No. 478004

24 January 1945

Ref: 105/300/L

SUBJECT: Axis Diplomats at Taormina

TO : The Honorable Myron C. Taylor
2, Via Boncompagni
Rome

Dear Mr. Ambassador,

I acknowledge receipt of your two letters of 19 January,
and the two Vatican Notes Nos. 89473 and 89474 of 17 January, and I
note that no action is required.

Sincerely yours,

LORD RANFURLY
Captain

23/1/45

Phoned Leigh-Smith at Brit. Leg. who confirmed that
both matters were in hand, & no action required.

R.

5589

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

THE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
TO HIS HOLINESS THE POPE
2, via Boncompagni, Rome.

January 19, 1945.

Dear Captain Ranfurly:

I am transmitting herewith a copy of Note No. 89472 dated January 17, 1945 from the Vatican, regarding the repatriation of the Axis diplomats accredited to the Holy See at present interned at Taormina. I have learned that the British Minister to the Holy See, Sir D'Arcy Osborne, is attending to this matter and the copy of the Note from the Holy See is being transmitted to you, therefore, as a matter of record.

Sincerely yours,

Myron C. Taylor

Myron C. Taylor

Enclosure:
Copy of Note

Captain the Earl of Ranfurly,
Liaison Division,
Headquarters Allied Commission,
Rome.

5588

January 17, 1945

American Mission
to the Holy See
Receive

JAN 18 1945

Rome

89472.

The Secretariat of State of His Holiness presents its compliments to the Personal Representative of the President of the United States to the Holy See and has the honor to refer to the still pending matter of the repatriation of the diplomats accredited to the Holy See, actually interned at Taormina. It will be recalled that, prior to the departure of these diplomats on July 13, 1944, a note, in date of July 4th (No. 118) to the Secretariat of State from the Chargé d'affaires of the United States of America stated: "In accordance with an order issued by the Allied Military Authorities enemy diplomats accredited to the Holy See with their families and their staffs, in Rome after 12 o'clock noon July 10, 1944, will be removed from the city of Rome under protective custody with a view to their eventual repatriation".

From the tenor of the above communication the justified expectation and conclusion was drawn that the period of stay

United States to the Holy See and has the honor to refer to the still pending matter of the repatriation of the diplomats accredited to the Holy See, actually interned at Taormina. It will be recalled that, prior to the departure of these diplomats on July 13, 1944, a note, in date of July 4th (No. 118) to the Secretariat of State from the Chargé d'Affaires of the United States of America stated: "in accordance with an order issued by the Allied Military Authorities enemy diplomats accredited to the Holy See with their families and their staffs, in Rome after 12 o'clock noon July 10, 1944, will be removed from the city of Rome under protective custody with a view to their eventual repatriation".

From the tenor of the above communication the justified expectation and conclusion was drawn that the period of stay of the diplomats at Taormina would be merely brief and transient. Instructions were given to the representative of the Holy See, Monsignor McGeough, who accompanied the diplomats to Taormina, to in-

His Excellency
Mr. Myron C. Taylor
Personal Representative of the President
of the United States to the Holy See

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quire into this matter and to remain with the diplomats throughout their journey to neutral territory in the event their repatriation were to be effected within a few days; otherwise, he was to return to Rome with the understanding that he would in the near future be able to complete his mission. The repatriation could not be effected immediately and the internment of the diplomats has now been protracted for almost six months. During this period a continuous succession of difficulties has arisen for the Holy See which has been placed in an embarrassing situation as a result of the frequent complaints from the diplomats and the German Authorities on account of the delay in repatriation. This delay has been accompanied by other unfortunate circumstances such as the death of Mr. Maim, occurring so regrettably during this period of internment, and the illness of other diplomats with the attendant difficulties for providing specialized medical care. The Holy See has felt a particular responsibility to provide in so far as was possible and opportune

tion could not be effected immediately and the internment of the diplomats has now been protracted for almost six months. During this period a continuous succession of difficulties has arisen for the Holy See which has been placed in an embarrassing situation as a result of the frequent complaints from the diplomats and the German Authorities on account of the delay in repatriation. This delay has been accompanied by other unfortunate circumstances such as the death of Mr. Wahn, occurring so regrettably during this period of internment, and the illness of other diplomats with the attendant difficulties for providing specialized medical care. The Holy See has felt a particular responsibility to provide in so far as was possible and opportune for their welfare and has been the recipient of numerous petitions requesting the lifting of certain restrictions or the obtaining of certain needed things, some of which could not be sa-

~~SECRET~~

tified owing to military regulations or other circumstances related to their condition of internment.

In the matter of the juridical status of these diplomats the attitude of the Holy See must remain invariable. In view of the fact that respect for the immunities, recognized by international law and practice in regard to diplomatic agents, is an essential condition for the exercise of their mission, the Holy See has always considered itself in duty bound to defend, on behalf of such diplomatic agents, respect for these immunities. Furthermore, the extension of the procedure followed in the exchange of diplomats accredited to opposing belligerent states in such a way that the repatriation of the diplomatic agents accredited to a neutral independent state is made dependent upon the exchange or release of certain belligerents (cf. communication from the Allied Authorities in date of December 29th, 1944, referring to the repatriation of a German diplomat at Taormina) would appear without justification in recognized international law.

in view of the fact that respect for the immunities, recognized by international law and practice in regard to diplomatic agents, is an essential condition for the exercise of their mission, the Holy See has always considered itself in duty bound to defend, on behalf of such diplomatic agents, respect for these immunities. Furthermore, the extension of the procedure followed in the exchange of diplomats accredited to opposing belligerent states in such a way that the repatriation of the diplomatic agents accredited to a neutral independent state is made dependent upon the exchange or release of certain belligerents (cf. communication from the Allied Authorities in date of December 29th, 1944, referring to the repatriation of a German diplomat at Taormina) would appear without justification in recognized international law and custom.

In view of the foregoing the Secretariat of State of His Holiness renews its request that, through the good offices

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of Personal Representative of the President of the United States to the Holy See with the Allied authorities, the repatriation of the diplomats now interned at Taormina may be effected without further delay and would ask that prior to their departure provision may be opportunely made, if possible, for a representative of the Holy See to accompany them.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

to their departure provision may be appropriate
possible, for a representative of the Holy See to accompany
them.

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

14
THE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
TO HIS HOLINESS THE POPE
2, via Boncompagni, Rome.

*Will arrive letter
from Sir Osborne
@ 2/1/45*
January 19, 1945.

Dear Captain Ranfurly:

WA
I am transmitting herewith a copy of Note No. 89473 dated January 17, 1945 from the Vatican, regarding Mr. Horia Roman of the Rumanian Legation to the Holy See at present interned at Taormina. I have learned that the British Minister to the Holy See, Sir D'Arcy Osborne, is attending to this matter and the copy of the Note from the Holy See is being transmitted to you, therefore, as a matter of record.

Sincerely yours,

Myron C. Taylor
Myron C. Taylor

Enclosure:
Copy of Note

See 20
Captain the Earl of Ranfurly,
Liaison Division,
Headquarters Allied Commission,
Rome.

558

January 17, 1945

American Mission
to the Holy See

JAN 18 1945

ROME

see 27

89473.

The Secretariat of State of His Holiness presents its compliments to the Personal Representative of the President of the United States to the Holy See and takes the liberty of requesting that a considerate attention be given by the Allied Authorities to the situation of M. Horia Roman of the Rumanian Legation to the Holy See actually interned at Taormina. In a telegram received from him on August 30th, M. Roman asked that efforts be made to enable him to return to Rome since it was no longer reasonable to detain him at Taormina in view of the changed situation and the position of his Government united with the Allied Nations. The Secretariate of State of His Holiness warmly recommends the granting, if possible, of this request. In any event it is earnestly

Horia Roman of the Rumanian Legation to the Holy See actually interned at Taormina. In a telegram received from him on August 30th, A. Roman asked that efforts be made to enable him to return to Rome since it was no longer reasonable to detain him at Taormina in view of the changed situation and the position of his Government united with the Allied Nations. The Secretariate of State of His Holiness warmly recommends the granting, if possible, of this request. In any event it is earnestly desired that, the present anomalous situation of M. Roman be terminated at the earliest possible moment, either by repatriation to Rumania or having him return to Rome where his wife and infant son reside.

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His Excellency
Mr. Myron C. Taylor
Personal Representative of the
President of the United States
to the Holy See

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
Liaison Division
Office of Chief of Staff

TEL. No: 478001

Ref: 105/250/L

22 January 1945

SUBJECT: Axis Diplomats - Clothing

TO : The Honorable Myron C. Taylor
2, Via Roncompagni
Rome

Dear Mr Ambassador,

Reference is made to your letter of 30 December 1944 and Vatican Note No. 6578/2 of 28 December 1944 regarding the purchase of winter clothing by Dr. Weizner, a member of the Axis diplomatic group interned at Taormina.

For your information enclosed is a copy of a letter dated 17 January 1945 received from the Regional Commissioner, Sicily Region dealing with this subject.

It would be appreciated if you would pass on as much this information as you feel is necessary to the proper Vatican authorities.

Sincerely yours,

A.B. ARNOLDY
Capt. Sp. Res. AUS

5581

**ALLIED COMMISSION
SICILIA REGION HEADQUARTERS
APO 394**

**OFFICE: REGIONAL COMMISSIONER
PHONE: 15555 EXT 1**

FILE:RC/091.112

17 Jan 1945

SUBJECT: Axis Diplomats - clothing

TO : Headquarters Allied Commission
R O M E
(Att: Liaison Division)

1. With reference to para 2 of your 105/11c/L of 30 DEC 44, Dr. Werner did ask for permission to purchase a fur coat at a cost of Lit. 25,000 and Political Section your Headquarters under their 220.1 of 4 NOV 44 concurred with the view that this purchase would involve an unnecessary outlay of resources provided for purchase of immediate necessities. The statement of Dr. Werner that he was forbidden to buy a fur for his wife does not appear to be strictly accurate as his first demand was for permission to purchase a fur coat for himself and later one also for his wife. There was no mention of a "fur".

2. Regarding the statement that they have only summer clothes it is pointed out that a tailor and tailor-ess are called in to the hotel when required and that the internees ever since they arrived have made full use of this facility. Lit. 100,000 per month has been spent on an average by the 8 internees concerned, the majority of which is spent on clothing. No objection has been raised at any time to their providing themselves with clothing except in the case of the fur coat for a male member referred to in this letter. The statement that the hotel was unheated was correct on the date of your letter under reference but within the last few days a supply of fuel has become available and the central heating is now working.

M. Carr

M. CARR
Brigadier
Regional Commissioner

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
Liaison Division
Office of Chief of Staff

Tel: No. 478001

Ref: 105/230/L

22 January 1945

SUBJECT: Suitcase; property of a Miss Graff
member of Axis diplomats interned at
Taormina.

TO : Col C.H.E. Scheer
Headquarters Southern L. of C.
European Theatre of Operations
U.S. Army

1. The Regional Commissioner of Sicilian Region in a letter dated 17 January 1945 to this Headquarters, stated that Miss Graff, who is one of a party of Axis diplomats interned at Taormina, has requested that you be asked to forward to her a suitcase belonging to her and said to have been left in your charge.

2. This suitcase is said to contain:

2 fur coats
2 costumes
Bundry articles of personal clothing

3. This is transmitted to you for whatever action you deem necessary.

A.B. ARKOLNY
Capt. Sp. Res. RUS

5579

**ALLIED COMMISSION
SICILIA REGION HEADQUARTERS
APO 394**

**OFFICE: REGIONAL COMMISSIONER
PHONE: 15535 EXT 1**

FILE:RC/091.112

17 Jan 1945

SUBJECT: Axis Diplomats - American Uniforms

TO : Headquarters Allied Commission
R O M E
(Att: Liaison Division)

21
1. With further reference to this Headquarters letter RC/091.112 of 8 JAN, I find that an issue of American Army clothing has been made not only to the male members of this party but also to the females. Each member of the party of 9 is in possession of the following articles of American Army clothing:-

- 1 pair trousers
- 1 shirt
- 1 waterproof field jacket
- 1 overcoat.

Arrangements are already in hand regarding the exchange of the currency in possession of this party and for the purchase of civilian clothing. When informed that the American Army clothing would be withdrawn, the leader of the party protested that the clothing was an unconditional gift from Col. C.H.E. Scheer, H.Q., Southern L. of C, European Theatre of Operations, U.S. Army.

I do not anticipate that there will be any real opposition to the handing in of this Army clothing but the above information is sent to you in case protests are made through the Vatican in respect of this matter.

2. Miss Graff of this party has requested that Col. Scheer be asked to forward to her a suitcase belonging to her which was left in his charge. The suitcase is said to contain:-

- 2 fur coats
- 2 costumes
- Sundry articles of personal clothing

M. Carr

M. CARR
Brigadier
Regional Commissioner

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file 23

5579

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

Confidential

Liaison Div 9

FILE:RC/091.112

8 Jan 1945

SUBJECT: Axis Diplomats- TAORMINA.

TO : Headquarters Allied Commission
R O M E

18, 19, 20

In continuation of this Headquarters cable REO-372 of 2 JAN 45, I am forwarding herewith detailed report on the arrival of the German diplomatic personnel from France at TAORMINA.

It seems to me that the most urgent question is for arrangements to be made for these recent arrivals to have some money placed at their disposal in order that urgent arrangements can be made for the men to be clothed in other than Allied uniforms. It seems to me to be highly undesirable for this personnel to be wearing Allied uniform and I am at a loss to understand under what circumstances it was ever issued to them.

I have instructed the Regional Finance Officer to get into touch with the Finance Subcommittee regarding the financial and exchange side. Can it be confirmed, please, that these recently arrived internees have the same status as the others at Taormina and that their correspondence will be handled in the same way?

If any action is required as regards the jewelry presumably this Headquarters will be informed.

see 27

M Carr Brigadier

M. CARR
Brigadier
Regional Commissioner

1 Encl- copy of letter, Col Walker to Reg. Commissioner Sicily Region CAT/222 3 JAN 45 re German Diplomats at TAORMINA.

COPY TO: Liaison Division
Headquarters Allied Commission
R O M E



C O P Y

ALLIED COMMISSION
EASTERN SICILY

To:- Regional Commissioner,
Sicilia Region H.Q.

CONFIDENTIAL

CAT/222

Subject:- German Diplomats at TAORMINA.

The following party of German Consular personnel arrived by air from France on 31 Dec 1944, for internment at Hotel Miramare, TAORMINA.

Freiherr von Spiegel
Heinrich Graf Thun
Irma Graefin Thun
Johannes von der Gathen
Walter Ebeling
Reinhold Anders
Philippe Meissner
Henrietta Vogts-Johannis
Marianne Graff

Ex-Consul General, Marseilles
Ex-Consul
Wife of above
Secretary
Consul
Orderly Clerk
" Governor
Typist

The party was taken over on telephonic instructions from AFHQ.

The only document handed over with the party was a copy of the Movement Order issued by H.Q., Southern Line of Communications, European Theatre of Operations, U.S. Army to the officer escorting the party which states that personnel should be delivered to Commanding Officer, H.Q. No. 3 District.

The internees themselves state that they were removed from the Consulate General at Marseilles by the French Authorities and placed in a civil prison, whence they were transferred by the U.S. Army to a Hotel in Dijon, and subsequently, as a result of French protests, to a villa in the suburbs of that city.

In the absence of definite instructions regarding these internees, can Political Section and the Finance Sub Commission, H.Q.A.C. be asked to clarify the following points in regard to them.

(1) STATUS.

The party was taken over on telephonic instructions from AFHQ. The only document handed over with the party was a copy of the Movement Order issued by H.Q., Southern Line of Communications, European Theatre of Operations, U.S. Army to the officer escorting the party which states that personnel should be delivered to Commanding Officer, H.Q. No. 5 District.

The internees themselves state that they were removed from the Consulate General at Marseilles by the French authorities and placed in a Civil Prison, whence they were transferred by the U.S. Army to a Hotel in Dijon, and subsequently, as a result of French protests, to a villa in the suburbs of that city.

In the absence of definite instructions regarding these internees, can Political Section and the Finance Sub Commission, H.Q.A.C. be asked to clarify the following points in regard to them.

(1) STATUS.

The internees state that they were given POW numbers by the French authorities. It is assumed, however that they are not POWs but in the same position as the ex-Italian internees at TAORMINA, i.e. civilians in transit, but with no right to diplomatic privileges as their appointments no longer exist. Copies of any confidential reports on members of the party would be useful for the information of the camp commandant.

(2) FINANCE.

The party had in its possession the following sums, which are being deposited in the Banca d'Italia, CATANIA, pending instructions as to whether any of it should be exchanged into Italian Lire and returned to the owners for purchase of necessities.

French francs	610,908.90 c.
Swiss "	420
U.S. dollars	360
Reichmarks	154
Spanish pesetas	1,300
British currency	10 shillings.

Can rates of exchange be given please?

CONFIDENTIAL

Instructions are also required regarding the types of French francs which are considered negotiable.

It is desired that some of this money be made available for use as soon as possible as all members of the party are in possession of U.S. Army uniform, which it is expedient to withdraw as soon as they can equip themselves with civilian clothing.

An advance of Lit.1.000 has been made from A.C. funds to each member of the party, to be recovered from their own money when it can be exchanged. Four members of the party possess only French francs.

The Graefin Thun has a collection of jewels which have been deposited in the Banca d'Italia, Catania, less 3 strings of pearls which she has been allowed to retain at her own risk. (These pearls will be kept in the hotel safe at Taormina and issued to her for indoor wear only.) There appears to be no reason to suppose that the jewels have been looted, but a list is appended if it is thought that enquiries regarding their origin should be made to the French Government.

(iii) CORRESPONDENCE.

The internees have been informed that in the absence of other instructions, they can have their correspondence addressed c/o German Minister to the Vatican. Can the usual arrangements be made for censorship?

see 21

/s/ H.J. Walker

/t/ H.F. WALKER Lt-Col.
Provincial Commissioner.

Catania.
3 Jan 45
HJW/JRG

Copy to:-Major Wilson - Hotel Miramare, TAORMINA

5575

copy

18
LIST OF JEWELS BROUGHT BY ERMA GRAEFIN THUN, EX CONSULATE GENERAL
(GERMAN) MARSEILLES FROM FRANCE TO DIPLOMATIC INTERNEES CAMP -
TAORMINA.

- 1 pair of diamond pearls, black and white.
3 strings of pearls
1 bracelet of small pearls.
1 pair diamond earrings.
2 golden bracelets (each different)
2 bracelets, gold and coloured stones.
1 pair samrage(emerald) earrings.
1 pair periton earrings
1 pair coral earrings.
1 pair earrings, imitation diamond.
1 pair black stones.
2 golden watches
1 black watch. 1 Platinum Watch
1 brooch with one smaragd
1 brooch of diamonds and sapphire.
1 barrette of diamonds.
1 diamond ring(1 stone)
1 diamond ring (marguerite)
1 pair Golden earrings (tourquoise)
1 pendent (2 diamonds)
1 platinum Polish eagle.
1 small silver pin.
1 ring with 1 smaragd, 2 diamonds.
1 ring with 1 green stone.
1 gold ring with coat of arms.
1 brooch (golden arrow with pearls)
2 Golden medals(rectangular)
1 Austrian coin.

I certify that the above constitutes the total of articles(jewelry) belonging to me, and which were turned over to Colonel Charles H.E. Scheer, of the United States Army, at the time of my release from French civilian prison.

.....

Erma Thun.

I certify that the above statement is correct and that the above 557

1 diamond ring (marginville)
1 pair golden earrings (tourquoise)
1 pendent (2 diamonds)
1 platinum polish cage.
1 small silver pin.
1 ring with 1 smaragd, 2 diamonds.
1 ring with 1 green stone.
1 gold ring with coat of arms.
1 brooch (golden arrow with pearls)
2 golden medals (rectangular)
1 Austrian coin.

I certify that the above constitutes the total of articles (jewelry) belonging to me, and which were turned over to Colonel Charles H.E. Scheer, of the United States Army, at the time of my release from French civilian prison.

.....

Emma Thun.

557

I certify that the above statement is correct and that the above mentioned articles of jewelry were turned over to me.

.....

Charles H.E. Scheer
Colonel G.S.O.

I certify that as of this date, I have received custody of the above mentioned items of jewelry from Colonel Charles H.E. Scheer and assume full responsibility therefor.

.....

Eugene Smith
Capt GEF

.....
Date.

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
Liaison Division
Office of Chief of Staff

Tel: No 478001

6 January 1945

Ref: 105/140/L

SUBJECT: Axis Diplomats

TO : The Honorable Myron C. Taylor
2, Via Boncompagni
Rome

Dear Mr Ambassador,

I refer to your letter of 14 December and the Vatican Note
No. 87587 of 7 December, and my 105/83/L of 29 December paragraph two.

A medical certificate signed by Officer Commanding a detachment of an Allied General Hospital states that an operation is unnecessary.

I would be grateful if this information could be passed to the
Secretariat of State.

Sincerely yours,

LORD RATHERLY
Captain

TO : The Honorable Myron C. Taylor
2, Via Boncompagni
Rome

Dear Mr Ambassador,

I refer to your letter of 11 December and the Vatican Note
No. 87587 of 7 December, and my 105/83/L of 29 December paragraph two.

A medical certificate signed by Officer Commanding a detachment of an Allied General Hospital states that an operation is necessary.

I would be grateful if this information could be passed to the
Secretariat of State.

Sincerely yours,

YOUNG RICHMOND
Captain

557

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

105

ALLIED COMMISSION
SICILIA REGION HEADQUARTERS
APO 394

T2

OFFICE: REGIONAL COMMISSIONER
PHONE: 15555 EXT 1

FILE:RC/091.112

3 Jan 1945

SUBJECT: Axis Diplomats

TO : Headquarters Allied Commission
R O M E
(Att: Liaison Division)

see 15

7C

With reference to your 105/7C/L of 29 DEC 44 para 2 Counsellor Wollenweber underwent a medical examination in connection with his face trouble and a medical certificate from O.C. No.1 Det., 33 General Hospital was forwarded to Political "Subcommission" your Headquarters under 1st Ind dated 21 OCT 44 to Eastern Sicily's CAT/222 of 19 OCT 44. This certificate stated that an operation was unnecessary.

Will you please confirm that no further action is required in this matter?

M. Carr

M. CARR
Brigadier
Regional Commissioner

5572

see 5

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
Liaison Division
Office of Chief of Staff

Tel: No. 470001

Ref: 105/110/L

30 December 1944

SUBJECT: Axis Diplomats at TAORMINA

TO : Regional Commissioner
Sicilia Region

1. A telegram to the Holy See from Dr Wemmer, a member of the Axis Diplomatic Group interned at TAORMINA, has been forwarded to the Hon. Myron C. Taylor.

2. This telegram calls the attention of the Secretariat of State to the fact that he is not allowed to spend his money, and has been forbidden to buy a fur for his wife. He says that they only have summer clothes and the rooms are cold, and they must be allowed to make necessary purchases.

3. May this matter be investigated, and this office be informed what reply should be given to Mr Taylor.

see 23
R
Director
Liaison Division

5571

THE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
TO HIS HOLINESS THE POPE
2, via Boncompagni, Rome.

December 30, 1944.

Dear Captain Ranfurly:

I am enclosing herewith a copy of Note No. 88782 dated December 28, 1944 which I have received from the Holy See, concerning a telegram received by the Secretariat of State of His Holiness from Dr. Wemmer, a member of the Axis diplomatic group interned at Taormina, relative to their desire to be permitted to purchase winter clothing.

Your courtesy in taking this matter up with the appropriate Allied authorities and letting me know the nature of the reply which may be made to the Holy See will be much appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Myron C. Taylor

Myron C. Taylor

Enclosure:
Copy of Note

Captain Lord Ranfurly,
Liaison Division,
Allied Commission Headquarters,
Rome.

See 8-9-11-12-25
5570

28 décembre 1944

American Mission
to the Holy See
Received

DEC 29 1944

Rome

N. 98782

La Secrétairerie d'Etat de Sa Sainteté a l'honneur de porter à la connaissance de S.E. M. le Représentant Personnel du Président des Etats-Unis d'Amérique le télégramme suivant de Monsieur le Dr. Weimer, Ministre de l'Ambassade d'Allemagne près le Saint-Siège, actuellement interné à Taormine: "Je réclame l'attention de la Secrétairerie d'Etat sur le problème de la libre disposition de notre argent. On a refusé l'achat d'une simple fourrure pour ma femme. Vous prie faire démarches nécessaires tant pour raisons générales que pour le fait que nous ne disposons que du nécessaire pour un bref séjour d'été. Etant donné le froid de nos chambres dans cette situation d'immobilité nous avons besoin de faire des achats adéquats".

En lui transmettant cette demande sur laquelle elle se permet d'attirer sa bienveillante attention, la Secrétairerie d'Etat renouvelle à S.E. M. le Représentant Personnel du

de Monsieur le Dr. Werner, Ministre de l'Ambassade d'Allemagne près le Saint-Siège, actuellement interné à Taormine: "Je réclame l'attention de la Secrétairerie d'Etat sur le problème de la libre disposition de notre argent. On a refusé l'achat d'une simple fourrure pour ma femme. Vous prie faire démarches nécessaires tant pour raisons générales que pour le fait que nous ne disposons que du nécessaire pour un bref séjour d'été. Etant donné le froid de nos chambres dans cette situation d'immobilité nous avons besoin de faire des achats adéquats".

En lui transmettant cette demande sur laquelle elle se permet d'attirer sa bienveillante attention, la Secrétairerie d'Etat renouvelle à S.E. M. le Représentant Personnel du Président des Etats-Unis d'Amérique l'assurance de sa haute considération.

Son Excellence
M. Myron C. Taylor
Représentant Personnel du Président
des Etats-Unis près le Saint-Siège

22/10

5509

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785011e

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
Maison Division
Office of Chief of Staff

Tel: No. 476001

Ref: 105/ 83/L

29 December 1944

SUBJECT: Axis Diplomats

TO : The Honorable Myron C. Taylor
2, Via Boncompagni
Rome

see 7, 14

Dear Mr Ambassador,

I refer to your letter of 11 December and the Vatican Note 87587 of 7 December concerning the Axis Diplomats at TAORMINA.

1. Dr Louis Wemmer is a potential candidate for an exchange with certain British Officials now held by the German Government. A list of such candidates was sent to the Swiss Government some months ago for transmission to the German Government, but as yet no reply has been received. Until such a reply has been received, present instructions are that Dr Wemmer remain at TAORMINA.

2. Regarding the alleged necessity of an operation to the eye of Counsellor Wollenweber, I have instructed the appropriate authorities in Sicily to send a British Medical Officer to examine the eye. If an operation is necessary and suitable facilities exist in Sicily, the operation will be performed in Sicily.

Sincerely yours,

5508

LORD RANFURLY
Captain

see 10

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
Liaison Division
Office of Chief of Staff

Tel: No. 470001

Ref: 105/70/L

29 December 1944

SUBJECT: Axis Diplomats

TO : Regional Commissioner
Sicilian Region

Reference the attached correspondence.

1. Regarding Dr Louis WERNER's application to return to Rome, it is ascertained that his name is on the list of German Diplomats sent to the Swiss Government as potential candidates for exchange. So far as is known the German Government have never replied to this proposal. According to present instructions he will remain at TAORMINA until a reply is received.

This information is being conveyed to Mr Taylor.

2. Regarding Counsellor Wollenweber's application to come to Rome for an eye operation will you please arrange for a British Medical Officer to see Wollenweber, and if an operation is advised, and suitable facilities exist in Sicily, will you arrange for him to undergo the operation in Sicily. It is not considered that a journey to Rome is necessary or desirable, if suitable facilities exist in Sicily.

Mr Taylor is being informed accordingly.

5567

Director
Liaison Division

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
Liaison Division
Office of Chief of Staff

Tel: No. 478001

13 December 1944

Ref: 105/250/L

SUBJECT: The case of Dr. Louis WENNER
and Mr Charles Gustave WOLLENWEBER.

TO : Director of Public Safety S/C, AG.

1. Inclosed will be found a copy of a letter from the Honorable Myron C. Taylor with inclosures in re a/m persons. These communications are self-explanatory.

2. Will you please keep this division informed of action taken in re these cases.

Liaison Div.

Encl 12.10.44
H. Cal. Director
Liaison Division

Copy to:

The Honorable Myron C. Taylor
2, Via Boncompagni
Rome

On the general question of the
rehabilitation of this party, the position
is set forth in f. 5's letter of the 30th
Sept. para. 2. The position here
seems to be still with the former
and I think the Vatican might be
informed accordingly.

As regards Wollenweber's application, I
agree with the recommendation in para. 3
of Major Pearson's minute

Dec. 15

C O P Y

THE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
TO HIS HOLINESS THE POPE

2 Via Boncompagni, Rome

see 3, 1, 8, 14, 51
December 11, 1944

Dear Colonel Brown:

I am enclose a copy of Vatican Note No. 87587 dated December 7, 1944 concerning the desire, as expressed by Dr. Louis Wemmer in a telegram to the Secretariat of State of His Holiness of the Axis diplomats interned at Taormina to return to Rome. The Note also refers to a second telegram received by the Holy See, requesting that Mr Charles Gustave Wollenweber, Counselor of the German Embassy to the Holy See who is also interned at Taormina, be granted permission to come to Rome to undergo an eye operation.

Your courtesy in taking this matter up with the appropriate Allied authorities and letting me know the nature of the reply which be made to the Holy See will be much appreciated.

Sincerely your,

/s/ Myron C. Taylor

Enclosure:

Copy of Note

Lt Col Enoch Brown
Liaison Division
Allied Commission Headquarters
Rome

556

Translation

87587

7 December 1944

The Secretariat of State of His Holiness communicates to His Excellency the personal Representative of the President of the United States of America to His Holiness that, as a consequence of the non-execution of the project for the repatriation - Dr. Louis Werner, Minister plenipotentiary to the German Embassy to the Holy See, now interned in Taormina, sent him a cable, the content of which it is transmitting: 'We have been detained here almost three months. It is now certain that the assurances given to the Secretariat of State of His Holiness and transmitted to us were not true. Therefore the reason for removing us from Rome has disappeared. Our imprisonment here now represents a constant violation of the international right. I suggest we should return to Rome immediately, so that this delay would not appear to be caused by special orders.'

Another cable asks that permission should be given by the Allied Authorities to M. Charles Gustave Wollenweber, Counsellor of Legation to the German Embassy, who is also interned in Taormina, to proceed to Rome, where he must have an operation to one eye.

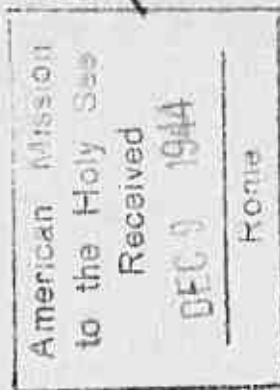
Transmitting these communications, the Secretariat of State expresses its very high consideration to Mr Myron G. Taylor.

His Excellency
M. Myron G. Taylor
Personal Representative of the President
of the United States of America to His Holiness

see 3, 5, 7, 14
see 1A
for original

*Colonel Brenner
Liaison Division*

7 Décembre 1944.



87587.

La Secrétairerie d'Etat de Sa Sainteté a l'honneur de porter à la connaissance de Son Excellence Monsieur le Représentant personnel de S. Exc. le Président des Etats-Unis d'Amérique auprès de Sa Sainteté que - comme conséquence de la non-exécution du projet de rapatriement - K. le Dr. Louis Wimmer, Ministre plénipotentiaire à l'Ambassade d'Allemagne près le Saint-Siège, actuellement interné à Taormine, lui a fait parvenir un télégramme dont elle croit devoir de lui transmettre la teneur: "Siamo trattenuti qui da quasi tre mesi. E' ormai fuori di dubbio che assicurazioni date alla Segreteria di Stato di Sua Santità e a noi trasmesse non erano giuste. Perciò base e premessa del nostro allontanamento da Roma sono sfumate. La nostra prigionia qui rappresenta ormai una violazione permanente al diritto internazionale. Per impedire che questa sosta sembri una consegna propongo il nostro ritorno immediato a Roma".

Un autre télégramme demande que la permission soit accordée par

556

que - comme conséquence de la non-exécution du projet de rapatriement - M. le Dr. Louis Wemmer, Ministre plénipotentiaire à l'Ambassade d'Allemagne près le Saint-Siège, actuellement interné à Taormine, lui a fait parvenir un télégramme dont elle croit devoir de lui transmettre la teneur: "Siamo trattenuti qui da quasi tre mesi. E' ormai fuori di dubbio che assicurazioni date alla Segreteria di Stato di Sua Santità e a noi trasmesse non erano giuste. Perciò base e premessa del nostro allontanamento da Roma sono sfumate. La nostra prigionia qui rappresenta ormai una violazione permanente al diritto internazionale. Per impedire che questa sosta sembri una consegna propongo il nostro ritorno immediato a Roma".

556

Un autre télégramme demande que la permission soit accordée par les Autorités Alliées à M. Charles Gustavo Wollenweber, Conseiller de Légation à l'Ambassade d'Allemagne, interné lui aussi à Taormine, de se rendre à Rome pour subir une opération à l'oeuf.

En lui transmettant ces messages, la Secrétairerie d'Etat profite volontiers de l'occasion qui lui est offerte pour renouveler à M. Myron C. Taylor l'assurance de sa très haute considération.

Son Excellence
M. Myron C. Taylor
Représentant personnel du Président
des Etats-Unis d'Amérique
auprès de Sa Sainteté

0 8 2 0