

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

10000/119/132

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

119/132

221 - Germany

June - October 1944

(5784,
5824)

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

6784
5824

221/GE/EC(L)

"Protection of German and
Italian interests in the
Soviet Union"

SECRET
Liaison Division

SECRET
Liaison Division

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

10000

119

132

FOLDER

CONTAINS PAPERS

FROM JUNE 1944

TO OCT. 1944

CATALOGUE.

British Legation to the Holy See,
VATICAN CITY.

October 10th 1944

No. 128
(48/288/44)

Sir,

With reference to my despatch No. 123 of October 4th enclosing copy of a Note from the Vatican on the subject of a search for a radio transmitting set on the premises of the German Embassy to the Holy See, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a report, dated September 26th, by Mr. Caccia Political Section, A.C.C., to R.A.A.C. giving full information regarding the origin and execution of the investigation. It will be noted that the investigation was carried out by the Counsellor of the Swiss Legation in charge of Foreign Interests, who was accompanied for the purpose by two British military wireless experts. It appears that wireless apparatus was found that might have been used, but there is nothing to suggest that it was in fact being used. The apparatus in question has now been dismantled under the orders and supervision of the Swiss Counsellor and the incident appears to be closed.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
With the highest respect,
Your most obedient, humble Servant,

(Sgd) D.G. Osborne.

The Right Honourable
Anthony Eden M.P., M.C.,
Etc., etc., etc.

5824

29 Septembre 1944

84444

NOTE VERBALE

Il est venu à la connaissance de la Secrétairerie d'Etat de Sa Sainteté que dans l'après-midi du 23 septembre dernier deux envoyés du Commandement Allié se sont présentés au siège de l'Ambassade d'Allemagne près le S. Siège, 23 Via Piave, et ont voulu procéder à une perquisition. L'Ambassade d'Allemagne voit dans ce fait une grave atteinte aux règles diplomatiques et s'en est plainte en termes très vifs.

Etant donné que, nonobstant le transfert au Vatican des diplomates allemands, et l'installation dans l'immeuble de via Piave de bureaux de la Légation Suisse à Rome, cet édifice doit toujours être considéré comme le siège normal de l'Ambassade d'Allemagne, on serait reconnaissant aux Autorités Alliées, au cas où

221
Donner un avis à l'Etat

envoyés du Commandement Allié se sont présentés au siège de l'Ambassade d'Allemagne près le S. Siège, 23 Via Piave, et ont voulu procéder à une perquisition. L'Ambassade d'Allemagne voit dans ce fait une grave atteinte aux règles diplomatiques et s'en est plainte en termes très vifs.

Etant donné que, nonobstant le transfert au Vatican des diplomates allemands, et l'installation dans l'immeuble de via Piave de bureaux de la Légation Suisse à Rome, cet édifice doit toujours être considéré comme le siège normal de l'Ambassade d'Allemagne, on serait reconnaissant aux Autorités Alliées, au cas où elles auraient l'intention de procéder à d'autres perquisitions de ce genre, de vouloir bien en avertir préalablement la Secrétairerie d'Etat.

La Secrétairerie d'Etat saisit l'occasion pour renouveler à la Légation de Grande Bretagne l'assurance de sa très haute considération.

582

Exc. me
LEGATION DE GRANDE BRETAGNE
près le Saint Siège

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
POLITICAL SECTION
APO 394

Ref : 221

8 October 1944

The Honorable Myron C. Taylor
Personal Representative of the President
of the United States of America to His
Holiness The Pope,
2, Via Boncompagni,
Rome

Sir:

Your letter to Lt. Colonel Enoch Brown, Liaison Division, Allied Control Commission dated 5 October 1944 regarding an alleged search carried out on 23 September 1944 at the premises of the former German Embassy, 23 Via Piave, by the Allied Command, was referred to this office for reply.

A visit to these premises actually was made on 23 September and two communications regarding it, namely a memorandum by the Office of the A C of S G-2 Rome Allied Area Command, OMAF dated 23 September and a telegram by the Foreign Interests Section, Swiss Legation of the same date, are enclosed for your information.

It is assumed that a report of this matter has been made to the Department of State by the American Representative to the Advisory Council for Italy.

Sincerely yours,

WILLIAM E. SCHOTT
Vice President, Political Section

2 Encls:

- 1 - Ltr G/FBI/BS dtd 23 Sep 44.
- 2 - Cable fr Swiss Legation dtd 26 Sep 44.

5822

221
Memorandum to Veterans

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Liaison Division
APO 394

Ref: 15A/46/L

5 October 1944

SUBJECT: German Embassy to the Holy See

TO : RAAC
(Attn: Lt Col Davis)

1. Inclosed you will find a letter from The Honorable Myron Taylor, with a verbal note attached pertaining to a complaint to the Secretary of State of His Holiness by the German Embassy to the Holy See.

2. Please let this office know what action is taken so that it may inform Mr Taylor's Office.

EB/ac

Enoch Brown
ENOCH BROWN,
Lt Col

5821

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

2, via Boncompagni, Rome.

Rec'd
4 Oct
2011

October 3, 1944.

Dear Colonel Brown:

I enclose a copy of Note No. 84444 dated September 29, 1944 from the Holy See, relative to an alleged search carried out on September 23 at the premises of the former German Embassy, 23 Via Piave, by the Allied Command.

Your courtesy in taking this matter up with the appropriate authorities and informing this Mission of the present status of the matter would be much appreciated.

Sincerely yours,



Myron C. Taylor

Lt. Col. Enoch Brown,
Liaison Division,
Allied Commission,
Rome.

Enclosure:
Copy of Note.

TRANSLATION

29 September 1944

242B

8/1/44

VERBAL NOTE

It was brought to the knowledge of the Secretariat of State of His Holiness that in the afternoon of September 23rd last, two envoys of the Allied Command came to the seat of the German Embassy to the Holy See, 23 via Piave, and wanted to search the place. The German Embassy considers this to be a great infraction to diplomatic regulations, and complained very much about it.

As, in spite of the transfer of the German diplomatists to the Vatican, and of the installation of the offices of the Swiss Legation in Rome in the building of via Piave, this building must still be considered as the normal seat of the German Embassy, we should be extremely grateful to the Allied Authorities to inform beforehand the Secretariat of State, should they want to proceed to other searches of the same kind.

The Secretariat of State takes this opportunity for assuring the Embassy of the United States of its deep consideration.

TO THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
to the Holy See

29 Septembre 1944

American Mission
to the Holy See
Received

OCT 2 - 1944
Rome

84444

NOTE VERBALE

Il est venu à la connaissance de la Secrétairerie d'Etat de Sa Sainteté que dans l'après-midi du 23 septembre dernier deux envoyés du Commandement Allié se sont présentés au siège de l'Ambassade d'Allemagne près le S. Siège, 23 Via Piave, et ont voulu procéder à une perquisition. L'Ambassade d'Allemagne voit dans ce fait une grave atteinte aux règles diplomatiques et s'en est plainte en termes très vifs.

Etant donné que, nonobstant le transfert au Vatican des diplomates allemands, et l'installation dans l'immeuble de via Piave de bureaux de la Légation Suisse à Rome, cet édifice doit toujours être considéré comme le siège normal de l'Ambassade d'Allemagne, on serait reconnaissant aux Autorités Alliées, au cas où elles auraient l'intention de procéder à d'autres perquisitions de

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Etant donné que, nonobstant le transfert au Vatican des diplomates allemands, et l'installation dans l'immeuble de via Piave de bureaux de la Légation Suisse à Rome, cet édifice doit toujours être considéré comme le siège normal de l'Ambassade d'Allemagne, on serait reconnaissant aux Autorités Alliées, au cas où elles auraient l'intention de procéder à d'autres perquisitions de ce genre, de vouloir bien en avertir préalablement la Secrétairerie d'Etat.

La Secrétairerie d'Etat saisit l'occasion pour renouveler à l'Ambassade des Etats-Unis l'assurance de sa très haute considération.

Exc. me
AMBASSADE DES ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE
près le Saint Siège

TOP SECRET

File

19

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
POLITICAL SECTION
APO 394

26 September 1944

You will remember that after discussion of APOC Memorandum 1-189,701/18/209 of the 16 September about the possible existence of a W-T set in the German Embassy to the Vatican we agreed to the following plan. Mr. Schott and I were to call on the Swiss councillor in charge of foreign interests to tell him that we had good prima facie evidence of the existence of this W-T set and that we wished him to make an immediate investigation. As we presumed that he was not himself a W-T expert we had arranged for such an expert to be available. After speaking with you Mr. Schott and I secured the assent of Captain Stone, Sir Noel Charles and Mr. Alexander Kirk to this proposed plan.

On Saturday September the 23rd at 10:30 A.M. Mr. Schott and I accordingly called on the Swiss councillor, who said that he would be glad to make an immediate investigation. He added that the Swiss authorities had never themselves inspected the Embassy buildings which were in the charge of a German caretaker. He himself saw no objection to being accompanied by an Allied W-T expert in plain clothes on the understanding that this expert behaved discreetly and did not take action himself during the visit but only observed. He said that he would have to obtain the consent of his Swiss minister, M. De Stoute and this was forthcoming immediately.

Dr. Somarruga then agreed to leave for the German Embassy immediately and took with him the two W-T personnel, Sgt. Casey and Sgt. Higgs, who had been detailed by Captain George Young of 301 Unit. At 1:00 P.M. Sgt. Casey and Sgt. Higgs returned to my office to report. They said that certain equipment that they had seen in the Embassy might quickly be turned to use for W-T purposes and suggested the following: (1) that the aerial on the roof should be taken down and removed, (2) that a spare aerial on the landing near the exit to the roof should be removed, (3) that two sets in the storeroom on the first floor should be removed, (4) that all the objects removed should be placed by the Swiss in some room under their regular supervision and sealed, (5) that the room in the attic over the room at present used by the Swiss as offices should be locked and the Yale key kept by the Swiss in their secure possession.

5817

TOP SECRET

- 2 -

I duly asked Mr. Somaruga to act on these suggestions at 4:30 P.M. on Saturday the 23rd September. He telephoned to me yesterday that action was being taken and today he has confirmed that it is completed.

Would you let me have a copy of your eventual report to AFHQ? Meanwhile, I am sending a copy of this letter to Sir Noel Charles, Mr. Alexander Kirk, and Captain George Young.

Copy to Sir Daisy Osborne

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4-1

D. A. B. YOUNG
Lt. Colonel
G-2, HAD

581 6

TOP SECRET

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785014

SUBJECT: Illegal W/T Set in German Embassy

181
SECRET

Office of the AG of S G-2
ROME ALLIED AREA COMMAND
CMF

AG of S, G-2(CI), AFHQ

G/P814/HR

28 Sep 44

Reference your B-389.701/PT/209 dated 16 Sep 44.

1. On 23 Sep 44 at 1030 hrs, Mr. SCHOTT and Mr. CACCIA, ACC Political Representatives called on the Swiss Counsellor and explained the position concerning the possible existence of a W/T set in the German Embassy.
2. The Swiss Counsellor stated that the Swiss had never inspected the Embassy buildings, which were in charge of a German caretaker. He agreed that there was no objection to Allied W/T experts in plain clothes accompanying a Swiss party to investigate this matter.
3. The consent of the Swiss Minister was then obtained and a party left for the German Embassy immediately, together with two British W/T personnel in plain clothes.
4. Certain W/T equipment was found in the Embassy, but was not in a state in which it could be operated instantly.
5. The following suggestions were made to the Swiss authorities:
 - (i) The aerial on the roof of the Embassy should be removed.
 - (ii) The spare aerial on the landing near the exit to the roof should also be removed.
 - (iii) The W/T sets in the store room on the first floor should be removed.
 - (iv) All objects removed should be placed by the Swiss in a room under their regular supervision and should be sealed.
 - (v) That the room in the attic over the room at present used by the Swiss as offices should be locked and the key kept by the Swiss.
6. On 26 Sep 44, the Swiss authorities confirmed that the necessary action on the above suggestions had been completed.

THE CACCIA.
ACC.

Above is copy of report to AFHQ.

28 Sep 44.

5815
D.A.D. YOUNG
Lt. Col.,
G.S.

D.A.D. Young Lt. Col.,
G.S.

7-2
1/5
B9
Substance for
Karlsson from Bern
Lorenz to McClellan
Hoe
29/5

Foreign Interests.

M E M O R A N D U M.

The Swiss Legation, Foreign Interests Section, presents
its compliments to the Political Section of the Allied Control
Commission and would appreciate if the attached telegram could

be transmitted to the Federal Political Department, Bern.

The Swiss Legation takes the opportunity to renew its
thanks for the courtesy.



R o m e, September 28, 1944.

The Swiss Legation, Foreign Interests Section, presents
its compliments to the Political Section of the Allied Control
Commission and would appreciate if the attached telegram could
be transmitted to the Federal Political Department, Bern.

The Swiss Legation takes the opportunity to renew its
thanks for the courtesy.

R o m e, September 28, 1944.



Enclosure:
As stated.

Transmitted to Rome on 581
chever.

29/ix/44

17A

Politique Interets

Berne.

48 stop 23 september Delegates of Political Section of Allied Control Commission requested us to visit accompanied by their radio experts the premises of German Embassy to Holy See at this moment partially occupied by the German Section of the Legation stop After having expressed reserves we went with two civilian experts over the premises with exception our bureau stop three antennas as well as two radio sets suspected of being transmitters were found and Allies requested us to dismantle and place under our surveillance stop The brief visit was effected without military intervention and with the sole purpose of controlling the radio installations stop We have informed the Vatican

Légation Interets

221

German Embassy

221

German Embassy Holy See

5812

Legation stop After having expressed reserves we went with two civilian experts over the premises with exception our bureau stop three antennas as well as two radio sets suspected of being transmitters were found and Allies requested us to dis- mantle and place under our surveillance stop The brief visit was effected without military intervention and with the sole purpose of controlling the radio installations stop We have informed the Vatican

Légation Intérêts

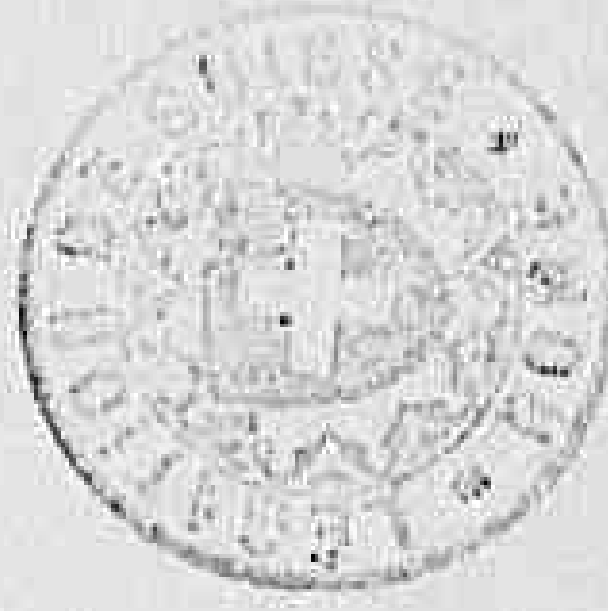
Swiss Legation, Foreign Interests, Rome - September 28, 1944.

Foreign Interests.

M E M O R A N D U M.

The Swiss Legation, Foreign Interests Division, presents
its compliments to the Political Section of the Allied Control
Commission and has the honor to acknowledge receipt of the
memorandum dated June 24, 1944 regarding the properties owned
by the German Government in Rome and to confirm that these
have been returned to the Legation's protection.

R o m e, July 3, 1944.



Andy

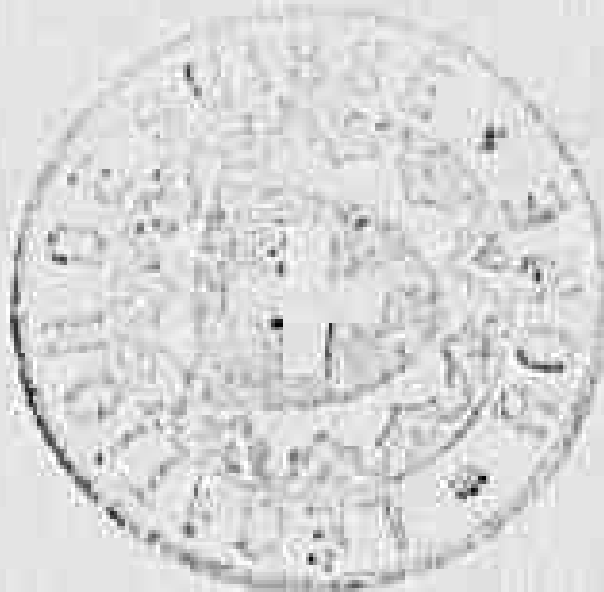
*supplied copy to
Bureau of the
U.S. Rep. to
Congress
in July
1944*

6/11

*Copy sent
7/17*

BB

The Swiss Legation, Foreign Interests Division, presents its compliments to the Political Section of the Allied Control Commission and has the honor to acknowledge receipt of the memorandum dated June 24, 1944 regarding the properties owned by the German Government in Rome and to confirm that these have been returned to the Legation's protection.



Wdy

R o m e, July 3, 1944.

5812

AFHQ FOR G-2 BRITISH RESIDENT MINISTER AND U.S. POLITICAL ADVISOR
REPTD TO A.A.I. FOR B.G.S. OPS, AND
ACC ADV. ACC MAIN

87

6/26/4p.m.

SECRET
PRIORITY
POLITICAL

FINAL REPORT ON DISCOVERY OF EXPLOSIVES IN GERMAN EMBASSY HAS NOW BEEN COMPLETED PD TO AFHQ FOR GEORGE TWO BRITISH RESIDENT MINISTER AND UNCLE SUGAR POLITICAL ADVISOR REPEATED TO ABLE ABLE ITEM FOR BAKER GEORGE SUGAR OBOR PETER SUGAR AND ACC MAIN FROM ACC ADVANCED FROM POLITICAL SECTION SIGNED STONE PAREN AS NEWS OF THIS INCIDENT IS LIKELY TO LEAK OUT SOONER OR LATER WE SUGGEST THAT A STATEMENT SHOULD BE PUBLISHED IN ABOUT A WEEK BY WHICH TIME THE SWISS GOVERNMENT WILL NO DOUBT HAVE HAD OPPORTUNITY OF STUDYING THE REPORT SENT BY THEIR REPRESENTATIVE HERE. PARA TWO IN ANY SUCH STATEMENT ~~SHOULD BE MADE CLEAR~~ FOLLOWING POINTS ^{Should} ~~SHOULD~~ BE MADE CLEAR PARA ABLE ~~THE~~ ENTRY INTO GERMAN EMBASSY WAS MADE ON JUNE EIGHT BY ALLIED AUTHORITIES ON THEIR OWN RESPONSIBILITY ON RECEIPT OF CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE OF EXISTENCE OF EXPLOSIVES WHICH WERE A THREAT TO THE SECURITY OF ALLIED FORCES AND THE NEIGHBORHOOD PD PAREN THE FACT THAT SOME OF THESE EXPLOSIVES LATER WENT OFF SHOWED THAT THIS THREAT WAS REAL PD PAREN PARA BAKER ~~THE~~ ATTITUDE OF THE SWISS REPRESENTATIVE HERE AS PROTECTOR OF GERMAN INTERESTS WAS ONE OF RESERVE AND THAT HIS ROLE WAS SIMPLY THAT OF AN

5811

ACC ADV NO. 87 PAGE TWO

INDEPENDENT WITNESS OF ACTION OF ALLIED AUTHORITIES PARA CHARLIE
~~ONLY~~ ONLY EXPLOSIVES AND SUCH THINGS WHICH HAVE NO RIGHT TO BE IN
ANY DIPLOMATIC MISSION WERE REMOVED AND THAT AN INVENTORY OF ~~THE~~
OBJECTS TAKEN HAS BEEN GIVEN TO THE SWISS REPRESENTATIVE PARA DOG
~~THE~~ AFTER THE SEARCH WAS COMPLETED ON JUNE TWO THREE THE PREMISES
WERE RETURNED TO SWISS PROTECTION PARA THREE IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT
ANY STATEMENT ON THIS SUBJECT SHOULD EMANATE FROM ALLIED FORCE HEAD-
QUARTERS AND THAT THE SWISS REPRESENTATIVE IN ALGIERS SHOULD BE
IN ADVANCE
INFORMED/SO THAT HE CAN WARN HIS GOVERNMENT

Authenticated by:

Originator's Signature

5810

1039

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

Xc

Hx

Advanced Headquarters Allied Control Commission

June 24, 1944.

The Political Section of the Allied Control Commission presents its compliments to the Legation of Switzerland and has the honor to refer to the Legation's Memorandum of June 13, 1944, and recent conversations concerning the investigation of the properties of the German Government in Rome.

~~As previously agreed,~~ The Allied authorities having completed their investigation of these properties, and having removed therefrom explosives, wireless transmitting material and certain documents not of a diplomatic character, return the properties to the protection of the Swiss Legation. Lists of the material removed, together with a copy of the report submitted by the officer in charge of the investigation are attached.

In returning these properties, the Allied authorities in Rome desire to make plain once more that in their opinion the German Embassy, by using its premises as a deposit for dangerous explosives, wireless transmitting sets, etc., forfeited all claim to diplomatic immunity for the properties of the German Embassy in Rome.

The Legation of Switzerland,
Rome.

5809

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

German Embassy

Advanced Headquarters Allied Control Commission

APD 394

13

SECRET

June 24, 1944.

MEMORANDUM TO: Acting Chief Commissioner

Having been informed by the Commanding Officer 8 Force that the investigation of the premises of the German Embassy has been concluded, and in accordance with instructions previously given by the Commanding Officer, Rome Area Command, a list of material removed from the premises of the German Embassy was handed to the Swiss Minister this morning.

The Minister was also informed that the Allied authorities had concluded their investigations and were returning the premises to the protection of the Swiss Legation. Copy of the communication made in this sense to the Swiss Minister is enclosed.

Enclosures

c.c. U. S. Representative, Advisory Council for Italy
British High Commissioner in Italy
Lt. Colonel John W. Fischer, G-2, Rome Area Command

5809

Advanced Headquarters Allied Control Commission

June 24, 1944.

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In returning these properties, the Allied authorities in Rome desire to make plain once more that in their opinion the German Embassy, by using its premises as a deposit for dangerous explosives, wireless transmitting sets., etc., forfeited all claim to diplomatic immunity for the properties of the German Embassy in Rome.

Joint Vice Presidents, Allied
Control Commission
Political Section

The Legation of Switzerland,
Rome.

5807

Official Report.

SECRET.

To: Colonel G.T. Smith.
5th Army.

Sir,

I have the honour to report that in compliance with your orders, I proceeded on the 8th June, 1944. with the detachment under my command to the German Embassy in Rome, to search the buildings and grounds, in the presence of the Protecting Power (the Swiss Legation), for a cache of explosive, which was alleged to be within the Embassy grounds, by an informer, who accompanied the party. The buildings and grounds were also to be searched for material and documents, the use of which could be counted as an abuse of diplomatic privilege.

It had been arranged that Dr. Carlo Sommaruga, Counselor of the Swiss Legation, accompanied by his assistant, Capt. Leonardo Trippi, should be present to witness the search which commenced at 13.00 hrs.

The party ~~went~~ led to a door which obviously gave access to a cellar, built into the old Roman wall, which ran through the grounds. Eventually the door was forced, and Capt. Trippi was the first person to see the contents of the cellar. Capt. Trippi, being satisfied that the information given had been genuine, a detachment under Capt. Shaw proceeded to search the cellar, and carry out the explosives into the grounds for checking. The considerable amount of plastic explosive, (as detailed in the appended list), gave off a heavy odour, and was in a very unstable condition, but luckily it was packed in a very portable manner. Practically all the explosive was packed loosely in containers, similar to Airborne containers, with the exception of the Italian box mines, which were stacked upon each other, and the German stick grenades which were encased; checking was eventually finished, and as it was by then, late in the evening, a guard was set upon the cache for the night.

Next morning the 9th inst. the Plastic explosive, after examination, was found to be extremely unsafe, and if detonated, would cause terrific damage and loss of life in the surrounding district. It was decided therefore to sink the entire cache in a deep part of the river Tiber.

for a cache of explosive, which was alleged to be within the Embassy grounds, by an informer, who accompanied the party. The buildings and grounds were also to be searched for material and documents, the use of which could be counted as an abuse of diplomatic privilege.

It had been arranged that Dr. Carlo Sommaruga, Counselor of the Swiss Legation, accompanied by his assistant, Capt. Leonardo Trippi, should be present to witness the search which commenced at 15.00 hrs.

The party ~~wes~~ led to a door which obviously gave access to a cellar, built into the old Roman wall, which ran through the grounds. Eventually the door was forced, and Capt. Trippi was the first person to see the contents of the cellar. Capt. Trippi, being satisfied that the information given had been genuine, a detachment under Capt. Shaw proceeded to search the cellar, and carry out the explosives into the grounds for checking. The considerable amount of Plastic explosive, (as detailed in the appended list), gave off a heavy odour, and was in a very unstable condition, but luckily it was packed in a very portable manner. Practically all the explosive was packed loosely in containers, similar to Airborne containers, with the exception of the Italian box mines, which were stacked upon each other, and the German stick grenades which were encased; checking was eventually finished, and as it was by then, late in the evening, a guard was set upon the cache for the night.

Next morning the 9th inst. the Plastic explosive, after examination, was found to be extremely unsafe, and if detonated, would cause terrific damage and loss of life in the surrounding district. It was decided therefore to sink the entire cache in a deep part of the river Tiber.

Loading of the explosive into a Detachment Scout Car then commenced, and all went well until only about 100 lbs of Plastic, 10 Italian box mines, a few miscellaneous incendiaries and fuzes, and charges made up into lumps of coal, remained. For no apparent reason, one or two incendiaries started to burn - then detonators started to crack, and in a flash, the undergrowth was a mass of small explosions and fires. Immediately Cpl. Smith leapt into the Scout Car, and drove it 100 yards away. But for this quick action, the entire load of explosive would have been detonated, and the result indescribable. Sgt. Whitby and his men tried to drag the remaining 100 lbs of Plastic from the fires and explosions, which were occurring everywhere, but they quickly realised that it was useless, and ran for cover.

Sheet 2. (continued)

They had barely gone 30 yards when the Plastic exploded, followed a few moments later, by a second detonation caused by the charges made up in lumps of coal. Quite a considerable fire started at the entrance of the cellar, resulting from the explosions, added to which, a small quantity of small arms ammunition which had also been stored, exploded from time to time, and flew in all directions. Gradually the fire was controlled, and hours later, died away. The load of explosives in the Scout car was then driven away and sunk in the river with weights attached.

Before commencing to search the buildings and the remainder of the grounds for any further explosives, the Swiss Legation were informed that all wireless material would be taken, as well as explosives, but documents which were normal diplomatic archives, would not be seized, though they would be thoroughly investigated and if necessary, photographed, and a final inventory taken, with copies to all parties. In this manner the search was carried out.

The actual Embassy buildings was searched and nothing found. The Chancellory was then searched, in process of which, six or seven safes were opened, but revealed nothing of an unusual nature. The remaining buildings in the grounds to be searched, then consisted of:

- a. Porter's Lodge.
- b. Block of Offices.
- c. A small Bungalow.
- d. Three single storey Barrack Blocks.

Buildings a, b, and c, produced nothing unusual, but the barrack blocks were found to contain a certain amount of radio equipment, part of which was in a barrack block labelled FUNKSTELLE, and the remainder, in another block which had the appearance of a store-room. In addition a few documents were found, and some miscellaneous articles, such as bottles containing chemicals, which were taken for analysis.

Passages leading underground, possibly to the catcombs, were searched in turn, with no result, and finally the grounds were thoroughly combed for any further explosives, which resulted in a discovery of a further 10 lbs of Plastic Explosive, 6 stick grenades, and 12 L delay fuzes, which were disposed of.

The search being completed, a final inventory of the material and documents to be taken away, was made, one copy of which was handed to H.Q. A.C.C. for delivery to the Swiss Legation.

The date of the termination of the search, was the 23rd of June, and on that date Detachments under

necessary, photographed, and a final inventory taken, with copies to all parties. In this manner the search was carried out.

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Buildings a, b, and c, produced nothing unusual, but the barrack blocks were found to contain a certain amount of radio equipment, part of which was in a barrack block labelled FUKSTELLE, and the remainder, in another block which had the appearance of a store-room. In addition a few documents were found, and some miscellaneous articles, such as bottles containing chemicals, which were taken for analysis.

Passages leading underground, possibly to the catcombs, were searched in turn, with no result, and finally the grounds were thoroughly combed for any further explosives, which resulted in a discovery of a further 10 lbs of Plastic Explosive, 6 stick grenades, and 12 L' delay fuzes, which were disposed of.

The search being completed, a final inventory of the material and documents to be taken away, was made, one copy of which was handed to H.Q. A.C.C. for delivery to the Swiss Legation.

The date of the termination of the search, was the 23rd of June, and on that date, Detachments under my command withdrew from the Embassy, which was returned to the Swiss Legation.

I have the honour to remain, Sir,

J. E. M. S. M. S.

Major.
Commanding No. 50 Commando.

24/6/44.

P/M

INVENTORY OF DOCUMENTS AND EQUIPMENT TAKEN FROM
THE GERMAN EMBASSY, ROME. PERIOD - 8th - 23rd June.

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

Explosives.

1.	1,400	lbs Plastic Explosive (Nobles).
2.	80	Incendiaries (Various).
3.	2	drums Cordtex.
4.	2	drums Safety Fuse.
5.	40	U.E. Primers.
6.	50	Limpets.
7.	20	Clams.
8.	65	Flower Pots.
9.	3	drums Miscellaneous Explosives.
10.	4	boxes Matches Fusee.
11.	36	'L' Delays.
12.	40	German Stick Grenades.
13.	10	German Egg Grenades.
14.	15	Prepared charges.
15.	25	Italian Wooden box mines.
16.	8	Electrical Detonators.
16A.	4	Plastic charges placed in lumps of coal for sabotage purposes.

Radio Equipment.

17.	1	Transformer 300 Watt.
18.	1	Allochio-Bacchini & 60 Receiver type 0-0-9.
19.	1	Receiver type ARAT SAFAR.
20.	1	Transformer Wedovielli Rousscan 220-1220 Volts.
21.	1	Rotary Converter Ercole Marelli Type RAC C/100/4 500-1600 volts 27-230 volts.
22.	2	Italian Westinghouse 'Raddrizzatore' mains Transformer.
23.	2	German Filter.
24.	2	" Transformer (mains).
25.	1	Transformer Rectifier SAFAR.

3. Incendiaries (Various).
- 2 drums Cordtex.
- 2 drums Safety Fuse.
- 40 U.E. Primers.
- 50 Limpets.
- 20 Clams.
- 65 Flower Pots.
- 3 drums Miscellaneous Explosives.
- 4 boxes Matches Fusee.
- 36 'L' Delays.
- 40 German Stick Grenades.
- 10 German Egg Grenades.
- 15 Prepared charges.
- 25 Italian Wooden box mines.
- 8 Electrical Detonators.
- 4 Plastic charges placed in lumps of coal for sabotage purposes.
- 16A.

Radio Equipment.

17. 1 Transformer 300 Watt.
18. 1 Allocchio-Bacchini & 60 Receiver type 0-0-9.
19. 1 Receiver type ARAT SAFAR.
20. 1 Transformer Wedovielli Rousscan 220-1220 Volts.
21. 1 Rotary Converter Ercole Marelli Type RAC C/100/4
500-1600 volts 27-230 volts.
22. 2 Italian Westinghouse 'Raddrizzatore' mains Transformer.
23. 2 German Filter.
24. 2 " Transformer (mains).
25. 1 Transformer Rectifier SAFAR.
26. 1 Allocchio-Bacchini wavemeter.
27. 1 Italian agents Transmitting & Receiving set.
28. 2 Italian Transmitting & Receiving Sets.
29. 1 Receiver AR 5 (Italian Air).
30. 3 Dual Frequency Transmitter Allocchio-Bacchini.
31. 1 Italian Transmitter Allocchio-Bacchini RA 550.
32. 3 Small Receiver & Transmitter.
33. 1 Receiver Allocchio-Bacchini type O.C. 9.
34. 1 VHF transmitter.
35. 1 " receiver.

5805

Sheet 2. (continued).

Documents.

36.	8	Handbooks on Italian R.T. Transmitter RA 320/TER Ar 18. SAR Model 536.
37.	4	Sets Gramophone Records (for investigation and return).
38.	4	Card Indexes Italian and German addresses.
39.	1	C.P. cylinders from Wireless Room. (Seven)
40.	5	Reels of Film.
41.	1	Miscellaneous collection of Chemicals.
42.	1	Italian Parachute Harness.
43.	1	Engraving process documents.
44.	1	Micro photography documents.
45.	1	Dokumente über die Alleinschuld Englands am Bombenkrieg gegen die Zivilbevölkerung.

Edward Major RA.
Officer Commanding.
No. 50 Commando.

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

44. 1 Micro photography of
45. 1 Dokumente über die Alleinschuld Englands am
Bombenkrieg gegen die Zivilbevölkerung.

Edward Taylor Es.
Officer Commanding.
No. 30 Commando.

5809

SECRET *Copy Emb For Sec 542*
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

INCOMING MESSAGE 2085

10-12

TO: FREEDOM FOR G2 INFO AAI FOR GSI FOR SMITH ACC FOR CACCIA
FROM: G2(ADV INT) AFHQ
REFERENCE No: 368
DATE AND TIME OF ORIGIN: JUN221650
SIGNAL MESSAGE CENTER No: N54/23
CLASSIFICATION: SECRET
PRECEDENCE: ROUTINE
OFFICE OF ORIGIN: CITE/1138

WORK OF CLASSIFICATION EXPECTED COMPLETE 23 JUNE. REFERENCE YOUR F59843
REQUESTING PARTICULARS VALUABLE DOCUMENTS FOUND IN GERMAN EMBASSY.
RESULTS OF CLASSIFICATION AND CLEARANCE OF WHOLE TASK BEING HANDLED BY
AAI NOT THIS UNIT.

HEADQUARTERS
23 JUN 1944
A. C. C.

ACC DIST
INFO/ POL SEC 2
DCC
FILE
FLOAT

WORK OF CLASSIFICATION EXPECTED COMPLETE 23 JUNE. REFERENCE YOUR F59843
REQUESTING PARTICULARS VALUABLE DOCUMENTS FOUND IN GERMAN EMBASSY.
RESULTS OF CLASSIFICATION AND CLEARANCE OF WHOLE TASK BEING HANDLED BY
AAI NOT THIS UNIT.



ACC DIST
INFO/ POL SEC 2
DCC
FILE
FLOAT

5802

JUN230915

DATE and Time of RECEIPT

Distribution:

SECRET

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

SECRET

2085

49

FREEDOM FOR G2 INFO AAI FOR GSI FOR SMITH ACC FOR CACCIA

M54/23

G2(ADV INT) AFHQ

SECRET

368

ROUTINE

JUN221650

CITE/1138

WORK OF CLASSIFICATION EXPECTED COMPLETE 23 JUNE. REFERENCE YOUR F59843
REQUESTING PARTICULARS VALUABLE DOCUMENTS FOUND IN GERMAN EMBASSY.
RESULTS OF CLASSIFICATION AND CLEARANCE OF WHOLE TASK BEING HANDLED BY
AAI NOT THIS UNIT.



ACC DIST

INFO/ POL SEC 2

DOC

FILE

FLOAT

5801

SECRET

JUN230915

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

TOP SECRET *Germany Emb.*
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
INCOMING MESSAGE

NAIC
1324
Pol Sec

TO: AFHQ FOR G2 US POLITICAL ADVISOR BRITISH RESIDENT MINISTER IN NAPLES
AAI / ACC MAIN (~~ACC PLEASE PASS~~) SIGNAL MESSAGE CENTER No: N67/11
FROM: S FORCE FOR SMITH CLASSIFICATION: TOP SECRET
REFERENCE No: 1022 PRECEDENCE: PRIORITY
DATE AND TIME OF ORIGIN: JUN111530 OFFICE OF ORIGIN: CITE/NONE

INVESTIGATION OF PREMISES OF GERMAN EMBASSY CONTINUES AND FULL REPORT
WILL BE SUBMITTED IN A FEW DAYS WHEN IT HAS BEEN COMPLETED. UNDERSTAND
MEANTIME SEARCH HAS BROUGHT TO LIGHT DOCUMENTS CONFIRMING USE OF
EMBASSY AS CENTRE FOR SUBVERSIVE AND SABOTAGE ACTIVITIES. SWISS
AUTHORITIES ARE BEING GIVEN EVERY FACILITY TO OBSERVE. SWISS
REPRESENTATIVE HAS BEEN ANXIOUS TO ESTABLISH THAT ENTIRE RESPONSIBILITY
RESTS WITH THE ALLIES. WE HAVE ACCEPTED THIS BUT HAVE MADE IT CLEAR
THAT IF ANY PROTEST IS TO BE MADE BY PROTECTIVE POWER IT SHOULD BE
MADE TO THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT FOR PLACING SWISS IN POSITION OF
ASSUMING PROTECTION OF AN ARSENAL.

221
German

ACC DIST



Action - Pol Sec
Info - Sec Gen

10cc
CA Br
Sec Br
File

Float 5800

DATE and Time of RECEIPT JUN 12

Distribution:

ACTION COPY
TOP SECRET

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

German Embassy - Rome
TOP SECRET

76

ACC ROME

ACC MAIN
#252

14 JUN 44

TOP SECRET
PRIORITY

GEN MACFARLANE C CODE

SO THAT CONFLICTING REPORTS MAY BE CLARIFIED PLEASE REPORT EARLIEST STATUS GERMAN
EMBASSY INDICATING PARTICULARLY WHETHER SUBMISSION TO SWISS REPRESENTATIVE THAT HE
PROTEST TO GERMAN GOVERNMENT PAREN RAYEN ONE ZERO TWO TWO OF ELEVEN JUNE FROM SWISS
FORCE FROM SWISS PAREN HAS BEEN CARRIED OUT BY HIM TO PAREN TO ACC ROME PERSONAL
FOR ROME AND CALCLA FROM ACC MAIN SIGNED MACFARLANE PAREN ALSO INDICATE WHAT STEPS
SWISS HAVE TAKEN WITH ALLIES

221

NOEL MASON MACFARLANE
Lieutenant-General
Chief Commissioner

79

TOP SECRET

*/bl

Politico Interessi

Berna

27 Allemands Vendredi 8 juin deux officiers service politique du Rome Area Command (R.A.C.) sont venus faire Légation communication suivante stop Il venait d'être révélé au R.A.C. existence important dépôt explosifs dissimulé dans jardin Ambassade Allemagne constituant grave danger pour quartier environnant stop R.A.C. avait aussitôt décidé descente sur terrain Ambassade pour faire procéder par équipe spécialisée à élimination immédiate danger public menaçant aussi forces alliées stop Dispositions préparatoires cette opération étaient déjà prises stop R.A.C. était pleinement conscient qu'il était ainsi porté atteinte à immeuble diplomatique confié protection suisse mais considérait que usage auquel Allemands avaient fait servir inviolabilité faisait tomber ce privilège diplomatique et ouvrait la porte à mesure sécurité décidée stop R.A.C. ne venait donc pas requérir de Légation suisse autorisation que savait ne pouvoir être donnée par elle mais l'inviter à envoyer représentant pour être témoin opération entreprise sous seule et entière responsabilité du R.A.C. et

221
German

descente sur terrain Ambassade pour faire procéder par
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à envoyer représentant pour être témoin opération entre-
prise sous seule et entière responsabilité du R.A.C. et
constater limites qui seraient mises à atteinte portée à
immunité qui serait restaurée dans sa plénitude sitôt 5798
atteint le but sécurité poursuivi alinéa Ayant pris acte
cette communication sous toutes réserves que nous obligeait
à faire décision déclarée irrévocable de passer outre à
inviolabilité immeuble diplomatique confié notre protection
avons chargé Sommaruga accompagner sur les lieux agents
forces alliées afin constater présence dépôt explosifs

221
Garanan

(LAVIN 101-7230)
13/12/1948

dénoncé et s'assurer que ne serait pas dépassé dans perquisition but sécurité allégué étant entendu que présence représentant Légation comme simple témoin n'impliquait aucun concours ni assentiment de celle-ci alinéa En présence Sommaruga fut ouverte porte de fer d'un réduit situé dans jardin où fut trouvée grosse quantité munitions et explosifs des plus dangereux dont nous fut promise nomenclature détaillée stop Représentant forces alliées déclara à Sommaruga que gravité constatations faites rendait nécessaire étendre perquisition à tous locaux immeuble pour s'assurer que ne renfermaient pas autres menaces sécurité publique et des forces alliées stop Sommaruga répéta réserves déjà faites stop Ai fixé notre attitude dans memorandum remis à R.A.C. stop Rapport détaillé en route via Alger alinéa Déplore avoir dû céder force majeure mais estime notre bonne foi fut gravement surprise en confiant à notre garde Ambassade contenant dangereux dépôt explosifs

Legazione interessi

nous fut promise nomenclature détaillée stop Représen-
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contenant dangereux dépôt explosifs

Legazione interessi



Mittente:

Legazione di Svizzera,
Sezione Interessi Stranieri,
Via V. Veneto 121,
Roma.

18 giugno 1944.

TOP SECRET

June 15, 1944.

MEMORANDUM TO: The Chief Commissioner, Allied Control Commission

In paragraph 6 of our Memorandum of today we said that the Swiss Minister was forwarding through Allied military channels reports to his Government about the search for and discovery of armaments and explosives in the German Embassy. A copy of the first of these reports is enclosed.

2. We should make two comments. First, it will be seen that the Swiss Minister states that the representative of Rome area Command on several occasions asked the representative of the Swiss Legation whether he had any objection to his taking certain action. This was done purely as a courtesy and the question was rhetorical for the Swiss authorities had been repeatedly told that the Allied authorities assumed full responsibility for all that was done. In fact the Swiss officials were there simply as observers.

3. Second, when we inquired whether the Minister intended to take any steps to see that a protest was made to the German Government for asking the Swiss to assume protection of a magazine of explosives, His Excellency said that this must be a matter for his Government. It would, however, be noted that he had reported at the end of his despatch that, to say the least, the good faith of the Swiss had been seriously abused. In his own opinion the action of the German authorities could be summed up in a single German word: it was a "gemeinheit". Swiss officials might have suffered in any explosion.

4. In addition, a copy is enclosed of a further report from the Swiss Minister explaining the circumstances in which the Swiss assumed protection of German interests in Rome. It is clear from this as from much other evidence that the Germans did not have time when they departed to stand upon the order of their going.

Joint Vice Presidents, Political Section
Allied Control Commission
Attached to "S" Force

c.c.
British High Commissioner
in Italy
U. S. Representative on the Advisory Council

COPY

LEGAZIONE DI SVIZZERA
IN ITALIA

ROMA, le 15 juin 1944

Sezione Interessi Stranieri

Rif: No. D.M*/jmc

Monsieur le Ministre,

La remise des interets allemands a la Legation de Suisse a eu lieu de la facon la plus singuliere. Ainsi que vous en avez deja ete avise telegraphiquement, ce qui restait a Rome de l'Ambassade d'Allemagne, sous le nom de "Dienststelle", dirigee par le Secre-taire d'Ambassade Dr. Sachs, a quitte Rome precipitement dans la nuit du 3 au 4 juin, sans avoir pris aucun contact avec nous pour la remise des immeubles et des archives. Le gros du personnel est parti le 3 a 22 heures 1/2. En partant a son tour le 4 a 4 heures, le Dr. Sachs a passe a l'Ambassade d'Allemagne pres le Saint-Siege, ou il a remis, a notre intention, a M. de Weizsacker une liste de 12 immeubles allemands a sauvegarder et une liste d'environ 200 nationaux a proteger, sans ajouter aucune explica-tion. Il n'a donc pas pu etre dresse ni signe de proces-verbal de remise.

Dans la journee du 4, nous avons pris possession des divers immeubles; au sujet de certains d'entre eux des complications on surgi qui sont en voie de reglement avec les Autorites allies et qui feront l'objet d'un rapport ulterieur.

L'Hotel de l'Ambassade etant situe dans un quartier par trop excentrique, nous avons etabli notre Section Allemande a l'Ins-titut Archeologique Allemand, Via Sardegna, proche des autres sieges de la Legation.

Nous manquons de toute espee d'instructions et il serait par-ticulierement urgent d'en recevoir, notamment en ce qui concerne les passeports et les questions de nationalite.

Veuillez agreer, Monsieur le Ministre, les assurances de ma haute consideration.

Le Ministre Plenipotentiaire
Charge des Interets Etrangers

COPY

LEGAZIONE DI SVIZZERA
IN ITALIA

Roma, le 14 juin 1944

Sezione Interessi Stranieri

Rif: No. D.M.*/jmc

Monsieur le Ministre,

Une possibilite nous etant offerte de vous faire parvenir des communications ouvertes (la restitution du secret des correspondances diplomatiques n'aura lieu que lorsque Rome aura cesse d'etre comprise dans la zone des operations militaires), je ne veux pas manquer de saisir cette occasion de vous mettre sans plus tarder au courant d'une grave affaire qui a marque assez facheusement le debut de la representation par nous ici des interets allemands.

Vendredi le 8 juin, soit 4 jours apres l'arrivee des Forces Alliees, il m'etait demande de la part de 2 officiers (MM. Reber et Caccia) de la Section Politique du "Rome Area Command" (R.A.C.) une entrevue pour une communication urgente qu'ils etaient charges de me faire. Pour l'eventualite qu'il s'agit d'une communication interessant les 2 sieges de la Legation, je previns M. de Salis qui se joignit a moi pour recevoir ces messieurs; le Dr. Sommaruga fut egalement present a l'entrevue.

MM. Reber et Caccia venaient, au nom du R.A.C., faire la communication suivante:

Il venait d'etre revele au R.A.C. l'existence d'un important depot d'explosifs dissimule dans le jardin de l'Ambassade d'Allemagne et qui constituait un grave danger pour le quartier urbain circonvoisin. Le R.A.C. avait aussitot decide une descente sur le terrain de l'Ambassade pour faire proceder, par une equipe specialisee, a l'elimination immediate de ce danger public, qui menacait aussi des vies appartenant aux Forces Alliees. Les dispositions preparatoires de cette operation etaient deja prises. Le R.A.C. ne se dissimulait pas qu'il etait ainsi prote atteinte a l'inviolabilite d'un immeuble diplomatique place sous la sauvegarde de la Legation de Suisse, mais, vu l'usage auquel les Allemands avaient fait servir ce privilege diplomatique, il considerait que ce privilege ne subsistait plus intact et ne pouvait le retenir de prendre la mesure de securite decidee. Ces messieurs ne venaient donc pas requerir de la Legation de Suisse un consentement qu'ils savaient qu'il n'etait pas en son pouvoir de donner; ils venaient pa prier d'etre temoin de l'operation entreprise sous la seule et entiere responsabilite du R.A.C. et de constater les limites qui seraient mises a cette atteinte portee a l'inviolabilite

-2-

de l'immeuble, inviolabilite qui serait restituee dans sa plenitude sitot atteint le but de securite qu'on se proposait.

Nous nous trouvions donc en presence d'une decision irrevocable dont l'execution avait peut-etre deja commence et ne pourrait en tout cas pas etre empechee; tout au plus pouvait-on esperer, en assistant a l'operation, parvenir a faire circonscrire l'etendue de la perquisition. Ayant donc pris acte de cette communication, sous toutes les reserves que nous obligeait a faire la decision annoncee de passer outre a l'inviolabilite d'un immeuble diplomatique confie a notre protection, nous avons charge le Dr. Sommaruga d'accompagner sur les lieux les agents des Forces Alliees afin d'y constater la presence du depot d'explosifs denonce et de s'assurer que ne serait pas depasse dans les perquisitions le but de securite poursuivi, etant bien entendu que la presence d'un representant de la Legation, comme simple temoin, n'impliquait aucun concours ni assentiment de celle-ci.

(L'allegation de l'existence dans le jardin de l'Ambassade d'un depot d'explosifs pouvait nous paraître d'autant plus plausible que, a l'occasion de la premiere visite que nous fimes a l'immeuble de l'Ambassade le dimanche 4 juin, aussitot apres le depart du personnel allemand, le jardinier de l'Ambassade, soucieux sans doute de sa propre securite, nous avait designe dans le jardin une porte de fer derriere laquelle il craignait que ne fussent entassees des explosifs; il n'etait pas tres affirmatif; nous n'en primes pas moins note de ce point important a eclaircir).

Lorsque M. Sommaruga parvint sur les lieux, l'equipe commandee par le R.A.C. etait pres de penetrer dans l'enceinte de l'Ambassade. Il fut procede a l'ouverture de la porte de fer qui ouvrait sur un reduit ou etait entassee une grosse quantite de munitions et explosifs des plus dangereux (environ 2 tonnes) dont il fut promis a M. Sommaruga de lui faire tenir une nomenclature detaillee; aux dires d'experts, il y avait la de quoi causer une veritable catastrophe.

La-dessus, il fut declare a M. Sommaruga que la gravite des constatations faites rendait necessaire d'etendre la perquisition a tous les locaux de l'immeuble pour s'assurer qu'ils ne renfermaient pas d'autres menaces pour la securite du public et des Forces Alliees. M. Sommaruga ne put que repeter les reserves deja faites qui laissaient aux Forces Alliees l'entiere responsabilite des operations entreprises et poursuivies sans notre consentement.

La perquisition qui s'est poursuivie dans les locaux de l'ambassade, constamment en presence d'un representant de la Legation, a amene la decouverte d'autres munitions, soit des grenades 57gins

-3-

qui ont été emportées par les perquisiteurs; tous les coffres-forts ont été ouverts et il a été annoncé l'intention de prendre des photographies de certains documents, dont la liste nous sera communiquée. Chaque fois qu'il s'agissait de faire franchir à la perquisition une nouvelle étape, le représentant du R.A.C. demandait fort courtoisement au représentant de la Légation s'il n'avait pas d'objection; chaque fois, la réponse a consisté à rappeler au représentant des Forces Alliées que celles-ci agissaient de leur propre et seule autorité, sans le concours de la Légation qui devait au contraire continuer à faire toutes réserves à propos de tout ce qui se passait sous ses yeux.

J'ai fixé notre attitude dans le Memorandum dont ci-joint copie, qui fut remis aujourd'hui à MM. Reber et Caccia, lesquels n'ont pas fait à son contenu d'autres objections que celles-ci: (1) aux yeux des Forces Alliées, il n'y a pas eu de leur part violation de l'immunité diplomatique; l'usage qui en a été fait par les Allemands avait déjà fait tomber ce privilège; il n'est en effet guère usuel et admissible qu'une Ambassade soit, au moment d'être confiée à la garde de la Puissance Protectrice, transformée en réservoir d'explosifs; (2) les autorités alliées ont emporté du matériel et certain documents; il nous sera remis, du tout, une liste complète. Tous documents qui pourraient avoir été photographiés seront laissés à l'Ambassade et ne seront pas inventoriés.

Nous n'avons donc pu, à notre vif regret, empêcher un accroissement des plus étendus à l'intégrité de biens de l'Etat allemand confiés à notre garde; il y a eu, à cela, empêchement de force majeure et, le moins qu'on puisse dire, c'est que notre bonne foi a été gravement surprise lorsqu'a été confiée à notre garde une Ambassade sans nous prévenir aucunement qu'il y avait été emmagasiné des explosifs. Je me réfère, à ce propos, à mon rapport de ce même jour, où je relate la façon pour le moins insolite dont a été effectuée la remise à la Légation de Suisse des Interets allemands.

Veuillez agréer, Monsieur le Ministre, les assurances de ma haute considération.

Le Ministre Plenipotentiaire
Charge des Interets Etrangers:

Annexe: 1 copie de
memorandum

TOP SECRET

June 15, 1944

MEMORANDUM TO: Commanding Officer, "S" Force

On June 7, two days after the arrival of Allied troops in Rome, an Italian agent of the Sickerheitsdienst, Armando Perone, stated to Major D. A. D. Young, G.S.I.(B), A.A.I. of the Special Intelligence Unit known as "S" Force that he had drawn explosives for sabotage from dumps on Monte Pincio and that these dumps had been supplied from a central store in the German Embassy which he could locate. In order to test the agent and to have documentary evidence to show the authorities of the Protecting Power (Switzerland) in case of need, a signed affidavit was obtained from Perone before action was taken.

2. On the morning of June 8, a detachment of Thirty Commandos under the command of Major J. A. Ward was collected, and while they were on their way to their rendez-vous at the German Embassy, Mr. Samuel Reber and Mr. Harold Caccia, of the State Department and Foreign Office, who had been attached to "S" Force, called by appointment at the Swiss Legation to see the Swiss Minister in charge of German interests, Mr. De Stoutz, and his Counselor, Dr. Carlo Commaruga. The Minister was told on behalf of the Rome Area Commander of the evidence that had come into the possession of the Allied authorities and of their intention to investigate it. He was asked to appoint a representative to witness what was done so that he might have every facility to report fully and accurately. The Minister observed that this was no surprise to him as a member of his staff had already heard from one of the Italian employees on the premises of the German Embassy that explosives had been left behind. His Excellency said that he would send his Counselor to accompany the Allied search party, but he made it clear that this did not mean concurrence in Allied action. The Swiss must reserve their attitude. This was accepted and it was explained that the Rome Area Commander was not asking for any concurrence: he was on his own authority taking precautions which were vitally necessary for the safety of Allied forces in the area.

3. As soon as the Swiss Counselor arrived at the German Embassy, the investigation began and the agent immediately led Major Ward to the main dump which had been placed in the garden of the Embassy. A full report of what material was found here and elsewhere is being prepared and it will be enough to say that it included 1,300 pounds of explosives and sufficient radio material for five wireless transmitters. While the Swiss Counselor made no difficulty about our

-2-

intention to remove armaments and explosives, he requested that wireless materials and documents should not be taken away until he had had an opportunity of speaking again with his Minister. This was granted and an arrangement was made for a further meeting with Mr. Reber and Mr. Caccia in the afternoon.

4. At that meeting it was again explained that the full responsibility for what was done was accepted without question by the Allied authorities and that they neither asked for approval or disapproval. It was, however, to be presumed that if any protests were made by the Swiss, it would be to the German Government for asking the Swiss to assume protection of an arsenal. In the meanwhile our intention was to remove such objects as had no right to be in the German Embassy which had forfeited all claim to any diplomatic immunity. All wireless material would be taken as well as armaments and explosives, but documents which were normal diplomatic archives would not be seized though they would be thoroughly investigated and if necessary photographed. In the face of this statement of intention the Swiss Minister made only two requests: that a full inventory of everything which was removed should be given the Protecting Power and that after the investigation was complete all the premises which the German Embassy had handed over to the Swiss Legation for protection should again be placed in the sole charge of the Protecting Power. These conditions were accepted and the Swiss Minister stated that Swiss officials would avail themselves of the opportunity that would be given to witness all action taken.

5. On June 9 about 80 pounds of explosive went off. From the evidence it is virtually certain that this was an accident caused in handling this material which had become unstable owing to heat and moving. This incident as well as other considerations led to arrangements being made with the Swiss to interrogate the Italian employees of the German Embassy in the Embassy premises in front of a Swiss observer. In addition, as a very large card index of Italians used by the Germans had been found, the Swiss were informed that it would be removed with any other such documents which might be discovered and that a list of the documents taken would be included in the inventory.

6. It is expected that the investigation will be concluded on June 17 by which time all buildings placed by the Germans under Swiss protection will have been thoroughly investigated. The list of these buildings, other than the German Embassy to the Holy See, is included. Meanwhile, in anticipation of the conclusion of this incident, the Swiss Minister today communicated the enclosed Memorandum setting forth his understanding of the position taken by the Allied authorities. He was also forwarding through the Allied military authorities reports to his Government on the incident.

7. We should not terminate this report without mentioning 5789

-3-

once the Allied position was fully understood, the Swiss Minister and his staff placed no obstacle in front of the Allied authorities in carrying out their intentions.

HAROLD CACCIA

SAMUEL REBER

Joint Vice Presidents, Political Section,
Allied Control Commission
Attached to "G" Force

c.c. Chief Commissioner, Allied Control Commission
British High Commissioner in Italy
United States Representative on Advisory Council for Italy
Major D. A. D. Young, G.S.I. (B) A.A.I.
Major R.C. Cave, Advanced G-2, Allied Force Headquarters

5787

TOP SECRET

LIST OF GERMAN-OWNED PROPERTY
IN ROME

1. DEUTSCHE BOTSCHAFT (Quirinal) - - - - - Via Conte Rosso 25
2. EHEMALIGE ORSTERREICHISCHE
GESANDTSCHAFT - - - - - Via Pergolesi 5
3. EHEMALIGE TSCHSLOWAKISCHE
GESANDTSCHAFT - - - - - Via Maria Luisa di Savoia
4. VILLA MASSIMO (ARHOLDSCHES STIFTUNG) - - - - - Via Nomentana
5. VILLA MASSIMO - - - - - Via Boiardo
6. ARCHAEOLOGISCHES INSTITUT - - - - - Via Sardegna 79
7. HISTORISCHES INSTITUT - - - - - Viale Martiri Fascisti
8. KUNSTWISSENSCHAFTLICHES INSTITUT - - - - - Palazzo Zucchari
9. DEUTSCHE SCHULE - - - - - Via Savoia
10. VILLA AMELUNG - - - - - Via di Villa Patrizi
11. DEUTSCHES EVANGELISCHES
DIAKONISSENHEIM - - - - - Via Alessandro Farnese 18

1020.

INCOMING MESSAGE

FROM: ACC MAIN SIGNED MACFARLANE REF NO. M.252.
CLASSIFICATION: TOP SECRET. DATE TIME GRP. 14TH JUNE NIL.
PRECEDENCE: PRIORITY DATE TIME REC. 141400B

TO:

ACC ROME PERSONAL FOR REBER AND CACCIA.

[To be returned to them
per]

SO THAT CONFLICTING REPORTS MAY BE CLARIFIED PLEASE REPORT
ON STATUS GERMAN EMBASSY INDICATING CLEARLY WHETHER SUGGESTION
TO SWISS REPRESENTATIVE THAT HE PROTESTS TO GERMAN GOVERNMENT
(REFER 1022 OF 11TH JUNE FROM S FORCE FROM SMITH) HAS BEEN
CARRIED OUT BY HIM. ALSO INDICATE WHAT STEPS SWISS HAVE
TAKEN WITH ALLIES.

Macfarlane Personal for Reber & Caccia. Reply Top Secret Urgent

Only official reports on action taken over German Embassy
are telegrams from Smith from S Force numbers 1039 and
and 1022 of June 11th 1944. Search of Embassy and
connected premises will be completed in two days when
detailed report on results will be sent. Meanwhile written
report on relations with Swiss leaves by courier tomorrow.

Paraphrase Swiss representative here cannot
course himself protest to any German authority, but he
anticipates that they Swiss Government will receive his report
which is being forwarded by Allied means, his attitude towards
Allies has been to reserve position of his Government as protecting
Power, but to place no obstacle in the way of Allied authorities in
carrying out their intentions.

5785

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

OUTGOING MESSAGE

REF. NO: 1022 CLASSIFICATION: TOP SECRET DATE: 11 JUNE 44
TIME DATE: 111630 PRECEDENCE: priority
ORIGINATING SECTION: "S" FOROS APPROVED: R. K. Smith
TO: AFHQ FOR G-2
US POLITICAL ADVISOR
BRITISH RESIDENT MINISTER
REPEATED AAI ACC MAIN

INVESTIGATION OF PREMISES OF GERMAN EMBASSY CONTINUING AND FULL REPORT
WILL BE SUBMITTED IN A FEW DAYS WHEN IT HAS BEEN COMPLETED. MEANWHILE SEARCH
HAS BROUGHT TO LIGHT DOCUMENTS CONFIRMING USE OF EMBASSY AS CENTRE FOR SUB-
VERSIVE AND SABOTAGE ACTIVITIES.

SWISS AUTHORITIES ARE BEING GIVEN EVERY FACILITY TO OBSERVE. SWISS
REPRESENTATIVE HAS BEEN ANXIOUS TO ESTABLISH THAT ENTIRE RESPONSIBILITY RESTS
WITH THE ALLIES. WE HAVE ACCEPTED THIS BUT HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT IF ANY
PROTEST IS TO BE MADE BY PROTECTIVE POWER IT SHOULD BE MADE TO THE GERMAN
GOVERNMENT FOR PLACING SWISS IN POSITION OF ASSUMING PROTECTION OF AN ARSENAL.

SMITH

578'

1070