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

79/136 723.1 – Italian Government Communication to Mission Abroad (5869, 5883)
Feb. – May 1945

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

12

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
Communications Sub-Commission JIC/epv

IT.2M2.15.03 17th May, 1945

SUBJECT: Italian Government Communications

TO: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Italian Government.

1. The military security control exercised through this Commission over ciphers used by the Italian Government for communications with its Embassies abroad is withdrawn.

2. Messages should be filed direct with Italcable or at any State Telegraph Office and arrangements made for direct delivery instead of through this Commission.

J.L.HENDERSON
Colonel,
Director.

Copy to: Italcable
Cipher Security Mission

588

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

11

Major Arnold,
Liaison Division.

With reference to your memorandum of the 1st May on the subject of Italian communications, received on my return from Milan, I am of the opinion that we should certainly re-open the question of the granting to the Italian Government of undeposited cypher facilities. This proposal was originally agreed to by the Combined Chiefs of Staff and it was only turned down by the military security authorities of Allied Force Headquarters. These considerations no longer apply as far as the European Theatre is concerned. I cannot believe that the risk of the Italian Embassy's in London divulging any information calculated to effect the war in the Far East is sufficient to justify our insistence on the continuation of a procedure as this further letter from Signor de Gasperi to Admiral Stone shows is most irksome in practice and damaging to the Italian Government's prestige.

H. Hopkinson

9.v.45

Political ~~Adviser~~ (BR)

For Information to American Pol Ad (1)

I concur

588

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

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
Office of the Executive Commissioner
LIAISON DIVISION
A P O 394

ABA/sem

10

Ref: 723.1/EC(L) 1 May 1945

SUBJECT: Sealed Diplomatic Bags Carried by Officials of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

TO : Mr. Halford
British Political Adviser on A.C.

1. Enclosed is a file with reference to sealed diplomatic bags carried by officials of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and I would particularly draw your attention to the Ministry's letter of April 24, 1945.

2. It would be appreciated if you would inform me, upon reviewing this matter, whether anything has recently transpired to change your views in regard to the granting of undeposited cipher facilities to the Italian Government.

3. It would also be appreciated if you could draft a reply to the Ministry's letter of April 24.

A. B. Kuvedy
Officer-in-Charge
Liaison Division

Encl: Dossier on above subject.

588

723

LIAISON DIV

Il Ministro degli Affari Esteri

66/1

Rome, April 24th 1945

My dear Admiral

I thank you for your letter nº 723/1/EC of March 30th concerning the use of Italian Diplomatic couriers and of code communications on the part of the Italian Government.

On the question of diplomatic couriers, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs have answered with a memorandum addressed to the competent office of the Allied Commission.

As regards the use of undeposited cypher facilities, I cannot conceal the deep disappointment of the Italian Government for the attitude adopted in the matter by the Allied Military Authorities. As such a decision is based, as you pointed out in your letter, exclusively on grounds of military security, I again wish to state that the new codes which would be employed, should undeposited cypher facilities be granted us, offer, according to our experts, sufficient security guarantees not to warrant any apprehension on the part of the aforesaid Authorities.

583

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On the question of diplomatic [illegible]
of Foreign Affairs have answered with a memorandum addressed to the competent office of the Allied Commission.

As regards the use of undeposited cypher facilities, I cannot conceal the deep disappointment of the Italian Govern= ment for the attitude adopted in the matter by the Allied Mili= tary Authorities. As such a decision is based, as you pointed out in your letter, exclusively on grounds of military security, I again wish to state that the new codes which would be em= ployed, should undeposited cypher facilities be granted us, of= fer, according to our experts, sufficient security guarantees not to warrant any apprehension on the part of the aforesaid Authorities.

580

It is therefore to be hoped that , for the reasons which have been many times expounded, the competent Allied Authorities will reconsider their decision and to this end I resort again to your good offices.

I take notice however of your statement according to which deposited cypher communications will continue to be necessary only so long as military operations are being con= ducted in the Italian theatre.

27 April 28

Believe me, dear Admiral,

Sincerely yours

Admiral Ellery W.STONE
Chief Commissioner
Allied Commission
R O M E

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785044

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

Ministero degli Affari Esteri

6/1070/H88

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ALLIED COMMISSION

Subject: Sealed diplomatic bags carried by officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

1. Reference is made to the letter N.723.1/EC(L) of March 30th.,1945 addressed by Admiral Stone to Minister De Gasperi.

2. Please find herewith enclosed N.10 specimens of the document with which the Officials of this Ministry will be furnished carrying sealed diplomatic bags in their journeys abroad.

3. The Ministry for Foreign Affairs will be grateful if the Allied Commission will kindly forward the specimens to the Allied Military Authorities concerned.

encl.

Rome, 18th. April 1945

5879

20 April
20

N. _____ Specimen 88

MINISTERO DEGLI AFFARI ESTERI

Il Ministero degli Affari Esteri del Regno d'Italia dichiara che il Sig. _____ viaggia in qualità di corriere diplomatico ed è incaricato di consegnare a

N. _____ plichi

N. _____ valigie

N. _____ colli spediti come bagaglio,

contenenti corrispondenza ufficiale del Governo italiano.

Il Ministero degli Affari Esteri prega le Autorità civili e militari del Regno e delle Potenze amiche e alleate di lasciar liberamente passare il Signor _____

Roma, lì _____

5878

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 788014

d'Italia dichiara che il Sig.

_____ viaggia in qualità di corriere diplomatico ed è incaricato di consegnare a

_____

N. _____ plichi

N. _____ valigie

N. _____ colli spediti come bagaglio,

contenenti corrispondenza ufficiale del Governo italiano.

Il Ministero degli Affari Esteri prega le Autorità civili e militari del Regno e delle Potenze amiche e alleate di lasciar liberamente passare il Signor _____

Roma, lì _____

5872

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785044

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

T 7

Ref: 723.1/30(L) 30 March 1945

Dear Minister de Gasperi:

Further to my letter No. P/723.1 of the 14th March, I have pleasure in informing you that no objection is seen by the appropriate Allied authorities to the carriage of sealed diplomatic bags by officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs who occasionally proceed abroad. It would be desirable as you suggest in your letter No. 3/355 of March 3rd that such officials should be furnished with a courier passport to protect their bags from investigation by the Allied military authorities at the place of departure and subsequent points on route to their destination. I should accordingly be grateful if you would be so good as to let me have a specimen of such a document in order that the Allied military authorities may be notified in advance of its existence and be able to familiarise themselves with its appearance.

As regards the question of the granting of undeposited cypher facilities, I much regret that for the time being we must accept the decision of the Allied military authorities that the Italian Government may communicate with their missions abroad only in cyphers of which copies have been deposited with this Commission. I would emphasise that this decision is based exclusively on grounds of military security and assure you that henceforth the only control which will be exercised on telegraphic communications between the Italian Government and Italian diplomatic missions abroad will be military in nature. In other words, there will be no political censorship of the contents of such telegrams. These cypher communications will of course continue to be scrutinised from the point of view of crytographic security and this practice will continue to be necessary so long as military operations are being conducted in this theatre.

Very truly yours,

5877

HENRY W. STONE
Rear Admiral, USN
Chief Commissioner

cc: A/Pres
Chief Comm.
Ex. Comm.
Pol. Adv's.
AMER. Emb.
Brit. Emb.

H.E. Alcide de Gasperi
Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs

Italian Government
Rome, Italy

7.2.1.

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

CC 827

Captain Ranfurly

I have discussed the matter of bag and cypher communications with Mr. Hopkinson and Mr. Catty and I suggest that a reply be sent to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the following terms.

"My dear Minister de Gasperi. Further to my letter No. P/723.1 of the 14th March, I have pleasure in informing you that no objection is seen by the appropriate Allied authorities to the carriage of sealed diplomatic bags by officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs who occasionally proceed abroad. It would be desirable as you suggest in your letter No. 3/355 of March 3rd that such officials should be furnished with a courier passport to protect their bags from investigation by the Allied military authorities at the place of departure and subsequent points en route to their destination. I should accordingly be grateful if you would be so good as to let me have a specimen of such a document in order that the Allied military authorities may be notified in advance of its existence and be able to familiarise themselves with its appearance.

As regards the question of the granting of undeposited cypher facilities, I much regret that ~~at this present time~~ (2. The time being) we must accept the decision of the Allied military authorities that the Italian Government may communicate with their missions abroad only in cyphers of which copies have been deposited with this Commission. I would emphasise that this decision is based exclusively on grounds of military security and assure you that henceforth the only control which will be exercised on telegraphic communications between the Italian Government and Italian diplomatic missions abroad will be military in nature. In other words, there will be no political censorship of the contents of such telegrams. These cypher communications will of course continue to be scrutinised from the point of view of cryptographic security and this will continue to be necessary so long as military operations are being conducted in this theatre."

29.3.45

Asst. Political Adviser (FR)

5878

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

CONFIDENTIAL

1.

56

Executive Commissioner: AC.

My views on the attached letter No. 3/355 of March 3rd from the Italian Ministry for Foreign Affairs to the Chief Commissioner, are as follows.

2. Bag Facilities. There is no objection to the carriage of sealed diplomatic bags by officials of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs who occasionally proceed abroad. As the Minister suggests, such officials should carry a form of Courier Passport which would protect their bags from investigation by the Allied military authorities at the place of departure and subsequent ports of call and at their destination. It would be advisable to settle the form that this document should take and advise Allied Force Headquarters of its existence.

Cypher Facilities. There is no question of granting the Italians undeposited cypher facilities. Allied Force Headquarters have been consistently opposed to any relaxation of this control on strictly military security grounds and I do not feel that any further arguments have been produced on the Italian side to justify our taking the matter up again with Caserta. We can however inform the Ministry for Foreign Affairs that since the objection to the grant of undeposited cypher facilities is based exclusively on grounds of military security this Commission will not in future exercise any control from the political angle. Incoming telegrams from Italian diplomatic missions abroad will in future be delivered direct to the Ministry and I had hoped that we should have been able to tell the Ministry that there would be no check on these telegrams either on political, military or cryptographical grounds. I have however just learnt that the British Government consider it desirable that incoming telegrams also must continue to be checked from the point of view of cryptographical security. I am not surprised at this decision since I have recently seen telegrams from the Italian Minister at Bern dealing with matters of military importance in North Italy at the present time which were transmitted in cyphers of very doubtful security and even in one cypher known to be held by the Germans. As regards outgoing telegrams, there will be no political censorship but there must be military censorship and for the same reasons which I have just mentioned a check on the use of Italian cryptographical methods of communication. Although the Italian Government claim that their cypher systems are perfectly secure, it must be placed on record that their lax system of using cyphers is a permanent source of danger to Allied military security and therefore, while not wishing in any way to teach the Italians better for their own good, we must, so long as military operations continue in this theatre, insist on their observing the same standards of cypher security which we ourselves observe.

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9.3.45

CONFIDENTIAL

Asst.

P/725, P/750 27 Feb

3/355

POLITICAL

TRANSLATION

Rome, March 3rd 1945.

(18)

My Dear Admiral,

I thank you for your kind letter of February 27th with which you acquaint me with the results of the detailed study made by the Allied Force Headquarters on the question of communications between the Italian Government and their diplomatic Missions abroad.

I notice with the greatest satisfaction that the Allied Authorities, pursuant to Mr. Mc Millan's Aide-Memoire of February 25th, have decided to allow the Italian Government secret bag facilities for use in correspondance with their representatives abroad.

As the difficulties of transport do not consent, for the time being, the establishment of a regular Italian courier-service it is understood that as a rule the Ministry for Foreign Affairs will directly forward the sealed pouches to the British and United States Embassies and that the Italian Missions abroad will do likewise.

However, similarly to the procedure followed on occasion of the departure of Ambassador TARCHIANI for Washington, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, whenever they consider it necessary, will entrust sealed pouches to the officials provided with diplomatic passports, who are leaving to take up their appointments abroad or who are undertaking a whatsoever journey duly authorised by the competent Allied Authorities.

The aforesaid officials will be furnished with special papers stating their quality as diplomatic couriers.

As regards cable communications in undeposited cypher I cannot refrain from repeating to you, my dear Admiral, our deepest disappointment for the deferment of a favourable decision on the matter - I am sure you will agree with me that the direct diplomatic relations between Italy and other States will remain partly unfruitful and devoid of practical contents until the Italian Government and their Representatives will be accorded free cypher facilities.

I must emphasize, on the other hand, that the new code

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 780114

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I must emphasize, on the other hand, that the new code systems prepared by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs offer, according to our competent Authorities, full security guarantees, nor does a presumption to the contrary appear to us to be altogether warranted.

587

I am therefore again compelled to resort to your courtesy begging you to inform the Allied Force Headquarters of the above considerations and to renew the earnest request that undeposited cypher facilities be granted the Italian Government as soon as possible.

With a subsequent Memorandum the Ministry for Foreign Affairs will answer the observations and suggestions contained in

Admiral Ellery W.STONE
Chief Commissioner
Allied Commission
ROME

EC IIIST - 5 MAR 45
ACTION : POLITICAL III.
INFO : CHIEF COMMR.
EXEC. COMMR. p.t.o.

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

your letter concerning cable communications with Moscow.

In thanking you for the interest you will deem fit to take in the matter and in which I place full confidence, I convey to you, my dear Admiral, the expression of my high consideration.

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

Il Ministro degli Affari Esteri

Roma, 3 MAR. 1945

3/355

Caro Ammiraglio,

La ringrazio per la Sua cortese lettera n.P/725,P/750 del 27 febbraio con la quale mi comunica i risultati dello studio eseguito dal Quartier Generale Alleato sulla questione delle comunicazioni tra il Governo italiano e le sue Rappresentanze diplomatiche all'estero.

Prendo atto con vivo compiacimento che le Autorità Alleate, secondo quanto era già indicato nell'Aide-Mémoire del Signor Mac Millan, in data 25 febbraio, sono giunte alla conclusione di riconoscere al Governo italiano il diritto di inviare alle sue Missioni all'estero e di ricevere da queste ultime valigie diplomatiche segrete e sigillate.

Poichè le difficoltà nei trasporti non consentirebbero, almeno per ora, l'impianto di regolari servizi di corrieri diplomatici italiani, resta inteso che di norma il Ministero degli Affari Esteri rimetterà direttamente alle Ambasciate di Gran Bretagna e degli Stati Uniti plichi sigillati per l'inoltro a destinazione e che le nostre Rappresentanze all'estero si varranno degli stessi tramiti.

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Tuttavia, in conformità a quanto è stato fatto in occasione della partenza dell'Ambasciatore Tarchiani per Washington, il Ministero degli Affari Esteri affiderà, ogni qual volta lo riterrà necessario, plichi sigillati di corriere ai funzionari muniti di passaporto diplomatico, i quali si recheranno all'estero per raggiungere la loro sede o per viag-

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All'Ammiraglio Ellery W. Stone
Capo della Commissione Alleata

R O M A

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gi comunque autorizzati dalle competenti Autorità Alleate.

I predetti funzionari saranno muniti di speciali lettere dalle quali risulterà la loro qualità di corrieri diplomatici.

Per quanto concerne le comunicazioni telegrafiche in cifra segreta non posso non ripeterle, caro Ammiraglio, il più vivo disappunto per il differimento di una decisione favorevole in materia. Ella vorrà riconoscere con me che i rapporti diplomatici diretti fra l'Italia e le altre Nazioni rimarranno per gran parte sterili e privi di contenuto effettivo fin quando non sarà assicurata al Governo italiano ed ai suoi Rappresentanti la piena autonomia nelle comunicazioni in cifra.

Debbo d'altra parte sottolineare che i nuovi sistemi di cifratura predisposti ed approntati dal Ministero degli Esteri offrono, a giudizio degli organi competenti, le massime garanzie di riservatezza e che non appare quindi nè legittimo nè giustificato presumere che essi non forniscano tutte le necessarie garanzie a quei fini di sicurezza che sono menzionati nella Sua lettera.

Sono quindi ancora una volta costretto a ricorrere alla Sua cortesia per pregarla di far presente quanto precede al Quartier Generale Alleato, rinnovando la richiesta che venga al più presto restituita al Governo italiano la piena libertà di inviare e ricevere direttamente comunicazioni in cifra segreta.

Con appunto a parte il Ministero degli Esteri risponderà alle osservazioni ed ai suggerimenti contenuti nella Sua lettera per quanto concerne le comunicazioni telegrafiche con Mosca.

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Con appunto a parte il Ministero degli Esteri risponderà alle osservazioni ed ai suggerimenti contenuti nella Sua lettera per quanto concerne le comunicazioni telegrafiche con Mosca.

Nel ringraziarla del Suo interessamento, nell'efficacia del quale pienamente confido, La prego di gradire, caro Ammiraglio, i sensi della mia maggiore considerazione.

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

Cypher Security Mission

Subject: Communications with Moscow.

Your minute of March 2nd, 1945.

I agree to the action proposed in paragraph D.

2. I suppose that the British or United States Embassies might be prepared to forward copes of the new system to Moscow by their diplomatic bags. So far as I am aware, the Italian Government have hitherto been using the diplomatic bags of the Soviet Embassy here, but I have noticed in recent telegrams from Quaroni that the Soviet authorities have been gibbing at this practice (I believe on the grounds that it makes the position of the Soviet Government embarrassing vis-à-vis the United States and British Governments). In view of these possible complications, I think I had better consult the Foreign Office.

(A. S. HALIFORD)
Asst. Political Adviser

3rd March 1945.

5872

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

3 FM 9

TO: Political Section (Mr HALFORD)
FROM: Cypher Security Mission

2nd March 1945

Subject: Communications with MOSCOW.

A. Thank you for letting us see Adm. STONE's communication to the Ministry, which leaves no doubt that the Ministry must now face the MOSCOW situation and do something.

B. Marchese DALLA ROSA came to see us this morning and surprised us by saying that the Ministry had never received the telegram cited in Admiral STONE's letter as a bad case. (We have since been assured by Cpl DECKER that Ministry is mistaken).

C. In spite of this we again requested Ministry urgently to
(a) Telegraph QUARONI to use the Allied channel for confidential telegrams
(b) Submit a system for approval and deposit.

D. THe Marchese made it quite clear that they are reluctant to do either of these. We propose to give them a reasonable time, but not long, and, if it is clear that they are stalling, then to consider further action, in the meanwhile consulting AFHQ.

E. Do you agree?

F. If they do submit a system can you indicate what we could do about conveying copies to MOSCOW and about how long it would take?

S&R C.

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

723.1

Ref: ~~F/725, F/750~~ 27 February 1945

My dear Minister De Gasperi:

Allied Force Headquarters has informed the Commission that a detailed study has been made of the question of a relaxation of the restrictions on Italian diplomatic communications which in the past precluded the Italian Government from communicating in cipher undeposited with the Allied Authorities and caused them to disclose the contents of their diplomatic bags to the Allied Authorities before dispatch.

As a result of this study it has been decided that, in principle, secret bag facilities now may be allowed the Italian Government for use in correspondence with their representatives abroad. A precedent has been established in that Ambassador Tarchiani was allowed to carry with him a sealed diplomatic pouch when he left Italy for Washington.

However, for security reasons, it was decided that it still is not considered possible to grant the Italian Government undeposited cipher facilities and, in consequence, these facilities must continue to be denied them.

In this connection I may say that when the compromised code A.B. 25 was accepted as a brevity code for communication between Italian Foreign Ministry and Italian Embassy Moscow, it was specifically laid down and accepted by the Ministry that this code should be used for non-confidential messages only.

This restriction appears to have been disregarded in telegrams since sent in this code by the Ambassador in Moscow. Particular reference is made to Moscow-Rome telegram No. 38.

To safeguard security it would be appreciated were the Ministry immediately to submit a suitable system for confidential communication with Moscow. Pending approval of such a system it would appear desirable for the Ministry to instruct Ambassador Quaroni by telegram to arrange for the transmission through Allied channels of any messages whose contents may be confidential.

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Very truly yours,

/s/ Ellery W. Stone

ELLERY W. STONE
Rear Admiral, USNR
Chief Commissioner

H.E. Alcide De Gasperi
Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs

723.1

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

1

ARM/sem

Ref: 723.1/EC(L) 1 May 1945

SUBJECT: Sealed Diplomatic Bags Carried by Officials of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

TO : Mr. Halford
British Political Adviser on A.C.

1. Enclosed is a file with reference to sealed diplomatic bags carried by officials of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and I would particularly draw your attention to the Ministry's letter of April 24, 1945.

2. It would be appreciated if you would inform me, upon reviewing this matter, whether anything has recently transpired to change your views in regard to the granting of undeposited cipher facilities to the Italian Government.

3. It would also be appreciated if you could draft a reply to the Ministry's letter of April 24.

Officer-in-Charge
Liaison Division

Encl: Dossier on above subject.

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