

026

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

ACC

10000/120/2070

Q 123

may 1965

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

10000 | 120 | 2070

Q 123

Italian Arms + Ammo ...

MAY 1945 - MAR. 1947

0270

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Q123

*received  
2/25/70*

ALL ARMS & AMM.

FOR USE WITH

UNITS OTHER

THAN

10000/120

/2070

0271

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

FOR USE WITH

UNITS OTHER

THAN

ARMY &

10000 / 120 / 2070

THIS FOLDER  
CONTAINS PAPERS  
FROM MAY - 45  
TO MAR - 47  
CATALOGUE.

Q123

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

SECRET

C O P Y  
TRANSLATION

(8)

FROM: Ministry of Interior.

REF : 999.65330

TO : I.M.A.S.

DATE: 29 March 1947

SUBJECT:- Armament.

In view of the urgent necessity for garrisoning with police the area of Gorizia, Monfalcone, Cormons and Gradisca, 2000 pistols and 500 machine guns are needed immediately, taking into account the particular situation in that area.

We therefore beg you to kindly issue the necessary instructions to the Ministry of Defence for the release of said arms, as soon as possible.

We await the decision of your office.

sgd. ILLEGIBLE.

R.A.G.

SD Distribution

SD/109/2/A

'Q'

ORD

*Action*

| To        |                                     |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|
| A/Q       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| "Q"       | <i>RAC</i>                          |
| Q Liaison |                                     |
| Q Mater   |                                     |
| Q (AF)    |                                     |
|           |                                     |
|           |                                     |
|           |                                     |
|           |                                     |

Q123

Q123  
Res 31-3-47

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS  
Italian Military Affairs Section  
Land Forces Sub Section

Tel : 489081  
Ext : 400

SD/109/2/A/LF

14 Feb 47.

Ministry of War.

Subject :- Armament prison guard personnel.

Ref your 20184/II of 8 Feb 47.

The release of the weapons and ammunition,  
listed in your letter, to the Ministry of Grace and Justice is approved.

sgnd M.W. HOPE (Brig)

MWH/ter

Chief of Branch  
I.M.A.S.

| To See    |     |
|-----------|-----|
| APR       | APR |
| ✓         | RBC |
| Q Liaison |     |
| Q Mater   |     |
| Q (AE)    |     |
|           |     |
|           |     |
|           |     |
|           |     |
|           |     |

I still do  
not think  
we have  
enough  
to appear  
or disappear

RBC

24/2/47  
gmc

I Q123

0274  
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No.

785020

Col AVALLONE

10.2.47

Handed in letter Q 123/LE dated 7 Feb 47 on the sub- AQMG  
ject of "Maintenance of Small Arms of Public Security Units". 123 Q  
Explained to Col Avallone that we agreed for weapons to be  
repaired by the Beretta firm if agents of Public Security were  
equipped with such weapons. Col Avallone stated that this was  
the case.

0 27 5

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Extract from

"Q" LIAISON LOG 7 DATED 10-2-47

W

COPY

TRANSLATION

FROM: Ministry of War.

REF : 201844/II

TO : M.M.I.A.

DATE: 8 February 1947

SUBJECT: Armament prison guard personnel.

1. The Ministry of Grace and Justice needs to complete the armament of guards under their command at prisons of large centres and the more important penitentiaries.
2. This Ministry could release on payment the following arms and ammunition:
  - 30 "Schwarzlose" cal. 8 MMGs (no longer in use in the Army) with 2.000 rounds per weapon;
  - 150 "Beretta" automatic carbines with 500 rounds per weapon, in three successive lots to be withdrawn from each of the three future consignments of the "Beretta" factory;
  - 2000 "Beretta" pistols with 56 cartridges per weapon, in 10 successive lots, to be withdrawn solely from the 10% assigned to the P.S. from each consignment of the "Beretta" factory and not from the percentages assigned to the Army, the CC. and the Finance Guard;
  - 400 repeating pistols with 48 cartridges per weapon. In the course of time, another 10460 repeating pistols, with the relative ammunition, at present on issue to the Carabinieri could be released, as soon as they have been handed over when replaced with "Beretta" pistols.
3. We beg your Mission to kindly inform us of your approval.

R.A.G.

sgd. SUPINO  
Gen.

SD DISTRIBUTION:

SD/109/2/A/LF

'Q'  
ORD

INF

| O S       |     |
|-----------|-----|
| A/Q       | WP  |
| "Q"       | RAC |
| Q Liaison |     |
| Q Mater   |     |
| Q (AE)    |     |
|           |     |
|           |     |
|           |     |

See ⑦  
G is copying  
R 1/2/47 WP  
I Q123

0277

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS  
Italian Military Affairs Section  
Land Forces Sub Section  
(Formerly IMHA)

(4)

Tel: 439081  
Ext: 415

C.123/IF

7 Feb 47 ✓

War Ministry (by 10)

Subject: Maintenance of Small Arms  
of Public Security Units

IT  
See (6)

Reference your 467/VI dated 18 Jan 47.  
Ack.

1. If it is the policy of the Italian Government to equip agents of Public Security with automatic carbines it would appear reasonable that such weapons should be repaired by the Beretta Firm.

2. If you authorize this work you will no doubt inform the Ministry concerned that this request has been received.

See (7)

Major-General  
Director

RAC/tw

Copy to: L.A.C.A.B.

Internal: C(3D)

DRAFT

3

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS  
Italian Military Affairs Section  
Land Forces Sub Section

Tel : 489081  
Ext : 415

Q. 123/LF

Feb 47

War Ministry (by LO)

Subject: Maintenance - Small Arms  
of Public Security Units

Reference your 467/DI dated 18 Jan 47.  
A-4

1. If it is the policy of the Italian Government to equip agents of Public Security with automatic carbines it would appear reasonable that such weapons should be repaired by the Beretta Firm.
2. If you authorise this work you will no doubt inform the Ministry concerned that this request has been received.

RAC/jw

Copy to: L.A.C.A.B.

Internal: G(SD)

Major General,  
Director.

*R/S*  
*R/S under threat*  
*while he takes up*  
*the bigger issue*  
*with the "Club" 1945*  
*RAC*  
*SP*

7 Feb

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

TRANSLATION

COPY

From: M of W.

Ref: 202083/11

To : MMIA

Date: 25/1/47

Subject: Issue of Arms and Ammo. to public and private enterprises.

Ref. letter SD/109/2/A dated 14/1/47.

We would confirm that the caliber 7,35 rifles and carbines with relative ammunition will be released on payment exclusively to State Departments, public and private semi-statal departments on approval of the Ministry of the Interior.

/gh

SD/109/2/A  
"Q"

| To See |     |
|--------|-----|
| A/Q    |     |
| "Q"    | Rae |
| Q List |     |
| Q Nil  |     |
| Q (a)  |     |
|        |     |
|        |     |
|        |     |

sgd.

Supino  
Gen.

R  
31/1/47  
RAH

I Q123

TRANSLATION

FROM: Ministry of War.

REF: 467/DT

TO: M.M.I.A.

DATE: 18 January 1947.

SUBJECT: - Beretta automatic carbines cal. 9.

1. - The Public Security General Directorate has sent 550 Beretta automatic carbines cal. 9 to the Beretta firm of Gardone V.T., to be repaired and, Milan Military Territorial Command has requested authorisation from this Ministry, in letter M/7609 dated 18 December 1946 copy attached, to carry out the repairs.
2. - We beg your Commission to kindly authorise said work.
3. - We are agreeable to the above.

sgd. PROPERZJ  
Gen.

See (4)

R.A.G.

| To S      |    |
|-----------|----|
| A/Q       | WP |
| "Q"       |    |
| Q Liaison |    |
| Q M.I.A.  |    |
| Q (AE)    |    |
|           |    |
|           |    |
|           |    |

*G. Any comments?*  
*RAA*

*1 Feb*

*R*  
*31/1/47*  
*RAA*

*Q123*  
*we spoke.*  
*ADG*  
*3/2*

0281

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

D/L  
*Ministero della Guerra*  
Direzione Generale Artigl.

*69*  
Roma 18 GEN 1947  
11a LAND FORCES SUB  
COMMISSION A.C. = M.M.I.A.  
= R O M A =

*Divisione Tecnica Sez 2<sup>a</sup>*  
*Act. N° 457/DT Allegati*  
A-4

*Risposta al f.d.d.*  
*Dir. Sez. N°*

Oggetto: Moschetti automatici Beretta cal.9.-

1. La Direzione Generale della Pubblica Sicurezza ha consegnato alla ditta Beretta di Gardone V.T. per essere riparati n. 550 moschetti automatici Beretta cal. 9 e, il Comando Militare Territoriale di Milano ha chiesto a questo Ministero, con il foglio M/7609 in data 18 dicembre 1946 che si unisce in copia, l'autorizzazione a far eseguire tale riparazione.-
2. Si prega codesta Commissione voler autorizzare detto lavoro.-
3. Si esprime parere favorevole.-

P. IL MINISTRO

*2*  
*821*  
*Barry*

REC 20 JAN 1947 *hL*

= COPIA =

COMANDO MILITARE TERRITORIALE DI MILANO (III)  
Comando Artiglieria

Prot. M/7609

Milano, 18 dicembre 1946

OGGETTO : Moschetti mitra cal. 9 mm. - Fabbrica Armi Pietro  
Beretta -

AL MINISTERO DELLA GUERRA  
Direzione Generale Artiglieria e Motorizzazione = ROMA =  
e, per conoscenza;  
ALLA SEZIONE FABBRICA ARMI ESERCITO = GARDONE V.T.

La Direzione Fabbrica Armi Pietro Beretta si  
è rivolta alla Sezione F.A.E. di Gardone Val Trompia  
chiedendo l'autorizzazione di eseguire lavori di  
revisione e di rimessa in efficienza di n. 550 mo-  
schetti mitra cal. 9 mm. ricevuti in consegna dalla I  
Direzione Generale della P.S.-

Nel rendere noto che la predetta Fabbrica Ar-  
mi ha assicurato che pur eseguendo i lavori di cui  
sopra non verrà per nulla trascurata o diminuita  
la produzione delle armi destinate per disposizione  
contrattuale alla F.A.E. di Gardone V.T., si prega  
codesto Ministero di compiacersi far conoscere se  
la richiesta autorizzazione può essere accordata  
o meno.-

Il GENERALE DI BRIGATA COMANDANTE  
F.to G. Proio

P.C.C.

IL CAPO SEZIONE

*[Signature]*

C O P Y

69

TRANSLATION

FROM : Ministry of War

REF : 467/DT

TO : MMIA

DATE: 18 January 47

SUBJECT: Beretta automatic carbines Cal 9

1. The Public Security General Directorate has sent 550 Beretta automatic carbines Cal 9 to the Beretta firm of Cardone V.T., to be repaired and, Milan Military Territorial Command has requested authorisation from this Ministry, in letter W/7609 dated 18 December 46 copy attached, to carry out the repairs.
2. We beg your Commission to kindly authorise said work.
3. We are agreeable to the above.

Sgd PROPERZJ  
Gen

R.A.G.

7 Q E ^

67

REF : 200228/II

DATE : 10/1/47

REF : 200228/II  
DATE : 10/1/77

TO : M M I A

Subject: Distribution of arms and ammunition to Public and Private Establishments.

Reference to letter SD/109/2-A dated 20/12/46.

1. - Your LMGIA, with the letter referred to above, points out that the arms that will be released in payment to public and private establishments for the arming of their guard personnel, must be modified beforehand "in order to render them unsuitable for military purposes".

2. - Regarding this, we would point out that the arms that this Ministry can release are exclusively rifles and carbines (7.35 cal. - ordinary repeaters) which are no longer used by the Army, as they are obsolete and hence to be disposed of.

Regarding this, the Ministry can release are exclusively (ordinary repeaters) which are no longer used by the Army, and hence to be disposed of.

To modify said weapons, it would require a heavy expense and besides the work there is the necessity of manufacturing new ammo.

Such an expense cannot be borne by this Administration for balance reasons.

It continues to arrive from the Ministry of Interior for the person who takes an effective part in the work of the Ministry and who is granted by this Ministry the said modification.

3. - Requests continue to arrive from the Ministry of Interior for the armament of the a/m guard personnel who takes an effective part in maintaining public order. Said armament cannot be granted by this Ministry, due to the impossibility, as stated in para 2, of arranging said modification to the weapons.

4. - Regarding the above, we would be grateful if your MMIA could re-examine the possibility of authorising the release of the arms and ammunition in question in their present condition. We await to know as soon as possible the instructions that will issue on the matter.

|    |        |
|----|--------|
|    | To See |
| 40 |        |
|    | 4-9    |

sgd. Supino  
Gen.

sgd. Supino  
Gen.

Anton

SD/109/2A

9-

|                    |                |
|--------------------|----------------|
| <del>AK</del>      |                |
| "Q"                | <del>RAE</del> |
| <del>Q LINDA</del> |                |
| <del>Q MARY</del>  |                |
| <del>Q LINDA</del> | 7              |
| <del>ORD</del>     |                |
| RENE               |                |
| S & T              |                |

18/1/17 p. 9.

AQ. 123

0285

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

(64)

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION  
Public Safety Division  
APO 794

5012/EC

17 December 1946

SUBJECT : Sale of Arms from Ministry of War.

TO : Land Forces Sub-Commission (SFIA),  
Hq. A.C.

(49)

Reference your 123 Q 7 Nov. 1946.

I attach herewith for information copy  
of a letter received from G-5; AFHQ on this matter.

13  
19 DEC 1946

| TO SFB |     |
|--------|-----|
| A/Q    | WP  |
| Q      | RAC |
| Q 1    |     |
| Q 2    |     |
| ORD    |     |
| BEME   |     |
|        |     |

*H. Green*

B. J. EYE, Colonel  
Director.

656

See (62)

FGG/ae

encl. N. 945.20 dated 11 Dec. 46.

Q Dnt: 8123  
G(SD) for action

R/19/12/46

A Q 123

CCPY

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS  
G-5 Section  
APO 512

G-5: 945.20

11 December 1946

SUBJECT: Control of Arms.

TO : Chief Commissioner,  
Allied Commission,  
APO 794.

Reference your letter 50/12/305/EC of 30 November.

1. The rifles referred to are clearly "military"; their sale to the public is not approved. The permission as to unsupervised manufacture related only to "non-military" weapons. If the weapons are altered so as to make them no longer suitable for military use, there would be no objection to the proposal.

BY COMMAND OF INSURPAGE GENERAL LEE:

A.L. HANBLEN  
Colonel, G.S. 655  
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-5.

0283

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

61

'Q' BUCK SLIP

FILE No Q.423

| DATE   | SECTION OF SERVICE |    | ACTION REQUIRED                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|--------|--------------------|----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|        | FROM               | TO |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 14 Dec | Q                  | G  | <p>395</p> <p>Ref Attached original message from War Ministry. Please give interim reply and accept action. The request reffers to the issue of Military <u>calibre</u> Weapons of obsolete pattern and of 7.3mm on repayment.</p> <p>Copy of 123.Q of 7 Nov 46 attached. No reply received to this.</p> <p>Public Safety S/C state matter has been referred to AFHQ.</p> <p>Request you take action with A.C. to follow up this and also subject of letter (also to AFHQ) folio (94) in your SD/109/2 viz. manufacture to be permitted up to 7.7mm calibre.</p> <p>RAC</p> <p>654</p> |

49

Am P.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Telephone:  
Rome 489081 Ext 415

LAND FORCES SUB COMM AG (MMIA) CMF

123 Q

Dec 46

MINISTRY OF WAR

Subject: Issue of "Arms to Civilian".

Ref your fonogram No. 231135/II of 10 Dec 46.

1. The matter was referred to the Public Safety Division of A.C. in this H.Q. letter 123 Q of 7 Nov 46.
2. Verbal enquiries made to-day confirm that A.C. have referred the subject to A.F.H.Q. for a ruling but have not yet received a reply.
3. Action is being taken to obtain early reply the content of which will be passed to you with minimum delay.

Colonel,  
Colonela/Q MMIA.

HJOP/rs

653

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

TRANSLATION

From:- Ministry of War  
To:- *MIA*

Ref: 231135/II  
Date: 10/12/46

SIGNAL

We would appreciate knowing your instructions regarding the issue of arms and ammunition to the public and private concerns, mentioned in our letter 226141/II dated 24 Oct 46.

UR

| TO SEE     |  |
|------------|--|
| A/Q        |  |
| Q          |  |
| Q. 1       |  |
| Q. A. P. 1 |  |
| QED        |  |
| REME       |  |
|            |  |

sgd. Supino  
Gen.

*Original*

(59)

*in SD/1092*  
*12/12/46*  
*20*

652

A Q 123

Telephone:  
ROME 489081 Ext 200

LAND FORCES SUB COM, AG (MMIA) CMF

123 Q ✓

29 Nov 46

Rome Area MTOUSA

Subject: Issue of arms to Public Security Police

In reply to your Memorandum dated 18 Nov 46.

1. This matter is already the subject of correspondence between this Sub-Commission and AMHQ. A decision will be made known through the Italian Ministries concerned in due course.
2. As this matter is one which concerns the whole of Italy and not only Rome you may wish to reply to the Rome police accordingly.

Colonel,  
Deputy Commander MMIA.

JW

See 80/1091-2

94

651

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION  
Public Safety Division  
APO 794

(51)  
APR  
23/11

AC/14012/PS

22 November 1946

SUBJECT: Arms for Finance Guards

TO : M.M.I.A.

1. Public Safety Division was unaware of the application by the Ministry of War for authority to issue machine guns to the G.C.F.F. until 16th Nov. '46.
2. This Commission offers no objection to the authority asked for being given.

FOR THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER:

  
E. J. BYE, Colonel  
Director

EJE/rlk

650

Action Taken

APR

0292

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Subject</u>                                                                                                | <u>File</u> | <u>Folio</u> | <u>Page</u> |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| 26 Jul      | War Ministry ask MMIA to allow release of 40 Cal. .8 Machine guns to GCFF                                     | Q 123       | 13E          | 1           |
| 6 Aug       | MMIA tell War Ministry that decision of higher authority on this and other requests is sought.                | Q 123       | 16           | 2           |
| 21 Aug      | Ministry of Finance ask MMIA to allow War Ministry to issue them with Automatic Weapons.                      | SD/109/2A   | 11           | 3           |
| 27 Aug      | MMIA pass this request to AC                                                                                  | SD/109/2/A  | 12           | 4           |
| 4 Sep       | AC (PS Sub Com) inform Ministry of Finance that the whole question of Automatic Arms for GCFF is under review | SD/109/2/A  | 14           | 5           |
| 17 Oct      | Ministry of War ask MMIA to allow them to issue 1,500 Berretta Machine Carbines to GCFF.                      | SD/109/2A   | 22           | 6           |
| 28 Oct      | After discussion with PS Sub Com this is agreed to and Ministry of War Informed.                              | SD/109/2/A  | 23           | 7           |
| 12 Nov      | Ministry of War now again ask MMIA to allow Machine Guns to GCFF.                                             | Q 123       | 50E          | 8           |

*See also (51)*

0293

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

50A.

ROME AREA MTOUSA  
APO 794, US Army  
Office of the Commanding Officer

CLD/af  
18 November 1946

MEMORANDUM

FOR : Colonel M. E. Fiske,  
Deputy Commander IMIA,  
Allied Commission,  
APO 794, US Army.

The Italian police asked us to help in this situation. It of course  
is none of our business but, may be this was done without your knowledge.

*CD*  
CHAS. L. DASHER JR.  
Colonel, Field Artillery  
Commanding

*see 55*

A.Q.M.G.

*Please v.f. on your file before 26 Nov  
WP*

| TO   |          |
|------|----------|
| A/Q  | <i>J</i> |
| Q    |          |
| Q. 1 |          |
| Q. 2 |          |
| ORD  |          |
| REME |          |
|      |          |

*22/11/46*  
*648*  
*22 Nov*

*A Q123*

-translated copy/as-

In compliance with instructions issued by the Allied Sub-Commission to the effect that the Corps of Guards of Public Security, being a civil police force, should not be armed with weapons of war, the automatic pistol Beretta, short barrel, caliber 9, used by the Corps until the outbreak of hostilities, has been discarded and replaced with the automatic pistol of the same make, short barrel, caliber 7,65.

In the opinion of the competent commission of technical and military experts, this latter type of pistol is not considered a weapon of war, and therefore its use was also permitted to civilians for personal defense, with the issue of the necessary licence for carrying arms.

The M.M.I.A. has recently communicated that a pistol of the caliber of 7,50 can be permitted as a non-war weapon.

In this regard, the following is brought to your attention:

- not exceeding.*
- 1)-no caliber 7,50 pistol exists in Italy. It would therefore be necessary to study a new type of pistol and to manufacture it as well as the necessary ammunition, incurring much time and very heavy expenses.
  - 2)-the difference between the caliber 7,65 of the Beretta pistol and that permitted by M.M.I.A. is only .15 of a millimeter.
  - 3)-it would be necessary to withdraw all licenses and pistols of caliber 7,65 kept by civilians. Having procured these pistols, as permitted by the licences issued to them, they would justly request the reimbursement of their expenses or at the least, an exchange of weapons at the expense of the State;
  - 4)-there is a perfectly equipped factory which produces the caliber 7,65 pistol, which caliber is international as it is used by almost all European arms manufacturers e.g. La Fabrique Nationale d'Armes de Guerre of Mortal, Belgium; the German Walter and Mauser, the Austrian Steyr. This factory is the P. Beretta and sons of Gardone Val Trompia while the factories Fiocchi and Leon Beaux produce the 7,65 ammunition. These factories would have to suspend their work to transform their machinery.

In consideration of the above, it is requested that the M.M.I.A. grant that the caliber permitted for pistols be raised from 7,50 to 7,65, and consequently that the Corps of Guards of Public Security and private citizens may be armed with such weapons, these latter subject to the issue of the licence by the Public Security Authorities concerned.

Rome, November 9, 1946.

TRANSLATION

(50)

FROM: M. of W.

REF: 228171/II

DATE: 12/II/46

TO : M.M.I.A.

GHQ Finance Guard for info.

(Ref. letter IO3039 dated 29 Oct. 46) — N/R

See 53

13r

In signal 219117/II dated 26/7/46 we requested your approval for the issue, to the Finance Guard GHQ, of 40 machine-guns (Fiat Mod. 35, cal. 8) with 1000 rounds for each weapon, for units under its command.

We would appreciate to know as soon as possible, your decision on the matter, pointing out that the increased requirements of the Finance Guard Units now need a further 10 machine-guns of the same type with ammunition.

|      |  |
|------|--|
| TO   |  |
| A/Q  |  |
| Q    |  |
| Q. 1 |  |
| Q. 2 |  |
| QED  |  |
| REME |  |

Sgd. LOMBARDI  
Col.

UR

12/11/46  
R/R

646

any question?  
R/R

YES

A Q123

0 2 9 6

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Telephone:  
489081 Ext 397

LAND FORCE SUB CORP, AG (IRMA) CDP  
123 Q

7 Nov 46

RE AG (for Public Safety S/O)

See 64

471

420

Reference AFHQ letter 05 945.20 of 21 Sep (folio 20) in your file C/28/CA and minutes 15 & 16 in your same file. The Ministry of War, having been given the contents of the above letter now ask whether they may issue on repayment to civilian arms firms "carbines and rifles of the ordinary type cal 7.35 mm which are earmarked for sale as now no longer used by the Army".

It is assumed that, although originally military weapons, these arms (being under 7.5 mm) which are now obsolete may be regarded as "non military arms".

Will you please confirm?

Colonel A/O  
M.N.I.A.

645

TRANSLATION

FROM: M. of W.

REF: 226141/II

TO : M.M.I.A.

DATE: 24/10/46

SUBJECT: Release of arms and ammo. to public and private firms.

Reference letter Q/I23 dated 8 October 1946.

- 1) In letter 218995/II dated 29 July 46 and in phonogram 225077/II dated 3 October 1946 we informed you that we were receiving numerous requests from various Branches of the State, public and private firms, for small arms and ammo, to arm the personnel detailed for guard duties.

Furthermore, in the a/m letter 218995/II letter we pointed out that we were in a position to release (as done until the present) arms and ammo, on repayment and requested your authority. Said arms consists of carbines and rifles of the ordinary type earmarked for sale and not used any longer by the Army.

- 2) You replied to our request in letter Q/I23, dated 8 October last, and informed us that the control of non-military small arms of a caliber inferior to 7,5 m/m is temporarily the concern of the Italian Government, while, as it happened in the past, the control of the production of military weapons and munition of 7,5 calibre is still maintained.

- 3) As we have no non-military small arms of a caliber inferior to 7,5 m/m, available for issue to a/m firms, we beg you to inform us whether we may issue on repayment, carbines and rifles of the ordinary type cal. 7,35 caliber which are earmarked for sale as no longer used by the Army.

| TO SEND |  |
|---------|--|
| A/Q     |  |
| Q       |  |
| Q. 1    |  |
| Q. 2    |  |
| ORD     |  |
| REME    |  |
|         |  |

Sgd. LOMBARDI  
Col.

A Q123

0298

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Subject:- Manufacture of Arms.

43

Head Forces Sub Comm. A.C.

(M.M.I.A.)

R O M E

Q.123 ←

8 Oct 45.

To :- MINISTRY OF WAR.

41-T

Ref your signal 225077/II dated 3 Oct 45.

1. I am directed to inform you that supervision of the manufacture of non military small arms of less than 7.5 mm calibre is provisionally left to the Italian Government.
2. Allied control of the manufacture of military arms and ammunition of 7.5 mm and over remain as heretofore.

*W. P. ...*

Copy to:- Public Safety S/C  
HQ AC

Major General,  
M.M.I.A.

*see 47*

BFB/ab

642

0299

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Deputy Commander  
B G S

42A

Do you agree to my proposed reply (Minute 16)?

43 Oct.

agree with  
I agree (1)

W. P. Kelly  
Adm.

642

0300

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Minute 16.

TO: VP CA Section, AC

Reference Minute 15. (AC file 6/28/CA)

1. I agree with your remarks in your para(1) regarding the control of arms production mentioned in the last paragraph of folio 18(a). There is at the moment no efficient control of arms production and distribution and as you say in sub-paragraph 1(d) Ministry of War is only responsible so far as civilian factories are concerned for control of its own contracts. If you consider that the Land Forces Sub Commission is not entirely responsible for the control of the manufacture of War like equipment and that there is no other part of AC which in its present form can be held responsible, I agree there is nothing we can do at present so long as we have made this quite clear to A.P.H.Q.

(37)

2. Your para 2 refers to folio 20(a) which from our point of view is very satisfactory. I do not think it is necessary to query the decision given by AFHQ as it seems very reasonable and in any case is a decision. I recommend that para 4 be accepted and that the Italian Government be so informed. If you will do this I should like to make a separate communication on the subject to the War Ministry.

2 October, 1946.

Colonel AQ  
M.M.I.A.

641

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS  
G-5 Section  
APO 512

42c

8

G-5: 945.20

24 September 1946

SUBJECT: Manufacture of Arms.

TO : Chief Commissioner,  
Allied Commission, APO 794.

This is f. 20.A. in AC file  
G/28/CA  
WIP

Reference your 9/28/CA of 6 September.

1. As the draft Peace Treaty with ITALY contains a definition of War Materials, it is undesirable to use any other definition even temporarily. This definition will therefore be adopted now.

2. This definition (so far as is relevant) is

"War material shall include all arms, ammunition and implements specially designed or adapted for use in war as listed below

Category I — Military rifles, carbines, revolvers and pistols; barrels for these weapons—and other spare parts not readily adaptable for civilian use.

Category VII — Propellants, explosives...destined for...use in connection with the (above) war material not capable of civilian use or manufactured in excess of civilian requirements."

3. It is considered therefore that the manufacture of all weapons which are clearly non-military can be left to the Italian Government. The only difficulty is likely to arise with regard to weapons capable of military use. The arbitrary selection of 8 mm. calibre as a criterion is not entirely satisfactory as the Italian Army uses rifles, machine guns and pistols of 6.5, 7.65 and 7.7 mm., while the German Army uses a calibre of 7.92 mm. For this reason 7.5 mm. is considered to be a better criterion.

4. Subject to there being no technical objections to the adoption of this criterion for small arms or cartridges, it is agreed that supervision of the manufacture of non-military small arms of less than 7.5 mm. calibre may provisionally be left to the Italian Government.

BY COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL MORGAN:



A.L.H.  
A. L. HAMBLIN  
Colonel, G.S.C.  
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-5.

27 5 1

0302

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

TRANSLATION

41-T

FROM: M. of W.  
TO : M.M.I.A.

REF : 225077/II  
DATE: 3/10/46

URGENT TELEGRAM

We receive continuously from Ministry of Interior requests for the release of arms and ammo for the civilian guards of Statal, parastatal, public and private establishments.

We shall be grateful if you will inform us urgently the decisions of the Allied Commission (reference M.M.I.A. letter SD/IO9/2/A dated 18th September 1946).

see 43

39c

C.F.

Sgd. LOMBARDI  
Col.

Spoke Lombardi who confirmed that (40) amply covered this point. Told him also that combat of sporting and small calibre firearms was about to be ended which pleased him.

see 47  
4/10/46 639  
RO

| TO SEC |    |
|--------|----|
| A/Q    | WP |
| Q      | RO |
| Q. 1   |    |
| Q. 2   |    |
| Q. 3   |    |
| REMC   |    |
|        |    |

WP  
4 Oct.

A Q 123

COPY

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

A P O 794

Office of the Executive Commissioner

30 September 1946

6/14.1/CA

SUBJECT: Release of model 91 muskets to P.S. Guards.

TO : H.M.I.A.

WP

*Cashin ?*

1. With reference to your letters SD/109/2/A of 7th August and SD/109/2A of ~~24th~~ <sup>18th</sup> September 1946.

2. The 1891 Musket is part of the normal armament of the Civil Police Force and is recognised as such, therefore this Commission raises no objection to authority being given for the issue to be made.

M. CARR, Brigadier  
a/Executive Commissioner.

638

|         |  |  |    |
|---------|--|--|----|
| TO SMC  |  |  |    |
| A/G     |  |  | WT |
| Q       |  |  |    |
| Q.1     |  |  |    |
| Q.2     |  |  |    |
| REMARKS |  |  |    |

6 Sept 1946

HEAD HARRERS ALLIED COMMISSION  
Office of the Chief Commissioner  
APO 794

Ref: S/28/CA

SUBJECT: Manufacture of small arms.

TO : G-5 Section  
ATHQSee our draft  
at (23)

1. I have received numerous requests from various departments of the Italian Government as well as from certain private firms, for permission to manufacture or repair and to sell to State Departments Commercial undertakings or private individuals, certain types of arms and ammunition.
2. The only directive which I appear to have received from you on this matter is contained in your AG 388/3/087 CEC/O of 2 Aug 1945 copy of which is attached for easy reference. This Directive, which was written before the conclusion of the war in the East and which consequently lays stress on our war effort, is quite clear as far as "armaments and ammunition or implements of war" are concerned. It does not, however, define these items or state whether the manufacture of such weapons as sporting shot guns, small practice rifles or pistols of small calibre is to be restricted. Further, as this directive pre-supposed the signing of a peace treaty within a comparatively short space of time after the end of the war, it did not allow for the circumstances which have arisen in Italy during the past 12 months and which may continue for some time.
3. In fact (see my letter 501/143/EC of 22 November 1945) positive control of manufacture of war material has not been complete owing to the absence of qualified technical staff, the only control existing being through the service Sub-commissions and their respective Ministries, leaving the manufacture by private firms without direct control.
4. As a result of this situation I am receiving the requests referred to in para 1 above, together with frequent complaints on the injustices due to a system (or rather, a lack of system) under which certain small firms are able to receive and sell weapons without

and ammunition.

2. The only direction which I appear to have received from you on this matter is contained in your AC 386/3/087 DEC/O of 2 Aug 1945 copy of which is attached for easy reference. This Directive, which was written before the conclusion of the war in the East and which consequently lays stress on our war effort, is quite clear as far as "Armaments and ammunition or implements of war" are concerned. It does not, however, define these items or state whether the manufacture of such weapons as sporting shot guns, small practice rifles or pistols of small calibre is to be restricted. Further, as this directive pre-supposed the signing of a peace treaty within a comparatively short space of time after the end of the war, it did not allow for the circumstances which have arisen in Italy during the past 12 months and which may continue for some time.

3. In fact ( see my letter 501/143/EC of 22 November 1945 ) positive control of manufacture of war material has not been complete owing to the absence of qualified technical staff, the only control existing being through the Service Sub-commissions and their respective Ministries, leaving the manufacture by private firms without direct control.

637

4. As a result of this situation I am receiving the requests referred to in para 1 above, together with frequent complaints on the injustices due to a system ( or rather, a lack of system ) under which certain small firms are able to make and sell various weapons without any control, whereas the large and reputable firms who are under contract with Service Ministries are still waiting for authority to enable them to execute similar orders.

5. I therefore recommend that two decisions be taken:

- (a) that the term War like material should be defined and that weapons which need not be considered essentially war-like, e.g. shot guns, sporting rifles and pistols or revolvers below 8 mm should be excluded from the definition.

17/9/46  
RD

...../2

A. Q. 123

and

(b) that the control of manufacture, repair and distribution of weapons other than those considered as war-like, should be left entirely to the Italian Government, who may however, be required to give us such information regarding their system of control as we may require.

6. It is very desirable that some such ruling should be given at the earliest possible moment.

ELDER W. SPONE  
Rear Admiral, USNR  
Chief Commissioner

Copy to: Chief Commissioner  
Ex Commissioner  
Land Forces S/C  
Navy S/C  
Air Force S/C  
Econ, Section  
CA Section

SD Distr

SD/102/2

| TO SMC |     |
|--------|-----|
| A/Q    | WP  |
| Q      | RAE |
| 0.1    |     |

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| 1 | 100 |
|   |     |

636

after Capt. Ward

WP

(36)

see 33

Lt. Col. Mandarin (Tel. 7787) Chief of the Technical Office of Liquidations, has told me that:

1) Pistol TZ 45 =

He does not know if a few samples were made, at the factories to test them. The study of this weapon was made in the fascist republican period. He thinks that (since the MG is 9 cal.) also the pistol bearing the same initials must be cal. 9 -

2) M.G. TZ 45

Some thousands of this weapon were manufactured. They are cal. 9 and use the cartridges of the L.M.G. Beretta mod. 38 (magazines of 20 or 40 cartridges). -

- 
- TZ are the initials of the two technicians who studied the two weapons.
  - 45 is the year when the study of the two weapons was completed.

by Capt. Ward  
587

RAA

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

SUBJECT:-

S.A.M.T. Firm Turin  
Manufacture of Ammunitions.

33

Lead Person Sub Commission A.C.,

M.M.I.A.

R.O.M.E.

Q.123

9 September 1946

To : War Ministry ( by L.O.)

29-AT

Re: your 52173 T/L of 29 Aug 46.  
L.S. 35 ATB1

See 36

It is not clear whether, if you release the carts and parts placed in your custody what use will be made of them by the firm SAMT.

If they are to commence the manufacture of weapons, for whom are these intended and on whose instructions has the firm entered into a contract.

This sub commission has already explained the position as regards the control to be exercised over arms production in our letter Q.123 of 26 Aug 46.

RAC/ov.

See 43  
for Policy  
decision

RAC

R. A. CURTIS, Lt. Col.,  
For Major General,  
M.M.I.A.

634

Copy 1 A.C. (OA Sec.)

May a reply be given to this 3/C letter  
Q.123 dated 31 August 1946.G  
Harris-Officer

0309

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

"Q" DUCK SLIP

FILE NO Q123

32

| DATE  | SECTION OR SERVICE |     | ACTION REQUIRED                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|-------|--------------------|-----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|       | FROM               | TO  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 6 Sep | Q                  | A/Q | <p>Please see (29 AT) flagged.</p> <p>The Soc. An. Meccanica of Turin wish to resubmit their manufacture of .45 m. gun etc &amp; the War Min had certain essential parts.</p> <p>We have still no reply to your letter at (30).</p>                                                                                                                                                   |
| 6 Sep | AQ                 | Q   | <p>RAA</p> <p>until we get a reply to 30 or its predecessors we cannot authorize the return of these moulds or parts.</p> <p>as far as I know they are not connected with authorized weapons.</p> <p>It isn't clear if SHOT want to go on making .45 arms or if they want these materials for remaking to other purposes. If the latter OK if not nothing doing. W.D.</p> <p>Chf.</p> |

COPY  
TRANSLATION

THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

77127735784/1.6.4.

Rome, 28 August 1946

Dear Admiral,

1 In reply to the requests formulated in your letter No 9728/OA of 25 June 1946, I transmit to you the following data supplies to me by the competent offices with regard to the type and calibre of the arm assigned to "Carabinieri" and to other police forces as well as with regard to the system of governmental control over the production, repair and transit of war material.

2 The Ministry of War provided for the armament of the Carabinieri, of the Guards, of the P.S. guards, of the corps of custody agents of penitentiaries and of the local police agents (communal guards, sworn guards etc.) according to the specialities as indicated in the enclosed lists.

3 As to the Public Safety corps in particular, the relative rule established as individual armament the sabre and the pistol for the warrant officers, the pistol and the musket for the "Brigadieri" "vicebrigadieri" chosen guards and guards.

4 The detachment armament is not definitely set in the ruling. Practically it is composed of armoured cars for 20 mm guns, heavy machine guns for 8 mm, of 6,5 mm machine-guns and of hand grenades and tear bombs.

5 Such arms are however not sufficient for the total need of the corps, regardless of the fact that the General Direction of P.S. of the Ministry of Interior provides to integrate the supplies furnished by the Ministry of War (see enclosure) with the distribution to the detachments of automatic muskets, machine-guns and heavy machine-guns which have been obtained second hand and then opportunely repaired and repaired.

6 The control over the production and repair of arms in military establishments and in the armament factory "Beretta" of Gardone Val Trompia is being exercised by the Ministry of War, while for the remaining civilian factories of arms and ammunition is competent the Ministry of the Interior. The latter provides also - according to art. 29 and the following of the P.S. laws approved by Royal Decree 19 June 1931 No 773 and of paragraph 7 of title 1 of the rules for the carrying out the P.S. law, approved by R.D. 21 January 1929 No 62 -

2 The Ministry of War provided for the armament of the Carabinieri, of the guards, of the P.S. guards, of the corps of custody agents of penitentiaries and of the local police agents (communal guards, sworn guards etc.) according to the specialities as indicated in the enclosed lists.

3 As to the Public Safety corps in particular, the relative rule established as individual armament the sabre and the pistol for the warrant officers, the pistol and the musket for the "Brigadieri" "vicebrigadieri" chosen guards and guards.

4 The detachment armament is not definitely set in the ruling. Practically it is composed of armoured cars for 20 mm guns, heavy machine guns for 8 mm, of 6,5 mm machine-guns and of hand grenades and tear bombs.

5 Such arms are however not sufficient for the total need of the corps, regardless of the fact that the General Direction of P.S. of the Ministry of Interior provides to integrate the supplies furnished by the Ministry of War (see enclosure) with the distribution to the detachments of automatic muskets, machine-guns and heavy machine-guns which have been obtained second hand and then opportunely revised and repaired.

6 The control over the production and repair of arms in military establishments and in the armament factory "Beretta" of Gardone Val Trompia is being exercised by the Ministry of War, while for the remaining civilian factories of arms and ammunition is competent the Ministry of the Interior. The latter provides also - according to art. 28 and the following of the P.S. laws approved by Royal Decree 18 June 1951 No 773 and of paragraph 7 of title 1 of the rules for the carrying out the P.S. law, approved by R.D. 21 January 1928 No 62 - for the vigilance of the transit of war material across the borders and the various regions of the national territory.

Sincerely yours,

sgd. De Gasperi

| TO SEE |  |
|--------|--|
| A/Q    |  |
| S/Q    |  |
| Q. 1   |  |
| Q. 2   |  |
| Q. 3   |  |
| REMB   |  |

Action: C.A. Sec  
C.C.  
D.C.  
Land Forces  
Navy S/C  
Air Forces S/C  
Leon Sec.

SD Distribution

5/109/2/A  
19

6/9/46 Rq  
AMB, anti-aircraft  
Mord, RAB

C O P Y

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION  
Office of the Chief Commissioner

APC 794

Ref: 9/28/CA

25 June 1946

My dear Mr. Prime Minister:

I am somewhat disturbed by information which reaches me from time to time regarding the manufacture and transit of arms and munitions in Italy.

Under Article 13 of the Armistice Terms, the manufacture of war material and its transit is prohibited except as directed by the United Nations. Further, as you will be aware, under Article 5(a) of the Revised Armistice which is now being considered by your Government, the responsibility for the control of production of armaments will be vested in the Allied organization to be set up to supervise the Armed Forces in Italy.

My attention has been particularly drawn to the extent to which the Civil Police Forces (other than CC.NN.) are being aimed for the maintenance of law and order.

In connection with this matter I would much appreciate, my dear Mr. Prime Minister, information from you on the following matters:

- (a) The type and scale of weapons authorized for each of these Police Forces (other than CC.NN.) under Italian law;
- (b) The system of control by your Government of the manufacture, repair and transit of war material, and the Ministry by which this control is exercised.

Very truly yours,

631

(sgl) ELBERT W. BROWN  
Rear Admiral, USNR  
Chief Commissioner

Dr. Alcide De Gasperi  
President of the Council of Ministers,  
Italian Government  
ROME

0313

of armaments will be vested in the  
Armed Forces in Italy.

My attention has been particularly drawn to the extent to which  
the Civil Police Forces (other than CC.RR.) are being armed for the maintenance of law  
and order.

In connection with this matter I would much appreciate, my dear  
Mr. Prime Minister, information from you on the following matters:

- (a) The type and scale of weapons authorised for each of these Police  
Forces (other than CC.RR.) under Italian law;
- (b) the system of control by your Government of the manufacture, repair  
and transit of war material, and the Ministry by which this control  
is exercised.

Very truly yours,  
631

(sgl) MILITARY W. ARCADE  
Rear Admiral, USNR  
Chief Commissioner

Dr. Alcide De Gasperi  
President of the Council of Ministers,  
Italian Government  
ROME

Copy to: Chief Commissioner  
Braz Commissioner  
Land Forces S/C  
Navy S/C  
Air Force S/C  
Recd Sec.

| TO SUB |  |
|--------|--|
| A/Q    |  |
| Q      |  |
| Q. 1   |  |
| Q. 2   |  |
| ORD    |  |
| REME   |  |

SD Distr.

SL/109  
10/1/62

600  
6/9/62

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

785020

SUBJECT:- Arms production

(30)

Land Forces Sub Commission, A.C.,  
M.M.I.A.  
ROME.

Q.123

31 August 46.

TO:- Allied Commission

(30)

Reference conversation Brigadier Carr/Colonel  
Pidsley.

This Sub Commission is still receiving enquiries from the War Ministry (which we are unable to answer), regarding the production and issue of small arms of various types for various state and private uses.

My draft letter to you on 16th August, which was intended to be sent to AFHQ explains the position which is, I think, already well known to you.

The War Ministry is naturally anxious to get this matter onto a proper footing so that:-

- (a) Proper control as required by the Allied Authorities may be exercised as soon as the extent of this control is known.
- and
- (b) The firms in question and their customers may not be unduly inconvenienced or financially handicapped.

It would therefore be appreciated if this Sub Commission could be given instructions on this matter in the very near future.

630

W2/MJC.

*W Pidsley*  
Colonel  
Major General,  
M.M.I.A.

## TRANSLATION

From: M; of W.

To : MMIA

Ref: 59179 T/L  
4-3-13 Art.

Date: 29/8/46

Subject: Stores requisitioned by 315 Field Security  
Section and forwarded to the Turin Artillery  
Directorate.

In June 1945, The British HQ of 315 Field Security  
Section - Intelligence Corps, arranged for the requisitioning,  
from the Piessacco stores of the Soc.An.Meccanica Torinese  
(S.A.M.T.) the under mentioned stores in respect of war contracts  
being carried out, at the date of the liberation, for the Italian  
Army and Air Force:

- Casts for T.Z. 45 machine guns;
- parts for T.Z. 45 automatic pistols and Very pistols.

Said stores were later handed over to the Turin Artillery  
Directorate, who took them on charge.

Now the S.A.M.T., who is in a critical financial  
situation, has approached this Ministry asking for the immediate  
return of the above mentioned stores, in order to avoid the  
complete disaissal, in a very short time, of all their skilled  
workers.

As the stores were ~~requisitioned~~ requisitioned by an Allied HQ,  
we beg you to kindly inform us if said stores can be returned,  
in their present state, to the S.A.M.T., which is still the owner  
since no payment or balance has been effected by the Italian  
Military Administration.

UR

|     |  |
|-----|--|
|     |  |
| A/Q |  |
|     |  |
|     |  |
|     |  |
|     |  |
|     |  |
|     |  |
|     |  |
|     |  |

Properzi  
Gen.

33

E.A.M.  
5/9/46

P/23.

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

785020

ALLIED [REDACTED] COMMISSION  
INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

FILE No.

SUBJECT:

TO : Land Forces Sub-Commission,  
Attention: Colonel Fidsley

27th August, 1946

RECEIVED

Reference attached.

As regards paragraph 1, the draft letter to AFHQ is still under consideration with EC and CC. The matter has not yet been referred to higher authority as stated in one of your recent letters to the War Ministry.

As regards para 2, no reply has yet been received to our letter of the 25th June. I have suggested that a reminder should be sent, but EC does not want to bring pressure on the Prime Minister at this juncture.

M. CARR, Brigadier.  
VP. CA. Section.

628

Recd 30 Aug.

28  
HQ AF (for Executive Commission)

Ref conversation (Big Can - Col Pickley) and  
in continuation of the minutes of our meeting of  
27 May 46 on "Protection of Arms"

1. attached draft letter to AFHQ is submitted  
for consideration.
2. Has a reply been received from Prime Minister  
is your 9/28/CA 25 done on this  
matter?
3. Pending action on both above I should  
like to present a memorandum at War Minister  
views of our recommendations.

Pickley

Colonel RA  
Lead Force Sub Commission

See 25

16 Aug 46

627

Capt. Vella

0318

1. attention on  
for consideration.
2. Has a reply been received from Prime Minister  
is your 9/28/CA 9 25 June on this  
matter? I should
3. Pending action on both above War Minister  
like to possible manner at War  
views of our recommendations.

Stidley  
Genl HQ  
Land Force Sub Commissioner

See 25

16 Aug 46

627

Capt. Vella

File as early as possible. I want  
K.E.C. with letter of signature by C.C.  
28/8 me

| TO SEE |  |
|--------|--|
| A/Q    |  |
| Q      |  |
| Q.1    |  |
| Q.2    |  |
| Q.3    |  |
| Q.4    |  |
| Q.5    |  |

COPY

TRANSLATION

From : M. of Finance  
To : M.M.I.A.

Ref : 79288  
Date : 21.8.46

Subject : Automatic weapons for the Finance Guard.

1. M. of W. which had allotted this General HQ 5712 automatic Beretta carbines in order to suitably arm, in the amount strictly necessary, Units of the Corps has informed us that your Mission has cancelled the issue.
2. Concerning the above we think it advisable to point out that, the Corps of Finance Guard is part of the Italian Armed Forces and has, mainly, the task of preventing smuggling over the borders. It is necessary therefore for our soldiers to exercise on the Alps and beaches a real and true guerrilla warfare against mobs of criminals thoroughly organised, in possession of transport and modern weapons and almost all automatic. These mobs at present, due to the war, have grown in number are audacious and dangerous. Our patrols retaliate with old model 91 carbines.
3. Having considered the absurdity of reaching satisfactory results with this armament, bearing in mind that the Corps, as previously stated, must efficiently act against the smugglers, and also help in the protection of public order, we request you to kindly cancel the above order concerning the automatic carbines, already allocated by the Ministry of War.
4. It is to be noted that the P.S. is considered by your Mission on a level with the Finance Guard "Police Force", but despite this, a large number of automatic weapons has been issued to them, whilst the Finance Guard has been completely forgotten.
5. We would be very grateful if your Mission would kindly examine the matter and inform us of any action to be taken.

DK

Conti



0321

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

BUCK SLIP

FILE NO. Q123.

24

|            | SECTION OR SERVICE |    | ACTION REQUIRED                                                                                                                                                                                |
|------------|--------------------|----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|            | FROM               | TO |                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 16 Aug. 46 | Q                  | G. | See (22 T) signed two days after you (20).<br>A.C. might be interested in (22 f T) further to you (21).<br><br>Rae                                                                             |
| 23 Aug 46  | AQ                 |    | BF 23 Aug W.P.<br><br>Q (1) Check and let me know on 29 Aug what action has been taken by A.C. (Bing can) on my draft at 23 below.<br>(2) Give War Bureau latest info.<br><br>WP<br>23 Aug 625 |

0 3 2 2

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

785020

DATE is A.C. 16 Aug 46.  
Bij Carr

23

70-11111

1. I have received information from various Departments of the Italian Government as well as from certain private firms, for permission to manufacture or repair and to sell to certain State Departments, Commercial undertakings or private individuals, certain types of arms and ammunition.
2. The only direction which I appear to have received from you in this matter is contained in your AC 588/3/007 dated 2 August, copy of which is attached for easy reference. This Directive, which was written before the conclusion of the war in the West and which consequently lays stress on our war effort, is quite clear as far as "armaments and ammunition or implements of war" are concerned. It does not, however, define these items or state whether the manufacture of such weapons as sporting shot guns, small practice rifles or pistols of small calibre is to be restricted. Further, in this directive pre-empted the signing of a peace treaty within a short space of time of the end of the war, it did not allow for the circumstances which have arisen in Italy during the past 12 months and which may have to continue for some time longer.

624

3. In actual fact (see AC letter 501/143/50 of the 22 November 1945) positive control of arms and munitions of war material has not been completed owing to the absence of qualified technical staff, the only control existing being through the service sub-commissions and their

0323

you on this matter is contained in your letter of 20/11/43. This Directive, which copy of which is attached for your reference. This Directive, which was written before the conclusion of the war in the East and which consequently lays stress on our war effort, is quite clear as far as "ammunition and munition or implements of war" are concerned. It does not, however, define these items or state whether the manufacture of such weapons as sporting shot guns, small practice rifles or pistols of small calibre is to be restricted. Further, as this Directive pre-supposed the signing of a peace treaty within a short space of time of the end of the war, it did not allow for the circumstances which have arisen in Italy during the past 12 months and which may have to continue for some time longer.

624

5. In actual fact (see my letter 501/143/43 of the 22 November 1945) positive control of manufacture of our material has not been completed owing to the absence of qualified technical staff, the only control existing being through the service sub-committees and their respective Ministries, leaving the manufacture by private firms without direct control.

4. As a result of this situation I am receiving the requests referred to in para 1 above, together with frequent complaints as to injustices due to a system (or rather, a lack of system) under which certain small business are able under black market conditions to make and sell various weapons without any control, whereas the large and respectable firms who are under contract with service Ministries are still waiting for authority to enable them to execute similar orders.

5. } therefore recommend that the decision be taken:

(a) that the term "firearm" should be defined and that weapons which need not be considered essentially war-like, e.g. shot guns, sporting rifles and pistols or revolvers below 8 mm. should be excluded from the definition.

(b) that the control of manufacture, repair and distribution of firearms other than those considered as war-like, should be left entirely to the Italian Government, who may however, be required to give us such information regarding their system of control as we may require.

6. I consider that the above ruling might well be given by you without reference to Combined Chiefs of Staff and that it is very desirable that some such ruling should be given at the earliest possible moment.

CHIEF OF STAFF  
ALLIED COMMISSION

TRANSLATION

235

FROM: M. of W.

REF: 50472/DT  
558

TO : M.M.I.A.

DATE: 8/8/46

SUBJECT: Manufacture of small arms by Beretta Firm.

Reference letter Q 009 of 20 June 1946.

I would inform you that, beside requests already forwarded to you, we have in the meantime received the following requests:-

- a) from firm Angelini & Bernardon of Trieste, authorization for the purchase of 60 pistols, 6,35 cal. and 40 pistols 7,65 cal.; the request is countersigned by the Police Directorate of the A.M.G. in Venezia Giulia.
- b) from firm "Fortuna" of Fumagalli & Marazza, Milan, authority <sup>for the</sup> purchase of 50 pistols 7,65 cal. and 25 pistols 6,35 cal.
- c) from the Institute of Private Surveyance, Crema; authority <sup>for the</sup> purchase of 10 pistols 7,65 cal.
- d) from the Commune of Sienna, authority <sup>for the</sup> purchase of 47 pistols for city guards. *POOY. H. 623*

*continued*

| TO SFB |  |
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| A/Q    |  |
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2 - nothing further concerning statements included in letter 210511/9531, dated 31st May 1946.

3 - We take note that you are not authorized to grant permits for manufacture and supply of weapons to formations which do not come under this Ministry; we therefore await the decision of Superior Authorities which we trust will be given as soon as possible. In the meantime we confirm that instructions stated to you, concerning military control on the activity of Pietro Beretta firm are still in force.

12/8/46 RO

133

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

- 2 -

40 - Copy of the request submitted by the firm P. Beretta to the Ministry of the Interior for obtaining permit to manufacture and sell "non war" weapons is hereby forwarded. We ask you kindly to support the above request, if possible, in order to regulate the manufacture of the said defence weapons.

Sgd. PROPERZI  
Gen.

622

TRANSLATION

2267

From: BERETTA arms factory.  
To : Home Office

Ref: ---  
Date: 17/7/46

Subject: 7,65 and 6,35 cal. pistols.

RAC

As known to your Directorate General, we are manufacturing a number of carbines and cal.9 pistols for the Carabinieri, these are considered war weapons.

This order was given us by the Ministry of War further to the approval of the MMIA, who furthermore ordered a military supervision of the factory with the object of preventing any other arms being manufactured.

These orders, prevent the manufacture of 7,65 and 6,35 calibre pistols, despite the fact that they have been classified as "non war weapons".

Consequently heavy technical-financial damage is suffered by us due to the following reasons:

- 1)- We are compelled to keep ~~a~~ the specially equipped departments for the manufacture of these pistols idle; departments which are absolutely independent from those manufacturing carbines and cal.9 pistols.
- 2)- Less man-power required, when, above all in this particular moment considered emergency, it would be advisable and sound to reduce ~~an~~ unemployment among local skilled personnel to a minimum.
- 3)- We shall gradually loose all our old customers, who - having to have the above mentioned pistols - find themselves compelled (as is ~~actually~~ occurring) to go to other factories or small secret factories which are springing up in this area, which do not worry about extortionate prices (black market) knowing full well that they have nothing to fear from our ~~national~~ production which, besides offering a safer technical guarantee, also controls prices.
- 4)- The lack of manufacture of 7,65 and 6,35 cal. pistols causes very heavy financial damage to our industry due to the fact that, being a question of sales to ~~a~~ formations (public and private) and armourers, we have the possibility of obtaining payment for each supply on delivery of the goods.

We would point out that we still have suspended orders for the above weapons amounting to 5044, as shown in the attached list.

Having stressed the above, we would point out that we have tried to solve this abnormal situation by approaching the Ministry of War, MMIA Rome, and the GHQ at Caserta.

- 2 -

The Ministry of War - General Arty Directorate - has no objection to us manufacturing the a/m pistols; on the contrary the other two formations have declared that they are incompetent to solve the question and have requested us to approach the A.C. Rome, advising moreover that this request be submitted officially by your Ministry being a question of weapons which are not really war weapons and whose sale is regulated by T.O. of the P.S. law.

We therefore take the liberty of asking your Ministry to kindly officially submit this application to the a/m A.C. HQ.

sgd. Pietro Beretta.

DAK

620

0329

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

BUCK SLIP

FILE NO Q123.

| DATE      | SECTION OR SERVICE |    | ACTION REQUIRED                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-----------|--------------------|----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|           | FROM               | TO |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 3 August. | Q                  | G. | <p>For BGS. Please see folio (19)</p> <p>War Min continue to demand permission either</p> <p>(a) to release or sell surplus Italian weapons to units / individuals other than Army or C.C.R.A.</p> <p>(b) to permit Benetta Firm to complete contracts outstanding and accept others.</p> <p>Action following (c) has so far proved abortive.</p> <p>No reply has yet been sent to (14T) or (15T). 619</p> <p>May a copy of your letter be sent to Q for the file Q123.</p> |

|       |     |   |                                                                                                                                |
|-------|-----|---|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 6 Aug | BGS | Q | <p>Please see my reply to Ministry.</p> <p>I have put the matter up to A.C. for a ruling in another file.</p> <p>W.H. (18)</p> |
|-------|-----|---|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

X

0330

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

785020

1

SUBJECT: Six rifles for sworn guards.

~~SECRET~~

Q123

17

See 18

Doct. STRACCHI of Società Sogno Ironworks (Main Factory at Aosta) applied to M. of Interior on 18th March 1946 to be authorised to draw on payment from M. of W. N° 6 rifles Mod. 91 or 6 carbines with ammo. for 6 sworn guards.

M. of Interior agreed to this and wrote to M. of W.-  
M. of War has told Doct. Stracchi that they cannot release the 6 rifles because they have not been authorised by M.M.I.A.

Doct. Stracchi is here to points out the urgency of the matter.

618  
Ext  
Interpreters' Office 587

0331

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

TRANSLATION

151

FROM: M. of W.

REF: 219569/11

TO : M.N.I.A.

DATE: 29/7/46

SUBJECT: Request for arms for P.S. Guard Corps.

Further to letter No 218995 dated 27th inst.  
Enclosed herewith, please find copy of phonogram  
No 9847/999/9707 from M. of I. You are kindly  
requested to say whether you have any objection to  
the issue of the arms requested.

*See 18* *16*

Sgd. LOMBARDI  
Col.

617

1/8/46

| TO SEE |  |
|--------|--|
| A/Q    |  |
| Q      |  |
| Q. 1   |  |
| Q. 2   |  |
| ORD    |  |
| REMS   |  |
|        |  |

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

785020

TRANSLATION

COPY

PHONOGRAM

FROM: M. of Interior

TO : M. of W.

REF: 9847/990/9707

DATE -----

REFERENCE AGREEMENT MADE, KINDLY HASTEN THE  
ISSUE OF 10,000 CARBINES MOD. 91 (.) AT LEAST  
4000 OF SAID ARMS ARE URGENTLY REQUIRED TO ARM  
4000 CADETS (.) KINDLY ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT BY  
PHONE (.)

Sgd. DE GASPERI

616

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

TRANSLATION

FROM: Ministry of War.

REF: 213995/II

TO: M.M.I.A.

DATE: 29 July 1946.

SUBJECT:- Issue of arms and ammunition to  
public and private establishments.

This Ministry is continually receiving requests for arms and ammunition from the Ministry of Interior, for the arming of communal, estate, sworn guards etc., and from the Ministry of Grace of Justice, for their prison guards.

This Administration would not be unwilling to release on payment - as has been done in the past - carbines and ordinary repeating rifles, which are no longer in use in the Army.

We would like to know if your Mission has no objection to same.

sgd. LOMBARDI  
Col.

R.A.G.

| TO SEE |  |
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| Q 1    |  |
| Q 2    |  |
| Q 3    |  |
| Q 4    |  |
| Q 5    |  |
| Q 6    |  |
| Q 7    |  |
| Q 8    |  |
| Q 9    |  |
| Q 10   |  |

See 16  
See 20  
See 17  
8/7/46  
2615

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

785020

TRANSLATION

(13T)

FROM: M. of W.  
TO : MMIA

REF.: 219117/II  
DATE: 26 July 1946

Phonogram

G. HQ. FINANCE GUARDS REQUESTED THE ASSIGNMENT OF 86 MACHINE GUNS FIAT MOD. 35 CAL. 8 TO COMPLETE THE ARMAMENT OF UNITS UNDER ITS COMMAND (.) THIS MINISTRY <sup>CAN</sup> ~~COULD~~ ISSUE 40 MACHINE GUNS WITH 1000 CARTRIDGES EACH (.) PLEASE STATE WHETHER YOU HAVE ~~any~~ OBJECTION (.) (SGD.) IOMBARDI.

G.F.

44 50T 614  
J. Q. 138

0335

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

BUCK SLIP

FILE NO Q009

3

12

| DATE     | SECTION OR SERVICE |     | ACTION REQUIRED                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|----------|--------------------|-----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|          | FROM               | TO  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 12 July. | Q                  | A/Q | <p>Today interviewed rep Benella Ferrin who furnished attached list of "orders" which was then and refusing permission to execute. Informed him MMIA not interested except to obtain AC. RGHQ decision and that matter would be impeded if the Min of Interior would write to AC.</p> <p>He undertook to take the matter up with the Min of Interior to send as a copy of his letter. 613</p> <p>Please send this <u>RAC</u>, or a copy to Brig Carr and to Public Safety for information. W.D.</p> <p><u>Done RAC</u></p> |
| 12 July. | RQ.                | Q.  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |

## ORDINI IN SOGGERSO FORNITURA PISTOLE AUTOMATICHE "BERETTA"

|                              |                | Nr./ | 300   | Cal. | 7.65  |
|------------------------------|----------------|------|-------|------|-------|
| Corpo Metropolitani Notturmo | MILANO         | "    | 500   | "    | 7,65  |
| Comune di                    | GENOVA         | "    | 500   | "    | 7,65  |
| Comune di                    | VENEZIA        | "    | 500   | "    | 7,65  |
| Comune di Bologna            | BOLOGNA        | "    | 500   | "    | 7,65  |
| Comune di                    | TORINO         | "    | 500   | "    | 7,65  |
| Comune di                    | BIELLA         | "    | 27    | "    | 7,65  |
| Comune di                    | RAVENNA        | "    | 40    | "    | 7,65  |
| Comune di                    | RIMINI         | "    | 100   | "    | 7,65  |
| Comune di                    | FIRENZE        | "    | ..... | "    | ..... |
| Comune di                    | EMPOLI         | "    | 11    | "    | 7,65  |
| Comune di                    | PESARO         | "    | 80    | "    | 7,65  |
| Comune di                    | PISTOIA        | "    | 38    | "    | 7,65  |
| Comune di                    | SAN REMO       | "    | 60    | "    | 7,65  |
| Corpo Armato Guardie giurate | CEMONA         | "    | 80    | "    | 7,65  |
| Comune di                    | ORTONA A MARE  | "    | 14    | "    | 7,65  |
| Comune di                    | JESI           | "    | 20    | "    | 7,65  |
| Direz. Poste e Telegrafi     | BRESCIA        | "    | 50    | "    | 7,65  |
| Comune di                    | PADOVA         | "    | 70    | "    | 7,65  |
| Manifattura Tabacchi         | GENOVA         | "    | 8     | "    | 7,65  |
| Comune di                    | CHIOGGIA       | "    | 20    | "    | 61,8  |
| Banco di Roma                | TORINO         | "    | 20    | "    | 7,65  |
| Comune di                    | RAVENNA        | "    | 40    | "    | 7,65  |
| Silurificio Italiano         | NAPOLI         | "    | 15    | "    | 7,65  |
| Comune di                    | MONTEARGENTARO | "    | 15    | "    | 7,65  |
| Industria Ferrania           | SAVONA         | "    | 15    | "    | 7,65  |
| Banca Commerciale Italiana   | GENOVA         | "    | 50    | "    | 7,65  |
| Stabilimenti Montecatini     | MILANO         | "    | 100   | "    | 7,65  |

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

785020

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|---------------------------------|----------------------|---|-----|---|-------|
| Ferriere Bolzaneto              | GENOVA               | " | 24  | " | 7,65  |
| Odero Terni Orlando             | GENOVA               | " | 50  | " | 7,65  |
| Comune di                       | CREMONA              | " | 50  | " | 7,65  |
| Italcementi                     | BERGAMO              | " | 25  | " | 7,65  |
| Comune di                       | BRINDISI             | " | 50  | " | 7,65  |
| Regg. Cavalleggeri di Monfer.   | VOGHERA              | " | 14  | " | 7,65  |
| Comando Corpo delle Foreste     | FIRENZE              | " | 75  | " | 7,65  |
| Comune di Imola                 | IMOLA                | " | 40  | " | 7,65  |
| Comune di                       | CORI                 | " | 4   | " | 7,65  |
| Comune di                       | PIVERAGNO            | " | 12  | " | 7,65  |
| Comune di                       | PISA                 | " | 100 | " | 7,65  |
| Vigilanza Notturna              | ASCOLI PICENO        | " | 15  | " | 7,65  |
| Comune di                       | PORTICO S. BENEDETTO | " | 4   | " | 7,65  |
| Banca d'America in Italia       | NAPOLI               | " | 65  | " | 7,65  |
| Marchetti                       | STESTO CALENDE       | " | 10  | " | 7,65  |
| Istituto Vigilanza Privata      | CREMA                | " | 20  | " | 7,65  |
| Ilva                            | NOVI LIGURE          | " | 22  | " | 7,65  |
| Industria Nazionale Alluminio   | MILANO               | " | 7   | " | 7,65  |
| Societa' pre-Alpina di Elett.   | VARESE               | " | 35  | " | 7,65  |
| Off. Meccaniche Regiane         | REGGIO EMILIA        | " | 25  | " | 61,65 |
| Carceri Giudiziarie             | FIRENZE              | " | 100 | " | 7,65  |
| Carceri Giudiziarie centrali    | LIVORNO              | " | 48  | " | 7,65  |
| Carceri Giudiziarie             | SORA                 | " | 7   | " | 7,65  |
| Carceri Giudiziarie             | REGGIO EMILIA        | " | 100 | " | 7,65  |
| Manifattura Tabacchi            | MODENA               | " | 6   | " | 7,65  |
| Monte dei Paschi                | SIENA                | " | 50  | " | 7,65  |
| Consorzio Bonificazione Bentiv. | QUALTIERI            | " | 25  | " | 7,65  |
| Corpo Vigili Giurati            | FERRARA              | " | 25  | " | 7,65  |

|                              |                      |       |         |
|------------------------------|----------------------|-------|---------|
| Comune di                    | LEGNANO              | " 20  | " 7,65  |
| Comune di                    | S. MARGHERITA LIGURE | 6     | " 7,65  |
| Stabilimento Bertoni e Cotti | COFFARO              | " 3   | " 7,65  |
| Corpo delle Moreste          | BARI                 | " 100 | " 7,65  |
| V Corpo Vigili del Fuoco     | L'AQUILA             | " 1   | " 7,65  |
| Metallurgica Italiana        | CAMPO TIZZORO        | " 33  | " 7,65  |
| Banco di Napoli              | NAPOLI               | " 150 | " 7,65  |
| Cantieri Met, Italiani       | CASTEL DI STABBIA    | " 10  | " 7,65  |
| Cantieri Navali              | LA SPEZIA            | " 150 | " 7,65  |
| Tranvie Elet. Torinesi       | TORINO               | " 10  | " 7,65  |
| Odero Terni Orlando          | MUGLIANO             | " 30  | " 7,65  |
| Cantieri Navali              | LIVORNO              | " 250 | " 7,65. |

0539

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

SUBJECT:- Control of Production of Arms & Ammo.

Land Forces Div Commission AC.,  
M.N.I.A.  
R.O.H.B.  
✓ 1.009

6 July 1946

TO : A.C. (For Insp. Comm.)

Ref. 1.009 of 20 June 1946.

Request reply and information regarding any result of your  
9/20/46 of 25 June 46 addressed President of the Council.

*Rob*  
P.A. CUMTIES, Lt. Col.,  
For Major General  
M.N.I.A. 609

0340

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

(11)

SUBJECT:- Control of Production of Arms & Ammo.

Land Forces Sub Commission AC.,  
H.M.I.A.  
P.O. H. H.  
✓ 609

8 July 1946

(7)

TO : A.C. (For Recd. Comm.)

Ref. 609 of 20 June 1946.

Request reply and information regarding any result of your  
2/28/46 of 25 June 46 addressed President of the Council.

(8)

*Rae*

R.A. CURTIS, Lt. Col.,  
for Major General 609  
H.M.I.A.

*Ant*

0341

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

"Q" DUCK SELF

FILE NO Q009

10

| DATE   | SECTION OR SERVICE |     | ACTION REQUIRED                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|--------|--------------------|-----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|        | FROM               | TO  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 1 Jul. | Q                  | LO. | <p>Ref attached please refer War Min to Q009 20 Jun 46. (5)</p> <p>See (69) - (70) and (74) in file Q009</p> <p>Explain this is our last word until policy decision is given.</p> <p>XIII Corps now want 700 Berettas which will perhaps absorb all surplus.</p> <p>RAC</p> |
| 3 July | LO                 | Q   | <p>In the absence of 608 Perry and Russo, spoke to Col Rosomando as requested above.</p> <p>cd</p>                                                                                                                                                                          |

File RAC 5/7

0342

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

TRANSLATION

|       |    |
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| TO    |    |
| A/C   | 91 |
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FROM : MINISTRY OF WAR  
TO : MMIA

REF : 38030/DT/55 S  
DATE : 22 June 46

SUBJECT :- Manufacture of Small Arms - Beretta Firm (Carbone F.T.)

Further to our letters No. 26520/DT-55 S of 6 May 1946 and No. 37401/DT - 55 S of 13 June 1946.

- 1) Requests for authority for the purchase of small arms are still continuing to reach this Ministry.
- 2) Herewith copy of a request addressed by the National Aluminium Industry re. the purchase of 7 automatic pistols.
- 3) We again ask N.M.I.A. to grant this Ministry the authority for the disposal of these supplies.

See 5

For the Minister  
sgd. P.C. Properti

607

607  
ref 4/146

0343

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

TRANSMISSION

FROM : NATIONAL ALUMINIUM INDUSTRIES

REF : ADM/VA

TO : MINISTRY OF WAR

DATE : 3 June 46

SUBJECT : Re. authority purchase 7 automatic pistols - Pietro Beretta (Gardone VR)

Having made application to P. Beretta Firm (Brescia) regarding the purchase of 7 automatic pistols, with relative spare magazines, it has been replied that the sale is only allowed with previous authority of your Ministry.

Owing that said arms have been requested by the managing personnel of our factory (Bolzano), we kindly ask your Ministry to grant us this authority giving the possibility to the Beretta Firm to comply with our request.

Hoping to receive a favourable reply, we remain.....

606

0344

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

SUBJECT :- Control of Production of Arms & Munitions.

Land Forces Sub Commission AC.,  
M.M.I.A.,  
R.O.M.S.  
✓ 5009

20 June 1946

TO : A.C. for Exec. Com.

Reference is made to Minutes of Meeting held in Office of  
V.P. Civil Affairs Sec. on 27 May 1946.

1. The attached copy of a letter to War Ministry illustrates  
a number of outstanding cases where a decision is sought.
2. May an indication be given as to when the position will  
be clarified.

all (11)

605

Rac

✓ Major General  
M.M.I.A.

Copy to : A.C. (Civil Affairs Sec.)

M. M. 57.  
 AQMG File in 009.  
 accumulate.  
 Col. Pidsley.  
 SECRET.

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD IN THE OFFICE OF VP, CIVIL  
 AFFAIRS SECTION ON MONDAY, 27 MAY 1946 AT 1436 HRS TO  
 DISCUSS CONTROL OF PRODUCTION OF ARMS, AMMUNITION AND  
 WARLIKE STORES.

In the Chair: Brigadier M. CARR

Present : Commander, J.C. RISK, Navy Sub-Commission.

Colonel W. PIDSLEY, Land Forces Sub-Comm. (ADMIN)

Lt. Col. H. MICHAEL, do.

Lt. Col. R. CURTIS, do.

Major R.C. VAN KIRK do.

S/Lt. M.E. REID, Air Forces Sub-Comm.

Colonel H.M. WALKER, Ind. & Util. Br, Econ.

Capt. T.E. DILLIOTT do. Sec.

Lt. Col. F.J. WILSON Public Safety Sub-Comm.

Major N.W. HIND-SMITH, Office of Ex. Commr.

Major J.S. REAKES, CSO to VP, CA Section.

#### Background.

Brig. Carr said he had called this meeting in the capacity of an individual Officer. It was not proposed that CA Section should take over the control of armaments; no staff was available and the Section was awaiting liquidation. Executive Commissioner had asked him to review the situation and make any recommendations considered necessary.

He had taken AFHQ Secret letter AG 388.3/087 GEG-O of 2nd August as a starting point. This letter must be read in the light of the present situation and in some aspects it was out of date as regards policy. It provided for production of arms and ammunition only to the extent required by the Allied Forces.

Brig. Carr said that a good deal of confusion had arisen as various letters had been issued by HQ AC which gave the impression that all necessary action as regards control was

Major R.C. VAN KIRK do.  
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Sec.  
Capt. T.E. ELLIOTT do.  
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Brig. Carr said that a good deal of confusion had arisen as various letters had been issued by HQ AC which gave the impression that all necessary action as regards control was being taken. One letter stated it was considered that sufficient control was being exercised through Italian laws and lack of raw materials but this did not take into account any manufacture undertaken by using existing stocks, scrap or salvaged materials and irregular transit of arms. An AFHQ letter dated 8 November 1945, particularly referred to manufacture of arms in the North, as this arose out of a report by GOC 2 District. In the last paragraph of that letter AC was directed to inform the Italian Government that warlike stores must not be manufactured without Allied approval and that existing stocks must be recorded and guarded. Apparently no action had been taken by AC. Brig. Carr went on to say that a subsequent letter issued by AC stated that the withdrawal of **805** ~~from~~ from the North would be an appropriate time to remind

- 2 -

SECRET.

the Italian Government of the prohibition in regard to the production of arms and ammunition. Here again nothing had been done.

Matters had come to a head recently because certain elements in the Italian police forces were being supplied with quantities and types of arms and ammunition beyond those considered necessary or desirable. Although this HQ had acquiesced in the policy of issue of automatic weapons to certain elements of the Police, it had always been considered that control of issue should be maintained, which would have been the case if authorized releases from stocks and factories had been made.

Knowledge of present extent of arms and ammunition.

Brig. Carr said he understood that Economic Section were getting particulars. Capt. Elliott stated that a list of special machinery which could not be converted to civilian use had been compiled for G-5, AFHQ.

Col. Pidsley stated that the Italian Army and the CC.BR. unlike the Civil Police Forces, had scales of armaments laid down and any Italian arms or ammunition required to complete those scales were authorized by Land Forces S/C and contracts given to recognized firms by the War Minister; this arrangement only applied to War Ministry contracts, however, and attention had been drawn to the fact that army contracts at the Beretta factory were being held up by private contracts.

S/Ldr. Reid stated that the Fiat factory was making transport aircraft and Air Forces S/C was satisfied that no unauthorized production of military aircraft was going on. In answer to Col. Pidsley, S/Ldr. Reid stated that he could give no information on small arms for aircraft and said these were usually put on after the aircraft was completed; their source was unknown.

Exercise of Control.

Brig. Carr said it was apparent from discussion on the first term of reference that

of special machinery which could not be converted to civilian use had been compiled for G-5, AFHQ.

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#### Exercise of Control.

Brig. Carr said it was apparent from discussion on the first term of reference that control was only being exercised over the contracts of the various Service Ministries and no control was being affected by Allied authorities on any production which might be taken place outside such contracts.

Recommendations as to action to be taken in AC to implement policy laid down.

Brig. Carr said it had been pointed out in correspondence that AC had not the necessary technical staff to administer control. He recommended that it was a matter to be taken over by one of the Service Sub-Commissions, in view of recent developments and the future of AC. In view of the fact that Land Forces was the largest Service Sub-Commission he considered it might be their responsibility.

SECRET.

- 3 -

Col. Pidsley replied that the views of his Sub-Commission were mainly as expressed in their letter Q.009 dated 7 May. The opinion was then given that if it was felt that restriction was necessary under the terms of the Armistice the responsibility on the Italian side should be that of one Ministry, possibly the Ministry of War. If this was done then it would be necessary for one authority to take responsibility for supervision on the Allied side.

Col. Pidsley considered that the Navy would have to be separate in the matter, but all other arms could come under War Ministry. The situation rather pointed to a section composed of technical experts in addition to military personnel. Provided suitable technical assistance was forthcoming, Land Forces Sub-Commission might assume the responsibility for control.

Brig. Carr agreed, that so far as this HQ was concerned the question of the production of arms and ammunition should be taken over by the Land Forces Sub-Commission, depending on the Italian Government centralising responsibility to the War Ministry and Land Forces Sub-Commission being suitably augmented.

Action to be taken with AFHQ and Italian Government.

Brig. Carr said that following on the last recommendation the question arose as to how control would be exercised on the Italian Government side and whether any action should now be taken on the AFHQ letter dated 8 November. This would be linked up with the question of the Ministry of War <sup>AFHQ</sup> ~~being~~ over production because the attention of the Italian Government could then be drawn to control of arms. The situation was difficult, especially at the present time.

Land Forces Sub-Commission suggested that the Chief Commissioner should ask the Italian Government about their present machinery for control on the Italian side, where responsibility rested and suggesting that it might be made the responsibility of the Ministry of War. It was <sup>unadvised</sup> ~~unadvised~~.

0350

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Land Forces Sub-Commission suggested that the Chief Commissioner should ask the Italian Government about their present machinery for control on the Italian side, where responsibility rested and suggesting that it might be made the responsibility of the Ministry of War. It was <sup>unadvisable</sup> to do more than this at the moment.

✓ Brig. Carr expressed agreement with this suggestion.

MMIA || Col. Pidsley undertook to prepare a draft letter to the Italian Government.

As regards the strength and armament of the Police Forces other than CC.RR., Col. Pidsley felt that AFHQ and CCS had not the same view of the picture as AC and there was a danger of orders being issued based on incomplete information. It was therefore necessary to give them all the information we had available. Brig. Carr agreed and said he would prepare a letter to AFHQ in consultation with Col. Pidsley, based on a letter prepared by Land Forces Sub-Commission.

Done.

(P.S.3/c)

SECRET.

Commander Risk entered the meeting and Brig. Carr reviewed what had been discussed and the recommendations made. Commander Risk said that the Navy-Subcommission had refused permission for the Ministry of Marine to acquire additional weapons except in cases of emergency. A survey of naval munition factories had been carried out with a view to ascertaining those that could be converted to civilian use. No complete control was exercised, the only form of control being on a voluntary basis.

Brig. Carr said AC should put the whole case to ATHQ and if they were prepared to provide the necessary staff there was no reason why control could not be exercised.

Col. Pideley suggested that it was necessary to obtain from the Italian Government a full resume of the existing laws for manufacture of weapons, including sporting weapons.

Brig. Carr concluded the discussions by saying that the recommendations made would be submitted to the Executive Commissioner.

The meeting closed at 1515 hrs.

601

Subject: Manufacture of small arms by Beretta firm.

LAND FORCES SUB COMMISSION AG  
(M.H.I.A.)

Q.009

20 June 1946

To : WAR MINISTRY

1. Reference is made to your 37401/VI of 15 June 46 in which you request instructions as to whether or not the Beretta firm may accept and complete orders for small arms as under :-

- (a) Armeria Latuada di Legnano to be authorised to purchase 40 automatic pistols from the Beretta firm.
- (b) Ente Nazionale Professione Armiere, Florence to be authorised to purchase a certain quantity of automatic pistols from the Beretta firm.
- (c) Comune di Siena to be authorised to purchase 47 7.65 automatic pistols from the Beretta firm.

It is understood there is a further demand for the release of 2 cal 9mm pistols to the Bus Society of Rome for arming night civilian guard.

2. In addition there is the control of small arms in process of repair at the National Arms Factory of BRESCIA. Your 240541/5534 of 31 May 46 refers.

3. MILA is not authorised to permit the manufacture of or release of arms to units other than those under the command of the War Ministry. The decision as to whether War Ministry control over the factories in question can be released to enable orders from private firms to be met is still awaited from Higher Authority.

As early as possible you will be notified of the decision taken. Meanwhile you are required to limit the activities of the manufacturers to what has been expressly authorised for the Army and CC.RR.

4. It is suggested that you refer the applicants to the appropriate Government Department who may wish to approach the Allied authorities

600

1. Reference is made to your 37404/IV of 13 June 46 in which

555

you request instructions as to whether or not the Beretta firm may accept and complete orders for small arms as under :-

- (a) Armeria Lattuada di Legnano to be authorised to purchase 40 automatic pistols from the Beretta firm.
- (b) Ante Nazionale Protezione Animale, Florence to be authorised to purchase a certain quantity of automatic pistols from the Beretta firm.
- (c) Comune di Siena to be authorised to purchase 47 7.65 automatic pistols from the Beretta firm.

It is understood there is a further demand for the release of 12 cal 9mm pistols to the Bus Society of Rome for arming night civilian guard.

2. In addition there is the control of small arms in process of repair at the National Arms Factory of BANGSIA. Your 240541/8534 of 31 May 46 refers.

3. MIA is not authorised to permit the manufacture of or release of arms to units other than those under the command of the War Ministry. The decision as to whether War Ministry control over the factories in question can be released to enable orders from private firms to be met is still awaited from Higher Authority.

As early as possible you will be notified of the decision taken. Meanwhile you are required to limit the activities of the manufacturers to what has been expressly authorised for the Army and CO. RR.

4. It is suggested that you refer the applicants to the appropriate Government Department who may wish to approach the Allied Authorities should the matter be considered of urgency.

*See also*

*RAC*

*see 227*

*Major General,  
M.M.I.A.*

RAC/IV

0354

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

For Lt. Curties attn.

Buses' Society of Rome has requested to  
Pietro Beretta:

4

12 automatic pistols cal. 9, for night civilian guards.

Beretta replied that this is under control  
of M.of W. -

M.of W. (Col. Campagna, Chief of Arms and Ammo.  
Department - Arty and Motorisation General Directorate - M.of  
W. - Tel. 5441) has sent here the representative of a/m Society.

13/6/46.

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0355

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

785020

TRANSLATION

From: M. of W.

To : M.M.I.A.

Ref: 37401/JF

553

Date: 13/5/46

Subject: Manufacture of small arms by the  
Beretta firm in Gardone V.T. -

Further to letter 26320/JF dated 6th May 1946. -  
333

1 - We forward copy of the following applications received at  
this Ministry:

- a) - Armeria Lattuada di Legnano - to be authorised to purchase  
40 automatic pistols from the Beretta firm. -
- b) - Ente Nazionale Protezione Animale - Florence - to be  
authorised to purchase a certain quantity of automatic  
pistols from the Beretta firm. -
- c) - Comune di Siena - to be authorised to purchase 47 - 7.65  
automatic pistols from the Beretta firm. -

2 - This Ministry has no objection to the Beretta firm fulfilling  
the requests made in these applications.

3 - We ask you to notify us whether the Beretta firm may be  
authorised to commence the a/m supplies and eventually those  
which, due to number and type of weapon to be supplied, would  
not interfere with the manufacture of weapons committed to the  
Beretta firm by this Ministry.

AK

sgd.

Properzi  
Gen.

Dec 5 598

37

17

Further to letter 26520/DT dated 5th May 1946. -  
300

1 - We forward copy of the following applications received at this Ministry:

- a) - Armeria Lettuada di Legnano - to be authorised to purchase 40 automatic pistols from the Beretta firm. -
- b) - Ente Nazionale Protezione Animale - Florence - to be authorised to purchase a certain quantity of automatic pistols from the Beretta firm. -
- c) - Comune di Siena - to be authorised to purchase 47 - 7.65 automatic pistols from the Beretta firm. -

2 - This Ministry has no objection to the Beretta firm fulfilling the requests made in these applications.

3 - We ask you to notify us whether the Beretta firm may be authorised to commence the e/m supplies and eventually those which, due to number and type of weapon to be supplied, would not interfere with the manufacture of weapons committed to the Beretta firm by this Ministry.

AKL

sga.

Properzi  
Gen.

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598

0357

Subject: Control of Arms Manufacture

LAND FORCES SUB COMMISSION AD  
(L.F.S.A.)

Q.009 —

25 May 1946

TO : HQ Allied Commission

(headed personally at conference 27 May 1946)

Reference AMB 05 940.07 of 20 May 1946.

1. Conversations between the Public Safety Sub Commission and the Land Forces Sub Commission (Carabinieri Branch) have brought to light certain matters in connection with :-

(a) The control of arms manufacture.

(b) Definition of the term "Armed Forces" which is as considered should be brought to your notice.

2. Regarding 1(a)

The Control of Arms manufacture. In accordance with AMB Directive of 2 August 1945, MILA controls production (under War Ministry contracts) of all arms for the Army and CC.BB. while all other production is prohibited.

(b) In fact, quantities of arms are reported as being manufactured for the Reserve, Municipalities, other bodies and even for civilians, apparently under no control.

(c) This arms manufacture, in addition to allowing down the War Ministry contracts in favour of ready cash available in large quantities from other sources, appears to be not in accordance with AMB instructions.

(d) It is felt that this needs controlling preferably by <sup>5297</sup> authority as suggested in MILA letter Q.007 of 7 May 1946 and Q(10) 102/4 of 25 April 1946, which is also connected with para 3 below concerning the use to which these arms are being put.

3. Regarding 1(b)

Definition of the term "Armed Forces". Strengths and types of armament have been told from the C.C.B. for the Italian

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See 62

control matters in connection with 1-

- (a) The Control of Arms Manufacture.
  - (b) Definition of the term "Armed Forces" which is to be considered should be brought to your notice.
2. (a) Paragraph 1(a)
- The Control of Arms Manufacture. In connection with Arms Manufacture of 2 August 1945, JMA controls production (under War Ministry contracts) of all arms for the Army and C.O.M. while all other production is prohibited.
- (b) In fact, production of arms are reported as being manufactured for the structure, municipalities, other bodies and even for civilians, apparently under no control.
- (c) This arms manufacture, in addition to slowing down the War Ministry contracts in favour of ready cash available in large quantities from other sources, appears to be not in accordance with JMA instructions.
- (d) It is felt that this needs controlling preferably by <sup>5247</sup> authority as suggested in JMA letter 0.009 of 7 May 1946 and C(AD) 102/1 of 25 April 1946, which is also connected with para 3 below concerning the use to which these arms are being put.

- (a) Paragraph 1(b)
- (b) Definition of the term "Armed Forces". Strengths and types of armament have been laid down by the C.O.M. For the Italian Navy, Army (including C.O.M.) and Air Force which are controlled by their respective service and commissions.
- (b) No list appears to have been placed on the amount of the civil guards or police forces which is estimated may by now have reached the following numbers :-

|                 |        |
|-----------------|--------|
| Finance Guards  | 31,000 |
| Forest Guards   | 6,000  |
| Public Security | 45,000 |
| Railway Police  | 6,000  |
| Local Police    | 7,000  |
| Total           | 95,000 |

Copies to file 8/11 Su 62

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2A

(c) It is further estimated that the amount of these forces amounts to:-

|                             |        |
|-----------------------------|--------|
| Tanks                       | 40     |
| Armoured Cars               | 50     |
| Heavy Machine Guns          | 4,000  |
| Light Automatic Sub Machine |        |
| Cars etc                    | 40,000 |
| Bikes                       | 70,000 |
| Pistols                     | 90,000 |

besides large quantities of grenades, explosives and ammunition.

(d) It is not known whether the O.S. or the terms of the Moscow Treaty permit of this formidable armed force at the same time as the recognised armed military forces of Italy, to which they are potentially either a valuable addition or a serious menace depending on the political situation.

4. Politically and largely due to divided control the O.S. and the other Police forces do not always pull together as the following two incidents will show:-

(a) Dr. PETRARI of the Public Security Police recently appealed to A.C. for additional arms on the grounds that now that the O.S. were being fully armed it was necessary to arm the civil police forces to maintain a balance of power.

(b) On 24 May following a mild anarchist demonstration in Rome, in which O.S. and civil police had been on duty, a party of civil police went by car to the vicinity of the Quirinale where they deliberately assaulted the uniformed O.S. on duty.

It would appear that unless some control is imposed, the stage is being set for large scale disturbances on the part of the very Government servants who are supposed themselves to be responsible for the maintenance of law and order.

59

5. It is felt that these two examples (which are closely connected) should, if confirmed, be either corrected or reported to A.C. as being a threat to law and order in Italy.

beholden large quantities of provisions, explosives and ammunition.

- (d) It is not known whether the C.C.S. or the terms of the Peace Treaty permit of this formidable armed force at the same time as the reorganized armed military forces of Italy, to which they are potentially either a valuable addition or a serious menace depending on the political situation.

4. Politically and largely due to divided control the C.C.S. and the other Police forces do not always pull together as the following two incidents will show:-

- (a) Mr. VERBAUX of the Public Security Police recently appealed to A.C. for additional arms on the grounds that now that the C.C.S. were being fully armed it was necessary to arm the civil police forces to maintain a balance of power.
- (b) On 24 May following a mild nationalist demonstration in Rome, in which C.C.S. and Civil Police had been on duty, a party of Civil Police went by car to the vicinity of the Quirinale where they suddenly assaulted the uniformed C.C.S. on duty.

It would appear that unless some control is imposed, the stage is being set for large scale disturbances on the part of the very Government services who are supposed themselves to be responsible for the maintenance of law and order.

59

5. It is felt that these two examples (which are closely connected) should, if confirmed, be either corrected or reported to C.I.E. as being a threat to law and order in Italy.

W. P. D. L. J. Colman  
Major General,  
H.M.C.S.

Translation

from M.O. W.  
To M.M.I.A.

|        |            |
|--------|------------|
| TO SEE |            |
| A/Q    |            |
| Q      | <i>Yes</i> |
| Q. 1   |            |
| Q. 2   | <i>—</i>   |
| Q. 3   | <i>—</i>   |
| Q. 4   | <i>—</i>   |
| Q. 5   | <i>—</i>   |

Rel. 35936/DT  
Date 24/5/46.

*Action pending  
result of (60)  
RAC*

Subject Ministry of Intern Pistol Request.

further to letter 26520 dated 6/5/46.  
35 5

We forward herewith a copy of the Min. of intern's request, addressed to the Pietro Beretta Arms factory, with the view of obtaining from said firm, with the utmost urgency, 4.000 - 7.65 cal. pistols, various cartridges and 435 machine-guns sent there for repairs.

This Directorate General points out for any action which may be taken by your mission only the matter of the 7.65 cal pistols which are considered as ordinary weapons and not war weapons. **505**

1°) - If the 7.65 cal. pistols are already manufactured and ready for sale, this Dir. Gen. is not responsible for authorising the release which must be carried out in accordance with the Public Security law N° 773 dated 18 June 1931.

2°) - If on the contrary the 7.65 pistols are still to be manufactured then besides the consent of M.M.I.A. requested in the a/m letter, the firm will have to guarantee, as verbally stated by doc. Beretta on the 22/4/46 that the manufacture of the 7.65 will not in the least slow down the production of the Cal. 9 pistols and the automatic carbines ordered for the CC.RR.

We would add that the firm has informed us that other firms in the area, Gardone V.T., supply weapons to civilians, in possession of normal R. Questura authorisation.

P.G. Properzj.

0362

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Translation

from Min. of Intern  
to "Fietro Beretta" Arms Factory

Ref. 999/9606 AG

Date 22/5/46.

1AT

Subject Supply of Pistols.

We ask you to kindly supply with the utmost urgency N°4.000 - 7.65  
cal. pistols with 100.000 cartridges in 7.65 and 9mm cal, for  
the relative issue to Public Security agents as soon as possible.

As agreed, we point out that your firm has the aforesaid  
materials already available for ready delivery.

At the same time, we ask you to kindly return the 435 machine-  
guns handed over to you for repairs.

DAK

(XXXXXXXXXXXX)

Illegible.

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1a7

0363