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Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDG No.

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Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/HNDG NO. 785020

10000/120/2188

Q/262 Military Mission To Yugoslavia
Oct. - Nov. 1945

SUBJECT : Appt of an ITALIAN Military Mission to YUGOSLAVIA

LAND FORCES SUB COM, A.C. (LMTA)

SD/132

9 Nov 45

TO : AMHQ

Ref AMHQ signal P-01845 of 11 Aug 44 and HQ A.C. letters A/CS 091.711 of 17 Sep and 7 Nov 44.

1. The Minister of War has continued to press for action in connection with members of the ITALIAN Army still in YUGOSLAVIA.
2. Pwd herewith is copy of a letter from the Minister of War asking for permission to send a small ITALIAN Military Mission to YUGOSLAVIA with the purpose of assisting ex-members of the ITALIAN Army still in that country.
3. About 20,000 ex-soldiers are probably involved.
4. Political Advisors, both BRITISH and AMERICAN, to ALLIED COMMISSION, have been contacted and both see no political objection.
5. The request does not appear to clash with your ruling in HSL/314 dated 24 Sep 45 which refused permission for ITALIAN Military HQ at UDINE to concern itself directly with ITALIAN tps specifically in VENETIA GIULIA.
6. This application is concerned with YUGOSLAVIA proper.
7. May a ruling please be given at an early date.

L. Browning
Major General
M M I A

Internal : 4 (Two)

ARCS/abc

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NA
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Q262

COPY TRANSLATION

FROM : The Minister for War
 TO : Major General BREWING
 LAND FORCES SUB COM, A.C. (MIA)

Ref : 221813/II

Date : 27 Oct 45

SUBJECT : Appt of an ITALIAN Military Mission in YUGOSLAVIA

Repatriation of Italian Military either PWs or interned from Central and Western Europe is now almost completed. An Italian Military Liaison Mission in Germany with the American Occupation GHQ and also recognised by the British and French GHQs has greatly assisted in tracing, assisting and repatriating our co-nationals.

Many Italian military are still in YUGOSLAVIA but nothing definite has been in their favour so far. They are military who were either interned in YUGOSLAVIA as PWs captured by the Germans after Sep 8 1943 or having escaped capture and imprisonment entered YUGOSLAV territory and there voluntarily fought in the ranks of Marshal TITO's Army or in those of partisan fans.

This problem is difficult to solve and all attempts to solve it by diplomatic channels have been unsuccessful so far.

The necessity of giving practical assistance to these military of ensuring their repatriation after so many months of hardship and of giving news to thousands of families whom still know nothing of their relatives urges me to leave no channel unexplored provided that it offers a possibility of solving the problem.

I therefore submit the matter to you feeling confident that I will meet with the backing and understanding which, in similar cases, you have never refused in favour of our soldiers.

Should you agree to the appt of a Mission it would be formed by very few officers particularly chosen among those who, having fought against the Germans in YUGOSLAV territory, have won for themselves the esteem and respect of those beside whom they fought.

I will be extremely grateful to you for your kind help in the matter and thank you in anticipation for an early reply.

THE MINISTER

(signed) JACINT

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