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Correspondence
Jan 1944 - M

10000/129/256

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P 6

Correspondence with P.R.O. A.F.H.Q.
Jan. 1944 - May 1945

H.Q. PUBLIC RELATIONS
C. M. F.

CONFIDENTIAL

2/PS/90.

20th May, 1945.

Subject: Major Vladimir Pavshich.
Jugo-Slav War Correspondent.

TO: Mr. G. Stewart Brown,
Public Relations Director, ✓
Allied Commission.

Dear *Stewart Brown*

General McChrystal today enquired what was happening to this correspondent and gave instructions that he was to be treated with strict control and particularly not admitted to any "off record" conference affecting "TIESE".

Whilst he is the province of PRO AFHQ, it may well be he calls upon you for facilities from time to time.

I thought therefore I would just let you know the position and should he contemplate a move from Rome, perhaps you will kindly advise me and send him to me.

So far his material seems quite reasonable.

1335

Yours *sincerely*
G A L Hayden

G. A. L. HEDDER
Lieut-Colonel
A D P R

Copy to: Lt-Col. J. L. Hayden,
Chief, Press & Radio Censorship Branch.

H.Q. PUBLIC RELATIONS
Central Mediterranean Force

13 April 1945

2/FRS/60

CONFIDENTIAL

Memorandum for :-

Mr. Stewart Brown,
Director,
Public Relations Branch,
ALLIED COMMISSION.

The attached copy of confidential memorandum
"PR procedure for releasing operational news" dated 11 Apr 45,
is passed to you for information.

For the PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER, AMHQ:

G A L Helder

G.A.L. HELDER
Lieut-Colonel

1334

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
Information, News and Censorship Section
Public Relations Branch
APC 512, U.S. Army

11 APR 1945

C O N F I D E N T I A L

PR PROCEDURE FOR RELEASING OPERATIONAL NEWS

I. COMMUNIQUE:

1. The daily AFHQ communique, with accompanying on-record background, will be released by the PRO, AFHQ, at approximately 1030 hours, in accordance with established procedure.

2. a. A supplemental communique shall be issued, whenever operational developments warrant, at 2030 hours by the PRO, AFHQ. This communique may be accompanied by an on-record background. 15th Army Group will inform PRO, Rome, by 1600 hours daily whether or not there is to be a supplemental communique, and, if so, whether with or without on-record background.

b. The supplemental communique, in case of ground operations, will be prepared by 15th Army Group and forwarded to PRO, Rome, for clearance with AFHQ before release. An accompanying on-record background, written within the confines of the communique, need not be cleared.

c. The Air Forces' release on tactical operations in support of 15th Army Group shall be coordinated between 15th Army Group and MATAF and issued to the press simultaneously with the supplemental communique and on-record background at 2030 hours.

d. 15th Army Group shall prepare the supplemental communique in time to assure its delivery to PRO, Rome, no later than 1900 hours.

e. PRO, Rome, shall issue the communique and on-record background to the press in the usual mimeographed form.

f. Whenever developments warrant, supplemental naval and air communications, after AFHQ clearance, may be issued at 2030 hours by PRO, Rome.

g. PRO, Rome, will be responsible for cabling the supplemental communications to the usual addressees. (PRO, Caserta, will, as now, cable the morning communications.)

h. PRO, Rome, will be responsible for sending the supplemental communications and on-record backgrounds, received from 15th Army Group, over telegraphic or radio circuits to PRO, Fifth Army, and PRO, Eighth Army. These will have priority

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- b. The supplemental communique, in case of ground operations, will be prepared by 15th Army Group and forwarded to PRO, Rome, for clearance with AFHQ before release. An accompanying on-record background, written within the confines of the communique, need not be cleared.
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- d. 15th Army Group shall prepare the supplemental communique in time to assure its delivery to PRO, Rome, no later than 1900 hours.
- e. PRO, Rome, shall issue the communique and on-record background to the press in the usual mimeographed form.
- f. Whenever developments warrant, supplemental naval and air communiques, after AFHQ clearance, may be issued at 2030 hours by PRO, Rome.
- g. PRO, Rome, will be responsible for cabling the supplemental communiques to the usual addressees. (PFB, Caserta, will, as now, cable the morning communiques.)
- h. PRO, Rome, will be responsible for sending the supplemental communiques and on-record backgrounds, received from 15th Army Group, over telegraphic or radio circuits to PRO, Fifth Army, and PRO, Eighth Army. These will have priority

- 1 -

CONFIDENTIAL

Continued overleaf

CONFIDENTIAL

over press traffic. PRO, Rome, also will be responsible for notifying 15th Army Group and Fifth and Eighth Armies if there are any changes in the supplemental communique and will confirm the hour of release.

II. SPECIAL OPERATIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. 15th Army Group may send to PRO, Rome, special brief announcements on operations whenever 15th Army Group considers that operational developments justify such action.
2. PRO, Rome, will clear these announcements with AFFHQ before release to the press.
3. PRO, Rome, will be responsible for sending such announcements, received from 15th Army Group, to Fifth and Eighth Armies.
4. PRO, Rome, will fix and notify 15th Army Group and Fifth and Eighth Armies of the time when such announcements are to be released simultaneously at AFHQ, Rome, 15th Army Group, Fifth and Eighth Armies.
5. PRO, Rome, will furnish copies of such announcements to the duty censor in Rome and will notify the duty censor of the time of simultaneous release.

III. TEMPORARY WITHHOLDING OF OPERATIONAL NEWS:

1. If, for any extraordinary reason, a major command of AFHQ, such as MAAF and 15th Army Group, desires to withhold for a temporary period news of an operation, the command shall inform Information, News and Censorship Section through the Public Relations Officer, AFHQ, in Rome. The PRO will take up the request with the Chief or Deputy Chief, INC Section, and if approved, will set a time before which stories on the particular operation may not be passed for publication.
2. PRO, Rome, will have the sole authority, under direction of the Chief or Deputy Chief, INC, to notify the press censor to withhold the stories.
3. Any request received directly by press censors to withhold stories shall be referred immediately to the PRO, Rome, for disposition.
4. PRO, Rome, will be responsible for notifying war correspondents when stories withheld for extraordinary reasons may be released for publication.

M. P. Astley
P. R. ASTLEY,

Colonel,

Public Relations Officer, AFFHQ.

- 2 -

CONFIDENTIAL

DISTRIBUTION:

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{3}

C-2, JHQ
File, Rome

{3}
(10)

AFHQ, Rome, 15th Army Group, Fifth and Eighth Armies.

5. PRO, Rome, will furnish copies of such announcements to the duty censor in Rome and will notify the duty censor of the time of simultaneous release.

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P. R. ASTLEY,

Colonel,

Public Relations Officer, AFHQ.

- 2 -

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 PRO, Rome (15)
 DPRO, Caserta (5)
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 PRO, U.S. Navy (3)
 PRO, MAAF (6)
 PRO, R.F. (Rome) (3)
 PRO, R.F. (Caserta) (3)
 PRO, 15th Army Group (5)
 PRO, 5th Army (3)
 D.DPR, 8th Army (3)
 PRO (Army) E.F. (2)
 Chief, PRCE (10)
 G-3 (Ops) AFHQ (3)

G-2, AFHQ (3)
 File, Rome (10)

CONFIDENTIAL

Ref: 6518/19/EC.

20 March 1945.

SUBJECT: Coordination of Intelligence.

TO : Allied Force Headquarters,
Attn: G-5 Section.

1. I have had no reply or acknowledgment to my 6518/11/COS of 3 February 1945.

2. The annexed bundle of papers consists of documents produced by PWB and represents one day's intake. Apart from the great expenditure of paper and labour involved, most of this material is far too detailed to be of much use to this Commission or, I imagine, to any other formation.

3. I should like to reiterate my strong impression that the right solution is for a single intelligence organisation to produce a comprehensive but shorter weekly report to cover the whole of Liberated Italy. If this is impossible, I suggest that PWB should be asked to limit their weekly report to a single document of not more than ten pages. The daily monitoring report might continue to be issued independently but should, I think, be greatly reduced.

4. I understand that two further PWB weekly reports are about to make their appearance in the form of a report by the CIO, Liberated Italy and a report by the CIO, Occupied Italy. It is impossible, I submit, to digest such volumes of information.

/s/ Ellery W. Stone

ELLERY W. STONE,
Rear Admiral, USNR
Chief Commissioner

Political Adviser (Br)
Copy to: ~~Public Relations Branch~~

1332

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

6/FRE

7 February 1945.

SUBJECT : Prof. Giorgio L. della Vida

Dear Weidman,

The attached request appears to need the blessing of AFHQ. I understand that it has all other necessary blessings. Can you speed it on its way through the right channels.

Yours sincerely,

LIONEL FIELDEN
Major
Public Relations Director.

Encl : 1

1231

Major Floyd Weidman,
G-5, AFHQ.

COPY

Il Prof. Giorgio L. Della Vida, titolare della cattedra di lingue semitiche alla Regia Università di Roma, non avendo voluto sottoporsi al giuramento di fedeltà al passato regime fascista fu nel 1931 allontanato dall'insegnamento.

Il Prof. Della Vida fu fin dal 1919 un convinto oppositore del fascismo e, benché la sua autorità scientifica e culturale lo facesse uno dei più noti studiosi di lingue orientali si da essere spesso invitato presso le Università straniere; ciò non valse a salvarlo dall'iniqua persecuzione delle leggi razziali. Tale persecuzione lo costrinse, contro la sua volontà e il suo amore patrio, ad abbandonare moglie e figli per recarsi in America ove, dietro invito dell'Università di Filadelfia, ora si trova alla cattedra di detta Università. Dello sbarco degli Alleati in Sicilia, il Prof. Della Vida ha fatto domanda di rimpatrio, domanda da lui ripetuta nel giugno dello scorso anno, dopo la liberazione di Roma.

L'Università di Roma, a sua volta, ha richiesto tale rimpatrio per rimettere il Della Vida al suo posto nella cattedra romana e la sua famiglia si è adoperata presso le autorità italiane per sollecitare tale pratica di rimpatrio dopo cinque anni di forzato esilio.

Ora si chiede l'intervento dell'Autorità militare alleata acciocché questo giusto desiderio della famiglia e dell'Università di Roma sia appoggiata dal Maresciallo Alexander per una rapida esecuzione.

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

APO 394

PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

R6/PRB

4 February 1945

Col. Philip R. Astley
PRO AFHQ

Dear Philip,

This is to introduce Mr. Paolo Treves who is writing some articles for the New Statesman. He has recently come from U.K. and is also working for the Canadian press through the British Embassy. So I should be grateful if you will allow him to file his copy which went, I think, add any great burden to cables or censorship.

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

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6
HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

LF/PRB

18 January 1944

Dear General Hume,

The bearer of this letter, First Lieutenant W.B. JAFFE, Jr, O-1309114, of the News Production Section, AFHQ PRO, will be visiting the Fifth Army area shortly to do stories on AMG activities.

We would appreciate any courtesies you extend to him, particularly a note of introduction to your spearhead unit.

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

1328

PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
 ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

PRB/R/S

20 June 1944.

Dear Philip

Is there any way at all of getting at the "unimpeachable source" of such comments as the enclosed? I presume that Steel is in U.S. Stories like this really do need some contradiction if it is possible; or I would like to get at the "unimpeachable source" and ask for details so that the case can be investigated. I know that one can't stop this kind of thing altogether, and of course it's partly political, but these vague accusations can do a good deal of harm. If you can help me to find out where this comes from I should be grateful.

Yours

Lionel Fielden

Colonel Philip Astley,
 AFHQ PRO,
 National Insurance Institution,
 Via 23 Marzo.

Maj. Fielden.
 P.R. Branch. Acc.

2.

1327

Dear Lionel.

Reference above. I have taken what steps I can to trace the origin of attached unfortunate statement, but I regret without result.

Steel is presumably a static commentator in the U.S. He is not known here or has never been in this theatre. The censors know nothing of any copy having passed through their hands upon which the information in the statement could have been based. Unfortunately these cases are so completely intangible - It looks like a word of mouth vendetta carried to U.S. by some nameless snake in the grass. Yrs ever. Philip Astley.

1
Extract from DIGES OF PUBLIC OPINION ON ALLIA MILITARY
GOVERNMENT prepared by the Analysis Branch, News Division,
War Department Bureau of Public Relations - No 11 dated
8 June 1944.

RADIO

JOHANNES STEEL (WINX)

1 June 1944

The most illuminating and devastating authentic account of the doings of AMGOT in Italy is contained in the following narrative now reaching us from an unimpeachable source. We give it to you both for the sake of the light which it throws upon the situation in Italy itself and for the warning it offers for the next phase of the European liberation. And the case concerns two men, antifascists, who came into a clash with the Fascists still in power and the latter were upheld by AMGOT and the two men went to jail. Now it is known for a fact that on hearing of these sentences the Fascists in the town held a party to celebrate the event. The key to the Committee's office was confiscated at the time of the arrests and is still held by or by the authority of AMGOT. The Committee is not allowed to function now. That is an account of some of the mistakes which still continue to be made in Italy by AMGOT which still doesn't seem to know who and is not a Fascist.

1726

PUBLIC RELATIONS
ADVANCED A.F.H.Q.
C.M.F.

RESTRICTED

23 August 1944

2/PES/33(1)

SUBJECT: Instructions regarding releases - Activities
of "Colonel Kent"

TO : Distribution as under

A. MEETING WITH GREEN PRIME MINISTER

1. Release will be titled "Special announcement from AFHQ"
2. Release will be prefixed by following slugging instructions :

"ALL COPY TO BE SLUGGED 'NOT TO BE PUBLISHED OR
BROADCAST BEFORE 0030 HRS LOCAL TIME 24 AUGUST
(OR 2230 HRS GMT 23 AUGUST)'"

3. This release will be handed out to correspondents at approximately 1900 hrs 'B' time 23 August.
a. notice covering the release will be put up on the notice board
b. by the Duty Officer not later than 1800B hrs 23 August.
4. Transmission of this story is permissible anytime after handing out release except by voicecast.
5. Similar instructions apply to radio transmission of photos except that in this case the words in the slug "or Broadcast" may be omitted.
6. The officer handing out the release will ensure correspondents are fully aware of these instructions.

1325

B. MEETING WITH ITALIAN LIEUTENANT OF ICELAND AND MINISTERS

The same instructions will apply as for Release "A" except that the publication time will be 0030 hrs local time 25 August (2230 hrs GMT 24 Aug).

C. AUDIENCE AT THE VATICAN

4 PAGES (3X1)

SUBJECT: Instructions regarding releases - Activities
of "Colonel Kent"

TO : Distribution as under

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5. Similar instructions apply to radio transmission of photos except that in this case the words in the slug "or Broadcast" may be omitted.
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1325

B. MEETING WITH ITALIAN LIEUTENANT OF ITALY AND MINISTERS

The same instructions will apply as for Release "A" except that the publication time will be 0030 hrs local time 25 August (2230 hrs GMT 24 Aug).

C. AUDIENCE AT THE VATICAN

1. This will be a special announcement from the Vatican.
2. It is hoped that the text of the announcement will be obtained beforehand for simultaneous release in this office and A.C.C. H.Q.
3. Photographs will be simultaneously released.
4. Release time will be 1200B hrs on 25 August.
5. The Duty Officer when handing out morning communique will advise correspondence of this arrangement.

/ CONTINUED OVERLEAF

- 2 -

D. PRESS CONFERENCE on 23 August 1944

1. Mention of this can be made at any time after 1200B hrs on 25 August. Accordingly release of photographs at that hour automatically follows.
2. The Duty Officer when handing out morning communique will also advise correspondents of this fact, and inform them for guidance that they are permitted to give :-

- (i) The place of the Conference
- (ii) The date of the Conference
- (iii) Descriptive material

but that they may NOT quote, directly or indirectly, anything that was said at the Conference - except the question and answer relating to the "Cigars".

G.A.L. HEIDER
Lieut.-Colonel
A D P R

DISTRIBUTION:

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Lieut. Eckhouse
Field Press Censors (2)
Major Fielden, A.C.C.

1324

0542