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Oct. 1944 - Mar. 1945

LR/mof

Ref: 505/CA-HA/EX(L)

31 March 1945

SUBJECT: Communications for Tripoli

TO : The Ministry of Foreign Affairs

1. Reference is made to the Ministry's Memoranda No. 6/858/371 of 26 March and 6/855/368 of 26 March.
2. Both memoranda have been passed to the appropriate Allied authorities for necessary action.

R,
Officer in Charge
Liaison Division

S. 979 Mar R/sem

Ref: 223/PO/ED(L)

25 March 1945

The Liaison Division of the Allied Commission presents its compliments to the Polish Consul General and has the honor to state that the necessary orders are being issued, and will be available at this office, for the Polish Consul General's visit to Naples.

It is understood that the train goes to Naples only on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and it is, therefore, requested if the Polish Consul General would prefer to leave on Friday, the 30th of March, or on Monday, the 2nd of April.

The competent authorities in Naples have been asked to obtain accommodation for the Polish Consul General and Mrs. Kowalski, and Mr. E. Borowski at the Parco Hotel. The Polish Consul General will be informed when arrangements for accommodation have been completed.

Consul General of Poland
Via di Villa Albani 14 - 16
Rome

973

ALLIED ██████████ COMMISSION

INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Office of the Executive Commissioner
Liaison DivisionSUBJECT: Mrs. Corradi Rygier - Repatriation
from France

FILE No. 505/RY/EO(L)

TO :
Director
Public Relations Branch, A.C.

16 March 1945

1. Reference is made to letter from HQ Public Relations, CMF, No. 2/PRS/68 of 14 March 1945, and its enclosure from the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

2. Your views and comments are requested.

R

Officer-in-Charge
Liaison Division

972

Ref #591.124

26 October 1944

Sir:

This is to confirm that a statement indicating your resignation as members of the Romanian Legation to the Holy See, of which a copy is attached, was signed by you and received by the Political Section of the Allied Control Commission in July 1944. At this time you were informed that if you desired to remain as a private citizen and take your chances in the same way as other Romanian nationals resident in Rome, there would be no objection to the removal of your name from the diplomatic list and to your remaining in Rome.

Sincerely yours,

WILLIAM W. SCHOTT
Vice-President, Political Section

Encl:
as stated

M. M. Mihai Camarasescu
Rome.

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
Office of the Executive Commissioner
APO 394

Ref: P/505-U

7 March 1945

SUBJECT: Request by Father Anastasio Masters to Travel into the
Army Area.

TO : APO 5th Army,
APO 34th Army.

1. Reference is made to Political Section's letter No. P/505-U dated 29 January 1945 on the above subject.
2. The Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs now states that Father Masters plans to travel with Mr. Giuseppe VIALE, his assistant, and Mr. Augusto VENTURA, his driver.
3. It would be appreciated were you to authorize the above two persons to accompany Father Masters on his journey to the Augustinian Monasteries at Fano, Pesaro and Florence.

For the Chief Commissioner:

Major,

for Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

50
Masters

Ref: P/505/GA

21 February 1945

SUBJECT: Request by Gaetano Calabrese to Visit Florence

TO : HQ. AMG 5th Army

1. Political Section has been approached by Gaetano Calabrese who was born in Naples on April 4, 1911 and who resides in Naples at Vico Iango San Mattio 5 to visit Florence where his address will be Zampollo, Via Dante Rossetti, 39.

2. This individual is a member of a Neapolitan family, members of which were employed by the Commanding General, MBS, and one of them now is employed by A.C. in the name of the Vice President of the Political Section. The family bears a good reputation and the members thereof, who have been in American employe, can be highly recommended.

3. The object of the visit is on ^{com}passionate grounds, namely, to aid further members of the family who have resided in Florence. The duration of the visit desired is for the period of one week.

By command of Rear Admiral STONE:

Vice President, Political Section

505
CALABRESE

XXXXXXX DIVISION

Office of the Executive Commissioner

Ref: P/505/VI

2 March 1945

TO : When it May Concern

1. The bearer, The Honorable Ettore VIOLA, National Commissioner of the Italian War Veterans' Association, is making a journey into the territories administered by A.M.G., in the interest of the Association, to ensure that its local organizations remain non-political and exclusively patriotic according to the principles of the Association, and thus to avoid their exploitation for political purposes.

2. It would be appreciated were Allied Authorities to offer all facilities to Ettore VIOLA during his journey through A.M.G. Territory.

BY COMMAND OF REAR ADMIRAL STONE:

Major,
Political Division
Office of the Executive Commissioner

505
W. A.

XXXXXXXXX DIVISION

Office of the Executive Commissioner

Ref: P/372/385-4

2 March 1945

SUBJECT: Message from Italian Military Attache' in Bulgaria.

TO : Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The following message from the Italian Military Attache' in Sofia has been received for the Cabinet, Italian War Ministry, Rome:-

"332. On 16 Feb repatriation of Italian ex P.W. commenced. 1712 already moved to Balonika and progress continues. By March 5 move will be completed.

"As stated in letter 181 December 15, tendency to retain Italian Military personnel in Bulgaria increased. I have been informed on several occasions by Deputy Soviet High Command that all personnel must leave. Instructions requested. MONTEZEMOLO"

Major,
Political Division
Office of the Executive Commissioner

Copy to : Cipher Security Mission

Ref: E/505/AL

11 February 1945

SUBJECT: Giuseppe Altomare, Newly Appointed
Commercial Attache at Angola.

TO : Economic Section

1. The Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has requested Allied Authorities to authorize the travel of Dott. Giuseppe Altomare from Rome to Angola where he is to serve as Commercial Attache at the Italian Embassy.

2. The Ministry informs that Dott. Altomare served in Berlin from May 1941 to May 1943 as Assistant Commercial Attache at the Italian Embassy and at The Hague from May to September 1943 as Commercial Attache at the Italian Legation.

3. Prior to ^{taking action on} this request for the travel of Dott. Altomare, G-5 Section, AFHQ have requested urgently "a statement from the appropriate Section of your Headquarters as to the necessity and desirability of this appointment".

4. It would be appreciated were you to provide Political Section with this required statement at your earliest convenience in order that a reply may be made to G-5 Section, AFHQ without delay.

WILLIAM W. SCHOTT
Vice President, Political Section

505-ALTOMARE

File

Ref: F/505/MI

29 January 1945

SUBJECT: Request by Father Anselmo Musters
to Travel in the Army Zone.

TO : ADM 5th Army,
ADM 8th Army.

1. There has been received from the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Memorandum No. 6/263/123 dated 25 January 1945 requesting authorization for Father Anselmo Musters of the Augustinian Friars to visit the monasteries of his order in Florence, Fano and Pesaro in order to supply them with medicines and foods.
2. The Ministry state that the condition of the monks in these places is one requiring attention and requests that, in the particular case of Father Musters, this request be granted in view of his patriotic activity during the German occupation of Rome.

505
MUSTERS

By command of Rear Admiral STONE:

WILLIAM W. SCHOTT
Vice President, Political Section

*Attached: Request
Re memo for compliance
of to patient in
required 31/1/45
gms*

True

Ref: D/505/D3 MIC

17 February 1945

SUBJECT: Travel of Signor PIRELLA DE MICHELIS
to the Provinces of Pisa, Lucca and Florence

TO : Senior Civil Affairs Officer
Allied Military Government, 5th Army

1. Reference your No. 205/8-2-4 of 6th February, subj: Travel of Signor Viola to Pisa, Lucca and Florence.

2. The National Association of Ex-servicemen now has informed Political Section that they desire Signor PIRELLA DE MICHELIS also to visit the Provinces of Pisa, Lucca and Florence in connection with the interests of the Association. Signor De Michelis's residence is Viale Adriatico, 104, Rome. He holds Identity Card No. 518798 of the Railroad Branch of Florence dated 23 April 1941.

3. In view of the desire to restrict the travel in a military district and the failure of the National Association of Ex-servicemen to supply a definite reason for this additional travel, Political Section does not recommend its approval.

*505
DE MICHELIS*

By command of Rear Admiral STONE:

WILLIAM W. SCHOTT
Vice President, Political Section

Ref: E/505/GA

19 January 1945

The Political Section of the Allied Commission presents its compliments to the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and, with reference to its memorandum No. 6/34/33 of the 8th January 1945, has the honor to inform them that the appropriate Allied Authorities regret their inability to grant a military travel authorization for Signora Casardi to travel to the United States of America since they cannot agree that this journey would in any way further the war effort.

CASARDI

Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Rome, Italy

Ref: 505-03

20 November 1944

SUBJECT: Arrest of Dr. Robert Von Weizsäcker, Counsellor
of the International Institute of Agriculture.

TO: Chief Section, Allied Forces Headquarters
Counsellor, U. S. Political Advisor
British Resident Minister.

1. Reference is made to A.C.F. Telegram No. 865 dated July 18, 1944 to ask for action, U. S. Political Advisor and British Resident Minister.

2. This telegram afforded some background of the current situation of the International Institute of Agriculture and contained a request of officials of the Institute that consideration be given by the Allied Governments to a resumption of membership in the Institute, and that delegates of the United States, the United Kingdom, Spain, Ireland and South American countries be appointed and sent to Rome. No reply to this telegram has been received. The status of the organization at present is somewhat obscure. Agriculture Sub-Commission, A.C.F., in a report dated 14 July 1944, stated that the Institute is in good shape physically but sorely in need of a thorough reorganization from the point of view of personnel, leadership and finances. The immediate need was stressed for a thorough investigation of previous activities by the Institute and by individual staff members.

3. By Law No. 1075 of June 20, 1930, which was published in "Gazzetta Ufficiale" No. 190 of August 14, 1930, the Institute was granted diplomatic privileges in respect of its business and archives, and the delegates of the States members of the Institute and its higher officials were granted diplomatic immunity, "but with respect only to such acts as they are called upon to perform for reasons of their office and within the exclusive field of their attributions."

4. In a memorandum No. 6/743/326 dated October 14, 1944, the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs informed Political Section that Dr. Robert Von Weizsäcker, Counsellor of the Institute, had been arrested by Allied police authorities on October 12th. They requested Political Section to approach the competent authorities with a view to obtaining the release of Dr. Von Weizsäcker. A copy of this memorandum, together with its enclosures (being communications to the Ministry from the Institute), hereto is appended.

5. There also was received from the Swiss Legation, Foreign Interests Division, a memorandum dated October 19th, informing Political Section of this arrest and, following a statement of its views concerning the diplomatic

privileges accorded to the staff of the Institute, requested that the allied authorities be approached with a view to reconsidering the case of Dr. Von Weizsäcker and allowing him the possibility of returning to his duties. A copy of this memorandum is attached.

6. This question was referred to the Public Safety Sub-Commission, A.C., who, in turn, suggested that it be submitted to the four great allied Commanders. This was done and on December 5th, the Commanding General, U.S.A., in a communication to Political Section, advised as follows:-

"Dr. Von Weizsäcker was arrested not only because of his former nationality, but also because of additional security considerations. His case is under review by higher authorities and full consideration will be given to his request with the Institute Internationale de Agriculture. You will be advised of the decision in this case as soon as it has been determined."

7. The above information was communicated to the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and to the Swiss Legation on December 7th.

8. Under date of December 13th, in a memorandum No. 6/1263/549, the Ministry pronounced their point of view regarding the legal aspects of this case. A copy of this memorandum is enclosed.

9. The Ministry's argument in this question parallels the view of the legal sub-commission, A.C., that the subject person, if considered to have had diplomatic status, and if his conduct had been such as to preclude a continuance of his freedom of action in Rome, should have been apprehended and sent to Germany for internment and awaiting exchange, as were the regular German officials enjoying diplomatic privileges who were apprehended in Rome upon the occupation by the allies.

10. Given the above considerations, it would be appreciated were a section to review this case and to afford Political Section a decision in the matter which it may transmit to the Ministry.

For the Chief Commissioner:

WILLIAM F. SCHULTZ
Vice President, Political Section

3 Encls: 1 - Memo No. 6/745/326
dated 14.10.44, w/encls.
2 - Memo for Service Log. dtd 13.10.44.
3 - Memo No. 6/1263/549 dated 13.12.44.

961

COPY

MINISTERO DEGLI AFFARI ESTERI

NO. 6/743/326

MEMORANDUM FOR THE POLITICAL SECTION A.C.

The President of the "Istituto Internazionale di Agricoltura" has informed this Ministry with letter, translation of which is herewith enclosed, that Dr. Von Gescher, Counsellor of the said Institute, has been arrested on the 12th inst. by Allied Police Authorities.

From information received, it appears that the arrest was made by order of Colonel Snowden's office (Via Sicilia 57); that Dr. von Gescher has been in Rome for the last 12 years and that on April last he refused to leave Rome although instruction was given to him by the German Embassy to repatriate.

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs would much appreciate if the Political Section could kindly approach the competent Authorities with a view to obtain that Dr. von Gescher be possibly released.

Rome, October 14th 1944.

960

Incl #1

Istituto Internazionale
d'Agricoltura

Rome, 12th October 1944.

Il Presidente
P. 6755

To the Ministry for Foreign Affairs

R O M E

I beg to call the attention of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the following:

This morning at 6 a.m. an Allied Police Patrol called at the residence of Dr. Robert von GIESSEN, Via Paolo Uboldi 5, and arrested him.

Dr. von Gieschen, German by nationality, is Counsellor of this Institute and as such is entitled to diplomatic immunity and privileges, under Law 1075 of 20th June 1938. He is in possession of Identity Card issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and at the door of the residence there is a notice indicating diplomatic immunity.

Dr. von Gieschen pointed out the above mentioned privileges to the Police but their reply was that they could not take this fact into consideration.

Dr. Gieschen was then taken to Regina Coeli's prison.

I should be grateful to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs if, in consideration of the above stated, they would kindly take the necessary steps with a view to obtaining Dr. Gieschen's release.

Sgd. THE PRESIDENT

953

Incl #1a

Institut International
d'Agriculture

Rome, 10 10 Oct. 1944.

MEMORANDUM

The International Institute of Agriculture, which has its seat in Villa Umberto I, to make the following declarations:

Last Thursday at 6 o'clock a squad of agents of the Allied Police went to the residence of Dr. Norbert VON GERSCHER, in Via Anolo Frisi, 5, and arrested him.

Dr. von GERSCHER, of German nationality, is a Counsellor in this Institute, and as such enjoys the diplomatic privileges and immunities acknowledged by the law No. 1075 of June 20, 1930. He is in possession of the white Identity Card delivered by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and his residence is provided with a special card on the entrance door stating his diplomatic immunity.

Dr. von GERSCHER explained the Police Agents these diplomatic immunities of his, but they declared that they could keep no account of them and drove him away, it is supposed towards the prisons of Regina Coeli.

The day after the arrival of the Allied Forces in Rome, the President and the Secretary General of the International Institute of Agriculture were received by Captain Tyler who introduced them to Col. Rowell, who, in his turn, gave them the simplest assurance that the diplomatic privileges and immunities of the Institute would be full recognized. Colonel Rowell asked that the Institute should furnish a list of the non Italian functionaries whose activities at the Institute itself and the normal development of their life were not to be disturbed in any way. In fact, by the order of Col. Rowell were withdrawn the sentries that, in a first moment, had been put at the entrance of the Institute.

After the presentation of the list, the Allied Command delivered to the non Italian members of the Staff a statement declaring that each one of them belonged to the Staff of the International Institute of Agriculture, and therefore enjoyed diplomatic privileges and immunities acknowledged by the law No. 1075 of June 20, 1930.

At the moment of his arrestation Dr. von Gersch presented both his white Identity Card, delivered by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to all the Functionaries of I and II Category, and the statement of the Allied Command, duly signed and stamped, but the agents kept no account of either.

The Presidency of this Institute, taking the question in hand, came immediately into touch with the office of the C.I.C. in Via Sicilia, 57, where it was revealed that Dr. von Gersch had been arrested on the grounds that he belonged to the National Socialist Party.

The Institute cannot confirm it, and meanwhile Mrs. von Gersch declares that her husband never accepted the inscription card of that Party, even though on his trip to Germany in 1934 he had been compelled to make such a request.

Encl. 16

- 2 -

For its part, the Institute is ready to affirm that during the period of German occupation Mr. von Geoscher had been ordered to leave for Germany, as well as the other German functionaries of the Institute; but he refused and eluded the departure by entering a clinic under pretext of an operation and afterwards kept hiding as best he could until the arrival of the Allies.

Mr. von Geoscher belongs to our Institute since May 1, 1923 and never gave this Administration any whatsoever reason of discontent for political causes.

Since the beginning of this War, and also during the period of German occupation, the Institute succeeded in coping free from any political worries, owing to its immunity and privileges, two English subjects, one Egyptian, several Russians, Belgians, Dutch, Norwegians, Iranians, as well as functionaries of Jewish origin.

For information's sake we wish to point out that the International Institute of Agriculture was conceived by an American citizen, David Lubin, and created by an International Convention, on June 7, ~~XXXX~~ 1905; later ratified by almost the totality of Governments among which all the Allied Nations. The depositary of this Convention has always been the Italian Government.

Under the pressure of all the Member States, the Italian Government decided to acknowledge the diplomatic privileges and immunities to the Institute and its personnel of I and II Category, by the Law No. 1075 of June 20, 1930 (Articles 1 and 5).

~~XXXX~~

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- 2 -

Copy

Legation de Suisse
en Italie

German Interests.

MEMORANDUM

The Swiss Legation, Foreign Interests Division, presents its compliments to the Political Section of the Allied Control Commission, and has the honor to draw the attention of the Allied authorities to the arrest of a German citizen Herbert VON GIBBER.

Mr. VON GIBBER is employed at the International Institute of Agriculture, (the well known international organization), the staff of which was guaranteed by the Italian Government with Diplomatic privileges by special law of June 20, 1930.

The Swiss Legation, in dealing with Allied Interests during the last three years, has occasion to observe, owing to the Diplomatic privileges accorded to the staff of the Institute, that two British subjects Miss ROBERTS and Mr. ORRIS, and an Egyptian national Mr. Tasse Salto, could remain undisturbed in Rome also during the German occupation.

The Swiss Legation would be very grateful if the Allied Authorities could reconsider the case of Mr. Herbert VON GIBBER, and afford him the possibility of attending his work.

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

Rome, October 19, 1944.

Swiss.

936

Incl #2

R. MINISTERO
degli
AFFARI ESTERI

NO. 6/1263/549

Copy

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRINCIPAL SECTION A.C.

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs thank the A.C. for their memorandum No. 50-171 of December 7th, concerning the arrest and detention of a German, and ask to explain the A.C. with their point of view on the legal aspects of the question.

1. - Since the 1938 Convention of June 7th 1938, which laid the foundation of the International Institute of Agriculture, the delegates of the different States to the Institute as well as the Institute's officials enjoy a special status in the accomplishment of their duty, in accordance with a generally accepted principle of international law according to which the delegates and officials of international institutions enjoy diplomatic immunities. Among the signatories of the Convention there were also Great Britain and the United States. The general scope of the Convention is the United Nations and Germany cannot exert any influence on the officialdom of the Convention, for that which concerns the obligations of the contracting parties towards the International Institute.

2. - The Italian Law No. 1075 of June 20th. 1939, in order to ensure the application in Italy of the aforesaid principle as regards the International Institute or equivalent, has ruled that the delegates of the member States enjoy, in the accomplishment of their duty, diplomatic immunity and that this immunity is extended to the officials of the Institute restrictedly to their sphere of activity. This law is enforceable even during foreign occupation, and the Allied Authorities are held to its observance even if in the limit of superior security considerations.

3. - It is an accepted international custom that the representatives of foreign States and the officials of international institutions, should they commit acts which can be laid to their charge as crimes and that have no connection with the accomplishment of their duty, are usually, for international courtesy, recalled by the State to which they belong instead of being arrested and brought to trial.

In consideration of the above points the Ministry for Foreign Affairs suggest that:

- A) - If Signor von Tschammer's arrest is due to the fact that he is an enemy subject or to deeds committed by him in the accomplishment of his duties, he should be released;
- B) - If, on the other hand, it is due to acts committed by him outside the sphere of his duties, the Allied Authorities should interest the Italian Government in obtaining Signor Tschammer's repatriation, pending which he could be subjected to those precautionary police measures which are generally applied to criminals of enemy countries before their departure.

9/5

Ind. # 3

- 2 -

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs therefore believe that in these
limits, the Allied Authorities should provide to Signor Gascher's release.

Rome, 13th December, 1944.

SECRET

CONFIDENTIAL

AS TO THE DEVELOPMENT AND MODIFICATION OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL STRUCTURE IN
ITALY AT PRESENT

(I) ITALY TODAY

1. It has always been understood to be a part of the functions of the Allied Commission not only to secure the abolition of the Fascist local government structure, but to substitute for it a system distinctively democratic. Considerable experience along these lines was gained from the operations of AMGOT in Sicily. On the basis of what was done there, Orders were issued last January for the establishment by Allied Military Government of local authorities in occupied provinces and communes. With the transfer of Southern Italy to the control of the Italian Government, that Government continued the AMG system by a Decree of April 1944.
2. The Orders and Decree provided for the re-establishment in part of the local government system contemplated by the 1934 Fascist law of 1935. In the absence of any possibility of elections at that time, the elective communal and provincial councils were not re-established. The standing executive committee and the executive and presiding heads of the local authorities were re-introduced on the basis of appointment by the AMGOT.

3. It was made clear in both Orders and Decree that this legislation was purely temporary.

4. The temporary local government structure thus contemplated has been established almost in its entirety throughout Italy behind the battle line.

5. The next development was the promulgation by the Italian Government of a decree of 28 September 1944 for the compilation of electoral lists, which decree revived the law of 1919 on the subject.

(II) POLICY IMPLICATIONS IN THE ABOVE.

6. It is obvious that the Decree of April last contemplated a further step in the democratization of Italian local government; i.e. the establishment of elective local authorities and the holding of elections for them. The 1919 system was partially adopted as being the readiest democratic system to hand; but its adoption did not imply that the elective local authorities provided by it were the particular ones ultimately contemplated.
7. In fact, the Italian Government have this autumn established a commission of experts to study and make recommendations on the whole administrative system of the Italian State, including local government.
8. If, therefore, local government elections are to be contemplated in the near future, it is necessary first to decide what local government bodies are to be

Sicily. On the basis of what has been shown, Orders were issued last January for the establishment of Allied Military Government of local authorities in occupied provinces and counties. With the transfer of Southern Italy to the control of the Italian Government, that Government continued the AG system by a Decree of April 1944.

2. The Order and Decree provided for the re-establishment in part of the local government system contemplated by the Fascist law of 1925. In the absence of any possibility of elections at that time, the elective communal and provincial councils were not re-established. The standing executive committee and the executive and presiding heads of the local authorities are re-introduced on the basis of appointment by the Prefect.

3. It was made clear in both Order and Decree that this legislation was purely temporary.

4. The temporary local government structure thus contemplated has been established almost in its entirety throughout Italy behind the battle line.

5. The next development was the promulgation by the Italian Government of a decree of 23 September 1944 for the compilation of electoral lists, which decree revived the law of 1919 on the subject.

(II) POLICY IMPLICATIONS IN THE ABOVE.

6. It is obvious that the Decree of April last contemplated a further step in the democratization of Italian local government; i.e. the establishment of elective local authorities and the holding of elections for them. The 1915 system was partially adopted as being the most democratic system to hand; but its adoption did not imply that the elective local authorities provided by it were the particular ones ultimately contemplated.

7. In fact, the Italian Government have this autumn established a commission of experts to study and make recommendations on the whole administrative system of the Italian State, including local government.

8. If, therefore, local government elections are to be contemplated in the near future, it is necessary first to decide what local government bodies are to be elected. The final and permanent form of Italian local government must obviously rest on the will of the Italian people freely expressed. Presumably, this can only be expressed through some form of national legislature or constituent assembly.

(III) PRACTICAL FACTORS AFFECTING THE PROPOSAL

9. If the foregoing observations are held not to influence the present problem or that such problem is capable of solution, it would be necessary to give consideration to the following points:

(a) Electoral lists or registers must first be compiled. As stated above, a Decree for this purpose has been issued. It appears, however, that the compilation of the lists will take many months, in some provinces considerably longer than in others.

(a) The scattered state of the population, for example, prisoners of war, refugees, those bombed or shelled out of their homes, members of the Italian armed forces. (The failure of the Government to make provision for the registration of such people but there is no provision for absentee voting).

(c) Transport and communications. If communal elections are to be held, these difficulties will be great, especially if elections are held in the winter. In certain country districts they will make voting almost impossible.

(d) Lack of material, e.g., paper, printing services, ballot boxes or urns, etc.

(e) The lack of qualified staff. There have been no true elections in Italy since 1926 at the latest. Trained S-As and local civil servants are in extremely short supply.

(IV) POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES OF THE PROPOSAL

10. According to the practical difficulties enumerated above could likewise be overcome or at least overlooked, consideration should be given to what the possible results of the holding of local government elections in Italy now could be.

11. In the first place, it is uncertain whether these elections would produce a real expression of the popular will. The practical difficulties above-mentioned in themselves would militate against this. A more serious factor, however, is the state of politics in the country generally.

(a) The victory at the election would go to the best organized party or body and not necessarily to the most representative one.

(b) The appearance of popular support thus created in favour of particular parties or organizations will influence in advance the eventual settlement of the new Italian constitution. Whether this is done by secretaries assembly or by referendum, all taking part in the process cannot fail to be affected by the results of the preceding local elections.

(c) Parties may, therefore, feel it of vital importance to win the clearest possible victory at the local elections so that such elections might precipitate just those disorders that they are unprepared to avoid.

(d) There is a possibility that local government elections will be accompanied by a measure of disorder which may possibly even continue afterwards. Any factors suggest this including the following:

(i) Political passions are running high.

(ii) Hunger and lack of necessities of life strengthen the tendency.

(iii) Little confidence is felt in the ability of the Italian Government which will be in charge of the elections either to conduct them independently or properly.

(iv) The morale and numbers of the forces of public order may not prove adequate to control the situation.

(IV) POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES OF THE PROPOSAL

10. Regarding that the practical difficulties enumerated above could likewise be overcome or at least overlooked, consideration should be given to what the possible results of the holding of local government elections in Italy now would be.

11. In the first place, it is uncertain whether those elections would produce a real expression of the popular will. The practical difficulties above-mentioned in themselves would militate against this. A more serious factor, however, is the state of politics in the country generally.

(a) The victory at the election would go to the best organized party or body and not necessarily to the most representative one.

(b) The appearance of popular support thus created is a source of further parties or organizations will influence in advance the eventual settlement of the new Italian constitution. Whether this is done by concerted assembly of the referendum, all taking part in the process cannot fail to be affected by the result or the preceding local elections.

(c) Parties, therefore, feel it of vital importance to win the clearest possible victory at the local elections so that such elections might give confidence just those disorders that they are intended to avoid.

(d) There is a possibility that local government elections will be accompanied by a measure of disorder which may possibly even continue afterwards. Many factors suggest this including the following:

- (i) Political passions are running high.
- (ii) Hunger and lack of necessities of life strengthen the tendency.
- (iii) Little confidence is felt in the ability of the Italian Parliamentaries who will be in charge of the elections either to conduct them independently or properly.
- (iv) The morale and numbers of the forces of public order may not prove adequate to control the situation.

12. The disorders consequent on an election might be looked upon with a lurid eye as having at least a constructive object. However would be rioting in order to obtain the local government they desire and not in order to force the authorities to provide food or boots from some unspecified but presumably existent source. There appears to be a military and a political element in this. From the military standpoint all disorder in a country which is a theatre of operations and a source and base of supply is objectionable, no matter what its purpose. Politically, all attempts to limit force to the settlement of questions of government are the negation of democracy, no matter how laudable the object. The example of Greece adds point to this observation.

(V) POLITICAL ASPECTS OF THE PROPOSAL

13. The holding of local government elections should raise the prestige of Italy by making it the first European country to get back to the basis of modern democracy. Even if the elections cannot be held till next Summer (see para. 12 (1) above) an announcement now that they were to be held would have an immediate effect. (As to being the first in the field, however, an indication has been observed in the press that the French are considering local elections in February.)

14. The elections would provide an outlet for the political feeling of the average Italian and may be a useful safety valve and a preventative of disorder.

15. They would give some sort of basis to Italian political parties, in that it could not then be said with absolute truth that they were "not hampered by having been elected by anyone". It is not suggested that the elections would prove anything as to the extent to which a political party represents Italian opinion. On the contrary there is sound reason to believe that the elections would not express the popular will, -- see para. 14 above. But the results would at least provide a measure of sorts which could be treated as a gauge of the relative strength of parties. At present there is none.

16. The announcement that local elections were to be conceded should raise the prestige of the Allies as a concrete proof of the character of their intentions towards Italy. The announcement would stand out in relief against the present situation in Greece and illustrate what could be done there -- and in other countries -- were it not for the fear of disorder.

(VI) PARTIAL ELECTIONS

17. The foregoing observations are based on the assumption that the elections contemplated would be held (a) there, now, liberated Italy and (b) simultaneously in all communes, provinces or such other local government areas as may be determined. It might be thought desirable, however, to limit elections either to a part only of the country or to a certain class of local authority.

18. As to territorial limitation, it is fairly obvious that elections could not be held in the areas under the control of the 5th and 8th Armies. Not only would the practical difficulties enumerated in Section III be at their highest but the C-in-C could be expected to take strong objection to the diversion of the energies of AMG officers, Italian functionaries and the population generally away from tasks of military importance.

19. These objections have not quite the same force in Military Government Territory under Regional Control though they are still undoubtedly present. On the other hand, in this Territory, where Allied officers are governing directly, is to be found the best chance of the elections being really free and independent. In all Military Government Territory, however -- whether under Regional or Army control -- it has to be considered whether elected local authorities would prove satisfactory instruments. If the Prefectures were to be substituted by some elective institutions, there might be something in this; but if only communal and provincial councils or, moreover, there are envisaged, there is little reason to believe that their elective

14. The elections would provide an outlet for the political feeling of the average Italian and may be a useful safety valve and a preventative of disorder.

15. They would give some sort of basis to Italian political parties, in that it could not then be said with absolute truth that they were "not hampered by having been elected by anyone". It is not suggested that the elections would prove satisfying as to the extent to which a political party represents Italian opinion. On the contrary there is sound reason to believe that the elections would not express the popular will, -- see para. 14 above. But the results would at least provide a measure of sorts which could be treated as a gauge of the relative strength of parties. At present there is none.

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(VI) PARTIAL ELECTIONS

17. The foregoing observations are based on the assumption that the elections contemplated would be held (a) throughout liberated Italy and (b) simultaneously in all communes, provinces or such other local government areas as may be determined. It might be thought desirable, however, to limit elections either to a part only of the country or to a certain class of local authority.

18. As to territorial limitations, it is fairly obvious that elections could not be held in the areas under the control of the 5th and 8th Armies. Not only would the practical difficulties enumerated in Section III be at their highest but the C-in-C could be expected to take strong objection to the diversion of the energies of AMI officers, Italian functionaries and the population generally away from tasks of military importance.

19. These objections have not quite the same force in Military Government Territory under Regional Control though they are still undoubtedly present. On the other hand, in this Territory, where Allied officers are governing directly, it is to be found the best chance of the elections being really free and independent. In all Military Government Territory, however -- whether under regional or army control -- it has to be considered whether elected local authorities would prove satisfactory instruments. If the Prefecture were to be substituted by some elective institutions, there might be something in this; but it is only communal and provincial councils or similar bodies are envisaged, there is little reason to believe that their election on a basis would create any serious tendency to go contrary to Allied wishes. Moreover, if the 1945 law is adhered to, the executive heads (Sindaci in communes and Presidenti in provinces) and the standing executive committees (Giunte Comunali and Deputazioni Provinciali) would continue; and the law gives to these institutions such a wide measure of authority independently of their councils as would be sufficient for Allied purposes.

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APPENDIX

Local Government troops in liberated Italy as at 10/10/44.

Type of local authority	Military Government Territory	Italian Government Territory	Total
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Total Provinces	4	11	51
Total Communes	155	174	3,224
Communes of 50,000 pop. and over	7	6	29
Communes of 20,000 pop. and over			
and	13	29	111
Provincial capitals if of less population			153

NOTE (1) For the purposes of this table it has been assumed that

(a) the whole of the following provinces are in our hands :-

LUCCA
PISTOIA

(b) no part of the following provinces are in our hands :-

BOLOGNA
RAVENNA

NOTE (2) The city of POE is included among the appropriate figures in col. (4)

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Total Provinces	4	11	36	51
Total Communes	135	174	2,599	3,224
Communes of 50,000 pop. and over	7	6	16	29
Communes of 20,000 pop. and over	13	29	111	153
Provincial capitals if of less population				

NOTE (1) For the purposes of this table it has been assumed that

(a) the whole of the following provinces are in our hands :-

LUCCA
PISTOIA

(b) no part of the following provinces are in our hands :-

BOLOGNA
RAVENNA

NOTE (2) The city of FLORENCE is included among the appropriate figures in col. (4)

Ref: 826

8 December 1944

MEMORANDUM TO: G-5 Section, Allied Force Headquarters, APO 512

SUBJECT : Arrest of Italian Citizens by French Military Authorities.

1. Reference is made to Political Section's memorandum No. 826 dated 26 October.

2. The communication under reference reported the arrest of one Nazario Tasotti, an Italian subject, by French military authorities and the refusal of the French Representative to the Allied Commission to consider his release.

3. There has been received from the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs an additional memorandum No. 6/988/418 dated 9 November 1944, of which a copy is attached, reporting the arrest by French military authorities of three additional Italian citizens.

4. In an aide-memoire No. 6/1122/475 dated November 28, 1944 the Ministry stated that these Italian subjects were arrested in Rome by the French on the charge of having attempted, prior to the outbreak of the present war, to break open a safe belonging to the French Embassy. The Ministry maintains that these individuals should be brought before Italian courts only.

5. The Legal Sub-Commission, A.C., has rendered the following opinion in the matter:

"In the opinion of the Legal S/C, the action of the French authorities in kidnapping, the four Italians referred to in the aide-memoire of the 28th November, is entirely illegal and a gross breach of international law."

6. The opinion of AFHQ in this matter is sought and an early expression thereof requested.

For the Chief Commissioner:-

WILLIAM W. SCHOTT
Vice President, Political Section.

Encl: Memorandum No. 6/988/418 dtd 9 Nov 44.

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Copy

Ministero degli Affari Esteri

6/988/418

MEMORANDUM FOR THE POLITICAL SECTION A.C.

Reference is made to Memorandum No. 6/670/297 of October 3rd. 1944, concerning the Italian citizen Nazareno TASSOTTI, who was arrested by the French Military Authorities, charged with an offence that he would have committed in Rome before the war.

Information has now reached this Ministry that the French Military Authorities have also arrested the following Italian citizens:

1. Riccardo BOCCABELLA
2. Raffaele MANCA, n.c.o. of the Reali Carabinieri (Maresciallo Maggiore)
3. Vitaliano SCARTINO, n.c.o. of the Police Corps (Maresciallo ordinario)

Said persons, arrested under the same charge of offence committed before the war have been transferred to Algiers together with Signor Tassotti, and are presumably still there.

In view of the seriousness of the case, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs draw the attention of the Political Section on the above mentioned memorandum and would be grateful to receive meanwhile an answer on the decision reached with regard to Signor Tassotti.

Rome, 9th November, 1944.

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
POLITICAL SECTION
APO 324

Ref: 378.11

13 November 1944

MEMORANDUM TO: G-5 Section, Allied Force Headquarters

SUBJECT : Report on Austrian Industries Under German Rule.

1. Reference Political Section Memorandum No. 378.1 dated 23 October 1944. There is submitted herewith a single copy of a "Report on Austrian Industries Under German Rule," which was handed to Political Section, A.C. by Dr. Peter Breycha-Zadiary who prepared the "Study of Administrative Conditions in Austria," which was forwarded with memorandum under reference.

2. It should be noted in the Forward of this document that Dr. Breycha is prepared to furnish reports on various other commercial activities in Austria.

3. An of possible ^{interest} ~~information~~, a biography of Dr. Breycha, as submitted by him, is to be found under the binding of this Report.

For the Chief Commissioner:-

WILLIAM W. SCHOTT
Vice President, Political Section

1 Encl: "Report on Austrian
Industries Under German
Rule"

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