

ACC

10000/132/73

234.1

Red Cross

Mar. 1944. F

10000/132/73

234.1

Red Cross Hospitals
Mar. 1944 - Feb. 1945

NOTE VERBALE

No.

The Embassy of the United States of America presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and, with reference to a note from the Ministry to the Allied Commission dated May 8, 1944 and relating to a project of the International Red Cross Committee for the creation of sanitary and safety zones, has the honor to inform the Ministry that a reply has now been received in this connection.

In replying to the Embassy's communication the Department of State has transmitted a copy of a letter addressed to The Honorable Carl Burckhardt, President of the International Red Cross Committee in Geneva, in which it is stated as follows:

"The Government of the United States has a lively appreciation of the total character of modern warfare, especially total aerial warfare, with the consequent possibility that civilian populations may be subjected to its effect. It has therefore studied this proposal with sympathy and appreciation for the humanitarian interests which are represented therein.

"It is, however, the total character of modern warfare carrying with it a degree of intensity which may not have been quite fully anticipated in 1938 which must necessarily condition the attitude of the United States Government toward the creation of sanitary and immunity zones. The current war has brought into existence factors of warfare not confronted up to 1938 when the laudable proposals of the International Red Cross Committee relative to the creation of sanitary and immunity zones were put

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to a note from the Ministry to the Allied Commission dated May 8, 1944 and relating to a project of the International Red Cross Committee for the creation of sanitary and safety zones, has the honor to inform the Ministry that a reply has not been received in this connection.

In replying to the Embassy's communication the Department of State has transmitted a copy of a letter addressed to The Honorable Carl Burckhardt, President of the International Red Cross Committee in Geneva, in which it is stated as follows:

"The Government of the United States has a lively appreciation of the total character of modern warfare, especially total aerial warfare, with the consequent possibility that civilian populations may be subjected to its effect. It has therefore studied this proposal with sympathy and appreciation for the humanitarian interests which are represented therein.

"It is, however, the total character of modern warfare carrying with it a degree of intensity which may not have been quite fully anticipated in 1938 which must necessarily condition the attitude of the United States Government toward the creation of sanitary and immunity zones. The current war has brought into existence factors of warfare not confronted up to 1938 when the laudable proposals of the International Red Cross Committee relative to the creation of sanitary and immunity zones were put forth. It is noted, for example, that it would be difficult to designate any zones in Germany which would not contribute in some way to Germany's war effort or would not contain a means of communication which might be an important military target. Furthermore, the use by Germany of the flying bomb and rocket propelled projectile, neither of which can be accurately aimed, would deprive the Allies of any advantage to themselves in establishing such zones.

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"In view of the foregoing the United States Government finds itself compelled to look unfavorably upon present undertaking to create the proposed zones."

Rome, February 25, 1945.

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Ref: P/234.1

20 February 1945

The Political Section of the Allied Commission presents its compliments to the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and, with reference to their memorandum no. 6/217/72 of the 13th January, has the honor to inform them that the interested staff sections of COMAL have studied the proposal that safety zones be established in both liberated and occupied Italy and have concluded that from the Allied point of view the same considerations continue to apply as in June 1944 when the question was previously raised. From the Italian point of view, it is felt that any possible need for the establishment of such zones has decreased considerably.

Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

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ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 512

Political Sec 393
TRJ/as *ASH*

G-5: 384.4-2

14 February 1945

17 FEB 1945

SUBJECT: Safety Zones in Liberated Italy.

TO : Headquarters, Allied Commission, APO 394.

1. Reference is made to your 234.1 of 20 January.
2. This has been carefully considered here in consultation with interested staff sections but the feeling is that from the Allied point of view, same considerations still obtain as when the matter was originally considered in June of last year and that from the Italian point of view any possible need for such zones in liberated territory has in fact decreased.

For the Asst. Chief of Staff, G-5:

T. B. Jackman
Lt. Colonel

19/2/45
16 FEB 1945
Co

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ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 512

TBJ/as

G-5: 384.4-2

14 February 1945

SUBJECT: Safety Zones in Liberated Italy.

TO : Headquarters, Allied Commission, APO 394.

1. Reference is made to your 234.1 of 20 January.
2. This has been carefully considered here in consultation with interested staff sections but the feeling is that from the Allied point of view some considerations still obtain as when the matter was originally considered in June of last year and that from the Italian point of view any possible need for such zones in liberated territory has in fact decreased.

For the Asst. Chief of Staff, G-5:


T. B. JACKMAN
Lt. Colonel

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Ref: 234.1

20th January 1945

SUBJECT: Italian Government's desire to
institute safety zones in
liberated Italy.

TO : G-5 Section, Allied Force Headquarters.

There is attached a copy of a memorandum No. 6/147/72 of the 13th January from the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs regarding the desire of the Italian Government to institute safety zones in liberated Italian territory.

2. It is presumed that the Italian Government could only give their consent to the scheme proposed by the Chairman of the International Red Cross in respect of territory directly administered by them and that the Allied authorities could not object to their so doing unless they selected zones which were of strategic importance to the Allied Military authorities.
3. Similarly, the Political Section assumes that the Italian Government are in no position to speak for territory under Allied Military Government. Should it become apparent that the proposal would affect such territory, the Section suggests that the views of the Allied Military Government authorities might be sought, but as a matter of principle it would be disposed to discourage any such proposal.
4. The views of Allied Force Headquarters are requested in order that a reply may be returned to the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

For the Chief Commissioner.

H. I. D'A. HOPKINSON,
Acting Vice-President,
Political Section.

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Copies to: U.S. Political Adviser,
British Resident Minister.

1 enclosure: copy of memorandum No. 6/147/72
dated 18.1.45 from Italian MFA.

234.1

A/V.P. (Br.)

The Italian Government is only give their
consent in respect of territory administered by them, I
presume, and, unless they draw zones which have special
importance to the Allies, I do not see that the latter
could object.

2. So far as the territory is concerned, the
Allied military authorities will open to deciding
certain zones therein as safety zones.

3. We do presumably consider A.F.H.Q.

Halifax

10/1/45

I don't understand the Allied Military authorities
will be more willing to consider this proposal than
they were before. I agree that we should consider A.F.H.Q.
as proposed.

Chief can visit us.

10/1/45 Jan. 17

1. digest.

2. So far as the treaty is concerned, the Allied military authorities might agree to declaring certain zones to be safety zones.

3. We are presumably aware of this.

Reynolds

12/1/45

I doubt whether the Allied military authorities will be more willing to consider this proposal than they were before. I agree that we should consider A.F.M.C. as proposed.

Chief can visit soon.

12/1/45 Jan. 17

V.P. Political Section 2621

Pol. Sec.

Discour. JWS
ca

14/1

Mr. H. H. H.

to draft and send off please. I should like to see you about the idea of H. H. Co. declaring safety zones.

12/1/45 Jan. 19.

Ministero degli Affari Esteri

CC 142
JUN 17 1944

AIF

6/144/42

MEMORANDUM FOR THE POLITICAL SECTION A.C.

The International Committee of the Red Cross submitted last March to the exam of the belligerent Powers a "Memorandum" concerning the institution of sanitary and safety zones which should shelter women, children, old people and sick persons, who would be otherwise exposed to the action of enemy bombardment.

As the said Italy said Committee had set forth the proposition of creating a hospital center in Siena.

This Ministry expressed then the opinion that, for obvious reasons, the Italian Government should adhere to the proposition mentioned in the memorandum and requested the kind advice of the A.C. on the subject, but the Mediterranean Allied Headquarters informed by letter on June 9th, 1944, that they did not deem it opportune, for the time being, to set up sanitary or safety zones in the territory of liberated Italy, or of occupied Italy.

The Chairman of the International Committee of the Red Cross has now informed, through a circular message addressed to all belligerent Powers from Geneva on September 2th last that Germany would be willing to examine favourably the institution of said zones and that, in spite of the difficulties the issue might meet with under the circumstances, an exchange of views on the matter would be appreciated by her. In consideration of the compassionate grounds originating the request of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Italian Government would see no obstacle in giving their consent to the institution of the above zones, stating their wish to participate in an eventual exchange of views on the subject.

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The Ministry For Foreign Affairs, prior to communicating the consent of the Italian Government to the Chairman of the International Committee of the Red Cross, would be grateful if the Allied Commission could acquaint them with their eventual remarks on the subject.



Rome, January 13th 1945

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

HOSPITAL AT SIENA

R, MINISTERO DEGLI AFFARI ESTERI

P

Cell
Tr : Grillo
Messeri
SPR 5
+1

Telegramma in PARTENZA

Nº. coll: 319

Oggetto:

Data: Centro ospedaliero in Siena

Tramite: 30.3.44

C.A.C.

Diretto a:

R. Legazione Italia - ROMA

Testo: (originale)

Nº.

70 - March 30 (.) My 57 (.) Allied authorities have informed that in view of fact that Siennas is a road and railway center held by enemy (.) they are unable to recognize city as open or hospital city (.) Allied Military Authorities have however been instructed take every precaution to safeguard city's hospitals and art treasures (.) I understand that a reply to above effect has already been given to International Red Cross (.) Please report any further developments (.)

234/1

Prunes



Consegnato a:

CR

il:

0408

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

Tramite: 30.3.44

D.I.C.

Diretto a:

R. Legazione Italia - B.RNA

Testo: (originale)

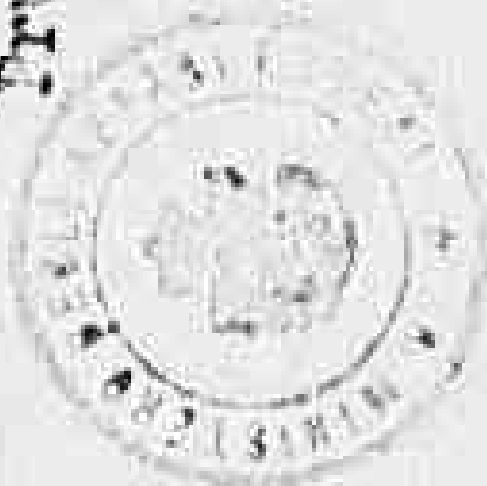
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Please report any further developments (.)

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Consegnato a: CAC

il: > *fc*

3 APR 1944

VIA AEREA

2013

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

APO 394

U.S. ARMY

Refer: 234.1

March 27, 1944.

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to the communication received from the Royal Italian Ministry for Foreign Affairs, No. 1321 of March 15, 1944, relating to the proposal of the International Committee of the Red Cross with respect to the establishment in Siena of a hospital center.

I have been informed by the Supreme Allied Commander that as a result of previous examination it had been decided, in view of the fact that Siena is a road and railway center held by the enemy, that it was not now practicable to declare Siena an open or hospital city. The appropriate Allied commanders have, however, been instructed to take every precaution to safeguard hospitals and art treasures of the city. First consideration must, however, be given to the military operations.

Under these circumstances I am instructed to inform you that the Supreme Allied Commander regrets that no departure can be made from this policy.

I am, Sir,

Sincerely yours,

Samuel Reber
Vice President, Allied Control
Commission - Political Section.

Via Excellency
Don Renato Brunas,
Secretary General,
Royal Italian Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

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ALLIED MILITARY MISSION

INCOMING MESSAGE

ACTION COPY

6009

Pol. Sec.

SVC/ 207

SECRET

FRICTRY

FREEDOM

FATIMA



M/C NO 3/21

REF NO 22869

FILED 261020A

RECD 261100

SIGNED CINC CITE FHGCT F22869 FOR ACTION TO FATIMA

REFERENCE MESSAGE NUMBER 2450 OF 22 MARCH 1944.

AS A RESULT OF PREVIOUS EXAMINATION, IT WAS DECIDED THAT IT WAS NOT PRACTICABLE THAT SIENA SHOULD BE DECLARED AN OPEN OR HOSPITAL CITY, IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT IT IS A ROAD AND RAILWAY CENTER AT PRESENT HELD BY THE ENEMY. A LETTER WAS THEREFORE DISPATCHED TO CINC AAI RPT AAI AND AIR CINC MAAF EMPHASIZING THAT EVERY PRECAUTION WOULD BE TAKEN TO SAFEGUARD THE HOSPITALS AND ART TREASURES IN THE CITY. BUT THAT MILITARY OPERATIONS MUST HAVE FIRST CONSIDERATION.

DESIRE THAT YOU INFORM THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT WE REGRET THAT NO DEPARTURE CAN BE MADE FROM THIS POLICY.

ACC DIST

ACTION-POLITICAL SEC
INFO SECY GEN
DEF CC
CA BR
FILE
FLCAT

SECRET

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ACTION COPY

CONFIDENTIAL

221330

2450

FATIMA (REBIR, POLITICAL SECTION)

22 MARCH 44

CONFIDENTIAL

10050

ROUTINE

REBIR

PREFACE

ITALIAN GOVERNMENT HAS LEARNED THROUGH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS THAT THE COMMITTEE HAS BEEN INFORMED BY THE GERMAN AUTHORITIES AND THE SECTION OF THE ITALIAN RED CROSS UNDER GERMAN CONTROL THAT THEY INTEND TO ESTABLISH A HOSPITAL CENTER IN SIENA WITH A CAPACITY OF A THOUSAND BEDS FOR CIVILIAN AND MILITARY SICK AND WOUNDED PD PARCEL TO BE SENT FROM FATIMA SIGNED MAGGIORANGE PARCEL NEW PARCEL PD THE PROPOSAL CONTEMPLATES THE EVACUATION OF ALL FORCES FROM SIENA SO AS TO REMOVE ALL MILITARY OBJECTIVES FROM THE AREA PD THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS COMMITTEE HAS BEEN ASKED TO INFORM THE BELLIGERENT GOVERNMENTS OF THIS PROPOSAL PD NEW PARCEL PD THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT HOPES THAT FOR HUMANITARIAN REASONS IT MAY BE POSSIBLE TO APPROVE THE PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A SANITARY AND SAFETY ZONE AT SIENA WHICH SHOULD OF COURSE OF COURSE INCLUDE THE NECESSARY GUARANTEES OF EFFECTIVE DEMILITARIZATION PD INASMUCH AS THE PROPOSAL HAS ALREADY BEEN SUBMITTED TO THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE UNITED NATIONS OF COURSE THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT ASKS THAT THEY BE INFORMED OF ITS DESIRE THAT THIS PROPOSAL MAY BE ACCEPTED

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Copy for
Mr. Fisher
Political Sec

L. T. MONTAGNI JR.
2nd Lt., AGO

1
R. MINISTERO
DEGLI
AFFARI ESTERI
--

No 1321
NOTA VERBALE

Il R. Ministero degli Affari Esteri ha l'onore di informare la Commissione Alleata di Controllo che la R. Legazione a Berna ha ricevuto dal Comitato Internazionale della Croce Rossa una comunicazione relativa a quanto segue:

2) Le autorità germaniche e la Croce Rossa dell'Italia ancora occupata hanno avanzato la proposta di creare a Siena un centro ospedaliero con 10.000 letti per ammalati e feriti civili e militari. La proposta contempla l'evacuazione di tutti i soldati dalla città di Siena cosicchè non vi rimarrebbero più obiettivi militari.

La Croce Rossa dell'Italia ancora occupata ha chiesto al Comitato Internazionale della Croce Rossa di voler comunicare questo progetto ai Governi dei Paesi belligeranti. *1341*

Il Comitato Internazionale della Croce Rossa, qualora questi Paesi dovessero dare la loro approvazione, sarebbe lieto di esaminare la possibilità di creare zone sanitarie e di sicurezza.

3) Il R. Ministero degli Affari Esteri ha l'onore di esprimere l'avviso che sarebbe molto opportuno favorire, per

Alla Commissione Alleata di Controllo
Salerno

2615

R. MINISTERO
DEGLI
AFFARI ESTERI

- 2 -

ovvie ragioni umanitarie, mediante l'approvazione della proposta avanzata, la costituzione a Siena di una zona sanitaria e di sicurezza, che presentasse, naturalmente, le dovute garanzie di una effettiva smilitarizzazione.

4) Il Ministero Affari Esteri ha già ottenuto il pare re favorevole del Comando Supremo alla proposta avanzata dalle autorità germaniche e dalla Croce Rossa dell'Italia ancora occupata dai tedeschi. Tuttavia, poichè la proposta è stata comunicata anche ai Governi delle Nazioni Unite, il R. Ministero degli Affari Esteri ha l'onore di pregare la Commissione Alleata di Controllo di voler informare i Gover ni medesimi del parere e del desiderio del Governo italiano come espressi al precedente paragrafo -3)

Il R. Ministero degli Affari Esteri ha l'onore di pre gare la Commissione Alleata di Controllo di volergli comuni care, non appena possibile, le decisioni dei Governi delle Nazioni Unite.

Salerno, li 16 Marzo 1944.



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R. MINISTERO
DEGLI
AFFARI ESTERI

101321

Sp
HC

NOTE VERBALE

The Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs have the honour to inform the Allied Control Commission that the Italian Legation at Berne has received from the International Committee of the Red Cross the following proposals:

2) The German authorities and that Section of the Italian Red Cross under German control have advised the International Red Cross Committee as to their intention of establishing in Siena an hospital center with a capacity of 1000 beds for Civilian and Military ill and wounded. The proposal contemplates the evacuation of all soldiers from Siena so as to remove all military objectives from this city.

The Italian Red Cross Section still under German control has requested the International Red Cross Committee to inform the belligerent Governments of the project.

Should these Government give their approval, the International Red Cross Committee would be glad to examine the possibility of creating sanitary and safety zones.

3) The Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs have the honour to express the opinion that, for obvious humanitarian reasons, it would be most appropriate to sponsor the establishment at Siena of a sanitary and safety zone, which of course, should offer the necessa-

Allied Control Commission
Salerno.

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R. MINISTERO
DEGLI
AFFARI ESTERI
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-2-

ry guarantee of an effective demilitarization.

4) The Italian Supreme Command has also received the above mentioned proposal favourably. However, as the proposal has been also submitted to the Governments of the United Nations, the Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs have the honour to request the Allied Control Commission to kindly inform the said Governments of the opinion and desire of the Italian Government as expressed in paragraph 3.

The Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs have the honour to request the Allied Control Commission to kindly advise them, as soon as possible, of the decisions of the United Nations Governments.

SALERNO, March 16, 1944.

2341

Conferenza Hospital in Siena

P

R. MINISTERO DEGLI AFFARI ESTERI

COLL.
T. 1
N. 5
I

Telegramma in PARTENZA

N. coll.: 267

Oggetto: PROGETTO COSTRUZIONE DI UN CENTRO OSPEDALIERO A SIENA
Data: 16.2.44.
Tramite: C.A.C.

Diretto a: R. LEGAZIONE ITALIA - BERNA

Testo: (originale)

N.º

57 - March 16(.) Your 16(.) No objection on our part to establish Hospital Center in Siena(.) Proposals have been submitted to Allied Government and I have been recommended(.)
Please also exact wording of part proposal which refers to Government and agencies sponsoring same as well as to countries to which it has been submitted(.)

284.1
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(traduzione)

Suo 16. Nessuna difficoltà da parte nostra in relazione alla creazione di un centro ospedaliero a Siena. Proposta è stata inoltrata a Governi alleati e vivamente appoggiata.

Prego telegrafare termini precisi della proposta relativa al Governo ed Enti proponenti ed a Paesi cui essa viene fatta.

TRUHA



Consegnato a:

il: C.A.C.
17 m.m.

Data: 15.3.44.
Tramite: C.A.C.

Diretto a: R. LEGAZIONE IT LINA - BERNA

Testo: (originale)

N°.

57 - March 16(.) Your 10(.) No objection on our part to establish Hospital Center in Siena(.) Proposal has been submitted to Allied Government and favorably received(.)

There are exact words of part proposal which refers to Government and agencies sponsoring same as well as to countries to which it has been submitted(.)

ATTEN

(traduzione)

Suo 10. Messura difficoltà da parte nostra attendere alla creazione di un centro ospedaliero a Siena. Proposta è stata inoltrata a Governi Alleati e vivamente appoggiata.

Prego telegrafare termini precisi della proposta relativi al Governo ed Enti proponenti ed a Paesi cui essa viene fatta.

FINNA

Consegnato a:

il: C.A.C.
17 marzo
p.c.

18 MAR 1944

VIA AEREA

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202 114

Hosp at Siena

PARAPHRASE

TELEGRAM #33 FROM ITALIAN LEGATION, BERN
FOR ITALIAN FOREIGN OFFICE, SIGNED MAGISTRATI

According to the International Red Cross Committee at Geneva the German authorities and the Italian Red Cross propose to create at Siena a hospitalization center with 10,000 beds for military and civilian sick and wounded. The proposal envisages the evacuation from Siena of all soldiers so that there would remain there no military objectives. The International Red Cross Committee has been asked by the Italian Red Cross to communicate this plan to the authorities of belligerent countries. Should the belligerent countries approve, the International Red Cross Committee will be glad to study, within the framework of its memorandum of September 9, 1939, the possibilities of creating safety and sanitary zones.

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