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Armistices

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TO MAC MILLAN

Armistice agreements

HAC/and

6 January 1944

I think that the enclosed letter about the Italian Armistices will be of interest to you and possibly of use to those who say during 1944 have to deal with other Armistices.

The Italian case is in many ways a not piece of what to avoid. In the first place two armistice instruments. Admittedly the Italian collapse came before the long terms were ready; but it would be well if the Italian experience were unique in this respect! Secondly, the long terms even when agreed have not provided an ideal instrument to administer either in content or in form for the reasons clearly explained in the inclosure. I fully realize that it can be argued that the Italians and anyone else who surrenders unconditionally have to accept what is coming to them. The Italians have and do. But I am not here thinking so much of their case. I am only hoping that as a result of Italy or colleagues who go to other countries which have surrendered to us will have the benefit of a single all-inclusive armistice agreement drawn up under headings in the way suggested within. Above all cannot the need for subsequent "improvements" be avoided? Germany has made that method a familiar stink all over Europe and to those concerned it does not matter much whether it is method or inadvertence.

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