

0260

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND

No. 785016

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10000/132/114

328
JAPAN
Dec. 1943 - Mar. 1944

0284

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

10000/132/114

328
JAPAN
Dec. 1943 - Mar. 1945

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Office of the Executive Commissioner

Ref: P/528/535

9 March 1945

The Office of the Executive Commissioner of the Allied Commission presents its compliments to the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and with regard to financial aid to the Italian Embassy Staff in Tokyo has the honor to forward herewith a copy of a paraphrase of a telegram which has been received by the American Embassy from the Department of State, Washington D.C.

Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

528/535

3939

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
FINANCE SUB-COMMISSION
TEL: 478604

13081/P

6 March, 1945

SUBJECT: Financial Aid to Italian Embassy Staff in Tokyo.

TO : Office of the Executive Commissioner
(Att. Major Stewart) ✓

1. Reference your P/328/385 of 6 March, 1945.
2. We see no objection to the State Department's telegram being communicated to the Italian Government.

J. J. Kaulin
Cdr. U.S. C.G.R.

Joint Director,
Finance Sub-Commission.

3937

ALLIED [REDACTED] COMMISSION

INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Office of the Executive Commissioner

SUBJECT: Financial Aid to Italian Embassy StaffFILE No. P/328/385
in Tokyo.

TO : Finance Sub-Commission

6 March 1945

1. I enclose herewith copy of a paraphrase of a telegram received by the American Embassy from the Department of State.
2. I should be grateful if I may have your comments on the telegram and if it may be communicated to the Italian Government.

Major,

3936

for Brigadier
Executive Commissioner

1 Encl: Paraphrase of telegram dtd 1 March 1945.

PARAPHRASE

The following is a paraphrase of a telegram, dated March 1, 1945, received from the Department of State.

Reference your A-132, dated December 22, 1944.

The proposal that the Red Cross International Committee assist in forwarding financial aid to interned members of the Italian Embassy staff in Tokyo is approved by the Department of State. The condition is made however that no advances for this purpose will be made from the funds of the United Kingdom and the United States. If the Allied Commission approves, any available assets of the Italian Government may be used, including post-liberation Sterling and Dollar assets.

GREW ACTING.

3935

File

Ref: P/325/385

6th January 1945

The Political Section presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and has the honour to state that reports have reached the British Foreign Office and the United States State Department from the Swedish Foreign Office to the effect that the conditions in which loyal Italian diplomats in the Far East are interned by the Japanese authorities are truly miserable. As the Ministry are aware, the difficulty consists in the refusal of the Japanese Government to recognise any foreign power as the protector of Italian interests in the Far East. The Swedish Minister at Tokyo however has been interesting himself in the fate of Italian diplomatic officials and has expressed the opinion that the only effective action which could be undertaken would be by the Soviet Ambassador with whom he has already privately discussed the matter. The Swedish Minister has unofficially suggested to his Soviet colleague the possibility of the Soviet Embassy's being requested to arrange for the repatriation of Italian diplomats via Siberia in connection with the repatriation of members of the Japanese Mission in Helsinki whose return journey is decided by the Japanese Government.

2. The Political Section has the honour to suggest that the next step would seem to be for the Italian Government to raise this matter urgently with the Soviet Government through the Soviet Representative in Rome.

The Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
Palazzo Chigi,
ROME.

3934

ASH/ccc(dict)

AH
✓

Mr. Schott

As you are aware, the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs have for some time been pre-occupied about the fate of their diplomatic officials in the Far East. It seems that the American Embassy in London and the Foreign Office have also been examining the question on the basis of reports received via the Swedish Foreign Office from the Swedish Minister at Tokyo. The latter has expressed the opinion that the only effective action that could be undertaken would be by the Soviet Ambassador with whom he has already privately discussed the matter. The Swedish Minister has unofficially suggested to his Soviet colleague the possibility of the Soviet Embassy being requested to arrange for the repatriation of Italian diplomats via Siberia in connection with the repatriation of members of the Japanese Mission in Helsinki whose return journey is desired by the Japanese Government.

2. While there seems to be some divergence of views between the Foreign Office and the United States Embassy on the question of which officials should be exchanged (Japanese officials in Europe in general and those who are accredited to the Soviet Republics Government only), the two Governments are in general agreement about the exchange of Japanese officials caught in Finland against loyal Italian officials interned by the Japanese.

3. If the Italian Government wish to effect this exchange I suppose they should ask the Soviet Representative here to represent the matter to Moscow. Do you agree?

3.1.45

2 45
315

3933

Mr. Schott

As you are aware, the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs have for some time been pre-occupied about the fate of their diplomatic officials in the Far East. It seems that the American Embassy in London and the Foreign Office have also been examining the question on the basis of reports received via the Swedish Foreign Office from the Swedish Minister at Tokyo. The latter has expressed the opinion that the only effective action that could be undertaken would be by the Soviet Ambassador with whom he has already privately discussed the matter. The Swedish Minister has unofficially suggested to his Soviet colleague the possibility of the Soviet Embassy being requested to arrange for the repatriation of Italian diplomats via Siberia in connection with the repatriation of members of the Japanese Mission in Helsingfors whose return journey is desired by the Japanese Government.

2. While there seems to be some divergence of views between the Foreign Office and the United States Embassy on the question of which officials should be exchanged (Japanese officials in Europe in general and those who are accredited to the Fascist Republican Government only), the two Governments are in general agreement about the exchange of Japanese officials caught in Finland against loyal Italian officials interned by the Japanese.

3. If the Italian Government wish to effect this exchange I suppose they should ask the Soviet Representative here to represent the matter to Moscow. Do you agree?

3.1.45

3932

P. 20

PARAPHRASE

The following is a paraphrase of a telegram, dated February 19, 1945, from the Department of State:

Reference your despatch No. 895 dated February 1, 1945.

The question of the release of Italian officials in the Far East through Siberia should be taken up with the Soviet Government by the Italian Government as soon as possible. Your attention is drawn to the fact that it may already be too late to connect the repatriation of Italians with the repatriation of officials of Japan who are in Finland.

GREN ACTING

328/385

3931

Ministero degli Affari Esteri

6/85/34

MS
AMMEMORANDUM FOR THE POLITICAL SECTION A.C.

With reference to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs' Memo-
randum n° 6/1211/582 of the 9th inst., concerning economic aid
to the Italian diplomats interned in Japan, the Ministry for For-
eign Affairs beg to interest the A.C. in the possibility of send-
ing some financial relief to the Italian diplomats formerly ap-
pointed in China and now interned in a concentration camp near
Shanghai.

Information has reached the Ministry for Foreign Affairs
concerning the fact that these officials would now find themselves in
a critical situation owing to lack of financial means.

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs would be therefore grate-
ful if the A.C. would approach the Allied Governments with a
view to obtaining, if possible, that a larger remittance be
granted the Italian Minister in Bern for the current month of
January in order that that Legation be able to forward, through
the International Red Cross, some financial aid to the said of-
ficials.

The necessary amount may be raised upon at Bern by the Bri-
tish and U.S. missions and the Italian Legation on the basis
of the figure that the latter may request from the International
Red Cross.

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs thank the A.C. for the
steps they will see fit to take in the matter.

*Appropriate action will be taken
by the Italian Legation.*
17/1/45

*Copies sent to
Am & Brit Legations
on 13.1.45.*
5/1/45

3930

318/285

Ref: 328/385

20 December 1944

SUBJECT: Economic Aid to Italian Diplomats Interned in Japan.

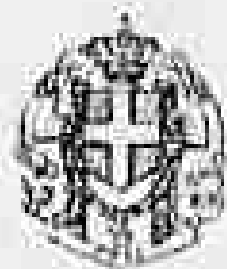
TO : Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Reference is made to the Ministry's memorandum No. 6/1211/592
dated 9 December 1944. Copies of this memorandum have been sent to
the American and British Embassies in Rome for appropriate action by
their respective governments.

WILLIAM W. SCHOTT
Vice President, Political Section

328/385

3929



Ministero delle Corporazioni

SEGRETERIA
DI VICE IL MINISTRO

*Copies sent to US at
Brit Emb. - 19 Dec 49*

14 December

Mr. Schott
Political Section:

1. This subject has never come within jurisdiction of Finance Sub-Commission. We know of no money being made available to Italian Minister in Bern except that for Legation and staff expenses.

2. It seems to be matter for State Department and Foreign Office to decide whether or not financial aid is to be made available to Italians to Police.

73528
R. L. Timmons
Finance s/c

ALLIED ~~CONTROL~~ COMMISSION
INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM
Political Section

SUBJECT: Remittances to Italian Ministry
in Bern.

FILE No. 394/385

13 December 1944

TO : Finance Sub-Commission.

1. Your attention is invited and content requested on the attached memorandum.
2. Political Section is not aware that sums of money are made available by the British and American Governments to the Italian Ministry in Bern for expenses other than those for the maintenance of the Italian Legation and Staff.

W.W. SCHOTT
Vice President, Political Section

1 Encl: Memo No. 6/1211/592 dtd 9 Dec 44.

3927

R. MINISTERO
DEGLI
AFFARI ESTERI

6/1211/592

MEMORANDUM FOR THE POLITICAL SECTION A.C.

Reference is made to Memorandum N. 5/330/239 of Sept. 15,

1944.

The Italian Minister in Bern has informed this Ministry that a Delegate of the Red Cross has been able to visit last August the staff of the Italian Embassy in Tokio, who are interested; the Delegate has pointed out that their conditions are most critical, due to their absolute isolation and lack of money.

The International Committee of the Red Cross has drawn the particular attention of the Italian Minister in Bern on this matter, offering to use their good offices in order to forward that economic aid which might be placed to their disposal by the Italian Government.

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs would be therefore very grateful if the A.C. could obtain from the British and American Governments that a larger remittance be urgently granted to the Italian Minister in Bern for the current month of December in order to enable him to adhere to the request of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The sum necessary for said purpose could be fixed at Bern through direct arrangements of the British and American Missions with the Italian Representative in that city.

3926



MEMORANDUM FOR THE POLITICAL SECTION A.C.

Reference is made to Memorandum N. 5/330/339 of Sept. 12,

1944.

The Italian Minister in Bern has informed this Ministry that a Delegate of the Red Cross has been able to visit last August the staff of the Italian Embassy in Tokio, who are interested; the Delegate has pointed out that their conditions are most critical, due to their absolute isolation and lack of money.

The International Committee of the Red Cross has drawn the particular attention of the Italian Minister in Bern on this matter, offering to use their good offices in order to forward that economic aid which might be placed to their disposal by the Italian Government.

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The sum necessary for said purpose could be fixed at Bern through direct arrangements of the British and American Missions with the Italian Representative in that city. *W/3926*



Rome, the 9th December, 1944

HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
POLITICAL SECTION
WFO 334

Ref: 382/386

23 September 1944

SUBJECT: Italian Officials interned in the Far East.

REFERENCE: C-5 Section, Allied Force Headquarters;
Copies to: U. S. Political Officer,
British High Commission.

There has been received a memorandum from the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs No. 6/530/339 dated September 12 concerning Italian diplomatic and consular officials interned in the Far East who have refused to adhere to the pseudo Italian Republican Government, and the desire of the Italian Government to have delivered to it a number of Italian Japanese officers for purposes of exchange and as a possible basis to obtain better treatment for their own interned officers.

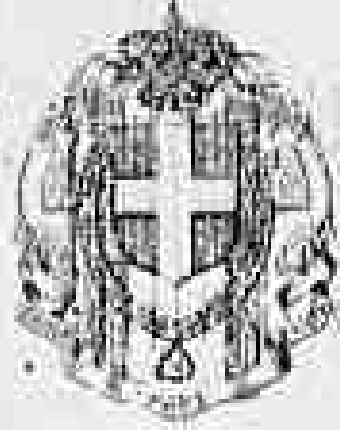
It is noted that the non-recognition by Japan of the Royal Italian Government precludes the protection of the Italian interests by a neutral government and permits the Japanese Government to deny their diplomatic treatment. Approximate lists regarding the circumstances of these internees who, in Japan, are said to be in No. 1 concentration camp, an old cement near Tokyo; in China, at some displacement from Shanghai where adequate facilities are not available; and in Thailand, at Bangkok.

The Ministry points out that the Italian Government has no interest against any persons from whom to whom the officials may be suggested and it is in position to take retaliatory measures. It has no Japanese persons in its custody for whom an exchange of persons might be effected. However, it is suggested that should Japanese diplomatic or consular officials be found and held in custody by the Allied authorities in Germany or in countries formerly under German occupation, especially those presently surrendered to the pseudo Italian Republican Government, they be collected over to the Italian Government for exchange against Italian internees in the Far East.

WILLIAM F. SCHOTT
Vice President, Political Section

Copies to:
U. S. Representative, A.S.I.
British High Commission

3925



Nr. 6/530/239

*Ministero degli Affari Esteri*MEMORANDUM FOR THE POLITICAL SECTION A.S.C.

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs wish to draw the attention of the Allied Governments on the fact that the Members of Italian Diplomatic and Consular Staffs in the Far East, who have refused to adhere to the pseudo Republican Government, are still detained in concentration camps by the Japanese Authorities and subjected to the treatment of civil internees.

The non-recognition by the Japanese of the King's Government has not only removed the possibility of some neutral Government undertaking to protect our interests in that country but has also provoked, by analogy, their objection to recognize the diplomatic status and immunities appertaining to the above missions. The informations, in fact, which have been received until now from neutral sources and through the International Committee of the Red Cross, all agree in reporting that the situation of those officials and their collaborators, both from a moral and a material point of view, are everything but of reassuring.

It is reported that the Diplomatic and Consular Staffs in Japan are detained in n° 1 Concentration Camp, placed in an old convent near Tokyo.

The Staffs in China are reported to have been lately transferred far from Shanghai, after undergoing a severe interrogation by the Japanese Authorities, and they would now find themselves in most distressing circumstances, insufficiently nourished, deprived of any medical aid and compelled to perform even the most humble tasks of camp life.

Lastly, it would appear that the Staffs of our Missions in Thailand are now at Bangkok, and according to information supplied by the Swedish Authorities, they would have been subjected to "violent pressure and very harsh

treatment".

The Italian Government have not failed to interest themselves in such a situation, but all their efforts in bringing it to a satisfactory solution, consistent at least with the most elementary principles of humanity, have been until now quite fruitless.

The situation of the Italian officials is made even more serious by the fact that the Italian Government have no means of exercising a suitable action of defense in their favour, nor can they resort to any measure of retaliation upon the Japanese or to the possibility of an exchange of diplomats, as no Japanese official is in their hands.

It is in consideration of this state of affairs, that the Ministry for Foreign Affairs request the A.C.C. to acquaint the Allied Governments with the above facts, recommending that should any Japanese Diplomatic or Consular Officials be found at the time of the capitulation in Germany or in countries formerly occupied by the Germans, the measures adopted both as regards their internment as their eventual exchange, should be taken also with a view to consenting to the protection and possible repatriation of Italian Diplomats still in Japanese hands.

Furthermore, in case some of the above said Japanese Diplomats and Consuls be found accredited to the so-called Peking Government, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs suggest that they be delivered to the care of the Italian Government as a: to supply them with more adequate means of protecting Italian officials interned by the Japanese.

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs thank the A.C.C. for their interest in the matter and would be grateful to know the decisions that the Allied Authorities will see fit to take in the matter. *Curly*

Rome, 13th September, 1941.



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

August 7, 1944

AIRMAIL

CONFIDENTIAL

11

To the United States Representative on the
Advisory Council for Italy,
Rome.

The Secretary of State encloses a copy of a confidential despatch from the Embassy at Chungking (no. 2748 of July 6, 1944) concerning the status of Italian diplomatic personnel in Japan. The United States Representative is requested to transmit a copy of this despatch, in his discretion, to the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs through the Political Section of the Allied Control Commission for Italy.

Enclosure:

Despatch no. 2748,
July 6, 1944,
from Chungking.

To Roberti

Aug. 23, 1944,

WMS

3923

328/385

328/385

AIRMAILCONFIDENTIAL

11

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Enclosure:

Despatch no. 2748,
July 6, 1944,
from Chungking.

*To Roberti**Aug. 23, 1944,**WVS.*

3923 •

A true copy of
the original
is in
the
file

Chungking, China
July 6, 1944

CONFIDENTIAL

No. 2748

Subject: Status of Italian Diplomatic Personnel in Japan.

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to the Department's airmail instruction no. 573, March 25, 1944 in regard to the status of Italian diplomatic officials in Japan and to report that, although the Embassy has approached all accessible sources including Chinese military intelligence, it has not been able to obtain the information desired by the Italian Foreign Office other than a report of doubtful value received June 6, 1944 that Italian diplomats in Japan who had previously represented the Fascist regime and who assumably had not reaffirmed their loyalty to Mussolini were still under surveillance and had lost their freedom of movement. This information was supplied by General Wang Peng-sheng, head of one of the Chinese intelligence agencies, who said that it was received from one of his agents in enemy territory.

Chinese military intelligence professes to have no information whatever regarding Italian diplomats in Japan but states that "during the Italian coup d'etat", Italian diplomatic officials at Tientsin and Shanghai were at once interned and their properties confiscated, but were released when the Fascist regime was restored although some suspected of being pro-Badoglio are still under secret surveillance.

According to a Domei news report from Tokyo April 19, 1944, inauguration ceremonies for the new "Embassy of the Republic of Fascist Italy in Japan" was scheduled to have been held April 21, 1944 at the former Italian Embassy. The report stated that since the surrender of the Badoglio regime to the Anglo-Americans, the Italian Embassy in Tokyo had been closed and was re-opened shortly before April 19, 1944 with Colonel Omero Principini as Charge d'Affaires. Principini's name has recently appeared also as sender of

8922

Subject: Status of Italian Diplomatic Personnel in Japan.

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to the Department's airmail instruction no. 573, March 25, 1944 in regard to the status of Italian diplomatic officials in Japan and to report that, although the Embassy has approached all accessible sources including Chinese military intelligence, it has not been able to obtain the information desired by the Italian Foreign Office other than a report of doubtful value received June 6, 1944 that Italian diplomats in Japan who had previously represented the Fascist regime and who assumably had not reaffirmed their loyalty to Mussolini were still under surveillance and had lost their freedom of movement. This information was supplied by General Wang Peng-sheng, head of one of the Chinese intelligence agencies, who said that it was received from one of his agents in enemy territory.

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Respectfully yours,

C. E. Gauss

Single Copy to the Department

711.5
CHB:rls:dp



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

WASHINGTON

August 7, 1944

AIRMAIL

CONFIDENTIAL

11

To the

United States Representative on the
Advisory Council for Italy,
Rome.

The Secretary of State encloses a copy of a confidential despatch from the Embassy at Chungking (no. 2748 of July 6, 1944) concerning the status of Italian diplomatic personnel in Japan. The United States Representative is requested to transmit a copy of this despatch, in his discretion, to the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs through the Political Section of the Allied Control Commission for Italy.

Enclosure:

Despatch no. 2748,
July 6, 1944,
from Chungking.

August 7, 1944

AIRMAIL

CONFIDENTIAL

11

To the

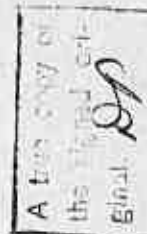
United States Representative on the
Advisory Council for Italy,
Rome.

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Enclosure:

Despatch no. 2748,
July 6, 1944,
from Chungking.

3921



HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

AFO 394

U.S. Army

February 25, 1944.

MEMORANDUM TO: Acting United States Member, Advisory Council
for Italy.

SUBJECT: Italian Diplomatic Personnel at Tokyo.

Reference is made to your Memorandum of January 22 enclosing a message from the Department of State with regard to the situation of Italian diplomatic personnel in Tokyo. After communicating this message to the Italian Foreign Office, a reply has been received to the effect that this information differs completely with news which the Italian Government has obtained so far from various sources, namely that the said personnel, far from having proved themselves disloyal to the Royal Government, have undergone harsh treatment at the hands of the Japanese on account of their faithful attitude. Furthermore, the Foreign Office points out that in accordance with Magistraci's 2086 from Bern the Swiss Legation in Tokyo cabled that although unable to contact the interned diplomatic and consular officers, their situation had improved. In the opinion of the Foreign Office, this message implied that their loyalty to the Italian Government should be beyond doubt. A list of career officers in Japan is attached, with the request that the United States Embassy in Chungking be informed of the foregoing and requested to check the information received.

Samuel Reber
Vice President, Political Section

Enclosure

3920

328/385

R. MINISTERO
DEGLI
AFFARI ESTERI

SILVER, February 10, 1941

Dear Reber,

I have received your letter of January 28th whereby you inform me that, according to advice received from the American Embassy in Chungking, the Italian personnel in Tokio have in great part reaffirmed their loyalty to Mussolini's new regime.

This information differs completely with the news we have been able to gather so far from various sources, namely that said personnel, far from having proved itself unloyal to the Royal Government, have undergone harsh treatment at the hands of the Japanese on account of their faithful attitude.

Also recently (your communication CGA.112 of Jan. 5th), the Swiss Legation in Tokio cabled that although unable to contact the interned diplomatic and consular officials their situation has improved. This message implies, however, that their loyalty to the Royal Government ought to be beyond doubt.

For your information I am enclosing a list of our career officers in Japan. Should you deem it useful you could inform the U.S. Embassy in Chungking of the foregoing asking it to be so kind as to check the information it has received.

Yours very sincerely,

Mr. Samuel Reber,
Political Section
Allied Control Commission

SALERNI.

P.S. I have just received more news on our col

3919

328/385

Encl. 1

0314

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND

No.

785016

Dear Reber,

I have received your letter of January 28th whereby you inform me that, according to advice received from the American Embassy in Chungking, the Italian personnel in Tokio have in great part reaffirmed their loyalty to Mussolini's new regime.

This information differs completely with the news we have been able to gather so far from various sources, namely that said personnel, far from having proved itself unloyal to the Royal Government, have undergone harsh treatment at the hands of the Japanese on account of their faithful attitude.

Also recently (your communication 091.112 of Jan. 5th), the Swiss Legation in Tokio called that although unable to contact the interned diplomatic and consular officials their situation has improved. This message implies, however, that their loyalty to the Royal Government ought to be beyond doubt.

For your information I am enclosing a list of our career officers in Japan. Should you deem it useful you could inform the U.S. Embassy in Chungking of the foregoing asking it to be so kind as to check the information it has received.

Yours very sincerely,

R. Reber

Mr. Samuel Reber,

Political Section

Allied Control Commission

S A I E R H O .

3919

P.S. I have just received more news on our colleagues in Japan. According to Magistrali's telegram of Jan. 22 and 26 of Feb. 13, the Ambassador and four officials are as yet interned. The only reaction of the Japanese Government to the Holy See's intervention on their behalf has been a vague assurance to the effect that their conditions would be bettered.

Encl. 1

328/385

Ambassador
Counsellor

1st Secretary
of Legation
Vice Consul
" "

Mario INDIANI
Pasquale IANIGLI

Pio MACCHI DI CENORE
Girolamo PIGNATTI MORANO DI CUSTOZA
Diego SIMONETTI

Consul (Osaka-Kobe) Ettore BAISTROUCHI

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

AFD 394 U.S. Army

January 28, 1944.

Sir:

The American Embassy at Chungking has been informed that the Italian diplomatic personnel in Tokyo, although confined to their residences at the time of Mussolini's fall, in great part reaffirmed their loyalty to him and thus regained their freedom after he established his new regime in Italy. Informant had no information with respect to the Italian Naval Attache.

I am, Sir, sincerely yours,

Samuel Heber
Director
Political Section

His Excellency
don Renato Prunas,
Secretary General, Royal Italian Ministry for
Foreign Affairs.

328/385

3917

UNITED STATES MEMBER
ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR ITALY

January 22, 1944.

Memorandum to: Political Section,
Allied Control Commission for Italy,
Attention of Mr. Reber.

Subject: Telegram from Department of State re Italian
Diplomatic Personnel at Tokyo.

The following message is for Reber from the Department of State, which comments that he may wish to communicate the information to the Italian Government without of course making any reference to the source thereof:

"The American Embassy at Chungking reports that according to one of the Chief Intelligence officers and principal adviser of Japanese affairs to General Chang, the Italian diplomatic personnel at Tokyo, although confined to their residences at the time of Mussolini's fall, in great part reaffirmed their loyalty to him and thus regained their freedom after he established his new regime in Italy. Informant had no information with respect to the Italian Naval Attache. The Chungking Embassy of the Soviet Union disclaims any information on this subject."



G. P. Reinhardt
Acting United States Member
Advisory Council for Italy

Copies to: Mr. Macmillan
MGS
G-2

3916

January 25, 1944.

TO: Political Section, Allied Control Commission (APO 394).
SUBJECT: Italian officials in Japan.

(1) Reference is made to Mr. Reber's memorandum dated December 13, 1943 (file No. 091.112), on above subject. The contents of this memorandum were telegraphed to the U. S. Department of State on December 17, 1943.

(2) A reply has now been received from the State Department. It reads, in paraphrase, as follows:

"The United States Department of State regrets that at the present time there does not appear to be any possibility of exchanging the Italian officials now in Japanese hands for Japanese officials, prisoners of war or prominent internees.

Unfortunately, the Japanese Government so far has refused to discuss arrangements for a further exchange of United States and Japanese nationals. Furthermore, it is understood that the negotiations for a second exchange of British and Japanese nationals are deadlocked."

(3) It is requested that the above reply be communicated to the Royal Italian Government.

(Signed): H. J. L'HEUREUX.

H. J. L'Heureux,
Acting Chief Civil Administrator.

JLG/jeh

526/385
3915

ADP 394

SR/and

In reply refer to:
091.112

13 December 1943

TO : Civil Affairs Section, Allied Force Headquarters
FROM : Political Section, Allied Control Commission

Reference is made to the memorandum of December 7, 1943 transmitting a telegram from the Department of State in regard to the plight of Italian officials in Japan. The Italian Foreign Office has submitted the following memorandum in reply with the request that the substance thereof be communicated to the Department of State:

"While thanking the Department of State for its telegram concerning the outrageous conditions under which Italian officials in Tokyo are being kept by the Japanese Authorities, it is pointed out that this Ministry has already approached the Swiss Government and the International Red Cross on their behalf.

"Little hope is however entertained that notwithstanding the good will of the Swiss and Red Cross Authorities, it will be possible to induce the Japanese to modify their present stand absolutely contrary to all international law and common decency.

"The only way of saving the unfortunate Italians from their present plight would be, in the mind of this Ministry, to exchange them for a group of Japanese officials or prisoners of war or prominent internees and therefore I would be very grateful if the A.C.C. could be so kind as to enquire from the State Department if in their view such a plan would be feasible.

"Of course any other suggestion the State Department would be in a position to make would be very gratefully received."

For the Deputy President, Allied Control Commission:

Political Section

3914

091.112-224 (27/12/43)

Caccia

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
CIVIL AFFAIRS OFFICE

December 7, 1943

To: Headquarters, Allied Control Commission, Brindisi
From: Civil Affairs Section

The following telegram has been received from the Department of State and is forwarded to you as of possible interest and for transmission to the Italian Government at your discretion.

The precarious position of Italian officials in Japan has been reported to American officials at Rio de Janeiro by a confidential and reliable source. The embassy staff have been imprisoned with common criminals, subjected to starvation regime, and kept in irons according to this report and Trelli, commander of the S.S. Conte Verde, was being subjected to daily torture and is probably dead.

In your discretion you may communicate this information to the Italian Government, although, in behalf of these unfortunate Italian officials, for the moment the Department can only suggest that the Italian Government may wish considering an approach to the International Red Cross or the Swiss Government to have them intercede for the Italian officials with the Japanese Government.

Allen Chapin
Allen Chapin
Executive Officer

ES13

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MINISTERO DEGLI AFFARI ESTERI

N. 537

MEMORANDUM
FOR THE

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
(Political Section)

reference: your message n° 091 112 of Dec. 10th

While thanking the Department of State for its telegram concerning the outrageous conditions under which Italian officials in Tokio are being kept by the Japanese Authorities it is pointed out that this Ministry has already approached the Swiss Government and the International Red Cross on their behalf.

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Of course any other suggestion the State Dept. would be in a position to make would be very gratefully received.

3912



The Secretary General

Handwritten signature

Drindisi 14 Dicembre 1943

328/385

MEMORANDUM
FOR THE

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
(Political Section)

Reference: Your message n° 091 112 of Dec. 10th

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328/385



The Secretary General

[Signature]

Brindisi 11 Dicembre 1943

See 091.112 - Det. (Det/Tokyo)

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