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FRANCE

NOV. 1944 - MAR. 1945

British Embassy

Rome.

3rd. March, 1945.

189/11/45

My dear Admiral Stone,

I write to thank you for your letter (P/376/385) of the 2nd. March, in which you informed me that direct relations had been resumed between France and Italy. His Majesty's Government have been informed accordingly.

Believe me,

My dear Admiral,

Yours sincerely,

/s/ Noel Charles

Rear Admiral Ellery W. Stone,
USNR.

Chief Commissioner,
Allied Commission,
Rome.

4561

Q Q P X

cc: Chief Commissioner (orig.)
Executive Commissioner
Political Advisors

276/385

Ref: P/376/585

2 March 1945

My dear Mr. Ambassador:

I have the honor to inform you that yesterday the French Representative on the Allied Commission called to inform me officially that diplomatic relations between France and Italy had been resumed at 1230 hours on 1 March 1945.

Yours faithfully,

M. S. LUSH

Brigadier

for HILARY W. STONE
Rear Admiral, USNR
Chief Commissioner

The Honorable Alexander Kirk
American Ambassador
119, Via Vittorio Veneto
Rome, Italy

4560

216/285

Ref: P/376/385

2 March 1945

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I have the honor to inform you that yesterday the French Representative on the Allied Commission called to inform me officially that diplomatic relations between France and Italy had been resumed at 1230 hours on 1 March 1945.

Yours faithfully,

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Brigadier

for HILARY W. STONE
Rear Admiral, USNR
Chief Commissioner

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Sir Noel Charles, Bt., K.C.M.G.
British Ambassador
84, Via XX Settembre
Rome, Italy

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RESTRICTED*POL*F34525
FMB 27/1006A2/3550
FEB 27/2145
PRIORITYAFHQ SIGNED SACRED SITE: FMBH
ALCOH HOME.**FOR INFORMATION ONLY****RESTRICTED.**

Reur 2523 of 26 February.

Sealed diplomatic mail for delivery to APOSTOLIC NUNCIO in PARIS
can be carried by Reverend Father JOHN BOLAND provided he personally
is cleared for travel in the ordinary way.

376/385

DISTAction: LIAISON DIV 2
Info: A/PRESIDENT
CHIEF COMMISSIONER
POL SEC -
FILE 2
PLG T

4558

RESTRICTED

4 November 1944

Memo to: Finance Sub-Commission

Subject: Customs - French-Italian Frontier

1. Reference your memorandum 13062/P of 31 October 1944, it is the opinion of the Political Section that the French-Italian Border as it existed prior to the present war should be used in the initial period of AAF occupation.

2. This question was raised at a Chief of Staffs' Meeting yesterday which was attended by a representative of the G-5 Section, A.F.H.Q., and concurrence to the above decision was given.

WILLIAM W. BOHRT
Vice President, Political Section

376/385

4557

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
FINANCE SUB-COMMISSION
APO 394

WS

13062/F.

31 October 1944

SUBJECT: Customs - French-Italian Frontier.

TO : Political Section. ✓

1. I attach hereto a letter of 3 October from Liguria Region, which raises an important political question on the Franco-Italian Frontier.

2. The Finance Sub-Commission is planning for the normal customs control to be reinstituted at the frontiers as soon as it may be possible, and we should appreciate your obtaining a decision as to which frontier between France and Italy is to be used in the initial period of AMG occupation.

A. P. Grassiey Smith
Col.

Joint Director
Finance Sub-Commission.

4556

0022

HEADQUARTERS LIGURIA REGION
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394

3 October 1944

SUBJECT: Closing of Customs Posts, French-Italian Border.

TO : Civil Affairs Section, HQ AGC.

1. For planning purposes, when Imperia Province is occupied by the provincial town of this region, may information be given regarding the moving of the customs posts on the French-Italian border. Are they to be moved, and if so, by whom, or will the border be closed to all except military traffic?

2. The matter of relations with the de facto French Government comes into the picture, inasmuch as there was a slight alteration of the frontier following the armistice between France and Italy, and the Italian State Railways took over the line from Ventimiglia to Menton, the latter place thus becoming the exchange point instead of Ventimiglia where connection used to be made with the French State Railways. Which of these points will be the connecting point after occupation of Imperia Province? Presumably, since the abrogation of the French-Italian armistice, the border stands legally at the point where it stood prior to the armistice.

For the Regional Commissioner:

/s/ Robert E. Doe
/s/ ROBERT E. DOE,
Major, AMB
Executive Officer.

4555

FRANCE JOINS UNITED NATIONS

January 1, 1945

Following is text of message from the President read by Secretary Stettinius in ceremonies this afternoon at the Government parking Third Anniversary of United Nations Declaration and the adherence of France to the Declaration:

"Dear Mr. Secretary: On the Third Anniversary of the United Nations I extend my most cordial greetings to the representatives of the Nations who are assembled for the occasion. It is a matter of profound gratification to all of us that at this ceremony France will formally adhere to the Declaration by United Nations.

"France was the first ally of our country in our own war of liberation. For 150 years her traditions of liberty have been an inspiration to free men everywhere. In this war all the brutality of four years of Nazi occupation could not quench the flame of her unconquerable spirit or suppress the resistance of her people to the enemy and now, France stands beside us a strong ally--once more in the first rank of the free and peace-loving nations of the world. The United Nations have come far since that day three years ago when we made our compact. Then the enemy's military strength was at its zenith and was being ruthlessly used in an all-out attempt to conquer the world. Together we have reversed the early years of retreat and beaten back the enemy--in Africa, in Eastern and Western Europe and in the Pacific. Together we have laid the foundations for a United Nations peace. We still have far to go. We know that it is only as United Nations that we have it within our power to win complete and final victory in this war and then to win the peace. We know that by maintaining and strengthening the United Nations we shall do both."

Secretary Stettinius made the following statement at the ceremonies: It is a significant confirmation of the growing strength of the United Nations that we should mark today the Third Anniversary of the Declaration by United Nations by receiving the signature on behalf of France of His Excellency, Ambassador Henri Bonnet. While his signature will be the 36th formally appended to this declaration, the whole world knows that the people of France have in spirit and in fact always been associated with us. France was one of the first nations to challenge the Nazi aggressors. Through four years of German oppression the French people maintained their heroic resistance behind the enemy lines. The members of the resistance movement and the soldiers of the reborn French Army contributed in vital measure to the successful liberation of their homeland by our Allied armies. Their words in blood and sacrifice another glorious chapter in France's record of devotion to liberty. The Nations signatory to the Declaration by United Nations welcome the formal adherence of France to this compact.

4554

REPRODUCED TO ALLIED COMMISSIONS
APO 394
ECONOMIC SECTION

CONFIDENTIAL

26 Jan 45

1303/MS

SUBJECT: Trade Between Italy and France

TO : AECG, 2-5

1. Please note the following references:

- a) Pages 2 and 4 of your signal N 70928 of 2 Jan to AECG.
- b) Your PX 04052 of 12 Jan.
- c) The attached memorandum (appendix "A") handed to us by the Commercial Attache of the French Delegation to the Advisory Council for Italy.
- d) The attached letter from M. Sergeant to Mr. J. C. Gridley dated at Paris 27 Nov 44 (Appendix "B").
- e) The reply to reference 1 (d), from Mr. J. C. Gridley to M. Sergeant, dated at Paris 30 Dec 44 (Appendix "C").
- f) The attached excerpt (Appendix "D") from the minutes of the first meeting of the Paris Tripartite Economic Committee, held on 24 Nov 44.

g) TAM-426 of 16 Jan 45, subject: Negotiations with French authorities regarding Italian Trade.

h) CAL-1109, and your memorandum L-6 of 19 Jan 45, authorizing direct channels of communication on Italian export problems between AC in Washington and AC in London.

2. Mr. Gabriel, Commercial Attache of the French Embassy, has discussed with officers of this Headquarters the subject of trade with France and French North Africa and informs us that his government desires that, from now on, all questions regarding trade between France and Italy be treated between the French Legation and AC. With regard to exchange of payments the French Government proposes that a financial agreement similar to the one signed in Algiers on May 10, 1944 for the exchange of merchandise between French North Africa (including comics) and Italy be signed in Rome by the French Delegation and AC.

3. In line with TAM-426, it is our intention to set up between the

376/388

4353

SUBJECT: Trade Between Italy and France

TO : AFHQ, G-2

1. Please note the following references:

- a) Pages 3 and 4 of your signal 22, 28923 of 5 Jan to AFHQ.
- b) Your 22 34052 of 13 Jan.
- c) The attached memorandum (Appendix "A") handed to us by the Commercial Attache of the French Delegation to the Advisory Council for Italy.
- d) The attached letter from M. Sergent to Mr. J. C. Orsley dated at Paris 27 Nov 44 (Appendix "B").
- e) The reply to reference 1 (d), from Mr. J. C. Orsley to M. Sergent, dated at Paris 30 Dec 44 (Appendix "C").
- f) The attached excerpt (Appendix "D") from the minutes of the first meeting of the Paris Tripartite Economic Committee, held on 24 Nov 44.
- g) TMM-426 of 16 Jan 45, subject: Negotiations with French Authorities Regarding Italian Trade.
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3. In line with TMM-426, it is our intention to set up between the Italian and French Governments a direct channel under AC supervision for the working out of mutual trade problems. This will probably result in a short-term trade and financial agreement between the two countries, to be approved by the AC.

376/325

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- 2 -

4. The AC must exercise the following controls over the trade and financial arrangements made between the Italian and French Governments:

- a) AC will certify that specified quantities of specified commodities are available in Italy to be exported to France.
- b) Where commodities available for export from Italy are required by other Allied Nations in addition to France, AC may refer availability to Washington (through the COM-SEC series) for allocation as to destinations.
- c) AC will bid through the regular military channel for the acceptance of incoming and outgoing cargoes from and to France at military ports in Italy, and will also control acceptance at "ad ports."
- d) AC will supervise the actual disbursements by the Italian Government of its foreign exchange resources in France.
- e) AC will require that the trade with France will be conducted on a Government-to-Government basis, prohibiting private trade for the time being.
- f) AC will require from the Italian Government certain periodic reports of the status of trade and exchange relationships between Italy and France.

5. Beyond the above controls, we do not propose to try to keep track of the day-to-day arrangements between the French and the Italians, except by being kept advised of negotiations through copies of relevant correspondence between the two Governments. We will undertake to keep AC informed in general of the progress of such negotiations, by copies of relevant correspondence and other data.

6. We do not propose to control export and import prices, or to approve or disapprove them, except insofar as (a) our action on prices may be part of our general price analysis work which is carried on on a continuing basis with the Italian Government's Inter-Ministerial Committee on Prices, and (b) action is necessary to avoid competitive bidding on export prices. In this connection the French will be asked to state maximum purchase prices and these will be considered by AC when deciding whether or not to certify under para 4 (a) above.

7. With regard to the financial aspect we propose to discuss with the French whether they wish to extend the mechanism of the memorandum account at present in force in North Africa to Metropolitan France. It is assured we should inform the French Delegation that the franc balance in favor of Italy represented by the difference between imports from and exports to Italy, if any, must be available to the Italian Government for franc expenditures in French territory as laid down in Table 19b and 19c of annex 24, such expenditures being controlled by AC.

4332

modities are available in Italy to be exported to France.

- b) Where commodities available for export from Italy are required by other Allied Nations in addition to France, AC may refer available quantities to Washington (through the COM-NOG series) for allocation as to destinations.
 - c) AC will bid through the regular military channel for the acceptance of incoming and outgoing cargoes from and to France at military ports in Italy, and will also control acceptance at "AC ports."
 - d) AC will supervise the actual shipments by the Italian Government of its foreign exchange resources in France.
 - e) AC will require that the trade with France will be conducted on a Government-to-Government basis, prohibiting private trade for the time being.
 - f) AC will require from the Italian Government certain periodic reports of the status of trade and exchange relationships between Italy and France.
5. Beyond the above controls, we do not propose to try to keep track of the day-to-day arrangements between the French and the Italians, except by being kept advised of negotiations through copies of relevant correspondence between the two Governments. We will undertake to keep AFM informed in general of the progress of such negotiations, by copies of relevant correspondence and other files.
- b. We do not propose to control export and import prices, or to approve or disapprove them, except insofar as (a) our action on prices may be part of our general price analysis work which is carried on on a continuing basis with the Italian Government's Inter-Ministerial Committee on Prices, and (b) action is necessary to avoid competitive bidding on export prices. In this connection the French will be asked to state maximum purchase prices and those will be considered by AC when deciding whether or not to certify under para 4 (a) above.
 7. With regard to the financial aspect we propose to discuss with the French whether they wish to extend the mechanism of the moratorium account at present in force in North Africa to Metropolitan France. It is assumed we should inform the French Delegation that the franc balance in favor of Italy represented by the difference between the franc balance exports to Italy, if any, must be available to the Italian Government for franc expenditures in French territory as laid down in TMM-136 and TMM-137. Such expenditures being controlled by AC.
 8. On the basis of TMM-126 and your memorandum H-6 of 19 Jan 45, we assume that no further authorization is required to proceed immediately along the lines set out above. We will, however, defer action along these lines until 5 Feb 45. In case you have further modifications or suggestions to the procedure outlined herein, in that date, we propose to approach the French Commercial Attache here, and the Italian Government, with a memorandum of procedure based on the points outlined above.

- 3 -

9. Our general objective will be to set up trade between France and Italy in such a way as to decrease the extent to which these two liberated areas are a drag on the United Nations.

For the Chief Commissioner:

LDB

L. D. NEWELL
Colonel, RA

Acting Deputy Chief of Staff
Rockwell Section

Enclosures (4)

Distribution:

Finance S/C
Commerce S/C
Econ Sec Files (2)
Ex. Dir. Econ Sec (1)
Political Section

4851

COPYAPPENDIX "A"

DELEGATION FRANCAISE
au
Conseil consultatif
pour les
Affaires Italiennes

Rome to 15/1/45

The French Government desires that, from now on, all questions regarding trade between France and Italy be treated in Rome between the French Delegation and the Allied Commission.

For this purpose lists of Italian products which France desires to import from Italy and of French products liable to be exported from France into Italy would be submitted, in the very near future, by the French Delegation to the Allied Commission in Rome.

With regards to the payment of these exchanges the French Government propose that a financial agreement similar to the one signed in Algiers on May 15, 1944 for the exchange of merchandise between French North Africa (including Corsica) and Italy be signed in Rome by the French Delegation and the qualified department of AC.

The French Government wish to know, as soon as possible, whether the Allied authorities accept these proposals or eventually to be informed of any counter-proposals that the Allies might wish to put forward./.

MINISTRE DE L'ECONOMIE NATIONALE

PARIS,
le 27 novembre 1944Direction des Relations Economiques
Exterieures5eme Bureau
No. 5.695

Cher Monsieur Gridley,

A la suite de la conference qui s'est tenue le 24 novembre aux affaires etrangeres, je vous adresse ci-joint une liste des produits que nous desirerions importer d'Italie pendant la periode s'etendant jusqu'au 30 juin 1945. Ces demandes d'importation ne s'ajoutent pas, en principe, aux programmes deja presentes a SWAF.

Je vous serais tres oblige de bien vouloir me faire savoir s'il y a lieu de presenter ces demandes a un organisme militaire et aereel.

Il en serait, en tout etat de cause, agreable d'etre fixe, des que possible, sur divers points :

- 1) Quelles sont, a votre avis, les possibilites de realisation d'un tel programme;
- 2°) Dans quelles conditions des experts pourraient etre envoyes en Italie pour reconnaitre les marchandises disponibles, surveiller l'exécution des contrats, prendre, le cas echant, les mesures necessaires en vue de la remise en etat des installations detruites ou endommagees, etc.
- 3°) Comment devraient etre reglees les fournitures italiennes. Peut-on envisager une extension a la France metropolitaine du systeme institue en mai dernier pour les reglements entre l'Afrique du Nord et l'Italie?

... EN ITALIE POUR LA PERIODE S'ETENDANT
JUSQU'AU 30 JUIN 1945

<u>AGRICULTURE</u>		
Ceraine	5.000	kg
<u>RAVITAILLEMENT</u>		
Oranges, citrons	(1) 20.000	Tonnes
Marrons, châtaignes	2.000	"
Fruits secs divers (noisettes, amandes, figues seches)	(1) 10.000	"
Huile d'olive	200	"
<u>BOIS, INDUSTRIES DIVERSES:</u>		
Châtaignes	12.000	"
<u>IMPORTATION CHIMIQUE</u>		
Pyrites	100.000	"
Soufre	60.000	"
Soufre pour l'industrie textile	6.000	"
Produits magnesiens - Sulfate de magnésie pharm	60	"
Magnésie calcinée	100	"
Magnésies diverses	200	"
Huiles essentielles: Citron	25	"
Bergamote	21	"
Jasmin	1,2	"
Menthe	8,025	"
Orange	4,275	"
Petit grain	0,365	"
Seroli	0,150	"
Myrte	0,150	"
Racine d'iris	225	"
<u>TEXTILES</u>		
Chenvre	3.000	"
Soie grège	400	"
Souac moulu	500	"
Cocons secs	150	"
<u>MINES</u>		
Mercur	150	"
Minerai de plomb	4.000	"
Minerai de zinc	16.000	"
Minerai de chrome	chiffre à déterminer	

(1) Au cas seulement où le tonnage disponible permettrait
l'importation de ces quantités. Il est rappelé que la France

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

PARIS

30th December 1944

Dear Monsieur Sergeant,

I must apologise for the delay with which I am replying to your letter of 27th November which reached my office after I had left for London.

Fortunately, however, it was sent on to me, with the result that I was able to discuss it, not only with the appropriate officials of the Ministry of Production there, but also with Brigadier H. C. Lush, the Chief of Staff of the Allied Commission, Rome, during my subsequent visit to Italy.

The following is a summary of the information I collected in London and in Rome:-

A. LONDON

1. Generally speaking, the authorities in London are anxious that Franco-Italian trade should be resumed as quickly and as extensively as possible.
2. Additionally, London has no desire to take any greater supervisory interest in any negotiations that may be convenient for you to have with the authorities in Italy beyond that which is unavoidable by reason of the present provisional status of the Italian Government.
3. Accordingly, London considers that you should concentrate upon conducting your negotiations with the Italians through your representative in Italy, Monsieur Couve de Murville, who, I understand, already has excellent relations with the appropriate branches of the Allied Commission.

B. ROME

1. Brigadier Lush and his staff confirmed all that I had learned in London and expressed their complete readiness to assist M. Couve de Murville in his negotiations with the Italian Government. You will, of course, realise that, in view of the current functions and responsibilities of the Allied Commission, which, in turn, is responsible to the Combined Chiefs of Staff in Washington in all Italian supply and economic affairs, it would be very necessary that your representative in Rome maintains very close contact with the various branches of the Commission.

4587

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2. For example, all matters of import and export would have to be co-ordinated with Colonel Evans at the head of the Commerce Sub-Commission whilst all finance and payments questions would have to be referred to Colonel Geoffrey-Smith, the head of the Finance Sub-Commission. Finally, the actual handling of all exports is the direct concern of the G.5 branch of A.F.M. at Caserta

headed by Colonel Butterworth.

Coming now to the specific questions raised in your letter, according to the information I gathered in London and Rome, the replies are as follows:-

1. The possibilities of accomplishing the programme of purchases which accompanied your letter are not particularly good, firstly on account of the fact that most consumer goods, especially food stuffs, are in extremely short supply in Italy. Secondly, because some of the items you named have already been allocated by the Combined Boards to other countries, and; thirdly, because of the difficulties of transportation. Broadly speaking, such items as olive oil, chestnuts and textiles come under the first qualification; citrus fruits silk and hemp under the second, and pyrites and sulphur under the third. On the other hand, a few of the items (essential oils are one) might be found by M. Couve de Murville to be open to purchase for France.

2. The Allied Commission would welcome the visit of French experts to Italy always provided they travelled officially, with an Ordre de Mission from their Government and with instructions to submit to the jurisdiction of their representative in Rome whilst they are in that country.

As I think you know, both the Italian Government and the Allied Commission have lately had occasion to complain of the uncontrolled purchases of Italian produce by French soldiers. This has been done to such an extent as to aggravate the already acute shortage of the articles in question. I understand that M. Couve de Murville has already expressed his disapproval of such uncontrolled procurement and that he and you can be relied upon to do your best to eliminate such practices in the future. I repeat, however, that a properly authorized and programmed trade mission will be very welcome.

3. It seems not unlikely that the Finance Sub-Committee of the Allied Commission would view favourably an extension of the agreement we made in Algiers to cover trade exchanges between Italy and French North Africa to Metropolitan France. Alternatively, a separate but very similar agreement might be made to govern exchanges between Italy and France, the other agreement for North Africa continuing undisturbed. Obviously, Rome is the best place at which to discuss such a new agreement. I

that you instruct M. Couve de Murville

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In the penultimate paragraph of your letter of 27th November, you assumed that agreement upon programmes of French purchases from Italy would imply the provision of

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the corresponding transport. This is not so. The well-established rule, now almost universally known and accepted, is that an agreed programme of imports or exports is no guarantee that shipping will be made available. Provision of shipping is an entirely separate negotiation which presumably M. Couve de Murville would have to undertake with the Allied Commission and G.5 at A.P.4.0. after you have drawn up and agreed a programme of purchases with the Italian Government and the Allied Commission.

A point which arises, of course, in what France might be prepared to furnish to Italy in exchange for whatever purchases you might be able to effect there. I realize that the present state of France does not permit you to offer a wide range of articles to the Italians. You may, however, consider this aspect of the matter and provide M. Couve de Murville with a list of whatever French products he might, in agreement with the Allied Commission, offer to the Italian Government.

Incidentally, have you considered the possibilities of meeting the present shortage of coal, especially in the south of France, by purchases of Canadian coal?

I should tell you that, when I was in Rome, I called at the Palazzo Farnese in the hope of meeting M. Couve de Murville. Unfortunately he was in Paris. I talked, however, with M. Beausarche to whom I showed a copy of your letter of 27th November. I told him something of the developments which I have described in this letter and, generally speaking, did my best to inform him of my conversations in London and with the members of the Allied Commission. I told him I would report more fully to you and M. Alphonse on my return and in case you would care to send him a copy of this letter. I am sending you an extra copy for that purpose. I should add that I am also sending a copy to Brindley to whom I have already handed a copy of your letter of 27th November. A good deal of preparation has thus been done in this matter of imports and I hope you will now be ready to pass all this information on to M. Couve de Murville.

I am sending a copy of this letter also to M. Labrousse and I suggest that any further points you may wish to raise be brought up at the next meeting of the Tripartite Committee.

Yours sincerely,

J. C. BRIDLEY

Monsieur Serpent,
Ministere de l'Economie Nationale,
Direction des Relations Economiques Exterieures,
5eme Bureau,
Copies to: M. Labrousse, Mr. Fraser
Mr. Lonsdale, Miss McCleary

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1135

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Incidentally, have you considered the possibilities of meeting the present shortage of coal, especially in the south of France, by purchases of Sardinian coal?

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Yours sincerely,

J. C. GRILEY

Monsieur Sergent,
Ministere de l'Economie Nationale,
Direction des Relations Economiques
5eme Bureau,
93, Rue de Rivoli,
PARIS

Copies to: M. Labouisse, Mr. Fraser
Mr. Lonsdale, Miss McCleary
(M/production); Brig. H.C. Lush
(Home-Allied Commission)
Brig. Rabino; M. Alphonse;
Chancery.

43-5

CONFAPPENDIX 'D'ITALY(a) Pyrites and Sulphur

The British representatives stated that they had written to London in connection with the urgent requirements of pyrites and sulphur from Italy for Metropolitan France. The sulphur was required not only for viticulture but also for the textile industry in order to enable production to continue during December. In this connection the French Provisional Government had desired that 4,000 tons of sulphur intended for P.H.A. be diverted to France.

The Anglo-American representatives stated that, according to their latest information, the possibilities of supplies from Italy were extremely poor and it was accordingly agreed that, as in the case of pyrites, the French representatives should examine urgently the possibilities of supplies of sulphur from the U.S.A.

(b) Procedure for Purchases from Italy

It was agreed that the French representatives should let the Anglo-American representatives have a statement of the points on which they desired information in connection with the procedure to be followed in trade with Italy, and that on the basis of this note the Anglo-American representatives would ascertain the latest position.

10 April 1944

FRENCH COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL LIBERATION

President: General De Gaulle

State Commissioners: General Catroux, Henri Queuille, Andre Philip,
François Billoux (Communist)

Justice: François de Menthon

Foreign Affairs: Rene Massigli

War: Andre Diethelm

Navy: Louis Jacquinot

Aviation: Fernand Grenier (Communist)

Interior: Emmanuel d'Astier

Finance: Pierre Mendes-France

Social Affairs: Adrien Tixier

Colonies: Rene Pleven

Communications and Merchant Marine: Rene Meyer

Rehabilitation and Production: Paul Giacobbi

National Education: Rene Capitant

Information: Henri Bonnet

Prisoners, Exiles and Refugees: Henri Frenay

Delegate for Administration of Liberated
National Territory: Andre Le Troquer

En Mission: Jean Monnet

4543

Prof. Sec. ~~S/P~~
HC

relativ
 SECRET

RADIO 3466

PENINSULAR BASE SECTION
 SIGNAL MESSAGE CENTER

15 FEBRUARY 1944

SECRET

ROUTINE

FARGO

NONE

SIGNED CINC

15 FEB

151439A

151848A

51854

FHMG3

FOR YOUR INFORMATION APPOINTMENT OF A FRENCH MEMBER TO
 ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION HAS BEEN APPROVED BY COMBINED CHIEFS
 OF STAFF. MEMBER NOMINATED WILL BE NOTIFIED AS SOON AS KNOWN.

376
 936

PBS DIST:

Secy

CG

ACC DIST:

(Action) Secretary General

(Info) C.A. Br

" Political Section

" G-1 (B) (2)

SECRET

14455

4542

PARAPHRASE of Telegram Received

Magistrati telegraphed to his Government through Madrid on September 27 reporting on his first conversation with Verge, who is the representative in Switzerland of the Provisional Government of France. He said that there were two principal subjects mentioned in this meeting:

1) problem of returning refugees at the present time in Switzerland to their countries, and 2) the 800,000 Italians in France at this time. Magistrati also stated that Giuseppe Nitti and Domenico Russo who are in Paris have sent him an appeal from Italian colonies in France to the Italian Government, and this appeal pointed out that, in the absence of a definite juridical position between France and Italy, there should be an immediate approach to the De Gaulle Government so that the grave measures taken against them by the French should be suppressed. Repeated to Rome. They also stated that evidences of hostility against Italian institutions are apparent among the population of Paris, and they recommended that in order to prevent greater dangers, direct italo-French contact be established. Nitti and Russo concluded their statement by requesting that either an Italian representative be sent to Paris or that some person be delegated who is familiar with Italian immigration in France, to handle this problem. The Italian colony in Paris is being informed by Magistrati through the Swiss that Rome has been sent its message. Sent to Department.

HARRISON

ESPRESSO
28 11 1942

376/385

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE
ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR ITALY

Rome, October 26, 1944

To: Political Section, A.C.C.

According to a telegram received from the American Legation in Bern, the Italian Minister there states that he has direct information that French authorities in southern France, particularly Monaco and the Riviera, are applying enemy property regulations against Italians and are arresting numerous Italians on suspicion of political activities.

It is understood that the Italian Minister in Bern has brought this matter to the attention of his Government.

*St. Louis Office informed
Oct 28 1944*

4539

CONFIDENTIAL CA SEC 3102

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 SEC/ N
APO 512

FJS/ahs

11 November 1944

SUBJECT: Report for the Italian Government. 14 NOV 1944
TO : Headquarters Allied Commission, APO 394.

1. The attached report addressed to your Headquarters was received from SHAEF, and is transmitted for delivery to the Italian Government.
2. G-2, US POLAD and British Resident Minister concurs in this action.

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

F. J. Slaughter
F. J. SLAUGHTER
Captain, AGD

Incls:
As above.

Handed
T. H. Callahan

16 Nov 44

CONFIDENTIAL

4210

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

Villa Ste. Anne - La Salis
ANTIBES (ALPES MARITIMES)
FRANCE

October 1944

TO: High Allied Control Commission, ROME.

To the very Excellent Commission:

I apologize for presuming to call directly to the Commission's attention the situation Fascism has left in its wake in the ALPES MARITIMES, but this is a situation which today is increasingly dangerous to all Italians and might result in incidents with international repercussions.

Believing it to be in the interest of the Allies to avert such an occurrence, I have taken the liberty of sending the Commission, for its information, a report addressed to the Italian Government and which report I request the Commission kindly to pass on to the Italian Government.

Please accept, honorable Sirs, the expression of my deepest gratitude and most deferential respects.

Commission, I remain,

With the profoundest esteem for the

Your devoted servant,

/s/ Filippo ROSTAN

AG TRANSLATION
T-62 26 October 1944

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

4558

4210

376/385

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

ANTIBES, FRANCE

October 1944

TO: His Excellency, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, ROME.
Your Excellency:

With your Excellency's permission, I should like to give a brief description of the serious situation created by and remaining from Fascism in the NICE area. It constitutes a menace to all Italians, and I felt it to be my duty to give warning of it without delay.

In order to present the facts properly, I believe it indispensable to call Your Excellency's attention to the existence of a prime factor: the loyalty toward FRANCE of the people in the NICE region is entire and absolute, a bit fanatical, I should say, and in following developments at present as well as of the last twenty years, this consideration must constantly be borne in mind.

The area first became alarmed by the advent of MUSSOLINI and his declarations in regard to territorial revindication. Almost out of defense, a combative group of expatriates was organized in NICE and had as its main activity the publishing of a bilingual weekly: "LA FRANCE DU SUD EST." With the strengthening of Fascism in ITALY, where many persons disappeared, agitation in NICE ceased. However, at least that section of the party that was free to act around the various Consulates did not allow the hostility of the population to diminish. In this manner, the most anti-Fascist elements profited to gain further strength and, in the elections of 1936, to take three out of six of the Communist places for Deputies of the Departement.

The "stab in the back" resulted in profound indignation, followed by a depression at France's defeat. Many of the people of NICE then clung for support to the nearest, albeit small and weak, remains of the wrecked ship of state: Marshal PETAIN, since de GAULLE offered only distant and uncertain hope. A declaration of loyalty to VICHY, made at the outset, signified that NICE was French and wished to remain so. A few were heard to say with complacency that GERMANY intended to make the COTE D'AZUR into a playground for Germans on vacation, and that MONACO would become a German protectorate. Confidence was expressed not only in PETAIN, but in HITLER as well, thereby excluding occupation by ITALY.

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

Consequently, derision and insolence of Fascists liberated from concentration camps gave rise to a veritable persecution of Frenchmen suspected of Gaullism as soon as our occupational troops arrived. A great part of the arrests made under our authority were at the instigation of local Fascists, some of whom did not hesitate to suggest acts of violence to be committed if not against persons, at least against property. To the nefarious acts committed by individuals and authorities there were those directed by the State propaganda for Italians in NICE. I do not speak of activities in ITALY, but those which occurred here by means of propaganda directed by an organized agency, located first at MENTONE, and then at NICE, through the "Institute of Ligurian Studies of BORDIGHERA". These acts, based on inopportune and badly timed questions, were not only useless but dangerous. They succeeded in compromising defenseless Frenchmen and, above all, were bad practices, exasperating the intellectual elements and old families of NICE. An attempt was made on the life of the director of propaganda.

Then came MUSSOLINI'S kidnapping by the Germans (1943), German occupation and the reconstruction of the various Fasci. The latter, which the Italian authorities had, in fact, tried to subdue somewhat, were given license by the Germans, who were, furthermore, content to have the animosity of the people directed against others than themselves. Working directly in conjunction with the "Francistes", the Fascists proceeded to arrest many Frenchmen, not a few of whom fell victim to assassination. Fighting by the people of NICE, therefore, was in a large part characterized by an anti-Italian nature. All, or almost all of the Fascist stores in the Department were repeatedly blasted by dynamite. Many of the Fascists received the little "casket" -- a token of their having been condemned to death -- and among the principal magistrates of justice, even at the time of the German regime, five out of six were Italians.

Finally came the time of the German withdrawal. For the people of NICE, in their long struggle against the Fascists as their principal opponents, this measure heralded their triumph over ITALY. Immediately after the liberation of NICE (29 August) the Italians of the Maquis having put the Italian flag on the Casa Italiana (selected as a HQ for a National Committee of Liberation) an overzealous fanatic tore it down, spat on it and subsequently invited passers-by to use it to clean their feet. The Gaullist weekly "Combat", clandestine organ of the Resistance, published in its tenth issue of 10 September an article entitled, "Our Turn for Revindication: TENDE and La BRIGA Should be French Again".

Two follow-up articles appeared to announce the creation of a Committee ad hoc for revindication which would also include VENTIMIGLIA. In a fourth article, it was stated that on 4 October, a delegation accompanied by the Bishop in person, had met with the "Comite Departemental de Liberation", for the latter to confer with the Government in regard to revindication, and with the request that these territories, pending a plebiscite and treaty of peace, should be administered by the French civil authorities.

4536

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

The movement -- for [redacted] are confronted with a genuine movement -- in the light of its final aims, indicates the point of excitement already reached by the population.

Matters did not rest there, however. In a meeting two days later, on 6 October, the "Comite Departemental" took up the question of anti-Fascist Italians. The latter, many of whom had taken part in the French Resistance Movement, formed Committees of Liberation (an inopportune title) in the main centers, and, in the ardor of the first days, took it upon themselves to arrest some of the more conspicuous Italians. They then wished to collect funds to set up offices for the assistance of the needy, who are plentiful in a land where the cost of living is very high. In this work (an infelicitous idea and an imprudent act), having found the names of benefactors of Fascism, they invited them to contribute to its assistance. However, they sometimes overplayed their hand and the affair became hopelessly snarled. It may be that others, irritated at having been discovered, thought to rid themselves of such evidence by means of calumny and proceeded to complain to the "Comite Departemental" that they had been victims of extortion. The "Comite", as I said, held a meeting during which its members expressed themselves, in regard to the Italians in general, with disquieting overtones of agitation and violence. A Commission of Inquiry was created.

A great effect was produced by this meeting -- it was like adding fuel to the flames. There was reason to fear for the future. Ire, profound aversion, desire for revenge on ITALY and the Italians are the sentiments which are harbored today by these people, who have been violently threatened by errant politics and undiscerning individuals, as well as injured by bestial and savage methods for many years.

On 11 October, the Commission of Inquiry presented its findings, which did not specifically implicate the Italian Committee: Arrests had been authorized, and the extortions had not appeared flagrant. At the same time, a list was presented with provisions for the solution of the "Italian question", with the provision for "the particularly severe internment of all the Italians, of 21 years or over, who have not acted in France's interests."

With Your Excellency's permission, I will say that as soon as the newspapers gave the results of the meeting on the 6th and knowing the regular authorities to be impotent to act, I thought to take a step to avert the peril which must follow such an event.

Here, everyone is armed and, from one moment to the next, the sparks could be ignited. The Communist newspaper "L'Aurore" did not play up either annexationist claims to VENTIMIGLIA or findings of the meeting on 6 October, thereby showing its disapproval. Furthermore, it was not to the Communist Party's interest that the population should be presented with claims of more concern than its own. In addition, it cannot afford to be thought unpatriotic. I therefore turned to Virgile Barel, Communist Deputy and new Mayor of NICE.

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

I told him that he alone, with the Communist Party, could avoid the occurrence of serious incidents of an international character in that region. I begged him to intervene as soon as possible. On 12 October, while other newspapers were giving accounts of the foregoing results of the Inquiry, the Communist "L'Aurore" paid no heed and published an article in which the Party's "Bureau Departemental", with firm and noble words, took a stand in favor of the Italians. It refused to lump together Fascists and non-Fascists, many of whom had died for France yesterday and today, and told its readers not to let themselves be dragged into a policy of alien-baiting created to divert their attention.

At one time or another, the Communist Party would certainly have had to make these statements, but it was in the interest of the two countries and our particular area that it should do so quickly and that its point of view should prevail.

For the time being, however, the peril has subsided, but reaction is in progress. The situation is and will remain for some time to come one of tenseness and gravity, one that no authority is as yet in a position to bring under control.

Hence, I felt it my duty to bring with some urgency the foregoing to Your Excellency's attention, so that action in this matter can be taken.

I also believe it my duty as an Italian, under these circumstances, to put myself at Your Excellency's disposal for that which my modest person is capable of accomplishing.

I was born in SAN REMO 25 April 1896. I left VENTIMIGLIA only in May 1940 because of the imminent threat of war to take refuge in ANTIBES, my wife's home. In its day, I fought Fascism and always was against it -- so much so that the Party blackballed me. I make a hobby of Ligurian dialect and art. For years, I have been in friendly contact with writers and cultured elements of NICE, by whom I was always received with the great sympathy which lies at the service of those who like to think and speak objectively. I am acquainted with several families in NICE, and the Franco-Italian problems of this region are not unknown to me.

If this information about myself interests Your Excellency, I shall be honored and pleased if you desire to make use of my services.

I again recall to Your Excellency's attention that I remain at your entire disposal and command, while requesting you to accept the expression of my most deferential respects.

With the profoundest esteem for Your Excellency,

Your devoted servant,

/s/ Filippo ROSTAN.

4534

(Crippled in the 1915-18 War)

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

P.S: The foregoing provision should be modified to:
"Very severe internment of Italians, 21 years or over, who have acted in the interests of ITALY"; instead of "have not acted in the interests of FRANCE".
Furthermore, the Casa d'Italia has been transformed by the authorities into the "Maison des Travailleurs Immigres", and the French C.G.T. (Confederation Generale du Travail) has taken charge.
The Italian Committees of Liberation have disbanded, and that is not a bad thing. They are too strongly organized and end by becoming of some concern since their function has been, in fact, to defend themselves

AG TRANSLATION
T-62 26 October 1944

Antibes (Francia) ottobre 1944

All' Eccellentissima Commissione Alleata
Genova.

Eccellentissima Commissione,

chiedo scusa a Vostra Ecc.^{ma} Commissione se oso richiamare
- e la Sua alta attenzione sulla situazione lasciata da fascisti
nelle Alpi Marittime situazione che oggi s'è aggravata a danno
di tutti gli Italiani e potrebbe degenerare in qualche incidente
il quale avrebbe delle ripercussioni internazionali.

Questo sia interesse degli Alleati di evitare che ciò avvenga
per cui mi permetto di farne sapere Vostra Ecc.^{ma} Commis-
sione rimettendo Le, affinché ne prenda conoscenza, il rapporto
che indirizzo al Governo Italiano, rapporto che pago con
l'alta compiacenza di rimettere.

Prego Vostra Ecc.^{ma} Commissione di voler gradire i miei
sentiti ringraziamenti e i miei della mia rispettosa deferenza

Con profondo ossequio sono dell' Ecc.^{ma} Commissione
il devoto scrittore

Filippo Rossetti

4552

Villa 1^a Anne - La Salis
Antibes (A.M.)



UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE
ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR ITALY

Rome, November 20, 1944

Memorandum to: Political Section, A. C.

Subject : Alfredo MANASSI, Italian Internee in France.

This office has received a communication from the Office of the United States Representative in Paris, transmitting a letter from Alfredo MANASSI, apparently an Italian internee in a camp located in Arignon, regarding conditions among his fellow Italian internees at that place.

It is requested in this letter that, inasmuch as no Italian authorities exist at present time in France, this information be
1/ transmitted to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in Rome. A copy of the letter is accordingly attached hereto.

Enclosure:

1/ Copy of letter

376/585

4531

Handwritten signature

C O P Y

Excellence,

Pardonnez-moi le dérangement que j'apporte à V.E. en Vous adressant une prière qui est aussi une invocation d'aide de plusieurs Italiens fidèles aux ordres de leur Gouvernement.

Nous sommes six-cent Italiens arrêtés dans le Camp de Concentration des prisonniers de guerre d'Avignon (Vaucluse), six-cent parmi les nombreux hommes qui le 8 septembre 1943, fidèles aux ordres du Maréchal Badoglio, ont préféré d'être prisonniers plutôt que combattre pour les Allemands.

Nous avons passé presque douze mois terribles et durs comme prisonniers par les Allemands, mais de souffrances morales et d'humiliations pour la différence de caractère et de race, que V. E. bien connaît.

Lorsque nous sommes échappés de chez les Allemands (et quelqu'un de nous avec des blessures et après des représailles) et sont arrivées les troupes libératrices anglo-américaines, volontairement ou en bref temps, nous, nous étant présentés aux Autorités Françaises pour nous mettre à leur disposition et régulariser notre position, nous avons été arrêtés par les mêmes dans le susdit Camp de Concentration avec nos ennemis et de tout le monde. Toujours nous il a dit qu'a nous auraient été faites les cartes pour travailler ou que nous serions en Italie. Au contraire nous, désarmés depuis une année, nous ils ont déclarés prisonniers de guerre.

Maintenant il fait deux mois. Pendant ce temps, si mauvais et risible, nous avons plusieurs fois demandé de combattre et de contribuer à la renaissance de notre chère Patrie. Mais nos prières ont été inutiles.

Nous demandons seulement de pouvoir apporter à notre malheureuse Italie une petite contribution pour sa résurrection en combattant ou en nous rendant utiles.

Qu'est-ce-que diront-ils nos frères quand nous reviendront chez notre Pays? Ennemis des Français, des Américains, des Anglais et des Italiens aussi?

Aucune autorité Italienne n'est pas encore parvenue en France à laquelle nous pouvons faire appel pour résoudre notre cas. Et pourtant nous sommes obligés à recourir et déranger V. E. pour en avoir l'aide que nous invoquons avec confiance et nous attendons toujours avec sur espoir.

Veuillez agréer, Excellence, les humbles mais sensibles remerciements, les respects et la considération sincère de tous les Italiens. 1530

Signed - Rsg. Alfredo Marassi

Avignon Camp des Prisonniers Italiens - Rue St. Roth
12 Octobre 1944

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE
ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR ITALY

Rome, November 20, 1944

RESTRICTED

MEMORANDUM TO: Political Section, A. C.

SUBJECT : Transmitting letter from former employees of
Italian Consulate, Paris.

This office is in receipt of a communication from the Office of the United States Representative in Paris transmitting a letter from three former employees of the Italian Consulate in Paris, describing their present condition.

It is requested herein that this information be brought to the attention of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. A copy of the letter is accordingly attached hereto.

Enclosure:

1/ Copy of letter

4529

C o p y

Parigi, 16 Ottobre 1944

Ministero Affari Esteri

Direzione Generale del Personale
e dell'Amministrazione Interna

R o m a

I sottoindicati impiegati del Consolato Generale d'Italia
in Parigi, i quali l'8 Settembre 1943 optarono per il Governo
Sadoleto, hanno l'onore di far conoscere a codesto Ministero che
essi, dopo aver subito il campo di concentramento, la prigionia ed
innumerevoli sofferenze, si trovano attualmente a Parigi e nell'
impossibilità di poter raggiungere Roma.

Essi sperano che un funzionario di codesto Ministero possa
essere inviato al più presto a Parigi onde potersi mettere a sua
disposizione.

Comunque gli scriventi attendono ordini da parte di codesta
Direzione Generale e tale scopo fanno conoscere i loro recapiti.

Con devoto ossequio.

Bernaudo Nicola -
8, rue Ernest Faichari - Paris (7^{ème})

(Signed) Nicola Bernaudo

Traverso Dottor Giovanni
3, rue Jean Dupuis - Châtillon (Seine)

" P. Traverso

Forni Vincenzo
62, rue Boileau - Paris (XVI)

" Forni Vincenzo

- 2 -

Translation

Paris, 16th October 1944

To the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

R o m a

The employees of the Italian Consulate in Paris, whose names are given below and who on the 8th October 1943 opted for the Badoglio Government, have the honour to inform the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that they are unable to return to Rome after having been in the concentration camp and prison where they suffered very much.

They hope that an official of the Ministry will be able to come to Paris so that they may put themselves at his disposal. In the meantime the undersigned are awaiting orders from the Ministry and take the liberty of adding their addresses.

Bernaus, Nicola	3 Rue Ernest Tsichari	Paris (VIIème)
Traverso, Giovanni	3 Rue Jean Dupuis - Chatillon	(Seine)
Forni, Vincenzo	82 Rue Boileau,	Paris (XVIème)

Copy forward to H. Cattalini
Nov 21 4527

WS
HH

Col. Hamnerford would appreciate
having the attached very
interesting letter delivered to
Prunier.

The translation is for our
files.

Original to U. Cilladine
N.H.M. W.S.

Disahl
19 Nov 44

ITALIAN RED CROSS
The Delegate General
For France

Nice, 12 November 1944

Dear Renato,

I owe it to Col. Hennoford ~~that~~ I can send you this message, having known from him that you are in Rome on duty; please thank the Colonel for me for the great favor done to me. I take this opportunity to give you news about me, my work and about what happened here.

I came here the beginning of August to start a welfare organization for the French children in Nice, upon orders of the Italian Ministry; I was organizing this work, naturally opposed by our military and civilian authorities, when the 8th of September came. Although urged to go to Vittel by Fracassi I remained here as it had been understood with the Ministry. I thought that the more difficult the duties of the Red Cross the more reasons I had to be present. I didn't sign any statement of obedience, neither to the Gestapo, nor to Mr. Chiostri, nor to the local Fascio. This did not create a favorable environment for me, nonetheless I continued my work and was able to bring a lot of help. Among my many activities I also organized a postal service with occupied Italy, which ended in February when normal postal relations were re-established. I sent food to civilian workers leaving for Germany and furnished them with cloths whenever they were in need. I started a research service for Italian and French political internees. I sent some food to those in nearby prisons and I put those in Italian prisons in communication with their families. I maintained close relationship with French Red Cross with the Secours National, also with the Prefecture of the Maritime Alps and with German military command, which helped for the postal service. I had a lot of difficulties with the Fascio and I have documentation of it. I was accused and reported to the Gestapo, accused to be a Francofile and a "Gaullist", was interrogated, watched, but not arrested. I was always in close collaboration with the Consulate and I owe it to Arrighi ~~that~~ the Red Cross was able to continue to function; Arrighi defended strenuously the Italian interests and did a lot of good in many fields. The Germans arrested on August 24 and took him to occupied Italy. We had no news from him since; his family is well and I am taking care of it. After Arrighi's arrest I stayed in hiding until August 29, day of liberation.

On September 11 I got in contact with the Committee of Liberation and opened an infirmary in the Casa d'Italia. My collaborators are intelligent and active workers and we are all trying very hard to straighten the very delicate and difficult situation of the Italians here. I have not been arrested yet, but my director of the personnel was interned, because he is an ex officer of the C.I.A.F., the same thing happened to my cashier and to my secretary, Miss Fasciglione, but I have good hopes for the latter's liberation.

I have arranged for a regular postal service with Red Cross cards with Rome after accord with American Command and this service will start sometime this week.

We are trying to help as much as we can our soldiers once interned by the Germans and those interned by the French and we are aided to a great extent by the French Red Cross and by other charity organizations whenever at this moment it is not opportune that I appear in person.

I have Committees working in Marseilles, in Paris, in the Principate of Munich and in all this department, and everywhere in complete accord with the Committee of Liberation. What I am saying now has more historical value than present, because the situation is so fluid that at any moment even the activity of the Italian Red Cross may ~~be~~ cease and its delegate end up in jail.

The Italian Consulate is inactive, most of its personnel is interned, but the C.D.L. is in charge of the offices and defends Italian interests. I heard rumors that Piraine, the Italian Consul in Marseilles, was shot, and also that the Chiostri band was taken prisoner by the "Maquis" and is now interned.

I was saying that the Italian situation in Nice is very fluid and difficult and I believe this is correct, because this is the most sensitive part in France. Unfortunately I witnessed all the errors made here and, although I did not hide my opinion, this didn't do me any good. There are too many French civilians, men and women interned in the prisons of Cuneo, Fossano and Turin, and this keeps the hatred alive. Are hostile to us in Nice the ruling class, the naturalised citizens, the middle class, the military circle and the clergy, whose bishop goes as far as to ~~the~~ ~~territorial~~ territorial revindations so that the right bank of the Roia, Breil, Tenda rivers and also of Ventimiglia be included in his diocese. The Communists are favorable to us, because they recognize the importance and loyalty of the Italian workers, and although they are fighting the remnants of Fascism, they are cooperating with the Italians and with the Italian C.D.L.. Let's hope that there will be a clarification of Franco-Italian relations, soon, because now we are considered ~~as~~ enemies and the formula of cobelligerency are not accepted, although it is known fact that there are numerous Italians fighting with French forces on this front. And let's hope also that an accredited representative of the Italian government will come soon with consuls or acting consuls to Nice, Marseilles, Lyons, Toulouse, to Bordeaux etc..., because it is necessary ~~that~~ to point out to our nationals here their duties toward this country, and also, of capital importance, to remind the French authorities of the rights of these emigrants.

I am very glad to be able to write to you again. Please give my best regards to Donna Rosaria and to your children. I receive no news from anyone here and I still have not heard from my son, who should be in Viterbo. Please help me in this postal service.

With old friendship, your

F 66857
Dec 11/1521

ALOOK AFTER SIGNED SACRED CITE PHASE
ALOOK

C/3669
DEC 11/12
ROUTINE

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

CONFIDENTIAL.

Your 8007 dated 10 December is subject. The information given in this cable is not sufficient for us to obtain SHAEF concurrence. They require to know full details of the subject proposing to travel, his organization, reason for visiting FRANCE, to whom reporting and whether or not travel is a visit or a permanent assignment. It is requested that in all requests made for travel of any individuals to any country the fullest possible information be forwarded thus avoiding unnecessary delays and possible embarrassment.

AC LIST
ACTION ADV COUNCIL (2)
INFO-CHIEF COMMISSIONER
POL SEC
LIAISON DIV
FILE

CONFIDENTIAL

44-4624

SECRET

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 512

2 October 1944

G-5: 383.2-6

SUBJECT: Relief of Italian Citizens and Administration
of Italian State Properties in France.

TO : Headquarters, Allied Control Commission, APO 394.
(Attention: Vice President, Political Section).

1. Your letter (Ref 376/385) dated 16 August 1944 stated that you had received a request from the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs for authority to send to France, as soon as possible, one or more Italian officials to deal with the situation of Italian citizens in France and with the administration of Italian State property in France. Sixth Army Group is undertaking to discuss this subject matter with SHADEF. We will advise you when we hear further.

Charles M. Spofford

CHARLES M. SPOFFORD
Brigadier General, G.S.C.
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-5

Copy to: U.S. Polad
Br Res Min



U.S. Polad

For broadcast.

This tape is with f. 5.
- (fin.) M/L/A. 4523

SECRET

2

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
POLITICAL SECTION
APO 394

Ref #376/385

16 August 1944

SUBJECT: Relief of Italian Citizens and Administration of Italian
State Properties in France.

TO : G-3, Allied Force Headquarters;
Copies to: British Resident Minister and U.S. Political
Adviser.

A memorandum has been received from the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs requesting authority to send to France, as soon as possible, one or more Italian officials particularly competent to deal with the situation of Italian citizens in France and the administration of Italian State properties in that country. It is stated that there are now in France approximately 750,000 Italians, mostly of the working class, which have required a large amount of administrative service and welfare work on the part of the Italian Government. Further, with the deportation of many of the men from France to Germany, their families remaining in France are in financial and other difficulties. It also is pointed out that there has been no report on the condition of the Italian State properties in France, consisting of the Italian Embassy in Paris, the several consular offices in the country, welfare centers and so forth.

WILLIAM W. SCHWART
Vice-President, Political Section

376/385

See 14

4522



Nr. 6/246/122.

Ministero degli Affari Esteri

MEMORANDUM FOR THE POLITICAL SECTION A.C.C.

There are at present in France approximately 750 thousand Italian citizens, the greater part belonging to the working class. The presence of such a great number of Italians in French metropolitan territory has always necessitated vast administrative activities and welfare work.

Owing to the events in France this problem becomes now even more difficult. Of particular concern is the situation of all those families who, following the deportation of their men to Germany for compulsory labour, were left in great need and lack any financial support.

Moreover, there are in France important Italian State properties. These consist - apart from the Italian Embassy in Paris, where furniture and objects of great artistic value are to be found - of all Consular offices, Welfare Centres etc. of which the Italian Government is completely without news since September 8th, 1943.

As Allied troops are liberating French territory, the necessity arises of immediately dealing with the serious problem of the administration and custody of the State properties situated in all the most important French towns, as well as of the relief of needy Italian citizens.

It is the desire of the Italian Government ^{and} ~~and~~ ¹ naturally in accordance with the Allied and French Authorities - to send to France, as soon as possible, one or more Italian Officials particularly competent for the said tasks.

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs should greatly appreciate if the Allied Control Commission would kindly take the matter into benevolent consideration and obtain from the Allied Governments a favourable acceptance of the above proposal. *La A.*

Rome, 14th August 1944.



From : AIR FORCES SUB COMMISSION, H.Q. A.C.

To : POLITICAL SECTION, H.Q. A.C.
Attention Mr. HOPKINSON

Date : 29th December 1944

Ref. : AFSC/INT/31 A

Enclosed for your information copy of a report regarding a so-called French winter help organisation for Italian Patriots.

The report is anonymous but the source is known to the undersigned and is actually a high-ranking officer in the Italian Intelligence Service who wishes to remain unknown.

P. de Haan
P. DE HAAN W/CDR INT
AIR VICE MARSHAL
AIR OFFICER COMMANDING

Please send a copy to the Embassy. I have now heard of a French winter help organization for Italian patriots but can try to find out something about it. 14 Dec 45

326/325

TRANSLATION.

AnonymousSECRET

December 26th 1944

CONFIDENTIAL FOR W/CDR DE HAAN

In a few days a certain French Captain (attached to a winter help organisation for Italian Patriots who cross the Piedmontese and Ligurian frontiers) will be leaving Rome.

The French government has set aside a very considerable sum of money for the financing of this work and has organised control points, rest centres and living quarters for these Patriots.

But, according to what this French Officer has said, this is not being done out of any particular sympathy for the Italians, but rather to organise resistance to Great Britain, who at this time is obstructing or fighting Patriots both in Greece and Belgium.

The behaviour of Great Britain in those countries is very unfavourably criticised in Russian and French circles and is being closely watched. It is their opinion that if Great Britain persists in such political conduct she will bring Europe to catastrophe.

COPY

TRANSLATION

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876/305

4518

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

Office of the French Representative

APO 394

21 Décembre 1944
XS/SM n° 1.012

NOTE pour Monsieur HOFFINSON.

- 1°/ C'est un décret ministériel, après discussion en Conseil des Ministres, qui fixe les organisations qui sont appelées à faire partie de l'Assemblée Consultative ainsi que le nombre des représentants de chaque organisation.
- 2°/ Ce sont les organisations elles-mêmes qui désignent leurs représentants suivant le chiffre fixé par le décret ministériel.
- 3°/ En ce qui concerne les "parlementaires", il faut croire que la question ne se posera pas en Italie.

Une délégation de parlementaires avait été nommée par le Conseil des Ministres en France, chargée d'élire un certain nombre de parlementaires pris dans chaque parti et uniquement parmi les parlementaires résistants ayant refusé de s'incliner devant l'armistice./.

4517

Keep for future use

x

Jan. 14.

ASSEMBLEE CONSULTATIVE PROVISOIRE

COMPOSITION .

Aux termes de l'ordonnance du 11 octobre 1944, l'Assemblée se compose des membres suivants :

Alliance démocratique	5	Ceux de la Libération	6
Démocrates populaires	7	Resistance	2
Fédération républic.	8	Défense de la France	2
Organisation civ. mil.	8	France au Combat	2
Confed. Trav. Intel.	1	Lorraine	1
Confed. Trav. Chret.	4	Combat	6
Conf. Trav. Agricult.	2	Francs Tireurs	6
Conf. Paysans Trav.	2	Liberation Sud	6
C.G.T.	15	Prisonniers et déportés	4
Front Uni Jeunes Patriotes	6		
Union des Cadres Industriels Fr.	2		
Ceux de la Résistance	7		
France combattante	8		
Radicaux et Gauche Démocratique	23		
Front national	14		
Liberation Nord	7		
Libérés et fédérés	1		
Confédération Fr. de l'Agric.	2		
Gauche indépendante	6		
Socialistes	24		
Communistes	14		
Terres d'Outremer et Français de l'Etranger	40		
Union des Femmes de Fr.	2		

dont 60 au sein du parlementaire.

En principe, l'Assemblée comporte 248 membres. Les 17 membres du conseil national de la résistance française ainsi que le secrétaire général et le secrétaire général adjoint sont membres de droit de l'Assemblée.

FUNCTIONNEMENT

L'Assemblée se réunit tous les trois mois, pour une session ordinaire de un mois. Elle peut se réunir pour une session extraordinaire de 15 jours sur convocation de son président, mais il ne peut avoir qu'une session extraordinaire entre deux sessions ordinaires. Enfin le Gouvernement peut inviter l'Assemblée à se réunir à tout moment en session exceptionnelle pour une durée déterminée.

ATTRIBUTIONS

Elle émet des avis sur les questions dont elle est saisie par le Gouvernement Provisoire. L'avis est obligatoirement demandé pour le budget général et sur les projets d'emprunt dépassant 500 millions. Les avis de l'Assemblée concluant à une réduction des dépenses civiles ou à un accroissement des charges fiscales, obligent le Gouvernement à

- 2 -

en deliberer en conseil des ministres.

L'avis de l'assemblee doit etre demandee, sauf cas exceptionnel, prealablement à l'adoption de toute legislation touchant au statut des libertés individuelles, à l'organisation des pouvoirs publics et à la structure économique et sociale du pays.

Si un projet est urgent et que l'assemblee n'a pas statuée dans les dix jours, le gouvernement peut décider seul. Le délai est porté à vingt jours en cas de budget.

Si deux tiers des membres de l'assemblee le demande, il peut etre porté à l'ordre du jour de l'assemblee toute question presentant un interet d'ordre national.

4815

PARAPHRASE

Telegram from American Legation, Bern, received January 12, 1945.

Sent to Department as No. 187.

With reference your 4358, December 28, with pertinent details, Italian Legation does not possess much specific information. On December 31 Italian Legation informed Italian Foreign Office that numerous concentration camps are alleged to exist in Southern France where Italians interned are suffering hardships.

Italian Legation has also informed American Legation, Bern, of presence of approximately 25,000 Italian soldiers, formerly of the Fourth Army, in southern France since the armistice who have been abandoned practically to their own resources. Troops are reported to have been given alternative of joining foreign legion or entering labor camps.

From source believed reliable by Italian Legation, number of Italians in France at present time is estimated at about 800,000. Italian Legation has observed excerpt dated October 5, 1944 from French Journal Official Publishing Ordinance wherein, among others, Italians are designated enemies of the States.

In response to unofficial Italian request, Swiss Federal Political Department has replied that it could not assume the protection of Italian interests in France, generally. Swiss have taken only custody of premises of Royal Italian Embassy and Consulate in Paris.

Italian Legation at Bern appears not to have full information on subject of your interest and apparently does not have much by way of confirmatory evidence. Paris or Rome may have better information in this matter.

(Repeated to Paris, reference Legation's 7 and to Rome, reference Legation's 140.)

HUDDLE

abs

376/385

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