

100001132140

ACC

10000/132/140

377
Germany
Oct. 1943 Jan 1945

MEMORANDUM

It is estimated that the number of military internees held in Germany is about 450,000 men. At the time of the Italian armistice they were held in concentration camps without the rights of prisoners of war under the Geneva Convention. Gradually the Germans have made more and more use of them as forced labour till now it is estimated that less than 30,000 are internees in the usual sense of the word.

2. In the case of the "forced labourers" there can be no question of the British Government permitting the despatch of food for their relief. To do so would only be relieving the Germans of their responsibility for feeding their own labour.

3. In the case of the relatively small number of genuine internees referred to above, the British Government would be prepared to consider a distribution of relief by the International Red Cross, but up to the present the Germans have refused to permit outside intervention in the camps. The International Red Cross are however making persistent efforts to induce the German Government to allow them to visit Italian camps.

4. There is a relatively small number of Italians in hospital lying alongside British and Allied sick and wounded to whom irregular assistance is possible through the good offices of the International Red Cross when their delegates are on routine visits to the British and Allied sick. The British Government are very anxious to do all they can for these Italians, not only for their own sakes, but because while they receive no food parcels the British and American prisoners in the same ward naturally feel obliged to share out their own supplies.

5. The British Red Cross are making every effort to send regular consignments of food, invalid and medical parcels to these hospitals, and part of these supplies are made available to the Italians under the supervision of the British or American officer in charge who is able to render an account of the uses to which the supplementary food parcels for the Italian sick have been put, while the distribution of the collective consignments can be supervised by the International Red Cross delegates. So far the British Government have received a report through the British Red Cross in London that a scheme of this kind has been successfully operated at the hospital at Frankfurt, Italy.

6. Italians who are captured by the Germans fighting on our side are granted all the rights of prisoners of war under the Geneva Convention, and are therefore qualified for relief in the same way as prisoners of war. 4729

7. The Papal Nuncio in Berlin is anxious to carry out relief amongst necessitous Italians in hospitals or concentration camps wherever he or his entourage are able to distribute direct to the individuals.

W.S.

This Air. Memoire is based on a letter to the British Government from the
The
He is communicating it to Sir. P. ...

377/385

The British Government understand that a truckload of tunny and medical supplies has already been despatched from Switzerland to the Nuncio in Berlin, who has been able to effect distribution to the various camps. Permission has also been given very recently to the despatch from Switzerland of condensed milk and pharmaceutical products with the exclusion of any items of the latter class of which there is a serious deficiency in Germany. These arrangements are conditional upon the Italians being in military hospitals and on the submission of a report on this distribution by the Papal Nuncio.

8. The British Government propose to send copies of Vincenti's letter to the Supreme Allied Commander, Mediterranean, and Supreme Commander Allied Expeditionary Force with an expression of their hope that such help as is possible will be afforded to Italians in Germany during further Allied advance in Europe.

9. With regard to the eventual repatriation of Italians in Germany no definite plans have as yet been made. United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration is intended to care for the repatriation of nationals of the United Nations but its mandate does not at present extend to enemy or ex-enemy nationals except that under resolution 58 passed at Montreal in September 1944 undertaken the care and repatriation of Italians within liberated Italian territory. Unless therefore UNRRA's mandate is further extended to cover Italians in Germany, the latter will presumably fall to be the responsibility of the military authorities.

5th January 1945.

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE
ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR ITALY

December 22, 1944

MEMORANDUM

To: Political Section, Allied Commission
Subject: Italian Military Internees in Germany.

The following message has been received from the American Legation at Bern:

"Minister Magistrati telegraphed his Government at Rome on November 25 as follows regarding the situation of Italian military internees in Germany and the efforts of the International Committee of the Red Cross to intervene in their behalf:

'International Committee of the Red Cross confirms that its delegate at Berlin has received assurances from the German authorities that members of the Royal Italian Army captured in combat enjoy privileges in Germany envisaged by the prisoner of war statute.

'All our military deported to the Reich after the armistice on the contrary are at present under an undefined statute which the aforesaid Committee is making efforts to have the Germans define in exact terms. The statute of our patriots of northern Italy is likewise undefined vis-a-vis the Germans.

'The German authorities have insisted upon designating the Fascist diplomatic representation as protecting power as regards such prisoners. Geneva Committee then pointed out that only a neutral organ is able to assure the protection aforesaid.

'Committee assures me it will continue to follow above delicate problem attentively.'

45.28

M. H.

W.S.

H.H.

This memo. is virtually a repetition
of the Lys memo. of Sept. 5th, the substance
of which was passed to S-5, After. in
the Section's memo. 377/385 of Sep. 6. 13th.

2. Is there any point in writing
again to S-5? Alternatively, sh^d some
follow-up action be taken through the
the Embassy?

slk
24/10/54

377/385

- (1) I think not
(2) Suggest that Embassy be asked to copy
all to WFO

4727

Cpl. Decker

I agree.

Pl. send copies accordingly
to the group.

H.H. Dec. 26.



Ministero degli Affari Esteri

6/1287/555

p.f. please

Secy
ALT

MEMORANDUM OF THE POLITICAL SECTION A.C.

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs have the pleasure of forwarding to the A.C., here enclosed, a cutting from a November issue of the "Osservatore Romano", according to which it would appear that the Germans have been harassed with the question of foreigners deported to Germany.

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs would like to know in that information is based on facts and they wish to recall their memorandum of August 5th n.s./204/99 and of September 5th n.s./224/181 concerning the situation of Italian civilians and military workers and internees in the Reich.

The question concerns over a million people whose sufferings have been more than once denounced by the international press, by reliable witnesses and by the International Red Cross. The Allied Governments, following a request of the Italian Government, had occasion to intervene in order to alleviate those hardships.

The Italian Government is now considering the possibility of organizing centres of assembly and distribution and preparing the necessary means for their maintenance and transportation as soon as they will be able to leave Germany, but it is clear that, for technical and practical reasons, such measures cannot be taken until the Allied Military Authorities will have acquainted the Italian Government with their intentions as regards the repatriation of those Italian citizens.

Mr. Cassia had verbally advised that the authorities competent in the question were General Eisenhower's

p.t.o.

Headquarters, whom he would have interested in the matter.

Doubtlessly the question which concerns millions of persons deported to Germany belonging to all European countries has already been considered by the General Allied Headquarters in Europe, and some decision, at least on principle, should have been reached on the matter.

It is possible that many Italian workers, forcibly transferred, may be found in the Ruhr and Saar basins and that the problem of their assistance and their repatriation might therefore arise in a relatively short time.

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs confidently expect to receive at the earliest opportunity further indications on the matter, which causes the deepest concern both to the Government and to the Italian public opinion.

Carb
Rome, 18th December, 1945



L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO 1° Dicembre 1944

Rimpatrio di francesi

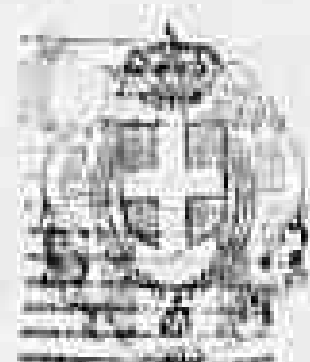
PARIGI, 30.

Il Direttore Generale dell'Ente delle Nazioni Unite per i soccorsi e la ricostruzione (U.N.R.R.A.), e Sir Frederick Leith-Ross, Vice Direttore Generale e Capo dell'Ufficio londinese dello stesso Ente, hanno conferito con il Ministro francese delle Finanze Pierre Mendes-France sul problema del rimpatrio di cittadini francesi dalla Germania.

Viene riferito a tale proposito che Mendes-France ha ricordato ai funzionari dell'U.N.R.R.A. che la Francia avrebbe ancora più di 4 milioni di persone in Germania — due milioni dei quali sono civili — cui necessitano dell'aiuto dell'U.N.R.R.A.

Quattrocento bambini svizzeri che si trovavano un tempo nella regione parigina e che vennero ospitati nella Confederazione elvetica ad opera della organizzazione «Pro Juventute» e della Croce Rossa svizzera, hanno lasciato Ginevra per rientrare nelle loro sedi, richiesti dai propri parenti.

4125



6/589/259

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

According to recent press reports, the French Minister for refugees and deported p.o.w. has stated that the two and a half million french prisoners in German hands will be repatriated in a few days from Germany's defeat.

In relation to the assurances received from the A.C.C. and according to which the question of the Italian workers and internees in Germany is at present under consideration by the competent Allied Authorities, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs takes the liberty of pointing out the urgency of being acquainted with their decisions, in view of the favourable course of military operations and the necessity of organization in time relief work for the repatriates and their reception in the Kingdom. *Scab*

Rome, 23rd September, 1944.



4.24

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
POLITICAL SECTION
APO 834

Ref 377/386

13 September 1944

MEMORANDUM TO: G-3 Section, Allied Force Headquarters
Copies to: U. S. Political Advisor,
British Resident Minister.

SUBJECT: Italian Internees in Germany and Occupied Territories.

Reference is made to the Political Section memorandum No. 244 dated August 11, 1944, stating that the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs had suggested the cooperation of the Italian Government in assisting and repatriating Italian nationals now interned in Germany.

A second note, dated September 5, now has been received from the Ministry requesting information regarding the steps thus far taken in this connection. It drew attention to a press announcement allegedly made by U.S.A.A. to the effect that the repatriation of citizens of Allied Nations now interned in Germany would require about seven months after the occupation of Germany and could be moved at the rate of 30,000 per day. In the same press announcement, it was stated, an agreed plan had been outlined by the Allied European Governments which contemplates, inter alia, a guarantee by each Government of free transit to the officially organized convoys of citizens of the Allied Nations. An early reply to this request by the Ministry would be appreciated.

Copies of this memorandum have been sent to the U. S. Representative to the Advisory Council for Italy and to the British High Commissioner.

WILLIAM J. SCHOTT
Vice-President, Political Section

377/386

4723

R. MINISTERO
DEGLI
AFFARI ESTERI

62S
HC
n. 6/424/191

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

POLITICAL SECTION

With Memorandum dated 9th ult., the Ministry of Foreign Affairs suggested to the Allied Control Commission the opportunity of examining the most suitable measures in order to ensure assistance and protection to the Italian internees in Germany at the moment of the Allied occupation of the Reich territory.

On the other hand UNHRA has recently announced to the press that the repatriation of citizens of the Allied Nations, at present interned in Germany, would take about seven months from the occupation of German territory, calculating about 35,000 repatriations per day.

According to the same press announcement, an agreed plan has been outlined by the Allied European Governments which contemplates, inter alia, a guarantee by each Government of free transit to the officially organized convoys of citizens of the Allied Nations.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in recalling the above mentioned Memorandum, would much appreciate if the A.C.C. could kindly inform what steps have been taken concerning the proposal submitted concerning Italian internees. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is of opinion that such proposal could be usefully incorporated within the United Nations agreed plan for the repatriation of their internees.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will much appreciate

4222

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

POLITICAL SECTION

With Memorandum dated 5th ult., the Ministry of Foreign Affairs suggested to the Allied Control Commission the opportunity of examining the most suitable measures in order to ensure assistance and protection to the Italian internees in Germany at the moment of the Allied occupation of the Reich territory.

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The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will much appreciate an early reply on the matter.

FCME, 5th September, 1944.



4522

377/385

Logant *OK*
WMS

44. 15. E. 12.

The Legation of Switzerland presents its compliments to the Political Section of the Allied Control Commission and should be very much obliged to her if she would consent to transmit the following urgent telegram to the Political Department in Berne :

"Political Department Bern Italian Undersecretary Foreign Affairs exposed to me the great apprehension of Italian Authorities concerning the fate of the many hundred thousands of Italian prisoners of war internees and workers in Germany who owing to the military situation will soon be free and try to return to Italy by all means at their disposal stop He most urgently appeals to the Swiss Authorities that such Italians arriving at Swiss border be not forced back into Germany but assembled and brought in transit through Switzerland to Italy thus saving many of them from bitter ordeals or even death He does not underestimate the huge enterprise it means for Switzerland but hopes that pursuing our humanitarian action we will find a satisfactory solution to this for Italy most preoccupating problem"

377/385

4721

The Legation seizes this opportunity to renew to the Political Section the senses of its high consideration.

Rome, September 5th 1944.

Downing
copy for transmission
6 Sept 44

Ja.



HEADQUARTERS ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
POLITICAL SECTION
APO 394

19 August 1944

MEMORANDUM TO: U. S. Representative, Advisory Council for Italy.

SUBJECT : Transmission of Message.

1. The Swiss Legation has requested permission to send the following message:

SCHLATTER

SWISS CONSULATE

ALGIERA

POLITICAL INTERESTS BEEN SO STOP REFERENCE TO TELEGRAM FROM VIELI TO POLITICAL DEPARTMENT OF SEPTEMBER 9 STOP I WAS CALLED JULY 29 PALAZZO CHIGI TO HEAR FOLLOWING COMMUNICATION CEN REFERRING TO CONVERSATION OF OCTOBER LAST OF CHIEF DEPARTMENT WITH BRITISH MINISTERS ABOUT OF WHICH IT HAD HEARD AT SALERNO THROUGH ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION CEN ROYAL GOVERNMENT WOULD BE WILLINGLY READY TO GIVE ITS CONSENT TO SWITZERLAND REPRESENTING GERMAN INTERESTS IN LIBERATED ITALY CEN BUT WOULD APPRECIATE THAT AT THE SAME TIME FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WOULD OBTAIN GERMAN GOVERNMENT'S CONSENT TO SWITZERLAND REPRESENTING ITALIAN INTERESTS IN GERMANY WHERE THEY GREATLY AND URGENTLY NEED PROTECTION STOP WHILE PROMISING TRANSMISSION REQUESTED THROUGH THIS LEGATION I SUGGESTED THAT SUCH DEMAND BE MADE ALSO THROUGH ITALIAN LEGATION BERN

SWISS LEGATION INTERESTS

Political Section

4720

280
377/585

1339

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

Rehman
Mr. Garcia

Foreign Interests.

Schlatter

Swiss Consulate

Algiers

Political Interests Bern 30 stop Reference to telegram from
stop
Vieli to Political Department of September 9/I was called
July 29 Palazzo Chigi to hear following communication:
Referring to conversation of October last of Chief Department
with British Minister Bern of which it had heard at Salerno
through Allied Control Commission, Royal Government would be
willingly ready to give its consent to Switzerland representing
German interests in liberated Italy, but would appreciate that
at the same time Federal Government would obtain German Govern-
ment's consent to Switzerland representing Italian interests
in Germany where they greatly and urgently need protection
stop While promising transmission requested through this
Legation I suggested that such demand be made also through
Italian Legation Bern

Swiss Legation Interests

R o m e, July 31, 1944.

4539

M. de Stultz spoke to me about the attached telegram last night. I told H.S. that I would prefer to hold his telegram until the Italian Government had asked us to forward the communication to the Italian Legation at Berne suggested in the last sentence of his communication.

I saw Count del Balzo this morning and explained this to him. He said that the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs would prepare a telegram to Berne and submit it to us under cover of a memorandum asking us, not only for approval of this initiative, but also for any support that might be possible with the Swiss Government.

When the Italian memorandum is received it should be forwarded to A.R.H.Q., G-5, with the Swiss telegram, and A.R.H.Q. should be asked to forward unless they see any objection.

H.A.C.
1.E.

Add - Handwritten copy
to Capital to circulation

Hand B.R.M.O

Mr. H.A.C. with telephone
Keep the copy

Hand 4.28

Foreign Interests.

M E M O R A N D U M.

The Swiss Legation, Foreign Interests Section,
presents its compliments to the Political Section of the
Allied Control Commission and would appreciate if the
attached telegram could be transmitted to Mr. Schlatter
of the Swiss Consulate in Algiers.

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

Any

R o m e, July 31, 1944.

Enclosure:
As stated.

4517

Political Sec
CONFIDENTIALALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
AFO 512

CMS/CF/mls

6993
HC
WS

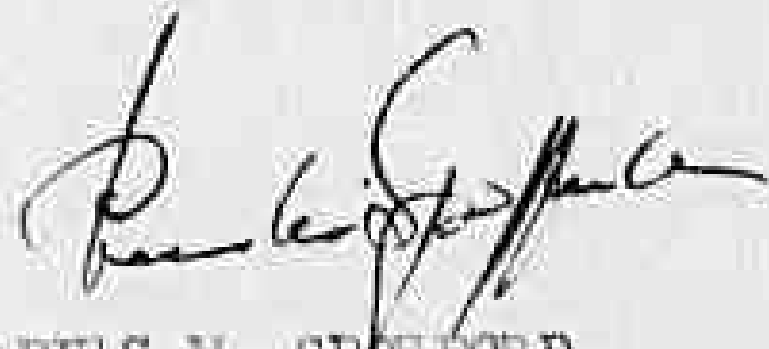
G-5: 383.7-26

15 August 1944

SUBJECT: Condition of Italians Interned in Germany.

TO : Headquarters, Allied Control Commission, AFO 394.

Receipt is acknowledged of Mr. Cacci's memorandum (No. 244 of 3 August), inclosing a communication from the Italian Government on the condition of Italians interned in Germany. Each of the Political Advisors at this Headquarters has cabled the substance of the matter to his Government, and the response of the Foreign Office and State Department is awaited here.


CHARLES M. SPOFFORD,
Colonel, G.S.C.,
Asst. Chief of Staff, G-5.*377/385*

4516

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 512

CMS/CF/mls

G-5: 383.7-26

15 August 1944

SUBJECT: Condition of Italians Interned in Germany.

TO : Headquarters, Allied Control Commission, APO 394.

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CHARLES M. SPOTFORD,
Colonel, G.S.C.,
Asst. Chief of Staff, G-5.

CONFIDENTIAL

4715

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
POLITICAL SECTION
APO 394

Ref 1044

11 August 1944

SUBJECT: Italian Internment in Germany and Occupied Territories.

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

A memorandum has been received from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressing its concern as to the fate of the large number of Italian troops and civilian internees and laborers in Germany, Poland and Belgium in the event of a German retreat, in the event of a German collapse and in the course of an Allied occupation of German territory. The Ministry advises that the Anglo-American authorities have drafted a plan for the occupation of Germany which includes the questions of existing and reestablishing the large number of foreign nationals found there. It suggests that the Italian Government might cooperate in the solution of this problem as it concerns its nationals, and suggests that the Allied Control Commission appoint appropriate officials to meet with the competent Italian authorities with a view to reaching that concrete action that the Allied authorities will deem most opportune in the common interest.

The Ministry, in view of the fact that Soviet forces already have come upon Italian internees in Polish and Lithuanian territory previously occupied by the Germans, advises that it urgently has requested the U.S.S.R. Government to adopt all possible measures to assist and protect these Italian nationals.

This question is considered by the Ministry to be very urgent and it would appreciate an early expression of opinion regarding it.

WILLIAM E. ROBERT
Political Section

cc:
British High Commissioner
U. S.
Ref. A.C. for info.

4734

MINISTERO DEGLI AFFARI ESTERI
XXXXXXXXXXXX*Very urgent*

Nr. 6/204/99

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
POLITICAL SECTION

The Soviet Armed Forces, on their advance on Polish and Lithuanian territory, previously occupied by the Germans, have come across the first groups of Italians interned in those regions.

In this connection the Italian Government have found it necessary urgently to approach the Soviet Government with the aim of obtaining that all measures, that are possible under the circumstances, will be adopted in order to assist and protect them.

On the other hand, as the Allied Control Commission is aware, there is at present in Germany, Holland and Belgium, a vast mass of Italians, half of which consists of troops and civilians captured by the Germans and taken in the Reich for internment, and the other half of workers on forced labour (about One million all told).

In view of the forthcoming developments of war operations which will lead to the occupation of German territory by the Allied Forces, the Italian Government are deeply concerned as to the fate of these Italians, both in the course of the German retreat and following a foreseeable German collapse.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has no doubt that this delicate question has already been considered by the competent Anglo-American authorities and that in the framework of the measures relating to the occupation of Germany, provisions concerning the assistance to, and repatriation of, such vast community are already under study.

With the aim, however, of co-operating in the solution of this problem, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs takes leave to suggest that contacts might already be usefully made between the organs that the A.C.C. will appoint for the purpose and the competent Italian Authorities with a view to reaching that concrete action that the Allied Authorities will deem most opportune in the common interest.

The....



MINISTERO DEGLI AFFARI ESTERI
XXXXXX

2)

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is confident that the A.C.C. will appreciate the spirit and the aim of this request and will, as soon as possibly, furnish a kind reply on the matter. *QAB*

ROME, August 9th, 1944.



4512

file

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
POLITICAL SECTION
APO 394

3rd August, 1944.

No. 244.

Memorandum to: G-5,
Allied Force Headquarters.

The Italian Government have addressed a memorandum to the Allied Control Commission concerning the conditions under which 640,000 Italian military and civilian internees in Germany are reported to be living. A copy of this communication is enclosed.

2. It will be seen from the account given of life in two of the camps that health conditions are extremely bad and, according to reports received from the Italian delegate to the Red Cross in Geneva, the situation is becoming worse. It is pointed out that the German Government have never applied the Geneva Convention of 1929 to Italian military and civilian internees and have not yet authorized visits to the camps by delegates of the Red Cross or by the Apostolic Nuncio. These internees are, therefore, unprotected and the Italian Government is unable to intervene on their behalf.

3. Two possible ways in which the situation might be improved are suggested by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and we will be glad to learn as early as possible the decision of the Allied authorities on these suggestions.

4. If for any reason neither can be authorized, it will be seen that the Italian Government have asked for some Allied intervention "in any form" and as this question is one that intimately concerns the Italian public, it will be realized that success or failure of the Italian Government to interest the Allies in it will have a marked effect upon its standing with the Italian people.

5. Copies of this correspondence have been sent to the U.S. representative on the Advisory Council and to the British High Commissioner.

H. A. Caedie
Vice-President
Political Section

4711

Copies to: U.S. Political Advisor
British Resident Minister

COPY

Ministero degli Affari Esteri

6/57/23

MEMORANDUM FOR THE POLITICAL SECTION A.C.C.

The Italian Government have received from various sources very distressing information concerning the treatment to which are subjected the 640,000 Italians, military and civilians, who were interned in Germany after the Armistice.

Within the last few days detailed reports have arrived from the Italian Delegates of the Red Cross in Geneva, which show that the situation is constantly becoming worse. For instance:

----- In Stalag Luft 2, the sanitary conditions have become notably worse and 45 deaths have already occurred. There are at present over 400 internees seriously ill; amongst these, 140 have contracted tuberculosis, 60 are suffering from pleurisy and the remainder from other diseases. Medicines are lacking: there is need of calcium-glucose, of syringes, vitamin products and all other foodstuffs. Young men, strong and healthy eight months ago have now developed consumption owing to scarce and unsuitable food. The same conditions exist practically in all other internment camps.

----- In the Lazaret E. G. F. Zeithen Stalag Luft 4 Mollberg the Italian soldiers arrive from the labour camps exhausted and often on the point of death. Innumerable are the cases of tuberculosis and pleurisy due to deficient food, to the lack of all kinds of medicines, and to the fact that the internees are over-crowded in unsuitable barracks.

As is already well-known, the German Government, notwithstanding the steps taken by the International Red Cross, have never seen fit to apply to Italian military and civil internees the Geneva Convention of 1929 and have not yet authorized a visit to the camps by the Delegates of the Red Cross or by the Apostolic Nuncio. These internees are, therefore, left without any protection whatsoever, nor have the Italian Government any possibility of direct intervention for the purpose of improving their conditions and assisting them with food and clothes.

The Italian Government does it their duty to appeal to the high sense of humanity of the British and American Governments and to ask for their intervention, in any possible form, in favour of the Italian military and civil internees in Germany.

Amongst the forms of intervention susceptible of giving concrete results, the Italian Government take the liberty of suggesting the following:

4710

./.

1 - some form of official statement, whereby the commanders of the camps and their direct superiors, whose names will, in due course, be known, will be held responsible for the horrors that are being committed:

2 - a suitable world-wide radio and press campaign which would bring to the knowledge of every people the atrocities the Germans are daily inflicting on defenceless people whose only fault is their un-bending loyalty to the legitimate Italian Government.

The Italian Government would be most sincerely grateful to the British and American Governments for any action that they may consider fit to take in order to alleviate the truly inhuman conditions under which such vast number of Italian military and civilian internees live at present in the German internment camps.

Rome, 27th July 1944.

4709

Ministero degli Affari Esteri

6/5/23

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Within the last few days detailed reports have arrived from the Italian Delegate of the Red Cross in Geneva, which show that the situation is constantly becoming worse. For instance:

— In Stammlager 20 A the sanitary conditions have become notably worse and 48 deaths have already occurred. There are at present over 400 internees seriously ill; amongst these, 140 have contracted tuberculosis, 60 are suffering from pleurisy and the remainder from other diseases. Medicines are lacking: there is need of calcium-glucose, of syringes, vitamin products and all necessary foodstuffs. Young men, strong and healthy eight months ago have now developed consumption owing to scarce and unsuitable food. The same conditions exist practically in all other internment camps.

— In the Lazaret K.G.F. Zeithen Stammlager 4 Muelhberg

./.

- 2 -

the Italian soldiers arrive from the labour camps exhausted and often on the point of death. Innumerable are the cases of tuberculosis and pleurisy due to deficient food, to the lack of hygiene in the internment camps, to the lack of all kinds of medicines, and to the fact that the internees are over-crowded in unsuitable barracks.

As is already well-known, the German Government, notwithstanding the steps taken by the International Red Cross, have never seen fit to apply to Italian military and civil internees the Geneva Convention of 1929 and have not yet authorized a visit to the camps by the Delegates of the Red Cross or by the Apostolic Nuncio. These internees are, therefore, left without any protection whatsoever, nor have the Italian Government any possibility of direct intervention for the purpose of improving their conditions and assisting them with food and clothes.

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./.

- 3 -

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Rome, 27th July, 1944.

4566

Confidential
until 12/31/88

Ta. & F.O.

ack. N.A.

to report:

Review Part of [unclear]
[unclear]

? file

Office of the British Resident
Minister at Allied Force H.Q.,
Caserta.

10th August, 1944.

5/159/15

My Dear Harold

My letter of 11th August about the Italian Government's proposal again to approach the Swiss Government with a view to obtaining Swiss protection of Italian interests in Germany.

Harold's Office have now heard from the State Department that there is no objection to the Italian Government's proposal. I have therefore despatched to Algiers the message from the Swiss Legation in Rome for M. Schlatter at the Swiss Consulate, Algiers and we would suggest that, after consultation with Aubrey Hallford you should now let the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs despatch the telegram which they want to send to their Embassy in Madrid on the subject.

Yours ever,

and RETURN
TO HAZ

H. A. Caccia, Esq.

Office of the British Resident Minister
at Allied Force Headquarters.
Caserta.

5/150/12

11th August, 1944.

My Dear Harold,

This is to confirm our telephone conversation of yesterday about the Italian Government's proposal again to approach the Swiss Government with a view to obtaining Swiss protection of Italian interests in Germany.

Murphy's Office have sent a telegram to the State Department about the proposal in which they have asked for the Department's comments.

All our papers on this subject, other than those which you left with Roger Makins on the 5th August, are now in the High Commissioner's Office at Rome. It was therefore suggested that you should speak to Aubrey Halford and then, if desirable, the High Commissioner's Office can telegraph for the views of the Foreign Office.

We are holding back the draft telegram from the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to Madrid and the draft telegram from the Swiss Legation in Rome to the Swiss Consulate, Algiers.

I will get in touch with you again when Murphy has his answer from the State Department and we can then consider despatching the two telegrams mentioned above.

Yours etc,

John.

John Wyndham.

4705

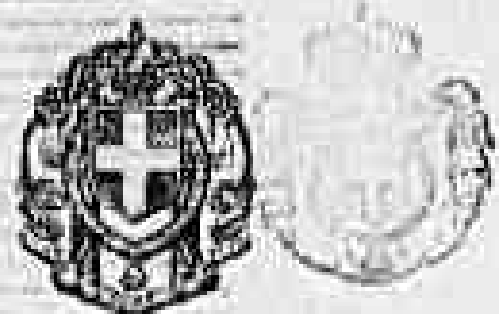
H. A. Caccia, Esq.

Wyndham's Office confirmed by telephone
offices of British and U.S. Governments
to despatch of above telegrams.

Aug. 19. 1944

W.H.S.

1357

MINISTERO DEGLI AFFARI ESTERI
V.V. XXV. 10/11/1944

Nr. 6/119

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
POLITICAL SECTION

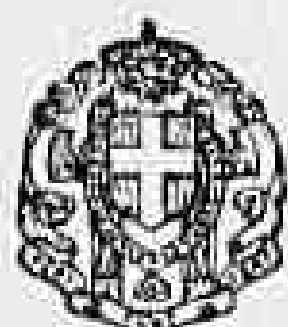
With telegram n. 537, copy of which is herewith enclosed, the Italian Government has instructed the Italian Legation at Bern to approach the competent Swiss Authorities in order to obtain that Switzerland take over the protection of Italian interests in Germany, just as the Swiss Legation in Rome acts in respect of German interests in Italy. The question is of a particular interest to the Italian Government above all as regards the necessity of ensuring efficient protection to the Italian military and civil internees who, as is well known, are subjected in Germany to a most inhuman treatment and not in accordance with the rules of existing International Conventions.

Given that it is not a matter involving only political aspects but that it is above all a question of humanity, the Italian Government shall be particularly grateful if the Allied Authorities will kindly use their influence in order to ensure the protection of Italian interests in Germany in the same manner in which German interests are protected in Italy. *Let B.*

Encl.

ROME, August 2nd, 1944.

45.04



MINISTERO DEGLI AFFARI ESTERI

Mod. 25 bis
(Serv. Provinciale)

(1)

1029

TELEGRAMMA DI STATO

(Vedersi le importanti avvertenze stampate a lato)

Bollo
dell'Ufficio
accettazione

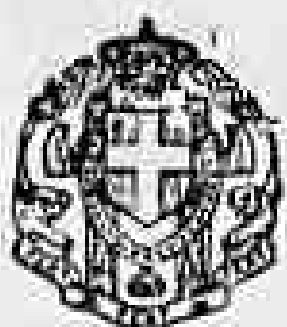
INDICAZIONE D'URGENZA	UFFICIO TELEGRAFICO		Spedito il _____ ore _____ per Giro. N. _____		CIRCUITO sul quale si deve fare l'incasso del telegramma	
	di _____		all'Ufficio di _____		Trasmittente _____	
	DESTINAZIONE	PROVENIENZA	NUM. PAROLE	DATA DELLA PRESENTAZIONE Giorno e mese Ore e minuti	VIA	INDICAZIONI EVENTUALI D'UFFICIO
N.B. — Scrivere una sola parola per casella; mai a tergo dei modelli. Il telegramma deve essere scritto con chiarezza per modo che la lettura ne sia facile						
Destinatario.	AMBASCIATA ITALIANA		Oggetto :		Interessi tedeschi in Italia ed interessi italiani in Germania.	
Destinazione.	M A D R I D					
Testo.	537 - Per Berna 195 agosto I. Con beneplacito ufficioso delle autorità anglo-americane questa Legazione di Svizzera ha assunto, dopo la liberazione di Roma, protezione "de facto" interessi tedeschi in Italia. In recente conversazione con signor de Stoutz, gli è stato detto che R. Governo non avrebbe dal canto suo alcuna difficoltà aderire ad analoga richiesta svizzera, a condizione che governo tedesco consenta a sua volta che protezione interessi italiani in Germania venga assunta dalla Svizzera. È stato aggiunto che siano principalmente preoccupati delle condizioni dei militari e dei civili italiani					

Spazio riservato alla dichiarazione di Stato o cifra di Stato e bollo del funzionario mittente.

(1) Ufficio o funzionario autorizzato a spedire telegrammi di Stato. — Si raccomanda di non omettere questa indicazione
N.B. — La firma dovrà essere sempre seguita dall'indicazione del corpo od ufficio cui il firmatario appartiene.

4703
Sent 20 Aug 1945

MINISTERO DEGLI AFFARI ESTERI

Mod. 25 bis
(Serv. Promissio Provino.)

(1)

1029

TELEGRAMMA DI STATO

(Veggansi le importanti avvertenze stampate a tergo)

Bollo
dell'Ufficio
accettazione

INDICAZIONE D'URGENZA	UFFICIO TELEGRAFICO		Spedito il _____ 19 _____ ore _____ per Circ. N. _____		CIRCUITO sul quale si deve fare l'incasso del telegramma	
	di _____		all'Ufficio di _____		Trasmittente _____	
	DESTINAZIONE	PROVENIENZA	NUM.	PAROLE	DATA DELLA PRESENTAZIONE (Giorno e mese) (Ore e minuti)	VIA
						INDICAZIONI EVENTUALI D'UFFICIO

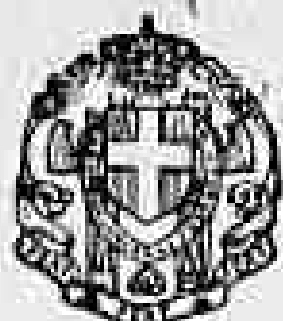
N.B. — Scrivere una sola parola per casella; mai a tergo dei modelli. Il telegramma deve essere scritto con chiarezza per modo che la lettura ne sia facile.

Destinatario. .					
Destinazione .					
Testo.	internati in Germania perchè rimasti fedeli, le cui condizioni ci vengono da varie fonti segnalate come pietosissime.				
Spazio riservato alla dichiarazione di Stato e cifra di Stato e bollo del funzionario mittente.	Inoltre non possiamo non preoccuparci dei futuri sviluppi della situazione, per i quali nostri interessi in Germania potrebbero da un momento all'altro venirci a trovare del tutto abbandonati.				
	E' stato infine ricordato al Signor de Stoutz che Pilet Golas nell'ottobre scorso ci fece sapere di non avere ritenuto opportuno comunicare formalmente al governo tedesco richiesta assumere protezione interessi italiani attendendosene diniego. Egli stesso si ri-				

(1) Ufficio o funzionario autorizzato a spedire telegrammi di Stato. — Si raccomanda di non omettere questa indicazione

N.B. — La firma dovrà essere sempre seguita dall'indicazione del corpo od ufficio cui il firmatario appartiene

4.02



MINISTERO DEGLI AFFARI ESTERI

Mod. 25 bis
(Serv. Promisone Provino.)

(1)

TELEGRAMMA DI STATO

1029

Bollo
dell'Ufficio
accettazione

(Veggansi le importanti avvertenze stampate a tergo)

INDICAZIONE D'URGENZA	UFFICIO TELEGRAFICO		Spedito il _____ 19 _____ ore _____ pel Circ. N. _____		CIRCUITO sul quale si deve fare l'incastro del telegramma	
	di _____		all'Ufficio di _____		Trasmittente _____	
	DESTINAZIONE	PROVENIENZA	NUM.	PAROLE	DATA DELLA PRESENTAZIONE (Giorno e mese) (Ore e minuti)	VIA
						INDICAZIONI EVENTUALI (PUBBLICITÀ)
N.B. — Scrivere una sola parola per casella; mai a tergo del modello. Il telegramma deve essere scritto con chiarezza per modo che la lettura ne sia facile.						
Destinatario.						
Destinazione.						
Testo.	servava però di farlo non appena Roma fosse liberata, poichè allora anche governo tedesco avrebbe avuto interesse veder tutelati suoi interessi in Italia.					
Spazio riservato alla dichiarazione di Stato e cifra di Stato e bollo del funzionario mittente.	Signor de Stoutz ha assicurato avrebbe subito interessato in proposito suo Governo, presso il quale prego V.S. svolgere analoga azione.					
	VISCONTI VENOSTA					
	NOT FOR DESPATCH					
	OKd WWS F Aug 44					

(1) Ufficio o funzionario autorizzato a spedire telegrammi di Stato. — Si raccomanda di non omettere questa indicazione
N.B. — La firma dovrà essere sempre seguita dall'indicazione del corpo od ufficio cui il firmatario appartiene.

4701

Office of the Resident
Minister at A.F.H.Q.,
5, rue Professeur Goutilliet,
Algiers.

4/150/0

18th October 1945.

Nyden Harold,

With reference to A.F.H.Q.'s cable to
General Macfarlane No. 602 of September 28th, I
enclose for your information the text of a telegram
from H.M. Minister at Bern dated October 12th which
gives our latest information about the progress of
the arrangements for the protection of Italian
interests in Germany and satellite states.

Yours on

R. H. H. H.

Roger Makins.

H.A.C. ccia Bsq.

Head the Mission

*At 1000 with me
to pass this on orally to
the Station F.O. ?*

4700

done HAZ 28th ✓

HAZ 28th ✓

Following received from Berne, telegram No. 4882
October 12th.

M. Pilet Colaz told me today that he had not asked Germany point blank whether Switzerland could take over protection of Italian interests in Germany and satellite states. He had taken soundings which indicated that the question if put now would receive a negative answer from which the Germans later on would be unwilling to withdraw. He therefore thought it wiser to wait until Italian Government and allied forces were in control of about 2/3rds of Italy. The Germans might well in their own interests agree to some arrangement of the kind since they would need a protecting power in Italy.

W. H. H. H.

4659

To : Allied Control Commission

To have a lasting peace with Germany, we must put her absolutely in condition of inertness.

We, Italians, knew by experience that the Germans, when isolated, are good people, but when they are united God save us from them! Therefore we must isolate them.

In addition, do not forget that the people who have been subjugated by her are shouting revenge for all the frauds we have suffered and the dead which we have had.

And still more, we ^{do} not forget that the Jewish people have been treated by the Germans as the victims of victims: the most slaughtered, ⁺ martyred, expelled, slighted, despised, calumniated, vilified and robbed etc.

Well, the only solution to safeguard the people from disastrous wars (Germany will ask for a revenge) and to vindicate all the evils we have suffered, which are unlimited and incalculable, is the following:

To scatter the German people by sending them to all countries of the world, family by family in your colonies of Africa, Asia, Australia and America (this was his ambition and so he will be satisfied) and the German territory to be transformed into a Jewish Nation, i.e. Hebrew territory.

I believe these will not compare Palestine with Germany, where everything will be to their advantage.

In such few words, I have summarised the life ^{of} one hundred years, and the psyche of many peoples.

(s) Lecci Giannino.

377

4693

C. A. Br.

Spett.le Comando Alleato.

Per avere una pace duratura con la Germania bisogna assolutamente metterla in condizione di inermità. Voi italiani sapete per esperienza, che i tedeschi se sono isolati sono brave persone, ma se sono uniti... Dio ce ne guardi, dunque... bisogna isolarli.

Inoltre non dimentichi che i popoli che sono stati a lei sottomessi gridano vendetta per tutte le malversazioni subite e per i morti ricevuti.

E ancora, non scordiamo che il popolo ebreo è stato dai tedeschi la vittima delle vittime: il più ucciso, il più martirizzato, sacciato, calpestato, sequestrato, calunniato, vilipeso, derubato, ecc.

Esistono l'unica soluzione per salvaguardare i popoli da altre disastrosissime guerre (la Germania chiederà la rinviata) e per vendicare tutti i mali ricevuti, che sono infiniti ed incalcolabili, è questa:

«Disgregare il popolo tedesco inviandolo e spargendolo famiglia per famiglia in tutte le terre del mondo, in tutte le vostre colonie dell'Africa, Asia, Australia ed America (quella era la sua ambizione e sarà accontentato)... e... il territorio tedesco tramutarlo in... Nazione Israelita, cioè terra degli Ebrei».

Credo che questi non vorranno paragonare la Palestina con la Germania, ove hanno tutto da guadagnare.

In così poche parole ho compendato la vita di cento anni e la psiche di molti popoli.

Loeci Giannino.

4657

A.C.C.

RAF 87

Restricted

Secret Cipher

17.30 hrs.

17 th July 44

PWB/PID LONDON ATTENTION BALFOUR

ONI LONDON FOR HAMELETTE

PWB DARI FOR GAIRO

APHQ FOR PWB ATTENTION BALFORD

RAF DEL FOR ONI WASHINGTON ATTENTION THOMPSON

PWB ITALIAN THEATRE HQ

From Hartshorne. PWB has been in touch with Baron Raitz von
 Treutz former Catholic correspondent of West German Catholic Press
 resident in Vatican City since 1932. Holder of Papal Offices of
 Grand ufficio dell'Ordine Santi and Cameriere Segreto di Spada e
 Cappella di Sua Santita. Information given in strictest confidence.
 Good faith may be assumed.
 Policy of Pope directed towards reconciliation Great Britain Ger-
 many. No indication of means but defeat of Germany and overthrow
 Nazis allegedly assumed. Informant hopes Allies will announce re-
 storation religious freedom in Germany by proclamation. Church must
 be given benefit of freedom of Press and freedom to teach in Univer-
 sities. Disturbance worship whether Catholic Protestant Jewish must
 be forbidden. Holds greater store by Rhineland Catholics than Bava-
 rians in reconstruction Germany. Has high opinion of Archbishop Grö-
 ber of Freiburg, but considers Count Fraysing Berlin ablest of Ger-
 man prelates. Fraysing selected by Pope as most able to influence
 diplomatic circles. Has less esteem for Galen whose diplomatic abi-
 lity he doubts and feels greater confidence in Prelat Georg Schrei-
 ber of Munster and former Reichstag deputy. Para. Instance Persecu-
 tion of Church ^{vouched for} ~~known~~ by informant. Towards end 1942 deacon of
 Donau-Eschingen murdered in Dachau. Deacon had proclaimed in sermon
 quote Ich grüsse die Märtyrer von Dachau unquote. Refused to recant
 sent to Dachau himself. On receipt of ashes by family Arch-bishop
 Gröber held solemn Requiem in his honour and laid the martyr's
 stole on coffin. Para.

4636

RAK 85

R.A.F. CABLE

SECRET (CIPHER)

18 July 44

10.30 hrs

ROUTINE

GR.Intelligence (Political)

PWS/PID LONDON ATTENTION BALFOUR PWB ITALIAN THEATRE HQ.
 OWI LONDON FOR HAMBURG
 PWB BARI FOR CAIRO
 AFHQ FOR PWB ATTENTION RADFORD
 RAY DND FOR OWI WASHINGTON ATTENTION THOMPSON

From Hartsborne. Interesting attitude towards Hitler's current political strategy expressed by informed German circles Rome. Story widely believed that Hitler told Rundstedt he would rather see Russians in Breslau than Allies in Rome. Recent Nazi talk of impending doom and catastrophe taken to mean quasi-suicidal masochistic submission to Russian destructive fury. By holding Allies in west and south and by yielding, despite impressive resistance, in the East, Hitler will seek to unleash that quote Bolshevik danger unquote which he has so often used to threaten Europe into submission. The Allies must meanwhile be held at bay in France and Italy, helplessly watching while Germany and quote European culture unquote fall victim of the quote red hordes unquote. The expected diabolical holocaust wrought by Bolshevism in eastern and central Europe will, so runs Hitler's plan, finally vindicate him and Nazi anti-Bolshevist policy, while discrediting for all time the war aim of western powers. If, on the other hand, Germany were to experience a mild Russian occupation or none at all, while yielding to Anglo-American occupation from west and south, everything Hitler has argued would remain unproven or suspect. It is not held beyond realm of possibility that Hitler will order scorched earth policy before Russian advance which will then be blamed on the Russians, just as the Russian incursion will be blamed on the Allies and ultimately, of course, on the classical scape-goats of Nazi ideology. Only in this way Hitler can hope to go down a hero, vindicated, though destroyed, by the realization of the catastrophe he predicted and which, allegedly, he devoted his life to prevent. On a more mundane level he may still hope to browbeat the western powers into a pro-German anti-Russian position by the spectacle of quote Bolshevik horrors unquote in eastern Europe. In that remote eventuality he could emerge from the war not only a hero, but alive. Our informants, however, including high German ecclesiastics close to Vatican, believe Russian influence in Germany likely to be less quote destructive unquote than the quote bolshevist tendencies unquote inherent in National Socialism itself which are coming ever more to the fore as the end of the war approaches. Altogether possible, however, that recent German defeats in East, and frequent surrenders of high German officers to Russians, combined with stiff resistance France and Italy, may reflect above Hitler strategy. Role of Seydlitz groups this connection not clear but our informants fear that the Wehrmacht, attempting to emerge guiltless from the defeat, may try to hold Seydlitz group responsible for new stab-in-the-back.

A.C.C.

RAF 86

Restricted + Confidential (Clear)

17.30 hrs.

17 th July 1944

PWB/PLD LONDON ATTENTION MATEOUE

CHI LONDON FOR H. ARLETT

PWB ITALIAN THEATRE HQ

PWB PARI FOR CAIRO

APR, FOR PWB ATTENTION MATEOUE

RAF DEL FOR CHI WASHINGTON +444 ATTENTION THOMPSON

CENSORED.

From Harshorne. Information from impeccable source close to Monte Cassino monastery. On the evening of April 21 st 1944 German officers stationed at Arpino (Province of Frosinone) arranged a supper in the house of Cassano Ros, a lawyer (his son is Abbot of Cave) where they had made arrangements to stay. Invitations were sent out by Oberleutnant Voigt who was Company C.O. Other invitations were issued for fun by the supposed quote Bruder vom Heiligen Benedikt unquote on falsified invitation cards. To these was attached the sacred seal of Montecassino. The guests appeared in holy vestments taken from Montecassino. The feast lasted until 6 o'clock in the morning of April 22nd. Some of the guests still under the influence of drink left the house dressed up in these sacred vestments and jumped into a truck. The table was decorated with sacred ornaments such as small carved wooden angels. These were removed from the wooden stans of the choir at Montecassino. These stans are of great artistic value and date from the XVII. century. Photostatic copies of invitation, menu and wine-card following by air-pouch to London. Invitations bear instruction quote Abendanzug oder gr. Or. denseschnelle unquote.

4654

AA1 { Mr. Baker
Mr. Caccia~~TOP SECRET~~

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
INFORMATION AND CENSORSHIP SECTION
PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE BRANCH, Unit No. 12
U.S. ARMY - A.P.O. 512

German Intelligence Section (Political)

23 rd July 1944

Subject: Interview with Monsignor Kaas at the Vatican

Monsignor Kaas was leader of the Catholic Zentrum Partei in Germany which he willingly dissolved in favour of the Nazi Party in 1933. His present position is that of advisor to the Pope and "Dean of the Fabric" at St. Peter's.

Dr. Bergh, the Swedish correspondent, arranged for me to interview Monsignor Kaas at the Vatican on July 22nd. The interview which took place in his own office lasted for over two hours. Monsignor Kaas was exceedingly affable. Conversation ranged from History, Music, art and architecture to current German affairs. On the latter subject Kaas spoke freely and it seems frankly. After one and a half hours I felt justified in asking the question - the *raison d'être* of the interview - "Is there any outstanding personality in Rome who might wish to contact the Allies concerning present events in Germany?". The answer came at "Yes there is someone - in fact it is Dr. Weiszäcker". He suggested it would be a good idea for the meeting to take place at Count de Lagerberg's place - he evidently knew of Dr. Bergh's and my connections with the Swedish Minister. At this point the interview virtually came to a close. He insisted on accompanying me to St. Peter's and made arrangements to show me his latest excavations. This I took as a gesture indicating his eagerness for the meeting with Weiszäcker to materialize, as he is known to shroud his work in secrecy.

With regard to present events in Germany Kaas is of opinion that there are two schools of thought amongst the rebel German generals - the pro-Russian and the pro-Western. Russian military might is the dominant factor causing this division of thought, but Russian policy has not been ineffective either. Many believe that Stalin's moderate attitude means that he would tolerate the existence of a German army after the war. Kaas thinks there may be justification in this belief, but fears that in reality Stalin intends to create a German Red Army. The salvation for Germany and the Western Powers would be a compromise peace. The insistence on total surrender is an unwise policy leading to prolongation of the war to the detriment both of Germany and England. Certain bourgeois circles in Germany still

-2(-

think it is a matter of duty to try to persuade the Western Powers to "understand" before throwing in their lot with Russia. Those who are already convinced that to side with Russia is Germany's salvation believe so on the following grounds: - the Western Powers would tend to exploit Germany economically and socially; they would dissolve the army; they have already stated that Germany would not be affected by stipulations made in the Atlantic Charter; Communism would offer German workers a means of livelihood and Germany would not be subjected to the unbearable weight of reparations.

Keas stated that Stalin has Churchill and Roosevelt just where he wants them.

Hitler would be a good man for the Western Powers to deal with. Of Hitler Keas said he is exceedingly dangerous because he is drunk without having drunk. Having removed the best German generals, "Hitler lebt jetzt in einer geistigen Einöde."

Keas made it clear that the Catholic Church cannot assume political responsibility for the aftermath of war. Those who waged the war will have to sign the peace - namely the generals. "Einen zweiten Erzberger wird es nicht nochmals geben."

Keas gives the impression of being cunning in a typically German manner. He is not highly intelligent. He is not in the least aware of the necessity of "ein neuer Geist" in Germany. He has naive and very ordinary German ideas on England and is psychologically easy to handle. I think it is fair to say that like other Germans he is "unverbesserlich".

Lieut. Henry Joachim
German Intelligence Section (Political)

Henry Joachim

4652

E. Y. N.

REAR HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394

Reference 377

9 June 1944

MEMORANDUM TO: Mr. H. A. Gaccia, Political Section, JAG AGC.

I do not know if you noticed in the Italian Military Attache at Ankara report of 20 May the following decentralization of German Government Offices owing to the Second Front:-

Foreign Office	Krummholtz (Silesia)
Chancellery only	Berlin
Interior (admin)	Emserhof Hotel, Berlin
Interior (executive)	Krillberg (17 km. north of Karlsruhe)
Nautics	Hausenstein, Berlin
Finance	Upper Silesia
Propaganda	Fischern, Karlsruhe
War Office	Berlin
" " (Operations)	Potsdam
Air Ministry	Potsdam
War Cabinet	Dresden

I forward these in case they may be of value to the Military Section.

J. H. PEARSON
Major
Political Section

4691