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

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397.
Vatic
April

0547

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

10000/132/174

397.1

Vatican City Communications

April 1944 - Jan. 1945

file

Ref: P/397.1

16 January 1945

The Political Section of the Allied Commission presents its compliments to the British Legation to the Holy See and, with reference to the Legation's Memorandum No. 15/2/45 of the 8th January 1945 forwarding a copy of Note, No. 89052/3A from the Secretariat of State of His Holiness concerning Vatican inter-urban telephone facilities, suggests that a reply thereto should be made in the following terms.

The proper inter-urban circuits for the Vatican authorities to use are those placed at the disposal of the Italian Government. No control is exercised over the use of these circuits by any Allied authority, and any difficulty in obtaining service is a matter for representation to the Italian Government.

The Allied Military authorities also have inter-urban circuits, which are for the exclusive use of the Allied Military and civil authorities. It is appreciated, however, that certain aspects of the work carried out by the Vatican may occasionally be of great urgency, and it is suggested that such communications should be made by the Allied Liaison Officer with the Vatican who has access to Allied facilities. In view of the fact that the Italian Government authorities are not permitted the use of Allied circuits, it is doubtful if favourable consideration would be given by the Allied Military authorities to any application for such use by the Vatican authorities. Nothing is known here or in the offices of the Rome Area Allied Command of any permission, written or verbal, being given at present for any such use of Allied communications facilities.

3521

British Legation to the Holy See
Vatican City

6017

JLH/ncc

DRAFT

TO: British Legation To the Holy See, Rome.

With reference to your ^{he Leg's memo. no. 15/2/45} letter of 18th January, 1945
^{a copy} forwarding ^{Secretariat of State of His Holiness} Note No. 85052/5A from the ^{he Leg's memo. no. 15/2/45} Holy See concerning
 inter-urban telephone facilities, ^{in the} ~~which~~ ^{terms} suggests that
 a reply ^{he Leg's memo. no. 15/2/45} should be made to the following ~~effect~~.

The proper inter-urban circuits for the Vatican authorities to use are those placed at the disposal of the Italian Government. No control is exercised over the use of these circuits by any Allied authority, and any difficulty in obtaining service is a matter for representation to the Italian Government.

The Allied Military authorities also have inter-urban circuits, which are for the exclusive use of the Allied Military and civil authorities. It is appreciated however that certain aspects of the work carried out by the Vatican may occasionally be of great urgency, and it is suggested that such communications should be made by the Allied Liaison Officer with the Vatican who has access to Allied facilities. In view of the fact that the Italian Government authorities are not permitted ^{the} use of Allied circuits, it is doubtful if favourable consideration would be given by the Allied Military authorities to any application for such use by ^{he} Vatican authorities. Nothing is known here or in the office of the Rome ^{Area} Allied Command of any permission, written or verbal, being given at present ⁶⁰¹⁶ for any such use of Allied communications facilities.

Kis. ~~15/2/45~~ Political Section
 15/2/45

JLH/epc

1.

In reply
refer to: R.125.18.CS

Subject : Vatican Telephone Calls

To : Political Section ✓

Reference attached, a draft reply is attached
for your consideration.

Tel: 489081
Ext: 400

14th January, 1945

J L Henderson
J.L.HENDERSON
Colonel,
Director,
Communications Sub-Commission

Incls: 1. Correspondence from the Political Section
2. Draft letter

*The 1/5. seems excellent &
can go forward.*

H/4
15/1/45

6035

POLITICAL SECTION, A.C.

ROUTING SLIP

8 Jan 95
(Date)

TO

CHIEF COMMISSIONER

CHIEF OF STAFF

CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

ECONOMIC SECTION

AIR SUB-COMMISSION

X COMMUNICATIONS SUB-COMMISSION

DISPLACED PERSONS AND

REHABILITATION SUB-COMMISSION

FINANCE SUB-COMMISSION

INTERNAL SECURITY SUB-COMMISSION

LAND FORCES SUB-COMMISSION (M.L.)

LEGAL SUB-COMMISSION

NAVY SUB-COMMISSION

PUBLIC SAFETY SUB-COMMISSION

SHIPPING SUB-COMMISSION

MILITARY DIVISION

OTHER SECURITY MISSION

FOR Appropriate Action

" Init and Retention/Return

" Approval and Return

" Comment and Return

X

FOR ~~REVIEW~~ / ~~REVIEW~~ / ~~REVIEW~~ /

BALTARD'S Remarks

REMARKS:

15/2/45

POLITICAL SECTION,
ALLIED COMMISSION,
ROME.

A copy of a Note from the Secretariat of State of His Holiness is transmitted herewith for the consideration of the Political Section of the Allied Commission.

2. The Note refers to difficulties experienced by the Vatican in making interurban telephone calls which, it states, must, under present regulations, receive previous approval following the submission of a written request to the Allied Authorities. The Secretariat of State accordingly asks whether general facilities could be given for such calls, which, it guarantees, would be rigorously controlled and limited to cases of urgent necessity.

3. His Britannic Majesty's Legation recommend that, in so far as may be possible, satisfaction be given to the Vatican's reasonable request.



British Legation to the Holy See,

R O M E.

January 8th, 1945.

0353

ROME.

A copy of a Note from the Secretariat of State of His Holiness is transmitted herewith for the consideration of the Political Section of the Allied Commission.

2. The Note refers to difficulties experienced by the Vatican in making interurban telephone calls which, it states, must, under present regulations, receive previous approval following the submission of a written request to the Allied Authorities. The Secretariat of State accordingly asks whether general facilities could be given for such calls, which, it guarantees, would be rigorously controlled and limited to cases of urgent necessity.

3. His Britannic Majesty's Legation recommend that, in so far as may be possible, satisfaction be given to the Vatican's reasonable request.



British Legation to the Holy See,
R O M E.
January 8th, 1945.

6014

Comms. S/C. Before taking him up with 4-5 Section, APRIL, we should be grateful for any comments you may have to make.

[Signature]
8/1/45

From the Vatican, January 5, 1945.

85052/SA

The Secretariat of State of His Holiness presents its compliments to His Britannic Majesty's Minister to the Holy See and takes the liberty to refer to the actual difficulties confronting the Vatican in the matter of interurban telephonic communications. Under present regulations all interurban telephone calls emanating from the Vatican, including official or "state" calls, must previously have been approved following the submission of a written request to the Allied Authorities.

The occasions upon which the Vatican would have occasion to make such official telephone calls are not numerous but when necessary they are frequently urgent as in the recent case of the arrival of a ship in Naples Harbor laden with supplies for Vatican City when a lengthy delay in putting through an urgent call occurred owing to the necessity of complying with the required formalities.

The Secretariat of State of His Holiness would therefore bespeak the good offices of His Britannic Majesty's Minister to the Holy See to obtain a general facilitation for such calls from the Allied Authorities while guaranteeing, at the same time, that these calls

The Secretariat of State of His Holiness presents its compliments to His Britannic Majesty's Minister to the Holy See and takes the liberty to refer to the actual difficulties confronting the Vatican in the matter of interrupted telephonic communications. Under present regulations all international telephone calls emanating from the Vatican, including official or "state" calls, must previously have been approved following the submission of a written request to the Allied Authorities.

The occasions upon which the Vatican would have occasion to make such official telephone calls are not numerous but when necessary they are frequently urgent as in the recent case of the arrival of a ship in Naples Harbor laden with supplies for Vatican City when a lengthy delay in putting through an urgent call occurred owing to the necessity of complying with the required formalities.

The Secretariat of State of His Holiness would therefore bespeak the good offices of His Britannic Majesty's Minister to the Holy See to obtain a general facilitation for such calls from Allied Authorities while guaranteeing, at the same time, that these calls will be rigorously controlled and limited to those of urgent necessity.

His Britannic Majesty's Minister
to the Holy See

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
POLITICAL SECTION
APO 394

Ref: 397.1

6 November 1944

Sir Francis D'Arcy Godolphin Osborne, K.C., M.C.
British Minister to the Holy See,
Vatican City

Sir:

With reference to previous correspondence concerning Vatican City communications, I have to advise you of information received from Allied Force Headquarters which states that correspondence on Vatican State for enemy or enemy occupied countries, should be dispatched under the following arrangements:-

The bags should indicate that the mail is from the Vatican City and be addressed:-

- a. For Europe - To Post Office BRILLER Via Lisbon
- b. For Asia - To Post Office TACIO Via Cairo & U.S.S.R.

No further comment has been made on the subject of distinguishing between mail of Vatican nationals and others if the mail is posted in the Vatican City.

Arrangements are being made for the correspondence to be handed over to the Censorship Office at Rome, and for the mails to be made up and dispatched from that Office without the correspondence being again handed back to the Vatican Post Office.

WILLIAM W. SCHOTT
Vice President, Political Section

6012

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
 POLITICAL SECTION
 APO 394

6 November 1944

4-21 397

The Honorable Byron . . Taylor
 Principal Representative of the President
 of the United States of America to
 His Holiness the Pope
 Via Bernadetti, 2
 Rome

Sir:

With reference to previous correspondence concerning Vatican
 City communications, I have to advise you of information received
 from Allied Force Headquarters which states that correspondence
 ex Vatican State for enemy or enemy occupied countries, should be
 dispatched under the following arrangement:-

The label should indicate that the mail is for the Vatican
 City and be addressed:-

- Vatican - To Post Office ROMA Via Nizza
- Vatican - To Post Office ROMA Via Nizza 4, 00187.

No further comment has been made on the subject of distinguish-
 ing between mail of Vatican nationals and others if the mail is
 posted in the Vatican City.

Arrangements are being made for the correspondence to be handed
 over to the consular office at Rome, and for the mail to be made
 up and despatched from that office without the correspondence being
 again handed back to the Italian Post Office.

WILLIAM E. SCHOTT
 Vice President, Political Section

Copies to: Liaison Division

6011

WS

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
Tel.No. 459081 Ex. 444

PS.16/19.43.

3 November 1944

SUBJECT:- Disposal of mail from Vatican State
to Enemy occupied countries.

TO: - Political Section, A.S. HQ. →

1. Further to this office letter PS.16/19.36 of 20 Sept. 44

2. A.F.H.Q. have notified this Headquarters, that Troopers have now advised that correspondence ex Vatican State for Enemy or enemy occupied countries, should be despatched under the following arrangements.

The bags should indicate that the mail is from the Vatican City and be addressed:-

- (a) For Europe - To Post Office BRISLIN Via Lisbon
- (b) For Asia - To Post Office TOKIO Via Cairo & U.S.S.R.

3. No further comment has been made on the subject of distinguishing between mail of Vatican nationals and others if the mail is posted in the Vatican City.

4. Arrangements are being made for the correspondence to be handed over to the Censorship Office at Rome, and for the mails to be made up and despatched from that Office without the correspondence being again handed back to the Vatican Post Office.

C. H. Haddock
Capt

/s/ J.L. HENDERSON
Colonel

Director, Communications Sub-Commission

HC
WS
SHH/ec

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394
Tel.No. 489081 Ex. 444

20 September 1944

PS.16/19.36.

SUBJECT:- Vatican City Correspondence.

TO: - Political Section A.C.C. HQ.

1. A reply has been received from A.F.H.Q. on the two points mentioned in para. 2 of our letter to you No PS.16/19.30. of Aug. 28th, (of which a copy was sent to A.F.H.Q.).

2. Questions raised and Answers received are:-

(a) Q. How is mail to enemy countries to be forwarded ?

A. Hold till it is possible to dispose of it.

(b) Q. How is posting for this mail to be restricted to Vatican nationals ?

A. It is considered that in practice it will be impossible to distinguish between mail of Vatican nationals and others if the mail is posted in the Vatican City.

(It is stated verbally by A.F.H.Q. that they will endeavour to get a further opinion on this situation)

The position on this enemy mail facility is thus still indeterminate.

3. On the point of variation in censorship policy mentioned in para. 3 (a) of our letter quoted, A.F.H.Q. state: " This headquarters cannot dictate to Allied Censorship in London and Washington but a copy of the AG letter referred to has been sent to London and Washington so that they are aware of what is being done here."

S. H. Head
S. H. HEAD
Lt.Col.

for Director, Communications Sub-Commission

6003

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
POLITICAL SECTION
APO 394

Ref #397

31 August 1944

Dear Harold,

With reference to my communication No. 397 of August 16 to Mr. Taylor regarding Vatican City communications I now have to enclose a memorandum in this regard from A.F.H.C. together with the comments thereon by the Director of the Communications Sub-Commission, A.C.C. Mr. Caccio has sent similar copies to Sir D'Arcy Osborne for his consideration and if you agree with him, ~~we~~ propose to take up the questions raised in Paragraphs 2 and 3 of the minutes with A.F.H.C.

Sincerely yours,

WILLIAM W. SCOTT
Vice-President, Political Section

Encls:

Ltr AG 311/943 B-0; 22 Aug 44
Ltr PS/16.20.13; 23 Aug 44

Harold M. Tittmann, Esquire,
U.S. Charge d'Affaires to the Holy See,
Via Boncompagni, 2
Rome

6008

Mitchell
I have had two copies of JLH/epc
minut 2 European war
 HEADQUARTERS
 ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
 APO 394
 Telephone 489081 Ext. 400

which I am going to put HIC
to Sir D'A's office (W-3)
to consider & place
and the Pittman office is to handle

28th August, 1944

Take up from 3 as well as 2
with ADHAR AM 29K

In reply
 refer to:

PS/16.20.43

Subject : Vatican Communications.

To : Political Section.

1. Herewith letter forwarded by A.A.I. of an A.F.H.Q. letter on Vatican City Communications.

2. The outstanding queries as far as this office is concerned are:

- a. how is mail to enemy countries to be forwarded (there are no "existing arrangements")
- b. what restrictions are to be placed on postings, with a view to confining the privilege, of posting to enemy countries, /Vatican 'nationals'

to
 These are matters that we shall be taking up if we receive no instruction in a few days.

3. Other points that appear of interest, though this Sub-Commission is not concerned, are:

- a. para. 2 e imposes unqualified censorship on all incoming mail, and does not give the exemptions provided for outgoing.
- b. are neutral diplomats allowed ^{*bags*} to enemy or enemy-occupied territory, as is the Papal See.

4. No action is being taken by this office to acquaint the authorities concerned with the contents of this A.F.H.Q. instruction.

? *Vatican envelope*

J. L. Henderson
 J. L. HENDERSON
 Colonel

Director, Communications Sub-Commission

6063

COPY

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394

Telephone 489081 Ext. 400

28th August, 1944.

In reply
refer to: PA/16.20.13

SUBJECT: Vatican Communications.

TO : Political Section.

1. Herewith letter from A.A.I. forwarding an A.F.H.Q. letter on Vatican City Communications.
2. The outstanding queries as far as this office is concerned are:

- a. how is mail to enemy countries to be forwarded (there are "no existing arrangements")
- b. what restrictions are to be placed on postings, with a view to confining the privilege, of posting to enemy countries, to Vatican "nationals".

These are matters that we shall be taking up if we receive no instruction in a few days.

3. Other points that appear of interest, though this Sub-Commission is not concerned, are:

a. para 2 g imposes unqualified censorship on all incoming mail, and does not give exemptions provided for outgoing.

b. are neutral diplomats allowed bags to enemy or enemy-occupied territory, as is the Papal See.

4. No action is being taken by this office to acquaint the authorities concerned with the contents of this A.F.H.Q. instruction.

/s/ J. L. Henderson

6066

J. L. HENDERSON
Colonel

Director, Communications Sub-Commission

0 5 6 3

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

Subject: Vatican City Communications.

Hq A.C.C.

Communications

AAI/1147/G/1(c)

The attached copy of AFHQ letter No AG 311/G/3 B-C dated 22 Aug 44 is forwarded to you for your information.

C.M.F.
25 Aug 44.



[Signature]
Lt General,
Chief of General Staff,
Allied Armies in Italy.

6005

RHF:sl

CONFIDENTIAL

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
APO 512

AG 311/043 B-0

22 August 1944

SUBJECT: Vatican City Communications

TO : Commander in Chief, Allied Armies in Italy, Main

Letter, this headquarters, file AG 311 COB-0, dated 12 July 1944, subject as above, is rescinded and the following substituted therefor:

1. Diplomatic Communications

a. The Vatican will be allowed to exchange diplomatic bags with its diplomatic representatives abroad (i.e., Papal Nuncios and Legates and Apostolic Delegates) and the Allied authorities will facilitate the journeys of Vatican couriers to carry such bags.

b. This headquarters will request the United States and British Governments to inform the Vatican that this privilege is given to them on the understanding that they will only extend the facilities of their bag services to enemy governments on the basis of a moral undertaking by those governments to limit the correspondence which they put in the Vatican bags to correspondence about Vatican and ecclesiastical matters.

c. Allied and neutral diplomatic representatives in the Vatican will also be accorded diplomatic bag privileges, although in practice the military authorities will probably not find it possible at the outset to give travel facilities to neutral couriers.

d. No diplomatic bag privileges will be granted to enemy or enemy satellite representatives.

2. Mail

a. All mail from the Vatican City to the Italian mainland or Italian islands under AEG ACC control will be subject to censorship, with the following exceptions:

- (1) the personal mail of His Holiness, the Pope,
- (2) official mail on ecclesiastical business from the Cardinal Secretary of State to the Bishop.

* For the purpose of paragraph 2 the term "mail" does not include diplomatic bags which are dealt with in paragraph 1, above.

6004

CONFIDENTIAL

Ltr. AFHE. AG 311/043 B-0, 22 August 44 (cont'd)

CONFIDENTIAL

b. All mail from the Vatican City to Allied and neutral countries outside the confines of the Italian mainland or Italian islands will be subject to Allied censorship, in accordance with the arrangements now in force for external mail from Italy and the Italian islands. The following will, however, not be subject to censorship:

- (1) the personal mail of His Holiness, the Pope;
- (2) official mail from the Cardinal Secretary of State to Papal Nuncios and Legates and Apostolic Delegates.

c. All mail addressed to enemy or enemy-occupied countries including the part of Italy occupied by the enemy, will be subject to one hundred per cent censorship and will be dealt with under arrangements which exist for external mail from Italy.

d. All mail addressed to the Vatican City from the mainland of Italy or Italian islands under AMG ACC control will be subject to censorship in the province of origin, provided a civil censorship is operating in the province. The following will, however, not be subject to censorship:

- (1) the personal mail of His Holiness, the Pope;
- (2) official mail on ecclesiastical business from Bishops to the Cardinal Secretary of State.

e. All mail to the Vatican City coming from countries outside the Italian mainland or Italian islands will be subject to censorship by the United Nations censorship network.

f. The official correspondence of representatives of the United States and Great Britain or the British Dominions will in no cases be subject to censorship.

3. Telegrams

Telegrams to and from the Vatican City passing through the Rome Telegraph Office will be subject to censorship in the same manner as is laid down for mail in paragraph 2. The only cipher telegrams which will be passed through the Rome Telegraph Office will be those emanating from or addressed to the Cardinal Secretary of State or the British or United States representatives in the Vatican.

4. Telephones

Telephone monitoring on as comprehensive a scale as is practicable will be instituted in Rome to handle traffic from the Vatican City to the Italian mainland or Italian islands, or vice versa. When external traffic by telephone is permitted, a full censorship will be imposed.

By command of General WILSON:

R. H. CHRISTIE 6003
Colonel, AGD
Actg Adjutant General

CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
POLITICAL SECTION
APO 394

Ref 6387

16 August 1944

Sir:

In response to your letter of July 22, 1944 containing your comments on the proposed plan for the handling of communications to and from the Vatican City which I communicated to the U. S. Political Advisor, Allied Force Headquarters, I am pleased to inform you that the plan has been redrafted in order to achieve greater clarity in its terms and a copy of it is transmitted herewith. You will note however that the content of the plan remains unchanged.

The redraft has been approved by the appropriate authorities at Allied Force Headquarters and is being communicated to A.A.I. to be put into effect.

Mr. Murphy further advises that in transmitting the new text of the plan to the Department of State, it has been suggested that the Department authorize you to inform the Vatican Authorities of the contents of the plan with the exception of the provisions governing telephone censorship, and that the Office of the British Resident Minister has telegraphed the Foreign Office in the same sense.

WILLIAM W. SCHUTT
Vice-President, Political Section

Myron Taylor, Esquire,
Personal Representative of U.S.A.
to His Holiness the Pope,
22, via Gregoriana,
Rome.

6002

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
POLITICAL SECTION
APO 234

Ref #397

16 August 1944

Sir:

In response to your letter of July 22, 1944 containing your comments on the proposed plan for the handling of communications to and from the Vatican City which I communicated to the U. S. Political Adviser, Allied Force Headquarters, I am pleased to inform you that the plan has been redrafted in order to achieve greater clarity in its terms and a copy of it is transmitted herewith. You will note however that the content of the plan remains unchanged.

The redraft has been approved by the appropriate authorities at Allied Force Headquarters and is being communicated to A.S.I. to be put into effect.

Mr. Murphy further advises that in transmitting the new text of the plan to the Department of State, it has been suggested that the Department authorize you to inform the Vatican Authorities of the contents of the plan with the exception of the provisions governing telephone censorship, and that the Office of the British Resident Minister has telegraphed the Foreign Office in the same sense.

WILLIAM W. SCROTT
Vice-President, Political Section

Myron Taylor, Esquire,
Personal Representative of U.S.A.
to His Holiness the Pope,
22, via Gregoriana,
Rome.

0001

UNITED STATES POLITICAL ADVISER
ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERSWS
17CSECRET

August 7, 1944.

MEMORANDUM TO: William W. Schott, Esquire
Political Section,
Allied Control Commission, Rome.

SUBJECT: Vatican Communications

Reference is made to the memorandum from the Political Section dated July 23, 1944, with which was transmitted a letter from the President's Personal Representative to the Pope, setting forth his comments on the proposed plan for handling of communications to and from the Vatican City.

In view of the apparent misinterpretation of the intent of the provisions regarding diplomatic communications, and especially the facilities to be accorded Vatican diplomatic couriers, the plan has been redrafted in order to achieve greater clarity in its terms. You will note, however, that the content of the plan remains unchanged. The redraft has been approved by the appropriate authorities at AFHQ and is being communicated to AAI to be put into effect.

In transmitting the new text to the Department of State, we are suggesting that the Department authorize Mr. Taylor to inform the Vatican authorities of the contents of the plan with the exception of the provisions governing telephone censorship. The Office of the British Resident Minister is telegraphing the Foreign Office in the same sense.

There are enclosed two copies of the new text and it is suggested you will wish to transmit a copy to Mr. Taylor with your reply to his letter of July 22nd, 1944 addressed to Mr. Reber. The original of Mr. Taylor's letter is returned herewith, a copy having been retained for the files of this office.

Robert D. Murphy
Robert D. Murphy

Enclosures:

1. Two copies text plan of Vatican communications
2. Mr. Taylor's original letter of July 22, 1944 to Mr. Reber

6000

UNITED STATES POLITICAL ADVISER
ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERSSECRET

August 7, 1944.

MEMORANDUM TO: William W. Schott, Esquire
Political Section,
Allied Control Commission, Rome.

SUBJECT: Vatican Communications

Reference is made to the memorandum from the Political Section dated July 23, 1944, with which was transmitted a letter from the President's Personal Representative to the Pope, setting forth his comments on the proposed plan for handling of communications to and from the Vatican City.

In view of the apparent misinterpretation of the intent of the provisions regarding diplomatic communications, and especially the facilities to be accorded Vatican diplomatic couriers, the plan has been redrafted in order to achieve greater clarity in its terms. You will note, however, that the content of the plan remains unchanged. The redraft has been approved by the appropriate authorities at AFHQ and is being communicated to AAI to be put into effect.

In transmitting the new text to the Department of State, we are suggesting that the Department authorize Mr. Taylor to inform the Vatican authorities of the contents of the plan with the exception of the provisions governing telephone censorship. The Office of the British Resident Minister is telegraphing the Foreign Office in the same sense.

There are enclosed two copies of the new text and it is suggested you will wish to transmit a copy to Mr. Taylor with your reply to his letter of July 22nd, 1944 addressed to Mr. Reber. The original of Mr. Taylor's letter is returned herewith, a copy having been retained for the files of this office.

Robert D. Murphy

Enclosures:

1. Two copies text plan of Vatican communications
2. Mr. Taylor's original letter of July 22, 1944 to Mr. Reber

5539

THE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
TO HIS HOLINESS THE POPE

July 22, 1944.

Dear Mr. Reber:

We feel strongly that given the universal character of the organization of the Catholic Church, the minimum amount of restrictions compatible with the present security situation should be placed upon the channels of communications available to the Holy See. It may readily be seen that the effective functioning of the organization depends largely upon the ability of the Holy See to communicate with church authorities throughout the world and vice versa. In principle we believe that the treatment to be accorded should not be less favorable than under the Italian and German occupation of Rome.

A few comments on the plan proposed by the Allied Authorities for the handling of communications to and from the Vatican City and countries outside Italy are attached. It may be pointed out that under Italian occupation, and I am told also under German, the Vatican was permitted from time to time to send its own diplomatic couriers not only to Switzerland, but also to Lisbon and Istanbul. We recommend that similar facilities now be granted by the Allies in so far as travelling conditions permit.

It is further noted that the proposed plan excludes diplomatic pouch privileges to enemy or enemy satellite representatives residing in the Vatican City. We believe that this policy could be adhered to in principle and that they should not be allowed diplomatic pouches of their own, but that in practice the above mentioned representatives should be permitted to

send

The Honorable
Samuel Reber,
Joint Vice President, Political Section,
Allied Control Commission,
Ministry of Corporations, Rome.

5008

-2-

send and receive their official communications through the Vatican diplomatic pouch. In addition to the time-lag which in itself could be regarded as rendering to a great extent useless any military information that might be sent out in the pouches, appropriate safeguards could be instituted such as the giving of a moral undertaking by the enemy diplomats to the Vatican to the effect that their communications should be restricted purely to questions concerning the Vatican and the governments of the countries which the diplomats represent. This was the procedure followed for correspondence of the United Nations diplomats during both the Italian and German occupation of Rome and these diplomats enjoyed more or less regular communication privileges with their governments up to within a few days of the arrival of the Allies.

Finally, it would appear from paragraph 3 of the Allied proposal that neither the personal mail of the Pope nor the Vatican diplomatic mail (to Nuncios, Papal Delegates, and Archbishops and Bishops) will be exempted from censorship when addressed to enemy or enemy-occupied countries. We believe emphatically that the Pope's private correspondence and the Vatican diplomatic mail to the Nuncios and the Apostolic Delegates in these countries should be exempted from censorship. For instance, the Vatican is at the present moment actively intervening in Hungary in favor of persecuted persons and without assurances to the effect that the secrecy of its correspondence with the Papal representative in that country would be respected, the Vatican conceivably would risk having its liberty of action restricted. With regard to correspondence with the Archbishops and Bishops we do not feel so strongly.

In any event we should like to repeat that we believe that the Vatican should not receive less favorable treatment from the Allies than it received from the Italians and Germans.

Sincerely yours,



Myron Taylor

Enclosures:

- Comments on the plan.
- Proposed plan.

5063

MEMORANDUM

Comment on the plan proposed for the handling of communications to and from the Vatican City both for Italy and countries outside Italy:

1. Holy See will probably raise no objections.
2. Holy See will probably protest against exclusion of Archbishops and Bishops from exception (b). It is difficult to perceive the reason for the exclusion.
3. The Vatican may be expected to protest vigorously against any attempt to censor the Pope's personal correspondence or Vatican diplomatic mail to or from enemy or enemy-occupied countries.
4. With regard to the prohibition of the use of diplomatic pouch privileges to enemy or enemy satellite representatives, it may be of interest to the Allied Authorities if the procedure followed during the Italian and German occupation of Rome is recalled. This was substantially as follows:

Under Italian occupation there was a regular Vatican diplomatic courier service twice a week between the Vatican City and Bern in both directions. From Bern the communications were extended to Lisbon. The Vatican pouch was usually carried by the Swiss couriers in both directions, although I understand that not infrequently the Vatican employed their own courier. The United Nations diplomats residing in the Vatican City without exception were granted unrestricted use of the Vatican diplomatic pouch except for a moral reservation accepted by each at the instance of the Vatican to the effect that the communications sent out by them should concern Vatican matters only. The pouches of the United Nations Missions in the Vatican City were placed inside the Vatican pouches for delivery by the Papal Nuncio in Bern to the respective United Nations Missions there. In the opposite direction, the pouches were handed to the Papal Nuncio in Bern who placed them inside the Vatican pouch bound for the Vatican City. Upon arrival here, the pouches were distributed to the various Missions by the Secretariat of State of His Holiness.

Under German occupation of Rome the frequency of the courier service to and from Bern was greatly reduced and also became increasingly irregular. However, the United Nations diplomats were able to continue to communicate through Bern although the traffic often encountered long delays.

In so far as I know there were no instances when pouches of the United Nations diplomats were tampered with.

1. Holy See will probably raise no objections.
2. Holy See will probably protest against exclusion of Archbishops and Bishops from exception (b). It is difficult to perceive the reason for the exclusion.
3. The Vatican may be expected to protest vigorously against any attempt to censor the Pope's personal correspondence or Vatican diplomatic mail to or from enemy or enemy-occupied countries.
4. With regard to the prohibition of the use of diplomatic pouch privileges to enemy or enemy satellite representatives, it may be of interest to the Allied Authorities if the procedure followed during the Italian and German occupation of Rome is recalled. This was substantially as follows:

Under Italian occupation there was a regular Vatican diplomatic courier service twice a week between the Vatican City and Bern in both directions. From Bern the communications were extended to Lisbon. The Vatican pouch was usually carried by the Swiss couriers in both directions, although I understand that not infrequently the Vatican employed their own courier. The United Nations diplomats residing in the Vatican City without exception were granted unrestricted use of the Vatican diplomatic pouch except for a moral reservation accepted by each at the instance of the Vatican to the effect that the communications sent out by them should concern Vatican matters only. The pouches of the United Nations Missions in the Vatican City were placed inside the Vatican pouches for delivery by the Papal Nuncio in Bern to the respective United Nations Missions there. In the opposite direction, the pouches were handed to the Papal Nuncio in Bern who placed them inside the Vatican pouch bound for the Vatican City. Upon arrival here, the pouches were distributed to the various missions by the Secretariat of State of His Holiness.

Under German occupation of Rome the frequency of the courier service to and from Bern was greatly reduced and also became increasingly irregular. However, the United Nations diplomats were able to continue to communicate through Bern although the traffic often encountered long delays.

In so far as I know there were no instances when pouches of the United Nations diplomats were tampered with.

5. No comment.
6. No comment.
7. No comment.
8. No comment.
9. No comment.

JLH/epc

QUERIES.

- In letter a covering up to
an attached? I don't know
Col. Henderson's visit.*
- A. (1) does 'abroad' include enemy countries?
(2) are bags allowed from neutral representatives to their own countries only, or to enemy countries as well?
- B. (3) implies permission to send ordinary mail to enemy countries - is this intended? it is of course forbidden from the rest of Italy; we have no instructions on routing, nor how it is to be restricted to 'Vaticanites', however they are defined.
(4) does not this invalidate the exemptions given in 2 a and b? Exemption from censorship in one direction only is of little value.
- C. The wording is loose - these will not be the only cipher telegrams passed through the Rome telegraph office. The words 'to and from the Vatican' should be inserted before 'will be those'.

(Note: only B (3) and C interest this Sub-Commission)

VATICAN CITY COMMUNICATIONSA. DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS.

(1) The Vatican will be allowed to exchange diplomatic bags with its diplomatic representatives abroad (i.e., Papal Nuncios and Legatos and Apostolic Delegates) and the Allied authorities will facilitate the journeys of Vatican couriers to carry such bags.

(U.S. A.P.E.C. will request the United States and British Governments to inform the Vatican that this privilege is given to them on the understanding that they will only extend the facilities of their bag services to enemy Governments on the basis of a moral undertaking by those Governments to limit the correspondence which they put in the Vatican bags to correspondence about Vatican and ecclesiastical matters.)

(2) Allied and neutral diplomatic representatives in the Vatican will also be accorded diplomatic bag privileges although in practice the military authorities will probably not find it possible the outlet to give travel facilities to neutral couriers.

(3) No diplomatic bag privileges will be granted to enemy or enemy satellite representatives.

B. MAIL

(1) All mail from the Vatican City to the Italian mainland or Italian Islands under A.M.S./A.C.C. control will be subject to censorship, with the following exceptions:

- (a) the personal mail of His Holiness the Pope,
- (b) official mail on ecclesiastical business from the Cardinal Secretary of State to the Bishops.

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(c) all mail from the Vatican City to Allied and neutral

[7.B. A.F.H.] will request the United States and British Governments to inform the Vatican that this privilege is given to them on the understanding that they will only extend the facilities of their bag services to enemy Governments on the basis of a moral undertaking by those Governments to limit the correspondence which they put in the Vatican bags to correspondence about Vatican and ecclesiastical matters.]

(2) Allied and neutral diplomatic representatives in the Vatican will also be accorded diplomatic bag privileges although in practice the military authorities will probably not find it possible the outset to give travel facilities to neutral couriers.

(3) No diplomatic bag privileges will be granted to enemy or enemy satellite representatives.

B. Mail

(1) All mail from the Vatican City to the Italian mainland or Italian islands under A.M.G./A.O.C. control will be subject to censorship, with the following exceptions:

(a) the personal mail of His Holiness the Pope, 5384
(b) official mail on ecclesiastical business from the Cardinal Secretary of State to the Bishops.

(3) All mail from the Vatican City to Allied and neutral countries outside the confines of the Italian mainland or Italian islands will be subject to Allied censorship in accordance with the arrangements now in force for external mail from Italy and the Italian islands. The following will however not be subject to censorship:

(a)

*For the purpose of section B the term mail does not include diplomatic bags which are dealt with in section A above.

-2-

- (a) the personal mail of His Holiness the Pope;
- (b) official mail from the Cardinal Secretary of State to Papal Nuncios and Legates and Apostolic Delegates;
- (c) All mail addressed to enemy or enemy-occupied countries including the part of Italy occupied by the enemy, will be subject to 100% censorship and will be dealt with under arrangements which exist for external mail from Italy;
- (d) All mail addressed to the Vatican City from the mainland of Italy or Italian islands under M.S./A.S.C. control will be subject to censorship in the province of origin provided a civil censorship is operating in the province. The following, will however not be subject to censorship:-
 - (a) the personal mail of His Holiness the Pope;
 - (b) official mail on ecclesiastical business from bishops to the Cardinal Secretary of State;
- (5) All mail to the Vatican City coming from countries outside the Italian mainland or Italian islands will be subject to censorship by the United Nations censorship network.
- (6) The official correspondence of representatives of the United States and Great Britain or the British Dominions will in no cases be subject to censorship.

D. TELEGRAMS.

Telegrams to and from the Vatican City passing through the Home Telegraph Office will be subject to censorship in the ⁴³433333 manner as is laid down for mail in section 3. The only cypher telegram which will be passed through the Home Telegraph Office

including the part of Italy occupied by the enemy, will be subject to 100% censorship and will be dealt with under arrangements which exist for external mail from Italy.

(c) All mail addressed to the Vatican City from the mainland of Italy or Italian islands under A.G./A.C.C. control will be subject to censorship in the province of origin provided a civil censorship is operating in the province. The following will however not be subject to censorship:-

- (a) the personal mail of His Holiness the Pope;
- (b) official mail on ecclesiastical business from Bishops to the Cardinal Secretary of State.

(5) All mail to the Vatican City coming from countries outside the Italian mainland or Italian islands will be subject to censorship by the United Nations censorship network.

(6) The official correspondence of representatives of the United States and Great Britain or the British Dominions will in no cases be subject to censorship.

C. TELEGRAMS.

Telegrams to and from the Vatican City passing through the Rome Telegraph Office will be subject to censorship in the following manner as is laid down for mail in section 3. The only censored telegrams which will be passed through the Rome Telegraph Office will be those emanating from or addressed to the Cardinal Secretary of State or the British or U.S. representatives in the Vatican.

D. TELEPHONES.

-3-

B. TELEPHONES.

telephone monitoring on as comprehensive a scale as is practicable will be instituted in Rome to handle traffic from the Vatican City to the Italian mainland or Italian islands or vice versa. When external traffic by telephone is permitted a full censorship will be imposed.

5902

POLITICAL ADVISER
to the
ALLIED COMMANDER IN CHIEF
Mediterranean Theater

October 25, 1944.

CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM TO: Political Section, Allied Control Commission, Rome.
SUBJECT : Vatican City Communications

Reference is made to your memorandum No. 397.1 of September 21, 1944 on the subject of the censorship to be exercised on communications in and out of the Vatican City and with which was enclosed a copy of a note verbale (No. 82596.SA) addressed by the Vatican Secretariat of State to the Personal Representative of the President of the United States of America to His Holiness the Pope.

The request of the Vatican Secretariat of State for modification of the Vatican censorship directive has been carefully considered by the appropriate authorities at Allied Force Headquarters. The following comments on the points raised in paragraph four of the Political Section's memorandum represents the views of this Headquarters and are concurred in by this office and the office of the British Resident Minister.

1. Paragraph E of the directive is not substantive but is administrative. In this connection it should be noted that the directive is addressed to censorship authorities in this theatre and must be so interpreted. The directive quite naturally does not apply to censorship authorities outside the Mediterranean Theatre.

2. and 3. It is our understanding that there is no distinction between the "personal" and "official" mail of a Head of State.

We do not feel that such limitations as may be construed in the directive need be considered, in view of the fact that the Vatican is accorded diplomatic courier facilities, which provide it with the possibility of confidential means of communication with all parts of the world.

4. Any facilities accorded the Cardinal Secretary of State are, of course, applicable to the official acting in his absence, or as is presently the case, acting pending the appointment of a successor.

It is believed to be clear from the foregoing that the Vatican's comments on the directive were based in part on a misunderstanding of its terms. And in any case it is of interest to note that the military authorities at this Headquarters are of the opinion that the treatment accorded the Holy See with respect to its communications is very liberal considering the proximity of the battle front and the fact that the principal lines of communication run through the mainland of Italy.

You will

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You will no doubt wish to take the foregoing into consideration in connection with any reply to be made to the Vatican Secretariat of State by Ambassador Taylor.

A copy of the present memorandum is being sent directly to Ambassador Taylor and a similar copy will be sent to Sir D'Arcy Osborne by the Office of the British Resident Minister.

For the U.S. Political Adviser:



C. Offie

Copy to: U.S. Representative,
Advisory Council for Italy

CONFIDENTIAL

October 25, 1944.

MEMORANDUM TO: Political Section, Allied Control Commission, Rome.

SUBJECT : Vatican City Communications

Reference is made to your memorandum No. 397.1 of September 21, 1944 on the subject of the censorship to be exercised on communications in and out of the Vatican City and with which was enclosed a copy of a note verbale (No. 82595.3A) addressed by the Vatican Secretariat of State to the Personal Representative of the President of the United States of America to His Holiness the Pope.

The request of the Vatican Secretariat of State for modification of the Vatican censorship directive has been carefully considered by the appropriate authorities at Allied Force Headquarters. The following comments on the points raised in paragraph four of the Political Section's memorandum represents the views of this Headquarters and are concurred in by this office and the office of the British Resident Minister.

1. Paragraph E of the directive is not substantive but is administrative. In this connection it should be noted that the directive is addressed to censorship authorities in this theatre and must be so interpreted. The directive quite naturally does not apply to censorship authorities outside the Mediterranean Theatre.

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4. Any facilities accorded the Cardinal Secretary of State are, of course, applicable to the official acting in his absence, or as is presently the case, acting pending the appointment of a successor.

It is believed to be clear from the foregoing that the Vatican's comments on the directive were based in part on a misunderstanding of its terms. And in any case it is of interest to note that the military authorities at this Headquarters are of the opinion that the treatment accorded the Holy See with respect to its communications is very liberal considering the proximity of the battle front and the fact that the principal lines of communication run through the mainland of Italy.

You will 553

-2-

You will no doubt wish to take the foregoing into consideration in connection with any reply to be made to the Vatican Secretariat of State by Ambassador Taylor.

A copy of the present memorandum is being sent directly to Ambassador Taylor and a similar copy will be sent to Sir D'Arcy Osborne by the Office of the British Resident Minister.

For the U.S. Political Adviser:

C. Office

Copy to: U.S. Representative,
Advisory Council for Italy

Ref #397.1

21 September 1944

SUBJECT: Vatican City Communications

TO : U. S. Political Adviser, Allied Force Headquarters, APO 518.

1. This refers to SACMUR's letter to Commander-in-Chief, AAF, Main, AD 311/043 1-2 dated August 22, 1944 on the subject as above.

2. Under date of September 2 the American Charge d'Affaires to the Holy See informed that in accordance with telegraphic instructions received from the Department of State the contents of SACMUR's instruction mentioned above, with the exception of the last paragraph, regarding telephone monitoring, have been known to the Vatican authorities by the Charge d'Affaires in a written communication dated August 25.

3. I have now received from the Personal Representative of the President of the United States of America to His Holiness the Pope a copy of an undated note No. 82596.11., received by him from the Vatican in which certain points were raised for the further consideration by the competent Allied military authorities. A copy of this note is enclosed.

4. In the paragraph pointing out inconsistencies in the established procedure the following remarks are pertinent:-

(1) The statement as such appears correct. Paragraph (c) under heading 2 (Mail) provides for the censorship by the United Nations censorship network of all mail to the Vatican City coming from countries outside the Italian mainland or Italian islands.

(2) The statement made hereunder is not entirely correct in that the personal mail of His Holiness to Allied and Neutral countries is not subject to censorship. The Cardinal Secretary of State, however, is restricted to uncensored communications with Papal Nuncios and Legates and Apostolic Delegates in Allied and Neutral countries.

(3) The point appears to be made between "personal" and "official" mail of His Holiness. The statement is correct however in that the Cardinal Secretary of State is not privileged to address the Bishops of Allied and Neutral countries without censorship.

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(4) The Cardinal Secretary of State solely is mentioned. The vacancy in this post due to death raises the point whether the designation might be expanded to read "the Cardinal Secretary of State or other official in the Secretariat authorized to act in his behalf", or words to that effect.

WILLIAM S. EXBERT
Vice-President, Political Section

Copies to:
British Resident Minister, AMR.
U. S. Representative, A.S.I.
British Minister to the Holy See

5906

COPY

SEGRETERIA DI STATO
DI SUA SANTITA'
No. 82596.3A.

NOTE VERBALE

The Secretariat of State of His Holiness has the honor to thank the Personal Representative of the President of the United States of America for his Note Verbale, No. 212, of August 28th, and the enclosed memorandum regarding the procedure to be followed in the matter of Vatican communications, and in reply takes the liberty to make the following observations.

A. DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS

This Secretariat is grateful for the facilities accorded it in the matter of exchanging diplomatic bags with its diplomatic representatives abroad and expresses its agreement with what is stated in numbers 1, 2 and 3 under section A.

B. MAIL

With regard to Section B. Mail, this Secretariat desires to make the following observations:

1. From a study of Section B it is to be concluded that all mail to and from Vatican City would be subject to censorship with the following three exceptions:

a) The personal mail of His Holiness the Pope and the official mail on ecclesiastical business from the Cardinal Secretary of State to Bishops of the Italian Mainland and islands under Allied Control.

b) The same mail addressed by these Italian Bishops to His Holiness and to the Cardinal Secretary of State.

c) The Personal mail of His Holiness and the official mail of the Cardinal Secretary of State to Papal Runcles and Legates and Apostolic Delegates in Allied and Neutral countries.

From these observations it would seem that, perhaps quite inadvertently, the Allied Authorities have established a procedure which would admit of the following incongruities:

1. Censorship of all mail from Allied or Neutral countries addressed to His Holiness or to the Cardinal Secretary of State.

2. Censorship of all mail addressed by His Holiness or the Cardinal Secretary of State to persons in non-Allied countries.

3. Censorship of the Official mail of His Holiness and of the Cardinal Secretary of State to the Bishop of Allied and Neutral countries.

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4. Censorship of all official mail addressed by and to the departmental heads of the Secretariat of State (Monsignor Tardini and Monsignor Montini) who especially now that the post of the Secretary of State is vacant, dispatch and receive much of the official mail.

C. TELEGRAMS

The observations made on Section B would also apply to telegrams to and from Vatican City passing through the Rome Telegraph Office.

The Holy See has deemed it opportune to make these observations and to point out that:

1. Censorship of mail addressed to Sovereign Pontiff is not usual nor generally admissible.
2. Censorship of official mail to the Secretariat of State and the other important Offices of the Holy See would seriously hamper the expeditious functioning of the purely religious and ecclesiastical business of the Holy See.

In view of these circumstances, the Secretariat of State, in expressing to the Personal Representative of the President of the United States of America its sincere appreciation of the attention given to this matter, would request that His Excellency urge the Allied Military Authorities to give the matter further study and generous consideration with a view to solving the difficulties outlined above.

With full confidence that notwithstanding the afore-mentioned difficulties, this very important matter will be expeditiously and satisfactorily adjusted, the Secretariat of State of His Holiness gladly avails itself of this occasion to renew the assurance of its highest and very distinguished consideration.

(Seal of the Secretariat of State
of His Holiness)

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
POLITICAL SECTION
APO 394

Ref # 397.1

20 October 1944.

SUBJECT: Vatican City Communications.

TO : Liaison Section, HQ, ACC.

The following is extracted from Allied Force Headquarters letter, file No. AG 511/043 B-O, dated 22 August 1944, subject as above:

1. Diplomatic Communications

a. The Vatican will be allowed to exchange diplomatic bags with its diplomatic representatives abroad (i.e., Papal Nuncios and Legates and Apostolic Delegates) and the Allied authorities will facilitate the journeys of Vatican couriers to carry such bags.

b. This headquarters will request the United States and British Governments to inform the Vatican that this privilege is given to them on the understanding that they will only extend the facilities of their bag services to enemy governments on the basis of a moral undertaking by those governments to limit the correspondence which they put in the Vatican bags to correspondence about Vatican and ecclesiastical matters.

c. Allied and neutral diplomatic representatives in the Vatican will also be accorded diplomatic bag privileges, although in practice the military authorities will probably find it possible at the outset to give travel facilities to neutral couriers.

d. No diplomatic bag privileges will be granted to enemy or enemy satellite representatives.

WILLIAM W. SCHOTT
Vice-President, Political Section.

Ref 8397.1

21 September 1944

SUBJECT: Vatican City Communications

TO: U. S. Political Advisor, Allied Force Headquarters, APO HKS.

1. This refers to SACRED's letter to Commander-in-Chief, AAF, Main, AG 111/043 H-0 dated August 22, 1944 on the subject as above.

2. Under date of September 2 the American Charge d'Affaires to the Holy See informed that in accordance with telegraphic instructions received from the Department of State the contents of SACRED's instruction mentioned above, with the exception of the last paragraph, regarding telephone monitoring, were made known to the Vatican authorities by the Charge d'Affaires in a written communication dated August 25.

3. I have here received from the Personal Representative of the President of the United States of America to His Holiness the Pope a copy of an undated note No. 82896.H., received by him from the Vatican in which certain points were raised for the further consideration by the competent Allied military authorities. A copy of this note is enclosed.

4. In the paragraph pointing out incongruities in the established procedure the following remarks are pertinent:-

(1) The statement as above appears correct. Paragraph (c) under heading 2 (Mail) provides for the censorship by the United Nations censorship network of all mail to the Vatican City coming from countries outside the Italian mainland or Italian islands.

(2) The statement made hereunder is not entirely correct in that the personal mail of His Holiness to Allied and Neutral countries is not subject to censorship. The Cardinal Secretary of State, however, is restricted to uncensored communications with Papal Nuncios and Legates and Apostolic Delegates in Allied and Neutral countries.

(3) The point appears to be made between "personal" and "official" mail of His Holiness. The statement is correct however in that the Cardinal Secretary of State is not privileged to address the Bishops of Allied and Neutral countries without censorship.

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- 8 -

(4) The Cardinal Secretary of State solely is mentioned. The vacancy in this post due to death raises the point whether the designation might be expanded to read "the Cardinal Secretary of State or other official in the Secretariat authorized to act in his behalf", or words to that effect.

WILLIAM F. SCHOTT
Vice-President, Political Section

Copies to:

British Resident Minister, WFO

U. S. Representative, WFO

British Minister to the Holy See

5961

CCPT

SECRETARIA DI STATO
DEI RITI
No. 82596.0A.

NOTE VERBALE

The Secretariat of State of His Holiness has the honor to thank the Personal Representative of the President of the United States of America for his Note Verbale, No. 318, of August 25th, and the enclosed memorandum regarding the procedure to be followed in the matter of Vatican communications, and in reply takes the liberty to make the following observations.

A. UNRESTRICTED COMMUNICATIONS

This Secretariat is grateful for the facilities accorded it in the matter of exchanging diplomatic bags with its diplomatic representatives abroad and expresses its agreement with what is stated in numbers 1, 2 and 3 under section A.

B. MAIL

With regard to Section B. Mail, this Secretariat desires to make the following observations:

1. From a study of Section B it is to be concluded that all mail to and from Vatican City would be subject to censorship with the following three exceptions:

a) The personal mail of His Holiness the Pope and the official mail on ecclesiastical business from the Cardinal Secretary of State to Bishops of the Italian Mainland and Islands under Allied Control.

b) The same mail addressed by these Italian Bishops to His Holiness and to the Cardinal Secretary of State.

c) The personal mail of His Holiness and the official mail of the Cardinal Secretary of State to Papal Nuncios and Legates and Apostolic Delegates in Allied and Neutral countries.

From these observations it would seem that, perhaps quite inadvertently, the Allied Authorities have established a procedure which would admit of the following incongruities:

1. Censorship of all mail from Allied or Neutral countries addressed to His Holiness or to the Cardinal Secretary of State.

2. Censorship of all mail addressed by His Holiness or the Cardinal Secretary of State to persons in non-Allied countries.

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3. Censorship of the Official mail of His Holiness and of the Cardinal Secretary of State to the Bishop of Allied and Neutral countries.

4. Censorship of all official mail addressed by and to the departmental heads of the Secretariat of State (Monsignor Tardini and Monsignor Martini) who especially now that the post of the Secretary of State is vacant, despatch and receive much of the official mail.

C. TELEGRAMS

The observations made on Section B would also apply to telegrams to and from Vatican City passing through the Rome Telegraph Office.

The Holy See has deemed it opportune to make these observations and to point out that:

1. Censorship of mail addressed to Sovereign Pontiff is not usual nor generally admissible.
2. Censorship of official mail to the Secretariat of State and the other important Offices of the Holy See would seriously hamper the expeditious functioning of the purely religious and ecclesiastical business of the Holy See.

In view of these circumstances, the Secretariat of State, in expressing to the Personal Representative of the President of the United States of America its sincere appreciation of the attention given to this matter, would request that His Excellency urge the Allied Military Authorities to give the matter further study and generous consideration with a view to solving the difficulties outlined above.

With full confidence that notwithstanding the above-mentioned difficulties, this very important matter will be expeditiously and satisfactorily adjusted, the Secretariat of State of His Holiness gladly avails itself of this occasion to render the assurance of its highest and very distinguished consideration.

(Seal of the Secretariat of State
of His Holiness)

THE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
TO HIS HOLINESS THE POPE

2, via Boncompagni, Rome.

September 20, 1944.

Dear Mr. Schott:

With reference to Mr. Tittmann's letter to you of September 2, 1944 regarding Vatican City communications, I now enclose a copy of undated Note No. 82596/SA which I have received from the Vatican, raising certain points requiring further consideration on the part of the competent Allied military authorities.

It would be appreciated if you would take this matter up through the appropriate channels and let me have a reply which I can conveniently show to the Secretariat of State of His Holiness.

Sincerely yours,



Myron C. Taylor

William W. Schott, Esquire,
Vice President, Political Section,
Allied Control Commission,
Ministry of Corporations.

Enclosure:
Copy of Note No. 82596/SA

COPY

SECRETARIA DI STATO
DI SUA SANTITA

No. 82596.SA.

NOTE VERBALE

The Secretariat of State of His Holiness has the honor to thank the Personal Representative of the President of the United States of America for his Note verbale, No. 212, of August 25th, and the enclosed memorandum regarding the procedure to be followed in the matter of Vatican communications, and in reply takes the liberty to make the following observations.

A. DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS

This Secretariat is grateful for the facilities accorded it in the matter of exchanging diplomatic bags with its diplomatic representatives abroad and expresses its agreement with what is stated in numbers 1, 2 and 3 under section A.

B. MAIL

With regard to Section B. Mail, this Secretariat desires to make the following observations:

1. From a study of Section B it is to be concluded that all mail to and from Vatican City would be subject to censorship with the following three exceptions:

a) The personal mail of His Holiness the Pope and the official mail on ecclesiastical business from the Cardinal Secretary of State to Bishops of the Italian Mainland and islands under Allied Control.

b) The same mail addressed by these Italian Bishops

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The Secretariat of State of His Holiness has the honor to thank the Personal Representative of the President of the United States of America for his Note verbale, No. 212, of August 25th, and the enclosed memorandum regarding the procedure to be followed in the matter of Vatican communications, and in reply takes the liberty to make the following observations.

A. DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS

This Secretariat is grateful for the facilities accorded it in the matter of exchanging diplomatic bags with its diplomatic representatives abroad and expresses its agreement with what is stated in numbers 1, 2 and 3 under section A.

B. MAIL

With regard to Section B. Mail, this Secretariat desires to make the following observations:

1. From a study of Section B it is to be concluded that all mail to and from Vatican City would be subject to censorship with the following three exceptions:

a) The personal mail of His Holiness the Pope and the official mail on ecclesiastical business from the Cardinal Secretary of State to Bishops of the Italian mainland and islands under Allied Control.

b) The same mail addressed by these Italian Bishops to His Holiness and to the Cardinal Secretary of State.

c) The Personal mail of His Holiness and the official mail of the Cardinal Secretary of State to Papal Nuncios and Legates and Apostolic Delegates in Allied and Neutral Countries.

From...

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From these observations it would seem that, perhaps quite inadvertently, the Allied authorities have established a procedure which would admit of the following incongruities:

1. Censorship of all mail from Allied or Neutral Countries addressed to His Holiness or to the Cardinal Secretary of State.

2. Censorship of all mail addressed by His Holiness or the Cardinal Secretary of State to persons in non-Allied Countries. *Personal mail 344-40*
Not subject to any censorship
File 344-40

3. Censorship of the Official mail of His Holiness and of the Cardinal Secretary of State to the Bishop of Allied and Neutral Countries. *Official mail*
Not subject to any censorship

4. Censorship of all official mail addressed by and to the departmental heads of the Secretariat of State (Monsignor Tardini and Monsignor Montini) who especially now that the post of the Secretary of State is vacant, despatch and receive much of the official mail. *Official mail*
Not subject to any censorship

C. TELEGRAMS

The observations made on Section B would also apply to telegrams to and from Vatican City passing through the Rome Telegraph Office.

The Holy See has deemed it opportune to make these observations and to point out that:

1. Censorship of mail addressed to Sovereign Pontiff is not usual nor generally admissible.

2. Censorship of official mail to the Secretariat of State and the other important Offices of the Holy

See would seriously hamper the expeditious function-

Countries addressed to His Holiness or His Holiness or tary of State.

2. Censorship of all mail addressed by His Holiness or the Cardinal Secretary of State to persons in non-Allied Countries.

3. Censorship of the Official mail of His Holiness and of the Cardinal Secretary of State to the Bishop of Allied and Neutral Countries.

4. Censorship of all official mail addressed by and to the departmental heads of the Secretariat of State (Monsignor Tardini and Monsignor Montini) who especially now that the post of the Secretary of State is vacant, despatch and receive much of the official mail.

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In view of these circumstances, the Secretariat of State, in expressing to the personal representative of the President of the...

of the United States of America its sincere appreciation of the attention already given to this matter, would request that His Excellency urge the Allied Military Authorities to give the matter further study and generous consideration with a view to solving the difficulties outlined above.

With full confidence that notwithstanding the afore-mentioned difficulties, this very important matter will be expeditiously and satisfactorily adjusted, the Secretariat of State of His Holiness gladly avails itself of this occasion to renew the assurance of its highest and very distinguished consideration.

(Seal of the Secretariat of State
of His Holiness)

65

2, via Boncompagni, Rome.

September 2, 1944.

Dear Bill:

With reference to your letter of August 31, 1944 regarding Vatican City communications, I agree that the points mentioned therein should be cleared up. I note from paragraph 4 of the letter of August 28, a copy of which was attached to your note, that no action is being taken by your office to acquaint the authorities concerned with the contents of the AFHQ instruction dated August 22. In this connection I wish to say that in accordance with telegraphic instructions received from the Department of State the contents of the AFHQ instruction, with the exception of the last paragraph regarding telephone monitoring, were made known to the Vatican authorities by this office on August 25 in a written communication.

Sincerely yours,



Harold H. Tittmann
American Chargé d'Affaires

William W. Schott, Esquire,
Vice-President, Political Section,
Allied Control Commission.

347.1

5074

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS

Copy

AG 311/043 B-C

22 August 1944

SUBJECT: Vatican City Communications

TO : Commander in Chief, Allied Armies in Italy, Main.

Letter, this headquarters, file AG 311 GCB-2, dated 12 July 1944, subject as above, is rescinded and the following substituted therefor:

1. Diplomatic Communications

a. The Vatican will be allowed to exchange diplomatic bags with its diplomatic representatives abroad (i.e., Papal Nuncios and Legates and Apostolic Delegates) and the Allied authorities will facilitate the journeys of Vatican couriers to carry such bags.

b. This headquarters will request the United States and British Governments to inform the Vatican that this privilege is given to them on the understanding that they will only extend the facilities of their bag services to enemy governments on the basis of a moral undertaking by those governments to limit the correspondence which they put in the Vatican bags to correspondence about Vatican and ecclesiastical matters.

c. Allied and neutral diplomatic representatives in the Vatican will also be accorded diplomatic bag privileges, although in practice the military authorities will probably not find it possible at the outset to give travel facilities to neutral couriers.

d. No diplomatic bag privileges will be granted to enemy or enemy satellite representatives.

2. Mail. *

a. All mail from the Vatican City to the Italian Mainland or Italian islands under AMG ACC control will be subject to censorship, with the following exceptions:

1. the personal mail of His Holiness, the Pope,
2. official mail on ecclesiastical business from the Cardinal Secretary of State to the Bishop

* For the purpose of paragraph 2 the term "mail" does not include diplomatic bags which are dealt with in paragraph 1. above.

5973

Ltr. AFHQ, AG 311/ 1 B-C, 22 August 1944 (contd)

b. All mail from the Vatican City to Allied and neutral countries outside the confines of the Italian Mainland or Italian islands will be subject to Allied censorship, in accordance with the arrangements now in force for external mail from Italy and the Italian islands. The following will, however, not be subject to censorship:

1. the personal mail of His Holiness, the Pope;
2. official mail from the Cardinal Secretary of State to Papal Nuncios and Legates and Apostolic Delegates.

c. All mail addressed to enemy or enemy-occupied countries including the part of Italy occupied by the enemy, will be subject to one hundred percent censorship and will be dealt with under arrangements which exist for external mail from Italy.

d. All mail addressed to the Vatican City from the mainland of Italy or Italian islands under AMG ACC control will be subject to censorship in the province of origin, provided a civil censorship is operating in the province. The following will, however, not be subject to censorship:

1. the personal mail of His Holiness, the Pope;
2. official mail on ecclesiastical business from Bishops to the Cardinal Secretary of State.

e. All mail to the Vatican City coming from countries outside the Italian mainland or Italian islands will be subject to censorship by the United Nations censorship network.

f. The official correspondence of representatives of the United States and Great Britain or the British Dominions will in no case be subject to censorship.

3. Telegrams.

Telegrams to and from the Vatican City passing through the Rome Telegraph Office will be subject to censorship in the same manner as is laid down for mail in paragraph 2. The only cipher telegrams which will be passed through the Rome Telegraph Office will be those emanating from or addressed to the Cardinal Secretary of State or the British or United States representatives in the Vatican.

4. Telephones.

Telephone monitoring on as comprehensive a scale as is practicable will be instituted in Rome to handle traffic from the Vatican City to the Italian mainland or Italian islands, or vice versa. When external traffic by telephone is permitted, a full censorship will be imposed.

By command of General WILSON:

R. H. CHRISTIE 5972
Colonel, AGO
Actg Adjutant General

COPY

RMP:cl

CONFIDENTIAL

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
APO 512

AG 311/043 B-0

22 August 1944

SUBJECT: Vatican City Communications

TO : Commander in Chief, Allied Forces in Italy, Main.

Letter, this headquarters, file AG 311 043-? dated 12 July 1944, subject as above, is rescinded and the following substituted therefor:

1. Diplomatic Communications.

a. The Vatican will be allowed to exchange diplomatic bags with its diplomatic representatives abroad (i.e., Papal Nuncios and Legates and Apostolic Delegates) and the Allied authorities will facilitate the journeys of Vatican couriers to carry such bags.

b. This headquarters will request the United States and British Governments to inform the Vatican that this privilege is given to them on the understanding that they will only extend the facilities of their bag services to enemy governments on the basis of a moral undertaking by those governments to limit the correspondence which they put in the Vatican bags to correspondence about Vatican and ecclesiastical matters.

c. Allied and neutral diplomatic representatives in the Vatican will also be accorded diplomatic bag privileges, although in practice the military authorities will probably not find it possible at the outset to give travel facilities to neutral couriers.

d. No diplomatic bag privileges will be granted to enemy or enemy satellite representatives.

2. Mail +

a. All mail from the Vatican City to the Italian mainland or Italian islands under AMI AGI control will be subject to censorship, with the following exceptions:

- (1) the personal mail of His Holiness, the Pope
- (2) official mail on ecclesiastical business from the Cardinal Secretary of State to the Bishop.

+ For the purpose of paragraph 2 the term "mail" does not include diplomatic bags which are dealt with in paragraph 1, above.

5971

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

Ltr, AFHQ, 311/043 D-2, 22 August 44 (con.)

b. All mail from the Vatican City to Allied and neutral countries outside the confines of the Italian mainland or Italian islands will be subject to Allied censorship, in accordance with the arrangements now in force for external mail from Italy and the Italian islands. The following will, however, not be subject to censorship:

- (1) the personal mail of His Holiness, the Pope;
- (2) official mail from the Cardinal Secretary of State to Papal Nuncios and Legates and Apostolic Delegates.

c. All mail addressed to enemy or enemy-occupied countries including the part of Italy occupied by the enemy, will be subject to one hundred per cent censorship and will be dealt with under arrangements which exist for external mail from Italy.

d. All mail addressed to the Vatican City from the mainland of Italy or Italian islands under Axis control will be subject to censorship in the province of origin, provided a civil censorship is operating in the province. The following will, however, not be subject to censorship:

- (1) the personal mail of His Holiness, the Pope;
- (2) official mail on ecclesiastical business from Bishops to the Cardinal Secretary of State.

e. All mail to the Vatican City coming from countries outside the Italian mainland or Italian islands will be subject to censorship by the United Nations censorship network.

f. The official correspondence of representatives of the United States and Great Britain or the British Dominions will in no cases be subject to censorship.

3. Telegrams

Telegrams to and from the Vatican City passing through the Rome Telegraph Office will be subject to censorship in the same manner as is laid down for mail in paragraph 2. The only cipher telegram which will be passed through the Rome Telegraph Office will be those emanating from or addressed to the Cardinal Secretary of State or the British or United States representatives in the Vatican.

4. Telephones

Telephone monitoring on an comprehensive scale as is practicable will be instituted in Rome to handle traffic from the Vatican City to the Italian mainland or Italian islands, or vice versa. When external traffic by telephone is permitted, a full censorship will be imposed.

By command of General WILSON:

5870

R. B. CHRISTIE
Colonel, AMB
Actg Adjutant General

CONFIDENTIAL

RMF:sl

CONFIDENTIAL

ALLIED FORCES HEADQUARTERS
APO 512

AF 311/043 B-4

22 August 1944

SUBJECT: Vatican City Communications

TO : Commander in Chief, Allied Armies in Italy, Main.

Letter, this headquarters, File AF 311 043-7 dated 12 July 1944, subject as above, is reissued and the following substituted therefor:

1. Diplomatic Communications.

a. The Vatican will be allowed to exchange diplomatic bags with its diplomatic representatives abroad (i.e., Papal Nuncios and Legates and Apostolic Delegations) and the Allied authorities will facilitate the journeys of Vatican couriers to carry such bags.

b. This headquarters will request the United States and British Governments to inform the Vatican that this privilege is given to them on the understanding that they will only extend the facilities of their bag services to enemy governments on the basis of a moral undertaking by those governments to limit the correspondence which they put in the Vatican bags to correspondence of a non-Vatican and ecclesiastical nature.

c. Allied and neutral diplomatic representatives in the Vatican will also be accorded diplomatic bag privileges, although in practice the military authorities will probably not find it possible at the outset to give travel facilities to neutral couriers.

d. No diplomatic bag privileges will be granted to enemy or enemy satellite representatives.

2. Mail.

a. All mail from the Vatican City to the Italian mainland or Italian islands under Axis control will be subject to censorship, with the following exceptions:

- (1) the personal mail of His Holiness, the Pope.
- (2) official mail on ecclesiastical business from the Cardinal Secretary of State to the Bishop.

+ For the purpose of paragraph 2 the term "mail" does not include diplomatic bags which are dealt with in paragraph 1, above.

5963

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

Ltr, AFHQ, AG 2, 1043-9, 22 August 44 (cont'd)

b. All mail from the Vatican City to Allied and neutral countries outside the confines of the Italian mainland or Italian islands will be subject to Allied censorship, in accordance with the arrangements now in force for external mail from Italy and the Italian islands. The following will, however, not be subject to censorship:

- (1) the personal mail of His Holiness, the Pope;
- (2) official mail from the Cardinal Secretary of State to Royal Ministers and Legates and Apostolic Delegations.

c. All mail addressed to enemy or enemy-occupied countries including the part of Italy occupied by the enemy, will be subject to one hundred per cent censorship and will be dealt with under arrangements which exist for external mail from Italy.

d. All mail addressed to the Vatican City from the mainland of Italy or Italian islands under Italian control will be subject to censorship in the province of origin, provided a civil censorship is operating in the province. The following will, however, not be subject to censorship:

- (1) the personal mail of His Holiness, the Pope;
- (2) official mail on ecclesiastical business from bishops to the Cardinal Secretary of State.

e. All mail to the Vatican City coming from countries outside the Italian mainland or Italian islands will be subject to censorship by the United Nations censorship network.

f. The official correspondence of representatives of the United States and Great Britain or the British Dominion will in no case be subject to censorship.

3. Telegrams

Telegrams to and from the Vatican City passing through the Rome Telegraph Office will be subject to censorship in the same manner as is laid down for mail in paragraph 2. The only cipher telegrams which will be passed through the Rome Telegraph Office will be those emanating from or addressed to the Cardinal Secretary of State or the British or United States representatives in the Vatican.

4. Telephones

Telephone monitoring on as comprehensive a scale as is practicable will be instituted in Rome to handle traffic from the Vatican City to the Italian mainland or Italian islands, or vice versa. When external traffic by telephone is permitted, a full censorship will be imposed.

By command of General WILSON:

R. E. CHRISTIE
Colonel, AGP
Actg Adjutant General

COPY

HRP:sl

CONFIDENTIAL

ALLIED FORCES HEADQUARTERS
APO 512

AC 311/013 1-0

22 August 1944

SUBJECT: Vatican City Communications

TO: Commander in Chief, Allied Forces in Italy, Main.

Letter, this headquarters, file AC 311 013-1, dated 12 July 1944, subject as above, is amended and the following substituted therefor:

1. Diplomatic Communications.

a. The Vatican will be allowed to exchange diplomatic bags with its diplomatic representatives abroad (i.e., Papal Nuncios and Legates and Apostolic Delegates) and the Allied authorities will facilitate the journeys of Italian couriers to carry such bags.

b. This headquarters will request the United States and British Governments to inform the Vatican that this privilege is given to them on the understanding that they will only extend the facilities of their bag services to enemy governments on the basis of a moral undertaking by those governments to limit the correspondence which they put in the Vatican bags to correspondence about Italian and ecclesiastical matters.

c. Allied and neutral diplomatic representatives in the Vatican will also be accorded diplomatic bag privileges, although in practice the military authorities will probably not find it possible at the outset to give travel facilities to neutral couriers.

d. No diplomatic bag privileges will be granted to enemy or enemy satellite representatives.

2. Mail.

a. All mail from the Vatican City to the Italian mainland or Italian islands under AFM control will be subject to censorship, with the following exceptions:

- (1) the personal mail of His Holiness, the Pope
- (2) official mail on ecclesiastical business from the Cardinal Secretary of State to the Bishop.

* For the purpose of paragraph 2 the term "mail" does not include diplomatic bags which are dealt with in paragraph 1, above.

5967

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

Ref: AFHQ, AF (7043 4-5, 22 August 44 (cont'd).

b. All mail from the Vatican City to Allied and neutral countries outside the confines of the Italian mainland or Italian islands will be subject to Allied censorship, in accordance with the arrangements now in force for external mail from Italy and the Italian islands. The following will, however, not be subject to censorship:

- (1) the personal mail of His Holiness, the Pope;
- (2) official mail from the Cardinal Secretary of State to Allied Ambassadors and Legations and Apostolic Delegations.

c. All mail addressed to enemy or enemy-occupied countries including the part of Italy occupied by the enemy, will be subject to our censorship for post censorship and will be sent with other arrangements which exist for external mail from Italy.

d. All mail addressed to the Vatican City from the mainland of Italy or Italian islands under our control will be subject to censorship in the province of origin, provided a civil censorship is operating in the province. The following will, however, not be subject to censorship:

- (1) the personal mail of His Holiness, the Pope;
- (2) official mail on ecclesiastical business from bishops to the Cardinal Secretary of State.

e. All mail to the Vatican City coming from countries outside the Italian mainland or Italian islands will be subject to censorship by the United Nations censorship network.

f. The official correspondence of representatives of the United States and other Allies to the Italian Government will be subject to censorship.

3. Telegrams

Telegrams to and from the Vatican City passing through the News Telegraph Office will be subject to censorship in the same manner as is laid down for mail in paragraph 2. The only other telegrams which will be passed through the News Telegraph Office will be those emanating from or addressed to the Cardinal Secretary of State or the British or United States representatives in the Vatican.

4. Telephone

Telephone monitoring on an comprehensive a scale as is practicable will be instituted in order to handle traffic from the Vatican City to the Italian mainland or Italian islands, or vice versa. When external traffic by telephone is permitted, a full censorship will be imposed.

By command of General WELLES:

R. B. UNPUSHER
Colonel, AMB
Actg Adjutant General

CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
2, via Boncompagni, Rome
~~VANNANXEXRE~~

August 8, 1944.

Dear Bill:

On July 27 I wrote to Harold Caccia regarding the desire of the Vatican to use Father Snedden, a New Zealand priest, as a diplomatic courier for the Holy See from Rome to Madrid via Algiers and return. This particular request of the Vatican is tied up with the general subject of Vatican communications, which I understand has now been under discussion for some time at Allied Forces Headquarters. The Vatican is very anxious to get its courier service started and has on a number of occasions recently appealed to me to take steps to expedite a decision. Consequently, it would be appreciated if you could let me know what progress is being made toward a solution of the problem. I fully sympathize with the Vatican's point of view and their desire to start their diplomatic correspondence going once more can be readily understood.

Sincerely yours,

Harold Tittmann

William W. Schott, Esquire,
Political Section,
Allied Control Commission,
Ministry of Corporations,
Rome.

Headquarters Allied Control Commission

APO 394

July 23, 1944.

MEMORANDUM TO: United States Political Advisor, Allied Force Headquarters.

Reference is made to the Memorandum from the Information and Censorship Section, A.F.H.Q., addressed to you on June 29, 1944, concerning a proposed plan for the handling of communications to and from the Vatican City. The original of this Memorandum is attached. As a result of discussions with the President's Personal Representative to the Pope and Mr. Tittmann, the enclosed letter signed by Mr. Taylor was prepared.

I agree with the recommendations in this letter and hope that the security aspect will not be such as to preclude an adjustment of the plan along the lines envisaged in Mr. Taylor's communication.

Samuel Reber
Vice President Allied Control Commission
Political Section

397
168

Enclosures

5064

July 22, 1944.

Dear Mr. Reber:

We feel strongly that given the universal character of the organization of the Catholic Church, the minimum amount of restrictions compatible with the present security situation should be placed upon the channels of communications available to the Holy See. It may readily be seen that the effective functioning of the organization depends largely upon the ability of the Holy See to communicate with church authorities throughout the world and vice versa. In principle we believe that the treatment to be accorded should not be less favorable than under the Italian and German occupation of Rome.

A few comments on the plan proposed by the Allied Authorities for the handling of communications to and from the Vatican City and countries outside Italy are attached. It may be pointed out that under Italian occupation, and I am told also under German, the Vatican was permitted from time to time to send its own diplomatic couriers not only to Switzerland, but also to Lisbon and Istanbul. We recommend that similar facilities now be granted by the Allies in so far as travelling conditions permit.

It is further noted that the proposed plan excludes diplomatic pouch privileges to enemy or enemy satellite representatives residing in the Vatican City. We believe that this policy could be adhered to in principle and that they should not be allowed diplomatic pouches of their own, but that in practice the above mentioned representatives should be permitted to

send

The Honorable
Samuel Reber,
Joint Vice President, Political Section,
Allied Control Commission,
Ministry of Corporations, Rome.

8863

-2-

send and receive their official communications through the Vatican diplomatic pouch. In addition to the time-lag which in itself could be regarded as rendering to a great extent useless any military information that might be sent out in the pouches, appropriate safeguards could be instituted such as the giving of a moral undertaking by the enemy diplomats to the Vatican to the effect that their communications should be restricted purely to questions concerning the Vatican and the governments of the countries which the diplomats represent. This was the procedure followed for correspondence of the United Nations diplomats during both the Italian and German occupation of Rome and these diplomats enjoyed more or less regular communication privileges with their governments up to within a few days of the arrival of the Allies.

Finally, it would appear from paragraph 3 of the Allied proposal that neither the personal mail of the Pope nor the Vatican diplomatic mail (to Nuncios, Papal Delegates, and Archbishops and Bishops) will be exempted from censorship when addressed to enemy or enemy-occupied countries. We believe emphatically that the Pope's private correspondence and the Vatican diplomatic mail to the Nuncios and the Apostolic Delegates in these countries should be exempted from censorship. For instance, the Vatican is at the present moment actively intervening in Hungary in favor of persecuted persons and without assurances to the effect that the secrecy of its correspondence with the Papal representative in that country would be respected, the Vatican conceivably would risk having its liberty of action restricted. With regard to correspondence with the Archbishops and Bishops we do not feel so strongly.

In any event we should like to repeat that we believe that the Vatican should not receive less favorable treatment from the Allies than it received from the Italians and Germans.

Sincerely yours,

Myron Taylor

Enclosures:

Comments on the plan.
Proposed plan.

5062

0 0 1 2

MEMORANDUM

Comment on the plan proposed for the handling of communications to and from the Vatican City both for Italy and countries outside Italy:

1. Holy See will probably raise no objections.
2. Holy See will probably protest against exclusion of Archbishops and Bishops from exception (b). It is difficult to perceive the reason for the exclusion.
3. The Vatican may be expected to protest vigorously against any attempt to censor the Pope's personal correspondence or Vatican diplomatic mail to or from enemy or enemy-occupied countries.
4. With regard to the prohibition of the use of diplomatic pouch privileges to enemy or enemy satellite representatives, it may be of interest to the Allied Authorities if the procedure followed during the Italian and German occupation of Rome is recalled. This was substantially as follows:

Under Italian occupation there was a regular Vatican diplomatic courier service twice a week between the Vatican City and Bern in both directions. From Bern the communications were extended to Lisbon. The Vatican pouch was usually carried by the Swiss couriers in both directions, although I understand that not infrequently the Vatican employed their own courier. The United Nations diplomats residing in the Vatican City without exception were granted unrestricted use of the Vatican diplomatic pouch except for a moral reservation accepted by each at the instance of the Vatican to the effect that the communications sent out by them should concern Vatican matters only. The pouches of the United Nations Missions in the Vatican City were placed inside the Vatican pouches for delivery by the Papal Nuncio in Bern to the respective United Nations Missions there. In the opposite direction, the pouches were handed to the Papal Nuncio in Bern who placed them inside the Vatican pouch bound for the Vatican City. Upon arrival here, the pouches were distributed to the various Missions by the Secretariat of State of His Holiness.

Under German occupation of Rome the frequency of the courier service to and from Bern was greatly reduced and also became increasingly irregular. However, the United Nations diplomats were able to continue to communicate through Bern although the traffic often encountered long delays.

In so far as I know there were no instances when pouches of the United Nations diplomats were tampered with.

5001

1. Holy See will probably raise no objections.
2. Holy See will probably protest against exclusion of Archbishops and Bishops from exception (b). It is difficult to perceive the reason for the exclusion.
3. The Vatican may be expected to protest vigorously against any attempt to censor the Pope's personal correspondence or Vatican diplomatic mail to or from enemy or enemy-occupied countries.
4. With regard to the prohibition of the use of diplomatic pouch privileges to enemy or enemy satellite representatives, it may be of interest to the Allied Authorities if the procedure followed during the Italian and German occupation of Rome is recalled. This was substantially as follows:

Under Italian occupation there was a regular Vatican diplomatic courier service twice a week between the Vatican City and Bern in both directions. From Bern the communications were extended to Lisbon. The Vatican pouch was usually carried by the Swiss couriers in both directions, although I understand that not infrequently the Vatican employed their own courier. The United Nations diplomats residing in the Vatican City without exception were granted unrestricted use of the Vatican diplomatic pouch except for a moral reservation accepted by each at the instance of the Vatican to the effect that the communications sent out by them should concern Vatican matters only. The pouches of the United Nations Missions in the Vatican City were placed inside the Vatican pouches for delivery by the Papal Nuncio in Bern to the respective United Nations Missions there. In the opposite direction, the pouches were handed to the Papal Nuncio in Bern who placed them inside the Vatican pouch bound for the Vatican City. Upon arrival here, the pouches were distributed to the various missions by the Secretariat of State of His Holiness.

Under German occupation of Rome the frequency of the courier service to and from Bern was greatly reduced and also became increasingly irregular. However, the United Nations diplomats were able to continue to communicate through Bern although the traffic often encountered long delays.

In so far as I know there were no instances when pouches of the United Nations diplomats were tampered with.

5. No comment.
6. No comment.
7. No comment.
8. No comment.
9. No comment.

5501

CONFIDENTIALVATICAN CITY COMMUNICATIONS

The following is the plan proposed for the handling of communications to and from the inhabitants of the Vatican City both for Italy and countries outside Italy.

1. All mail from the Vatican City to the Italian mainland or Italian Islands will be subject to censorship with the following exceptions:

a. Personal mail of His Holiness The Pope.

b. Official mail on ecclesiastical business from the Cardinal Secretary of State to the Bishops in that part of Italy under the control of Allied Military Government or Allied Control Commission.

2. All mail from the Vatican City to countries outside the confines of the Italian mainland or Italian Islands will be subject to Allied censorship in accordance with the arrangements now in force for external mail from Italy and the Italian Islands. The following exceptions to the above are made:

a. Personal mail of His Holiness The Pope.

b. Official mail from the Cardinal Secretary of State to Papal Nuncios and Apostolic Delegates, but not including Archbishops or Bishops living in countries outside the Italian mainland and the Italian Islands.

3. All mail addressed to enemy or enemy occupied countries will be subject to 100% censorship and will be dealt with under arrangements which exist for external mail from Italy.

4. No diplomatic bag privilege will be granted to enemy or enemy satellite representatives.

5. Allied and neutral representatives will be accorded diplomatic bag privileges (although in practice the military authorities will probably not give those facilities to neutral couriers at the outset. Neutral representatives will therefore have to send their bags by mail.)

6. The official correspondence of representatives of the United States and Great Britain or British Dominions will not be subject to censorship.

7. Telegrams from the Vatican City passing through the Rome telegraph office will be subject to censorship in the same manner as is laid down for postal correspondence in paragraphs 1, 2, and 3, of this memorandum.

8. Telephone monitoring on as comprehensive a scale as is practicable will be instituted in Rome to handle traffic from the Vatican City to the Italian mainland or Italian Islands or vice versa. When external traffic by telephone is permitted a full censorship will be imposed.

9. All mail to the Vatican City will be subject to censorship:

a. Coming from countries outside Italian mainland or Italian Islands by the United Nations censorship network.

b. From the mainland of Italy or Italian Islands in the province of origin provided a civil censorship is operating in the province.

CONFIDENTIAL

C O N F I D E N T I A LVATICAN CITY COMMUNICATIONS

The following is the plan proposed for the handling of communications to and from the inhabitants of the Vatican City both for Italy and countries outside Italy.

1. All mail from the Vatican City to the Italian mainland or Italian Islands will be subject to censorship with the following exceptions:

- a. Personal mail of His Holiness The Pope.
- b. Official mail on ecclesiastical business from the Cardinal Secretary of State to the Bishops in that part of Italy under the control of Allied Military Government or Allied Control Commission.

2. All mail from the Vatican City to countries outside the confines of the Italian mainland or Italian Islands will be subject to Allied censorship in accordance with the arrangements now in force for external mail from Italy and the Italian Islands. The following exceptions to the above are made:

- a. Personal mail of His Holiness The Pope.
- b. Official mail from the Cardinal Secretary of State to Papal Nuncios and Apostolic Delegates, but not including Archbishops or Bishops living in countries outside the Italian mainland and the Italian Islands.

3. All mail addressed to enemy or enemy occupied countries will be subject to 100% censorship and will be dealt with under arrangements which exist for external mail from Italy.

4. No diplomatic bag privilege will be granted to enemy or enemy satellite representatives.

5. Allied and neutral representatives will be accorded diplomatic bag privileges (although in practice the military authorities will probably not give those facilities to neutral couriers at the outset. Neutral representatives will therefore have to send their bags by mail.)

6. The official correspondence of representatives of the United States and Great Britain or British Dominions will not be subject to censorship.

7. Telegrams from the Vatican City passing through the Rome telegraph office will be subject to censorship in the same manner as is laid down for postal correspondence in paragraphs 1. 2. and 3. of this memorandum.

8. Telephone monitoring on as comprehensive a scale as is practicable will be instituted in Rome to handle traffic from the Vatican City to the Italian mainland or Italian Islands or vice versa. When external traffic by telephone is permitted a full censorship will be imposed.

9. All mail to the Vatican City will be subject to censorship:

- a. Coming from countries outside Italian mainland or Italian Islands by the United Nations censorship network.
- b. From the mainland of Italy or Italian Islands in the province of origin provided a civil censorship is operating in the province.

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

CONFIDENTIALVATICAN CITY COMMUNICATIONS

The following is the plan proposed for the handling of communications to and from the inhabitants of the Vatican City both for Italy and countries outside Italy.

1. All mail from the Vatican City to the Italian mainland or Italian Islands will be subject to censorship with the following exceptions:
 - a. Personal mail of His Holiness The Pope.
 - b. Official mail on ecclesiastical business from the Cardinal Secretary of State to the Bishops in that part of Italy under the control of Allied Military Government or Allied Control Commission.
2. All mail from the Vatican City to countries outside the confines of the Italian mainland or Italian Islands will be subject to Allied censorship in accordance with the arrangements now in force for external mail from Italy and the Italian Islands. The following exceptions to the above are made:
 - a. Personal mail of His Holiness The Pope.
 - b. Official mail from the Cardinal Secretary of State to Papal Nuncios and Apostolic Delegates, but not including Archbishops or Bishops living in countries outside the Italian mainland and the Italian Islands.
3. All mail addressed to enemy or enemy occupied countries will be subject to 100% censorship and will be dealt with under arrangements which exist for external mail from Italy.
4. No diplomatic bag privilege will be granted to enemy or enemy satellite representatives.
5. Allied and neutral representatives will be accorded diplomatic bag privileges (although in practice the military authorities will probably not give those facilities to neutral couriers at the outset. Neutral representatives will therefore have to send their bags by mail.)
6. The official correspondence of representatives of the United States and Great Britain or British Dominions will not be subject to censorship.
7. Telegrams from the Vatican City passing through the Rome telegraph office will be subject to censorship in the same manner as is laid down for postal correspondence in paragraphs 1. 2. and 3. of this memorandum.
8. Telephone monitoring on as comprehensive a scale as is practicable will be instituted in Rome to handle traffic from the Vatican City to the Italian mainland or Italian Islands or vice versa. When external traffic by telephone is permitted a full censorship will be imposed.
9. All mail to the Vatican City will be subject to censorship:
 - a. Coming from countries outside Italian mainland or Italian Islands by the United Nations censorship network.
 - b. From the mainland of Italy or Italian Islands in the province of origin provided a civil censorship is operating in the province.

CONFIDENTIAL

*File in K-1 about
Vatican Communications*

July 22, 1944

Dear Mr. Weber:

We feel strongly that given the universal character of the organization of the Catholic Church, the minimum amount of restrictions compatible with the present security situation should be placed upon the channels of communications available to the Holy See. It may readily be seen that the effective functioning of the organization depends largely upon the ability of the Holy See to communicate with church authorities throughout the world and vice versa. In principle we believe that the treatment to be accorded should not be less favorable than under the Italian and German occupation of Rome.

A few comments on the plan proposed by the Allied authorities for the handling of communications to and from the Vatican City and countries outside Italy are attached. It may be pointed out that under Italian occupation, and I am told also under German, the Vatican was permitted from time to time to send its own diplomatic couriers not only to Switzerland, but also to Lisbon and Istanbul. We recommend that similar facilities may be granted by the Allies in so far as travelling conditions permit.

It is further noted that the proposed plan excludes diplomatic pouch privileges to enemy or enemy satellite representatives residing in the Vatican City. We believe that this policy could be adhered to in principle and that they should not be allowed diplomatic pouches of their own, but that in practice the above mentioned representatives should be permitted to send and receive their official communications through the Vatican diplomatic pouch. In addition to the time-lag which in itself could be regarded as rendering to a great extent useless any military information that might be sent out in the pouches, appropriate safeguards could be instituted such as the giving of a moral undertaking by the enemy diplomats to the Vatican to the effect that their communications should be restricted purely to questions concerning the Vatican and the governments of the countries which the diplomats represent. This was the procedure followed for correspondence of the United Nations Diplomats during both the Italian and German occupation of Rome and these diplomats enjoyed more or less regular communication privileges with their governments up to within a few days of the arrival of the Allies.

Finally, it would appear from paragraph 3 of the Allied proposal that neither the personal mail of the Pope nor the Vatican diplomatic mail (to Nuncios, Papal Delegates, and Archbishops and Bishops) should be exempted from censorship when addressed to enemy or enemy-occupied countries. We believe emphatically that the Pope's private correspondence and the Vatican diplomatic mail to the Nuncios and the Apostolic Delegates in these countries should be exempted from censorship. For instance, the Vatican is at the present moment

397

397

be placed upon the channels of communications available to the Holy See. It may readily be seen that the effective functioning of the organization depends largely upon the ability of the Holy See to communicate with church authorities throughout the world and vice versa. In principle we believe that the treatment to be accorded should not be less favorable than under the Italian and German occupation of Rome.

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Finally, it would appear from paragraph 3 of the Allied proposal that neither the personal mail of the Pope nor the Vatican diplomatic mail (to Nuncios, Papal Delegates, and Archbishops and Bishops) should be exempted from censorship when addressed to enemy or enemy-occupied countries. We believe emphatically that the Pope's private correspondence and the Vatican diplomatic mail to the Nuncios and the Apostolic Delegates in these countries should be exempted from censorship. For instance, the Vatican is at the present moment actively intervening in Hungary in favor of persecuted persons and without assurances to the effect that the secrecy of its correspondence with the Papal representative in that country would be respected, the Vatican conceivably would risk having its liberty of action restricted. With regard to correspondence with the Archbishops and Bishops we do not feel so strongly.

In any event we should like to repeat that we believe that the Vatican should not receive less favorable treatment from the Allies than it received from the Italians and Germans.

Sincerely yours,

The Honorable Samuel Rebet,
Joint Vice President, Political Section,
Allied Control Commission,
Ministry of Communications, Rome.

WILLIAM H. HARRIS

Comment on the plan proposed for the handling of communications

to and from the Vatican City both for Italy and countries outside

Italy.

1. Holy See will probably raise no objections.
2. Holy See will probably protest against exclusion of Archbishops and Bishops from exception (b). It is difficult to perceive the reason for the exclusion.
3. The Vatican may be expected to protest vigorously against any attempt to censor the Pope's personal correspondence or Vatican diplomatic mail to or from enemy or enemy-occupied countries.
4. With regard to the prohibition of the use of diplomatic pouch privileges to enemy or enemy satellite representatives, it may be of interest to the Allied Authorities if the procedure followed during the Italian and German occupation of Rome is recalled. This was substantially as follows:

Under Italian occupation there was a regular Vatican diplomatic courier service twice a week between the Vatican City and Bern in both directions. Even Bern the communications were extended to Lisbon. The Vatican pouch was usually carried by the Swiss couriers in both directions, although I understand that not infrequently the Vatican employed their own courier. The United Nations diplomats residing in the Vatican City without exception were granted unrestricted use of the Vatican diplomatic pouch except for a moral reservation accepted by each at the instance of the Vatican to the effect that the communications sent out by them should concern Vatican matters only. The pouches of the United Nations missions in the Vatican City were placed inside the Vatican pouches for delivery by the Papal Nuncio in Bern to the respective United Nations Missions there. In the opposite direction, the pouches were handed to the Papal Nuncio in Bern who placed them inside the Vatican pouch bound for the Vatican City. Upon arrival here, the pouches were distributed to the various missions by the Secretariat of State of His Holiness.

Under German occupation of Rome the frequency of the courier service to and from Bern was greatly reduced and also became increasingly irregular. However, the United Nations diplomats were able to continue to communicate through Bern although the traffic often encountered long delays.

In so far as I know there were no instances when pouches of United Nations diplomats were tampered with.

5. No comment.
6. No comment.
7. No comment.
8. No comment.

725016

2. Holy See will probably protest against exclusion of Archbishops and Bishops from exception (b). It is difficult to perceive the reason for the exclusion.

3. The Vatican may be expected to protest vigorously against any attempt to censor the Pope's personal correspondence or Vatican diplomatic mail to or from enemy or enemy-occupied countries.

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In so far as I know there were no instances when pouches of the United Nations diplomats were tampered with.

5. No comment.
6. No comment.
7. No comment.
8. No comment.
9. No comment.

0621

UNITED STATES POLITICAL ADVISER
ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS

6-8
File

UNRESTRICTED

Algiers, July 17, 1944.

Dear Sam:

I wish to refer to your letter of July 8 to Bob and to our conversation on my recent blitz trip to Rome, and to let you know that I am expecting to hear from you as to what Mr. Taylor, Mr. Tittmann and yourself feel should be done with regard to the question of Vatican City communications.

Good luck and every good wish.

Very sincerely yours,

C. Office

C. Office

347

Samuel Reber, Esquire,
Advanced Headquarters,
Allied Control Commission,
Rome.

5555

Vatican Communication

Advanced Headquarters Allied Control Commission

July 8, 1944.

Dear Bob:

I assume that Allied Force Headquarters' proposal relating to Vatican City communications, which was sent as a Memorandum from the Information and Censorship Section, Communications Censorship Branch, CCB 152, dated June 29, 1944, was approved by your office or at least shown to you before despatch. Inasmuch as the restrictions which it proposes to establish for the communications of a neutral state and its diplomatic representatives are severer than those imposed by the Germans when they were in control of Rome, it seems to me that the matter will require very careful study particularly since the military significance of any information emanating from Rome is rapidly diminishing in view of the ever-increasing distance from the front line. There will undoubtedly be a very strong protest from the Vatican if we eliminate their courier services and limit uncensored mail as planned.

Before the scheme becomes operative, I hope that due consideration will be given to all its political aspects so that we will not later be required to alter it because of Vatican protests. As you are aware, we have had considerable difficulty over the question of transfer of Axis diplomats into the Vatican because at the last moment the Pope has been able to appeal to General Alexander or to the Secretary of War and modify the instructions given by Allied Force Headquarters. That the Secretary of War could be induced to do so was, I believe, because he was in some doubt as to whether the proposal to remove all Axis diplomats, if they were not inside the Vatican walls by a certain time, was a jointly-approved American and British plan, and not merely based on London's instructions to A.F.H.Q.

Therefore in this matter of communications may I emphasize that it is urgent to avoid any such later complications

The Honorable,
Robert D. Murphy,
United States Political Advisor,
Allied Force Headquarters

5536

-2-

Since the subject is far more important as it definitely relates to our recognition of the rights of a neutral state, if any may be said to remain in this day and age.

Inasmuch as Harold Littmann and D'Arcy Osborne are the ones who will be required to inform the Vatican authorities of the scheme for control of their communications, I also assume that they will be instructed directly by the Department and by the Foreign Office after this has been approved both in Washington and London.

As ever yours,

U.S. United States Representative,
Advisory Council for Italy.

5553

Take Care

HAC

Advanced Headquarters Allied Control Commission

July 7, 1944.

On the 5th July I attended a meeting at A.A.I., Advanced, where a draft was considered of the plan proposed by Lt. Col. Harold Hoover, Communications and Censorship, Allied Force Headquarters, for the handling of communications to and from the Vatican. I presume that you had seen and approved this plan before it was forwarded to A.A.I. for comment, but in case you had not, I should like you to let hold of it particularly because in certain respects the plan is more restrictive than the one allowed under the German occupation of Rome.

For instance no courier service is provided for, nor are enemy missions to the Vatican allowed any system for communication with the Government, thus being subject to censorship. From what Osborne has told me, it is clear that the Vatican will make a fuss about this, and it is therefore most probable that any plan ultimately agreed by Allied Force Headquarters should have the approval of the British and American Governments and then the Allied authorities should be determined to stick to their guns and not give way to Vatican pressure.

The comments of the meeting from a security point of view were forwarded to A.A.I. by S.G.S. (I) after the meeting in his letter AAI/11 9/8/I(c) Jul 14. I made it clear at the meeting that whatever plan was ultimately approved should be communicated to the Vatican by Osborne and Pittmann, in accordance with standing procedure for all business with the Vatican. It would be helpful if the Foreign Office and State Department were to send appropriate instructions on this subject to Osborne and Pittmann to go ahead when a scheme has had full approval. We have had much trouble over the question of moving the Axis mission to the Holy See into the Vatican thus we do not want again to go through the experience of order, counter-order and disorder.

Roger Makins Esquire

5002

CONFIDENTIAL.

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
Information and Censorship Section
Communications Censorship Branch

APO SL.

CCB/152

29 June 1944.

Subject : Vatican City Communications.

To : G.S.I.(c), HQ, A.A.I.

1. Attached is a draft of the proposed plan for the handling of communications to and from the Vatican City.

2. It is proposed to put these into operation subject to any addition or alteration which you may think necessary.

3. It would be appreciated if such amendments could be forwarded to this branch as soon as possible.

Incl: 1.

DONALD. D. HOOVER,
Lt. Col., G.S.C.
Communications
Censorship.

5551

VATICAN CITY CENSORSHIP ARRANGEMENTS.

The following is the plan proposed for the handling of communications to and from the inhabitants of the Vatican City, both for Italy and countries outside Italy.

1. All mail from the Vatican City to the Italian mainland or Italian Islands will be subject to censorship with the following exceptions:
 - a. Personal mail of His Holiness the Pope.
 - b. Official mail from the Cardinal Secretary of State to the Bishops in that part of Italy under the control of Military Government Section or Allied Control Commission on ecclesiastical business.
2. All mail from the Vatican City to countries outside the confines of the Italian mainland or Italian Islands will be subject to Allied censorship in accordance with the arrangements now in force for external mail from Italy and the Italian Islands. The following exceptions to the above are made:-
 - a. Personal mail of His Holiness the Pope.
 - b. Official mail from the Cardinal Secretary of State to Papal Nuncio, Archbishops or Bishops living in countries outside the Italian mainland and the Italian Islands.
3. All mail addressed to enemy or enemy occupied countries will be subject to 100% censorship and will be dealt with under arrangements which exist for external mail from Italy.
4. No diplomatic bag privileges will be granted to enemy or enemy satellite representatives.
5. Neutral and Allied representatives will be given diplomatic bag privileges (as there will be no possibility of couriers travelling such bags will be sent by post and will be forwarded either to Great Britain or United States before delivery).
6. The official correspondence of representatives of the United States and Great Britain or British Dominions will not be subject to censorship.
7. Telegrams from the Vatican City passing through the Rome telegraph office will be subject to censorship in the same manner as is laid down for postal correspondence in paragraphs 1, 2, and 3 of this memorandum.
8. Telephone monitoring on as comprehensive a scale as is practicable will be instituted in Rome to handle traffic from the Vatican City to the Italian mainland or Italian Islands or vice versa. When external traffic by telephone is permitted a full censorship will be imposed.
9. All mail to the Vatican City will be subject to censorship:-
 - a. Coming from countries outside Italian mainland or Italian Islands by the United Nations censorship network.

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 - a. Personal mail of His Holiness The Pope.
 - b. Official mail from the Cardinal Secretary of State to the Bishops in that part of Italy under the control of Military Government Section or Allied Control Commission on ecclesiastical business.
2. All mail from the Vatican City to countries outside the confines of the Italian mainland or Italian Islands will be subject to Allied censorship in accordance with the arrangements now in force for external mail from Italy and the Italian Islands. The following exceptions to the above are made:-
 - a. Personal mail of His Holiness the Pope.
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8. Telephone monitoring on as comprehensive a scale as is practicable will be instituted in Rome to handle traffic from the Vatican City to the Italian mainland or Italian Islands or vice versa. When external traffic by telephone is permitted a full censorship will be imposed.
9. All mail to the Vatican City will be subject to censorship:-
 - a. Coming from countries outside Italian mainland or Italian Islands by the United Nations censorship network.
 - b. From the mainland of Italy or Italian Islands in the province of ⁵gr. 2. 4 provided a civil censorship is operating in the province.

Communications. CACOLA
POLITICAL, ETC.

POLITICA U.S.E.T.

Figure 1.0

2007

1949

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Division of the University of
the South

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[illegible]

1. The points covered in the rest of the proposed plan of handling all communications to and from the President shall be considered by S. S. L., and the following committee are asked.
2. Item 4 and 5: It is suggested that the British and U. S. Government representatives to the W. H. H. should try to ensure that the legal code was held by approved officials only.
3. Item 3: It is suggested that you intend "all mail" to include that of the Japanese the Pope and the Cardinal Secretary of State.
4. Item 6: It is agreed. From this man surely that they will not be allowed to have their own telephone box, or in addition that they may not use the legal box. It is pointed out that the proposed regulation covers Japanese residents excepted so that security provided by British and U. S. Diplomats at the W. H. H. also was permitted to send messages (coded) to Japan.
5. Item 7: It is suggested that the box will be sent to S. S. L. for forwarding to B. H. or U. S. .
6. Item 7: It is agreed that codes will not be permitted except those bearing the official seal of the Japanese the Pope, or of the Cardinal Secretary of State. It is suggested that (a) and (b) of items 4 and 5.
7. Item 4, 5 and 7: It is suggested that the Cardinal Secretary of State be covered by British or U. S. Government representatives to the W. H. H. and to send any messages other than his own personal or official business, and use three for other nations.
8. Item 9(b): From this man that S. S. L. Committee suggested will not even mail a message to the Japanese the Pope, or to the Cardinal Secretary of State from his Majesty's British country communication would be agreed to by this Headquarters.
9. Item 6 is agreed, except that it is considered the word "communications" may be changed to send "unauthorized messages".

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Reference 107/452 dated 29 Jan 64.

1. The points covered in the rest of the proposed plan of handling all communications to and from the Vatican City has been considered by G.S. 1, and the following comments are made.
2. Items 4 and 5: It is suggested that the British and U.S. Government representatives to the Vatican should try to ensure that the legal points are held by approved officials only.
3. Item 5: It is suggested that you insert "all units" to include that of the Italian the Pope and the Cardinal Secretary of State.
4. Item 6: As agreed. From this item merely that they will not be allowed to have their own telephone box, or in addition that they may not use the legal box. It is pointed out that the proposed regulations often hinder treatment accorded to that previously provided by British and U.S. officials at the Vatican the same facilities to send messages (codes) to Rome.
5. Item 5: It is pointed out that the box will be sent to G.S. 1, for forwarding to U.K. or U.S.
6. Item 7: It is suggested that codes will not be permitted except those bearing the official seal of the Italian the Pope or of the Cardinal Secretary of State. It is suggested that (a) and (b) of item 1 and 2.
7. Item 8, 9 and 10: It is suggested that the Cardinal Secretary of State be represented by himself or U.S. Government representatives to the Vatican can to use any messages other than the one personal or official letters, and not those for other parties.
8. Item 9(b): From this item that G.S. 1, Secretary General will not open mail addressed to the Italian the Pope, or to the Cardinal Secretary of State from his letters. Such courtesy exception could be agreed to by the Headquarters.
9. Item 9 is agreed, except that it is considered the cost "courtesy" may be added to the "mailing services".
10. Item 9(b): It is pointed out that if civil courtesy is not extending in any instance, this will be liable to courtesy by G.S. 1, who would effect the necessary routing.

50-9

Copy to:- G.S. 1.(b), HQ. Adm. - 1.
A.C. 1. 66. - 2.
AS of 5(G-2) AFR. - 1.

Excluded

Indication:
H.C. 1. (3).

Vatican Communications
-

May 24, 1944.

My Dear Monsignor Carroll:

I understand that at the long last further arrangements have been made to clarify the situation as regards the Vatican Information Service to include correspondence for the prisoners of war and family messages. Our Communications Section informs me that they have given you copies of the latest orders on the subject dated May 14. I hope that this situation is satisfactory now, but will be glad to discuss it with you if there are any further difficulties. I understand that the Regional Commissioners are being informed of the Vatican Information Service facilities.

I hope you are completely recovered and that I shall have a chance of seeing you soon. Please let me know if you are down town. I shall be glad to have a conversation with you.

Very sincerely yours,

Samuel Reber
Vice President, Allied Control Commission

Very Reverend Monsignor Walter S. Carroll,
300th General Hospital,
APO 378, U. S. Army.

397

5846

300th General Hospital,
A.P.O. 378 - U.S. Army
April 21, 1944.

Lt. Gen. Mason-MacFarlane,
Chief Commissioner,
Allied Control Commission,
Provincia Building,
Naples.

Dear Sir,

I regret that in the typing of my note of April 19 a phrase
was omitted in the second paragraph. That paragraph should read:

"The first of these problems is concerned with the question of communication between Southern Italy and the Vatican. This service, in which the Holy Father has so often shown a very lively and personal interest, has apparently encountered new obstacles, from Allied sources, which render previous arrangements practically null and void. At an earlier date a plan was devised, and mutually agreed upon, whereby the service was to care for three types of correspondence: 1) Official ecclesiastical correspondence between the Bishops of Southern Italy and the Holy See; this correspondence to be presented in sealed envelopes and to enjoy privileges and courtesies similar to those accorded the pouches of the Allied representatives at the Vatican; 2) 25-word messages to and from prisoners of war; and 3) similar messages to and from civilians".

Very Sincerely yours,

Walter B. Carroll

I don't think I've
had this yet?

24
4

5947

300 General Hospital,
A.P.O. 378 - U.S. Army.
April 21, 1944.

File

Sam Reber, Esq.
Political Section,
Allied Control Commission,
Provincia Building,
Naples.

Dear Mr. Reber,

Some weeks ago you very kindly inquired of me whether the system of communication between Southern Italy and the Vatican was functioning satisfactorily. I replied that all necessary arrangements had been made and that I thought the service was already functioning smoothly. I learn now, however, that new regulations issued recently by A.F.H.Q. have completely disrupted the service. I have written a note to General Mason-MacFarlane giving him some of the details. I should be very grateful for any interest you might take in the matter, with a view to finding a new solution that will prove satisfactory.

The doctors here have ordered a "rest cure" for me and, consequently I have been confined to the hospital for the past two weeks. They threaten to hold me another two or three weeks. I regret that this makes it impossible for me to get in to see you.

I understand that Mr. Murphy has been in town. If he is still here will you kindly give him my kindest regards.

Very sincerely yours,

Walter S. Carroll

5946

Vatican Comm
May Day

th General Hospital,
A.P.O. 378 - U.S. Army.

812

Lt. Gen. Mason-MacFarlane,
Chief Commissioner,
Allied Control Commission,
Provincia Building,
Naples.

20th April, 1944.

Political Section
Attention Mr. Rebel

h m 21 21
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Dear Sir,

Because of my present inability to get into Naples to call upon you, I am taking this liberty to write this note, in order to bring to your attention some difficulties which have arisen and which are the source of grave concern to the Ecclesiastical Authorities.

The first of these problems is concerned with the question of communication between Southern Italy and the Vatican. This service, in which the Holy Father has so often shown a very lively and personal interest, has apparently encountered new obstacles, from Allied sources, which render previous arrangements practically null and void. At an earlier date a plan was devised, and mutually agreed upon, whereby the service was to care for three types of correspondence: 1) Official ecclesiastical correspondence between the Bishops of Southern Italy and the Holy See; this correspondence to be presented in sealed envelopes and to enjoy privileges and courtesies similar to those accorded the pouches of the Allied representatives at the Vatican; and 3) similar messages to and from civilians.

The most recent orders from the Allied Headquarters, if I am correctly informed, nullify that agreement, by denying to the

Holy Father and to the Holy See the right to "Communicate and correspond freely with the Bishops....without interference" (Art. 2 Concordat), and by refusing to accept the messages for prisoners-of-war and civilians.

It was with surprise and deep regret - which I am certain will be shared by the Holy See - that I learned recently that official ecclesiastical correspondence, addressed to the Holy See by the Cardinal Archbishop of Naples and by other members of the hierarchy, has been subjected to rigorous censorship by Allied officials at Algiers. I had concluded that this was, perhaps, the result of a mistake on the part of some minor official, but the new regulations from Allied Forces Headquarters quickly dispelled that notion, for these instructions are quite explicit and even stipulate in what languages the Bishops may write to the Holy See. It is to be presumed that the replies of the Holy Father, or of his Secretary of State, will be subjected to similar restrictions and censorship.

I find it difficult to believe that these latest instructions have been issued by high Allied Authorities, or even with their knowledge. That seems improbable, especially in view of the importance and urgency attached to the establishment of these services by the State Department at Washington and particularly by his Excellency, Mr. Cordell Hull.

Likewise, the entire question of the Vatican Bureau of Information and its services for prisoners was the subject of conversations over a long period, some months ago, in Washington and Algiers. These talks resulted in an accord, whereby messages were admitted by radio and in writing (25 words). I am at a loss for an explanation of the radical change in policy on the part of the Allied Authorities.

The second matter, which is causing considerable concern in local ecclesiastical circles is the rumor, apparently not without strong foundation, that certain political elements in Southern Italy are endeavoring to obtain authorization for the celebration of "May Day" on Monday, May second, that with the understanding that Sunday, May first, would be declared a work-day. I trust that the Allied Authorities will not lend their support to this movement which, if successful, would set a lamentable precedent contrary to the traditional Christian doctrine and sentiments of the Italian people and in violation of Article II of the Concordat, by which the state recognizes the holy days established by the church, including all Sundays.

I should be grateful indeed, if you were to make enquiry regarding these matters with the view to eliminating the source of profound and understandable concern on the part of the Ecclesiastical Authorities. I shall be pleased to communicate your findings to the Holy See and to inform His Holiness of the resumption of the original system of communication between Southern Italy and the Vatican and particularly between the Bishops and His Holiness.

With the assurance of my grateful appreciation of your assistance and understanding and with the renewed expression of my sentiments of high consideration, I remain

Very sincerely yours,

Walter S. Carroll

5843

CONFIDENTIAL

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION - INCOMING MESSAGE

CLASS: CONFIDENTIAL

PREC: -----

FROM: FREEDOM

TO: FARMER

W/C NO: 5/20

REF NO: 66731

FILED: 191452

REC'D: 200430



1/11

(TO FARMER REPEATED AGENT STATED GIVE DATE FROM REF OUR 61383 OF 7 MARCH)

REQUEST YOU RESUME COMMUNICATIONS BOTH BY MAIL AND RADIO WITH VATICAN ARE RESTRICTED TO OFFICIAL ECCLESIASTICAL MATTERS ONLY. FIRST CONSIGNMENT SUCH MAIL RECEIVED HERE CONTAINED BOTH PRIVATE AND PERSONAL CORRESPONDENCE. COMMUNICATIONS UNLESS OFFICIAL WILL CONTINUALLY BE SUPPRESSED HERE.

ACC DISTRIBUTION

1. Mr. [unclear]
 2. Mr. [unclear]
 3. Mr. [unclear]
 4. Mr. [unclear]
 5. Mr. [unclear]

5942

Civilian Communications

4960
Pol. Sec.

File

FROM: H. ACME

TO: FALDA

INFO: BRIDON

I (S) 465



RE: MEMORANDUM FROM 61383 DATED 7 MAY 2 A. Consider forward limits for communications with Vatican should be same as those applicable to Civil Communications facilities generally viz northern boundaries of Provinces Bari Potenza Avellino Salerno Plus enclaves Naples City and Benevento terr.

THI 05/2315A

SENT NY 1905 0505

RECD BR 1905 0505

169

A.C.C. Dist
Action - C. A. B. (2)
Info - D. C. C.
Telecomm & Posts
Pol. Sec
File
Flost

5941

0 6 3 8