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

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SEMINARIES

Dec 1943 - Oct, 1944

SECRETALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
AFO 512

AP 818

RHF:sl

: : : : : : : : : :
 : S E C R E T :
 : Auth: SAC MT :
 : Initials: *1377* :
 : 22 October 1944 :
 : : : : : : : : : :

AG 386.2/035 -0

SUBJECT: Benevento and Molfetta Seminaries

TO : Commander in Chief, Allied Armies in Italy

Letter, this headquarters, subject and file as above, dated 26 August 1944,
is hereby modified in the following respect only:

"The Seminary of Molfetta will be vacated not later than
1 December 1944."

By command of General WILSON:

H. V. Roberts
 H. V. ROBERTS
 Colonel, AGD
 Adjutant General

1 Incl:
 Ltr, CAO, AFHQ, dated 18 Oct 1944,
 subj: "Molfetta Seminary"

DISTRIBUTION:

- 5 - Ea addressee
- 1 - SGS, AFHQ
- 1 - CAO
- 5 - Br. Res. Min.
- 5 - US POLAD
- 1 - HQ ACC
- 1 - CG MAF
- 1 - G-1 (B)
- 1 - G-3
- 1 - G-4 (B)
- 1 - G-5
- 1 - Dir Medical Serv (B)
- 1 - Surgeon, Nato
- 2 - AG Records AF
- 1 - AG M & D

M/C NOTE

854

THERE IS NO RECORD OF LETTER
 OF 26 AUG. LETTER OF 24 AUG SENT
 TO POLITICAL SEC.

SECRET**SECRET**

~~SECRET~~

COPY

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
C.A.O. Office: : : : :
: S E C R E T :
: Auth: SAC MT :
: Initials: *RSC* :
: 18 October 1944 :
: : : : :

AG 386.2/035

SUBJECT: Molfetta Seminary

TO : The British Resident Minister
The United States Political Adviser

1. The letter of this office on Molfetta and Benevento Seminaries, AG 386.2/035 of 24 August 1944, requested that the Holy See be advised that the Seminary of Benevento and the Seminary of Molfetta would be vacated respectively on 15 October and 1 November 1944.

2. The Seminary of Benevento has been vacated. It appears however that factors have arisen which make it necessary to occupy Molfetta Seminary after 1 November. Large numbers of wounded have had to be evacuated by hospital ships from Ancona to Bari due to the damaged condition of the railway between Rome and Naples. Weather conditions moreover have greatly reduced air evacuation from the forward area to Naples. It has also been necessary to accommodate large numbers of sick and wounded German PWs, in addition to the Yugoslav personnel referred to in our letter of 24 August.

3. It is requested that the British and United States Governments be advised and that the British Foreign Office - which has heretofore acted as a channel of communication in these matters - be requested to advise the Holy See that for the reasons above set forth the Seminary of Molfetta will not be vacated on 1 November 1944 but will be vacated on 1 December 1944. Every effort will be made to vacate the Seminary prior to that date.

/s/ J. G. W. Clark
/t/ J. G. W. CLARK,
Lieutenant General,
Chief Administrative Officer

853

COPY

Incl #1
to Ltr, AFHQ, AG 386.2/035 -0,
dated 22 October 1944

~~SECRET~~

RESTRICTED

SIC

POL

0000

MAIN AND INFO ACC

FOR INFORMATION UNIT

KGM/30

DISTANCE

Q 2021

RONE

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED. REFERS INFORMATION CONTAINED AT JEST AND CONVERSATION
JAMES FIELD. POSITION HAS BEEN DETERMINED WITH EXECUTIVE COMMISSIONER
ACC AND VARIOUS AUTHORITY AND BEING ASKED TO AGREE TO USE OF BUILDING
AS HOSPITAL. ONE FOR MEDICAL AND COLONIAL BASE WILL NOT BE PERMITTED.
WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED.

DIST

2020/10/22 SIG 2
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ACTION-CA IN 2

INFO-M/CC

POL CAC
ADMIN SEC
PLAS 2
PLUAT

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NONE

Q 2021

SEP271816A

RECEIVED. REPELS A COMBINATION DEFENSE AT GSSI AND CONVERSATION
JAMES FIELD. POSITION CA. BEL. TINGED TO WITH EXECUTIVE COMMISSION
ACC AND VATICAN AUTHORITY. AND. BEING ASKED TO AGREE TO USE OF BUILDING
AS HOSPITAL. USE FOR AMERICAN AND CANADIAN BASE WILL NOT BE PERMITTED.
WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED

LIST

2030/12/02 STGS 2
ACC 10
FILE

ALL DIST

ACTION-CA BR 2

INFO-A/CO

POL SEC

ADMIN SEC

FILE 2

FLIGHT

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HQ ACC INFO RPTD 61 AREA

POL SEC
FOR INFORMATION ONLY 6113

90/24

MAIN ANG 8 ARMY

M581

IMMEDIATE

SEP 24/

RESTRICTED. UNDERSTAND SEMINARY JEST REQUIRED FOR ACCOMMODATION AT
 CYPRIOT BASE DEPOT BY 61 AREA. HAVE SPOKEN ARMY AS CONSIDER NOT JUSTIFI-
 BLE TAKE OVER SEMINARY BUT THEY SAY THIS AREA IS AAI ENCLAVE. PLEASE
 TAKE UP MATTER DIRECT.

DIST

ACTION -- ~~Admin Sec~~ (2)
 INFO -- A/CC
 Pol Sec
 Admin Sec.
 FILE (2)
 FLOAT



851

SEP 24/1981 RESTRICTED

XX
12

4th August, 1944

To: P.M.B., A.F.H.C.

As you may know, as a result of preliminary reports, we represented to Colonel Poletti that the Catacombs, where 320 Italians were alleged to have been massacred by the Germans and where a shrine had already been established, should be investigated to determine the facts of the story.

Poletti appointed a Commission headed by the Mayor, Prince Doria, who have already started on the work of exhumation and identification of the bodies. It is already certain that the story is true and a very large number of bodies have already come to light. Some have already been identified by their clothing and personal possessions.

We feel that the time has, therefore, come for the story to be broken; in any case, we do not think that we will be able to hold it much longer because of the activities of both Allied and Italian journalists.

In view of the general directive not to build up atrocities, we are referring this to you for clearance with A.F.H.C. It seems to us to be a special case, which has already been given a great deal of publicity and on which a definitive statement should be put out as soon as possible.

We propose, if this is approved, to exploit it fully in propaganda to Liberated Italy. We propose to do the same for Occupied Italy, since we feel that a stage of the war has been reached when such deterrent harm as it might

485

850

Thomas Burke

do, would be outweighed by the effect which judiciously worded propaganda can have. We do not propose to use it in propaganda to German troops.

These proposals have the approval of Colonel Poletti, A.C.C. and A.A.I. and we would be glad of a reply as soon as possible.

D.P.W.O. Italy

TRANSLATION

SECRETARIAT OF STATE
OF HIS HOLINESS

No. 3522/44

MEMORANDUM

His Excellency the Most Reverend Monsignor Diamore, Abbot in Ordinary of Montecassino, has informed the Secretariat of State of His Holiness that among the ruins of the Abbey there must be papers, documents and objects of notable importance, which might now easily be lost or taken away.

The Secretariat of State requests the Chargé d'Affaires of the United States of America to the Holy See kindly to bring this to the attention of the competent Allied authorities in order that appropriate measures may be taken for the custody and protection of as much as is still possible to save of the historical Abbey.

FROM THE VATICAN, June 5, 1944.

8-9

483.1

Monte Cassino Abbey

C O P Y

SEGRETERIA DI STATO
DI SUA SANTITÀ

NO. 3522/44

A p p u n t o

Sua Eccellenza Reverendissima Monsignor Dismare, Abate Ordinario di Montecassino, ha comunicato alla Segreteria di Stato di Sua Santità che fra le rovine dell'Abazia debbono trovarsi carte, documenti ed oggetti di notevole importanza, i quali facilmente possono ora andare perduti o essere asportati.

La Segreteria di Stato prega l'Ill.mo Signor Incaricato d'Affari degli Stati Uniti d'America presso la Santa Sede di voler interessare le competenti Autorità Alleate affinché siano prese le misure opportune per custodire e proteggere quanto è ancora possibile salvare della storica Abazia.

LAL VATICANO, 5 Giugno 1944.

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

INCOMING MESSAGE

AGWAR FOR COMBINED CHIEFS OF STAFF RPTD USFOR INFO BRITISH CHIEFS
 TO: OF STAFF RPTD UNITY, AFHQ ADV CP, AAI, ACC MAIN, HQ MAAT
 FROM: FREEDOM SCD WILSON (THIS IS NAF 710) SIGNAL MESSAGE CENTER No: N70/28
 CLASSIFICATION: SECRET
 REFERENCE No: F51870 PRECEDENCE: OF PRIORITY
 DATE AND TIME OF ORIGIN MAY 28 1541 OFFICE OF ORIGIN: CITE/FHMGs

CONFORMING TO LAST PARAGRAPH FAN 357, REPORT PROCEEDINGS BEING TAKEN FOR IMMEDIATE OCCUPANCY PAPAL SEMINARY AT BENEVENTO AS MILITARY HOSPITAL. MESSAGE OF 27 MAY FROM ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION IS AS FOLLOWS: PARA ON ORDERS FROM CINC, AAI, REGIONAL COMMISSIONER ACC BEING INSTRUCTED THAT REQUIREMENTS OF OPERATIONS MAKE IT NECESSARY TO PROCEED TO REQUISITION ENTIRE BENEVENTO SEMINARY FOR OCCUPANCY IMMEDIATELY AS MILITARY HOSPITAL. PARA THOUGH ARCHBISHOP DEEMED ALTERNATIVE ACCOMMODATIONS OF LOWER SEMINARY AND COLLEGGIO LASALLE TO BE INADEQUATE, IT HAS BEEN FOUND THAT THEY CAN HOUSE THE 105 PERSONS, INCLUDING 20 SISTERS AND 5 CIVILIANS, WHO MAKE UP THE ENTIRE PRESENT PERSONNEL OF BENEVENTO SEMINARY STUDENTS AND PROFESSORS. PARA INSTRUCTIONS TO REGIONAL COMMISSIONER ARE TO MAKE APPROPRIATE READJUSTMENTS SO THAT IF NECESSARY PERSONNEL OF LOWER SEMINARY (TOTAL 79, INCLUDING 10 SISTERS AND CIVILIANS) CAN ALSO BE ACCOMMODATED AT COLLEGGIO LASALLE AT BENEVENTO. PARA MONSIGNOR CARROLL, VATICAN REPRESENTATIVE, HAS REQUESTED THAT PAPAL SECRETARY OF STATE BE ADVISED OF PRESENT DEVELOPMENT AND THAT ARCHBISHOP, WHO HAD CONSIDERED THE ALTERNATIVE ACCOMMODATIONS UNSATISFACTORY, HAD OFFERED HALF OF REGIONAL SEMINARY. PARA MONSIGNOR CARROLL HOPES THAT IF ENTIRE COLLEGGIO LASALLE IS MADE AVAILABLE TO PAPAL

DATE and Time of RECEIPT.....

Distribution:

(CONTD PG 2) N70/28

SEMINARY, ACCOMMODATIONS WILL PROVE ADEQUATE. PARA MONSIGNOR CARROL WISHES PAPAL SECRETARY OF STATE TO BE TOLD THAT SEMINARIES AT CERMOLI, LARINO, CAMPOBASSO AND FOGGIA, END PART OF BENEVENTO DIOCESAN SEMINARY, HAVE ALREADY BEEN CEDED TO THE ALLIED AUTHORITIES. PARA HERE ENDS PARAPHRASE OF ACC MESSAGE. PARA BRITISH RESIDENT MINISTER IS ASKING FOREIGN OFFICE TO TRANSMIT MONISGNOR CARROLLS MESSAGE TO VATICAN. PARA ADVANCED ECHELON AFHQ REPORTED 12 JANUARY GREATEST DIFFICULTY FINDING HOSPITAL ~~PPH/~~ ACCOMMODATIONS; SOUGHT AUTHORITY TO REQUISITION PAPAL SEMINARIES AT MOLFETTA (600 BEDS) AND BENEVENTO (1400 BEDS). EACH CASE WAS BROUGHT TO ATTENTION OF VATICAN THROUGH BRITISH GOVERNMENT; WITH REQUEST ARCHBISHOPS BE INSTRUCTED TO MAKE AVAILABLE. AFTER LONG DELAY MOLFETTA STUDENTS WERE SETTLED ELSEWHERE AND PREMISES OCCUPIED. PARA 15 APRIL AFHQ RELAYED MESSAGE FROM PAPAL SECRETARY OF STATE TO ARCHBISHOP OF BENEVENTO, TO FOLLOWING EFFECT: PARA BRITISH MINISTER REQUESTS BENEVENTO SEMINARY FOR HOSPITAL FOR WOUNDED; ACCOMMODATION URGENTLY NEEDED AND CAN NOT BE FOUND ELSEWHERE. HOLY SEE FULFILLING ITS CHARITABLE MISSION IS ALWAYS READY TO GRANT SUCH REQUESTS WHEREVER POSSIBLE. SEE WHAT PROVISION YOU CAN MAKE FOR MOVING YOUR SEMINARY AND REPORT TO ME URGENTLY, TO ENABLE ME TO REPLY TO BRITISH MINISTER

ACC DIST

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Info. Pol Sec 844
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Benevento

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9806
Polsec

N42/16
NONE
NONE
FILPOT
ASHQ INFO AGG

MAY161445B
"
Q2226
NONE

YOUR PHONE # 45650 OF 14 MAY. AGG ARE CONDUCTING NEGOTIATIONS RE
BENEVENTO

AGG DIST

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ADM SEC
POL SEC
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483.1
Benevento

Benevento

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

OUTGOING MESSAGE

TO: AFHQ FOR G-5 SIGNAL MESSAGE CENTER No: _____
REPEATED HQ MAAP, AAI CLASSIFICATION: SECRET
 FROM: ACC MAIN PRECEDENCE: PRIORITY
 REFERENCE No: 5485 OFFICE OF ORIGIN: Political Section
 DATE AND TIME OF ORIGIN: MAY 25.5

CHIEF MEDICAL ADVISOR ABLE ABLE ITEM ASKS THAT ENTIRE SEMINARY BE TURNED
 OVER FOR HOSPITAL USES PD PAREN TO AFHQ FOR GEORGE FIVE UNCLE SUGAR
 REPEATED AAI, HQ MAAP 24
 POLITICAL ADVISOR AND BRITISH RESIDENT MINISTER/FROM ACC MAIN FROM
 MACFARLANE REFERENCE FOX FIVE ZERO THREE ZERO EIGHT MAY TWO FOUR PAREN
 OFFER HAS BEEN MADE OF THE LOWER SEMINARY AND COLLECCIO LASALLE TO
 THE ECCLESIASTICAL AUTHORITIES TO HOUSE PRESENT PERSONNEL BENEVENTO
 SEMINARY STUDENTS AND PROFESSORS WHICH AT THE PRESENT TOTAL ONE ZERO
 FIVE INCLUDING TWO ZERO SISTERS AND FIVE CIVILIANS PD ARCHBISHOP CON-
 SIDERS ALTERNATIVE ACCOMMODATION UNSATISFACTORY BUT ALLIED AUTHORITIES
 REPORT THAT WITH APPROPRIATE READJUSTMENTS THEY COULD ACCOMMODATE ALL
 PERSONS NOW IN SEMINARY PD PARA MATTER STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION ABLE
 ABLE ITEM TO DETERMINE WHETHER OVER-RIDING OPERATIONAL NECESSITY REQUIRES
 IMMEDIATE OCCUPANCY

Distribution:

Authenticated by

842

Originator's signature

L. T. MONTANT JR

SAMUEL REBER

POLITICAL SECTION

15th May, 1944.

Your Excellency,

I am asking Colonel Bowen to present my apologies and regrets over the misunderstanding which arose last Friday. I had understood that you had been notified that, in view of the offer of part of the Seminary which Monsignor Carroll transmitted in your name, our visit to Benevento had been postponed. General Sutton will be there to-day to look at the situation and to discuss with you exact requirements of our hospital needs. I am confident a satisfactory solution can be reached.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration and regrets over the inconvenience caused you last Friday.

Samuel Rober
Vice-President A.O.C.
Political Section.

His Excellency
Archbishop of Benevento.

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HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
P.C. & M.C. SECTION
APO 324

Ref A31/71/36

21 July 1944

SUBJECT: Benavento Seminary.

TO : P.C. Region III

1. I refer to your R/2042 of 9 June 1944 and to the enclosed report by P.C. Benavento and previous correspondence on Benavento Seminary.

2. I shall be obliged if you will report as early as possible:

- a. The number of patients in the seminary.
- b. Whether it is true that 100 ladies of the Salvation Army are housed in the seminary.

William H. Fiske
WILLIAM H. FISKE
Colonel
Deputy Executive
Commissioner

Copy to:

British Minister to the Vatican.

AFM, 6-5

Political Section.

840

1624

Polke

PROPOSE REPORT AS FOLLOWS TO COMBINED CHIEFS OF STAFF. BEGINS.
SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT IN NAF 710 ON BENEVENTO. PARA 1. ARCHBISHOP WAS
INFORMED SEMINARY WAS REQUISITIONED FROM 1 JUNE, WITH EXPRESSION OF
HOPE IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO RELEASE BEFORE OPENING OF NEW SCHOLASTIC
YEAR AT END OF SEPTEMBER. PARA 2. DIRECTOR OF COLLEGIO LA SALLE
AGREED TO PLACE ACCOMMODATION OF COLLEGE AT DISPOSAL OF ARCHBISHOP AND
SEMINARISTS. ACCOMMODATION ADEQUATE. EVERY ASSISTANCE GIVEN TO
ARCHBISHOP AND SEMINARISTS, WITH PROVISION OF 3 TRUCKS ON 2 JUNE AND
DAILY AS NEEDED. TRUCKS ALSO PROMISED TO CONVEY STUDENTS TO THEIR
HOMES IN NAPLES, AVELLINO, FOGGIA ^{and} BENEVENTO PROVINCES AT CLOSE OF
PRESENT TERM. PARA 3. SEMINARY NOW VACATED NORMAL RESIDENTS EXCEPT FOR
ARCHBISHOP WHO MOVES TO COLLEGIO LA SALLE IN FEW DAYS. PARA 4. SAVE FOR
LOCALISED DAMAGE SEMINARY IN EXCELLENT CONDITION. PARA 5. LOCAL VATICAN
REPRESENTATIVE MADE REQUEST THAT NO STRUCTURAL CHANGES BE MADE WITHOUT
PRIOR CONSULTATION WITH ARCHBISHOP. ALTERATIONS DESIRED ARE ALL MINOR
AND WILL BE MADE ONLY IN CONSULTATION AND AGREEMENT WITH ARCHBISHOP.
ENDS. ABOVE BASED ON ACC REPORTS. CONFIRM EARLY AND ALSO THAT YOU STILL
REQUIRE THE PREMISES.

ACC DIST
ACTION/ POL SEC

Distribution:

ACC DIST
ACTION/ POL SEG
INFO/ DCC
CA BR 9
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Walter B. Bennett

May 27, 1944.

My dear Monsignor Carroll:

With reference to our conversation yesterday, I enclose a copy of a letter which I have today addressed to His Excellency the Archbishop of Benevento.

In sending instructions to the Regional Commissioner with regard to requisitioning of the Benevento Seminary, he has been requested to effect no major structural changes in the Seminary premises without prior consultation with the Archbishop. It has also been recommended that, subject to military exigencies, utilization of the Seminary as a hospital be limited to as brief a period as possible, and that it would be desirable if the premises could be returned prior to the opening of the new scholastic year.

I have also requested that the Cardinal Secretary of State be informed of the present developments and that the requirements of present operations necessitate immediate occupancy of the entire Seminary.

Sincerely yours,

Samuel Reber
Vice President, Allied Control Commission

838

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

*Vatican : Benvenuto Seminary
1/2 E 2*

*OK
#*

Ref: 133/73/CA.

9th May 1944.

Subject: Vatican Property.

To : Political Section.

1. I have sent a message through the Liaison Officer, Lt. AAI, to the C.A.O. asking whether AAI intend to issue a directive on the lines of AAI telegram P.1945 of 5th May. I have suggested that this directive should be an agreed one issued after consultation with ourselves and the Legal Sub-Commission.

2. I have sent a message to the C.A.O. that no further steps will be taken by us in connection with the occupation of BENIGNO Seminary until I receive in writing a request from AAI that having regard to para. (D) of this document, they instruct or request us to take up the question of the occupation of the seminary as a case of overriding operational necessity.

M. S. Lusk
Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

133/73.

Copy to: Lt. Col. Bowman, Chief Liaison Officer.

0181

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HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
R.C. & H.C. Section
APO 394

Ref: A31/63/GA.

22 June 1944.

SUBJECT: Benevento Seminary.

TO : Major E. Talbot,
HQ. A.C.C., ROME.

As requested in your A31/63/GA of 20 June 1944,
copies of cables, which were found in the Benevento file,
are forwarded herewith.

You should hand in to Political Section, Mr. Reber,
for any action he may judge.

LE/RAC.

NORMAN E. PISEN,
Colonel,
Deputy Executive
Commissioner.

8 36

Political Section

Chief of Staff's office is closing the Molfeta
Seminary file. Maj. Talbot has instructed me
to forward the entire correspondence to you in view of
your minute of 24 October.

Ramford Capt.

24/10/44

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
POLITICAL SECTION
APO 394

Ref #483.1

24 October 1944

MEMORANDUM TO: Regional Commissioner, Southern Region.

SUBJECT: Molfetta Seminary.

Further to a letter 431/98/CA of the 2nd September from this Headquarters on the subject of the Molfetta and Benevento Seminaries, we attach a copy of a memorandum from AFHQ stating that it is imperative that possession of the Molfetta Seminary should be retained after the 1st of November but not after the 1st of December 1944. You will observe that no change has been made in your responsibility in connection with the proposed transfer other than with respect to the date at which the transfer will take place.

By order of the Chief Commissioner:

HAROLD A. CACCIA
Vice-President, Political Section

Encl:

Ltr COS:601; 21 Oct 44

834

92Union Div.

Ref 91 Can you please tell Temperley - by
 telephone I suggest.

Galley 173

24/10

93

Ref 92

Notified Lt Col Warren Ex Officer of Portsmouth
 Region personnel of the situation as described
 in 91 22 at 44.

Ernest Brown
 Lt Col

14

833

88.

Liaison Div.

Please see 86 & 87.

89.

May. Talbot

Ref. 86. I have spoken to Col. Lewin-Harris on the phone & he will advise us in the course of the next few days if there is any change of policy regarding the handing back of Mafette Seminary.

Ranfurly Capt
17/10/44. 15/10

90.

Cos.

Pl see 86 which is a request from 2 District to AFHQ that MAFETTA Seminary be not returned in Nov 1st. ~~unsubstantiated~~ At 78 CAO files we that it will be returned and G.S. have been told that we will continue to ask on CAO's instructions until we hear to the contrary. Could you please ~~check~~ like Col Lewin-Harris' when you go to Caserta?

H/2
cos.

Capt 287

HEADQUARTERS
SOUTHERN REGION, ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL COMMISSIONER
APO 394

R/1093

10 October 1944

SUBJECT: MOLFETTA Seminary.

11 OCT Read

TO: Headquarters, Allied Control Commission,
(Deputy Chief of Staff).

1. Reference your letter 431/102/CA, dated 7 September 1944.

2. Attached hereto is copy of letter from GOC 2 District to AFHQ from which it can be seen that there is great difficulty in handing back MOLFETTA Seminary to the Vatican. This HQ wholeheartedly supports the request of 2 District that the evacuation of MOLFETTA Seminary should be deferred until suitable accommodations for the hospital can be made available elsewhere.

C. E. Temperley
C. E. TEMPERLEY,
Colonel,
Regional Commissioner.

CET/jh

1 Incl.

cc: 3 District (Ref 2 Dist ltr 1027/7/42).



831

noted 9/10

Rev. 17/10

A.A. - 15/10

10/22/10

COPYSUBJECT: MOLETTA SeminaryHQ No.2 District
CMF

1027/7/52

2 Oct. 44

AFHQ

Reference HQ AAI letter 2030/16/02 dated 5 Sep 44.

1. The hospital situation in EASTERN ITALY has recently been causing anxiety principally owing to the heavy Yugo Slav commitments and the recent influx of battle casualties from NORTHERN ITALY which has now reached the figure of 500 per day. As a result it is becoming increasingly obvious that the greatest difficulty will be experienced in handing back MOLETTA Seminary to the Archbishop of BARI by 1 Nov 44.

2. MOLETTA Seminary is at present occupied by 95 Gen Hospital. The present bed state of this hospital is as follows

(a) Number of beds equipped	1176
(b) Number of beds occupied	997

An alternative site will require to be found for 95 Gen Hospital, and the original intention was that this hospital would occupy the buildings to be vacated by 93 Gen Hospital at BARLETTA when the latter moves forward. This hospital is on the AAI order of battle but may not be called forward for some time. In the meantime of the 2200 beds equipped in this hospital 1693 are occupied, and with the present intake of casualties it is difficult to see how this hospital can be moved without causing considerable hardship to casualties arriving from the forward area.

3. Normally when available hospital accommodation in 2 District becomes overtaxed, the position can be eased by transfers to hospitals in WESTERN ITALY. As a result however of the handing back of BENEVENTO Seminary this is no longer possible and saturation point has also been reached in WESTERN ITALY.

4. It is requested therefore that the Vatican Authorities be informed that it may not be possible to hand back MOLETTA Seminary to them by 1 Nov 44, but that every effort will be made to do so as soon as possible after that date. It is suggested that if the humanitarian reasons which necessitate the temporary retention of this building by the British Medical Authorities are explained to the Holy See, agreement to the postponement in the handing over date will be forthcoming.

/Signed/
Major-General,
Commander, No.2 District.

830

Copy to: DEAF

1. Southern Region, A.C.C.

432
SECRET

C. A. P. 95

HEADQUARTERS
SOUTHERN REGION, ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394, U. S. ARMY

27 SEP Recd
26 September 1944

R/2044

SUBJECT: Molfetta Seminary

TO : Headquarters, Allied Control Commission
(Attention of Deputy Executive Commissioner)

1. Reference your letter 7 September 1944 covering the above subject, paragraph 2, we are advised by the Zone Commissioner, Bari that contact has been made with the Archbishop, also 54 Area, No. 2 District that all preliminary arrangements are being made for the final handing over. This report is dated 16 September 1944.

For the Regional Commissioner:



Guy I. Warren
GUY I. WARREN
Lt. Col. Sp. Res. AUS
Executive Officer

COPY TO:

Zone Commissioner, Bari

GIV/jjf

SECRET

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 512

G-5: 601

21 October 1944

SUBJECT: Molfetta Seminary.

TO : Headquarters, Allied Control Commission
APO 394

1. By letter of this HQ dated 24 August 1944 (AG 386.2/035 GEB-O), the ACC was directed to assume responsibility for effecting the restoration to the appropriate authorities of Molfetta Seminary on 1 November 1944.
2. Circumstances have arisen which have made it imperative to retain possession of Molfetta Seminary after 1 November 1944 but not after 1 December 1944.
3. The papal authorities will be notified through diplomatic channels. Copies of letter from this HQ to the British Resident Minister will be forwarded to your HQ.
4. No change has been made in your responsibilities in connection with the proposed transfer, other than with respect to the date at which the transfer will take place.

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

Lauren Section

HEADQUARTERS

101114
G. C. G. 3

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SECRET

HEADQUARTERS

SOUTHERN REGION, ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

APO 394, U. S. ARMY

R/2035

16 September 1944

18 SEP 1944

SUBJECT: Molfetta Seminary

TO : Zone Commissioner, Bari

Reference this office letter R/2018 of 2nd September.

1. It is requested that you will send in an immediate reply as to the progress in connection with the evacuation of the a/m Seminary.

For the Regional Commissioner:

ALEX H. WHITE

Lt. Col.

Executive Officer

COPIES TO:

HQ, A.C.C. (Attention of Deputy Executive Commissioner)
General Officer, Commanding 2 District

SECRET

827

SOUTHERN REGION, ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
AFO 394, U. S. ARMY

R/2035

15 September 1944

18 SEP Recd

SUBJECT: Molfetta Seminary

TO : Zone Commissioner, Bari

Reference this office letter R/2018 of 2nd September.

1. It is requested that you will send in an immediate reply as to the progress in connection with the evacuation of the a/m Seminary.

For the Regional Commissioner:



FRANK H. WHITE

Lt. Col.

Executive Officer

COPIES TO:

HQ, A.C.C. (Attention of Deputy Executive Commissioner)
General Officer, Commanding 2 District

S E C R E T

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785016

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
R.C. & M.G. SECTION
APO 394

84A
Phone:
484034

REF : 431/102/CA.

7 September 44

SUBJECT : Benevento and Molfetta Seminaries.

TO : R.C. Southern Region.

1. I enclose a copy of AAI. 2030/18/2 of 5 September 44, addressed to Nos. 2 and 3 Districts for your information.
2. I have written to AAI to check on the date for Benevento Seminary which was October 15 in the original instruction.

94
NORMAN E. WISKE
Colonel,
Deputy Executive
Commissioner.

826

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
R.C. & H.G. SECTION
APO 394

Photo 18
484054

REF 1454/101/CA.

7 September 44.

SUBJECT : Benevento and Molfetta Seminars.

TO : A.A.I.

I refer to your 2030/18/02 of 5 September 44, addressed to Nos. 2 and 3 District and will be obliged if you will confirm the restoration date of Benevento Seminary since in A.A.I. 386/2/035 (18-0) of 21 August 44, the date is given as 15 October and not 13 October as states in your letter.

*Date for release
of Benevento is 15 Oct
see AAI letter 2030/18/02 of 7/9/44
on file 431.*

Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner,
For A/Chief Commissioner.

824

432
+
copy on file 431

82

Subject : Molfetta and Benevento Seminaries.

HQ ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

Tel : - FILPOT 209.

2030/18/02

5 Sept 44.

6 SEP Recd

2 District

3 District

Copy to : - AFHQ - Reference AG. 386.2/035 GEG-O dated 26 Aug 44.
HQ ACC
"A"
Med.

1. It has now been agreed that the Papal Seminaries at present occupied by military hospitals will be returned to the Religious Authorities by the dates states :-

than
BENEVENTO not later 15 Oct., 44
MOLFETTA " " 1 Nov, 44

2. AFHQ have instructed the Allied Control Commission that organisation will be responsible for effecting the restoration. You are, therefore, instructed to contact the local representatives of the ACC with a view to making all necessary arrangements.

Major, General
Chief Administrative Officer.

822

See on file
Sanctuary file
Benevento
H. 4/9 P/A

S E C R E T

432.7

C.A. B. 81

7896

HEADQUARTERS
SOUTHERN REGION, ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394, U. S. ARMY

2 September 1944

R/2018

SUBJECT: Molfetta Seminary

TO : Zone Commissioner, Bari

1. The attached copy of a letter from A.F.H.Q. forwarded to this headquarter by HQ, A.C.C., R.C. & M. G. Section is attached for your information.
2. You are requested to take preliminary steps for affecting the restoration of the Seminary of Molfetta on the date fixed by A.F.H.Q. and it is suggested that you should get into communication with the Archbishop of Bari at the earliest possible date informing him of the proposal that the Seminary should be vacated and restored to him on the 1st Nov. 1944.
3. You are requested to keep this R.C. fully informed of the progress in this matter, more particularly in regard to your contacts with the local military authorities concerned who should be advised of A.F.H.Q. order that proper inventories and survey of damages must be obtained before the unit concerned leaves the premises.

For the Regional Commissioner:

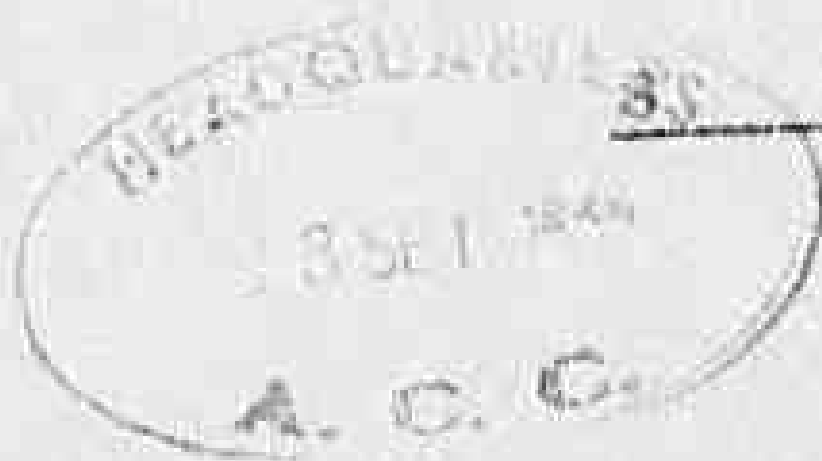
Alex H. White
ALEX H. WHITE
Lt. Col.
Executive Officer

COPIES TO:

General Office Commanding, 2 District
General Office Commanding, 3 District
HQ, A.C.C. (Attention: Deputy Executive Commissioner)

1. For information reference your 431/96/CA, dated 31 August 1944.

File

S E C R E T

Bd 1500

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
R.C. & M.C. SECTION
APO 394

File:
484034

REF : 431/98/OA.

2 September 44.

SUBJECT : Molfetta and Benevento Seminaries.

TO : R.C. Southern Region.

1. Further to my letter of 31st August 44, Ref: 431/96/OA, I would like to draw your attention particularly to para 3 of the C.A.O.'s letter ordering this H.Q. to submit a report on the manner in which these Seminaries are restored.

2. The occupation of these Seminaries has always been a delicate problem and I must ask you to give your personal attention to the matter so that the restoration may be effected in the most efficient manner possible.

484034
M.C. Section

Richard M.
ROBERT M. FISKE
Colonel,
Deputy Executive,
Commissioner.

Copy to: AFHQ. G-5.
Political Section
File 432.

820

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED GENERAL COMMISSION
R.C. & M.C. SECTION
20 B3

File No:
124034

79

REF : 124/96/CA.

31 August 44.

SUBJECT : Melfetta and Bonaventura Seminars.

TO : R. C.
Southern Region.

78

1. I enclose a copy of a letter from AGH, from which you will see that the Commission is held responsible for effecting the restoration of the above Seminars to the appropriate authorities.
2. You should inform the Archbishops of Bari and Bonaventura and take such other preliminary steps as you think fit for effecting this restoration on the dates fixed by AGH.
3. Please keep this HQ. fully informed of the progress in this matter.

J. G. Smith
BRUCE A. SMITH
Colonel,
Deputy Executive,
Commissioner.

Copy to: AGH, O-5.
British Legation to the Holy See.
(with copy of Letter from AGH. of 30 August 44)
Political Section.
File 132.

1/A.

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
P.O. & M.C. SECTION
APC 89A

Phone: *He*
432034

REF : 431/96/CA.

31 August 44.

SUBJECT : Molfetta and Benevento Seminaries.

TO : P. C.
Southern Region.

1. I enclose a copy of a letter from AMS, from which you will see that the Commission is held responsible for effecting the restoration of the above Seminaries to the appropriate authorities.
2. You should inform the Archbishops of Bari and Benevento and take such other preliminary steps as you think fit for effecting this restoration on the dates fixed by AMS.
3. Please keep this HQ. fully informed of the progress in this matter.

Galvin
ROBERT E. FINE
Colonel,
Deputy Executive,
Commissioner.

Copy to: AMS, G-5.
British Legation to the Holy See.
(with copy of letter from AMS, of 30 August 44)
Political Section.
File 432.

SECRET

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS

Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

24 August 1944

AG 386.2/035 GCE-0

SUBJECT : Melfetta and Benevento Seminars.

TO : Headquarters, Allied Control Commission, AGO 394,
(Attention : Acting Chief Commissioner).

1. It has been decided to vacate and restore the two penal seminaries in Italy now occupied as hospitals - Melfetta Seminary on 1 November 1944 and Benevento Seminary on 15 October 1944. See enclosed letter of even date on the above subject, to the British Resident Minister and the United States Political Advisor.

2. The Allied Control Commission, through which the occupation was arranged in each case, will be responsible for effecting the restoration to the appropriate authorities. This will involve the taking of an inventory and the doing of such other things as may be involved in handing over the premises and protecting the interests of the Allied Forces in connection therewith.

3. You will render a report to this Headquarters on the manner in which this direction is performed.



J.C. CLARK
Lieutenant General
Chief Administrative Officer.

1 Incl
Ltr, this HQ, AG 386.2/035 GCE-0,
dtd 24 August 44, subject as above
to British Resident Minister and US
Political Advisor.

SECRET

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
APO 512

SECRET

City of

26 August 1944

AG 386.2/035 DAG-C

SUBJECT: Benevento and Molfetta Seminaries.

TO : Commander-in-Chief, Allied Armies in ITALY, APO 777.

1. Letter, this headquarters, file AG 386.2/035-C, subject as above, dated 20 August 1944, is rescinded.

2. The progress of the Allied Forces in ITALY makes it possible to find alternative accommodation for the hospitals which are now occupying the seminaries at Benevento and Molfetta, and to accede to the desire of the Vatican that these institutions be restored to the papal authorities. It has accordingly been decided that the premises will be vacated, Benevento not later than 15 October 1944 and Molfetta not later than 1 November 1944. (See attached letter, this headquarters, file and subject as above, dated 24 August 1944, to the British Resident Minister and the United States Political Advisor).

3. It is desired that you take action to have these seminaries vacated respectively by the dates stated above.

4. The Allied Control Commission, through which the occupation was arranged in each case, has been made responsible for effecting the restoration to the appropriate authorities. (See attached letter, this headquarters, file and subject as above, dated 24 August 1944, to the Allied Control Commission).

5. It is requested that this headquarters be kept advised as to the action being taken to vacate the premises by the respective dates fixed above.

By command of General WILSON:

R. H. CHRISTIE,
Colonel, AGC,
Acting Adjutant General.

2 Incls

Incl 1 - Ltr, this hq, file and subject as above, dtd 24 August 44, to British Resident Minister and US Political Advisor

Incl 2 - Ltr, this hq, file and subject as above, dtd 24 August 44, to Allied Control Commission

Copy furnished:

Allied Control Commission (5)

- 1 -

816

Data sent for Allied Control Commission, APO 777.

(5)

SECRET

SECRET

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS

Office of the Chief Administrative Officer

24 August 1944

AG 386.2/035 GRC-0

SUBJECT: Molfetta and Benevento Seminaries.

TO : Headquarters, Allied Control Commission, APC 374,
(Attention: Acting Chief Commissioner).

1. It has been decided to vacate and restore the two papal seminaries in Italy now occupied as hospitals - Molfetta Seminary on 1 November 1944 and Benevento Seminary on 15 October 1944. See inclosed letter of even date on the above subject, to the British Resident Minister and the United States Political Advisor.

2. The Allied Control Commission, through which the occupation was arranged in each case, will be responsible for effecting the restoration to the appropriate authorities. This will involve the taking of an inventory and the doing of such other things as may be involved in handing over the premises and protecting the interests of the Allied Forces in connection therewith.

3. You will render a report to this Headquarters on the manner in which this direction is performed.

/s/ J. G. F. Clark
J. G. F. CLARK
Lieutenant General
Chief Administrative Officer

SECRET

1 Incl
Ltr, this HQ, AG 386.2/035 GRC-0,
dtd 24 August 44, subject as above,
to British Resident Minister and US
Political Advisor

815

SECRET

Subject: Religious Property

HQ ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

Tel: MILPO 209

2030/18/42

18 Aug 44

The British Ministry to the Holy See

Copy to: HQ AOC (Your 434/90/CA dated 8 Aug. 44, refers).
HQ, Rome Allied Area Command (Your V.42 dated 6 Aug. 44, refers).
"A"
Encl.

1. Papers dealing with the military occupation of the BENEVENTO and MOLINETTA Papal Seminaries have now been passed to this HQ by HQ, Rome Allied Area Command.

2. The position in regard to the premises in question is constantly under review, and they will both be released as soon as the operational position permits.

3. With reference to the MOLINETTA building, it is perfectly true that the unit at present in occupation will shortly move forward. However, the accommodation will still be required as the Allied Authorities have had to undertake the hospitalization of large numbers of Yugoslav wounded, which are being evacuated from the Balkans where they would otherwise be left in most unsatisfactory conditions. Every effort will be made to release this building by 1 Oct., 44.

4. With reference to the BENEVENTO building, during the latter part of June and early July, the water supply to the building was interrupted, and in consequence it was not possible to accept patients in the hospital. This has now been rectified and the hospital is now fully operational, and on 18 Aug., 44, 726 beds out of a total of 805 were in fact occupied. The unit operating this site is 106 South African General Hospital. The title is more generally written 106 (SA) General Hospital, and it is thought that the statement that the building was occupied by Salvation Army Workers may have arisen from a faulty appreciation of the true meaning of the letters "S.A.".

5. As regards negotiations with the Archbishop of BARI, these were conducted by HQ AOC. It is not understood why there is any complaint that the Archbishop was not permitted to communicate freely with the Vatican. At the time the negotiations were in progress there was no direct communication between Allied occupied Italy and the Vatican, and in consequence all communication was through diplomatic channels.

Seen by Ex Com
A/C 26/18 L

Major-General
Chief Administrative Officer

SH
PHT

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
R.C. & M.G. SECTION
APO 394

PHONE: 544

H.C.
WWS

REF : 131/90/GA

8 August 44

SUBJECT: Benevento and Molfetta Seminaries.

TO : H.Q. A.A.I.

1. Strong representations have again been received from the Vatican in regard to the Seminaries at Benevento and Molfetta.
2. The Vatican state "A prolonged interruption of the activity of the Benevento Seminary would result in great harm to the religious life of the 26 dioceses of the Beneventana and Campania regions "and again "the functioning of the Molfetta Seminary is indispensable to the Catholic life of all the 20 dioceses of the Apulian region".
3. The new scholastic year opens in the Autumn and the Vatican is very anxious to regain control of these Seminaries before the opening. The hope is expressed that since the front has moved forward so fast the Seminaries might now be returned to the Vatican.
4. I shall be obliged if you will consider this question and inform me as early as possible of your decision.

H. S. Lush
H.S. LUSH,
Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner,
For Acting Chief Commissioner.

Copy to : AMHQ G 5
HQ. RMAC.
British Minister at the Vatican
Pol. Section
File 132.

813

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
R.O. & M.G. SECTION
APO 394

PHONE: 511

REF : 431/90/CA

7 August 44

SUBJECT : BENEVENTO AND MOLFETTA SEMINARIES.

TO : H.Q. A.A.I.

1. Strong representations have again been received from the Vatican in regard to the Seminaries at Benevento and Molfetta.
2. The Vatican state "A prolonged interruption of the activity of the Benevento Seminary would result in great harm to the religious life of the 26 dioceses of the Beneventana and Campana regions" and again "the functioning of the Molfetta Seminary is indispensable to the Catholic life of all the 20 dioceses of the Apulian region".
3. The new scholastic year opens in the Autumn and the Vatican is very anxious to regain control of these Seminaries before the opening. The hope is expressed that since the front has moved forward so fast the Seminaries might now be returned to the Vatican.
4. I shall be obliged if you will consider this question and inform me as early as possible of your decision.

✓

M. S. LUSH,
Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner,
for Acting Chief Commissioner.

Copy to : AMHQ. G 5
HQ. RANC.
British Minister at the Vatican
Pol. Section
File 432.

2/8
812

MB/ajp

A/CC 386.8

2 August 1944

SUBJECT: Pontifical Seminaries at Solferino and Desventato

TO : Commanding General, Base Allied Area Command

1. With further reference to your letter of 21 July 1944, file V/25, subject as above, the Regional Commissioners concerned have been asked for a report on the present position in regard to these seminaries. They have been asked to expedite their reports in view of the urgency and importance of the matter.

2. The British Minister at the Vatican has been informed that if reports from Regional Commissioners indicate that the case is as stated in the correspondence forwarded with your letter in regard to the small use at present being made of the seminaries, this Headquarters will recommend to Headquarters A. S. I. that the seminaries be returned to the Vatican authorities.

ELMER W. STONE
Captain, USAF
Acting Chief Commissioner

cc: British Minister at Vatican
Political Section
CA Branch

483
Barn + Mary

432 2
432
HEADQUARTERS *Civil Affairs*
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
REGION 2

Ref: HC/ 2/103

1 August 1944 *WS*
HC

SUBJECT: - Molfetta Seminary

TO : - R.C. & M.G. Section
HQ. A.C.C. APO. 394

74 4 AUG Recd

Reference 432/52/CA of 21 July 1944 and further to this HQ. memo numbered as above of 30 July 1944 HQ. District report.

" The Molfetta Seminary continues to form an indispensable part of the hospital accommodation in this District. In fact, it will shortly be expanded to take 1200 bed patients, as against 600 at present.

It is regretted therefore that the release of the Seminary cannot be contemplated under present conditions."

John T. Zellars
JOHN T. ZELLARS
Col. Inf.

Regional Commissioner

see 75

re.

19

810 r

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
REGION 2

Ref: HC/ 2/103

1 August 1944

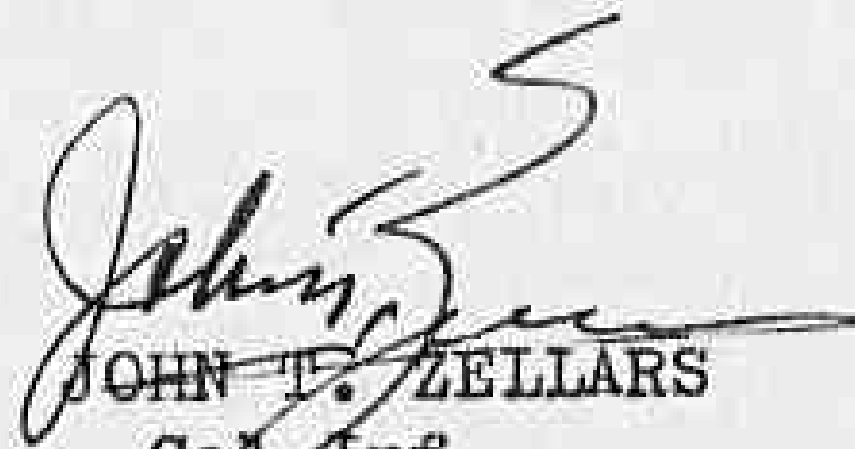
SUBJECT: - Molfetta Seminary

TO : - R.C. & M.G. Section
HQ. A.C.C. APO. 394

Reference 432/52/CA of 21 July 1944 and further to this HQ. memo numbered as above of 30 July 1944 HQ. District report.

" The Molfetta Seminary continues to form an indispensable part of the hospital accommodation in this District. In fact, it will shortly be expanded to take 1200 bed patients, as against 600 at present.

It is regretted therefore that the release of the Seminary cannot be contemplated under present conditions."


JOHN T. ZELLARS
Col. Inf.
Regional Commissioner

see 75

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
REGION II

Ref : HC/2/101.

30 July 44.

3 AUG Recd

Subject: Molfetta Seminary.

To : R.C. & M.C. Section, HQ. A.C.C., APO 394. ✓

1. Reference your 432/52/CA dated 21 July 44.
2. Number of patients now approximately 400.
3. 1st New Zealand General Hospital is still in occupation.
4. I understand that the Hospital is not under orders to move, but that if such orders are received an other Hospital Unit is already earmarked to take its place.
5. The students were originally evacuated to their own homes throughout Italy. I understand, however, that the 250 mentioned by the Archbishop of Bari returned a short time ago to take some examination. They have been accomodated, I have been informed, in the local Seminary which was originally evacuated by troops in order to make room for them and the staff. These students will be leaving in the early part of August.

No more information can be obtained as the Archbishop is away and his available staff do not know any more.

John T. Gillars 809
JOHN T. GILLARS
Colonel, Infantry
Regional Commissioner



see 75

0210

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

Col. Shippe

CA Branch

Please see Col
Demomoe re this

100
1 Aug

31 July
Acting Chief Com's —

C.A. Branch submits
the draft of reply to
Gen. Johnson in the matter
of Mafetta and Benevento
Seminaries. Draft is on
inside of cover.

(P.D.)

01212

31 July 44

Subject: Molfetta and Benevento Seminaries

To: Secretary General

HQ ACC. NO 201
320
Recd 31 July 1900
By

1. I refer to your GS - 386.8 of the 28 July folio 68.
2. A reply to the letter at folio 64 on this file is submitted in draft for the A/Chief Commissioner's approval (opposite on cover). This reply has been coordinated with Political Section.

Edw. M. Maje
31/7. *C. A. Brand.*

See 72

31 July 44

Subject: Malfetta and Benevento Extradition

To: Secretary General

1. I refer to your CR - 306.8 of the 23 July 1944.
2. A reply to the letter of 16 July 44 on this file is submitted in draft for the Chief Commissioner's approval (opposite on cover). This reply has been coordinated with Political Section.

802

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ADG 150

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3.4 数据源

2000 年 12 月 31 日

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary General
APO 394

RED/ajp

SG-386.6

28 July 1944

MEMORANDUM TO: Civil Affairs Branch, Hq. ACC.

SUBJECT : Molfetta and Benevento Seminaries

1. The Acting Chief Commissioner directs that the attached correspondence concerning the return of the above seminaries be investigated and a draft letter be submitted to him as soon as possible.

2. The matter should be coordinated with the Political Section in view of the last paragraph of Sir D'Arcy Osborn's letter of 21 July 1944.

3. A previous communication from General Johnson, enclosing other letters from the British Minister to the Holy See was sent to you on the 17 July 1944.

Robert E. Doe
ROBERT E. DOE
Major, A.C.D.
Secretary General

5 Incls:

- Incl 1 - Ltr fr RAAC, file V/25,
dtd 22 July 44.
- 2 - Ltr fr Sir D'Arcy Osborn,
dtd 21 July 44.
- 3 - Translation of note No. 4539/44,
dtd 19 July 44 fr Secretariat of
State of His Holiness to H. M.
Legation to the Holy See.
- 4 - Ltr fr Sir D'Arcy Osborn dtd 19 July
44.
- 5 - Ltr enclosing translation of note
No. 4424/44 of 17 July 44 fr Secre-
tariat of State of the Holiness to
H. M. Legation to the Holy See.

808

ROME ALLIED AREA COMMAND
A.P.O. 794. U.S. ARMY

HQ ACC, APO 394
217 Sec'y Gen
Rec'd 25 July 1944
By

22 July 1944.

V/25

Subject: Pontifical Seminaries at Molfetta and Benevento.

To : Chief Commissioner, Allied Control Commission,
Headquarters A.C.C. A.P.O. 394. U.S. Army.

1. In your letter of 17 July 1944, reference S.A.386.2, you informed us that action would be taken by your Headquarters about Pontifical Seminaries at Molfetta and Benevento.

2. This information was transmitted by us to the British Minister to the Holy See in our letter of 19 July 1944.

3. We are sending you attached two more communications which have been sent to this Headquarters by the British Minister to the Holy See on the subject of the Seminaries at Molfetta and Benevento.

4. The first communication from the British Minister to the Holy See is one in which the Minister reviews the question briefly and is one in which he requests us to transmit note No. 4424-44 of 17 July 1944 from the Secretariat of State of His Holiness to the British Legation. This note reviews chronologically the representations which have been made by the Holy See for the Seminaries.

5. Accordingly we are sending attached note No. 4424-44.

6. In his note of 21 July 1944 the British Minister again urges us to assist in having the Seminaries restored and sends us note No. 4539-44 of 19 July 1944 from the Secretariat of State of His Holiness to the British Minister which we transmit attached.

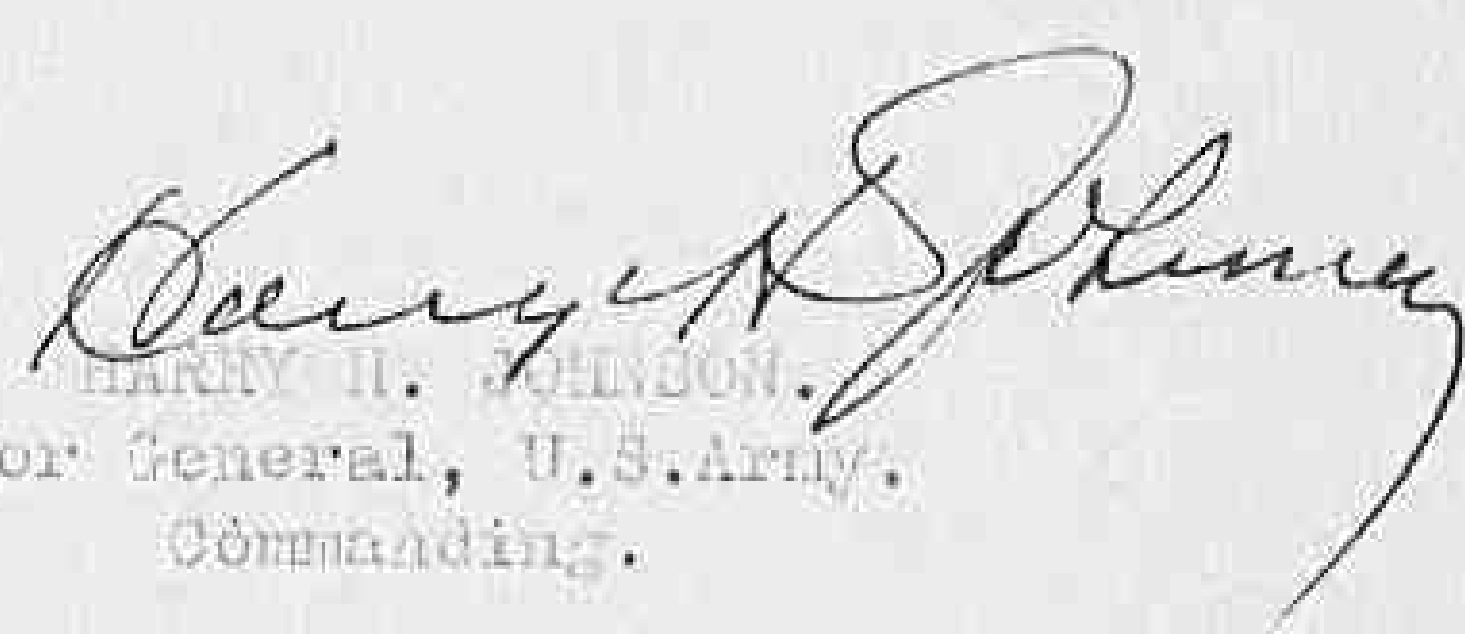
804

- 2 -

7. The letter of 19 July 1944 from the British Minister asks that this Headquarters transmit Vatican note N^o.4424-44 to the "Supreme Allied Authorities in Italy" in order that they may consider it most carefully.

8. In view of the fact that you have informed us that action is being taken by your Headquarters we are transmitting for your information all the documents sent to us.

9. It would be much appreciated, in view of the many representations about these Seminaries that have been made to us and because of the gravity of the situation as it is explained, if we could be informed as promptly as possible of the action taken by your Headquarters.


HARRY H. JOHNSON.
Major General, U.S. Army.
Commanding.

66

TRANSLATION OF NOTE N° 4539/44 OF JULY 19TH 1944
FROM THE SECRETARIAT OF STATE OF HIS HOLINESS, TO
H.B.M. LEGATION TO THE HOLY SEE.

1. As is known to His Britannic Majesty's Legation, the Secretariat of State of His Holiness, welcoming the desire expressed by the Legation, hastened to give on March 31st the necessary instructions to H.E. the Most Rev. Monsignor Agostino Mancinelli, Archbishop of Benevento, with a view to the cession of that Pontifical Regional Seminary which the Allied Command had asked to be able to use for some months as a military hospital.

By means of the said instructions Monsignor the Archbishop of Benevento was authorised to agree to the demand of the Allied Military Authorities, provided that the Seminarists were able to be conveniently lodged elsewhere.

2. H.E. Monsignor Mancinelli, not having succeeded in making suitable arrangements for the Seminarists, made strong representations to the Allied Command in order that they might limit themselves to occupying only a part of the Seminary. The Allied Command, however, considered that they could not do without the whole building, which on June 1st was accordingly transformed into a hospital: thus the course of studies of the students was cut short and these indeed were courteously taken to their own homes in Allied motor-cars.

3. A prolonged interruption of the activity of the above-mentioned Pontifical Seminary would result in grave harm to the religious life of the twenty-six dioceses of the Beneventana and Campana regions, which send their own students to that seminary in order there to complete the superior courses of ecclesiastical studies; accordingly the Holy See urgently request H.M. Legation to be so good as to make use of its authoritative good offices with the competent authorities in order that at the beginning of the new scholastic year the Seminary in question may be able to start functioning regularly again.

Since...

802

-2-

Since war-like operations are now taking place at a very considerable distance, the Secretariat of State trusts that its request will be favourably received, all the more so since the Vice President of the Allied Control Committee, Mr. Samuel Rober, on May 27th wrote as follows to Monsignor the Archbishop of Benevento:-

"It is the hope of the Allied authorities that the use of the Seminary will not be required for too long a period, and that, subject to military exigencies, it may be released prior to the re-opening of the new scholastic year."

The Secretariat of State takes advantage of this occasion to express to U.S.M. Legation the sense of its high distinguished consideration.

801

MAJOR GENERAL JOHNSON.

With reference to my Note of July 19th about Volfette Seminary, I now transmit translation of a further Note received from the Secretariat of State, this time about the Seminary at Benevento.

You will observe that, according to this Note, the Archbishop of Benevento made representations, which were not however heeded, with a view to the occupation of only a part of the Seminary; that as a result of the closing of the Seminary all the students had to return to their homes; and that the Holy See urgently request that, in order to avoid grave harm to the religious life of 25 dioceses, the Seminary may be restored to its normal uses before the opening of the new scholastic year.

I would recall in this connexion the information given by the Archbishop of Benevento to Cardinal Pizzardo, which I reported in the P.S. to a letter which I sent you on July 7th (2/27/44), viz., that some weeks after the evacuation of the students, the College was occupied only by ten patients and by 100 ladies of the Salvation Army. You will see too that the A.C.C. seem to have encouraged the hope that the Seminary may be evacuated by the autumn.

In view of the speedy northward drive of the Allied armies and the presumed need that hospitals should not be too far removed from the line, I hope that it may soon be possible to comply with the Vatican request and perhaps you will be so good, in transmitting the enclosed document to the Higher Command, to inform them what importance I attach, in the interests of good relations between the Allies and the Vatican, to compliance with the latter's request as soon as military exigencies render it possible.



500

British Legation to the Holy See,
Vatican City.

July 21st 1944.

With reference to my Note of July 19th about Molitetta Seminary, I now transmit translation of a further Note received from the Secretariat of State, this time about the Seminary at Benevento.

You will observe that, according to this Note, the Archbishop of Benevento made representations, which were not however heeded, with a view to the occupation of only a part of the Seminary; that as a result of the closing of the Seminary all the students had to return to their homes; and that the Holy See urgently request that, in order to avoid grave harm to the religious life of 26 dioceses, the Seminary may be restored to its normal uses before the opening of the new scholaastic year.

I would recall in this connexion the information given by the Archbishop of Benevento to Cardinal Pizzardo, which I reported in the P.S. to a letter which I sent you on July 7th (2/87/44), viz., that some weeks after the evacuation of the students, the College was occupied only by ten patients and by 100 ladies of the Salvation Army. You will see too that the A.C.C. seem to have encouraged the hope that the Seminary may be evacuated by the autumn.

In view of the speedy northward drive of the Allied armies and the presumed need that hospitals should not be too far removed from the line, I hope that it may soon be possible to comply with the Vatican request and perhaps you will be so good, in transmitting the enclosed document to the Higher Command, to inform them what importance I attach, in the interests of good relations between the Allies and the Vatican, to compliance with the latter's request as soon as military exigences render it possible.



800

British Legation to the Holy See,

Vatican City.

July 21st 1944.

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
P.C. & M. SECTION
APO 334

Ref /632/52/OK

23 July 1964

SUBJECT: Melfetta Seminary.

TO : R.O. Regina II

1. I refer to your AG/2/75 of 23 May 64 and its enclosed report by the P.C. Paris and previous correspondence of Melfetta Seminary.
2. I shall be obliged if you will report as early as possible:
 - a. The number of patients now in the seminary.
 - b. Whether the New Zealand General Hospital is still in occupation.
 - c. If the answer to B is in the affirmative whether it is true that the Hospital Unit is under orders to transfer.
3. A report which has reached this Headquarters through Vatican channels from the Archbishop of Paris states that "the place to which the students from Melfetta Seminary have been sent is absolutely inadequate to contain all the students and that the SAC who are now there are living in crowded, unsanitary and uncomfortable conditions". Will you also therefore send a report on this aspect of the matter.

1/83, 1
Melfetta

Richard M. ...
RICHARD M. FINE
Colonel
Deputy Executive
Commissioner

Copy to:

British Minister to the Vatican.
APO, C-5.
Political Section.

799

1-10

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CENTRAL COMMISSION
R.O. & M.A. SECTION
APO 954

Ref A32/52/CA

21 July 1944

SUBJECT: Malfetta Sanitary.

TO : R.O. Region II

1. I refer to your 10/2/44 of 23 May 44 and its enclosed report by the R.O. Bari and previous correspondence on Malfetta Sanitary.

2. I shall be obliged if you will report as early as possible:

- a. The number of patients now in the sanitary.
- b. Whether the New Zealand General Hospital is still in occupation.
- c. If the answer to B is in the affirmative whether it is true that the Hospital Unit is under orders to transfer.

3. A report which has reached this Headquarters through Italian channels from the Archbishop of Bari states that "the plan to send the students from Malfetta Sanitary have been sent is absolutely inadequate to contain all the students and that the 240 who are now there are living in crowded, unsanitary and uncomfortable conditions". Will you also therefore send a report on this aspect of the matter.

Official
Deputy Executive
Commissioner

Copy to:

British Minister to the Vatican.
APO, C-6.
Political Section.

798

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SW 21/7

MAJOR GENERAL JOHNSON.

I transmit herewith translation of an extremely lengthy Note which I have received from the Secretariat of State, containing a chronological account of events in connection with the requisitioning of the Molfetta Seminary.

I shall be grateful if you will be so good as to transmit this document to the Supreme Allied Authorities in Italy and will request them to consider it most carefully. It seems to me that some of the facts given, if correctly stated, are in need of explanation, particularly the fact that the Archbishop of Bari was not enabled to communicate freely with the Vatican about the Seminary and that the difficulty of the Archbishop's situation, due to the fact that the Seminary was not his to dispose of, never seems to have been fully appreciated.

It seems clear that the occupation of the Seminary has in fact gravely inconvenienced the Church authorities in Apulia and that if the building continues to be occupied the whole system for the training of the clergy in that province will be put out of gear. In view of this fact and also of the probability that the continued occupation by force of the Papal Seminary will have an unfortunate effect on relations between His Majesty's Government and the Holy See, I strongly recommend that most careful consideration be given to the Vatican plea that the building be restored to its proper use by next autumn. I imagine that in view of the northward drive of the Allied forces in Italy, it should not be difficult to meet Vatican wishes in this respect.

I am sending a translation of the Note to the Foreign Office with comments in the same sense as the above.

British Legation to the Holy See,
Vatican City.

July 19th 1944.

797

TRANSLATION OF NOTE No. 4424/44 OF JULY 17,
1944, FROM THE SECRETARIAT OF STATE OF HIS
HOLINESS TO H. M. LEGATION TO THE HOLY SEE.

1) With a Memorandum dated November 17th 1943 H.B.M. Legation informed the Secretariat of State of His Holiness that the Allied Authorities proposed to occupy the Molfetta Regional Seminary (Bari), after its requisition by the Italian Government, in order to make use of it as a military Convalescent Home.

The said Legation added: "His Majesty's Government desire to inform the Holy See, as a matter of courtesy, of the action proposed and they suggest that, in view of the possibility of similar cases in future, it might be helpful if the authorities in charge of ecclesiastical property were directed to cooperate fully with the Allied authorities in such matters."

2) In reply it was pointed out in a note from the Secretariat of State of November 19th 1943:-

- a) that the Molfetta Regional Seminary, being the property of the Holy See "it was necessary not only on grounds of courtesy but also on legal grounds, to obtain the previous consent of the Holy See before using the building for other objects even of a charitable nature";
- b) that the Italian Government as recently as June 24th 1940 had assured the Holy See in writing that in so far as the Molfetta Seminary was concerned, it had given "instructions that orders for its requisition would be suspended and that no such orders should be given for the future;
- c) that President Roosevelt, on July 10th 1945⁷⁹⁶ declared in a public message: "During the period of operations.....Pontifical possessions in Italy will be respected."

-2-

In view of the above, the communication from the Secretariat of State added that the Holy See gave its consent to the use of the building in question as a Convalescent Home provided that the Regional Seminary could continue to function and could find elsewhere convenient premises. This condition was indispensable because the Molfetta Regional Seminary - the only one in the whole region of Apulia - accommodates all the candidates for the priesthood who are engaged in philosophical and theological studies, and is therefore absolutely necessary to the normal life of the Catholic Church.

To the above-mentioned note were added the requisite instructions, which U.S.M. Legation were begged to send through the mediation and good offices of their own Government to the Most Rev. Monsignor Marcello Mimmi, Archbishop of Bari. The latter was moreover authorized by the Holy See to negotiate with the Allied Authorities about other similar cases which might present themselves in the future.

3) The said instructions - as the Holy See has only just now learned - were communicated to H.E. the Archbishop of Bari on December 22nd 1943 by means of a letter from Brigadier Maxwell Taylor.

In the meantime, however, Their Excellencies the Bishops of Apulia had received orders to evacuate within three days the Molfetta Regional Seminary. This may be deduced from a letter which the said Bishops addressed on December 12th 1943 to the Allied Command and which has only recently come to the knowledge of the Secretariat of State. It reads as follows:-

"On the 10th instant we came to know that General Taylor of this Command ordered for the 15th instant the evacuation of the Pius XI Pontifical Regional Seminary of Molfetta. This communication has caused us deep sorrow. It is the only philosophical and theological seminary which we possess in the whole of Apulia which is being closed. The Apulian Bishops are well aware of and render homage to the attitude of noble and generous respect which the Allied Military Command have constantly shown for the Holy See and the Catholic Church, and it is for this reason that the undersigned, as representatives of the Holy See, to

which/

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which the Institute belongs and in the name of all the Apulian Episcopate, venture to formulate the wish expressed recently by the afore-mentioned Episcopate and to beg the said Command to be so good as to refrain from requisitioning the Molfetta Regional Seminary. The undersigned state at the same time that this request has also been forwarded to Mr. Winston Churchill, head of H.B.M. Government, and to Mr. F.D. Roosevelt, President of the United States."

- 4) The absence of any reply from H.E. Monsignor the Archbishop of Bari could not but cause anxiety to the Holy See, all the more in that on December 29th 1943, the following telegram was received from the Chargé d'Affaires of the Apostolic Delegation of Cairo:

"An informed Allied Authorities proposed requisition Pontifical Seminary Molfetta as hospital. Representations made to authorities have resulted in postponement till January fifth, but requisition order is maintained."

To this telegram the Holy See replied on the following day informing Father Hughes of the position and of the instructions already given by the Holy See.

- 5) As in the meantime the Apostolic Delegation at Washington had also received news about the threatened requisition, the Secretariat of State on December 31st 1943 thus summed up for the information and guidance of the Pontifical representative in question, the desires of the Holy See:-

- a) that the assurance given publicly should be faithfully respected,
- b) That H.E. the Archbishop of Bari should be enabled to make known to the Holy See whether he had received and carried out the instructions given to him, it being extremely painful for the said Holy See to have received not even one direct message from the whole Episcopate in the regions of

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occupied by the Allies.

6) Still influenced by the natural desire to know something about the fate of the Molfetta Pontifical Seminary, the Secretariat of State on January 18th 1944 sent a telegram to H.E. Monsignor Minai asking him if he had carried out their instructions of November 19th. A similar telegram was sent on January 21st, through the intermediary of Monsignor Carroll, who was then at Algiers.

7) On January 22nd 1944 H.E.M. Minister verbally informed His Eminence the Cardinal Secretary of State that the Rector of the Molfetta Seminary, in agreement with His Excellency the Bishop, had refused to give up the building, not having found other premises suitable for the proper functioning of the Seminary. The military authorities - added H.E. the Minister - had then been constrained to requisition the Seminary.

His Eminence the Cardinal Secretary of State replied that the Holy See was still awaiting an answer from H.E. the Archbishop of Bari and therefore prayed H.E. the Minister to be so good as to telegraph to the Government in London asking them to hold matters up and to invite His Excellency the Archbishop of Bari to make known his reasons to the Holy See, which would then pass judgment. H.E. the Minister declared himself ready to telegraph in the desired sense.

8) On the same day, January 22nd, the Apostolic Delegate in London made known to the Secretariat of State that the Bishops of Apulia - according to a letter which he had received from H.E. the Archbishop of Bari - had requested his intervention with a view to preventing the requisitioning of the Molfetta Pontifical Seminary. Naturally H.E. Monsignor Godfrey did not fail to take up the matter with zeal and for his guidance the relevant information and instructions were sent to him on January 24th.

9) Not satisfied with this the Secretariat of State continued to make use of every means in order to obtain information about this grave matter. On January 26th 1944, the Chargé d'Affaires of the Apostolic Delegation of Cairo was asked by telegram if he had received further information regarding the Molfetta Seminary. On the 11th February H.E. the Cardinal Secretary of State telegraphed as follows to the Archbishop of Bari: "I am still

waiting/

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waiting answer to my instructions concerning Molfette Seminary." At the same time His Eminence, by means of another telegraphic message, requested Monsignor Carroll at Algiers to look into the question and to hasten the reply to H.E. Monsignor Mimmi. A similar request was sent anew on February 16th 1944 to the Chargé d'Affaires of the Apostolic Delegation at Cairo.

10) The Rev. Father Hughes, on March 7th 1944, sent to the Secretariat of State the following telegram: "Happy communicate information of fourteenth February stating Seminary Molfetta not taken. Authorities courteously consider Bishop's representations."

11) This communication made the Holy See hope that the Molfetta Seminary had been left free. However, on April 13th 1944 the Chargé d'Affaires of the United States of America wrote as follows in a letter directed to H.E. Monsignor the Secretary of the Sacred Congregation of Extraordinary Ecclesiastical Affairs:- "I have now received a communication from Washington which may be of interest to the Holy See. The communication states that according to information received from Algiers the Molfetta Seminary was evacuated on March 15 and 16 last with the assent of the Archbishop of Bari and that the students were moved elsewhere to the satisfaction of the Archbishop. It appears further from the communication in question that the Allied military and medical authorities planned to occupy the Seminary during the first week of April".

12) With a view to knowing with greater fullness and exactitude what had happened, His Eminence the Cardinal Secretary of State on April 19th 1944 sent the two following telegrams:-

"Archbishop Mimmi - Bari.

"American Chargé d'Affaires here has been notified by his government that Your Excellency has consented to grant use Molfetta Seminary as convalescent home stop I beg Your Excellency to send me direct information as soon as possible about details of agreement and execution of instructions I gave Your Excellency on this matter."

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"Monsignor Carroll - Algiers.

"American Chargé d'Affaires here has been notified by his government that Archbishop Bari has consented to

grant/

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grant use Molfetta Seminary as convalescent home stop. It is however regretted that said Archbishop has been so far unable to correspond directly with Holy See even though official assurances were repeatedly given that such communications had been granted north Italian Bishops."

13) On May 27th 1944, the Holy See, not having yet received any reply from R.L. Monsignor Himm or from Monsignor Carroll, His Excellency the Apostolic Delegate in London sent to the Secretariat of State the following telegram:-

"Letter dated March 25th just reached here addressed to Your Eminence by Archbishop Bari communicates: a) Molfetta Seminary taken over by Allied Authorities; b) Premises offered exchange namely diocesan seminary formerly Italian military hospital but considered inadequate; c) Having received no reply from Holy See to wireless message Archbishop Bari considered himself unable authorize requisition of Pontifical Seminary which consequently remain exclusive responsibility Allied Authorities; d) Episcopate Apulia urgently begs intervention Holy See safeguard education clerical students."

14) Such news naturally caused surprise and pain both on account of the matter at issue and also because of the procedure adopted. Accordingly, on June 1st 1944 His Eminence Cardinal Maglione sent to His Excellency the Apostolic Delegate in London the following telegram:

"I thank Your Excellency for informations concerning Molfetta Pontifical Seminary. Holy See never received telegraphic message Archbishop Bari. I beg Your Excellency cooperation for obtaining that Regional Seminary necessary ecclesiastical education may continue function properly and no forced requisition be made of Church institutions."

To this telegram R.L. Monsignor Godfrey replied as follows on June 6th:-

"Am doing all possible for Molfetta and ecclesiastical property generally."

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15) Meanwhile, on June 4th 1944 Rome had been occupied by the Allies. It was then possible for the Holy See to have direct, precise and complete news from Their Excellencies the Bishops of Apulia about the vicissitudes of the Molfetta Pontifical Seminary. According to the information received matters took the following course. Towards the end of February the Allied military authorities informed H.E. the Archbishop of Bari that they insisted on the building being given up. H.E. Monsignor Mammì seeing no possibility of finding, in accordance with the conditions laid down by the Holy See, other convenient premises for the students of this College, asked that the following telegraphic message might be sent to the Secretariat of State of His Holiness: "No premises have been found. I await instructions." While this telegram was not transmitted to the Holy See, on the 9th March the Allied authorities imposed upon H.E. the Archbishop of Bari the evacuation of the Pontifical Seminary for the 16th March. The students would have to be transferred to the premises of the Diocesan Seminary of Molfetta. The Apulian Episcopate at once pointed out: a) that they had not the power to hand over the building and property of the Holy See without first receiving the instructions already requested; b) that there were in the province of Bari other buildings capable of use as hospitals which had been placed at the disposal of the Allied authorities by the Italian Government or by the Prefect of the Bari Province; c) that the measures taken had produced a painful impression both on the Holy See and on the Apulian Episcopate as also on all the faithful, on account of the considerable harm to the priestly vocation which would result from it; d) that the personnel of the Pontifical Seminary could not be lodged in the premises of the Diocesan Seminary of Molfetta because it was insufficient in size, in bad condition and in need of disinfection as it had been used for tubercular patients.

16) In reply the Allied authorities declared on the same day, March 9th, verbally and in writing, that the Regional Seminary were not handed over. It would be occupied by force. This in fact took place on the morning of March 16th. The Bishops therefore had to send back to their families the 350 Seminarists who occupied the building, these being thus forced to interrupt their courses of studies, to their considerable detriment. In the meantime thirty British soldiers entered the Regional Seminary. It was only after about two months that the first wounded began to arrive. According to what is stated structural operations were also undertaken on the initiative of the occupants which

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See
p. 3
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were not always carried out with the necessary regard to the stability of the building.

17) On April 17th 1944 Their Excellencies the Bishops of Apulia, assembled at Lecce, decided to address a letter to H.E. the Head of the Italian Government deploring what had occurred, re-calling the public promise made by the President of the United States to respect all Pontifical property in Italy, and asking for the restitution of the Seminary as being an absolute necessity for the life of the Church.

18) As a result of the decision reached by the above-mentioned Bishops at their meeting at Lecce, the necessary steps were taken to disinfect the premises of the Diocesan Seminary of Molfetta, other urgent works were also carried out and it was thus possible, but only on June 4th, to bring back part of the Seminarists (scarcely two-thirds) in order to finish their annual course and to undergo examinations, thus avoiding the enormous harm that would have been caused to them by the loss of a year of studies. The experiment has also confirmed the fact that it is impossible to lodge the Seminarists in this building.

19) When communications were finally re-established with the Holy See, Their Excellencies the Bishops of Apulia drew attention to the necessity of having back the Molfetta Regional Seminary, and the Sacred Congregation of Seminarians and of Universities has already raised the question with H.E. the British Minister. Therefore the Secretariat of State of His Holiness earnestly begs H.B.M. Legation to make use of their influential good offices with the Allied authorities with a view to the Regional Seminary in question being left free as soon as possible.

Many and grave are the reasons justifying this request:

a) The Molfetta Pontifical Regional Seminary was requisitioned contrary to the assurances given to the Holy See and to the instructions imparted by the said Holy See to E.S. Monsignor the Archbishop of Bari;

b) the premises of the Molfetta Diocesan Seminary are insufficient and unsuitable. Indeed, whereas the students are, as has already been said, some 350 in number, these premises can only contain a much reduced number; actually of the 240 students there accommodated, twenty have to sleep in a corridor.

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-2-

It may be added that the rooms destined to the Professors are damp and almost uninhabitable: an infirmary is lacking so that two students who were ill with para-typhus had to be left in the dormitory with their companions. There is also no laundry: the hygienic arrangements and water supplies are defective nor are there any baths: lecture halls are lacking: laboratories etc. are also lacking.

c) the functioning of the Molfetta Regional Seminary is indispensable to the Catholic life of all the Apulian region (20 dioceses) and it is necessary that next September the Seminary may re-open and take in afresh all the students.

The Secretariat of State of His Holiness trusts that it will not be difficult for the Allied Command - above all now that war-like operations have been advanced some hundreds of kilometres towards the north and that in Apulia there are several other hospitals with a reduced number of wounded - to make other convenient arrangements for the military hospital.

The Secretariat of State takes advantage of the occasion to express to H.B.A. Legation the sense of its high and distinguished consideration.

788

17 July 1944

SG 386.8

SUBJECT: The Pontifical Seminaries at Poltetta and Benevento.

TO : Commanding General, Rome Allied Area Command, APO 724, U.S. Army

I am directed by the Acting Chief of Consular to acknowledge your letter of 9 July 1944, file V/10, subject as above, and its inclosures. Action will be taken by this headquarters.

51
ROBERT H. TOB
Major, A.C.D.
Secretary General

787

432
21 JUL Recd
ROME ALLIED AREA COMMAND
APO #794, US ARMY

9 July 1944

HQ ACC, APO #794
56 Sec'y, Gen.
Rec'd 17 Jul 0915
DFE

V/16

Subject: The Pontifical Seminaries at Molfetta and Benevento.

To : Chief Commissioner
Allied Control Commission
Headquarters A.C.C.
A.P.O. 394.

See Johnson Mole 50

1. The British Minister to the Holy See has sent us a letter in which he asks us for information about and help for the Seminaries at Molfetta and Benevento.

2. We have informed the British Minister that these Seminaries are in a territory not administrated by this Command but by the Allied Control Commission, and that we were forwarding his correspondence and that of Cardinal Pizzardo to him, for your consideration.

Harry H. Johnson
HARRY H. JOHNSON
Major General, U.S. Army
Commanding.

*Copy of this letter filed on the
Benevento Summary file 431
786*

HQ ACC, APO 394
56 Sec'y Gen
Rec'd 17 Jul 1945
By DFE

British Legation to the Holy See,
Vatican City.

July 7th 1944.

Dear General Johnson,

I received yesterday a visit from Cardinal Pizzardo, the Head of the Congregation of Seminaries and Universities; he wanted to discuss the requisitioning of the Molfetta and Benevento Seminaries as hospitals by the Allied Military Authorities. I attach copy of the letter he subsequently wrote to me on the subject.

The main points are that he hopes that, now that the front line has moved to the north, these hospitals in the south may no longer be needed. He adds that there are very few patients at Molfetta and that no use has yet been made of the Benevento Seminary. On the other hand he insists on the necessity of uninterrupted study by the students.

Perhaps I could send him an answer saying that the requisition will not be maintained a day longer than is essential and that the advance northwards may be expected to shorten the period; but that it is regretted that no undertaking can at present be given as to the release of the two buildings?

Yours sincerely,

785

D. G. Osborne

Major General Harry H. Johnson,
Commanding Allied Forces,
Rome Area.

P.S. I have now received a further letter from Cardinal Pizzardo. He sends two letters from the Archbishop of Bari about Molfetta. The Archbishop says that the place to which the students from Molfetta Seminary have been sent is absolutely inadequate to contain all the students and that the 240 who are now there are living in crowded, insanitary and uncomfortable conditions. In a subsequent letter the Archbishop states that in the afore-mentioned conditions it will be impossible to open the new scholastic year. He adds that the New Zealand Hospital Unit which occupied the Seminary has received orders of transfer and he therefore urgently begs Cardinal Pizzardo to secure the return of the Molfetta Seminary. The Cardinal strongly supports this request.

His Eminence also informs me that he has just heard from the Archbishop of Benevento that there are only about ten patients in the hospital established in the building of the Benevento Seminary; on the other hand there are, he states, about 100 ladies belonging to the Salvation Army. This, of course, must be very distressing to the ecclesiastical authorities and to the Vatican.

290.

724

C O P Y.

SACRA CONGREGATIO DE SEMINARIS
ET STUDIORUM UNIVERSITATIBUS

Rome, July 2nd, 1944.

Your Excellency,

After the conversation which I had with Your Excellency on June 29th concerning the Pontifical Regional Seminaries of Molfetta and Benevento, I have the honour of writing to you to explain the position in which we find ourselves with regard to these two Seminaries.

As Your Excellency knows, the Regional Seminaries were built by the Holy See in view of the extreme poverty of the Dioceses in Southern Italy which cannot provide in an adequate fashion for the education of their ecclesiastical students. If the level of priestly culture is to be improved - and this is the first step towards the betterment of general education - it is absolutely indispensable that the Regional Seminaries shall continue their work without interruption.

This is particularly true of the Regional Seminaries in Molfetta and Benevento, which house the ecclesiastical students of twenty and eighteen Dioceses respectively.

The occupation of these Seminaries has placed us in an embarrassing position as it is not possible to find alternative accommodation for the 400 and 350 students who within two months time should return to these Institutes. If it had been possible we would have preferred to keep them in the Seminary even during the summer months to avoid the many difficulties which a long stay at home, in miserable surroundings, must necessarily cause.

So far as we know, the present situation of these two Seminaries is as follows:-

The Secretariat of State of His Holiness, in reply to requests made, informed the British Legation to the Holy See that the Holy See was prepared to allow the Regional Seminaries of Molfetta and Benevento to be used as a convalescent home and hospital respectively, on condition that another suitable building could be found for the Seminaries. 783

His Excellency
Sir Francis D'Arcy Godolphin Osborne,
British Minister to the Holy See.

The/

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The Holy See was moved to make this concession especially in view of the fact that at that time the Allied Military Authorities were in need of Hospitals near to the war zone where the wounded could receive the necessary medical attention without delay.

Now that the battle has moved far to the north of Rome and the Military Authorities have been able to open large hospitals in Rome and in other centres, the former necessity of occupying the Regional Seminaries no longer exists.

In fact it would seem that the Regional Seminary of Molfetta has actually very few patients and the Regional Seminary at Benevento, if our information is correct, has not yet been used as a hospital.

On the other hand it has not been possible to find even moderately suitable accommodation for the students of these Seminaries.

In view of these facts I beg Your Excellency to make known the situation to the competent authorities.

I am deeply grateful to Your Excellency for the great help which you have given us in the past and for the interest which you have shown in the present difficult question.

With every good wish to Your Excellency, I remain, with sentiments of deep and affectionate esteem,

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) J. Card. Pizzardo.

P.S. I have just received a letter from His Excellency Monsignor Mimmi, Archbishop of Bari, dated 16th June. He writes as follows: "If the messages that have been sent have reached their destination, Your Eminence will already know that the Pontifical Regional Seminary of Molfetta has been requisitioned, without the authorisation either of the Holy See or of myself, by the Allied Forces for use as a hospital. The students, after two months stay at home, are at present in the Diocesan Seminary of Molfetta

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in order to complete their studies and sit for their examinations. The situation however is impossible. The Apulian Episcopate is very preoccupied regarding the fate of the Clergy and trusts that the Holy See will approach the Allied Authorities in order that the Seminaries may be released. "

With every good wish, I remain,

Yours devotedly,

(Sgd.) J. Card. Pizzardo.

AS

SECRET

May 27, 1944.

MEMORANDUM TO: G-5, Allied Force Headquarters.

Reference is made to ACC MAIN telegram No. 5539, May 22nd, concerning Molfetta Seminary. Regia II has now prepared a report on the present status of the Molfetta, copy of which is enclosed. Copies are being sent to the Office of the United States Political Advisor and to the British Resident Minister.

43
Samuel Reber
Vice President, Allied Control Commission

Enclosure

SECRET

780
P11A

*Vatican:
Molfetta*
HEADQUARTERS ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

APO 394

May 27, 1944.

Dear Fred:

With further reference to the Molfetta Seminary and your letter of May 24, I have had a conversation with Carroll on the subject of the mysterious telegram.

Carroll claims that the message which he sent for the Archbishop of Bari was an earlier one and that he was informed of the despatch of the later telegram under reference.

How it reached London from Naples is still a complete mystery. I can find no record of its having been sent from here. It is referred to in various records of conversations but no copy exists in our files. There is no question in my mind, however, but that it is the one which the Foreign Office held pending developments.

I also enclose a copy of Region II report on the present condition of the Seminary. I showed it to Carroll yesterday who expressed satisfaction over the way we were looking after Vatican property once it had come into our hands.

Sincerely yours,

779

G. F. Reinhardt, Esquire,
Office of the U. S. Political Advisor,
Allied Force Headquarters.

Enclosure

Office of the
UNITED STATES POLITICAL ADVISER
ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS

May 24, 1944

Dear Sam:

I am enclosing four envelopes which we have received from the Department with a request that they be passed on to their destinations.

We received this morning Allied Control Commission's telegram No. 5339 of May 22, about Laffette, but it still does not help us identify the mysterious telegram which as I wrote you before does not appear to be of record here.

I am sorry that we have to keep bothering you on the subject, but I am sure you understand the initiative is not ours. Perhaps when we have been able to send a full and lengthy report on all aspects of the question to the Department, it will be possible to close the case.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

FWT

G. E. Selmerdt

Enclosure
4 envelopes

Amos J. Weber, Esquire
Vice President, Allied Control Commission,
Political Section,
Dayton

7:8

May 23, 1944.

Dear Fred:

With reference to your letter of May 18 on the subject of the Molfetta Seminary, I note your request for clarification of one sentence in my previous Memorandum.

There was no force used in connection with the requisitioning and transfer of the students, in fact the Rector of the Seminary expressed his thanks for the way in which the move was effected.

Insofar as the telegram which the Archbishop of Bari wished to send to the Pope is concerned, he states this was turned over to Monsignor Carroll for despatch through Allied Force Headquarters channels. It is apparently the same telegram which turned up at the Foreign Office.

In reply to M.G.S.'s request, I sent a telegram on May 21, for the Commission referring to my Memorandum of May 11 as the latter represented a summary of the information on file here. Is this enough?

With best wishes,

Yours,

777

G. F. Reinhardt, Esquire,
Office of U.S. Political Advisor,
Allied Force Headquarters,
APO 512

UNITED STATES POLITICAL ADVISER
ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS

May 18, 1944

Dear Sam:

With reference to your memorandum of May 11, 1944 on the subject of the Molfetta Seminary, I note that the penultimate sentence of the next to last paragraph is a bit ambiguous. I think it might be useful for the record if you would confirm my understanding that its meaning is that there was no, repeat no, force used in connection with the requisitioning.

We have had several renewed inquiries about this case emanating both from the Vatican and the Department and I think that MGS will probably have to ask for a complete report covering the whole case.

We have no record here of the telegram referred to in the last paragraph of your memorandum which the Archbishop of Bari is reported to have sent to the Pope and there is no question of its having been held up here by MGS. Presumably the reference is to the telegram which was mentioned in Freedom's 64644 of March 14, 1944, which turned up at the Foreign Office. Do you think you could find out through what channel that telegram was sent?

776

I am sorry to have to bother you with these matters but it looks as though we will have to clear up the record on this case which, as you know, is a bit confused.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,



G. F. Reinhardt

Samuel Reber, Esq.
Vice President, Allied Control Commission
Political Section
Naples, Italy

GFR:ETD

P.S. We sent Rep. Carroll's message along with the explanation, omitting however the last paragraph about the telegram held by MGS.
GFR

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
REGION 2

432-8 *Chap* S-3172

2 MAY 44 SECRET 4/20

Ref: HL/2/73

23 May 1944

SUBJECT: - Report on Molfetta Seminary

TO : - R.C. & M.C. Section
HQ. A.C.C. APC.394



Reference your Secret Signal No 5265 dated 18th May here-
with report called for.

Your signal suffered in transmission and read "further
your telegram Molfetta Semina (Gp. mutilated) (.) A.F.H.S. require
immediate report-----" (.)

No recent telegram regarding the Seminary has been sent
from this HQ. and it is not known to what telegram reference is made.

It is hoped ^{however} that all the information required is contained
in the attached report No R.C.E./6/t of 22 May 44 from Provincial
Commissioner Bari.

M. Reber
1. The signal we talked of at 41
42-43 is Reber's report
which is pretty good. Hb. 4/26/5.

W. M. Cleary Lt. Colonel
JOHN T. ZELARS
Col. Inf.
Regional Commissioner

775

43
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION • COMMISSIONE ALLEATA DI CONTROLLO
LIAISON OFFICE UFFICIO DI COLLEGAMENTO

Reference : PCB/b/8

22nd May 1944

Subject : Report on Molfetta Seminary.

To : Regional Commissioner,
M.Q. Region 2.

Herewith report on the status and condition of Molfetta Seminary as requested.

1. Present Status.

(a) 1 New Zealand General Hospital is in occupation of the Seminary, with complete staff and equipment. All available space has been allocated and all equipment is in position and working order.

(b) There are now some 200 patients of varying types, as the Hospital takes in at present patients from all local units with the exception of Americans.

(c) The accommodation for patients is 800, and it is anticipated that patients up to this number may be expected shortly.

(d) All Officers and Sisters are accommodated and mess in the building; O.R.'s of the Staff are accommodated under canvas in the grounds at the rear of the building, but mess in the Dining Hall originally in use as such.

(e) 25 Italian Nuns operate the Laundry and similar work. They remained on after the remainder of the inmates had left, and are accommodated in a portion of one wing.

(f) 50 local Italians, who live in the town, are engaged as waiters, cleaners, etc..

(g) There are no other original Staff accommodated or working in the building, but the Rector and others of his Staff have free access whenever they desire, and have availed themselves of this from time to time.

(h) The Chapel, side-Chapels, Library and a Laboratory 7.4 (with various instruments), are closed and locked. The Rector has visited and entered these several times whenever he so desired, and removed or installed any articles at his discretion.

2. Condition.

(a) R.E. works installed which have added to the amenities of the building are as follows :-

(1) Installation of hot-water system throughout.

(2) 4 inch water in place of the original 1 1/2 inch main.

Herewith report on the status and condition of Molletta Seminary as requested.

1. Present Status.

(a) 1 New Zealand General Hospital is in occupation of the Seminary, with complete staff and equipment. All available space has been allocated and all equipment is in position and working order.

(b) There are now some 200 patients of varying types, as the Hospital takes in at present patients from all local units with the exception of Americans.

(c) The accommodation for patients is 800, and it is anticipated that patients up to this number may be expected shortly.

(d) All Officers and Sisters are accommodated and mess in the building; O.R.'s of the Staff are accommodated under canvas in the grounds at the rear of the building, but mess in the Dining Hall originally in use as such.

(e) 25 Italian Nuns operate the Laundry and similar work. They remained on after the remainder of the inmates had left, and are accommodated in a portion of one wing.

(f) 50 local Italians, who live in the town, are engaged as waiters, cleaners, etc..

(g) There are no other original Staff accommodated or working in the building, but the Rector and others of his Staff have free access whenever they desire, and have availed themselves of this from time to time.

(h) The Chapel, side-Chapels, Library and a Laboratory 774 (with various instruments), are closed and locked. The Rector has visited and entered these several times whenever he so desired, and removed or installed any articles at his discretion.

2. Condition.

(a) R.E. works installed which have added to the amenities of the building are as follows :-

- (1) Installation of hot-water system throughout.
- (2) 4 inch water in place of the original 1½ inch main.
- (3) Extra storage water tanks under the roof.
- (4) Extra latrine accommodation in existing laboratories and installation of many modern types in lieu of the normal pattern
- (5) Installation of some 50 to 60, wash-hand basins with running hot and cold water.
- (6) Extra cooking stoves.
- (7) Extra modern lighting and electric wiring.
- (8) Installation of long baths.
- (9) Fly-proofing of all windows, (still in progress).

(b) Other works include :-

- (1) Partitions of light brickwork in some wards, laboratories and wash-houses.

...../2

/wash-houses.

- 2 -

- 42
- (2) Locks on doors in wards and laboratories to give direct access where necessary.
 - (3) Further light brickwork partitions to furnish Duty Sisters Offices, etc..
 - (4) Necessary partitions and lighting for Operating Theatre.
 - (5) Wood and light brickwork partitions for Q.M. Stores and Offices.
 - (6) Conversion of cellars into Q.M. Stores, with one door through outside wall on ground level.
 - (7) Removal of light iron and glass screen in entrance hall.

3. In my opinion the works in para 2(a) above, have definitely enhanced the value of the building; while those in para 2(b) above, do not involve any structural alteration, can be easily removed or repaired, and in any event have not caused any damage to, nor detracted from, the value of the main structure.

4. I have not received any complaint either of damage to the building and its contents or of interference with the locked rooms or their contents, the Nuns or other workers.

5. In my opinion the greatest care has been exercised throughout, and all the alterations have been carried out with every regard to the nature of the building and to its future reversion to normal activities. Such alterations appear to me to be the minimum necessary to ensure the proper and efficient running of the Hospital, and moreover to have been carried out in a style consonant with the prevailing style of the building.

PROVINCIAL COMMISSIONER
SALAZAR DEL GOBIERNO
BARI

773

37

TELEGRAM

APOSTOLIC DELEGATE

WASHINGTON, D.C.

PLEASE INFORM CARDINAL MAGLIONE THAT THE ARCHBISHOP OF BARI HAS NEVER AGREED TO THE USE OF NOLFETTA SEMINARY AS A HOME FOR CONVALESCENTS BECAUSE LOCALS OFFERED TO THE SEMINARY WAS DEEMED NEITHER ADEQUATE NOR SUITABLE. THE ARCHBISHOP HAS SENT THE SEMINARIANS TO THEIR HOMES AND IS VERY PERTURBED. HE ASKS THAT THE SEMINARY BE REOPENED. HIS EXCELLENCY TRIED TO SEND A TELEGRAM TO THE HOLY FATHER A FEW DAYS BEFORE THE REQUISITION BUT DOUBTS THAT HIS MESSAGE EVER REACHED ITS DESTINATION

MONSIGNOR WALTER CARROLL

772

SECRET

5255

AGC MAIN (Civil Affairs Branch)

18 May 1964

SECRET

Vapor 165 - Fiske

PRIORITY

DISPNO

REPEATED AMBQ

SUBJECT: MOLNETA SEMINARY PD DATA TO DISPNO FOR AGC REGIONS TWO REPEATED
AMQ FOR GEORGE FIVE FROM AGC MAIN PAREN AMQ JOSEPHINE IMMEDIATE REPORT ON
PRESIDENT STATUS AND GENERAL CONDITION OF PRESENCE OF MOLNETA SEMINARY

771

L. T. MONTANT, Jr.
 1st Lt AGC
 ADJUTANT.

SECRET

0252

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

785016

~~SECRET~~ 133 9.1 10 MAY 1934
 ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

INCOMING MESSAGE 18 MAY 1934

9882

TO: ACC MAIN REPEATED HQ MAAT SIGNED SACMED RPT SACMED

SIGNAL MESSAGE CENTER No: N 11/8

FROM: FREEDOM SIGNED SACMED

CLASSIFICATION: SECRET

REFERENCE No: F 47222

PRECEDENCE: PRIORITY

DATE AND TIME OF ORIGIN: MAY 17/1934 OFFICE OF ORIGIN: CITE: FMGS

STATE DEPARTMENT HAS CALLED FOR FULL REPORT ON PRESENT STATUS OF MOLFETTA SEMINARY AND
 GENERAL CONDITION OF PREMISES. LOOK AT PARA FOUR OF AFHQ LETTER AG386.2-1 OF 2 MARCH,
 SUBJECT REQUISITIONING OF PAPAL SEMINARIES. REQUEST COMPLIANCE SOONEST. PARA. ADVISE
 WHETHER ARCHBISHOP RECEIVED VATICANS REQUEST FOR A REPORT, AND WHAT WAS DONE TO COMPLY.
 WHAT CHANNELS WERE USED QUESTION MARK REFERS MGS LETTER OF 18 DECEMBER, MESSAGES 45323
 OF 31 JANUARY, YOUR 2270 OF 5 FEBRUARY, 51234 OF 13 FEBRUARY, 64644 OF 14 MARCH.

ACTION LIST

ACTION CA BR (2)
 INFO SEC GEN
 DCC
 FILE
 FLOAT

DATE and Time of RECEIPT MAY 18/0230

Distribution:

See 35
 770

COPY.OUTGOING CABLE.

AFHQ FOR G-5

ACC MAIN

5339

5/229A.M.

SECRET

PRIORITY

REBER

REGION TWO HAS BEEN REQUESTED TO SUBMIT FULL REPORT CONCERNING PRESENT STATUS
MOLFETTA SEMINARY NOW BEING UTILIZED AS HOSPITAL PD PAREN TO AFHQ FOR MILITARY
GOVERNMENT SECTION FROM ACC MAIN MACFARLANE REFERENCE ~~FOR PD-2 TWO TWO~~ MAY 17 CITE
F47222
PH MRS PAREN SITUATION REGARDING REQUISITIONING SUMMARIZED IN FULL REPORT TO
US POLITICAL ADVISOR AFHQ FROM POLITICAL SECTION ACC MAY 11 PD ARCHBISHOP STATES
HE REPLIED TO VATICAN'S COMMUNICATION THROUGH MONSIGNOR CARROLL WHO REQUESTED
ALLIED AUTHORITIES AFHQ TO FORWARD MESSAGE PD IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT THE REPLY
NEVER REACHED VATICAN AUTHORITIES

L. T. MONTANE

SAMUEL REBER.

769

MOLFEITTA

40

M: Reber

1. M. Sec 35.

2. Can you have please draft the
something to send to Friedman
answering the last para 934.

Euler 2 15/5.

Amphibia
SECRET

RR
7619
He
Pdlec

HEADQUARTERS
15 MAY 1944
A. C. C.

57/14

500/1

MILITARY

RECEIVED 11 MAY 1944

650 MAIN HUP AT 11:00 AM 11 MAY

MAY 14/1944
MAY 14/1944
7 4750
HISSE

CONSIDER OUR DIRECTIVE IN PAM TINGS (OF OUR F 41945 OF 5 MAY; ALSO FILLOI MESSAGES
Q 2171 OF 9 MAY AND 2191 OF 15 MAY) ALSO REQUEST FOR REPORT IN OUR F 44127 OF 10 MAY.
PAM. IT IS ALSO REQUESTED THAT STATEMENT IN YOUR 2552 OF 24 MARCH OR ACCESSION, AS CORRECTED
BY 2615 OF 26 MARCH, IS NOW COMPLETED. REFERENCE TO ABOVE AND MISUNDERSTANDING IN
MARCH 1940. REQUEST DELETION COMPLETE REPORT SUBJECT TO KANAL APPR TO SUBMIT CASE TO
COMBINED CHIEFS OF STAFF AS REQUESTED. YOUR REPORT ANOTHER GUY IN NOT ONLY QUESTIONS IN
OUR F 31099 OF 12 APRIL, BUT ALSO EXPLAIN SEARCH TO DATE OF ONLY BY ARCHITECTURE TO
KOLY 222. DATED IN OUR F 28193 OF 5 APRIL. IS ALSO CONCERNING THE KENYUPLA TONS REPORT
TO LA 4 2191. GRATE FAVORABLE SITUATION FULLY

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MAY 14/173
MAY 14/173
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F 4.650

45 MAY 1944

A. C. C.

57/14

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MINI 11

THROUGH AIRMAIL CING

ACC BAIN REP AT BAIN AND THE BAIN

CONSIDER THE DISCLOSURE IN PAPA THREE (OF OUR F 41945 OF 5 MAY; ALSO FILIPPO BAIN'S
C 2173 OF 9 MAY AND 2191 OF 15 MAY). ALSO REMEMBER YOUR REPORT IN OUR F 44127 OF 10 MAY.
BAIN. IN THE REPORTED THAT CRATERS IN YOUR 2552 OF 24 MARCH ON MEXICAN, AS OBSERVED
AT 2615 OF 26 MARCH, IN THE COME ATED. REPORTED TO AVOID ANY MISUNDERSTANDING OF
BAIN'S REPORT. REPORT IN REPORT COME ATED REPORT AGAINST NO SMALL AREA TO BAIN'S CASE TO
OBSERVED IN CRATERS OF THAT AS REPORTED. YOUR REPORT SHOULD COVER NOT ONLY OBSERVING TO
OUR F 31009 OF 12 APRIL, BUT ALSO BAIN'S REPORT TO DATA OF COPY BY ARCHIVAL TO
BAIN'S 426. REPORTED IN OUR F 20133 OF 5 APRIL. IN THE COME ATED THE REPORTED BAIN'S
TO IN 4 2191. STATES PRESENT SITUATION FULLY

483.1
reverted

Station - L.H. and UNIT
H. 40 - B.C.
C.A. 2000
Admission
Post Box
Tale
Flout

767

SECRET

39

Molfetta

May 11, 1944.

MEMORANDUM TO: American Political Advisor, Allied Force Headquarters.

Monsignor Carroll, Vatican Representative, has requested that the following telegram be sent to the Apostolic Delegate in Washington:

"PLEASE INFORM CARDINAL MAGLIOME THAT THE ARCHBISHOP OF BARI HAS NEVER AGREED TO THE USE OF MOLFETTA SEMINARY AS A HOME FOR CONVALESCENTS BECAUSE LODGE OFFERED TO THE SEMINARY WAS DEEMED NEITHER ADEQUATE NOR SUITABLE. THE ARCHBISHOP HAS SENT THE SEMINARIANS TO THEIR HOMES AND IS VERY PERTURBED. HE ASKS THAT THE SEMINARY BE RECOVERED. HIS EXCELLENCY TRIED TO SEND A TELEGRAM TO THE HOLY FATHER A FEW DAYS BEFORE THE REQUISITION BUT DOUBTS THAT HIS MESSAGE EVER REACHED ITS DESTINATION."

This telegram is being sent in reply to a message which Carroll received from Cardinal Magliome to the effect that the Vatican had been informed by the United States Government that the Archbishop of Bari had agreed to the use of Molfetta Seminary. Under these circumstances it is suggested that it might be desirable to forward the telegram together with an explanation of the situation with regard to the requisitioning of the Molfetta Seminary. From the records at Headquarters Allied Control Commission this appears to be as follows:

On March 6, the Provincial Commissioner, Allied Control Commission, called upon the Bishop of Molfetta who stated that if the Italian Ospedale Militare Territoriale could be moved from the Palazzo Seminario Piacasano the entire personnel from the Seminary at Molfetta could be accommodated and that he was prepared to move at once. On the following day the Archbishop of Bari, however, sent a message to the effect that he considered the substitute accommodations proposed were insufficient and that he could not agree to vacate the Molfetta Seminary for the use of the Allied forces. After further discussion, the Archbishop then addressed a communication to the Allied Control Commission stating that "if you, even, without the legitimate authorization from the Holy See, the only one which can give it, wish to assume the responsibility of requisitioning the Pontifical Seminary, you are requested to make a 76618

-2-

the necessary means and to make the corresponding arrangements with His Excellency the Bishop of Molfetta and Director of the Seminary, for the transportation of the furnishings and the regular consignment of the accommodations."

Upon the basis of this communication, the Archbishop was informed that the Allied authorities had already requisitioned the Seminary and would arrange for the required transport to be made available to effect the move on March 16. In spite of the fact that the Bishop of Molfetta had retracted his offer on instructions from the Archbishop, he was cooperative in assisting the move to be carried out and thanked the Provincial Commissioner for the way in which it was done. There is no question that force was used. The Archbishop, however, took the course of dispersing the students to their homes as evidence of his dissatisfaction.

As regards the telegram which the Archbishop sent to the Pope, it is understood that it was held by the Military Government Section, Allied Force Headquarters.

Samuel Weber
Vice President, Allied Control Commission
Political Section

c.c. U. S. Representative, Advisory Council for Italy.

REAR HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394

Light Blue HTWM/epc

36

6616

5th May, 1944.

In reply
refer to: TS/19/1/142

Subject : Messages for Monsignor Carroll.

To : Major Hinkel, A.C.C. Main.

1. As per telephone conversation would you kindly pass the following paraphrased message from Cardinal Maglione to Monsignor Carroll.

2. "The U.S.A. Government has informed its Charge d'Affaires at Algiers that the Archbishop at Bari has agreed to the use of Molfetta Seminary as a home for convalescents. Unfortunately the Archbishop up to now cannot obtain direct correspondence with the Holy See though he has been told officially often enough that Bishops in South Italy were permitted this facility."

92.12. Sandden
fr J.L. HENDERSON
Colonel

Mag. S.C.

Director, Communications Sub-Commission

0260

COPY

33

TO: Chief Commissioner.

I saw Mons.Carroll this morning. He would not budge from the attitude that the decision of the Archbishop of Molfetta was final and that we should not have done anything contrary thereto. He will however visit both Benevento (about which he is quite happy) and Bari and try to "iron things out". He was helpful.

M.S.LUSH.
1.4.44.

Good. Very many thanks.

Noel Mason MacFarlane
1.4.44.

763

Ref: 123/57/CA.30th March 1944.

32

SUBJECT: Requisitioning of Seminary at MOLFETTA.

To : Chief Commissioner.

1. I refer to Monsignor Carroll's letter regarding the requisitioning of the Regional Seminary at Molfetta.

2. Up to the end of para. 4 the memorandum is basically correct. It does not, of course, bring out the fact that alternative accommodation at LXXX in the Diocesan Seminary had been found but refused by the Archbishop.

3. The telegram referred to was received in London but according to Sir Anthony Rushdell of the Resident Minister's office, was not forwarded to the Vatican as the Foreign Office thought it would be wiser to refrain from passing it on until they had some further information about the possibility of finding alternative accommodation.

P.C. at Bari

4. On 7th March Colonel Vining called on the Bishop of Molfetta who proposed alternative accommodation in the Italian Ospedale Militare Territoriale for the whole of the Pontifical Seminary. Alternative accommodation for the hospital was found. It is true that the Bishop on the next day retracted his offer of the accommodation on instructions from the Archbishop who also wrote to the Italian G.O. of the hospital telling him not to move, and told the Provincial Commissioner that if the Allied authorities insisted on occupying the Seminary he would have to distribute the students amongst their houses.

5. I am satisfied that the hospital would, in fact, have contained the whole of the Diocesan Seminary but that the Archbishop did not wish to move into it.

6. The Archbishop on 15th March wrote to the Provincial Commissioner stating that he, even without legitimate authorisation from the Holy See, wished to assume the responsibility of requisitioning the Pontifical Seminary, he was requested to make available the necessary means and to make the corresponding arrangements with the Bishop of Molfetta and the Rector of the Seminary.

762

7. The Provincial Commissioner pointed out that the Seminary had already been requisitioned as far back as January 1944 and that in accordance with the Archbishop's request he was making available the required transport, etc.

8. The move was carried out in a perfectly peaceful and friendly manner and I do not think that there could have been any question of force being used. After the move, the Vice-Rector of the Pontifical Seminary, the

-2-

Bishop of Volpette and the Rector of the Seminary, all presented their thanks to the Provincial Commissioner for the way in which the move was carried out.

9. The facts are, as it seems to me, that the Archbishop resisted the move. Alternative accommodation was found by the Allied authorities and was rejected. Alternative accommodation was proposed by his own Bishop and was rejected. The Archbishop then, seeing that he had no alternative, submitted to pressure and adopted the course most liable to cause trouble, i.e., by dispersing the students amongst their homes. This was in fact unnecessary.

10. I should like to add that Sir Anthony Dumbold has noted in his memorandum "that the Allied authorities need hardly wait for positive instructions from the Vatican to the Archbishop before proceeding to evict the Archbishop". He adds "although the requisitioning of Royal property is to be avoided it is authorized in the case of military necessity and that this is a case of military necessity".

11. I think the Provincial Commissioner used pressure in a diplomatic manner. I do not think that he could be accused of using force.

12. I had suggested asking Colonel Macaffrey or Brigadier Darlop to enquire into the matter further but having read the correspondence which has been sent to me under cover by Col. Macaffrey, himself a Roman Catholic, who states that the matter appears to have been settled "in a manner satisfactory to the Army and without causing too much resentment on the part of the Ecclesiastics", I submit that there is no necessity to enquire further.

13. I will, however, see Monsignor Carroll if you so wish and try to explain the matter to him personally.

Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

761

*From Discussion this
with Monsignor Carroll at
CC request. Monsignor Carroll
is going to visit Benevento & Bari*

*Wrote by C.C. "This is
the best solution"*

30

Ref: 133/ /CA.

29th March 1944.

SUBJECT: Requisitioning of MOLFETTA Seminary.

TO : Executive Commissioner.

1. ~~HO~~ I attach herewith translation of a memorandum submitted by Signor Carro~~di~~. Folio 39 shows that the move was conducted in a co-operative spirit and the Rector was most helpful in supervising the move. This was followed up by a visit from the Vice-Rector of the Pontifical Seminary to the office of the Provincial Commissioner to present the official thanks of the Archbishop, the Bishop of Molfetta and the Rector of the Seminary for our co-operation and help. Colonel Vining visited the Archbishop who expressed his appreciation for the manner in which the Seminary was vacated.
2. If the allegations of Signor Carro~~di~~ are true, which seems likely according to the report by Colonel Vining, the 1st New Zealand Hospital will not move over from Cairo until the first week in April and it would seem as though the military authorities have acted hastily in evacuating the Seminary.
3. Para. 6 of the memorandum seems to bear out that students were distributed to Brindisi, Lecce, Taranto, Bari and Barletta and therefore there may be some justice in his suggestion that proper alternative accommodation had not been found. However, according to Colonel Vining's report everything was done in a very co-operative spirit, so much so that the Mother of the Seminary was good enough to come out into the road just as Colonel Vining was leaving and present him with eggs, fish and two bottles of their home made wine.

AS
A. J. STEWART,
Captain.

760

AJS/JG.

COPY

TO: Brig. Lush.

28

29

Attached was handed to me yesterday by Monsignor Carroll.

He was very disturbed and contended that we had acquired the Molfetta Seminary to all intents and purposes by force.

I promised him I would investigate and let him know.

I don't know how accurate the attached report is but as you know we can't be too careful over this Vatican stuff and I rather fear we may have started an awkward incident in spite of all our instructions.

NOEL MASON MACFARLANE,
Lieut.General.
29.3.44.

759

MEMORANDUM

in regard to requisition of the Regional Seminary of Molfetta.

1. On 13 December 1943, the British Command, through the Italian Government, issued a requisitioning Decree for the Seminary. Through prompt intervention of the Bishops' Control Committee, an extension up to 5 January last was obtained.
2. In the meantime, the Puglia Episcopal Conference sent a message to Roosevelt and Churchill, requesting that the Regional Seminary of Molfetta, property of the Holy See, and the only Higher Institution of religious and cultured learning for the Clergy of the Puglia Region, be not requisitioned. On the other hand, General Taylor writes to the H. Father regarding the same problem and the H. Father replies that there would be no difficulty in giving up the premises of said Seminary, providing a suitable building, where the Seminary might duly continue its life, could be found. This communication was forwarded to H.E. Mons. Marcello Mimmi, Archbishop of Bari, whom the H. Father appointed as his representative for the necessary regulations.
3. The 5th of January approaching, the British Command makes another attempt at requisition. The Bishops' Commission, in various direct meetings with the competent English Authorities, demonstrates the impossibility of finding in the region a Seat suitable and sufficient to be host to the entire Regional Seminary of 400 persons, it being absolutely impossible to divide either the directing and teaching personnel, nor the alumni; a matter instead possible for a hospital and for that purpose various suitable buildings were pointed out.
4. At the end of February the Control Commission, presided over by the same Colonel Wainig, exercises strong and insistent pressure on the Most Excellent Archbishop of Bari for requisitioning of the Seminary, advising that about 3000 wounded must at once be hospitalized. H.E. Mons. Mimmi attempts an extreme step, addressing himself with a message to the H. Father, as follows: "No place has been found Allies insist. Awaiting instructions". This message is handed to the Commission to be forwarded to the H. Father.
5. Before even receiving a reply from the H. Father, on March 8th, the Control Commission, without further negotiations with Mons. Mimmi, who was expressly authorized by the H. Father for this, even pretending to have already arrived at an agreement with the Archbishop of Bari, proceeds to the Bishop of Molfetta, informs him that on the 16th the Regional must absolutely be evacuated and that it may move into the premises of the Bishop's Seminary of the city, which is already the seat of an Italian military hospital. On March 13th the Commission calls on H.E. Mons. Mimmi and hands him the requisitioning Decree of the Allied Command, signed by Colonel Wainig. The Archbishop, on his part, delivers a protest note in which he declares to give way merely to force and that immediately afterwards he would start a diplomatic action.
6. In fact, the Seminary is evacuated; the Seminarists are transported to the distributing places by English motorvehicles; some furnishings of the Regional Seminary are transported by the English to the premises

7538

difficulty in giving up the premises of said seminary, providing a suitable building, where the Seminary might duly continue its life, could be found. This communication was forwarded to H.E. Mons. Marcello Mimmi, Archbishop of Bari, whom the H. Father appointed as his representative for the necessary negotiations.

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4. At the end of February the Control Commission, presided over by the same Colonel Winning, exercises strong and insistent pressure on the Most Excellent Archbishop of Bari for requisitioning of the Seminary, advising that about 3000 wounded must at once be hospitalized. H.E. Mons. Mimmi attempts an extreme step, addressing himself with a message to the H. Father, as follows: "No place has been found Allied Allies insist. Any other instructions". This message is handed to the Commission to be forwarded to the H. Father.

5. Before even receiving a reply from the H. Father, on March 5th, the Control Commission, without further negotiations with Mons. Mimmi, who was expressly authorized by the H. Father for this, even pretending to have already arrived at an agreement with the Archbishop of Bari, proceeds to the Bishop of Molfetta, informs him that on the 15th the Regional must absolutely be evacuated and that it may move into the premises of the Bishop's Seminary of the city, which is already the seat of an Italian Military Hospital. On March 13th the Commission calls on H.E. Mons. Mimmi and hands him the requisitioning Decree of the Allied Command, signed by Colonel Winning. The Archbishop, on his part, delivers a protest note in which he declares to give way merely to force and that immediately afterwards he would start a diplomatic action.

6. In four days the Seminary is evacuated; the Seminarists are transported to the distributing places by English motorvehicles; sent furnishings of the Regional Seminary are transported by the English to the premises of the Bishop's Seminary, already evacuated by the Italian Hospital, but in no way suited to receive the personnel of the Regional. H.E. The premises of the Bishop's Seminary were from 1916 to 1925 the seat of the Puglia Regional Seminary; but in that period the Convent of the Regional consisted of less than 200 persons and in spite of this it was so confining that the H. Pontiff was on the outlook for a more suitable site; now instead the Community consists of well over 400 persons. To the shortcomings of the premises may be added the deplorable state, both in regard to hygiene and equipment, in which it has been left by the military Hospital.

7. On March 15th, in place of the pre-announced columns of wounded, about twenty New Zealand soldiers occupy the Seminary. It has then be learned that the New Zealand Hospital is to be transferred from Cairns to Molfetta within a few months.

Molfetta, 21 March 1944.

0267

SECRET

PATMA 2625

file
23

PATMA (Civil Affairs Branch)

26 March 1944

SECRET

Vapor 165 - Plake

PRIORITY

FREEDOM

22

REFERENCE OUR TWO FIVE FIVE TWO OF TWO FOUR MARCH PD PAPER TO ASK FOR MEE FROM
PATMA DURING MACFARLANE PAPER PD LAST SENTENCE SHOULD READ STUDENTS MOVED UNDER
SUPERVISION AND TO SATISFACTION OF BISHOP KILPATRICK

757

L.T. MONTAG
2/Lt. 203
ADJUTANT

SECRET

SECRET

PATINA (Civil Affairs Branch)

24 March 1944

SECRET

Vapor 165-10050-FIRST

PRIORITY

PRIORITY FOR INFO.

SUBJECT IS SEMINARY MONTEPATA. PD FURTHER BY 2130 OF 15 MARCH PD ARCHBISHOP HAS GIVEN DECISIONS ASBEST TO EVACUATION OF SEMINARY PD PATINA TO PERDOM FOR MOB FROM PATINA SIGNED MARCH 15 PD STUDENTS WERE MOVED BY M.T. TO BRINDISI LEONE TARANTO BARI BARIETA 15 AND 16 MARCH PD MEDICAL ARE COMPLETELY SATISFIED AND READY TO MOVE IN FIRST WEEK APRIL PD STUDENTS MOVED UNDER SUPERVISION AND TO SATISFACTION OF ARCHBISHOP MONTEPATA.

756
L. F. MONTAGNE, Jr.
2nd Lt. AGO
Adjutant

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
R.C. & M.C. SECTION
APO 394

Ref/133/42/CA.

24 March 1944

SUBJECT: Molfetta Seminary.

TO : R.C. Region II.

1. I am directed to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. HQ/2/35 of 20 March 1944 announcing the most satisfactory conclusion of this matter.

2. I am to inform you that the Executive Commissioner is most appreciative of the efforts of yourself and your staff (and in particular of Lt. Col. Vining) in obtaining this successful result.

MEF
NORMAN E. FISKE
Colonel
Deputy Executive
Commissioner

755

22

SUBJECT: Seminary - Molfetta.

25 March 1944.

TO : Dep. Exec. Commissioner.

1. See HQ on file. This has just arrived.
2. From passages marked in 39 and 38, it would appear that the Army are satisfied with the action that has been taken. It is not clear, however, from the passage marked in 36 exactly what the Archbishop is getting at. His assent appears to be hedged about with qualifications.
3. Under the circumstances you might wish to send a signal to R.C.S. informing them that the Seminary has been visited.
4. Draft is attached.

W. Shipp Solot

G.F.I. SHIPP
Lieut. Col.

This is very good. I should like an
appreciation letter to go to Regt II for Victory.

Telegram to AFHQ to issue -

Then file to me to show cc

W 24/3/44

133

H

PFB
J 202619
0

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
REGION II

Ref. HC / 2 /36

20 Mar 44

Subj. Pontifical Seminary at Molfetta

To: Executive Commissioner, R.C. and M.G. Section
ACC Headquarters, Naples.

1. I am sending to you attached a copy of a very satisfactory report on the Pontifical Seminary at Molfetta. It would seem that this rather delicate problem has been adjusted in a manner entirely satisfactory to the Armies and without causing too much resentment on the part of the Ecclesiastics.

G.H. Mc Caffrey
G.H. McCaffrey
Lt. Col., Inf.
R.C.

GHM/pjh

45

COPY

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Provincial Comm's Office
B A R I

18/3/44
PC/BA/19

From P.C., Bari
To: Regional Commissioner, Region II, Matera
Subj. Pontifical Seminary, Molfetta

In continuation of this office letter PC/BA/31 dated 10 Mar 1944 I interviewed the Archbishop of Bari on the 10th inst, and attach copies of a letter from the Archbishop to my address and my reply, together with translation.

In terms of para 4 of my reply to the Archbishop, I proceeded to Molfetta on the 13th inst and had a long talk with the Bishop of Molfetta and the Rector of the Seminary.

As a result of the conversation which was conducted in a very friendly spirit, it was arranged that transport would be provided to take the Students to the following destinations; Brindisi, Lecce, Taranto, Bari and Barletta.

The move of the student priests commenced on the morning of the 15th and was completed on the 16th.

Buses were provided for some of the destinations and where buses were not available, covered transport together with lorries for luggage were provided.

The move was done in a very cooperative spirit and the Rector was most helpful in supervising the move, and in order to illustrate the good will which was shown by all the personnel of the Seminary, the Mother Superior of the Seminary was good enough to come out into the road just as I was leaving and present me with some eggs, fish, and two bottles of their home-made wine.

This was followed up by a visit from the Vice-Rector of the Pontifical Seminary to my Office to present the official thanks of the Archbishop, the Bishop of Molfetta and the Rector of the Seminary for our cooperation and help.

I am visiting the Archbishop to express my appreciation of manner in which the Seminary was vacated.

On the 15th inst the D.D.M.S., A.D.M.S. and C.F.E., Dist 2, inspected the Seminary, accompanied by me, and notes were taken.

From P.O., Bari

To: Regional Commissioner, Region II, Matera

Subj. Pontifical Seminary, Molfetta

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There is a library at the Seminary. This room has been locked up and the key in possession of the Seminary authorities together with the key of a chapel and a room containing testing instruments.

COPY

-2-

Assistance was afforded to the Seminary Authorities for the removal of whatever they wished to be transported from the Seminary to the Palazzo Seminario Diocesano at Molfetta, by provision of lorries and labour.

The Staff of the Seminary, who are attached to the laundry, kitchen, etc., of the Seminary, have been kept on by the New Zealand Hospital authorities, which arrangement has ~~pleased~~ given great satisfaction to the Seminary authorities.

On the 16th inst some personnel of the Hospital moved into the Seminary and also on the 16th the D.M.S. and the C.C. Hospital inspected the Seminary and on the 17th I again visited the Seminary and met Brigadier Palmer there, and he thoroughly inspected the place along with the C.C. Hospital and expressed himself entirely satisfied with all he saw.

At the request of the Bishop of Molfetta, the accommodation at the Palazzo which has been occupied by the Italian Military Red Cross was thoroughly disinherited by our medical authorities and the Instructional Staff from the Seminary moved into the Palazzo.

I wish to mention the very great service rendered to me by Capt. deMasi who acted as my interpreter at my interviews with the Archbishop, Bishop of Molfetta and the Rector, also Lt. Col. Orpwood who was present at some of the interviews.

Mr. Winton who is attached to the A.D.M.S. Office as interpreter and translator rendered invaluable service at the Seminary in explaining to the authorities what was required and was most helpful in assisting in the move and fostering the friendly spirit which was evident throughout the negotiations of the move.

It is understood that the First New Zealand Hospital will move over from Cairo to the Seminary in the first week of April when the Seminary will be ready to function as a hospital.

(sd) L.E. Vining
Lt. Col., M.B.E.

COPY

ARMED CONTROL COMMISSION

PROVINCIAL COMMISSIONERS OFFICE

B. A. I.

Comandante Alleata di
CortinaUfficio del Commissario Prov.
B. A. I.17/3/'44
10/5A

TO : The Archbishop of Bari.
FROM : The Provincial Commissioners,
Bari.

Your Grace,

1. I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 11 March 44. I write a receipt that inconvenience must necessarily be caused to the personnel of the Seminary as also to Your Grace as a result of the move from the Seminary, and I can assure Your Grace that this is deeply regretted, but is already pointed out to Your Grace the Seminary is of vital importance to the Allied forces for use as a Hospital.

2. I explained to Your Grace that as the conditions on which the Seminary should be vacated, as required by the Holy See had been met, in so much as the entire personnel of the Seminary will be accommodated in the Palazzo Seminario Diocesano, the fact that no reply has been received to the telegram sent by Your Grace to the Holy See can in no way provide a reason for objection to the Seminary being vacated.

3. With reference to para (c) of Your Grace's letter, I have to point out that the Seminary has already been requisitioned as for back as January 1944.

4. I am proceeding to Molfetta tomorrow the 18th inst. and in conjunction with the Bishop of Molfetta and the Rector of the Seminary, will arrange for the required transport to be made available on the early morning of the 18th inst. to convey whatever effects are required to be moved from the Seminary to the Palazzo Seminario Diocesano and will send all possible assistance.

5. The Hospital equipment with certain of the Hospital personnel, will move into the Seminary on the same date.

6. I sincerely trust the cordial relations hitherto existing between Your Grace and myself will in no way be effected by this matter.

FROM : THE PROVINCIAL COMMISSIONER,
Bari.

Your Grace,

1. I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 11 March 44. I quite agree that inconvenience must necessarily be caused to the personnel of the Seminary as also to Your Grace as a result of the move from the Seminary, and I can assure Your Grace that this is deeply regretted, but as already pointed out to Your Grace the Seminary is of vital importance to the Allied Forces for use as a Hospital.
2. I explained to Your Grace that as the conditions on which the Seminary should be vacated, as required by the Holy See had been met, in so much as the entire personnel of the Seminary will be accommodated in the Palazzo Seminario Diocesano, the fact that no reply has been received to the telegram sent by Your Grace to the Holy See can in no way provide a reason for objection to the Seminary being vacated.
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5. The Hospital equipment with certain of the Hospital personnel, will move into the Seminary on the same date.
6. I sincerely trust the cordial relations hitherto existing between Your Grace and myself will in no way be affected by this matter.

749

I. E. VINING,
Lt. Col. M. B. E.,
Provincial Commissioner
Allied Control Commission
Palazzo del Governo Bari.

15
Bari, 11 Mar 44

COPY

TRANSLATION

THE ARCHBISHOPRIC OF BARI

Re L.L. Vining

Lt. Col., U.S.A.

Provincial Commissioner

Allied Control Commission - Bari

With reference to yours of the 10th inst. and pursuant to our communication of the 8th inst., we place before your consideration the following:

a) We have examined calmly your proposal for accommodations in place of those of the Pontifical Seminary, but with our regret we have had to conclude that they are in fact insufficient and not adapted to enable the Seminary to function.

We have therefore had to make the painful decision - should the requisitioning be carried out - to return all of the young seminarists to their families.

b) The radio message which, at your advice, we sent to the Holy Father, in which we noted the grave necessities of the moment and your renewed requests, and asking instructions, has not yet been answered, so that we have not yet received the authority to sanction the requisition.

c) If you, even without the legitimate authorization from the Holy See, the only one which can give it, wish to assume the responsibility of requisitioning the Pontifical Seminary, you are requested to make available the necessary means, and to make the corresponding arrangements with His Excellency, the Bishop of Molfetta and the Rector of the Seminary, for the transportation of the furnishings and the regular consignment of the accommodations.

Naturally the question will be submitted to higher authority.

Awaiting your communications and with the assurance of esteem.

(Signed) - Marcello Miani
Archbishop.

With reference to notice of the 10th inst. and pursuant to our communication of the 9th inst., we place before your consideration the following:

a) We have examined calmly your proposal for accommodations in place of those of the Pontifical Seminary, but with our regret we have had to conclude that they are in fact insufficient and not adapted to enable the Seminary to function.

We have therefore had to make the painful decision - should the requisitioning be carried out - to return all of the young seminarians to their families.

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Naturally the question will be submitted to higher authority.

Awaiting your communications and with the assurance of esteem.

(Signed) = Marcello Mammi
Archbishop.

748

COPY

Bari, 11 marzo 1944

L'ARCHEVESCOVO DI BARI

A L.E. VINING

Lt. Col. M.E.B.

Provincial Commissioner

Allied Control Commission - Bari -

Con riferimento a Vostra in data 10 corr., e a seguito della nostra comunicazione del 9 corr. sottoporiamo alla Vostra considerazione quanto segue:

a) Abbiamo esaminato serenamente la Vostra proposta di locali in luogo di quelli del Pontificio Seminario, ma con nostro rimpianto abbiamo dovuto riconoscere che sono affatto insufficienti ed inadatti per poter farvi funzionare il Seminario.

Abbiamo quindi dovuto prendere la dolorosa deliberazione qualora venisse la requisizione - di inviare tutti i giovani seminaristi nelle loro famiglie.

b) Il radiomessaggio che, dietro Vostra consiglio, inviamo al S. Padre, nel quale segnalavamo le gravi necessità del momento e le Vostra rinnovate richieste, e chiedevamo istruzioni, non ha ancora avuto risposta, al modo che non abbiamo ancora ricevuto la facoltà di autorizzare la requisizione.

c) Se Voi, pur senza la legittima autorizzazione della Santa Sede, l'unico che possa darla, vorrete assumere la responsabilità di requisire il Pontificio Seminario, siete pregato di mettere a disposizione i mezzi necessari e di prendere i relativi accordi con S. Ecc. il Vescovo di Melfetta e il Rettore del Seminario, per il trasporto dei titoli e la migliore consegna dei locali. Naturalmente la questione sarà portata a più alta sede.

In attesa di comunicazioni e con sensi di stima.

F.to MARCELLO NINNI.

SECRET

21 MAR Recd
133ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
Military Government Section

HP/CF/thh

19 March 1944

MGS 601

SUBJECT: Requisitioning of Papal Seminary at Molfetta

TO : Allied Control Commission
(Attention: Chief Commissioner)
Chief Legal Officer)HEADQUARTERS
21 MAR 1944
A. C. G.

8-12

1. Inclosed will be found a copy of a memorandum of 17 March 1944 by Sir Anthony Rumbold of the British Resident Minister's Office, subject Molfetta Seminary, which you may care to consider in preparing a reply to the letter of this Section, MGS-601 of 15 March, on the requisitioning of papal seminaries. The memorandum is being brought to your notice for its narrative of events.

2. The discussion of the legal position, in paragraph 5, restates what Mr. Makins said in his memorandum 11/34/1501 of 16 November 1943 (a copy of which has, it is believed, is in the CLO's files); it is also in the same vein as AFHQ message 48057 of 6 February. All this, however, is to be read subject to the authoritative Combined Chiefs of Staff directive set forth in paragraph 3 of AFHQ letter AG 386.2-1 MGS-ACM, which establishes the rule for this Theater of operations.

3. As to the suggestion in paragraph 10 (1) of Sir Anthony Rumbold's memorandum, it has, on further consideration, seemed inadvisable to draw Monsignor Carroll into the present matter.

4. The entire question of further and presumably definitive action on the present matter is being held in abeyance awaiting your report, as requested in MGS letter of 15 March, which it is understood will be sent forward in a few days.



HENRY PARKMAN, JR.,
Lt. Col., G.S.C.,
Acting Chief of Section.

7-6

Incl: as above

SECRET

11/34/1501

Office of the British Resident Minister
at Allied Force Headquarters,
5, rue Professeur Curtillet,
Algiers.

To: Military Government Section
(For attention of Lt. - Col. Fairman)

From: Resident Minister's Office.

Molfetta Seminary.

1. The G.O.C. No. 2 District cabled to A.F.H.Q. on November 4th last to say that he was very anxious to requisition the seminary of Molfetta in the Province of Bari for use as a convalescent home for wounded. He said that the seminary provided the only suitable accommodation on the required scale in the area in question and that it was therefore urgently required on grounds of military necessity. It had no extra-territorial status but it was owned by the Vatican and the Head of the Seminary had said that he was not prepared to let it be requisitioned.

2. The position was explained to the Foreign Office by the Office of the British Resident Minister with the suggestion that the Vatican should be simply informed that the military authorities proposed to occupy the premises after requisition by the Italian Government and that it was assumed that no objection would be seen. The Foreign Office agreed and sent instructions to the British Minister at the Holy See to make a communication to the Vatican in this sense and in particular to make it quite clear that we were in no way asking their permission but were merely informing them as a matter of courtesy of what was proposed. The Minister was also instructed to suggest that as there might be further cases of the kind it would be helpful if the Vatican would issue a directive to their authorities in charge of ecclesiastical property to co-operate fully with the Allied Forces in such matter.

3. Instructions were sent to the Control Commission on November 21st to arrange for the Seminary to be requisitioned. It was duly requisitioned by the Italian Government on behalf of the Allied Forces.

4. Unfortunately the Vatican did not entirely accept the position as it was put to them by the British Minister. They replied to his communication by saying that the Seminary being their property their consent was necessary before it could be used for other purposes. On the other hand they said that if alternative accommodation could be found where the work of the seminary could be continued they would be prepared to agree to the building being used as a convalescent home. At the same time they asked the British Minister to arrange for the delivery of a message to the Archbishop of Bari instructing him to transfer his building to the Allied Forces if and when he could find other premises in which the seminary could continue to function.

745

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5. It must be observed at this point that the Vatican contention that their consent had to be obtained before the seminary could be used by the Allied Force was entirely devoid of legal foundation. The Allied Military Authorities are fully entitled to requisition and make use of any property required for military or similar purposes in Southern Italy. This right is quite independent of any rights which the

Allied authorities may enjoy under the Armistice and is also not affected by the fact that an Italian Civil Administration may be functioning in the district. The Lateran Treaty (to which neither the U.S. nor the British Governments are a party) should in no way affect our rights in this respect. It was only as a matter of courtesy, as the British Minister to the Holy See made clear, that we warned the Vatican of our intentions. When the Vatican maintained the opposite point of view and claimed that their consent was necessary before the Allied authorities could take the property over, we would have been perfectly justified in contradicting them and proceeding to take the property over in the absence or in advance of their consent. As it was we chose to refrain from arguing with them because although wrong in their theoretical attitude towards the case they appeared in fact to wish to be accommodating. The message referred to above was accordingly passed on to the Archbishop of Bari and pending the receipt of his reply and the finding of alternative accommodation for the occupants of the seminary, no steps were taken to make use of the building.

6. On January 13th the Control Commission cabled to say that the Seminary authorities refused to move out on the ground that they were unable to find any alternative premises and therefore could not comply with the condition for the transfer laid down by the Vatican. The Control Commission commented that in their opinion nothing short of unconditional orders from the Vatican would cause the seminary authorities to change their attitude, unless of course they were moved out under pressure of actual force. It was clear that the Seminary authorities had made no effort to find any alternative accommodation.

7. The Foreign Office thereupon asked the British Minister to the Holy See to send a further message to the Vatican reviewing the position, saying that the Allied Military Authorities were satisfied that the Seminary authorities had made no effort to find any alternative accommodation and urging the Vatican to send positive instructions to the Seminary authorities to transfer the building to the Allied authorities, pointing out that their continued failure to do so might result in serious hardship to the persons whose use as a convalescent home the seminary was intended.

8. Meanwhile, the Control Commission were urged to extract an answer from the Archbishop of Bari to the message from the Vatican referred to in paragraph 5 above. It seemed at this point, that if further instructions were to be sent by the Vatican to the Archbishop, a reply from him to the Vatican's earlier communication would first have to be obtained. The Archbishop informed the Control Commission that he had replied to the Vatican's message by the hand of Monsignor Walter S. Carroll of the Secretariat of State to the Vatican who had recently returned to the Vatican after visiting Southern Italy. It is not known what was contained in this reply, but according to a telegram from the Foreign Office dated March 8th a message for the Vatican was received in London from the Archbishop "through the War Office". This message, which was dated February 29th, reported that the

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refrain

refrain from passing it on until they can have some further information about the possibility of finding some alternative accommodation.

9. The Control Commission has now reported in a cable dated March 15th, that alternative accommodation has been found for the Seminary by the Provincial Commissioner of Paris, but that the Archbishop still refuses to move on the ground that the accommodation found for him is neither adequate nor suitable. The Control Commission conclude their cable by stating that "he is clearly now being merely obstructive and I must ask that orders in the clearest possible terms be sent to him by the Vatican."

10. It is suggested that in the circumstances described above the following two steps should now be taken:

(1) Monsignor Walter S. Carroll is now in Algiers and the Chief of Staff might ask him to call in order to discuss the whole question. The Chief of Staff could point out to Monsignor Carroll that (a) the Allied authorities would have been within their rights not only in requisitioning but in making use of the Seminary many months ago without obtaining the consent of the Vatican; (b) that as a matter of courtesy the Allied authorities refrained from making use of the Seminary because the Vatican had expressed the hope that alternative accommodation would first be found; (c) that alternative accommodation has in fact been found; (d) that in spite of this the Archbishop still refuses to move out and the Allied authorities are satisfied that he is merely being obstructive, and (e) that the action of the Archbishop in holding on to the building has caused and will continue to cause suffering among the wounded for whom accommodation is badly needed. The Chief of Staff could ask Monsignor Carroll to request the Vatican to send positive instructions to the Archbishop to transfer the building to the Allied authorities and to warn the Vatican that the Allied authorities may otherwise be obliged to use force.

(2) A telegram should be sent to the Foreign Office briefly reviewing the position as set out above and requesting their authority for the Archbishop and the seminarists to be moved by force into the new accommodation which has been found for them. It has been generally agreed that as a matter of policy it would be preferable for the Italian authorities to be the instrument of any forceful action which might have to be taken against the occupants of the Seminary and if the Foreign Office agreed that no further time should be wasted in corresponding with the Vatican and the Archbishop, the Italian authorities would have to be requested to take the necessary measures. In view of the correspondence which has already passed between the British Government and the Vatican on this subject, we feel that no forceful action should be taken without the consent of the Foreign Office. But we do not believe that the Foreign Office would be likely to raise any objection. If as the result of any message which Monsignor Carroll is persuaded to send to the Vatican positive instructions are sent to the Archbishop to move out, so much the better. But the Allied authorities need hardly wait for these to be received before proceeding to evict the Archbishop. It should be observed, finally, that FAN 322 enjoins the Supreme Allied Commander to refrain from requisitioning papal property so far as possible but authorizes him to do so in case of military necessity. This is a case of military necessity (see paragraph 1 above).

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/s/ A. Sumbold

17th March, 1944

TRANSLATION

133

21 MAR Recd

THE BISHOP OF MOLFETTA

Molfetta, 9 March 1944

To: ALLIED COMMAND

BARI

Yesterday a group of Officers of the Allied Forces called at the Molfetta Bishops' Palace and in the name of the Allied Command in Bari they informed the undersigned that this Regional Pontifical Seminary would be occupied within eight days.

Having pointed out that H.E. Monsignor Minni, the Archbishop of Bari was in touch with General Taylor on the subject and had received instructions from His Holiness the Pope regarding the eventuality of handing over the Pontifical Seminary, the above officers stated that they had been to see H.E. The Archbishop of Bari, that they were cognizant of all the precedent facts and insisted that the given order be complied with.

Certain that these Officers were therefore acting in agreement with H.E. The Archbishop of Bari the undersigned took the liberty to make a few suggestions.

To-day I hear from H.E. Monsignor Minni that approximately ten days ago, a group of Officers of the Allied Forces did call on him but that the only agreement that was come to was that a message be sent to His Holiness The Pope to request instructions and that the Officers would see to the forwarding of the message. In consequence the undersigned feels it his duty to declare that the suggestions he made have no more value, because:

- 1) he feels it improper to take a decision without having received the Holy Fathers' answer;
- 2) he wishes to affirm once again that the only delegate of His Holiness the Pope and therefore, the only competent person to make a decision in The matter, is, as you know, H.E. The Archbishop of Bari.

Reverently

Signed: Achille Salvucci
Bishop of Molfetta

Translators' Pool: L.E.Z.
18/3/44

4

15 March 1944

Vapor 5 - 1050 LUSH

FREEDOM (ACTION) WLABBO (INFO) DISTING (INFO)

Copy to: See Gen

D. T. MONTANE, Jr.
2nd Lt. AGD.
Adjutant.

1
SECRET

133
CA Br. 6

ALLIED MILITARY MISSION..INCOMING MESSAGE

SECRET

PRIORITY

FROM.....FREDOM

TO.....PATINA



M/C NO..R52/14

REF NO..64644

FILED...142038A

RECD....142312

FOREIGN OFFICE ADVISE THEY HAVE MESSAGE OF 29 FEBRUARY FROM
ARCHBISHOP OF BARI TO VATICAN, RELATIVE MOLFETTA SEMINARY, STATING
NO ALTERNATIVE ACCOMMODATION CAN BE FOUND. (TO PATINA FOR MAGFARLANE
SIGNED CINC FIELDS) FOREIGN OFFICE DO NOT PROPOSE TO FORWARD THIS
MESSAGE UNTIL THEY ARE IN POSITION TO MAKE THEIR OWN COMMENT FROM
ALLIED POINT OF VIEW. REQUEST YOUR LATEST INFORMATION TO SUPPLY
BASIS FOR ANSWER

ACC DL TRIBUNAL:

ACCOM-SECT GEN

INFO-Rep-CC

-CAB-CC

-File

-Blout

SECRET

740

15 MARCH 44

6610

13 MAR Recd 133

HEADQUARTERS

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

REGION II

Ref. WC/2/23

10 Mar 44

Subj. Pontifical Seminary at Molfetta.

To: Executive Commissioner, R.C. and M.G. Section,
ACC Headquarters, Naples.

1. In accordance with the instructions given to the Provincial Commissioner, Bari, on 7 March, Lt. Col. Vining called upon the Bishop of Molfetta on 8 March. The Bishop stated that if the Italian Ospedale Militare Territoriale could be moved from the Palazzo Seminario Diocesano, the whole of the personnel from the Pontifical Seminary could be accommodated there. Suitable accommodation was found for the Ospedale, which the O.C. of that unit said was preferable to what he had. He was prepared to move at once, and the Town Major is making the necessary arrangements.

2. Although the Bishop said he could accommodate all the personnel of the Pontifical Seminary and would have them all together, when Col. Vining saw the Archbishop of Bari on 9 March, the latter would not agree to the move. Col. Vining informed him that the Military Hospital was ready to move in, and would do so on March 16th. He confirmed this in writing. In the meantime, the Archbishop sent Col. Vining a letter, a translation of which is attached. Col. Vining informed District 2 of the situation.

3. The Archbishop has written to the O.C. of the Ospedale Militare Territoriale and told him that there was no need to move out of the Palazzo Seminario Diocesano, indicating that he is endeavoring to place every obstacle he can in the way of vacating the seminary.

4. Copies of Col. Vining's letter of 9 Mar to the Archbishop of Bari are also attached.

5. Further developments will be reported to you.

G.H. McCaffrey
Lt. Col., Inf.
R.C.

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2. Although the Bishop said he could accommodate all the personnel of the Pontifical Seminary and would have them all together, when Col. Vining saw the Archbishop of Bari on 9 March, the latter would not agree to the move. Col. Vining informed him that the Military Hospital was ready to move in, and would do so on March 16th. He confirmed this in writing. In the meantime, the Archbishop sent Col. Vining a letter, a translation of which is attached. Col. Vining informed District 2 of the situation.
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4. Copies of Col. Vining's letter of 9 Mar to the Archbishop of Bari are also attached.
5. Further developments will be reported to you.

G. H. McCaffrey
G. H. McCaffrey
Lt. Col., Inf.
R.S.

739

GHM/pjh

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
LITATON OFFICE

PROVINCIAL COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE
B A R I

COMMISSIONE ALLEATA DI CONTROLLO

UFFICIO DEL COMMISSARIO PROVINCIALE

B A R I

10/30/44
23/44

copy

TO:

THE ARCHBISHOP OF BARI

Your Grace,

With reference to my interview with you and the Bishop of Molfetta this afternoon, as explained to you, the conditions laid down by the Holy See, in so much that the Seminary of Molfetta should be vacated if suitable accommodation could be found elsewhere for the personnel of the Seminary, have been fulfilled.

The Bishop of Molfetta yesterday informed me that if the Ospedale Militare Territoriale could be moved out from the Palazzo Seminario Diocesano he could accommodate all of the personnel which is occupying the Seminary.

I arranged for this to be done immediately, and therefore accommodation for all the personnel in the Seminary is available in the Palazzo Seminario Diocesano.

I have therefore to request that Your Grace issue immediate orders for the Seminary to be vacated as the building is very urgently required by the Hospital Unit which is ready to move in, and they will occupy the Seminary on the 16 inst.

Should there be any delay in vacating the Seminary after this due notice, Your Grace will be held personally responsible for any inconvenience of trouble in which the personnel of the Seminary find themselves.

W
L. E. VILLANO,
Lt. Col., M. B. E.,
Provincial Commissioner,
Allied Control Commission,
Palazzo del Governo, Bari.

31
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

COMMISSIONE ALLEATA DI CONTROLLO

PROVINCIAL COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

B A R I

UFFICIO DEL COMMISSARIO PROVINCIALE

B A R I

PC/BA/

10/12/44

A. E. E. ROMEO / MARCELLO M. M. I.

ARCIVESCOVO DI

B A R I

Eccellenza Reverendissima:

Con riferimento alla mia intervista con Voi e con S.E. il Vescovo di Volfetta, come Vi fu spiegato, le condizioni poste dalla Santa Sede, cioè che il Pontificio Seminario Regionale di Volfetta dovrebbe essere sgombrato qualora fosse possibile trovare locali altrove per il personale di detto Seminario, sono state realizzate.

S.E. il Vescovo di Volfetta ieri mi informò che se l'Ospedale Militare Territoriale Italiano poteva essere sgombrato dal Palazzo Seminario Diocesano, egli vi avrebbe potuto accomodare tutto il personale attualmente allegato al Pontificio Seminario.

Io ho ordinato che quanto sopra venga immediatamente effettuato: quindi il trasferimento e la sistemazione di tutto il personale del Pontificio Seminario, nel Palazzo Vescovile di codesta città, dovrà essere eseguito.

Pertanto devo chiedere che Vostra Eccellenza dia immediate disposizioni per lo sgombrò del suddetto Pontificio Seminario, i locali del quale sono urgentemente necessari per l'alloggiamento di un Ospedale per le Forze Armate, che dovrebbe trasferirsi subito in detti locali, e che in effetti occuperà codesto Seminario il giorno 16 del corrente mese di Marzo.

Se vi sarà qualche ritardo nello sgombrò del suddetto Pontificio Seminario, in seguito a questa diffida, Vostra Eccellenza sarà ritenuta personalmente responsabile per qualunque conseguenza o contrattempo in cui il personale del Seminario potrà venire a trovarsi.

787

Excelleza a Reverendissimo:

Con riferimento alla mia intervista con Voi e con S.E. il Vescovo di Velletri, come Vi fa spiegato, le condizioni poste dalla Santa Sede, cioè che il Pontificio Seminario Regionale di Velletri dovrebbe essere sgomberato qualora fosse possibile trovare locali alternative per il personale di detto Seminario, sono state realizzate.

S.E. il Vescovo di Velletri ieri mi informò che se l'Ospedale Militare Territoriale Italiano poteva essere sgomberato dal Palazzo Seminario Diocesano, egli vi avrebbe potuto accomodare tutto il personale attualmente alloggiato al Pontificio Seminario.

Io ho ordinato che quanto sopra venga immediatamente effettuato: quindi il trasferimento e la sistemazione di tutto il personale del Pontificio Seminario, nel Palazzo Vescovile di codesta città, dovrà essere eseguito.

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Gradisco, Eccellenza, i miei distinti ossequi.

737

VESCOVADO DI MOLFETTA

Molfetta, 9 marzo 1944

On. COMANDO ALLEATO
B A R I

Ieri si è presentato nel Palazzo Vescovile di Molfetta una Commissione di signori Ufficiali delle Forze Alleate, che in nome di codesto On. Comando ha comunicato al sottoscritto l'ordine di occupazione di questo Pontificio Seminario Regionale, da effettuarsi entro otto giorni.

Alla osservazione che della quistione di un'eventuale cessione del Pontificio Seminario era stato incaricato dal S. Padre S.E. l'Arcivescovo di Bari, Mons. Menni, il quale era in rapporto a questo scopo col sig. Generale Taylor, i prelodati signori Ufficiali affermarono d'essere stati da S.E. l'Arcivescovo di Bari e di conoscere tutti i precedenti della quistione insistendo sull'ordine comunicato.

Nella persuasione pertanto che la predetta Commissione agisse dietro accordi presi con S.E. l'Arcivescovo di Bari, il sottoscritto si permise di dare qualche suggerimento di dettaglio.

Oggi S.E. Mons. Menni rende noto che una Commissione di Ufficiali delle Forze Alleate si recò effettivamente da lui circa 10 giorni fa, ma l'unico accordo preso fu di spedire un messaggio al S. Padre per richiedere istruzioni e che gli stessi Ufficiali si impegnarono di trasmettere. In conseguenza di che il sottoscritto sente il dovere di trasmettere di dichiarare che i suoi suggerimenti vengono a mancare di ogni fondamento:

1.) perchè ritiene sconsigliato prendere una decisione senza aspettare la risposta del Santo Padre;

2.) perchè tiene ad riaffermare che l'unico incaricato dal S. Padre - e perciò l'unico competente - per prendere una decisione in materia, come è noto a codesto On. Comando, è S.E. l'Arcivescovo di Bari.

Con distinti ossequi

+ Achille Sabaucey
Vescovo di Molfetta

On. COMANDO ALLEATO

B A R I

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Alla osservazione che della quistione di un'eventuale cessazione del Pontificio Seminario era stato incaricato dal S. Padre S.E. l'Arcivescovo di Bari, Mons. Mimmi, il quale era in rapporto a questo scopo col sig. Generale Taylor, i preledati signori Ufficiali affermarono d'essere stati da S.E. l'Arcivescovo di Bari e di conoscere tutti i precedenti della quistione insistendo sull'ordine comunicato.

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1.) perchè ritiene sconveniente prendere una decisione senza aspettare la risposta del Santo Padre;

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Con distinti ossequi

+ Achille Sabatucci
Vescovo di Melfetta

736

(TRANSLATION)

9 March 1944

THE ARCHBISHOPRIC OF BARI

TO THE COMMAND OF THE ALLIED FORCES

B A R I

Pursuant to the verbal conversation which took place today in the Archiepiscopal Palace, you are advised that the accommodations proposed for the transfer of the Pontifical Seminary Pius XI of Molfetta are in fact insufficient and not adapted for the functioning of the Seminary, even under difficulties; we hold, therefore, that the condition which the Supreme Pontiff set forth authorizing us to cede the Seminary for use as a hospital for the Allied soldiers has not been met: therefore we reaffirm that we do not have the authority to consent to the request for requisition.

With our esteem

(Signed) + Marcello MIMMI,

Archbishop.
+ Achille SALVUCCI, Bishop

735

SUBJECT: Volfetta Seminary123 U-1446 CAB (for follow-up)
9 MAR Recd
B

Hq. No. 2 District

GTF

1027/7.2

6 Year M.



ACCT Adm. Echelon

Ref this signal 223 of 19 Feb. No further action can be taken by this HQ until the II Region express their opinion as to suitability of alternative accommodation offered to the Seminary authorities. This must be an ACC responsibility. There is no doubt that the Archbishop of Bari, whose permission must be obtained before the move takes place, is quite determined that no move will take place without the employment of force. His attitude throughout has been one of determination to resist any proposition. He has now sent a telegram to the Pope seeking instructions.

In my opinion the following action should be taken immediately.

- (i) Commissioner No. II Region should be instructed to give his opinion as to the suitability of the alternative accommodation offered.
- (ii) If this opinion is favorable the Seminary authorities should be ordered to make arrangements for the move, if necessary, under pressure from ACC.

E. J. [Signature]
Major-General,
Commander, No. 2 District.

Cc: ACC II Region
Provincial Commissioner,
BARI.

Internal: 01
Red
ACC —

SECRET

U.S. SECRET EQUALS BRITISH MOST SECRET

AP 637

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
APO 512

 : SECRET :
 : Auth: CINC. AFHQ :
 : Initials: *W* :
 : 2 March 1944 :
 : :

AG 386.2-1 MGS-AG

2 March 1944

SUBJECT: Requisitioning of Papal Seminaries.

TO : Deputy President, Allied Control Commission. - (37-38) (2)
(Attention: Chief Commissioner.)

1. Reference is made to the inclosed copy of a note from Mr. G. R. Reinhardt, acting for the United States Government, in Mr. Murphy's absence, in respect of Italian affairs. The note covers a letter from the Apostolic Delegate at Washington to the Secretary of State, on the subject of the proposed requisition of the Pontifical Seminary at Molfetta. The Department of State requests that the Delegate's letter be brought to the attention of the appropriate Allied Military authorities with "an expression of the hope that the Delegate's request will receive sympathetic consideration".

2. The desire of the Holy See to receive a report from the Archbishop of Bari has already been transmitted to the Allied Control Commission by letter of 18 December 1943, MGS-386.2, covering the British Resident Minister's note 11/34/1501 of 16 December, by Message 45323 of 31 January from Allied Force Headquarters to Fatima Rear, Fargo and Flambo, and by Message 51234 of 13 February from Allied Force Headquarters to Fatima and Fargo. In this connection the reply contained in Message 2270 of 5 February from Fatima Rear to Allied Force Headquarters has been noted.

3. The directive of the Combined Chiefs of Staff on the treatment to be accorded Vatican property was transmitted to this headquarters by Message FAN 322 which was conveyed to the Allied Control Commission and other units in the field by Message 42488 of 24 January 1944. The concluding portion of FAN 322, which was somewhat condensed in paragraphs 5 and 6 of Message 42486, is directly pertinent to the subject of the present letter, and is accordingly set out at length, in paraphrase, as follows:

Regarding other Vatican property in Italy, you should avoid as far as possible requisitioning or otherwise converting to Allied use any property in occupied territory which the occupants allege to be property of the Holy See. In case urgent operational needs require that Allied Forces occupy any such property, report thereof should be made as early as possible.

In connection with the subject of the treatment of Vatican property, attention is drawn to a letter of 10 July 1943, from the President to the Pope, assuring him of the respect of the Allied Forces for the domains of Pope. The pertinent portion is as follows:

- 1 -

U.S. SECRET EQUALS BRITISH MOST SECRET

SECRET

~~SECRET~~**U.S. SECRET EQUALS BRITISH MOST SECRET**

AG 386.2-1 MGS-ACM, 2 March 1944

"There is no need for me to reaffirm that respect for religious beliefs and for the free exercise of religious worship is fundamental to our ideas. Churches and religious institutions will, to the extent that it is within our power, be spared the devastations of war during the struggle ahead. Throughout the period of operations the neutral status of VATICAN CITY as well as the Papal Domains throughout ITALY will be respected."

Nothing contained in Message 40057 of 6 February from Allied Force Headquarters to Flambo for Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Fatima near, and Fargo is to be so interpreted as in any way to conflict with the directive in FAN 322. The subject to which paragraph 2 (A) of Message 40057 was addressed is now governed by Document A of the instruments for the transfer of territory to Italian jurisdiction.

4. The concluding paragraph of Mr. Reinhardt's letters requests information on the status and progress of negotiations concerning the seminary at Solferino. Headquarters Allied Control Commission is requested to prepare such a report for transmittal by this headquarters to the representative of the United States Government.

By command of General WILSON:

J. L. Tamm
J. L. Tamm,
Colonel, AGC.,
Asst. Adjutant General.

1 Incl:
Copy of Mr. Reinhardt's letter,
with Apostolic Delegate's letter inclosed.

DISTRIBUTION:

2 - War Office
2 - War Department
2 - CG, Fifth Army
2 - CG, Eighth Army
2 - CG, Seventh Army
2 - GOCinc ACOMF
2 - CG, BA F
2 - Cinc Med
Districts

2 - No 1
2 - No 2
2 - No 3

2 - CG, PBS

1 - G/Gs

1 - CAO

1 - G-1

1 - G-2

1 - G-3

1 - JAG

2 - AG Records

1 - Mr Murphy
1 - Mr Macmillan
1 - Mr Reinhardt
2 - aa addressee

- 2 -

U.S. SECRET EQUALS BRITISH MOST SECRET

~~SECRET~~

U.S. SECRET EQUALS BRITISH MOST SECRET

COPY

UNITED STATES MEMBER
ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR ITALY

February 10, 1944

TO : Military Government Section, Allied Force Headquarters.

SUBJECT: Proposed requisition of the Pontifical Seminary of Molfetta.

There is enclosed a copy of a letter from the Apostolic Delegate at Washington addressed to the Secretary of State concerning the proposed requisition by the Allied armed forces in Italy of the Pontifical Seminary of Molfetta for use as a hospital.

The Department of State has requested that the Delegate's letter be brought to the attention of the appropriate Allied military authorities, together with an expression of the hope that the Delegate's request will receive sympathetic consideration.

This office will appreciate being informed of the present status and progress of the negotiations with respect to the Seminary at Molfetta.

/s/ G. F. Reinhardt

G. F. Reinhardt
Acting United States Member,
Advisory Council for Italy.Enclosure:

Copy of letter as stated.

Copy to:Office of British Resident Minister.
Chief Administrative Officer, AFHQ.Incl 1 to Ltr AFHQ, AG 386.2-1 MGS-AGM,
2 March 1944.~~SECRET~~

732

U.S. SECRET EQUALS BRITISH MOST SECRET

SECRET

COPY

U.S. SECRET EQUALS BRITISH MOST SECRET

The Honorable
Cordell Hull
Secretary of State.

January 3, 1944.

244/43

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I am in receipt of a communication from His Eminence, Cardinal Maglione, Secretary of State, regarding the proposed requisition of the Pontifical Seminary of Molfetta by the Allied armed forces in Italy for use as a hospital.

During the month of November 1943, the British Government through their Minister to the Holy See, communicated to His Eminence that the Allied military authorities intended to use the Seminary for the purpose indicated and that the Italian Government had given an order for its confiscation.

His Eminence responded on November 17, 1943, that the Italian Government had given written assurances to the Holy See in the month of June 1940, that the Seminary of Molfetta would not be requisitioned. His Eminence further recalled that the President of the United States on July 10, 1943, had publicly given assurance that the properties of the Holy See in Italy would be respected. In conclusion His Eminence stated to the British Government that the Holy See authorized the Archbishop of Bari to permit the use of the Seminary as a hospital as soon as the seminarians could be transferred to another building.

The Holy See did not receive a reply from the British Government, but on December 27, 1943, the Charge d'Affaires of the Apostolic Delegation in Cairo informed His Eminence that the premises of the Seminary would be occupied on January 5, 1944. His Eminence then outlined to the Apostolic Delegation in Cairo the status of the negotiations as described above.

At this point the Holy See desires that the assurances given at the time of the invasion of Sicily be respected, and that in the specific case of the Pontifical Seminary of Molfetta the instructions of the Holy See be communicated to the Archbishop of Bari. Furthermore the Holy See wishes that the Archbishop of Bari be permitted to communicate to the Cardinal Secretary of State the progress of the negotiations.

I shall be most grateful if the Department of State of the United States will undertake to present the foregoing matter to the Allied Command in the Mediterranean Area, in order that a solution may be reached by mutual agreement rather than by enforced requisition.

With the assurance of my distinguished consideration, and of my deep personal regard, I have the honor to remain,

Yours very truly,

(signed): A. G. CICCOVANI

731

Archbishop of Laodicea
Apostolic Delegate

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SECRET PRIORITY TELEGRAM

POLITICAL SEC

RECEIVED AT
PBS SIGNAL MESSAGE CENTER

13 FEBRUARY 1944

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PATINA FOR MACFARLANE REPEATED FARGO FOR MACFARLANE

NONE

SIGNED CINC

131927A

132325A

5123

FHMIS



FOLLOWING TELEGRAPHIC MESSAGE DATED 11 FEBRUARY FROM VATICAN
RECEIVED HERE. ON 19 NOVEMBER THROUGH BRITISH GOVERNMENT ARCHBISHOP
OF BARI WAS GIVEN SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING MOLFETTA REGIONAL
SEMINARY. ARCHBISHOP WAS AUTHORIZED TO GRANT USE OF BUILDING FOR
HOME FOR CONVALESCENTS, PROVIDED THAT SEMINARIANS COULD BE ACCOMMODATED
CONVENIENTLY ELSEWHERE AND A REGULAR ACT OF TRANSFER WITH FORMAL
PLEDGE OF RESTITUTION WAS DULY EXECUTED. NO ANSWER HAS REACHED HOLY
SEE TO DATE. PLEASE INQUIRE AND INFORM ME WHETHER ARCHBISHOP HAS BEEN
ABLE TO CARRY OUT INSTRUCTIONS. THIS ENDS PARAPHRASE OF MESSAGE FROM
CARDINAL MAGLIONE TO MONSIGNOR MINOLI, ARCHBISHOP OF BARI.

LOOK AT OUR MESSAGE 45323 OF 31 JANUARY AND YOUR 2270 OF 5 FEB-
RUARY IN CONNECTION WITH ABOVE.

PBS DISTR:

ACTION : HQ AGG
INFO : G-2
SECY
CC

ACC DISTR:

(INFO) PG & MG SEC (2)
" POLITICAL SEC

730

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INCOMING

/msr

9/6

18057

FEB 0610424

FEB 0616204

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PRIORITY

FRIENDS

PLANS FOR D/CAD REVD F-104A REAR, FARGE FIELD

Reference L230 8800 of 12 Jan.

1. You will have seen our L2302 of 21 Jan regarding the use of Papal seminaries for hospitals.

2. The following general considerations are operative:

(A) In virtue of our military occupation of all south Italy we are entitled to requisition any property required for military or similar purposes. This right is independent of our rights under the armistice and is not affected by the fact that an Italian civil administration may be functioning in the district concerned. It is also in no way affected by the Lateran Treaty.

(B) For political reasons it is desirable that in districts administered by the Italian Government any requisition of Papal property should be effected by the Italian authorities on our behalf.

(C) It is also desirable that the Vatican should be informed that a requisition of their property in southern Italy is being carried out. It is not however necessary to obtain the Vatican's consent in advance.

(D) In view of the President's message of July 10, which amounts to an undertaking that the Allied authorities will treat Vatican property throughout Italy as having extra territorial character, it is essential that force should not be used either by the Allied Military authorities or by the Italian authorities on their behalf, to eject the occupants from requisitioned premises which are the property of the Vatican.

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INCOMING MESSAGE 9/6 REF NO. 48057 FROM FREEDOM REC'D FEB 061620A

3. In the case of the Molfetta seminary, premises have been duly requisitioned by Italian Government (see Fatima 1958 of Jan 15), and Vatican have been notified by British Minister. Only obstacle is difficulty in finding alternative accommodation for occupants which is possibly increased by their unco-operative attitude. Instructions from the Vatican to the Archbishop of Bari to co-operate with the Allied Military authorities in arranging for the handover of the seminary were contained in letter to Allied Control Commission 44-386. 2 of 18 Dec. If further instructions to the Archbishop are to be sent it is essential that a reply from him to the Vatican's communication should first be obtained (see Freedom cable to Fatima rear 45323 of 31 Jan)

4. As regards Benevento seminary, there is no reason why requisition should not be imposed forthwith. This Headquarters should be informed by cable of action being taken in order that arrangements may be made for British Minister to notify the Vatican. Alternative accommodation will have to be found for the inmates. If any message or instructions from the Vatican are required, this Headquarters will endeavour to obtain them through the British Minister.

DISTRIBUTION:

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PRIORITY

PATIMA REAR

FREEDOM RP10 FARGO FLAMBO

- UNCLASSIFIED

EPM/ar

1/5
2870

051000A

FEB

YOUR FOUR FIVE THREE TWO THREE DATED THREE ONE JANUARY ARCHBISHOP OF BARI
 STATES HE HAS REPLIED TO HOLY SEE BY HAND OF MONSEIGNEUR WALTER S. CARROLL OF
 SECRETARIAT OF STATE VATICAN CITY WHO HAS RECENTLY RETURNED TO VATICAN
 AFTER VISITING SOUTHERN ITALY AND SICILY TO TO FREEDOM RP10 FARGO FLAMBO
ONE FLAMBO FROM PATIMA REAR SIGNED MACPARLANE TO HOWEVER ARCHBISHOP WILL
 GLADLY AVAIL HIMSELF OF ALLIED CHANNELS TO SEND A FURTHER MESSAGE THROUGH
 US IN A FEW DAYS

AUTHENTICATED:

ROBERT E. DCE
 Major, A.G.D.
 Secretary of the Commission

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Prl

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

785016

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31 JAN 1944

3095

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION INCOMING MESSAGE /hd

SVC/RELAY NO.

M/C NO : 10/31

CLASS: SECRET

REF NO: 45323

PREC : PRIORITY

FILED : JAN 311057A

FROM : FREEDOM SIGNED CINC CITE FMGB

REC'D : JAN 311321A

TO : FATIMA REAR RPT FARGO - FLAMBO

REC'D AG: JAN 311530A

Matter of Molfetta Seminary. British Resident Minister refers to his letter number 11/34/1501 of 16 December and requests following be transmitted to Allied Control Commission:

"We have been asked by Foreign Office whether they may have message for Holy See from Archbishop of Bari in reply to message contained in memorandum under reference."

Unless you have good reason to the contrary will you invite Archbishop to respond to the Holy See.

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*Answer to Gen. Flan
in copy of J. Sec.*

Thoms. Walter E. Carroll

Secretariat of State 726

of the Holy See

Vatican City

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PRIORITY

EXEMPT FROM AUTOMATIC DOWNGRADING

EXEMPT FROM AUTOMATIC DOWNGRADING

20/21

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JAN 21 11 10A

JAN 21 11 37A

Responding to your 2135 8506 of 12 January and 2131 of 21 January cite 210999.
 See our 29301 of 19 Jan. See particularly directive now being transmitted govern-
 ing treatment of Vatican property, which in pertinent part applies to Papal Sem-
 inaries.

British Government has been requested to seek from Vatican more specific
 instructions to Seminary authorities. This will take time and may not yield satis-
 factory results. Therefore you should not proceed with requisitioning of Papal
 seminaries, but should look to making other arrangements.

DISTRIBUTION:

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Pol

725

U. S. SECRET
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22 DEC 1943 273

5

MDT/hjp

22 December 1943

In reply refer to:
386.6

To His Grace Monsignore Mimai
Archbishop of Bari

My dear Archbishop:

I have been asked to transmit to Your Grace herewith the following message from His Holiness the Pope:

"British Minister to the Holy See on instructions from the Government states that Allied military authorities propose to use seminary of Molfetta (presumably the regional seminary, the property of the Holy See) as a military convalescent home.

Your Excellency is directed to settle this question with the appropriate authorities in accordance with the following instructions:
(1) The Holy See agrees that the premises of the said seminary may be used as a convalescent home if the regional seminary can continue to function and find other premises. (2) You should ensure that a regular act of transfer is drawn up with a detailed inventory and corresponding pledge of restitution. (3) You are further directed to refer any other similar cases which may subsequently arise to the Holy See, giving your opinion about them and making such proposals as appear necessary.

The Holy See regret to have as yet no news of Southern Italy. Your Excellency should endeavour to convey some information on the subject to the Holy See, if necessary by means of the kind offices of the military authorities. News is particularly desired of Cardinal Ascalesi; of the Bishop of Cava and Surco and of the Abbot of the Holy Trinity at Cava Dei Tirreni who are reported to be no longer at their posts; and of the Diocese of Campobasso whose Bishop is reported to have met a tragic death.

His Holiness blesses Your Excellency and charges you to convey his paramount blessing to all the Bishops and to the faithful."

I am taking steps to inform the appropriate Allied Military authorities of the contents of this message so that they may be prepared to discuss the matter further with Your Grace at the earliest opportunity. I

724

22 DEC 1947

273

shall of course be glad to transmit through Allied channels any reply which you may wish to send to questions raised by His Holiness the Pope.

Faithfully yours,

MAXWELL D. TAYLOR
Brigadier General, AUS

cc: His Excellency Dr. Innocente
GOC Number 2 District Bari

723

22 DEC 1943 273

Office of the Resident Minister
at Allied Force Headquarters
ALGIERS.

11/34/1501

To: Military Government Section.

From: British Resident Minister's Office.

Subject: Requisition of MOLFETTA (not Moscetta) Seminary.

Ref:- British Resident Minister's Memorandum No. 11/34/1501 of December 15th.

It would be appreciated if the following message from the Vatican authorities might be transmitted to Monsignore Mimmi, Archbishop of Bari. Begins. "British Minister to the Holy See on instructions from the Government states that Allied military authorities propose to use seminary of Molfetta (presumably the regional seminary, the property of the Holy See) as a military convalescent home.

2. Y.E. is directed to settle this question with the appropriate authorities in accordance with the following instructions: (1) The Holy See agree that the premises of the said seminary may be used as a convalescent home if the regional seminary can continue to function and find other premises. (2) You should ensure that a regular act of transfer is drawn up with a detailed inventory and corresponding pledge of restitution. (3) You are further directed to refer any other similar cases which may subsequently arise to the Holy See, giving your opinion about them and making such proposals as appear necessary.

3. The Holy See regret to have as yet no news of Southern Italy. Y.E. should endeavour to convey some information on the subject to the Holy See, if necessary by means of the kind offices of the military authorities. News is particularly desired of Cardinal Ascalesi; of the Bishop of Cava and Sarno and of the Abbot of the Holy Trinity at Cava Dei Tirreni who are reported to be no longer at their posts; and of the Diocese of Campobasso whose Bishop is reported to have met a tragic death.

4. His Holiness blesses Y.E. and charges you to convey his paramount blessing to all the Bishops and to the faithful." Ends.

The British Government hope that the Allied military authorities will be able to assist in the transmission of the information desired by the Holy See as stated in the third paragraph of the above message. Favourable action on this may well facilitate agreement on requisitioning. They similarly trust that a satisfactory arrangement may be reached with the Archbishop of Bari as regards the use of the Molfetta seminary, since an agreed solution in present instance may do much to facilitate matters in future cases. 722

[Signature illegible]

16th December, 1943.

A true copy.
Charles Fairman
Lt. Col. J. A. P. A.

ENCLOSING

/JST

15/26

0220

NOT GIVEN

NOT GIVEN

DIST 2

NOV 25 1610Z

NOV 26 0915Z

103 SUB AREA INFO FATEDA

Reference conversation this morning Wilcox-Johnston. You will proceed with the requisition of the Seminary at Melfetta through normal channels.

DISTRIBUTION:

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- 1 - Diary
- 1 - M/C
- 1 - General Taylor (INFORMATION)

Pdl

721

*600.15 - Requisition of
Pdl*

/ sale

11/9

SECRET

8621

PRIORITY

091659

FREE INFO

092342

WAVE

Convalescent home at Bari (TO FATIMA FOR MACCARLAND SIGNED EISENHOWER CITE HRCG
REFERENCE YOUR 759 AND 757). Without doubting legal power of Allied Forces to
requisition seminary by whomsoever owned, it seemed expedient to invite Pope to give
direction generally that religious institutions comply promptly with military
requirements. This consultation will take a little time.

DISTRIBUTION:

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720

~~U. S. SECRET~~
~~Atomic Energy Commission~~

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 062205A
 No

SECRET
 URGENT
 FATIMA
 FREEDOM

REFERENCE SEVEN FIVE NINE PAREN TO FREEDOM FROM FATIMA SIGNED MACFARLANE PAREN
 DATED FOUR NOVEMBER ID PROFESSOR OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW BARI UNIVERSITY CONFIRMS
 THAT SEMINARY UNLIKELY TO BELONG TO POPE BUT EVEN IF SO ITALIAN GOVERNMENT HAS
 UNDENIABLE RIGHT TO REQUISITION THE PROPERTY IN CASE OF MILITARY NECESSITY IN
 TIME OF WAR ID ASKIT INSTRUCTIONS

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AUTHENTICATED:

ROBERT E. DOE
 Major, A.G.D.
 Secretary of the Mission

Pol

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719

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FATIMA

FREEDOM

8
759
NW 641932A

GOC REPEAT GEORGE OBOE CHARLIE NUMBER TWO DISTRICT IS VERY ANXIOUS TO REQUISITION SEMINARY FOR TRAINING OF PRIESTS AT MOLFETTA IN PROVINCE OF BARI FOR PURPOSE OF CONVALESCENT HOME FOR WOUNDED PD TO FREEDOM FROM FATIMA SIGNED MACFARLANE PD THESE PREMISES PROVIDE THE ONLY SUITABLE ACCOMMODATION ON THE REQUIRED SCALE IN THE AREA AND ARE URGENTLY REQUIRED ON GROUND OF MILITARY NECESSITY PD PARA THE SEMINARY IS UNDER CONTROL OF POPE AND MAY BE PAPAL PROPERTY BUT CERTAINLY HAS NO EXTRA DASH TERRITORIAL STATUS PD PRINCIPAL OF SEMINARY IS UNWILLING TO ALLOW IT TO BE TAKEN OVER PD IT IS CONSIDERED HERE THAT ITALIAN GOVERNMENT PROBABLY HAS POWER UNDER TERMS OF LATERAN TREATY AND CONCORDAT TO REQUISITION THIS PROPERTY IN VIEW OF MILITARY NECESSITY BUT BEFORE DIRECTING THEM TO EXERCISE THIS POWER WE DESIRE TO BE DIRECTED ON POLICY PD PARA PAREN ONE PAREN SHALL WE DIRECT ITALIAN GOVERNMENT TO EXERCISE THEIR POWERS OF REQUISITION FORTHWITH OR PARA PAREN TWO PAREN IS THE MATTER ONE FOR NEGOTIATION WITH POPE ON GROUND THAT IN THE INTERESTS OF HUMANITY AND RELIEF OF SUFFERING HE SHOULD ALLOW THIS PROPERTY TO BE REQUISITIONED OR PARA PAREN THREE PAREN IS NO SUCH PROPERTY OF THIS CHARACTER TO BE TOUCHED IN ANY CIRCUMSTANCES PD PARA IF IT SUBSEQUENTLY APPEARS THAT CORRECT INTERPRETATION OF

718

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LATERAN TREATY AND CONCORDAT PRECLUDES PAPAL PROPERTY FROM REQUISITION CMA IT
IS PRESUMED THAT ONLY ACTION POSSIBLE WOULD BE UNDER PAREN TWO PAREN ABOVE PD
PARA PLEASE TREAT MATTER AS EXTREMELY URGENT

AUTHENTICATED:

MAXWELL D. TAYLOR
Brigadier General, USA

DISTRIBUTION:

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- 1 - # 2 District (INFORMATION)

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