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Resistance In Val D'AOSTA
Feb. 1945

~~TOP SECRET~~

Ref: P/541.132

24 February 1945

MEMORANDUM TO: Executive Commissioner

1. There are two points in connection with the occupation of North-West Italy which are disturbing and which should have the attention of AFHQ with a view to formulating an operational decision. They are:
 - a. The attitude of Allied Forces toward ~~French Forces~~ or French Regular or MFI Forces should they have occupied the Aosta and other Valleys in Piedmont, and
 - b. The attitude toward the Communists should they have become entrenched ~~and~~ attempt to defy AFHQ Authority.
2. It appears that a diplomatic approach might be made to the French Government now in order that an understanding on the subject of the Aosta Valley may be reached in advance of Allied occupation. Should the French Government agree not to interfere in this Region, it still is possible that MFI Forces might attempt an occupation of the area in defiance of the French Government.
3. I have discussed these questions with Lt. Colonel Walker, SMC 4th Corps, who said that General Grittenberger has expressed his apprehension of these two possible situations and would welcome the receipt of operational instructions to direct his efforts in meeting them.
4. Perhaps it would be possible to suggest to the Chief Commissioner that this might be raised at SACMFI political meeting at the earliest possible date.

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WILLIAM W. SCHOTT
Vice President, Political Section

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