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Cultural Organizations (EXHIBITIONS)
Feb. 1944 - Feb. 1945

ECR/EEF/ln

AB

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
FINANCE SUB-COMMISSION
Property Control Division
Tel. 471387

AC/PAT57B/ CP

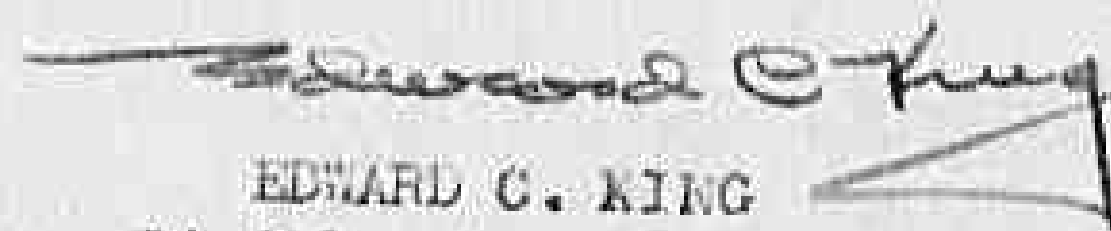
1 February 1945

Subject : British Institute at Florence

To : Political Section, AC
(attn: A.S. Halford, Asst. Political Adviser)

1. Your ref. 691 dated 30 Jan 45 is received.
2. The Banca Nazionale del Lavoro held stocks to the nominal value of L. 2,840,700 for the British Institute. These stocks were turned over to the Banca d'Italia at Florence for credit of Istcambi, the Italian Government department responsible for sequestration of stocks, securities, bank balances etc. These stocks are still being held by the Banca d'Italia at Florence for Istcambi but action is now pending by which all such stocks and shares will be returned to their original depositories for credit of their owners. Various payments were made to Istcambi at Rome, amounting in all to L. 99,315.46.
3. The Banca Naz. del Lavoro holds Titoli di Rendita Italiana to the nominal value of L. 12,300 as a guarantee for rent. There is a deposit of sterling £10,000 with Il Credito Italiano.
4. It is hoped the above information covers Mr. Hopkinson's question satisfactorily.

169



EDWARD C. KING
Lt. Col., Spec. Res.
Chief, Property Control Division
Finance Sub-Commission

6781

E.C.C.

R. make a copy for the Brit. Emb.

1/5/45

Ref: 491

30th January 1945

TO: Major E.C. King,
Property Control Division.

FROM: Political Section.

British Institute at Florence

In November last, you very kindly made certain enquiries about the British Institute in Florence - your letter ACC/NAT 57B/CP of December 2nd refers.

2. There is one point, however, which still seems to be outstanding, namely, the fate of the Institute's capital held by the Banca del Lavoro. (Please see para. 2 d of Mr. Hopkinson's letter of November 13th). I should be grateful if you would look into this matter and let me know the position.

159

6780

(A. S. HALFORD)
Asst. Political Adviser
Political Section

Headquarters Allied Control Commission
Political Section
APO 394

26th July, 1944.

Major Ian Greenlees.

I have tried through Col. Rowell of Rome Area Command to find out something about this proposed society but he does not know anything about them. This same man wrote an identic letter to President Roosevelt, Mr. Hull etc. for an Italo-American club.

Unless you think otherwise, I should be inclined to suggest that the most this letter should receive would be a polite acknowledgment from A.C.C.

H. A. Caccia.

6778

M.H.

How can I file this?

Italo-English Cultural Society

TOPSEC Pol Sec

31146

~~US~~
TF

FOR ACTION: ACC FOR INFO: FILPOT ADV, RAAC

33/16

AFHQ SIGNED SACMED

TOP SECRET

FX-83637

PRIORITY

AUG 161249

CITE: PHGEG

INFORMATION RECEIVED HERE THAT DEPUTY SOVIET AMBASSADOR AT ROME
HAD MADE VERBALE PROTEST TO DEPUTY COMMANDER ROME AREA CONCERNING
POLISH EXHIBITION NOW OPEN ROME. EXHIBITION DESCRIBED AS STRONGLY
HOSTILE TO SOVIET. STATED EXHIBITION ORGANIZED BY POLISH PUBLIC
RELATIONS WITHOUT REFERENCE TO ROME AREA. SUGGEST CABLE REPORT SOON-
EST INCLUDING OPINION AND WHETHER ANY AUTHORITY FOR IT GIVEN BY YOU.

169

Urgin Doc has since
telephoned to say AFHQ
have telegraphed cancelling request for
action by ACC

ACC DISTRIBUTION:

Action: Sec Gen (2)

Info: Pol Sec - 7/12

CIA. Br

File (Skeleton)

6777

TOPSEC

AUG 161543

No report. Sec. Gen's
office subsequently reported
receipt of signal from AFHQ
cancelling the above.

LWS

February 11, 1944

TO: Political Section,
Allied Control Commission,
Naples.

SUBJECT: Funds for Italian Cultural and Scholastic
Establishments in Spain and Tangier.

For the information of the Political Section, there is given below a paraphrase of a telegram from the American Embassy at Madrid to the Department of State concerning recent instructions from the Department to the Embassy to cease making advances of funds for Italian cultural and scholastic establishments in Spain and Tangier.

No. 400 to the Department, February 5.
Reference Department's 197 of January 25 and
Embassy's 378 of February 3.

The Italian Ambassador, when I asked him in accordance with the Department's 2291 of October 27 for suggestions concerning the possible suppression of cultural and scholastic establishments in Tangier and Spain, concurred that drastic steps should be taken in this matter. Although the Italians, British and ourselves have made constant efforts to expedite the repatriation of excess personnel, upon which the operation of such measures depends, so far interested Allied authorities have arranged for the departure of comparatively few. As a consequence, the British and we, pending repatriation of such personnel and the following suppression or reduction of schools and cultural institutes, have included funds for such establishments in December and January requests.

The fact that the British Embassy has not received instructions to advance no more funds for the purpose and wishes to continue advancing such funds until the effective reduction of these institutions can be accomplished complicates the situation. I agree with its present idea which

is

2083/105/105

-2-

is that as soon as personnel can be repatriated the cultural institutions should be suppressed and the Italian schools should be permitted to remain until the finish of present foreshortened term on reduced scale so that the Fascists will not be given the opportunity of opening schools of their own.

If funds for their maintenance are withheld while these persons must remain in Spain, they may well be forced to accept the assistance offered by the Germans and the Italian Ambassador will have a very difficult problem. If our Embassy withholds such funds while they are made available by the British Embassy, an unfortunate impression of disunity will be created. This situation illustrates again that if the financing of the Italian Mission by the British and Americans jointly is to be workable the instructions to our two Embassies on the subject should be more closely coordinated.

While I completely agree that expenses of the Italian Mission's semi-official, unessential activities in Spain should be reduced as much as possible, I also feel that it is not safe to take such measures without regard to their political context and the effects they might have on the position of representation of Italy in Spain. This is agreed to by my British colleague.

I should like to suggest that, in view of the foregoing, consideration be given to the desirability of advancing to the Italian Ambassador funds to cover the expenses of scholastic and cultural establishments in Tangier and Spain until an effective and safe liquidation can take place. It was estimated that these expenses would be 216,000 pesetas for January. Possibly consideration should be given in this connection to an allotment of funds to liquidate the debt of 274,128 pesetas incurred by Italian schools in Tangier before December. Childs and his British colleague consider that for political reasons prompt payment is advisable. 6773

G. F. Reinhardt

file

Headquarters Allied Control Commission
Political Section
APO 394

20th July, 1944.

Major Ian Greenlees.

I have tried through Col. Rowell of Rome Area Command to find out something about this proposed society, but he does not know anything about them. This same man wrote an identic letter to President Roosevelt, Mr. Hull etc. for an Italo-American club.

Unless you think otherwise, I should be inclined to suggest that the most this letter should receive would be a polite acknowledgment from A.C.C.

H. A. Caccia

H. A. Caccia.

1691

After further
discussion with Major Greenlees
it was decided to take no further
action for H.A.C.
88/7

6774

Signor Wiston CHURCHILL
Primo Ministro Britannico

Londra

ASSOCIAZIONE CULTURALE
 " ITALO - INGLESE "
 nuovo club
 ROMA

Roma li 6 giugno 1944
 Sede Sociale Provvisoria
 Via Fogliano n°10 tf:860018

La Presidenza

Signor Winston CHURCHILL
 Primo Ministro Britannico

Londra

Col più vivo compiacimento, siamo lieti di comunicare a Lei, signor Primo Ministro, di avere ricostituita su nuove basi, alla luce del sole e con vita legale, (sfrondata da qualsiasi legame col passato), l'Associazione Culturale "Italo-Inglese", nuovo club, la cui finalità, -vasta e complessa-, risultano dallo Statuto della medesima.

Con l'aiuto di Dio, l'Associazione si propone, come scopo principale di contribuire ad una sempre maggiore intensificazione dei legami culturali ed artistici fra l'Italia e la Inghilterra e suoi Dominions tutti, col fine precipuo di apportare una valida collaborazione ed un contributo profondo al progresso ed al benessere dei Nostri Popoli, delle genti e del mondo intero.

Questa Associazione, inquinata e bendata nel passato, nel riprendere gli scambi culturali tra la Nuova Italia, libera e democratica, -rigenerata dalle sofferenze patite in ben venti lunghi anni di oppressione e di tirannia-, e le Nazioni Unite, libere ed Alleate, vuole riannodare nella più assoluta libertà di pensiero e di parola, rapporti strettissimi con le Nazioni amiche, che le sono più vicine per affinità di opere e di aspirazioni.

Da questa Roma, Caput mundi, Città sacra ed eterna, Culla di ogni civiltà, Maestra di diritto e depositaria del maggiore patrimonio artistico e culturale del mondo, ci è grato, nella qualità di Presidente della Associazione, oltre che in nome proprio, darne comunicazione a Lei, signor Primo Ministro, ripromettendoci di mandarle in prosieguo di tempo e quanto prima, non appena depositato, copia dello Statuto che regola la vita della sopracitata Associazione Culturale "Italo-Inglese", nuovo club.

Con la fiduciosa aspirazione di ricevere la Sua Alta Adesione ed Appoggio morale, traendo da ciò sicuro auspicio di prosperità, progresso e avvenire, La preghiamo, Signor Primo Ministro, di volere accogliere con l'onore della risorgente Associazione, il Nostro personale ringraziamento per l'Alto e Cortese Interessamento che vorrà accordare alla Istituzione, ed i sensi della Nostra personale devozione.

IL PRESIDENTE ff.
 (Avv.Prof. ELETTO Emilio)

Il Segretario Generale ff.
 (Ing.Angelini Luigi)

Luigi Angelini

Emilio Eletto

Hold file

B. 101

To. Political

Date. 11 Apr. 44.

Sgt. ENGLISH PROFESSOR

1. Ref Attached. Correspondence which has been placed before V.P. and Director of Education.
2. Both are in entire agreement with the proposals contained in letter of Brit. Resident Minister

30/150/14 dated 31 MAR. 44.

R. B. Chippe

C.S.O. Admin Sec

Gratam now suggested
 & Educ Sec Cont. 11/8

6772

sh Institutes

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
POLITICAL SECTION
APO 394.

No. 21.

2nd March, 1944.

Many thanks for your note 30/150/14 of the 17th February enclosing a copy of ~~the~~ despatch from the Foreign Office about the re-opening of British Institutes in Italy.

2. I have not had the opportunity of discussing this question with Greenless himself but have spoken to General Mason Macfarlane and to Harman. ~~We~~ all agree that Institutes should not be re-opened at present at any rate. The most that General Mason Macfarlane is prepared to do is to reconsider the question after Rome is taken.

3. Equally we all agree that the best channel for any contribution by the British Council would be through P.W.E. ~~Committee~~ and Harman is, I understand, communicating direct with the Council about this.

691

6/7/1

R. Makins, Esq., C.M.G.,
Office of the British Resident Minister
at Allied Force Headquarters,
ALGIERS.

315 Hammond (fr, Friday) Pending file

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

30/150/14.

17th February, 1944.

My dear Hamad,

I enclose a copy of a despatch from the Foreign Office regarding the re-opening of British Institutes in Italy.

2. You will notice that Greenlees' letter was written in August, 1943, and is based on a lot of assumptions which have turned out to be quite wrong. In the light of subsequent developments Greenlees might himself wish to modify the scheme.

3. However that may be, my own impression is that the Institutes should not be re-opened at any time before the complete cessation of hostilities. The practical difficulties alone are sufficient to make the plan unworkable. If the British Council can make a "cultural contribution" to the war effort, I think their energies might best be directed through P.W.B. channels as suggested in paragraph four of the Foreign Office despatch.

4. I should be grateful for your views.

Yours,
R. Makins.
Roger Makins.

H. A. Caccia, Esq.

6770

Copy.

FOREIGN OFFICE S.W.1.

No. 19.

8th February 1944.

(L 752/444/410)

Sir,

I enclose a copy of a letter addressed in August of last year to the Secretary-General of the British Council by Major Ian Greenlees, formerly British Council Representative in Italy and now working with Psychological Warfare Branch in Sicily. This letter discusses the possibility of reopening British Institutes in Italy and Sicily.

2. The British Council are in close touch both with the Civil Affairs Directorate of the War Office and with the Joint Committee set up here by the Ministry of Information and the Political Warfare Executive to plan the supply of books and films to newly-liberated territories. The Political Warfare Executive have recently asked the British Council to provide cultural books for the reading rooms controlled by Psychological Warfare Branch at Bari, Brindisi and Naples.

3. The British Council has also recently been requested by the Educational Adviser, at A.M.G.O.T., Headquarters in Sicily to select a Professor of English for Palermo University. The Council have suggested that they should appoint a suitable man to their own staff and second him to the University possibly with the prospect of his becoming Director of the British Institute in Palermo when it reopens.

4. It may be that the British Council could usefully despatch cultural propaganda material through Psychological Warfare Branch at a much earlier stage than they could reopen Institutes under their own direction.

5. I should be glad to learn your views and those of the Allied Control Commission on the stage at which the British Council should start working again in Sicily and in Italy, and on the particular proposals I have already mentioned. I suggest that you should if possible discuss these questions direct with Major Greenlees.

I am, with great truth and regard,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,
(for the Secretary of State)

6769

6763

I enclose a copy of a letter addressed in August of last year to the Secretary-General of the British Council by Major Ian Greenlees, formerly British Council Representative in Italy and now working with Psychological Warfare Branch in Sicily. This letter discusses the possibility of reopening British Institutes in Italy and Sicily.

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I am, with great truth and regard,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,
(for the Secretary of State)

The Right Honourable
Harold Macmillan M.P.
etc., etc., etc.
Algiers.

Copy.

(L 4933/4770/410)

P.W.B.,
Attached G.T.
Service (I.P.),
A.F.H.Q.,
B.N.A.F.

16th August 1943.

Dear White,

I have just received your letter of 1st July. Yes, some months ago I made a series of suggestions regarding the resumption of the Council's activities in Italy as soon as practicable. As I received no acknowledgement of this letter I assumed it must have gone astray.

Now events have moved swiftly and it is easy to foresee the re-opening of the British Institutes in the near future, at least those of Rome, Naples and Palermo.

I feel strongly that the Council should not wait till the end of the war before opening the Institutes. Whatever the Italian Government may decide to do, I feel that within the next two or three months we shall be masters of the larger part of Italy, that is to say at least the area south of Florence. The Germans may wish to defend the northern, industrial part. On the other hand, it is possible that the whole of Italy might be in our hands. In either case we shall be faced by the task of appeasing the people and consolidating our own position there. A.M.G.O.T., will be the principal authority used for this purpose, but they will need to be supported by a skilful propaganda. Propaganda should be of two kinds:

(a) Political propaganda: The kind of propaganda carried out by P.W.E. and L.O.I. and their American opposite numbers. This is carried out by direct control of the press, radio and films, by pamphlets, posters, display shops and getting local anti-fascist politicians to collaborate with us. This propaganda is at present being carried out by P.W.E. here.

(b) Cultural propaganda: Although political propaganda is enormously valuable, it must be supported and complemented by cultural propaganda of the kind carried out by the Council. In the long run, in Italy, where the people have been subjected to an excess of propaganda, cultural propaganda will be the most effective.

I have just spent ten days in Sicily. I was at Syracuse and Palermo. I was struck at once by the widespread anxiety on the part of the population to learn English. At present the demand is accentuated by obvious artificial circumstances, but this is the moment for the Council to re-open the Institutes and so profit from the favourable state of mind of the people. Booksellers have sold out all their English grammars and books, as for more than three months the Sicilians, in anticipation of the landing, had been buying English grammars, books and dictionaries.

I visited the premises of the Institute at Palermo. They are still intact. In fact the palace is one of the rare few which has not been destroyed. I saw the landlord who said he hoped we would be able to re-open the Institute in the autumn. The American Consul had removed the Council's furniture, but I do not know where he moved it to. The books have been looked after by the landlord. In 1941 the Germans took over the premises and founded a German Academy there. In this connection it is interesting to note that there had never been any German or French Institute in Palermo, but the Germans, obviously impressed by the success of our Institute, not only slavishly followed our example but actually made use of the same building. The Germans put in their own furniture and their own books.

As a result of my visit to Palermo I am convinced that it is essential to re-open the British Institutes in the areas occupied by us even during the war. I would not open the Institute of Palermo until we have reached Rome. Then I would

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As a result of my visit to Palermo I am convinced that it is essential to re-open the British Institutes in the areas occupied by us even during the war. I would not open the Institute of Palermo until we have reached Rome. Then I would suggest that we open the Institutes of Rome, Naples and Palermo. For this purpose it will be necessary, of course, to have the approval of A.M.G.O.T. Lord Rennell is the head of A.M.G.O.T., in Sicily, and may of course become the permanent head in Italy.

I would suggest first that you sound the Foreign Office on the advisability of re-opening the Institutes this autumn or early this winter. Presumably there is a precedent for an Institute in ostensible enemy territory in Asmara. Certainly the people in Sicily were anything but hostile; in fact I cannot remember being among a more friendly people. The Foreign Office, of they approved, could persuade A.M.G.O.T. to agree to re-open the Institutes.

If the Council and the Foreign Office approved, and if we reached Rome before

/ the

the end of this year, I would suggest that the Institutes of Rome, Naples and Palermo, and the others in the North too if we arrive as far, be re-opened a month or two after our arrival. I hope that, if the property and furniture of the Council has not been destroyed by bombing, we may be able to recover most of it. In that case it will be merely a question of discovering whether the sites of the previous Institutes are still suitable. In heavily bombed towns like Naples and Milan it may even be desirable to defer the opening of the Institutes, as life may be completely disorganised.

I would therefore recommend that the Council consider seriously the possibility of re-opening some of the British Institutes during the next few months, and that they should secure the approval of the Foreign Office for this purpose. I would also recommend that if and when I reach Naples and Rome I should send the Council a written report on conditions in these towns, from which it would be possible to come to a more detailed decision about the opening of the Institutes.

As for the question of staff, this should not present great difficulties. When we reach Rome, a large part of the work of P.W.B. will be rather similar in kind to the work of the Council. It would be easy, if the Council wished, for me to return to my former job with the Council. In fact I think it would be advisable after I have reached Rome and made a report to you that the Council should ask P.W.B. to allow me to return to London for consultation about the Institutes. I feel that the Council has first claim on my services, and I am ready to return to the Council at any time. Under these circumstances, if the Council so desired, I am sure a transfer could be arranged.

6.6.63

When the military operations against Italy come to an end, a certain number of the former members of the Council staff in Italy will automatically be released from military duties here. Among these are Colquhoun, Vernon and Wood. There may also be others. Then there will be a certain number of people who know Italy well who will also be released from military duties. These could usefully be added to the Council staff. In addition the Council could presumably return to Italy some of the former teachers, both men and women, who are at present employed elsewhere.

I am sure it is important for the Council to consider these possibilities now so that there will be as little delay as possible in re-opening the Institutes when this becomes practicable.

Hoping to hear your views on these proposals in the near future.

Yours,

Ian Greenlees.

2096

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Yours,

Ian Greenlees.

The British Council,
3, Hanover Street,
London W.1.

2097

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

*col Brade
d. 10/10/1941*

Signor Anthony EDEN
Ministro degli Esteri Inglese

Londra

6766

ASSOCIAZIONE CULTURALE
 " ITALO - INGLESE "
 nuovo club
 ROMA

Roma li 6/ giugno 1944
 Sede Sociale Provvisoria
 Via Fogliano n° 10 tf:860018

La Presidenza

Signor Anthony EDEN
 Ministro degli Esteri Inglese
LONDRA

Col più vivo compiacimento, siamo lieti di comunicare a Lei, signor Ministro, di avere ricostituita su nuove basi, alla luce del sole e con vita legale, (sfrondata da qualsiasi legame col passato), l'Associazione Culturale "Italo-Inglese", nuovo club, la cui finalità, -vasta e complessa-, risultano dallo Statuto della medesima.

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Questa Associazione, inquinata e bandata nel passato, nel riprendere gli scambi culturali tra la Nuova Italia, libera e democratica, -rigenerata dalle sofferenze patite in ben venti lunghi anni di oppressione e di tirannia-, e le Nazioni Unite, libere ed Alleate, vuole riannodare nella più assoluta libertà di pensiero e di parola, rapporti strettissimi con le Nazioni amiche, che le sono più vicine per affinità di opere e di aspirazioni.

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IL PRESIDENTE ff.
 (Avv. Prof. ELETTO Emilio)

Il Segretario Generale ff.
 (Ing. Angelini Luigi)

Luigi Angelini

Emilio Eletto

