

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

785016

ACC

10000/132/419

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NO

10000/132/419

775

CATERINA GEROLIMICH

NOV 1943. MAR 1944

0122

Office of the British Resident
Minister at Allied Force H.Q.,
5, rue Professeur Camille Illet,
Algiers.

(27)

23rd March 1944.

39/150/12.

File PAX

Dear Mr. Hopkins,

In reply to your letter No. 43 of March 18th, about the "Irish Cedar" negotiations, I shall be grateful if you will let Mr. Caccia know that I have to-day telegraphed to the Foreign Office, asking them to request the United Kingdom Representative in Dublin to give all possible support to the Italian Minister in this matter.

Yours sincerely
R. Halford
R. Halford.

*Received in
the office of the
British Resident
Algiers*

J/Commander M. Hopkins.

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
POLITICAL SECTION
APO 394

No. 13.

18th March, 1944.

Dear

With reference to Mr. Makins' letter No. 39/150/12 of 23rd February about the "Caterina Gerolomich", Mr. Caccia has asked me to inform you of the contents of a further memorandum which has been received from the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Ministry state the Italian Minister in Dublin has recently telegraphed that the Irish Government have pointed out that the agreement for the sale of the S.S. "Caterina Gerolomich" ("Irish Cedar") was concluded on April 22nd, 1943 and entered into force on August 9th, 1943. Therefore, according to the Eire authorities, the date of December 19th is not to be considered within the period permitted for the exercise of optional rights. The Italian Legation has already made it clear that Article 5 of the agreement does not admit such an interpretation and that the redemption clause operates automatically within six months from the date of the Armistice. The Legation is expecting a further reply from the Irish authorities but the Ministry suggest that it would be useful if the competent British authorities in Ireland could be instructed to support the action of the Italian Legation in Dublin.

Will you kindly inform us what, if any, action is taken.

Yours truly,

A. Halford, Esq.,
Office of the British Resident Minister
at Allied Force Headquarters,
ALGIERS.

2038

0123

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

785016

URGENT

H.C.

At a Board
ref. 39/KO/18

R. MINISTERO
DEGLI
AFFARI ESTERI

N° 1264

MEMORANDUM
for the
POLITICAL SECTION (A.C.C.)

Following Memorandum of February 16 N.633 of which copy is herewith enclosed, it is informed that the Italian Minister in Dublin has recently wired that the Irish Government has pointed out that the agreement for the sale of the S.S. "Caterina Jerolomich" (Irish Cedar) was concluded on April 22, 1943 and entered into force on August 9, 1943. Therefore, according to the Eire Authorities the date of December 19th is not to be considered within the period permitted for the exercise of optional rights.

The Royal Legation has already made it clear that art.5 of the agreement does not admit such an interpretation and that the redemption clause operates automatically within 6 months from the date of the Armistice.

The Royal Legation is expecting at present a further reply from the Irish Authorities. However, it would perhaps serve all useful purposes should the competent British Authorities in Ireland be instructed to support the action of the Italian Legation in Dublin.

R.E.

Salerno, March 15, 1944.



2037

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

39/150/12

23rd February, 1944.

My dear Harold,

Your letter No. 775 of February 19th,
about the "Caterina Gerolomich".

2. I think we may take it that Prunas
has not forgotten the amendment to the
Cunningham-de Courten Agreement, and I
should think you could safely let the
point pass on this occasion.

Yours sincerely
R. Makins
Roger Makins.

H. A. Caccia, Esq.

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

AFC 394

Reference 775

19 February 1944

You will have noticed that in memorandum to Civil Affairs No. 723.0 of 16 February there was enclosed telegram No. 3 to Dublin about the "Caterina Gerolomich". This telegram was the result of my communication to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs the substance of your memorandum 39/150/12 of 12 February.

I now attach a memorandum from the Ministry in which, as in the telegram, the Italian Government express their understanding that our readiness to advance funds for the redemption of this ship will not affect the ownership.

Could you let us know whether I should let this pass or whether I should remind Brunes of the phrase which was added to the preamble of the Cunningham-De Courten Agreement in the amendment signed on 17 November: i.e., "It is understood and agreed that the provisions of this agreement as to immediate employment and disposition of Italian warships and merchant ships do not affect the right of United Nations to make such other dispositions of any or all Italian ships as they may think fit. Their decisions in this respect will be notified to the Italian Government from time to time."

Roger Hawkins, Esq., C.M.G.

1 Encl
a/m memo

2036

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

APC 394

Reference 775

19 February 1944

You will have noticed that in memorandum to Civil Affairs No. 723.0 of 18 February there was enclosed telegram No. 3 to Dublin about the "Caterina Gerolamoich". This telegram was the result of my communication to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs the substance of your memorandum 39/150/12 of 12 February.

I now attach a memorandum from the Ministry in which, as in the telegram, the Italian Government express their understanding that our readiness to advance funds for the redemption of this ship will not affect the ownership.

Could you let us know whether I should let this pass or whether I should remind them of the phrase which was added to the preamble of the Shantung-to-Courten Agreement in the amendment signed on 17 November: i.e., "It is understood and agreed that the provisions of this agreement as to immediate employment and disposition of Italian warships and merchant ships do not affect the right of United Nations to make such other dispositions of any or all Italian ships as they may think fit. Their decisions in this respect will be notified to the Italian Government from time to time."

Roger Makins, Esq., C.M.G.

1 incl
a/s memo

775
Cat Gerolamoich

2035

R. MINISTERO DEGLI AFFARI ESTERI

P

COLL.

TR.

SP.2

1

Telegramma in PARTENZA

Nº. coll: 111

Oggetto: PIROSCAFO "GEROLONICH"

Data: 17.2.1944

Tramite: C.A.C.

Diretto a: R. LEGAZIONE ITALIANA - DUBLINO

Testo: (originale)

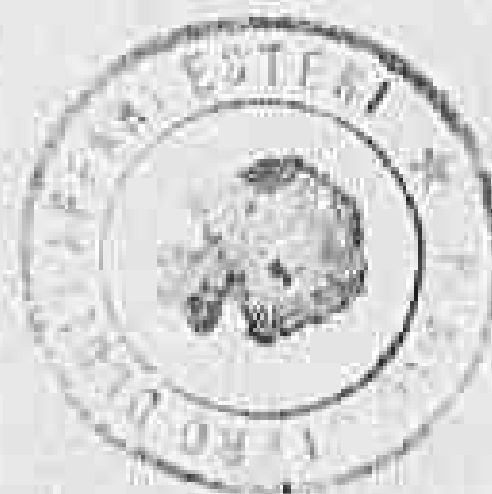
Nº. 3 - February 17(.) Information has been received that the Allied Governments will forward directly to you amount necessary for the redemption of the S.S. Gerolonich as soon as the Irish Government will notify it is ready to hand over the ship(.) It is understood that this will not affect ownership of vessel which shall continue flying Italian flag and be manned by Italian crew(.)

PRUNAS

(traduzione)

Governi Alleati mi informano che fondi necessari per riscatto "Gerolonich" vi saranno direttamente versati appena Governo irlandese avrà comunicato essere disposto procedere restituzione piroscafo(.) E' inteso che ciò non modificherà proprietà della nave che continuerà a battere bandiera italiana e navigare con equipaggio italiano(.)

PRUNAS



Consegnato a: C.A.C.

il:

2034

R. MINISTERO
DEGLI
AFFARI ESTERI

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

-Political Section-

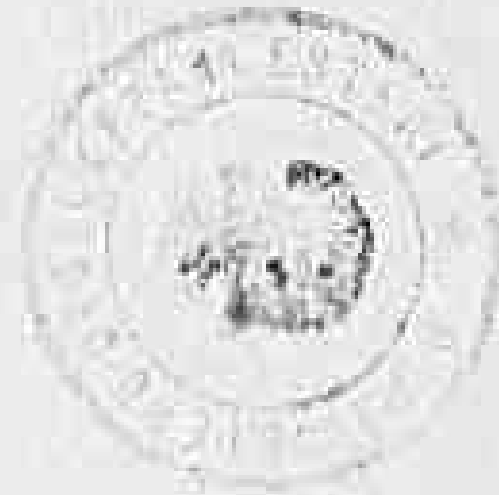
With reference to previous communications on the subject, the Royal Italian Ministry for Foreign Affairs wish to thank the Allied Control Commission for their kind communication concerning the funds which the British Government are ready to make available for the redemption of the S.S. "Gerolomich" ("Irish Cedar").

The Royal Italian Government understand that said payment shall be considered as advance fund and that it shall consequently not affect the ownership of the vessel, which shall continue to fly the Italian flag and be manned by an Italian crew.

Instructions to such effect have been sent to the Royal Italian Minister in Dublin who, in the mean time, has been requested to hasten the proceeding for the redemption of the S.S. "Gerolomich" ("Irish Cedar").

Rf

SALERNO, February 15, 1945



2033

If anything comes
in about the
CATERINA

GERO DOMICH

These papers should
be studied before
anything is
said to Italians
re: M.F.A.

HAC

3248 Political Sec

Office of the British Resident
Minister at Allied Forces
3, rue Professeur Cartillot,
Algiers.

59/150/12

To: Political Section, A.C.C.

From: Resident Minister's Office.

Subject: Proposed redemption of the
Caterina Carolanich.

Reference: Italian cable No. 1839 of January 5th.

You may inform the Italian Foreign Office that
the funds necessary for the redemption of the
Caterina Carolanich will be advanced to the Italian
Minister at Berlin as soon as it is learnt that the
German Government have agreed to return the ship.

Ry

12th Feb. 1944.

Copy to:

Mr. Reinhardt
C-in-C. Med.
Folio.

Purwar (nd today

H2 15/2
2032

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

39/150/12
JMA

4th January, 1944.

My dear Harold,

After consultation with the Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean, and Gibson Graham, as Chairman of the Mediterranean Shipping Board, we are now able to give you the following replies to the questions asked in your letter 561.21 of December 7th about the "Caterina Gerolomich".

With regard to the question of flag and manning, it is confirmed in principle that the "Caterina Gerolomich" should wear the Italian flag and be manned by Italian officers and men after she has been repurchased by the Italian Government. Detailed arrangements for the change of crew at an appropriate time should be made through the Ministry of War Transport.

As regards the subsequent use of the ship, the Italian authorities are, as you suggested, under a slight misapprehension. Under the terms of the Armistice, Italian shipping was placed under the orders of the Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean, who has since requested the Mediterranean Shipping Board to act on his behalf in controlling this shipping in the interests of the United Nations.

Yours ever
R. H. H.
Rogers H. H. H.

H.A. Caccia, Esq.,
Allied Control Commission,
Italy.

2031

0134

TO FREEDOM

Catrina G. Molovich

JAN 8 1902
71/5
RAC 2nd
#1839

SECRET
PRIORITY
PATERA
FRENCH

JAN 5 1954
MR

FOR MACMILLAN

REURAD FOR THREE TWO SIX SIX NIGHT PROCEEDING TO TO PROCEED WITH PATERA SIGHTED JUNE 10
ITALIAN GOVERNMENT REQUESTED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO PAY FOR REDEMPTION OF
CATRINA GONZALEZ COULD BE AWARDED TO THEM SINCE IT IS BELIEVED THAT THE PRIZE
ORIGINALLY PAID WAS NOTED COME TO FROM FURNISHING THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT DURING AND
THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT MAY AS FURTHER IN FUND AVAILABLE IN FURTHER COUNTRIES TO
PLEASE INTEREST AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

AUTHENTICATED:

ROBERT E. DOD
Major, A.C.D.
Secretary of the Commission

- DISTRIBUTION:
2 - Mr. Allen
1 - Mary
1 - Mr. Gaccin

U. S. SECRET
Herald Edition SECRET

2030

HAD/and

APO 394

7 December 1943

In reply refer to:
561.21

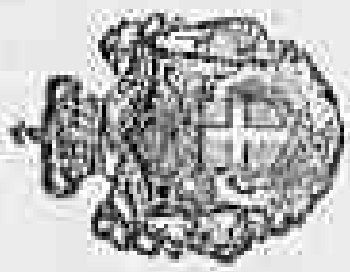
As requested in your letter 39/150/12 of the first of December, I approached the Italian Government about the ex-Italian vessel "Caterina Garofalo". From their telegram No. 101 dated the 19th of December which they asked us to dispatch today for the Italian Minister at Dublin you will have seen that they wish to exercise their option to repurchase this vessel. Meanwhile they have sent me the enclosed memorandum asking for confirmation that when the transaction has been completed the ship shall fly the Italian flag and be manned by officers and men of Italian nationality. Would you let me know what to answer to this request. As you will remember, this would be in accordance with the last sentence of Section 5 of the Cunningham-De Courten Agreement of 23 September. The Italian authorities are aware of the trouble which has arisen of a certain number of the existing crew of this ship, see the last paragraph of AFHQ telegram No. 9601 of the fourth of December in which the Italian Minister in Dublin asks for an early repatriation of 23 members of the crew. But they still wish for some confirmation of the principle and point out that other Italian personnel could if necessary be provided later.

Incidentally the memorandum states that the ship "shall ~~not~~ be turned over to the North African Shipping Board in accordance with the armistice clauses". This is presumably a misunderstanding on the part of the Italians, for no provision of the armistice or the Cunningham-De Courten Agreement specifically requires ships to be turned over to the "North African Shipping Board".

1 Incl:

Memorandum from the
Secretary General

2029



MINISTERO DEGLI AFFARI ESTERI

Brindisi, December 6, 1943

N. 477

MEMORANDUM

FOR MR. CACCIA

With reference to memorandum of December 5th you will have noted from our telegram on even date Number 101 directed to the Italian Legation in Dublin that this Government fully intends to exercise their optional rights to repurchase the ship "Caterina Jerolimich" at present renamed "Irish Cedar".

Once this will have been accomplished the "Caterina Jerolimich" (built 1912- 5430 tons - speed 4 knots - belonging to Impresa Navigazione Commerciale S. A. Roma) shall be turned over to the North Africa Shipping Board in accordance with the armistice clauses. It will however be appreciated if you shall confirm that the steamship shall fly the Italian flag and will be manned by officers and men of Italian nationality.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL

A. F.

2028

HMC/cmd

5 December 1943

MEMORANDUM:

1. The Italian ship "Caterina Cerolomich" was in Dublin in 1940 and was transferred to the Irish Register and flag, being renamed the "Irish Cedar". The contract of sale between the Italian and Irish Governments contained the following repurchase option:

"The vendor has the right but not the obligation to redeem the steamship "Caterina Cerolomich" not less than three and not more than six months from the signature of the Armistice Treaty with the principal Maritime Powers, enemies of Italy in the present conflict".

2. An inquiry has been made whether the Italian Government proposes to exercise their option to repurchase this ship in accordance with the provisions of the Armistice. It is fully realized that the actual option could not be exercised until three months after the signature of the full Armistice terms, i.e. until after December 29. But it is hoped that the necessary instructions will be sent forthwith to the Italian Minister at Dublin to approach the Irish Government direct on this subject.

2027

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

39/150/12

1st December 1943.

My dear Harold,

I enclose a copy of Foreign
Office telegram No. 203 of November
22nd, about the transfer of the Italian
vessel "Caterina Gerolomich", to the
Eire Government.

2. Unless you see objection, will
you please approach the Italian
Government as desired by the Foreign
Office.

Yours an
R. Makins
Roger Makins.

H.A. Caccia Esq.

(R 11800/8717/22)
(En Clair)

From reign Office to Resident Minist Algiers.
No. 203 Saving. 22nd November 1943.

Under Article 14 (A) of the full Armistice Terms, the Italian Government undertook to exercise forthwith any existing options to re-purchase or re-acquire Italian or former Italian vessels sold or otherwise disposed of during the war.

2. We have agreed with the Eire Government that they should buy the Italian ship "Caterina Gerolomich", which had taken refuge in Dublin in 1940. This ship was transferred to the Irish Register and flag and renamed the "Irish Cedar". The contract of sale between the Italian and Eire Governments contained the following repurchase option:-

"The vendor has the right but not the obligation to redeem the steamship "Caterina Gerolomich" not less than three and not more than six months from the signature of the Armistice Treaty with the principal Maritime Powers, enemies of Italy in the present conflict". #

3. We wish the Italian Government to exercise their option to repurchase this ship, but we should prefer that it should be handled directly between the Italian and Eire Governments. If you see no objection, please remind the Italian Government of the existence of this ship and of their obligations under the Armistice, and ask whether they propose to exercise their option to repurchase. If they agree to do so, they should instruct their Minister at Dublin to approach the Eire Government direct. The actual option could not of course be exercised until three months after the signature of the full Armistice terms, i.e. until after December 29th. If the Italian Government do not agree, we shall have to consider whether we should require them to fall in with our wishes by formally invoking Article 14 (A) of the Armistice.

4. For your information, a similar repurchase option was included in the contracts of sale of eight ships sold by the Italians to the Argentine Government. The United States Government will probably take similar action in respect of these ships, but no decision has yet been taken.

(copies sent to Sir. E. Bridges and Mr. Smyth)

U. S. SECRET
 Equals British SECRET

OUTGOING

HAC/dnd

SECRET

PRIORITY

PATINA

FREEDOM

DEC

DEC

FERMACILLAN

FOLLOWING FOR ITALIAN LEGATION AT DUBLIN PD TO FREEDOM FROM PATINA SIGNED JOYCE PD
 QUOTE NUMBER ONE ZERO ONE DATED DECEMBER FOUR PD IN CONFORMITY ASSISTICE OBLIGATIONS
 ITALIAN GOVERNMENT WISHES TO EXERCISE OPTIONAL RIGHTS TO REDEEM FORMER NATIONAL
 VESSEL QUOTE CATHERINA GEROLAMICH UNQUOTE WHICH WAS SOLD IN DUBLIN IN ONE NINE FOUR
 ZERO AND AT PRESENT APPEARING IN IRISH REGISTER UNDER THE NAME QUOTE IRISH CEDAR
 UNQUOTE PD OPTIONAL CLAUSE FALLS DUE DECEMBER TWO NINE PD PROVIDE URGENTLY PD
 INSTRUCTIONS FOLLOW REGARDING PAYMENT PD SIGNED PHINAS UNQUOTE

AUTHENTICATED:

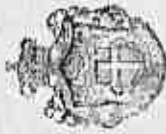
ROBERT E. DOB
 Major, A.C.D.
 Secretary of the Commission

DISTRIBUTION:

- 2 - AG Files
- 1 - Diary
- 1 - Mr. Caccia

U. S. SECRET
 Equals British SECRET

2025



MINISTERO DEGLI AFFARI ESTERI

N. 19

MEMORANDUM

In compliance with allied request contained in memorandum HaC/Am of December 5th, instructions were telegraphed to the Italian Minister in Dublin to exercise the necessary optional rights in order to redeem the former Italian vessel "Caterina Gerolimich" which had been sold to the Rire Government.

It is not known as yet what steps were actually taken by the Italian Minister in Dublin. In the mean time the question of the payment for the redemption of the vessel has received careful consideration. It is believed that the price originally paid by the Rire Government has mostly gone towards the financial necessities of the Royal Italian Legation, whilst on the other hand the Italian Government have at present no funds available in foreign currency. It has consequently been suggested by the competent Italian Authorities to submit to the Allied Control Commission the possibility that the necessary amount be advanced to the Italian Government by the Allied Governments.

The Italian Ministry for Foreign Affairs will be glad to receive the considered opinion of the Allied Control Commission on the matter.

Rf

Brindisi, January 3rd 1944

2024

0142

785016

HAC/dad

5 December 1943

MEMORANDUM:

1. The Italian ship "Caterina Gerolamich" was in Dublin in 1940 and was transferred to the Irish Register and flag, being renamed the "Irish Cedar". The contract of sale between the Italian and Eire Governments contained the following repurchase option:

"The vendor has the right but not the obligation to redeem the steamship "Caterina Gerolamich" not less than three and not more than six months from the signature of the Armistice Treaty with the principal Maritime Powers, enemies of Italy in the present conflict".

2. An inquiry has been made whether the Italian Government proposes to exercise their option to repurchase this ship in accordance with the provisions of the Armistice. It is fully realized that the actual option could not be exercised until three months after the signature of the full Armistice terms, i.e. until after December 29. But it is hoped that the necessary instructions will be sent forthwith to the Italian Minister at Dublin to approach the Eire Government direct on this subject.

2023

~~MEMO~~

sold to Eire

HAC/dmd
5 December, 1943MEMORANDUM:

1. The Italian ship "Caterina Gerolamich" was in Dublin in 1940 and was transferred to the Irish Register and flag, being renamed the "Irish Cedar". The contract of sale between the Italian and Eire Governments contained the following repurchase option:-

2.

EXC (quotation)

3. An inquiry has been made whether the Italian Government proposes to exercise their option to repurchase this ship in accordance with the provisions of the Armistice. It is fully realized that the actual option could not be exercised until three months after the signature of the full Armistice terms, i.e. until after December 29th.

775
Caterina Gerolamich

TO ROGER MAKINS

with. Out. Her. by Italian flag?

HAY/and

7 December 1943

In reply refer to:
561.21

As requested in your letter 29/150/12 of the first of December, I approached the Italian Government about the ex-Italian vessel "Catalina Carlotich". From their telegram No. 141 dated the first of December which they asked us to dispatch today to the Italian Minister at Dublin you will have seen that they wish to exercise their option to repatriate this vessel. Meanwhile they have sent us the enclosed memorandum asking for confirmation that when the transaction has been completed the ship shall fly the Italian flag and be manned by officers and men of Italian nationality. Would you let us know what to answer to this request. As you will remember, this would be in accordance with the last sentence of Section 3 of the Cunningham-de Courten Agreement of 25 September. The Italian authorities are aware of the trouble which has arisen of a certain number of the existing crew of this ship, see the last paragraph of AFM telegram No. 9642 of the fourth of December in which the Italian Minister in Dublin asks for an early repatriation of 25 members of the crew. But they still wish for some confirmation of the principle and point out that other Italian personnel could if necessary be provided later.

Incidentally the memorandum states that the ship "shall not be turned over to the North African Shipping Board in accordance with the amictive clause". This is presumably a misunderstanding on the part of the Italians, for no provision of the amictive or the Cunningham-de Courten Agreement specifically requires ships to be turned over to the "North African Shipping Board".

1 Encl:Memorandum from the
Secretary General

0 1 4 5