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

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

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CESNA

SEPT. - OCT 1944

0203

TO : Vice-President, Political Section
FROM: Liaison Shipping Sub-Commission
DATE: 24th October, 1944.

SUBJECT: Merchant Vessel "CESENA" (ex "MECANICIEN MOUTTE").

Please note MWTR Med. wrote me on 3rd October on the subject of the redelivery of this vessel to the French at Barcelona as follows:-

"This is a matter which London could deal with through the respective Ambassadors and the French Provisional Government. I don't wish to interfere, but as the whole thing involves four or five Governments, it had better go to them and not be settled locally."

G.A. Bell

G.A. BELL

Cesena
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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Office of the Acting Chief Commissioner
APO 394

JAQ/dfe

2 October 1944

Subject: S. S. GESSERA

To: Political Section, ACC

The attached memorandum from the United States Representative on the Advisory Council for Italy is further in regard to the memorandum of September 22nd, which was forwarded to your Section.



J. A. QUAYLE
Major, R. A.
Chief Staff Officer

*Donating informal
10/1/44 - uws*

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*Q. Gessera
175*

Rome, October 2, 1944

MEMORANDUM.

To : The Acting Chief Commissioner, Allied Control Commission.
From : The United States Representative on the Advisory Council
for Italy.
Subject: S.S. CESMA.

1.) With reference to the memorandum from the U.S. Representative on the Advisory Council for Italy, dated September 22, on the subject of the former French merchant vessel CESMA, a telegram has been received from the U.S. Department of State approving the recommendation of the American Ambassador at Madrid (outlined in the above-mentioned memorandum) and expressing the hope that the Italian Government will issue the instructions necessary for the prompt transfer of the CESMA to the French authorities.

2.) In view of the foregoing instructions received from the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Representative would appreciate receiving information on the status of this case.

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OUTGOING TELEGRAM

FROM : Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
TO : Italian Embassy, Madrid

No. 822: September 23. Believing that following the new general political situation and disappearance of the Vichy Government the Spanish Government will no longer have obstacles in restoring the "Cesena" to the De Gaulle Government. I have informed the French representatives to the Advisory Council for Italy of our intention to carry out the vessel's return.

Please interest consequently the Spanish Government and come to an agreement with M. Truelle for the handing over of the vessel.

Your Embassy will arrange for disembarkation or payment of the eventual objects placed on board the Italian supply ship, taking all necessary measures for the protection of all possible rights.

The Crew should disembark in Spain and await further arrangements.

Please acknowledge by cable.

BY THE ITALIAN STEAMSHIP MANAGER

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Coll.

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Vis.

R. MINISTERO DEGLI AFFARI ESTERI

P

Telegramma in PARTENZA

N.° coll: 1665

Oggetto: P.FO "CESENA"

Data: 24.9.44

Tramite:

C.A.O.

Diretto a: R. Ambasciata Italiana = MADRID =

Testo: (originale) N.° 822 - settembre 23.

Ritenendo che in seguito nuova situazione politica generale e scomparsa Governo Vichy non si oppongano più noti ostacoli per par-
te spagnola a restituzione "CESENA" a Governo De Gaulle, ho comu-
nicato a questo Rappresentante francese presso Comitato Consultivo
nostra intenzione effettuare restituzione stessa.

Pregola interessare in conseguenza codesto Governo e prendere
accordi con sig. Truelle per consegna piroscalo.

Codesta Ambasciata curerà affinché venga effettuato sbarco o
pagamento degli eventuali oggetti posti a bordo dell'armatore ita-
liano, prendendo tutte le necessarie misure alla tutela di ogni
suo possibile diritto.

Equipaggio dovrà sbarcare Spagna in attesa disposizioni.
Pregola riferire telegraficamente.

PRUNAS

NOT FOR DESPATCH

TEXT IN CIPHER ENCLOSED

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Tromite:

U. A. U.

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esito nuova situazione

Pregola interessare in conseguenza codesto governo e prendere

Codesta Ambasciata curerà affinché venga effettuato sbarco o

Equipaggio dovrà sbarcare Spagna in attesa disposizioni.

Pregola riere telegraficamente.

PRUNAS

NOT FOR DESPATCH

TEXT IN CIPHER ENCLOSED

Consegnato a:

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ESPEDITO

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MEMORANDUM

To: The Acting Chief Commissioner,
Allied Control Commission, Rome.

From: The American Representative on the
Advisory Council for Italy.

The following consists in substance of a paraphrase of part of a telegram received from the American Ambassador in Madrid. For such action as you may deem appropriate, attention is called to his recommendation, contained in the last paragraph.

The French merchant ship CESENA, which the Italians took over following the developments of November, 1942, has up to now not been released to Allied custody, counter claims reportedly in behalf of the French owners having been presented by the Vichy Embassy. Now, however, this situation no longer holds and willingness has been expressed by the Italian Embassy to recognize the claim of the French and to return the ship as it stands to the representative of the French in Spain if instructed to that effect.

The American Ambassador at Madrid recommends strongly that authorization be given to the Italian Ambassador in that city for him to make arrangements for the transfer of the ship promptly to the French representative. He states that a telegram was sent on August 31 to the Ministry of Marine in Rome by the Italian Naval Attache in Madrid requesting instructions, and he suggests that instructions to act in line with the foregoing recommendation

Harmon
get this

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The following consists in substance of a paragraph of part of a telegram received from the American Ambassador in Madrid. For such action as you may deem appropriate, attention is called to his recommendation, contained in the last paragraph.

The French merchant ship CELESTE, which the Italians took over following the developments of November, 1943, has up to now not been released to Allied custody, counter claims reportedly in behalf of the French owners having been presented by the Vichy Embassy. Now, however, this situation no longer holds and willingness has been expressed by the Italian Embassy to recognize the claim of the French and to return the ship as it stands to the representative of the French in Spain if instructed to that effect.

The American Ambassador at Madrid recommends strongly that authorization be given to the Italian Ambassador in that city for him to make arrangements for the transfer of the ship promptly to the French representative. He states that a telegram was sent on August 31 to the Ministry of Marine in Rome by the Italian Naval Attache in Madrid requesting instructions, and he suggests that instructions to act in line with the foregoing recommendation be sent to that office.

Rome, September 22, 1944.

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

INTER OFFICE MEMO

From: Office of the Acting Chief Commissioner

SUBJECT: French Merchant Ship *CESENA*

FILE No. A/CC 091.112-1

23 September 1944

TO: Political Section ✓

Attached Memorandum from American Representative on the Advisory Council is passed to you for such action as you see fit.

J.A. Quayle 2085
E. W. S.

1 Incl: as above

on C.

Naval SubCom

for.

I think attached

Telegram No 822 answers this as desired.

Do you agree & may we send?

ATC 2519

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