

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

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Italian Warships Interned In Spain
Aug. 1944 - Jan. 1945

Ministero degli Affari Esteri

6/254/117

MEMORANDUM FOR THE POLITICAL SECTION A.C.

The release by the Spanish Government of the Italian warships interned in Spain, which has taken place in these last days, has happily concluded the long and laborious negotiations that the Italian and Allied Governments had undertaken with the Spanish Government since September 1943.

Now that the ships are returning to Italy and are preparing themselves to take part in the war together with the forces of the United Nations, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs begs the A.C. to convey to the Allied Governments the expression of the warmest gratitude of the Italian Government for the valid contribution furnished to the Italian Embassy in Madrid by the British and the U.S. Embassies in the course of the negotiations.

Rome, January 24th 1945



2116

Copies sent to
Rome and Brit
Embassies on 25.1.45.
Saver

Ministero degli Affari Esteri

6 254 117

file

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
POLITICAL SECTION
APO 394

Ref: 775-MEP

23 November 1944

SUBJECT: Italian Naval Vessels in Spanish Waters

TO : Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

1. With reference to Political Section's Note No. 775 dated 19 November 1944, on the subject of the Italian Naval Ships, Madda and Provatore, and the cargo of the Madda, I have to inform you that there now has been received a telegram from the American Embassy at Madrid which states that the American Ambassador has been given a guarantee by the Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs that the Italian War Ships in the Balearics would be released at the earliest practical date following a determination of justification under international law, and upon completion of arrangements to be made with the Minister of Marine.

2. This is to indicate further that the question of the Italian Merchant Vessels and of the Italian Naval Vessels have been considered separately.

WILLIAM W. SCHOTT
VICE PRESIDENT, POLITICAL SECTION

COPY

2115

ALL

SENIOR U.S. NAVAL LIAISON OFFICER, ITALY
ROME, ITALY

21 November, 1944.

CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR:

Subject:

William W. Schott, Esquire, Vice President,
Political Section,
Italian Warships in Balearics --
release of.

1. Transmitted herewith for your information
is a copy of Commander U.S. EIGHTH Fleet's dispatch 181104 Nov-
ember regarding the release of Italian Warships in the Balearics.

*W. B. SAE*W. B. SAE,
By direction.

INCOMING ~~OUTGOING~~ MESSAGE

TO: INFO. SEMINARIO ITALY

SIGNAL MESSAGE CENTER No:

FROM: JOHN MCKEY ELEMENT

CLASSIFICATION: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

REFERENCE No:

PRECEDENCE:

DATE AND TIME OF ORIGIN:

OFFICE OF ORIGIN:

ComStaFleet passes AIRSIDE Madrid's 161829 not. W4 SUBMILC ITALY for info x Begins X

Action: ☐ Info: ☐ Consult: ☐ Lect.: ☐ CorNavEu: ☐ ComExGenFrom: ☐ From ALUNA Madrid X

Minister Foreign Affairs has guaranteed to Ambassador release Italian Warships

in Palermo at earliest practicable date X Release to effected when justification

under International law determined and arrangements made with Ministry Marine X

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Authenticated by

Originator's signature

Office of the Resident Minister,

Central Mediterranean.

25th October, 1944.

33/150/5.

My Dear Harold,

Your letter No. 775 of the 21st October about the Italian Naval vessels interned by the Spaniards, crossed mine of the 20th October.

2. We have now learned from Madrid that U.S. Embassy in fact made a demarche to the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the 16th October on the lines recorded in my letter of the 20th October.

3. U.S. Embassy, Washington, inform us that the State Department had already instructed the U.S. Ambassador at Madrid to support any representations by his Italian colleague on the understanding that his British colleague was authorised to act in a similar manner.

4. I am sending a copy of this letter and of my letter of the 20th to Fred Reinhardt and Aubrey Halford.

Yours truly,

John.

J. Wyndham.

R. Gaccia, Esq.

Italia FO (Cittadini)

informed today

Caccia

2112

File

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
POLITICAL SECTION
APO 394

Ref : 775

21 October 1944

In my letter 775 of 11 September about the Italian Naval Vessels interned by the Spaniards I wrote that the Italian Government will be glad if their representations in Madrid to secure the release of these ships could be supported by the Allied Embassies. I now enclose a copy of a further memorandum from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in which they once again ask for the support of the Allied Embassies in Madrid.

I enclose an extra copy of this letter for Fred Reinhardt and have sent a copy to our Ambassador.

John Wyndham, Esquire,
Office of British Resident Minister, A.F.H.C.

775
Copy enclosed with report to Spain

2111

R. MINISTERO
DEGLI
AFFARI ESTERI

Previous

? Ruben
new file

Mr. 6/801/356

delivered to Mr. by Mr. L. M.

ref. 6/801/356
Mr. 2/1/

MEMORANDUM FOR THE POLITICAL SECTION, A.C.

Further to Memorandum no. 5/442/201, dated 8th September ult., the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs takes leave to inform the Political Section, A.C., that the Italian Embassy at Madrid has, in agreement with the Allied Representatives there, asked the Spanish Government, on the basis of the relevant instructions received, for the release of the interned Italian warships without recourse to arbitration, and that the Spanish Government have given assurances that the question would be examined with the utmost goodwill.

The Italian Embassy had, in due course, received instructions to solicit the support of the British and American Embassies in Madrid in these steps with the Spanish Government. In this connection the Italian Embassy reports that the two above-mentioned Embassies, albeit recognising the convenience of the Italian initiative, have applied to their respective Governments in order to know whether they were authorized to act in this sense.

Given to the fact that arbitration in respect of the release of the Italian warships interned in Spain, is contemplated by the Hispano-Allies agreements of 1st May ult., it is obvious that the British and American Governments should carefully examine the question. However, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs wishes to point out to the Political Section, A.C., in order that it might be conveyed to the above Governments, the advisability of their issuing instructions to their respective Embassies in Madrid in the sense of supporting the Italian request.

In fact, the speedy return of the Italian warships would be a gain not only for Italy but also for the Allies inasmuch as these units could forthwith be employed in the common war effort.

Furthermore, the fact must be borne in mind that the attitude maintained up to the present by the Spanish Government regarding the question, was due to the pressure, or fear of pressure, on the part of Germany. Owing to the new military and political situation that has developed owing to the recent war events, it is to be assumed that the Spanish Government take no longer into account such pressure and must, instead, be willing to take the opportunity to act in a manner

2110

Mr. T. J. /
Further to memorandum no. 5/44/201, dated 20th September ult., the Italian Embassy of Foreign Affairs takes leave to inform the Political Section, A.C., that the Italian Embassy at Madrid has, in agreement with the Allied representatives there, asked the Spanish Government, on the basis of the relevant instructions received, for the release of the interned Italian warships without recourse to arbitration, and that the Spanish Government have given assurance that the question would be examined with the utmost goodwill.

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The fact should also be taken into consideration that if Spain were to adhere to the release of the warships without having recourse to arbitration, the Italian Government would renounce all claim to compensation for damages owing to their irregular internment.

./.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs shall be grateful if the Political Section A.C. will kindly take the necessary steps to have the above considerations conveyed to the Allied Governments and will be glad to be informed accordingly, in due course. *WLB*

ROM, 20th October, 1944.



0233

Office of the British Resident Minister,
Central Mediterranean.

20th Octob 1944.

16/33/0.

Wife RFA

My Dear Harold,

Your letter of 11th September about the nine Italian naval vessels interned by the Spaniards.

We now understand that:

1. E.M. Embassy have formally suggested to the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs that it would save everybody a lot of trouble if the ships and crews were allowed to sail without further formality and that the Spanish Government has an opportunity of thereby making a gesture which would be greatly appreciated.

2. The Italian Ambassador's representations have been sympathetically received by the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs.

We are waiting to learn the final result of the Italian Ambassador's demarche; but even if it does not succeed, we shall still have a case on humanitarian grounds alone for the release of the air-sea rescue launch (which, it is confirmed, is the same craft as that referred to as a torpedo boat in the first paragraph of your letter), apart from the other ships.

Yours truly,

John.

Italians informed (Robert)

John Lyndham.

H. A. Caccia Esq.

Today HAL 231x

2109

Italian Ships Interned in Spain

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
POLITICAL SECTION
APO 394

Ref 3775

11 September 1944

My dear John,

When I spoke to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs about your letter 15/08/0 of 31 August they said that they presumed that the air-sea rescue launch was one of the nine Italian naval vessels which had been interned by the Spaniards. They had these listed as destroyers: "Orsa", "Carabiniere", "Pacifiere", "Nitagliere" and "Regolo", three landing craft (L.C.) and one torpedo boat of the Italian Air Force and it seemed certain that it was the latter vessel in which we were particularly interested.

As regards these vessels, you will remember that from the first the Italian Government have been pressing the Spanish Government for their release on the ground that their internment was contrary to the principles of International Law, inasmuch as the naval units in question had entered Spanish ports exclusively for the purpose of obtaining supplies necessary to the continuation of the voyage to the nearest port in liberated Italy (as laid down by the XIII. Hague Convention). We and the Americans have supported these Italian representations but in view of the fact that the Spanish Government maintained their attitude the Ministry states that the Allied Governments came to an agreement with the Spanish authorities that the question would be submitted to arbitration. Now that the military and political situation has changed to the Allied advantage the Italian Government consider that the Spanish Government might be induced to take up a more conciliatory attitude and release the interned vessels without the necessity of having recourse to arbitration.

The Italian Government have accordingly sent a telegram to Madrid of which I enclose a translation. They would be glad if these representations could be supported by the Allied Embassies and trust that the necessary instructions may be sent as a matter of urgency. Would you let me know if this is done and also whether the Italian Government are right in thinking that what they have listed as "one torpedo boat of the Italian Air Force" is the same as the air-sea rescue launch which the Allied authorities are particularly anxious to obtain. If it is not, we will of course arrange for further instructions to be sent to Madrid. I am enclosing an extra copy of this letter for Fred Reinhardt and have sent a copy to the High Commissioner.

H. A. CACCIA
Vice-President.

2108

John Wyndham, Esquire,
Office of British Resident Minister, A.F.H.C.

P. S. When received we will of course let you have a copy of the revised text for arbitration, proposed by the Italian Government, see the last Paragraph of the telegram enclosed.

2107

ITALIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Outgoing Cable

SUBJECT: Italian ships interned in Spain

No. coll: 1148

DATE : 8 September 1944

Through : A.C.C.

TO : Italian Embassy, Madrid

Original text. No. 735 - September 7 Ministerial telegram No. 644.

The new political and military situation brought about in the Eastern Mediterranean as a result of recent Allied victories and the possibilities of their ^{rapid} exploitation would seem to allow the Spanish Government greater freedom of action, especially as regards the question of our warships interned in Spain.

If it was a fact that considerations of combined political and military character had some influence at the time on the decision to intern our ships (which we of course feel does not conform to International Law), such considerations have now lost their weight and nothing should any longer hold up the release of the ships concerned.

If these are set free at once, we shall not bring up questions relative to expenses and damages derived from unjustified internment.

Your Excellency will inform the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs in this sense and wire the outcome of your action.

Allied Governments are being informed of these instructions, so they may possibly support your action in Spain.

Should solution in the said terms not be possible, Your Excellency will continue the decided procedure, for which reason we are sending by courier the text of the formula proposed by the Italian Government which appears to be more adapted to the particular nature of the question than that proposed in your telexpress 1147 of 6 June.

VISCENTI VERGATA

2106

To Political Section

I.I. Rescue launch in the Balearics

Reference attached.

The matter was discussed this morning by the Air Vice-Marshal with General Piacentini, Minister for Air. The latter would be obliged if the Foreign Office would exert some pressure so that an early settlement may be reached.

P. de Haan
(P. de Haan)
Squadron Leader

6.9.44

2105

Prime Candace Zeffa 7/9

S/Ldr de Heen
Air Forces Sub-Commission

The attached is sent for your
information and return please.

I suppose you do not want us to
take any action with the Italian Government -
see first enclosure?

Political Section
2.9.44

UUB
M. Hopkins
J/Cdr

*I am taking this up with the Air
Minister this morning. If we need any
help we will come to you*

6/9/44.

UUB AVM2104

Office of the Resident Minister
Central Mediterranean.16/33/0

31st August, 1944.

My Dear Harold,

Aubrey Hallford's letter of the 4th March, written to you from our Office in Algiers, about the sale of an Italian air-sea rescue launch to the Spanish. The launch had taken shelter in the Balearic Islands last September.

It was proposed that the launch should be transferred to the Spanish authorities in lieu of a payment of a certain claim made by the Spanish Ministry of Marine against the Italian Government. But A.S.H.F. were anxious to obtain the launch themselves as vessels of this kind are scarce in the Western Mediterranean. Our Embassy in Madrid therefore abandoned the proposal and have been trying to secure the release of the launch for use by the Allied Forces. I enclose for your information on the subject a copy of a letter dated 16th August from the Embassy, Madrid, to the Foreign Office.

Yours ever,

John.

John Gwynne.

H. A. Gwynne, Esq.

2103

COPY

British Embassy,
Madrid.

16th August, 1944.

(12/57/44)

Dear Department,

With reference to our letter of April 4th about the Italian rescue launch in the Balearics, we subsequently learned from Resain, Algiers, that I.S.M.O. there were very anxious to obtain the launch as vessels of its kind were extremely scarce in the western Mediterranean.

We have therefore abandoned the proposal described in our letter for the sale of the launch to the Spaniards and are endeavouring to secure its release for use by the Allied forces. The Italian Air Attache has taken the matter up with the Spanish Air Minister, but the Embassy say they cannot take similar action with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs without specific authority to do so from the Italian Government. They are endeavouring to obtain this urgently. Meanwhile we are supporting with the Ministry the request made by the Italian Air Attache and a copy of our note on the subject is attached.

Yours ever,

CHURCHILL.

ask Air Fleet S.C. if they want us
to take any action.

Central Department,
BIRMINGHAM OFFICE.

210

His Majesty's Embassy present their compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and have the honour to invite their special attention to the case of the Italian motor-rescue launch which took shelter in the Balearic Islands in September, 1943.

The Embassy was informed that this launch would be of considerable use to the Allied forces for rescue work in the Mediterranean area, and the Embassy understood that a request has been made by the Air attaché to the Italian Embassy to the Spanish Air Ministry that the vessel should be released for this purpose. This launch, though belonging to the Italian Air Force, is a specialized craft for humanitarian purposes and not a fighting vessel, and the Embassy have the honour to express the hope that the Ministry will arrange with the Spanish Air Ministry for it to be released at an early date together with its crew, in order that further use can be made of it by the United Nations in the humanitarian task of rescuing aviators and sailors stranded and shipwrecked in the course of warlike operations.

HAROLD BROWN,
AMBASSADOR.
16th August, 1944.

2101

0241

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

785016

to P27
HAC
93

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

3/150/22.

4th March, 1944.

My dear General,

I enclose for your information
a copy of a minute addressed by this
office to the MAAF about the sale
of an Italian air sea rescue launch
to the Spanish. We understand,
however, that the Air Forces Sub-
Commission would like to secure the
vessel's release for use in this
theatre of operations. At the
request of the MAAF we have tele-
graphed accordingly to Madrid. I
enclose a copy of our telegram.

Yours ever,
A.S. Halford.
A.S. Halford.

H.A. Caccia, Esq.

COPY.

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

3/150/22.

15th February, 1944.

To: Mediterranean Allied
Air Force.

From: Resident Minister's
Office.

The following telegram from the
Italian Air Attache at Madrid for the
Italian Air Ministry, No. E.0106/S of
February 8th, has been forwarded to
this office by the British Ambassador
at Madrid.

"I have been informed that the
Spanish Air Ministry are willing to
buy a motor lifeboat belonging to the
Italian Air Force which took shelter
in the Balearic Islands in September
last. Please instruct me by telegram
whether I am authorised to enter into
negotiations in this matter and what
price in pesetas would be acceptable."

2. If there is no objection to the
delivery of this message, we suggest
that you should arrange for its
transmission through the Allied Control
Commission.

Copy to: C.-in-C. Med.

0243

Copy of Telegram from
Resident Minister to
Madrid No. 51 of 13 March,
1944.

As vessel is Air-Sea Rescue launch, Allied military authorities would like to secure its release for service in this theatre of operations. They maintain that it is non-combatant vessel and might almost be put in the same category as hospital ship.

2. Do you consider approach to Spanish authorities on these lines would be productive of favourable result?

3. If release proves impossible, I gather Allied authorities would see no objection to proposed sale.

0244

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

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
POLITICAL SECTION
APO 394

No. 775

16th September 1944

In his letter No. 775 of the 11th September, about the Italian naval vessels interned by the Spaniards, Mr. Caccia enclosed a translation of a telegram from the Italian Government to Madrid which said in the last sentence that a formula for arbitration would be forwarded by bag. I now send herewith a translation of the proposed formula.

I am enclosing an extra copy of this letter for Mr. Rheinhardt and have sent a copy to the High Commissioner.

John Wyndham, Esq.,
Office of the British Resident Minister,
Central Mediterranean.

775
Rheinhardt in open

2109

DRAFT AGREEMENT

The Royal Italian Government and the Spanish Government being desirous of settling by arbitration the controversy that has arisen between them following the internment, in September 1943, of certain ships of the Royal Italian Navy by order of the Spanish Authorities

have agreed as follows :

Article 1.

The decision of the following question is deferred to an Arbitration Court composed as specified in Article 3 : -

Was the internment of the Italian warships "Regolo", "Carabinieri", "Fuciliere", "Mitragliere", "Orsa", of the landing crafts (M.Z.) 778, 780 and 800, and of the motor-boat " Rama", as ordered by the Spanish authorities in September 1943, a provision which, bearing in mind the de facto circumstances which prompted it, the abovementioned Authorities could not have neglected without omitting the duties of neutrality according to the principles of international law ? .

Article 2.

Should the Arbitration Court give a negative award on the question as stated in Article 1, the Spanish Government shall immediately take the necessary measures so that the above mentioned Italian ships will be in a condition to leave the Spanish ports, granting them the necessary supplies to enable them to reach the nearest Italian port (Cagliari).

Article 3.

The Arbitration Court will be composed as follows...

..... President, Member (1).

The award of the Arbitration Court, which will be

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-2-

given on a majority vote, shall be final.

The arbitration procedure shall be summary and shall be regulated by the Court itself.

The Arbitration Court shall meet at Lisbon within 15 days from the signature of the present Agreement.

In witness thereof, the undersigned, duly authorized by their respective Governments, have signed the present agreement, drawn in two originals, in Italian and in Spanish, the two texts being equally valid.

Signed at

Variation to paragraph 1) :

The Arbitration Court shall be composed of three members. Each of the two Governments shall appoint an Arbitrator. The two Arbitrators so appointed shall in common agreement appoint the super-arbitrator who shall preside the Court. Should agreement fail, the super-arbitrator shall be designated by the Swiss Confederation.

2093

R. MINISTERO

DEGLI

AFFARI ESTERI

nr. 6/448/201

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

POLITICAL SECTION

The Allied Control Commission is aware that immediately following the Italian Armistice the Spanish Government proceeded to intern five Italian warships (destroyers: "Orsa", "Caccamiere", "Fuciliere", "Mitragliere" and "Regolo"), three landing craft (M.Z.) and one torpedo boat of the Italian Air Force, which having left German occupied Italian territory were proceeding to Southern Italy and had entered certain Spanish ports for supplies necessary to the continuation of the voyage.

The Italian Government from the first moment protested with the Spanish Government regarding the internment measure pointing out that, given the conditions under which the measure was taken, it was to be considered contrary to the principles of international law, inasmuch as the naval units in question had entered Spanish ports exclusively for the purpose of obtaining supplies necessary to the continuation of the voyage to the nearest port in liberated Italy (as laid down by the XIII. Hague Convention) and asked for the immediate release of the interned units.

The British and American Governments, sharing the Italian point of view, have supported, through their respective Embassies in Madrid, the action of the Italian Government.

However, in view of the fact that Spain maintained her

The Allied Control Commission is aware that immediately following the Italian Armistice the Spanish Government proceeded to intern five Italian warships (destroyers: "Orsa", "Carnadine", "Fuciliere", "Mitragliere" and "Regolo"), three landing craft (L.C.) and one torpedo boat of the Italian Air Force, which having left German occupied Italian territory were proceeding to Southern Italy and had entered certain Spanish ports for supplies necessary to the continuation of the voyage.

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The British and American Governments, sharing the Italian point of view, have supported, through their respective Embassies in Madrid, the action of the Italian Government.

However, in view of the fact that Spain maintained her attitude in the matter, the Allied Governments can ²⁰⁹⁷an agreement with the Spanish Authorities that the question would be submitted to arbitration, the formula for which would be subsequently agreed upon.

Now, given the new politico-military situation in

./.

R. MINISTERO
DEGLI
AFFARI ESTERI

2)

Southern France, following the recent Allied victories and its possible and speedy developments, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs considers that the Spanish Government, which were undoubtedly influenced in taking the internment measure in question and in their intransigent attitude in maintaining it, by obvious considerations of a political character due to their particular situation vis-à-vis Germany, might now be induced to take up a more conciliatory attitude towards the question in the sense of releasing the interned units without the necessity of having recourse to arbitration. This would have the considerable advantage of placing at Italy's disposal the interned ships in a much more brief space of time, thus making it possible to utilize them without delay in the common war effort.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is, meanwhile, sending instructions to the Italian Embassy in Madrid to apply once more to the Spanish Government for the immediate release of the ships, pointing out that should the Spanish Government persist in their denial, the case would be forthwith submitted to arbitration.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs should therefore much appreciate if the Allied Control Commission would kindly submit the question to the London and Washington Governments so that, should they concur with the opinion of the Italian Government, directions might be sent to their respective Embassies in Madrid to support the action that the Italian Embassy will take in accordance with the abovementioned instructions.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will much appreciate

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The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will much appreciate the kind interest of the A.C.C. and an early reply in the matter. *20/12*

ROME, 3th September 1944.

2095



R. MINISTERO DEGLI AFFARI ESTERI

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Telegramma in partenza

N° coll: 1448

OCCORRENZA: RR. Navi internate in Spagna.

DATA: 8 settembre 1944

TRAMITE: C.A.C.

Indirizzo a: R. AMBASCIATA - MADRID

Testo: (originale) N° 735 - Settembre 7. Telegramma ministeriale 646.

Nuova situazione politico-militare creata nel Mediterraneo occidentale tale in seguito recenti vittorie alleate, e suoi possibili rapidi sviluppi, sembra possano consentire a codesto Governo maggiore libertà azione anche nei confronti questione nostre navi guerra costi internate.

Se infatti sulla decisione di internare dette navi (che noi riteniamo come noto non conforme diritto internazionale) influirono a suo tempo anche considerazioni di carattere politico-militare contingente, tali considerazioni hanno ormai perduto loro peso e nulla dovrebbe più opporsi al rilascio navi di cui trattasi.

Ove queste venissero subito rimesse in libertà, non solleveremmo questione relativa spese e danni derivanti da ingiustificato internamento.

V.E. vorrà intrattenere in tale senso codesto Ministro Esteri e telegrafare esito suoi passi.

Governi Alleati vengono informati dalle presenti istruzioni affinché possibilmente appoggino costi Sua azione.

Qualora soluzione nei predetti termini non fosse possibile, V.E. darà seguito a procedura arbitrata per il quale inviasi per corriere testo formula proposta da Governo Italiano che appare più adatta a particolare natura questione di quella proposta nel suo telexpresso 1147 del 6 giugno.

VISCONTI VENOSTA

NOT FOR DESPATCH

TEXT IN CIPHER ENCLOSED

2093

02521

785016

No coll: 1448

OGGETTO: RR.Navi internate in Spagna.

DATA: 8 settembre 1944

TRANSMITTO: C.A.C.

Diritto a: R. AMBASCIATA - MADRID

Testo: (originale) No 735 - Settembre 7. Telegramma ministeriale 646.
Nuova situazione politico-militare creatasi nel Mediterraneo occidentale in seguito recenti vittorie alleate, e suoi possibili rapidi sviluppi, sembra possano consentire a codesto Governo maggiore libertà azione anche nei confronti questione nostre navi guerra costi internate.

Se infatti sulla decisione di internare dette navi (che noi riteniamo come noto non conforme diritto internazionale) influirono a suo tempo anche considerazioni di carattere politico-militare contingente, tali considerazioni hanno ormai perduto loro peso e nulla dovrebbe più opporsi al rilascio navi di cui trattasi.

Ove queste venissero subito rimesse in libertà, non sollevremmo questione relativa spese e danni derivanti da ingiustificato internamento. V.E. vorrà intrattenere in tale senso codesto Ministro Esteri e telegrafare esito suoi passi.

Governi Alleati vengono informati dalle presenti istruzioni affinché possibilmente appoggino costi Sua azione.

Qualora soluzione nei predetti termini non fosse possibile, V.E. darà seguito a procedura arbitrato per il quale inviasi per corriere testo formula proposta da Governo Italiano che appare più adatta a particolare natura questione di quella proposta nel suo telexpresso 1147 del 6 giugno.

NOT FOR DESPATCH

TEXT IN CIPHER ENCLOSED

VISCONTI VENOSTA

2095



Despatched 11 Sept 1944

