

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

785016

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LAND FORCES

MAR. 1944 - MAR. 1945

0208

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

785016

Return to Pol Sec

for Files

Note: copy retained for
CC Files

2491

SECRET

Exec. Comm -
 No see ml
 cc

SUBJECT: Personnel of Italian Armed Forces
 of Yugoslav Origin

Land Forces Sub Com, A.C.
 (M.I.I.A.)

G/6

21 Feb 45

TO : Political Section, Allied Commission

Copy to: Executive Commissioner

1. It was stated at the Executive Commissioner's meeting this morning that :-

(a) Yugoslav Gov't under Marshal TITO had approached U.K. Gov't to order the return to the Yugoslav Army of Liberation, those members of the Italian Army who are of Yugoslav origin.

(b) U.K. Gov't had instructed the Yugoslav Representative in Rome to raise this matter at the next meeting of the Advisory Council i.e. 2 March.

(c) U.K. Gov't had instructed British Ambassador, Sir MOEL CHARLES, to support the request.

2. In connection with the above, I should like to mention that :-

(a) Although these soldiers may have been of Yugoslav origin many years ago, (i.e. before Trieste/Udine region was transferred to Italy) these soldiers are at present time citizens of Italy and as such are liable for service in Italian Army, where they are now absorbed into service units.

(b) Approximately 1000 of these troops have recently been transferred from CORSICA to SOUTHERN FRANCE, where they are performing useful duty as dock labour for the American forces. AFHQ plans to move the remaining 4000 from CORSICA to SOUTHERN FRANCE for similar duty as soon as shipping becomes available.

3. While in no way wishing to go contrary to U.K. Gov't's instructions, I suggest that it is inadvisable on military grounds at this juncture to transfer these Italian soldiers to the Yugoslav Army of Liberation. The Italian Minister of War holds the same view very strongly on political grounds and this whole question, as you know, has been a very "tender" one with the Italian Gov't.

820.5

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Internal:
A/Q
SD/152

Major General
M.H.I.A.

cc. cc Files

See copy 52

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
Office of the Executive Commissioner

Ref. 8251/21/20

1 March 45

SUBJECT: Personnel of Italian Armed Forces of Yugoslav Origin

TO : GOC, Land Forces Subcommittee, (MILIA)

1. Reference your letter, file 0/6, dated 21 Feb 45, subject as above, your apprehension in this matter is fully appreciated. The subject will be brought up at the March 2 meeting of the Advisory Council where it is included in the agenda as "Yugoslavs actually in units stationed on the islands of Corsica and Sardinia to join the National Liberation Army of Yugoslavia."

2. The Political Section has advised me that the stand of both the British and American representatives at this meeting will be one of delay. Actually the question, when it is presented, will be approached from the British and American standpoint as primarily one of military significance and accordingly it will be recommended that it be referred to SACMED on that basis. In other words, it is not anticipated that any positive action will be promoted by either representative.

MS Lusk
Brigadier.
Executive Commissioner.

Copy to Political Section

Incl: Memorandum to Executive Commissioner
summarising above subject.

2489
seen by [unclear] [unclear]

SECRET

SECRET

Tel Ext 341

F QUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

AFO 394

Office of the Executive Commissioner

LWS/al

Ref. 8251/82/30

1 March 1945

MEMORANDUM TO: Executive Commissioner

SUBJECT : Personnel of Italian Armed Forces of Yugoslav Origin

Summary of this problem as requested in your minute 80 is presented below:

1. Originally Marshal Tito at AFHQ conferences held in August 44 expressed hope that Italians of Croat and Slovene origin serving in the Italian Army in Sardinia and Sicily be permitted to volunteer for service with the Yugoslav Army of National Liberation.

2. The problem was accordingly taken up by G-5, AFHQ, and on 29 August Allied Commission was directed to refer the question to the Advisory Council for Guidance. Prior to such reference the Chief Commissioner discussed the matter with both Sir Noel Charles and Mr. Alexander Kirk who raised doubts as to the propriety of the Council making any recommendation to the Supreme Allied Commander. It was felt the question was not so much legal as military, the principal point at issue being the effect such recruitment might have on the fighting qualities of the Italian Army, Navy, and Air Force.

3. The Chief Commissioner then requested (2 Sept 44) permission from AFHQ to take the matter up with Admiral Morgan, General Browning and Air Force Marshal Boven-Biscarlet and that the official viewpoint of the Italian Government should be obtained. G-5 replied that it had no objection to this request but at the same time urged that the question be put at once before the Advisory Council. In addition G-5 stated that the disposition of the Yugoslav members of the Italian armed forces in Corsica was being considered at AFHQ and would be accordingly brought up at SACMHD's political meeting for discussion in accordance with Mr. Harold Caccia's recommendation.

4. Accordingly, the Chief Commissioner referred the problem to the Service subcommittees and in addition requested advice from the Legal Subcommission as to the status of the Italian law concerning such action.

5. The Legal Subcommission advised that there were four main difficulties connected with such volunteer service:

- a. Members of the Italian armed forces volunteering for service in a foreign force would be liable to be charged with desertion, etc., under the Military Penal Code (Articles 143 to 152).

2488

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2. The problem was accordingly taken up by G-5, AFHQ, and on 25 August Allied Commission was directed to refer the question to the Advisory Council for guidance. Prior to such reference the Chief Commissioner discussed the matter with both Sir Noel Charles and Mr. Alexander Kirk who raised doubts as to the propriety of the Council making any recommendation to the Supreme Allied Commander. It was felt the question was not so much legal as military, the principal point at issue being the effect such recruitment might have on the fighting qualities of the Italian Army, Navy, and Air Force.
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4. Accordingly, the Chief Commissioner referred the problem to the Service subcommittees and in addition requested advice from the Legal Subcommittee as to the status of the Italian law concerning such action.
5. The Legal Subcommittee advised that there were four main difficulties connected with such volunteer service:
 - a. Members of the Italian armed forces volunteering for service in a foreign force would be liable to be charged with desertion, etc., under the Military Penal Code (Articles 143 to 152).

SECRET

b. If he not serving with Italian armed forces and is subject to call-up he would be liable to punishment for failure to report under articles 151 and 152 of the Code.

c. The national would lose his rights of Italian citizenship.

d. The recruiting agency would be liable to punishment under article 238 of the Penal Code, if such action was without governmental approval.

Thus the Legal Subcommittee recommended that the Italian Government in order to overcome these difficulties should take the following steps:

a. that the Ministries of War, Marine, and/or Air should grant these nationals permanent leave;

b. the Minister of the Interior should refrain from giving to the nationals concerned an intimation to abandon and might be asked to give a formal letter approving the enlistment;

c. the President of the Council of Ministers should grant an approval to the recruiting agency.

6. Reply of Air Forces Subcommittee -- The Air officer commanding stated that he felt it might be an attempt to influence the return to the Croats and Slovenes of the provinces taken over by Italy after the last war (thus influencing peace conference action) and regarded the matter quite serious from that standpoint.

7. On 20 September, G-5, AFHQ, notified Allied Commission that the Supreme Allied Commander had directed that the matter be held in suspense and that no further action be taken for the present.

8. Since this date no further direct communications have been received by this Headquarters on the subject other than the question as presented on the agenda for the March 2 meeting of the Advisory Council. It appears as 23 on the agenda:

"Yugoslav actually in units stationed on the islands of Corsica and Sardinia to join the National Liberation Army of Yugoslavia."

9. Mr. Halford of the Political Section advises that both the British and American representatives will approach the matter as primarily one of military significance and accordingly it will be recommended that it be referred to SACMEX on that basis. In other words, it is not anticipated that any positive action will be promoted by either representative. In fact, Political Section's latest information is that the UK Government has instructed the British Resident Minister to take up the question with General Alexander, thus, in effect, countermending UK's previous instructions to the British Ambassador to support the request.

10. The attached letter is prepared for your signature as a reply to General Browning's letter. (Has been seen by Mr. Halford).

Chief Staff Officer
To the Executive Commissioner

Legal Sub-Comm.
OFFICE OF THE REPRESENTATIVE AT BARI
OF THE RESIDENT MINISTER
CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN

36 Via Salvatore Cognetti,
BARI.

29th January, 1945.

MAJOR WALKER'S
WITH ~~XXX~~ COMPLIMENTS

H. Hopkinson, Esq.,
Allied Commission,
ROME.

*Received
2 Feb 45*

*Legal S/C to be
shown for personal*

Ans

2/1/45

OFFICE OF THE REPRESENTATIVE IN BERL
OF THE UNITED STATES
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

BERL.

29th January, 1945.

I refer to my letter of the 25th January about a complaint made by the Commander of the Headquarters of the Yugoslav Army of National Liberation in Bari regarding the imprisonment of certain Italian nationals of Slavonic origin by the Italian authorities.

Another case has come to my knowledge which appears to involve both the Headquarters of the Yugoslav Army of National Liberation in Bari and the Italian authorities, and which also concerns an Italian national from Istria.

The circumstances are as follows:

In September 1937 an Italian court sentenced Alberto Mancini, a native of Trieste, to 15 years imprisonment on charges of complicity in military espionage. Until the 5th December, 1944, she was confined in the woman's prison at Bari, in the Province of Bari. During March 1944, however, the Allied Control Commission in Italy arranged through the Italian authorities for this woman to be released and handed over to Headquarters No. 2 District for disposal. For reasons of which I am not aware she was apparently not released at once as on the 4th December four or five officers of the Yugoslav Army of National Liberation, some of whom described themselves as "independents", visited Bari prison where they asked to be allowed to see Mancini. They were granted an interview by the Director of the prison, although they were not in possession of an authorization and although this procedure is contrary to prison rules. The Yugoslav officers informed the Director that they would obtain a release order for Mancini. On the following day certain officers of the Yugoslav Army of National Liberation returned to the prison. They showed the Director a letter purporting to be signed by the British military authorities in Bari and on the strength of this document the Magistrate della Procura del Re issued an order for Mancini's release. She was handed over to these same officers and was immediately taken away by them. A few days later another officer, who is presumed to have been a Yugoslav and who claimed that he was a Magistrate of the Bari Tribunal, visited Bari prison and asked to be given the release order. The order was removed by this officer and has not been returned.

The names of three officers of the Yugoslav Army of National Liberation who are believed to have been involved in this incident are known to the Allied Security authorities who, at the request of the Headquarters of the Yugoslav Army of National Liberation in Bari, have referred the matter to the latter in writing and have asked for a full report. I should also mention that G.2 Section at Allied Forces Headquarters are aware of this incident and that the present whereabouts of Alberto Mancini are unknown to Allied authorities.

I refer to my letter of the 25th January about a complaint made by the Commander of the Headquarters of the Yugoslav Army of National Liberation in Bari regarding the imprisonment of certain Italian nationals of Slovene origin by the Italian authorities.

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2483

I think that if the Italian authorities admit or are proved to have been involved in this case contrary to correct procedure, a serious view should be taken of the incident which appears to have occurred after the interview

/between

Philip Breda, DSO,
Officer of the Resident Minister
Central Mediterranean,
CANTARA.

between General Lamine, G.O.C. No. 3 District, and Major-General Peljanc, the former Commander of the Headquarters of the Yugoslav Army of National Liberation in Bari, in regard to the conduct of partisan troops in Italy. It would clearly be reprehensible on the part of the partisan authorities if it should be found that they have complained about the injustices of the Italian authorities and at the same time have acted themselves in an arbitrary manner.

I have asked that I may be kept informed of future developments in this matter and will let you know what explanation the Headquarters of the Yugoslav Army of National Liberation in Bari may provide.

I am sending copies of this letter to Henry Hopkinson, 3d Military Mission and S.I.L.O.

(SGD) D.G. WALKER

CB28

URGENT

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

SAS/dfe

A/C 091.

19 September 1944

MEMORANDUM TO: Army Sub-Commission
Naval Sub-Commission
Air Forces Sub-Commission
Legal Sub-Commission

Brig. Upjohn

1. Supreme Allied Commander - Mediterranean has directed that guidance be requested from the Advisory Council for Italy as to whether in principle Italian nationals of Croat and Slovene origin serving in the Italian armed forces might be permitted to volunteer for service with the Yugoslav Forces of National Liberation.

2. The next meeting of the Advisory Council is on Friday, September 23, at 10:00 A.M. I shall therefore be grateful for observations by mid-day Thursday, September 21, on how these service sub-commissions consider this will affect the Italian forces for which they are responsible. In forming their estimate there is no objection to their discussing this question with the Italian Minister concerned and stating what his views may be.

3. Legal Sub-Commission are being asked to prepare a short note:

- (a) What is present Italian law concerning volunteering by Italian nationals in foreign forces, and
- (b) What steps in the light of (a) would have to be taken by the Italian Government to legalize such volunteering?

W. H. Stone

WILLIAM H. STONE
Captain, USA
Acting Chief Commissioner

cc: Political Section (Mr. Cassia)

(Mr. Schott)

2484

0824

785016

EWS /hjp

A/CG 091

2 September 1944

Colonel C. B. Lewin-Harris
Dep. Asst. Chief of Staff, G-5
Allied Force Headquarters

Dear Colonel Lewin-Harris:

Many thanks for your letter of the 25th August about Marshal Tito's request that Italians of Croat and Slovene origin serving in the Italian Armed Forces might be permitted to volunteer for service with the Yugoslav Army of National Liberation.

As you wrote that this question was under consideration by the Advisory Council for Italy, I consulted Sir Noel Charles and Mr. Alexander Kirk, who tell me that this is not the case. In fact the question has never yet come before the Allied Advisory Council and they have raised doubts as to the propriety of the Council making any recommendation to the Supreme Allied Commander on this question. In essence this question is not so much legal as military: the principal point at issue being the effect that any scheme for recruiting volunteers might have on the fighting qualities of the Italian Army, Navy and Air Force.

In these circumstances will you let me know whether you agree that the next step should be to consult Admiral Morgan, General Browning and Air Vice Marshal Dower-Bussaclet. In addition at some early stage it would be advisable to obtain the views of the Italian Government. As to that you will remember that Marshal Badoglio held very strong views. I do not know whether the present Government share these views but it is clearly a subject of great importance to them.

I am giving copies of this letter to Mr. Alexander Kirk and Sir Noel Charles.

Sincerely,

Hq A.C.C. Sec'y Gen.

DISPATCHED

Date: 2 Sept 1944

Via

NA

Index

AKR.

ELBERT W. STONE
Captain, USNR
Acting Chief Commissioner

cc: Political Section
Mr. Alexander Kirk
Sir Noel Charles

2483

File
DRAFT LETTER TO COLONEL C. E. LEWIN-HARRIS FROM
CAPTAIN STONE

Dear Lewin-Harris,

Many thanks for your letter of the 25th August about Marshal Tito's request that Italians of Croat and Slovene origin serving in the Italian Armed Forces might be permitted to volunteer for service with the Yugoslav Army of National Liberation.

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Noel Charles.

2482

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I am giving copies of this letter to Mr. Alexander Kirk and Sir

Noel Charles.

Drafted by Mr. Caccia
Political Section
2 Sept 44

0824

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

785016

ACC N M 181

*Italian Soldiers
Slav origin*

ACC MAIN (GEN MACFARLANE C COMM)

APRIL 29, 1944

SECRET

ROUTINE

CACCIA

FREEDOM

GENERAL SOLODOVNIK TELLS ME THAT AS A RESULT OF HIS RECENT VISIT TO BARI AND OF THE EXPERIENCES OF THE RUSSIAN MISSION WITH TITO HE HIMSELF WAS GOING TO RECOMMEND STRONGLY TO BOGOMOLOV THAT THE WHOLE QUESTION OF WITHDRAWING ITALIAN SOLDIERS OF SLAV ORIGIN FROM THE ITALIAN FORCES FOR SERVICE WITH THE PARTISANS SHOULD BE DROPPED PD PAREN TO AFHQ FOR MILITARY GOVERNMENT SECTION AMERICAN POLITICAL ADVISOR AND BRITISH RESIDENT MINISTER FROM ACC MAIN FROM MACFARLANE PERSONAL REFERENCE MILITARY GOVERNMENT SECTION MEMORANDUM ZERO NINE ONE POINT SEVEN ONE ONE PAREN YUGOSLAVIA ENPAREN OF TWO ZERO APRIL PAREN THE REASON THAT HE GAVE WAS THAT THE PARTISANS NEEDED STORES AND EQUIPMENT BUT NOT REINFORCEMENTS OF MAN POWER PARA MEANWHILE THE YUGOSLAV REPRESENTATIVE ON THE ADVISORY COUNCIL HAS ALSO INFORMALLY RAISED THE QUESTION WITH ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION PD IF HE PRESSES THE MATTER I SHALL RECOMMEND THAT HE BRING IT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL

2481

NOEL MASON MACFARLANE
Lieutenant General
Chief Commissioner

FNM/rj

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

Office of the Chief Commissioner

A P O 394

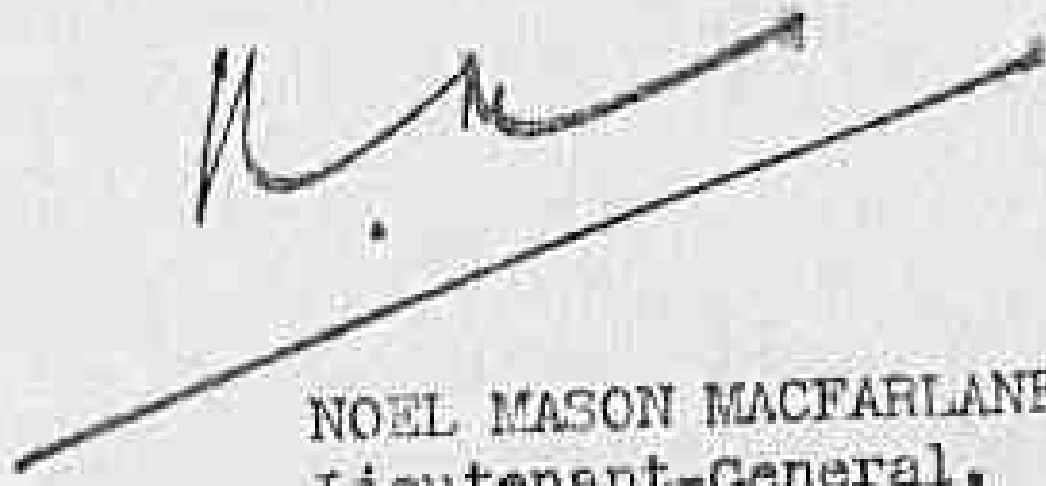
28th. April, 1944.

Ref. CC/G/239

MEMORANDUM:

TO: Political Section, A.C.C..

1. I hinted to Solodovnik today that if the Russians wished to pursue the question of getting reinforcements for Tito from the Italian services it might be helpful in getting some ruling on the subject if they raised the matter at an early meeting of the Advisory Council.
2. Solodovnik told me that as a result of his recent visit to Bari, and also as a result of the experiences of the Russian Mission with Tito, he himself was going to recommend strongly to M. Bogomolov that the whole question should be dropped.

Comment. Almost too good to be true.
NOEL MASON MACFARLANE.
Lieutenant-General,
Chief Commissioner

2489

Please put up
draft signal to
A.C.C. I think
they should know. H.M.

0826

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

785016

TOP SECRET

FATIMA M133

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Ital. General Staff

FATIMA (GEN MACFARLANE C COME)

2nd. April. 1944.

TOP SECRET

V16 MACFARLANE

PRIORITY

PRIORITY

BALOGGIO TOLD ME TODAY THAT HOSTILELY HAD SHOWN HIM THIS MORNING A COPY OF A TELEGRAM FROM MARSHAL TITO TO MOSCOW COMPLAINING STRONGLY OF THE TREATMENT ACCORDED TO SOLDIERS OF SLAV ORIGIN IN THE ROYAL ITALIAN ARMY BY THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT HE REQUESTING FURTHER THAT THESE SOLDIERS SHOULD BE RELEASED TO FIGHT FOR TITO IF ~~PARA TWO~~ ~~FO~~ BALOGGIO TOLD ME THAT HE URGENTLY DENIED THE CHARGES OF ILL ^{dealt} TREATMENT AND STATED THAT UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD HE SURRENDER SOLDIERS OF SLAV ORIGIN SERVING IN THE ITALIAN ARMY IF THEY ~~WERE~~ ~~ITALIAN NATIONALS~~ ~~TO~~ ~~WANT~~ ~~TO~~ ~~APPLY~~ ~~FOR~~ ~~GENERAL~~ ~~RELEASE~~ ~~AND~~ ~~REPRESENTATIVE~~ ~~MINISTERS~~ ~~AND~~ ~~CIVIL~~ ~~AFFAIRS~~ ~~FROM~~ ~~FATIMA~~ ~~FROM~~ ~~MACFARLANE~~ ~~PERSONAL~~ ~~PAREN~~ HE WAS PREPARED TO PERMIT A COMMISSION COMPRISING ONE REPRESENTATIVE EACH OF THE AMERICAN BRITISH BULGARIAN AND ITALIAN GOVERNMENTS TO INVESTIGATE THE QUESTION AND TO RELEASE ANY SOLDIERS OF SLAV ORIGIN OTHER THAN ITALIAN NATIONALS NOW SERVING IN THE ITALIAN ARMY TO FIGHT FOR TITO IF THE COMMISSION SATISFIED THEMSELVES ON THEIR NON SLAV ITALIAN STATUS

2479

ROBERT H. JOE
Major, AGT.
Secretary General

TOP SECRET

0827

Recruiting Yugoslavs
SECRET

FARGO 699 *tc*
St

FARGO
SECRET
PRIORITY

3 FEBRUARY 1944
10050 BACFARLANE

FATIMA (REAR)

WITH REFERENCE YOUR NUMBER TWO FIVE ONE
POINT TWO OF THREE ZERO JANUARY PD VERBAST PAKEN FARGO FROM
BACFARLANE PAKEN TO FATIMA REAR FOR CAPTAIN STONE PD CITE FARGO SIX
NINE NINE PD INFORM FARMER WILLIAM AND DISPLACED PERSONS SUB
COMMISSION AND ALSO HANSCOURT OF SUGAR ONCE EASY THAT REBUILDING OF
YUGO DASH SLAYS FOR PARTISAN ARMY MUST REPEAT MUST BE CONFINED TO
REFRISCHERS OF WAR OR INTERNEES PD UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES ARE
SOLDIERS OF THE ITALIAN ARMY TO BE APPROACHED PD WITHOUT REFERENCE
TO MAIN HEADQUARTERS ACC NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULING WILL BE
TOLERATED

820

2473

Political Section. ✓
Legal Sub-Commission.
Land Forces Sub-Commission.
Brigadier Lush.
Brigadier Duchenne.

L.F. NICKEL,
Lt. Col. AGD
Adjutant General

SECRET

0828

785016

Fero

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

APD 394

*Republican U. S. ARMY
Inscribed
Army*

March 21, 1944.

My dear Colonel Revetria:

You were most kind to send me your report on the Republican Fascist Army which I have read with considerable interest.

I shall be most interested in seeing your further report on the social and economic program now being put into effect in the North of Italy.

With the hope of seeing you again in the near future, believe me,

Very sincerely yours,

*820
SOS- RIVETRIA*

Lieutenant Colonel Revetria,
Ufficio Informazioni,
Comando Supremo.

2477

COMANDO SUPREMO

UFFICIO INFORMAZIONI

20 marzo 1944

Egregio Signor R E I B E R

Riferendomi alla interessante conversazione avuta con lei durante il pranzo del 15 sera a Villa Maria, relativa alla fisiologia politica, militare, economica dell'Italia repubblicana, mi permetto inviarle l'accluso studio sull'"Esercito Repubblicano Fascista".

Nella parte finale é messa in evidenza l'esistenza di due correnti in contrasto, correnti che esistono oltre che nell'ambiente militare (le dimissioni del sottosegretario dell'aviazione Botto debbono pure attribuirsi a ciò) anche in quelli politico ed economico-sociale.

Sto raccogliendo dati per uno studio consimile sul problema della statizzazione e socializzazione delle aziende economiche, che a suo tempo Le invierò.

I migliori saluti

2470

Ann. per l'Aviazione

0830

A.C.C.
Mr. Fisher

CONFIDENTIAL (CLEAR)

TIME 17.30 hrs

R.A.F. Ref. No.
14 th July 44

ALL STATIONS

HARTSHORNE, FRANK

RAF ROUTINE CABLE NO

German mistrust of Japan's military men illustrated by following incident recounted by reliable Austrian source Rome.
In second week May 1944 Major-General Shimizu Japanese Army and Air Attaché with the Republican Fascists visited Rome to make a study of lessons to be learnt from the fighting in the South front and on the new battle tactics of the Allied ground air forces. The General's assignment was regarded with the greatest mistrust by German Command. Permission to visit Cassino front refused by Kesselring who also refused to receive him. Von Mackensen received Shimizu and allowed him to look over near areas Nettuno front. German escorting officer had strict orders to let Shimizu see as little as possible. Meantime Mackensen ordered that for rest of stay in Rome Shimizu should be under immediate eye of Gestapo. From May 10th-15th every movement followed. Outside Hotel Excelsior stood member of Geheimen Feldpolizei in civilian clothes. On leaving Rome Shimizu thanked German authorities for "grosser Aufmerksamkeit" which he had received throughout visit.

2472

