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

ACC

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Polish

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POLISH TROOPS - ITALY

Oct. - Nov. 1944

0845

Pol. Sec.

~~SECRET~~

ENS/hjp

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A/CC 014.13

27 October 1944

My dear Mr. Prime Minister:

I have received your letter 15/02088/8 of 23 October enclosing a memorandum concerning the action taken by Polish officers and soldiers in various places in Central Italy in the premises of the Italian Communist Party. As you will understand this is a military matter and I am referring it at once to the appropriate Allied Military Authorities.

Yours very truly,

EWS

ELMER W. STUBB
Commodore, USNR
Acting Chief Commissioner

820

His Excellency Ivanoe Bonomi
President of the Council of Ministers
Italian Government
Rome

cc - Pol. Sec. ✓
COS
"A" files

2505

Drafted by Mr. Caccin

Pol. Section

RMS/hjs

He
H.S.

A/CC GIL.13

27 October 1944

SUBJECT: Behavior of Polish officers and soldiers

TO : Chief of Staff, Allied Force Headquarters, AFHQ 512

I enclose a copy of a letter from the Italian Prime Minister on the subject of the action taken by Polish officers and soldiers in various places in Central Italy in the premises of the Italian Communist Party. As this is a purely military matter I shall be grateful if you will take it over for such action as may be thought appropriate. Would you let me know in due course what reply I may send to Signor Bonomi.

/s/ EWS

ELIOT S. EANS
Commodore, USNR
Acting Chief Commissioner

2 Incls:

Incl 1 - Ltr, P.M. Bonomi,
16/0338/S, 23 Oct 44
(with memorandum)
Incl 2 - Ltr, Hq I.C. to P.M.
Bonomi, A/CC GIL.13, 27 Oct 44

cc: G-5 Section, AFHQ
Liaison Section, AFHQ
U.S. Political Advisor
British Resident Minister

Chief of Staff Section
Lt Col Brown, Liaison Officer, ACC
Mr. Caccia, Political Section
'A' Files

Handled by

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785016

TRANSLATION

16/03088/8

COPY

The President of the
Council of Ministers

23 October 1944

Dear Admiral;

I forward here enclosed a Memorandum concerning the behaviour of Polish officers and soldiers in various localities of Central Italy towards the premises of the Italian Communist Party and towards its members.

You are certainly aware of the ties of culture, of friendship and of common political aspiration which have united, since centuries, and particularly since our Risorgimento, Poland and Italy. The recent contribution of blood offered, side by side with our soldiers, by the Polish troops for the liberation of Italian soil has rendered even more solid these ties and has given new proof of the valor of that noble Nation to whom goes the cordial gratitude of all the Italian people.

But there is no need for me to emphasize how such an interference of Polish soldiers - certainly contrary to the orders of the responsible Commands - in Italian internal questions is not only damaging to the prestige of the Royal Government but also liable to give rise to incidents of a certain gravity.

I would be therefore grateful should you kindly approach the Command of Polish Troops with a view to avoiding the repetition of such incidents.

Believe me,

Cordially yours

(Signed) Bonomi

2503

Admiral Ellery W. Stone, U.S.N.R.
Acting Chief Commissioner,
Allied Commission,
ROME

Encl.

0848

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

COPY

On September 17th at 13.00 hours there was expected at the Government Palace in Macerata the Under-Secretary of State to Industry and Commerce, Guido Molinelli and on this occasion the Communist Party had called a meeting, with the authorization of the A.M.G. at the Theatre "Sforisterio" where Signor Molinelli should have delivered a conference.

At 14.15 hours while communist elements and citizens were assembling in the "Sforisterio" about fifty Polish soldiers appeared in the square with the evident intention of preventing the meeting. Some communists gave the Poles the communist salute and this caused a brawl between the two sides.

A group of Carabinieri intervened energetically firing some shots into the air with the result the communist retreated in the theatre, the crowd of citizens was dispersed and the Poles went away stopping not far from the theatre.

A few minutes later they came back and began throwing stones again while some of them attacked with their fists some communists who had remained outside the theatre.

The Poles tried also to enter into the theatre but were prevented from doing so by the Carabinieri.

The Poles then left on motor trucks but gave to understand that they would return armed and in greater numbers.

The Prefect asked the intervention of Allied Officers to avoid further incidents.

The Under Secretary Molinelli who had in the meantime arrived decided to postpone the conference so as to avoid the repetition of these incidents.

On September 19th an officer and two Polish soldiers forced their entrance into the premises of the Communist Party, Via Flaminia 495, Rome, tore away the flag cutting it subsequently into pieces and threatening the people who were present although these had not given any provocation.

On the same evening some Polish soldiers presented themselves at the premises of the Communist Party in Lungotevere 2502 and ordered the Secretary of the section to strike the flag from the balcony failing which they would have destroyed the section.

On September 23rd at Antrodoco (Rieti) several Polish soldiers who were passing through that locality attacked the premises of the Communist Party breaking the windows and destroying all the propaganda material as well as the flag of the section.

- 2 -

On September 28th at 13,00 hours in the Piazza Vittorio Emanuele of Civitacastellana (Viterbo) some Polish soldiers who were passing through dragged down and destroyed the red flag hanging from the premises of the Communist Party.

Several communist elements who were present did not re-act.

2501

Ref: 3609/12/COS.

18 November 1944.

My dear Mr. Prime Minister:

Referring further to your letters of 23 October and 30 October 1944 concerning the behaviour of certain Polish troops. I can now inform you that this matter has had the attention of the Supreme Allied Commander-in-Chief. He has instructed his Chief, Liaison Section to bring the subject to the notice of General Anders, Commanding II Polish Corps, and to say that any repetition of such incidents will not be tolerated.

I hope that, as a result of this action, you will not be troubled by further complaints of this nature.

Yours very truly,

1st E. Mery W. Stone

ELLERY W. STONE
Commodore, USNR
Chief Commissioner

His Excellency Ivanoe Bonomi
The President of the Council of Ministers
Italian Government
ROME.

2509

c.c. Political Section,
Lt.Col. Brown, Liaison Officer AC.
Lt.Col. Count de Salis, RAAC.

