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COMMANDO SUPREMO

FEB. 1944

FARGO 1039

FARGO (GEN MACFARLANE CHIEF COMMISSIONER)

17 FEBRUARY 1944

SECRET

10050-MACFARLANE

ROUTINE

^{MA}
^{Rpta}
 HQ ACMP (~~ACMP~~), AFHQ (~~AFHQ~~) *MacFarlane Personal*
RF

I spoke to Badoglio last night on the subject of the Comando Supremo. In practice the Comando Supremo has not come into the picture at all as regards the Italian Navy and Air Force. It has become an additional and in my opinion unnecessary link in our dealings with the Italian Army. I told Badoglio that the Army Sub-Commission under Duchesne would in future work direct with the Italian War Office and General Staff at Lecce. That after Marshal Messe and the Comando Supremo had moved to Salerno I would deal with Messe only personally and only on questions of high policy. Badoglio was in complete agreement. Messe and the Comando Supremo are moving ~~to the Salerno area~~ ^{RF} about 21 February. *to the Salerno*
area
RF

2583

Comando Supremo

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Army Sub Commission, ACC
Main II (MIIA)
LEONIE (LECCO)
DO/2

13 June 44

My Dear

I hope I am not overstepping bounds in writing the following but I know you like me to write frankly to you.

It is about the "Comando Supremo". I think the greatest step forward we could take would be to abolish it. Both my staff and I have come definitely to the opinion that this would be much welcomed by the Ministry of War also. Comando Supremo is the fifth wheel of the coach and numbers no less than 102 officers and 553 O.R.'s as at 10 June. HQ, AAI applied to C.C.S. for an establishment of 4470 all ranks for Comando Supremo, M. of W. and S.M.R.E. combined. The total as at 10 June is 902 above this. Something will have to go, so as to reduce to 4470. The obvious answer is Comando Supremo, particularly as C.C.S. may (probably will, I understand) reduce H.Q., A.A.I.'s figures of establishment.

Moreover, now that the new Civilian Minister of War is Minister of Air also, the Navy is directly under CINCEM and the Air Force under M.A.A.F., there is no function for Comando Supremo. MARIO PALERMO entirely agrees.

Apart from this, LESSE is constantly butting in and causing difficulties. The case of the ARDINI Air Force Battalion that you scotched and of the CREMONA Div. as Combat troops are cases in point. I have explained ad nauseam to S.M.R.E. and M. of W. the impossibility of producing another Italian Combat Div. They understand the situation and LESSE must have done so too. So he side-tracked M.M.L.A. and went to Gen. ALEXANDER and you direct!

The whole political situation is in a state of flux and it seems to me that now is the golden opportunity to abolish Comando Supremo and have all dealings through one channel, the Civilian Minister - M. of W. or S.M.R.E.

I do hope you can see your way to press for this.

Yours

2573

P.S. I think the Civilian Minister of War will be much welcomed by the lower ranks of the Army as it understands the burden of the

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P.S.

I think the Civilian Minister of War will be much welcomed by the lower ranks of the Army as it portends the breaking of the ring of "generals of the old gang"!

Lieut General Sir Noel Mason MacFarlane, K.C.B., D.S.O., M.C.
Chief Commissioner,
Allied Control Commission.

LB/cc

