

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

785016

ACC

10000 / 132 / 451

10000 / 132 / 451

861
UNIFORMS

JUNE 1944

File copy

Ref. CC/G/368

5th June, 1944.

MEMORANDUM:

TO: Allied Force Headquarters,
(Attention: Chief of Staff).

There is attached a copy of a memorandum received by the Political Section of the Allied Control Commission from the Royal Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, requesting that, in the light of recent developments, the Supreme Allied Commander, Mediterranean, reconsider his previous instructions that members of the Italian Military mission in Algiers be requested to refrain from wearing their uniforms throughout French North Africa.

2. I would appreciate receiving an indication of the nature of the reply which should be made to the Italian Government.

NOEL MASON MACFARLANE
Lieutenant General
Chief Commissioner.

1 Encl.

Copies to:

United States Political Adviser
British Resident Minister
U.S. Representative Advisory Council for Italy
British High Commissioner in Italy.

Hq ACC - Sec'y Gen.
DISPATCHED
Date-Time 6 June 1200
Via Hq m/c
Initials DFE

all copies dispatched

2922

C o p y

R. Ministero
degli
Affari Esteri.

No. 3701.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSIONPOLITICAL SECTION

According to instructions given by the Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean, members of the Italian Military Mission in Algiers have been requested to refrain from wearing their uniform throughout French North Africa.

Apparently such instructions have been prompted by the desire to avoid possible incidents with the local population which, if understandable during the months immediately following the September Armistice, would be unwarranted to-day when French and Italian troops are fighting side by side in a spirit of true comradeship.

On the other hand, it must be borne in mind that, following a recent agreement between French and Italian naval authorities, Italian sailors in uniform have been granted shore leave. This agreement implies that the local situation must have improved to such a point that the French Authorities do not foresee any serious danger of trouble arising from the presence of Italian servicemen in uniform.

It would therefore be all the more desirable if the instructions of the Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean were to be reconsidered. It is needless to add that should the C. in C. Mediterranean concur with the foregoing, relevant instructions would be issued by the Italian Government so that members of the Mission would wear their uniform with discretion and only when reasons of office or of national dignity should require it.

/The

- 2 -

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs would be very grateful if the Political Section, A.C.C. could use their good offices in order that a favourable solution might be reached in the matter. It would in fact be truly disappointing if, under the present circumstances and taking into consideration Italy's contribution in the common struggle, Italian officers were to be discriminated against in such a manner, all the more so since all former objections and apprehensions of the local Authorities have apparently been removed.

(initialled) R.P.

BALETSO, 2nd June, 1944.

2929

Col. Monfort:

CC/0/368.

It has been suggested that the attached request by the Italian Govt. for reconsideration of SACMED's instruction that members of the Italian Military Mission, Algiers, not wear uniforms in North Africa should be handled by the Navy Sub-Com; and that the Army section is opposed to granting the request. It strikes me, however, that the question, involving as it seems to local - and touchy - factors in Algiers, cannot be judged by ACC. If you agree, do you approve of the attached draft, which transmits to request to AFHQ without comment?

JNC

trial th. - in final
form now, as a letter
in CC's signature.
note copies - 8 copy of Italian note
to be with each. gey.

Suggest the C in C (Naval) should see this and restrict permission to specific ceremonial occasions -

The Army Section do NOT think it wise for Italian military officers to wear uniform in Algiers except on the rarest occasions for the short period of a specific ceremonial duty

The proper approach, however, is to the French.

[Signature]
3/6. Major

R. MINISTERO
DEGLI
AFFARI ESTERI

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

POLITICAL SECTION

According to instructions given by the Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean, members of the Italian Military Mission in Algiers have been requested to refrain from wearing their uniform throughout French North Africa.

Apparently such instructions have been prompted by the desire to avoid possible incidents with the local population which, if understandable during the months immediately following the September Armistice, would be unwarranted to-day when French and Italian troops are fighting side by side in a spirit of true comradeship.

On the other hand, it must be borne in mind that, following a recent agreement between French and Italian naval authorities, Italian sailors in uniform have been granted shore leave. This agreement implies that the local situation must have improved to such a point that the French Authorities do not foresee any serious danger of trouble arising from the presence of Italian servicemen in uniform.

It would therefore be all the more desirable if the instructions of the Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean were to be reconsidered. It is needless to add that should the C.INC. Mediterranean concur with the foregoing,

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

POLITICAL SECTION

According to instructions given by the Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean, members of the Italian Military Mission in Algiers have been requested to refrain from wearing their uniform throughout French North Africa.

Apparently such instructions have been prompted by the desire to avoid possible incidents with the local population which, if understandable during the months immediately following the September Armistice, would be unwarranted to-day when French and Italian troops are fighting side by side in a spirit of true comradeship.

On the other hand, it must be borne in mind that, following a recent agreement between French and Italian naval authorities, Italian sailors in uniform have been granted shore leave. This agreement implies that the local situation must have improved to such a point that the French Authorities do not foresee any serious danger of trouble arising from the presence of Italian servicemen in uniform.

It would therefore be all the more ²⁹¹desirable if the instructions of the Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean were to be reconsidered. It is needless to add that should the C.inC. Mediterranean concur with ~~with~~ the foregoing, relevant instructions would be issued by the Italian Government so that members of the Mission would wear their uniform with discretion and only when reasons of office

./.

R. MINISTERO
DEGLI
AFFARI ESTERI

-2-

or of national dignity should require it.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs would be very grateful if the Political Section, A.C.O. could use their good offices in order that a favourable solution might be reached in the matter. It would in fact be truly disappointing if, under the present circumstances and taking into consideration Italy's contribution in the common struggle, Italian officers were to be discriminated against in such a manner, all the more so since all former objections and apprehensions of the local Authorities have apparently been removed.

RF
SALERNO, 2



2913

