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

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FLAGS

MAR - NOV 1944

Political Sect ~~W/S~~
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HEADQUARTERS
SOUTHERN REGION, ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394, U. S. ARMY

R/2190

19 November 1944

SUBJECT: Display of Flags

TO : Headquarters, Allied Commission
(Attention of Political Section)

1. Reference the attached letter from Headquarters, Allied Air Force Area Command No. 332.1 dated 8 November 1944, and covering letter from Zone Commissioner, Foggia Zone reference No. FP/1806 dated 15 November 1944.

2. Forwarded for your information and such action as you may deem advisable.

For the Regional Commissioner:

Guy Warren
GUY I. WARREN
Lt. Col. Sp. Res. AUS
Executive Officer

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Incls.

- 1 letter FP/1806 dated 15 Nov. 1944.
- 1 letter 332.1 dated 8 November 1944.

GIW/jjf

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HEADQUARTERS
20 NOV 1944

Delivered at C.A.S. meeting with Lt. General [unclear]
has
Nov 13

SOUTHERN REGION

ExO

18 NOV 1944

Ref:- FP/1806.

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15 Nov 44.

SUBJECT:- Display of Flags.

TO:- HQ A.C. SOUTHERN REGION. ✓

FROM:- ALLIED COMMISSION, FOGGIA ZONE.

The attached copy of letter received from HQ
 A.A.F.A.C, FOGGIA is forwarded for favour of advice
 on the suggestions put forward in para.2.

M. B. S.
 Lt. Colonel,
 Zone Commissioner,
 ALLIED COMMISSION, FOGGIA ZONE.

HNE/EGFM.

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HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED AIR FORCE AREA COMMAND
APO 650

A-RR-dcc

In reply
refer to:
332.1

8 November 1944

SUBJECT: Display of Flags.

TO : Allied Commissioner, Foggia Zone, Lucera.

1. The carrying of the flags of certain nations in political processions or the presence of these flags at political headquarters is one trick of political leaders to indicate supposed fostering of their party by the nation whose flag is flown. Communists use the Russian flag for this purpose; at Torrepalmeria a political leader requested permission to fly the American flag at political headquarters.

2. I believe a regulation somewhat as follows should be written to apply to political party and other civilian affairs which are not city, provincial, or other governmental activities:

a. If any other national flag is flown, Italian flag also will be flown.

b. The flag of no nation other than Italian will be flown without all Allied flags, at least of the two major nations, U.S. and Great Britain who are now occupying Italy, also being flown. Exception may be at an occasion honoring or sponsored by another nation, such as at a visit to Italy of a national dignitary, or during the national holiday or similar day of a certain Ally.

3. The carrying in Italy of an American, British, or Russian flag without also carrying the Italian flag is as ridiculous as the carrying of another nation's flag in New York without it being accompanied by the U.S. flag. Going on from there; the flag of no one other nation than Italy should be flown unless to honor a specific occasion of that other nation. We cannot have a group of Italian people "taking sides" and favoring one Allied nation or indicating they are under the patronage of a specific Ally or nation.

ROLAND BIRNIE,
Colonel, AC,
Commanding.

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HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 306

Reference #004

25 March 1944

MEMORANDUM TO: Vice-Presidents, Political Section, HQ ACC, Naples.

This memorandum concerns a question of the carrying of national flags in processions generally and their implication in a demonstration on 5 March in Salerno in particular.

It appears from a report of the factors that the demonstrators on behalf of the "Sicilian Republic" were carrying a banner of their own between the British and U.S. flags. An American major endeavored to take the national flag away and was only rescued by the intervention of the police. The casualties in the disturbance which followed however are not to be attributed to the use of national flags.

A report of this disturbance was forwarded to Public Safety by the Provincial Commission with a request for instructions concerning the use of Allied flags at political demonstrations. The report has been submitted to the Legal Department who merely say that there are arguments for and against; and the Administrative Directorate have tried to urge a red heading over the business by asking if the Russian flag may be flown at Communist rallies.

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My reason for troubling you with this is that I am informed that this question may be discussed at the next Vice-Presidents' Meeting and I am not allowed to forward the file. My own view (if it is of any value) is that it is a pity that an Administrative sub-Commission should raise political points for decisions which were much better left alone without creating a precedent. The dangers of banning the carrying of Allied Nations' flags in processions are obvious, and there may be others which do not at the moment present themselves. It is a mistake perhaps to give the practice undue importance by calling public attention to it; if it were banned, it could involve Public Safety officials in making decisions to allow or disallow any public display of any flag in future--an extremely difficult and delicate task; the disappearance of Allied flags also might be attributed by the public to their government's dissatisfaction with Allied control or to an attempt to break away from it; finally in most countries the carrying of national or Allied Nations' flags is normal, and a better reason should be produced for doing away with it. At the same

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that there should be taken by police in charge of processions that Allied flags are used with respect and not as a cloak for some other banner; that British and U. S. flags should head the procession and be flown alone or with other Allied (or co-belligerent) flags and so on; but these are courtesy details to be left at the hands of any responsible police authority. I submit that, if these courtesies were observed, the question can be left alone.

I hope you agree.


J. H. [unclear]
Captain
Political Section

Pub. Section 1287

R-E-S-T-R-I-C-T-E-D

File

ROME ALLIED AREA COMMAND
APO #794, US ARMY

IEC/cfb
21 August 1944

AG 335.2

Subject: Flags.

To : See Distribution.

Flags of all Allied Nations in the Rome Allied Area Command will be raised at 0700 hours and lowered at 1730 hours daily.

By command of Brigadier General BROWN:

William A. Wedemeyer
WILLIAM A. WEDEMEYER
Lt Col, GSC,
Chief of Staff

DISTRIBUTION:
"R"

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