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ITALY AS ONE OF THE UNITED NATIONS
MAR. 1944 - AUG. 1945

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208/CC

Office of the
Chief Commissioner

ALLIED COMMISSION

LIST OF PAPERS

File under No. 208 ITALY AS ONE OF THE UNITED NATIONS

~~SECRET~~

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SERIAL NUMBER	FROM—	DATE	TO—	SYNOPSIS
1	Ltr Badoglio	Jan 44	MacFarlane	Ital Council of Min in favor of declaring adherence to Atlantic Charter.
2	Cbl M 107 MacFarlane	11 Mar 44	AFHQ	Par 3: Badoglio has sent me a private ltr requesting that Italy be made one of the United Nations
3	Memo Bonomi	22 Jul 44	CC AC	Request for better treatment of Italy, & listing grievances
4	Memo Sec State Hull	19 Aug 44	Bonomi	US Policy toward Italy
5	Extract Potsdam comm.	2 Aug 45		United Nations policy will be to negotiate a peace treaty with Italy & then support application from Italy to join the United Nations.

2184

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2 August 1945

POTSDAM CONFERENCE - Report on the Tripartite Conference of Berlin

EXTRACT

Application by Italy for membership in the United Nations

"For their part the three Governments have included the preparation of a peace treaty for Italy as the first among the immediate important tasks to be undertaken by the new Council of Foreign Ministers. Italy was the first of the Axis powers to break with Germany, to whose defeat she has made a material contribution, and has now joined with the Allies in the struggle against Japan. Italy has freed herself from the Fascist regime and is making good progress towards the reestablishment of a democratic government and institutions. The conclusion of such a peace treaty with a reestablished, democratic Italian government will make it possible for the three governments to fulfill their desire to support an application from Italy for membership in the United Nations."

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1909

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

COPY

REPLY FROM THE HONORABLE CORDELL HULL, SECRETARY OF STATE, TO THE
MEMORANDUM OF JULY 22 FROM HIS EXCELLENCY IVANOE BONONI, PRESIDENT
OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS.

Thank you for your memorandum of July 22, delivered by Mr. Reber, containing your views on the various political and economic problems confronting your country. It will be helpful to those of us here giving attention to such problems. I have given it careful thought.

With respect to the Armistice terms, you are fully aware that in their application by the Allied Governments they are being used for the sole purpose of furthering the prosecution of the war against Germany, whose total defeat is the primary objective of all of us. Should the Italian Government have specific proposals to make with regard to their amendment, the United States Government would be glad to receive them. The de jure position of Italy with respect to the terms of the Armistice seems to me to be secondary to the de facto relations with the United Nations which your country is daily creating by its increasing contribution to the successful military campaign in Italy. When final victory over our enemies has been achieved you may be sure that the contribution of the new Italy will not be ignored.

Your country's desire to participate actively in the struggle against Germany is appreciated and understood. You and your Chiefs of Staff realize, of course, that there are practical limitations with respect to equipping and supplying a large armed force. Sympathetic consideration will continue to be given, within the limit of military requirements and supply possibilities, to increasing the active military participation of the Italian Armed Forces in the present campaign. As you are aware a definite proposal to this end is now under study.

I also have every sympathy with your desire that Italy be permitted to participate in the various international organizations, conferences and ideas whose success must ultimately depend, of course, on the contributions of all free and peace-loving nations. You are keenly aware, I am sure, that the crimes of the Fascist Government committed in the name of Italy against many of the United Nations will require patience, understanding, and hard work to overcome. You may count, however, on the sympathy and support of this Government in any endeavors and aspirations in this direction. This Government would be prepared to receive in an unofficial capacity a technical representative or representatives of Italy who might not only discuss economic and financial questions but also could report directly to your Government in regard to such matters as the treatment of Italian prisoners of war, et cetera.

Italy's economic position has been the subject of constant and careful study by this Government and its Allies ever since the beginning of the liberation of Italian territory. As the military campaign moves further north and the military interest in the more remote liberated areas diminishes, this Government has been giving serious attention to ways and means of financing and improving Italy's imports for civilian needs. For various reasons, principally the limitations placed on lend-lease funds with respect to civilian supply and rehabilitation, it is not practical to consider lend-lease aid as a solution to Italy's present economic problems. It is hoped, however, that some satisfactory formula will be evolved in the near future.

I am glad to have your views concerning the functions of the Allied Control Commission and its relationship to Italian life. Until our armed forces, and those fighting with them, have achieved victory over the Germans, it is essential that the Allied Theater Commander retain the authority which he exercises through the Allied

..... Control

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Control Commission to prosecute the war to a successful conclusion. The present composition of the Allied Control Commission is, however, being studied by the Allied Governments in the light of increasing civilian problems confronting the Italian Government and the Allied Control Commission. The desire of the Allied Governments to return to Italian administration liberated areas as soon as military conditions permit is manifested in the recent restoration to the Italian Government of seven provinces in Central Italy including the capital of the country.

It is a matter of record that Italian citizens residing in this country were relieved of the application of enemy-alien regulations as early as October 1942 and, except for a handful of persons of doubtful loyalty, they have since enjoyed liberty of movement within the country and freedom of opportunity to earn their livelihood. This Government has in no instance discouraged other nations having an Italian population from following a similar course.

This Government welcomes the expression of the course which the new democratic Italy has set for itself and your assurances of the part it will undertake in the reconstruction of Europe and a stable and ordered world. This is, of course, in harmony with the aims of this country and in the fulfillment of these aims Italy may be assured of the collaboration and the friendship of the United States of America.

August 19, 1944

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MEMORANDUM

Next September will be the anniversary of Italy's entry into the war at the side of the United Nations. The process of evolution through which the Italian situation has passed both internally and externally during this year, is undeniable. Thus the clauses of the armistice of September, 1943, now represent a situation historically and politically out of date. It would be an act of justice and of political wisdom to modify the legal position of Italy as fixed in September last in relation to the actual position to-day. The armistice period should now be considered concluded and misunderstandings should be finally removed as regards unconditional surrender, armistice and co-belligerency. The continuance of the present situation is politically sterile and prejudicial for us and for everyone.

2. The promises and pledges made by the United Nations to the Italian people are in any case explicit: The United Nations have solemnly promised that the modification of the armistice terms depends on the nature of Italy's contribution to the common war effort. Now, it is perfectly clear that if Italy is obstructed and prevented, as has been the case up till now, from participating adequately in the liberation of her territory, this will only perpetuate the vicious and sterile circle from which it is necessary to break loose. The Italian Corps of Liberation should therefore be greatly increased in numbers and effectiveness. We have the men and they want to fight: they should be armed and fed.

3. The Italian people feel themselves at the moment to be in quarantine, shut in as if hermetically isolated. They should be allowed back again into that free circulation of ideas and of international events which is one of the fundamental conditions for the resumption and the progressive development of free democratic institutions. Up till now any initiative in this sense has been precluded to us. For instance:

- a) the request for Italian adhesion to the Atlantic Charter was never answered;
- b) the request for Italian participation in the International Labour Office was put off to an undetermined date;
- c) the request for participation in the Monetary Conference was not welcomed.

4. The costs of occupation; the enormous, untold mass of notes issued by the Allies; the high rate of exchange fixed between the pound sterling, the dollar and the lire etc.; these ~~are~~ deeply into the exhausted resources of Italy. There is talk of U.N.R.R.A., of the Relief Committee for Italy, etc. These are excellent beginnings, but they are for the future. The Italian people in the meantime are being bled. It is necessary that the above mentioned limitation initiatives should become active and operative, that they should lighten the economic burdens which the armistice has placed on a country already poor and exhausted and which prevent any possibility of recovery. Italy asks to be placed in a position where she will have to rely as little as possible on the resources of the Allies, especially in this crucial moment of the war. Her economic rehabilitation is consequently in her own and the common interest. Italian experts and technicians should be

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5. The Allied Control Commission should be relieved progressively of at least three quarters of its duties and directed towards a system at once less oppressive and less patently indicative of interference and intervention in all sectors of Italian life. There are already organisations in Italy ready to take on its heritage- for example, the High Commissions, which could in their turn be changed

into something like the Ambassadors' Conferences which have in the past given proof of their capability and efficiency. The present situation should in any case be liquidated. It is not possible for a country to carry on for long, without serious risk under the administration of two Governments. It is equally impossible for a highly civilised people such as the Italian to be indefinitely subjected to a state of tutelage and minority.

6. Almost everywhere in the world the vast, busy, industrious Italian colonies are subjected to a treatment which, in some countries, is even comparable to anti-Semitic persecution. Heads of families have been for years in concentration camps, women reduced to prostitution and misery; their sources of livelihood fruit of their hard and patient efforts, prejudiced and compromised. We may quote as examples the cases of Italian colonies in the whole of the Mediterranean Basin and especially in Tunis and Egypt. The situation of our 40,000 prisoners in French hands has by now reached the limit of any possibility of physical or moral resistance. This anti-Italian crusade, which can be proved indisputably, should be stopped. It helps no one, except to cause deeper suffering and to sow seeds of future discord.

7. The new democratic Italy intends to set the country firmly on the old road of full, complete and faithful collaboration with the western Powers. In the very serious crisis, material and spiritual, which will convulse Europe on the cessation of hostilities, she wishes to represent and to be an element of stability and of order. Her people are sober, industrious, hard-working. The strength of Italian labour is one of the fundamental elements of European reconstruction. Credit should therefore be paid to it. A decision should be made to initiate a really reconstructive policy in Italy. It should be realised that 45 million Italians cannot but be one of the fundamental elements of Mediterranean and European pacification, and necessary dispositions and action should be taken. In short, action should be taken to implement the generous suggestions expressed on many occasions by President Roosevelt in accordance with the generous humanity of the North American people.

/s/ BONCHI IVANCE.

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M 107

S E C R E T

FATIMA (GEN MACFARLANE CHIEF COMM)

11 March 1944

SECRET

10050 MACFARLANE

PRIORITY

E X T R A C T :

* * * *

PART THREE PD BADGLIO SENT ME YESTERDAY A LONG PRIVATE LETTER SETTING FORTH HIS REASONS FOR HOPING THAT ITALY MIGHT BE ACCORDED ALLIED STATUS PD IN IT HE SUGGESTED THAT I SHOULD DISCUSS THIS QUESTION WITH HMG IF I WERE GOING TO VISIT ENGLAND IN THE NEAR FUTURE PD I TOLD HIM THAT MY MOVEMENTS WERE UNCERTAIN AND THAT SO IMPORTANT A QUESTION WAS ONE WHICH COULD BE DEALT WITH ONLY BY THE ALLIED GOVERNMENTS IN CONCERT PD I GAVE HIM NO ENCOURAGEMENT BUT SUGGESTED THAT IF HE SO WISHED HE WOULD BE BETTER ADVISED TO SET FORTH HIS PROPOSALS IN A MEMORANDUM TO THE ALLIED GOVERNMENTS WHICH I WOULD FORWARD FOR HIM PD I THINK IT LIKELY THAT YOU WILL BE RECEIVING A MEMORANDUM ALONG THESE LINES IN THE NEAR FUTURE

* * * *

NOEL MASON MACFARLANE,
Lieutenant General,
Chief Commissioner

~~S E C R E T~~

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10 August 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR FILES:

With reference to the "private letter" from Marshal Badoglio mentioned in Cable M 107 of 11 March 1944, research has disclosed no copy either in the Chief Commissioner's files or in Archives (former "B" files). Likewise there is no record of any action taken on such a letter, as for example its forwarding to ARHQ as hinted in the cable under reference.

Lawrence W. Shenfield
T/4
Chief File Clerk

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TRANSLATION

CHIEF OF GOVERNMENT

To General Mason MacFarlane
Chief of the Allied Control Commission

Dear General MacFarlane,

In my letter of last December 17th, I informed your predecessor General Joyce that the Council of Ministers, on my proposal, had unanimously pronounced itself in favor of Italian adherence to the Atlantic Charter.

At the same time I begged General Joyce to have the courtesy to let the Allied governments know of this Italian initiative and to inform me at the fitting moment as to what procedure should be followed by us to bring it to a concrete conclusion.

Not having yet received from the Allied Control Commission any statement, I presume that there are no obstacles, that our unilateral declaration is sufficient and that special executive procedures are not required.

Before bringing it to the attention of Italian public opinion, I would however, like to find out, since, as you know, I lack any other means of ascertainment, if the matter belongs precisely within the bounds of good taste, as I presume it does.

It is superfluous to assure you that the question has for us evident importance.

Believe me, with cordial friendship

/s/ Badoglio

Pfc. H. F. Jaekel - Transl.
/s/

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