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

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 1.3/NND No. 785015

10000/136/282

ITALIAN-SWISS FRONTIER POLICY
OCT. 1944 - NOV. 1945

LIST OF PAPERS

1009/CC

Office of the
Chief Commissioner

ALLIED COMMISSION

1009 ITALIAN-SWISS FRONTIER, POLICY

File under No.

SEE ALSO:

1014 - Frontier Areas in
Dispute

1015 - Frontier Control

Page 1

SERIAL NUMBER	FROM--	DATE	TO--	SYNOPSIS
1	Ltr 6510/7/CCS	16 Oct 44		Ital-Swiss frontier policy
2	Ltr AFHQ G-5 091.1	9 Aug 45	HQ AC	Reopening of Ital-Swiss frontiers
3	Ltr AC/14018/8/4/PS	15 Aug 45	G-5 AFHQ	Reopening of Ital-Swiss frontiers
4	Cbl AC 3724	15 Aug 45	G-5 AFHQ	Rec frontier be opened soonest
5	6510/134/EC	20 Aug 45	RC Lombardia	Copies of 2 3 & 4 above fwd'd
6	Cbl AFHQ, NAF-1065	27 Aug 45	CCS	Resumption of Italo-Swiss trade & acceptance by It of US Proclaimed and UK Statutory Lists (Black Lists).
7	Cbl AFHQ F-41580 (TAM-679)CCS	7 Sep 45	AC (AFHQ)	Reopening of frontier disapproved until It accepts statutory and proclaim- ed lists for foreign trade.
8	Cbl F 488902 AFHQ	16 Oct 45	AC	Italo-Swiss frontier under considn.
8 a	Cbl 6822 Alcom	10 Oct 45	AFHQ	Italo-Swiss Frontier.
9	Cbl F 49432 AFHQ	19 Oct 45	AC, Com SC, CC	Reopening of Italy-swiss frontier.
10	Ltr 13073.29/19.14 Parri	19 Oct 45	Stone	Swiss Relief for War Victims
11	LtrAC/5203Commerce S C	25 Oct 45	Min. Indu. & Comm	Italy-Swiss Frontier Trade
12	Memo 6/4439/2041 Min For.	9 Nov 45	Econ. Sec.	Water-way traffic with Switzerland (Como)

MINISTERO DEGLI AFFARI ESTERI

6/4439/2041

9 Nov 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ALLIED COMMISSION

Subject: Water-way traffic with Switzerland on Lake of Como.

1. The Municipal Authorities of Porlezza (Lake of Como) have called the attention of this Ministry to the serious transport difficulties which hamper the arrival there of the necessary supplies.

2. Owing to the regulations at present in force forbidding the direct shipment through Swiss waters across the lake from Como to Porlezza, supplies must be sent by boat from Como to Menaggio, where they are unloaded and later reloaded on motor-trucks bound for Porlezza. The freight and handling charges are high, and the quantities which can be carried very limited. Moreover, the present system renders it impossible to lift the timber of which Porlezza is a large producer.

The adoption on the part of Italy of the Allied Black Lists to which the reopening of the border-traffic was conditioned, can now be considered to be an accomplished fact.

3. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs should consequently be grateful to the Allied Commission if they would recommend to the competent Authorities to authorize the resumption of traffic across the Swiss waters of Lake Como, thereby alleviating the distress of the people living in the northern regions of the Lake.

S/ 1516
MINISTRY FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Ex. Com. Dist - 16. Nov.

Action - Econ Sec.

Info - C. Com.
Ex. Com.

OCT 27 RECD

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

APO 394

COMMERCE SUBCOMMISSION

SKIS/VM/lg

Tel: 478192

Foreign Trade Division

25 October 1945

Ref. AC/5203/Switz/Imp/Commerce

SUBJECT: Italo-Swiss Frontier Trade

TO : Ministero Industria e Commercio,
 Direzione Generale Commercio Estero,
 Serv. Trattati, Div. III

1. With further reference to the subject of reopening the Italo-Swiss border for trade, it can now be stated that it is considered the frontier can be opened in its fullest sense when AMG's cease to function in the border provinces.

2. AMG offices have been instructed to interpret generously any relaxations in the passage of goods which Allied Commission indicates as being the desire of the Italian and Swiss Governments.

3. Therefore, in order that AMG's may be instructed further, it is requested that this Headquarters should be informed of the type and scope of trade which it is the desire of your Government to approve. 1545

4. Meanwhile, as your Ministry has already submitted certain requests in connection with the passage of goods across the Swiss frontier, AMG's have been told to agree to the following:

- a) Import of 450 tons of cellulose, the property of SOCIETA' NAZIONALE CARTIERE, now lying at Basle (Reference your letter No. 21229 of 18 September)
- b) Completion of the shipment of 50,000 kilos of broom-corn to Switzerland by the firm STEFAN

(11)

- 2 -

HOLZER "ANKER" REISSSTRUMBESENFAHRN A.G. GAMS, against the import, by S.A. FIDA MILANO, of 58,400 artificial teeth (Reference your letters No. 21360 of 3 September and No. 21820 of 17 September).

- c) Import of tie fabrics, the property of SCHNEIDER RODOLFO, MILAN. These fabrics are now at Chiasso and their import has been approved also by the Ministry of Finance (Reference your letter No. 22067 of 25 September).
- d) The general resumption of such private compensational transactions as may be approved by your Ministry, in accordance with list attached to your letter No. 22068 of 21 Sept. 1945 or as may be extended in future.

Major H. A. GENT

H.A. GENT,

Major,

Director

Commerce Subcommission

Copy to: AFHQ, G-5 Section
Chief Commissioner
Executive Commissioner
Economic Section
Industry & Commerce Division
Finance S/C
Food S/C
Agriculture S/C
Ministero degli Affari Esteri
Ministero della Ricostruzione
Ministero dell'Alimentazione

15/1

11

Translation

OCT 26 REC

237

C-920

The President of the Council of Ministers
13073.29/19.14

Rome, 19 October 1945

Dear Admiral,

the association 'Swiss relief for war victims' which - with many other organizations of this friendly country - is carrying out a generous and active relief activity for such part of our population as suffered from war, works in close collaboration with E.M.D.S.I. and with the Centrale Italiana di Assistenza sanitaria (C.I.A.S.) of Milan.

The Italian Government considers it its duty materially and morally to help the action of the said Swiss organizations, financing and supporting in every possible way the Italian organizations which can take care of the distribution of relief and mention the requirements of the population.

The transport of the materials, foodstuffs and medicines destined to Italy, as well as the passage of the staff across the Swiss frontier are meeting with serious difficulties because of the long and complicated formalities which are necessary to obtain transit passes from the Allied Military Government. Such passes are sometimes granted months after the request has been made, and this prevents relief for the soldiers from arriving in time.

Considering how important Swiss relief is for the population of Northern Italy, for whom it is mainly destined, I beg you to consider the advisability of issuing orders to facilitate as much as possible the crossing of the frontier to the goods and persons connected with such organizations.

Believe me, my dear Admiral,

Yours very truly,

A. Ferruccio Parri

Admiral Ellery A. Stone
Chief Commissioner
Allied Commission
Rome

trans. e/a

E. C. D. 145-2500745

Action: C.H. (1)

INFO - E.M.D.S.I.

Chief Council

G. Corradi

10

CONFIDENTIALP 49432
OCT 191428AAFHQ SIGNED SACRED CITE FRGEG
ALCOM ROMEG/1501
OCT 200830A
ROUTINE**CONFIDENTIAL**

Further to P 48902 of 16 consider Italo-Swiss frontier can be opened in fullest sense when AMG ceases to function in border provinces and Italian visa control is set up as contemplated on 15 November. Meanwhile AMG should interpret generously any relaxations indicated by ALCOM as being the desire of the Italian and Swiss Govts. This applies particularly to the passage of goods since movement of persons across frontier already largely covered.

Dist

Action - Commerce SC
Info - Chief Commissioner
Econ Sec 2
Finance SC
Food 2
File 2 Float

1009/20
+542~~**CONFIDENTIAL**~~

AFER FOR FIDEG

FROM ALGOM

6822

10 OCTOBER 1948

ROUTINE

UNCLASSIFIED PD

SUBJECT IS ITALIO-SWISS FRONTIER

PAGES TO AFER FOR FIDEG FROM HQ ALGOM SITE ACCOR PAREN

PARA ONE PD YOUR FOX FOUR ONE FIVE EIGHT ZERO STIPULATED ITALIAN
 ACCEPTANCE OF PROCLAIMED AND STATUTORY LIMITS AS PREREQUISITE FOR
 OPENING ITALIAN/SWISS FRONTIER AND ITALIAN GOVERNMENT WERE INFORMED
 ACCORDINGLY PD

PARA TWO PD TAN SIX NINE SIX DOES NOT MENTION OPENING OF FRONTIER PD
 PARA THREE PD PLEASE ADVISE URGENTLY WHETHER OPENING IS NOW AUTHORIZED

CC: Finance S/C
 Economic Section
 Food S/C
 File (2)

COMMERCIAL SUB-COMMISSION

478192

(Maj. Saul)

G. J. LEONE
 CWO, USA
 Asst. Adjutant

80

100912

CONFIDENTIAL

F 488902

OCT 161041A

G/1203

OCT 162100A

ROUTINE

AFHQ SIGNED SANMED CITE PHQSO
ALCOM ROME

CONFIDENTIAL

Reur 6822.

Opening of Italo-Swiss frontier in fullest sense is under
urgent consideration this Hq. Will inform you earliest.

Dist

Action - Commerce SC
Info - Chief Commissioner
Econ Sec 2
Finance SC
Food 2
File 2 Fleet

1009/20

+540

CONFIDENTIAL

(S)

SECRETP 41580
SEP 071136BP/6852
SEP 071940B
ROUTINEFREEDOM SIGNED SACRED CITY PROEG
ACTION ALCON ROME**SECRET**

1. Look at NAF 1065 now answered in TAM 679 of which paraphrase beings. No authority can be given to open Italian/Swiss frontier until Italians accept either existing or revised statutory and proclaimed lists. Approval is given to recommendations NAF1065; para rear (four). You will be advised when sufficient progress has been made in representations now being made on diplomatic level. Paraphrase ends.

2. You will realize that this veto applies in similar cases and is the bottleneck in all attempts to restore normal commercial activity. The Italian Govt should be so informed.

Dist

Action - Econ Sec 2
Info - Chief Commissioner
Exec Comm 2
CA Sect
Communications
File

SECRET

SECRETEX 38732
AUGUST 27/1639BT/5509
AUGUST 28/0900Z
PRIORITY

AMHQ SIGNED ALEXANDER GITE PRIMER

ACTION: AGWAR FOR COS AMBRO FOR BRITISH CHIEFS OF STAFF INFO: USFET, ALCON

SECRET.

this is MAY 1965. Reopening of the Italian/Swiss frontier.

It is most desirable that normal trade relationships between ITALY and SWITZERLAND should be re-established, the frontier opened and restrictions on communications removed.

The primary obstacle as seen here is the non-acceptance by the Italian government of the US proclaimed and UK statutory lists. In this connection the ALLIED COMMISSION has informed AMHQ that the Italian government on 12 July instructed its ambassadors in WASHINGTON and LONDON to press for the removal of most Italian and certain neutral firms from the lists after which the Italian government will effect the necessary legislation to recognise the new lists. Meantime no progress is likely here in persuading the Italian government to take action.

Existing external censorship controls of outgoing mail and telecommunications are being maintained. Such controls are no longer of material interest as regards military security and their continuation is therefore primarily to enforce the economic and financial policy laid down by you.

It is therefore recommended that,

A. AMHQ be informed of the progress of the diplomatic representations referred to above.

B. Continued representation to the Italian government respecting the adoption

SECRET

See (7)

SECRET

CONTINUATION PAGE 2

1/5509

of the black lists should be handled through US and UK diplomatic channels in view of para 2.

Meanwhile AMHQ will maintain controls as in para 3.

It is requested that every influence including wide publicity be used to demonstrate to the Italian government the advantage to itself ^{of} prompt action in recognising the black lists

SECRET

INFO-ACTION : ROOM SEC (2)

INFO : CHIEF COMMISSIONER
IN COMMISSIONER (2)
CA SEC
COMMUNICATIONS BU
FILE

1527

10009/20

SECRET

TOP SECRET

AUG 20 RECD

Ref: 6510/134/PO

20 August 1945

SUBJECT: Re-opening of Italo-Swiss Frontier

TO : Regional Commissioner, Lombardia Region

With reference to your AC/OLN-196 dated 11 August 1945 on the above subject, attached please find copies of the following correspondence which has passed between the Allied Commission and AFHQ.

- (2) a. Letter GS: OPL.1 Italy dated 9 August 1945 giving the result of a staff study of the subject at AFHQ.
- (4) b. Signal 3724 dated 15 August 1945 to AFHQ giving Allied Commission's reply to (a) and
- (3) c. Our letter AC/14018/8/1/PO dated 15 August 1945, confirming (b).

3 Incls:
on above

R. W. KEMSLEY
Brigadier
Executive Commissioner

1536

10047/4

TOP SECRET

(5)

FV

AUG 15 1945

AFHQ for G-5 Section

3724

15 Aug 45

PRIORITY

TOP SECRET PD

YOUR GEORGE FIVE ZERO NINE ONE PD ONE ITALY OF NINE AUGUST PD STRONGLY
RECOMMEND ITALO HYPHEN SWISS FRONTIER BE REOPENED AS SOON RAPIDLY AS
POSSIBLE PD

PARRN TO AFHQ FOR GEORGE FIVE SECTION FROM HQ ALCOH CITE AGNNE PARRN
ALSO SUGGEST TWO FIVE KILOMETERS SAFETY ZONE ON FRONTIER BE ABOLISHED
SIMULTANEOUSLY AND CONTROL OF MOVEMENT BE INSTITUTED THROUGH PREWAR CHANNELS

Copy to: Chief Commissioner
CA Section

Executive Commissioner.

343 *MS*
Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner

FOR BRIDGE

AUG 15 RECD

CC FILES

AG/14018/8/4/RS.

15 August 1945.

SUBJECT : Reopening of Italian Swiss Frontier.

TO : G - 5, Allied Force Headquarters, APO 512. (L)

1. Reference is made to your G - 5:091.1, Italy dated 9th August 1945.
2. The views expressed in your letter are concurred in fully and there is no objection from a Public Safety standpoint to the reopening of the Italian Swiss frontier on a peace time basis.
3. Now that a change has taken place in MTA permits it is proposed for your consideration that the 25 Kilometer safety zone on this frontier be abolished and that that proper visa control of movement be instituted as rapidly as possible through the normal pre-war channels.
4. Attention is invited to our letter AG/14018/8/4/RS of 8 August 1945, in reply to your letter G - 5:091.1-6 Italy of 12 July 1945.

For the Chief Commissioner:

M. S. LUSH

Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.NOT BRIDGE.

1009/2

TOP SECRET

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 512

FGCP/TBJ/as

G-5: 091.1 Italy

9 August 1945

SUBJECT: Reopening of the Italian-Swiss Frontier.

TO : Headquarters, Allied Commission, APO 394.

1. In connection with a study which has been made at this HQ on the Internal situation in Italy the following views have been expressed:

"The danger of the economic crisis in Northwest ITALY being exploited by political parties in order to deepen class and political cleavages is enhanced by the present policy of strict frontier control as a result of which North ITALY remains isolated from the rest of EUROPE. In order to counter this danger it is desirable that normal intercourse between Northern ITALY and SWITZERLAND should be re-established as quickly as possible. From the security point of view there is no objection to the re-opening of the Italian-Swiss frontier. Quite apart from the impetus to trade which would result from this measure, the restoration of normal contacts between the two countries would have a healthy influence on the political life of Northwestern ITALY."

2. The views set out above are receiving further consideration at this HQ and in connection therewith it is requested that you will forward your comments as a matter of urgency.

For the Asst. Chief of Staff, G-5:

/s/ F.G.A. PARSONS

F.G.A. PARSONS
Colonel, GS

TOP SECRET

HEADQUARTERS,
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION,
APO 394

Office of the Chief of Staff.

8/CC 650
17/10/44

1/1 file

Ref: 6510/7/COS.

16 October 1944.

SUBJECT: Italian-Swiss Frontier.

TO : DGCS, GA Sec
DGCS, Econ. Sec

1. Lombard Region has raised the question of the policy of the passage of civilians and merchandise between Switzerland and Italy. The same question also arises in Piemonte and Liguria between France and Italy. The matter was referred to Political Section who were of the opinion that in the early stages there should be a maximum flow in, but minimum flow out, of merchandise, and minimum flow in and out of persons. Political commented that whatever decision was arrived at, our requirements would have to be registered with the Swiss and French authorities, and a letter written to AFHQ with copies to the US Political Adviser and British Resident Minister.

2. It is for consideration whether there will in fact be any merchandise for export from Italy in the early stages of occupation and whether the movement of persons out of Italy, which it is agreed should be restricted if possible, could be properly enforced.

3. Would you please give this matter careful consideration and submit your recommendations to me as soon as possible.

M. S. LUSH

GWIS/JC.

Brigadier,
Chief of Staff.

①

FILE Q

321-1

File under No.

SERIAL NUMBER	FROM—	DATE	TO—	SYNOPSIS
				4531

4531

1083