

ACC

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GERMAN ATROCITIES
JAN. 1944 - MAR. 1945

2606/cc

LIST OF PAPERS

Office of the
Chief Commissioner

ALLIED COMMISSION

File under No. 2606 GERMAN ATROCITIES

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Page 2

SERIAL NUMBER	FROM—	DATE	TO—	SYNOPSIS
15	Ltr Secretariat ACI	15 Nov 44	Stone	In view of CincC's warning, Govt does not wish further steps taken.
16	Minutes 29 Mtg ACI	17 Nov 44	---	ACI postpones deliberation at request of Ital Govt.
17	Minutes 26th Mtg ACI	1 Dec 44		"Wide publicity given Alexander's warning to Germans" - Gammell
18	Ltr Prunas, Min of Fn Affrs 03676/10	16 Mar 45	Stone	Ministry of Foreign Affairs asks new warning be given Krauts.

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

2606

LIST OF PAPERS

Office of the
Chief Commissioner

File under No. 2606 GERMAN ATROCITIES

ALLIED COMMISSION

SECRET

SERIAL NUMBER	FROM—	DATE	TO—	SYNOPSIS
1	Ltr 10893/CP Messe	3 Feb 44	ACC	Atrocities: encl account. Pls inform AFHQ for Allied Govts
2	Ltr 250.1 Stone	6 Feb 44	Messe	Ack ltr; matter fwd'd.
3	Ltr 250.1 Stone	6 Feb 44	AFHQ	Encl ltr fr Messe, atrocities
4	Ltr Gen Gammell	9 Oct 44	ACI	Request questions of preventing further No. Italy atrocities by Germans be laid before Adv Council
5	Extract Minutes 23rd mtg ACI	20 Oct 44		Discussion of atrocity problem. APPENDIX: It Govt compilation of acts of German atrocity
6	Ltr Kirk	20 Oct 44	Stone	Ref ACI mtg, pls get more info
6a	Ltr Goshie	20 Oct 44	Gammell COS AFHQ	ACI have asked AC for more info.
7	Ltr A/CC 250-1 Stone	22 Oct 44	Mr Goshie	Ref ACI mtg, enclose copy of warning broadcast by CIC AAI to Germans in No Italy on 19 Oct 44 ENCLOSURE: Text of a/m broadcast
8	Ltr A/CC 250-1 Stone	23 Oct 44	Kirk	Tnx for ltr of 20th. See my ltr to Goshie with AAI broadcast.
9	Ltr Goshie	24 Oct 44	Stone	Ack receipt of ltr & have communicated it to all members of ACI
10	Ltr Kirk	31 Oct 44	Stone	Adv Council wants to know whether Ital Govt still want UN help
11	Ltr 2606 Stone	1 Nov 44	Bonomi	Pls inform whether you still want United Nations
12	Ltr 2606 Stone	1 Nov 44	Kirk	Have asked Ital Govt, re ltr 31
13	Ltr 2606 Stone	3 Nov 44	Goshie	Further memo (27 Oct) from Min. of Foreign Affairs Enclosed.
13a	Min. 24th Mtg, ACI	3 Nov 44	- -	ACI suggest SAC give wide publicity to Alexander's warning.
13b	Ltr Goshie	6 Nov 44	Gammell COS AFHQ	Please reply early to Folio 11.
13c	Ltr 2606 Quayle	13 Nov 44	Council of Ministers	

Confidential

TranslationMAY 22 1945
CC. 761.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
The Secretary General
03676/10

Rome, 16 March 1945

Dear Admiral Stone,

In the last few days, some newspapers of the Capital published the news that Hitler had ordered all interned foreigners to be shot before the allied liberating armies reached their concentration camps.

This Ministry had informations which confirmed that the Italian officials who refused to co-operate with the Germans, and the interned Jews had been killed in mass by the retreating German troops.

These news greatly alarmed the Italian families which have relatives in Germany.

I want to give you these news at once so that you will kindly see whether it is possible to ask the Allied Governments to give a new and public warning to the German authorities, through whatever channel they will deem most advisable, against committing again such crimes, and threatening reprisal from the Allies and the punishment of those who are responsible.

On its side, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has already asked for the intervention of the Central Committee of the International Red Cross in Geneva, asking it to do what it can to prevent such atrocities from happening again.

With many thanks, I beg you, my dear Admiral, to let me know the result of your intervention with the Allied Governments.

I remain,

Yours truly,

S. R. Prunas

2250

Admiral Ellery M. Stone
Chief Commissioner
Allied Commission

R o m e

EC LIST - 22 MAR 45

ACTION: Ex Comm
INFO: CHIEF Comm
C A SEC

c.c.

18

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COPY

MINUTES OF THE 26th MEETING
OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR ITALY

December 1st, 1944

E X T R A C T

4. German Atrocities in Northern Italy.

The Chairman noted that at the 24th meeting of the Advisory Council for Italy, the Council, in consideration of Sir Noel Charles' inquiry, had transmitted a communication to Allied Force Headquarters suggesting the desirability of giving wide-spread publicity to General Alexander's public warning to the Germans. He reported that the Council had received a reply from Lt. General Gammell reporting that such publicity had been given to General Alexander's warning at the time of its release. Lt. General Gammell's letter, referred to by the Chairman, reads as follows:

"ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF

11 November 1944

SUBJECT: German Atrocities in Northern Italy
TO : The Chief of Secretariat, Advisory Council for Italy

With reference to paragraph 2 of your letter of 6 November, the Advisory Council should be informed that the following publicity was given to General Alexander's warning immediately on its release:

- a. It was issued by PWB to all their agencies the highest priority of importance.
- b. It was broadcast repeatedly by the BBC from London on short waves for European coverage.

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warning to the Germans. He reported that the Council had received a reply from Lt. General Gammell reporting that such publicity had been given to General Alexander's warning at the time of its release. Lt. General Gammell's letter, referred to by the Chairman, reads as follows:

"ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF

11 November 1944

SUBJECT: German Atrocities in Northern Italy
TO : The Chief of Secretariat, Advisory Council for Italy

2606/CC

With reference to paragraph 2 of your letter of 6 November, the Advisory Council should be informed that the following publicity was given to General Alexander's warning immediately on its release:

a. It was issued by PWB to all their agencies *on* the highest priority of importance.

b. It was broadcast repeatedly by the BBC from London on short waves for European coverage.

c. It was also repeatedly broadcast from Rome on short waves beamed to Germany and was fully covered by the whole liberated Italian medium broadcasting system.

d. It was dropped in leaflet form in enemy territory and among front line German troops in Italy.

It will thus be seen that the widest possible publicity has already been given to the warning.

For the Supreme Allied Commandet, Mediterranean Theatre:

J. A. H. GAMMELL,
Lieutenant General,
Chief of Staff

The Chairman....

- 2 -

The Chairman inquired whether Sir Noel Charles was satisfied with the publicity given to General Alexander's warning.

Sir Noel Charles replied in the affirmative.

8/2/5

0818

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

785015

8/18

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25th Meeting of Advisory Council for Italy

17 Nov 44

EXTRACT

3. GERMAN ATROCITIES IN NORTHERN ITALY.

The Chairman referred to the note circulated by the Secretariat in the premises which reads as follows:

"Secretariat Advisory Council for Italy.

"The Secretariat has the honor to refer to the note of October 31, 1944 from the Acting Chairman of the Advisory Council for Italy to the Acting Chief Commissioner of the Allied Commission requesting the latter to ascertain whether, in view of General Alexander's public warning, the Italian Government still considers desirable the urgent intervention of the United Nations in the matter of German atrocities in Northern Italy and to report that the Italian Government has notified orally the Allied Commission that in view of General Alexander's public warning to the Germans it does not wish further steps to be taken at this time and that at present it is considering seriously the matter of German atrocities and within the near future may solicit the intervention of the United Nations in the premises.

"Rome, November 15, 1944."

He stated that in view of the Italian Government's position outlined in this note it might be well for the Council to adjourn consideration of this problem until such time as a further communication had been received from the Italian Government.

The Council accepted the Chairman's suggestion.

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2606/CC

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"Rome, November 15, 1944."

He stated that in view of the Italian Government's position outlined in this note it might be well for the Council to adjourn consideration of this problem until such time as a further communication had been received from the Italian Government.

The Council accepted the Chairman's suggestion.

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SECRETARIAT
ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR ITALY

A
Rome, November 15, 1944

The Secretariat has the honor to refer to the note of October 31, 1944 from the Acting Chairman of the Advisory Council for Italy to the Acting Chief Commissioner of the Allied Commission requesting the latter to ascertain whether, in view of General Alexander's public warning, the Italian Government still considers desirable the urgent intervention of the United Nations in the matter of German atrocities in Northern Italy, and to report that the Italian Government has notified orally the Allied Commission that in view of General Alexander's public warning to the Germans it does not wish further steps to be taken at this time and that at present it is considering seriously the matter of German atrocities and within the near future may solicit the intervention of the United Nations in the premises.

See (12)

Chief Commissioner:

2606/100
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File
Mendel Cittadini informs me that the Ministry responsible for the above reply is the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

COMMOBONE E.W. STONE

~~Acting~~ Chief Commissioner

Allied Commission

Rome.

Q.
16-XI

FILES A

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JN2/dfe

CC 2606

13 November 1944

(11)

Attached is a copy of a letter dated November 1st from Commodore Ellery W. Stone addressed to the Presidency of the Council of Ministers. The information requested in this letter is required for a meeting of the Advisory Council for Italy which will take place on next Friday, 17 November. Therefore it would be greatly appreciated if an early reply could now be given.

J. A. QUAYLE
Major, R. A.
Staff Officer to CC

The Presidency of the Council of Ministers
Italian Government
R O M E

*Original dispatched
by hand 17
J.A.Q.
HP 13-10-44*

Marchese Cittadini:

2015

The Secretariat of the Advisory Council needs this information urgently, and I will be grateful if you would put a little pressure on the Presidency of the Council of Ministers to obtain a reply by Wednesday.

J. A. Q.
13 Nov 44

(14)

FILES A

COPYAPPENDIX 6

Rome, November 6, 1944

Sir:

(10)

(4)

With further reference to your note of October 9, 1944 transmitting the request of the Supreme Allied Commander that the Advisory Council for Italy consider the problem of German atrocities in Northern Italy with a view to to advising upon the best means to cause the enemy to cease the program of atrocities in Northern Italy, I beg leave to inform you that the Advisory Council for Italy discussed this matter at its November 3 meeting and that the Council decided to postpone consideration of this problem pending the receipt of a reply to its inquiry of October 31, 1944 addressed to Commodore Stone requesting him to ascertain whether, in view of the public warning issued by General Alexander on October 19 regarding German atrocities in Northern Italy, the Italian Government still considers desirable the urgent intervention of the United Nations in this matter.

With reference to General Alexander's public warning regarding German atrocities in Northern Italy, issued on October 19, 1944 I wish to inform you that at its November 3, 1944 meeting the Advisory Council for Italy agreed to suggest to the Supreme Allied Commander the desirability of having AFHQ initiate the proper steps for giving wide-spread publicity to General Alexander's warning. In view of the foregoing, it would be appreciated if you would convey this suggestion of the Advisory Council to the Supreme Allied Commander for his consideration.

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With reference to General Alexander's public warning regarding German atrocities in Northern Italy, issued on October 19, 1944 I wish to inform you that at its November 3, 1944 meeting the Advisory Council for Italy agreed to suggest to the Supreme Allied Commander the desirability of having AFHQ initiate the proper steps for giving wide-spread publicity to General Alexander's warning. In view of the foregoing, it would be appreciated if you would convey this suggestion of the Advisory Council to the Supreme Allied Commander for his consideration.

2606/CC
C7/A
For the Chairman in Rotation

John L. Goshie
Chief of Secretariat
Advisory Council for Italy

J. A. H. GAMMELL
Lieutenant General
Chief of Staff
Allied Force Headquarters.

13A-

See 14

See 6C

See 13A

COPY

MINUTES OF THE 24th MEETING
OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR ITALY

November 3, 1944

+ + + + +

4. German Atrocities in Northern Italy

The Chairman noted that subsequent the last meeting Commodore Stone informed the Council of a public warning issued by General Alexander on October 19th to the Germans on the subject of atrocities committed by them in Northern Italy (See Appendix 1). He then noted that in reply to this communication Mr. Kirk, as Acting Chairman of the Advisory Council, has addressed a note to Commodore Stone, on behalf of the Advisory Council, requesting Commodore Stone to ascertain from the Italian Government whether, in view of General Alexander's public warning, it still considered that an urgent intervention of the United Nations in this matter was desirable (See Appendix 2). — (10)

Mr. Kirk inquired from Commodore Stone whether he had been able to sound out the views of the Italian Government in this connection. (11)

Commodore Stone replied that he had written the Italian Government, but had received no reply. He believed that the Italian Government still desires the issuance of a statement on this subject by the Governments concerned. (12)

The Chairman then suggested that the Council await reply from the Italian Government before proceeding further with the consideration of this problem.

M. Couve de Murville stated that if the Italian Government wished further action in this matter then the Council could consider the draft of the resolution on this subject which had been circulated to all Representatives. (See Appendix 3).

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M. Couve de Murville stated that if the Italian Government wished further action in this matter then the Council could consider the draft of the resolution on this subject which had been circulated to all Representatives. (See Appendix 3).

Mr. Kirk noted that the Council is still waiting for reply to its inquiries addressed to the Allied Commission and the Supreme Allied Commander for information on atrocities committed by the Germans in Northern Italy (See Appendix 4 and 5). (6)

Sir Noel Charles inquired whether the Council would consider it desirable that wide publicity be given to General Alexander's warning and suggested its release to the international press.

Mr. Kirk suggested that perhaps the best way to achieve this objective would be to suggest to the Supreme Allied Commander that AFHQ should initiate the necessary steps for such publicity and proposed that a communication to this effect be drafted by the Secretariat. (See Appendix 6.). (136)

CS/410

JCS 2606

3 November 1944

Dear Mr. Conkie:

In accordance with the wishes expressed on October 20 at the 23rd meeting of the Advisory Council for Italy, the Allied Commission enquired from the Italian Government whether they could provide any additional information on atrocities committed in Northern Italy. I now enclose a copy of a further memorandum on this subject received from the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Ellery W. Stone

ELLERY W. STONE
Commodore, USN
Acting Chief Commissioner

Mr. John L. Conkie
Chief of Secretariat
Advisory Council for Italy
Via Vittorio Veneto, 119
Rome

cc: G-5 Section, JCS
British Resident Minister, JCS
U.S. Political Adviser, JCS
U.S. Representative, A.C.I.
Chief of Staff
Political Section
'A' Files

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file

(13)

R. MINISTERO
DEGLI
AFFARI ESTERI

nn. 6/878/384

AC

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE POLITICAL SECTION, A.C.

To the German atrocities already reported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the Political Section, A.C. in previous Memoranda, must be added the horrible mass murder of the almost entire population of St. Anna di Stazzema (about 600 inhabitants) by the German S.S., on August 12th last.

The following particulars have now come to hand :

" On the pretext that a German soldier had been killed, in circumstances not clearly specified, about 300 S.S., subdivided into squads, entered the village and immediately began the massacre. The men were absent as they had fled in order to avoid the law on forced labour. The first squad of murderers ordered out of their homes about 100 old people, the women and children and sent them out of the village, but as soon as these unfortunate people were grouped on the road, a German Officer fired his tommy-gun, killing five women. The others immediately entered the two nearest houses to save themselves. The Germans then made fast the doors and from the windows dastardly attacked the unfortunate inmates with hand-grenades and flame-throwers. Not satisfied with this

Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the Political Section, A.C. in previous Memoranda, must be added the horrible mass murder of the almost entire population of St. Anna di Stazzema (about 600 inhabitants) by the German S.S., on August 12th last.

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The other squads meanwhile had not been idle; rushing

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about the village they set fire to the houses, massacring all those that had taken refuge.

At the end of the horrible massacre, 514 bodies were collected in the village; other bodies were found amongst the ruins of the demolished homes and among the remains of the pyres. *4 July 1944*

ROME, 27th October, 1944.



EWS/dfo

A/CC 2606

1 November 1944

My dear Mr. Ambassador:

10

With reference to your letter of October 31 regarding German atrocities in Northern Italy, I have passed on the matter of your inquiry to the Italian Government, as the attached copy of my letter will show.

Yours very truly,

ELLERY W. STONE
Commodore, USNR
Acting Chief Commissioner

See 15

11

The Honorable Alexander Kirk
U.S. Representative to the
Advisory Council for Italy
Via Vittorio Veneto, 119
Rome

2606

1 Incl. - Ltr A/CC 2606, 1 Nov 44,
to Pres. of Council of Min.

cc: C of S Section
"A" Files

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RHS/efo

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1 November 1944

Early in October information was received from your Ministry of Foreign Affairs that German atrocities in Northern Italy were increasing to an appalling extent, and at the same time a request was made that the United Nations should intervene urgently. Since then General Alexander, Commander-in-Chief of Allied Armies in Italy has issued a warning to German officers and men, a copy of which is attached.

This Headquarters is now requested by the Advisory Council to inquire whether, in view of General Alexander's declaration, the Italian Government still wishes the intervention of the United Nations in this matter.

MILTON R. SPUR
Commodore, USN
Acting Chief Commissioner

The Presidency of the Council of Ministers
Italian Government.
Rome

cc: British High Commissioner
U.S. Representative, A.C.I.
AFHQ, Attention Chief of Staff
AFHQ, G-5 Section
Hq AAI
Chief of Staff, AC
Political Section, AC

6209

A files ✓

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE
ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR ITALY

Rome, October 31, 1944

My dear Commodore:

With reference to your letter of October 22, 1944, addressed to the Chief of the Secretariat of the Advisory Council for Italy, transmitting a copy of a public warning issued by General Alexander on October 19 regarding German atrocities in Northern Italy and with further reference to my letter of October 20, 1944 requesting your good offices in obtaining from the Italian Government, on behalf of the Advisory Council for Italy, information on atrocities committed by the Germans in Northern Italy, I wish to inform you that the Advisory Council for Italy would appreciate your ascertaining from the Italian Government whether, in view of General Alexander's public warning, it still considers desirable the urgent intervention of the United Nations in this matter.

Believe me, my dear Commodore,

Yours sincerely,

A. Kirk

Alexander Kirk
Chairman in turn of rotation
Advisory Council for Italy

on October 19 regarding German atrocities in Northern Italy and with further reference to my letter of October 20, 1944 requesting your good offices in obtaining from the Italian Government, on behalf of the Advisory Council for Italy, information on atrocities committed by the Germans in Northern Italy, I wish to inform you that the Advisory Council for Italy would appreciate your ascertaining from the Italian Government whether, in view of General Alexander's public warning, it still considers desirable the urgent intervention of the United Nations in this matter.

Believe me, my dear Commodore,

Yours sincerely,

A. Kirk

Alexander Kirk
Chairman in turn of rotation
Advisory Council for Italy

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*Prepare only
"Letter to B"*

Commodore Ellery Stone

Acting Chief Commissioner

Allied Commission

Rome.

(10)

A/C 724

OCT 25 1944

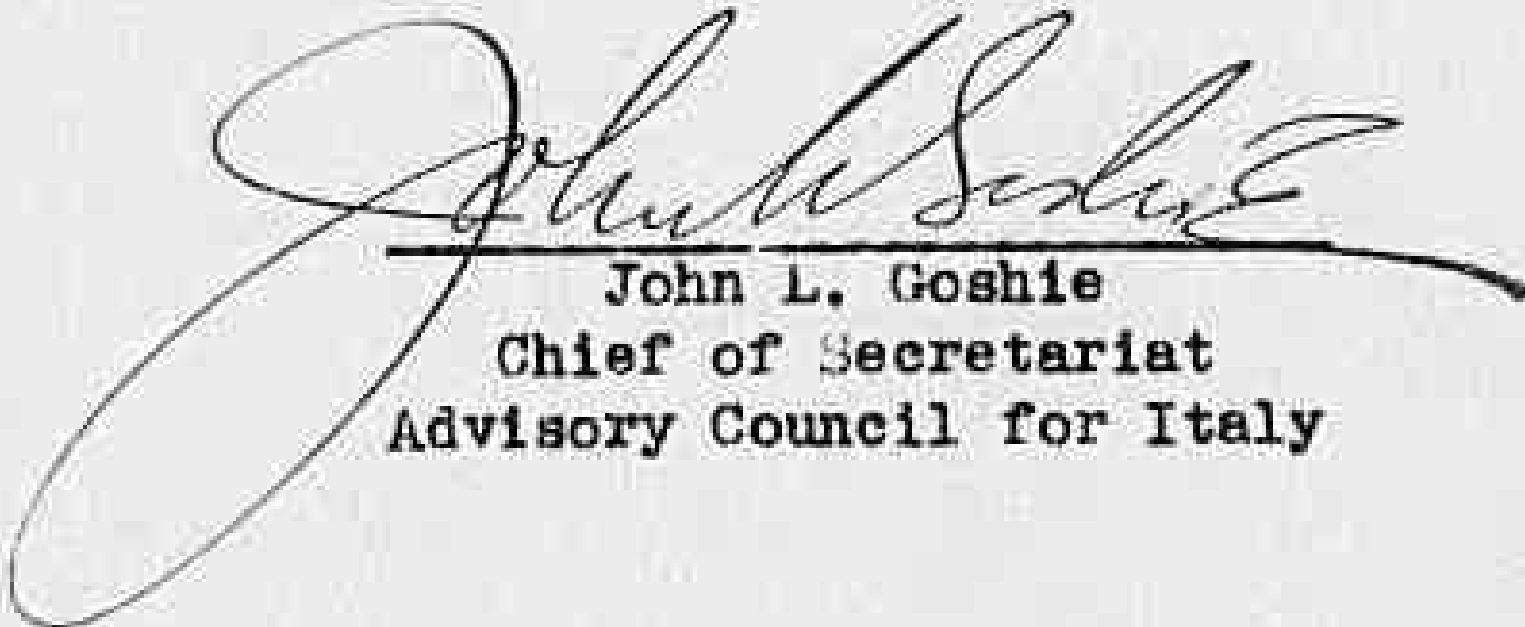
SECRETARIAT
ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR ITALY

Rome, October 24, 1944

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to your communication of October 22, 1944 transmitting a copy of General Alexander's warning to German soldiers regarding atrocities and to inform you that I have sent copies of both your covering note and the General's warning to all Representatives on the Advisory Council for Italy.

Respectfully yours,


John L. Goshie
Chief of Secretariat
Advisory Council for Italy

2508

Commodore Ellery W. Stone
Acting Chief Commissioner
Allied Control Commission
Rome.

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BWS/afe

23 October 1944

A/CC 250-1

My dear Mr. Ambassador:

Many thanks for your letter of the 20th October. The Italian Government have been asked whether they can provide any additional information on atrocities in Northern Italy. In the meantime you will have seen from my letter of yesterday to Mr. Goshie that General Alexander has already issued a public warning on this subject. I am sorry that I had not been informed of this before the last meeting of the Advisory Council.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Ellery W. Stone
ELLERY W. STONE
Commodore, USNR
Acting Chief Commissioner

The Honorable Alexander Kirk
U.S. Representative to the
Advisory Council for Italy
Via Vittorio Veneto, 119
Rome

cc: Mr. Caccia, Political Section
Chief of Staff Section
'A' Files

R208

Bring up 28-X

Q.

File
HJP

EWS/hjp

A/EC 250-1

22 October 1944

Dear Mr. Goshie:

With reference to the discussion at the Advisory Council on the 20th October about German atrocities in Northern Italy there has just come into my hands a copy of a public warning from the Commander-in-Chief, Allied Forces in Italy, on this subject. I enclose a copy of this warning which was broadcast by P.W.B. on the 19th October and which will be further disseminated in leaflet form. It appears that the whole question had been brought to the attention of General Alexander through other channels not only in his capacity as Commander of Allied operations at the Front but also as Commander of Patriot activities behind the Lines. In view of the immediate action which General Alexander has taken on the evidence presented to him, the Advisory Council may wish to reconsider the term of the recommendation which they had intended to forward to the Supreme Allied Commander, Mediterranean.

Sincerely yours,

ELERY W. STONE
Commodore, USNR
Acting Chief Commissioner

Encl.

Mr. John L. Goshie
Chief of Secretariat
Advisory Council for Italy
Via Vittorio Veneto, 119
Rome

cc: Political Section (7)
Chief of Staff
"A" Files

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COPI

WARNING

to German officers and men

by General Sir H. R. Alexander, Commander in Chief,

Allied Armies in Italy.

1. Reports of atrocities - killings of hostages, mass reprisals against innocent civilians, torturings and the like - committed by German troops in Northern Italy are becoming daily more frequent.
2. I therefore call the attention of all German officers and men in Northern Italy, who otherwise might give or carry out orders to commit such atrocities, to the following:
3. The fact that in, for example, a certain village Italian patriots - whether or not wearing uniforms, arm-bands or other recognisable insignia - may have attached German soldiers is not, according to the Jus Gentium or any other Legal or moral code, a justification for collective reprisals upon the population of the village, nor for the killing of persons without due legal trial and conviction.
4. Officers or men giving or carrying out orders for such acts are war criminals.
5. In accordance with the agreement made between the governments of Great Britain, the Soviet Union and the United States of America at Teheran in November 1943, it is provided that all German officers and men who are accused of committing war crimes shall immediately after the war be returned to the countries in which they are accused of having committed these crimes, to be tried according to the laws of these countries.
6. I have ordered all Italian patriots and Italian civilians in German-occupied territory to make careful, written note of the names, units and other particulars of German officers and men who have given or carried out orders for the commission of the crimes.
7. As a result of this order, names and particulars have been reported to my Headquarters of German officers alleged to have been accessories to, amongst many others, the following war crimes:

On March 24th 1945 Italians taken from prisons in Rome were

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Jus Gentium or any other legal or moral code, a justification for collective reprisals upon the population of the village, nor for the killing of persons without due legal trial and conviction.

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7. As a result of this order, names and particulars have been reported to my Headquarters of German officers alleged to have been accessories to, amongst many others, the following war crimes:

On March 24th 335 Italians taken from prisons in Rome were murdered by SS troops in the Ardeatine caves near the Via Appia. *250-1*

Between the 14th and 19th of April, 1944, troops of the Hermann Goering division carried out a massacre in the commune of Stia. Of the 103 bodies which were recognisable on recovery; 50 were women, 15 children under 15 years old, and 5 children under 4 years old. An old woman of 84 and a baby of 6 months were among those shot.

On the 21st of June troops of the 85 Mountain Regiment murdered 15 civilians in Camarino.

7 April

- 2 -

On the 29th of June troops of the Hermann Goering Division entered the village of Civitella in the Val di Chiana and began a systematic destruction of the village with flame throwers and grenades. The villagers were mostly in the church at the time; the women and children were taken out and driven to the woods; the men, including the 80 year old priest, were machine-gunned, and their bodies thrown on the burning buildings.

On the 2nd of October German troops in the village of Roncastaldo hacked to death 8 Italians with axes.

8. All information received of such alleged atrocities or war crimes in recorded at my Headquarters, and is thence transmitted to the Italian Government and to the Allied War Crimes Commission.

(signed) H. R. Alexander

Commander in Chief
Allied Armies in Italy.

E209

(signed) H. R. Alexander

Commander in Chief
Allied Armies in Italy.

8293

(7) 1241-1

COPYAPPENDIX 5

Rome, October 20, 1944

Sir:

(4)

With reference to your note of October 9, 1944 transmitting the request of the Supreme Allied Commander that the Advisory Council for Italy consider the problems of German atrocities in Northern Italy with a view to advising upon the best means to cause the enemy to cease its program of atrocities in Northern Italy, I beg leave to inform you that at today's meeting of the Advisory Council for Italy this problem was discussed and the Council agreed that before further considering this problem for possible transmission to the several Governments represented on the Council with a recommendation for action, it would be extremely desirable for the Council to have a complete list of all reported atrocities.

In this connection, the Council has asked the Allied Control Commission to approach the Italian Government requesting all data available on this subject as a supplement to the information which Commodore Stone brought orally to the attention of the Advisory Council at the meeting today and by the same token, the Council would appreciate receiving from Allied Force Headquarters whatever information it may have on the subject.

2600

See 135

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In this connection, the Council has asked the Allied Control Commission to approach the Italian Government requesting all data available on this subject as a supplement to the information which Commodore Stone brought orally to the attention of the Advisory Council at the meeting today and by the same token, the Council would appreciate receiving from Allied Force Headquarters whatever information it may have on the subject.

For the Chairman in Rotation:

/s/ John L. Goshie
Chief of Secretariat
Advisory Council for Italy

J.A.H. GAMMELL
Lieutenant General
Chief of Staff
Allied Force Headquarters.

2606/CC

2202

See 130

19

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE
ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR ITALY

Rome, October 20, 1944

My dear Commodore:

With reference to the list of "actions of retaliation carried out by the Germans against the civilian population in occupied Italy" which you read at today's meeting of the Advisory Council, in connection with the discussions on German atrocities, it would be appreciated if you would ascertain from the Italian Government, on behalf of the Advisory Council for Italy, whether any additional information on German atrocities in Northern Italy is available and, if so, whether this information could be transmitted to the Advisory Council for Italy.

Believe me, my dear Commodore,

Yours sincerely,

A. Kirk
Alexander Kirk

Chairman in turn of rotation
Advisory Council for Italy

Section

Official

replied

250-1

7689 595
21 1944

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Believe me, my dear Commodore,

Yours sincerely,

R. H. Kirk
Alexander Kirk

Chairman in turn of rotation
Advisory Council for Italy

Political Section

Stone reports for
Commodore Kirk

For your draft

His signature

A. H. Kirk

Commodore Ellery Stone

Acting Chief Commissioner

Allied Control Commission

Rome.

(6)

Minutes of 23rd meeting of Advisory Council for Italy
20 October 1944.

E X T R A C T

* * * * *

3. GERMAN ATROCITIES IN NORTHERN ITALY.

The Chairman stated that this item was included on today's agenda at the request of the Supreme Allied Commander in a note dated October 9, 1944 addressed to the Advisory Council for Italy and stated that copies of this note had been transmitted to all Representatives on the Council. (For text of note see Appendix 1)

The Chairman pointed out that it was the desire of the Supreme Allied Commander that the Council consider this matter with a view to advising upon the best means of inducing the Germans to stop these atrocities, which had increased recently to an appalling extent. He noted that the decision of the Allied Governments to punish persons responsible for atrocities had been announced and published repeatedly, referring particularly to the November 1, 1943 announcement signed by President Roosevelt, Prime Minister Churchill and Marshal Stalin regarding atrocities. He stated that it was questionable whether a mere reiteration of this decision without the basis of supporting evidence of concrete facts may be considered advisable and indicated that such a statement might even subtract from the force of the original statement. He expressed the opinion that a new warning citing recent atrocities might be effective and in this connection suggested to the Council that it request from the Supreme Allied Commander, for transmission to the respective Governments represented on the Council, a detailed report on atrocities committed by the Germans in Northern Italy. Upon receipt of this report, the Governments concerned could issue, if they so desired, a joint statement again warning the Germans in this matter.

Sir Noel Charles stated that in his opinion the inclusion of a list of atrocities would make a published warning decidedly stronger and supported the Chairman's proposal.

The Chairman stated that if the other Representatives approved the Council could request the Supreme Allied Commander to transmit all available data on this subject.

Representatives on the Council. (For text of note see Appendix 1)

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The Chairman stated that if the other Representatives approved the Council could request the Supreme Allied Commander to transmit all available data on this subject.

Commodore Stone pointed out that the Supreme Allied Commander's request for the Council to consider this problem originated from information presented by the ACC.

The Chairman pointed out that the ACC information was presumably based on data furnished by the Italian Government and stated that the Supreme Allied Commander could obtain and might have available information from other sources as well.

Commodore Stone then read into the record a list of atrocities committed by the Germans, which was compiled by the Italian Government. (For copy of this list see Appendix 2).

The Chairman mentioned that he had also heard about atrocities at Sant'Anna in Tuscany where the Germans had massacred 400 inhabitants out of a total of 500. He suggested that it might be well to combine information received from the Italian Government with that received from the Supreme Allied Commander so that complete data may be submitted to the proper authorities.

5

- 2 -

General Vasiliev stated that he would like to have a complete list of atrocities committed and inquired what measures had been taken by the Allied Commander to stop these atrocities.

The Chairman pointed out that the present proposal now before the Council was concerned with this problem and suggested that, in order not to lose time in getting supporting evidence of atrocities committed from the Supreme Allied Commander, it might be well for the Council to agree in principle to recommend to the respective Governments that a warning be issued to the Germans and to attach to this recommendation the information obtained from the Supreme Allied Commander on this subject.

Mr. Exindariis inquired whether the subject under consideration was not the same problem as that of war crimes.

The Chairman stated that the question now under consideration was one of endeavouring to prevent the commitment of war crimes rather than providing for the punishment for those already committed.

Sir Noel Charles agreed with the Chairman and stated that the object of the contemplated warning is to discourage atrocities. He went on to say that if the two subjects were combined it might result in delaying the announcement of a warning.

M. Smiljanic (get from Macun).

The Chairman stated that the question before the Council was one referring particularly to Northern Italy and that if any Representative wished he could refer the matter to his Government for consideration of enlargement of the statement recommended for release. The Chairman then inquired whether it was agreeable to the Representatives to recommend to their respective Governments that the Germans be warned in this matter. He proposed that pending approval of the text of the recommendation, the Council could request from the Supreme Allied Commander a complete list of atrocities, which upon receipt could be attached as an Annex to the recommendation. The Chairman noted that AFHQ in submitting the problem to the A C I did not supply any data.

Sir Noel Charles agreed to this recommendation and pointed out that the sooner the resolution was transmitted to the respective Governments the better it would be for the population concerned.

The Chairman asked whether the Council was agreeable in principle that a resolution be drafted subject to approval by each Representative, to be forwarded to their respective Governments, and that it be documented by such an evidence on atrocities as the Council might be able to secure and that, in transmitting this resolution to his Government, each Representative

- 2 -

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The Chairman asked whether the Council was agreeable in principle that a resolution be drafted subject to approval by each Representative, to be forwarded to their respective Governments, and that it be documented by such an evidence on atrocities as the Council might be able to secure and that, in transmitting this resolution to his Government, each Representative could add such comment or make such observations as he desired.

The Council agreed to the Chairman's proposal,

Commodore Stone pointed out that it might be desirable to request the ACC and the AFHQ for the same information at the same time. To this the Council also agreed.

(5)

APPENDIX 2.

C O P Y .

ACTIONS OF RETALIATION CARRIED OUT BY THE GERMANS AGAINST THE
CICILIAN POPULATION IN OCCUPIED ITALY

It is impossible for the moment to furnish complete data as the informations which reach the Italian Government are necessarily fragmentary. The facts reproduced in this note are exclusively those which have been controlled beyond all doubts. Naturally they are largely inferior to reality. Only after the liberation of all the national territory it would be possible to complete them so as to give a full account of the atrocities carried out in such great numbers by the Germans in Italy.

IN PIEMONTE: killed, 613 men, 27 women, 11 children; deported to Germany, 3,250 men; two villages destroyed; 50 farms burnt.

Retaliations in which the spirit of cruelty of the Germans was put into particular evidence: on the 9/9/43 the Germans, after having machine-gunned the population of Boves (Cuneo) burnt the parish priest alive in the square, killing another one whilst he was administering the Sacraments; the 24/7/44 the village of Ceva was completely burnt and the population in flight was machine-gunned by the Germans.

In LOMBARDY: killed 933 men, 303 women, deported to Germany 1,300 men.

Retaliations in which the spirit of cruelty of the Germans was put into particular evidence: In November 1943, at Marchirolo (Varesa) shot 8 civilians, some of which were buried alive; the 15/7/44 at Bergamo, the Germans omitted, for retaliation, to sound the alert as a result of which about 1,000 workmen perished in a factory during the air raid.

IN VENETO - TRENTO - VENEZIA GIULIA - killed, 79 men and 5 women.

Retaliation in which the spirit of cruelty of the Germans was put into particular evidence: on the 19/7/44 at Trieste, 15 civilians were handed to the trees in the road and were left exposed for several days.

IN EMILIA: killed, 22 men; 14 villages burnt in the Modenese Appennines.

IN LIGURIA: killed, 98 men, 13 women and 5 children; deported to Germany, 7,000 workmen.

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IN EMILIA: killed, 22 men ; 14 villages burnt in the Modenese Appenines.

IN LIGURIA: killed, 98 men, 13 women and 5 children; deported to Germany, 7.00 workmen.

IN THE MARCHE: killed, 55 men, 6 women, 2 children.

Retaliations in which the spirit of cruelty of the Germans was put into particular evidence: on the 2/6/44, Lt Filippini, chief of a Band of Partisans, presented himself to the German military authorities so as to take on himself the responsibility of some incidents which took place at Caldarola (Macerata) against the Germans and therefore avoid retaliations against the civilian population: he was hanged and the retaliations were carried out just the same.

IN TUSCANY: killed, 847 men, 72 women, 32 children.

Retaliations in which the spirit of cruelty of the Germans was put into particular evidence: on the 20/6/44, at Civitella della Chiana (Areazzo), 250 civilians on the 350 inhabitants of the entire village were shot; on

the 14/7/44, at Molin dei Falchi (Arezzo) 48 civilians, after having been tortured were blown up with dynamite and the Germans prevented the parish priest from providing for the burial.

Reports of these last days point out that the atrocities committed by the Germans in northern Italy increase daily in number and gravity, particularly in the immediate rear of the front. The Germans, in preparation of the imminent retreat, carry out operations of repression against the patriots on a scale unheard of until now.

It is reported that in the city of Bologna, about 10,000 persons have been deported by the German and Fascist authorities. Also at Bologna, Padua, Ferrara and Verona, Triest, and numerous other localities of Northern Italy, scores of patriots and of hostages have been shot in the course of these recent weeks. In several cases their bodies were left exposed to the public and the religious authorities were prevented for several days from giving them burial.

At Triest, the execution of 7 Germans carried out by the patriots was recently revenged by the murder of 77 Triestini, hanged to the trees of one of the most important streets of the town.

On the 24 September ult. near Bologna, 7 patriots were condemned for anti-German activity by court-martial and immediately shot. For the same reasons, on the same day, 4 patriots were shot at Reggio Emilia and other ten at Turin.

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2.2.7

(5) AM

COPY

APPENDIX 1

9 October 1944

The President in Office
Advisory Council for Italy

My dear Sir:

I have to inform you that the Italian Ministry for Foreign Affairs has received a communication from the National Committee of Liberation in Northern Italy which states that German atrocities in Northern Italy are increasing to an appalling degree, and requests the urgent intervention of the United Nations to recall the enemy to the observance of humanitarian laws.

You are requested to bring this matter before the Advisory Council for consideration with a view to advising upon the best means to cause the enemy to cease its program of atrocities in Northern Italy.

For the Supreme Allied Commander, Mediterranean Theater:

J. A. H. GAMMELL
Lieutenant General
Chief of Staff

See (6a)

2223

(4)

BWS/hjp

In reply refer to:
250.1

6 February 1944

SUBJECT: German atrocities

TO : Allied Force Headquarters, APO 512

1. The Commission has received the attached letter from Marshal Messe with which is enclosed a translation of a letter to the Comando Supremo on the subject of German atrocities.

2. As it will be noted from his letter, Marshal Messe requests that the report be forwarded to the Allied Governments for any action or protest which might possibly be taken.

For the Deputy President, Allied Control Commission:

ELLERY W. STONE
Captain, USNR
Acting Chief of Staff

1 Incl:
Ltr fr Marshal Messe
No. 10893/CP, 3 Feb 44
(with 1 incl)

6225

6

250.1

6 Feb

copy

EWS/hjp

In reply refer to:
250.1

MEMORANDUM FOR: His Excellency Marshal Messe
Chief of the Supreme General Staff

SUBJECT : German atrocities.

Your letter of 3 February on the above subject has been received and, in accordance with your request, is being forwarded to Allied Force Headquarters for further reference to the Allied Governments for any action or protest which might possibly be taken.

For the Deputy President, Allied Control Commission:

ELLERY W. STONE
Captain, USNR
Acting Chief of Staff

cc: Gen MacFarlane

250- (attached)
memo to be conducted
6324

(2)

C. F. H.

Translation

5 FEB 1944 5501
M. 151 3 Feb 44

Supreme Command
Operations Office

File No. 10893/OP

Subject : German atrocities

I send you the enclosed account of German atrocities, committed against unarmed civilians behind the lines, as retaliatory measures against the activities of Italian volunteer agents in cooperation with the Allied troops of the 8th Army.

Because of the extreme point of ferocity reached by the enemy against the martyred population in that area, I would deem it advisable if you would inform ANHQ and the Allied Governments for any action or protest which might possibly be taken.

THE MARSHAL OF ITALY
CHIEF OF GENERAL STAFF

s/s/ Giovanni Messe

Encl 1

Sgt Sorisi Transl.

5223

Translation

COPY

SUPREME COMMAND

ADVANCE NUCLEUS "1" WITH THE 8TH ARMY

Foggia 31 January 1944

File No. 141/5

To Supreme Command
-Operations Office
-Intelligence Office

P.M. 151

Subject : German atrocities

Following activities of civilian groups, German retaliation in the Casoli area have assumed the complexion of real and true ferocity. There are numerous cases of civilians shut up in buildings and liquidated with hand grenades, with no attempt to respect women and children.

One young man of 22, arrested by German troops because of his attempt to cross the lines in the Casoli area, was bound and cast alive into a burning house (source: town people of Casoli)

In the locality of Madonna Delle Rose, on the road between Lama dei Peligni and Torricella on 18 Jan 44, were found the corpses of two little shepherds a boy of 12 and a girl of 10, slain on 10 Jan 44 by the Germans shot with revolvers while they were carrying piles of straw (source: Porreca Domenico of Fallascoso - Chieti -- reliable)

On 21 January, at 0500, a German patrol of 12 men approached a group of rural huts in the S. Agata section (Valley of the Aventino river) and precisely a 2 room house (kitchen and stable) where several families were living (names of Diluzio - Cianna, etc.) They ordered everybody out of bed, and forced the occupants of the other huts, women, children and old men, totalling about 30 to come in; the Germans then tossed hand grenades inside the room. After a while they entered the room to make sure that all civilians were dead by touching the bodies with burning pieces of wood. One of the victims, Di Luzio Nicoletta of the late Domenico, of Torricella Peligna, 16 year old, a war orphan, was covered by the corpse of her mother, Maria Cianna of Cincent 37 years of age; she suffered severe neck burns, to which she submitted without giving signs of life. As soon as the Germans departed she fled and got to the British lines, where she was given first aid and taken to the civilian hospital at Casoli; she was still there on 23 January.

Those who perished were: Di Luzio Vincenzo 14; Di Luzio Leonardo, 9; Cianna Camillo, 35; Porreca Rosina, 30; Cianna Euro, 10; Cianna Anna Maria, 6; Cianna Annita, 4; Di Marco Teresina, 11; Di Marco Gabriele, 8; Coladonato

5 FEB 1944

5301

Adriano, 4; Di Paolo Mario, 60; Pellicciotti Emilia, 27; Picca Filomena, 30; Andrilli Antonio, 69; and others, all of Torricella Peligni. Surviving witnesses, not withstanding their wounds; Andrilli Giovana, 23; Di Luzio Antonio; D'Uliase Eugenio, 17 (Source: direct)

At Torricella Peligna, on 14 Jan 44, at the farm of a Felicia Picca, the Germans gave orders to vacate the premises immediately.

When they saw the women come out with blankets and other effects, the German soldiers killed 12 of the women and children with hand grenades. An 8 months old baby girl, who escaped death, has been taken to Altino, in the S. Angelo section (source: Porreca Domenico of Fella Scosochietti)

For the Nucleus Chief

(Lt Col Riccardo Esclapon)

/s/ Capt L. Pellegrini

2221

Q. M. C. Form 353 (Old No. 400)
Revised July 20, 1918

LIST OF PAPERS

File under No. 000.1

POLITICS

(5)

9-6769

SERIAL NUMBER	FROM-	DATE	TO-	SYNOPSIS
42) FATIMA 1609	GEN MACF	4 MAR	FREEDOM + ACME	(1) PARTIES PUT OUT CIRCULAR: DOCKWORK NOT TO BE AFFECTED. (2) NAPLES COFL ONLY ONE WILLING TO STRIKE. (3) ANNOUNCEMENT CALLING OFF STRIKE. (4) NO OBJECTION RAISED TO PUBLIC MEET.
43) FATIMA 1610	GEN MACF	4 MAR	FREEDOM + ACME	(5) TEXT OF ANNOUNCEMENT CALLING OFF STRIKE.
44) FATIMA 1643	GEN MACF	5 MAR	FREEDOM + ACME	NEED AMPLIFICATION OF PRES STATEMENT IF I AM TO KEEP BADOLIO IN POWER. I SHALL DO UTMOST TO STOP BAD. FR RESIGNING. BUT MAY FAIL.
45) TA 290/16 132/FS		VARIOUS		DISCOVERY OF ACOUSTIC MINE UNITS AT TARANTO. - CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN MCGRIGOR + MINISTER OF MARINE.
46) FAR 60 1431	GEN MACF	29 FEB.	ADM. MCGRIGOR	RE (45). VIOLATION OF ARMISTICE ACT. MUST COME FROM ACC.
47)				DRAFTS + CORRESPONDENCE ON APPOINTMENTS BY ITALIANS TO GOVT.
48) GEN #556 (C. 500)	CAPT STONE BADOLIO	5 MAR 27 FEB	BADOLIO GEN MACF	ITALIAN GOVT. BLOOD IN ROME.
49)	ACTION, SOC. + COMM. PTIES.	6 MAR	GEN. MACF	FWDs COPY OF RESPONSE OF THESE 3 PTIES. TO RESONNEMENT ARTICLE ON 10 MAR STRIKE.
100)		8 MAR.		RE BAD'S. RESIGNING IF 1/3 IT. FLEET IS TRANSFERRED TO SOVIET UNION.
101) M 103	GEN MACF.	8 MAR.	FREEDOM	RE INACCURACY OF RPTS. ON PRESIDENT'S REMARKS.
102) T.O. 004 1637 MAR (?)	FOTALI	4 MAR (?)	ACC	RE 15-MIN. SIT-DOWN STRIKE AT TARANTO OVER.
103) M 104	GEN. MAC F.	8 MAR	FREEDOM	SEND TEXT OF PM'S STMENT TO ME FOR TALKING TO BAD. & PARTIES + BAD. CONCERNED OVER FATE OF IT. FLEET.
104) M 105	GEN. MAC F.	9 MAR.	FREEDOM	MEETING WILL BE SAFETY. MEETING TO AVOID CONFLICT W/ LEADERS OF 3-PARTIES.
105) M 106	GEN. MAC F.	10 MAR.	FREEDOM	MTG. WILL NOT INTERFERE WITH WAR EFFORT POLETTI HAS SIT'N WELL IN HAND.
106) CC/P/134/000.1	GEN. MAC F.	10 MAR.	BADOLIO	ANY APPTS. TO IT. GOVT. MUST BE MADE ONLY AFTER CONSULTING US.
107) M 107	GEN. MAC F.	11 MAR.	FREEDOM	BAD. REASSURED BY PM'S STATEMENT RE IT. FLEET. ANY ANS YET TO KING'S PROPOSALS. ALLIED STATUS FOR ITALY.
108) REO 000.5	LT. COL. JORDAN	4 MAR.	BRIG. LUSH	DISTURBANCES AT CALTANISSETTA.
109) M 109	GEN. MAC F.	12 MAR.	FREEDOM	REPORT ON LEFTIST MTG. IN NAPLES.
110) M 110	GEN. MAC F.	12 MAR.	FREEDOM	TRANS. OF RESOLUTION ADOPTED AT NAPS MTG.
111) 000.1	MAJ. DOE	13 MAR.	PROF. G.P. DE ROSA	ACKS. REPT. OF LETTER TO GEN. ON P.M.'S SPEECH.
112)	BADOLIO	9 MAR	GEN. MAC F.	DEFENDS QUESTORE OF TARANTO.
113) 1015	GEN. WILSON	10 MAR.	GEN. MAC F.	RE (103). CANNOT DO AS ASKED.
114) 739 OF PROT.	BADOLIO	13 MAR.	GEN. MAC F.	RE (106). NO APPTS. WILL BE MADE WOUT. PASSING.
115) FDM 65530	CINC	16 MAR	FATIMA	RE (95). SEND US DETAILS OF YOUR PROTEST TO L.O., AC.M.F., PROMOTED BY OUR 56764.

INSTRUCTIONS.—When papers on a subject become numerous they will be numbered serially and brief entries made on this form.

0 8 6 2