

0 6 4 9

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

785015

ACC

10000/136/419

0 6 5 0

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

785015

10000/136/419

ANTOLINI, PERSONAL
JAN. 1945

4061/CC

ALLIED COMMISSION

~~SECRET~~

Page 1

SERIAL NUMBER	FROM—	DATE	TO—	SYNOPSIS
1	Ltr Antolini, Wash DC	9 Jan 45	Denamore & Cleveland	First report on Wash trip. Sit very confused; I will take 2 weeks off; Gen O'Dwyer will return to Italy.

1332

C O P Y

22 East 36th Street
New York, New York
January 9, 1945.

Dear Penny and Harlan,

The trip over was speedy and comfortable and particularly pleasing with Murphy's company. He truly is a great travelling companion and is not on getting things somewhat out of the ordinary such as plush planes rather than bucket seats.

It is needless for me, at this point, to retrace the first steps in Washington because so much has happened in so few days that I may as well strike the present pulse. You will be as shocked as I am to know that the cable we received notifying us of Bill's resignation and the reappointment of his successor was unknown to all the agencies and disclaimed by the War Department. Hence Bill is still trekking around F.E.A. with Star and, as of Saturday, he intends to be leaving shortly for Italy only, however, with the positive assurance that his supplies (long ago promised) will now reach the theatre. Presumably he will be accompanied by his two aides, i.e. Jerry, now a Lt. Col. and he intends to be over for not too long.

Your question no doubt, at this point, is what happens to me and I hasten to tell you that I am writing this in the sumptuous office of one of my most intimate friends, far above the city, overlooking Central Park, with the comforting background that I am on a leave of absence for a few weeks. I did this first because I was a little more tired than I thought and, second, (and equally as important) I just had to leave the confusion and double-talk of Washington to clear my perspective of this whole situation. Everyone feels confident that I should be appointed as Vice President with rank of Minister but I can tell you that I will not take a step unless that appointment is made here and with the concurrence of all. There is just too much going on politically at this moment to rely on promises. I should like to say more on this subject but, for obvious reasons, I cannot but with the background you have on the topic in question, I am sure you will know my feelings.

1331 From the enclosed clippings you will readily see the general picture as reflected by the Press and particularly the re-write on Herbert Mathews' article which I found on my arrival.

① It is difficult to give you a clear picture of just where we stand at this moment except that the 300 gram position is accepted on the American side but not on the British. We were awaiting cable answer from London but, to the weekend, it had not arrived. Needless to say this is topic No. 1 in most

File "Antolini - Personal"

40611cc

- 2 -

quarters in Washington and after you read Drew Pearson's "ask", you will readily understand the general feeling that exists over all.

On the matter of trucks, I am told that there are available and that the War Department is awaiting word from the theatre commander to call them forward. General speaking, it is everyone's impression that the President will demand implementation of his supply promises and that shipping will and must be found.

I have had an office at the Pentagon and, in fact, have been commuting between F.E.A. and there since my return. Poletti and Spofford have been carrying the ball but, up to the present, I do not know what the score is. There are plenty of rumors but seemingly no facts. The whole scene is incredibly confused. F.E.A. seems to be losing its grip and it appears that they will be absorbed by the State Department and or Treasury, in part, within not too many months. From a superficial glance at the F.E.A. shop, I must agree that either a complete reorganization or a complete revision under new guidance is not only necessary but required. If it were not for the fact that Bill has kept the Italian story active through these many months because he lives at F.E.A. and not at Pentagon, I am afraid that that theatre would not have consideration by and large.

It is difficult for me to tell you more as to just what I think will happen and whether or not I will have the patience to wait for developments. Naturally, I hate to think of the unfinished job and I do feel confident that Bill's trip is purely a follow-through on this previous trip. Hence they may call on me to take up from then on. Similarly it is difficult for me to guide you and others as to what your shop will look like.

The Macmillan proposal did not, in effect, change the complexion of the Commission but current comments and meetings thereon, if implemented, would definitely change the pattern. The general feeling is that the American position must be parallel to its colleague and that the organization must be revised to conform to that parity. Personally, I doubt that anything will be done beyond the chat-chat stage but everything is possible in these hysterical days. From where I sit today, I would say that the old expression of "breathe through your nose and -----" is the best formula. I know that Bill will need you, Harlan, to the limit because it is in you that I or anyone else would count on holding the civilian side of the shop from blowing out. I presume I may have some word within the next few days that will give me a clearer picture and, taking advantage of this excellent medium to communicate with you, I shall write you again.

133

(1)

- 3 -

Hurriedly, a few things that run through my mind - Tony Villa as yet has not arrived and unfortunately the State Department notified his family that he was due January 3. I have tried to console them that a lag of two or three weeks is not out of order with air travel. Hope I am right.

Denny, if you would open one of my foot lockers and look in the pockets of my blue topcoat and see if you can find my travellers' checks. In which case, would you cable me as I have mislaid them and have asked the bank to stop payment?

By the way, hold on to my trunks until I know something more definite.

You might tell all the civilian ~~gangs~~ that I have written to all their families giving them a short but personal account of their doings, which was a follow-up of a letter sent by Ed Hunt over Christmas to each family.

One last important thing regarding the Italian Government programming against dollar credits, in light of the present nebulous positions of this financial arrangement, it is the view of those of us that know in F.E.A. that the program should appear, in the first instance, under the criterion of military necessity. We feel that a goodly portion of the items will and should fall within the military scope, hence saving the credit of the Italians. All that which is not accepted by them, could then be appropriately classified as civilian requirements and put through direct. In a few words, let us endeavor to place the maximum load on the military basis and only use our credit as the final alternative.

I have indicated to Washington that three or four will be coming over with the program and I would suggest that this be done only if G-5 does not accept the bulk of the program under military necessity. It would make no sense in their bringing it over if it passed the first screening on that criterion. They should come over if, in effect, it is substantially a civilian program. I would suggest you cable me when you are prepared to face this issue and I will officially direct you according to the last-minute views of Washington.

All other matters are in the mill and while they are churning I am resting and will pick them up again soon and report back to you. In the meantime, my very best to you both and to all others and feel assured that a lot of people know how hard you are working and how difficult your task has been made through the lack of proper support at this end. If I accomplish nothing else, you may feel sure I will certainly get you that support, even if I do not return.

1329

(1)

- 4 -

I am at a loss as to what to recommend you tell the Italian Government because you cannot announce Bill's return as yet, hence it is perhaps better to say that I am sweating it out to get them their supplies and that my appointment is, as yet, not yet forthcoming, hence perforce I must remain here.

With the very best to you both,

Sincerely,

/s/ Tony

1328

(1)

1358

1358

Admiral Stone
Personal

1358

1358

1358

1358

4 3
LIST OF PAPERS*File under No.*

SERIAL NUMBER	FROM—	DATE	TO—	SYNOPSIS
1327				

0 6 5 8