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GERMAN OFFICE IN ROME (DR. NIX)
JULY 1946 - JAN. 1947

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V.P. C.A.S.

Please see 1A, 1B from G.2. AFHQ.

2A is submitted for consideration

9-9-46

E. J. Byr Colonel

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V.P. C.A.S.

Letter at 3A submitted for signature
see9-9-46

E. J. Byr. Colonel.

3Public Spky S/K

Letter signed by the V.P. is returned to you

Ext. 358 for despatch, follow
10/9J. M. M. C. P.
MS

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
A.P.C. 794
PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION
SECURITY SUB DIVISION

REF : 50/703-39

27 JAN 1947
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W

25 January 1947

SUBJECT : German Office, ROME - Dr. Willi HIX

TO : Allied Forces Headquarters
(Att'n. of G-2 (CI) Section)

1. The attached rough translation of letter 443/65139 dated 15 January 1947, addressed to the Prefect of ROME by the Ministry of Interior copy to this HQ, is forwarded herewith for information.

FOR THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER:

E.J. Bye
E.J. BYE,
Colonel,
Director,
Public Safety Division.

Copy to: G-2 (b) Rome Detachment
c/o P.A.C.
Public Safety Division.

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Ministry of Interior
General Direction of Public Safety

ROME 15 January 1947

Div. A.G.R. Sect. III
Prot. 443/65139

TO: Mr. Prefetto ROME
for infor. Presidency of Council of Ministers

TO: Gabinetto ROME
TO: Ministry of Foreign Affairs SEDE
D/G/A/P/ ROME

TO: Headquarters Allied Commission
Public Safety Division

SUBJECT: German Central Office directed by Dr; ROME
NIX Willi

A German Central Office, formerly German anti-Nazi Union was created and directed by Dr. NIX Willi von Lilien with the aim of aiding the German citizens who were in most need of assistance.

This organization has offices at 5 Via Trapani, ROME.

It is learned from investigations made by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Allied Authorities and the Italian Red Cross (A.G.I.U.S.) that the said organization has issued identity documents, that ex-prisoners of war and citizens not German have obtained the said documents and certificates showing they have no political past.

The said organization later assumed consular functions and many Germans continue to apply to Dr. NIX to regularise their position in Italy and obtain; through him, a documents purporting to be a passport.

In fact, also some foreign Consulates have granted visas for temporary or permanent immigration endorsed in the documents issued by the said organization.

For these reasons this Ministry orders that the said organization be closed, according to P.S. laws.

The Police office is instructed to serve an intimation on Dr. NIX in order that he ends his activities. Otherwise measures will be taken against him.

FOR THE MINISTER
S/ FERRARI

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ALLIED COMMISSION
Civil Affairs Section
APO 74

gjb

3A

AC/14376/PB

10 September 1946.

SUBJECT : German Office in Rome.
TO : Ministry of the Interior
Director General of P.S.

1. It is understood that Dr. Willi NIX van LILIENTHAL who is the head of the German Office in Rome, issues Identity cards to German nationals who report to his office on arrival in Rome.
2. It appears that the normal procedure for a German arriving in Rome, is to report to the Office of Dr. NIX, where, after the completion of a Questionnaire, the person concerned is supplied with an Identity Card which is recognised by the Italian Authorities as an Identity document and may be used for visas, Police and Food registration. Dr. NIX's organisation is a voluntary one, and he holds no recognised Consular Status.
3. Whilst it is agreed the Identity Cards issued by this Office are useful in that they serve as an additional check for security purposes, nevertheless past experience has shown the system is open to abuse, Prisoners of War and non German nationals having been able to obtain Identity Cards.
4. In view of the foregoing, it is suggested that it would be undesirable for the Italian Government to recognise these cards as official Identity Cards, therefore it would be appreciated if this HQ. could be informed whether the German office is or is not officially recognised by the Italian Authorities.

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FOR THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER

M. CARR, Brigadier
VP. CA. Section.

DRAFT

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SUBJECT : German Office in Rome.

TO : Ministry of Interior.

1. It is understood that Dr. Willi NIX von LILLEN-WALDAW who is the head of the German Office in Rome, issues Identity cards to German nationals who report to his office on arrival in Rome.

2. It appears that the normal procedure for a German arriving in Rome, is to report to the Office of Dr. NIX, where, after the completion of a Questionnaire, the person concerned is supplied with an Identity Card which is recognised by the Italian Authorities as an Identity document and may be used for visas, Police and Food registration.

Dr. NIX's organisation is a voluntary one and he holds no recognised Consular Status.

3. Whilst it is agreed the identity cards issued by this Office are useful in that they serve as an additional check for security purposes, nevertheless past experience has shown **4970** system is open to abuse. Prisoners of War and non German nationals having been able to obtain identity cards.

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Dr. NIX's organisation is a voluntary one and he holds no recognised Consular Status.

3. Whilst it is agreed the identity cards issued by this Office are useful in that they serve as an additional check for security purposes, nevertheless past experience has shown **4970** system is open to abuse. Prisoners of War and non German nationals having been able to obtain identity cards.

4. In view of the foregoing, it is suggested that it would be undesirable for the Italian Government to recognise these cards as official Identity cards, therefore it would be appreciated if this Hq. could be informed whether the German office is or is not officially recognized by the Italian Authorities.

For the Chief Commissioner

M. CARR Brigadier
VP. CA. Section.

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ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff G-2
APO 512, U.S. Army

GBI.389.433/26

23 August 1946

Recd 24/8.

SUBJECT: Dr. NIX and the German Office in ROME.

TO : Public Safety Sub-Commission
Hq. Allied Commission

1. The attached copy of a Field Security report on the German Office in ROME is forwarded to you for your consideration.

2. Whilst G-2, this Headquarters, has no objections to the continued existence of Dr. NIX's office, it is considered that the question of the issue of identity cards by his office should be clarified.

3. These identity cards are useful in that they serve as an additional check for Allied Security purposes. To obtain them German residents have to register at Dr. NIX's office, and it is thought unlikely that they would register so willingly if they did not know they would obtain such a card. At the same time, it is considered undesirable that the Italian Ministry of the Interior should recognise these cards as official identity documents. Dr. NIX holds no recognised Consular Status, and secondly F.S. investigations have shown that the system is open to abuse, P.W.'s and non-German nationals being able to obtain cards.

4. Whilst this GHQ does not oppose the issue of such cards for the reasons given above, it is suggested that they should not be recognised as official documents by the Italians, and it would be appreciated if you could approach the Ministry of the Interior concerning this matter.

For the Assistant Chief of Staff G-2

D.A.D. YOUNG
Lt. Colonel G.S.
G-2 (CI) Section

/vjm

Copy

SUBJECT : The German Office in Rome
(Zentralbüro für Deutsche in Italien)

276 FSS
Tel: 478445 Ext 42
Ref: SEC/8/4
6 Jul 46.

TO : OC 276 FSS

FROM : CSM Hawkins, C.E.W.

1. The German office was developed from the Anti-Nazi Committee founded in ROME shortly before the Allied occupation by Dr. Willi NIX von LILLEN-WALDAU, a German Catholic political emigre from Westphalia, who had been interned for two years by the Nazi Government and was well connected with the Vatican; by profession Dr. NIX is a doctor.

2. Dr. NIX, immediately after the Allied occupation of ROME, put himself in contact with the Allies and was of some use to SCI, CIC, FSS, etc. as an informant and contact. His office, although without any official status, had the approval of RAAC. Other Germans connected with the office are:- C.B. Todd-Rohrur, a German film actor and political emigre, Ludwig Muckermann (brother of the famous Pastor Muckermann), Ernst Bense, Erna Kner, Helmut Strubel, Friedrich Fuchs and Joachim Graum, all considered fairly reliable persons. Rolf Wangemann, employee of an Italian Press Agency who later acquired Italian nationality, was not considered quite so reliable and was subsequently ousted from the organisation, which caters only for German nationals.

3. A report on the activities of the German office in ROME was sent to AFHQ by CIC ROME (Mr. Murphy) on 17 Apr 45 (CIC file 7555). The usefulness of the office to Allied security, once its information on German personalities and activities in ROME had been exploited and military operations were no longer in progress, lay in the fact that Germans arriving in the area, who might otherwise have failed to come to the notice of the Allied or Italian police, normally registered there and thus a certain check on movement was obtained.

4. The normal procedure for a German arriving in ROME was to report to the Office, where he was asked to fill in a questionnaire (a copy of which was forwarded to FSS). If required, he was then supplied with a green Identity Card (Kennkarte für den deutschen Staatsangehörigen), which is recognised by the Italian Ministry of the Interior as an identity document and may be used for visas and police and food registration. Until some time ago, these cards were only issued on presentation of the original German documents, but this practise has now been abandoned, and cards have been issued on statement of particulars

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5. The Office also has authority from the Rome Pretura to give permits to marry to German citizens.
6. Certificates are also granted by the office to needy persons after a sort of "means test" has been conducted, to facilitate UNRRA aid etc.
7. The "Officials" of the office are not paid, although they receive expenses: Dr. NIX himself has always lived very modestly and there are no grounds to believe that any substantial profits have ever accrued to the office. The income consists of the fees charged for issuing identity cards and a few voluntary donations.
8. About 6,000 Germans are registered with the Office, of whom some 1,200 have green identity cards. Dr. NIX has been very anxious to extend the activities of the Office to the north and for this reason visited AFHQ in January of this year, following which he paid a visit to MILAN and BOLZANO, armed with

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letters of recommendation from Col. Young, G-2 AMO, and Lt. Col. Morena, CIC ROBE, and Major Stanhope-Wright, G-2, RAAC, but was not received with enthusiasm by the Allied security in these areas, who presumably considered that his presence would merely complicate the German situation there. Nevertheless, Dr. NIX has "representatives" in MILAN (Dr. Friedrich STRASS and Mario KOFF), MERRANO (Dr. Hans SCHIFFMANN), Florence (Dr. Ernst HEINITZ and Edward BARTER), and GENOA (Carl BRECKENFELD); identity cards are not issued to these "detachments." The ROBE Office has a card index, with photograph, of all Germans registered with it.

9. Dr. NIX himself is not politically active and has not used the Office for political ends. His personal political emotions are anti-Nazi, Anti-Communist, Catholic and patriotic. In April of this year, his office was rifled and documents stolen, it is believed by Communists, since money was not taken.

10. A recent case in the question of identity cards came to the notice of FSS ROBE in June 46, when two German PWs (VORCKRPER and KATHILER), were issued, unwittingly, by Dr. NIX, with identity cards.

11. The position of the office with regard to the Allies has never been clarified, as it would seem no official protocol of its functions, and no permit to issue identity cards, has ever been granted. Nor has Dr. NIX's status ever been more than that of an informant. Moreover, although there is no evidence which might suggest that NIX has ever acted in bad faith towards the Allies, the possibility of his protecting Germans (e.g., illegal entrants into Italy, especially from the Russian zone, the property sequestration question, should not be overlooked, the patriotism which led him to co-operate with the Allies during military operations perhaps tending to persuade him now to obstruct them in cases where he considers an injustice is being done. The situation would deteriorate should NIX and his clique withdraw from the office and unscrupulous administrators take their place, and this, with the consideration that NIX is practically allowed Consular functions by the Italian authorities, which might complicate the post-occupational situation here, might be considered good recommendations, now that the Office has outlived its military usefulness, for closing it down before the Allied military withdraw from the area. On the other hand, on sentimental grounds such a step is certainly not warranted and its moral callousness would be unfavourably regarded by all concerned, except the promoters of the legend of British perfidity among the foreign colony and Italian press, NIX having a reputation of good faith and moral integrity.

12. It is suggested that it might be opportune to refer the question of the Office to G-2 channels for consideration of its continued functioning.

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CEP

5 Jul 46.

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