

785016

ACC

10000/143/1570

785016

10000/143/1570

ITALIAN FINGER-PRINT SYSTEM
FEB. - JULY 1945

Minute 3.

C.A.S.

Folio 111A for signature

Walter Doherty
as

P.S.

7 June 1945

- 4 -

V.P. C.A. Section.

Draft of cable in reply to 18A submitted
for approval and signature.

23 July 1945

Chapman
Col. D.P.S.

12351

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

785016

6995

1 2 3 4
SHEET 1

AC/14642/58

MINUTE. ①

V.P. CA Sec.

The draft letter which is attached for forwarding to AFHQ, is, I hope, self-explanatory. The unique opportunity which is now afforded to us of setting up a really practical fingerprint and record system in Italy is one which will never occur again, and it would be extremely unfortunate if this were lost.

I have no doubt that if the suggested Mission can be effected the Italians can be more than persuaded that the International system which they will see in England is one which they will adopt to their considerable advantage.

I am most strongly of the opinion that this visit at this time will pay tremendous dividends in the future of Italy so far as the maintenance of law and order is concerned. There is no doubt that the fingerprint and record systems referred to are the most fundamental parts of a police system and unless these function well a really satisfactory organization is impossible of achievement.

The possibility of such a visit has been under discussion for some time both with the Italian Ministry of the Interior and also with the Commanding General of the CC.BR. They are both extremely enthusiastic to take advantage of such a proposition, and we have been assured officially that there will be no difficulty on the Italian side in approving the expenditure which would be incurred. The principle of visits by Italian Officials to England and America has, of course, already been established.

I am sure the Home Secretary will approve of this visit and will do all in his power to give the Mission every facility in England. Since I shall be in London before the end of this month, an opportunity will be provided for me

I am most strongly of the opinion that this visit at this time will pay tremendous dividends in the future of Italy so far as the maintenance of law and order is concerned. There is no doubt that the fingerprint and record systems referred to are the most fundamental parts of a police system and unless these function well a really satisfactory organization is impossible of achievement.

The possibility of such a visit has been under discussion for some time both with the Italian Ministry of the Interior and also with the Commanding General of the CO. IR. They are both extremely enthusiastic to take advantage of such a proposition, and we have been assured officially that there will be no difficulty on the Italian side in approving the expenditure which would be incurred. The principle of visits by Italian Officials to England and America has, of course, already been established.

I am sure the Home Secretary will approve of this visit and will do all in his power to give the Mission every facility in England. Since I shall be in London before the end of this month, an opportunity will be provided for me to consult with the Home Office, and I am sure that all arrangements can be made to make this visit a real success.

3rd February, 1945.

Albany

A.E. YOUNG, Colonel.
Deputy Director.
Public Safety Sub-Commission.

Minute 2

V.P. - CA Section

7A

prepared for signature

Walter *Robertson*
for Director, Public Safety.

26 March 1945

1 2 3 8

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

785016

INCOMING MESSAGE

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

Originator's Reference: FX 32491

Message Centre No: F/2818

Date/Time of Origin: AUG 051853B

Date Time Rec'd: AUG 061200B

Precedence: ROUTINE

FROM AFHQ SIGNED ALEXANDER CITE FHGEG

TO ACTION TROOPERS INFO ALCOM ROME

146612/PS-

RM 20A

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

Reur 60866 CA 2 (BO)

Regret owing to changed circumstances vacancies on next fingerprint course not now required.

Much regret inability of police experts to attend July course.

Italian Govt very short of reliable police officers capable of training recent large intake of recruits and of dealing with civil disturbances which have lately increased in frequency. Consider it inexpedient in circumstances to press them to send officers to ENGLAND whom they say cannot be spared.

Fully appreciate inconvenience caused.

Dist

Info-Action - P Safety SC

Info - Chief Commissioner

CA Sec

File 2

Float

4667

M/C Note. No trace of quoted ref.

RESTRICTED

TO	
☒	DIRECTOR
☒	DEPUTY DIR
☒	CHIEF CLERK
☒	7/8
☒	7/8
☒	7-8
☒	7/8

19A

AFHQ

2378

23 July 45

ROUTINE

RESTRICTED PD

NEUR FOX TWO FIVE EIGHT ZERO ZERO GMA TWO ZERO JULY CITE PHONG PD
PAREN TO AFHQ FROM ALCON CITE ACCAS PAREN

ITALIAN POLICE EXPERTS NOT INTERESTED IN COURSE OF FINGERPRINT
INSTRUCTION PD ORIGINAL REQUEST FOR MISSION TO VISIT ENGLAND TO
STUDY BRITISH SYSTEM OF CRIMINAL RECORDS APPARENTLY COMPLETELY
MISUNDERSTOOD PD LARGE OF TIME AND CHANGED CONDITIONS RENDER SENDING
OF MISSION FUTILE EVEN FOR ORIGINAL PURPOSE PD

4666

Civil Affairs Section

686

G.R. UPJOHN Brig.

NICHOLAS FIGUEROA
CWO USA
Asst. Adjutant.

1240

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

785016

INCOMING MESSAGE

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMM ION

14002 ⁴⁴

18A
Safety

Originator's Reference: F25800

Message Centre No: F/604

Date/Time of Origin: JULY 20 1943B

Date Time Rec'd: JULY 21 0900

Precedence: ROUTINE

FROM: AFHQ SIGNED SACMED CITE FHGEG
TO : ALCOM ROME

14

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED.

16A

Reur 1526, 11 July.

Scotland Yard prepared to receive SORRENTINO and ZANCHINO on next course possibly end year or early spring. Reply immediately. TROOPERS state considerable difficulty in meeting even part of your original request and have been faced with embarrassing situation due to your failure to despatch these experts.

TO	FROM	DATE
DIRECTOR	AFHQ	21/7
DEPUTY CHIEF	AFHQ	21/7
EXEC. ADJ.		
POLICE		
SEC. & AD.		
PRISON		
ADM. & GEN.		
SECURITY		
CHIEF CLERK		

DIST

ACTION F SAFETY SC
INFO CHIEF COMMISSIONER
CA SEC
FILE 2
FLOAT

BEAR
21 JUL

4665

RESTRICTED

1241

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

785016

1464 2/PS

INCOMING MESSAGE

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

ER
Safety

Originator's Reference: EX 21520
Date/Time of Origin: JULY 121841B

Message Centre No: E/9448
Date Time Rec'd: JULY 131020
Precedence: ROUTINE

FROM: AFHQ SIGNED ALEXANDER CITE THREE
TO : TROOPERS LONDON, INFO ALCON ROLE.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL.

Neither ZANCHINO nor SORRENTINO can attend. Reur 57882 CA 2 of 6 July. Is SCOTLAND YARD prepared to receive them next course if so give date.

DIST

INFO ACTION - PUB SAFETY
INFO - CHIEF COMMISSIONER
CA SEC
FILE 2
FLOAT

INFO - ACTION

HEADQUARTERS
13 JUL 1945
A. V. C.

TO		
DIRECTOR		
DEPUTY DIRECTOR	has	14/7
EXEC. OFF.		
POLICE	Ar	132
SEC. OFF.		
PRISON		
ADM. OFFICE		4664
SECURITY		
CHIEF CLERK		

CONFIDENTIAL

785016

AFHQ CITE FBHQ

1526

10 July 45

PRIORITY

CONFIDENTIAL PD

REUR FOR ONE EIGHT SIX SEVEN FOUR OF SEVEN JULY PD

FAREW TO AFHQ CITE FBHQ FROM ALONG CITE AFHQ FAREW

OWING TO LARGE INTAKE OF REQUESTS WITHIN SCOTTISH FOR ZACHING

ABLE TO JOIN CLASS COMMENCING ONE SIX JULY PD PLEASE MAY WHETHER

SCOTLAND YARD AND ACCEPT COMMENCING AND ZACHING ON NEXT COURSE PD

GIVE DATE COURSE COMMENCING PD

4663

Public Safety S/C

478800

S.C. BALLANCE MAJ

NICHOLAS PIERINO
CWO USA
Asst Adjutant

1 2 4 3

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

785016

INCOMING MESSAGE

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMM' ON

Originator's Reference: F 18674
Date/Time of Origin: JULY 7/1151B

Message Centre No: 7/8561
Date Time Rec'd: JULY 7/1600B
Precedence: ROUTINE

FROM: AFHQ SIGNED SACRED SITE FIGHT
TO: IN ALCON ROOM

14602/PS

15A

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED.

Hour 1222.

TROOPERS have now agreed 2 Italian police officers in class commencing 16 July. we are prepared accept Major TAVCHING as Wall can he attend

TO	DATE
DIRECTOR	
DEPUTY DIRECTOR	
EXEC OFFICER	
PRISON	92
L.C. 3-10-1	
PRISON	
ADJ. GEN.	
SECURITY	
CHIEF CLERK	

DIST
ACTION : PUBLIC SAFETY SC
INFO : CHIEF COMMISSIONER
CA SEC
FILE (2)
FLOAT

71113
4662

File with May Ballance

RESTRICTED

TRANSLATION M.C.

URGENT

MINISTRY OF INTERIOR
General Direction of P.S.

No. 10/33970/13000.20

6 July 1945

SUBJECT : Experts of Italian Police visit England.
TO : A.C. Civilian Affairs Section - APO 394.

Referring to letter of last February No. AC/14642/
PS. , relating to aforesaid visit, we be you to examine
the possibility of postponing Dr. SOERENTINO UGO ' s
visit, technic director of the superior Police
School, to another date. Cwing to absolute necessity and
having to superintend to a course of newly assumed
personnel of P.S.

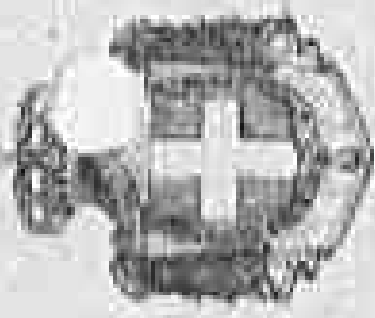
An answer in regard will obblige.

The Chief of Police
- Ferrari -

TO	
DIRECTOR	
DEPUTY DIRECTOR	
PRIN. OFFICER	
POLES	
SEC. & REG.	
FINANC.	
ADM. OFFICER	
SECURITY	
CRYPTO	

4661

1427.



URGENTE

Off. 1870

CA Section

Roma, 3 luglio 1945

6 AUG. 1945

Ministro dell'Interno

PS

DIREZIONE GENERALE
DELLA PUBBLICA SICUREZZA

AL COMANDO DELLA COMMISSIONE AL-
IATA- Sezione Affari Civili APO

394 ROMA

Direzione Polizia L. Prima

Ind. N. 20.33970 Allegati

13000.20

Richiesta al Togliatti del
Dir. L. 1. 1. 1.

OGGETTO Visita in Inghilterra di esperti della Polizia Italiana

Con riferimento alla lettera del febbraio corr. n. A C 14542
P.S., relativa all'oggetto, si prega codesta Commissione di fare esaminare
la possibilità di rimandare ad altra epoca la visita in Inghilterra da
parte del dott. Sorrentino Ugo, direttore tecnico della Scuola Superio-
re di Polizia, il quale, per momento, non può lasciare il servizio per
imprescindibili necessità, avendo, fra l'altro, soprintendere ai corsi
per l'istruzione di nuovo personale di P.S.

Si resta in attesa di un gradito cenno di risposta.

4660

IN CARO DELLA POLIZIA

1 2 4 6
OGGETTO Visita in Inghilterra di esperti della Polizia Italiana

Con riferimento alla lettera del febbraio corr. anno n. A C 14642 P.S., relativa all'oggetto, si prega codesta Commissione di fare esantimare la possibilità di rimandare ad altra epoca la visita in Inghilterra da parte del dott. Sorrentino Ugo, direttore tecnico della Scuola Superiore di Polizia, il quale, per momento, non può lasciare il servizio per imprescindibili necessità, dovendo, fra l'altro, soprintendere ai corsi per l'istruzione di nuovo personale di P.S.

Si resta in attesa di un gradito cenno di risposta.

IL CAPO DELLA POLIZIA

4660



785016

AFHQ CITE THREE

1X22

5 JULY 1945

PRIORITY

CONFIDENTIAL

PARA ONE PD RANK F NINE EIGHT ONE ZERO NINE OF JUNE TWO

THREE PD

PARA TO AFHQ CITE THREE FROM ALONG CITE AGENT THREE

PARA TWO PD ITALIAN GOVERNMENT REQUESTS NOT POSSIBLE TO
ARRANGE FOR SCHENKING TO NOW TRAVEL TO LONDON TO ATTEND

FINGER PRINT COURSE AT SCOTLAND YARD PD NO OTHER PERSON

IS AVAILABLE. PD

4459

Public Safety 5/C

478427-530

W. DONALD, COL.

NICHOLAS PIGNINO

CWO, USA

Asst. Adjutant

1 2 4 8

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

785016

INCOMING MESSAGE

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMM ION

12A

P. Safety

Originator's Reference: F98109

Date/Time of Origin: JUN 231807B

Message Centre No: E/6457

Date Time Rec'd: JUN 240930B

Precedence: PRIORITY

FROM: AFHQ SIGNED SACMED CITE FHGEG

TO: ALCOM ROME

et

RESTRICTED.

Reur AC/14642/PS 7 June.

SOHRENTINO accepted course. Request Etc LONDON.

11A

DIST

ACTION: Pub Safety S/C
INFO: Chief Commissioner
CA Sec
File 2
Float



TO	INIT	RC
DIRECTOR	<i>He</i>	<i>rc</i>
DEPUTY DIRECTOR		
EXEC. OFFICER		
CHIEF		
ADJ. GEN.		
ADJ. SEC.		
SECURITY		
OTHER CLERK		

4658

RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
Civil Affairs Section
APO 394

Tel: 478437-580

7 June 1945

AG/14642/PS

SUBJECT : Visit of Italian Police
Experts to England.

TO : G-5 AFHQ.

1. Reference your GS:210.482-76 dated 5 June 45.
2. It is essential that Dottore Sorrentino, Finger Print expert, be first choice for the course at Scotland Yard. He is a member of the International Police Association and has visited U.S.A. and London on their conferences. He has a fair knowledge of English.
3. Carabinieri Major Alfredo Zanchino is not a career officer and would not be a suitable person to disseminate instruction to Agents of Public Security of which he is not one. It is however most desirable that he attend the course to ensure proper interpretation. He knows London well.
4. It is proposed to send a Lieut. Col. who is an ex Metropolitan Police officer with the Italian personnel as his release group coincides with the date of the mission to London provided this can be arranged.

For the Chief Commissioner:

G.R. Upjohn
G.R. UPJOHN, Brig.
VP CA Section.

4657

Pub Safety 10A
2307ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 512

CJM/jrs

G-5: 210.482-78

5 June 1945

SUBJECT: Visit of Italian Police Experts to England.

TO : Headquarters, Allied Commission,
APO 394.Reference is our G-5 210.482-78 of 6 April 45 and
your AC/14642/FS 26 March 45.

1. A signal has been received from Troopers saying that Scotland Yard has agreed to include one Italian Police Officer in a class of Finger Print Instruction commencing on 16 July 45.

2. It is of six weeks duration but will be extended should tuition not be completed in that time.

3. Regret is expressed that the complete mission cannot be accepted but they suggest that Major Alfredo Zanchino attends ~~the~~ course as fluent English is essential.

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

C. J. MACNAMARA
Major, P.C.

TO		
DIRECTOR		
DEPUTY DIRECTOR		
EXEC. OFFICER		
POLICE		
SEC. & REG.		
PRISONS		
ADM. OFFICER		
SECURITY		
CHIEF CLERK		

JW 7/4656

785016

Pub. Safety 1762

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
APO 512

DSJ/TBJ/WSW

9A

G-5: 210.482-78

6 April 1945

SUBJECT: Visit of Italian Police Experts to England.

TO : Headquarters, Allied Commission, APO 394.

1. Reference is made to your AC/14642/FS of 26 March as a result of which signal FX 52445 of 30 March was sent to the War Office (information copy to you direct).

2. The War Office have now replied by signal that while the Italian difficulties and the desire to initiate the new system at the earliest possible date are appreciated they regret that after further consultation with New Scotland Yard it is impossible to accept the Italian Mission before June. The reason given is that Scotland Yard's present commitments will not permit additional work before that date.

3. In the circumstances it is regretted that the matter will have to remain on that basis.

For Asst. Chief of Staff, G-5:



D. S. Jackling
D. S. JACKLING,
Colonel.

TO	7/4	9/4
FROM	7/4	9/4
SUBJECT	10 45 4655	
REMARKS		
DATE		
TIME		
PLACE		
BY		
FOR		

B/F for Col Wilcox in
return pre - 16th 45.

INCOMING MESSAGE

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

Originator's Reference: EK 52445
 Date/Time of Origin: MARCH 30/1915

Message Centre No: D/6471
 Date/Time Rec'd: MARCH 31/0910
 Precedence: PRIORITY

FROM: AFHQ, SIGNED ALEXANDER CITE FICHE
 TO: ACTION: TROOPERS LONDON INFO: ALCOM ROME

8A

6A 12642 RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED.

Reur 79195 CA 23 of 23 March.

Noted with satisfaction you agree to receive Italian Police experts but request that visit be not delayed until June and that it be authorised for earliest possible date before then.

Reasons are:

(A) Some 8000 sets fingerprints already collected and numbers likely to increase rapidly. The longer the visit to ENGLAND is delayed the greater will be numbers of prints which will have to be reclassified if "MERY" system is ultimately adopted and process of transition will become progressively more difficult.

(B) Formation of modern criminal record system much easier if undertaken immediately rather than when large number of files have been accumulated. Moreover plans for general reorganisation Italian Central Criminal Record office and provincial offices must remain in suspense pending the result of visit.

Request in light of above you state soonest date on which you can complete the mission.

HEADQUARTERS
 11 MARCH 1915
 A. C.

RESTRICTED

CHIEF	
VON OFFICE	
DEMO	
DC & SEC	
BOICE	
EXEC OFFICE	
DEPT. HUNT LOK	
OFFICE	
INT	OVER

4654
 DIST :
 INFO-ACTION : P SAFETY
 INFO : A/PRESIDENT
 CHIEF COMMISSION-
 EX CON ER
 CA SEC
 FILE (2)
 FLOAT

HEADQUARTERS AIRTEL COMMISSION
Civil Affairs Section
APO 354.

AC/14642/28.

Tel. 489081 - 365.

SUBJECT: Visit of Italian Police Experts to England.
26th March, 1945.

TO: I AFHQ - 0-5.

1. Reference is made to your letter G-5, 210.482 - 78, dated 16th February, 1945, and Signal 79195 CA2B, dated 21st March, 1945, from Troopers.

2. When the application to send a Mission of Italian Police Experts was made early in February, it was hoped by the Italian Authorities and by this Commission that the visit might take place in March or April.

3. As explained in our letter of the 8th February, 1945, the Italian system of criminal records and finger-print classification is now being re-instituted. At the end of January, 1945, 4,000 sets of finger prints had already been collected. To-day there are almost double that number, and as conditions return to normal in Southern Italy and new territory is occupied in the North, the number is likely to increase rapidly. It will be appreciated that if it is decided to change to the English system, the work now being done under the Italian system of finger-print classification will be wasted. Moreover, the longer the decision to introduce the new system is delayed the more difficult will be the process of transition. In the same way, the formation of a modern criminal record system will be much easier if it is undertaken now than if it is attempted in some months' time when a large number of files have accumulated.

4. Until the Mission of Experts visits England plans for reorganizing the Italian Central Criminal Record Office

2. When the application to send a mission of Italian Police Experts was made early in February, it was hoped by the Italian authorities and by this Commission that the visit might take place in March or April.

3. As explained in our letter of the 8th February, 1945, the Italian system of criminal records and finger-print classification is now being re-instituted. At the end of January, 1945, 4,000 sets of finger prints had already been collected. To-day there are almost double that number, and as conditions return to normal in Southern Italy and new territory is occupied in the North, the number is likely to increase rapidly. It will be appreciated that if it is decided to change to the English system, the work now being done under the Italian system of finger-print classification will be wasted. Moreover, the longer the decision to introduce the new system is delayed the more difficult will be the process of transition. In the same way, the formation of a modern criminal record system will be much easier if it is undertaken now than if it is attempted in some months' time when a large number of files have accumulated.

4. Until the Mission of Experts visits England plans for reorganising the Italian Central Criminal Office and the Provincial Offices remain in suspense.

5. A further reason for expediting the visit of the Mission is that the Ministry of the Interior intends to commence a series of courses of instruction for Police Officers at the Central School in Rome, starting at the end of May and continuing through the summer months. The

absence of Det. Sorrentino, Director of the School, from June forward would therefore mean the postponing of this plan.

6. It is therefore requested that representations be made to authorize the Mission to visit England at the earliest opportunity.

For the Chief Commissioner:

C.R. UPJOHN, Brig.
VP CA Sec.

1256

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

785016

4652

4652

-2-

1257

785016

INCOMING MESSAGE

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

P. J. J. 67

Originator's Reference: 79195CA2B
Date/Time of Origin: MAR 231700A

Message Centre No: D/5987
Date/Time Recd: MAR 251000A
Precedence: ROUTINE

FROM: TROOPERS
TO: ACTION FREEDOM INFO ALCOM ROME

cc

RESTRICTED.

Subject is visit of Italian police experts to ENGLAND.

Arrangements in progress for visit early June. Details following due course.

INFO - ACTION

DIST

INFO-ACTION: Pub Safety S/C
INFO: A/President
Chief Commissioner
CA Section
File 2
Float

TO		
DIRECTOR		
DEPUTY DIRECTOR		
EXEC. OFFICER		
POWLE		<i>263</i>
LIC. & REG.		
PERSONS		
ADM. OFFICER		
SECURITY		
CHIEF CLERK		

HEADQUARTERS
25 MAR 1951
A4651

RESTRICTED

1258

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

785016

INCOMING MESSAGE

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

P. Dufort
DA

Originator's Reference: 78604
Date/Time of Origin: MAR 211800A

Message Centre No: D/5920
Date Time Rec'd: MAR 241500A
Precedence: ROUTINE

FROM: TROOPERS
TO: ACTION FREEDOM INFO ROME AREA AICOM

14639/ps.

LA

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

-34

Ref your FX 46188 19 March. Subject under discussion with home office. Reply reach you soonest.

Dist

Info-Action - P Safety SC
Info - A/President
Chief Commissioner
Exec Comm
CA Section
File (2)
Float

INFO - ACTION

TO	INITIALS	DATE
DIRECTOR	<i>[initials]</i>	<i>24/3</i>
DEPUTY DIRECTOR	<i>[initials]</i>	<i>24/3</i>
EXEC. OFFICER		
POLICE	<i>[initials]</i>	<i>24/3</i>
LIC. & REG.		
PRISON		
ADM. OFFICER		
SECURITY		
CHIEF CLERK		

HEADQUARTERS
MAR 25
A. C.

4649

4650

RESTRICTED

1259

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

785016

INCOMING MESSAGE

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

Originator's Reference: FX 42/88

Date/Time of Origin: MAR 19

Message Centre No: D/5510

Date/Time Rec'd: MAR 19/2120

Precedence: ROUTINE

FROM: ANHQ SIGNED ALEXANDER SITE AMEC

TO: PROCEED FOR UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE, INFO: ALCOH ROME.

RESTRICTED

14-639

RESTRICTED.

Subject is suggested visit of Italian police experts to ENGLAND.
Request reply to our memorandum no reference of 11th February signed
ROBERTSON as soon as possible.

TO	
DIRECTOR	20/3
DEPUTY DIRECTOR	20/3
EXEC. OFFICER	20/3
POLICE	20/3
IC 4-70	
PROT. S.	
ADM. OFFICER	
SECURITY	
CHIEF	

INFO - ACTION

DIST

Info-Action: P SAUTER S/O
Info: A/PRESIDENT
CHIEF COMMISSIONER
EX COLTR
CA SEC
FILE 2
PROAT



4650

RESTRICTED

785016

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 512

TBJ/seb

445
3A.

G-5: 210.482-78

16 February 1945

SUBJECT: Visit of Italian Police Experts to England

TO : Headquarters, Allied Commission
APO 394

1. Reference is made to your AC/14642/PS received 10 February.
2. Attached for information is a copy of letter dated 11 February under signature of CAO, this Headquarters, which has been sent to the Under Secretary of State, The War Office.
3. You will be informed as soon as possible as to the reply received from London.

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

T. B. Jackman
T. B. JACKMAN
Lt. Colonel.

Incl:
as above.



TO	19/2
INFO	19/2
1. 1st Lt. Col. Jackman	19/2
2. 1st Lt. Col. Jackman	19/2
3. 1st Lt. Col. Jackman	19/2
4. 1st Lt. Col. Jackman	19/2
5. 1st Lt. Col. Jackman	19/2
6. 1st Lt. Col. Jackman	19/2
7. 1st Lt. Col. Jackman	19/2
8. 1st Lt. Col. Jackman	19/2
9. 1st Lt. Col. Jackman	19/2
10. 1st Lt. Col. Jackman	19/2

4648

Telephoned
on 18 March 1945
asking G-5 to
send copy to
War Office

John

COPY

28

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
Office of the Chief Administrative Officer

11 February 1945

SUBJECT: Suggested Visit of Italian Police Experts to England.

TO : The Under Secretary of State,
The War Office,
London, S.W.1.

1. A recommendation has been received from the Allied Commission that a senior officer of their Public Safety Sub-Commission should visit England in the near future accompanied by the Director of the Scientific Police School Rome, the Chief Police Commissioner of the Ministry of the Interior and an Italian Liaison Officer. The purpose of the visit would be to study the 'Henry' system of fingerprint classification as used in England and the system in use there for the keeping of criminal records.

2. A copy of the detailed application made by the Allied Commission is attached in order that all facts may be before you, but the following main points emerge from it:

a. The fingerprints and criminal records of the Central Police Registry in Rome were destroyed by the Fascists and the Germans before Rome was evacuated and the time is now ripe to reconstruct the Central Registry on the best possible lines.

b. Italy has in the past used the 'Casti' system of fingerprint classification (the only other country using this system is Chile).

c. The 'Henry' system is standard in the British Empire and the United States of America and it is felt it could with advantage be adopted in Italy now that a new start has to be made.

d. The Director of the Scientific Police School is not sufficiently conversant with the 'Henry' System in its most up to date form to assess its advantages over the 'Casti' system or to direct its setting up in Italy without first hand knowledge of its workings.

e. There is real need for the Italians to set up a proper system of keeping criminal records and a study on the spot of those used in England would be of great value to the Italian authorities.

3. It is considered that the proposed visit would not only be of immediate value to the Italians but that the setting up in Italy of a fingerprint system and police records similar to those in use in the United Kingdom and the United States would be of value from the point of view of future international police co-operation.

4. It is requested therefore that permission be given for the proposed visit and that notification of this be given by signal together with details as to where and to whom the party should report. It should be stated that G-2 this Headquarters is satisfied that the Italian members of the proposed party are secure.

For the Supreme Allied Commander, Mediterranean Theatre:

sgd by Gen Robertson
/t/ BRIAN H. ROBERTSON
Lieutenant General,
Chief Administrative Officer.

Incl:
as above.

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
Civil Affairs Section
APO 394

Tel. 489081 - 365

AC/14642/PS.

8 February, 1945

SUBJECT : Visit of Italian Police Experts to England

TO : A.F.H.Q., G-5.

1. The main task of this Commission as far as the Italian Police Service is concerned has necessarily been to use the existing Forces to preserve law and order in support of the Allied Armies. This paramount aim has been achieved by improvisation rather than by a policy of laying the foundations of a sound police system, which must wait until the battle has passed. Day to day problems of utilising available personnel and equipment and coping with immediate problems of disorder and crime have had first priority.

2. Nevertheless, some thought has been given to the ultimate problem of reforming the Italian police. The Italian Government has been advised to set up a Commission, possibly assisted by one or more technical experts from Public Safety Sub-Commission, to study specific reforms already indicated. This is a long term policy not likely to bring any result until the country is in a more settled state.

3. However, the opportunity now presents itself of dealing with two matters which ought not to be delayed:

(a) the establishment of a satisfactory fingerprint classification, and

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(b) the formation of a criminal record system.

The fingerprints and criminal records of the Central Registry in Rome were completely destroyed by the Fascists and Germans before evacuating the capital. At present 4,000 sets of fingerprints have been collected in Rome and material is becoming available to reconstruct a Central Registry. If proper plans are not made now a unique opportunity will be lost and subsequent reconstruction will be rendered difficult if not impossible.

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4. All police and prison records (on which criminal investigation largely depends) are based on a central system of identifying criminals. In all modern countries fingerprints have been recognized as the most certain means of establishing identity. In the United Kingdom, the Dominions and the Colonies, as well as in the United States, the "Henry" system of classification has been adopted. Experience during the past 40 years has brought the system to a high state of efficiency.

5. In Italy the "Gastl" system was adopted at the beginning of the century and has remained in vogue ever since. The only other country to use the "Gastl" system is Chile.

6. The merits of the "Gastl" system as compared with the "Henry" system have never been scientifically examined. Dott. Ugo SORRENTINO, the Italian finger print authority, has read Edward Henry's description of his system (which has been improved almost out of recognition since the publication of his book) but he is not prepared to express an opinion until he has studied the practical working of the system.

7. The Public Safety Sub-Commission urges that a decision should be made now as to whether or not the "Henry" system should be introduced into Italy and is confident that such a decision could be made by the Italian Police authorities after a brief study of the fingerprint system at New Scotland Yard by Dott. SORRENTINO. Even if advantages of the English system over the Italian as regard efficiency, easiness of operation and economy in manpower are not in themselves conclusive, due weight must be attached to the advisability of having a uniform system which will facilitate the exchange of fingerprints between nations, particularly transmission by wireless code.

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8. Incidentally the Italians have never had a "single-finger print index" which has brought such astonishingly good results by identification of prints at scenes of crimes since its formation at New Scotland Yard by Batley in 1930.

9. Dott. SORRENTINO, on his side, has recently been experimenting with a novel method of classifying finger-prints by separating the sets of prints on each hand and his results will prove the interest to the English experts.

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10. Apart from fingerprint classification, the keeping of criminal records in Italy has not reached the standard set in England and America. The Italians have clung to the anthropometric systems of Lombroso and Bertillon which have always been academic rather than practical.

The time is now ripe for a fresh start.

11. The value of the "modus operandi" system has been proved in England and America, particularly in England where it was first introduced and has been most highly developed.

12. The need for such a system in Italy is very apparent. For example, one of the most elementary necessities of a criminal record office - a "Wanted Index" - does not exist, nor is there a proper method of circulating information to police throughout the country by way of bulletins, photographs, etc.

13. It is proposed, therefore, that two Italian experts from the Ministry of the Interior and one representative of the Royal Carabinieri be sent to England with the following terms of reference:-

i) To study the system of fingerprint classification at New Scotland Yard and to recommend to the Italian Government whether to introduce it into Italy or to retain the "Gatti" system.

ii) To study the system of keeping criminal records at New Scotland Yard (and, if time allows, at such centres as Wakefield, Birmingham or Bristol), particularly the:-

Nominal Index
Wanted Index
Modus operandi System
Motor car Index
Photograph Albums
Police Gazettes and Circulations

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and to plan modern methods of keeping criminal records at the Central Registry in Rome.

iii) To inspect scientific laboratories at Hendon (and

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at Wakefield, Birmingham or Bristol), and to note for future reference progress made in this direction.

iv) To examine for future reference the use of wireless in police work.

14. The Italian Ministry of Interior and the Commanding General of the Royal Carabinieri are enthusiastically in favour of this proposal and are prepared to send at the expense of the Italian Government the undermentioned representatives :-

Dott. Ugo SORRENTINO, Director of the Scientific Police School, Rome - the acknowledged Italian authority on fingerprints.

Dott. Antonio PIZZUTO, Chief Commissario at the Ministry of Interior, who has attended International Police Conferences in the past.

Major Alfredo ZANCHINO, who has acted as Liaison Officer between the Allied Commission and the Headquarters of the Royal Carabinieri since the occupation of Italy. He speaks fluent English, having spent many years in England prior to the war. He will be invaluable not only as an interpreter but in preparing reports for his own HQs and the Italian Government.

It is recommended that the party should be accompanied by Lieut. Col. Wilcox of the Public Safety Sub-Commission who has been in touch with the Ministry of the Interior on Public Safety matters during the past year. Lt. Col. Wilcox was at one time an Inspector in the Criminal Record Office at New Scotland Yard and has also had the advantage of studying American criminal record system in New York and Washington. He is a member of the Metropolitan Police and ~~will~~ be in a position to introduce the Italian mission to the English experts at New Scotland Yard and elsewhere and to guide them throughout their visit. It is thought that the mission could accomplish their work within a month.

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It is requested that the necessary authority for the visit be obtained from the War Office with the formal approval of the Home Office and the Commissioner of the Police of the Metropolis.

For the Chief Commissioner :

G. R. Upjohn
G. R. UPJOHN, Brig.
VP CA Sec
DCOS AC.

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
Civil Affairs Section
APC 304

AC/1442/PS

Tel: 489081 Ext 365

February 1945

SUBJECT : Visit of Italian Police Experts to England.

TO : His Excellency, The Director General of Public Security
Ministry of the Interior.

1. In confirmation of previous discussions, this Commission has made strong representations to the Allied authorities concerned to allow an Italian Police Mission to visit the Headquarters of the Metropolitan Police, New Scotland Yard, London, to study the fingerprint classification and the criminal record system.
2. It has been pointed out that the Scientific Police School in Rome is now in course of reconstruction after the destruction of the criminal records by the Fascists and Germans. It has been urged that the moment is opportune to decide whether the Italian ("Genti") system of fingerprint classification should be retained or the English ("Henry") system introduced. In this matter due regard should be given not only to the comparative efficiency and ease of operation of the two systems, but to the advisability of having a uniform system, which will facilitate the exchange of fingerprints between nations, particularly transmission by wireless code. The two systems have never been scientifically compared, but Dr. Sorrentino is confident that he will be able to reach a decision after two or three weeks' study of the practical working of the English system. The practicability of instituting a "Single Fingerprint Collection" similar to the English model also merits consideration.

On their side, the English experts will be keenly interested in the new method of classifying fingerprints with which Dr. Sorrentino is at present experimenting.

3. Apart from fingerprint classification, it has been ⁴⁶⁴⁰stated that the Italian Mission take the opportunity of studying the "modus operandi" criminal record system which has been highly developed in England during the past ten years.

4. It has therefore been proposed that the terms of reference of the Italian Police Mission should be as follows:

- 2 -

(i) To study the system of fingerprint classification at New Scotland Yard, London, and to recommend to the Italian Government whether to introduce it into Italy or to retain the "Gastl" system.

(ii) To study the system of keeping criminal records at New Scotland Yard (and if time permits at such centres as Wakefield, Birmingham or Bristol) particularly the:

Nominal Index
 Santed Index
 Logue Operandi system
 Motor Car Index
 Photograph Albums
 Police Gazettes and Circulations.

and to plan modern methods of keeping criminal records at the Scientific Police School in Rome.

(iii) To inspect the scientific laboratories at London (and at Wakefield, Birmingham or Bristol) and to note progress made in this direction which may be of value in reforming police laboratories in Italy.

(iv) To examine, for future reference, the use of wireless in police work.

5. In accordance with your recommendations, the undermentioned have been nominated as members of the Italian Police Mission:

Dott. Igo ROBERTINO, Director of the Scientific Police School, Rome.

Dott. Antonio FIZZITO, Capo Commissario, Directorate of Public Security, Ministry of the Interior.

Major Alfredo Zanchino, Royal Carabinieri, Liaison Officer with the Allied Commission.

6. It has also been recommended that the Italian Mission be accompanied throughout their visit by Lieut. Col. A.F. Wilcox, of the Public Safety Sub-Commission, Allied Commission who was formerly an Inspector in the Criminal Record Office at New Scotland Yard, London.

7. As soon as the necessary authority has been received from England you will be informed.

Att
 G.H. WYOMER, Brig
 VP, CA Sec
 CCOS, AC

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