

785016

ACC

10000/145/300

20900/7

PROTECTION OF MONUMENTS - TOP LEVEL I

Apr. 1944 - Feb. 1945

785016

S - TOP LEVEL ITALIAN GOVT. CRITICISM

945

785016

MFAA S/C
20900/7Protection of Monuments:
Top Level Italian Government Criticism

Allied Commission : MFAA S/C File No. 20900/7 (Protection of Monuments - To

Date	To
12 Feb	CA
14 Feb	MFA
17 "	MFA
21/2	MFA

785016

No. 20900/7 (Protection of Monuments - Top Level Italian Gov't Criticism)

Date

To

12 Feb CA

~~10 Feb MFA~~

17 " MFA

21/2 MFA

10000

145

/ 300

THIS FOLDER

CONTAINS PAPERS

FROM APRIL 1944

TO FEB 1948

CATALOGUE

785016

FEB 16 RECD

CC 449

Chief Commissioner.

2

Attached is submitted for your ~~information/signature/approval~~.

A first class letter in reply to p 10 - 8
Containing a well deserved but well covered rebuke

MS/15/2

20900/7/MFAA

Minutes I

①

To. COS

At this 12A is submitted a letter drafted in reply to this 10. The similar letter was received from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the end of November last, and was replied to by C.C. on 4. Dec. 45 (Page 9).

I/ approved my 12A please to be submitted to CC for signature of loose copies.

R. R. Gifford

OAS

14 FEB 45

X. COS

 $\frac{16}{2}$

COS

3

I have signed second page. First page should be rewritten. Prunas' Title had not been changed.

W.D.
CC

8772

CH Sec

4

Ref 1 please see minute 3 above.

Office of E.C.

17/2/45

Page retyped 10/2/45

17 Feb 45

J. Gordon Capt

Ref: 20900/1/1222

17 February 1945

Your Excellency,

I have noted the contents of your letter 31/01481 of 6 February 45.

A letter of similar content was addressed to me on 27 November 1944 by His Excellency Renato Prunas, Secretary General for Foreign Affairs, to which I replied on 4 December 1944.

May I repeat the assurances which I gave His Excellency that everything possible has been, is and will be done to avoid unnecessary damage to the cultural monuments and art treasures of Italy.

I assure that through the Ministry of Public Instruction you are informed of the work of Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives Sub-Commission of the Allied Commission. You will then know that on the instructions of the Commander in Chief of the Allied Forces in Italy, this Sub-Commission has compiled and published a series of 'Lists of Protected Monuments', which include all the more important historical and artistic buildings and monuments of Italy. The Commander in Chief has also caused to be issued a set of instructions designed specially to protect such monuments and in particular forbidding the occupation and requisition of any of the buildings listed in the 'Lists of Protected Monuments' unless on grounds of strong military necessity, and then only under conditions such as to ensure the safety both of the building and its contents.

The 'Lists of Protected Monuments', together with these instructions, which are printed within, are distributed to all branches of the Allied Armed Forces. In addition, officer experts of the Sub-Commission are present with the armies and enter each captured town at the earliest opportunity to ensure the enforcement of these instructions and, in conjunction with the responsible local Italian authorities, to initiate repairs and first-aid to those monuments which have been damaged. As the armies move on, their work is taken over by other officers of the Sub-Commission.

In the preparation of the Lists and in the actual operations in the field, the assistance of Italian officials has been solicited and employed whenever possible. Inspectors of the Director General of Antiquities and Fine Arts have been sent to stricken areas such as Florence, Rimini, and Ancona at the request of the Ministry. The closest relationships exist between the regional officers of the Sub-Commission and the regional Superintendents of the Director General.

- 2 -

I should, however, welcome any specific proposals which you have in mind for action of the Sub-Commission and for specific examples of monuments of national artistic significance which have not received the protection of the above-mentioned operational programs.

It would appear from the letters of Marshal Badoglio which you mention and of His Excellency Renato Frances, as well as from your own, that information on the condition of historical and artistic monuments and of the measures taken to protect them, which is regularly transmitted by the Sub-Commission to the Director General of Antiquities and Fine Arts is displaced in the administrative machinery and does not reach the Minister of Public Instruction himself.

Is it not possible that the appointment of a technical expert in the field of Fine Arts as Director General of Antiquities and Fine Arts - a post which at this critical time has been left temporarily vacant - would go a long way in alleviating your concern and making the collaboration of the Ministry of Public Instruction and the Sub-Commission of Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives more efficient?

Very truly yours,

6770

HENRY W. STONE,
Rear Admiral, USNR,
Chief Commissioner.

His Excellency Alcide De Gasperi,
Minister for Foreign Affairs,
Italian Government,
ROME.

785016

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

Office of the Chief Commissioner

APO 394

Ref: 20900/7/AFAAFebruary 1945

Your Excellency:

I have noted the contents of your letter 31/01481 of 6 February 45.

A letter of similar content was addressed to me on 27 November 1944 by His Excellency Renato Prunas, then Secretary General for Foreign Affairs, to which I replied on 4 December 1944.

May I repeat the assurances which I gave His Excellency that everything possible has been, is, and will be done to avoid unnecessary damage to the cultural monuments and art treasures of Italy.

I assume that through the Ministry of Public Instruction you are informed of the work of the Sub-Commission of Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives Sub-Commission of the Allied Commission. You will then know that on the instructions of the ^{Commander-in-Chief} of the Allied Forces in Italy this Sub-Commission has compiled and published a series of "Lists of Protected Monuments", which include all the more important historical and artistic buildings and monuments of Italy. The ^{Chief} Commander-in-Chief has also caused to be issued a set of instructions designed specially to protect such monuments and in particular forbidding the occupation and requisition of any of the buildings listed in the "Lists of Protected Monuments" unless on grounds of strong military

possible has been, is, and will be done to avoid unnecessary damage to the cultural monuments and art treasures of Italy.

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on their work is taken over by other officers of the Sub-Commission.

In the preparation of the Lists and in the actual operations in the field the assistance of Italian officials has been solicited and employed whenever possible. Inspectors of the Directorate ^{Antiquities and Fine Arts} General of ~~Monuments~~ have been sent to stricken areas such as Florence, Rimini and Ancona at the request of the Ministry. The closest relationships exist between the regional officers of the Sub-Commission and the regional Superintendents ^{the Directorate General} of Monuments.

I should, ^{however,} therefore, welcome any specific proposals which you have in mind for action of the Sub-Commission and for specific examples of monuments of national artistic significance which have not received the protection of the above-mentioned operational program.

It would appear from the letters of Marshal Badoglio's which you mention and of His Excellency Renato Prunas as well as from your own, that information on the condition of historical and artistic monuments and of the measures taken to protect them, which is ^{regularly} transmitted by the Sub-Commission to the ^{General Superintendence and the Arts} Director of ~~Monuments~~ is displaced in the administrative machinery and does not reach the ^{Minister} Ministry of Public Instruction ^{itself}.

^{is it} It is not possible that the presence of a technical expert in the field of Fine Arts as Director ^(General of Antiquities and Fine Arts) ~~of Monuments~~, a post which at this critical time has been left temporarily vacant, - would go a long way in alleviating your concern and making the collaboration of the Ministry of Public Instruction and the

monuments of national artistic significance which have not received the protection of the above-mentioned operational program.

It would appear from the letters of Marshal Badoglio's which you mention and of His Excellency Renato Prunas as well as from your own, that information on the condition of historical and artistic monuments and of the measures taken to protect them, which is ^{regularly} transmitted by the Sub-Commission to the ^{General Directorate of Antiquities and Fine Arts} Director of Monuments is displaced in the administrative machinery and does not reach the ^{Minister} Ministry of Public Instruction ^{himself}.

^{Is it} It is not possible that the ^{appointment} presence of a technical expert in the field of Fine Arts as Director ^{General of Antiquities and Fine Arts} of Monuments, - a post which at this critical time has been left temporarily vacant, - would go a long way in alleviating your concern and making the collaboration of the Ministry of Public Instruction and the Sub-Commission of Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives more efficient?

Very truly yours

MILITARY W. STONE
Rear Admiral ~~Commander~~, USNR
Acting Chief Commissioner

His Excellency ~~Alcide~~ De Gasperi,
Minister for Foreign Affairs,
Italian Government,
R O M E.

785016

Translation

1945

Original = 100

A S E C

The Minister of Foreign Affairs
31/01/81

MFAA

10

Rome, 6 February 1945

Dear Admiral,

1

as you well know, last April, the question relative to the artistic palaces and other Italian monuments occupied by the Allies was the cause of an exchange of letters between Marshal Badoglio and General Mac Farlane.

Though stressing the fact that he could issue no 'categorical prohibition', General Mac Farlane said that everything should be done to avoid the above mentioned buildings to be damaged, especially when those damages would be caused by requisitions from the Allied troops.

5A

In thanking the Chief Commissioner for these kind communications, on May 10th, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that it might mention this subject again, should the Italian technical organs make new proposals or new suggestions.

The question is of greater importance and actuality everyday because of the progress of the liberation of the Italian territory.

I don't need to tell you how well I realize the numerous requirements of the Allied Military Authorities, and their wish to find premises which will answer their requirements; nevertheless, I can only wish for their choice to fall on buildings of small historical and artistic interest, the more so as it is often impossible to avoid the buildings to be damaged when put to a use to which they cannot be adapted, even when taking all possible precautions.

I shall therefore be most grateful to you, if you will kindly examine the question, and I hope you will agree with me about the opportunity to exclude from requisition all the buildings which are of great artistic interest, or, may be, all those which are included in the list of National Monuments.

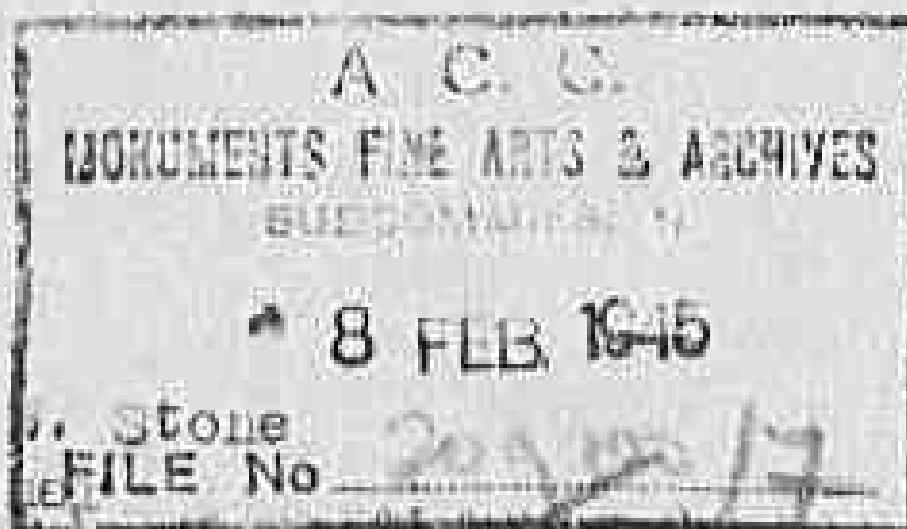
I am waiting to hear your opinion on this subject and I remain,

Truly yours,

S. De Gasperi

6767

⊗ not on
file with MFAA.



Admiral Ellery J. Stone
Chief Commissioner
Allied Commission
R o m e

To: MFAA
e.c.

W. J. S. Dollard, Major

C.A-fee

8 Feb 45

Case Hist - 7 FEB 45

Action: C.A.S.E.C.

INFO: CHIEF COMR

CoS

1072

Il Ministro degli Affari Esteri

31/01/51

10A
transla-
tion
of
10

Roma, li 6 FEB 1945

Signor Ammiraglio,

nello scorso aprile, come Ella sa, la questione relativa ai Palazzi artistici ed altri Monumenti italiani occupati dagli Alleati costituì oggetto di uno scambio di lettere fra il Maresciallo Badoglio e il Generale Mac Farlane.

Il Generale Mac Farlane, pur facendo presente di non poter emanare "nessuna proibizione categorica", ebbe in quell'occasione ad assicurare che tutto il possibile sarebbe stato fatto per evitare danni agli edifici anzidetti, specie quando tali danni traessero origine da requisizioni da parte delle truppe Alleate.

Nel ringraziare il Commissario in Capo per le cortesie comunicazioni di cui sopra, il Ministero degli Affari Esteri si riservava, in data 10 maggio u.s., di tornare sull'argomento qualora nuove proposte e suggerimenti fossero stati presentati dagli organi tecnici italiani.

La questione ha assunto sempre maggiore importanza ed è destinata a divenire sempre più attuale col procedere della liberazione del territorio italiano.

E' superfluo io le dica che mi rendo perfettamente conto

Alleati costitui l'oggetto di uno scambio di lettere fra il Maresciallo Badoglio e il Generale Mac Farlane.

Il Generale Mac Farlane, pur facendo presente di non poter emanare "nessuna proibizione categorica", ebbe in quell'occasione ad assicurare che tutto il possibile sarebbe stato fatto per evitare danni agli edifici anzidetti, specie quando tali danni traessero origine da requisizioni da parte delle truppe Alleate.

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La questione ha assunto sempre maggiore importanza ed è destinata a divenire sempre più attuale col procedere della liberazione del territorio italiano.

E' superfluo io Le dica che mi rendo perfettamente conto delle molteplici esigenze delle Autorità Militari Alleate e del loro desiderio di trovare locali che rispondano ai loro bisogni, ma non posso che auspicare che la loro scelta ricada su edifici in cui l'interesse storico ed artistico non sia preminente, tanto più che, malgrado ogni predisposta cautela, è spesso inevitabile

All'Ammiraglio Ellery W. STONE
Commissario in Capo
Commissione Alleata

R O M A

./.

che i fabbricati abbiano a soffrire danni da un impiego al quale non possono essere adatti.

Le sarò pertanto grato se vorrà attentamente esaminare la questione e spero molto che vorrà concordare con me sulla opportunità di escludere dalle requisizioni gli edifici di importante interesse artistico o addirittura compresi nell'elenco dei Monumenti Nazionali.

In attesa di cortesie comunicazioni circa il Suo punto di vista al riguardo, La prego di gradire, Signor Ammiraglio, i sensi della mia alta considerazione.

Leggimy

Ref: 20900/5/AFPA.

4 December 1944.

Your Excellency:

I note the contents of your 0451 of 27 November, 1944.

I can assure you that everything possible has been, is being, and will continue to be done to avoid unnecessary destruction of your country's cultural monuments and treasures.

Experience has shown that the combat forces are most cooperative in preventing damage to monuments and fine arts always subject to operational necessities and I am sure that the Minister of Public Instruction, who has been kept in close touch with affairs by the Monuments and Fine Arts Sub-Commission as we move north, will agree that this is so.

Very truly yours:

1st Ellery W. Stone

ELLERY W. STONE
Commodore, USNR
Chief Commissioner

6766

His Excellency Renato Prinas,
Secretary General for Foreign Affairs,
Italian Government,
R O M E.

Copy to: COS
"A" File

785016

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

APO 394

Office of the Chief of Staff

~~26~~
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8

1 DEC. 1944

Tel: 289

30 November 1944.

Ref: 3002/6/COS

SUBJECT: Monuments and Fine Arts.

TO : Civil Affairs Section.

8A

8B

Attached original and translation of a letter dated 27 Nov 44 from Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs addressed to the Chief Commissioner is passed to you for necessary action and reply for signature of the Chief Commissioner.

Sharden
Chief Staff Officer,
to the Chief of Staff.

Incl:
as above

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MINISTERO
DEGLI AFFARI ESTERI

IL SEGRETARIO GENERALE

Roma, 11 27 NOV 1941

24/BA

Caro Ammiraglio,

desidero attirare la Sua cortese attenzione su una questione che sono certo sta a cuore anche a Lei e alle Autorità Alleate.

Man mano che la guerra avanza verso Settentrione, si aggrava la minaccia contro nostra città del più alto interesse storico ed artistico. In questi giorni gli orrori della guerra minacciano Bologna e forse ancor più Ravenna, questo impareggiabile tesoro d'arte, prezioso per l'Oriente non meno che per l'Occidente.

Sono certo che i Comandi Alleati hanno già di loro propria iniziativa preso le opportune disposizioni perché le due città siano, per quanto possibile, risparmiate. Ma grande è tutta

Al Comodoro E.W. STONE
Chief Commissioned, AG.

6766

ROMA

523

ROUGH TRANSLATION

Dear Admiral,

I wish to draw your kind attention on a question which I am certain you, as well as the Allied Authorities, hold very much to heart.

As the war advances northwards, the threat to our cities of the highest historical and artistic interest increases day by day. The horrors of war now impend over Bologna and perhaps even more over Ravenna, unrivalled artistic centre precious to the East not less than to the West.

I am sure that the Allied Commands have already taken all necessary measures with a view to sparing, as far as possible, these two cities. Nevertheless, great is the anxiety in all Italian artistic and cultural circles for their fate.

The Ministry of Public Education, whose General Direction of Antiquities and Fine Arts keep themselves in close contact with the Fine Arts Commission of the Allied Command, have imparted to this Ministry the expressions of that anxiety and it is in their name that I earnestly request you to do all that is your power in order to avoid that the war should bring tragic destruction to the two cities and to all the treasures of art they contain.

Believe me, dear Admiral, sincerely yours,

6765

Prunas

24/8B

these two cities. Nevertheless, great is the anxiety in all Italian artistic and cultural circles for their fate.

The Ministry of Public Education, whose General Direction of Antiquities and Fine Arts keep themselves in close contact with the Fine Arts Commission of the Allied Command, have imparted to this Ministry the expressions of that anxiety and it is in their name that I earnestly request you to do all that is your power in order to avoid that the war should bring tragic destruction to the two cities and to all the treasures of art they contain.

Believe me, dear Admiral, sincerely yours,

6765

Prunas

Prunas

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HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394

ETDW/bmp

Subcommission for Monuments Fine Arts and Archives

[20900/2] MFAA

12 May 1944.

Subject: Protection of Artistic Patrimony of Italy.

To : Vice President, Administrative Section.

1. Ref. Memo 9/3.1/AS of 11 May 44 the following is submitted.

2. All possible measures are being taken to assure the conservation of monuments and works of art as set forth in our 20900/2/MFAA of 23 April 1944, copy attached. (See also ACC/040.-6/AS of 25 Apr 44 and the Chief Commissioner's letter to Marshal Badoglio, 341/73/CA, of 30 Apr 44.)

3. The work of repair and reconstruction so far has been:-

a. Region 1. Ca. 225 projects involving between nineteen and twenty million Lire approved for expenditures.b. Region 2. Approximately 16 projects.c. Region 3. 32 projects, with approximately twenty million Lire made available to the Royal Superintendents to date.d. Region 5 (8 Army). 6 repair projects instituted.

e. In addition to the specific repair projects just mentioned action of a temporary character has been taken in a large number of instances to safeguard the structure or contents of damaged monuments, particularly in forward areas, pending the establishment of conditions where work of a more permanent character will be possible.

4. Close liaison has been established with the representatives of the Italian Government and with the Royal Superintendents. Several conferences have already been held with the newly appointed director of Monuments and the inspector general of Monuments in the new government to discuss plans and action in the territory administered by the Italian government. It is proposed to have

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regular fortnightly meetings with these Italian officials.

5. All along, both in the Subcommittee and in the various Regions, Italian officials have been consulted in the making of plans and in the execution of them.

ETD

ERNEST T. DE WALD
Major, Spec. Res.
Director.

6762

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HEAD HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394
ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION.

~~HA~~ 6

MEMO:

9/3.1/48

11 May 48.

TO : Legal Sub-Comm.
Public Safety Sub-Comm.
Interior Sub-Comm.
Education Sub-Comm.
Monuments, Fine Arts & Archives Sub-Comm.

- 1 The following is an extract of a letter written on the instruction of the Chief Commissioner.
2. The Chief Commissioner desires that you examine the questions raised by the Marshal which concern your Section and present your reactions in writing at the earliest possible date, in order that the Chief Commissioner may make arrangements for the meeting requested by the Marshal.
- 2 Attached are extracts from the enclosure to Marshal Badoglio's letter. Will you please submit your comments at the earliest possible moment.

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6B

[Signature]
F.R. RIPPON,
Lieut. Colonel,
for VP Admin Section.

ARTISTIC PATRIMONY

16A

Particularly grave are the devastations which Italian artistic patrimony, the patrimony indeed of all civilized nations, has suffered due to war. All possible measures to assure conservation of works of art, monuments still existing, bibliographical material and the repair and reconstruction of the galleries, institutes of art should be put into effect at once. In this respect joint undertakings would be desirable as to the action to be taken in the territory administered by the Italian Government and in that still controlled by the Allies.

6761

785016

TRANSLATION

No 1941

Salerno, 13 April 1944.

Office of the Chief of the Government

1 Enclosure.

Dear General.

On March 10 I welcomed the opportunity of explaining to you my point of view concerning the criteria which in my opinion should have inspired the actions of the Allied Control Commission. I also proposed a meeting between the Commission and members of my Government in order that they might examine together the problems requiring a more urgent solution for the industrial, agricultural and military rebirth of Italy so as to provide a still more effective contribution in the fight against the common enemy.

You suggested that I draw up a Memorandum of the subjects to be discussed and I am pleased to send you a resume of the questions which could be examined at the meeting.

As you will note, there are many questions of which several are complex, but all of which require an urgent solution in the common interest for the realization of that plan of reconstruction of my country to which my Government and I are pledged.

I am certain that a frank exchange of views between the members of my Government and the Allied Control Commission would bring about a settlement of even the most difficult problems; all the more if it should be possible, as I hope, to place the relations between the Commission and Government on a different level from the present one, so that they may be carried on with greater mutual trust.

Without doubt this would expedite the action of the Government thus eliminating the detailed checks which hinder the reconstruction effort of the Italian authorities and their loyal desire to make every possible contribution to the common war effort.

If you agree, I ask you, dear General, kindly to advise me of the date when the projected meeting can be held.

With my cordial greetings,

(signed) SALOMEO 676

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HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
R.C. & M.G. SECTION
APO 394

2/0
5
11

Ref/341/74/CA

3 May 1944

SUBJECT: Damage to Monuments, Etc.

TO : Admin Sect. (for Monuments & Fine Arts
Sub-Comm.)

3

Reference your ACC/O40-6/AS of 25 April 1944
copy of letter to Marshall Badoglio signed by the
Chief Commissioner is passed to you for information.

5A

Diffield White
for NORMAN E. FISKE
Colonel
Deputy Executive
Commissioner

may 94

6759

785016

Re: 341/73/CA.

30th April 1944. ~~22~~ 5A

SUBJECT: Damage to Monuments.

TO : S. Excellency Marshal Badoglio,
Capo del Governo.Your file N° 2178. 4

1. Your letter of 6th April has been given very full and sympathetic consideration. The special points raised in the memorandum which accompanies your letter have been and still are of great concern to the Allied Governments.

2. You will like to know the arrangements that have been made to meet our mutual requirements.

3. General Eisenhower and General Alexander have by letter drawn the attention of all Commanders to the need of avoiding by all possible means, damage to monumental buildings of historic and artistic importance; it is considered that no absolute prohibitions to occupation by troops can be made.

4. Lists of buildings, graded by importance, have been drawn up in consultation with Italian Superintendents. These lists are now being printed for circulation. These buildings may only be occupied under certain clearly defined conditions and authority from a Major General or officer of equivalent rank.

5. Where it has been found necessary to occupy a listed building, provision is made for the dispersal of the contents on the lines you suggest.

6. Arrangements for protection are included in all plans for future operations.

7. I am happy to be able to inform you that your proposals have been so covered and to assure you that further proposals on this subject will receive consideration.

NOEL MASON MACFARLANE
Lieutenant General,
Chief Commissioner.

224

20004/ni11A

29 April 44

Subject: Discussions with the Italian Government

To: Vice President, Admin. Sect.

Ref. 9/3.1/AS of 22 Apr 44, subject as above.

1. 25 Apr 44: Major Ward-Perkins - Dott. Bruno Molaioli, Superintendent of Monuments, Naples (representative of Ministry of Education and Fine Arts in Naples).

2. Discussed substance of complaint from Marshal Badoglio, and general terms of Admin. Instr. No. 10. Molaioli has already cooperated over Lazio - Abruzzi and S. Italian lists and has agreed to check those for regions further north. He is convinced that the complaint was initiated by the Crown Prince, who has been very much concerned throughout, and stresses the adverse effect on public opinion of events in the Royal Palace since the Allied Occupation.

ERNEST T. DE WARD 6757
Major, Spec. Res.
Director.

Copy to:
File 20900/2.

REAR HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 374
ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION

AGC/040.-6/43

SUBJECT : Damage to Monuments etc.

TO : Executive Commissioner.

25 Apr 44

Reference your 341/55/6A dated 20 Apr 44.

1 Attached is a fairly comprehensive dossier of the more important developments and action taken in these matters, raised by Marshal Badoglio's letter No. 2178 of the 6 Apr. This has been compiled by MFA & A Sub-Commission in order to give their views and is forwarded for your reference.

2 In short, the following comments are made.

a Much of the damage referred to was presented to this Commission as a fait accompli, largely attributed to the necessities of allied operations, increased to some extent by civilian ravages in the early stages of invasion; and by the billeting of troops in buildings NOT designed for hard wear and tear. An investigation into this has been made in the form of the Court of Enquiry presided over by Major-General Collier.

b It has NOT been found possible to carry out all the recommendations of this report for operational reasons.

c The Allied Army Commanders have had their attention drawn to these matters and have issued orders to prevent a repetition of damages NOT necessitated by operations.

d Proposals of Marshal Badoglio for the future are dealt with in detail in paras 7 and 8 of MFAA 50 20900/2/MFAA dated 23 Apr and are quoted for easy reference.

7. Marshal Badoglio's proposals for action against repetition of damage in the future. In addition to the letters written by General Eisenhower (29 Dec 43) and General Alexander (17 Mar 44), AAI Administrative Instruction (appended herewith "A"), which was issued on 30 Mar 44 after consultation with MFAA and embodies the general recommendations by the Commission of Enquiry, specifically covers all the points raised by the Marshal, except that (as already clearly defined by General Eisenhower) it is considered that

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- a. Much of the damage referred to was presented to this Commission as a fait accompli, largely attributed to the necessities of allied operations, increased to some extent by civilian ravages in the early stages of invasion; and by the billeting of troops in buildings NOT designed for hard wear and tear. An investigation into this has been made in the form of the Court of Enquiry presided over by Major-General Collier.
- b. It has NOT been found possible to carry out all the recommendations of this report for operational reasons.
- c. The Allied Army Commanders have had their attention drawn to these matters and have issued orders to prevent a repetition of damages NOT necessitated by operations.
- d. Proposals of Marshal Badoglio for the future are dealt with in detail in paras 7 and 8 of MEAA SC 20900/2/MEAA dated 23 Apr and are quoted for easy reference. 2
- e. Marshal Badoglio's proposals for action against repetition of damage in the future. In addition to the letters written by General Eisenhower (29 Dec 43) and General Alexander (17 Mar 44), AAI Administrative Instruction (appended herewith "A"), which was issued on 30 Mar 44 after consultation with MEAA and embodies the general recommendations by the Commission of Enquiry, specifically covers all the points raised by the Marshal, except that (as already clearly defined by General Eisenhower) it is considered that no absolute prohibitions to occupation can be made.
- f. Lists of buildings, graded by importance, have been drawn up. These buildings may only be occupied under certain very clearly defined conditions and authority from a Major General or officer of equivalent rank. Printing of these lists was necessarily withheld until the final approval of the Administrative Instruction covering them, but the first list (Lazio-Abruzzi) is now in proof.
- g. The Italian Superintendents have already been consulted over the preparation of these lists.
- h. Where it is found necessary to occupy a listed monument, provision made for the dispersal of contents on the lines suggested.
- i. Police arrangements are covered in general terms and have already been prepared in detail for Rome.

-1-



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8. Liaison with the Italian Superintendants in Naples has throughout been close, continuous, and cordial, although there has evidently been a certain lack of frankness on the part of Doctor Castelfranco, Director Generale of Belle Arti under the Ministry of Education at Salerno."

e Attention is drawn to the recommendations at para 10 marked X, with which I concur. Action re b has been taken in the form of a memo dated 24 Apr 44 placed before the Chief Commissioner on that day requesting that he take the matter up with C-in-C.

R.R. Cripps
R.R. CRIPPS, Lieut-Colonel,
G.S.O. Admin Section.

(prepared in the absence on duty of
V.R. Admin Sec.)

Copy to N.F.A.A.

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HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394

NEEN/100

Subcommission for Monuments Fine Arts and Archives

[20900/2/AFM]

23 April 1944.

Subject: Damage to Historical Monuments.

To : Vice President, Administrative Section.

1. Comment upon Marshal Badoglio's letter of 6 April on the subject of Historical and Artistic Monuments in Italy falls under two headings:

- a. The facts of the present situation;
- b. Concrete proposals for the future put forward in his attached memorandum.

2. The facts are that during the initial stages of occupation a certain amount of damage was undoubtedly done. This was investigated by a Commission of Enquiry appointed by the C.-in-C. sitting under Major-General Collier. The findings of this Commission (which have been fully borne out by the experience of the AFMA Subcommission) were that, while some of the damage alleged to have been done by troops was attributable to civilians, a proportion was undoubtedly the work of troops, and that both could in many cases have been prevented. Certain specific recommendations were therefore made with a view to preventing or minimizing such damage in the future.

3. In addition the Commission made a certain number of recommendations particular to individual buildings in Naples, including the Royal Palace. Except in one instance these recommendations have not since been put into effect, and the failure to implement them is undoubtedly the prime cause of the Marshal's letter. In each case it may be added that the AFMA Subcommission has been presented from the start with a fait-accompli.

4. The Royal Palace at Naples was badly damaged prior to the occupation and undoubtedly suffered considerably from neglect in the early stages of the occupation. The careless damage and pilfering disclosed by the Commission's enquiry ceased some months ago; but the subsequent sweeping work of repair, undertaken by the RH's with a view to the installation of an S.P.I. rest-centre, has been carried on with only a very superficial regard for the historical importance of the building. The advice of the AFMA Subcommission's representative has been frequently overruled and the Italian Superintendent for Monuments and his staff denied admittance and treated with great discourtesy. After all efforts at liaison had failed to produce any noticeable improvement, the matter was reported in detail to the Chief Commissioner, who on 27 April wrote to the C.-in-C. on the matter. His letter was referred to the C.A.C. for investigation, and a full reply is still awaited.

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5. Caserta Palace. The actual structure has not suffered to any extent from occupation, and is not likely to suffer; the fittings and pictures on the other hand have suffered severely from indiscriminate "requisition" and it was not until 19 March that the MFASA Subcommittee, by agreement with A.A.I., was finally able to secure the necessary storage-space within the palace and an authorization to withdraw to it what remained of the more important historical fittings and furniture. This arrangement is now threatened with cancellation by AFM (see attached document *item 15*).

6. The Accademia di Belle Arti is an educational institution housed in a building of little historic or artistic importance. This building is now used as a hospital, and, while the necessity for the requisition of any cultural institution is a matter of regret, in the opinion of the MFASA Subcommittee it is, under present conditions, very properly so employed. *The Comm. of Enq. could find no evidence of improper action (see attached report from findings).*

7. Marshal Badoglio's proposals for action against the repetition of damage in the future. In addition to the letters written by General Eisenhower (29 Dec 43) and General Alexander (17 Mar 44), A.A.I. Administrative Instruction (appended herewith--A), which was issued on 30 Mar 44 after consultation with MFASA and embodies the general recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry, specifically covers all the points raised by the Marshal, except that (as already clearly defined by General Eisenhower) it is considered that no absolute prohibitions to occupation can be made.

- a. Lists of buildings, graded by importance, have been drawn up. These buildings may only be occupied under certain very clearly defined conditions and authority from a Major General or officer of equivalent rank. Printing of these lists was necessarily withheld until the final approval of the Administrative Instruction covering them, but the first list (Lazio - Abruzzi) is now in proof (Adm. Instr., paras. 3-5).
- b. The Italian Superintendents have already been consulted over the preparation of these lists (Adm. Instr., para. 6).
- c. Where it is found necessary to occupy a listed monument, provision is made for the dispersal of contents on the lines suggested (Adm. Instr., para 7).
- d. Police arrangements are covered in general terms (Adm. Instr., para. 6) and have already been prepared in detail for Rome.

8. Liaison with the Italian Superintendents in Naples has throughout been close, continuous, and cordial, although there has evidently been a certain lack of frankness on the part of Doctor Castelfranco, Director General of Belle Arti under the Ministry of Education at Salerno.

9. While it is false to say that "many irreparable acts of damage continue to be committed", there is no doubt that the two Royal Palaces mentioned are a sore spot and are nullifying the effect of the good work

that is being done by ACC in regard to many other monuments. Furthermore a lot of the damage done has been most unnecessary, and the recent episodes do not augur well for the future application of the terms of Administrative Instruction No. 10.

10. Specifically the NFASA Subcommittee suggests:-

- a. The Royal Palace, Naples, that in view of the Chief Commissioner's letter of _____ and the virtual completion of the repair-work, no further action is at present needed. The Officer i.C. E.F.I. has expressed anxiety to cooperate, and the Subcommittee, in conjunction with the Italian Superintendency, is producing a suitable guide-book for the use of troops.

There is some confusion still on the ultimate fate of that part of the Palace due for allocation to American troops. The very significant item in this section is the National Library, and it is hoped that this can be safeguarded without further resource to Higher Authority.

- b. Caserta Royal Palace, that AFHQ be urged to reconsider their decision to appropriate the storage-space at present allocated by A.A.I. (see attached correspondence C. /).

11-25

ERNEST T. DE WILD
Major, Spec. Res.
Director.

6752

Attachment to letter 20900/2/MPAA
23 April 44

Extract from "Report by the Allied Commission of Enquiry Appointed to Investigate Damage Alleged to Have Been Done to Real and Personal Property of Historical and Educational Importance in Italy":

+ + + + +

Regia Accademia di Belle Arti.

35. This institution consists partly of a gallery of modern art (19th Century) and partly of an art school. The Commission felt that the evidence as to damage was unreliable. The only Italian witness was the director, an old man who was obviously breaking up as a result of seeing his institution taken over by Allied troops. The Commission do not wish to imply that he deliberately tried to mislead them, but his memory was failing and he could not say what damage or loss had occurred. The Commission therefore examined the commanding officer and adjutant of the occupying unit. All that the Commission were able to establish was that the American hospital now in occupation of the institution had gone to an immense amount of trouble on their first arrival to help the director and his assistants either to remove the more important contents of the institution to another building, or to carry them to another part of the institution where they were walled up. This took about three weeks. The commanding officer admitted that, although every care was taken, some damage was done, but so far as the Commission could ascertain the objects damaged were either plaster casts or student paintings. The Commission were unable to see the damage for themselves, as all the objects removed had been stored in special rooms and walled up. So far as they could ~~ascertain~~ find out, nothing had been lost or damaged that falls properly within the scope of this enquiry.

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Copy of TranslationAlso filed
20900

File No. 2178.

Salerno, 6 April 1944

Dear General:

There have not escaped your attention the damages inflicted upon Italian buildings and monuments of high artistic value during their occupation by Allied units and officers. To the solemn declarations of the responsible political heads of Great Britain and United States, there have followed the definite orders issued by General Eisenhower, and later by General Alexander for the respect to the artistic buildings which the Allied troops were obliged to use because of war necessity. Nevertheless, many irreparable damages have been inflicted and continue to be committed. The frequent contacts between the officers of the Italian Government and the members of the Fine Arts Sub-Commission do not seem to have brought concrete results.

I shall limit myself to mention, among the most serious damages, those inflicted at the Palazzo Reale at Naples from which large quantities of furniture, paintings, books and tapestries have been carried away: similar fate has befallen the Palazzo Reale at Caserta and the Accademia di Belle Arti of Naples, to mention only the principal cases.

In order to obviate in the future such serious occurrences (and in the very near future we hope to find ourselves in cities such as Rome, Firenze, Siena, Assisi, etc.,) where the artistic treasures are innumerable, I have summed up in the enclosed Memorandum several measures which could be taken in common agreement between the A.C.C. and the Italian Government, and later made known to AFHQ in Italy for the execution of the consequent instructions.

If you are in agreement, in principle, with the proposals contained in the said Memorandum, contacts could be established between your appropriate representatives and officers of the Italian Government to determine the details.

I have no doubt that my proposals will find favorable consideration on your part, because I know how vivid and profound the concern is in British and North American public opinion to safeguard this common cultural patrimony of humanity.

In anticipation of your courteous reply, I beg of you to accept, my dear General, my best regards.

The Chief of Government,

's' BADOGLIO

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C O P Y O F T R A N S L A T I O N

Copy of Translation

Enclosure to Marshal Badoglio's letter No. 2178 of 6 Apr. 44.

1A

MEMORANDUM

1. Renewal of absolute prohibition to occupy and requisition for military use buildings of high monumental, archeological and artistic importance.

A list of such buildings (beginning with those of the region of Rome) shall be drawn up in agreement between the Sub-commission of Fine Arts and the R. Soprintendenza Belle Arti of Naples.

Such buildings, gradually as the Italian cities become occupied, should be closed and watched over by the Military Police and by the Royal Carabinieri.

2. Always in agreement, compilation of a list of historical buildings which could be used only in case of absolute necessity, only with certain precaution.

In these the objects of art shall be removed and turned over to local Soprintendenze delle Belle Arti or to the technical offices of the Communes. The furniture of artistic value shall be assembled in an enclosure which shall be walled. There will remain in effect the prohibition to carry away the tapestries and other accessories.

3. Representatives of the Subcommission of Fine Arts will supervise, along with the Allied Commands, to the closing of the buildings referred to in item 1, and to the eventual requisition of those mentioned in item 2.

