

785016

ACC

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20904/3

AFRICA- ABYSSINIAN CROWNS

MAY - OCT 1945

785014

CONFIDENTIAL

2090413/A

AFRICA

AFRICA - Abyssinia

can. Comm.

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AFRICA - 24/100

36

CAS: This information was given to us in strictest confidence and is, quite frankly, a matter of more than a little delicacy. I would most strongly counsel against any disclosure, even Restricted; and I think the humor of the circumstances, while real and compelling, is also full of political dynamite. Cannot publication be avoided?

Newton may be
in WFAA SIC

5146

23 Nov 45
x 442

CA Sec (MFM) ✓ 37

Deleted from Bulletin.

M. S. LUSH $\frac{24}{X}$

785016

- 33 -

OCT 15 RECD

1300

~~OCT 13 RECD~~

~~1230~~

Chief Commissioner.

approval

Attached is submitted for your signature information

Note: Signed by me
See 10/10
12.

NV (13/12)

5145

- 34 -

Civil Affairs Section: (MFAA)

Returned letter signed for despatch
 Copies withdrawn for C.C. & Ex Com files

17/10

RB for Capt.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMISSIONER

- 35 -

CAS: Ref your BF 7 Nov. We have been told 5144

informally by a representative of the Ministry of the Interior that they have made the embarrassing discovery that the crowns are of base metal! They are now investigating to determine whether these are in fact the originals, or whether they are imitations. In the latter case, the Ministry are attempting to determine whether Italy did in fact

Civil Affairs Section: (MFAA)

Returned letter signed for dispatch

Copies submitted for CC & Ex Com files

17/10

BB *[Signature]* Capt

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMISSIONER

- 35

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8 Nov 45
X 442

W. S. Johnston Maj. A/C
A/Dia MFAA S/C

BEST COPY POSSIBLE
FILMED AS FOUND
IN COLLECTION

(12)

Ref: 20904/3/A/MFAA

14 October 1945

My dear Professor Parri,

I am informed that in May last after the successful conclusion of operations in North Italy the Italian authorities were able to recover near Monza three crowns of the Abyssinian Royal Family which had formerly been displayed in the Fascist Museo Coloniale. These crowns which were the regalia of the Emperor Haile Selassie, the Emperor John and Ras Kassa are still, I gather, in Italian custody.

I am advised that the legal position as regards these trophies is obscure, but that both the British and American Governments consider that in view of their sentimental value to the Abyssinian people it would be a courteous gesture on the part of the Italian Government to offer to return them to the Abyssinian Royal House in token of the Italian people's desire to restore feelings of mutual friendship and confidence between themselves and the Ethiopians. I need hardly add that such a gesture would have a particular value at the present time.

I should accordingly be grateful if you would examine this suggestion and inform me in due course of the decision you reach.

Yours very truly,

BF 7 Nov

M. S. L. L. L. L.

MILBY W. STONE
Rear Admiral, USNR
Chief Commissioner

5132

Professor Ferruccio Parri
The President of the Council of Ministers
Italian Government
Rome

Copied by cent
to Polad A
Polad B

also C/C

E/C

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B. M. L. L. L.
+154

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HEAR
Vice-President,
Civil Affairs Section, AC.

4 SET 1945

5 SET 1945

Hear

(11)

20

Subject: Ethiopian Crowns

With reference to Mr. J. Wesley Jones' letter, of August 13th, to the Civil Affairs Section, I write to inform you that the British Government concur in the proposal to suggest to the Italian Government that it might, of its own initiative, return the Ethiopian Crown Jewels to the Ethiopian Government.

I should be grateful if you would keep me informed of any further developments.

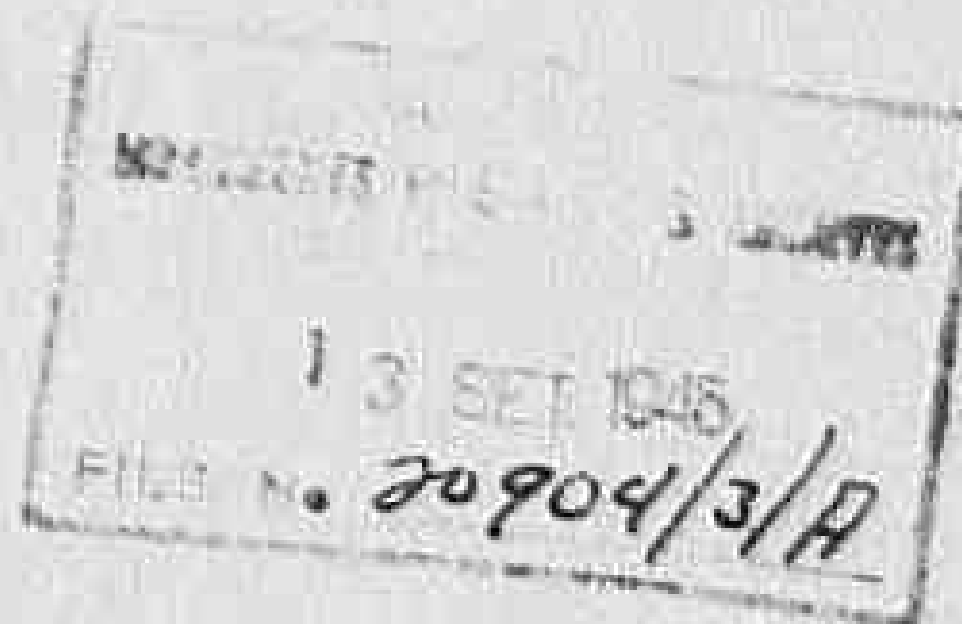
J. Hopkinson

Political Advisor (BR)

4.ix.45

Copy to Polad (A)

493/ /45



5129

(3309) 512

4 SET 1945

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To N.F.A. & A.

Please return with
ple. & your comments.

John Deaver

14 July 65.

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COMMISSION
mission

ED/CTH/ams

16 April, 1945

April.

16 APR 1945

Committees under DLL 159 have been named in
is being urged to follow through with
or AMG. ✓

With the Vice President, CA Section, the
Bureau of Education and AFSA Subcommittees to
exchange between Italy and the Allies. The
number of steps had been taken. He is appoint-
exchange of professors and students.

University of Rome has requested the Education
of student organizations and university
Britain and United States to put it in touch
on sent accordingly.

785016

CONFIDENTIALHEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

Ref: AC/20901/3/A/MTAA

29 Jan 45

SUBJECT: Abyssinian Crown Jewels.

TO: AFHQ, G-5 Section.

5121

- 1 The three crowns of the Abyssinian Royal House have been recovered and are in the custody of the Italian Government. In addition, a considerable section of the Museo Coloniale is devoted to trophies from Abyssinia and there are some items which are presumably of considerable sentimental value to the Abyssinian people.
- 2 In the opinion of this Commission, the legal position would appear to be as follows: as the Italia-Abyssinian War must be deemed to have ended prior to the commencement of this war the crowns became the property of Italy. On the other hand, the Allies would appear to have the right to seize the crowns under Article 53 of the Hague Rules, so they can be made the subject of a Term of the Peace Treaty and thus handed back to Abyssinia.
- 3 In the assumption that Italy will be required to hand them over by one of these two methods, it is felt that this Commission would be justified in taking them into custody. It does, however, involve a major question of policy on which your direction is sought. The question is, whether the Commission should insist on taking control of them at the present time or not.

FOR THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER:


G.S. UPJOHN, Brig..
VP CA Section.

785016

22 MAG. 1946

4
 (2) 31
 28

LOMBARDIA REGION FOR LIEUT GOVT

0166

22 May 45

ROUTINE

RESTRICTED PD

5114

SUBJECT IS TREASURE DISCOVERED NEAR MONZA PD

PAWEN TO LOMBARDIA REGION FOR LIEUT GOVT FROM MR ALGER CITE MONZA
PAPER

REPORTS IN PRESS STATE THAT BERGSPAN CROWN JEWELS HAVE BEEN
 LOCATED NEAR MONZA PD THEY WERE REMOVED FROM RUSSO COLOMIA
 IN 1938 TOGETHER WITH COIN COLLECTION AND OTHER SELECTED SMALL
 OBJECTS FROM TRIPOLITANIA PD EARLY REPORT WOULD BE APPRECIATED

MM & EA S/C

Ext. 142

20904/3

22 MAG. 1946

