

0 2 9 2

12350 Section 7.3/WND No.

785016

ACC

10000/145/355

20905/1

LA VISTA THOMPSON RESEARCH ORGANIZATION

AUG. 1945 - MAR. 1946

20905/1/AFAA

CONFIDENTIAL

HQ ALLIED COMMISSION

AFAA 8/C

20905/J:

La Vista - ThompsonResearchOrganisation

C/O:

JOINT DIPLOMATIC
RESEARCH

AGENCY

aliasALLIED POLITICAL
RESEARCH AGENCY~~SECRET~~

CONFIDENTIAL

Date to

6 Sept CAFE

17 Sept CAFE Sec

AFAA

CONFIDENTIAL

0 2 9 4

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

785016

9-16-46

6 Sept. C.A.S.

17 Sept. C.A.S.

~~18 Sept. C.A.S.~~

18 Sept. C.A.S.

19 Sept. M.F.A.

20 Sept. C.A.S.

21 Sept. C.A.S.

25 Sept. C.A.S.

~~1 Oct. C.A.S.~~

2 Oct. C.A.S.

3 Oct. M.F.A.

5 Oct. C.A.S.

1 Nov. C.A.S.

1 Nov. M.F.A.

5 Nov. C.A.S.

5 Nov. C.A.S.

6 Nov. M.F.A.

13 Nov. C.A.S.

15 Nov. M.F.A.

15 Nov. M.F.A.

13 Dec. C.A.S.

Local book

C.A.S.

10000 / 445 / 355

THIS FOLDER

CONTAINS PAPERS

FROM AUG. 1945

TO MAR. 1946

CATALOGUE

CONFIDENTIAL

To Mr. J.A.A.

Ref conversation Maj Bill - Maj
Reagan - the draft as originally prepared
should be approved.

15 Jan. 46.

J. Reagan Maj
CA Section.

Office Note.

I spoke Capt. Hall's secretary & asked her to tell
him (1) we approve the draft as originally prepared
(i.e. as at 22 without pencil amendments.)

(2) we shall be grateful if APRA's answer to
21 may include a statement of their
intentions (a) regarding access by Italian
ministries (b) eventual handover of archives
to ministries. H.E.B. 15/1/46

23.C.A.S.

I have had a long conversation with the two Acting Heads of the Agency along the lines indicated in minute 22.

They refuse to include the additional para on the grounds that this letter is intended for lower military formations, for whom the relationship ~~with~~ between the Agency & the Italian Government is unimportant. Mr. Halford (Asst. Polad B) agrees with the Agency that, under the circumstances, the additional para would be irrelevant.

I must add that, apart from the question of relevance, I fancy the Agency is a little shy of committing itself to a public statement of what it is prepared to do, since it has no means to do anything.

We've now three possibilities:

- (1) to accept the draft (this would have ^{Assistant} Polad B's support)
- (2) Let them go with their draft to AFHQ without our blessing, but without opposing them.
- (3) Write AFHQ opposing the issue of the draft without our additional para.

HE Bell Major

MFAA S/C

14 Jan. 1946

4263

Mr. F.A.A.

Minute no. 19 noted. Please send a letter in this line indicates by Maj Bell to Maj. Reches with copies to the Embassies for information.

10 Jan.

J. Kearney, Maj
Ch. Rechin.

C.A.S.21.

Pl. see 22 draft produced by J.D.R.A.

J.D.R.A. (who now call themselves APRA !!) are going to get AFHQ to put out a letter about their activities. They would like to tell AFHQ that A.C. agrees their Draft. I think that we can agree it subject to the amendments made in ink. HE Bell Major

MFAA S/C

10 Jan.

Mr. F.A.A.

22.

Ref folio 22. Opportunity should be taken to make the Agency realize that they ~~have~~ must give the Italian Government access to documents held by them. While the matter is a political one there must be many documents of no interest to the Agency in their possession which are of vital importance to the St. Govt. A further suggested paragraph has been added in pencil which should be sent out by AFHQ. I think the Embassies are just as keen to give the St. Govt access as A.C. Please take the matter up with the Agency and get their approval and adjust the para with them.

J. Kearney, Maj
Ch. Rechin.

4262

11 Jan. 46

C.A.S.

Please see 17, 18, 19 + 20.

The effect of 17 has been to make the J.D.R.A. try to set its archives in order. In December some progress in this direction was made + a few small categories of documents were even returned to the Italian Government.

Substantial progress, however, can only be made in one of two ways —

- ① by the provision of an adequate, + stable, staff for the Agency.
At present, the position appears to be that, of the British Element, Maj. Stevenson (who succeeded Capt. Haynes as O.C.) is on leave; so is Capt. Pio. Capt. Hall, who is acting O.C. has the assistance of one British male civilian + one British female civilian. The lady is going home. Capt. Platt has, in addition to his work in the Agency, commitments for War Office M.I. elsewhere. The American Element seems to consist of Mr. Collins, acting O.C. in Mr. La Vista's absence, and he is believed to have an assistant.
- ② by the utilization of Dr. Sandri, the archivist whom the Italian Government has supplied.

It is doubtful whether more prodding from A.C. will help. Existing officers are doing their best, + it is not their fault that staff has not yet been forthcoming. Nor, since the two present heads are only acting, can it be hoped that they will feel able to use the Italian archivist to any greater extent than agreed by their predecessors.

Mr. La Vista's return must, it is felt, be awaited. But it would be over optimistic to pin too much faith on that, as his wife is known to be expecting a child + he may well be held up by domestic difficulties.

HE Bell Major

NFAA S/C

7 Jan 46

4261

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HE Bell Major

NFAA S/C

7 Jan 46

4261

MFA

12 p.
The examination of
the papers (Mr. Norman - D. Col. White) has been completed and they have been
microfilmed - they have not yet been returned to their files.
The interesting papers are concentrated. So far as they are
concerned (JARA) it will be as convenient for AC to examine
the papers after D. Col. White returns at the end of Jan.

CAS
17 DEC 1941

H. W. H. 161

L. Govt.

We spoke (Maj Temple - Bell)

The documents you want are at 16 + 16A B C.

I have told the J.D.R.A. that one of
your officers will be calling on them.

HEB:en mjr

MFAA S/C

23 Nov. 45

A/VI, C/A Section. (1)

A/Division, MFAA. (2)

Major Williams brought me this file last
Thursday & asked me to deal with it. I don't think
I am particularly interested.

2. If the A.C. is interested in the documents
found by the Joint Diplomatic Research Agency, the latter
will make available copies (perhaps microfilmed) of such
papers as the A.C. will require. The details can be
settled by direct approach to Major Stevenson (Ad. no.
44352) at no 56, via Vittorio Veneto or, better still,
Mr. Norman at the same address.

12/XI/45

12/XI/45
H. G. (H).

C.A.S.

For C.S.O. to see

- ① at 16, 16 A-B-C, report from J.D.R.A. on Alto Adige material. [Can the document be downgraded from Secret?]
- ② at 15, letter from Presidenza del Consiglio re appointment of Italian archivist. Santori has been introduced to Capt. Stevenson & Mr. Collins (Mr. La Vista's deputy), & has already done one useful job for the Agency in handing over some cinema files of the Ministry of Popular Culture.

H.E. Bell Major Archives Officer

MFAA S/C

13/11/45

L.G.V.

You will find 16A & B of interest. - You may wish to inspect the documents in question - if so MFAA will arrange for you

CAS
10 NOV 1946
X 535

14

CAS -

Read with interest. Thank you.

X-495
15 Nov. 45

R.R. Temple Maj.
Di. LG S/C

MFAA.

received - thank you

CAS
10 NOV 1946
X 535

4259

0303

785016

MFA.

for spots (it appears - Weiss) an officer was going through the Alto Adige files and would be in a position to give us an idea of their contents in 3 or 4 days time. - Hence the note DF-4 will you please on that day make enquiries of the officer who has the matter in hand with a view to seeing whether he can give the promised information

H. E. Bell

CAT
1 NOV 1945
X 508

10.

C.A.S.

Mr. Norman of the J.D.R.A. is working through the Alto Adige material. There is a lot of it; it is interesting; and he anticipates that it will be three months before he can make a full report.

Since he is undertaking this work, the question of A.C. sending over a special examiner hardly arises.

I had from Capt. Stevenson the information that, in general terms, the material deals with population problems of the Alto Adige through the whole Fascist period. Norman points out very reasonably that its real significance can only be assessed after detailed examination.

H.E. Bell Major
Archives Officer.

H.E. Bell

MFAA s/c

5 Nov. 45

C.A.S.

Mr. Norman of the J.D.R.A. is working through the Alto Adige material. There is a lot of it; it is interesting; and he anticipates that it will be three months before he can make a full report.

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H.E. Bell Major
Archives Officer.

[Signature]

MFAA SK
5 Nov. 45

MFA.

We still want a general idea of what the files contain. The more going to be performed as I arranged with Hungary.

While regard to a detailed report - it is appreciated that this must take several months but I do not think we can wait as long as that for a more intimate knowledge. The Alto Adige is a current problem and we must know the facts. It will probably be necessary to send an officer to work on the records but a decision as to that can wait upon the preliminary reports which please Austria.

CAS
B.H.M. 1045
X 607

[Signature] 11/25/45

0304

785016

To CA Section

atg information. I don't understand his distinction between Archive & Personal Papers (rather messy I am sure!), but can await Bell's return

MPAA 2k
24 Sept.

To CA Section

Information. See also 20909/6/4/c which accompanies

Executive Order.

MPAA S/C
1 Oct. 45

To C.A. Section

12 is for signature please. It is in the terms agreed at the meeting held on 4th October.

HE Bell Major for Director.

MPAA S/C P.H. /
87 254.

C.S.O. C.A. Sec.

To C.A. Section

12 is for signature please. It is in the terms agreed at the meeting held on 4th October.

HE Bell major for Director.

MEFA S/C *PH*
84 254

C.S.O. C.A. Sec.

Thank you for letting us see the ~~document~~ document at 14, returned to be brought forward to C.S.O. 4/11.
Capt. Haynes has now left for another appointment.
La Vista has left for Washington.

If A.C. decides to appoint someone to examine these documents, however, we will put him in touch with Haynes's successor & with La Vista's successor.

For information it is added that Haynes's successor will shortly be going on L-LAP & La Vista's successor, after a month or so, is disappearing for purposes unknown.

Further details of the Apostolic Succession have not yet been conveyed to us

HE Bell major

MEFA S/C

31 Oct. 45

425

minutes

To C.A. Sexton

a) at 9 for information. I don't understand the distinction in para 2 between personal papers and archives, but that can await Bill's return at 10.

b) for approval & signature please. I am getting the necessary Oshawa clearance for those in para 2 and will arrange direct into the history of the

~~18/11/2011~~

James G. Thompson

THW/PS/5062

785016

20905/1/50604/MTAA

is quite straightforward

H. E. Bell Major
for Director

MF.AA. Sub - Commission
6 K. September 1945.

N

Letters at 6 & 7 for signature please; drafts were approved by Colonel White earlier to-day.

h PAK 3/c

10171010

for Director

MFAA. Sub - Committee
6th September 1945.

3.

2. To Civil Affairs Section

Letters at 6 + 7 for signature please: drafts were approved by Colonel White earlier today.

David Bell
Director

MFAA s/c

17th Sept. 1945

3.

MFA.

CA has been instructed to keep as far as possible correspondence below the Prime Minister level. The war frequency then being unrecorded. It is suggested that this letter be written to the appropriate Secretary in C.A. as requested. Would it be possible by signed memorandum to get it in to our pages.

W. H. King

CA. S.
18th Sept. 1945

4.

C. A. Section

4256

letter amended in the sense of
minute 3 above for signature pl. H.F. Bell
18/9
for Director MFAA s/c

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

APO 394

Subcommission for Monuments Fine Arts and Archives
(Tel.489081, ext 442 & 254)

20905/J/MFAA

14 March 1945

SUBJECT: Correspondence for Foreign Office Italian Archives
Section

TO : Message Centre, Allied Commission

Further to this office memo reference as above dated
11 March, I am asked to inform you that the Intelligence Agency
referred to in the last paragraph has a notice on its door,
which reads

Foreign Office Italian Archives Section

HEB

H.B.BELL
Major, A.E.C.
A/Director

Copy to: Foreign Office Italian Archives Section,
via Vittorio Veneto 56

4255

785016

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

COPY HEB/HHS

APO 394

Subcommission for Monuments Fine Arts and Archives
(Tel. 489081, ext.442 & 254

20905/9/AFAA

14 March 1946

SUBJECT: Foreign Office Italian Archives Section

TO : Officer i/c Army Post Office, C.M.F.

This Subcommission continues to receive mail intended for the abovementioned unit. It is understood that the unit concerned has taken up with you the necessity for a clarification of their address, and this representation is given added urgency by the fact that this Subcommission is likely shortly to close down.

At that date, mail received here, but intended for F.O.I.A.S., would certainly run a risk of grave delay.

HEB.

H.E. BELL

Major, A.E.C.

A/Director

4254

Copy to: Foreign Office Italian Archives Section,
via Vittorio Veneto 55

785016

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
Subcommission for Monuments Fine Arts and Archives
(Tel. 489081, ext 442 & 254)

20905/J./MFAA

11 March 1946

SUBJECT: Correspondence for Foreign Office Italian Archives
Section

TO : Message Centre, Allied Commission

Please note that correspondence addressed to Foreign
Office Italian Archives Section should not be delivered to
this Subcommission.

It is intended for the Intelligence Agency located in
Via Vittorio Veneto 56

HEB.
H.B. BELL
Major, A.E.C.
A/Director

4253

Copy to: Foreign Office Italian Archives Section, via Vittorio
Veneto 56.

20905/J/MFAA

26 January 1946

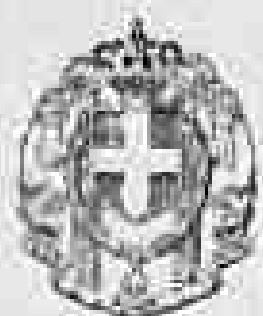
MEMORANDUM FOR CAPT. PIO

1. The attached was delivered to me this morning.
2. I am told by Maj. Harrison, the A.C. Archivist, that he gets many telephonic inquiries for Italian Archives.
3. The above facts suggest that it is urgent that your organisation gets a name, notifies people concerned of what that name is, and sticks to it.

HEB. HARRY BELL

Monuments Fine Arts & Archive S/C
Headquarters, Allied Commission

4252



IL MINISTRO
DELLA CULTURA POPOLARE

Foreign Office Italian Archives Section,
British Embassy,

ROME.

Subject: Return of Documents to the Italian Government.

To : Major BELL, Allied Commission.

From : Captain HALL, FOIAS.

Since 30th November 1945 the following documents held by this agency have been returned to the Italians:-

1. To the DIE Section of the Ministero degli Affari Esteri
Crates:- SAP 38 - SAP Births and Deaths.
SAP 39 - SAP Marriages and Suez Canal.
DIE 4 - DIE Personal Documents.
DIE 7 - DIE Documents of Italian Workers in Germany.
DIE 21 - DIE Personal Documents.
DIE 45 - Stationery. 4251
X-3 - Typewriter.

2. To Sottosegretariato per la Stampa, lo Spettacolo, e il Turismo.

Several Ministero della Cultura Popolare Card Indices (Cinema; etc.) have been released, but have not yet been removed by the Italians.

It will be noted that this period has included the Christmas festivities. The British section of the Agency has been handicapped by having two members away on leave and a third fully engaged on the Alto Adige documents. It is known to you that the American section is not yet up to strength.

14th January, 1946.

Ivan Hall
Ivan Hall,
Captain.

10 23

I should have thought that no authorization from us would be required in this matter. ~~XXXXXX~~ It looks as if one Italian department merely wants to look at the archives of another. However if our authorization is required it is probably for security reasons. If we ever had any authority ~~XXXX~~ in this sort of thing it was never brought to my attention. For what it's worth however I will state that ~~XX~~ the PRB has no objection to ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ Dr. Sparisci's examining the archives mentioned.

Jg Begun, Lt Col

DPR

10 Jan (date of receipt of attached)

24

Letter received in this S/C 12 Jan 46
I spoke Comm. Re and asked him
to get Dr. Sandri to go into this
question. Comm. Re thinks that
the records concerned are now with
the Italians + therefore no question
arises. But in any case Dr. Sandri
is the right person to deal with the matter.
HEB 14/i

Harry

Will you ring May Ann
this?

Am

ALTO COMMISSARIATO
PER LE SANZIONI CONTRO IL FASCISMO

IL COMMISSARIO PER L'EPURAZIONE

10 GEN 1945

Roma, 27 novembre 1945

Freg.mo Sig. Colonnello White,

nell'archivio di Gabinetto dell'ex Ministero della Cultura Popolare esistono numerosi atti che si prevede possano interessare il mio ufficio degli effetti di deferimenti di giornalisti ai rispettivi Consigli dell'Ordine ed alle Commissioni di revisione degli Albi.

Le pregherei, pertanto, signor Colonnello, di voler rilasciare, se possibile, un'autorizzazione al Dr. SPARISCI Emo, funzionario di questo Commissariato, ad esaminare e prendere in visione i fascicoli giacenti nel suddetto archivio di Gabinetto dell'ex Ministero della Cultura Popolare.

Sicuro del Suo benevolo interessamento, ringrazio in anticipo e saluto.

Sp. Berdi fine

S.H. WHITE

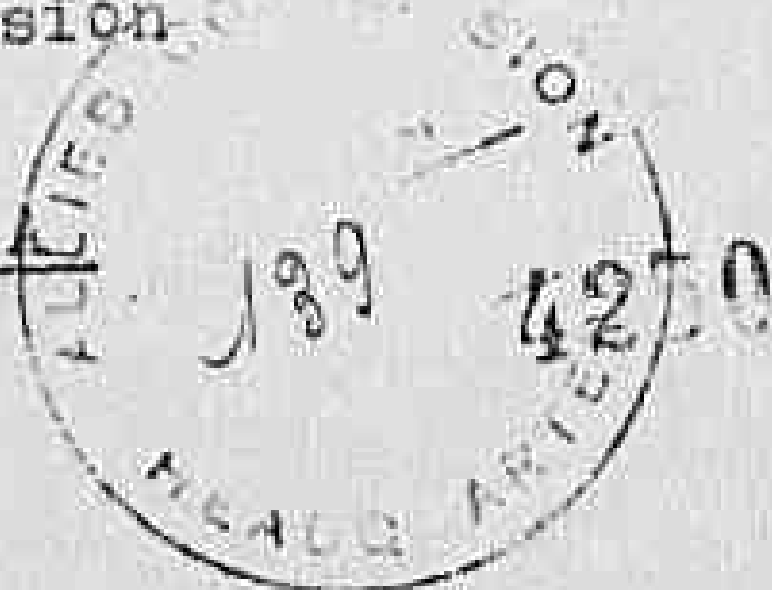
APC = 394 =

Headquarters Allied Commission
Civil Affairs Section

Dear Bergein

Can you help please

R O M



10/12/45

Al Ministro per gli Affari Esteri

Allied Political Research Agency.

Second Draft.

Under the terms of the Armistice with Italy, the Italian Government will provide all documents required by the United Nations. An organization has been set up in Rome by the Foreign Office and the State Department to examine Fascist Italian archives. It is known as the Allied Political Research Agency, and occupies quarters on the second floor at 56, Via Vittorio Veneto, Rome. The postal address is Allied Political Research Agency, c/o Rome Area Allied Command, APO 794 US Army. Telephones - 478393, and 489171 Ext. 3. The Agency can also be reached through the American and British Embassies in Rome.

Most of the Fascist Italian archives were found in the North of Italy in the summer of 1945. Representatives of the Allied Political Research Agency selected documents of interest to the Allied Governments and brought them to Rome. The Agency is the only organization authorized to conduct research on ^{of political and diplomatic interest.} ~~the~~ Italian Government political documents, to it should be made any enquiries about Italian Government documents, and it should be notified if any further Italian documents are discovered. The Agency is primarily interested in documents which reveal the activities of the Fascist Italian Government outside Italy. There is also a secondary interest in documents

4249

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conduct research on

It is known that the Italian Government requires access to documents held by the Research Agency. Therefore the Allied Research Agency will be required to supply the Italian Government with any information requested. It is at all times the policy of the Allied Governments to supply the Italian Government with all documents of interest to it. The Italian Government will be passed through the Italian Ambassador requests for access to the documents held by the Research Agency.

OX working in close cooperation with the Research
Agency. Every effort will be made to
return to the Italian Government those articles
no longer required by the Research Agency and
with which they are finished.

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394

HEB/tc

Subcommission for Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives
(Tel. 489081, ext 442 & 254; 478480)

20905/J/WFAA

10th January 1946.

SUBJECT: Italian Archives held by J.D.R.A.

TO : Joint Diplomatic Research Agency,
via Vittorio Veneto 56. ROME

In view of the letters recently received from the American and British Embassies it is understood that Italian archives now held by you will be made accessible for current needs to the appropriate authorities of the Italian Government.

Will you please confirm that arrangements for such access are in fact working smoothly.

HEB.

H. E. BALL, Major
Archives Officer

Copies to:

The U.S. Embassy, Rome.

The British Embassy, Rome .

(293/105/45 dated 27 November 1945 refers)

4248

20

5 January 1946

My dear Mr. Ambassador:

Thank you for your letter of 29 December
furnishing additional information on the matter of
the Italian archives being held by the Joint
Diplomatic Research Agency in Rome.

Sincerely yours,

ELLERY W. STONE
Rear Admiral, USNA
Chief Commissioner

The Hon. Alexander Kirk
American Embassy
Via Vittorio Veneto 119
Rome

4247

COPY.

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Rome, December 29, 1945

My dear Admiral,

With reference to your letter of November 10, 1945, regarding Italian archives held by the Joint Diplomatic Research Agency in Rome, I have received instructions that the Department of State agrees with you that Italian archives now in possession of the Agency should be readily accessible, for current needs, to the appropriate authorities of the Italian Government. In the view of the Department, however, it should be definitely established that, before actual transfer of custody to the Italian Government occurs, the archives transferred are of no further direct or indirect value to the Department of State in matters of policy nor of further interest to the Government of the United States in its program of eliminating German and Italian fascist propaganda and economic and political cell organization.

I have sent a copy of this letter to the British Ambassador for his information.

Sincerely yours,

(s) A. Kirk.

Rear Admiral Kilery W. Stone,
Chief Commissioner,
Allied Commission,
Rome.

4246

785016

acknowledged by hand

HEB

7/12

Foreign Office Italian Archives Section,
British Embassy,
ROME.

Subject: Return of Documents to the Italian Government.
To : Major Bell, Allied Commission.
From : OC FOIAS.

1. Some progress has been made recently in returning "archives" to the Italians.

(a) Ministry of Popular Culture

After some months delay all the Cinema and Religious Publications files have been collected.

118 packages of papers brought by PWB from Venice have been returned to the present Personnel Section.

The Gabinetto post-Armistice files from Salò were also returned to them and are being consulted by the Epuration Commission who had access to them while PWB was in the building.

(b) Ministry of the Interior

Certain documents referring to the Matteotti murder have been handed to Public Safety Sub-Commission.

(c) Servizio Assistenza Internati

Three cases and a cupboard full of documents and four card indices referring to internees in Germany and their families have been consigned to the Ministry of War.

2. While for reasons of office convenience further Ministry of Popular Culture files will be discarded in the near future, if the Italians have room to accept them, the importance of returning some of the other classes of documents is not forgotten.

30th November, 1945.

R. Stevenson
7245

R. Stevenson,
Major.
OC FOIAS.

RS/AOG

20905/0/4

CONFIDENTIAL

C
O
P
Y.British Embassy,
Rome.

4ES.

293/105/45

27th November 1945.

Confidential.

Dear Admiral;

Thank you for your letter (20905/J/MFAA) of the 10th November, about the problems connected with the examination of Italian archives.

2. Our own problem, as you evidently know, is sheer lack of staff in the Foreign Office Italian Archives Section. I have made repeated representations to London and was about to send another when your letter brought me fresh ammunition, for which I was grateful. As a result my representations have succeeded and the staff requested has been authorized.

The statements in your paragraph three I believe to be correct, and I fully concur in your paragraph four.

The suggestions in your paragraph five have been fully discussed with Captain Stevenson, the head of the Foreign Office Italian Archives Section, and as soon as the staff now authorized is received in Rome, it will be possible to start giving real effect to these suggestions. In the meantime, Captain Stevenson is gladly doing his utmost to get things in motion - in fact he and the other three officers of the British element are largely engaged in shifting packing-cases around with their own hands. I believe they expect some American colleagues to join them soon.

Yours very sincerely,

(s) Noel Charles

Rear Admiral Ellery W. Stone,
USNR.

Chief Commissioner,
Allied Commission,
Rome.

4244

Copies to: Exec Commr
Monuments & Fine Arts S/c

AC
RECEIVED 27 NOV 1945
1 DIC 1945
FILE No 20905/J

CONFIDENTIAL

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L 17
HER

20905/3/MFAA

10 November 1945

My dear Mr. Ambassador:

I am writing to you about the Italian archives at present held by the Joint Diplomatic Research Agency, 56 Via Vittorio Veneto.

As you know, these form part of the archives of ministries and departments of the former Italian Government, and at the time of the liberation were located in Northern Italy. Some of them were originally seized for exploitation by G-2 ADHQ agencies, and by P.W.B.; others were located and secured more recently by the J.D.R.A.'s own officers with the assistance and co-operation of officers of the Allied Commission.

So far as the ultimate disposal of the archives is concerned, there would appear to be no question. I understand that it is the policy of both the State Department and the Foreign Office that Italian archives of every category should finally revert to the custody of the Italian Government - subject of course to over-riding military or political considerations, which will only operate in a small number of cases. Further, I believe that it is agreed that reversion should take place piecemeal, as and when the J.D.R.A. determines that it has no further use for a particular series of archives.

The immediate problem is that amongst the archives held by the J.D.R.A. are records to which it is urgently necessary that the appropriate Italian Government Offices should have access, both for the purposes of day-to-day administration and for the extraordinary needs of the present period of reconstruction - e.g. for the gathering of evidence against Fascist criminals. If access for the purposes mentioned is withheld, the process of handover of governmental control from the Allied Commission to the Italian Government will be rendered more difficult than would otherwise be the case.

4243

I shall therefore be most grateful if you will consider the following suggestions which are made with a view to increasing the availability of these archives to the Italian Government:-

- (1) An endeavour should be made to increase the speed of handover of documents from the J.D.R.A. to the Italian Government. The circumstances in which these archives were collected prohibited a careful examination of the contents of chests seized, and it is almost certain that these in fact include archives of no interest to the J.D.R.A.. What is urgently necessary, therefore, is an immediate examination by the J.D.R.A. of all archives held with a view to releasing at once those that prove unnecessary for its work. This work of elimination should precede any detailed studies that may later be made of archives retained.
- (2) The residue retained by the J.D.R.A. should be arranged and listed, so that, upon request from Italian ministries concerned, it is possible to indicate reasonably certainly whether or not a particular class of archives is actually held. At the request of the Allied Commission, outline lists of archives held have, in fact, been supplied by the J.D.R.A.. But these do not tally with the details of material that G-2 agents are known to have taken, and the plain fact would seem to be that the J.D.R.A. does not itself know, with even approximate precision, what is held. Six months after seizure, many of the documents still remain unexamined.
- (3) It may be argued that the sorting proposed in (2) above would place an unduly heavy burden upon the officers of the J.D.R.A.. Because of this, it is important that the archivist, appointed by the Italian Government to work with the J.D.R.A. (an appointment made at the request of the Allied Commission and with the agreement of the J.D.R.A.), should be employed at once in the work of arrangement. Having regard to the status of the Italian Government, I cannot feel that security considerations need prevent the immediate employment of an Italian national in this capacity. But if the J.D.R.A. does, in fact, hold certain categories of documents which it

is thought unwise to divulge, the existence of these should be established during the preliminary examination envisaged in (1) above, and it would not be difficult to arrange that such categories of records should not be seen by the archivist.

Granted a logical arrangement of archives as indicated above, it would be easily possible for the archivist to deal with requests for consultation as they were received, checking whether the records required were actually held and, if they were, submitting the case for decision to the responsible officers of the agency as to whether access would be allowed.

I hope that you will not consider my present recommendations as a criticism of the work of the J.D.R.A.. I am aware of the difficulties, such as lack of staff and equipment, which as a new organisation it has had to face, and that the settlement of these is an indispensable preliminary to the work I have suggested. I feel that I should make it clear, however, that a continuance of the present unsatisfactory position will result in serious administrative inconvenience. Under the operation of E.N. 487, the Allied Commission must necessarily counsel against what is regarded as a hindrance to the effective functioning of the Italian Government.

Your very truly,

/s/ Ellery W. Stone

ELLERY W. STONE
Rear Admiral, USNR
Chief Commissioner

Original copy sent to:

The Hon. Alexander Kirk
U. S. Ambassador
H. E. Sir Noel Charles Bt., K.C.M.G.
British Ambassador

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ALTO ADIGE STATISTICS

Departures from plebiscite areas (Bolzano, Trento, Belluno, Udine) of German citizens and of Allogeni who opted for Germany from before August 31, 1940 to July 1943

	Al.	Ger.
1 Artisti e Professionisti	424	30
2 Dipendenti Enti Pubblici	1248	23
3 Commercianti	90	6
4 Industriali	6	1
5 Agricoltori	669	37
6 Lavoratori del Commercio	8026	651
7 Lavoratori dell'Industria	10640	396
8 Lavoratori dell'Agricoltura	11357	142
9 Artigiani	1373	180
10 Categorie varie (pensionati, casalinghe, donne di fatica, studenti, ecc.)	11888	447
Familiari	31466	6904

Total number of allogeni 77772

" " German Citizens 8901

N.B. The compilers of the returns

from which the above table was built up point out that the grand total may be approx. 3000 less than shown because certain allogeni who were evacuated under collective passports re-entered Italy and were evacuated a second time individually.

Results of Plebiscite:		Optanti		
		per cit-	per cit-	ti rimas-
		l'opzione	tadinanza	ti citt.
		tedesca	italiana	ital.
Territorio dell'Accordo	Ammessi ad Allogeni			
	esercitare per cit-			
	l'opzione			
Prov. di Bolzano	229,500	166,488	27,712	35,300
Zona mist. di Enna (Trento)	24,453	13,015	3,802	7,636
" " Tarvisiano (Udine)	5,603	4,576	337	690
" " Cortina d'Ampezzo (Belluno)	7,429	1,006	-	6,423
	226,985	185,085	31,851	50,049

F.O.I.A.S.

Via Veneto 56

ROME.

10th Nov. 1945.

certified
S E [Signature]
10 NOV 1945
Preliminary Report on Documents relating to Alto Adige

A perusal of the three statements attached to this report should, it is thought, afford the reader a fair idea of the nature of the material in this office specifically relating to Alto Adige.

Enclosure 'A' gives the results of a first sifting of the documents in Bag 1 carried out on the basis of the directives imparted to this office. Apart from the statistical data summarised in Enclosure 'C', the examination has revealed little of outstanding interest, but from such examination it has at least been possible to discern considerable reluctance on the part of the German authorities and of the monied classes among the Allogeni to honour the Transfer Agreements. Himmler, for example, in July 1940 asked Alfieri, then Italian Ambassador in Berlin, for the rate of transfer of the 'optanti' to be slowed down, though his request might quite naturally have been motivated by temporary difficulties connected with the re-settlement of the Reich-bound optanti. On the other hand, Gauleiter Hofer would seem to have made no mystery of his repugnance to the Agreements. As regards the Allogeni, at the time of the plebiscite no fewer than 185,000 voted for Germany out of a total of 230,000 declared eligible to opt for either German or Italian nationality. But by the time the Agreements had practically ceased to be operative less than half of the optanti had been expatriated, and most of these were daily workers and their dependents. The properties classes, in point of fact, showed an increasing reluctance to liquidate their estates and cross the frontier and the suspicion is warranted that numbers of them never had any intention of so doing. They seized the occasion of the plebiscite to discard their Italian nationality out of innate antipathy towards the Italians, but calculated that the fortunes of war would result in the annexation of the Alto Adige to a resurgent

on the part of the German authorities and the Transfer Agreements. classes among the Allogeni to honour the Transfer Agreements. Himmler, for example, in July 1940 asked Alfieri, then Italian Ambassador in Berlin, for the rate of transfer of the 'optanti' to be slowed down, though his request might quite naturally have been motivated by temporary difficulties connected with the re-settlement of the Reich-bound optanti. On the other hand, Gauleiter Hofer would seem to have made no mystery of his repugnance to the Agreements. As regards the Allogeni, at the time of the plebiscite no fewer than 135,000 voted for Germany out of a total of 230,000 declared eligible to opt for either German or Italian nationality. But by the time the Agreements had practically ceased to be operative less than half of the optanti had been expatriated, and most of these were daily workers and their dependents. The properties classes, in point of fact, showed an increasing reluctance to liquidate their estates and cross the frontier and the suspicion is warranted that numbers of them never had any intention of so doing. They seized the occasion of the plebiscite to discard their Italian nationality out of innate antipathy towards the Italians, but calculated that the fortunes of war would result in the annexation of the Alto Adige to a resurgent Austria or at the worst to a Greater Germany. It is at any rate symptomatic that Senator Giannini complained to Clodius on 27.8.1940 that up to that date only 1,608 applications for liquidation of estates had been received by the appraisal committee.

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There is no reason to doubt the accuracy of the figures given in Enclosure 'C', which have been prepared from monthly returns rendered by the Alto Commissario for the execution of the Agreements. They may also almost be considered as final, for it is a fair presumption that with the virtual lapse of the Agreements after the Armistice, the departures of optanti, which had already been swindling for several months, must have been reduced to a mere trickle.

Bags 2 and 3 have only been cursorily inspected and a synoptical statement of their contents is given in Enclosure 'B'.

H. Norman
(R. T. Norman)

Taken from Folder marked:
 "Accordi italo-tedeschi per
 l'Alto Adige - 1886.24.1"

DOCUMENTS EX MINISTERO DELL'INTERNO UFF. III

ALTO ADIGE

- | Date | |
|----------|---|
| 21/10/39 | - Printed copy of "Norme per il Rimpatrio di Allogeni Tedeschi dall'Alto Adige in Germania". |
| 7/1/40 | - "Appunto regarding relief pending transfers to paupers who have opted for German nationality." |
| 1/3/40 | - Communication from Ufficio per l'Alto Adige to Commissariato per la Colonizzazione (both sections of Min. of Interior) giving figures for allogeni residing in Alto Adige (N.B. communication cancelled before dispatch). |
| 1/4/40 | - Italian Consul ^{Bruck} reports passage of 200 optanti p.d. Reich-bound. Many incidents. 500 optanti sent to Dechen for demonstrating. |
| 7/5/40 | - "Appunto per il duce" re. proposed amendments to RDI. No 1888 of 13/12/39 specifically laying down obligation of German optanti to dispose of their estates and of Ente Nazionale per le 3 Venezie to acquire them. |
| 8/5/40 | - From Min. of Finance to Min. of Interior regarding financial arrangements for the buying up of the estates of the optanti. |
| 14/6/40 | - Printed copy of draft bill for conversion into law of RDI no 643 of 146.40 concerning conveying charges. |
| 21/7/40 | - Alfieri (Italian Ambassador Berlin) reports interview with Himmler, who asked for present rate of transfer of optanti (4-500 a month) be slowed down but denied that Reich intended transfers to cease. |
| 27/8/40 | - Statement by Senator Ciannini to Clodius that only 1608 estates for liquidation. |

500 optanti p.d. Reichs-bound. Many incidents.
500 optanti sent to Dachau for demonstrating.

- 2/5/40 - "Appunto per il duce" re. proposed amendments to RDL No 1886 of 13/12/39 specifically laying down obligation of German optanti to dispose of their estates and of Ente Nazionale per le 3 Venezia to acquire them.
- 8/3/40 - From Min. of Finance to Min. of Interior regarding financial arrangements for the buying up of the estates of the optanti.
- 14/6/40 - Printed copy of draft bill for conversion into law of RDL no 643 of 146.40 concerning conveying charges.
- 21/7/40 - Alfieri (Italian Ambassador Berlin) reports interview with Himmler, who asked for present rate of transfer of optanti (4-500 a month) be slowed down but denied that Reich intended transfers to cease.
- 27/8/40 - Statement by Senator Giannini to Cledius that only 1608 estates for liquidation for a total value of 325 million lire cleared up to date and that transfers of persons have dropped heavily.
- 28/8/40 - Italian Consul *Imbruck* reports considerable building activity in Tyrol-Vorarlberg for the the housing of incoming optanti.
- 21/9/40 - Report by an Italian Commissario alleging German ill treatment of and discrimination against Italian optanti.
- 25/9/40 - Report by Italian Commissario describing reluctance of German optanti to leave for Reich.

-2-

- 9/11/40 - Report by Italian Commissario on general situation in Alto Adige.
- 3/12/40 - Report by Italian Commissario generally on situation in Alto Adige and particularly on deterioration of relations between Germans and Italians.
- 9/12/40 - Printed copy of draft bill converting into law and amending RBL of 13/12/39 which provides for the application of the basic law no. 121 of 21/8/39.
- 15/2/41 - From Prefect of Bolzano to Min. Justice asking for instructions as to method of entering change of nationality in public records.
- ~~21/2/41~~ - "Appunto" concerning controversy as to actual moment when alien who opts for Germany lose their Italian nationality.
- 21/3/41 - "Appunto" concerning controversy as to actual moment when alien who opt for Germany lose their Italian nationality.
- 1/4/41 - From Min. Justice outlining procedure to be followed in recording change of nationality.
- 26/5/41 - Summary of disputes which have occurred in connection with the execution of the transfer agreements.
- 20/6/41 - Agreement between German and Italian authorities regarding acquisition of German and loss of Italian citizenship.
- 23/6/41 - Note from Prefetto of Bolzano to Min of Interior that number of German optants who had died up to 5/6/41 was 3203.
- 10/10/41 - Summary of disputes which have occurred in connection with the execution of the transfer

4237

lose their Italian nationality.

- 11/3/41 - "Appunto" concerning controversy as to actual moment when allogeni who opt for Germany lose their Italian nationality.
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- 10/10/41 - Summary of disputes which have occurred in connection with the execution of the transfer agreements. 423
- 28/1/42 - Report by Podestà of Merano on local situation.
- 20/1/42 - Summary of disputes which have occurred in connection with the execution of the transfer agreements.
- 4/2/42 - Report by Italian Commissario Capo mentioning increased reluctance of German Optanti to honour their undertaking to emigrate. Departures practically nil.
- 4/3/42 - Summary of disputes which have occurred in connection with the execution of the transfer agreements.

-3-

1/4/42 - Summary of disputes which have occurred in connection with the execution of the transfer agreements.

2/5/42

ditto

23/6/42 - Letter from President of Italian Delegation enclosing old and new forms for renunciation of Italian citizenship.

29/7/42 - Communication from Minister Finance to Minister Interior extending facilities in connection with the payment of death duties to families of German optanti killed in action while serving with German A.F.

18/8/42 - Commando RECC Merano reports Hofer stating at private meeting that if any optanti left the district it would be those who had opted for Italy.

28/4/43 - Prefect of Bolzano to Interno re pensions to dependents of allogeni killed while serving in German A.F. (683 to date).

20/6/43

- Agreement between SS Gruppenfuhrer at Bolzano and the Prefect of Bolzano (in his capacity as head of Italian Delegation) regarding re-entry of ex-allogeni serving with German A.F.

6/12/43

- Capo dell'Ufficio per l'Alto Adige suggests to Minister that in view of the approach of the deadline (21/12/43) for transfer of optanti and the fact that the Germans virtually control the district affected the Italian Government should discontinue the financing of the Italian services engaged in implementing the transfer agreements.

No Date

4236

1.

Lists of Alto-Adigeni who acquired Austrian or German nationality prior to the agreements. (351 in all)

- 28/4/43 - Prefect of Bolzano to Interno re pensions to dependents of allogeni killed while serving in German A.F. (583 to date).
- 28/6/43 - Agreement between SS Gruppenfuhrer at Bolzano and the Prefect of Bolzano (in his capacity as head of Italian Delegation) regarding re-entry of ex-allogeni serving with German A.F.
- 6/12/43 - Capo dell'Ufficio per l'Alto Adige suggests to Minister that in view of the approach of the deadline (21/12/43) for transfer of optanti and the fact that the Germans virtually control the district effected the Italian Government should discontinue the financing of the Italian services engaged in implementing the transfer agreements.

No Date

4236

1. Lists of Alto-Adesini who required Austrian or German nationality prior to the agreements. (351 in all)

2. Departmental Note (6 "Segnalazioni") re. German reprisals against allogeni who have opted for Italian citizenship.

3. Progress return signed by Capo dell'Ufficio Alto Adige (Min. Interior) of transfers of German citizens and optanti up to and including July 1943, and giving figures for results of plebiscite.

36 monthly returns Aug. 1940 to July 1943 from Prefetto of Bolzano giving figures of departure of German citizens and optanti broken down according to occupation.

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DOCUMENTS EX MINISTERO DELL'INTERNO UFF. III

ALTO ADIGE

Taken from Folder marked:
"24 - 26 - 27 - 29"

- 23.6.39 Minutes of the meeting in Berlin between German and Italian authorities when agreement was first reached on the Alto Adige problem.
- 7.2.40 From Prefetto of Bolzano to Min. Interno regarding revocation of options in the interest of local farming.
- 15.9.43 Communication from Italian Delegation in Bolzano reporting suspension of activities consequent upon German occupation of Bolzano.
- 15.12.43 "Appunto" re handing over of Delegation's files to German occupying authorities.
- 6.5.44 "Appunto" reporting transfer of Delegation records to Merano.
- ? "Appunto" stating that Germans desire Delegation to continue work on a reduced scale.

ALTO ADIGE

Taken from folder marked:
"Delegazione Economico-Finanziaria - Fabbisogno - 1886.30"

- 29.12.43 Telegram from Head of Alto Adige Office (Min. Interno) to Economic & Financial Delegation at Bolzano to suspend activities.
- 4.1.44 Min. Interno (Cabinet) countermands instructions to Delegation to suspend activities.
- 8.3.45 Communication from Min. Interno re finances of Delegation.

Bag No 2

DOCUMENTS EX MINISTERO DELL'INTERNO UFF. IIIFolder

1886/72

Alienation of real estate in frontier districts.
Concerns sale of estates of German optanti in plebiscite areas. Prices realized considerably in excess of appraisal figures owing to purchases being made for speculative purposes or as investments. Italian authorities worried about repopulation of the districts affected.

1886/24.4. Residence of foreigners in A-A. Individual cases immediately before and after the outbreak of hostilities.

1886/24.5 Influx of manual and clerical workers in A-A. Individual cases.

1886/49 & 53 Concerning export of farm products, valuables, etc. by German optanti.

1886/50 Re-entry of previously evacuated optanti especially of those serving with German A.F.

1886/69 Recruiting of labour for Germany in A-A.

1886/74 Negotiations for extending dead-line for departure of optanti to 31/12/43.

1886/76 Correspondence early 1943 relating to the suppression of both German and Ital. Alti Commissariati for the implementation of the Transfer Agreements and delegation of their powers to the subordinate Delegations.

1886/24.15. Irregular application of Agreements to Italians resident in Tyrol.

1886/24.15. Several folders (same reference number) dealing with Allogeni residing abroad who wish to opt for German nationality.

1886/24/12 Concerning cases of married Allogeni living apart from each other. Opting for Germany by either of the parties carries with it the right to dissolution of marriage, if desired, through the normal divorce procedure.

1886/24.14 Concerning Allogeni detained in Italian penal establishments.

Min. Interior rule that same criteria ~~apply~~ apply as for free Allogeni. 623

1886/24.16 Several folders concerning liquidation of certain large

- 1886/69 Recruiting of labour for Germany in A-A.
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- 1886/24.14 Concerning Allogeni detained in Italian penal establishments. Min. Interior rule that same criteria ~~apply~~ ⁴²³ apply as for free Allogeni.
- 1886/24.16 Several folders concerning liquidation of certain large estates. One folder contains copy of minutes of meeting of ministers in Jan. 1940 in which it is mentioned inter alia that Allogeni who had opted for Germany owned approx. 40/50,000 estates (land, houses, hotels, shops, industrial undertakings).
- 1886/24.21 Concerning sums due by German Allogeni to Italian credit institutes and their recovery.
- 1886/24.2 Several folders containing interesting documents illustrating German, Italian & Separatist propaganda methods and reporting occurrence of incidents.
- 1886/24.3 Several folders regarding validity of options, requests for postponement of departure for Reich, requests for revocation of option for German nationality extorted under duress, etc.
- 1886/24.26 Concerning repatriation of priests and nuns of German nationality and departure of those who have opted for Germany. Many applications for permission to remain in A-A but Italian authorities averse from allowing such clerics to remain in A-A on account of their notorious German proclivities.

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Bag No 2 (continuation)

186/24.25 Several folders relating to appraisals of estates of departing Allogeni.

Contains material dealing almost exclusively with Dalmatia

Bag No 2

4232

ALTO ADIGE STATISTICS

Departures from plebiscite areas (Bolzano, Trento, Belluno, Udine) of German citizens and of Allogeni who opted for Germany from before August 31, 1940 to July 1943

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~~C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L~~

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

Office of the Chief Commissioner

APO 394

20905/J/MFAA

10 November 1945

My dear Mr. Ambassador:

I am writing to you about the Italian archives at present held by the Joint Diplomatic Research Agency, 56 Via Vittorio Veneto.

As you know, these form part of the archives of ministries and departments of the former Italian Government, and at the time of the liberation were located in Northern Italy. Some of them were originally seized for exploitation by G-2 AFHQ agencies, and by P.W.B.; others were located and secured more recently by the J.D.R.A.'s own officers with the assistance and co-operation of officers of the Allied Commission.

So far as the ultimate disposal of the archives is concerned, there would appear to be no question. I understand that it is the policy of both the State Department and the Foreign Office that Italian archives of every category should finally revert to the custody of the Italian Government - subject of course to over-riding military or political considerations, which will only operate in a small number of cases. Further, I believe that it is agreed that reversion should take place piecemeal, as and when the J.D.R.A. determines that it has no further use for a particular series of archives.

The immediate problem is that amongst the archives held by the J.D.R.A. are records to which it is urgently necessary that the appropriate Italian Government Offices should have access, both for the purposes of day-to-day administration and for the extraordinary needs of the present period of reconstruction - e.g. for the gathering of evidence against Fascist criminals. If access for the purposes mentioned is withheld, the process of handover of governmental control from the Allied Commission to the Italian Government will be rendered more difficult than would otherwise be the case.

423

The Honourable Alexander Kirk
U. S. Ambassador
R O M E

I shall therefore be most grateful if you will consider the following suggestions which are made with a view to increasing the availability of these archives to the Italian Government:-

- (1) An endeavour should be made to increase the speed of handover of documents from the J.D.R.A. to the Italian Government. The circumstances in which these archives were collected prohibited a careful examination of the contents of chests seized, and it is almost certain that these in fact include archives of no interest to the J.D.R.A.. What is urgently necessary, therefore, is an immediate examination by the J.D.R.A. of all archives held with a view to releasing at once those that prove unnecessary for its work. This work of elimination should precede any detailed studies that may later be made of archives retained.
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- (3) It may be argued that the sorting proposed in (2) above would place an unduly heavy burden upon the officers of the J.D.R.A.. Because of this, it is important that the archivist, appointed by the Italian Government to work with the J.D.R.A. (an appointment made at the request of the Allied Commission and with the agreement of the J.D.R.A.), should be employed at once in the work of arrangement. Having regard to the status of the Italian Government, I cannot feel that security considerations need prevent the immediate employment of an Italian national in this capacity. But if the J.D.R.A. does, in fact, hold certain categories of documents which it

is thought unwise to divulge, the existence of these should be established during the preliminary examination envisaged in (1) above, and it would not be difficult to arrange that such categories of records should not be seen by the archivist.

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I hope that you will not consider my present recommendations as a criticism of the work of the J.D.R.A.. I am aware of the difficulties, such as lack of staff and equipment, which as a new organisation it has had to face, and that the settlement of these is an indispensable preliminary to the work I have suggested. I ~~am bound to~~ make it clear, however, that a continuance of the present unsatisfactory position will result in serious administrative inconvenience. Under the operation of FAN 487, the Allied Commission must necessarily ~~oppose as definitively as may be~~ what is regarded as an ~~un-~~ necessary hindrance to the effective functioning of the Italian Government. *Council against*

I feel that I should
Yours very truly,

Ellery W. Stone

ELLERY W. STONE
Rear Admiral, USNR
Chief Commissioner

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MINUTES

20905/J/NFAA

EXECUTIVE COMMISSIONER.

Attached is the draft letter which you instructed me to prepare.

This covers the only outstanding question of modern Italian archives, with the exception of those of military significance still held by G-2 AFHQ. The disposal of those can be taken up with G-5 at a later date.

H.E. Bell major

NFAA 3/0.
29th Oct. 45

Chief Commissioner.

At one of your political meetings the question of the work of the Joint Diplomatic Research Agency with respect to the Italian archives was raised. I have since discussed the matter with Major Bell the responsible officer in the Monuments, Fine Arts & Archives Sub-Commission. The situation is not satisfactory from the point of view of the Italian Government who are debarred from access to archives which they deem rightly are important to them. I submit a draft which I think we should do well to send to both Embassies in an attempt to get the matter expedited.

4227

30. Oct. 45

MSL Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

E.C.

Approved.

A good letter

EWS

C.L.

31/10 M.F.A.A. S/C. 2

Issue DR (1/11)

MINUTES

20905/J/AFAA
extr.

(9)

C.S.O./C.A. Section

The draft at 1, which we discussed (Lt.Col. White - Bell) has now been approved.

Will you now please submit our letter to the Executive Commissioner for signature by him or by the Chief Commissioner as may be desired.

Signature will be required on two copies.

AFAA S/C

2 Nov. 45

9

HEBELL
Major, A.D.C.
Archives Officer

Ex. Comm.

Letter enclosed for signature by C.C.

M. Lambing.
V.D.C. A.S.

3 Nov. 45

5/11

4226

2 Nov. 45

9

Ex. Comm.

Letter enclosed for signature of C.C.

M. J. B. B. B.

V.P.C.A.S.

3 Nov. 45

DD 5/11

4226

CA Sec (MFAA)

Please have letter retyped in accordance with
6.6's minutes and amendments, & resubmit.

DD 5/11

Off. Ex. L. 6/11

To Civil Affairs Section.

Letters to the Ambassador are submitted in amended form for the Chief Commissioner's signature (twice.)

HE Belhugn

Archives Officer.

MFAA S/C

7 Nov. 45

To Ex Commissioner.

B.

Letter re-submitted for signature of C.C.

7 NOV 45
C.A.S.

9/11 4/11

McPaul By
V.P. C.A.S.

IV.

CA SECTION.

Letter signed and despatched on 10. Nov. to two Ambassadors. CC and EC copies have been withdrawn.

J. 13
Nov

3
D-R-A-F-T

My Dear Mr. Ambassador:

I am writing to you about the Italian archives at present held by the Joint Diplomatic Research Agency, 56 Via Vittorio Veneto.

As you know, these form part of the archives of ministries and departments of the former Italian Government, and at the time of the liberation were located in Northern Italy. Some of them were originally seized for exploitation by G-2 AFHQ agencies, and by P.W.B.; others were located and secured more recently by the J.D.R.A.'s own officers with the assistance and co-operation of officers of the Allied Commission.

So far as the ultimate disposal of the archives is concerned, there would appear to be no question. I understand that it is the policy of both the State Department and the Foreign Office that Italian archives of every category should finally revert to the custody of the Italian Government - subject of course to over-riding military or political considerations, which will only operate in a small number of cases. Further, I believe that it is agreed that reversion should take place piecemeal, as and when the J.D.R.A. determines that it has no further use for a particular series of archives.

The immediate problem is that amongst the archives held by the J.D.R.A. are records to which it is urgently necessary that the appropriate Italian Government Offices should have access, both for the purposes of day-to-day administration and for the extraordinary needs

mission.

So far as the ultimate disposal of the archives is concerned, there would appear to be no question. I understand that it is the policy of both the State Department and the Foreign Office that Italian archives of every category should finally revert to the custody of the Italian Government - subject of course to over-riding military or political considerations, which will only operate in a small number of cases. Further, I believe that it is agreed that reversion should take place piecemeal, as and when the J.D.R.A. determines that it has no further use for a particular series of archives.

6222

The immediate problem is that amongst the archives held by the J.D.R.A. are records to which it is urgently necessary that the appropriate Italian Government Offices should have access, both for the purposes of day-to-day administration and for the extraordinary needs of the present period of reconstruction - e.g. for the gathering of evidence against Fascist criminals. If access for the purposes mentioned is withheld, the process of handover of governmental control from the Allied Commission to the Italian Government will be rendered more difficult than would otherwise be the case.

I shall therefore be most grateful if you will consider the following suggestions which are made with a view to increasing the availability of these archives to the Italian Government:-

(2)

(1) An endeavour should be made to increase the speed of handover of documents from the J.D.R.A. to the Italian Government. The circumstances in which these archives were collected prohibited a careful examination of the contents of chests seized, and it is almost certain that these in fact include archives of no interest to the J.D.R.A.. What is urgently necessary, therefore, is an immediate examination by the J.D.R.A. of all archives held with a view to releasing at once those that prove unnecessary for its work. This work of elimination should precede any detailed studies that may later be made of archives retained.

(2) The residue retained by the J.D.R.A. should be arranged and listed, so that, upon request from Italian ministries concerned, it is possible to indicate reasonably certainly whether or not a particular class of archives is actually held. At the request of the Allied Commission, outline lists of archives held have, in fact, been supplied by the J.D.R.A.. But these do not tally with the details of material that G-2 agents are known to have taken, and the plain fact would seem to be that the J.D.R.A. does not itself know, with even approximate precision, what is held. Six months after seizure, many of the documents still remain unexamined.

4223

(3) It may be argued that the ^{ing}sortation proposed in (2) above would place an unduly heavy burden upon the officers of the J.D.R.A. Because of this, it is important that the archivist, appointed by the Italian

so that, upon request from Italian ministries concerned, it is possible to indicate reasonably certainly whether or not a particular class of archives is actually held. At the request of the Allied Commission, outline lists of archives held have, in fact, been supplied by the J.D.R.A.. But these do not tally with the details of material that G-2 agents are known to have taken, and the plain fact would seem to be that the J.D.R.A. does not itself know, with even approximate precision, what is held. Six months after seizure, many of the documents still remain unexamined.

4223

- (3) It may be argued that the ^{ing}sortation proposed in (2) above would place an unduly heavy burden upon the officers of the J.D.R.A. Because of this, it is important that the archivist, appointed by the Italian Government to work with the J.D.R.A. (an appointment made at the request of the Allied Commission and with the agreement of the J.D.R.A.), should be employed at once in the work of arrangement. Having regard to the status of the Italian Government, I cannot feel that security considerations need prevent the immediate employment of an Italian national in this capacity. But if the J.D.R.A. does, in fact, hold certain categories of documents which it is thought unwise to divulge, the existence of these should be established during the preliminary examination envisaged in (1) above, and it would not be difficult to arrange that such categories of records should not be ^{seen} touched by the archivist.

Granted a logical arrangement of archives as indicated above, it would be easily possible for the archivist to deal with requests for consultation as they were received, checking whether the records required were actually held and, if they were, submitting the case for decision to the responsible officers of the agency as to whether access would be allowed.

I hope that you will not consider my present recommendations as a criticism of the work of the J.D.R.A. I am aware of the difficulties, such as lack of staff and equipment, which as a new organisation it has had to face, and that the settlement of these is an indispensable preliminary to the work I have suggested. I am bound to make it clear, however, that a continuance of the present unsatisfactory position will result in serious administrative inconvenience. Under the operation of FAM 487, the Allied Commission must necessarily oppose as definitively as may be what is regarded as an unnecessary hindrance to the effective functioning of the Italian Government.

Yours sincerely,

4222

~~Executive Commissioner~~

Chief Commissioner

H.M. the Ambassador of the
United States of America

H.M. the Ambassador of

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Yours sincerely,

4222

~~Executive Commissioner~~

Chief Commissioner

~~H.E. the Ambassador of the
United States of America~~

~~H.E. the Ambassador of
Great Britain~~

The Honorable Alexander Kissel

US Ambassador

Rome

HE. Sir Noel Charles, Esq., KCNC.

British Ambassador.

Rome

785016

MFA (A)
NOV 15 1945

6 NOV 1945

(15)

TRANSLATION NO. 992

THE STATE SECRETARY OF THE PRESIDENCY
OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

ROME, 6 November 1945

Dear General,

In reply to your letter of 9 October last I have the pleasure to inform you that instructions have been given to the Director, Dr. Leopoldo Sandri to contact the representatives of your Allied Agency for Diplomatic Investigations.

It is agreed, as already pointed out in the preceding correspondence, that Dr. Sandri shall at first act as a Liaison Officer between the Allied Agency and the various Italian Ministries and shall later be allowed to contribute as archivist which is his normal profession.

Moreover, if you have no objections, we shall have Dr. Sandri assisted by an interpreter secretary assigned by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

I wish to assure you that Dr. Sandri, while still belonging to the Archives Administration will be duly credited by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in fulfillment of the requirements set out in the 2nd para of the letter to which we are replying.

Accept, dear General, my cordial regards.

/s/

4221

TO: GENERAL M. CARR
Civil Affairs Section
HQ. ALLIED COMMISSION
R O M E

A C
RECEIVED THE JUNE 2 1945
8 NOV 1945
FILE No 80905/6

(5575)

6 NOV 1945

43401/10100.5.5/1.1-2

*Il Segretario di Stato
alla Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri*

Roma,

- 6 NOV. 1943

- 6 NOV. 1943

Caro Generale,

No fare

in risposta alla Sua del 9 ottobre u.s. ho il piacere di comunicarle con la presente che sono state impartite istruzioni al Direttore, Dott. Leopoldo Sandri di entrare immediatamente in contatto con i rappresentanti la Vostra Agenzia Alleata per le Ricerche Diplomatiche.

Resta inteso, come del resto già accennato nella precedente corrispondenza, che il Dott. Sandri, dovrà in principio agire soprattutto quale "Ufficiale di collegamento" fra l'Agenzia alleata unita e i vari Ministeri Italiani, in attesa che, in un momento ulteriore, egli possa essere ammesso a dare il contributo specifico della sua competenza, partecipando al lavoro per il quale, come archivista, è più particolarmente qualificato.

Con l'occasione si fa presente che, ove nulla vi sia in contrario da parte della S.V., il dott. Sandri potrà essere assistito da un segretario interprete messo a disposizione del Ministero degli Esteri.

Assicuro infine che il Dott. Sandri, pur seguitando, per ragioni organiche, a far parte dell'Amministrazione degli Archivi, sarà debitamente accreditato presso il Ministero degli Esteri, in modo da corrispondere pienamente alle esigenze indicate nel 2° paragrafo della lettera cui si risponde.

Voglia gradire, caro Generale, i miei cordiali saluti.

Luigi Einaudi

422

ॐ

Generale M. C A R R
Sezione Affari Civili
Quartieri Generali
della Commissione Alleata
R O M A

5543

30 OCT. 1945

14

ALLIED [REDACTED] COMMISSION
INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT:

FILE No.

TO

CSO CA Section

27 Oct. 1945

Mr. HOPKINSON, Polad B, telephoned me (27 Oct 45) to say that he had received a message from Capt. HAINES of the HAINES-LA VISTA organisation saying that he (Capt. HAINES) had been through one of the boxes dealing with the ALTO ADIGE and that there were a lot of papers dealing with the agreements made by Hitler-Mussolini and giving figures as to numbers and subjects involved, etc. etc.

HAINES had suggested that the Embassy might like to send a special examiner over to go through these documents. HOPKINSON thought that it was more a matter for us. I said I would consider the matter and that one of the difficulties might be to make available the personnel for this task and to find somebody qualified. I do not know what the magnitude of the task is or whether we are going to get any value out of it.

I suggest you might have a word with HAINES on the telephone. HOPKINSON gave me his number as being 485524.

(87-4)

MFA Loke

421AL

M. CARR, Brig.,
VP CA Section.

785016

Date: 14 OCT 1945

File:

Item:

13

SEE FILE # 20905 - S /MFAA (Item #: _____)
for the following document:

DOCUMENT, Nature of (letter, clipping, etc.): Letter & Incl.

SUBJECT : None - (D:O: From La Vesta to Brig. Carr of CAS)

FROM : The Foreign Service of the United States of America
American Embassy

TO : Brigadier Carr of CAS, HQ ALGEM

REF.NO. : None

DATE: 14 October 1945

ENCLOSURES: 2 copies classified as Secert of - AFHQ, Off of Ass't
Chief of Staff, G-2 , (OI Document Sect), subject:
List of Contents of Cases of Italian Official Documents
Received from NORTH ITALY.

Remarks:

4218

14 OCT 1945

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

APO 394

CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

20905/3/VTA

9 October 45

My dear Mr. Undersecretary,

I am pleased to note from your letter of 25 Sep 45, that you have appointed Direttore Leopoldo Sandri to act as Liaison official between the Joint Allied Intelligence Agency and the various Ministries.

After discussion with the two Allied representatives of the Agency, I would like to suggest that you should make arrangements as soon as possible to attach Direttore Sandri to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He should be instructed to get in touch with Mr. La Vista at the American Embassy (tel. 471351) and with Captain Haynes (tel. 485524). Dr. Sandri's initial duties will be two-fold:

- (a) To serve as channel for all enquiries and requests regarding archives from individual Italian Ministries. In this connection I would request that you inform all Ministries that in future such enquiries and requests will be passed through him and not, as heretofore, to the Allied Commission.
- (b) To arrange for the collection and transfer to the appropriate Ministries of such files as are already available for disposal as of no further importance to the agency.

The agency has undertaken to compile as detailed a list as is at present possible of the categories of documents which it has in its possession. It is regretted that it will not immediately be possible to incorporate Direttore Sandri directly into the Staff of the Agency; but it is hoped that before very long it may be possible to arrange

arrangements as soon as possible to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He should be instructed to get in touch with Mr. La Vista at the American Embassy (tel. 471351) and with Captain Haynes (tel. 485524). Dr. Sandri's initial duties will be two-fold:

- (a) To serve as channel for all enquiries and requests regarding archives from individual Italian Ministries. In this connection I would request that you inform all Ministries that in future such enquiries and requests will be passed through him and not, as heretofore, to the Allied Commission.
- (b) To arrange for the collection and transfer to the appropriate Ministries of such files as are already available for disposal as of no further importance to the agency.

The agency has undertaken to compile as detailed a list as is at present possible of the categories of documents which it has in its possession. It is regretted that it will not immediately be possible to incorporate Direttore Sandri directly into the Staff of the Agency; but it is hoped that before very long it may be possible to arrange for him to take an increasing part in the direct care of such documents as the agency still holds.

Yours very truly,

MB 4217
M. CARR, Brigadier
VP CA Section

Dr. Giorgio Amendola
Undersecretary of State,
Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri,
Italian Government,
ROME

Copy to: Mr. La Vista, U.S. Embassy
Capt. Haynes, 56 Via Veneto, Rome
Comandatore Re

Translation No. 927

MFA
28 SEP. 1945

25 SET 1945

The Undersecretary of State
Presidency of the Council of Ministers[11A is
Ital]

Mm 11

Ref No. 47488-1-1-2-10100/5

Rome, 25 Sep 45

Dear General,

I am pleased to hear that all documents and records belonging to Italian Ministries come into the hands of the Allied Forces have been collected and filed in one single office here in Rome, where they will be examined by a single body specially organized for the purpose by the two Allied Governments.

I am very grateful to know that an official of the Italian Files Administration has been appointed to the staff of this organization, and that it is understood that he will act not only as liaison official between the office and the various Ministries but will gradually be permitted to take an active part in the care and reordering of the documents.

We have chosen Direttore 2a classe Leopoldo Sandri, feeling certain that he will carry out satisfactorily this delicate and honourable task of collaboration, and thank you for your courtesy in asking our choice.

Yours respectfully,

S/ The Undersecretary of State

RECEIVED FOR FILE & DATE	
29 SET 1945	
FILE NO.	20905/J



25 SET 1945

Prot. n. 17488-1-1-2-10100/5
rif. a lett. 20905/3/MTAA

26 SET. 1945

apprendo con interesse che gli atti d'Archivio dei Ministeri Italiani venuti in mano delle Forze Alleate sono ora riuniti in un unico edificio qui in Roma, dove saranno esaminati da un'unica organizzazione costituita allo scopo dai due Governi Alleati.

Ringrazio vivamente d'aver pensato a chiamare a far parte di tale organizzazione anche un funzionario proveniente dall'Amministrazione degli Archivi Italiani, rimanendo inteso ch'egli non solo avrà il compito di agire come ufficiale di collocamento fra la detta organizzazione e i vari Ministeri Italiani, ma sarà ammesso, almeno progressivamente, a portare un contributo reale nella custodia e nel riordinamento degli atti stessi.

A tal fine deleghiamo pertanto il Direttore di 2^a classe Dott. Leopoldo Sandri, con la certezza ch'egli sarà assolvere il delicato e onorevole compito di collaborazione al quale, a vostra gentile richiesta, e per nostra deliberazione, viene così destinato.

saluti.

Voglia gradire, caro Generale, i miei cordiali

II COMPOSIZIONARIO DI SPAN 4215

Sic yie puen-tlo

Al General M. CARR

0367

Ringrazio vivamente d'aver pensato a chiamare a far parte di tale organizzazione anche un funzionario proveniente dall'Amministrazione degli Archivi Italiani, rimanendo inteso ch'egli non solo avrà il compito di agire come ufficiale di collocamento fra la detta organizzazione e i vari Ministeri Italiani, ma sarà ammesso, almeno progressivamente, a portare un contributo reale nella custodia e nel riordinamento degli atti stessi.

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Vogliam gradire, caro Generale, i miei cordiali saluti.

IL SOTTOSCRITTO DI GRA 4215

Fai yu Pimentel

Al Generale M. C. A. R.
Sezione degli Affari Civili
Quartieri Generali della
Commissione Alleata.

R. C. M. A.





21 SEP 1945

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

21 SET. 1945

AMERICAN EMBASSY

Rome, Italy,
September 20, 1945.

M. Carr, Brigadier,
Civil Affairs Section,
Headquarters Allied Commission.
Rome.

Dear Brigadier Carr:

I have your letter of September 18, 1945 and hasten to answer.

Please rest assured that the archives which we have taken into possession for intelligence investigation will be preserved and returned to the respective ministries with all possible speed. Your letter indicates that we have in our possession the bulk of the archives in question. This is not the fact. Of the several thousand tons of archives in existence we have selected less than twenty tons which in my opinion are less than one-tenth of one per cent of the official Italian State archives. It is definitely not our intention to take or send any official State archives out of Italy. Any which might be so sent would be personal papers formerly belonging to individuals and that would be done only on specific orders from London or Washington.

Any archives which were disposed of prior to my arrival in Rome were so disposed of by military functions, and I would have no knowledge of these either as to where they were sent or by whom, nor do I have any way of determining this fact. This would have been done strictly by the military.

Again please rest assured that our desire to preserve the existing Italian archives, and especially those in our possession, is mutual.

Very truly yours,

Vincent La Vista.



22 SET 1945

10

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394

JBWP/pa

Subcommission for Monuments Fine Arts & Archives
(Tel. 489081, ext. 442 & 252; 478480)

20905/C/1/2/FAA

22 September 1945

SUBJECT: Records stored in Villa Wolkonsky.

TO : Marchese Cittadini-Cesi, Representative of
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Hq ALCEH, Bn 39, 3rd
floor.

1. There are at present stored on the premises of the former German Embassy in Rome, "Villa Wolkonsky", Via Conte Rosso 25, four cases of documents and one case of cinema film from the German Embassy premises at FASANO. They are stored in a sealed room designated as Darnock No. 1, room 3.

2. As already agreed these documents are reserved for Allied use; and it is now requested that you make the necessary arrangements to release them to Mr. La Vista of the American Embassy or to any agent nominated by him.

J. B. WARD PIERCE
Lt. Col., R. A.
Director.

4214

20905/J

22 SET 1945

HEAD MATTERS ALLIED COORDINATION
LPO 394
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

19 September 1945

20305/3/7M

My dear Mr. Lammontagary,

As you are aware, it has been necessary for the Allies to retain in their hands certain categories of Italian archives which are of interest to the American and British Governments. These are being concentrated in a single building in Rome, where they will be worked on by a joint organization set up by the two Governments for this purpose.

Having regard to the Italian origin of these archives, and to the fact that the great part of them will ultimately revert to the Italian Government, I am anxious that a number of your archives service should form part of the new organization.

If you agree to appoint an archivist to work in this capacity, he would operate under the direction of the Allied heads of the organization and would be responsible for the arrangement and care of such categories of records as were suitably turned over to him.

A valuable subsidiary function of the archivist would undoubtedly be to act as liaison officer between the new organization and the Italian Ministries. Experience in the last two months has shown that various Ministries do in fact make requests to consult archives which the Allies at present hold. The archivist would be the channel through which such requests by the Ministries would come and, subject to the consent of the heads of the Allied organization, it would be his duty to make suitable arrangements for consultation.

I am sure you will readily understand that before the new organization is in a position to turn records over to the archivist for arrangement, it will wish to have the opportunity for its own officers to make a preliminary examination of them. Under these circumstances, for the first month or so after appointment, the archivist would be mainly a liaison officer in the sense of the paragraph above. I am assured by the heads of the new research agency, however, that every effort would be made to bring him fully within the organization at the earliest moment; and I have made it clear to them that I am requesting you to appoint an archivist on the understanding that he will have a real part in the care of these records.

Yours truly,
H.M.

If you agree to appoint an archivist to work in this capacity, he would operate under the direction of the Allied heads of the organization and would be responsible for the arrangement and care of such categories of records as were immediately turned over to him.

A valuable subsidiary function of the archivist would undoubtedly be to act as liaison officer between the new organization and the Italian Ministries. Experience in the last two months has shown that various Ministries do in fact make requests to consult archives which the Allies at present hold. The archivist would be the channel through which such requests to the Ministries would come and, subject to the consent of the heads of the Allied organization, it would be his duty to make suitable arrangements for consultation.

I am sure you will readily understand that before the new organization is in a position to turn records over to the archivist for arrangement, it will wish to have the opportunity for its own officers to make a preliminary examination of them. Under these circumstances, for the first month or so after appointment, the archivist would be mainly a liaison officer in the sense of the paragraph above. I am assured by the heads of the new research agency, however, that every effort would be made to bring him fully within the organization at the earliest moment; and I have made it clear to them that I am requesting you to appoint an archivist on the understanding that he will have a real part in the care of those records.

I shall be glad if, having regard to the arguments I have stated above, you feel you can proceed to such an appointment.

Yours very truly,

ml
H. G. B.,
Brigadier,
V.P. G. B.

Dr Giorgio Amendola,
Undersecretary of State,
Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri,
Italian Government,
R O M

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

6
HEB/fl

20905/J/MFAA

18 September 45

Dear Mr La Vista,

As you know, the Monuments Fine Arts and Archives Sub-Commission of this Headquarters has the responsibility of seeing to the protection of Italian archives.

The location of those records seized for intelligence investigation has always, therefore, been a preoccupation of the Sub-Commission.

I understand that your research organization now has charge of the bulk of these archives, and it would be very much appreciated if you ^{could} let the Monuments Fine Arts and Archives Sub-Commission have details if it is found necessary to send any of them out of the country to Washington or London.

It would be particularly helpful if such information could be made retrospective - to cover transmissions of archives made before your organization took over, if a record of such exists.

Yours faithfully,



M. CARR,
Brigadier,
VP CA Sec.

V. La Vista Esq.,
The American Embassy,
ROME.

4211

785016

From Capt. C.R. Pinsent.

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
HQ LOMBARDIA REGION
Monuments and Fine Arts Section.

568

In Bell in return, no immediate action
needed ~~done~~

17 Sept 45.

No action. HEB 5/10/45

Dear Harry,

The enclosed are self-explanatory. They were accompanied
by the following notes:

To Maj. Calloten;

Suggest that this be bucked up thru channels.
(Signed) D. Goodman.

To Capt. Neufeld. (Executive Off. Lombardia)

The contents are self-explanatory. Do you think it should
go on up?

(Signed) B.A.C.

To Capt. McCain.

I'd let this rest as it is, wdn't you?
(Signed) Neufeld.

To Capt. Neufeld.

Capt. McCain has left for U.S. Agree.
(Signed) Cecil Pinsent.

Yours,

Cecil.

421

To Maj. H. E. Bell.
MFAA, HQ, AC.

209057C/4/c

" Removed from Archivio, Scuole elementari, Mompiano:

- 1) Commissione mista dei delegati della S. Sede e del governo italiano per predisporre la esecuzione del Concordato (25 folders)
- 2) Azione Cattolica (1 folder)
- 3) Attività politica del clero di Fiume (1 file: 232 L 2 (a bis))
- 4) Ex Jugoslavia (1 folder)
- 5) Dalmazia (1 folder)
- 6) Provvedimenti di Polizia a carico del clero (1 file: 232 L 2 B)
- 7) Clero della Venezia giulia (2 files: 232 L 2)
- 8) Attività del clero a mezzo stampa (1 file: 232 L 2 C)
- 9) Attività politica del clero (1 file: 232 L 2/a)

D.E.C. Hagues
Capt.

G 2 AFHQ

25 Aug. '45 "

COMMISSARIATO PER IL MINISTERO DELL'INTERNO
DELEGAZIONE PER LA PROV. DI BRESCIA

MINISTERO DELL'INTERNO

N. di Prot. 312 del/5J/e

Risposta a nota N.....

Brescia, Li 30 agosto 1945

OGGETTO: Prelevamento di atti d'ufficio del Ministero dell'Interno da parte di personale del Comando Alleato.

Al Comando Militare Alleato

Brescia.

Si segnala che il pomeriggio del 25 agosto u.s. un Capitano dell'esercito alleato si è presentato alle Scuole di Mompiano (Frazione di Brescia), ove ha sede la Direzione Generale dei Culti di questo Ministero, e, ordinato al custode di aprire l'uscio dell'ufficio, ha prelevato dal tavolo 9 fascicoli di Affari generali, che risultano dalla ricevuta rilasciata da detto Capitano al custode delle scuole, e che si allega in copia.

Si rileva che si vanno ripetendo casi di militari alleati che si presentano direttamente nelle sedi degli uffici ad esaminare o addirittura a prelevare atti e pratiche dagli archivi, senza che questo ufficio ne venga in precedenza informato e senza che nemmeno siano presi diretti contatti con i funzionari responsabili degli uffici. In tal modo si rende assai più difficile l'opera di custodia dei documenti di pertinenza del Ministero dell'Interno, che è affidata a questo Ufficio ed ai funzionari consegnatari delle Direzioni generali.

Si prega codesto Comando di voler esaminare la possibilità di evitare che si verificano episodi analoghi a quello riferito, raccomandando che in ogni caso sia prima avvertito questo Ufficio; e, si prega altresì di voler identificare, se possibile, l'ufficiale che ha prelevato i fascicoli dalla Direzione Generale dei Culti e comunicare ove questi attualmente si trovino.

Il Delegato
(Avv. Liebero Dordoni)
f.ta.

4208

785016

14 SEP. 1945

12 SET 1945

British Embassy,
Rome.

293/65/45

12th September, 1945.

14 SET. 1945

To: Civil Affairs Section, Allied Commission.

From: British Embassy.

Reference is made to the meeting held at Allied Commission on August 16th to consider disposal etc. of captured Fascist archives, and in particular to the proposal that an Italian Government archivist should be engaged to help in the sorting of those archives which it is desired to retain, including the diplomatic archives in which the Foreign Office are particularly interested.

2. The Foreign Office have been consulted and state that they have no objection to this proposal, provided that Allied supervision is in fact adequate to premature destruction or concealment of diplomatic documents, along with "safehaven" material.

A. C. C.

A. C. C.
RECORDING THE ACTS & DECISIONS
14 SET. 1945
FILE NO 20905/1945

4207

3/17

12 SET 1945

My dear Mr Prime Minister,

As you are aware, it has been necessary for the Allies to retain in their hands certain categories of Italian archives which are of interest to the American and British Governments. These are being concentrated in a single building in Rome, where they will be worked on by a joint organization set up by the two Governments for this purpose.

Having regard to the Italian origin of these archives, and to the fact that the great part of them will ultimately revert to the Italian Government, I am anxious that a member of your archives service should form part of the new organization.

If you agree to appoint an archivist to work in this capacity, he would operate under the direction of the Allied heads of the organization and would be responsible for the arrangement and care of such categories of records as were successively turned over to him.

A valuable subsidiary function of the archivist would undoubtedly be to act as liaison officer between the new organization and the Italian Ministries. Experience in the last two months has shown that various Ministries do in fact make requests to consult archives which the Allies at present hold. The archivist would be the channel through which such requests by the Ministries would come

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requests to consult archives which the Allies at present hold. The archivist
would be the channel through which such requests by the Ministries would come
and, subject to the consent of the heads of the Allied organization, it could
be his duty to make suitable arrangements for consultation.

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I am sure you will readily understand that before the new organization
is in a position to turn records over to the archivist for arrangement, it will
wish to have the opportunity for its own officers to make a preliminary examina-
tion of them. Under these circumstances, for the first month or so after appointment,
the archivist would be mainly a liaison officer in the sense of the paragraph above.

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I am assured by the heads of the ^{new research agency} ~~organization~~, however, that every effort would be made to ^{bring} ~~integrate~~ him fully ^{within the organization} ~~into its structure~~ at the earliest moment; and I have made it clear to them that I am requesting you to appoint an archivist on the understanding that he will have a real part in the care of these

records.

I shall be glad if, having regard to the arguments I have stated above, you feel you can proceed to ^{such} ~~make~~ an appointment.

Yours sincerely,

M. CARR,
Brigadier,
VP CA Sec.

Professor Ferruccio Parri
President of Council of the Ministers
Italian Government
ROME.

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DECLASSIFIED E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/WHM No. 785016

M. CARR,
Brigadier,
VP CA Sec.

Professor Ferruccio Parri
President of Council of the Ministers
Italian Government
ROME.

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Dear Mr La Vista,

As you know, the Monuments Fine Arts and Archives Sub-Commission of this Headquarters has the responsibility of seeing to the protection of Italian archives.

The location of those records seized for intelligence ^{investigation} ~~exploitation~~ has always, therefore, been a preoccupation of the Sub-Commission.

I understand that your research organization now has charge of the bulk of these archives, and it would be very much appreciated if you let the Monuments Fine Arts and Archives Sub-Commission have a ^{details if} ~~list of~~ ^{any of them} ~~of them~~ that it is found necessary to send ^{out of} ~~out of~~ the country to ~~London or~~ Washington ^{or} London.

It would be particularly helpful if such information could be made retrospective - to cover transmissions of archives made before your organization took over, if a record of such exists.

Yours faithfully,

V. La Vista Esq.,

The American Embassy,
Rome

M. CARR,
Brigadier,
VP CA Sec.

4204

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

APO 394

Subcommission for Monuments Fine Arts & Archives
(Tel. 489081, ext. 442 & 254; 473480)

20905/C/4/C/MPAA

3 September 45

SUBJECT: Italian Ministerial Archives in Northern Italy.

TO : Vice President, Civil Affairs Section.

I. BACKGROUND AND SCOPE OF THE PROBLEM.

During 1943 and the early part of 1944 the Fascist government transferred to various places in Lombardia and Venezia the great part of the archives of the principal ministries and other government departments of the kingdom of Italy. The location and protection of these archives, and plans for their eventual disposal, have been a major preoccupation of this Sub-Commission.

(a) LOCATION.

The first step, taken a year ago, was the preparation of a list of the addresses to which the archives of the various ministries and other offices had initially been evacuated; this was based on information obtained from the Italian Government.

In fact, when the liberation of Northern Italy made possible inquiries on the ground, this list was found in some respects to have dated. In the months immediately preceding the German-Fascist collapse, further transfers had taken place from the localities originally selected, and in particular there had been a tendency towards concentration around Milan. Nevertheless, the list provided a starting-point for the inspections carried out by Archives Officers, May-July 1945. It was also made available, in its original and revised form, to Allied intelligence agencies, by whom it was presumably found equally useful.

(b) PROTECTION.

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(b) PROTECTION.

The protection of deposits of archives, often situated in unsuitable buildings and sometimes in remote villages, presented a sufficiently difficult problem. Those which had been given a high priority for intelligence examination and exploitation were placed, at least in the initial phase of Allied occupation, under military guard. Others again became the responsibility of A.M.G. Public Safety Officers or C.A.O.s.

For the great bulk of archives, however, the only practicable method of organising protection was to delegate responsibility to Italian officials, and the existence of the C.L.N.A.I., which appointed commissaries to wind up the affairs of the offices concerned, facilitated this solution of the difficulty. With the exception of the categories mentioned in the para above,

Italian ministerial archives have been looked after by Italians; and it must be added that they have done the job well.

(c) DISPOSAL.

On the question of disposal, the main efforts of this Sub-Commission have been directed towards the prevention of dispersion and loss that inevitably accompany hasty transfer -

(1) Intelligence Exploitation.

Eighteen months ago the Archives Advisors to the American and British Governments (Mr Shipman and Mr Jenkinson) worked out with the responsible officers of G-2 Document Section, A.F.H.Q., a system whereby intelligence seizures were to be made on an orderly basis. Under the terms of A.F.H.Q. Intelligence Instruction No 38 of 4th June 1944 all documents removed for exploitation were to pass eventually to G-2 Document Section A.F.H.Q. During the initial phases this procedure was amplified by registration with G-2 Advanced Document Section at H.Q.S. Forces.

Wherever possible, Archives Officers have stressed the importance of a rigid observance of these rules. There is some indication that they have not always been carried out, but the bulk of material seized by intelligence agencies is accounted for.

(2) Return to Ministries in Rome.

Representations were made to the Italian Government that eventual transfer to Rome should be a single, co-ordinated process and that individual ministries and offices should not attempt to arrange transfer on their own account. The reasons for this policy were as follows--

- (1) It was desirable that a move of this sort should not be carried out in a haphazard fashion by inexperienced officials, acting without the necessary technical advice of an archivist.

- (41) The presence in the North of a host of representatives of individual ministries, all playing a lone hand and

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(ii) The presence in the North of a host of representatives of individual ministries, all playing a lone hand and seeking assistance for the transportation of their archives, would have proved a serious embarrassment to the Regional and Provincial Commissioners concerned.

(iii) It was felt that the time lag involved in preparing a co-ordinated plan of transfer would give Allied intelligence agencies a reasonable chance to complete their study and selection of documents while deposits remained in the North.

A meeting of representatives of Italian ministries concerned, held on 26th June, agreed this policy, and also the outlines of the co-ordinated plan described in II(a) below.

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Since it was found, however, that individual ministries were breaking the agreement, on 11th July a letter was despatched to Regional Commissioners, Lombardia and Venetie Regions, stating that no further transfers were to take place prior to the co-ordinated transfer. Consequently, though there have been some cases where archives have slipped through the net, the bulk remain in deposit in the North.

II. FINAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR DISPOSAL, AUGUST 1945.

(a) THE ORIGINAL PLAN.

The following arrangements were made between Brigadier Upjohn, then V.P., Civil Affairs Section, and Professor Parri, President of the Council of Ministers, and (so far as administrative details were concerned) by Major H.E. Bell, Archives Officer of this Sub-Commission, in consultation with Commendatore Emilio Re, the Commissary of State Archives.

It was agreed that a representative of each ministry and office concerned should proceed to the North to see to the packing and crating of archives and to provide estimates of the tonnage involved and the railway stations most convenient for loading. These representatives were to be accompanied by a delegate of the High Commissariat for Epuration, who was to earmark those archives that it was necessary, for the purposes of epuration, to leave temporarily in the North.

On the basis of the information received from these representatives, the President of the Council was to provide this Sub-Commission with a list of priorities, which would in fact be a programme of transfer. This list would have regard to:

- (1) The state of preparedness of the material.
- (2) The urgency of its requirement for administrative purposes.
- (3) The urgency of releasing premises used as deposits.

(b) THE LA VISTA-THOMSON ORGANISATION.

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(b) THE LA VISTA-THOMSON ORGANISATION.

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When arrangements outlined in (a) above were in an advanced stage of preparation, information was received from A.F.H.Q. that a new Allied intelligence agency, under the direction of Mr La Vista of the U.S. State Department and Lt Colonel Thomson of the British Foreign Office, was being set up to exploit Italian archives. It was represented that G-2 Documents Section and Political Advisors (A. and B.) A.F.H.Q. did not, therefore, welcome the transfer proposed and were unhappy at the handover to Italian control.

On 16th August a meeting was held under the joint chairmanship of Colonel H.H.S. Hartley, Civil Affairs Section, and Lt Col Hoffmann, A.F.H.Q., and attended by Political Advisors (A. and B.) Allied Commission, Mr La Vista, Capt Haynes (representing Lt Colonel Thomson), Professor Bates, P.W.B., Lt Col J.B. Ward Perkins, Director M.F.A.A. Sub-Commission, and Major H.E. Bell, Archives Officer.

At this meeting agreement was reached as follows--

- (1) The policy of organising protection through the Italians had, in fact, been the only practicable possibility.
- (2) Of the archives remaining in deposit in Northern Italy only a very small proportion (perhaps between 5 and 10 per cent of the total, would interest the new intelligence agency.
- (3) Prior to transfer of archives to Rome the agency was to have an opportunity of examining those series likely to be of interest, seizing what it regarded as strictly necessary; this work was to be carried out while the ministerial representatives were in the North, and was to be so arranged as not to interfere with the transfer of archives not earmarked for intelligence use.

The question of the ultimate disposal of Italian archives was raised by Major Bell, who stressed the importance of their being handed over eventually to the Italian Government, except for the very small number of cases in which there might be an over-riding military or political objection to this course. In the meantime, he suggested that the appointment of an Italian archivist to work in the new intelligence organisation would be of great value. Capt Haynes reported that Lt Colonel Thomson accepted this proposal; Mr La Vista, however, did not and Political Advisor (A.) felt that it must be referred to Higher Authority.

These matters, therefore, which are of very considerable importance, were left unsettled at this meeting.

(c) THE MODIFIED PLAN.

It remained to carry out the original plan outlined in (a) above with the modifications necessitated by the requirements of the La Vista - Thomson organisation. This was done during the period 21th - 30th August, when all concerned proceeded to Milan and thence to the various archive depositories in Lombardy and Veneto.

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Broadly speaking there were three parties to the negotiatio

- (1) Representatives of the La Vista - Thomson Organisation
(Mr La Vista, Capt Ciferelli, Capt Haynes, Capt Hall, Capt Pio.)
- (2) Representatives of the Italian ministries and High Commissariat of Epuration (listed at Appendix A.)
- (3) Local Commissioners of the Italian ministries, who have had control of the great bulk of the archives since the liberation (listed at Appendix A.)

Administration and co-ordination of the work of these three groups was the joint responsibility of Archives Officers of this Sub-Commission, Capt W.D. McCain and Major H.E. Bell, of Commandatore Re and Dr L. Sandri of the Italian Archives Service, and of Conte P.M. Annoni di Gussolo, Vice-Commissary of the Presidenza del Consiglio. In particular, Archives Officers had the somewhat delicate task of attempting to reconcile the needs of the new intelligence agency with those of the Italian ministries.

Work done, and progress made during this last period can best be summarized under two needs:-

1. The La Vista-Thomson Organisation.

A series of meetings between the representatives of this organisation and Archives Officers was held on 21st and 22nd August.

At these meetings it was found possible, on the basis of reports of Archives Officers, and of Captain Ciforelli, to eliminate many deposits of ministerial archives that clearly held nothing of interest for the organisation. Indeed, it became apparent that examination of a comparatively small number of archives was contemplated. It was arranged that this should be carried out during the following week, and that on chests etc. that it was intended to seize there should be placed a distinguishing mark.

On 23 August members of the intelligence agency left Milan, armed with paint-pots, for the examination and marking of archives. They were able to complete this work during the week following. In some cases they actually removed archives, where bulk required was small; this was not within the terms of the original agreement, but since it saved further visits was a commonsense procedure, and unexceptionable since receipts were left. For the rest, documents wanted were marked and put on one side; it will be the responsibility of the La Vista-Thomson organisation to collect them before the transfer of the remainder to the Italian ministries commences. Lists of documents taken and ⁴¹marked are at Appendix D.

Mr La Vista expressed himself as very pleased with the work accomplished. That the documents required were still

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Mr La Vista expressed himself as very pleased with the work accomplished. That the documents required were still in place was due to the policy of refusing to allow piecemeal transfers. In only one case did any difficulty arise. Three freight trucks of archives of the Istituto Nazionale per i Cambi con l'Estero are said to have been transferred to Rome at the end of July. This move, which was contrary to instructions set out in A.C. letter 20905/C/4/o/MFAA, dated 11th July 1945, is alleged to have been made with the consent of Finance Division, A.M.C. Lombardia Region. Since the archives concerned may be required by the La Vista - Thomson organization, an effort is being made to determine whether the freight cars have reached Rome and, if possible, to divert them for examination by Mr La Vista.

2. Work of the Ministerial Representatives and Local Commissioners.

Meetings were held on 21st and 22nd August, at which administrative details were fixed and the duties of representatives were defined. In addition to obtaining details of tonnage of documents in separate deposits and furnishing names of stations most convenient for loading, representatives were also instructed to give an eye to the security of deposits and to make all arrangements for packing. At the second meeting, they were informed of the procedure that would be followed by representatives of the La Vista-Thomson organisation.

Minutes of these meetings are at Appendix B and C.

On 23rd and 24th August representatives proceeded to their various deposits. Two cars for this purpose were furnished by Allied Commission, Milan Office; six by Italian authorities - supply of petrol for the latter being arranged through A.M.G. Lombardia Region.

On 25th August Commandatore Re and Major Bell left for an extended tour of deposits (Brescia, Lake Garda, Valdagno, Padova, Venice, Cremona), with a view to straightening out difficulties as they arose. Capt McCain and Dr Sandri remained in Milan during this period to take care of any matters that cropped up there. On 26th August Capt McCain left Milan for Rome.

On 30th August a meeting of representatives and commissaries was held, at which all details requested at the first and second meeting were supplied. In particular, the distinction emerged between those archives ready for immediate shipment and those where work of packing was still incomplete.

For these a further 3,900 chests are still necessary, but arrangements for the manufacture of these are going ahead rapidly. They will be paid for out of a credit of 5 million lire opened at Milan by the Italian Government for expenses in connection with the transfer.

Minutes of this final meeting are not yet available.

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Minutes of this final meeting are not yet available.

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III. FURTHER ACTION NECESSARY.

(a) TRANSFER.

This is now a straightforward transportation problem. Commendatore Re, as the representative of the President of the Council charged with co-ordination, has full details from which he is working out a proposed programme. When this is complete, within the next few days, he will accompany Major Bell to transportation Sub-Commission, which has promised to make the necessary bids for rail transport.

Road transport to loading points will be arranged by Conte Annoni, and paid for out of the 5 million lire credit opened by the Italian Government. Road transport in Rome will

be the responsibility of individual ministries concerned.

It should be stressed that, except for those records seized by Allied intelligence agencies, and in the last period by the La Vista - Thomson organisation, all ministerial archives now become the responsibility of the Italian Government.

Allied Commission's commitment in this connection is limited to the securing of rail transport and advising when this will be available.

(b) ARCHIVES SEIZED BY INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES.

There remains the question of the disposal of archives seized for intelligence exploitation, both in the months immediately subsequent upon liberation and more recently by the La Vista - Thomson organisation.

This Sub-Commission welcomes the setting-up of that organisation since it is understood that in its premises (the old P.W.B. building, Via Vittorio Veneto, Rome) will be housed all documents seized since the occupation of Northern Italy. That concentration is, from a technical archivist's standpoint, most desirable, since most important series of archives (notably Ministry of Popular Culture and Ministry of Foreign Affairs records) are involved.

On the question of final disposal, however, no decision appears yet to have been reached.

This Sub-Commission reiterates strongly the opinion expressed throughout all these negotiations that ultimately Italian archives should be returned to the Italian Government, saving only the very exceptional case where political or military reasons render such return imprudent. These archives record a part of Italy's history, and as such their proper place is in Italy.

It is recommended that representations be made to Higher Authority that, as and when the work of the La Vista - Thomson organisation on separate series of archives is completed, these be returned to the Italian Government.

Pending a decision on this question, this Sub-Commission feels that interim action should be taken as follows--

(1) An Italian Archivist should be appointed to work within,

On the question of final disposal, however, no decision appears yet to have been reached.

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It is recommended that representations be made to Higher Authority that, as and when the work of the La Vista - Thomson Organisation on separate series of archives is completed, these be returned to the Italian Government.

Pending a decision on this question, this Sub-Commission feels that interim action should be taken as follows--

- (1) An Italian Archivist should be appointed to work within, and under the orders of the La Vista - Thomson Organisation. As stated in II(b) above, Lt Colonel Thomson has expressed agreement with this proposal; Mr La Vista is now anxious to have such an archivist, but initially only in a liaison capacity and not within his Organisation. Having regard to the acute shortage of Italian archives personnel, this Sub-Commission can only recommend acceptance of Mr La Vista's proposal, if it is guaranteed that every effort would be made to integrate the archival progressively into the intelligence organisation itself, turning over to his technical care, immediately after examination by Allied officers, such categories of archives as security considerations would permit.

- (2) The La Vista - Thomson organization should be asked to inform this Sub-Commission of all documents which it is found necessary to move out of this country to Washington or London.

For the Director:

H.E. Bell,
Major, A.E.C.
Archives Officer.

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

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Conversation (Colonel Hurley / Mr. Rutherford) refers.

10 AGO 1945

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
INFORMATION AND CENSORSHIP SECTION
PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE BRANCH
ITALIAN THEATRE HEADQUARTERS
P.W.B. UNIT No. 12 U.S.A.P.O. 512

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Bell on return
JMS

10th. August, 1945.

To: Col. Thompson, British Embassy.
Copies to: Mr. La Vista, American Embassy
A.C. Civil Affairs
G.2., AFHQ.

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RECEIVED FBI AUG 11 1945
18 AGO 1945
2090576/4/c
FILE No 11 AUG 1945

From: Assistant Deputy Director, PWB, AFHQ.

Subject: Examination of Italian Government archives.

1. In accordance with your verbal instructions, I have made enquiries about facilities for your organisation here in Rome, and report as follows:
2. On the 5th. floor of 62 Via Veneto there will shortly be available 24 small or medium sized rooms, all of which can be locked and some of which have considerable cupboard and storage space. All are fitted with desks, chairs, etc. The few Italian records stored in these rooms could be removed if desired; they belong to the Italian Press Office.
3. The second floor of 56 Via Veneto contains approximately 16 rooms which are largely filled by the archives of the Ministry of Popular Culture. There are also stored in these rooms at the moment Foreign Office and Ministry of Interior archives from Northern Italy, but there is scarcely room properly to examine these when they are uncased.
4. Both the above premises are held on requisition by PWB Rome. The requisition could be transferred jointly to the British and American Embassies by agreement with R.A.A.C. PWB will be unable to hold these requisitions for more than another two or three weeks. 4194
5. Both premises have adequate telephone communications through Exchange 489.171, which also serves the Undersecretariat of the Press (Italian) and the Office of "Reclut" (Italian) and PWB. This exchange is run by Italian labour under Allied military supervision. The latter is supplied by PWB and will be withdrawn. Three ORs are involved.
6. The furnishings in both premises are part of the PWB requisition and would have to be transferred by agreement with R.A.A.C.
7. Office cleaning is at present done by Italian labour employed by PWB. It would be possible for your organisation to take on

10 AGO 1945

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ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
INFORMATION AND CENSORSHIP SECTION
PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE BRANCH
ITALIAN THEATRE HEADQUARTERS
P.W.B. UNIT No. 12 U.S.A.P.O. 512

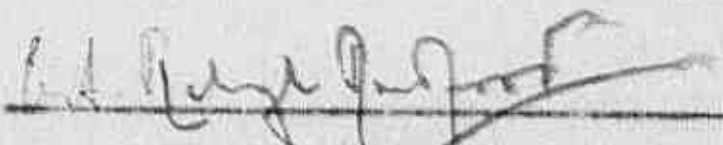
2.

two or more cleaners as thought necessary.

8. I have made no allowance for the physical shifting of crated archives, etc. This work is at present done by Italian civilian labour employed by PWB, which will no longer be available. A lift is available in 56 Via Veneto, but not in 62.

9. I estimate that the two premises together would be ample to house and allow working space on the Ministry of Popular Culture archives, on the P.O. and Ministry of Interior and other archives at present crated in 56 Via Veneto, and about double this quantity. I estimate this on the basis of a working staff of officer status of eight to twelve people, together with the necessary secretaries and manual labour.

10. I await your instructions and those of Mr. La Vista before taking any further action. Since our meeting I have received from G2, AFHQ, authority to hand over to Mr. La Vista such Italian records as are held by PWB, and I am prepared to do so at any time convenient to him and yourself. I have been in touch with Mr. La Vista and I understand that he is not at the moment prepared to take custody.


G. A. Salegh Radford
Assistant Deputy Director
PWB, AFHQ.

0400