

Brass Cartridge Cases

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15121 145

SES

APC 394
INDUSTRY SUB-COMMISSION

VD/lrw

Tel. 489081, Ext. 543

14 September 1945

Ref. AC/5658/IND.

SUBJECT: Brass Cartridge Cases

TO : Director, War Materials Disposal Sub-Commission

1. References are Capt. Pinecoffin's memorandum of 13 September on the above subject in connection with the 3000 tons under Lot No 421 at present lying at the 18 B.A.D. Mola, and our letters of the 20th and 24th August.
2. As promised yesterday over the telephone, Mr. Dorkovich had a lengthy discussion with the officials of the Montecatini Company at which it was pointed out the sending of all of the 11,600 tons total brass cartridge cases to Montecatini factories was highly undesirable if the original plan of having it reworked eventually into copper as an intermediate step in the manufacture of copper sulphate were to be pursued.
3. At this conference, it was brought out that a lot of 4000 tons of copper has or is shortly to arrive at Genoa, of which 3000 tons, we were informed, were intended for copper sulphate production.
4. This has put a new complexion on the entire problem inasmuch as theoretically this should be reflected by a reduction in the equivalent amount of brass cartridge cases, namely approximately 4500 tons, thus reducing the total asked for from 11,600 to only 7,100 tons. Furthermore, it has taken us almost three months to find four firms who are willing to convert the brass into copper and already have run into numerous partly foreseen troubles such as the probability that Montecatini, the purchaser of the copper, and the four smelting works making it from brass would never get together on a reasonable price basis. In addition, the only feasible method for obtaining a scale of output commensurate with the copper sulphate program requires the use of coal-fire/furnaces which will consume, it is believed, as great a tonnage of imported coal as the

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tonnage of copper to be produced. Since the most recent reports from the U.S. indicate that copper is no longer in short supply, it would seem reasonable to revert immediately to our original and greatly-to-be-preferred plan for importing the copper as in normal times.

5. An argument reinforcing this position is that we are already well behind our manufacturing season and already are incurring the grave risk of failing to provide the minimum copper sulphate to safeguard the next wine campaign.

6. This entire matter is being reexamined at the earliest possible moment with high Italian officials only after which it will be possible to issue a definite statement as to the position that this office takes in the matter.

7. The reason for giving you this preliminary review of the latest developments is our knowledge that you are being pressed by AFH to withdraw the allotted scrap brass material as they are anxious to clear their salvage dumps.

8. We would appreciate your conferring with us at your earliest as to what interim action should be taken re clearing our Allied dumps.

V. DORRICH, Chief Chemicals Div.

for A. H. GLENBURNING
Colonel
Acting Director
Industry Sub-Commission

Copy to:
Northern Office, Industry S/C
Transportation S/C, Rails Div. ✓
Economic Section, Requisition Branch

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