

383.6 PRISONERS OF WAR
ITALIAN - MISCELLANEOUS

CONFIDENTIAL

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G-1
Major Brown/72234/jic

WDGAP 383.6 Italian (19 Oct 45)

*Prisoners of War Italy
383.6*

The Honorable

The Secretary of State

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I have your letter dated 19 October 1945, SPD, with which you forwarded a note from the Italian Embassy inclosing a request in behalf of certain Italian prisoners of war at Prisoner of War Camp, Hereford, Texas, for priority in repatriation, on the ground that they had applied for membership in the Italian Service Units in the war against Japan.

The War Department has classified the personnel at Prisoner of War Camp, Hereford, Texas, as generally non-cooperative, as it has been determined that most of the more than 3,000 prisoners interned there have Fascist leanings and tendencies. It is true that a few officers at this camp have applied to join the Service Units, but none volunteered prior to the capitulation of Germany, and it is not felt that their subsequent applications entitle them to priority in repatriation.

Approximately 177 Italian officer prisoners of war at Hereford, Texas, however, have volunteered for work and are now employed. These prisoners will accordingly receive priority in repatriation, and it is hoped to return them at an early date. The remainder of the Italian prisoners of war at Hereford will be repatriated early in 1946.

Sincerely yours,

SWNCC	
COL. MCCARTHY	.....
COMDR. RICHARDSON	.....
MR. R. E. COX	.....
LT. COL. PENNOYER	.....
LT. COMMANDER WEILFUSS	.....
MR. H. W. MOSELEY	.....
MR. J. P. GARDINER	.....
LT. COMMANDER ROCKEFELLER	.....
LT. COL. V. F. FIELD	.....
MAJOR W. E. GANTHER	.....
1ST LT. E. SPITALL	.....
ENS. F. WHITESIDE	.....
FILE	.....

SECRETARY OF WAR
ROBERT A. PATTERSON
Secretary of War

1294

COPY FOR SWNCC

383.6
Mr. Stimson

WDGAP 383.6 ISU (15 Aug 45)

G-1/72234
CHY/vk

15 SEP 1945

The Honorable

The Secretary of State

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Detailed information has now been received from the Commanding General, European Theater of Operations, concerning his program for the repatriation of Italian Service Units now attached to the American forces in the European Theater of Operations.

As of 1 September 1945, 34,534 Italian Service Unit personnel were held in France, and 6,180 were held in Germany. 2,000 such personnel have already been repatriated to Italy. The European Theater estimates that the entire group of Italian prisoners held in Germany will be repatriated by 30 September 1945. Those held in France are to be returned to Italy at the rate of 7,500 during September 1945, 12,500 in October 1945, and the remaining 12,500 during November 1945.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) HENRY L. STIMSON

Secretary of War

SWNCC	
COL. MCCARTHY	<i>Stimson</i>
COMDR. RICHARDSON	<i>Stimson</i>
MR. R. E. COX	<i>Stimson</i>
LT. COL. PENNOYER	<i>Stimson</i>
LT. COL. SILFUSS	<i>Stimson</i>
MR. H. W. MOSELEY	<i>Stimson</i>
MR. J. P. GARDINER	<i>Stimson</i>
LT. COMDR. ROCKEFELLER	<i>Stimson</i>
LT. COL. V. F. FIELD	<i>Stimson</i>
MAJOR W. E. GUNTHER	<i>Stimson</i>
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COPY FOR SWNCC

387.6 Italy
~~5-2-45~~

AUG 3 - 1945

The Honorable
The Secretary of State

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I have received a letter from Mr. Holmes dated 16 July 1945, File SWP 711.65114/6-2545, concerning the proposal submitted by the Italian Ambassador to inaugurate weekly radio programs in the Italian language for the benefit of Italian Prisoners of War.

The War Department has no objection to such weekly broadcasts if advance clearances are obtained from the War Department Bureau of Public Relations with reference to any scripts to be used. This procedure is intended primarily to obviate the possibility of dissemination of any misinformation concerning the status of or the projected plans for either Italian Service Units or Italian prisoners of war, and is not intended to impose unreasonable restrictions upon the selection of program materials.

It is noted that the costs of the broadcast are to be borne by the Italian Embassy. It would appear, at least with respect to certain prisoner of war installations, that information could be more economically and perhaps more satisfactorily disseminated by use of recordings over loud speaker systems at the individual camps rather than by use of commercial radio stations. This of course would be a matter of choice with the Italian Embassy. In such case, a similar procedure for clearance should be followed, and the recordings submitted to the Bureau of Public Relations in advance of their use.

Sincerely yours,

HENRY L. STIMSON

Secretary of War

SWNCC	
COL. MCCARTHY
COMDR. RICHARDSON
MR. R. E. COX
LT. COL. PENNOYER
LT. COMDR. WEILFUSS
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LT. COL. V. F. FIELD
MAJOR W. E. GUNTHER
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ENS. B. WHITESIDE
FILE

SWNCC

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July 20 1945
SECRET

WDOAS:PC meg

JUL 20 1945

Mr. William Phillips
Special Assistant to the
Secretary of State

Dear Mr. Phillips:

In Mr. McCloy's absence, I should like to answer your letter of 21 June 1945 and inclosure, concerning the conversation between yourself and the Royal Italian Ambassador with respect to certain inquiries by the Ambassador concerning the release and repatriation to Italy of Italian prisoners of war held in the United States.

It is the policy of the War Department to accord first priority in repatriation to members of Italian Service Units and other Italian cooperative personnel, in such numbers and at such times as circumstances make this possible. Plans are now under way for the repatriation of selected groups of 500 Italian prisoners of war in each of the months of August, September and October, selection being on the basis of service to the United States while a member of Italian Service Units.

In implementation of CCS 593/1, approximately 850 sick and wounded Italian prisoners have been repatriated to Italy, 100 others have been returned at the request of the Commanding General, Mediterranean Theater of Operations, and approximately 100 prisoners are being returned on compassionate grounds on 1 August 1945. The War Department will be happy to give consideration to such additional applicants for return for compassionate reasons as your Department may see fit to transmit. As you know, all such applicants must be approved for return by the Commanding General, Mediterranean Theater of Operations.

With reference to baggage and personal property, present regulations are being revised to permit enlisted men of Italian Service Units to take back with them approximately 100 pounds of baggage instead of the 30 pounds of baggage presently authorized. Additionally, no restrictions are to be placed on the articles and personal property which the men of the Italian Service Units may also take with them.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

ROBERT A. LOVETT
Assistant Secretary of War for Air

SECRET

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WDGAP 383.6 Italian (27 Jun 45)

Capt.Kline/73526/end

JUL 12 1945

The Honorable
The Attorney General

Dear Mr. Attorney General:

I am inclosing a translation of an article appearing in the Italian language newspaper "L'Italia Libera" in its issue of 1 June 1945.

Among other things, the article calls upon Italian prisoners of war to refuse to work, if they wish to return to Italy. It may be that the publication of the article constitutes an indictable offense under provisions of existing espionage and sedition acts. If so, it is the opinion of the War Department that steps should be taken to prosecute the publisher.

It would be appreciated if you would keep the War Department informed in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgt.) HENRY L. STINSON

Secretary of War.

INFORMATION COPY FOR THE SECRETARIAT, SWNCC

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