

MR 000.3, Sec. 1 -- RELIGION (Churches, denominations, services)

DECLASSIFIED

1942 - 1945

MR 000.3 -- Sec. 1 -- RELIGION (Churches, denominations, services)

1942 - 1944

UNCLASSIFIED

Map Room
Box 46
(Folder 3)

WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER
INCOMING CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

~~SECRET~~
PARAPHRASE OF STATE DEPT CABLE

From: Algiers

To : Secretary of State, Washington

Number: 1838 4 June 1944

This message comes from Murphy and has been sent for Tittmann to Bern. It concerns Vatican worries over the interval between Allied occupation of and German departure from Rome.

Monsignor Carroll, member of the Vatican Secretariat, who is with General Clark's headquarters, will proceed to the Vatican at the first available opportunity. General Clark will rely on Tittmann's and Carroll's immediate advice concerning the Vatican, with every effort being made to show the Vatican our respect of Vatican neutrality and consideration for the Church's property and status.

Chapin (Charge)

ACTION: G-2

INFO : CGAAF
OPD

Col. Park

LOG

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State Dept. letter, 1-11-72

By [Signature] Date JAN 16 1973

CM-IN-6779

(9 Jun 44)

0446Z

ejv

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NAVAL MESSAGE

NAVY DEPARTMENT

DRAFTER		EXTENSION NUMBER	ADDRESSEES	PRECEDENCE
FROM	STATE DEPART		ASTERISK (*) MAILGRAM ADDRESSEE	
RELEASED BY				PRIORITY
DATE	2 JUNE 1944		CNO	RRRRR
TOR CODER ROOM	020709			DEFERRED
DECODED BY				PRIORITY
PARAPHRASED BY	MCDUGALL/Thompson		DECLASSIFIED State Dept. Letter	ROUTINE
ROUTED BY	ROLL		By R. H. Parks Date APR 12 1973	DEFERRED
UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED THIS DISPATCH WILL BE TRANSMITTED WITH DEFERRED PRECEDENCE AND AS ADMINISTRATIVE.				IF OPERATIONAL CHECK BELOW
PAGE 1 OF 3 MAY 31, 1944				☐
MCR 6718				

ORIGINATOR FILL IN DATE AND TIME: DATE TIME GCT

ON OUTGOING DISPATCHES PLEASE LEAVE ABOUT ONE INCH CLEAR SPACE BEFORE BEGINNING TEXT

FOLLOWING RECD MAY 31 5 PM DATED BERN MAY 31 9PM NO. 3461. FROM TITMAN 186 MAY 26.

NY 154, APRIL 28 AND 145 APRIL 24.

ACCORDING TO NOTE DATED MAY 25 FROM SECRETARIAT OF STATE ON PRESENT STAGE OF NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN VATICAN AND GERMAN AUTHORITIES THE GERMANS HAVE AGREED TO:

1. ALLOW THE "BACINO 28 OF OCTOBER" SITUATED TO THE WEST OF THE PORT OF GENOA TO BE USED AS PORT OF EM-BARKATION FOR VATICAN SHIPS.
2. CONCEDE ONLY (CIVITAVECCHI AND SANTA MARINELLA ARE EXCLUDED) THE SO-CALLED "PORTO CLEMENTINO" NEAR TARQUINIA AS LANDING PORT BUT WILL PROVIDE NECESSARY TUG AND LIGHTER SERVICE THEREFORE. THEY FURTHERMORE AGREE TO PLACE AT THE DISPOSAL OF VATICAN A LIMITED QUANTITY (ABOUT 45 TONS) OF CEMENT FOR CONSTRUCTION

ACTION	
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FX40	
IG-00	
VCNC	

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0003

AL MESSAGE

NAVY DEPARTMENT

DRAFTER

EXTENSION NUMBER

ADDRESSEES

PRECEDENCE

FROM

STATE DEPART.

RELEASED BY

DATE

TOR CODEROOM

DECODED BY

PARAPHRASED BY

ROUTED BY

FOR ACTION

INFORMATION

ASTERISK (*) MAILGRAM ADDRESSEE

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter

By R. H. Parks Date APR 12 1973

PRIORITY

ROUTINE

DEFERRED

PRIORITY

ROUTINE

DEFERRED

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PAGE 2 OF 3

31 MAY 1944 MCR 6708

IF OPERATIONAL
CHECK BELOW

ORIGINATOR FILL IN DATE AND TIME:

DATE

TIME

GCT

ON OUTGOING DISPATCHES PLEASE LEAVE ABOUT ONE INCH CLEAR SPACE BEFORE BEGINNING TEXT

ACTION

OF LANDING INSTALLATIONS AT "PORTO CLEMENTINO."

3. THE NEUTRALIZATION IN FAVOR OF THE VATICAN STATE OF THE ENTIRE STRIP OF RAILROAD RUNNING ALONG THE COAST FROM THE LANDING PORT TO ROME AND TO RELINQUISH THE USE OF THEREOF FOR MILITARY PURPOSES.

4. RELEASE THE TANKER "PORTOTOHIO" FOR PURCHASE BY THE VATICAN STATE ON CONDITION THAT IT MAY BE REDEEMED AT ANY TIME AFTER THE VATICAN HAS FOUND OTHER MEANS OF OBTAINING FUELS WHICH ARE TO BE SOUGHT FOR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

5. SUPPLY THE VATICAN WITH A QUANTITY FUEL OIL FOR THE BEGINNING OF TRANSPORT OPERATIONS ON CONDITION THAT IT BE RESTORED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

6. ALLOW THE VATICAN STATE TO NEGOTIATE FOR THE PUR-

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FX01	
FX30	
FX37	
FX40	
IG-00	
VCNC	

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VAL MESSAGE

NAVY DEPARTMENT

DRAFTER	EXTENSION NUMBER	ADDRESSEES	PRECEDENCE
FROM	FOR ACTION	ASTERISK (*) MAILGRAM ADDRESSEE	1
RELEASED BY			2
DATE			3
TOR CODEROOM			4
DECODED BY			5
PARAPHRASED BY	INFORMATION		6
			7
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ROUTED BY			11
			12
			13
			14
UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED THIS DISPATCH WILL BE TRANSMITTED WITH DEFERRED PRECEDENCE AND AS ADMINISTRATIVE.			15
PAGE 3 OF 3	31 MAY 1944	NCR 6718	16
			17
			18
ORIGINATOR FILL IN DATE AND TIME:	DATE	TIME	GCT
ON OUTGOING DISPATCHES PLEASE LEAVE ABOUT ONE INCH CLEAR SPACE BEFORE BEGINNING TEXT			20
			ACTION
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CHASE OF OIL BURNING STEAMERS "PRAGA", "VERDI" AND "MIMREALE" NOW AT GENOA WITH THE RIGHT TO PROPOSE THE ACQUISITION OF 2 OTHER VESSELS, 1 TO REPLACE THE "PRAGA" WHICH IS _ AND FITTED FOR PASSENGER TRAFFIC.

VATICAN NOTE REQUESTS THAT FOREGOING BE COMMUNICATED TO APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES AND ASKS FOR AN EXPRESSION OF OPINION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE FROM THESE AUTHORITIES ON THE GENERAL IDEA OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A VATICAN MERCHANT MARINE.

(HARRISON)

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State Dept. Letter

By R. H. Parks Date APR 12 1973

16...ACT

COMING...ONO...2/G...NAVAIDE...13...20P...

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[REDACTED]

To : British Chiefs of Staff

Rptd : Joint Staff Mission,
Washington for U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff
SHAFF (AMSSO pass) and HQ NAAF

From : Freedom 54008 (54008)

Dated : 2nd June, 1944

Number: MEDCOB 117

Signed Wilson cite PHAIR.
Reference your COSMED 118.

2. I cannot believe an increase in the number of vehicles per convoy, or the running of, say, 2 convoys per week would be more than a drop in the bucket in relation to Rome's total food requirements. Moreover, any increase in the number of convoys run would seriously complicate the proposed arrangements for securing the immunity of Vatican convoys from any attack. The arrangements already made to feed Rome after liberation are carefully worked out and should prove adequate. For these reasons, and also because I hope we shall be in Rome shortly, I am most reluctant to depart in any particular from the procedure suggested in MEDCOB 112 as confirmed by MEDCOB 113.

T.O.O. 021833B

End.

COSMED 118 is CM-IN-743 (1 Jun 44) COS

ACTION: COS
INFO : Gen Arnold
OPD
Gen Bissell
Adm King
~~Col Park~~
Log

CM-IN-2380 (3 Jun 44) 2235Z nos

[REDACTED]

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JCS memo, 1-4-74

By RHP, NLR, Date MAY 3 1974

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To: AFHQ
Rptd: JSM Washington
From: Chiefs of Staff
Dated: 1st June, 1944
Number: COSMCD 119

Following for General Wilson from Chiefs of Staff.

1. Vatican authorities have expressed anxiety over interval that will elapse between German evacuation and Allied occupation of Rome. They stress necessity for earliest possible despatch of small Allied force to show itself at central point of town. They believe such action would demonstrate impending Allied control and administration, and serve to avert disorders.
2. H.M. Ambassador suggests early gesture of respect to Vatican would be highly appreciated, for instance if British and American officers could be taken by him and his American colleague as soon as possible to see Cardinal Secretary of State, in order to convey message from Allied Commanders to the Pope, and to inform Vatican authorities of contemplated Allied measures in connection with Rome.
3. Request you consider possibility of implementing above proposals.

End
T.O.O. 012359Z

ACTION: CC/S

INFO : CG AAF
OPD
Gen Bissell
Adm. King
Col. Park
Leg

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JCS MEMO, 1-17-73
BY RT, DATE

MAY 3 1974

CM-IN-1410 (2 Jun 44) 1718Z vh

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WAR DEPARTMENT
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From: Chiefs of Staff

To : AFHQ

Info: JEM, Washington
SHAF

No : COSMED 118 1 June 1944

Following from Chiefs of Staff for General Wilson.

Reference MEDCOB 113.

1. We agree generally with your views.

2. Nevertheless, it would be greatly to our advantage if there were some food in Rome when we arrive there. Have you any objections to number of lorries per convoy being increased beyond 30, or of more than 1 convoy per week being run.

T.O.O. 011220Z

Note: MEDCOB 113 is CM-IN-22585 (30 May 44) OC/B

ACTION: OCS

INFO : General Arnold

OPD

General Bissell

Admiral King

Colonel Park

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RHP

CM-IN-743 (1 June 44) 2218Z

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER
INCOMING MESSAGE

To : AFHQ, Adv. Comd. Post
British Chiefs of Staff

Rptd: JSM, Washington for US Joint Chiefs of Staff
SHAEP and AFHQ, Number B 12774

From: Wilson

Number: MEDCOS 113

May 28th, 1944

The decisions taken by the Vatican in regard to their food convoys as set forth in Holy See telegram number 359* create conditions under which it would be impossible to guarantee immunity to convoys moving between Rome and Florence. The wording as described in this telegram while possibly distinctive and easily recognizable from the ground would be very difficult to distinguish from the air under conditions of low visibility. The Vatican propose that the lorries should follow a definite route but detour when traffic interruptions make it necessary and they contemplate certain departures from their time schedule in the event of loading delays. Any detour from the established route or departure from the time schedule without prior warning would make it difficult for a guarantee of immunity to be observed and would have to be at Vatican's risk. The safety of the Vatican lorries would also be affected by the presence of any military transport at any point on the route at the same time. It is not enough for the Vatican lorries to travel "at the greatest possible distance from military motor convoys". Single vehicles travelling in the vicinity of Rome without previous notice of their movement cannot be guaranteed immunity. The present tactical situation indicates

OM-IN-22585

(30 May 44)

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INCOMING MESSAGE

Page # 2

that in the very near future enemy traffic in the vicinity of Rome will assume huge proportions. The defeat of the German Army in this theatre at this time should not be interfered with and air crews who are given the job of stopping movement of enemy supplies should not be placed on guard against attack of Vatican vehicles to the point of having to subject themselves to enemy fire by the necessity of identification of vehicles prior to attack. Therefore any departure from the conditions set forth in my MEDCOS 112 (MEDCOS 106?) would be at Vatican risk.

2. Reference Para 2 of Holy See telegram number 359. Calculation of 30 lorries per week was intended to provide needs for population of Vatican City only, estimated at 15,000 persons. The needs of Rome are entirely a German responsibility as long as they control the city.

3. The situation which has developed since our MEDCOS 106 makes it even more essential to adhere strictly to our proposals therein given and unless the Vatican agree to them in toto there can be no question of any guarantee of any immunity.

T.O.O. 281900

*See attached

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CN-IN-22585

(30 May 44)

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Page # 3

ENCLOSURE

From: Mr. Eden

To : Viscount Halifax

Date: May 25, 1944

Following received from the Holy See telegram No. 359 of May 23rd.

Begins.

Secretariat of State have now replied to note of 18/5 in which I gave them substance of your telegram 172^a regarding protection for Vatican road convoys.

2. Vatican note begins by expressing some doubt as to whether, in view of pressing alimentary needs of Rome, whose population is now stated to exceed 2 million, convoys limited to 30 lorries will in fact prove sufficient. Vatican say however that they will try the experiment of sending one convoy (of 30 lorries on a weekly return trip).

3. In order to simplify procedure and to avoid the necessity of notifying each separate journey in advance the Vatican state that they have decided that as from May 25th a road convoy of 30 lorries with or without trailers will leave Vatican City each Thursday morning at dawn. (Vatican note is dated 22/5 and was only received late last night so as I shall point out the notice given for the first trip is utterly inadequate.). The weekly convoy from the Vatican will proceed to Florence by following route: Rome, Monterosi, Viterbo, Montefiascone,

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CM-IN-22585

(30 May 44)

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INCOMING MESSAGE

Page #4

Acquapendente, Radicofani, San Quirico, Siena, Gaiola and Greve. The same convoy will leave Florence on its return journey at dawn every Saturday (or possibly, in case of unavoidable delays in loading, on Sunday), and will travel to Rome via Greve, Siena, San Quirico, Pienza, Cetona, Acquapendente, Monterotondo, Viterbo, Vetralla, Monterosi and Rome. Routes above indicated will be scrupulously followed and detours will only be made when necessitated by traffic interruptions due to aerial bombardment. It is pointed out that road convoys are always accompanied by one or two escort cars.

4. The distinctive markings of cars making up the convoys are as follows: Each vehicle is painted white and yellow and has word "Vaticano" painted on its sides and rear in large red letters at least 50 centimetres high. Some of the lorries have canvas coverings inscribed with the word "Vaticano" in red letters about one metre high, whilst other lorries have flagstaffs affixed in front flying the white and yellow Vatican flag measuring 0.90 metres by 1.30 metres.

5. Vatican goes on to point out that in addition to road convoys single Vatican cars (lorries or automobiles) are obliged to use roads, particularly in the neighbourhood of Rome, in order to meet essential Vatican requirements. Among these are (a) cars carrying out necessary daily service for supplies etc., between the Vatican and Castelgandolfo (b) cars made use of by Cardinals and other Vatican officials for transaction of necessary business, (c) cars used by Vatican diplomatic couriers on the way to and from Berne. The note which points out these cars bear clearly visible distinctive markings similar to those indicated above begs that competent

CM-IN-22585 (30 May 44)

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INCOMING MESSAGE

Page #5

Allied (office) will take steps to ensure that protection is afforded them as well as to convoys.

6. In connection with points made in paragraph 3 of your telegram under reference Vatican states that instructions will be given for convoys to travel at greatest possible distance from military motor convoys.

7. Finally Vatican point out, now doubt as an additional reason why their convoys should be safeguarded from all danger of air attack, that lorries, especially those leaving Rome for the north, will frequently have on board numerous civilian refugees, for the most part old people, children and sick persons, whom necessities of war have compelled to flee from the battle zones.

8. Please repeat urgently Washington.

*Presumably the same as COSMED 110.

Note: MEDCOS 112 is CM-IN-14580 (19 May 44) CCS
MEDCOS 106 is CM-IN-9152 (12 May 44) CCS
COSMED 110 is CM-IN-12985 (17 May 44) CCS

ACTION: CCS
INFO : Gen. Arnold
OPD
Gen. Bissell
Adm. King
Col. Park

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NOV 24 1971

RHP

CM-IN-22585 (30 May 44) 0207Z ejv

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From: AFHQ, Algiers from Devers

To : AGWAR
Rptd: Air Ministry
Hq MAAF
Fairbanks for Devers

No : F 49980 May 24, 1944

Ref your W 39867 May 22nd.

Assisi has been placed in category B which specifically prohibits bombing except as a matter of military necessity. Believe that this is the extent to which we can limit our operations without interference with our function. No further action is contemplated at this time.

T.O.O. Nil

ACTION: OPD

INFO : CGAAF
G-2
Adm. King
Col. Park
LOG

CM-IN-18991 (25 May 44) 1635Z ejv

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DDO DIR. 5200.9 (9/27/58)

Date- NOV 24 1971

Signature- RHP

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OUTGOING MESSAGE

Liaison Section, OPD WDGS
WDOPD OPD 000.31 (16 May 44)
HRM 4880 3E 839

May 20, 1944

Commanding General
USAF in North African Theater of Operations
Algiers, Algeria

Number WAR 39867

For Devers signed Marshall reference COSMED 108 and para 1
(C) of MEDCOS 112 both May 19.

43.4N
17.37E
State Depart has transmitted proposal of the Vatican that
Assisi be recognized as a "hospital city" on consideration
that no Military objectives remain in the city. Vatican
states that several thousand wounded and sick are now in
large hospitals of Assisi. State has been informed that
this information would be passed to you for your informa-
tion and guidance and that no action would be taken on
this proposal pending decision with regard to Rome.

ORIGINATOR: OPD

INFORMATION: General Arnold, General Bissell, Admiral King
Colonel Park, Log

CM-OUT-39867

(22 May 44)

1756Z

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DOD DIR. 5200.9 (9/27/58)

Date- NOV 24 1971

Signature- RHP

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER
INCOMING MESSAGE

May 19, 1944

From: A.F.H.Q. Adv. C.P.
(Signed Wilson)

To: British Chiefs of Staff

Rptd: J.S.M. Washington for
U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff
SHAEP for General Eisenhower
A.F.H.Q.

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JCS memo, 1-4-74
By RHP, NLR, Date

MAY 3 1974

Number: MEDCOS 112

1. In answer to COSMED 108 ^{attached} para two. After full consideration I repeat I am convinced that there should be no question of declaring Rome an open city or of entering into any negotiations along the lines suggested in para 2 B and C of COSMED 108. Following are some of the reasons which lead me to that conclusion:

(A) Any such agreement at this stage of the war when German air power is waning could only be to the military advantage of the German. Contrary to the German position, not only have we the means of bombing Rome; we have also the means of defending it when we get there. Moreover, I have no doubt that whatever agreement we might enter into, the German would keep it only so long as it was to his advantage to do so; he would break it without hesitation should ever military considerations so dictate.

(B) The facilities offered by Rome will be essential to us in pursuing the campaign to the north of it. It is of overriding importance that we do not commit ourselves to any action now which might subsequently hamper our full use of these facilities, particularly when it is difficult to foresee and define exactly what they may be. To mention some of them:

(1) full use of all road and rail communications through Rome, including all installations connected with or auxiliary to the working of the road and railway transportation system such as workshops, repair sheds, store

CM-IN-14580 (19 May 44)

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Col Park
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No: MEDCOS 112

- Page Two -

depots, telegraph and telephone communications used in the operation of the railway system. Even if the Germans destroy the road and rail bridges over the Tiber in Rome it will certainly be quicker for us to repair them than to build others elsewhere.

(ii) Full use of all telegraph, telephone and wireless systems in and through Rome and connected installations and material in Rome.

(iii) Full use of all local resources in Rome such as military and civilian workshops, repair depots, manufacturing plants adaptable to military purposes, engineer stores, railway and road construction material, accommodation suitable for military headquarters or transit purposes etcetera.

(iv) Accommodations and facilities for the establishment of the agencies of military government which will be required to police and feed the more than a million population of Rome now on the edge of famine, and lacking the organization and power to preserve order.

(v) Free access to all archives and record offices containing information on meteorological, hydrographic, survey and topographical subjects.

(C) Should we be induced to enter into any such agreement, in respect of Rome, it seems not unlikely that we should then be pressed to extend it to other cities as well. I feel that the only sound course is to take a firm stand now and adhere to it.

2. While I have no present intention of bombing Rome except beyond the bomblime I have established, which permits of bombing the most important of the marshalling yards, and while it is my intention to by-pass it in my advance and, in principle, to hold the eventual garrison in Rome to a minimum, the final course must in large measure depend on German action. For all these reasons

CM-IN-14580

(19 May 44)

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JCS memo, 1-4-74

By RHP, NLR, Date MAY 3 1974

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No: MEDCOS 112

- Page Three -

I strongly recommend that we adopt the course of action recommended in para 2 (A) of COSMED 108, viz. that we maintain our objections on military grounds.

3. I repeat I further recommend that a public statement be made in substance as follows: "Allied Military authorities faced by a ruthless enemy in Italy have taken and will continue to take every possible precaution to spare from destruction innocent civilians and cultural and non-military edifices. They are interested solely in the destruction and elimination of the German forces. The city of Rome has consistently been spared by Allied Commanders and airmen and the Allies will do everything in their power consistent with essential military requirements to safeguard the sympathetic civilian population of Rome as well as their homes, monuments and cultural structures. The fact that Rome is a religious center of great historical and current importance has been constantly and actively in the minds of Allied Military Commanders, soldiers and airmen. The Allies have only taken and will only take military action against Rome insofar as the Germans use the city for their military purposes. If the Germans choose to defend Rome the Allies will be obliged to throw them out by military action. When the Allies occupy Rome they will defend it against German attack as successfully as they have defended other cities in Italy."

T.O.O. 191045B

ACTION: CC/S

INFORMATION: Gen Arnold
OPD
Gen Bissell
Adm King
Col Park
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JCS memo, 1-4-74
By RHP, NLA, Date MAY 3 1974

CM-IN-14580 (19 May 44)

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WAR DEPARTMENT
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[REDACTED]

May 19, 1944

[REDACTED]

FROM: Chiefs of Staff
TO: A.F.H.Q.
INFORMATION: Joint Staff Mission

COSMED 108

Following for General Wilson from Chiefs of Staff.

State Department has raised question of declaring Rome an open city subject to reservation of transit rights for both belligerents.

2. Foreign Office have suggested that three courses seem open to us:

- (a) Maintain our objections on military grounds.
- (b) Abandon our objections and agree to negotiate some arrangement subject to the reservation of transit rights for both belligerents. The term "transit rights" would be as defined by General Eisenhower last November to include provision for staging sites, rest camps, and all other facilities as are required in connection with transit through the area.
- (c) Decline to come to any arrangement for declaring Rome an open city, but to issue combined Anglo-American statement, making it clear that Allies have only taken and will only take military action which might endanger Rome insofar as the Germans use the city for their military purposes, and that as the Germans have declared Rome an open city, it has nothing to fear from us so long as the Germans continue to treat it as such.

3. By accepting 2(c) use of transit facilities would be denied to you when you reach Rome. By altering text however to read "making it clear that Allies have only taken and will only take military action against Rome insofar as the Germans use the city for their military purposes", our subsequent use of the city would be

CM-IN-14579 (19 May 44)

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[REDACTED]

Col Park

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MAY 3 1974

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WAR DEPARTMENT
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INCOMING MESSAGE

COSMED 108

Page 2

less liable to counter-charge.

4. If you require only transit facilities through Rome we could accept course 2(b).
5. If you require additional military requirements other than transit facilities in Rome course 2(a) only remains.
6. Request your views urgently and that these should be given in full so that we can inform Washington.
7. In framing your reply will you consider possibility of approving issue of public statement which would have political value without forfeiting any of your essential military requirements.

T.O.O. 151340Z

ACTION: CC/S

INFORMATION: Gen Arnold
OPD
Gen Bissell
Adm King
Col Park
Log

CM-IN-14579 (19 May 44) 2247Z ss

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MAY 3 1974

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WAR DEPARTMENT
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NOV 24 1971

RAH

From: Chiefs of Staff

To : Freedom, Algiers

Info: Joint Staff Mission, Washington, Hq, MAAF

Number: COSMED 110

May 17, 1944

Reference MEDCOS 106.

Following telegram has been sent from Foreign Office to Vatican.

Begins. Your telegram Nos. 309 and 310 of May 3rd protection of Vatican lorries. The matter has been most carefully considered and although no guarantee of immunity can be given, Allied military authorities are prepared to afford every reasonable protection consistent with military necessity, subject to the following conditions being observed:

(a) Convoys not to exceed 30 lorries and to be clearly marked as in (d) below and to be kept absolutely clear of enemy traffic.

(b). Not more than one convoy to be permitted per week unless Vatican show good reason for exceeding this number.

(c). Prior notice, as specified below, to be given to AFHQ of the number of lorries in each convoy.

(d). Lorries to bear distinctive markings which must be notified to AFHQ.

(e). A time-table to be drawn up in advance and strictly adhered to.

(f). The route to be notified and strictly followed.

2. Notice of numbers, markings, time-tables and route required under paragraph 1 above should reach AFHQ if possible one week prior to movement of any convoy but you should make it clear to Vatican that any less notice than this makes it uncertain that pilots can be properly briefed. All necessary

CM-IN-12985

(17 May 44)

COPY NO.

44

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WAR DEPARTMENT
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Page 2

particulars should be telegraphed to me most immediate.

3. You should make it clear to Vatican that any attempt by the German authorities to take advantage of the special treatment which we are prepared to afford to Vatican convoys, e.g. by sending military transport along the same route at the same time will clearly jeopardise safety of Vatican lorries. We must leave it to Vatican to represent this to Germans.

4. You may express regret to Vatican for incidents which have occurred in past, while making it plain that these are chiefly owing to short notice given of movements. From a purely legal point of view, however, as you are aware, we are under no obligation to respect neutral lorries sent into belligerent territory in time of war and technical difficulties imposed on pilots of recognizing special markings while flying at great speed are considerable. We are nevertheless prepared to afford protection to Vatican lorries within limits and on conditions described above in order that Vatican may carry out its charitable activities on behalf of population of Rome despite the fact that Germans are responsible for feeding of population and have utterly failed to discharge this responsibility.

T.O.O. 170935Z

Footnote: MEDCOS 106 is CM-IN-9152 (12 May 44) CC/S

ACTION: CC/S

INFORMATION: CG AAF
OPD
Gen Bissell
Adm King
LOG

CM-IN-12985

(17 May 44)

2206Z

ejv/hrt

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JOS memo, 1-4-74

By RHP, NLR, Date MAY 3 1974

P R I O R I T Y

From: CG Allied Force Headquarters, Algiers, Algeria
To: War Department
CG US Army Forces in European Theater of Operations, London, England
Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Forces
London, England
No. F 46720, 16 May 1944

F46720 to AGWAR for Combined Chiefs of Staff and to USFOR for British Chiefs of Staff for action repeated SHAEP and Headquarters NAAF for information from AFHQ signed Wilson cite FHCOS. This is NAF 705.

Numerous notes, cables and radios have been received through various sources from the Vatican reference attacks on motor convoys and cities in Italy. It is regretted that the tactical situation is such at the present time that every possible effort must be made to stop the movement of supplies to the enemy. Every village, town or city which has been attacked in Italy has been a locality through which German war supplies were known to pass or contained a known military objective.

It is most regrettable that when military targets are attacked adjacent buildings such as churches and their contents which have such great historical value may be destroyed as an incident to such bombing and that innocent civilians may be killed or injured, but it is inevitable and will continue, despite the fact * unnecessary damage to church property and historical buildings or injury to civilians.

The attack on the Vatican motor convoy on 29 April
OM-IN-12350 (17 May 44)

COPY NO. 40

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[REDACTED]
-2-

was explained to the Air Ministry and the very moment that pontifical colors were recognized the attack ceased. For our specific proposals for dealing with this question see MEDC08 106.

Again it is our desire to comply with all reasonable requests of the Pope, and we shall do so as far as military necessity will permit.

No Sig

* Being Serviced.

DECLASSIFIED

JCS memo, 1-4-74

By RHP, NLR, Date

MAY 3 1974

ACTION: CC/S

INFORMATION: Gen Arnold
OPD
Gen Bissell
Adm King
Col Park
Log

CM-IN-12350 (17 May 44) 0335Z bjm

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P R I O R I T Y

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DECLASSIFIED JCS 29-71

REF 3-6-71

From: Allied Force Headquarters, Algiers, Algeria

To: War Department
CG, US Forces in European Theater of
Operations, London, England
Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Forces,
London, England

Re: F 46720 NAF 702-16th May, 1944

F 46720 to AGWAR for Combined Chiefs of Staff and to
USFOR for British Chiefs of Staff for action repeated SHAHF
and Headquarters NAAF for information from AFHQ signed Wilson
cite FHOOS. This is NAF 702.

Numerous notes, cables and radice have been received
through various sources from the Vatican reference attacks
on motor convoys and cities in Italy. It is regretted that
the tactical situation is such at the present time that
every possible effort must be made to stop the movement of
supplies to the enemy. Every village, town or city which
has been attacked in Italy has been a locality through which
German war supplies were known to pass or contained a known
military objective.

It is most regrettable that when military targets are
attacked adjacent buildings such as churches and their con-
tents which have such great historical value may be destroyed
as an incident to such bombing and that innocent civilians may
be killed or injured, but it is inevitable and will continue,
despite the fact that every effort has been and will be made
to avoid unnecessary damage to church property and historical
buildings or injury to civilians.

ON-IN-12693 (17 May 44)

Col. Park

000,3

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Page -2-

From: Allied Force Headquarters, Algiers, Algeria

Nr: F 46720 NAF 702 16th May, 1944

The attack on the Vatican motor convoy on 29th April was explained to the Air Ministry and the very moment that pontifical colors were recognized the attack ceased. For our specific proposals for dealing with this question see MEDCOS 106.

Again it is our desire to comply with all reasonable requests of the Pope, and we shall do so as far as military necessity will permit.

FOOTNOTE: Corrected copy of CM-IN-12350 (17 May 44) CC/S

ACTION: CC/S

INFO : Gen Arnold
OPD
Gen Bissell
Adm King
Col Park
Log

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RHP 3-6-71

CM-IN-12693 (17 May 44) 1222Z mlo

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WAR DEPARTMENT
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May 12, 1944

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NOV 24 1971
RAB

FROM: Freedom, signed Wilson

TO: British Chiefs of Staff

INFO: J. S. M., Washington, for United States Joint Chiefs
of Staff, HQ, MAAF

MEDCOS 106

MOST IMMEDIATE

Further to COSMED 104 I realize that the political situation created by attack on the Vatican convoy is somewhat delicate. In view of the tactical situation which will occur in the near future and the importance of stopping enemy supplies it will be extremely difficult to prevent attacks on any convoys moving in the direction of Rome, and immunity cannot possibly be guaranteed. It is my desire to afford every reasonable protection to Vatican convoys consistent with military necessity. In the event such convoys are to be permitted the following or similar instructions should be issued:

Not to exceed thirty lorries to be permitted to make one trip per week. These lorries will (?have to be) very especially marked, a time table prepared which must be strictly adhered to, a route given which must be strictly followed, and the German MT's to be kept off that route during period of travel of Vatican convoys. Full information and time table must be furnished this headquarters not less than one week prior to movement of the convoy.

Air Commander in Chief, Mediterranean Allied Air Forces, reports that investigation shows that two-thirds of the Vatican convoy attacked April 25th were lorries camouflaged in the German fashion and were undoubtedly German.

No Sig
T.O.O. 121705B

CM-IN-9152 (12 May 44)

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**WAR DEPARTMENT
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Number: MEDCOS 106 May 12, 1944 Page - 2
Footnote: COSMED 104 is an In 6866 (10 May 44) CC/S.
ACTION: CC/S

INFO : Gen. Arnold
OPD
Gen. Bissell
Adm. King
Col. Park
Log

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NOV 24 1971

RHP

CM-IN-9152 (12 May 44) 2234Z met

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24-75724

25X

WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER
INCOMING MESSAGE

May 9, 1944

To: Chiefs of Staff

Rptd: Joint Staff Mission for
Joint Chiefs of Staff
H.Q., M.A.A.F.

From: Freedom

MEDCOS 105

Signed Wilson cite FHCOS F 43711.

Reference COSMED 104.

I have called for an investigation of the methods by which immunity from attack of Vatican convoys might be ensured. Serious tactical and technical difficulties would be involved. I shall let you have my recommendations shortly.

T.O.O. 091735B

ACTION: CO/S

INFORMATION: Gen Arnold
OPD
Gen Bissell
Adm King
Col Park
Log

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JCS memo, 1-4-74
By RHP, NLR, Date MAY 3 1974

OM-IN-7221 (10 May 44) 1535Z bjm

0003

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24-75724

25X

WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER
INCOMING MESSAGE

May 8, 1944

From: Chiefs of Staff

To : SACMED

Info: J.S.M., Washington

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NOV 24 1971

RHP

COSMED 104

Following for General Wilson.

1. H.M. Minister to Holy See has reported to Foreign Office that a note has been received from Vatican complaining of attacks on Vatican lorry convoys carrying food to Rome. In particular a convoy was attacked at about noon, 29th April, at a spot called Ponte del Lastron near village of Cetona about 4 miles south-west of Chiusi. This convoy had been notified via H.M. Minister to Holy See by Vatican on 26th April. Time table of convoy was then given as being outward to Florence on 27th April, homeward to Rome on 30th April. (Reference AX 587 of 30th April).

2. Vatican note states that if as result of these attacks the lorry service in which the Vatican fleet plays a major role has to be suspended, famine and consequent rioting may be expected to break out in Rome since there is no other way of supplying the city with food.

3. H.M. Minister also reports that according to details published in *Observatore Romano* the convoy was sighted by 12 aircraft flying at height of about 1,000 metres, convoy then halted and aircraft, after circling round convoy, went away but presently returned, and coming down to within few metres of ground machine gunned lorries for some 15 minutes. Visibility was excellent and no enemy vehicles in sight. All lorries were recognisable by their colouring in addition to which leader, central and hindmost vehicles were all flying pontifical flags. Low height of aircraft enabled the numbers 18, 42 and 64, on 3 of them to be distinguished, also markings of a white star on a greyish ground at about a metre from the tips of the wings. No personnel were injured, but one lorry was destroyed by fire and 10 others damaged.

4. It is obviously of the highest importance that all possible steps, consistent with military necessity, should be taken to

CM-IN-6866

(10 May 44)

Col. Park

32

0003

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24-75724

25M

WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

From: Chief of Staff **INCOMING MESSAGE**

To : SACMED

Info: J.S.M., Washington

COSMED 104

avoid attacks upon Vatican convoys conveying food to Rome.

5. We fully appreciate difficulties normally experienced in identifying convoys and the importance you stressed in your P.37454 of 25th April to Air Ministry of retaining freedom to attack all road transport in present situation. However, in view of political considerations involved, we hope that you will be able to ensure immunity of Vatican convoys if Vatican give adequate notice in advance through British Legation as to route, time table and composition of each convoy. Please state how much notice you will require and what facts must be provided.

C. Please reply urgently.

FOOTNOTE: 37454 is OM-IN-18763 (25 Apr 44) OPD
T.O.C. 081715Z
AX 887 not identified by WDCMC

ACTION: CC/S

INFO : Gen Arnold
OPD
Gen Bissell
Adm King
Col Park
Log

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NOV 24 1971

CM-IN-6866 (10 May 44)

0147Z

df *RRP*

32

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WAR DEPARTMENT
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OUTGOING MESSAGE

Combined Chiefs of Staff
71469

28 April, 1944

Commanding General,
USAF, In North African Theater,
Algiers, Algeria.

Commanding General,
U.S. Army Forces,
European Theater of Operations,
London, England.

Supreme Headquarters,
Allied Expeditionary Forces,
London, England.

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RHP 3-6-71

Number: WARX 29516

NAF 664 is the reference. TOPSEC for Wilson, Freedom Algiers, for action, ETOUSA pass to the British Chiefs of Staff for information, FAN 357, from the Combined Chiefs of Staff.

The Combined Chiefs of Staff understanding of the thought expressed in the penultimate paragraph of FAN 322 is that the status of Vatican City and Vatican properties in Rome and in other parts of Italy listed in FAN 322 and specified in Articles 13 to 16, inclusive, of the Lateran Treaty and Article 27 of the Concordat transcend the status of other Vatican property in Italy, which you should spare from occupation and damage whenever it is possible to do so without injury to our Allied war effort.

When the occupation of religious property, as distinguished from recognized Vatican property described in FAN 322, is essential to military operations it may be occupied.

The President's letter of July 10 enunciated broad principles of conduct with respect to religious and Vatican property in Italy. For your guidance Vatican properties listed in FAN 322 should be accorded the status of neutral territory while other Vatican property throughout Italy should be accorded the treatment of property of a neutral state in foreign territory.

CM-OUT-29516 (28 Apr 44)

~~TOP SECRET~~
~~SECRET~~

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WAR DEPARTMENT
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OUTGOING MESSAGE

Number: WARX 29516

28 April, 1944

Page 2.

Any question of requisitioning or occupying Vatican and other religious property in Italy should in each case be referred to the Combined Chiefs of Staff for consideration except in cases of overriding operational necessity when an immediate report will be submitted to the Combined Chiefs of Staff.

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RAP 3-6-71

ORIGINATOR : CCS

INFORMATION: OPD
Gen Bissell
Adm King
Col Park
Gen Arnold
Log

CM-OUT-29516 (28 Apr 44) 2154Z mos

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~~SECRET~~
MID WDGBI Collection Unit TH JPC-
fMc 4753

April 11, 1944

Commanding General
USAF North African Theater of Operations
Algiers Algeria

Number WAR 21698

For NAGBI from WDGBI signed Ulio

Press this country and Portugal carry story from Naples
5th Army Chaplain on Easter read Bible in German over
loud speaker Milattache Lisbon states story caused British
Milattache display great indignation on apparent fraterniza-
tion. Fears undesirable repercussions Spain and Portugal,
requests information on which to base explanation if necessary,
can you furnish same

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E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (E)

OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date APR 12 1973

ORIGINATOR: G-2

INFORMATION: CG AAF

OPD
Col Park
Log

CM-OUT-21698

(11 Apr 44)

2241Z vh

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WAR DEPARTMENT
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From: Allied Force Headquarters Algiers, Algeria

To : War Department

No. F30885

11th April 1944

F30885 AGWAR for Bissell from G2 Freedom signed
Wilson cite FBGBI. Reur W21101 dated 10th April.

1. When rail conditions permit through traffic from north of Italy Rome becomes most forward main Marshalling point. Recent PR to show scale of activity in Marshalling Yards lacking and in any case this traffic much restricted by our attacks on railways north of Rome. However ample evidence that Germans have made considerable use of the railways both through and south of Rome and it is considered that their present dispositions must compel them to continue to do so as far as our air attacks permit.

2. Appreciate that road convoys mainly by-pass city and this confirmed by ground sources. Consider this has double advantage of military expediency and show of demilitarisation of city.

3. Believed that for some time Germans have restricted entry into Rome of all ranks not actually employed in city to essential Liaison visits. Recent ground reports mention thinning out of headquarters and officer staffs also quoted by German radio. Nevertheless quite clear that complete evacuation impossible on security grounds alone. Security conditions known to be most exacting and requiring large numbers police troops. In addition available facilities make some administrative use of city inevitable.

CM-IN-8018 (12 Apr 44)

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E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (E)
OSD letter, May 3, 1972
By RHP, NARS Date APR 12 1973

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Col. Park

WAR DEPARTMENT
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Page -2-

From: Allied Force Headquarters Algiers, Algeria

No. F30885 11th April 1944

4. Conclusions to above are that Germans have certain obvious advantages in getting Rome declared open city and we consider attempt being made to prove they are observing necessary conditions with least possible inconvenience to themselves.

5. Substantially similar information and same conclusion already signalled to JIO (London) in response to similar query.

No Sig

Ref CM-OUT-21101 (10 Apr 44) G-2

ACTION: G-2

INFO : CG AAF
OPD
Col Park
Log

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E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (E)

OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NAJMS Date APR 12 1973

CM-IN-8018 (12 Apr 44) 0347Z mcs
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WAR DEPARTMENT
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April 8, 1944

To : FREEDOM
Rptd : Joint Staff Mission. HQ MAAF
From : Chiefs of Staff

COSMED 84

Following for General Wilson from Chiefs of Staff.

Reference MEDCOS 74. ^{ab w/h} (Damage to Vatican property)

The Combined Chiefs of Staff consider that it would be unwise to admit this particular mistake gratuitously so long after the event and do not intend to take any further action in connection with this incident.

2. Reference para. 4. The Foreign Office, with whom we concur, are not in favour of providing a stock answer for all occasions. They consider that when damage is actually caused to Vatican property, investigation should be made in order that an appropriate reply may be sent if the Vatican complains.

T.O.O. 081525Z

Footnote: MEDCOS 74 is CM-IN-20043 (28 Mar 44) CC/S.

ACTION: CC/S

INFO : Gen Arnold
OPD
Gen Bissell
Adm King
Col Park
LOG

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CM-IN-5977 (9 Apr 44) 0215Z mmd

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WAR DEPARTMENT
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WEL

To: Chiefs of Staff

Info: Joint Staff Mission for
U.S. Chiefs of Staff
HQ MAAF

From: AFHQ

Dated: 7th April, 1944

MEDCOS 86.

Cite FHGCT F29489. Following for Chiefs of Staff from General Wilson.

1. We are in full agreement with your view expressed in para. 6 of COSMED 81. In point of fact we are already treating Rome itself as an open city in that we enforce the strictest orders against bombing within a line that includes virtually the whole city but excludes the rail-way yards. Whatever the Germans may say for propaganda purposes there is ample evidence that these yards are extensively used for military traffic. We suggest that any statement in reply to the German statement should include a passage to the above effect, but should add that, while we shall maintain this attitude and not deliberately bomb the city of Rome as distinct from the rail yards, we shall keep a close watch on the enemy's use of Rome and the communications leading through it and shall not hesitate to take action against any enemy installations in the city or troops passing through it by rail or road if we consider that essential in the interest of operations.
2. You have no doubt not overlooked the fact that we ourselves shall be compelled to use the communications leading through Rome in the future. We should be most careful not to do or say anything that may subsequently embarrass us in this regard.
- 38

CM-IN-6376 (9 Apr 44)

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MEDCOS 86.

-Page Two-

3. J.I.C. (AF) are now producing reply to OZ 1832. In general our view is that it would be quite impossible to maintain an army South of Rome without using the communications leading through Rome and that the German statement is pure propaganda bearing no relation to the military facts.

Time of Origin: 081857B

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ACTION: CC/S

NOV 24 1971

INFORMATION: CG AAF
OPD
Gen Bissell
Adm King
Col Park
BFR
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RHP

CM-IN-6376 (9 Apr 44) 18017 bjm

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DECLASSIFIED 29-71 JCS
RHP 3-6-71

From: CG, Allied Force Headquarters, Algiers
To : War Department
CG, U. S. Forces in the European Theater of
Operations, London, England
No. F 28011, 5 April 1944

F 28011 to AGWAR for Combined Chiefs of Staff re-
peated to USFOR for British Chiefs of Staff repeated Unity
for SHAFF repeated Hq MAAF signed Wilson cite FHNGS this is
NAP 664.

Request reply to following:

Where Papal property in Italy is required for
urgent operational needs, may it be made the subject of a
requisition, and if the case arises may a requisition be
followed by the application of such force as may be necessary
to secure possession? Look at FAN 322, penultimate paragraph
and last sentence of President's letter. Is President's
letter to be construed and applied to mean that all Papal
property outside the Vatican City, wherever situated, is to
receive the same treatment as it would receive if it lay
within the Vatican City, IE, the status of neutral territory?
Use of word "Neutral" here and in FAN 311 should be consider-
ed.

ACTION: CC/S
INFO: General Arnold
OPD
General Bissell
Admiral King
Colonel Park
Log

No Sig.

CM-IN-3727 (6 Apr 44) 0304Z med

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COPY No.

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

INCOMING MESSAGE

TO: A.F.H.Q. ALGIERS

RPTD: JOINT STAFF MISSION

FROM: BRITISH CHIEFS OF STAFF

DATED: 5TH APRIL 1944

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NOV 24 1971

AKP

COSMED 81

Following for General Wilson from Chiefs of Staff.

Foreign Office have asked for our views on the question of the demilitarization of Rome.

2. They base their inquiry on statement published in "Messagero" by German High Command, claiming that German troops have been withdrawn from Rome and that no military traffic of any kind passes through the city.

3. Publication of this statement concides with what is clearly a concerted Roman Catholic appeal to the Allies, inspired by Vatican to avoid damage to Rome.

4. Foreign Office point out that from propaganda point of view we cannot leave German statement unanswered. They suggest that we can either

- (a) state publicly that, for military reasons, we must reserve all our rights as a belligerent, and cannot consider any proposals for treating Rome as an open city, or alternatively
- (b) offer to accept Rome as an open city, subject to conditions of our own framing.

5. Foreign Office have not pressed us to adopt alternative (b) but they point out that considerable resentment is being fomented in German occupied Italy as a result of our strategic bombing operations.

6. We are examining this question, and our preliminary view is that on military grounds it would be to our disadvantage to
CM-IN-3521 (5 Apr 44)

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WAR DEPARTMENT
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INCOMING MESSAGE

COSMED 81

Page 2.

declare Rome an open city. Before reaching final conclusions
we should be grateful for your views.

Time of Origin 051353Z

ACTION: CCS

INFORMATION: GEN. ARNOLD
OPD
GEN. BISSELL
NAVY
COL. PARK
LOG

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NOV 24 1971
RHP

CM-IN-3521 (5 Apr 44) 2113Z cng

31

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OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES

WASHINGTON, D. C.

SECRET

1 April 1944

March 31, 1944

To : War Cabinet Offices

Rome: The Vatican Refrains from Blaming the
Allies for the Monte Cassino Bombing.

An informed source from Rome states that the Vatican has resisted every German pressure to throw all the blame on the Allies for the bombing of Monte Cassino, or to acknowledge the "innocence" of the Wehrmacht. Further conversations with the Abbot of Cassino have shown that if in fact no German troops were ever stationed within the Monastery or right under the walls, they were occupying important positions all around it. At first the Germans agreed to consider a zone around the Monastery 300 meters wide as a neutral area, and had placed posters to that effect on its perimeter. Later these posters were removed, and the Germans entered this neutral zone, but without, however, entrenching themselves. According to witnesses, they did not occupy this ground in force, but just moved about. A little further below, however, they were found to be in great force. This fact was fully appreciated by the Vatican, as well as the German ruse to extort ready-made declarations from the Abbot and his monks.

(OSS Official Dispatch, Bern, 29 March)

Gen Bissell
Adm King
Col Park
100

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of

CIA 006687

By SR Date MAY 9 1975

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

INCOMING MESSAGE

March 31, 1944

To : War Cabinet Offices
From : Joint Staff Mission
Number: J.S.M. 1608 ^{Reference of} MEDCOS 74

U.S. Chiefs of Staff (C.C.S. 529) have noted with particular interest the statement in paragraph two of the report that "it is for consideration whether to admit openly that on this occasion the enemy statement is true would not show our integrity and strengthen past and future denials".

2. They wish to express their full agreement with this statement and "to record their firm opinion that public admission should be made now of the bombing referred to".

2. If you agree, will you please institute the action necessary.

T.O.O. 312203Z

Went to White House -

Footnote: MEDCOS 74 is CM-IN-20043 (28 Mar 44) CC/S

ACTION: CC/S

INFO : Gen Arnold
OPD
Gen Bissell
Adm King
Col Park ✓
LOG

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NOV 24 1971

CM-IN-425 (1 Apr 44) 1510Z mmd

0003

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

INCOMING MESSAGE

CORRECTED COPY

March 31, 1944

To : War Cabinet Offices

From : Joint Staff Mission

Number: J.S.M. 1608 Reference MEDCOS 74.

U.S. Chiefs of Staff (O.C.S. 529) have noted with particular interest the statement in paragraph two of the report that "it is for consideration whether to admit openly that on this occasion the enemy statement is true would not show our integrity and strengthen past and future denials".

2. They wish to express their full agreement with this statement and "to record their firm opinion that public admission should be made now of the bombing referred to".

2. If you agree, will you please institute the action necessary.

T.O.O. 312203Z

Footnote: MEDCOS 74 1s CM-IN-20043 (28 Mar 44) CC/S

ACTION: CC/S

INFO : Gen Arnold
OPD
Gen Bissell
Adm King
Col Park
LOG

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CM-IN-425 (1 Apr 44) 1510Z mmd

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31

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

INCOMING MESSAGE

To: War Cabinet Office for British Chiefs of Staff.
Info: J.S.M. for U.S. Chiefs of Staff.

Hq MAAF

From: Freedom

Dated: 25th March, 1944

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NOV 24 1971

Number: MEDCOS 74.

F22927. Signed Wilson, cite PHAIR.

1. You will recall enemy radio announcement concerning bombs having fallen in Vatican City on night 1st, 2nd March. although no official complaint has been received through diplomatic channels careful investigation here reveals that in fact a stick of bombs were dropped very close to Vatican by a 205 Group Wellington. Circumstances were that 4 Bostons and 32 Wellingtons were operating in support of Anzio Bridgehead. Weather in target area was 9/10 cloud with tops 10,000 feet and base 3,000 feet with haze. Only 2 Bostons and 13 Wellingtons bombed due to poor visibility. Pilot of 1 Wellington finding primary target obscured spent 12 minutes searching for alternate and dropped 2 sticks of bombs after identifying Tiber River by a W bend at Lofr 149N-1225E and observing lights 8 miles NE through cloud break which were assumed to be those of Vatican City. First stick of 6 x 250 pound GPNI dropped at 1955 hours from 6,000 feet aimed at road and bridge over river 10 miles SW of centre of Rome. Second stick of 72 x 20 pounds frags dropped from same height at 1959 hours aimed at encampment on right bank of Tiber 16 miles SW of centre of Rome. Although bombing runs were made down moon and pilot could not discern aiming points, he, together with the bomb aimer, W/Op. and rear gunner, was quite certain of the position of the aircraft relative to Rome and Vatican city. However, night photograph taken at time of first attack shows Vatican and Vittorio Emanuele bridge which indicates that bombs did fall in area near Vatican City. Captain of aircraft was P/O McAneny who is of Roman Catholic faith.

2. It is for consideration whether to admit openly that on this occasion the enemy statement is true would not show our integrity and strengthen past and future denials.

3. Strict instructions against bombing the Vatican City or the city of Rome within clearly prescribed boundaries are in force and all crews are briefed accordingly. It is inevitable, however, that mistakes will sometimes occur in an area so close to the battlefield especially under adverse weather.

CM-IN-20043 (28 Mar 44)

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24-75724ABD-200

[REDACTED]

WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER
INCOMING MESSAGE

[REDACTED]

Number: MEDCOS 74

25th March 1944

conditions. An incident such as outlined in Air Ministry AX288, 19 March, the answer to which has been made to the Air Ministry must of course be specifically examined. However, in view of the constant stream of allegations about aircraft violating Vatican neutrality, bombs falling in Rome near the marshalling yards, monasteries near Frascati being hit and so on, we cannot continue to occupy the time of operational commanders and their staffs in detailed inquiries into these incidents which, when they can be identified at all, invariably lead to the conclusion that individual mistakes or errors resulting occasionally in unfortunate incidents cannot be prevented without imposing unacceptable restrictions on our air operations.

4. Suggest that in order to avoid necessity for constant and reference of this type allegation to Foreign Office The Foreign Office and State Department might issue a note for the guidance of their diplomatic representation when these incidents are brought to their notice as they are bound to be in the future. If you agree perhaps you could suggest general terms of such a note to the Foreign Office. Except in exceptional instances such as that contained in AX 288 it might also be possible for the Air Ministry and Foreign Office to deal with such reports on information at their disposal frequently without reference to AFHQ or resident ministers.

T.O.O. 251827A

ACTION: CCS

INFO : OPD
SGS
Adm King
Col Mathewson
Gen Bissell
Gen Arnold
Log

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NOV 24 1971

CM-IN-20043 (28 Mar 44) 1627Z mcs

28

COPY No.

WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

INCOMING MESSAGE

To: J.S.M. for U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff
From: A.F.H.Q.
Dated: 15th March, 1944.

TOP SECRET
MEDCOS 69

From Wilson.

Reference AGWAR 2217 (not to British Chiefs of Staff or MAAF).

1. Consider it impossible to guarantee immunity from bombing to museum on Lake Nemi. Recommend that Vatican be informed that no such guarantees can be given to buildings in areas which are closely involved in military operations.
2. Further to MEDCOS 64, para. 3. Wish to re-emphasize that detailed reasons for bombing of Cassino Abbey should not be passed on to Vatican as it impossible to obtain definite proofs on all points.

T.O.O. 151900A

ACTION: CC/S

INFORMATION: OPD
Gen Bissell
Gen Arnold
Adm King
Col Mathewson
Log

CM-IN-11216 (16 Mar 44) 1459Z cw

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NOV 24 1971

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARCH 14, 1944

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

Everyone knows the Nazi record on religion. Both at home and abroad, Hitler and his followers have waged a ruthless war against the churches of all faiths.

Now the German army has used the Holy City of Rome as a military center. No one could have been surprised by this -- it is only the latest of Hitler's many affronts to religion. It is a logical step in the Nazi policy of total war -- a policy which treats nothing as sacred.

We on our side have made freedom of religion one of the principles for which we are fighting this war. We have tried scrupulously -- often at considerable sacrifice -- to spare religious and cultural monuments, and we shall continue to do so.

- - - -

[REDACTED]

22 February 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT:

Reference: Bombing Attacks on Albano-Costel
Gandolfo Area.

1. Air attack of February 1st directed against Albano district resulted in damage to lighting system of Papal Villa and death of 17 nuns in convent outside the grounds.
2. On February 2, bombs fell within grounds of Papal estate, killing 1 and injuring 5.
3. 7000 civilians have been permitted to take refuge within the Papal Villa, and according to the Apostolic Delegate and German sources several hundred of these people have already been killed by aerial attacks.
4. The above has given rise to a series of controversial statements issued by the Allied High Command and by the Vatican, the point at issue being whether or not the territory of the Papal Villa is "saturated with Germans and therefore subject to bombing."
5. General Wilson and his people have taken the decision to bomb on the premise that the general area within which the Papal Villa is located and communications through same lend themselves to use by the Germans for military purposes.
6. The Vatican has steadfastly denied that the Papal Villa, in other words the immediate property, was providing a sanctuary to the Germans.
7. Lacking definite proof that the Germans are using the Papal Villa, it must be construed that both of the above viewpoints are correct. Acceptance of the Vatican's position, however, does not alter in any way the basic military contention that the enemy is subject to attack in any area where he may be operating inimically to our own military interests.

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[REDACTED] DOD DIR. 5200.9 (9/27/58)

- 1 -

Date- 11-24-71

Signature- RHP

003

[REDACTED]

8. Lacking more complete information, the above (Para 7) appears to offer the best position you can take with Archbishop Spellman at the present time.

L. MATHEWSON,
Colonel, General Staff.

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DDO DIR. 5200.9 (8/27/88)

Date- 11-24-71

Signature- RHP

WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER
INCOMING MESSAGE

IMPORTANT

February 19, 1944

To: A.F.H.Q. Algiers

Rptd: Joint Staff Mission Washington

From: Chiefs of Staff

COSMED 40

Following for General Wilson from Chiefs of Staff.

Vatican has submitted request to United States State Department that Sienna, Italy be declared an open city and hospital city. This request is being considered by Combined Chiefs of Staff. The following information is contained in Vatican request -

- (i) Local Italian officials of Sienna are conducting negotiations with German military authorities who have expressed favourable consideration to a similar recognition of this city.
- (ii) A decision has been reached by Germany to locate a large hospital in Sienna for their wounded from Southern Italian front.
- (iii) Sienna has civilian hospital facilities with capacity 3500 (?) beds.
- (iv) No military objectives are located in this city.
- (v) Sienna is also a centre of Christian art treasures, protection of which is of great interest to Vatican.

2. It is requested that you forward your comments and recommendations on this request, together with any additional pertinent information which you may have.

No Sig

ACTION: CC/S

Time of Origin 191940Z

INFORMATION: OPD, Gen Bissell, Gen Arnold, Gen Hilldring, Adm. King, White House, Log

CM-IN-14271 (20 Feb 44) 1725Z jb

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APR 11-24-71

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

INCOMING MESSAGE

Vatican City

Dated February 15, 1944

Rec'd 1:43 p.m., 16th

Secretary of State,
Washington

47, 15th

My 9, January 10th

Vatican asks me urgently telegraph following note dated February 15th.

On February 14th, German Ambassador gave to Abbot Primate of Benedicting Fathers following memorandum.

'German military information states that announcements regarding German defense equipment in Convent of Montecassino are false. It is stated absolutely incorrect that cannons, mortars or machine guns are there. No large size (grobsere) troop concentrations are assembled there, that is in neighborhood of Convent. Moreover, everything possible was done to prevent Montecassino from becoming transit center (durchgangsplatz)'.

Today Ambassador gave Abbot Primate and Vatican Under Secretary of State another memorandum as follows.

'According to statement competent German quarters there are not Convent Montecassino and its immediate neighborhood either cannons, mortars or machine gun emplacements. Neither are there are German troops there'

TITTMANN

ACTION: G-2

INFORMATION: OPD
CG AAF
White House

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Order, 1-11-72
By J. Schauble Date 4-12-73

CM-IN-11864 (17 Feb 44) 1510Z bjm

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER
INCOMING MESSAGE

Vatican City
Dated February 14, 1944
Recd 3:09 p.m.

Secretary of State
Washington

45, 14th

My 25, January 24th.

Archbishop of Chieti February 11th informed Vatican that German commander speaking in name of corps commander stated to him officially and publicly to municipal authorities that civilian population will not be evacuated from city. Vatican requests that Department be informed with view to sparing population of Chieti air attacks and other military action.

TITTMANN

*about 9 miles S.W. west of Pescara which is on
Adriatic, not very far back of battle line.*

ACTION: G-2

INFORMATION: OPD
CG AAF
WHITE HOUSE

CM-IN-11177 (16 Feb 44) 1603Z cng

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER
INCOMING MESSAGE

SECURITY CONTROL

**SECURITY
CONTROL**

FROM: CHIEFS OF STAFF

TO: A.P.H.Q.
INFORMATION
J.S.M. WASHINGTON.

DATED: 12th FEBRUARY 1944

COSMED 29

Attention of Foreign Office has been drawn to fact that in air attacks on 1st February on Albano district lighting system of Papal Villa was damaged and bomb which hit convent killed 17 nuns. On 2nd February 5 bombs fell within ground of Papal estate killing 1 and injuring 5.

2. There are 7,000 refugees within Papal Villa and grounds. Papal estate runs in north-south direction from Castelmandolfo to outskirts of Albano. German Embassy have assured Vatican that Kesselring has ordered that immediate surroundings of Papal Villa shall not be used by Germans for any defense construction or storage of war material.

3. From political standpoint advisable avoid damage to Papal properties if practicable, but Foreign Office consider you were within your rights and within your instructions in permitting action which resulted in above incidents. There are no legal grounds why particular care should have been taken to avoid hitting convent which is outside the property. In this respect your attention is drawn to President's letter to Pope referred to in FAN 322 by which we are morally bound.

4. Above is for your information. We are in agreement with view expressed and decision reported in your MEDCOS 27.

Time of Origin 121950Z

FAN 322 is CM-OUT-8440 (21 Jan 44) CC/S
MEDCOS 27 is CM-IN-1392 (2 Feb 44) CC/S

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NOV 24 1971

ACTION: CC/S

INFORMATION: OPD GEN. BISSELL GEN. ARNOLD
ADM. KING WHITE HOUSE LOG

CM-IN-9320 (13 Feb 1944) ang

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

SECURITY [REDACTED]

INCOMING MESSAGE

2 February 1944

**SECURITY
CONTROL**

To: British Chiefs of Staff

Rptd: J.S.M. Washington for U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff
MAAF for Eaker.

From: Freedom signed Wilson

Number: MEDCOS 27

Message as follows has been received from Eaker.

Certain areas in Italy pertaining to the Vatican have been on a restricted basis as far as air operations are concerned. The desire to hold these areas inviolate has been strongly represented by both the United States and British Governments. The exception has been in case a tactical emergency should arise which would necessitate such operations in our own protection or in support of our vital ground operations. This situation has now developed in the Albano-Castel Gandolfo area wherein is located the Vatican farm and summer residence. This area is now in the midst of the battle area and contains essential road communications. I have discussed this with Alexander who feels that we cannot prejudice the success of the Rome operations by providing in the middle of the battle a sanctuary for the opposing Germans. I have instructed Cannon to attack targets in this restricted zone only when in his opinion and in that of Alexander it is absolutely necessary but have given him freedom to operate when this condition is met. (Raym?*)

I concur in Eaker's decision. This is transmitted for your information.

ACTION: CCS

INFORMATION:

OPD
GEN STRONG
GEN ARNOLD
ADM KING
WHITE HOUSE
LOG

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NOV 24 1971

CM-IN-1392 (2 Feb 44) 2115Z mcs

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WAR DEPARTMENT
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INCOMING MESSAGE

U R G E N T

From: Algiers
To : War

No : W-1656, 1 February 1944

To AGWAR for Marshall from Eaker signed Wilson.
Cite PHGOT. Reference your 8602 dated 1st February.

General Bombing restrictions on road nets in the Rome area are out of the question in the present situation due to their extensive use by the Germans. However, instructions are being issued that marked Vatican vehicles will be respected whenever possible without impairing military operations.

NoSig

Footnote: 8602 is CM-OUT-101 (1 Feb 44) OPD

ACTION: OPD

INFORMATION: G-2
CGAAF
White House
Log

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DOD DIR. 5200.8 (9/27/58)

CM-IN-512 (1 Feb 44)

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Date- NOV 24 1971

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Signature- *RAP*

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~~SECRET~~
WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

OUTGOING MESSAGE

OPD 330.14 (31 Jan 44)
Operations Division, WDGS
North African Section, WDOPD

January 31, 1944

FREEDOM, ALGIERS

Number 8602

FROM MARSHALL FOR WILSON

Tittman, Representative at Vatican, cable to State
Department January 29 "Vatican informs me that convoy
of Vatican trucks will be going to fetch flour for
urgent needs city of Rome during next few days. One
at least will be going by via Flaminia through Narni
and Trevi to Foligno and Assisi but there will apparently
be a number of others. All will be marked with Vatican
colors white and yellow and with words Vatican State.
Please inform Allied Headquarters urgently with view to
prevention of bombing"

Flms due
N. Rome

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED
4-12-73

ORIGINATOR: OPD

INFORMATION: G-2, WHITE HOUSE LOG

CM-OUT-101 (1 Feb 44) 0339Z cv

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OUTGOING MESSAGE

SECURITY
CONTROL

SECURITY CONTROL

Combined Chiefs of Staff
71462

January 21, 1944

CG NATO FREEDOM ALGIERS

Number 7777

CG ETO USFOR LONDON ENGLAND

Number R 8408

For Wilson Freedom Algiers, This is PAN 322 from the Combined Chiefs of Staff. Reference PAN 311, Paragraph C.

Vatican property outside Vatican City but in the City of Rome, mentioned in Articles 13, 14, 15 and 16 of the Lateran Treaty and described in Annexes 2 and 3 of that treaty, follows:

- Article 13. Basilica of Saint John Lateran (San Giovanni Laterano)
Basilica of Saint Mary Major (Santa Maria Maggiore)
Basilica of Saint Paul without the Walls
(San Paolo fuori le Mura) including the monastery.
Palace of Saint Callixtus (San Callisto) in Trastevere.
- Article 14. Property on the north side of the Janiculum Hill overlooking Vatican City between Viale Aurelio and Passeggiata Sul Gianicolo and including that belonging to the Sacred College of Propaganda Fide.
Palace of the Holy (Roman) Twelve Apostles attached to the Basilica of the Holy Apostles (Santi Apostoli).
Palace attached to the Church of Sant 'Andrea Della Vallo.
Palace attached to the Church of San Carlo Ai Catinari.
- Article 15. Palace of the Dataria, near the Quirinal Palace.
Palace of the Cancelleria between the Corso Vittorio Emanuele and the Campo Dei Fiori.
Palace of the Propaganda Fide on the Piazza di Spagna.
Palace of the Holy Office (Sant 'Offizio) adjacent to the Piazza San Pietro at Porta Cavalleggeri.

CM-OUT-8440

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CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

OUTGOING MESSAGE

SECURITY
CONTROL

BOOK MESSAGE

JANUARY 21, 1944

PAGE TWO

Congregation of the Oriental Church, formerly
Palace of the Convertendi in Piazza Scossa-
cavalli.
Palace of the Vicariato in Via Della Pigna
off the Corso Vittorio Emanuele near the Piazza
Del Gesu'.

Article 16. Gregorian University in Via Del Seminario near
the Church of Sant 'Ignazio.
Gregorian University Alla Pilotta facing on
Piazza Di Pilotta.
Biblical Institute in Piazza Di Pilotta.
Archeological Institute, Oriental Institute,
Lombard College and the Russian College on
Piazza Santa Maria Maggiore.
The two Palaces of Sant 'Appolinare between the
Piazza Sant 'Appolinare and Via Della Scrofa.
The House of Retreat for the Clergy of the Church
of Saints John and Paul, including the Nymphaeum
of Nero, on the Caelian Hill.

While the properties listed under Article 16 are not specifi-
cally designated in the Treaty as extraterritorial or entitled
to diplomatic immunity, they are exempt from expropriation
and taxation and, for reasons of policy should be accorded the
same treatment by your forces as the properties in immediately
preceding articles.

Vatican properties outside the City of Rome included in
Article 14 of the Lateran Treaty are the Pontifical Palace and
the Villa Barberini in the Town of Castel Gandolfo, Province of
Rome, and should be accorded by your forces the same protec-
tion given to the other Vatican properties listed in Article 14.

Article 27 of the Concordat between the Holy See and Italy
signed simultaneously with the Lateran Treaty provides that the
following properties are ceded to the Holy See:

The Basilica of the Holy House (Santa Casa) at Loreto,
Province of Ancona.
The Basilica of Saint Francis at Assisi, Province of
Perugia.
The Basilica of Saint Anthony at Padua, Province of
Padua.

CM-OUT-8440 (21 Jan 44)

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WAR DEPARTMENT
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OUTGOING MESSAGE

SECURITY CONTROL

SECURITY
CONTROL

BOOK MESSAGE

JANUARY 21, 1944

PAGE THREE

The proprietorship of the Holy See of these 3 properties as well as their religious and historical significance should be kept in mind and so far as is reasonable and possible in the light of military exigencies you should make a special attempt to ensure that they are spared from damage.

With respect to other Vatican property throughout Italy, you should as far as possible avoid requisitioning or otherwise converting to your use any property in Allied-occupied territory which existing occupants claim to be the property of the Holy See. If urgent operational needs require your forces to occupy any such property, reports should be made thereof at the earliest possible moment.

In this connection, reference is made to the President's letter of July 10, 1943 to the Pope in which he assured him of the respect of Allied troops for Papal domains throughout Italy. The pertinent portions are quoted below for reference:

"Your Holiness:

(***)there is no need for me to reaffirm that respect for religious beliefs and for the free exercise of religious worship is fundamental to our ideas. Churches and religious institutions will, to the extent that it is within our power, be spared the devastations of war during the struggle ahead. Throughout the period of operations the neutral status of Vatican City as well as the Papal domains throughout Italy will be respected. (***)"

ORIGINATOR: CC/S (Capt Royal USN)

INFORMATION: OPD
General Arnold
General Strong
Admiral King
White House
LOG

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RHP 3-6-71

CM-OUT-8440 (21 Jan 44)

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WAR DEPARTMENT.
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

Dec 24, 1942

INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Algiers
To: War

No. 2942 Dec 24, 1942

By special dispensation (to AGWAR from Freedom Algiers) announced in North African Catholic churches the customary Christmas midnight mass will be celebrated this year in Algeria at five PM December two four and in Morocco at six PM the reason given is that conditions dash blackout and lack of transportation would prevent many from attending mass at midnight. From Eisenhower for Marshall, accordingly radio Maroc broadcast last Sunday and Monday the announcement of the change of hour referring to the fact that similar procedure was adopted in December one nine three nine.

No Sig

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DDO DIR. 5200.9 (9/27/58)

Action copy: SOS-TAG

Info. copies: OPD
G-2

Date- 11-24-71

Signature- RHP

CM-IN-10766 (12-25-42) 0522 Z

jrp

DEC 25 1942

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