Cooperation with Other Governments: Other Countries: Italy
CROSS REFERENCE ON COOPERATION WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS:
OTHER COUNTRIES  (ITALY)

FOR:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amendment to this License</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Extension of this License</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renewal of this License</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Correspondence concerning this application</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (Specify)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. FOR FURTHER REFERENCE TO THIS FILE

SEE: 1. REPRESENTATIVES AND SPECIAL ATTACHES: APPOINTMENTS
PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO RELIEF AND RESCUE OF REFUGEES: OTHER
EVACUATION PROJECTS
(EVACUATIONS TO ITALY AND THE MEDITERRANEAN AREA)
Fascist authorities have ordered provincial administrations to requisition dwellings, particularly Jewish dwellings, for assignment to refugees and to arrange with religious communities for gratis lodgings for homeless women.

HARRISON

HJP
CORRECTION

April 28, 1944

In cable from Bern 2677 April 27, 8 a.m. re
Jewish question in Italy page 1 line 10 and 11 delete
"request for" insert "the Milan."

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

CSB
Bern

Dated April 27, 1944

Recorded 10:08 a.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

2677, April 27, 8 a.m.

Reliable sources state that the German authorities have been greatly dissatisfied with the Administration during the past six months of the anti-Jewish laws in Neo-Fascist Italy and have insisted with the Mussolini regime that the chaos in the Italian racial laws be replaced by an ordered system on the Nuremberg model and that Jewish problems in the future be handled in the approved Nazi manner. Source adds that the basis for carrying out this German order was provided at request for Neo-Fascist Cabinet meeting April 18 when a decree was issued establishing a "general office for racial problems" and Mussolini appointed Giovanni Preziosi as chief thereof. Preziosi, pioneer of Italian racism and a Neo-Fascist State Secretary has been active in the anti-Semitic and anti-Communist program of the Mussolini Government. He is now expected to raise the anti-Jewish campaign.
April 27, 8 a.m., from Bern.

Campaign in Italy to the same level of intensity as the German inspired campaigns in Hungary, Slovakia and other satellite countries.

HARRISON

RR
Algiers
Dated April 8, 1944
Rec'd 505 p.m.

Secretary of State
Washington

MOST IMMEDIATE

1173, April 8, 5 p.m.

(for War Refugee Board from Ackermann, War Refugee
Representative, No. 11)

There are great potentialities in saving lives in
and through Partisan Territory. Partisan representa-
tives claim to have done much already but are handi-
capped by lack of ships, supplies and money. Problem
of increasing the amount of activity along lines of
war refugee objectives is obviously complicated and
requires intensive work and preparation on all levels.
It is urged that Saxon who has just returned from Bari
be recalled to Washington immediately to give details
and for consultation next step.

CHAPIN

LMS

Mass Chauncey (for the Soc'y) Abrahamson, Lezin, Bernstein, Cohn,
D.Bois, Friedman, Gamou, Hodel, Laughlin, Lessau, Luxford, Mass.,
Mannoz, Marks, McCormack, Paul, Pohle, Pollak, Rainis, Sargent, Steinitz, S
Standish, Stewart, W. Stein, H. D. White, Filou
Subject: Transmitting copy of report concerning the condition of Jews in Italy, Sicily and Sardinia.

As Honorably,
The Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.,

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to the Department's circular airgram of January 26, 1944, 7:30 p.m. and to transmit, of interest to the Department a report with its enclosure regarding the condition of Jews in Italy, Sicily and Sardinia.

It is noted that the report has been made available to the Secretaries of the Combined Chiefs of Staff, but out of abundance of caution and in the light of the Department's special interest in the question, I am forwarding a copy direct.

Respectfully yours,

[Signature]

Selden Chapin,
Counselor of Embassy, In Charge

Enclosure
1. Report dated February 8 with enclosure

040.1

PPS

Single copy to Department

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 4 1972
SUBJECT: Condition of Jews in Italy, Sicily and Sardinia

TO: The Secretaries, Combined Chiefs of Staff, 1901 Constitution Ave., Washington, D. C. (2)

Major General J. H. Hilldring, Chief, Civil Affairs Division, War Department, Washington, D. C. (2)

Major General S. M. Kirby, Director of Civil Affairs, War Office, Whitehall, S.W. 1 (2)

War Office, (C. 3(b)), Whitehall, S.W. 1 (1)

Mr. R. D. Murphy, American Minister (2)

Mr. Harold MacEwen, British Resident Minister (2)

1. The attached copy of an interim report on the condition of Jews in Italy, Sicily and Sardinia is forwarded for your information, and it is requested that you will disseminate the particulars therein contained to such other authorities as may be interested.

2. Certain details contained in the report are considered to require clarification, or further explanation. These are:

(a) Prisoners of War (P.W) Camps referred to in para 1 are camps established for the care and administration of Allied ex-PW recovered from the German forces, and should properly be referred to as Ex-PW Camps.

(b) The figures given in para 2 should be understood to refer to refugees, displaced, or lately interned Jews, and should not be confused with those Jews who are normally resident in Italy, who, if they had been interned, may now have returned to their homes.

(c) In para 3 the designation "M.I. Room" has been taken from British military terminology, and is the abbreviation for "Medical Inspection Room". It is understood that the "M.I. Room" will, in fact, be a medical centre for the care and treatment of the local Jewish community.

(d) Regarding medical supplies, as mentioned in para 4, between 1 January and mid-February 800 Long tons gross of medical supplies are planned for delivery. Of this quantity 400 Long tons gross has already arrived, and the situation should be satisfactory in future.

(e) Para 8, communications, International Red Cross inquiries and message forms are now being distributed, and with the early resumption of foreign mails with Italy, Sicily and Sardinia correspondence will be greatly facilitated.

3. Further reports on the condition of Jews will be furnished from time to time. Meanwhile their interests are being watched, and such assistance as is possible will be dispensed to those in need.

By Authority of

T. Maxwell
Colonel, Acting Chief, Military Government Section

DECLASSIFIED

Letter 7-5-72

By ADP Date 11-12-72
SUBJECT: Conditions of Jews in Italy, Sicily and Sardinia

TO: Military Government Section, Allied Force Headquarters

Reference your JDC-403-6 of 13 Dec. 43 and JDC-803-5 of 3 Jan. 44.

Registration of non-Italian resident as free citizens in liberated Italy has not yet been undertaken. It is, therefore, difficult to submit a complete factual report at this stage.

1. GENERAL

The following is compiled from information in the possession of this Sub-Commission, supplemented by reports received from Region 1, Region 2, Chief Selection Officer, A.G.C., and the Jewish Refugee, No. 3 district. The report called for from Region 6 is not yet to hand.

No Jewish problem, as understood in other European countries, exists in Italy. The Sub-Commission has handled approximately 3,000 Jews in liberated Italy. Amongst these have been native Italian Jews, who have been either held from internment or displaced from their normal places of residence by reason of military operations; refugees from Germany, Poland, Austria, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia. They reached Italy before or during the war, and refugees received recently from the Aegean Islands. These have been cared for in ex-interment camps at Rhodes (now) and Leros (Lykos) (Region 6), in Allied areas camped and liberated, and in transit camps in LCCS province (while en route to Middle East).

2. ITALY

It is difficult to estimate the total number of Jews in liberated Italy. Numbers resident in or passing through camps are known, but there are many scattered throughout the country whose numbers can only be estimated. In many towns and villages are individual groups, and others are to be found in remote districts where they took refuge during the racist regime. From time to time, groups who have been hiding, apply for residence and are received, but there have been instances of Jews who have been afraid to disclose their identity, but revealed themselves to seeing Jewish soldiers of the Allied Forces.

The distribution of known Jews is, approximately, as follows:

(a) ITALIAN CAMP

PIERMARCELLI CAMP

Boi. L.A. Transit Camp, E.H.

No. 61, L.A. Transit Camp, Rhodes

From the Aegean Islands

(in Transit Camps LCCS Province en route to Middle East)

SALERNO

LIGURIA

Villages near and around CASAL-LIGURIA

INTERMEDIATE IN THE PROVINCE OF TURIN

In and around the town of:

BARI

NAPLES

TARANTO

It would be reasonable to estimate the total number of Jews at 5,000 to 6,000, about half of whom are accommodated in established camps.

(b) SICILY (Region 1)

The number below, cared for by the Sub-Commission at I.A.C.L.L is 58, comprising Yugoslavs, Czechoslovakians, Greeks and one Albanian. In addition, it is estimated that 15 Jews are living in the Island, as permanent residents.

(c) SARDINIA (Region 6)

Report not yet received but few, if any, believed to be in the Island.

(d) LIPARI ISLANDS

None

UNCLASSIFIED

RECOMMEND

30TH JANUARY, 1944
The Jewish instinct for community organization has long been demonstrated. Prior to the Allied landings, the Union of Jewish Communities, "JUDALCOS", with a Central Office in northern Italy, cared for Jewish immigrants. Contact with this body ceased in October last, but local representatives in liberated territory have formed local committees which continue an independent existence.

At ENNIOVIT, where the camp had been in existence for several years, the Jewish group has organized itself into a well-disciplined community. Recently, a Joint Committee have assisted in the foundation of a Communal Organization at HAM, where no Community existed before the War. It is proposed to set up a Jewish N.I. room in connection with the latter.

In PARES the old Jewish Community is re-established and is rendering assistance to those who return to their own land and seeking advice on individual problems. The establishment of local committees is of value in that they provide:
(a) a recognized channel for the transmission of official instructions affecting the Community in general, and
(b) responsible bodies able to exercise control over the Community and eliminate frivolous and unsubstantiated individual petitions for official consideration.

They are also able to exercise a measure of control in domestic matters and to assist in the registration of refugees and the collection of personal data. No restrictions other than those necessary for camp discipline and security purposes are imposed upon camp inmates.

4. MEDICAL

The general standard of health is good. In camps men and women internes with medical and nursing experience attend to the needs of their fellow and supplement the services of Med. Staffs. Separate hospitals for Jewish refugees have not been set up but the same medical facilities are provided by camp hospitals, and by civil hospitals for more serious medical and surgical cases. Medical supplies have been provided and are adequate for normal requirements. Camp inmates have been better off than the surrounding population. The small Community in Italy has maintained a good standard of general hygiene and medical supplies have been reasonably adequate. In ENNIOVIT the situation last month was so satisfactory that it may be expected that the arrival of shipments from abroad will immediately improve the conditions in the camp. An urgent need for medical and surgical supplies, however, still exists.

5. CLOTHING

There has been a considerable demand for clothing, particularly for women and children. Assistance has been given to men by the distribution of salvaged military uniforms. Permission has been granted to cut and sew uniforms and to distribute clothing which has been received during the last few days. These are being distributed equitably and it is hoped to alleviate immediate problems. Generally speaking, ex-internees are better off than refugees from forward areas as the former, having lived in camps for a considerable period, have been able to acquire a certain amount of clothing by purchase.

6. SYNAGOGUES

No synagogues are known to exist outside camps. In camps Yiddish provide for the religious requirements of the Communities.

7. FINANCIAL STATUS

Refugees and ex-internees are generally in need of financial assistance but, among ex-internees in particular, there are a number with considerable sums of money in their possession. Those in camps receive full rations in kind, or part rations and a subsistence allowance.

8. FAMILIES

Almost invariably no news of families has been received by refugees since leaving their homes, in some cases, three or four years ago.

9. POLITICAL INTEREST

Jews, individually and as Communities, have been emphatic that they have no interest and no wish to take part in either local or national political life. On the contrary, most express a strong desire to be allowed to enter Palestine where they expect to be free from political influences and persecution.
10. **PROGRESS**

On the whole Jewish traders and business men are operating and conducting their business normally. A secret police has been established and controlled by local market traders and this action was approved by the local community.

Allegations of black market trading have been made against other Jews but the foregoing is the only known case of proceedings having been brought. Many are in employment.

11. **ANTI-SEMITISM**

No signs of anti-Semitism have been noted.

12. **LOCATIONS**

Considering the recent experiences and privations, the morale of the Jewish population is high. About 300 of the more Jewish, but non-British residents of Freetown/Fạiy have expressed a wish to join volunteer units of the British Army.

13. **LOCAL NEWS**

Refugees and ex-interned of the Serbs' Faith represent a small proportion of the number being handled. They have received their share of relief and financial and other assistance according to availability. It is recognized that their lot is hard but that they can perhaps expect material improvement in any case. Their capacity for organization and the services rendered to their communities by the newly educated and professionally qualified Jews amongst them have been advantages not enjoyed by refugees of other nationalities. The only known case of arrest has been, and in, the refusal to registration, or evacuation, which have been unavoidable.

For the Director:

/s/ V. E. Horner,

V. E. Horner,
Lt. Colonel
Deputy Director.

P.S. Since the above was signed the following telegram has been received from Region 6:

"Practically no civilian Jews in Jardina. There were only fifteen last census 5 July 43 and since these have left island."