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HEADQUARTERS  
COUNTER INTELLIGENCE CORPS  
ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS  
APO 512

19 February 1945

SUBJECT: Report on Conference Regarding the Communications Problem on the Italo-French and Italo-Swiss Frontiers.

TO : A. C. of S., G-2(CI), AFHQ, APO 512, US Army.  
(Through Channels).

On 19 February 1945, this Agent attended the conference held by the Plans Division, Signal Section, AFHQ, to determine the possibility of attaching Signal Corps personnel and equipment to the CIC Italian Frontier Control Detachment for utilization at such time as the tactical situation permits control of the frontier.

This Agent stressed the fact that all communications will be completely or partially destroyed in the operational stage; and in order to accomplish the counter intelligence mission of controlling all traffic in and out of Italy, the CIC Italian Frontier Control Detachment must be assured adequate communications, and therefore auxiliary communications become a necessity. (This Agent cited the communications problem encountered by the Pyrenees Travel Control Detachment in the initial operational stage and its subsequent solution through the use of Signal Corps equipment, i.e. radio net.)

1. Two radio nets are to be used; one net to include TURIN (Net control station), VENTIMIGLIA and CLAVIERS covering the Italo-French frontier; and the other net to include MILAN (Net control station), ACSTA, DOMODOSSOLA, COMO, CHIAVENNA, IRANO, CHASSO and SPONDIGNA, covering the Italo-Swiss frontier.

2. The net control stations at MILANO and TURIN are to be in contact with AFHQ.

3. The overall time the communication facilities would be required is a minimum of three months from the time frontier control is undertaken, or until that time that telephonic communications between the various control points is re-established.

4. Use of Cipher Device, M-209A to be used in sending confidential messages. One time pads possibly should be furnished in small quantities for the enciphering of occasional SECRET and TOP SECRET messages.

5. American personnel will be used.

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Ltr to G-2(CI), AFHQ re Communications Problem - Continued.

Problems encountered:

1. Transportation for the equipment of the two Net Control Stations to be established at MILAN and TURIN is assured, but transportation for Out Station units will have to be requisitioned by G-2(CI) from G-3. At the present time, because Signal Section plans are in an embryonic stage, it is not known what the transportation needs are.

2. Communications for Austrian Frontier Control. The impossibility of providing radio communications for the Austrian Frontier Control commitments, if the need for same is simultaneous to that on the Italo-French and Italo-Swiss frontiers, was expressed to this Agent by Major Egler of the Signal Section. Lack of equipment and trained personnel prevent Signal communication coverage of both the Italian and Austrian frontier commitments at the same time. On the other hand, this same Italian Frontier Signal Corps unit can be transferred to the Austrian frontier for duty once its mission has been accomplished on the Italian frontier.

Agent's Notes:

1. Major Egler has suggested that a formal request by G-2(CI) be submitted to the Plans Division of the Signal Section before the necessary action is taken to comply with this request for Signal Corps personnel and equipment.

2. This Agent suggests that the Signal Section be informed periodically of the progress of CI plans and operations so that the personnel and equipment requested be made available without loss of valuable time. The Signal Section obviously bases its plans on CI plans and CIC operations. Periodic progress reports will enable the Signal Section to act accordingly.

3. Signal Section requests that at least ten days advance notice be given before the scheduled movement to the frontier starts.

(Represented at the conference were the Commanding Officers of 2141 Signal Service Group, Wire Division, Radio Division, SIS Division, Personnel Division (all of the Signal Section), and this Agent representing CIE.)

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