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COUNTER INTELLIGENCE CORPS  
ITALIAN FRONTIER CONTROL DETACHMENT  
ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS  
APO 512

U.S. ARMY

24 May 1945

Turin Section

MEMORANDUM FOR THE OFFICER IN CHARGE:

SUBJECT: AFHQ Frontier Regulations

RE: Violations of Same

1. This section has been experiencing great difficulty in trying to enforce the AFHQ travel regulations between Italy and France because of the deliberate actions on the part of the French military authorities who refuse to recognize Allied control, and who have established their own travel permit system in direct contradiction of the agreement reached between AFHQ and SHAEF in February and March of this year.

The nature of these violations is as follows:

- a. The attempt to establish a new frontier inside Italian territory.
- b. Exercising control of the above territory and the impeding of the Allied Military Government in its operation.
- c. The issuing of "laissez-passers" to Italian and French civilians for the purpose of crossing the frontier. (disregard of AMG closure of the frontier publications) The arresting of Italian war criminals in French occupied Italian territory and the transporting of same to France for trial in French tribunals.
- d. Transportation of the above and other civilians in French military vehicles.
- e. The transporting of displaced persons who were not properly investigated by the Allied authorities into France on French military vehicles. (this includes ~~some~~ persons of French nationality as well as those of nationality other than French who must pass through France in transit to regain their countries)
- g. The employment of French Maquis to spread propaganda and discontent among partisan organizations in order to discredit the Allies.
- h. Demonstrations against the United States Government by violating the American flag.
- i. The indiscriminate use of crossing points with utter disregard of the official AFHQ authorized crossing points.

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7. (1 e) French military authorities have established their own displaced persons centers near the frontier area, with the object of re-latriating not only ~~ex~~ persons of French nationality but also persons of other nationalities who wish to travel through France to regain their countries. On 13 May 1945, PEZZOTA, Alfredo, NESSI, Mario; and RUFFINI, Bartolo presented themselves to AMG, Susa and asked for passes to travel to their own home in Bergamo. Upon investigation by CIC it was found that Subjects were former laborers in DONAUCHINGEN, Germany and were liberated by the French and provided with transportation to PAVILLON France, issued laissez passers by Sécurité Militaire for travel to Italy and by French military vehicle Subjects were taken to Lanslebourg from where they crossed at Moncenisio into Italy. This was performed in complete disregard on the part of French authorities of AFHQ travel regulations governing civilians.

8. (1 e) On 15 May 1945, a German military truck containing displaced persons and flying the French flag was stopped by Allied soldiers at the Turin road block. Upon investigation by CIC Agents it was found that these persons had made their way from Austria in an attempt to reach France. Further investigation revealed that of the 22 persons on the truck, 16 were French exPWs, 3 <sup>GERMAN</sup> soldiers in civilian clothing who had been promised refuge in France, 2 were Belgians and 1 a citizen of Luxemburg. A similar <sup>VEHICLE</sup> contained several Frenchmen as well as 4 Dutchmen. Although an Allied displaced persons center exists in Moncalieri, Turin, the French insist on handling their own displaced persons centers.

9. (1 e) In a discussion with Capt. Van Laethem, French liaison officer the CIC Agents protested against the assumption by the French of an AFHQ function solely under the control of Maj. Stewart appointed by AFHQ. Capt. Van Laethem insisted that French authorities would handle French repatriates.

10. (1 g) It has also been ascertained by CIC Agents that members of the French Maquis posing as Italian partisans are spreading propaganda and discontent among the civilian population discrediting the Allies; These persons have entered Italy illegally and it has been reported that they are actually French soldiers in the pay of the French Army.

11. (1 h) Reports have been received at this office that circulars demanding annexation of Northwestern Italy by France are being circulated by the French Maquis who are operating with the Italian Partisans along the Frontier region from Ventimiglia on the Riviera to the Swiss border north of Aosta; Newspaper articles, emanating from partisan groups in Cuneo,

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Turin, and Ventimiglia, demand immediate annexation of Piedmont by the French. With the French Maquis are Italian Communists who, together, are storing arms and munitions in the Alpine redoubts with the express purpose of harassing American and British liberation troops. It was also noted that French Maquis intelligence agencies ~~known~~ are cooperating with the Partisans intelligence <sup>agency</sup> known as S.A.P. in several regions near Cuneo, Ventimiglia and Pas du Paradis. In Cuneo, anti-Allied manifests have been posted on buildings in that area and propaganda leaflets are being distributed. Petitions are being signed by thousands of persons signifying ~~this~~ their intentions to detach this area from Italy and become part of France. Partisan leaders of the S.A.P., Turin, have made statements that they don't want the Allies in northwestern Italy and they will be driven out as the Germans were. In Turin, a meeting was held by the G.L. (Giustizia Liberta) on 22 May 1945 in which speakers expressed their desire to become annexed to France and that all effort should be made to drive the Allies from Northern Italy.

12. (lh) On two separate occasions, once at CESANA and the other at CHIEMONTE, the American flag has been torn from its mast from an Allied occupied building. The intent obviously was to discredit the Allied control of the area which in effect subtracts from Allied prestige in the region and indirectly weakens the position of the Frontier Control Detachment in their efforts to control movement of persons in the frontier region and across the frontier.

13. (li) It has been ascertained by agents of this section that the French are still violating regulations governing official crossing points. Besides the official crossing points of Mount Genèvre and Ventimiglia, the French are using several other unofficial and illegal crossing some of which are the Little St. Bernard Pass, Moncenisio, Maddalena Pass, San Belmazzo, Breglio and Larché. Over these passes French military vehicles transport both military personnel and civilians; ~~these~~ this section has found it impossible to exercise complete control under the existing circumstances;.

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