

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

RESTRICTED

Memorandum of Conversation

DATE:
June 21, 1950

~~REFERENCE:~~ PARTICIPANTS: Mr. Ortona, Counselor Italian Embassy, and Mr. Tesoro - WE - for the Department.

~~REFERENCE:~~ SUBJECT: Rome Treasury Disposition.

COPIES TO: EUR - Mr. Achilles Amembassy - Rome
WE - Mr. Byington
Mr. Greene
UNA/R - Mr. Warren
L/E - Mr. Cardezo
BNA - Mr. Hamilton

200.6241 Filed

Mr. Ortona called at the Department upon instructions from the Foreign Office on the subject of the final disposition of the Rome Treasure. Mr. Ortona said the Foreign Office had received a copy of the inventory recently taken in Rome, according to which the value of the non-monetary gold is estimated at about \$90,000. He stated also that the Italian Government understands that the value of currencies and monetary gold in the Treasure by far exceed the value of the non-monetary gold. In view of the results of the inventory the Italian Government wishes to raise the question whether, if a division between IRO and the Italian Government has to be made according to the proposal already communicated to Rome, such division should not be extended to all the items included in the Treasure, non-monetary gold, monetary gold, and currencies as well.

Mr. Tesoro answered that the whole question of the disposition of the Rome Treasure was still under discussion within the Department and with the British Government, and that he will communicate further with Mr. Ortona as soon as possible.

EUR:WE:GAP:tesoro:emh
6-22-50

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[Handwritten initials]

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DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 969002
By JK NARA Date 6/26/00

RG 59
Entry CDF, 1950-54
File 200.6241
Box 867

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200.6241-GOLD/6-2150

200.6241-6-2150

CS/H

6-21-50

FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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SECURITY : RESTRICTED

PRIORITY: AIR POUCH

262.0041/10-2050
XR 398.411-180

TO : Department of State

ENCLOSURES

FROM : ROME 1394 NOVEMBER 8, 1950

200.6241/11-850

REF : DEPT TELEGRAMS 1805 OCT 27; 326 JULY 21, 1950; EMBASSY TELEGRAMS 2087 MAY 16; 1993 MAY 11; AND EMBASSY DESPATCH 18 JULY 3, 1950.

SUBJECT : "ROME TREASURE"
262.0041/15-1650
265.1141/5-1150

In preparation for the turn-over of the "Rome Treasure" to IRO for liquidation and turn-over of certain foreign currencies to countries of origin, the United States and British Embassies have agreed upon the procedures to be followed and have prepared form receipts and other appropriate documents. The four basic documents or forms, which have been prepared by the two Embassies for use with reference to the disposal of foreign currencies (found in possession of the German forces in Italy during the Second World War and confiscated by the Armies of the United States and Great Britain), are transmitted for the Department's information as Enclosures Nos. 1 through 4. The British Embassy is transmitting to London essentially identical documents.

APPROVED:

BY:

S. L. W. Mellen

S. L. W. Mellen
First Secretary of Embassy

Harold H. Rhodes

Harold H. Rhodes
Second Secretary of Embassy

Enclosures: *4*

1. Document No. 1
2. Document No. 2
3. Document No. 3
4. Document No. 4

HHRhodes:bg

5 0 2

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OFFICE OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS
MESSAGE ROOM
NOV 14 PM 3 45

200.6241/11-850

NOV 12 1950

DEC 12 1950
FGR

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Authority 969002
By *BKR* NARA Date 6/12/2

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Entry CDF, 1955-9
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339215

STATES OF AMERICA
AIR POUCH
ENCLOSURE

Encl. 1 Rome 1394 Nov 8, 1950

COPY

Note No.

Document No. 1

The Embassy of the United States of America presents its compliments to the _____ and has the honor to inform the _____ that the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Great Britain have jointly decided on the disposal of certain foreign currencies which were found in the possession of the German Forces in Italy during the Second World War (and confiscated by the Armies of the United States and Great Britain.)

By the allied Armies See Despatch 1476-11-15-50 (above)

2. Among these currencies the following appear to be of _____ origin:

3. The currencies in question are deposited with the Banca d'Italia in Rome, and have been held at the Bank in the joint custody of the American and British Embassies since they were entrusted to them upon the departure of the Allied Forces from Italy. The list of contents of the packages indicated in paragraph 2 above have been extracted from inventories of the Allied Military Authorities, and as the currencies were taken-over unchecked, the Embassy cannot guarantee the accuracy of the figures, nor state whether or not the currencies are counterfeit.

4. The Embassy has been instructed to inform the _____ that the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Great Britain are prepared to place the above-mentioned currencies at the free disposal of the Government of _____.

5. Accordingly, ^{*the govt of the United States of America*} ~~the American Embassy~~ would be grateful if the _____ would state whether or not it is prepared to receive, on behalf of its Government, the above-mentioned currencies as is, and whether the Government of _____ will accept the currencies on the condition that it will indemnify the American Embassy against any claim relative thereto, should claims arise.

6. Upon receiving confirmation from the _____ on both of the points specified in paragraph five (5), the necessary authority will be issued to the Banca d'Italia in Rome for the release of the currencies in question, and a further communication will be addressed to the _____ explaining the procedure for collection and clearance which the American Embassy and the British Embassy jointly have arranged with the Bank.

7. A note in identical terms is being addressed to the _____ by the British Embassy.

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Entry CDF, 1955-9
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DECLASSIFIED
Authority 969002
By EYM NARA Date 6/27

Enc. 2 Rome 1394 Nov. 8, 1950

Document No. 2

Note No. _____

The Embassy of the United States of America presents its compliments to the _____ and, with reference to its Note No. _____ of _____ and the corresponding Note of the Embassy of Great Britain, about the disposal of certain foreign currencies in deposit with the Banca d'Italia for their joint account, and to the replies thereto of the _____ Note No. _____ of _____ has the honor, also on behalf of the Embassy of Great Britain, to set forth the following relative procedure.

2. The Banca d'Italia has been authorized to release the currencies, listed in the aforementioned Notes of the two Embassies, to a representative of the _____, on appropriate application. A copy of this authority is enclosed, and should be produced by the authorized representative of the _____ when requesting delivery ^{from the Bank} of the above-mentioned currencies.
3. The American Embassy also encloses six copies of the required form of receipt, and requests that these copies when signed by the authorized representative of the _____ be distributed as indicated on the form receipt.

See correction per Despatch # 1476 11-15-50 (aven)

DECLASSIFIED
 Authority 969002
 By SPK NARA Date 6/27

RG	<u>59</u>
Entry	<u>CDF, 1955-9</u>
File	<u>200.6241</u>
Box	<u>866</u>

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Encl. 3 Rome 1394 Nov. 8, 1950

COPY

Document No. 3

To:

The Banca d'Italia,
Via Nazionale,
Roma.

AUTHORIZATION NO. _____.

Please release to the _____, on application, the undermentioned packages containing currencies held in deposit jointly on behalf of His Britannic Majesty's Embassy and of the Embassy of the United States of America:

2. A copy of this letter has been forwarded to the _____, with a request that their authorized representative present it to the Banca d'Italia, as authority for receiving the items specified in this authorization.
3. Six copies of the form receipt have been sent to the _____ with a request that when the transfer has taken place the signed copies be distributed as indicated on the form receipt.

For the Embassy of the United States of America.

By _____

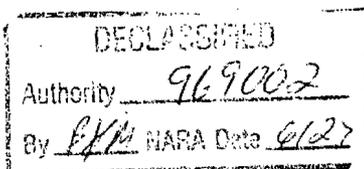
Title _____

For the Embassy of the United Kingdom

By _____

Title _____

Date _____



RG	<u>59</u>
Entry	<u>CDF, 1955-9</u>
File	<u>200.6241</u>
Box	<u>868</u>

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Encl. 4 Rome 1394 Nov 8, 1950

COPY

Document No. 4

RECEIPT

I _____
 the authorized representative of the _____
 _____ on this _____ day of _____
 (Month)
 _____ have taken delivery from the Banca d'Italia in Rome of the
 (Year) _____ packages of currencies indicated below which have been released in accordance
 with the joint authority No. _____ of _____
 (Date)
 issued by His Britannic Majesty's Embassy and the Embassy of the United States
 of America in Rome:

Package No. etc.

Said to Contain

Done in six copies for distribution as follows:

1. Banca d'Italia (copy to be left with the Bank at the time of collection).
2. His Majesty's Embassy.
3. His Majesty's Embassy.
4. The Embassy of the United States of America.
5. The Embassy of the United States of America.
6. The recipient.

Signed _____

Title _____

RG	59
Entry	CDF, 1955-9
File	200.6241
Box	866

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DECLASSIFIED
 Authority 969002
 By SPM NARA Date 6/27

NOV 30 1950

RESTRICTED

No. 133

To the
Officer in Charge of the American Mission,
Rome.

200.6241/11-850

The Secretary of State refers to despatch No. 1394 dated November 8, 1950 enclosing forms for the turnover of the "Rome Treasury". The Department has the following comments.

1. With relation to Document No. 1, paragraph 1, the word "disposal" should be changed to "delivery". See paragraph 3 below. Further, the clause "and confiscated by the Armies of the United States and Great Britain" should be deleted. This is objectionable as it may give rise to some implication that the United States took title to the properties involved for its own behalf. The Department suggests the addition of the thought at this point "and which are presumed to have been looted by the German Forces".

2. With relation to Document No. 1, paragraph 2, it is suggested that "origin" be changed to "issue".

3. With relation to Document No. 1, paragraph 4, delete the phrase "place the above-mentioned currencies at the free disposal of the Government of" and substitute "deliver the above-mentioned currencies to the Government of _____ for such use as it may deem appropriate". The Department prefers to describe its action as being that of a conduit for delivery. The remaining language, in conjunction with 1 above, may suggest the use of the currencies for restitution purposes.

4. With relation to Document No. 1, paragraph 5, delete "indemnify the American Embassy" and insert "save harmless the Government of the United States of America, its agents and representatives".

5. With relation to Document No. 2, paragraph 1, change "disposal" to "delivery".

6. With

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200.6241/11-850

200.6241/11-850

CS/H

DC/R
Anal. 43
Rev. _____
Cat. _____

DECLASSIFIED
Authority 969002
By EKR NARA Date 6/27

RG	59
Entry	CDF, 1955-9
File	200.6241
Box	865

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6. With relation to Document No. 3, paragraph 3, change "transfer" to "delivery".

7. It is assumed that different forms will be used for delivery of jewelry and other valuables to the International Refugee Organization, especially since the assurance to satisfy claims is of a different nature.

8. The above has not been discussed with British representatives here. The Department recommends that the Embassy discuss these points directly with the British Embassy at Rome.

S/S-CR
NOV 29 7:12 1950 A.M.

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11-28-50

WE
Treasurer
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RG	59
Entry	CDF, 1955-9
File	200.6241
Box	866

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DECLASSIFIED
Authority 969002
By EKM NARA Date 6/27

UNITED STATES OFFICE
ADMINISTRATOR, PARIS REPARATION REFUGEE FUND
1832 JEFFERSON PLACE, N. W.
WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

J. DONALD KINGSLEY, ADMINISTRATOR

April 27, 1954

CABLE, INREPRUST, WASHINGTON, D. C.
TELEPHONE: STERLING 3-5906

Dear Mrs. Luce:

Reference is made to the following copies of documents attached hereto, all relating to the so-called "Rome Treasure".

1. Letter from the Department of State, Washington, dated November 15, 1950 to Mr. J. Donald Kingsley, setting forth the basis upon which the "Rome Treasure" was transferred for liquidation.
2. Similar letter from the British Embassy, Washington, of same date.
3. Letter from Mr. J. Donald Kingsley to Mr. George W. Perkins, Assistant Secretary of State, Department of State, Washington, dated November 16, 1950.
4. Similar letter from Mr. J. Donald Kingsley to H. E. The British Ambassador, Washington, dated November 17, 1950.
5. Copy of "Inventory of Confiscated Property, Rome, Italy, Consisting of Jewelry & Valuables Recovered in Italy by the Allied Forces From the German Forces During World War II".

Since the International Refugee Organization and the Italian Government have completed their respective investigations of items included in the "Rome Treasure" which were considered possibly identifiable and therefore restitutable, it has been deemed expedient to request that the Italian Government proceed with the restitution of those items which have been determined to be restitutable and to liquidate the remaining items which are not restitutable.

It is

The Honorable
Clare Booth Luce
American Ambassador
U. S. Embassy
Rome, Italy

RG 59
Entry COF, 1955-59
File 263.0041
Box 1115

339222

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 969003
By JB NARA Date 6-21

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

It is proposed, therefore, that the Italian Government proceed with the restitution and liquidation on the following understanding:

A. That, in order that the final audit of the liquidation of the "Rome Treasure" will contain all of the pertinent facts, the Italian Government, upon restitution of the restitutable items and liquidation of the non-restitutable items, will furnish the undersigned or his duly accredited representatives with full particulars:

(1) regarding restitutable items, the names and addresses of the persons to whom property is restituted, the date of such restitution, and appropriate identifying reference to the items as listed on the "Inventory of Confiscated Property, Rome, Italy, Consisting of Jewelry & Valuables Recovered in Italy by the Allied Forces From the German Forces During World War II".

(2) regarding non-restitutable items, the net proceeds received for each item and appropriate identifying reference to the items as listed on the "Inventory of Confiscated Property, Rome, Italy, Consisting of Jewelry & Valuables Recovered in Italy by the Allied Forces From the German Forces During World War II".

B. That, upon liquidation of the property and receipt of the proceeds by the Italian Government, one-half of the net proceeds will be made available to the undersigned and placed in deposit in such accounts as may be designated by the undersigned, in order that he may fulfill his obligations to distribute such funds in accordance with the agreement reached with the Governments of the United States and the United Kingdom as set forth in the above-referred-to-letters of November 15, 1950.

After acceptance by the Governments of the U. S. and U. K. of the procedure outlined herein, the undersigned authorizes the Government of the United States, through its Embassy in Rome, to make available to the appropriate Italian authorities the keys to the vault in the Banco d'Italia Rome in which the property in question is located, simultaneously with the acceptance of the terms of this letter by the appropriate Italian authorities.

In order

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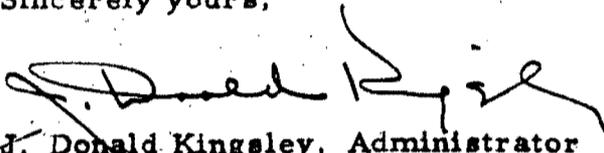
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Authority: NND 969003
By: JB NARA Date: 6-21

RG 59
Entry COF, 1955-59
File 263.0041
Box 11/15

In order to expedite the suggested procedure, it is respectfully requested that the United States Embassy in Rome obtain the acceptance of the Governments of the U. K. and the Republic of Italy. There are attached hereto several copies of this communication. I will be grateful to have returned to me one copy on which the Governments of the U. K. and the Republic of Italy will have signified their acceptance.

Please be assured of my appreciation for your cooperation in this matter.

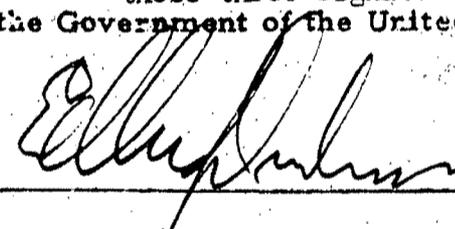
Sincerely yours,



J. Donald Kingsley, Administrator

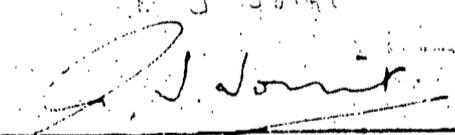
Accepted by the three signatories below on the understanding, as stated by the International Refugee Organization through the Department of State telegram to the American Embassy in Rome dated May 26, 1954, that this letter-agreement covers only those items now remaining in the vault of the Bank of Italy, and that an inventory of the contents of the vault is to be made by the representatives of these three signatories within the next few days and attached to the letter agreement.

ACCEPTED:

For the Government of the United States:
By 

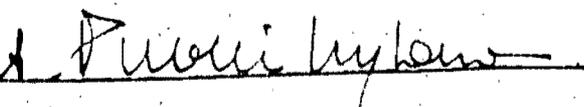
Date July 23, 1954

For the Government of Great Britain and Northern Ireland:

By 

Date July 23, 1954

For the Government of the Republic of Italy:

By 

Date July 23, 1954

339224

RG 59
Entry COF, 1955-59
File 263.0041
Box 11/5

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 969003
By JB NARA Date 6-21

IR POUCH
PRIORITY

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(Security Classification)

DO NOT TYPE IN THIS SPACE
265,0041/1-1955

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : **EMBASSY ROME** **1460**
DESP. NO.

TO : **THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.** **January 19, 1955**
DATE

REF : **DEPT A-430, January 5, 1955**

78 For Dept. Use Only	ACTION <i>1-24</i>	DEPT. <i>oe/R-2</i>
	REC'D <i>1-24</i>	OTHER

JAN 21 1955
LEGAL ADVISER
JAN 26 1955
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

SUBJECT: **"Rome Treasure"**

For the attention of Treaty Affairs, Office of the Legal Advisor.

In response to the Department's A-430 of January 5, 1955 the Embassy is enclosing with this Despatch one of the signed original copies of the letter agreement dated July 23, 1954 concerning the "Rome Treasure" between the Governments of the United States, the United Kingdom and Italy and J. Donald Kingsley. The Embassy is retaining a certified copy of this letter agreement together with a signed copy of the inventory.

The following persons signed the letter agreement:

- J. Donald Kingsley, Administrator, for the International Refugee Organization;
- Klbridge Durbrow for the United States of America;
- E. J. Joint for the United Kingdom;
- A. Pavari Fontana, Deputy Director General of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, for Italy.

For the Charge' D'Affaires ad Interim;

Leslie L. Rood

Leslie L. Rood
First Secretary of Embassy

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
1955 JAN 24 AM 10 04
DC/R
RECORDS BRANCH

Enclosure with Original only

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JAN 26 1955
OFFICE OF THE LEGAL ATTACHE
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W. J. ...
LWC

LLRood;bb
REPORTER

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By JB NARA Date 6-21