

C. S.

S E C R E T

19 4 6.

No. S / 9 / 4 6.

Secretary of State.

SUBJECT.

19 46.

22nd February.

DISPOSAL OF ENEMY ALIENS IN BRITISH TERRITORIES

Previous Paper.

MINUTES.

- 1. S. of S. Secret Circular Telegram Saving of 22/2/46.
- 2. " " " " " " 4/3/46.

3.

HE.

Does HE. wish to comment on nos 1 - 2?

ABE
28.6.46

- 4. Telegram No. 194 to S. of S. of 3.7.46
- 5. " " 195 " " " 3.7.46.

6. Circ Mem (2) from S. of S. of 29.3.47.

7. Circ No 30 secret from S. of S. of 14.4.47.

8

Has he a Custodian of Enemy Property?
Yes, let him see (7) that it is
not applicable here.

ABE
18.4

Subsequent Paper.

Handwritten notes:
27/2/46
PA
27/2/46

b. of b. p.

See Mrs file of i p.

for CS.
18/4

Res.

10.

See.

25/10

CRP
18/1/47

See dispatch from S of S of 4.1.52

11.

Birmingham 36 to S of S of 23.1.52

12

[Handwritten signature]
1/1/52

1
Advise papers dealing with
Kraus to be cancelled.



pp- ABC
2/1/46

①

Reply at 4.

From the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

To the Officer Administering the Government of

Circular Telegram 3496.

FALKLAND ISLANDS

22nd February, 1946.

SECRET

Question of disposal of enemy aliens in British territories generally has been under consideration and subject to the views of Colonial Governments it is now proposed to proceed on the following lines.

2. The object in view is to secure the exclusion from Colonial territories of all Germans and other enemy aliens who have or have had Nazi or hostile sympathies, or who are in other ways undesirable residents of the Colonial territories concerned, as for example those who would be liable for deportation under local legislation on account of criminal records or other undesirable activities. It would follow that in general all Germans interned during the war, except as provided below, could be excluded and if they are now in a Colonial territory or interned elsewhere at the instance of a Colonial Government, they could be compulsorily repatriated.

3. There are in certain Colonies numbers of Germans and other refugees who had left Germany, after the Nazi assumption of power, for political reasons, or because of religious persecution, and who had been accepted as immigrants in the Colony concerned. Many of these have rendered valuable services to the Allied cause during the war, or have consistently shown themselves to be hostile to the Nazi cause. It must be accepted that such persons should generally be permitted to remain in the Colonial territory to which they were originally admitted. In cases where such refugees were interned, they should generally be permitted to remain or, if transferred elsewhere, to return to their former residence, unless there are security objections in individual cases. This paragraph does not, of course, apply to "war refugees", i.e. refugees who have been given temporary asylum in a Colonial territory during the war.

4. Exceptions should also be made in certain cases on compassionate grounds or where the interests of the territory concerned suggest that it would be desirable, and in considering whether a case falls within these categories it is thought that the following criteria might properly be applied:-

- (a) That individual is free from security objections and displays or has displayed no sympathy with totalitarian ideals.
- (b) Subject to (a) above, special consideration might be given to
 - (i) persons whose children have served in His Majesty's Forces;
 - (ii) those who possess special skill or other qualifications in virtue of which it is considered desirable that they should be allowed to remain in or return to a Colony and

(iii) exceptional cases of hardship such as extreme old age, illness or other compassionate grounds.

5. As regards the admission of Germans in future it is proposed that Colonial Governors should be at liberty to exclude all Germans without former association with the Territory. There may, however, be certain special cases as for example, of German Jewish orphans seeking admission to join persons already settled in the Territory, which may require special consideration at a later date.

6. It is proposed that the same policy should be followed in the case of other enemy aliens, viz. Austrians, Hungarians, Bulgarians, Rumanians and Finns, until such time as treaties of peace are concluded with the States concerned. Policy towards Italians requires special consideration and will be dealt with in a separate telegram.

7. Where individuals are accepted as residents of a Colony under the provisions of paragraphs 3 and 4 above, it would not be practicable to treat their property as "enemy property" which could be realised as part of general settlement to meet debts owing to British nationals by enemies. In such cases property should, therefore, be released to the persons concerned.

8. Policy about the return of missionaries of enemy nationality is being dealt with separately. My circular despatch of 6th September, 1945 addressed to African Colonies refers.

9. Where practicable in local circumstances, it is suggested that all enemy aliens at present interned should be released unless there are security or other reasons to the contrary. The practice in the United Kingdom is generally to release all internees except those with marked totalitarian antecedents and sympathies, or with criminal records. In cases where applications are received from enemy aliens to proceed to countries which are willing to receive them, they should be permitted to do so unless there are security objections in individual cases which would render their compulsory repatriation essential.

10. In cases where internees who are to be repatriated were transferred from one Colony to another or to a Dominion it is in general preferable that they should remain where they are until such time as arrangements to repatriate them direct to Europe can be made. Where this has not already been done, agreement of the holding Government should be sought to their keeping such transferred internees until circumstances permit repatriation with any other Germans from the holding country. Where necessary I will use my best endeavours to support such representations.

11. In order that a start can be made with arrangements which will be necessary for the reception and transport of enemy aliens from Colonial territories and Dominions, I should be glad if you would telegraph as soon as possible the number of enemy aliens regarded under the provisions of the policy suggested above as due for compulsory repatriation and, in addition, the number, if any, who though exempted from compulsory repatriation

voluntarily/

(b)

voluntarily wish to return to their country of origin. Those who have been transferred from the territory under your administration for internment elsewhere should be shown separately. Figures should distinguish between different nationalities (for this purpose "Austrian" should be regarded as different from "German"), and should also show men, women and children separately.

Nominal roll of persons to be repatriated will be required later, giving where possible information about former domicile and relatives in the country of origin. You may also be asked to submit dossiers in the case of persons who are known to be particularly dangerous Nazis.

12. In conclusion, it must be stressed that as comparatively large numbers of Germans are involved transport will be a major problem, and it must be accepted that it is unlikely that shipping for repatriation of enemy aliens, and especially of women and children, can be made available for some time in view of the heavy claims on available shipping.

13. Grateful if your general comments could be furnished by telegram. Figures requested in paragraph 11 above should follow as soon as possible.

Reply at 4.

340.18



2

Reply at 5

From the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

To the Officer Administering the Government of

Circular Telegram saying.

FALKLAND ISLANDS

17th March, 1946.

MP ABC 22/5

SECRET

Red 1

Reference to secret circular saying telegram of 23rd February, 1946.

Italians.

In dealing with enemy aliens in Colonial territories it must be accepted that it is not practical politics at the present time generally to treat Italians in the same way as subjects of other states with which we have been at war. The policy of His Majesty's Government towards Italy is now one of friendship, but while it is clear that once Italy is admitted into the United Nations there can then be no question of discriminating against Italians solely on account of their nationality, in practice such discrimination would be difficult to justify politically after the conclusion of a peace treaty with Italy. Until then Italians remain "enemy aliens" and can if necessary be dealt with as such under the Royal Prerogative. With the conclusion of a peace treaty it would be necessary to introduce special legislation to provide for the exclusion of Italians as such, and this I would have some difficulty in supporting.

2. At the same time it is recognised that there are a number of Colonial territories which suffered directly from Italian participation in the war against us, or from which large numbers of troops were drawn to fight the Italians, in which public opinion may at present be unlikely to tolerate the treatment of Italians other than as enemy aliens.

3. It follows from what is said in paragraph 1 above that any proposals for dealing with Italians must distinguish clearly between the policy to be followed before and after the conclusion of a treaty of peace with Italy. It is accordingly proposed that

(1) Up to the conclusion of a peace treaty with Italy:

- (a) In Colonial territories which suffered directly from Italian participation in the war (i.e. Malta and Cyprus) and those from which large numbers of troops were drawn to fight against the Italians (i.e. all the African Colonies including Mauritius and Seychelles) Italians may be excluded, and if necessary compulsorily repatriated, but only if they now show or have in the past shown themselves to be of Fascist or hostile sympathies, or would

be/

Sub

be in other ways undesirable residents of the Colonial territory concerned, as, for example, those who would be liable for deportation under local legislation. Exceptions should, of course, be made on compassionate grounds or where it is in the interests of the territory concerned. Italians without previous association with a Colonial territory may be excluded.

(b) In the case of other Colonial territories Italians will generally be permitted to remain or return, and should only be compulsorily repatriated or excluded if their presence in the territory can be considered to be prejudicial to good government and public order. Italians without previous association should not in general be excluded on grounds of nationality alone, subject to exceptions in cases where there are security or other substantial objections.

(c) After the conclusion of a peace treaty:

There should be no discrimination against Italians on grounds of nationality alone in any part of the Colonial Empire. Italians who are undesirable immigrants may, of course, be excluded under the provisions of local immigration legislation in the same way as other aliens.

4. These proposals do not, of course, apply to the Italians from Italian East Africa now in the East African territories, arrangements for whose repatriation are being made by the War Office.

5. Grateful if, when telegraphing your general comments on these proposals, you would furnish the same details in respect of Italians as were requested in cases of other enemy aliens in paragraph 11 of my circular saving telegram under reference.

Reply at 5.

SECRET.

DECODE.

TELEGRAM.

S/9/46
C/4/42

From His Excellency the Governor.

To The Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Despatched :	3rd July,	19 46	Time :
Received :	19	Time :

No. 194. Secret. Your Circular Telegram Saving of 22nd February, 1946, paragraph 11. None due for compulsory repatriation. One German may wish to return to Germany voluntarily, at present employed as Medical Officer under category (b) (ii), paragraph 4. See my telegram No. 161 and connected correspondence.

Red 1.

*Red 129 of C/4/42
medical services
at S. Georgia*

GOVERNOR.

G.T.C.
WH.

DECODE.

(5)

TELEGRAM.

S/9/46.

From His Excellency the Governor.

To The Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Despatched : 3rd July, 19 46. *Time* :

Received : 19 *Time* :

No. 195. Secret. Your Circular Telegram Saving of 4th
Red 2. March, 1946. No comments none here.

GOVERNOR.

G.T.C.
WH.