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ALLIED FORCES HEADQUARTERS
Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2

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MEMO FOR: G-2 (CI) Section, AFHQ

Report on Control of Austro/Italian frontier covering VORALBERG and TIROL

A survey of the Austro/Italian frontier was made by undersigned officers during the week ending 22 July 1945 and the following observations are submitted.

1. There are two crossing points on the stretch of frontier controlled by the French Military authorities where passage is allowed - These points are located at BRENNER and NAUDERS.

2. The French Military authorities were contacted and discussions were held with the Liaison Section, the Securite Militaire and the French Military Government.

It was found that the French had not yet formulated any real policy covering movement across this frontier but the views expressed were that, after a preliminary organisational period when only Allied Military would be permitted to pass on duty, travel would have to be authorized for the conduct of commerce. This promise was based largely on the fact that the VORALBERG and TIROL departments rely largely on traffic with Northern Italy for foodstuff and other materials.

3. It was agreed that, at present, the frontier posts would be closed to all except Military traffic and organized bodies of displaced persons the latter being allowed to cross by train only, via the BRENNER pass. There is a Displaced Persons collection point at HITTENWALD where two trainloads of displaced persons totaling 3,500 are assembled daily and despatched.

These people are not subjected to any security examination at the collection point but it is understood that they are screened before arrival there. It was pointed out that the trains are not sealed or guarded and that there are several stopping points and places where the trains run slowly on either side of the frontier so that clandestine crossings by this means would not be difficult. Trains originating from other points on the continent cross the border with parties of Displaced Persons frequently reaching the total of 20,000 daily.

4. Controls at the BRENNER pass consist at present of U.S. personnel of II Corps who are under instruction to control only Allied Military travellers. Travel orders are examined and are only acceptable if signed by an officer of the rank of Lt. Colonel or above.

Civilian travellers are controlled by a detachment of 12 Carabinieri; 10 Guardia di Finanza assisted by Italian Marines. Their instructions are to refuse passage to displaced persons but they are allowed to exercise their own discretion in allowing individual cases of the frontier type - these are occasionally turned back by the French.

Persons holding written permits given by the French Military authorities are presently allowed to enter Italy.

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5. The other crossing point, namely HAUDERS is restricted entirely to frontaliere. This traffic is comparatively small and is some distance from any thickly populated center. The frontier permits system presently operating on the Northwestern part of the Italian frontier was recommended to the French authorities and agreed by them in principle.

6. Guard patrols along this frontier are non-existent at present because of the lack of Carabinieri and Guardia di Finanza.

7. The following was represented to the French as the Allied point of view for control of travel across this frontier. That travel should be restricted to the following categories:

- a) Organized bodies of Displaced Persons.
- b) French, U. S., and British military personnel on duty.

All other categories of individual travel would be kept to a minimum. Cases thought by the French to be justifiable would be referred to the AFHQ Agent at IRENER for consideration. The French did not agree with the latter suggestion for reasons already enumerated, and requested that an agent be appointed to their headquarters for the purpose of dealing with travel applications already approved by them, the French. They were very insistent on this point opining that our suggestion would be unworkable.

8. a) From a study of the conditions on the ground, these officers consider that the French proposals involving an AFHQ Agent at French Headquarters in Innsbruck are reasonable.

b) It is further recommended that reinforcements from the newly organized RFP and CC.RR be placed at the disposal of CIC to allow the operation of frontier controls.

c) CIC should be given control of the VERALENSG-TIROL frontier. At least 3 CIC agents should be stationed at the IRENER, and one CIC agent at Innsbruck, in liaison with the French authorities as discussed above. This latter agent should be empowered to allow entry into Italy of certain categories of travellers, and would refer cases outside his responsibility to CIC, Italian Frontier Control Office for decision. G-2, AFHQ would be consulted when necessary.

9. It is emphasized that the French were not as yet prepared to discuss concrete proposals of the control machinery as they are just now approaching the problem. It is therefore suggested that if the proposal to appoint a CIC Agent to their Headquarters in Innsbruck is accepted, he should be sent there as soon as possible to continue to represent our interests to the French.

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