**UNRRA (European Region).**

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**NOTE.** This file must always be passed on VIA the REGISTRY.

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**NOTE.**—Do not retain this File unnecessarily.
INCOMING CABLE

TIRANA TO LONDON No.240 Snipe 3
CASERTA No.203 Snipe 8.

[CYPhER]

Dated: 13th March 1946
Rec'd: 14th March 1946
09.59 hrs.

Re your SVC 27 repeated Caserta SVC 39. Government refuse establishment wireless station and use of submarine cable. Offer use of Albanian Telegraphic Agency facilities. We regard this as impracticable.

2. Only alternative is British Diplomatic link. Necessary London and Caserta take immediate action through Foreign Office and British Minister designated (?) respectively.

3. Rose returning Wednesday with full report.

Attention is drawn to the use of duplicate numbering.

EMB

Copy on File A.S. 1/1 for action.
To: European Regional Office, UNRRA, 11 Portland Place, London, W.1.

(Attention: Sir Humphrey Gale, Director-General)

From: Mr. P. C. Ploua, Acting Chief of Mission.

Subject: Albania Mission Communications.

In SNIPE Cable No. 2 (Cable No. 224) sent on March 8th to E.R.O. the Chief of Mission referred to the difficult position in which this Mission has been placed as a result of the imminent withdrawal of the British Military Mission Signal Section through whom all our cable contacts have previously been routed, and promised to keep E.R.O. informed of future developments. This letter sets out the present position.

At the beginning of February the Chief of Mission first raised with the Albanian Government the position that would arise after the withdrawal of the British Military Mission Signal Section. This was followed up on February 19th by a formal letter to the Prime Minister's office asking for authority to establish an UNRRA Wireless Telegraph Station at Tirana and for permission to bring in three UNRRA employees to man such a Station. On February 27th the Government replied refusing the request on the grounds that no such arrangement was envisaged in the Agreement between UNRRA and the Albanian Government, and that all our cables could be handled by the Albanian Telegraph Agency.

On February 28th in a 3-page reasoned letter, the Chief of Mission asked for a reconsideration of the decision. He pointed out that the Agreement accords to UNRRA the same facilities as are accorded to friendly Powers, and that the Representatives of several friendly Powers in Tirana operate their own Wireless Stations. He also pointed out that the Albanian Telegraph Agency facilities were not satisfactory for rapid communication with Italy.

On March 7th the Government replied in a short letter merely re-stating their previous refusal without giving any reasons.

On March 8th, just before leaving Albania for hospital in Italy the Chief of Mission saw the Secretary-General of the Prime Ministry and explained that he could not accept the Government's decision, as he regarded it as an infringement of the Agreement. He stated that he was reporting this to London for their consideration. However, in view of the imminent withdrawal of the British Military Mission Signal Section he suggested that a compromise could be reached by making use of the Durazzo/Brindisi submarine cable. The Secretary-General...
appeared to welcome this suggestion and said that he would examine the possibility immediately.

On March 10th Captain Rose of the Caserta Office arrived in order to look into the whole question of communications. Permission was therefore requested for him to visit the Durazzo terminal of the submarine cable in order to decide whether its use would be possible. A meeting was also arranged between Captain Rose and the Secretary-General to the Prime Ministry. After considerable negotiations the Government refused permission to visit the terminal and the Secretary-General stated that, in the absence of the Prime Minister himself, he had not been able to obtain a decision as to whether we could use the cable or not. However, he seemed hopeful that approval would be given.

Following this meeting a technical meeting was arranged between Captain Rose and the Government's Engineers. This meeting was most unsatisfactory, for the Engineers stated categorically that the cable was unusable as the Durazzo Cable House had been destroyed by the Germans. This information was in direct contradiction to information which we had received unofficially from a senior Government Engineer during earlier informal discussions, and both Captain Rose and myself gained the impression that the Government Engineers were using technical objections to cover objections of principle.

As a result of information obtained in Italy, Captain Rose is of the opinion that it would be technically possible for traffic to be carried after the withdrawal of the British Military Mission Signal Section, by the telegraph service of the newly established British Legation. In view of this possibility, and of the negative attitude adopted by the Government with regard to all other feasible alternatives, I despatched SNPE Cable 3 to London (SNPE 8 to Caserta) asking E.R.O. and Caserta to intervene with the Foreign Office and the British Minister designate, respectively, to see if authority can be obtained for the use of the British Legation channel.

If the Foreign Office permission to the use of this channel is obtained no further difficulty should arise, though it is possible that the question of providing an additional operator on the Legation staff might come up in the future. However, a solution of the technical difficulties along these lines does not solve the issue raised by the Government's un-co-operative attitude. I am not proposing to take any further action on this matter till the arrival of Sir Humphrey Gale's personal representative. I shall report further developments as they arise.

F. C. Floud,  
Acting Chief of Mission.

PCF/JKL.

Copy to Caserta Office for attention Air-Vice-Marshall Saul.
OUTGOING CABLE

P.R.D.G. ORIGINATED BY P.R.D.G.

LONDON. . . . . . . TO. . . . . . . . . . . . . . TIRANA

No. 165 PERSONAL PRESIDING No. 15 Dated: 11th March, 1946

D: 2100 hrs.

Following is PERSONAL PRESIDING No. 15.

Your 224.

1. Hear of your illness with much sympathy and regret. Hope for speedy recovery.

2. Prefer postponement visit of personal representative pending Council decision Albanian membership.

3. Your acting Head to inform ERO should further difficulties arise.

DISTRIBUTION: Limited
INCOMING CABLE

ACTION: Mr. Dudley Ward.

TIRANA

TO

LONDON

No. 224
SNIPR 2

D. 9th March, 1946

R. 10th March, 1946

12.10 hrs.

Personal Presiding Gale from Oakley Hill.

Much regret Mission doctor orders me hospital immediately for examination and treatment. Leaving 9th March for Italy, will keep you informed.

Mylou (Lloyd?) remains in charge.

2. Relations with Government have recently become more difficult and evident attitude is stiffening as result world political tension and lack satisfactory political recognition Albania by Britain and U.S. Refusal of passes for Government occurring frequently, though each case cleared up by explanation. Serious situation reached over question future telegraph communications this Mission after coming withdrawal B.M.M. signals. We requested permission establish own radio station, but refused on ground not foreseen in agreement. I returned to attack with reasoned argument for necessity and made concrete proposal for subsidiary agreement (12 corrupt letters) letters. Have now received second refusal after consideration by Prime Minister. Government state their cable and radio facilities sufficient. We disagree. Have however, discovered that Brindisi-Durazzo cable in working order, including cable house Durazzo. Caserta prepared employ this means. Have now proposed to Government, we be granted permission use this cable including facilities for own operator. (?corrupt groups on field schedules?) also telephonic facilities. Government unable use that cable owing lack diplomatic relations with Italy. If accepted this proposal will give solution and all our communications can pass this channel. Rose communications expert Caserta expected here 9th March, and we will inform you progress.

3. Owing our dissatisfaction with behaviour Government in these and other matters consider most advantageous you send Tirana immediately for short visit your personal high level representative with view re-inforcing our position vis-a-vis Government and to advise us. Suggest he consult me Bari hospital before arriving Tirana.

Please cable reply to Tirana repeating G.B.A.G. ALBAID Bari. Letter same sense as above but more detail follows airmail.