

MINISTER RESIDENT'S COPY  
INCOMING TELEGRAM

From: Foreign Office, London. D. 2155 21.10.43  
To: Resident Minister, Algiers. R. 1300 22.10.43

Reemin 2336 (21.10.43)

Addressed to Washington telegram No. 7189 October 21st,  
and Resident Minister, Algiers.

Following received from the Holy See telegram No. 388,  
October 19th. Begins.

Following is my U.S. colleague's No. 198 which he asks to  
have forwarded to Washington.

"I had an audience today with the Pope whom I had  
not seen since Monday. He appeared to me serene and in  
good health but of course anxious with regard to the  
turn military developments may take in connection with  
Rome. He said he hoped allied troops might find it  
possible to circumvent Rome and thus oblige the Germans to  
retire without subjecting the city to the havoc due to  
combat. I reminded him that the Present had said that  
the Germans alone would be responsible for any  
destruction wrought in Rome. The Pope did not bring up  
the subject of "open city".

2. The Pope also seemed preoccupied that in the  
absence of sufficient police protection irresponsible  
elements (he said it is known that little communist bands  
are stationed in the environs of Rome at the present time)  
might commit violence in the city during the period  
between the German evacuation and the arrival of the  
allies. He also expressed apprehension regarding the  
food situation. He hoped that these two points would be  
given consideration by the allies and necessary measures  
taken by them in time. The Pope said that so far the  
Germans had respected the Vatican City and Holy See  
property in Rome and that German G.O.C. seemed well  
disposed towards the Vatican. He added, however, that  
he was feeling restive ~~(expressed)~~ chiefly due to  
"abnormal situation". The Pope asked me to convey his  
greetings to the President and to Mr. By ~~(expressed)~~ ro'n  
Taylor."

*By: Pass to Mr. Wilson.  
Draft sent - see P. 72  
J.M. Arnold  
Oct. 23rd*

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19/10/43

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Special interest - G. Messer R. & M.  
Mains hi  
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