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ROUTINE

PROM : MILITARY MISSION MOSCOW SIGHED DEANS

TO : SHARP MAIN FOR GENERAL SMITH

REF NO : M-21627, 6 NOV 1944. CITE: FHOAP

With further reference to your 8-65269 of

3 November.

0:0

MAC

Staff Representative today. He informs me that instructions have been issued to all front commanders to give every comfort and to effect prompt evacuation of all American Prisoners of War. As a matter of fact, in the few isolated Prisoners of War. As a matter of fact, in the few isolated cases that have arisen so far as well as in the larger cases of ROUMANIA and BULGARIA, the Russians have been cooperative. However, I have been pressing for a general agreement that there should be advance planning when the Sowiet Army approaches a locality in which an American Prisoner of War Camp' is known to be located, also that we be given blanket authority to send American Representatives to such Frisoner of War Camps as quickly as possible, and finally that we keep each other informed as to localities of Prisoner of Mar Camps, and also that they report promptly any individuals or small groups of Americans that come into Red Army custody. The Russians seem to prefer to act on each case as it arises. I feel that they will do this, but that the method will result in delays in the prompt handling of the evacuation of Prisoners of War. As far as this mission is concerned, we are prepared in RUBSIA to handle the Prisoners once they are turned over to us. Our difficulty seems to be in convincing the Russians that it is necessary for us to be out with their Headquarters in the field so that we will be in a position to contact released prisoners quickly. Our discussion became

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REP NO: M-21627, 6 NOV 1944.

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General Staff Representative stated that Soviet Prisoners of War in FRANCE who are released by action of the American Porces are complaining of their treatment by us. I immediately asked for details, but he said the matter was being studied and they they were going to present it later. I recommend that you confront General VASILIEV with this accusation and ask him for the basis upon which it is made. Meanwhile I recommend that you curtail the activities of VASILIEV's mission until there is some evidence of the Russians being more cooperative here, at the same time informing VASILIEV why you are curtailing his work.

Prisoners of War because I feel that the Russians will evacuate them promptly, and that they will meet our requests in each individual case. Nevertheless I shall keep pressing the matter with them until I get some satisfaction and will request our Embassy to do the same with the Foreign Office.

S-65269 is SMC OUT 4185, 3/11/44, G-1

ACTION : G-1

INFORMATION: SOS

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