

CONFIDENTIAL

GREECESUBJECT: MILITARY ACTIVITIES ABROAD.Return to Rome of Italian Occupation Authorities.

On 23.9.42 GUIZI, Italian High Commissioner in Greece, accompanied by General GELOZO, Italian C. in C., Italian forces in GREECE, and the Greek Colonel BALLIS with his Italian wife left ATHENS for ROME.

The following 3 alternative versions have been advanced from reliable circles as constituting the object of the visit of the above-mentioned persons to ROME:-

(a) GUIZI's presence was required at the discussions between GOTZAMANES and the Italian Government. Furthermore GUIZI was to act as host to GOTZAMANES during the latter's stay in ROME.

(b) When MUSSOLINI was in Athens during the summer, he gave instructions to the Italian occupation authorities to be more lenient and tolerant to the Greek people. Recent strikes, general unrest and revolutionary incidents caused the occupation authorities to wish to revise this attitude. GUIZI and GELOZO accordingly travelled to ROME to demand authority for the adoption of more severe measures. Their proposals were fully endorsed and encouraged by the Germans.

(c) Object of the ROME visit was due to the fact that GELOZO had been recalled as a result of his complete failure as C. in C., in Greece, and his inability to restore the deplorable morale of the Italian forces in that country.

(Source: Coordinator of Information, October 17, 1942) CONFIDENTIAL