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4. Western Union. I asked Mr. Forrestal for some general information concerning Western Union developments and he told me something of the recent and current negotiations, stressing the fact that for the present the United States is not participating directly. He further stated that he did not believe that the participation of our activities in the Western Union Clandestine Committee could "outrun" our official participation in Western Union activities on the next higher level. He also said that if we desire further particulars in regard to the Western Union developments, we should discuss these matters with General Gruenther and he encouraged us to do so.

5. General Maras. Mr. Forrestal is not familiar with what took place between Maras and our military officials at the time of Maras' recent visit to this country. More specifically, he does not know whether we gave Maras any kind of commitments. He commented in this connection that there is a sharp division of opinion as between the British and the French concerning Italian participation in the Western Union at this time, the French favoring and the British opposing. According to Mr. Forrestal the British opposition is based upon traditional and historical feelings of contempt for Italian ineptitude. General Slim in a recent argument about Italian participation quoted Napoleon's statement to the following effect: If Italy is an enemy, assign two divisions to defeat her; if she is neutral, assign four divisions to watch her; and if she is an ally, assign eight divisions to rescue her. Mr. Forrestal does not share the British view since he recognizes the strategic importance of Italy's geographic position in Western Europe.

6. Mr. Forrestal asked for a report of our activities and progress and I outlined to him in some detail where we stand and certain of the difficulties which we are meeting. I can develop upon this further orally for the benefit of any of you who are interested.

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