

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARIES
AUG. 1943

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PWB "D" Section

CONFIDENTIAL - BRITISH SECRET

POLITICAL INTELLIGENCE REPORT ON ITALY, No. 6.

(The following summary is based on B.B.C., Axis and neutral broadcasts as received up to 12.00 noon, 2nd August, 1943.)

1. Situation in Italy

Messages arriving from Switzerland and the Italian official accounts agree that the situation in Italy has undergone no sensible change. Demonstrations continue in many of the larger cities and it is clear that the majority of these are in favour of peace. A report from Madrid states that the demonstrators in Florence called on Badoglio to act quickly as they did not wish the Italian cities to be exposed to further bombing. The exact source of this report is not known, but it is unlikely that Madrid would put about a report displeasing to the Government of Marshal Badoglio.

There has as yet been no official reply to the two messages of General Eisenhower, but there has been a striking popular reply to the second message about renewed bombing. Swiss radio stated yesterday that thousands of inhabitants of the northern Italian cities had left to go to the country. The radio added the comment: "It seems that the warning given yesterday to the Italian people by General Eisenhower, announcing the resumption of massive air-raids, is not unrelated to the exodus."

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Another significant fact is the inclusion in the official press review of Radio Rome of the editorial in the 'Giornale d'Italia' appealing to the sense of concord among all Italians. The article continues: "It is the hour of military authority, which all sane and mentally-balanced men accept and approve. It is limited to the time necessary for Pietro Badoglio to bring to conclusion the present war with dignity and with honour," The inclusion of this editorial in the official press review can only mean that the line taken by the writer is not disavowed by the Government.

Rome announced yesterday measures for bringing the militia into yet closer connection with the army, and for eliminating essentially political features which it had acquired in Fascist days. Meanwhile the Italian press is discussing the future of the Corporations, and it is clear that there is wide support for the survival of many of their regulative functions in the interests of the community as a whole. It is also perhaps worth noting that a broadcast to Franco explicitly stated that Fascism had violated the Italian Constitution.

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2. Press and Censorship

The majority of the Italian press continues to appear, the more important papers following the same political lines as they represented before Fascism. In several cases the pre-Fascist editor or some other member of the pre-Fascist staff has taken over control. Instances are: the authoritative 'Corriere della Sera' of Milan, where Ettore Janni, a former chief news editor, has been appointed editor, and the 'Giornale d'Italia' of Rome, where Gayda has been replaced as editor by Senator Bergamini, founder of the paper and editor till 1924.

The more important and more moderate papers, either from conviction or from prudence, appear to be conforming to the desires of the Government censorship, which is allowing a wide measure of freedom; but a Swiss Socialist report makes it clear that the censorship is acting vigorously in certain cases, and in particular that certain organs with a left viewpoint are appearing with numerous blanks. According to the same report, many of the exactions concern local news and this, read in

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conjunction with the sequestration of the 'Tribuna' for publishing false information, makes it clear that the censorship is particularly sensitive in cases where information concerning the internal situation is involved.

There are reports that attempts to found Socialist and Communist papers have been suppressed, and this is borne out by the fate of 'Il Mondo' (Right-wing Socialist) and 'La Ricossa' (Communist), which appeared and were immediately suppressed.

3. Relations with Germany

Rome last night formally denied: (a) the existence of disorders in Italian cities; (b) the occupation by German troops of Trieste, Pola and Fiume; (c) the existence of a Slovene rising in the northeastern provinces; and (d) the German disarmament of Italian troops in the Balkans. All these reports were stated to have been put about by British propaganda. The first denial was issued at 13.00 hours and it is uncertain whether the fourth point referred to the story from Cairo or to vaguer reports from news agencies which were circulating two days ago. It may be assumed that the denials, insofar as they relate to Italy, are correct, as Rome could have no interest in publishing news about the internal situation which many of its listeners would know to be false.

Italo-German relations in the Balkans stand on a different footing. The situation in this area is not well-known in Italy, and Rome has every interest in discrediting stories which it considers alarmist. Cairo states that there is irrefutable evidence of the Germans disarming detachments of Italian troops in Greece. Turkish sources report withdrawals of Italian garrisons, and it seems unlikely that the more circumstantial reports are entirely unfounded. The more credible reports refer to Crete and to northern Greece, the region Thessaly-Epirus. The former would obviously be regarded by the Germans as a danger-spot. A natural move by the Germans based on Salonica would be to extend their hold southwards in order to control the railway to Athens. Larissa, the first big town on this railway, is mentioned as one of the places where Italians were disarmed.

4. Conclusions

The general situation remains unchanged, but the Government is cautiously and tentatively putting out feelers which seem designed to indicate to the public that the situation is not as serious as it appears.

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4. Conclusions

The general situation remains unchanged, but the Government is cautiously and tentatively putting out feelers which seem designed to indicate to the United Nations that it desires peace. Meanwhile, lacking any official guidance as to the reply to be made to General Eisenhower's messages, the Italian people is showing by its acts that it appreciates that the promise of renewed bombing will be fulfilled unless the Government of Badoglio acts and acts quickly.

Distribution:

PWB	5
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Gen. Holmes	2
Brig. Strong	2
Lt.-Col. Foord	1
Col. Wyman	1
Rt. Hon. H. H. Macmillan	1
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PWB "D" Section

POLITICAL INTELLIGENCE REPORT ON ITALY, No. 7.

(The following summary is based on B.B.C., Axis and neutral broadcasts as received up to 12.00 noon, 3rd August, 1943.)

1. Situation in Italy

The report now circulating that the Badoglio Government has put forward Italy's capitulation terms to the Allies finds no confirmation from Italian sources. The attitude of the press and radio towards this particular problem may be summed up in the words: "the less said, the better."

Meanwhile the five opposition parties continue to figure in the news, the latest report being that they have addressed a proclamation to the army, exhorting it not to co-operate with Badoglio. They are said also to have advised the workers and the population in general to heed the Allied warnings and remove themselves from the neighbourhood of military objectives.

The source of this report, which was published by the B.B.C., is unknown. The news is not in itself incredible, but it represents a considerable change from the attitude of the Italian Socialist movement. On Friday last this was reported by credible Swiss sources to have issued a pamphlet urging the workers to support the army. A change in the intervening days is a possibility. Explanation, but it seems more probable that, if the report quoted by the B.B.C. is accurate, this new move represents a cleavage between the workers and the Left intellectuals. Such a cleavage is by no means unlikely and, if verified, it would reduce the organised political opposition of the five parties to a negligible factor.

Several observers report that in contrast with the Rome press, the Milan and Turin papers are demanding early action by Badoglio such as would comply with the wishes of the Italian people. Hitherto this action has been confined to the home front. To-day labour organisation is under discussion, and emphasis is laid by the 'Messaggero' on the fact that the existing syndical organisation is to continue under the direction of the workers "who offer the necessary guarantees." References are then made to the abuses practised by Fascism and hints are given that changes must be made.

A minor development on the home front is the activity of the Church. Both Cardinal della Costa, Archbishop of Florence, and Cardinal Schuster, Archbishop of Milan have addressed pastoral letters to their dioceses. The former expresses fear of the reintroduction of order and for collaboration with the new

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A minor development on the home front is the activity of the Church. Both Cardinal della Costa, Archbishop of Florence, and Cardinal Schuster, Archbishop of Milan have addressed pastoral letters to their dioceses. The former appeals for the maintenance of order and for collaboration with the new Government. Schuster, after calling for unity among the people, emphasises that any future Government will have to bear in mind the needs of the Church. The Bishop of Bergamo has written in similar terms.

Italian interests at the Vatican have meanwhile been entrusted to a Charge d'Affaires, Babuscio, of whom nothing is known.

The Government has been strengthened by the appointment of Augusto Rosso to be Secretary-General for Foreign Affairs, an office suppressed by Mussolini.

The latest step in the sweeping away of Fascism is the dissolution of the Fascist University Militia, in which students were enrolled.

Prominence is given in the 'Popolo di Roma' to the release of 4,000 political prisoners.

Theatres and cinemas in Milan, according to German sources, still remain closed at night, while the curfew is being strictly enforced.

CONFIDENTIAL - BRITISH SECRET2. Italian Press

An indication that the situation is less tense may perhaps be found in the report of the Milan correspondent of the *Swiss Anzeiger* that foreign correspondents are now being allowed to use the telephone for the transmission abroad of their messages, within limits imposed by the authorities.

Among Italian newspapers to be heavily censored are the *'Lavoro Italiano'* and the *'Stampa'*. This information, which has only just been received, suggests a more drastic application of the censorship than was indicated in yesterday's summary. Anything, therefore, which appears in the press regarding Italian foreign policy must be taken to reflect official views, as being regarded by the Government as useful to its plans.

3. Germany and Italy

The bombing of Palermo on Saturday is now reported to have been the work of German aircraft.

An interesting sidelight is provided by neutral reports from Chiasso that German newspapers are unprocureable in the north and that the German Travel Bureau in Milan has been closed.

Meanwhile accounts of German occupation of northeast Italian centres continue to arrive and the details are more circumstantial.

4. Summary

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Distribution:

FWB	6
C. of S.	1
Admiral Cunningham	3
Gen. McClure	2
Gen. Holmes	2
Brig. Strong	2
Lt.-Col. Poord	1
Col. Wyman	1
Rt. Hon. H. H. Macmillan	1
Mr. Murphy	1

PWB "D" Section

CONFIDENTIAL - BRITISH SECRET

POLITICAL INTELLIGENCE REPORT ON ITALY, No. 8.

(The following summary is based on B.B.C., Axis, and neutral broadcasts as received up to 12.00 noon, 4th August, 1943.)

1. Situation in Italy

Both reliable Swiss reports and the tone of Italian propaganda suggest a considerable stiffening in the popular attitude towards the United Nations. One Swiss agency attributes this partly to the successful Axis resistance in Sicily and partly to Italian dislike of the alleged Allied peace terms. There is no reason to doubt that this stiffening of morale has in fact taken place, but the basis on which it rests is clearly insecure. A victorious conclusion of the battle in Sicily would at once undo the military basis of the recovery and, given a lead by their Government, there is little doubt that the vast majority of Italians would be prepared to accept terms of capitulation as drastic as those alleged to have been put forward by the American and British Governments.

The terms of capitulation were published in the 'Popolo di Roma' and subsequently repeated in the daily commentary from Rome radio. They are seven in number:

1. Immediate cessation of all resistance by the army and navy;
2. Immediate end of all collaboration with the Germans;
3. Withdrawal of the Italian troops occupying Yugoslavia, Albania, Greece and France;
4. Material and supplies of the armed forces to be put at the disposal of the Allies;
5. Recognition of the American (sic) Government, which government would remain in charge of Italy until the termination of operations;
6. Arrest of war criminals;
7. Liberation of Allied prisoners of war.

(Note: Rome was badly jammed and the exact text is not clear. DMB in the official German transmission gave Article 5 as: "Recognition of the Anglo-American-Soviet military government in Italy..." It is unlikely that the word 'Soviet' would have been missed in the Italian transmission, and the text from Rome was probably "Anglo-American government.")

Italian radio comment (probably quoting from the press) takes particular exception to Article 4, which is said virtually to imply Italy ranging herself with the United Nations against Germany, and Article 5, involving the recognition of an Allied military government in Italy for a long period. President Roosevelt is said to have told the newspapers that these were the conditions which the Anglo-Americans are prepared to offer Italy, and Rome radio together with the Rome press implies that they are clearly unacceptable. Rome radio in French goes even further, categorically stating that "the people consider the new Government as a violation of liberty and not as a restoration of the old."

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The more reliable Swiss reports state that complete calm now exists in Italy, and record certain relaxations in emergency measures, such as the curfew. Stories of local disorders only arrive from German sources and from neutral agencies which are known to be in touch with the Germans. It looks as if the Germans are for their own purposes spreading an exaggerated picture of Italian disorder, possibly with a view to creating the impression among the Italian middle and upper classes that law and order can only be preserved with the co-operation of the German forces.

2. Acts of the Rome Government

According to a credible report from Madrid, a special conference, presided over by the King, was held at the Quirinal. In addition to the Ministers, including Badoglio and the Foreign Minister, Guariglia, there

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were present a number of high persons not in the Government, including Grandi and Admiral Thaon de Revel. Both of these are former Fascist Ministers, belonging to the Right wing of the Party. Federzoni, another member of the same Fascist group and a former leader of the pre-Fascist Nationalist Party, has resigned his post as President of the Royal Italian Academy. The part which this influential group is playing in the present development of affairs is uncertain. It is clear that their defection from Mussolini brought about the crisis. It seems also clear that they are considered too closely associated with Fascism to be allowed to occupy prominent posts under the new Government. Nevertheless, it is not unreasonable to assume that their influence will continue to be considerable under any government of the type of that headed by Marshal Badoglio. It may be assumed that they desire peace and a strong government which will preserve their fortunes and their status in the country, but it is possible that they are nervous both about their post-war position as possible war criminals and about the reactions of the intellectual nationalists, if the peace terms, and more particularly the territorial terms relating to metropolitan Italy, should prove too severe.

The new Italian Charge d'Affaires to the Vatican, recorded in yesterday's summary as Babuscio, is really I Buti. Buti is a career diplomatist and Foreign Office official, embodying the traditional outlook of the Palazzo Chigi. He is an expert on European affairs, a man of balanced judgment, who accepted the Fascist regime without ever agreeing with its ideological tendencies. Another appointment to high position in the Foreign Office is Rossi, a former delegate to the League of Nations and at one time Ambassador to Washington and Moscow.

Swiss radio reports that the Fascist youth organisations continue to function but that they will change their name and become national instead of party organisations. Members will no longer wear the black shirt.

3. Left Opposition

There is no further news of the Left opposition and no confirmation that the 5 left parties have issued a pamphlet urging the workers to support the army. It is clear that the pamphlet, if really distributed, has had little success. The issue of a pamphlet urging the workers to heed General Eisenhower's message and leave the cities rests on a better foundation and may be accepted as true. In any case, there is ample evidence that the inhabitants of the northern industrial cities are acting as advised.

Reuter last night reported that the political prisoners released under popular pressure in Milan and Turin are presenting themselves to the authorities and requesting to return to prison pending a review of their individual cases. The story is unlikely to have been invented and suggests that even

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4. Summary

Italian propaganda, taking advantage of the lull in Sicily, is playing ably with alleged Allied terms of surrender in order to strengthen the popular will to resistance. While the lull in the fighting continues it is probable that this manoeuvre will enjoy a certain success, and this is reflected in the practical cessation of disturbances in the north. It is, however, clear that the Government is by no means as confident as its propaganda would suggest, and changes in the Foreign Office may well indicate that preliminaries for negotiations for an armistice are being pushed forward.

Distribution: FVB

C. of S.	6	Brig. Strong	G-2	2
Adml. Cunningham	1	Lt. Col. Foord	G-2	1
Gen. McClure	3	Col. Wyman	G-3	1
Gen. Holmes	2	Rt. Hon. H. Macmillan		1
	2	Mr. Murphy		1

FVB, "D" Section

CONFIDENTIAL - BRITISH SOURCEPOLITICAL INTELLIGENCE REPORT ON ITALY, No. 2.

(The following summary is based on B.B.C., Axis and neutral broadcasts as received up to 12.00 noon, 5th August, 1943.)

1. Situation in Italy

Rome radio has now announced that the meeting recorded in yesterday's summary on the basis of a report from Madrid, was a session of the Crown Council of Italy. The radio further stated that a meeting of the Council of Ministers will be summoned to-day to consider matters of special importance.

The Italian Crown Council is an extraordinary constitutional body, which meets very infrequently, generally at moments of grave crisis in the history of the State. It consists of Ministers, high officers of state, naval and military commanders, and members of the Senate. A notable meeting, which may be compared with that of two days ago, was held after the disaster of Caporetto in the autumn of 1917.

While there is no information as to the questions considered or the decisions reached by the Crown Council, it is worth noting that, according to a credible report, the German Ambassador, von Mackensen, called at the Quirinal during the session. The flood of speculation in certain neutral quarters concerning possible changes in the dynasty is probably inspired by this meeting of the Crown Council, for any such change would certainly be examined by that body. Information about the decisions reached by the Council of Ministers can hardly be available before a late hour this evening and will probably be held over till to-morrow.

2. Press Reactions

The stiffer tone of propaganda emanating from Rome has to-day extended to at least one important northern paper, 'Corriere della Sera'. Meanwhile Swiss reports note a tightening of the censorship regulations.

3. Situation in the North

There is nothing new to report from north Italy. Localised disorders, absenteeism, and occasional half-hour strikes as a protest against the continuance of the war continue to be reported from various centres.

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4. Summary

The lull in the Italian situation continues but the atmosphere is still tense. The people are anxiously awaiting the decisions which will be reached by the Council of Ministers, summoned for today. Will these decisions be known, no further reaction can be expected.

Distribution:	PWB	6
	C. of S.	1
	Admiral Cunningham	3
	Gen. McClure	2
	Gen. Holmes	1
	Brig. Strong	2
	Lt.-Col. Poord	1
	Col. Wymen	1
	Rt. Hon. H. H. Macmillan	1
	Mr. Murphy	1

PTB, "D" Section

CONFIDENTIAL - BRITISH SECRET

POLITICAL INTELLIGENCE REPORT ON ITALY NO. 10

(The following summary is based on B.D.C., Axis and neutral broadcasts as received up to 12.00 noon, 5th August, 1943)

1. Situation in Italy.

The Italian Council of Ministers met yesterday afternoon and continued in session for several hours. Late in the evening the official Italian Press Agency announced several decrees by the Council and these have since been broadcast from Rome. The more important deal with the reorganization of the "It" movement, the revision of the legal codes to eliminate Fascist influences, the strict State control of the Press, and financial provisions for workmen's dwellings. Neither the report of the meeting nor subsequent comment from official Italian sources give any clue to the decisions about the burning question of war and peace.

Rome Radio yesterday formally denied reports alleged to have been broadcast from London, according to which Italian troops were withdrawing from the Balkans. Much space was also devoted in Press and radio to exposing "the brutality" of the Allied military government in Sicily, and to the efficacy of legislation against illicitly acquired Fascist fortunes. Apart from these items, comment from Rome Radio and from the Italian Press continued on familiar lines emphasising the unity of the Italian people in defence of their new-found liberty and exposing the insidious aims of the Allied governments, which could only lead to the destruction of Italy.

2. Summary.

The best summary of events from Italy is that broadcast by the Swiss Radio late last night. "While many measures are being taken in Italy, to eliminate the Fascist system, news is strangely lacking on the vital question: war or peace." Pending further official Italian announcements, it may be assumed that popular impatience will increase, but it is unlikely to lead to any sudden or immediate explosion, and news may continue to be scanty for several days. Until developments again justify a daily issue, this summary will only be prepared and distributed at intervals of two or three days, as the small amount of information likely to be available in the immediate future would not warrant a more frequent issue.

Distribution:

PTB	5
C. of S.	1
Admiral Cunningham	3
General McClure	2
General Holmes	2
Brigadier Strong	1

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Brigadier Strong	1
Lt.-Col. Poord	1
Colonel Tynan	1
Wing-Commander	1
Scots	1
Rt. Hon. H. H. Macmillan	1
Mr. Murphy	1

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