

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

785015

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10000/ 100/661

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785015

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POLICY, VATICAN & ECCLESIASTICAL  
MATTERS  
APR. 1937-DEC. 1938;  
JULY-NOV. 1943

87 pp

| FOIIC | DATE    | REF.         | TO/FROM                        |
|-------|---------|--------------|--------------------------------|
| 55    | 28 Sept | AL/27/18     | From Amoy Liaron               |
| 56    | 3 Oct   | 19/14/8      | To SCAO, Messina               |
| 57-58 | 24 Sept | Nº 724       | From Ricardo Borrajo           |
| 59    | 5 Oct   |              | Memo to DCSO                   |
| 60    | 30 Sept | SCAO/1001/TP | To SCAO, Trapani               |
| 61    | 7 Oct   | 19/14/8      | To Public Safety Division      |
| 62    | 8 Oct   | 19/14/8      | To: SCAO Trapani               |
| 63-5  | 7 "     | 19/14/8      | From: SCAO Messina             |
| 66    | 12 "    | 19/14/8      | To SCAO Siracusa               |
| 67-70 | 2 Oct   | MGS-386      | From: AFHQ MGS                 |
| 71    | 13 Oct  | 19/14/8      | To SCAO, Catania               |
| 72    | 13 Oct  | 19/14/8      | To RCAO, Region II             |
| 73-78 | -       | -            | From: P. now of the Cappuchini |
| 79    | 21 Oct  | -            | To: Major Hamford              |
| 80    | 22 Oct  | 19/14/8      | To: S.C.A.O. Trapani           |
| 81-83 | 18 Oct  | CP/050/cb    | From: S.C.A.O. Palermo         |
| 81-82 | 19 Oct  | CAT/11/1     | From: SCAO Catania             |

19/14/8

|       |        |           |                                |
|-------|--------|-----------|--------------------------------|
| 63-5  | 7      | 19/11/0   | To: SCAO Tripoli               |
| 66    | 12 "   | 19/11/0   | From: SCAO Messina             |
| 67-70 | 2 Oct  | 19/11/0   | To SCAO Sicily                 |
| 71    | 13 Oct | MGs-386   | From: AFHQ MGs                 |
| 72    | 13 Oct | 19/11/0   | To SCAO, Catania               |
| 73-78 | -      | 19/11/0   | To RCAO, Region II             |
| 79    | 21 Oct | -         | From: P. now of the Cuffuchini |
| 80    | 22 Oct | 19/11/0   | To: Major Stamford             |
| 81-83 | 18 Oct | CP/OJB/CD | To: SCAO. Trahan               |
| 81-82 | 19 Oct | CAT/11/1  | From: SCAO. Palermo            |
|       |        |           | From: SCAO Catania             |

0215

785015

| File No  | Date  | Ref   | To/From Whom                                           | Subject                      |
|----------|-------|-------|--------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 15 AUG   | -     | -     | from R. Borari                                         | Letter in Italian            |
| 12/13/46 | -     | -     | from J. Bol. H.E.                                      | Letter to Vatican            |
| 31/4/46  | 19 HQ | 19 HQ | C. S. Thomas                                           | Mail to Vatican              |
| 32/13/46 | 19 HQ | 19 HQ | from S.C.F.(R.C.) Army                                 | Memorandum, Methodist Church |
| 33/14/46 | 19 HQ | 19 HQ | from S.C.F.(R.C.) Army                                 | Visit of F.P. Redmond        |
| 34/17/46 | 19 HQ | 19 HQ | to MG. AFHQ                                            | Mail for Vatican             |
| 35/5/46  | 19 HQ | 19 HQ | Letter from Archbishop of Messina and minute by C.A.O. | Exclusionist Matters         |
| 36/3/46  | 19 HQ | 19 HQ | SCAO Messina                                           | Exclusionist Matters         |
| 37/3/46  | 19 HQ | 19 HQ | from S.C.F.(R.C.) Army                                 | Visit of F.P. Redmond        |
| 38/3/46  | 19 HQ | 19 HQ | to MG. AFHQ                                            | Mail for Vatican             |
| 39/3/46  | 19 HQ | 19 HQ | Letter from Archbishop of Messina and minute by C.A.O. | Exclusionist Matters         |
| 40/3/46  | 19 HQ | 19 HQ | SCAO Messina                                           | Exclusionist Matters         |
| 41/3/46  | 19 HQ | 19 HQ | from S.C.F.(R.C.) Army                                 | Visit of F.P. Redmond        |
| 42/3/46  | 19 HQ | 19 HQ | to MG. AFHQ                                            | Mail for Vatican             |
| 43/3/46  | 19 HQ | 19 HQ | Letter from Archbishop of Messina and minute by C.A.O. | Exclusionist Matters         |
| 44/3/46  | 19 HQ | 19 HQ | SCAO Messina                                           | Exclusionist Matters         |
| 45/3/46  | 19 HQ | 19 HQ | from S.C.F.(R.C.) Army                                 | Visit of F.P. Redmond        |
| 46/3/46  | 19 HQ | 19 HQ | to MG. AFHQ                                            | Mail for Vatican             |
| 47/3/46  | 19 HQ | 19 HQ | Letter from Archbishop of Messina and minute by C.A.O. | Exclusionist Matters         |
| 48/3/46  | 19 HQ | 19 HQ | SCAO Messina                                           | Exclusionist Matters         |
| 49/3/46  | 19 HQ | 19 HQ | from S.C.F.(R.C.) Army                                 | Visit of F.P. Redmond        |
| 50/3/46  | 19 HQ | 19 HQ | to MG. AFHQ                                            | Mail for Vatican             |
| 51/3/46  | 19 HQ | 19 HQ | Letter from Archbishop of Messina and minute by C.A.O. | Exclusionist Matters         |
| 52/3/46  | 19 HQ | 19 HQ | SCAO Messina                                           | Exclusionist Matters         |
| 53/3/46  | 19 HQ | 19 HQ | from S.C.F.(R.C.) Army                                 | Visit of F.P. Redmond        |
| 54/3/46  | 19 HQ | 19 HQ | to MG. AFHQ                                            | Mail for Vatican             |
| 55/3/46  | 19 HQ | 19 HQ | Letter from Archbishop of Messina and minute by C.A.O. | Exclusionist Matters         |
| 56/3/46  | 19 HQ | 19 HQ | SCAO Messina                                           | Exclusionist Matters         |
| 57/3/46  | 19 HQ | 19 HQ | from S.C.F.(R.C.) Army                                 | Visit of F.P. Redmond        |
| 58/3/46  | 19 HQ | 19 HQ | to MG. AFHQ                                            | Mail for Vatican             |
| 59/3/46  | 19 HQ | 19 HQ | Letter from Archbishop of Messina and minute by C.A.O. | Exclusionist Matters         |
| 60/3/46  | 19 HQ | 19 HQ | SCAO Messina                                           | Exclusionist Matters         |
| 61/3/46  | 19 HQ | 19 HQ | from S.C.F.(R.C.) Army                                 | Visit of F.P. Redmond        |
| 62/3/46  | 19 HQ | 19 HQ | to MG. AFHQ                                            | Mail for Vatican             |
| 63/3/46  | 19 HQ | 19 HQ | Letter from Archbishop of Messina and minute by C.A.O. | Exclusionist Matters         |
| 64/3/46  | 19 HQ | 19 HQ | SCAO Messina                                           | Exclusionist Matters         |
| 65/3/46  | 19 HQ | 19 HQ | from S.C.F.(R.C.) Army                                 | Visit of F.P. Redmond        |
| 66/3/46  | 19 HQ | 19 HQ | to MG. AFHQ                                            | Mail for Vatican             |
| 67/3/46  | 19 HQ | 19 HQ | Letter from Archbishop of Messina and minute by C.A.O. | Exclusionist Matters         |
| 68/3/46  | 19 HQ | 19 HQ | SCAO Messina                                           | Exclusionist Matters         |
| 69/3/46  | 19 HQ | 19 HQ | from S.C.F.(R.C.) Army                                 | Visit of F.P. Redmond        |
| 70/3/46  | 19 HQ | 19 HQ | to MG. AFHQ                                            | Mail for Vatican             |
| 71/3/46  | 19 HQ | 19 HQ | Letter from Archbishop of Messina and minute by C.A.O. | Exclusionist Matters         |
| 72/3/46  | 19 HQ | 19 HQ | SCAO Messina                                           | Exclusionist Matters         |
| 73/3/46  | 19 HQ | 19 HQ | from S.C.F.(R.C.) Army                                 | Visit of F.P. Redmond        |
| 74/3/46  | 19 HQ | 19 HQ | to MG. AFHQ                                            | Mail for Vatican             |
| 75/3/46  | 19 HQ | 19 HQ | Letter from Archbishop of Messina and minute by C.A.O. | Exclusionist Matters         |
| 76/3/46  | 19 HQ | 19 HQ | SCAO Messina                                           | Exclusionist Matters         |
| 77/3/46  | 19 HQ | 19 HQ | from S.C.F.(R.C.) Army                                 | Visit of F.P. Redmond        |
| 78/3/46  | 19 HQ | 19 HQ | to MG. AFHQ                                            | Mail for Vatican             |
| 79/3/46  | 19 HQ | 19 HQ | Letter from Archbishop of Messina and minute by C.A.O. | Exclusionist Matters         |
| 80/3/46  | 19 HQ | 19 HQ | SCAO Messina                                           | Exclusionist Matters         |
| 81/3/46  | 19 HQ | 19 HQ | from S.C.F.(R.C.) Army                                 | Visit of F.P. Redmond        |
| 82/3/46  | 19 HQ | 19 HQ | to MG. AFHQ                                            | Mail for Vatican             |
| 83/3/46  | 19 HQ | 19 HQ | Letter from Archbishop of Messina and minute by C.A.O. | Exclusionist Matters         |
| 84/3/46  | 19 HQ | 19 HQ | SCAO Messina                                           | Exclusionist Matters         |
| 85/3/46  | 19 HQ | 19 HQ | from S.C.F.(R.C.) Army                                 | Visit of F.P. Redmond        |
| 86/3/46  | 19 HQ | 19 HQ | to MG. AFHQ                                            | Mail for Vatican             |
| 87/3/46  | 19 HQ | 19 HQ | Letter from Archbishop of Messina and minute by C.A.O. | Exclusionist Matters         |
| 88/3/46  | 19 HQ | 19 HQ | SCAO Messina                                           | Exclusionist Matters         |
| 89/3/46  | 19 HQ | 19 HQ | from S.C.F.(R.C.) Army                                 | Visit of F.P. Redmond        |
| 90/3/46  | 19 HQ | 19 HQ | to MG. AFHQ                                            | Mail for Vatican             |
| 91/3/46  | 19 HQ | 19 HQ | Letter from Archbishop of Messina and minute by C.A.O. | Exclusionist Matters         |
| 92/3/46  | 19 HQ | 19 HQ | SCAO Messina                                           | Exclusionist Matters         |
| 93/3/46  | 19 HQ | 19 HQ | from S.C.F.(R.C.) Army                                 | Visit of F.P. Redmond        |
| 94/3/46  | 19 HQ | 19 HQ | to MG. AFHQ                                            | Mail for Vatican             |
| 95/3/46  | 19 HQ | 19 HQ | Letter from Archbishop of Messina and minute by C.A.O. | Exclusionist Matters         |
| 96/3/46  | 19 HQ | 19 HQ | SCAO Messina                                           | Exclusionist Matters         |
| 97/3/46  | 19 HQ | 19 HQ | from S.C.F.(R.C.) Army                                 | Visit of F.P. Redmond        |
| 98/3/46  | 19 HQ | 19 HQ | to MG. AFHQ                                            | Mail for Vatican             |
| 99/3/46  | 19 HQ | 19 HQ | Letter from Archbishop of Messina and minute by C.A.O. | Exclusionist Matters         |
| 100/3/46 | 19 HQ | 19 HQ | SCAO Messina                                           | Exclusionist Matters         |

|     |       |                               |                                |
|-----|-------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 38  | 19/10 | SCAO Messina                  | International matters          |
| 39  | 19/10 | For Gaetano di Castellmare    | Capuchin monks                 |
| 40  | 19/10 | To MGS AFHQ                   | mail for Palermo               |
| 41  | 19/10 | Minister to DCSD              | Ref. for 49                    |
| 42  | 19/10 | To SCAO Messina               | Archbishop of Messina          |
| 43  | 19/10 | To Director Property and      | for comments                   |
| 44  | 19/10 | From Capt. Steward            | Administrative matters         |
| 45  | 19/10 | Capt. Tallard to DCSD         |                                |
| 46  | 19/10 | Linconner GMS                 | Mallorca Palace                |
| 47  | 19/10 | For Battista Ceraggio         | Permanence                     |
| 48  | 19/10 | SCAO Tripoli                  | Thanksgiving for long ceremony |
| 49  | 19/10 | To Rev. Riccardo Borsari      | Palermo                        |
| 50  | 19/10 | To FRA CAETANO DI CASTELLMARE | Palermo                        |
| 51  | 19/10 | To SCAO Tripoli               | Capuchin convent               |
| 52  | 19/10 | To AMQOT 15.A.9               |                                |
| 53  | 19/10 | From: Midcast                 |                                |
| 54  | 19/10 | To S.C.A.C. Catania           |                                |
| 55  | 19/10 | To Ampt. Lionon               | 15 Aug group                   |
| 56  | 19/10 | Memo to CSB                   |                                |
| 57  | 19/10 | Memo to CSO                   |                                |
| 58  | 19/10 | To SCAO, Messina              |                                |
| 59  | 19/10 | From: AFHQ, MGS               |                                |
| 60  | 19/10 | Memo by Capt. Tallard         |                                |
| 61  | 19/10 | Memo by ACSD                  |                                |
| 62  | 19/10 | To: MAS, AFHQ                 |                                |
| 63  | 19/10 |                               |                                |
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| 100 | 19/10 |                               |                                |

| FOIPA | DATE    | REFERENCE   | FROM                                              | TO      | SUBJECT                                 |
|-------|---------|-------------|---------------------------------------------------|---------|-----------------------------------------|
| 1     | 29 July | 8697        | From: A&W A.R.                                    | Vatican | Policy Vatican                          |
| 2     | Aug 8   | 7982        | To Freedom                                        |         |                                         |
| 3     | " 4     | MA 35       | To Freedom                                        |         | Message for Vatican                     |
| 4     | " 4     | SC/L        | From: M.G.S.                                      |         | Bombing                                 |
| 5     | " 10    | Aug 19/HQ   | M.G.S., A.F.H.Q.                                  |         | Correspondence - Forwarding of          |
| 6     | Aug. 9  | SC/6        | To HQ. AMCOT.                                     |         |                                         |
| 7     | July 30 | C.P./PM.    | To Chief of Staff                                 |         |                                         |
| 1     | July 31 | -           | Telegram in Italian for transmission to the Pope. |         |                                         |
| 2     | " 31    | -           | From: 7 <sup>th</sup> Army                        | - do -  | English text letter                     |
| 3     | " 30    | -           | To: CofS, 7 <sup>th</sup> Army                    | - do -  | Letter                                  |
| 4     | Aug 4   | MA 352      | Freedom                                           |         | Message for Secretary of State, Vatican |
| 5     | " 4     | SC/6        | From: SCAO, Syracuse                              |         | Forwarding of correspondence            |
| 6     | " 4     | "           | "                                                 |         | "                                       |
| 7     | -       | -           | To: DCSO                                          |         | Note re 5.                              |
| 8     | Aug 5   | 7982        | Eisenhower: From                                  |         | Comm. between Vatican to Sicily         |
| 9     | " 8     | Aug 63      | To: Freedom                                       |         | "                                       |
| 10    | " 10    | 19/HQ       | To: M.G.S., AFHQ                                  |         | Forwarding of correspondence            |
| 11    | " 11    | Cto J2/AFHQ | From: AFHQ                                        |         |                                         |
| 12    | " 19    | 19/HQ       | To: SCAO, Noto                                    |         | Bishop                                  |
| 13    | " 19    | 19/HQ       | " SCAO, Syracuse                                  |         | "                                       |
| 14    | " 19    | 19/HQ       | " SCAO, Enna                                      |         | "                                       |
| 15    | " 19    | 19/HQ       | " SCAO, Catania                                   |         | "                                       |
| 16    | " 21    | 19/HQ       | Capt TALBOT                                       |         | Communication with Vatican              |
| 17    | " 20    | 19/HQ       | To: Liaison ISAG                                  |         | Enclosed Communications                 |
| 18    | " 22    | 19/HQ       | From: C.S.O.                                      |         | Communication with the Vatican          |
| 19    | " 20    | 19/HQ       | To: CCAO                                          |         | Organizations.                          |
| 20    | " 23    | 19/HQ       | From: C.C.A.O.                                    |         | Visits                                  |
| 21    | " 26    | 19/HQ       | " C.S.O.                                          |         | Enclosed Communications                 |
| 22    | " 27    | 19/HQ       | "                                                 |         | Mail for Vatican                        |
| 23    | " 28    | 19/HQ       | "                                                 |         | Palace of Archbishop (Ref)              |

Major Drifffield - White

1. In conformity with your instructions there follows here with a report on the letter and memorandum re "Church Property in Occupied Italian Territory" from Lt. Col. Jackling under date of 13-11-43

2. I have read the former correspondence and the memo. of Chaplain Clark (R.C.) dated 3-11-43 is a detailed elaboration of his initial memo. - no date (Folio No. 67) - Policy Vatican & Ecclesiastical Matters FILE - AMCOT 19/HQ - located in Registry Region 1)

3. There is no evidence in the memos that any of the violations of church property are attributable to AMG officers. In fact the memo. of 3-11-43 Page 1 TP1 referring to the improper use by the army of churches in Acirade, Reggio and S. Teresa quotes the S.C.F. (R.C.) 8<sup>th</sup> Army as follows: "I do not think that AMG officers have ever been directly responsible for any of these cases." And again in TP 3 Page 1 of the

②

same memo. Chaplain Clarke (R.C.) says "In neither of the reports of the S.C.F. of Army and 10 Corps nor in my original report is it anywhere suggested that A.M.C. officers were responsible for the alleged occurrences. My first report was submitted to G.I. British for necessary action, with the request that a definite policy should be laid down for the benefit of all concerned in this important question of the use of ecclesiastical property in occupied territory."

4. It is apparent from the memo. on "Use of Church Property in Occupied Italian Territory" signed by Col. A.T. Maxwell dated 1-10-43 (Folio NO. 69 - Policy Vatican and Ecclesiastical Matters FILE-AMCot 19/11 Q - located in Registry Region I) ~~that~~ IP 2a, 2b, 3 & 4, that AMC officials have been duly instructed re this question. However it might be well to reiterate the official position of AMC to its officers as per the suggestion of Lt. Col. Harris Director of Property Control penned on the part of Lt. Col. Jackings letter of 13-11-43 and the suggestion of Chaplain Clarke quoted in the last

③

signature of IP 3 printed directly above.

Philip K. K. K.  
Captain.

27-11-43.

HEADQUARTERS  
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENTHUCK SLIP22-11-43  
DateSucc: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

| FROM                    | TO |
|-------------------------|----|
| C.G. AMG                |    |
| C. of S.                |    |
| Exec Off                |    |
| Economic Director       |    |
| Industry & Commerce     |    |
| Fuel                    |    |
| Agriculture             |    |
| P. W. & Utilities       |    |
| Labor                   |    |
| Interior                |    |
| Information             |    |
| Public Health           |    |
| Legal                   |    |
| Public Safety           |    |
| Property Control        |    |
| Education               |    |
| Fine Arts               |    |
| Shipping                |    |
| Internal Transportation |    |
| Telecommunications      |    |
| Hq Commandant           |    |
| C of Secretariat        |    |
| Message Center          |    |
| G-1                     |    |
| G-4                     |    |
| ✓ Displaced Persons     |    |
| ✓ Adjutant              |    |
| Personnel Office        |    |
| <i>Col. Spafford</i>    | ✓  |

FOR: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Signature and return  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Recommendation & Remark  
 ✓ \_\_\_\_\_ Information & Guidance  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Approval or Disapproval  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Necessary Action  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Investigation & Report  
 \_\_\_\_\_ To note and return  
 \_\_\_\_\_ File  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Dispatch

REMARKS: Do you want to issue  
any instructions on this?

6

HEADQUARTERS  
20 NOV 1943  
ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS  
Military Government Section AMG.

DSJ/RW/mit

*Prof. Central  
S.C.*

MGS-386

13 November 1943

SUBJECT: Church Property in Occupied Italian Territory.

TO : HQ AMG, CMF. ✓

Reference our letter No. 386 of 2 October 1943, on the above subject.

A further report by the Senior Chaplain to the Forces (RC) is attached for your information. The report called for in our letter under reference has not yet been received in this Section.

|                      |
|----------------------|
| FILED                |
| <i>Lt Col Harris</i> |
| <i>Lt Col Harris</i> |
| <i>Lt Col Harris</i> |

Copy to:  
HQ AMG, 15 Army Group,  
with copy of report.

*D. S. Jackling*  
for  
D. S. JACKLING  
Lt. Colonel

*Acting Assistant General*

*I think this concerns you rather than P.C. subdivision  
I imagine Ambot instructions fully cover the case.  
but you may wish to issue some sort of order on the lines  
as suggested in the last paragraph.*

*Wrote to  
Region 1 - for  
file - 19/43  
19/HA Nactican &  
Ecclisist*

*Ch. S. Harris*  
Lt. Col  
Director of Prop. & Spiritual

COPY

F/27/CH RC

C/o G.I. British.

A.F.H.Q.

Nov. 3rd. 43

SUBJECT: USE OF CHURCH PROPERTY IN ITALIAN OCCUPIED TERRITORY.

Military Government Section,  
Allied Force Headquarters.

Ref. M.G.S. 386

1. In consequence of your letter MGS - 368 on the above subject I asked the S.C.F.(R.C.) of Eighth Army to pursue enquiries and send me a detailed report.

I have received from him the following:-

"Acireale. The Seminary in this town was taken over by the Medical Branch as a Field Dressing Station in an emergency. When the state of emergency had ceased there was no suggestion forthcoming from the Medical authorities that the building should be handed back. Only after a long delay an agreement was reached by which half the building was retained by the Medical Branch and the other half released to the Seminary authorities.

I personally consider that, once the state of emergency had ceased, the Medical authorities did not show due consideration to the rights of the Church."

"Reggio. The Pontifical Seminary - Papal property - was taken over as a C.C.S. There were other suitable buildings in the town but, in spite of the representations made by the Chaplain of the C.C.S. and by me to the Medical authorities at this H.Q., the building was retained by another C.C.S. and later by a hospital. I was informed when I made my verbal protest that the sick and wounded came first. No one denies that, but, in this case, there were alternative buildings available."

S. Teresa. A Field Ambulance took over one of the Churches in this small town. The other Church had been partially destroyed. The emergency lasted for only a few days but the Church was then retained as a billet pending the move of this Field Ambulance. These facts have only lately been brought to my notice."

"These facts show a reasonable attitude by the Religious authorities while a state of emergency exists and the same authorities have never denied to the sick and wounded their right to receive prompt medical care. What they do object to is the loose way in which regulations have been interpreted on some few occasions. There is the further instance of an altar having been destroyed by a Canadian unit in a Chapel they had taken over. In another case a Church was just about to be taken over. After a protest had been lodged and a suggestion made that perhaps a Convent next door might be used, it was agreed to by the nuns who later helped in the care of the sick."

"I do not think that A.M.G. officers have ever been directly responsible for any of these cases."

Field Dressing Station in an emergency. When the state of emergency had ceased there was no suggestion forthcoming from the Medical authorities that the building should be handed back. Only after a long delay an agreement was reached by which half the building was retained by the Medical Branch and the other half released to the Seminary authorities.

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"I do not think that A.M.G. officers have ever been directly responsible for any of these cases."

2. Further to all this I have recently received complaints from the S.C.F. (R.C.) of 10 Corps of similar incidents happening in his area. Two cases have occurred of the billeting of our troops in Churches. In one case the C.R.E. of 56 Division was involved and in the other the Provost Company of 46 Division.

Some previous difficulty had been experienced with medical units in this formation but, after the position had been explained to them, they gave a satisfactory undertaking not to use consecrated property except in real emergency and this undertaking has since been scrupulously observed.

3. In neither the reports of the S.Cs.F. of 8th Army and 10 Corps nor in my original report is it anywhere suggested that A.M.G. Officers were responsible for the alleged occurrences. My first report was submitted to G.I British for necessary action, with the request that a definite policy should be laid down for the benefit of all concerned in this important question of the use of ecclesiastical property in occupied territory.

It may also be noted that in that report I stated that it was fully appreciated that, in emergency, it was an obvious Christian act to place church property at the disposal of the Medical authorities for the care of the sick and wounded, but this should be only in real emergency and not when alternative suitable accommodation was available. It is fair to state that the ecclesiastical authorities will respond generously to considerate treatment. An instance of this is the Seminary of the White Fathers at Thibar, Tunisia, part of which has been used as a medical installation for our troops since the beginning of the North African campaign. The happiest relations continue to exist between the Fathers and our Medical authorities.

Early in this campaign I was able to give an assurance to G.I. British that, should necessity arise, convents and other ecclesiastical property in North Africa would become available for the accommodation of our sick and wounded. There was excellent precedent for this in the treatment of our casualties in France and Belgium both in this and the last war.

It is the suggestion of arbitrary seizure of ecclesiastical property without consideration of the rights of the owners which is calculated to cause bitter feeling and have unpleasant reactions.

4. The policy outlined in M.G.S. Letter 386 is admirable and entirely acceptable from the Catholic Church's point of view but, from reported incidents, it is seemingly necessary that a similar form of instructions should be circulated to ensure that the comprehension of Military Government Section should not be exceeded by Field Formations before A.M.G. officers begin to operate.

It would be highly appreciated if A.M.G. officers, when in a position to do so, would point out and take steps to rectify any irregularities which may have occurred before the matter came within their jurisdiction.

/s/ J. M. Clarke  
S.C.F.(R.C.)  
A.F.H.Q.

Copy to :- G.I. British, A.F.H.Q.

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/s/ J. M. Clarke  
S.C.F.(R.C.)  
A.F.H.Q.

Copy to :- G.I. British, A.F.H.Q.

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

Director of Prisons  
for information  
Please turn to Puth  
Hear H

A. M. G. O. T.  
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
PROVINCE OF Caltanissetta

26/10/43

BK/H/47

Angot Headquarters Sicily  
15 th Army Group

Attention Director of Public Health

Subject: Medical Reports on Prisons

Reference Angot /3017/PH dated 23/AUG./43. All prisons in this province have been inspected, except the one at Musumeli. It will be inspected during my next visit there at an early date.

The food and rations were adequate at all prisons except two, Villalba and Mazzarini, where prisoners received no meat. Instructions have been given to correct this deficiency. In general prisons were found to get daily: 500 gms. of bread, 40-85 gms. pasta and 80-300 gms. of legumes, tubers and fruit. 200 gms. of meat with bones are served weekly. Sanitary defects in food handling were corrected when found to exist. Suggestions were made for improvements in water supply when found deficient or defective.

In Gela and Sommatina prisoners were found infested with body lice. Mosquitoes were found breeding in an open tank in the yard of the Mazzarini jail and four of the eight prisoners were ill apparently with malaria. The physician had not visited for 10 days prior to inspection. No steam disinfection facilities are available at any of the prisons in this province. When prisoners have lice their cloths are boiled. The health of prisoners is about what might be expected for vagrants. In addition to the illnesses noted above one obvious case of insanity was being kept in the Gela jail in the same room with many other prisoners.

Attention Director of Public Health

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In Gela and Sommatino prisoners were found infested with body lice. Mosquitoes were found breeding in an open tank in the yard of the Mazzarini jail and four of the eight prisoners were ill apparently with malaria. The physician had not visited for 10 days prior to inspection. No steam disinfection facilities are available at any of the prisons in this province. When prisoners have lice their cloths are boiled. The health of prisoners is about what might be expected for vagrants. In addition to the illnesses noted above one obvious case of insanity was being kept in the Gela jail in the same room with many other prisoners; he had obviously been mistreated by the other prisoners. One prisoner in the same group complained that he had tuberculosis and had been spitting blood. Medical protection was obviously inadequate there. The Caltanissetta jail had two cases of reported convalescent typhoid, they were receiving adequate care.

Jail premises were decidedly unclean in many places and good in others. The shortage of soap and water does not enhance cleanliness.

Instructions were given toward remedying all gross defects in hygiene

785015

quora yfira nt 21

n tlesn cillut 2o totocerit noitnotta

anocitp no etroqeh lscib 911 :tcejdus

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ygnitub betcepani ed llw ti. llemuev ti eno ent tpeceke, betcepani neod even

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ot nevig neadeved anolteretent. tsem on bevleser etanocitp etent, lntazas lre

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stetnialb neets on. noitcepani ot totitp ayob ot tot batlatv ton ben neltceitp

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eeneretep ent ot noitlits nt. etnagv tot betcekeved tngim talv tuols

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betceetap neod yltanvotet lre etanocitp teltv yna nltv moor etas ent et

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ylanvotet etw noitceetoc lscib. bboldgnititlre neod bndne etanvotet

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attest to this

34/01/35

74/H/XE

Director of Public Health

Public Health Department  
Washington, D.C.

Subject: [illegible]

Reference: [illegible]

Enclosed for the Director of Public Health are two copies of a letterhead memorandum dated and captioned as above.

The first copy of the letterhead memorandum is being furnished to the Director of the Bureau of Health Statistics for his information and for his use in the preparation of the annual report on the health of the Nation. The second copy of the letterhead memorandum is being furnished to the Director of the Bureau of Health Statistics for his information and for his use in the preparation of the annual report on the health of the Nation.

The letterhead memorandum is being furnished to the Director of the Bureau of Health Statistics for his information and for his use in the preparation of the annual report on the health of the Nation. The letterhead memorandum is being furnished to the Director of the Bureau of Health Statistics for his information and for his use in the preparation of the annual report on the health of the Nation.

A. M. G. O. T.  
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
PROVINCE OF

sanitation and medical care of prisoners. Check up inspections will continue to see that proper attention is given.

It is recommended that all prison authorities be impressed with the danger of jail fever (Typhus exanthematicus) epidemics of which often begin in jails and spread thereafter. They must maintain prisons and jails in a loose free condition and exercise careful vigilance to assure that such institutions do not become the source of infection of a community. This requires frequent medical inspection and careful attention toward isolation <sup>of these</sup> ill with fever suspected of being communicable disease.

*Joseph L. Bell*  
Maj.

S.A.P.H.O. Caltanissetta

Through  
LT. COL.  
S.C.A.C.

2.

To Regional Head Quarters

Palermo

Generally speaking the condition of the prisons is satisfactory but there is room for some improvement which I suggest should be brought to the notice of the Prison Section.

*W. H. L. L. L.* Lt. Col

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*Joseph M. Bull*  
Maj.

S.A.P.H.O. Caltanissetta

Through  
LT. COL.  
S.C.A.C.

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*W.H. Ince* Lt. Col.  
S.C.A.C.

29/10/43

9207

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S.C.V.C.

LT. COL.

Through

S.V.P.H.O. Calcutta

1957.

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785015

493

**ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT**  
**PROVINCE OF CATANIA**

OFFICE OF THE  
SENIOR CIVIL AFFAIRS OFFICER

To:- AMGOT H.Q.  
PALERMO

Our Ref:- CAT/11/1.

SUBJECT:- Ecclesiastical Property.

See 71.

The expression "local Priory" as applied to a town like Acireale which is full of Ecclesiastical Institutions is rather vague. I presume that the complaint refers to the requisitioning of the Collegio Pennisi? I enclose copy of a report received from the C.A.O. Acireale on this subject. Please see also my letter CAT/67 dated 25 Sep 43. *No trace*

It may be, however, that the Collegio Pennisi is not the Institute referred to in which case please let me know what Seminary or School is intended and a more precise enquiry will be made and information furnished.



*J. W. L. L. L.*

Catania.  
19 Oct 43.  
Encl:

Lt. Col.  
S.C.A.O.  
5206

*Capt. Tallant.*

C O P Y.

To: Senior Civil Affairs Officer,  
Province of Catania.

81

Ref. No. ACT/1/287.

Subject: Requisitioning of the Collegio Pennisi,  
Acireale.

The above mentioned building, being exceedingly suitable, has been requisitioned for the location of the 98 General Hospital. The present occupants, some 100 Jesuit Priests, have protested strongly, representing, I suspect, their case at Palermo and I believe that the Bishop of Acireale has spoken to you about it. I have thus considered it necessary to present briefly to you the facts.

The Jesuits case is that they have already had a similar building at Catania requisitioned and another at Messina destroyed by bombing and that they will now have nowhere to go to.

The hospital representatives have agreed to leave at the disposal of the priests the libraries, sufficient space to store all their furniture etc, the house forming part of and adjoining the Collegio and have arranged with the Collegio S. Michele, an establishment adjoining the one in question, for alternative accommodation for the remainder of the priests. I consider that these arrangements should be quite satisfactory to all parties.

The Collegio S. Michele is also to be used as part of the hospital, but is not so adaptable for hospital as the Collegio Pennisi and will only be used for walking patients.

Acireale.

21/9/43.

5205  
SGD. R. ROSE. Major, V.I.  
C.A.O. Acireale District.

785015

SECRET/19/15  
 A SECRET FILE, SECRET  
 22 October 1943

80

SUBJECT: Transfer of premises by Comune of Castelvetro to Convent of Cappuchini

TO : S.C.A.O., Trapani

62

1. Further to SECRET/19/H. of 8/10, new light has been thrown on this matter. The representative of the Provincial of the Cappuchini called at this H. and produced various documents establishing that the transfer of the premises in dispute had been agreed to by both the Italian and Ecclesiastical authorities as early as 1938. These documents are the following:

- (1) A letter from the "Intendente della Finanze" dated 18 May 38 informing the Registrar of Castelvetro that the Ministry had agreed to the retrocession of the premises concerned.  
 Order to the Podesta of Castelvetro and the Bishop of Nassara.
- (2) A letter from the Bishop of Nassara dated 9 Dec. 38 authorizing the Provincial of the Cappuchini to accept the retrocession.
- (3) The minutes of a meeting of the "Comunità" of Castelvetro of 20 Aug. 43, authorizing the Sindaco to proceed with the retrocession.

2. The fact that the completion of the deed of retrocession was somewhat delayed, was due to the necessity of finding new and more suitable premises for the Infant and Invalid Asylum located in the old Convent.

3. Such premises, having been found by the Municipality, you have now authority to approve that a formal deed of transfer be entered into by the parties concerned in accordance with the provisions of Italian Law governing the conveyance of real estate and their previous agreement set forth by the deliberation of the Municipal Council of Castelvetro of 20 Aug. 43.

4. However, it must be made perfectly clear to the Provincial of the Cappuchini that this agreement will not constitute a precedent for any similar cases, all of which will have to be decided upon their merits.

G. G. H.  
 W. G. CHAMBER,  
 Lt. Col., AMB,  
 Chief Legal Officer.

Pa 510301

785015

COPY.

Subject:- Transfer of premises by Commune of  
Castelvetro to Convent of Capuchini. ANGOT/19/HQ

To:- S.C.A.O. Trapani.

ANGOT HQ SICILY

22 October, 1943

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- (b) A letter from the Bishop of Mazara dated 9 Dec. 38 authorising the Provincial of the Capuchini to accept the retrocession.
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W.C.CHANLER, Lt.Col.AUS.  
Chief Legal Officer.

5203

DRAFT

AMGOT/4064/1.  
AMGOT HQ., SICILY  
16 October 1943

SUBJECT: SCAOs (for SLOs)

79

Major Humphreys

Reference 62, 42, 41, 33, 32, & 31  
Please may I have the written  
Consent that C.L.O., said  
he would sign as requested  
under Section 1 article III  
Proclamation No 5

Σ 21.10.

✓ See para 3 of 80  
5202

Σ 1

TRAPANI addì 18/MAGGIO/1938 A XVI°

INTENDENZA DI FINANZA

AL UFFICIO del REGISTRO di  
CASTELVETRANO

di TRAPANI

e.p.c.a.S.E. il Vescovo di MAZZARA  
e.P.c.al Sign. Podestà-CASTELVETRANO

Prot No. 12161

OGGETTO: Convento dei cappuccini in Castelvetro. Cessione chiesa e locali per la Rettoria all'Autorità Ecclesiastica.

A norma degli articoli 6 e 8 della legge 27 maggio 1929 N.348 e dell'articolo 15 del relativo Regolamento 2 dicembre succ. N.2262 il Ministro Provinciale dei Cappuccini di Palermo, con l'assenso del Vescovo di Mazara del Vallo, ha chiesto la consegna della chiesa nonché il rilascio di porzione congrua del fabbricato ex monastico già pertinente al soppresso Convento dei Cappuccini di Castelvetro, per essere destinato a Rettoria della chiesa suddetta.

Su conforme adesione da parte del Sup. Ministero, si autorizza codesto Ufficio a prendere gli opportuni accordi con l'Autorità Ecclesiastica e col Sig. Podestà di Castelvetro cui la presente è pure diretta per conoscenza, per la redazione della minuta del verbale di dimissione sulle basi seguenti:

a) Retrocessione dal Comune di Castelvetro (cessionario ai sensi dell'art.20 della legge 7 luglio 1866N° 3036 mediante verbale 22 ottobre 1868) al Fondo Culto della chiesa, della proprietà dei locali; che riconosciuti sufficienti ai bisogni della Rettoria, possono distaccarsi e segregarsi dall'intero corpo del fabbricato ex claustrale;

b) contemporanea cessione in uso del Fondo Culto all'Ordinario Diocesano, e per esso al Ministro della Provincia religiosa dei Cappuccini di Palermo, della Chiesa e dei vani separati, con l'assunzione degli obblighi inerenti alla manutenzione ordinaria, alla imposta fondiaria ed ogni altro tributo; Si attende l'invio della bozza di cui sopra per il necessario preventivo esame, innanzi di tradurlo in atto formale.

L'INTENDENTE

(Martucci)

3201

COMUNE DI CASTELVETRANO

Provincia di Trapani

Castelvetro, 26 Aprile 1937 Anno XV

N. 4118.....

Risposta a nota del..... 18 Giugno ..... 1936 N. 187/36

Allegati N.....

OGGETTO { Chiesa ex conventuale dei Cappuccini.  
Cessione ex convento per uso rettoria.

A S.E. Monsignore Vescovo

di

MAZARA del VALLO

In reiferimento a precedente corrispondenza e piu specificatamente alla lettera di cotesto Ufficio Amministrativo Diocesano N.187/36 del 18 Giugno scorso anno, ho il piacere di comunicare alla E.V. che in data 24 aprile corrente si e proceduto allo sloggiamento delle donne inabili, e queste difatti sono state definitivamente sistemate in altro locale di proprieta privata preso in affitto.

Pertanto metto a disposizione dell'E.V., in oltera dell'espletamento della fatiche per la definitiva cessione la Chiesa segnata in oggetto, la segrestia, gli otto vani terrani gia adibiti a ricovero delle donne inabili, ed il giardino attiguo confinante con l'autorimessa e con l'altro piccolo giardino dell'Asilo Infantile.

L'E.V. vorra essere compiacente svolgere l'ulteriore pratica perche presto in Castelvetro possano ritornari i R.mi Padri Cappuccini. 5200

Con dovuti ossequi

IL PODESTA'

76

Ufficio Amministrativo Diocesano  
Mazara del Vallo

Mazara del Vallo 9-12-38

N. prot. 561/38 -

OGGETTO: Castelvetro - Chiesa ex conventuale dei Cappuccini -  
Cessione rettoria.-

M/ Rev.do Padre,

Con la presente autorizziamo la P.V.Rev.da a potere accettare e quindi a potere ricevere la consegna dei locali d'adibirsi a rettoria per la chiesa ex conventuale dei cappuccini in Castelvetro.-

La benedico nel Signore.

S. BALLO GUERCIO

Vescovo di Mazzara

M. Rev.do Padre  
P. Mansueto da Casteltermini  
Provinciale Cappuccini  
PALERMO  
=====

5199

- 75
- Memorandum  
on the Capuccini's convent in Castelvetrano.
1. The convent of the Friars Capuccini was founded in 1819 by the very Capuccini in some ground given to them by the prince Fiquatelli. The above mentioned Friars have lived in the convent from then, as the real masters.
  2. In 1860 the Italian law on the suppression of the monks drove the Capuccini from the convent of which the Commune took possession installing in it an Infant Asylum, after some years.
  3. The upstairs of the convent was let to an asylum of invalid old men.
  4. The church, the sacristy and some rooms remained at the disposal of the Commune who let some Friars live there for the religious service. After the death of these monks nobody else, monk, came to live the convent.
  5. In 1938, in regard to the treaty of Laterano between the Italian State and Vaticano, the Capuccini demanded from the administration of the funds for Worship the retrocession of the convent, according to the treaty.
  6. The Capuccini got a favorable answer and began the arrangements. There dragged along for the several months in the Commune and for some persons adverse to the return of the monks in their convent.
  7. Meanwhile, the Church was conveyed to the Friars since April, in the same year 1938; the Administration of Infant Asylum, for disposition of Municipality, let some rooms to the

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7. Meanwhile, the Church was consigned to the Friars since April, in the same year 1938; the Administration of Infant Asylum, for disposition of Municipality, let some rooms to the Capuccini for 400 yearly, in order that the monks might live in those.

8. In the meantime the Ministry approved a project for the construction of another Infant Asylum: for the great uneasiness of the premises of the convent and for the immediate nearness of the Cemetery: what was shown the life from the most dreadful part to the children.

9. For this reason the arrangements for the retrocession had a favorable denouement. A rich man eased this turn because he derived part of his goods for the construction of another asylum, that the premises might belong only to the Capuccini. The war hindered the actualization of this double project.
10. In 1940 the Capuccini might occupy some of the rooms of the convent. They felt uneasy in those rooms and asked recently the part left to the Infant Asylum and Invalid Recovery.
11. Meanwhile the Superintendence of Finances, in Graziani, who unraveled the arrangements for the retrocession, ordered the Comune to prepare the sketch of the treaty and asked whether the Capuccini would accept the content, provided that the Infant Asylum and the Invalid Asylum remained in it until were removed elsewhere.
12. The Capuccini were answering they accepted such a condition, when the Allied troops occupied Sicily. The Capuccini addressed themselves to A.C. Castelletto, that the ~~convent~~ convent might be retroceded, at last, to them. They did so that the Municipio allotted some else more suitable premises for the Infant and Invalid Asylum. The premises were found.
13. Very great sums were depayed for the preparation of the new recovery carrying off the old recovery much

### Invalid Recovery

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13. Very great sums were defrayed for the preparation of the new recovery carrying off the old, recovery much material, for example: doors, iron tools, tubes, etc. To provide the new, consequently the old premises cannot be inhabited. Very great sums have been defrayed by the Capuccini for fitting the convent whose greater part is already occupied for authorisation of the Synodal. This, in fact, emitted a deliberation for the removal.

hance to the Monks of their premises, Agost 20<sup>th</sup>. 73  
 14. Some persons adverse to the Monks reclaimed persistently. The A.M.G.O.T. Palermo, October 8<sup>th</sup> 1963, sent a note which was consigned to the Commissary for Civil Affairs, Castelvetro. The Syndac, misunderstanding that simple communication by the Civil Affairs Official, emitted a deliberation, to-day, October 16<sup>th</sup> to suspend the cession fixed in Agost the twentieth's deliberation N.160.

5. We clarify, reasonably, this isn't a cession (as was Total, by mistake, in Agost the twentieth's deliberation), but a redemption; restitution by Municipality to the Capucin of goods belonging once to the Friars, whom an unjust law of suppression took off those.

6. It is to be remarked that neither the Infant Asylum nor the Invalid Asylum suffer damage from such redemption, for the premises in which ~~those~~ <sup>those will</sup> remove are much better than those occupied till now in the convent. The new Infant Asylum will be more central, the premises for the new Invalid Asylum (belonging to the Commune), are more comfortable and aired.

17. Therefore, we ask the revocation of the Syndac's recent and arbitrary measure. Above all we ask the authorization to lay down regular treaty of redemption between

beration N.160.

5. We clarify, reasonably, this isn't a version (as was Tolot, by mistake, in Agost the Arventelli's deliberation), but a retrocession; restitution by Municipality to the Capucini of goods belonging once to the Friars, whom an unjust law of suppression took off those.

6. It is to be remarked that neither the Infant Asylum nor the Invalid Asylum suffer damage from such retrocession, for the premises in which those will remove are much better than those occupied till now in the convent. The new Infant Asylum will be more central, the premises for the new Invalid Asylum (belonging to the Commune), are more comfortable and aired.

14. Therefore, we ask the revocation of the Syndac's recent and arbitrary measure. Above all we ask the authorization to lay down regular bread of retrocession between the Commune's administration, CarTelvetrans, and also Friars Capucini.

CarTelvetrans, October 16<sup>th</sup> / 1943 /

5196

785015

Ecclesiastical Property.

AMCOT/19/HQ.

R.C.A.O. - Region II.

13 Oct. 1943.

1. These Headquarters have received a request through M.G.S., A.F.H.Q. from the Senior Chaplain to the Forces (R.C.) in which, *inter alia*, he says:

"At Reggio it is understood that the local Ecclesiastical Seminary has been taken over for use as a hospital. This case has the complication that it is not diocesan but Papal property".

2. These Headquarters are requested by M.G.S. to report in detail on this matter, and your assistance, therefore, will be greatly appreciated.

*Charles H. Spofford*  
CHARLES H. SPOFFORD,  
Colonel, G. S. C.  
Chief Staff Officer.

3195

File

10066

71

AMHOT/13/HQ.

Ecclesiastical Property.

S.C.A.O. Catania

13 Oct. 3.

70

1. These Headquarters have received a report through M.G.S., A.F.H.C. from the Senior Chaplain to the Forces (R.C.) in which, inter alia, he says:

"At Aciroale, the local Priory which was open and in running order with 150 students was taken over as a hospital and the students dispersed with no alternative accommodation."

2. These Headquarters are requested by M.G.S. to report in detail on this matter and your assistance, therefore, will be greatly appreciated.

*Charles M. Stottford*  
CHARLES M. STOTTFORD,  
Colonel, G. S. C.  
Chief Staff Officer.

3192

785015

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS  
Military Government Section

/jm

MGS-386

2 October 1943

SUBJECT: Church Property in Occupied Italian Territory

TO : Chief of Staff, AMG Headquarters, APO 777

1. Enclosed herewith is a report of the Senior Chaplain to the Forces (R.C.) on the use of certain church properties by the army in Sicily which was sent on to us by G-1. We also enclose our reply to G-1 stating the general principles which govern the actions and attitude of AMG officers toward the Church and Church property. It is there made clear (para 5 and 6) that responsibility for any failure of duty on the part of AMG officers cannot be established until the circumstances are ascertained.

2. Inasmuch as the relations between AMG and the church are of great political importance, it is requested that an investigation be made of the matter in question and that a report of specific details be sent to this section.

*A. T. Maxwell*

A. T. MAXWELL  
Colonel  
Deputy Chief

2 Encls.

|                        |     |
|------------------------|-----|
| 1                      | 301 |
| PROPERTY               |     |
| FILE                   |     |
| <i>1st Lt. Maxwell</i> |     |
| <i>1st Lt. Maxwell</i> |     |
| <i>1st Lt. Maxwell</i> |     |
|                        |     |
|                        |     |

5193

ALLIED FORCE HEAD-QUARTERS

Military Government Section

ATM/jl

MCS-386

1 October 1943

*Use of Church*  
SUBJECT: Property in Occupied Italian Territory.  
TO : G-1 (Br) A 2

1. The report of the Senior Chaplain to the Forces (R.C.) which was sent to this Section for information and action has been duly considered. In reply thereto the following statement is transmitted to you.

2. Insofar as AMG officers are concerned they receive the following written instructions:

a. General Administrative Instruction No. 1, para 6: "You will treat religious personnel with deference and leniency, unless it can be shown that any of them is acting as an agent for subversive elements, espionage, etc."

b. General Administrative Instruction No. 2, para 9: "Consistent with military necessity the position of the Catholic Church and all religious institutions shall be respected."

3. In addition to these basic principles, every AMG officer in the course of his training receives detailed instruction about the place of the Catholic Religion and Church in Italian life, the respect due to its clergy and institutions and the legal status of its property. The friendly relations between the Allied Governments and the Vatican are strongly emphasized and officers are made to feel personally responsible for maintaining and improving these relations.

4. With specific regard to the use of Church property by the military, it is established by Article 56 of the Annex to the Hague Convention IV of 1907 that the property of institutions dedicated to religion shall be treated as private property. But this rule has not been construed to preclude the use of a religious edifice as a hospital under the pressure of military necessity (British Manual of Military Law; American Field Manual 27-10, Rules of Land Warfare; Oppenheim's *Treatise on International Law*; Fauchille's *Traite de Droit International Public*). It is emphasized in the discussions ~~just~~ cited above that the property must be secured against all avoidable injury and that the character of the property must be respected. In this connection, the use of a church or other religious edifice as a hospital to shelter the sick and wounded does not seem to violate religious sentiment and

- 2 -

68

principle or constitute a lack of respect for consecrated ground.

5. The report of the Senior Chaplain does not state whether the Church property in question was converted to medical uses under military necessity. In such matters, the circumstances are of paramount importance and until they are ascertained judgment must be withheld. It is certainly a basic principle of the Allied Forces that the Church and its institutions shall be treated with the utmost respect. In turn, it is assumed that the Church understands that wounded men, whatever their creed or nationality may be, have a right to medical care which is based on the Church's own concept of humanity and brotherhood. If necessity imposes that the exercise of that right should interfere with the Church's religious duties, it is for the Church to judge whether her principles have been violated. It is not for a commander in the field to fail to give the wounded all possible succor.

6. The lack of detailed evidence in the report of the Senior Chaplain also makes it impossible to establish in how far AMG officers are responsible for the existing situation. Army medical units are not under AMG orders during the operational phase of occupation when military necessity is at its strongest. Thereafter it is not as easy to evacuate a hospital full of sick and wounded as it is to clear a schoolhouse of troops which have been quartered therein. Until the exact circumstances are known failure on the part of AMG officers to carry out their instructions in regard to Church property cannot be established.

7. A copy of the Senior Chaplain's letter is being sent to AMG HQ with the request that the matter be investigated. The reply will be forwarded to you. In the meantime, it is suggested that a copy of this memorandum be sent to the Senior Chaplain in order that he may be informed of the general policy of AMG toward the Church and Church property.

A. T. MAXWELL  
Colonel  
Mil. Govt. Sect.

5191

CHURCH PROPERTY IN OCCUPIED ITALIAN TERRITORY.

Reports have reached me from various sources of difficulties being experienced over the occupation and use of ecclesiastical property in occupied Sicily & Italy.

The two main instances are at Acireale and Reggio. - *Report by*

At Acireale, the local Priory which was open and in running order with 150 students was taken over as a hospital and the students dispersed with no alternative accommodation.

At Reggio it is understood that the local Ecclesiastical Seminary has also been taken over for use a hospital.

The second case - Reggio - has added complications as it is not diocesan but Papal property, and an assurance was given by the Allied Governments through President Roosevelt that Papal property would be respected throughout Italy.

While it is quite appreciated that in emergency it is a Christian act to place ecclesiastical property at the disposal of the medical services for the accommodation and care of the wounded, it is to be hoped that this procedure will only be resorted to in emergency.

It is suggested that for political as well as for religious reasons a definite policy be laid down as to the use of ecclesiastical property in enemy territory after occupation.

/s/ J. M. Clarke.

(R.C.)

740  
9766  
66  
19/HQ  
Ecclesiastical Conference at  
Caltanissetta  
S.G.A.O., Syracuse

October 12, 3

1. An important ecclesiastical conference is being held at Caltanissetta on 18 October 1943.

2. The attendance of Archbishop Saracini of Syracuse and the Bishop of Noto is required at this conference, and these Headquarters wish you to make every effort you can to enable these two prelates to attend.

5. Tuller  
CHARLES M. SPOFFORD  
Colonel, G.S.C.  
Chief Staff Officer. 5184  
p/19

# ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

SUBJECT: Archbishop of Messina

TO: S.C.A.O., Messina

FILE No. 19/HQ

AMGOT HQ., SICILY

3 October 1943

1. You are requested to prepare a full report on the circumstances surrounding the retention of the Archbishop of Messina, indicating the present status of the matter. This is the matter which was raised by the letter dated Sept. 7, 1943 addressed to you by Captain Zerrudach, R.A. to the S.C.A.O., and which was returned by you through the D.C.C.A.O. same time subsequent.

2. As the matter is considered urgent, your prompt reply is requested.



*P. Rung Smith*  
 CHARLES M. SPOFFORD  
 Colonel, G. S. C.  
 Chief Staff Officer  
 1st Ind.

From: S.C.A.O. Messina, 7 October 1943; To: Chief Staff Officer, AMGOT HQ.

1. Within 48 hours after the occupation of Messina, we had exchanged calls with the Archbishop of Messina. Mutual assurances of cooperation were given.

2. Within 24 hours following this exchange of calls, The Field Security Service, acting on orders of General Staff Intelligence (B), Eighth Army, placed the Archbishop under arrest in his palace, and took up circulation passes issued to him by us.

3. At the request of Father Borello, SJ, head of the Capruccini Ignatium, Messina, we addressed G.S.I. (B) Eighth Army, requesting the release of the Archbishop if not inconsistent with their policy in such matters.

...may, indicating the present status of the matter. This is the matter which was raised by the letter dated Sept. 7, 1943 addressed to you by Captain Zervudachi, P.A. to the S.C.A.O., and which was returned by you through the D.C.C.A.O. some time subsequent.

2. As the matter is considered urgent, your prompt reply is requested.



*P. P. Smith*  
14.6.1.

CHARLES M. SPOTFORD  
Colonel, G. S. C.  
Chief Staff Officer  
1st Ind.

From: S.C.A.O. Messina, 7 October 1943; To: Chief Staff Officer, AMGOT HQ.

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2. Within 24 hours following this exchange of calls, the Field Security Service, acting on orders of General Staff Intelligence (B), Eighth Army, placed the Archbishop under arrest in his palace, and took up circulation passes issued to him by us. **5188**

3. At the request of Father Borello, SJ, head of the Cappuccini Ignatium, Messina, we addressed G.S.I.(B) Eighth Army, requesting the release of the Archbishop if not inconsistent with their policy in such matters.

4. On 3 October 1943, by communication addressed to F.S.S., Messina, (copy to ourselves), G.S.I.(B) Eighth Army, ordered release of the Archbishop of Messina in response to our request.

5. The Archbishop was released accordingly, and was presented to us in his expressions of appreciation for our interest in his case, and our assistance in effecting his release.

✓ Copies attached.

*Pa.*

*Stephen B. Story*  
STEPHEN B. STORY  
LT. COL. - CMP  
S.C.A.O. - MESSINA

785015

COPY

Subject: Archbishop of Messina.

SECRET.

Main H.Q.  
Eighth Army, C.M.F.  
M 316 I(b).

S.S.O. 13 F.S.Section.

29 Sep 43.

Reference W13/1/51 dated 21 Sep 43 and enclosed letter from Lt. Col. STORY.

It is considered that Mgr. Antonio PAINO, Archbishop of Messina, may now be released from house arrest, since the military situation in MESSINA has now eased, and the possible danger to security of allowing him to remain completely at liberty has now passed.

Field.  
EWL/RM.

(Sgd.) E.W. Long  
Lt. Col.  
G.S.I.

Copy to: Lt. Col. STORY, S.C.A.O. A.M.G.O.T. MESSINA.

3187

COPY

HEADQUARTERS AMGOT  
MESSINA PROVINCE

Messina  
17th September 1943

SUBJECT: Paino, Antonino Release from custody.

TO : GSI - B, Main 8th Army

1. Some weeks ago, Antonino Paino, Archbishop of Messina, was placed under arrest in his palace by the Field Security Service.
2. The undersigned has no official knowledge of the reasons for this action, but presumes that it was based on reports of former Fascist activities.
3. The confinement of the Archbishop has caused some feeling of resentment, and some degree of unrest, among the populace of the Province of Messina.
4. While the undersigned knows nothing of the merits or demerits of the causes leading to the Archbishop's arrest, the undersigned feels that, if those causes were of a political nature, release of the Archbishop could do little harm at this time, and would unquestionably do considerable good in quieting whatever unrest may have arisen from his confinement.
5. The undersigned accordingly requests that Antonino Paino, Archbishop of Messina, be released from arrest, if consistent with your policy in such matters.

(Sgd.) STEPHEN B. STORY  
(Typed) STEPHEN B. STORY  
LT. COL. - CMF  
S.C.A.O. AMGOT, MESSINA

...the commitment of the Archbishop has caused some feeling of resentment, and some degree of unrest, among the populace of the Province of Messina.

4. While the undersigned knows nothing of the merits or demerits of the causes leading to the Archbishop's arrest, the undersigned feels that, if those causes were of a political nature, release of the Archbishop could do little harm at this time, and would unquestionably to considerable good in quieting whatever unrest may have arisen from his confinement.

5. The undersigned accordingly requests that Antonino Palao, Archbishop of Messina, be released from arrest, if consistent with your policy in such matters.

(Sgd.) STEPHEN B. STORY

(Typed) STEPHEN B. STORY

LT. COL. - CMC

S.C.A.O. ARGENT, MESSINA

581C

785015

See 60, 41, 35, 31

62

Convent of Capuchini; Castelvetro  
SIO Trepani through GAO.

ASCCX/19/121

8 October

3

1. There has been some controversy in connection with the transfer of this estate by the Comune of Castelvetro to the Convent of the Capuchini after our occupation. 5185

2. Captain Jasin, GAO, Castelvetro approved such transfer, but was obviously not aware of the general policy governing such cases or of the provision of the Treaty of Latran between the Italian State and the Vatican or even that no officer was empowered by the GAO to authorize any transfer of real estate.

3. Will you please see whether the said transfer has been transcribed by the "Conservatore degli Ipotecari" of the Province of Trepani. Any Notario will be in a position to obtain this information for you.

R/L 60

See 80

914

PA  
- 5

785015

ALBANY/19/111  
ALBANY HQ SIG  
7 October 1942

SUBJECT: Railway Pass

TO : Public Safety Division

1. Signor Riccardo Borsari, via Rosolino Pilo 22 has requested permission to travel by railroad between Santa Flavia and Palermo. He is a Methodist Clergyman.

2. This office believes that, if it is not contrary to a general fixed policy, efforts should be made to secure the pass requested.

*h. b. v. d. J. C.*  
CHARLES M. SPORFORD,  
Colonel, G.S.C.,  
Chief Staff Officer.

5184

REF: SCAO/1001/TP

Sept. 30, 1943

SUBJECT: Cappuccin Convent, Castelvetro  
TO : S. C. A. O. Trapani

Reference Attached Memo ~~AMGOT~~ HQ. 18 Sept. 1943

This memorandum already fully answered in my letter of Sept. 22 in reply to your own memorandum of Sept. 18.

It perhaps was not made clear that the American officer approached was the signer of this letter, Philip G. Lewis, Capt. CMP. On The basis that it was not a transfer, but a return that had already been initiated and was practically completed, because all parties concerned plus the Bishop of Mazara were anxious to see the return completed, and because Proclamation 5 states that such a transaction (gift, lease or otherwise) may be effected if approved by the C.C.A.O. or officer empowered by him, such approval was given.



*Philip Lewis*  
Philip G. Lewis,  
Captain CMP  
CAO Castelvetro  
Campobello

*Forwarded:*

*Major E. Thomas,  
Lt. Col. Sec.  
SCAO. Trapani*

*Action at 62*

3183

59.

1) D.C. 50.

1. On 58, the Protestant Churchman  
BORSARI (sec 40 & 31) asks for  
permission to travel on the  
railway between SANTA FLAVIA  
and PALERMO.

2. We have turned down all  
his own requests. Can we  
grant this permission?

H 5.10.43

Action at 61

Capt. Talbot

5182

Take what steps you can to see

that he does get a permit. I think that P.S.D.,

I.B.S., Uncle Tom Cobby &amp; all have a hand

in the issue.

TJB 5/10

CHIESA METODISTA

ADQUARTERS

Mediterranean 7 19 25 30 1945  
AMGOT24. Settembre 1945.  
N. 724.SOGG. Risposta lettera 6697  
AMGOT - Palermo. 19. Ha

Signore,

vi sono grato per la V. Lettera del 16. Settembre 45., in ordine alla quale mi riserbo di esporvi i particolari della nostra Scuola Evangelica, da tanti anni esistente.

Per ora debbo richiamare la V. attenzione su quanto mi scrivete: "There is no objection whatever, to your visiting towns and villages in Sicily in the course of carrying out your duties, provided that you can obtain the necessary means of transport, but it is regretted that military exigencies make it impossible to furnish means of transport to you."

Ma in proposito debbo farvi osservare che le condizioni finanziarie della mia Congregazione sono disperate, a) per la grande dispersione dei membri, b) per le interrotte comunicazioni con Roma, sede della Presidenza Italiana, c) per il fatto inoltre che non ho ancora ricevuto il mio stipendio di Giugno, per quanto diminuito pel sequestro fascista. E' inutile quindi pensare a mezzi costosi di trasporto.

Oggi le condizioni sono di molto peggiorate, per le restrizioni fatte per l'uso delle ferrovie. Esse mi rendono impossibili le mie visite necessarie. E' già avvenuto che mi è morta una povera ragazza con il tifo e non mi è stata data la possibilità di assisterla, né di presiedere ai funerali, con gravissimo disappunto della famiglia: ho diversi ammalati da visitare: ho tanti appuntamenti ai quali non posso mancare! Se la mia casa a Palermo non fosse inabitabile, da quanto tempo, sarei in città!

Debbi pertanto insistere nel chiedere a voi un mezzo di trasporto, che se le condizioni militari non consentono, vi supplico caldamente di RILASCIARMI UNO SPECIALE PERMESSO PER L'USO DEI TRENI! che è doveroso concederle a un Pastore! anzi all'unico Pastore di Palermo poiché ora ho pure la cura della Chiesa Valdese, al Politeama.

Ne può valere il dire che l'AMGOT non ha nulla a che fare con la ferrovia, perché cotesto Governo che conosce così bene le mie condizioni, può bene con la sua autorità ottenermi almeno un nulla osta per i miei viaggi da Santa Flavia a Palermo.

Ho tanta fiducia nella vostra bontà e gentilezza da me sperimentata, che nutro piena fiducia d'essere esaudito.

518!

Vostro sinceramente

Armando Noyes

...exigences... impossible to furnish means of transport to you."

Ma in proposito debbo farvi osservare che le condizioni finanziarie della mia Congregazione sono disperate, a) per la grande dispersione dei membri, b) per le interrotte comunicazioni con Roma, sede della Presidenza Italiana, c) per il fatto inoltre che non ho ancora ricevuto il mio stipendio di Giugno, per quanto diminuito pel sequestro fascista. E' inutile quindi pensare a mezzi costosi di trasporto.

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Dehho pertanto insistere nel chiedere a voi un mezzo di trasporto, che se le condizioni militari nol consentono, vi supplico caldamente di RILASCIARMI UNO SPECIALE PERMESSO PER L'USO DEI TRENI! che è doveroso concederle a un Pastore! anzi all'unico Pastore di Palermo poiché ora ho pure la cura della Chiesa Valdese, al Politeama.

Le può valere il dire che l'AMGT non ha nulla a che fare con la ferrovia, perché cotesto Governo che conosce così bene le mie condizioni, può bene con la sua autorità ottenermi almeno un nulla osta per i miei viaggi da Santa Flavia a Palermo.

Ho tanta fiducia nella vostra bontà e gentilezza da me aspettate, che nutro piena fiducia d'essere esaudito.

5181

Vostro sinceramente

*Riccardo Borseri*

Riccardo Borseri  
Via Rosolino Pilo

22

57

Trans. 55

To the All Forces Command  
Volunteer Enlistment Section

Palermo

I am a seaman. I should be glad to serve in the allied Army. Therefore I beg you to enlist me as a volunteer.

I am sure that you will accept my request because I am ready to fight with you against the German Army.

Scherma Pietro  
in Ossuna, Castile, Francia 4  
Palermo

Palermo, September 23rd 1943

Trans. 56

Subject: Reply to the letter n° 6694  
AMGOT - Palermo. 19 Hg  
Methodist church

40

I am obliged to you for your letter of September

Palermo, September 25th 1943

Sherman Station  
on 8 Ave., Cortile Fusia 4  
Palermo.

Trans. 56

5180

Subject:

Reply to the letter n. 6687

AMGOT - Palermo. 19 Hg

40

Methodist church

I am obliged to you for your letter of September 16th, 1943, in regard to which I will explain to you the method of our Evangelical School.

Now I call your attention to what you have written to me: "There is no objection whatever, to your visiting towns and villages in Sicily in the course of carrying out your duties, provided that you can obtain the necessary means of transport, but it is regretted that military exigencies make it impossible to furnish means of transport to you." But regarding this I must tell you that the conditions of my congregation are very poor: a) because of dispersion of its members - b) because of interrupted communications with Rome, where the situation is very precarious.

<sup>#1</sup> yet my salary of June. Therefore I can't use expensive means of transportation.

The actual conditions have become worse because of limited use of railway; this and so I can't go visiting. It ~~was~~ happened that a poor girl died and I couldn't assist her, with much disappointment to her family. I ~~have~~ have many patients to visit and many meetings which must be attended.

I should live in Palermo, but my home is uninhabitable. Therefore I must insist with you to have ~~a~~ means of transport; but if the military exigencies make it impossible I beg you to give me a railway permit.

I think that AMGOT has the authority to procure ~~a permit~~ for me, a permit for the trip from S. Fla. to Palermo and return.

I am sure that your goodness and kindness will procure the permit.

Truly yours

Riccardo Borroni  
v. Rosolino File 22



assist her, with much disappointment to her family.  
I ~~have~~ have many patients to visit and many meetings  
which must be attended.

I should live in Palermo, but my home is uninhabitable.  
Therefore I must insist with you to have ~~a~~ means of transport;  
but if the military exigencies make it impossible I beg you  
to give me a railway permit.

I think that AMGOT has the authority to procure  
~~a permit~~ for me, a permit for the trip ~~from~~ from S. Fla  
to Palermo and return.

I am sure that your goodness and kindness will  
procure the permit.

Truly yours

Riccardo Borroni  
v. Rosolino S. 22



785015

8662

56

19/11

Archbishop of Messina

S.C.A.O., Messina

3 October

3

30  
1. You are requested to prepare a full report on the circumstances surrounding the detention of the Archbishop of Messina, indicating the present status of the matter. This is the matter which was raised by the letter dated Sept. 7, 1943 addressed to you by Captain Zerruachi, P.A. to the S.C.A.O., and which was returned by you through the D.C.A.O. some time subsequent.

2. As the matter is considered urgent, your prompt reply is requested.

T.B.  
CHARLES M. STOFFORD  
Colonel, G. S. C.  
Chief Staff Officer

5179

past

785015

Subject: Visits of civilians.

Headquarters,  
A.G.O.T.,  
PALERMO.

AL/27/18

28. Sep. 43.

Reference your AMGOT/19/HQ dated 21.Sep.43.

G.S.I(b) have no objection to Monseigneur Hughes visiting Sicily, in fact they consider a visit by him favourably. However, they agree with you that the matter should not be raised again unless M.G.S. do so. In such an event, I will reply that there is no objection to the visit.

RJPT/JG.  
AMGOT Liaison,  
15 Army Group.

R.J.P. THORNE THORNE,  
Colonel,  
Senior Staff Officer.

Copy to: G.S.I(b), 15 Army Group

4337

54

IX EAST AIR.

Broadcasts from Sicily.

AMCOS/19/113

M.G.S.,  
A.F.H.G.

30. Sept. 3.

Reference your Cable No. 9735 of 26. Sept. 43.

1. Palermo radio has already started regular broadcasts to Italy, including talks to Italian Provinces in the provincial dialects.
2. Beginning Thursday, October 7th, there will be a weekly talk called "NUOVA ITALIA" given by prominent Sicilians on the lines suggested in the cable under reference.

*Charles M. Spofford*  
CHARLES M. SPOFFORD.  
Colonel, G.S.C.  
Chief Staff Officer.

Copy to: AMCOM LIAISON,  
15 Army Group.

5177

C.S.O.

51-2.

Mr. Minjic <sup>already</sup> was shown a copy of 51.

2. I suggest following reply

Potenza has started regular broadcasts to Italy <sup>Beginning</sup> & <sup>next</sup> <sup>^</sup>  
Thursday weekly lecture Nuova Italia by prominent Sicilian  
on lines suggested you 9733 of 26 Sep.

(TB) 30/9

ok

✓

Carlo de la ...

Also doing facts to  
Italian province in  
provincial dialect 5176

C. S. O.

Ref 51. I have visited P.W. Branch  
and spoke to Mr. Minicé. P.W.B.  
are well ahead of 51 and  
Palermo radio here already  
started regular broadcasts  
to Italy. Next Thursday week  
they are starting a weekly  
feature called "Nuova Italia"  
which will be a talk by a  
prominent Sicilian on line  
supported by 51. They are also  
doing talks to Italian provinces  
in the Provincial dialects.

E.I. 29.9.43.

5175

785015

26 SEP 1943

HEADQUARTERS  
28 SEP 1943  
19  
AMGOT

66 1992 1-2

200 24462  
702 6276/27

[illegible]

5174

C.S.O. P.H.D. 15 H.G. kind kin a good  
idea & am signalling them  
Palermo office. Will you  
get in touch with P.H.D.  
Palermo  
27/9/43. G. L.  
Potter

# ACTION

Action  
54

2000

|       |   |     |
|-------|---|-----|
| HAZOP | 4 | 200 |
| QAO   | 5 | 200 |
| QAL   | 2 | 200 |

ROUTING SLIP.

~~C.C.A.O.~~  
~~D.C.C.A.O.~~  
~~C.S.O.~~  
~~A.C.S.O.~~  
Lt. Col. Clough  
Major Smith  
Major McDougall  
Major Pearcy  
Captain Talbot  
Captain Farrar  
Captain Sherwood  
Captain Graham  
Lieut. Van Houkelon  
Lieut. Krupa  
P.R.O.  
Advisor P.A. & M.  
Education Officer.

REMARKS.

*Letter 92 + 94*

*23/9*  
Date

*67*  
Registry.

*C.R.*

50

QCCAU

Please see 49 which  
refers to 30.

Si 24.9.

~~See 56~~

AMGOT/19/HQ. 4326

AMGOT HQ. - SICILY. 44

15 September, 1943.

Subject: Archbishop of Messina.

To : S.C.A.O. - Messina.

30

A reply to this H.Q. memorandum AMGOT/19/HQ  
of 7 Sept. 1943, is requested.



*E. Talbot Capt.*  
CHARLES M. SPOTTORD,  
COLONEL, G. S. C.  
CHIEF STAFF OFFICER.

*Note —*

*Please refer to General McJannet*

*Stephen B. Story*

*SCAO - Messina.*

*21 Sept 43*

*He has original letter  
Story.*

*See 56  
3172*

48

C.S.O. Subject: Capuchin Convents.

Ref. folios 32 & 41, - reopening of convents suppressed by laws of 1860, & Fra Gaetano's reference to Art. 8 of Ch II of the Concordat. The following is a translation of the Article.

"Conventes & Provinces to which was granted the possession of buildings of Convents which were suppressed in accordance with the provisions of Art 20 of Law 3036 of 7 July 1865 & similar legislations, will remain <sup>without payment</sup> still owned by them, a suitable portion of these to be used as a Rectory to the adjoining Church if open to Public Worship, unless such premises were already reserved, or released by deed at the time the Convent was taken over.

This would appear to be designed to provide living accommodation for the local officiating priest, & does not seem

Granted the possession of  
 Convents which were suppressed in  
 accordance with the provisions of Art 20 of Law  
 3036 of 17 July 1866 & similar legislations, will  
 be <sup>of which payment</sup> still owned by them, a suitable  
 surrender of these to be used as a Rectory to the  
 adjoining Church if open to Public Worship,  
 unless such premises were already reserved,  
 or released by deed at the time the Convent  
 was taken over.

This would appear to be designed  
 to provide living accommodation for the  
 local officiating priest, & does not seem  
 to be sufficient Authority for wholesale  
 reopening of Convents.

In any case, it was framed  
 1929-1935, and would be interesting  
 to know why nothing has been done  
 about it before now.

I would suggest the answer given  
 at 41 is not wrong, unless he has a  
 case of a priest without a Rectory.

J. H. H. E. H.

Ref  
FA&M  
Priv. Mon.

19/44  
ANGOT Hq.  
21 Sept. 1943.

Memorandum to: CBO  
Subject : Archbishop's Palace.

1. In reference to your note, ANGOT/19/HQ dated 21 Sept. 1943, a visit was made to the Archbishop's Palace on 2 Sept. and a report submitted, ref. ANGOT/8265//FA&M pp. 15-15A, ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~

2. An estimate has just come from the Genio Civile, as requested at that time, and will be submitted to the CBO, CBO, and CCAO in due course, after examination.

*Mason Hammond*  
Mason Hammond  
Capt. AC  
Adviser on Fine Arts and Monuments.

5170

Visits.

AMGOT LIAISON,  
15 Army Group.

AMGOT/15/HQ.

21. Sept. 3

1. Reference message No. 1/10957 of 17. Sept. 43, from MIDWEST to PRUDOM (copy to 15 Army Group). Providing that 15 Army Group has no objection to Mmesieur Hughes visiting P.O. We it is considered that this M.C. can raise no objections on the remaining points.
2. If M.C.S. refers questions to us please reply in accordance with above.

*DS*  
CHARLES H. SPENFORD.  
Colonel, G.S.O.  
Chief Staff Officer.

5169

File

6484

236/Hq.

Jesuit Seminary.

B.C.A.O. - Catania.

20 Sep.

3.

1. Father Glicenzo, of the Collegio Pennisi, Acireale has called at this office regarding the requisitioning of the College by 98 General Hospital. He wishes to know if it is possible to retain part of the building to house students evacuated from Messina.

2. He is returning to the College on Wednesday, and will probably call on you in the near future.

3. Any assistance you can give him will be appreciated.

*Charles M. Spofford*  
for CHARLES M. SPOFFORD,  
Colonel, G. S. C.  
Chief Staff Officer.

3168

Cox to 12/Hq.

001 000 000

OTHER HEADQUARTERS  
19 SEP 1945  
AMGOT

NOI 06342  
SEP 43

474

P4  
67

FROM: MILITARY  
TO: FREEDOM  
INFO: 13 ARMY GROUP  
ORIG NO 1/10937

FOR 1035H/13

ONE. APOSTOLIC DELEGATE HERE MONSIEUR HUGHES HAS  
APPROACHED MINISTER OF STATE FOR PERMISSION TO VISIT  
STALLY VIA AIRMAILS. HE HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED IN  
VATICAN TO DEAL WITH ECCLESIASTICAL SITUATION IN  
STALLY BY CONTACTING BISHOPS TO ARRANGE COMMUNICATION  
WITH VATICAN AND TO VISIT PRISONERS OF WAR.  
TWO. NO SECURITY OBJECTION HERE. HAVE YOU ANY  
OBJECTIONS

ACT 3 ACTION  
AMGOT 1

Action  
46

ENC 1120H/18  
T.T. 1700H/18 JT

5167

785015

166

6822

43

AMCOT 15 Army Group.

20 September, 1943.

19/HQ

RESTRICTED

ROUTINE

A.F.H.Q.

38

NO OBJECTION MAINTAIN PRELATE PAREN FROM AMCOT SEVENTH ARMY TO A.F.H.Q. FOR  
H.Q.S. CITYS AMCOT 267 PAREN FOUR ALGA OF 13 SHOT REVERS (.) PROVIDED HE  
IS RELIABLE AND NON-POLITICAL (.) WHETHER THIS TIME OFFERING FOR VISIT  
YOU ARE BEST JUDGE.

3166

785015

716

AMCT/19/HQ.

6930

17 HQ. - SICILY.

18 September, 1943.

42

Subject: Cappuccin Convent,  
Castelvetrano.

To: S.C.A.O. - Trapani.

1. The following is an extract from a letter from Fra. Gaetano di Castellamare  
Minister Provincial of F.F. Minori, Cappuccini, Palermo.

"The day following the arrival of the Allied Forces in Trapani, the Superior  
of the Convent of Castelvetrano presented himself to the local  
Commander of the Allied Forces, beseeching him to make restitution for the  
Convent together with all the ~~contents~~ <sup>self</sup>. After two days there was brought  
about a formal transfer of the property together with a deed attesting same."

2. S.C.A.O. directs that you make careful enquiries into this case and, in  
particular, he wishes to know the name of the Commander of the Allied Forces  
referred to, since under Proclamation No. 5 Article 3, all transfers of property are  
forbidden without consent of S.C.A.O. and any that have been made will be void.

File (31) 35 - 62

1. J. J. J. 2185  
Colonel, S. C. O.  
Chief Staff Officer.

785015

*file*

AMCOT/19/HQ.

AMCOT HQ. - SICILY.

18 September, 1943. *46*

Subject: Cappuccin Convents.

To : Fra. Gaetano Di Castellamare,  
Curia Provinciale del  
F.P. Minori Cappuccini,  
PALERMO.

Monsignor,

1. In reply to your letter of Sept. 18th, 1943, I am directed to inform you that Allied Military Government is not prepared to consider the restoration of any ecclesiastical property taken under the law of 1860.

2. I am further directed to inform you that an investigation is being made as to the alleged transfer of property in respect of the Convent of Castelvetro, since all transfers of property are forbidden under Proclamation No. 5 Article 5 and any that have taken place will have to be considered void.

Yours truly,

*See 480, 62*  
*39, 31*  
*E. Tully*  
CHARLES M. STOFFORD,  
Colonel, G. S. C.  
Chief Staff Officer.

*5164*

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

785015

Subject: Methodist Church in Sicily

File

40

6471

17

10

To:

The Rev. Riccardo Brambilla,  
22, Via Rosolino Pilo,  
PALERMO.

15. 10/10/43

Re: Sicily,

14

1. I am directed to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 15th August, and to inform you that, following a careful study of your proposals, the Allied Military Government of Sicily has decided that the proposals are outside the scope of military government, and it is not prepared to comment on them.
2. I am to state, however, that if you have any specific complaint to make on any particular issue arising in Sicily, such complaint will receive the closest investigation.
3. There is no objection whatever to your visiting towns and villages in Sicily in the course of carrying out your duties, provided that you can obtain the necessary means of transport, but it is regretted that military exigencies make it impossible to furnish means of transport to you.
4. If you will give this Headquarters particulars of the Methodist Schools which are in existence at the date of the occupation, the assumption of teaching by personnel of your Church will be considered on the same basis as has been done in the case of Catholic Schools. No new schools may, however, be opened at the present time.

Yours truly,

See 61

*[Signature]*  
 Major-General,  
 Headquarters, A.S.G.,  
 Chief Staff Officer.

5163

CCAO

VCCAO

39

1. 36 with reference to 31, 32, and 33.
2. Reference 16. Draft letter submitted for consideration (inside cover) opposite.
3. 38.

Σ. J. W. H.  
17.5.43.

Ref. 2 doc. 16

See above. Dft approved.

Ref. Doc. 31 32 & 33 Then can of course be no question of restoring ecclesiastical property taken under the Law of 1860 & the writer is not the informant. But he says not 'open' nor property was transferred the auth. of the Allicial Commanders. This is

17-5-45.  
 Rep. 2 doc. 16

§ 2 above. Dkt approved.

Rep. Dep. 31 32 & 33 Then can of course be no question of restoring ecclesiastical property taken under the Law of 1860 & the writer is so well informed. But he says that Tropen's own property was transferred to the auth. of the Civil Command. This is the investigated article & reported on Dkt. & particularly as to was the Command. & the measure which in form the writer has the right to bring investigation into all transfers of property are forbidden of proclamation and if any have taken place, they must be considered void.

Rep. 38 Reps no objection if man is reliable & doesn't discuss political matters. Add that HCS will be best judge of whether representative. M.

22

\$ 38

URGENT

DISPATCH  
CIPHER MESSAGE  
IN

FMHQ 0479L  
13 SEPT 43

FROM: COUNCIL ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF  
TO: AGC  
INFO NO: 1454



TOO: 10250/13  
TH: 1930  
FOR: 1930

NOTE: YOU ARE REQUESTED TO MAINTAIN CLOSEST CONTACT WITH THE  
BUREAU OF THE ARMY TO BE SENT TO VAPOW FOR COMMUNICATION TO RELATIVES OF THE BUREAU.  
SUGGESTING SUCH MESSAGES BE SENT VIA CATHO OR OTHER APPROVED ROUTE FOR CENSORSHIP.  
WE HAVE NO OBJECTION PROVIDED MESSAGES ARE CENSORED.

✓ AMOT  
G S T

3 ACTION  
2

DISPATCH  
CIPHER MESSAGE

SEC. 20479/14  
T.T. 2052/14 JAU

3161

Action at 43

785015

6060/CP. *BR*

AMGOT HQ SICILY.

16 September 43. 36

Subject: Ecclesiastical Matters.

To: D. C.C.A.O.  
\_\_\_\_\_

1. Reference item No.49, AMGOT/19/HQ, and your request for comments and recommendations.

2. Above item No.49 is signed by one who styles himself Minister Provincial. It is requested that the Capuchin Order of Monks be restored to certain convents and properties allegedly taken from them in 1860. This item indicates that they have never been restored to possession since that time.

3. Preliminary comment is that it would seem wise not to interfere in this matter, which possibly has religious and political aspects which AMGOT should avoid. This conclusion is based on the fact that since 1860 neither the Italian Government nor ecclesiastical heads of Church at Rome have effected any restoration.

4. Request is being made to Assistant Controller of Property in Field to furnish information of present occupancy, and any other facts available in this matter, upon receipt of which formal recommendation will be submitted to you.

*James M. Bovard*  
JAMES M. BOVARD,  
Capt. A.C.  
Deputy Controller of Property.

3169

*File.*

ANGOT/19/11

*4326*

ANGOT IN. - MOGIV.

*32*

15 September 1943.

*34*

Subject: Archbishop of Mossim.

To : S.C.A.O. - Mossim.

*30*

A reply to this H.Q. memorandum ANGOT/19/11  
of 7 Sept. 1943, is requested.

*S. Talbot Lupton*

CHARLES E. SHAWKARD  
CAPTAIN, U. S. C.  
CHIEF STAFF OFFICER

*See 49*

515

16 Sept. 1943

MEMORANDUM TO: Director of Property Control.

1. Your comments and recommendations on  
the attached file <sup>No. 49</sup> are requested.  
1

*79mcs*  
FRANK J. LESHERREY  
Brigadier General, USA  
D.C.E.A.O.

*See within.*

3159

~~33~~  
33

DCSO  
31  
Reverend ~~48~~ (which is translation of 32)

1. Since these comments were suppressed in 1860 it was presumably action by the Vatican and we, therefore, would not wish to interfere.

2. If the above is agreed ECAs will not ECAs wish to know the circumstances of the handing over of the convent of CASTELVETRANO referred to at the bottom of ~~48~~ 31? If so should I write to SCAR? TRAPANI asking for the story?

8  
Σ 15.9.43.

0157

C.C.O.O  
31  
L above.

2. If the above is agreed CCAO will  
 not CCAO wish to know the circumstances  
 of the handing over of the consent of  
 CASTELVERANO referred to at  
 the bottom of ~~the~~<sup>31</sup>? If so shall  
 I write to SCAD? TRAPANI asking  
 for the story?

Σ 15.9.43.

0157

C.C.A.O.

31

to above.

1. What policy is to be adopted towards these religious  
bodies?
2. I imagine that in any case you will not wish to  
mine out public services?

Feb 14.50p43.

See CCAO's note at 3.9

CURIA PROVINCIALE

DEI

PP. MINORI CAPPUCCINI

PALERMO

Palermo 6 Settembre 1943

Onor. Comando delle Forze Alleate

Palermo.

Il sottoscritto, a nome anche dei suoi Religiosi della Provincia Monastica dei Padri Cappuccini di Palermo, che comprende quattro Province civili, e cioè: Palermo, Trapani, Agrigento e Caltanissetta, si pregia di esporre a cotesto Onor. Comando quanto segue:

Nella soppressione degli Ordini religiosi del 1860, questa Provincia Monastica ha perduto tra tanti altri Conventi, quelli di ALCAMO, SCIACCA, TRAPANI.

Da parecchio tempo la popolazione di queste tre Città ha reclamato il ritorno dei Padri Cappuccini; ma le Autorità locali, ora per una ragione ed ora per un'altra, ragioni invero irrisorie, hanno frustrato il desiderio di quelle popolazioni.

Ora che le Truppe Alleate hanno occupato la Sicilia, il sottoscritto fa caldissima istanza a cotesto Onor. Comando, perchè finalmente le popolazioni di dette Città possano venire accontentate.

Il Convento di Alcamo è attualmente chiuso e disabitato ed i Cappuccini non ne occupano che appena il pianterreno, e, per giunta, con affitto.

Le precedenti autorità locali deturparono detto Convento, guastando corridoi e celle dell'unico piano di elevazione, per farne sale da bagno per scabbiosi, quasi non ci fossero ad Alcamo locali migliori, e riservandolo per un eventuale lazzeretto in caso di epidemia; quando, per la bisogna, avrebbero potuto adibire più igienicamente l'altro ex Convento dei Cappuccini, lontano dalla Città.

Inoltre del giardino del Convento le passate autorità locali ne hanno

ari Cappuccini di Palermo, che comprende quattro Province civili, e cioè: Palermo, Trapani, Agrigento e Caltanissetta, si pregia di esporre a cotesto Cnor. Comando quanto segue:

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Le precedenti autorità locali deturparono detto Convento, guastando corridoio e celle dell'unico piano di elevazione, per farne sale da bagno per scabbiosi, quasi non ci fossero ad Alcamo locali migliori, e riservandolo per un eventuale lazzaretto in caso di epidemia; quando, per la bisogna, avrebbero potuto adibire più igienicamente l'altro ex Convento dei Cappuccini, lontano dalla Città.

Inoltre del giardino del Convento le passate autorità locali ne hanno fatto un campo sperimentale, e, poco distante dalla Chiesa del Convento, senza alcun rispetto per il luogo sacro, vi è stato eretto il macello del Comune.

Il sottoscritto supplica perchè gli venga restituito il Convento, con tutti gli annessi e connessi, quali erano esistenti al tempo della soppressione del 1860.

ACTION

La stessa supplica porge per il Convento dei Cappuccini di SCIACCA, che per il momento risulta vuoto.

Sul Convento di Sciacca bisogna aggiungere che non solo la popolazione di quella Città ha ardentemente desiderato il ritorno dei Cappuccini, prima e dopo il fascismo, ma che anche le stesse Autorità locali hanno fatto pressioni per il ritorno, che non si è potuto effettuare allora, per la paucità dei Religiosi ; ora però siamo in grado di farvi ritorno .

Qualche difficoltà invece si potrebbe eccepire per il Convento di TRAPANI, dove esiste ancora qualche opera assistenziale .

Ma che forse mancano a Trapani altri locali ed ora specialmente, dopo l'avvenuta occupazione, da parte delle Truppe Alleate, dove <sup>Potere</sup> trasferire quelle Opere assistenziali ? Non si potrebbe fare a Trapani quello stesso che è stato fatto a Castelvetro ?

Maggiori e più gravi erano le ragioni che si ostacolavano per la restituzione di quel Convento, che è ormai un fatto compiuto .

Tre erano le Opere assistenziali installate a Castelvetro .

All'indomani dell'occupazione delle Truppe Alleate il Superiore del Convento di Castelvetro ( fino allora i Cappuccini occupavano appena un'ala ) si presentava al Comandante locale delle Forze Alleate, supplicandolo della restituzione di tutti i locali del Convento con i giardini , ed annessi e connessi .

Dopo due giorni avveniva la formale consegna dei locali, con un regolare Atto .

Il sottoscritto; Ministro Provinciale dei Padri Cappuccini della Provincia Monastica di Palermo nutre la più viva fiducia perchè cotesto Comando Alleato voglia accogliere in pieno la presente domanda e rendersi benemerito dell'inclito Ordine dei Cappuccini .

che non si è potuto effettuare allora, per la povertà dei Religiosi ; ora però siamo in grado di farvi ritorno .

Qualche difficoltà invece si potrebbe eccepire per il Convento di TRAPANI, dove esiste ancora qualche opera assistenziale .

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Con i sentimenti della più viva riconoscenza e gratitudine, porge anticipati ringraziamenti, per parte di tutti i Religiosi Cappuccini di Palermo.

Devotissimo

*Fra Gaetano A Castelvetro*

Ministro Provinciale .



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

Piazza Cappuccini.  
Palermo

Chaplain (Lt Col) Novak  
Clover 19

CURIA PROVINCIALE

DEI

FR. MINORI CAPPUCCINI

PALERMO

Palermo, Sicily,  
September 10, 1943.

His Excellency, the Commander of Civil Affairs,  
A. M. G. O. T.,  
Palermo, Sicily.

I, the undersigned-in my own name and in that of the Religious of the Province of the Capuchins, Province of Palermo, comprising also Trapani, Agrigento and Caltanissetta, beg permission to present to His Excellency the following facts.

In 1860, when all religious orders were suppressed, this province of Capuchin monks lost among other convents, those located in Alcamo, Sciacca and Trapani. For some time the populace of these cities have been beseeching me to have the Fathers return into their midst, but the local authorities for one reason and another all without foundation have frustrated the desire of the people. Now that the Allied Forces have occupied Sicily, the undersigned presents this earnest plea to His Excellency that the desires of the people of the aforesaid cities might achieve their desire. The convent at Alcamo is closed at the present time and it remains uninhabited and the Capuchin Fathers occupy only the first floor for which they pay rent. The local authorities have done damage to this convent by ruining the corridors and one floor in order to make bathrooms for those who were afflicted with skin diseases, as though there were no other available place in Alcamo for such purposes. Too, they reserved the other part of the building for what they deemed might be a possible epidemic. They might have used another Capuchin property farther away from the city for that purpose.

In addition to this, the local authorities have made an experimental station for various purposes-out of the garden and a short distance from the convent they have set up a slaughter house for the community. The undersigned requests that the convent be restored together with all annexes and adjuncts, such as it existed in 1860 before the suppression.

The undersigned presents the same request for the convent of Sciacca which is also vacated now. As to the convent of Sciacca, may it be added that not only did the populace itself ask for the return of the Capuchin Fathers, but also the local authorities before and after the advent of Fascism, have made overtures for their return. This could not be brought about due to the dearth of Capuchin priests and lay brothers; now, however we are in a position to be able to do so.

There might be some difficulty relative to the convent at Trapani where some manner of welfare work is being carried on. Even though this be true, are there not other places available in Trapani for such work, now that the Allied Forces have occupied the town? These activities could be transferred to some other location. Could not the same be done in Trapani as was accomplished in Castelvetro? Many difficulties arose when the matter or restitution of this convent was brought up.

785015

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In addition to this, the local authorities have made an experimental station for various purposes-out of the garden and a short distance from the convent they have set up a slaughter house for the community. The undersigned requests that the convent be restored together with all annexes and adjuncts, such as it existed in 1860 before the suppression.

The undersigned presents the same request for the convent of Sciacca which is also vacated now. As to the convent of Sciacca, may it be added that not only did the populace itself ask for the return of the Capuchin Fathers, but also the local authorities before and after the advent of Fascism, have made overtures for their return. This could not be brought about due to the dearth of Capuchin priests and lay brothers; now, however we are in a position to be able to do so.

There might be some difficulty relative to the convent at Trapani where some manner of welfare work is being carried on. Even though this be true, are there not other places available in Trapani for such work, now that the Allied Forces have occupied the town? These activities could be transferred to some other location. Could not the same be done in Trapani as was accomplished in Castelvetro? Many difficulties arose when the matter or restitution of this convent was broached. It now is an accepted fact. There were three separate agencies of welfare work being performed there. The day following the arrival of the Allied Forces into Trapani, the Superior of the Convent of Castelvetro where up to this time the Capuchins occupied one wing of the building-presented himself to the local commander of the Allied Forces, beseeching him to make restitution for the convent together with all the adjuncts. After two days there was brought about a formal transfer of the property together with a deed attesting same. The undersigned Provincial of the Capuchin Fathers of the different provinces of Palermo district nourishes the greatest confidence in the Command of the Allied Forces and hopes that this request will be acceded to in full, thus gaining the gratitude of the Capuchin Fathers.

Action at 41442

With sentiments of deepest recognition and gratitude for any consideration and courtesy shown in this matter, in my behalf and in the name of the Capuchin Fathers of Palermo, I remain,

Most devotedly,

*F. Gaetano Di Castellamare*

FRA GAETANO DI CASTELLAMARE,  
Minister Provincial.

SUBJECT: - Ecclesiastical Matters.

FAC

3089

ANGOT/19/HA.

ANGOT H.O. STOLLY.

To: G.C.A.O. Messina.

7. Sept. 43.

The Archbishop of Messina Monsignore Angelo Pajno has sent his secretary Monsignore Antonia Barbero to Palermo with a letter for the G.C.A.O.

The Archbishop complains that on Aug. 29th two British H.C.Os (sottufficiali) ordered him not to move from his house without permission. His car was removed and his secretary was told by these H.C.Os that instructions came from "il Comandante Generale Inglese in Sicilia". Nothing is known here of these instructions and the G.C.A.O. was not consulted.

For your information the following points from his letter are of interest:

The reconstruction of all churches, schools, and other religious institutions after their destruction by the 1908 earthquake were made possible by his personal contact with the "Capo del Governo" in 1923, the year in which Pajno became Archbishop of Messina. The obstruction of funds from the Fascist Government was necessary to accomplish his programme of giving Messina "all that was necessary to a Catholic and Italian population for the development of its spiritual life".

The Fascist Party took umbrage of the special treatment afforded to the Archbishop of Messina and from that moment his relations with the "Partito" became all but friendly. He goes on to say that owing to his influence over the Catholic youth of Messina the Fascists waged a continuous battle against him and he was not able to approach the "Capo del Governo" as from 1929. He shows furthermore that whenever an opportunity arose he counteracted as much as he could the Fascist influence in Messina as he considered it opposed to the interests of the church and harmful to the Italian youth.

The Cardinal of Palermo has asked the G.C.A.O. that steps should be taken in order that the Archbishop be allowed to carry on his work undisturbed as in the past. Mons. Pajno is 75 years of age.

The G.C.A.O. has instructed me to ask you to approach Brigadier Hrollop the Sub Area Commander in order that orders be given for the release of the Archbishop from this virtual imprisonment, unless, of course, there are good reasons to believe that he has been in contact with the enemy. His car is to be returned to him and apologies offered by the two H.C.Os.

I shall be glad to hear from you as soon as any action has been taken in this respect.

0946

(officials) ordered him not to move from his house without permission. His car was removed and his secretary was told by these M.C.O.s that instructions came from "il Comandante Generale Inglese in Sicilia". Nothing is known here of these instructions and the C.C.A.O. was not consulted.

For your information the following points from his letter are of interest:

The reconstruction of all churches, schools, and other religious institutions after their destruction by the 1906 earthquake were made possible by his personal contact with the "Capo del Governo" in 1923, the year in which Pajno became Archbishop of Messina. The obtaining of funds from the Fascist Government was necessary to accomplish his programme of giving Messina "all that was necessary to a Catholic and Italian population for the development of its spiritual life".

The Fascist Party took advantage of the special treatment afforded to the Archbishop of Messina and from that moment his relations with the "Partito" became all but friendly. He goes on to say that owing to his influence over the Catholic youth of Messina the Fascists waged a continuous battle against him and he was not able to approach the "Capo del Governo" as from 1923. He shows furthermore that whenever an opportunity arose he counteracted as much as he could the Fascist influence in Messina as he considered it opposed to the interests of the church and harmful to the Italian youth.

The Cardinal of Palermo has asked the C.C.A.O. that steps should be taken in order that the Archbishop be allowed to carry on his work undisturbed as in the past. Mons. Pajno is 75 years of age.

The C.C.A.O. has instructed me to ask you to approach Brigadier Trollop the Sub Area Commander in order that orders be given for the release of the Archbishop from this virtual imprisonment, unless, of course, there are good reasons to believe that he has been in contact with the enemy. His car is to be returned to him and apologies offered by the two M.C.O.s.

I shall be glad to hear from you as soon as any action has been taken in this respect.

Reminded sent 0151  
15.5.43  
see 34.  
L. Zerbini  
Capt.  
C.C.A.O. H.Q.

Angot/19/HQ

C.C.A.O.

(Ref.Folios 36-46)

The Archbishop of Messina has sent an emissary to the Cardinal with the attached letter for you. The Archbish. complains that on the 29th. Aug. two British Police N.C.Os' ordered him that he was not to move from his house without permission. His car was removed and his secretary was told that these orders had been issued by the "Comando Generale Inglese in Sicilia".

He goes on to state that the reconstruction of all churches and religious institutions destroyed by the earthquake of 1908 were made possible by his personal contact with the Capo del Governo in 1923. The obtention of funds from the fascist Government was necessary to ~~the~~ accomplish his programme of giving to ~~Messina~~ Messina "tutto quello che era necessario ad una popolazione cattolica ed italiana per lo sviluppo e lo svolgimento della sua vita spirituale".

The "Partito Fascista" took ~~ambrage~~ umbrage of the special treatment afforded to the Archbishop of Messina and from that moment his relations with the "Partito" became all but friendly. He goes on to prove that owing to his influence on the catholic youth of Messina the Fascists waged a continuous battle against him and he was not able to approach the "Capo del Governo" as from 1929.

Monsignore Angelo Paino became Archbishop of Messina in 1923. He is now 73 years old.

His emissary Monsignore Antonio Barbaro hopes to return to Messina bringing the news that a misunderstanding has arisen.

6/9/43.

*Ref. ad L.*  
C.C.A.O., H.Q.

3153

N. Cardinale Lavitrano  
Arcivescovo di Palermo

De  
28

Leos Mago,

Nella mia qualità di R.  
Presidente della Conferenza di tutti i Ve  
scovi della Sicilia mi fa un dovere  
di sottoporre al Vostra benevolenza e  
sua il caso doloroso di S. E. Mons.  
Mons. Luigi Pace Arcivescovo di Messina,  
uno dei Prelati più venerati e stimati  
della Sicilia e a me più cari.

Il Rev. Mons. Barbara Superiore  
del Convento, Santa Orestina  
da Mattina pastore dove sull'accaduto  
le più ampie informazioni. Pregho il V. R.  
di riferire benevolmente e a dar  
le disposizioni che stimerà più opportune.  
Sempre con ossequio e grato rispetto  
ossequiando rispettosamente

6 Set. 965

Il  
+ lo. Ant. Cavitarone Arc. D. P.

A Sua Eccellenza  
IL Governatore dei Territori Occupati  
Comando Forze Alleate

Sicilia  
=====

Eccellenza,

Domenica 29 agosto, si sono presentati alla mia attuale dimora in Messina, due sottufficiali della Polizia Inglese per comunicarmi che non potevo muovermi più di casa previa autorizzazione. Più tardi, a qualche ora di distanza, sono tornati gli stessi sottufficiali hanno portato via la automobile a mio servizio e hanno ritirato il permesso di libera circolazione, rilasciatosi dal Comando Americano.

Al mio segretario, che il giorno dopo andò in ufficio per chiedere spiegazioni delle gravi disposizioni a mio confronto, fu risposto che la Polizia locale Inglese non aveva a lamentarsi della mia condotta, ma che aveva eseguito gli ordini del Comando Generale Inglese in Sicilia, a cui avrei potuto rivolgermi per chiarimenti.

Questa è la ragione della presente lettera. Penso che il Comando Inglese sia stato indotto alle gravissime misure verso di me, da quello che possono apparire i miei rapporti col Governo Fascista. Prego anzitutto volere distinguere la persona del Capo del Governo, dal Capo del Partito Fascista.

←  
26

Nei miei rapporti queste due entità sono state sempre distinte e contrastanti.

Quando fui nominato Arcivescovo di Messina nel febbraio 1923, Messina, già distrutta dal terremoto del 28 dicembre 1908, era ancora un mucchio di rovine. Al terremoto era sopravvenuta la guerra Libica, a questa la guerra Europea, ed il Governo Italiano non aveva avuto modo e mezzi per ricostruire la città.

Bisognava ricostruire le Chiese, gli Istituti di educazione, le Opere di beneficenza, che in Italia sono stati patrimonio della Chiesa. Vi erano delle leggi che impegnavano il Governo a queste ricostruzioni, ma purtroppo esse erano insufficientissime e per giunta non venivano applicate. Nella qualità di Arcivescovo di Messina, mi presentai al Capo del Governo, il quale ebbe larga comprensione del problema che gli prospettai di una città senza Chiese, senza scuole, senza opere pie e con diversi decreti mi mise in condizione di potere eseguire un programma integrale per tutto quello che era necessario ad una popolazione cattolica ed italiana per lo sviluppo e lo svolgimento della sua vita spirituale.

Questo il motivo dei miei rapporti col Capo del Governo. Nessun Arcivescovo o Vescovo d'Italia si trovava nelle mie condizioni. La Calabria, pure colpita dallo stesso terremoto, aveva avuto degli uomini di governo (l'on. De Nava) che di essa si erano interessati sebbene con scarsissimo frutto; ma Messina non aveva avuto nessuno e per giunta le locali Amministrazioni facevano di tutto per impedire che le buone leggi emanate per il terremoto

fossero applicate.

Io non potevo restare inattivo per la ricostruzione del patrimonio Ecclesiastico di Messina; mi accorsi che era venuto il momento opportuno e lavorai con fede per una legislazione organica per le zone terremotate.

Del mio lavoro se ne avvantaggiarono i Vescovi della Calabria e delle zone che successivamente furono percorse da movimenti tellurici: la Basilicata, le Marche, la Toscana, il Napoletano. Diversi Confratelli dell'Episcopato si rivolsero a me per chiarimenti sulle varie leggi per le zone terremotate e da qui sorse la credenza popolare che l'Arcivescovo di Messina otteneva tutto dallo Stato perchè amico del Governo.

Ciò, se per un senso mi dava la soddisfazione di essere stato strumento di bene, per altro senso mi era motivo di gravi amarezze nello svolgimento del mio ministero episcopale.

Il Partito Nazionale Fascista, specialmente in Messina, malvide che ad un Vescovo fossero dati i mezzi per la formazione dell'anima giovanile cattolica di una grande città e da quel momento fino al giorno del suo inglorioso tramonto sempre mi lottò nel modo più sleale, al segno che dal 1929 in poi non mi fu più possibile avvicinare il Capo del Governo.

I Federali di Messina si assunsero il compito di contrastare e di annichilire, se fosse stato possibile, l'opera dell'Arcivescovo tanto nel campo della ricostruzione materiale, quanto in quello della ricostruzione spirituale.

Ciò benchè non sia noto in Italia ed all'Estero perchè a me non

conveniva per intuitive ragioni divulgare tale contrasto, pure è notorio a Messina e alla S. Sede, alla quale si ardì anche fare ricorso contro di me e dei miei collaboratori, minacciando che se non si fosse provveduto a normalizzare l'Azione Cattolica della Diocesi e i suoi dirigenti, lo stesso Segretario del Partito, sig. Starace, sarebbe intervenuto a normalizzarla personalmente. Le intimidazioni non potevano distogliere l'Arcivescovo dal suo programma che non era né politico, né partitistico, tanto meno fascista, ma semplicemente religioso. Il Partito Fascista però non si arrestò alle minacce:

- 1° impedì che le sezioni dei balilla in Messina avessero, come per legge, il loro cappellano;
- 2° deferì diversi capi dell'Azione Cattolica, iscritti al Partito per ragione di pane, al Consiglio di Disciplina, privandoli in seguito della tessera;
- 3° vietò ai suoi iscritti di contribuire alla beneficenza attraverso la pia Società di S. Vincenzo de Paoli;
- 4° Vietò all'unico quotidiano locale "La Gazzetta" di pubblicare gli atti di beneficenza dell'Arcivescovo di Messina. Anzi, perchè detto giornale ospitò una lettera di ringraziamento che il presidente del Monte di Pietà cittadino mi rivolgeva a nome dei poveri, ai quali avevo spignorati effetti di biancheria per 75 mila lire, l'ufficio Stampa del Partito inflisse un biasimo al giornale, solo perchè aveva ospitato quella lettera. L'ultimo Federale, che pure sembrava mite e rispettoso, non

volle accettare una elargizione di 300 metri di stoffa per bambini poveri della GIL se prima di ottenere l'autorizzazione dalle Gerarchie di Roma, ed accettandola non diede la pubblicità dovuta;

5° sopprime l'unico foglio settimanale cattolico "La Scintilla", dopo averlo fatto sequestrare parecchie volte, perchè il suo spirito non rispondeva alle direttive del Partito;

6° fece perseguitare diversi Parroci dalla questura come antifascisti e sobillatori;

7° non si invitò a partecipare all'arrivo del Capo del Governo in Messina quando questi fece il giro della Sicilia e fu esclusa dalla visita ufficiale il Duomo ricostruito, che fu la più grande opera artistica fatta in Italia sotto il Governo Fascista.

8° con azione convergente degli organi governativi di Messina: Prefettura, Genio Civile, Deputazione Politica, fece togliere 17 milioni di sussidio concessi per la ricostruzione delle Chiese e degli Istituti di beneficenza dicendo che l'Arcivescovo spendeva in opere inutili i milioni concessi dallo Stato (legge 16 luglio 1936 n.1592);

9° cercò di distruggere l'organizzazione scolastica degli Istituti religiosi in Messina, dipingendola come insincera e creata dall'Arcivescovo in opposizione al Regime;

Ad illustrare questa fiera lotta del Partito contro l'Arcivescovo basta la documentazione che si allega alla presente in copia, e che occorrendo si può produrre in originale: essa rileva solo un lato del contrasto, ma è luce per tutto il resto.

( vedi allegati NN. 1.2.3.)

(22)

Oltre ai documenti prodotti, se per ragioni di guerra non avessi dovuto mettere in salvo gli archivi, per cui al momento non possono essere consultati e trascritti, avrei potuto produrre la documentazione completa di quanto sopra ho accennato; anche dalla S. Sede si potrà avere parte notevole della documentazione, e pertanto, ove occorra, pregherei di consultarla. Messina ha vissuto questa lotta; sa come il suo Arcivescovo ha saputo resistere alla tracotanza dei così detti Gerarchi Fascisti locali, che hanno inquinato la vita pubblica ed hanno abbassato il livello della dignità umana con l'intimidazione ed il malcostume.

I miei contatti sono stati soltanto col Capo del Governo Italiano e per ragione di ufficio, mai col Partito Fascista.

La ragione di essi contatti va ricercata nella necessità che avevo di provvedere alla ricostruzione del Patrimonio Ecclesiastico di Messina, distrutto dal terremoto e non nell'adesione del mio pensiero al pensiero Fascista; adesione che si voleva dai Gerarchi in compenso delle agevolazioni statali concessemi, ma che mai diedi nè a parole, nè a manifestazioni, nè a fatti per cui fui da essi sempre contrastato.

Gli inviti alla mia Diocesi per l'offerta dell'oro alla Patria all'inizio della guerra Etiopica e per il conferimento del grano agli ammassi sono atti che ogni Vescovo d'Italia ha fatto per le necessità della Patria e per il bisogno degli umili. Ma anche in questi appelli ho manifestato il mio indirizzo: mentre da altri l'oro alla patria si portò di persona, il mio

7 (21) 39

fu mandato e di ciò se ne legnò pubblicamente il Federale di Messina e ne fece dimostranza al mio Vescovo ausiliare. Aggiungo che nella mia lettera pregavo i Parroci di presentare le offerte al Prefetto di Messina e non al Federale. Nella lettera per il conferimento del grano agli ammassi tenni saldo il principio del diritto del produttore a trattenere il necessario per i suoi bisogni.

Il provvedimento preso a mio carico ha bisogno di essere riesaminato a questa luce e di ciò prego l'eccellenza Vostra anche per evitare l'impressione sfavorevole che se ne potrebbe avere, non solo dal popolo di Messina, ma da tutti i Confratelli dell'Episcopato cattolico.

Con ossequi

Messina 1 settembre 1943

( Angelo Paino )

Arcivescovo Archimandrita di Messina

+ Mons. Angelo Paino Arc. ed Arch. di Messina

Messina, li 30 Ottobre 1938 XVII

Allegato N. 1  
20

RISERVATA

AL SEGRETARIO DEL P.N.F.

R O M A

Per la celebrazione del I° annuale della G.I.L. i direttori degli istituti religiosi e laici erano stati preavvisati dello svolgimento della cerimonia ed invitati a preparare la partecipazione delle scolaresche inquadrate.-

Avevo messo a disposizione, oltre agli insegnanti di ginnastica degli istituti stessi, degli ufficiali del Comando federale.-

La cosa, specialmente nel campo degli istituti pareggiati religiosi ha dato ai nervi a questo mondo sordo ed ostile, che subisce ma non disarmo il suo atteggiamento e il suo costante sistema ostruzionistico.

Infatti:

a) la Superiore del collegio " Buon Pastore " ne ha fatto partecipare alla cerimonia soltanto 4, " perchè tutte le altre erano sfornite dell'uniforme; b) la direttrice dell'Istituto S. Giovanni Bosco ne ha fatto partecipare 28 sopra 271 iscritte ed ha dichiarato che le interne non le avrebbe mandate; c) il collegio " Maria Ausiliatrice " non ha partecipato, " perchè tutte le alunne sono sfornite di divisa " d) soltanto 33 balilla dell'Istituto " Domenico Savio " hanno partecipato; e) dell'Istituto " S. Anna " hanno partecipato solo 32 organizzate; la superiore ha dichiarato che le interne " non potevano partecipare ".-

Lo spirito con cui i dirigenti di questi istituti hanno agito; la partecipazione degli alunni alla festa della G.I.L. si può rilevare da certi episodi del 28 ottobre, giorno nel quale parecchi istituti religiosi mandarono a spasso i ragazzi con le uniformi dei relativi collegi, accompagnati da preti e da suore. Un mio ufficiale chiedendo agli alunni dell'Istituto " Don Bosco " accertò che non vestivano la divisa perchè avevano avuto disposizione in tal senso. Questo particolare spiega tutto il resto.

A questo punto credo opportuno osservare: bisogna continuare a distribuire tessere della G.I.L. in questi ambienti sordi e refrattari, rafforzando la loro convinzione che, con la " formalità della tessera " il loro dovere verso il regime sia esaurito e possono indirizzare tutti i loro sforzi al potenziamento dell'Azione Cattolica ?

A mio avviso tale problema è molto delicato e occorre affrontarlo. Lasciando andare le cose come vanno non sfonderemo questi angoli morti e tali istituti continueranno a fiorire, grazie all'imponente attrezzatura creata coi milioni dati dal Duce.

I piccoli provvedimenti servono limitatamente : non basta adottare, per esempio, come io ho fatto, il provvedimento di negare gli insegnanti di educazione fisica da loro proposti e mandare dei nostri, che del resto vengono " tallonati " durante l'esplicazione della loro attività.-

Sto intanto procedendo al rilevamento statistico esatto degli or-

SC/RO

Roma, 27 Dicembre 1938

MINISTERO DELL' ISTRUZIONE  
NAZIONALE

Riservata

AL R. PROVVEDITORE AGLI STUDI

Prt. I5753

M E S S I N A

Allegato N. 2  
19

S.E. il Segretario del Partito ha segnalato a S.E. il Ministro la seguente comunicazione del Federale di codesta Provincia.

Sua Eccellenza mi ha incaricato di chiederVi precise e particolareggiate informazioni sulla situazione cui accenna il Federale:

" Per la celebrazione del I° annuale della G.I.L. i direttori degli istituti privati, religiosi e laici, erano stati preavvisati dello svolgimento della cerimonia ed invitati a preparare la partecipazione delle scolaresche inquadrate.

Avevo messo a disposizione, oltre agli insegnanti di ginnastica degli istituti stessi, degli ufficiali del Comando federale.

La cosa, specialmente nel campo degli istituti pareggiati religiosi ha dato ai nervi a questo mondo sordo ed ostile, che subisce, ma non disarmo il suo atteggiamento e il suo costante sistema ostruzionistico.

Infatti: a) la superiora del collegio " Buon Pastore " ne ha fatto partecipare alla cerimonia soltanto 4, " perchè tutte le altre erano sfornite di uniforme "; b) la direttrice dell' Istituto S. Giovanni Bosco ne ha fatto partecipare 28 sopra 271 iscritte ed ha dichiarato che le interne non le avrebbe mandate.

Questa gente che in mano tali istituti, è quella stessa che dà ordini nei suoi " bollettini vescovili " di boicottare gli spettacoli cinematografici all'aperto ( perchè possiede cinema e teatri nelle canoniche e nelle sedi costruite coi milioni estorti al Regime attraverso una ignobile speculazione affaristica - religiosa ); questa gente può pensare quindi di potere imporre ai giovani la non osservanza dei loro doveri di appartenenti alla G.I.L. Il 28 ottobre, dopo avere passato in rassegna coi miei collaboratori alcune modeste realizzazioni, raggiunte o in corso di realizzazione, attraverso sacrifici di ogni genere, con mezzi racimolati grazie allo spirito di solidarietà dei fascisti peloritani, ho assistito alla inaugurazione di un ennesimo edificio arcivescovile, costruito per lo sviluppo del programma di assorbimento della gioventù che va svolgendo questa curia arcivescovile: l' Istituto Antoniano, capace di 300 alunni, costato quasi 4 milioni, ( forniti dal Regime Fascista ), dotato di saloni, teatro, ecc. di cui la G.I.L., la " Pupilla del Regime ", non si è mai sognato, almeno a Messina, di vedere qualcosa di simile. L' inaugurazione è stata coronata da un sontuoso " vermouth " con paste, consumato in uno dei saloni dell' Istituto, da cui, naturalmente, si gode una bellissima vista, grazie all' ottima scelta dell' area, che, come le altre, è stata comprata dalla curia senza badare a spese: tanto i fondi erano e sono forniti dal " provvidenziale " " Regime Fascista ".

Resto in attesa di una risposta quanto possibile sollecita. -

IL CAPO DI GABINETTO  
Calamaro

Messina, li 30 Ottobre 1938 XVII

Allegato N. 1  
74  
20

RISERVATA

AL SEGRETARIO DEL P.N.F.

R O M A

Per la celebrazione del I° annuale della G.I.L. i direttori degli istituti religiosi e laici erano stati preavvisati dello svolgimento della cerimonia ed invitati a preparare la partecipazione delle scolaresche inquadrate.-

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A questo punto credo opportuno osservare: bisogna continuare a distribuire tessere della G.I.L. in questi ambienti sordi e refrattari, rafforzando la loro convinzione che, con la " formalità della tessera " il loro dovere verso il regime sia esaurito e possono indirizzare tutti i loro sforzi al potenziamento dell'Azione Cattolica ?

A mio avviso tale problema è molto delicato e occorre affrontarlo. Lasciando andare le cose come vanno non sfonderemo questi angoli morti e tali istituti continueranno a fiorire, grazie all'imponente attrezzatura creata coi milioni dati dal Duce.

I piccoli provvedimenti servono limitatamente: non basta adottare, per esempio, come io ho fatto, il provvedimento di negare gli insegnanti di educazione fisica da loro proposti e mandare dei nostri, che del resto vengono " tallonati " durante l'esplicazione della loro attività.- 5145

Sto intanto procedendo al rilevamento statistico esatto degli or-

ganizzati della G.I.L. sparsi in questi istituti: dalle prime cifre appare che il problema è molto più serio di quanto si possa pensare al primo esame. Ho disposto che siano compilati tutti i fascicoli personali di questi organizzati con tutti gli elementi per poterli guardare in trasparenza alle leve. I risultati li prevedo. Ma che colpa hanno i bambini, se l'ambiente in cui vivono e sono educati, con dovizia di mezzi e di organizzazione, è decisamente divergente da quelle che sono le nostre direttive?

Questa gente, che ha in mano tali istituti, è quella stessa che dà ordini nei suoi "bollettini vescovili" di boicottare gli spettacoli cinematografici all'aperto (perché possiede cinema e teatri nelle canoniche e nelle sedi costruite coi milioni estorti al Regime attraverso una ignobile speculazione affaristico religiosa); questa gente può pensare quindi di potere imporre ai giovani la non osservanza dei loro doveri di appartenenti alla G.I.L.

Il 28 ottobre, dopo avere passato in rassegna coi miei collaboratori alcune modeste realizzazioni, raggiunte, o in corso di realizzazione, attraverso sacrifici di ogni genere, con mezzi racimolati grazie allo spirito di solidarietà dei fascisti peloritani, ho assistito alla inaugurazione di un ennesimo edificio arcivescovile, costruito per lo sviluppo del programma di assorbimento della gioventù che va svolgendo questa curia arcivescovile: l'Istituto Antoniano, capace di 300 alunni, costato quasi 4 milioni (forniti dal Regime Fascista), dotato di saloni, teatro ecc., di cui la G.I.L., la "Pupilla del Regime", non si è mai sognato, almeno a Messina, di vedere qualcosa di simile. L'inaugurazione è stata coronata da un sontuoso "vermouth" con paste, consumato in uno dei saloni dell'istituto, da cui, naturalmente, si gode una bellissima vista sull'incantevole stretto di Messina, grazie all'oculata scelta dell'aria, che, come le altre, è stata comprata dal "provvidenziale" Regime Fascista.

Ti prego di scusare la forma di questa mia troppo lunga lettera, ma penso veramente che la misura sia colma, e che occorra intervenire energicamente, anche perché, oltre a tutto, ciò genera confusione nell'anima del popolo che fa oggetto della sua considerazione chi può raggiungere, grazie proprio al Regime, tali concrete realizzazioni.

IL SEGRETARIO FEDERALE  
( Ing. Saro Scaglione )

SC/RO

Roma, 27 Dicembre 1938

MINISTERO DELL' ISTRUZIONE  
NAZIONALE

Riservata

AL R. PROVVEDITORE AGLI STUDI

Prt. I5753

M E S S I N A

Allegato N. 2  
19

S.E. il Segretario del Partito ha segnalato a S.E. il Ministro la seguente comunicazione del Federale di codesta Provincia.

Sua Eccellenza mi ha incaricato di chiederVi precise e particolareggiate informazioni sulla situazione cui accenna il Federale:

" Per la celebrazione del I° annuale della G.I.L. i direttori degli istituti privati, religiosi e laici, erano stati preavvisati dello svolgimento della cerimonia ed invitati a preparare la partecipazione delle scolaresche inquadrate.

Avevo messo a disposizione, oltre agli insegnanti di ginnastica degli istituti stessi, degli ufficiali del Comando federale.

La cosa, specialmente nel campo degli istituti pareggiati religiosi ha dato ai nervi a questo mondo sordo ed ostile, che subisce, ma non disarmo il suo atteggiamento e il suo costante sistema ostruzionistico.

Infatti: a) la superiora del collegio " Buon Pastore " ne ha fatto partecipare alla cerimonia soltanto 4, " perchè tutte le altre erano sfornite di uniforme "; b) la direttrice dell' Istituto S. Giovanni Bosco ne ha fatto partecipare 28 sopra 271 iscritte ed ha dichiarato che le interne non le avrebbe mandate.

Questa gente che in mano tali istituti, è quella stessa che dà ordini nei suoi " bollettini vescovili " di boicottare gli spettacoli cinematografici all'aperto ( perchè possiede cinema e teatri nelle canoniche e nelle sedi costruite coi milioni estorti al Regime attraverso una ignobile speculazione affaristica - religiosa ); questa gente può pensare quindi di potere imporre ai giovani la non osservanza dei loro doveri di appartenenti alla G.I.L. Il 28 ottobre, dopo avere passato in rassegna coi miei collaboratori alcune modeste realizzazioni, raggiunte o in corso di realizzazione, attraverso sacrifici di ogni genere, con mezzi racimolati grazie allo spirito di solidarietà dei fascisti peloritani, ho assistito alla inaugurazione di un ennesimo edificio arcivescovile, costruito per lo sviluppo del programma di assorbimento della gioventù che va svolgendo questa curia arcivescovile: l' Istituto Antoniano, capace di 300 alunni, costato quasi 4 milioni, ( forniti dal Regime Fascista ), dotato di saloni, teatro, ecc. di cui la G.I.L., la " Pupilla del Regime ", non si è mai sognato, almeno a Messina, di vedere qualcosa di simile. L' inaugurazione è stata coronata da un sontuoso " vermouth " con paste, consumato in uno dei saloni dell' Istituto, da cui, naturalmente, si gode una bellissima vista, grazie all' ottima scelta dell' area, che, come le altre, è stata comprata dalla curia senza badare a spese: tanto i fondi erano e sono forniti dal " provvidenziale " " Regime Fascista ".

Resto in attesa di una risposta quanto possibile sollecita. -

IL CAPO DI GABINETTO  
Calamaro

Risposta al N°15753 del 27 dicembre 1938, XVII

Allegato N. 18

On. Capo di Gabinetto di S.E. il Ministro  
dell'Educazione Nazionale

R O M A

Ero a conoscenza delle notizie fornite dal Federale di Messina a S.E. il Segretario del Partito e avevo provveduto, per ciò che è nelle mie attribuzioni, ad eliminare gli inconvenienti lamentati.-

Nell'annuale della fondazione della GIL, pochissimi giorni dopo la riapertura delle scuole ( riapertura che in quel collegio religioso era stata anche ritardata ), gli allievi degli istituti religiosi parteciparono in numero scarso e, in gran parte sforniti della divisa dell'organizzazione giovanile, cui erano già iscritti. I dati forniti dal Federale per quel giorno sono precisi, ma non rilettano la situazione attuale.-

Gli istituti religiosi hanno già fatto, con rapidità, un tesseramento quasi totalitario ed in corrispondenza hanno obbligato gli allievi a fornirsi di divisa.-

I dirigenti di cotesti istituti sia femminili sia maschili, da me convocati, mostrano una buona volontà davvero incredibile a considerare come un ordine anche l'esortazione, da me fatta, di inquadrare la gioventù ad essi affidata nell'organizzazione del Partito.-

Essi sono allarmati dalla vigilanza istituita dal Federale, e si mostrano preoccupati di dare le più ampie prove di lealismo.-

Naturalmente le cose stanno diversamente sotto l'aspetto politico, che è quello prospettato dal Federale di Messina. Appunto perchè si tratta di lealismo, è assente quell'unità di forma e contenuto che si esprime nelle scuole di stato. Si tratta di istituti religiosi, con insegnanti e dirigenti appartenenti ad ordini religiosi, che realizzano fini cattolici, solo esteriormente piegandosi alle esigenze didattiche e politiche imposte dallo stato Fascista. Sono 31 istituti sorti tutti per opera dell'Arcivescovo di Messina, e sono dotati di immensi edifici, con mezzi didattici moderni, in condizione di ospitare circa tremila allievi con oltre settecento tra insegnanti e dirigenti, tutti appartenenti a ordini religiosi, con scuole elementari e medio d'ogni ordine. Il Regime ha generosamente dato ad essi decine di milioni. Di fronte a queste immense organizzazioni di azione cattolica, lo Stato non ha nulla. Esiste a Messina un solo Convitto laico maschile, eretto in Ente morale, il "Dante Alighieri", con circa 50 alunni.-

Gli istituti cattolici godono di un grande privilegio, che consente loro di svolgere opera di educazione e di assistenza in tutte le classi, agiate e popolari, a cui non si può nè da parte della scuola nè da parte del partito contrapporre nulla.-

Questa la situazione che il Federale di Messina ha, con squisita sensibilità, denunciato a S.E. il Segretario del P.N.F., e della quale ho fatto

schematico cenno solo per spiegare come sorpassi le mie attribuzioni il problema politico di essa pone, e che è esposto nella seconda parte del rapporto comunicatomi con la lettera cui rispondo.

Luca Sigurto  
Promotore agli studi di economia

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

c/o Headquarters, Seventh Army  
Office of the Chaplain

4th September 1943

Major General Lord Rennell of Rodd  
Chief Civil Affairs Officer  
AMGOT HQ, SICILY

7th  
Army  
Reverend R.P. Redmond, Chaplain to the Forces (R.C.) has been instructed by Right Reverend Monsignor Stapleton, S.C.F. (R.C.) G.H.Q., M.E.F. and by S.C.F. (R.C.) 8th Army, in cooperation with the American Senior Catholic Chaplain, to call upon His Eminence the Cardinal Archbishop of Palermo with reference to ecclesiastical affairs.

The Senior Chaplains have no wish to interfere in matters outside their province, but simply to offer assistance, in so far as this would be acceptable, in an important matter on which they possess technical knowledge. Difficulties have already arisen owing to individual chaplains being asked to make requests, and it is desired to avoid any such uncontrolled intervention.

His Eminence the Cardinal has raised certain clear issues with me for clarification. Since these are points affecting the Church in Sicily as a whole and not merely the City of Palermo, Father Redmond would be much obliged if he could discuss the situation with Major General Lord Rennell of Rodd personally.

Father Redmond is making this approach in the name of the Senior British and American Chaplains (R.C.) and with the sanction of His Eminence the Cardinal.

*R.P. Redmond*

(R.P. Redmond)

C.F. (R.C.) att. 8th Army  
Troops.

for S.C.F. (R.C.) 8th Army



Seen with Doc to  
Present. Over in person  
is that this represented  
an attempt on the part of  
the Chaplain to perhaps  
other to act as intermediary  
between the Church  
and AMGOT.  
declined.  
6/9

Minute. (File No. ANGOT/19/HQ)

The answer to the Reverend Riccardo Borsari will have to be somewhat carefully worded. I rather fancy that he exaggerates the inequality of treatment. Generally speaking, the Italian Governments, including the Fascist Government, have been tolerant on religious matters. The Reverend Borsari, however, touches on a number of matters that have nothing to do with Sicily at all, and proposes a programme which goes far beyond existing law and treaty. I think the answer to him should take the line that if he has any specific complaint to make on any particular issue in Sicily, it will be investigated and dealt with, but that the Allied Military Government administers the law of the land in which it operates, with only such modifications as are required by humanity and military necessity.

In other words, I think we should say that we are not prepared to comment on a programme which obviously goes far beyond anything that falls within the competence of an Allied Government but that, immediately, there is no objection to the writer visiting towns and villages provided he can find the means of transport but that he finds himself, to our regret, in the same position as the remaining four million Sicilians in difficulties occasioned by the damage wrought by war on railroads and roads and therefore postal services.

Further, if he will give particulars of the schools which did exist prior to occupation, the re-opening of teaching by ecclesiastical personnel will be considered, as has been done in the case of Catholic schools. The institution of new schools can, however, not be agreed to at this stage.

4th September 1943.

Action at 40

Let me have a diff. paper.

See 24  
14

C.C.A.C.

5141

MEMORANDUM:

Subject: Methodist Church

16  
See 33

(15)

~~32~~

1. Prior to the signing of the Concordat between the Holy See and the Italian Government (11 Feb. 1929) all Churches were treated "pari passu" and as there existed no State Church, it could be said that all Cults were tolerated provided they did not interfere in any way with the social or political activity of the nation.
2. By the signing of the Concordat, the Roman Catholic Church became the State Religion. Articles 55 to 67 of the Civil Code were either amended or abrogated, thus placing the celebration of weddings under the nominal control of the Roman Catholic Church. Marriages before a Catholic Priest became valid as soon as they were registered at the local Municipio. Civil wedding ceremonies (equivalent to marriage at the Registry) were not any longer ruled to be compulsory to insure the validity of the union between spouses.  
  
Furthermore decisions by the Ecclesiastical Courts on nullity of marriages became final as soon as they were approved by the Corte d' Appello, sitting in Camera.
3. Other Cults became known as "ammessi" (accepted) and though Article 406 of the Penal sets out the penalties to which any person reviling any of the "Culti ammessi" is liable, it also states that these penalties will be inferior to those which would be inflicted if the offence was committed against the State Religion (Art. 402-404-405 of the CP)
4. It appears therefore that if the Methodist Church is an accepted cult in the Kingdom of Italy, it should be granted similar facilities to exercise its religious activities as those enjoyed by other non statal cults.

However, as a matter of policy, and in view of the fact that

- (a) The great majority of Sicilians are Roman Catholics and the influence of the clergy is very strong.
- (b) That the programme set out in Rev. Barsari's letter is rather ambitious and may lead to serious clashes with the existing educational institutions in Sicily.
- (c) That such a state of affairs may be very detrimental to the good administration in Sicily,

Great caution should be exercised if it is contemplated to grant some or all his requests.

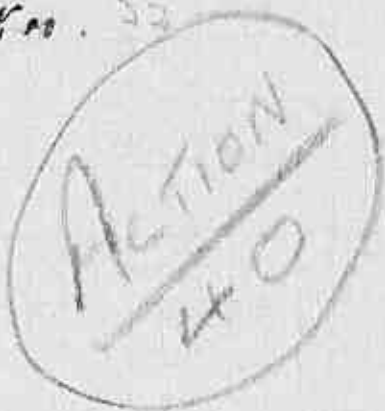
On the other hand some action should be taken to restore the freedom of belief, and Rev. Barsari given adequate facilities if his allegations are not exaggerated-

3 Sep 43

G. G. Humphrey  
I concur in the above -  
W. C. Chamberlain H. Col.  
C. L. O.  
Mayer

*Riccardo Bersani*  
*Via Rosolino Esch N. 11*  
*Palermo*

15. Agosto 1943.



Lieut Colonel, Ufficiale Superiore

CHARLES POLETTI

Addetto agli Affari Civili. PALERMO.

Il sottoscritto che fin dal 1914 appartiene al Corpo Pastorale del "METHODIST MISSIONARY COMMITTEE" di Londra; nella sua qualità di Pastore anziano, e di Ministro della DUE Chiese di Palermo, nel nome di tutti gli Evangelici della Sicilia, porge omaggio ai liberatori della Sicilia stessa.

I numerosi gruppi Evangelici della Sicilia, oltre che a Palermo, trovansi a Messina, Catania, Riesi, Sticci, Grotte, Caltanissetta, Pachino, Piazza Armerina, Palazzo Adriano, Prizzi, Bagheria, S. Flavia, Rocchicciola, S. Maria di Licodia, Vittoria, Floridia e altri gruppi sparsi.

Richiamiamo anzitutto la Vostra attenzione sul fatto che nessuna classe di persone ha sofferto, in Italia, quanto i poveri Evangelici, i quali, dopo l'alleanza politica del fascismo col Vaticano, se, prima, quando erano per legge dei "tollerati" godevano d'una limitata libertà; una volta legalmente "ammessi" non sono stati se non dei perseguitati! Pastori che non potevano ottenere l'approvazione governativa; Pastori mandati al Confino; membri perseguitati; pubblicazioni e stampe, e qualsiasi propaganda proibite; Scuole chiuse; Pastori e venditori di libri, proibiti

( 2 )

228 (13)

di visitare e persino di entrare in certi paesi e città, ecc; ecc;

Avvenuta la guerra, il governo fascista sequestrò tutti nostri Stabili e s'ipossessò di tutto il nostro danaro( compreso il fondo pensione) e ciò contro la stessa legge italiana che esime dal sequestro i beni degli enti ecclesiastici: Soltamente dopo infinite domande concedeva un insufficiente sussidio mensile!

( In un paese dell'Abruzzo( Villa S. Sebastiano ) da V E N T I anni non possiamo ancora aprire un bel Tempio, costruito con ogni approvazione ministeriale! E ciò é avvenuto per un impegno personale, preso da Mussolini per benigna concessione al Vaticano! )

PER TALE STATO DI COSE CHIEDIAMO :

- 1°. Il riconoscimento legale d'ogni nostra attività religiosa.
- 2°? Il riconoscimento legale per l'opera nostra d'insegnamento e di educazione della gioventù:
  - A) nelle nostre scuole.
  - B) nelle nostre associazioni giovanili( Y.M.C.A. e Y.W.C.A.)
- 3° Facoltà di visitare città e paesi dove abbiamo aderenti e simpatizzanti. 5138
- 4°. Facoltà di potere ( a tempo opportuno) pubblicare inviti, circolari, giornaletti religiosi, come noi Evangelici facciamo in tutto il mondo, necessari per la nostra organizzazione e per la formazione d'una coscienza cristiana.
- 5°. Nel momento attuale, dovendo il sottoscritto A ) prendere visione dei danni della guerra ai nostri Templi, e ai nostri stabili; B ) vedere se

( 5 )

M 12

i nostri Pastori sono stati colpiti, o se sono assenti, e quali siano gli attuali bisogni delle Comunità; C) riorganizzare tutto il nostro lavoro, nelle città e nei paesi sopra menzionati,

## V I S T O

- a) l'impossibilità nella quale si trova per la mancanza e delle ferrovie e persino della posta:
- b) quanto sia urgente recare a tutti i colpiti la parola del conforto e della speranza cristiana, e infondere loro fiducia nei nuovi ordinamenti delle Autorità occupanti,

C H I E D E provvisoriamente l'uso d'una piccola automobile della Croce Rossa Americana, fino a che non siano riattivate le comunicazioni.

Nella certezza che tutte queste richieste rientrano nello spirito e nelle intenzioni delle Autorità occupanti, confida che tutte gli siano concesse, per la gloria di Dio e per il bene della Sicilia e della Cristianità.

In tal modo lo scrivente può assumere di fronte alle Autorità Occupanti l'intera responsabilità che tutte le forze Evangeliche della Sicilia coopereranno all'opera di riordinamento e di rieducazione con ogni disciplina, con ogni sacrificio, e con ogni entusiasmo.

*Giuseppe...*



AMGOT/19/HQ

AMGOT HQ SICILY

1 September 1943

Memorandum to: Advisor on Fine Arts  
and Monuments.

The Archbishop has asked the C.C.A.O. what can be done about repairs to his house. The C.C.A.O. is inclined to think the palace is not in the category of monuments which we are undertaking to preserve, but would like to have you make an inspection and report.

Will you, therefore, get in touch with the Archbishop and arrange to go through the palace with him.

C. S. O.

See folio 47

Will endeavor  
to have have  
already tried and  
without success  
21 Sept. 43.

5136

(10)

Rep. <sup>6</sup>79. Law Man. Nicoletti. He is not as young as he was. Except for offering the services of the Ecclesiastical Orders of Knighthood for public work and expressing the hope that we would stay here and run Sicily for good he had nothing much to say.

I presented him Albrecht's compliments and asked him whether his Orders of Knighthood would help look after Bzoid epidemics at Rosolino & Faigiana. He (if he understood my suggestion) did not seem very enthusiastic about my proposals. But he did promise to write to the Bishop of Trapani (who is somewhat an invalid) to see what he could do to help.

Nice kind man - but no longer young.

23/8

5135

P/A 2/8/8

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

MONS. CAV. DI GR. CRL. FRANCESCO NICOLETTA  
PRELATO COMMISSARIO DI VITA SANTITÀ

Major Military Assistant to Chief  
Civil Affairs

I shall come at 4 o' clock. this afternoon

With kindest regards

Palermo August 23rd 1943

5134

*Mrs. Nicoletta*

*Reginly*  
*Pl. letter here to file containing Mgr Nicoletta's*  
*letter. DGP*

785015

Subject:- Visits

AMGOT/219/HQ.

AMGOT H.Q.

SICILY

23 Aug. 43.

Mons. Gran Cordone Francesco Nicoletti di Mileato,  
Prelato Domestico di Sua Santita,  
Palermo.

Monsignore,

Major-General Lord Rennell has unexpectedly returned this morning, and he would be most grateful if you could come and visit him at this office this afternoon any time between 2-30 and 5 o'clock.

I should be glad if you could give bearer written answer.

*D. G. V.*  
Major,  
Military Assistant,  
to Chief Civil Affairs Officer.

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785015

00  
Subject:- Visits.

00 1089  
AMCOT/18/HQ.

21 Aug 43.

Mons. Gian Cordone Francesco Nicoletti di Mileto,  
Prelato Domestico di Sua Santita,  
Palermo.

Monsignore,

I am directed by Major General The Lord Rennell  
of Rodd to thank you for your letter of the 20th August, and  
to inform you that he regrets that he will be unable to  
receive you on Monday 23rd, as he will be absent from Palermo.

He is, however, looking forward to meeting you  
as soon as possible after his return, of which I will advise  
you in due course.

*DPF*  
Major,  
Military Assistant,  
to Chief Civil Affairs Officer.

AMCOT H.Q.  
15 Army Group.

*Transferred from  
file 18/HQ See  
index of MG Pivetti  
folios 33-34 of 18/HQ.*

*B/u 248*  
3132

Mc 3. GRAN CORDONE FRANCESCO NICOLETTI DI MILETO  
PRELATO DOMESTICO DI SUA SANTITÀ

NNI

To His Excellence  
Major General the Lord Lannall

P A L E R M O

Excellence , Let me thank You , before all , for the conver =  
sation You will kindly allow me to have with You on next Mon =  
day in which I hope to give my modest contribute to the big  
civilisation building the Allied Nations are going to edify .

In my augurial welcome to His Excellence Alexander  
I have already stated that the first title I honor myself of  
is that of having been the first and open enemy of fascistic  
oppression which had, from my just and ready reaction the  
first defeat in Italy .

Italian as well as foreign most important papers  
have all acknowledged the right to existence , both juridical  
and moral , of the autonomous , equestrial , hospitable Orders ,  
of the Assistance Institutions I had presided and directed dur =  
ing european conflagration and after . Fascism , in its fascistic  
destructive principles looked at them all suspiciously as they  
had been recognized and praised by Liberal Governments and by  
the Holy See as well as by foreigner personalities of character  
opposit to fascism .

In 1922 I have come out victor from the attack that  
Mussolini raised against the Order of the Immaculate through I =  
talian Magistrature , an order that had done so much from 1915 to  
1919 on behalf of It. Government in concentration fields , in  
Hospitals to the advantage of fighters and their families and of  
philantropic youthful institutions . I have vanquished the tythanic  
persecution of Mussolini , of that unconscious monster , in law =  
suits , in Tribunals , in Cassation , and in public debates . Fa =  
scist Government was obliged to capitulate in public ad to show  
a good face to adverse fortune , or, better to say , to the holy  
right to free existence of every honest, beneficent institution.

As I have already written to His Exc. Alexander , I  
put at disposal of the Hon. Representatives of Allied Nations , my  
own person and my Institutions which during fascism were compelled  
to limitate their activity to avoid collaboration with Fascistic  
works . Above mentioned institutions ( and if You will allow it  
I shall verbally refer about them ) are : Immaculate Hospitable  
Order of which I am the Chief . The Sacred Costantinian Hospi =  
table Order of which I am the Prior and General Commissary . The  
Sicilian College for Literary Education that , for 20 years long ,  
has been a seminary of youthful formation and of which I am the  
founder and Rector . All members of these Institutions, from the  
most Illustrious Knights , Dames and Chaplains to the humblest ser  
vants of the College Siciliano , never gave their name to Fasci =  
stic Government . Although obliged to it by law none of them ever  
had a tally ( tessera ) .

I hope I have not troubled You too much with this  
presentation that I send in English translation , so that, not  
knowing myself Your language, may be clearer to You .

With regards

Yours truly

Palermo August 20th 1943

*mom. Nicoletti*

785015

SUBJECT:-- Bishops.

AMGOT/19/100.

19. Aug. 43.

G.O.A.O. CATANIA.

Monsignore Fr. LEONIA S.A., Bishop of Catania, is one of four Bishops recommended to General Alexander by the Bishop of Gibraltar.

AMGOT H.Q.,  
15 Army Group.

*hu*  
THOMAS M. SPURFORD.  
Lt. Col. G.O.A.  
Chief Staff Officer.

5130

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*20/8*  
*69*

835

SUBJECT:- Bishops.

AMCOT/19/HQ.

S.C.A.C. ITIA.

19. Aug. 43.

Monsignore Fr. AIDMO, Bishop of Nicosia, is one of four Bishops recommended to General Alexander by the Bishop of Gibraltar.

AMCOT H.Q.,  
15 Army Group.

*SK*  
CHARLES M. STOFFORD.  
Lt. Col. G.S.C.  
Chief Staff Officer. 5129

SUBJECT: Bishops.

S.C.A.O. SYRACUSE.

AMGOT/19/119.

12. Aug. 43.

Monsignore DAVANZINI, Archbishop of Syracuse, is one of four Bishops recommended to General Alexander by the Bishop of Gibraltar.

AMGOT H.Q.,  
15 Army Group.

*Sp*  
CHARLES M. STOWFORD.  
Lt. Col. G.S.C.  
Chief Staff Officer. 3128

8  
SUBJECT:- Bishops.

*File*  
ANGOT/19/HQ.

19. Aug. 43.

S.C.A.O. NOTO.

Monsignore ANGELO GALARRITTA, Bishop of Noto, is one of four Bishops recommended to General Alexander by the Bishop of Gibraltar.

ANGOT H.Q.,  
15 Army Group.

*S*  
CHARLES M. SPOTFORD.  
Lt.Col. G.S.C.  
Chief Staff Officer.

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**SECRET EQUALS BRITISH MOST SECRET**  
AFHQ MESSAGE CENTER  
**INCOMING MESSAGE**

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AFSC N 1053/29  
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**PRIORITY**

FROM: AQWAR SIGNED MARSHALL

TO : EISENHOWER

NO : 3691 29 July 43.

Cardinal Secretary of State has informed the State Department through the Apostolic delegate in WASHINGTON that the POPE has requested that steps be taken to assure regular and safe postal communication, as well as telegraphic and radio contact, between the ecclesiastical government in SICILY and the Holy See. There are 5 Archbishops and 14 Bishops in SICILY. The request urges that the POPE'S "Right to communicate with these Bishops be respected." Can you suggest a means whereby this request may be granted, possibly via ALGIERS?

The Cardinal Secretary of State also requests the cooperation of the UNITED STATES government for establishment and operation in SICILY of the Vatican information service. They are receiving innumerable requests from SICILIANS on ITALIAN mainland for information concerning their families in SICILY. They suggest this service might operate in same manner as is now done in TRIPOLI-TANIA. State department suggests possibly Monsignor CARROLL now in ALGIERS might be of assistance in this matter.

ACTION: MIL GOV SEC

INFORMATION: SGS  
RECORDS  
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MC IN 13449

30 JULY 43

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