

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

ACC

10000/101/227

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SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES IN AXIS OCCUPIED
COUNTRIES
JUNE - SEPT. 1944

RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
R.C. A.M.E. Section
Patriots Branch
APO 394

Ref 46/14/PAT.

22 August 1944.

Speech made by Colonel C.D. MC CARTHY, Patriots Branch
at Regional Commissioners' Conference 22 Aug. 1944.

1. Patriot Bands many of which are large and highly organized bodies have been created in various centres of German occupied territory in Italy and have received considerable encouragement and active help and instructions from the Allied Command. It is therefore clearly one of our chief tasks to look after the individual members of these bands when their fighting is over and in this connection it has been laid down by A.A.I. that bands must not accompany the Allies forward out of their own areas.

The Patriots Branch of A.C.C. was formed early in July as a result of an instruction from A.A.I. and is responsible for all dealings with Resistance Groups as soon as the territory in which they have been operating is liberated by our troops.

2. In all dealings care is taken to distinguish between bogus Patriots and genuine patriots who are defined as being those in the ranks of genuine fighting bands who have carried arms, engaged in sabotage or secured important military information to the benefit of the Allied War effort. It must be remembered that these genuine patriots have in very many cases lived extremely precarious lives, suffered considerable casualties and been a very great nuisance to the enemy. Let us not forget that they have been living under the black cloud of torture and death not only for themselves but also for their families. I will read you the text of a German Order signed for the Commander in Chief of the German Armed Forces and found in the SWERLING area in mid-July:

ONE. Whoever is found in possession of arms or explosives and does not report them to the nearest German Headquarters WILL BE SHOT.

TWO. Whoever gives shelter to bandits, protects them or gives them clothing, food or arms..... WILL BE SHOT.

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ONE. Whoever is found in possession of arms or explosives and does not report them to the nearest German Headquarters WILL BE SHOT.

TWO. Whoever gives shelter to bandits, protects them or gives them clothing, food or arms..... WILL BE SHOT.

THREE. If it is found that anyone knows a group of rebels or even a single rebel without having reported them to the nearest Headquarters, he..... WILL BE SHOT.

FOUR. Whoever gives information to the enemy or to the bandits on the location of German Headquarters or military dumps... WILL BE SHOT.

FIVE. Any village where it can be proved that there are bandits or where attacks against German or Italian soldiers have been made, or where acts of sabotage intended to damage or destroy warlike stores, have taken place.... WILL BE BOMBED TO THE GROUND. However, male inhabitants of the village over 18 years old... WILL BE SHOT. Women and girls will be interned in labour camps.

There is no doubt that many patriots have acted with extreme bravery and courage and a note of their activities has been prepared and is available to those who would like to read it.

3933

/3. May

3. Many ~~numbers~~ have been added of the political tendencies of the bands. After spending a large number of patriots in various corners of the country I personally feel that in the great majority of cases these men have been fighting first to defeat the Germans, second to destroy Fascism and third in the case of some of them, to build up a new Italy. Most of them have at this stage of the war very little idea of the aims and ambitions of the six political parties in Italy but they are keenly alive to the fact that something drastic must be done about politics in the very near future and being mostly young and active men they are keenly susceptible to influence and require a lead from the Italian Government. Some of them will undoubtedly be of importance in the new Italy and they are a great responsibility for us all.

4. Plans have been drawn up for dealing with patriots. A message in poster form signed by General Alexander has been distributed in various areas, a form of certificate of merit has been approved and certification have been sent to Regions and to the 5 and 3 Armies for distribution. Although many patriots are used for a short while by the Army in their own area as guides and patrols and for reconnaissance work, the intention generally is to direct nearly all of them into civil life. About 50% return to their own homes and occupation locally. Of the remainder some will be used for police duties or as drivers, others will be employed on engineering work, and on mine clearance; and arrangements have been made for recruiting and passing back volunteers for service in the Italian Army and Air Force. Criminal convictions are being set up to assist Provincial Commissioners in this work, and to help feed out bogus applicants among the genuine patriots. The problems of collecting and disposing of the patriots' arms is in hand. The arms will be used for future operations as directed by A.A.I.

5. Reports are being received from Patriot Representation and from the leaders of the Patriot bands. Information from these reports is extracted and passed on when relevant, for use by P.R.O., P.W.S. and by the press. Italian newspapers are closely scrutinized. Information is being collected about conditions in enemy occupied territory in order that suitable plans can be made for handling patriot problems in that territory when it has been liberated.

6. Liaison is maintained with the Italian Ministry of War through an Italian Liaison Officer who is responsible for coordinating the work of the two groups which are recognized - the O.I.L. Group and the Military Centre Group.

7. Directions have been issued as required in agreement with A.A.I. and other authorities. It is their duty that the task of ensuring that these directions are acted upon by Allied officers concerned and by the leaders of the patriot bands is well in hand. The broad political aspect of the patriot problem has been covered constantly in mind, and very close

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5. Reports are being received from Patriot Representatives and from the leaders of the Patriot Union, information from whose reports is extracted and passed on when relevant, for use by P.R.O., P.R.E. and by the press. Italian newspapers are closely scrutinized. Information is being collected about conditions in enemy occupied territory in order that suitable plans can be made for handling Patriot problems in that territory when it has been liberated.

6. Liaison is maintained with the Italian Ministry of War through an Italian senior officer who is responsible for coordinating the work of the two groups which are recognized - the C.I.I. Group and the Military Centre Group.

7. Directives have been issued as required in agreement with A.A.I. and other authorities. It is felt to say that the task of ensuring that these directives are acted upon by Allied officers concerned and by the leaders of the patriot bands is well in hand. The broad political aspect of the patriot problem has been borne constantly in mind, and very close liaison is being maintained with those Allied officers who are concerned with the political future in Italy.

8. The patriot question is very much in the news at present and I am bombarded with questions about what we are likely to find on the other side of the line. To have a fairly good idea and I am endeavouring to furnish this information when it is essential to do so. At the same time I am endeavouring to see that those on the other side of the line are properly informed about what is going on this side of the line. I would like in conclusion to take this opportunity to thank the press, P.R.O. and P.W.R. for the active cooperation given in recent weeks and for the manner in which publicity has been treated. The power of the press is tremendous in this present era of the patriot movement; and we must remember that the Germans are spreading propaganda against us as energetically as they can. I am trying to help in this firstly by ensuring that the proper arrangements are made for their welcome on this side of the line and secondly by taking care that they shall be informed immediately that that welcome will be.

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
INTERIOR SEC COMMISSION
APO 394

95/Pat

SUBJECT: Formation of Italian Patriot Committee

TO: Distribution below.

16.9.44.

Asst. Sec.	Asst. Sec.
Asst. Sec.	Asst. Sec.
Asst. Sec.	Asst. Sec.

The Italian Government have set up an Italian Patriot Committee under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister with the following terms of reference:-

1. The Commission will be called "Commissione per i Patrioti"
2. It will be presided over by the Prime Minister and, in his absence, the Under Secretary of State to the Presidency.
3. The members will be:-

H.E. Mario P. LETTO, Under Secretary of State for War.

H.E. Giuseppe SP. L. RO, Under Secretary of State for Press and Information.

Dr. B. JER or other representatives of the C.L.N.

General ONDOME (Military)

4. The directives of the Commission will be carried out by a corresponding "Ufficio Patriote". The work will be undertaken by military and civilian personnel.
5. The head of this, Lt. Col. B. L. RO, will also be Secretary of the "Commissione".

In their relations with the Allied Control Commission and the Regions, this Committee will deal with the Patriot Branch of the RC and MG Section. Officers of this Commission will reciprocally deal with this Italian Patriot Committee through the Patriot Branch and not direct.

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General ODDONE (Military)

4. The directives of the Commission will be carried out by a corresponding "Ufficio Patriote". The work will be undertaken by military and civilian personnel.

5. The head of this, Lt. Col. BATTALBO, will also be Secretary of the "Commissione".

In their relations with the Allied Control Commission and the Regions, this Committee will deal with the Patriot Branch of the RC and IAG Section. Officers of this Commission will reciprocally deal with this Italian Patriot Committee through the Patriot Branch and not direct.

MSL

(M.S. LUSH) Brigadier, Executive Commissioner.

Distribution:

C (Group 1)

3932

~~SECRET~~Headquarters,
Allied Armies in Italy.

43/15(Ops)

22 June 44

091.411

*Subversive activities in
axis occupied countries*

A.C.C.	(5)
Army Sub Commission	(5)
Fifth Army	(100)
AMG Fifth Army	(5)
Eighth Army	(100)
AMG Eighth Army	(5)
2 Polish Corps	(20)
O.S.S.	(5)
No. 1 Special Force	(5)
P.W.B.	(5)

At a meeting held at ACC in Rome 21 June, it was decided that the following agencies responsible for the organization of resistance groups, namely:

OS5
No. 1 Special Force.
National Committee of Liberation
and Italian Military Organisation for Central Italy,

would provide representatives to go forward and attach themselves to AMG with both Fifth and Eighth Armies. These representatives will be given passes by this Headquarters initially to report to AMG. Thereafter, armies will issue the necessary passes so that they can circulate freely within the army areas.

These representatives will act as Liaison Officers between AMG and the resistance group leaders. It is not possible to disclose the names of the resistance group leaders before the territory is liberated by the forward troops, firstly, on account of security, and secondly, because in many cases they are only known by code words. The representatives, however, will be able to establish their identity, and this will lead to the identification of the sub-leaders in the outlying districts.

ACC, dealing through AMG with both armies, will be responsible for all dealings with resistance groups as soon as the territory in which they have been operating is liberated by our troops. In principle, AMG will use the existing resistance group organization to gain their cooperation in handing in their arms and returning to their normal life in liberated Italy. Troops will be instructed, except in cases of necessity, not to discern the patriots or to have direct dealings with them. They should be directed to contact the AMG organization.

At a meeting held at AGC in Rome 21 June, it was decided that the following agencies responsible for the organization of resistance groups, namely:

OSS

No. 1 Special Force.

National Committee of Liberation

and Italian Military Organization for Central Italy,

would provide representatives to go forward and attach themselves to AMF with both Fifth and Eighth Armies. These representatives will be given passes by this Headquarters initially to report to AMF. Thereafter, armies will issue the necessary passes so that they can circulate freely within the army areas.

These representatives will act as Liaison Officers between AMF and the resistance group leaders. It is not possible to disclose the names of the resistance group leaders before the territory is liberated by the forward troops, firstly, on account of security, and secondly, because in many cases they are only known by code words. The representatives, however, will be able to establish their identity, and this will lead to the identification of the sub-leaders in the outlying districts.

AGC, dealing through AMF with both armies, will be responsible for all dealings with resistance groups as soon as the territory in which they have been operating is liberated by our troops. In principle, AMF will use the existing resistance group organization to gain their cooperation in handing in their arms and returning to their normal life in liberated Italy. Troops will be instructed, except in cases of necessity, not to disarm the patriots or to have direct dealings with them. They should be directed to contact the AMF organization.

AGC, in conjunction with FMB, will arrange for the production of suitable posters to be put up in the towns and villages, thanking the patriots for the good work they have done to hasten their liberation, calling upon the leaders to contact AMF to receive instructions about where and when to hand in their arms so that these may be dropped without delay on other patriots in the North to carry on the good work.

AGC will provide a suitably worded document, thanking the patriot for his good work and at the same time acting as a receipt for the arms he hands in.

Most patriots will wish to return to their normal occupations. They should be encouraged to do so. There will be some, however, whose homes are in Northern Italy and who will require subsistence. These will be directed by AMF to camps to be established by AGC in the East and West sectors.

3931
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Use will, of course, be made by military personnel of any information which the patriots can give, but military personnel will not employ patriots in any fighting role once they have been liberated.

It is emphasized that military personnel must not become involved in problems raised by resistance group leaders or patriots, and no promises will be made to them. They will in all cases be referred to JAG with whom the representatives of the various organizations will be working in close touch.

HRM/JH

LT. Gen.
Chief of General Staff.

AF Handing

