

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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108-News Clippings Regarding
Italian Labor Questions

22P.

785016

Italian Unionists Ask CIO, AFL Aid

BARI, Feb. 4.—The Italian General Confederation of Laborers, recently reestablished after 20 years of underground existence, today asked the American Federation of Labor and the Congress of Industrial Organizations for aid and representation to help it in the rebuilding of Italian trade unionism.

The request came in the Italian confederation's reply to messages of greetings from the two American labor groups. The messages were sent last week while the confederation met at a conference in Bari attended by more than 500 delegates from trade unions both in southern Italy and in Nazi-occupied regions.

STARS and STRIPES
6/2/44 Naples
103

2833

Bari Congress Re-Establishes Labor Confederation

BARI, February 3rd ---The Italian General Confederation of Laborers, newly reestablished after 20 years of underground existence, today asked the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organization to send representatives to Italy to aid the rehabilitation of Italian trade unionism.

The request came in the Italian Confederation's reply to a message of greeting from the two American Labor organizations, sent on the occasion of the Liberation Congress in Bari last week.

The Italian Confederation, in its message to the A.F.L. and C.I.O. said: "We ask you, our American fellow workers, to help us. Send to Italy some representatives of yours to help us in our reorganization and in defeating the remnants of Fascism, who still attempt to survive by hiding themselves under a Government which taken no thought for the recovery of Italy."

The message from Italian Labor said: "The fall of Fascism was due mainly to the opposition of the Italian working classes, who fought Fascism through strikes and unrest, desertions from compulsory trade unions, opposition to the war and to the slaughter of fellow workers of other countries."

The Italian General Confederation of Labor held a meeting in Bari simultaneously with the Congress of Liberation Committee, January 28th and 29th. It decreed the reestablishment of the General Confederation which existed in pre-Fascist Italy. More than 500 delegates from Trade Unions of liberated regions, as well as from German occupied regions, attended the Congress. The Confederation named as its officers three Italian Labour Leaders who were active before Mussolini came to power and who are now in occupied territory. Bruno BUZZI was named President Giovanni RIVEDA, who has been imprisoned by the Germans for anti-Nazi activity in Rome, was named Vice President; Achille GRANDI was chosen Secretary. It was decided that the Headquarters of the Confederation would eventually be Rome, and temporarily in Bari.

A provisional Executive Committee has been named to serve since the three regular officers are in German occupied territory.

During their meeting here, the Confederation paid tribute to fellow workers in Russia, Great Britain, America, Yugoslavia, Greece and Occupied Italy.

Handwritten signature or initials

2832

PWB · NAPLES
3/11/44 PBE
7108

Single Italian Labor Organization Proposed

NAPLES, February 6--- Enrico Russo, formerly secretary of the Italian Engineering Workers Union, planned today to visit Bari on Monday with the view of reaching an agreement with Bari labor leaders on the organization of a united labor movement within all of liberated Italy.

This was reported by Cecil Sprigge, Reuters special correspondent, who talked at length with leaders of both the Bari labor movement and representatives of the Naples labor movement.

The newspaper correspondent said that he had been unable to discover any real differences in the policy of the two organizations. Leading trade union leaders of the Naples area, Sprigge added, met Friday at TORRE ANNUNZIATA to discuss developments following the trade Union Congress held earlier last week in Bari.

"Naples trade unionist recognize the authority of the Bari Congress," continued Sprigge, "but they claim that an authentic Italian General Labor Confederation has already been established in Naples." (FWB). *Albert J. ...*

PWB Naples
5-2-44 PHS
6-2-44
108

785016

RADIO ROME

ITALIAN

2300

February 6

A clear picture of the chaos produced in Italy by the Anglo-American occupation has been given Reuters:
"Bad humor between different organizations have been noted. The institution of an organization for the union of work in south Italy is going to be effected by the working men in the syndicates of Naples. After the congress which recently met in Bari and the workers of Naples recognized its authority but said that a general organization of work was already started in Naples. The secretary of the workers of Naples will soon go to Bari to have an interview with the director of that organization in order see if a junction cannot be made between the two organizations. At present there are two general work confederacies. One was instituted since February 1st in Naples and the other recently in Bari. This dualism cannot simplify the solution of the problems of the workers".

PWB Naples
6-2-44 PBS
108

2830

ITALIAN LIBERATED TERRITORY
(TRADE UNIONS)

9-2-44

Mr. R. Davies asked the Secretary of State for War if he is now able to state whether any trade unions are functioning in the territories liberated by the Allied Forces on Italian soil; and whether they are free to function on the lines of the British model.

Mr. A. Henderson: The information at present available is incomplete, but I know that over 100 non-Fascist labour unions are functioning in the parts of Italy liberated by the Allied Forces. These unions are free to function on democratic lines, although I am not in a position to say that they follow exactly the British model. They are, however, officially recognised for purposes of collective bargaining.

C O P Y

108

(Parliamentary Debates)
(Hansard)
(108)

LIBERATED TERRITORIES
Trade Unions

19-1-44

Mr. Rhys Davies asked the Secretary of State for War whether wage-earners in Sicily and Southern Italy and other territories liberated by the forces of the United Nations are allowed to form trade unions; and whether such organizations are now functioning in any of those parts.

Sir J. Grigg: The answer to the first part of the Question is Yes, Sir. I am now making inquiries about the second part.

C O P Y

(Parliamentary Debates)
(Hansard)
(108)

Rash Zaren. 24

GENEVA: The English newspaper "Daily Worker" sharply criticizes American methods in the persecution of war. This paper states that the Americans have reached a ~~dead~~ end in strategical and political objectives.

In the mountains of Italy, American troops, in spite of their numerical and material superiority, have been forced to a standstill. The American Administration in occupied regions, has nothing in common with democratic principles, proclaimed by the American government.

Italian people are hungry. Italian industry is a total collapse. In the city of Naples, there are over 100,000 unemployed.

UN-News Service
PWB Naples
11-2-44 PBS
108

2827

WORLD NEWSLIBERATED ITALYITALY: Labor Confederation at Salerno to Select Operating Committee

SALERNO, February 19: Selection of a provisional operating committee of fifteen members to function until Rome is freed and development of plans to fuse their organization with other groups representing Italian labor in liberated Italy are among the chief objects of the three-day session of the General Confederation of Labor meeting here. Leaders of the Confederation disclosed these plans at the second day's session got under way today.

While one of the aims of the congress is to lay the groundwork for the solution of labor problems without regard to politics, it was pointed out that the gathering is backed by three large political groups - the Action Party, the Communist Party, and the Socialist Party. Each of three sessions has as its presiding officer an official of one of these parties.

Yesterday, Costantino Sciucca, of Naples, representing the Socialist Party, had the chair and today's session was conducted under the chairmanship of a member of the Communist Central Executive Committee at Rome - unidentified except through the pseudonym "Vittoria." Tomorrow, Dino Gentili, Naples member of the Action Party, will preside.

The position of trade unions in a liberated Italy was outlined to the Confederation today in an address by Enrico Russo of Naples, Provisional General Secretary. Mr. Russo saluted the Allied forces as the liberators of Italian workers from Nazism and Fascism. Italian labor must realize, he stated, that work for all and peace for all depends on collaboration by the workers.

The main expression of co-belligerency on the part of the workers necessarily must fall in economic fields and each individual must do everything possible to increase war production, Mr. Russo declared. "The future of Italy depends on the workers," the Secretary General said, "and we urge their unity without regard to politics."

The question of hunger is very difficult to solve and labor must cooperate to solve it, he added.

Vincenzo Avagliano, President of the Committee of National Liberation in Salerno, and Raffaele Fetti, Director of the Labor Office of Salerno province, welcomed the Confederation to their city.

Five of the fifteen places on a provisional Secretariat for the General Confederation now will be reserved for representatives of the rival trade union group which met at Bari on January 28.

This plan to fuse the two organizations was announced late today.

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This plan to fuse the two organizations was announced late today by Dino Gentili, a representative from Naples, who said the c 2826 is expected to act on it Sunday.

Revival of the trade union publication BATTAGLIE SINDACALI as the official organ of the congress was announced by Flacido Valenza, chairman of the press committee.

The labor paper, founded in Rome in 1919, was suspended by Fascist authorities in 1924. It will be edited under the direction of Mr. Russo. The first copy of the renewed publication will be distributed at the concluding session of the congress Sunday, Valenza added. (F42)

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

UN-News Service
FNB Naples
19-2-44 PBS
108

2825

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LIBERATED ITALY

Feb 20

Trade Unions As Return Of Anti-Fascist Exiles And Italian Prisoners Of War.

SALERNO, February 20.--Trade unionists represented in the General Confederation of Labor, in concluding their three-day meeting here Sunday, asked that all anti-Fascist exiles now abroad and all prisoners of war desiring to fight against Fascism and Hitlerism be allowed to return to Italy at once.

"Today more than ever", declared the labor congress, Italy has need of all of her strength. Many of her sons, among them the best, are found in exile because of Fascism. Hundreds of thousands of Italian youth are today prisoners of war.

"Interpreting the unanimous wish of their families, the Congress asks that they be given the means of returning to their own Italy, where one and all will be able to make an important contribution to the fight for liberty and national independence."

In its concluding session held in the Verdi Theater the congress elected a Provisional Directorate Council of twelve to function until home is freed and a nation-wide permanent organization can be set up. Seven of the council are from the western part of Liberated Italy while the other five are the same executive committeemen named on January 28 at the similar trade union congress held Bari. Headquarters of the Provisional Council were set up in Naples' with Enrico Russo as provisional general secretary.

In other resolution adopted the congress reaffirmed its desire to establish direct contact with trade union groups in the United Nations and delegated Dino Gentili of Naples to proceed at the earliest possible moment to England where he may effect the participation of Italian labor in the forthcoming World Court of Labor.

In appointing a three-man liaison committee to work with the Executive Commission of the Committee of National Liberation, the congress urged the liberation committee to realize without further delay "an Extraordinary Government which will assume all the powers of the State pending the convening of a National Constituent Assembly upon the cessation of hostilities."

Marcello Marrone, Dino Gentili and Costantino Sciucca were named to work with the executive body for the six political parties represented in the Committee of National Liberation.

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In two additional resolutions the congress expressed fraternal union with the Catholic workers of Italy represented in the Democratic Christian Party and (2) called for a transformation of the economic society of Italy through the socialization of the means of production and exchange.

Following a talk Sunday morning by Dino Gentili, a comprehensive program outlined by him was adopted by the congress.

This Gentili program calls for the participation of Italian labor on the side of the Allies through voluntary action, although it is said that this cannot be realized in full "until after the resolution of the political crisis and the setting up of a government expressive of the popular will."

points in the Gentili program include need for establishing joint production committees of workers and management in Italian industry "similar to those in existence in countries of the United Nations;" the reopening of all essential industries; the adjustment of wages and salaries to the cost of living, and (the successful prosecution of) the fight against inflation and against the black market all of which are said to be necessary to the solution of the Italian economic crisis.

The provisional Directing Council comprises Vincente Iorio, Enrico Rasso, Costantino Sciucosa, Din. Gentili, Vincenzo Belli, Arminio Antoni, and Bosso Vincenzo as well as the Bari executive committee already named; Raffaele Pastore, Vito Papalizio, Eugenio Lericchiate, Giovanni Schirano and A. Gento. (PWB).

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La Guardia Writes Count Sforza on Free Italy

NEW YORK, February 20.-- Following is a translation of excerpts from the letter sent last week by Major LA GUARDIA of New York City to Count Carlo Sforza in Italy.

"Dear friend:

"I have not heard from you directly since you left. We are all anxious to get news of the conditions of the Italian people in liberated Italy.

"No, for our part, fail to understand the political situation in Italy.

As you know, the policy of our government is that the permanent form of Italy's government and economy must be left entirely to the decision of the Italian people.

"The provisional government could very well provide for the needs of the moment as well as for proving the plans of the country's future economy. To be able to do this the provisional government should have complete freedom of action. It should not be obstructed by anything that favors of the defunct Fascist regime.

"Personally, I think that the King should be dismissed, either because he deserves a rest or because the country needs one. The important thing is that his be a real retirement, so that he would no longer have a voice in the country's affairs.

"The affairs of the country, even during the provisional government period, should be run in the name of the free Italian people. All public property would have to be administered in the name of the Italian people. Plans for the trial and punishment of war criminals should also be prepared.

"I feel certain that

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"Personally, I think that the King should be dismissed, either because he deserves a rest or because the country needs one. The important thing is that his be a real retirement, so that he would no longer have a voice in the country's affairs.

"The affairs of the country, even during the provisional Government period, should be run in the name of the free Italian people. All public property would have to be administered in the name of the Italian people. Plans for the trial and punishment of war criminals should also be prepared.

"I feel certain that you know me well enough that I do not need to assure you that I am now trying to impose my ideas on you. I am only trying to express the feeling of all the friends of Italy who love freedom. "The world is anxiously awaiting a proclamation by the Italian people saying that by the wish of the people, Italy is free" (OWI).

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Purge of Pro-Fascists, Pro-Nazi Planned

NAPLES, February 20--Reuters correspondent Cecil Spriggs reports that the BALDISSI cabinet has decided to appoint a high commissioner for national purges. (Purges means nazis). This commissioner will have the powers to investigate the political records of all persons publicly or privately accused of pro-Fascism or pro-Naziism. The commissioner will also have the power to arraign such persons before the courts on the charges of conspiracy against the nation or offenses against national security, the charges to be made under civil and military codes respectively.

Extract of Monthly Report of January 1944 for a Region II,
Allied Control Commission.

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LABOR

B-66 The task of establishing provincial Labor offices in each of the six provinces was completed early in January. These offices are now staffed and operating. In addition, the Director of Matera Province was appointed Regional Director. General Order No. 17 has been posted throughout the Region, and the organization of trade unions is beginning. Labor cases are being presented to the provincial officials. It was decided that small cases such as those involving small amounts of back pay may be tried in the civilian courts. It has been found necessary to warn the civilians that the conduct of political agitation and meetings under the guise of Labor organizations will not be permitted. It has also been found necessary to issue instructions that Labor unions restricted to members of any one party are not in accordance with AMG policy. They have been informed that membership in a labor union must be open to any qualified workers.

One or two cases have been found where quick-witted people with criminal records have been endeavoring to exploit workmen and create trouble for their own benefit. In the Comune of Venosa, Potenza Province, a Camera del Lavoro, with a membership of 700 people, organized as a cooperative for the purchase of necessities, came under the influence of three men with bad records. On January 6th they moved their quarters to an empty medieval castle and signaled the event by a procession, orderly and undemonstrative, carrying the American, British and Red flags. On January 19th the Sindaco received a letter from the President of the Camera, demanding that the sussidi militari be paid to the people by the Camera, instead of through the normal channels. The CAPO of the province temporarily dissolved the Camera after these incidents, but in the light of General Order No. 17 he plans to visit Venosa early in February and permit the Camera to reopen with new officers, and as a Labor union only. The three officials to whom the CAPO objected were respectively an ex political internee who has spent some time in a mental asylum, a doctor who was once sentenced to four years' imprisonment on a charge of fraud, and a watchmaker, who is now in jail for a breach of the peace, and whose police record includes convictions for pocket picking and three convictions for robberies in Italy and France. The last two are professed "Communists".

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Italy Forms Defense Unit

RARI, Feb. 21 — The Italian Council of Ministers at its latest meeting over the weekend established a Royal Corps of Marine Artillery to organize and maintain coastal defenses.

Among several decrees approved by the ministers was a proposal to cancel all contracts made through political influence, and an appropriation of 500 million lire for the improvement of roads of military importance.

Elsewhere on the Italian domestic scene, trade unionists of the General Confederation of Labor concluded a three-day conference in Salerno. They set up a provisional committee to function until Rome is freed and made plans to fuse their organization with other labor groups in liberated Italy.

Civilian mail service between the United States and liberated Italy was inaugurated with the first letter sent by Mayor Fiorello La Guardia of New York to Carlo Sforza, the Italian political leader.

"Stars & Stripes"
22-2-44 Naples
108

785016

X World News xxx 23.2.44

Bari Trade Unionists Agree to Join Naples Workers

BARI, February 22---Members of the Bari Giunta of the trade union congress held here January 29 have agreed with representatives of the General Confederation of Labor heading up in Naples to meet as soon as possible "to eliminate any misunderstanding and to establish an immediate program of common action, it was announced here today (Tuesday) by Raffaele Pastore, chairman of the Bari Executive committee.

The Salerno Congress of the Naples group Sunday elected the five members of the Bari Giunta to the twelve-man provisional directing council of the General Confederation of Labor.

Pastore indicated that formal action on the invitation to merge the two trade union groups will be taken by the Giunta here. (PWB).

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World News
PWB Naples
23-2-44 PWB
108

2820

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Labor in Naples District Granted Trade Union Rights

NAPLES, February 26--The Allied Military Government, through Lieut-Colonel Charles Poletti, Commissioner for Region III, Friday granted labor in this city and throughout Campania the right to organize.

Regional ordinance No. 3, signed by Commissioner Poletti, became effective from the date of promulgation. It follows an earlier ordinance published by the Allied Military Government which dissolved the old Fascist labor corporate-syndicates.

The new 'labor charter' grants workers the right to organize, to hold assemblies and to choose representatives who will have the power to conclude collective bargaining agreements in regard to all matters affecting their employment, including hours of work, wages, claims, conditions of labor and disputes growing out of workmen's compensation arrangements. (PWB).

UN-News Service
PWB Naples
27-2-44 PBS
108

2818

British Labor Greet Italy

LONDON, February 27- The British Labor Party sent a message Friday to the Italian Socialist Party saying the day is not far distant when free Italian labor will resume its honored place in the free family of nations. The message expressed confidence that a long period of fruitful collaboration lies ahead and added, "There is no hope of happiness for the Italian people unless Nazi Germany is utterly defeated. We ask you and all those who believe in democracy and peace to help in every way within your power." (UNN).

UN-News Service
PWB Naples
28-2-44 PBS
 108

Bari Trade Unionists Establish Provincial Chamber of Labor

BARI, February 27 - Four local trade unions already established and three others now in process of formation comprise the nucleus of the new Bari Provincial Chamber of Labor, it was announced by Acting Secretary Guido Molinelli.

Trade unions representing workers in the building trades, the chemical manufacturing trade, food and clothing enterprises and miners have already joined the chamber. Postal, telegraph and telephone workers, railway employees and harbor and dock workers are the three other groups perfecting their own unions with a view to joining the chamber, it was explained.

Molinelli, a former member of the Italian Chamber of Deputies, is one of the five-man committee of organization. Others are Alfredo Bertelli, vice-secretary; Prospero Milella, treasurer; Rocca Catalano and Francesco Fratto.

Chambers of Labor in a number of communes have also been set up, Molinelli announced, including those at Gioie del Colle, Santeramo, San Michele, Andri, Minervino and Sbinazzola. (UNW)

UN-News Service
PWB Naples
28-2-44 PBS
108

Trade Union Journal Commends New Naples Labor Ordinance

NAPLES, February 29 - The new Allied Military Government ordinance affecting labor's rights here and throughout Campania was hailed here today by BATTAGLIE SINDACALI, official organ of the General Confederation of Labor which met recently at Bari as "a new step on the road to complete liberty" for the workers.

Signed by Lieut.-Colonel Charles Poletti, Regional Commissioner for the Allied Military Government, the ordinance permits trade union organization, with the attendant rights of freedom of assembly, freedom of speech and collective bargaining.

"The working class values at its true worth this new step on the road to complete freedom," said the trade union newspaper. "The Allies know that the working class is ready for recovered liberty and for higher responsibilities." (UNN)

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UN-News Service
PWB Naples
1-3-44 PEB
108

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Verso la fusione delle Confederazioni del Lavoro

Due membri del Comitato Esecutivo dell'Organizzazione dei Lavoratori che si è riunita in Bari, verso la fine di gennaio sono arrivati mercoledì nella nostra città, autorizzati a raggiungere un accordo con le Organizzazioni dei lavoratori della Campania per costituire una sola Confederazione Generale del Lavoro per l'Italia liberata.

Gli esponenti dell'Organizzazione pugliese del Lavoro sono Raffaele Pastore, del partito comunista, e Eusebio Loricchia, del partito socialista, entrambi di Bari.

È stato annunciato mercoledì sera da Dino Gentili, uno dei capi del Congresso tenuto dalle Organizzazioni Sindacali a Salerno in febbraio, che Loricchia e Pastore si incontreranno oggi con la Commissione Esecutiva dell'Organizzazione esistente a Napoli.

Per la conferenza di Stora

In merito alla conferenza che D. Conte Stora terrà sabato prossimo al Circolo "Pensiero ed Azione" in Via Costantinopoli 128 precisiamo che i biglietti d'invito in numero ridotto potranno essere ritirati venerdì, dalle ore 14 alle 16 presso la Segreteria del Circolo. I signori soci potranno accedere soltanto con la tessera.

Prossimo convegno nazionale dei Lavoratori a Salerno

Il Convegno nazionale della U. Unitari Lavoratori — che doveva aver luogo a Salerno nei giorni 4 e 5 corrente — è stato rinviato ai giorni 18 e 19 corrente. Sono posti all'ordine del giorno i seguenti argomenti: 1. contributo dei Lavoratori italiani alla guerra (relatore Raposo); 2. movimento cooperativo (relatore De Lambergeri); 3. previdenza e assistenza (relatore de Ambrosi); 4. libertà di associazione ed unità sindacale (relatore Russo Stefano); 5. Statuti delle organizzazioni sindacali, ne è relatore Gava.

"Risorgimento"

9-3-44 Naples

PWS PWS

2810

NAPLES STRIKE "STERILE AND STATIC"

We have no intention whatever to continue a polemic with our enemies on the subject of a strike that has already been dealt with and that has proven to be a total failure. We only wish to point out that in Naples, by the initiative of Communists, a strike had been called that was to take place at the same time as the one in northern Italy, but on a different pretext. In Campania, however, 35 workers fell to the enemy guns, while in Republican Italy the strike was ended without any bloodshed at all.

Speaking of the situation in southern Italy, we would like to mention that Candidus declared at the microphone of the BBC that it is "sterile and static and of such nature as to give rise to desperate attempts that would only benefit Fascism". This is an admission of the failure of Anglo-Saxon methods.

Axis Monitoring Report
Radio Rome
PWB Naples
10-3-44 FB3
108

Combined Directing Council of Labor Confederation Formed

NAPLES, March 12—Full accord on all points, and particularly on having only one General Confederation of Labor for all of Liberated Italy, has been reached by the two trade union groups which held congresses respectively at Bari and Salerno, it was announced here Saturday night.

The merger of the two groups was effected at a meeting held here Wednesday through Friday by the executive committee of the Naples group with representatives of the Bari group.

In a statement issued after the consolidation it was said that all parties were agreed that the Confederation will comprise workers of all the political affiliations, but they will be associated on an absolutely non-partisan basis.

"The Directing Council will devote itself to the work of organization and to the defense of the interest of trade unionists in all of Italy," the statement added.

At the conclusion of deliberations the Council met with the Labor Commission of the Allied Control Commission, to whom a report was made on the successful determination of negotiations to form a single confederation and to whom the immediate program of labor was outlined. (UNN).

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UN-News Service
PWB Naples
12-3244 PBS
108

Labor Federation Looks to Collaborative Action

SALERNO, March 21 - In its concluding session here Monday the congress of the Italian Confederation of Workers adopted a resolution leaving ajar the door for possible collaboration with the Italian General Confederation of Labor.

The motion was offered by Stefano Riccio of Naples, whose suggestion that representative committees from nation-wide trade union federations should be set up to provide unified approach to the solution of certain labor problems affecting all Italian workers was adopted by the congress.

Carlo Petrone served as permanent chairman of the congress, with Signor Colosanto as congress secretary. An executive committee of ten to serve between congress meetings was named with representatives from Campania, Salerno, Apulia, Basilicata, Calabria and Sicily.

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