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ACC - Italy

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1032 - News Clippings Regarding
Local Government
March 1944

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Fascist Local Government System Abolished in Naples and Campania

NAPLES, March 14 - Italians still under the direct administrative control of the Allied Military Government will receive a new system of local government before April 30, according to order issued Tuesday by Lieut. Col. Charles Poletti, Regional Commissioner for Naples and Campania.

In a move going far to restore liberal, democratic forms and procedures, as mayor and aldermanic council will replace the podesta in each commune and a president and a provincial deputation will replace the dictatorial system which the Fascists used to rule each province.

In view of the fact it is not possible at present to hold popular elections for such officials, they will be appointed by the prefects of each province, subject to the approval of the Allied Military Government.

The order affects the four provinces of Naples, Benevento, Salerno, and Avellino.

The order specifically bars all former Fascist party office holders from posts in the new communal and provincial governments.

Similar restoration of democratic local government was effected in Sicily under Colonel Poletti some months ago when he was regional commissioner there.

The new order, in effect, abolishes the Fascist local government laws passed in 1934 and restores the legality of pre-fascist laws passed in 1915. The latter, it was said in the order, "are more in conformity with liberal and democratic ideas."

Pending appointments under the new order, present officials will continue in their jobs but with the titles of mayor and president.

UN-News Service
PGB Naples
15-3-44 PGB
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Old Political Rule Revived

NAPLES, March 14.—Initial steps to re-establish liberal and democratic forms of local government in the Naples area were taken today by the Allied Control Commission which ordered abolition of the Fascist provincial political system.

The ACC must first, similar to one introduced in Sicily some months ago, abolish the local government decrees of 1904 and restore, with certain temporary restrictions, the legality of laws of 1913 when Italy was still under a liberal democratic constitution.

The pre-Fascist system provided for elected municipal and provincial governments similar to those found in the United States and Britain. In accordance, however, with Allied policy for Italy, popular elections will not be held until the political and military situation here is clarified.

Until elections can be held, prefects of the provinces will fill vacancies in the local administrations by appointment but they have been advised by the ACC order to "bear in mind the various political tendencies of the community. Also, labor and agriculture as well as industry and the professions are barred from posts in the new local governments."

"Stars & Stripes"
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