

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

785016

ACC-Italy

10000/105/89

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10058 - News Clippings Regarding Freedom
of the Press - Rome
February - July 1944

12-9-89

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Official Announcement of the Attempt on the Fuehrer's Life

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An attempt was made today on the Fuehrer's life by means of explosives. Of his entourage the following were severely injured: Lt. Gen. Schmudt, Colonel Brandt, and Cooperator Berger, slightly injured were Col. Gen. Jodl, Generals Korten, Bueler, Bodenschatz, Hausinger and Scherff as well as Admirals Voss and Von Puttkamer. Aside from slight burns and contusions the Fuehrer sustained no injuries.

16058 General MacFarlane Resigns

Fascist Repulsion Radio

General MacFarlane, President of the Allied Control Commission for Italy, has resigned from his post. The official reason given is that sickness prevents MacFarlane from attending to his duties. In reality such resignation is to be linked with the incapacity shown by the ACC to provide even a provisional settlement of Italy - according to British political and diplomatic quarters. The spokesmen of the different British parties are reported to have made many complaints on the matter. Simultaneously it has been announced the presidency of the ACC has been taken over by an American navy officer.

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Extra from AVANTI, 6 Jul 44.

Goun Trouble

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" The Osservatore Romano of yesterdays date reproduced the "Post Script" in which our editor invoked the Allied Command to take immediate measures against the excesses (carnal violence, rape, homic-ide) perpetrated by the Moroccan troops in Frosinone Province. The authoritative Vatican paper added this comment to our article:~ " Such a protest is the more necessary as this trouble is not confined to Frosinone. Avanti is right. The matter must be attended to and adequately. There is in fact no direct tolerance shown by commands of single units. They are always intervening in the severest terms, but while no reprisals are taken against such as have been compelled to use force to repel force. But everything goes to show that it is not enough to deal one by one with numerous separate cases and to catch the guilty in the act. Experience shows that these troops must be subjected to the same discipline as the other troops or else excluded from all contact with the civil population.

....."
We must add that our earnest request found an echo of warm and human sympathy from the Allied Command in Rome

- 2 -

10058

Reporting the resignation of General MacFarlane, the Fascist Radio alleges that this event is linked 'with the incapacity shown by the A.C.C. to provide even a provisional settlement of the situation in Italy.' Stressing as on previous occasions "the tragic conditions facing the population of the south" a meeting of the Federation of Employees at Catanzaro is reported to have sent a telegram to Bonomi "flatly requesting the adoption of measures allowing employees to face the situation created by the sudden increase in the cost of living."

"In the opinion of the Allied Control Commission and Italian Government experts. this move should have a stabilizing effect on the Italian economy."

The ACC said that the increase of the bread ration to grams applies to Sicily, Sardinia, and the mainland of Italy south of the northern boundaries of Campobasso and Naples provinces. Rome is not included. (PWB = ACC)

POPE HAS TALK WITH CHURCHILL'S SON

ROME, June 14= Tuesday morning the Pope received Major Randolph Spencer Churchill, son of the British Prime Minister, with whom he chatted in his private library. The conversation was described later as having been "very friendly."

The Pontiff gave a public audience to hundreds of Allied troops in the Ducal and Royal Halls of the Vatican. (PWB)

ALLIES DISSOLVE FASCIST TRADE UNIONS IN ROME

ROME, June 14= The chief of Allied Military Government in Rome, Brig. Gen. Edgar Erskine Hume, on Tuesday dissolved the Fascist trade union and syndicate of employers and employees in Rome, at the same time bringing into operation a "charter of freedom" for free labor to organize and bargain collectively.

Almost equally important in a series of decrees issued by General Hume was authorization for a 70 per cent increase in wages of both government employees and persons employed in private industry.

A new system of labor offices, which will obviate bad features of the old fascist labor offices, was also announced. (PWB)

NAPLES PUBLIC WORKS LARGELY RESTORED, SAYS COMPTROLLER

NAPLES, June 14= Mario Florio, Comptroller of Public Works for Naples, in an interview with the newspaper RISCORRIMENTO declared today that many public services have now been restored.

When the Germans left Naples, he recalled, the situation was disastrous: "Neither water, gas, nor electric power was left in the desolate city by the retreating Germans. The demolitions were so great that it seemed impossible to repair them in a short time."

Thanks to the help of the Allies, said Mr. Florio, the most serious problem -- water -- was promptly solved. After the war, he said, a better water system would be installed, but great strides have already been made.

ALLIES RE-ESTABLISH LIBERTY OF THE PRESS IN ROME

ROME, June 14 - The Allies have re-established freedom of the press in Rome.

Although all daily newspapers voluntarily suspended publication June 5, the day the city was formally entered by Lieut. Gen. Mark W. Clark's 5th Army, 20 daily papers blossomed Tuesday, June 6, under a degree of liberty unmatched in wartime in a forward theater of operations. This was allowed by order of Maj. Gen. Harry Johnson, the military commander of the Rome area, and Brig. Gen. Edgar Erskine Hume, chief of AMG in Rome.

The daily press of Rome today began its second week of freedom with 18 journals appearing either in the morning or afternoon. Three that have disappeared are the ultra-Fascist creation, IL POPOLO DI ROMA; the old GIORNALE D'ITALIA, which Fascism's mouthpiece, the late Virginio Gayda, diverted from its original course; and IL MESSAGGERO, conservative daily which had fallen into Fascist control. The first was suppressed, and the other were two suspended pending possible reconstitution of their staff and operating personnel.

The bulk of newspapers now offered by the newsstands appear for the first time as daily publications and on open sale. Most are widely known, however, since they largely represent the emergent clandestine press of the anti-Fascist opposition, which in the past nine months has been well organized by patriots in the underground movement. Among the papers now being printed and sold on the streets are the former weekly publications of the six political parties. These range from the rightist IL POPOLO of the Christian Democratic Party through ITALIA LIBERA of the action Party to the Socialist AVANTI and the Communist UNITA.

Chief among the newcomers is IL CORRIERE DI ROMA, a newspaper established and operated under direction of the Psychological Warfare Branch of Allied Force Headquarters, which, with the Allied Publications Board, is charged with the task of licensing and assisting the press, the radio, and other means of mass communication throughout Liberated Italy. OSSERVATORE ROMANO, a daily newspaper published in Vatican City, enjoys a large circulation throughout the entire Rome area, but by virtue of its publication in a separate, sovereign territory is not technically a part of the Roman press. As stated by Lieut. Col. Ian Munro, chief press officer for Italy, PWB - AFHQ, no political censorship is exercised by the Allies. Over the press, only such military censorship as prevails in Allied countries themselves is being imposed. There is likewise no pre-publication censorship, the editor being responsible for any infraction of the simple but precise rules governing news and comments on military operational matters.

"In the opinion of the Allied Control Commission and Italian Government experts, this move should have a stabilizing effect on the Italian economy."

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Thanks to the help of the Allies, said Mr. Florio, the most serious problem -- water -- was promptly solved. After the war, he said, a better water system would be installed, but great strides have already been made.

"One of most urgent questions in liberated Italy has been that of the press," IL C. V. DI ROMA said in a front-page editorial. "The problem was and remains this: to reconcile liberty of expression with the necessities of war; and now, for the first time in the history of war and journalism, liberty of the press has been restored, if not totally, in a country that is still occupied largely by the enemy, and during a conflict in which import and export of news are like import and export of munitions."

Referring to suspension of GICINALE D'ITALIA and IL MESSAGGERO pending possible reconstitution of personnel, the editorial said it was important to remember these two journals were found by the Allies to be now in the charge of fervid, sincere anti-Fascists, not of Fascists who had changed sides overnight, and that these new directors are attempting to revive the old pre-Fascist ideals of both papers.

The editorial pointed out that the daily party papers give a wide range to political expression and include all six parties represented in the Committee of National Liberation. The newspaper doubled a note of caution about the large amounts of newspaper and other printing supplies being consumed in the present newspaper printing program. Existing newspaper stocks in Rome have been taken under the control of IWB and will be distributed equitably, it was announced.

"It is not difficult to believe that the reaction of citizens to this plethora of printed paper necessarily is that of surprise and confusion. It would be a real tragedy if democracy, which has for its symbol liberty of political expression, should be initiated in the redeemed capital under auspices of an exhausting newspaper competition."

"The problem, however, is not new for the Allies. Things have been arranged so that all recognized political parties and the Government may each have a forum of a newspaper; that the voice of the Allies may be heard as something distinct from Italian domestic politics; that private cultural interests and news may find their rightful place; and that every sheet of paper may be distributed with justice and in accordance with the exigencies of military censorship, which must be protected with the help and cooperation of responsible editorial directors."

"The Allied authorities assume that there will be neither political nor preventive censorship. Every responsible editorial director must justify the word 'responsible,' however, and not so that he will not only answer for what is printed in his newspaper, but also retain a lively appreciation of his responsibilities toward his own duties."

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"Rules concerning operation of a newspaper have been formulated to assure existence of a free and efficient press within the limits of conditions in a nation at war. We ask the press and public to cooperate by preaching moderation and putting it into practice, and if necessary to sacrifice their personal interests in order to resuscitate the Roman press. We ask both of them to establish the press on a solid basis, so it may afterward enjoy a broader development when all supply restrictions and military censorship needs will have faded away in that era of democratic peace which shall follow the war, a war for which all of us are fighting." (FWB)

UN NEWS SERVICE
PNB NAPLES

— 10058 —

15 JUNE 1944

12

In the notorious murder of 1500 persons picked at random from Regina Coeli Jail, where mostly political prisoners were kept, the Nazis shot the 500 persons in the hope of the neck in reprisal for the killing of 51 German Gestapo agents.

The Nazi-Fascist mass murder of the 500 hostages took place in some caves in the countryside near Rome, not in the Colosseum, as previously understood in the outside world.

The following is the procedure the Nazi-Fascists usually followed in their murders. Before the execution, Verano Cemetery would receive a brief order to prepare a certain number of graves. The next morning, a van full of corpses would arrive at the cemetery. The next morning, a were closed and the officials were ordered to stay in their offices, while the work of burial was carried out by the crew of the truck. The graves were dug under other graves and the van was always camouflaged, so as not to be recognized. Every effort was made to leave no trace of the identity of the victims.

The staff of the cemetery, however, began to work secretly to try to obtain the names of the victims. They compiled an index so that many people in Rome whose relatives had suddenly disappeared could at least know where the bodies were buried.

(P.B. = Reuter)

ITALIAN ENGINEER BATTALIONS MOVE UP WITH 5TH ARMY

ITALIES, June 14 - "Two battalions of allied-trained Italian engineers are working side by side with allied units on military projects in the newly liberated areas.

One of these battalions moved into the Cisterna sector under fire to start work on the five-mile-long railway tunnel through Monte Orso. The tunnel had been completely blocked by Nazi demolition squads as Messelring's 14th Army beat its hasty retreat northward from the Anzio beachhead region.

The second battalion of Italian engineers is working with an American unit on the construction and repair of hospitals in and around Rome. Both organizations were trained by American engineer officers of the Peninsular Base Section.

The group assigned to the Monte Orso Tunnel went to work within range of German field guns. They cleared away the bodies of the dead to make room for their own operations. They suffered casualties in German minefields, and they came upon tons of unignited Nazi explosives as they drilled their way through rockpiles of debris in an effort to reopen the tunnel to essential rail traffic.

German demolition plans were thorough. Every 50 feet for the entire five-mile length of the tunnel the Nazis planted tons of TNT in cavities cut in the walls. These cavities are six to 12 feet in depth, and four feet square. They used "rooter" railroad cars, cars equipped with destructive hooks, to tear up the ties and rails over long distances.

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Officers of the Italian battalion say they found explosive-loosened boulders of room size, weighing hundreds of tons, blocking the entrances to the under-mountain rail line. Gas fumes which accumulated in pockets deep beneath the mountain increased the hazards of work. Airplane motors have been set up at the entrances to provide propeller-forced ventilation.

The battalion assigned to tunnel work has also done considerable labor on the Mussolini Canal Bridge. The Germans destroyed two of the bridge's three spans as they retreated into the hills.

(P.B. = IES)

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K. Domani

Edn. m. Bee monarchist

9, Feb. Naples

Bari Daily Increases Circulation By 10,000 copies

BARI, February 12 - IL MEZZOGIORNO, at present the only daily newspaper in Italian published on the mainland of Italy south of Naples, increased its daily circulation by 10,000 copies, beginning today (Saturday).

This brings the total daily circulation of the Bari newspaper to 40,000 copies. In spite of greatly increased demand, IL MEZZOGIORNO has not heretofore been able to increase the number of copies distributed throughout the city and other parts of Liberated Italy. (PWE)

UN-News Service
PWB Naples
12-2-44 RBS

102

La pubblicazione
del settimanale di Bari
«L'Unione»
sospesa per 5 mesi
BARI. 14
Il settimanale politico italiano
«L'Unione» che si pubblica a
Bari, è stato sospeso a partire
da sabato per un mese d'ordine
delle autorità militari Alleate.
Il Capo Militare Kiropa all'estero
ha spiegato che il provvedimento
è stato motivato dal fatto che
il periodico aveva stampato dei
giornali lusinghieri per Mussolini,
mentre aveva omesso delle ve-
liche antiche per gli alleati.
«L'Unione», organo monarchi-
co, è pubblicato da un nobile
Bariense, che è anche ricco pro-
prietario di terre.

"Risorgimento"
15-2-44 Naples
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Verso una libera stampa

Il permesso di pubblicazione ai settimanali rappresentativi i gruppi politici riconosciuti

Un altro passo verso la realizzazione di una libera stampa nei territori dell'Italia liberata è stato già realizzato lunedì quando il Comitato Alleato per le Pubblicazioni ha concesso il permesso di pubblicazione per i settimanali rappresentativi tutti i gruppi politici riconosciuti.

L'atto del suddetto Comitato apporta il beneficio della libertà di stampa a Napoli e ad altre due provincie ancora sotto il diretto controllo del Governo Militare Alleato. Già la stessa libertà era stata accordata agli altri territori liberati che attualmente sono sotto l'amministrazione del Governo Italiano.

Oltre i sei quotidiani spontanei apparsi già da qualche tempo a Bari, Palermo, Cosimo, Cagliari e Catania, come pure a Napoli, vi sono 37 settimanali, bisettimanali e trisettimanali di varie specie apparsi nei territori amministrati dal Governo Italiano.

Il Comitato Alleato per le Pubblicazioni, che ha approvato i permessi concessi lunedì, è composto di rappresentanti della Sezione della Guerra Psicologica (P.W.S.), dell'Ufficio Cultura, Informazioni e Notizie del Quartiere Generale delle Forze Alleate, di rappresentanti della Commissione Alleata di controllo e di altri enti delle forze Alleate.

Sebbene le nuove pubblicazioni che hanno ottenuto il permesso vengano stampate nella zona di Napoli, quest'effetto delle comunicazioni del fronte, le esigenze di guerra non imporranno altre restrizioni su questi giornali che quelle che vengono esercitate nei paesi degli alleati stessi.

Il problema del materiale tipografico è stato superato fino a punto di mettere una quantità di detto materiale a disposizione delle nuove pubblicazioni.

Questo aiuto materiale è un segno della sincerità degli alleati nell'applicare al più presto possibile quei principi della Carta Atlantica che pongono la possibilità economica e di disposizione di quelli che lo possono avere per divulgare al mondo democratico.

Da parte comunista da una parte fino alla democrazia cristiana dall'altra, l'Italia assume una posizione politica italiana avrà pure l'opportunità di esprimersi in tutti i giornali rappresentativi lo stesso Governo Italiano. Il popolo d'Italia può dunque il suo destino politico.

Oltre ai giornali di carattere puramente politico, sono stati concessi permessi di pubblicazione a giornali di varie altre specie da quelli dedicati agli interessi della società generale — che finora non si è potuto esprimere liberamente — a quelli dedicati all'educazione politica, alla letteratura, alla religione, all'arte.

"Risorgimento"
7-3-44 Naples
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Political Party Newspaper Authorized in Allied Military Zone

NAPLES, March 8 -- Another advance in the restoration of a press within Liberated Italy was made here Monday when the Allied Publication Board issued licenses for weekly newspapers representing all recognized political groups, to be published in and around Naples.

Action of the publication control board brought the benefits of liberty of the press to Naples and the other two provinces still under direct control of the Allied Military Government. Already the same liberty of the written word had been accorded the remainder of liberated territory, which today is under the administration of the Italian Government.

In addition to the six non-political daily newspapers appearing for some time already in Bari, Palermo, Cosenza, Cagliari and Catania, as well as in Naples, there are 37 weekly, bi-weekly or tri-weekly papers appearing within Italian-administrated territory.

The Allied Publication Board which passed on the applications granted Monday is composed of representatives of the Psychological Warfare Branch, the Information and News Censorship Section of Allied Force Headquarters, the Allied Control Commission, and other agencies of the liberating forces.

Although the newly licensed news sheets will be published in the Naples area and distribution authorized into front-line areas, the requirements of war will impose no more restrictions upon these newspapers than is exercised in the countries of the Allies themselves.

The problems of printing supplies have been overcome to the extent of putting limited amounts of newsprint at the disposal of the new publications. (PWB)

UN-News Service
PWB Naples
9-3-44 PBS
10058

Pro-Government Newspaper Begins Publication.

SALERNO, March 12. A pro Government daily newspaper, IL CORRIERE, began publication here today (Tuesday). It is tabloid size and at the present time is a single sheet printed on both sides.

While not an official organ of the Badoglio Ministry, those close to the management said that the paper is designed to represent all the groups and political parties who support the present Government, including the Democratic Liberal Party and the Monarchists.

From the Seat of the Italian Government Marshal Badoglio sent a birthday greeting to the new publication, in which he took occasion to re-state the seven guiding principles of his Administration.

Among those listed by the Marshal is "Liberty of the press always contained within the limits desired by dignity". (UNN)

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