

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

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10000/105/232

SITUAT
JUNE -

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SITUATION REPORTS, LIAISON OFFICER, BARI
JUNE - SEPT. 1945

12 SET. 1945

Chief Sec
Public Safety
Public Health
Legal
Local Govt.
Patriots
Disper
Education

Ref

IPW Recd 1/10

12 SET. 1945

ALLIED COMMISSION
LIAISON OFFICE
BARI

25/9

27/9

29/9

2/10

PART I

7th September, 1945

11 SET. 1945

1. 12 SET. 1945
The South African Provinces have sweltered in a damp smothering heat throughout the month of August. It is a brutal climate. Nevertheless the harvest has been gathered in and threshing is nearly finished. Farmers are reluctant to store their grain this year, on the pretext the Government price per quintal is insufficient. The Prefect of PORT-ET-GENEVE reports a harvest of some 300,000 quintals, from which only 45,000 quintals have been raised.
2. There has been little political activity in the area this month. Electoral rolls are progressing satisfactorily but the people do not appear interested in the coming elections.
3. Civil disturbances broke out at MATELA and FERGANDIA during the first five days of August. Some 5,000 persons were involved. Fortunately there was little bloodshed, but public buildings were destroyed, the prison was invaded and many prisoners were released. The GILBERTI Regiment was sent to restore order. This Regiment has now moved to the North, and the S. MEXO Regiment has taken its place. There was little political significance in these disturbances and they were staged chiefly as a protest against
 (a) the burning of grain,
 (b) the issue of ration cards, and
 (c) the inadequate measures existing for the relief of the unemployed.
4. There is a brisk revival in the wine trade, and ships and trains are conveying thousands of tons of wine from this area to the North.

E.C. DIST

Ex Comm R
CA Sec

ECOW Sec

Ref to circ to BIRAR

ROADS

WORKING COPY

S. W. MILLER

S. W. MILLER, Colonel,
Liaison Officer, A.C.,
B.I.

4806
3580

Copy No. 2

S. S. P. R. I. A. S. S. I.

ALLIED COMMISSION
LIAISON OFFICE
BAFI

Ref: LB/65.

7th September, 1945

MONTHLY REPORTAUGUST 1945PART II1. GENERAL.

(a) In the South both Press and Public are trying to probe the future to find out if a "dictated" or a "negotiated" peace is being prepared for ITALY. Time will prove, but meanwhile the speeches of British M.P.s are carefully analysed for any reference to the future affairs of this country.

(b) The reaction to Mr. EVELYN's speech was favourable.

(c) There is a feeling of uneasiness with regard to the future of Italian Colonies.

(d) OF VENEZIA CIVILE the view is sometimes expressed that a degree of autonomy in this Region might prove a solution to the problem.

(e) The end of the world war was received with relief by all classes, and celebrated throughout Provinces.

(f) All Prefects are satisfied with the preparation of Electoral Lists for the coming elections. The majority of the public takes little interest in the proceedings.

(g) The GARIBOLDI Regiment has left TRIESTE for the North, and the S. MARCO Regiment is taking its place. The latter Regiment celebrated its arrival by smashing up the Communist HQ in TRIESTE, an incident unlikely to promote a surfeit of good feeling in the neighbourhood.

2. CIVIL DISTURBANCES.

(a) ANDRIA-INTERVINGO. The area has been quiet during August, which may be due to the absence "without leave" of Vincenzo Di GAELINO, the leader of the Communists, who was so prominent in the June disturbance.

(b) MATERA Province. (i) The incidents at MATERA during the first days of August were reported in para.2 (a) of my July report.

(ii) It is of interest to note the Prefect is of the opinion the rioters derived encouragement from the knowledge that earlier disturbances at INTERVINGO and ANDRIA were inadequately dealt with by the Italian Government. Indeed they were) vide the following extract from his report:-

"The riots were also suggested by disturbances which took place in the BAFI area and which, in the opinion of the public, have not yet

(a) In the South both Press and Public are trying to prove the future to ring out if a "dictated" or a "negotiated" peace is being prepared for Italy. Time will prove, but meanwhile the speeches of British M.P.s are carefully analysed for any reference to the future affairs of this country.

(b) The reaction to Mr. HEVIN's speech was favourable.

(c) There is a feeling of uneasiness with regard to the future of Italian Colonies.

(d) Of VERZELLA GIULIA, the view is sometimes expressed that a degree of autonomy in this Region might prove a solution to the problem.

(e) The end of the world war was received with relief by all classes, and celebrated throughout Provinces.

(f) All Prefects are satisfied with the preparation of Electoral Lists for the coming elections. The majority of the public takes little interest in the proceedings.

(g) The CARABINIERI Regiment has left TRAPANI for the North, and the S. MARCO Regiment is taking its place. The latter Regiment celebrated its arrival by smashing up the Communist HQ in TRAPANI, an incident unlikely to promote a surfeit of good feeling in the neighbourhood.

2. CIVIL DISTURBANCES

(a) MELODIA-MERUVINO. The area has been quiet during August, which may be due to the absence "without leave" of Vincenzo Di GELANO, the leader of the Communists who was so prominent in the June disturbance.

(b) MARZARA Province. (i) The incidents at MARZARA during the first days of August were reported in para.2 (a) of my July report.

(ii) It is of interest to note the Prefect is of the opinion the rioters derived encouragement from the knowledge that earlier disturbances at MERUVINO and MARZARA were inadequately dealt with by the Italian Government. Indeed they were) vide the following extract from his report:-

"The riots were also suggested by disturbances which took place in the MARZARA area and which, in the opinion of the public, have not yet been adequately repressed".

(iii) Thirty eight persons have since been arrested including the leaders of the Communist Party and the Camera del Lavoro. This is considerable.

(c) At MELODIA (MELDIA) on 11th August, seven peasants occupied the farm "Tenente". Their tenure was however cut short by the Carabinieri who arrested them all.

(d) MELODIA Province. (i) On 20th August the "MELODIA" farms at MARZARA were forcibly occupied by some 3,000 labourers and peasants from the village, pending a decision by the Italian Court of Appeal as to whether the farms belong to the Duchessa Melodia or to the Comune of MARZARA.

(ii) There are signs that other farms will be similarly occupied in the future.

3. DETAILS

(a) The RICHMOND in VULTURE case is still on the waiting list.

4. ITEMS OF INTEREST

- (a) The C.C. 178 Indian Coy stationed near LALPATO was attacked and murdered in his tent by a Sepoy of the same Regiment. The latter has been arrested.
- (b) Sgt. Major DEBOSTI, 2757 Pioneer Coy stationed in LALPATO has been murdered by unknown assailants.
- (c) Gunner GILLON of 31 Regiment was murdered and Gunner DUFFY injured, during a quarrel with Polish soldiers in the LALPATO area. Investigations are proceeding.

5. MILITARY POLICE

(a) The following are some of the charges preferred by the Military Police during August:-

Speeding	-	396
Theft	-	145

(b) The value of WD Property recovered is:-

	<u>£</u>	<u>S.</u>	<u>d.</u>
52 Area (LALPATO)	145	2	11
54 Area (BARI)	604	17	7

(c) Accidents are on the decrease. This is mainly due to the "Safety First Campaign" in which Police, Press and Radio are co-operating.

6. OC, FR.

(a) The 12 tanks sent here for Internal Security Duties are still without their fighting equipment.

(b) A certain amount of clothing has been received.

(c) Relationship between the Civil and Military Police is excellent.

7. LABOUR

(a) There is a serious unemployment problem to be faced. Farmers are reluctant to work the land as a result that many farms have been forcibly occupied.

4800

(c) Gunner CALLAN of 31 ... Regiment was murdered and Gunner DUFFY injured, during a quarrel with Polish soldiers in the TREVISO area. Investigations are proceeding.

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(b) The value of WD Property recovered is:-

	<u>£.</u>	<u>S.</u>	<u>d.</u>
52 Area (TREVISO)	445	2	11
54 Area (BARI)	6841	17	7

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6. OC.F.R.

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(b) A certain amount of clothing has been received.

(c) Relationship between the Civil and Military Police is excellent.

7. LABOUR.

4800

(a) There is a serious unemployment problem to be faced. Farmers are reluctant to employ additional men, with the result that many farms have been forcibly occupied and others are likely to be so.

(b) Ex soldiers are demanding employment in Government Offices. Their demands have been met by the Prefects of BARI and POTENZA, but Government direction is requested on this important question which will be aggravated as time goes on.

8. INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE.

(a) There is a shortage of coal and raw materials throughout the Provinces.

(b) The report of Dr. SPATONSKI on the output and distribution of soap from BARI should make interesting reading, and no doubt the Italian Government will take strong action to remedy the state of affairs disclosed.

- 3 -

Para. 8 cont'd.

(c) The excellent cloth factory of Venanzio and Pietro GUIDA at LARONCHIO (POMONA) is capable of an enormous output, of which large quantities are in store, sale having been frozen by the Italian Government. This seems incongruous when demands for clothing and uniforms cannot be met, and especially so to the inhabitants of the town who are unable to purchase the cloth they make. Could this be represented to the Italian Government with a view to freeing the sale. I have telephoned Governor Sub-Commission about this.

(d) The situation at SPINDISI as reported in para. 10 (3) of my July report has not altered.

9. AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES.

- (a) Continuous drought makes ploughing difficult.
- (b) The harvesting of grain is very unsatisfactory.
- (c) Olive trees and vines are suffering from lack of water.
- (d) The shortage of fodder for cattle continues and the price of hay and straw is prohibitive.
- (e) Maoning has been exceptionally good in POMONA Province and quantities have been sent to NIPLES and elsewhere.
- (f) The Prefect of POMONA is still anxious to obtain his winter grain supply now in order to stock those parts of the Province snow-bound in winter. Storage space is available.

10. WOMEN EMPLOYMENT.

- (a) Nations have been regularly distributed in all Provinces. This is due to the excellent work of Dr. De PASQUALE.
- (b) There is a scarcity of fats both for cooking and eating.

11. RECRUITING.

- (a) Many schools are still requisitioned in the land now under list has been sent to HQ, 54 Area with a request for early release. 4795
The Prefect ask for the release of many public buildings, especially the Casa del Reducco at Via 2222 and the Ex-Scholarship students, which HQ, 54 Area is urgently requested to consider release either wholly or in part.

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- (b) The harvesting of grain is very unsatisfactory.
- (c) Olive trees and vines are suffering from lack of water.
- (d) The shortage of fodder for cattle continues and the price of hay and straw is prohibitive.
- (e) Fishing has been exceptionally good in POTOSI Province and quantities have been sent to KILIS and elsewhere.
- (f) The Prefect of POTOSI is still anxious to obtain his winter grain supply now in order to stock those parts of the Province un-abundant in winter. Storage space is available.

10. ROADS.

- (a) Batters have been regularly distributed in all Provinces. This is due to the excellent work of Dr. De PASQUALE.
- (b) There is a scarcity of fat for cooking and eating.

11. REQUISITIONING.

- (a) Many schools are still requisitioned in the LIMA area. ⁴⁷⁹⁵ list has been sent to HQ, 54 area with a request for early release. The Prefect ask for the release of many public buildings, especially the Casa del Inca at VILLALBA and the Ex-Religious Association, which had, 54 Area is presently requested to consider release either wholly or in part.
- (b) The above applies also to the LACER-VALLEJO area where such requisitioning is still to be done. The Prefect of HUIBISI is anxious for the early return of the INDIAS building and of schools at present occupied. The Prefect of LEOPEL requests the de-requisitioning of schools and other large buildings occupied by the Allies.
- (c) This will be taken up with Area concerned.

12. COMMUNICATIONS.

Telegraphic and telephonic communications in the POTOSI area are not satisfactory. Many lines are still requisitioned by the Allies.

13. TRANSPORT SITUATION.

ROADS.

(a) Petrol allocation is now satisfactory and has eased with the end of the harvest.

(b) The Truck Pool at MAGLIA has many idle vehicles and is not working to capacity. It appears that E.N.A.C. gives petrol and business to private firms and individuals owning vehicles in the area. Now the harvest has been gathered, there appears to be a surplus of Government vehicles in the Province. This is being investigated with E.N.A.C. with a view to the withdrawal for re-distribution of these surplus vehicles.

RAILWAYS.

(a) The new system of traffic limitation by wagon availability rather than by tonnage capacity has proved a success.

(b) The wagon situation has seriously deteriorated.

(c) A large wine movement programme to the Port is being carried out. In addition, numbers of wine cistern wagons have arrived from the North and one train of these has already been sent to TUNIS and another will leave for MILAN in the next few days.

(d) Particulars of freight movement programmed and carried out for the month are as follows:-

Tonnage Programmed	-	52,047
Tonnage Moved	-	33,103

SHIPPING

Seven ships containing 10,756 tons of food were discharged during August, whilst exports were:-

by sea	-	2,251 tons
by rail	-	9,610 "

14. PUBLIC HEALTH.

(a) Public health is generally good.

(b) There is a decrease in typhus, but an increase in malaria.

15. REFUGEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS.

A total of 6,736 Refugees and Displaced Persons have been moved by rail in this area (excluding the arrivals from other areas). These movements have included 705 Jews and 730 Czechs to ELZANTO for repatriation.

4790

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These movements have included 705 Jews and 720 Arabs to TUNIS for repatriation.

4790

16. EDUCATION

All Projects urge the de-requisitioning of schools in order that education can recommence in October. Area HQs are being asked to give this subject priority.

SW Miller

S. W. MILLER, Colonel,
Maison Carlier, A.C.,
R.M.

DISTILLATION as per July Report.

2/4-25/45

1A

Telephone Report by Lieut. Col. MILLER,
Liaison Officer, BARI, 26 June 1945.

26 GIU. 1945

Following the arrest by Carabinieri of twelve armed men at MINERVINO, BARI Province, other armed men attacked Carabinieri Barracks, blocked all roads and opened fire on the relieving police.

Reports are confusing and casualties uncertain up to 1700 hours, 25 June. 125 reinforcements were sent 25 June and at 2205 hours same date the Prefect asked the Liaison Officer for Allied intervention, which was refused.

Shooting took place during last night. Today the ring-leaders made a request for negotiations. L.O. reports that the situation is now in hand and all is quiet. He is proceeding today to the scene of the disturbance to obtain firsthand information.

Office of the Executive Commissioner,
26 June 1945.

Sh
Major

Copy to: Executive Commissioner
C.A. Sec
Public Safety S/C
Pol Adv (A)
Pol Adv (B)

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