

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

785016

ACC

10000/105/485

AC, J
OCT. 19

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

785016

10000/105/485

AC, JUVENILE DELINQUENCY
OCT. 1944

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

Ref: 4/39.B/OA ✓

SUBJECT: - Juvenile Delinquency.

TO: -

- ✓ RC Abruzzi-Marche Region. ✓
- ✓ RC Emilia Region. ✓
- ✓ RC Toscana Region. ✓
- ✓ RC Sardinia Region. ✓
- ✓ RC Venezia Region. ✓
- ✓ SCAG VIII Army. ✓
- ✓ SCAG V Army. ✓
- ✓ RC Piemonte Region. ✓
- ✓ RC Liguria Region. ✓
- ✓ RC Lombardia Region. ✓
- ✓ RC Lazio Region. ✓
- ✓ RC Sicilia Region. ✓

1. For some time past the problem of child delinquency which has led to children being involved in numerous offences such as pimping and prostitution of minors, acting as "fences" for stolen goods, etc, and pilfering from Allied trucks, has given rise to a good deal of concern, and while it is appreciated that Provincial Commissioners have, of course, endeavoured to meet this problem by means the usual administrative methods such as the opening of schools and the enforcement of attendance, law enforcement in these matters through Public Safety and Welfare agencies. Cases have arisen, and are daily arising in the more populated districts, where the difficulties involved in the methods set out earlier in this paragraph have led to a high percentage of child delinquency. This was particularly noticeable in the large cities of Naples and Palermo.

2. I have recently read the report of the Provincial Commissioner at Naples on the steps he has taken to ameliorate what is in that city a major problem, and I set out below in short the methods he has adopted. These methods are proving highly successful and are for your information and similar action should the like difficulties be met with in other populous areas.

3. a) A Committee was set up of the most highly influential people that could be got together. These included the Archbishop, a senior member of the Committee of Liberation and a local influential landlord.
- b) The Committee's first action was to collect funds, in fact 2 million lire were collected.
- c) Buildings were then obtained in which to house the children, one establishment for boys; and one for girls, for those children who were parentless, stray or needing immediate removal from their surroundings.
- d) The Committee works as a voluntary organisation encouraged by other movements such as the Boy Scouts and establishments teaching handicrafts.

The Provincial Commissioner, while not in fact taking any

3780

TC:-

- ✓ RC Abruzzi-Marche Region. 11
- ✓ RC Emilia Region. 9
- ✓ RC Toscana Region. 10
- ✓ RC Sardinia Region. 11
- ✓ RC Venetia Region. 16
- ✓ SGAO VIII Army. 1
- ✓ SGAO V Army. 2
- ✓ RC Piemonte Region. 8
- ✓ RC Liguria Region. 11
- ✓ RC Lombardia Region. 11
- ✓ RC Lazio Region. 8
- ✓ RC Sicilia Region. 10

1. For some time past the problem of child delinquency which has led to children being involved in numerous offences such as pimping and prostitution of minors, acting as "fixes" for stolen goods, etc, and pilfering from Allied trucks, has given rise to a good deal of concern, and while it is appreciated that Provincial Commissioners have, of course, endeavoured to meet this problem by more the usual administrative methods such as the opening of schools and the enforcement of attendance, law enforcement in these matters through Public Safety and Welfare agencies. Cases have arisen, and are daily arising in the more populated districts, where the difficulties involved in the methods set out earlier in this paragraph have led to a high percentage of child delinquency. This was particularly noticeable in the large cities of Naples and Palermo.

2. I have recently read the report of the Provincial Commissioner at Naples on the steps he has taken to ameliorate what is in that city a major problem, and I set out below in short the methods he has adopted. These methods are proving highly successful and are for your information and similar action should the like difficulties be met with in other populous areas.

3. a) A Committee was set up of the most highly influential people that could be got together. These included the Archbishop, a senior member of the Committee of Liberation and a local influential landlord.
- b) The Committee's first action was to collect funds, in fact 2 million lire were collected.
- c) Buildings were then obtained in which to house the children, one establishment for boys, and one for girls, for those children who were parentless, stray or needing immediate removal from their surroundings.
- d) The Committee works as a voluntary organization encouraged by other movements such as the Boy Scouts and establishments teaching handicrafts.

4. The Provincial Commissioner, while not in fact taking any executive action himself continued always to energise the Committee and act as a support to whom the Committee could turn for advice and for help, particularly in such matters as the obtaining and derequisitioning of suitable buildings and contacts with the military authorities.

5. Although the Committee was only formed at the beginning of August '44, at present some 700 boys are cared for and it is proposed to extend the scheme to cater for a much larger number.

2420

1014

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

6. It is worthwhile considering such an organization in all main centres of population which may be encountered in the future, and the committee should be established early in order to be preventive of the state of affairs that has been experienced in the past than to be a curative organization.

7. Sufficient copies of this letter for distribution to Provincial Commissioners are enclosed.

G. R. URJOHN, Brig.
VP GA Sec.
Dep. C. of S.

Copy to:- C.O.S. -
Southern Region -
SCAO V Army -
SCAO V II Army -
Econ. Sec. -
P.S. -
P.H. -
Education -
Local Gov. -
I.S. & D.P. -

1015

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

785016

7. Sufficient copies of this letter for distribution to Provincial Commissioners are enclosed.

C.R. DEJOHN. Brig.
VP CA Sec.
Dep. C. of S.

Copy to:- C.O.S. -
Southern Region -
SCAO V Army -
SCAO V Army -
Econ. Sec. -
P.S. -
P.L. -
Education -
Local Gov. -
I.R. & D.P. -

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

Ref: 4/39.B/GA

16 Oct '44.

SUBJECT:- Juvenile Delinquency.

TO:- Southern Region.

1. Reference your letter R/1071 dated 3 Oct., I consider that the steps taken by the Provincial Commissioner of Naples to tackle this most difficult problem are highly satisfactory. The approach to the subject by Lt.Col. Simson in setting up an Italian committee to tackle the matter is very good, and I propose to write to other Regional Commissioners who may be confronted with a similar problem, recommending to them the methods he has adopted.

2. Of course the more normal administrative methods must continue to be pursued, i.e. the opening of schools to keep children off the streets, the enforcement of the law, and the normal welfare agencies, all of which concern sub-commissions of this Section, plus all those of Economic's such as employment and the lowering of the cost of living. But there is no doubt that any Organisation which is going to ameliorate the position should be encouraged in every way, and I think that Col. Simson's imaginative approach in handling the matter most commendable, a view in which the Chief of Staff asks me to say he fully concurs.

G.P. UPJOHN. Brig.
VP CA Sec.
Dep. C. of S.

Copy to C.O.S.

3700

HRO/ymc.

2695

1017

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

785016

Background
Policy & Planning

