

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

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 735016

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ITAL GOV'T, EDUCATION POLICY
SEPT. 1944

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 735016

9/13A/AS

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Date 7/25/94

FORM 130

Chief Staff Officer		Public Affairs Branch
Secretary General		Security Branch
Archivist		Intelligence Branch
Admin Section		Director
Interior		Executive Officer (A)
Public Safety		Executive Officer (B)
Public Health		...
Property Control		...
Postal		...
Education		...
Monuments & Fine Arts		...
Economic Section		...
Agriculture		...
Commerce		...
Finance		...
Food		...
Industry		...
Labor		...
Mining Division		...
Public Works & Utilities		...
Acquisition Division		...
Shipping		...
Transportation		...
S. & A. Section		...
P.A. to Executive Commissioner		...
Civil Affairs Branch		...
Information Division		...
Immigration Division		...
I. & N. S.C.		...
Italian Refugee Branch		...

Signature _____
 Review/Recommendation _____
 Information _____
 Approval/Disposal _____
 Appropriate Action _____
 Investigation & Report _____
 Dispatch _____

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REMARKS

Al Groppe - Retain. This is an input doc.

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394
Education Subcommittee

ED/HTN/oz

ED/3.16/AXC

23 September 1944

S.E. Giuseppe, Cardinale Pizzardo
Prefetto della S. Congregazione dei Seminari
e delle Università degli Studi.

In a recent conference with H.E. De Ruggero, Ministero of Public Instruction, it was decided to abandon the compulsory use of the revised libri di Stato in the elementary public schools from Florence on to the North. They will continue to be printed and sold wherever there is a demand for them but they will have to compete with texts privately produced on the open market. This decision was motivated by the desire to return to the Pre Fascist traditions of liberal education and to develop private initiative and enterprise in the composition and publication of school texts.

The rights of the Church regarding the religious texts was of course discussed in connection with this new plan. As you know, there have been religious sections in the revised libri di Stato which have been in compulsory use up till now and a way must be found so that religious texts will continue to be used when the use of the libri di Stato ceases to be compulsory. In order that this Subcommittee may be informed of the most suitable manner whereby this purpose may be achieved, I beg you to designate a representative with whom I may confer.

I wish to give you at the present time my personal assurance that all the rights of the Church will be safeguarded and its wishes respected in AMG Territory. The Minister of Public Instruction has promised to approach the Church on the same matter; for although the territory in which the new plan will be realized will be at first under our complete jurisdiction, it will pass in time under the jurisdiction of the Italian Government and we wish the transition to entail the slightest possible changes.

As I do not intend to implement our plan until the matter of religious texts is settled to the complete satisfaction of the Church, I would greatly appreciate the prompt designation of your representative.

I recall with great pleasure our recent meeting.

H.T. ROWELL
Lt. Col. C.M.P.
A/Director of Education.

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 73016

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

Date 25-5-44

Item	Ref.	Remarks
Chief Staff Officer		Patriotic Branch
Secretary General		Security Branch
Archivist		Administrative Branch
Admin Section		Director
Interior		Executive Officer (A)
Public Safety		Executive Officer (B)
Public Health		G-1 (1)
Property & Mgmt.		G-1 (2)
Local		G-4 (1)
V Education		G-4 (3)
Monuments & Fine Arts		R. G. Scott
Economic Section		Adjutant
Agriculture		Message Center
Commerce		Orders & Bulletins
Finance		W. F. Post
Food		Political Section
Industry		Naval
Labor		Army
Union Division		Air
Public Works & Utilities		Communications
Requisition Division		Civil Censorship Group
Shipping		W. M. D. & P. C. W.
Transportation		Public Relations Branch
I. & H. C. Section		U. S. R. R. A.
I. A. to Executive Commissioner		
Civil Affairs Branch		
Information Division		
Liaison Division		
I. & H. P. S. C.		
Public Relations Branch		

Signature _____
 Remarks/Recommendation _____
 Information _____
 Approval/Disposal _____
 Appropriate Action _____
 Investigation & Report _____
 Dispatch _____

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REMARKS

See my note to Educational Mr. Little

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HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394
Education Subcommittee.

ED/HTH/ans

ED/3.15/ACC

23 September 1944

SUBJECT : Conference with the Minister
of Public Instruction.

TO : His Excellency, Guido De Ruggiero,
the Minister of Public Instruction.

Your Excellency:

Pursuant to our conference of September 20th, 1944, I am confirming in writing herewith the conclusions and agreements which we reached. It is understood that they will be implemented as soon as possible by the Allied Control Commission and the Ministry of Public Instruction and that any matters which may still be undecided or obscure will be settled by us in further conferences.

With regard to school books it was your contention that the practice of producing and imposing a single text upon the teachers and students of elementary schools was wrong in principle and harmful in fact in that it reflected a narrow and authoritarian philosophy of education, caused resentment in the teacher and did not attain the best pedagogical results. The Education Subcommittee has, from the beginning, been in agreement with you on these points.

I would point out, however, that this Subcommittee never considered the continuation of the practice of a libro unico as anything more than an unavoidable expedient. In Sicily and the South of Italy, conditions imposed the production and use of a single text and its adoption was often the only thing which made schooling possible. I recognize, however, that the present rehabilitation of Italy under a liberal government and the character of the territory which is now being liberated have created new conditions and I am glad to meet them in new ways.

It was therefore decided that obligatory use of state text books in the elementary schools of territory recently liberated or yet to be liberated would be abolished. Since we are bound by contract with the publishers to have them used in other parts of Italy for the present school year, our original arrangements for the south cannot be changed. It is suggested, however, that the reasons for this difference in treatment be explained to the competent school authorities in the south and that the publication of the new books for the school year 1945-46 should be encouraged.

It was further decided that we would continue to print a limited number of state texts which would be available to those teachers who chose to use them or felt constrained to do so for lack of other suitable books. In this, the demand for state books made in Florence will serve to suggest the proper number which we must print in the future for other cities in the North.

At the same time private enterprise will be encouraged to produce suitable texts. Some control is obviously necessary to insure that the books to be published meet the proper educational standards. I am submitting, therefore, a proposal for control in Army and Allied Military Government territory (Annex A). As it is the policy of this Subcommittee to implement plans which will require as few changes as possible when the territory in question is restored to your jurisdiction. I beg you to give our proposal your serious consideration and to indicate any changes which you believe should be made in the interests of Education in general and an easy transition from our control to yours.

Finally, it was agreed that no steps should be taken until the Vatican had been consulted about the religious texts. I am informing the Prefect of the Sacred Congregation of Seminaries of our plan, asking him to designate a representative to discuss the entire matter and assuring him that the Vatican's rights and wishes in this matter will be scrupulously observed by the Allied authorities in territory under their jurisdiction.

In closing, I wish to repeat my firm conviction that our present line of action is philosophically and practically correct. It is consistent with the spirit of a liberal education and reverts to the best traditions of the Italian School. It was again a pleasure and an honour to work with you.

HENRY T. HOWELL
Lt. Col. , CMP
A/Director of Education.

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 7506

ANNEX A

Memorandum on Approval of Elementary Text Books.

1. It is planned that north of Region IV and V the State series of text books will be printed in sufficient number to meet demands but will not be the only books authorized for publication and use.
2. In each Region the Regional Education Officer will appoint one or more Elementary School Text Book Committees to approve or disapprove elementary school text books proposed for publication or use in that Region.
3. Such committees will always include at least one elementary school teacher, one director, one inspector, and one provveditore agli studi. It may also include such other personnel as may be decided upon by the R.E.O.
4. The number of such committees in a Region may be determined by the R.E.O. In general, however, it is advised that there be one in each publication center, when there is more than one such center, and that serious consideration be given to having one in each province so that local desires and needs and available books may receive adequate recognition.
5. Any provveditore or publisher may submit a book or manuscript to the nearest committee within a region. This committee will then consider (a) whether or not there is any fascist or anti-Ally propaganda in the book; (b) whether from the pedagogical standpoint the book has a high standard of excellence; and (c) whether the price at which it is proposed to sell the book is sufficiently low to make it readily available to all children.
6. Books or parts of books dealing with religion will be subject to a procedure to be planned by the Vatican.
7. When a book has been approved as above, notice of this fact will be given, in writing, to the R.E.O. by the publisher, endorsed by the chairman of the committee which has approved, and, in pertinent cases, by the Church authority. The R.E.O. will then notify the publisher in writing that the book is approved for publication and use, and will likewise so notify each Provveditore agli Studi in the Region.
8. Any R.E.O. may recognize the action of any other R.E.O., approving for use in his Region a book approved in another, without submitting it to one of his own committees.
9. The State series of elementary text books, used exclusively in Italy south of Regions VIII and IX, is automatically approved from the beginning for all Regions.

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