

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

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

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AGRICULTURE, UNLAWFUL SEIZURE OF LAND
AUG., SEPT. 1944

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CONTAINS PAPERS
FROM
TO
CATALOGUE-

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

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394

SUBJECT:- Alleged Disturbances.

Tel: 525

TO:- Political Section.

23rd Sept., '44

Ref: 13/2.1/AS. ✓

Reference conversation Caccia - Upjohn this morning on the a/m subject.

1. Col. Hartman wrote to this Section on 1st September enclosing copies of papers relating to alleged disturbances at Nepi in the province of Viterbo. This matter was investigated and did not appear so serious as alleged. A copy of the report of the local C.A.O. dated 16th Sept., '44 is attached.

2. Col. Hartman's letter also by way of comment dealt with the position generally and mentioned some leaflet concerning a "Call to Arms" being distributed in the Florence area (which apparently was raised by you); this seemed, however, entirely a matter for you and the agriculture sub-commission to deal with and this section only took action on the specific matter raised in the disturbances at Nepi.

G.R. UPJOHN. Brigadier.
V.P. Admin. Section.

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

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394
ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION

13/2.1/AS

5 Sep 44

SUBJECT : Unlawful Seizure of Land.

TO : Regional Commissioner, Region IV.

We have been informed that certain peasants in NEPT in the Province of Viterbo in March last purported to expropriate part of the land belonging to certain landlords and brought them into cultivation. It is suggested that this has been to the detriment of the local milk supply.

It is further reported that the crops are about to be harvested and it is suggested that steps should be taken so that the landlords are recompensed from the crops for the use of their land and the land returned to them or the position otherwise regularised.

It is further suggested that the local Chamber of Labour at NEPT is actively seeking further land for the sowing of wheat. Our information appears to come from an interested party and may therefore not be trustworthy. This may be a more or less isolated case or it may be evidence of the existence of a movement fostering the unlawful expropriation of landowners. If the latter is the case it may necessitate action by ACC but if the former it is not for us to interfere between civil contestants unless a disturbance is likely to arise.

It would appear that the case wants watching. If the matter is simple the local CA officer may be able to put an end to the trouble but if it is complex and contentious or questions of title arise it is one for the Courts.

Perhaps you will enquire and inform me as to the true position and keep me informed of any development a.


R.R. CRISP, Colonel,
for G. R. UNION, Brigadier,
Vice President, Admin Section.
(Absent on Duty).

Ext. 608
RRC/mb

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Copy to: AMTC, S.C. (AGR/10300 d. 11/9/44 ref.).

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 725016

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Agriculture Sub-Commission
APO 394

WAH/iab

Tel: 262

1 Sept 44.

AGR/10200

SUBJECT: Unlawful Seizure of Land.

TO : Vice-President, Administrative Section.

1. Attached is self-explanatory memorandum No. 63, dated 30 Aug 44, received from Federazione Italiana degli Agricoltori (F.I.D.A.), under the signature of Secretary Alberto Donini, Via Friuli 26, Roma.

2. The particular instances referred to in the attached communication could, according to unconfirmed reports, be duplicated many times. Unlawful seizure of land on the part of non-land owners appears to be only one phase of what might be called elements in a revolutionary trend in Italy. Another phase was brought to our attention recently by the Political Section. It concerned a "Call to Arms," leaflet being distributed in the Florence area. Innumerable instances have come to our attention of so-called political groups distributing by voice and leaflet a type of propaganda aimed at discouraging farmers from amassing their crops. The center of this latter movement seems to be in the Puglia area, although this Sub-Commission has received similar reports from other areas. We understand that in Campania, for instance, neither the Prefects or Sindicos seem to be in harmony with administering the responsibilities of their offices when it comes to amassing crops.

3. In the past this Sub-Commission has been bringing these open violations of peace and order to the attention of the Minister of Agriculture. To this date however, we have no information that any positive action has been taken by him. In fact, we have the opinion which we hope is incorrect, that the Minister is inclined to look with favor on some of these uprisings.

4. Although the general movement of the landless against the landed in Italy has not reached serious proportions to this date, it appears to me that sparks might gradually glow into a revolutionary blaze unless ACC succeeds in forcing the present Italian Government to take positive steps to maintain peace and order, at least until the war in Europe is over.

5. This Sub-Commission shall appreciate being kept informed of developments.



W. A. HARTMAN
Lt. Col.
Director

1 Incl as above.

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Pr. 4163

FEDERAZIONE ITALIANA DEGLI AGRICOLTORI

— F. I. D. —

Roma, **30/8/1944**

Via Friuli, 36

MEMORANDUM

I

In the month of March ult., with full consent of the fascist republican authorities of the province, some farmers and other people of Nepi in the province of Viterbo invaded about 50 ha. of irriguous meadows belonging to several different landowners in order to sow them over, with serious prejudice of livestock breeding and particularly of the milk cows that furnished the milk for the population of the town and shared also in the provisioning of the Roma milk market.

It was impossible for the landowners to come to an understanding with the invaders or sign with them a contract through the competent syndicate representatives; no share whatever has been given of the beans, potatoes, onions and various vegetables harvested on the invaded premises.

The harvest of maize being imminent, it is absolutely necessary to settle this arbitrary situation utterly contrary to any rational technico-cultural criterion, which has an exclusively political origin the more deplorable as it must be attributed to the fascist party to which the present day communists would attribute the "merit" of the

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It is hereby requested

that the A.C.C. intervene in order to obtain that the invaders, many of whom do not even belong to the category of agricultural workers, be made to hand over to the landowners one half of the crop production, and to return to the same the arbitrarily invaded land after, the next

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maize harvest and not later than the month of September 1944; it being clearly understood that no offer whatever of any cash payment for a lease must be accepted inasmuch as it would not lead to any reasonable agreement.

II

The Chamber of Labour of Nepi has lately presented a new request for the grant of lands to sow to wheat.

The Agriculturists of Nepi have given to the Italian Federation of Agriculturists the mandate to discuss the question with the representatives of the Workmen's Organisation for an eventual profit sharing grant of land to real agricultural labourers. It must be understood however that due account must be taken of zootechnical necessities, of engagements previously taken with other cultivators, of the various cultures already decided upon, and finally also of the dearth of the means at the disposal of the labourers.

The discussions are about to begin. It is therefore indispensable that, in the meantime, no arbitrary acts be accomplished by the workmen (as it is feared that it may happen) and no invasion of land take place. For this reason of public order and in order also that the productivity of the agricultural holdings be not jeopardised, it is now requested that the Authorities take a hand in this matter.

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From the latest news received it is known that labourers have begun the arbitrary occupation of lands to be cultivated.

It is urgent to have a prompt intervention on the spot.

Alberto Donini Secretary of F.I.D.A.

ALBERTO DONINI
Via Friuli 26

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