

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

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

5/667

POLITICAL, SICILIAN SEPARATISTS
JULY 1944 - OCT. 1945

Polad A.
Polad B

in succession

2004. for information

CA-S
11 OCT 1945
X-508.

Following list

See with thanks - Embassy received copy of this letter direct

*Phoebe
Ant Polad (A)*

Oct 13

Thank you. So L.R. in British Embassy.

15/10/45

*Phoebe
Ant Polad (A)*

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

Thank you.

So L.A. in British Embassy.

15/1/75

[Handwritten signature]
H. M. R. (R)

M. R. 700

5044

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

TRANSLATION NO. 949

9 October 1945

SUBJECT: Arrest of Hon. Finocchiaro Aprile, avv. Varvaro and avv. Restuccia
TO : ALLIED COMMISSION
R O M E

With the pretext of taking precautions against a revolt, and by making false police reports, the Italian Government in the evening of 1st October gave orders for the arrest of Hon. Finocchiaro Aprile, avv. Varvaro and Restuccia, and for their immediate deportation to the island of Ponza.

In Sicily this move was followed by the devastation of the offices and sections of the Independence Movement and the intimidation of all its followers and by outright siege.

The newspapers, following the opinion of the Government, accused the leaders of the Independence in Sicily of :

- 1) appealing to foreigners to reoccupy their island, with a letter addressed to the London Conference;
- 2) boasting of having Allied support in order to impress Sicilian public opinion and attracting the maximum number of followers;
- 3) falsely reported the great number of followers of the Movement.

As the Allied Authorities well know - through the documents received and especially the petition sent on 1st September 1945 by avv. Varvaro, secretary of the M.I.S. to the representative of the Italian Government in Sicily, and for information to the Allied Commission, - the Movement for the Independence of Sicily, because of the devastations of the offices in April 1945, of the numerous arrests, the continued persecutions, the loss of the individual and collective freedom, was no longer able to control and suppress the malcontent of the population and particularly the activities of the extremists' group. The directors of the M.I.S. with the above letter pointed out such a state of affairs, asking the Italian Government to cease its unlaw acts and render its relations with the Movement less tense.

No reply was sent.

Independence in Sicily of :

- 1) appealing to foreigners to reoccupy their island, with a letter addressed to the London Conference;
- 2) boasting of having Allied support in order to impress Sicilian public opinion and attracting the maximum number of followers;
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No reply was sent.

The resentment of the Italian Government for the appeal to the Conference of London is quite uncalled for, since the question is of a mere democratic character; the Sicilians look on the Allies as the victors of a war, not as enemies. It is obvious that if the Sicilians have any claims to make, they make them to the rightful arbiters of the international situation.

The reoccupation of the island was considered as necessary also for the re-establishment of the necessary order, the law and the minimum of freedom also in expectation of the next elections. There was the very important precedent of the intervention of the Allies to guarantee the free elections in Bulgaria.

Hon. Finocchiaro, in his speeches or conferences never took the liberty of boasting of an imaginary prestige; he always trusted the Allies, messengers of that freedom which was solemnly proclaimed by the Atlantic Chart, would concern themselves with the destiny of a people who want a plebiscite for self-rule.

The sincere enthusiasm of the Sicilians was reproached by Italy as an act of treason, but it is also true that only during the Allied occupation, Sicily had a short period of wise administration, of disciplined freedom and of democratic rebirth.

We can prove to you, upon your request the number of our followers and supporters, which as we said previously exceeds one million. However, only a plebiscite, and not the false statements of a High Commissioner for Sicily can prove it since the Movement does not constitute a party but summarizes the desires of the Sicilians or the various political tendencies.

As a conclusion or, the above the appeal to the Great Powers lodged during the armistice according to the right of the people, the international conventions and the supreme principles for which the Allies entered the war, should be considered as a crime.

The Italian Government, with its terrorist system will certainly compel the Sicilians to desperate actions.

We therefore ask the great democratic countries to intervene quickly in the question and see that a very noble people be not oppressed continually and a new dictatorship be established.

PALERMO, 6 October 1945

INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT
OF SICILY
/s/ Iolanda Varvaro

CIVIL AFFAIRS Sect

ON. COMMISSIONE ALLEATA

29 OCT 1945

= R U M A =

O G G E T T O: Arresto dell'on. Finocchiaro Aprile, dell'avv. Varvaro e dell'avv. Restuccia.

Col pretesto di preparativi insurrezionali, creando falsi rapporti di polizia, il Governo italiano la sera del 1° ottobre faceva arrestare l'on. Finocchiaro Aprile, l'avv. Varvaro e Restuccia, e li deportava immediatamente nell'isola di Ponza.

A questo ha fatto seguito in Sicilia la devastazione delle sedi e delle sezioni del Movimento per l'indipendenza, l'intimidimento di singoli aderenti e uno stato d'assedio in piena regola.

I giornali, facendo eco alla tesi del Governo, hanno accusato i capi del Movimento per l'indipendenza della Sicilia di:
1°) essersi rivolti allo straniero per ottenere la rioccupazione dell'Isola, con una nota indirizzata alla Conferenza di Londra;
2°) aver vantato l'appoggio degli Alleati per impressionare l'opinione pubblica siciliana e richiamare un maggior numero di proseliti

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- 2°) aver vantato l'appoggio degli Alleati per impressionare l'opinione pubblica siciliana e richiamare un maggior numero di proseliti al Movimento.

oooooooooooooooooooo

3°) ~~Avere~~ dichiarato falsamente un impressionante numero di aderenti al Movimento.

Come le Autorità alleate ben sanno - attraverso i documenti ricevuti e specialmente attraverso il memoriale inviato in data 1°

settembre 1945 dall'avv. Varvaro, segretario del M.I.S., al rappresentante del Governo italiano in Sicilia e per conoscenza alla Commissione alleata - il Movimento per l'indipendenza della Sicilia, in conseguenza delle devastazioni delle sedi avvenute nel mese di aprile c.a., dei numerosi arresti, delle continue persecuzioni, di privazioni di libertà individuali e collettive, non fu più in grado di controllare e frenare lo spirito di malcontento della massa popolare e in particolar modo l'attività di gruppi estremisti. I dirigenti del M.I.S., con la nota suaccennata, fecero presente tale stato di cose, chiedendo che il Governo italiano cessasse gli atti di arbitrio e rendesse possibile una distensione di rapporti. Nessuna risposta fu mai data.

Il risentimento del Governo italiano per l'appello alla Conferenza di Londra è quanto mai fuor di luogo, trattandosi di una pratica di pretto carattere democratico: i Siciliani considerano gli Alleati come vincitori di una guerra, ma non come nemici. E' chiaro che avendo delle rivendicazioni da chiedere si rivolgano ai legittimi arbitri della situazione mondiale.

La rioccupazione dell'Isola fu creduta necessaria e richiesta

do di controllare e frenare lo spirito di malcontento della massa popolare e in particolar modo l'attività di gruppi estremisti. I dirigenti del M.I.S., con la nota suaccennata, fecero presente tale stato di cose, chiedendo che il Governo italiano cessasse gli atti di arbitrio e rendesse possibile una distensione di rapporti. Nessuna risposta fu mai data.

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La rioccupazione dell'Isola fu creduta necessaria e richiesta per ristabilire il necessario ordine, l'impero della legge e il minimo di libertà anche in previsione delle prossime elezioni. Essi stesero il precedente importantissimo dell'intervento degli Alleati per garantire le libere elezioni in Bulgaria.

In nessun discorso o conferenza l'on. Pinocchiaro Aprile si permise di vantare un credito immaginario: egli in sempre ispira

to dalla fiducia che gli Alleati, apportatori di libertà solenne-
mente sancite nella Carta Atlantica, non si sarebbero disinteresa-
sati della sorte di un popolo, che chiedeva un libero plebiscito
per liberamente governarsi. Vero è che l'entusiasmo più schietto
nato dalla fiducia verso popoli liberi venne ai Siciliani rinfac-
ciato dall'Italia come atto di tradimento, ma è vero anche che sol-
tanto durante l'occupazione alleata la Sicilia conobbe un breve
periodo di saggia amministrazione, di libertà disciplinata e di
ripresa democratica.

A Vostra richiesta, e solamente a Voi, possiamo documentare
il numero dei nostri aderenti e simpatizzanti che si ebbe occasio-
ne di affermare essere più di un milione. Del resto solamente un
plebiscito, non le false affermazioni dell'Alto Commissario per
la Sicilia, potrebbe dare tale prova, perchè il Movimento non è
un partito, ma assomma le aspirazioni dei Siciliani di diverse
tendenze politiche.

Come conclusione dei fatti esposti si dovrebbe dedurre che
costituisce reato, in regime armistiziale, un appello rivolto al-
le Grandi Potenze in conformità al diritto delle genti, alle con-

ciato dall'Italia come atto di tradimento, ma è vero anche che soltanto durante l'occupazione alleata la Sicilia conobbe un breve periodo di saggia amministrazione, di libertà disciplinata e di ripresa democratica.

A Vostra richiesta, e solamente a Voi, possiamo documentare il numero dei nostri aderenti e simpatizzanti che si ebbe occasione di affermare essere più di un milione. Del resto solamente un plebiscito, non le false affermazioni dell'Alto Commissario per la Sicilia, potrebbe dare tale prova, perchè il movimento non è un partito, ma assomma le aspirazioni dei Siciliani di diverse tendenze politiche.

Come conclusione dei fatti esposti si dovrebbe dedurre che costituisce reato, in regime armistiziale, un appello rivolto alle Grandi Potenze in conformità al diritto delle genti, alle convenzioni internazionali e ai supremi principi per cui gli Alleati sono scesi sul campo di battaglia.

Il Governo italiano, con i metodi terroristici instaurati, vuole costringere i Siciliani a un passo disperato.

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Noi invochiamo che i grandi paesi democratici intervengano

sollecitamente per impedire che un nobilissimo popolo continui a essere oppresso e che una nuova dittatura si affermi.

PALESTINA, 6 ottobre 1945

p. il Movimento per l'indipendenza
della Sicilia
(Iolanda Varvaro)

Iolanda Varvaro

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PALEERMO, 6 ottobre 1945

p. il Movimento per l'indipendenza
della Sicilia
(Iolanda Varvaro)

Iolanda Varvaro

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

800.1945

TRANSLATION NO. 943

NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE INDEPENDENCE OF SICILY

PALERMO, 25 September 1945

TO: ADMIRAL STONE
ALLIED COMMISSION
R O M E

I have the honor of informing you that the National Committee of the Movement for the Independence of Sicily in the meeting of 15 September has approved the following:

ORDER OF THE DAY

"The National Committee

with reference to the Order of the Day of 30 June 1945;
having considered that, while everybody is talking of the next elections, the Government of Rome increases the persecution against the Movement for the Independence of Sicily which is deprived of the liberty of meeting, of press and organization while its followers are continually threatened of the most abject reprisals:

Ratifies fully the afore said order of the day which was in the due time restored to the Italian Government and the Allied Commission:

Denounces

to the Sicilian public opinion, Italian and international the duration of the cruel liberticidal conduct of the Italian Government and

Declares

that, if the Italian Government will initiate the electoral Consultations without giving to the Movement for the Independence of Sicily the right of taking part to the elections with the most complete freedom of speech, propaganda, press, meeting, etc, or however submitting the M.I.S. to any act of violence, the independists of Sicily will be obliged to impede, with all means, the functioning of the electoral operations."

Best regards.

50.0
THE SECRETARY GENERAL

MOVIMENTO PER L'INDIPENDENZA DELLA SICILIA

COMITATO NAZIONALE

PALERMO

Via Principe di Belmonte, 16

C. A. S.
1945

4 OTT. 1945

Palermo, il 25/settembre/1945

Egregio Sig.re
Ammiraglio Stone
Commissione Alleata
R o m a

Pregioni informare la Signoria Vostra illustris-
sima, che il Comitato Nazionale del Movimento per l'Indipendenza della Si-
cilia, nella sua sessione del 15 c.m. ha approvato il seguente:

ORDINE DEL GIORNO

"Il Comitato Nazionale

- "richiamatosi al suo Ordine del giorno del 30.6.'45 ;
- "Considerato che, mentre si insiste a parlare di pros-
sime elezioni, il governo di Roma intensifica la per-
secuzione contro il Movimento per l'Indipendenza della
Sicilia, che viene privato delle libertà di riunione,
di stampa e di organizzazione mentre i suoi aderenti
vengono continuamente minacciati delle più basse rap-
presaglie ;
- "Conferma pienamente il suddetto ordine del giorno e
"suo tempo trasmesso al governo italiano e alla Commis-
sione Alleata ;

Denuncia

- "alla pubblica opinione siciliana, italiana ed inter-
nazionale il perdurare del brutale comportamento li-
berticida del governo italiano e

Dichiara

- "che, nel caso in cui il governo italiano intraprendes-
se le consultazioni elettorali senza dare al Movimento
per l'Indipendenza della Sicilia il diritto di interve-
nire alle elezioni con la più completa libertà di paro-
la, di propaganda, di stampa, di riunione, di comi-
zi, eccet. o comunque sottoponendo il M.I.S. a qualsia-

Pregiomi informare la Signoria Vostra illustrissima, che il Comitato Nazionale del Movimento per l'Indipendenza della Sicilia, nella sua sessione del 15 c.m. ha approvato il seguente:

ORDINE DEL GIORNO

"Il Comitato Nazionale

"richiamatosi al suo Ordine del giorno del 30.o.'45 ;
"Considerato che, mentre si insiste a parlare di prossime elezioni, il governo di Roma intensifica la persecuzione contro il Movimento per l'Indipendenza della Sicilia, che viene privato delle libertà di riunione, di stampa e di organizzazione mentre i suoi aderenti vengono continuamente minacciati delle più basse rapresaglie ;
"Conferma pienamente il suddetto ordine del giorno e suo tempo trasmesso al governo italiano e alla Commissione Alleata ;

denuncia

"alla pubblica opinione siciliana, italiana ed internazionale il perdurare del brutale comportamento liberticida del governo italiano e

dichiara

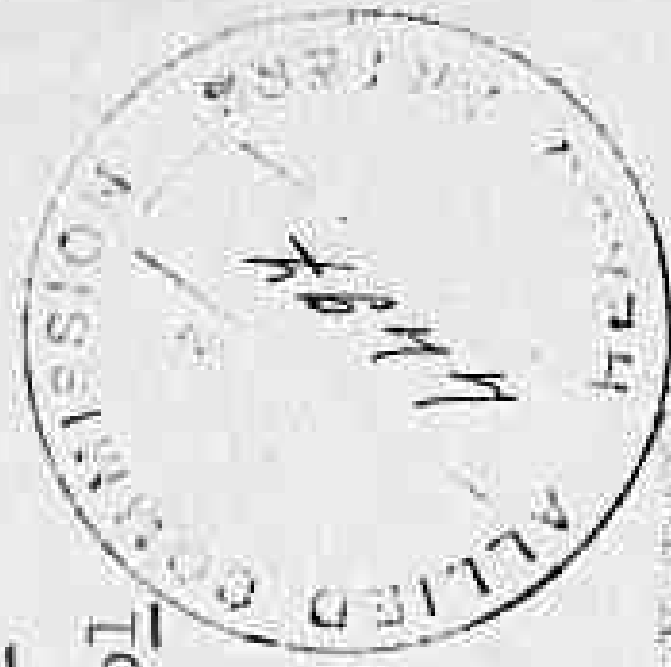
"che, nel caso in cui il governo italiano intraprendesse le consultazioni elettorali senza dare al Movimento per l'Indipendenza della Sicilia il diritto di intervenire alle elezioni con la più completa libertà di parola, di propaganda, di stampa, di riunione, di comizi, eccet. o comunque sottoponendo il M.I.S. a qualsiasi atto di violenza, gli indipendentisti di Sicilia, saranno costretti ad impedire, con ogni mezzo, lo svolgimento delle operazioni elettorali."

Con ogni ossequio ,

dev. ssimo

IL SEGRETARIO GENERALE

G. Lamm



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

Translation

The secret Committee of the Movement for the Independence of Sicily

considering that:

- 1) the National Committee never expressed any feeling of hostility towards the Italian people and that its behaviour was inspired by the wish to fight the centralising state, cause of all the evil and violence of which the Sicilian people have been suffering ever since 1860;
- 2) the National Committee and its president, Dr. Andrea Rinaudo, after several times expressed to the various Italian Governments in power ever since January 1944 (date when the powers were handed over to the Badoglio Ministry in Sicily) the wishes of the Sicilian people, suggesting a federalist solution to the complicated problem, without ever getting an answer;
- 3) after the fascist action carried out in Palermo, on April 21st, 1945, by the Government of the Parties, by means of the Carabinieri and P.S. agents who occupied and destroyed the central seat of the Movement, the Secretary General, Adv. Antonino Varvaro several times appealed to the High Commissariat in Sicily and to the various Presidents of the Council of Ministers, asking for an end to be put to unlawfulness and persecutions, unbearable in a regime which claims to be democratic, and for liberty to be reestablished.
- 4) lacking in comprehension, the Italian Government slandered the M.I.S. and prevented it from making its point of view known to the Italian people; the Sicilian people has therefore been more and more discouraged from a federalist solution which cannot be carried out without the consent of the political classes which retain supreme in Italy.
- 5) though the M.I.S. always acted in a strictly lawful way and stated to the Italian Government, in a letter dated September 1st, 1945, that the closing of its seats made it impossible for the M.I.S. to control extremist tendencies and the provocative agents of the parties in favour of unity, which bear the full responsibility for the riots which took place in Sicily, the Italian Government didn't answer.
- 6) again, in a fascist way, the Italian Government arrested and deported the leaders of the Sicilian movement, without charging them with any offence (as from the cinema Government communique saying that a denunciation will be sent to the legal authority if some offence was ascertained).
- 7) such action is obviously unlawful and arbitrary and violates the right to individual freedom and offends the most sacred principles of a democracy which is being shown off in such a pharisaic way.

asks the Italian Government that:

- a) all the partisans of independence who have been unjustly deprived of personal freedom be released at once.
- b) democratic freedom be given back to the Sicilians, putting an end to ^{the} police regime in Sicily.

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- 2 -

c)-a statement be issued, without any possible misunderstanding, as to whether the Government intends to reject the principle, several times asserted by the legal authorities as well as by the allied authorities, of the legitimacy of the M.I.S. as a free manifestation of democratic thought.

asserts

before the world's public opinion that the responsibility for rejecting the federalist solution lies entirely with the Italian Government which is thus enforcing the separatist solution with its possible cruel manifestations.

begs the Governments of the United Nations and the Allied Commission to intervene in defense of the freedoms for which their armies, received with a sincere enthusiasm by the Sicilian people as liberators and protectors of its freedom, fought and won the war.

Palermo, 3 October 1945

THE SECRET COMMITTEE OF THE M.I.S.

trans. e/c

EC DIST - 5 OCT 45
Info - Action : Exec Comm
Info : Polad (A)
" (B)
C.A.Sec

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

ALLIED COMMISSION
SICILIA REGION HEADQUARTERS
APO 394

17A
21 NOV 1944
22

FILE: RLE 013.27/ELC

18 November 1944

SUBJECT: Sicilian Separatists - Finocchiaro Aprile.

TO : Headquarters, Allied Commission - APO 394.
(Attention: C.A. Section) ←

11a

1. Reference your letter 14/1.1/CA of 15.10.44 enquiries have now been made concerning the above case reported in "UNITA" of 3.10.44. Although there was some heated argument and unwise remarks made by the defences advocates, it appears that the newspaper report is not substantially correct. In particular no reference whatever was made to the Allied Authorities.

2. Before hearing from A.C. the Procuratore Generale of the Court concerned had carried out a private enquiry into the conduct of the case having regard to complaints made by other political parties to the Minister of Grace and Justice and he was satisfied that no further action was necessary.

3. So far as is known the Italian Government is taking no action in the matter.

E. L. Clough
E.L. CLOUGH,
Colonel, A.C.D.,
Regional Executive Officer.

sf

HEADQUARTERS
20 NOV 1944
A. C.

Seen by CRO, VP
23 NOV 1944

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

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 39h
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

1A/1.1/CA

21 Nov 44.

Your Excellency,

I have now received a report on the incident in Sicily to which you referred in your letter of the 19th October.

It is true that on one occasion a newly appointed official of PAB dic, by mistake, prevented publication in the Corriere di Sicilia of an official communication. The officer was new to his duties and acted in ignorance. An explanation was at the time given to the High Commissioner and accepted by him.

With regard to the two officers alleged to have attended a Separatist meeting at Valledolmo: The two officers, who were members of the Military Mission to the Italian Army, went to Valledolmo on a Sunday to visit friends. They knew nothing of any proposed meeting but while there they saw a gathering and apparently some ceremony. They watched purely as a matter of interest and had no idea that the meeting had anything to do with the Separatist movement. They in no sense attended a conference. The press, seeing them there, made the most of it. Here again the matter had already been discussed with the High Commissioner and he had accepted the explanation.

It is regrettable that any cause for comment should have been given, but the above explanation will, I am sure, fully satisfy you that the Allied Commission has not altered its policy of not countenancing the Separatist movement.

Yours very truly,

G.R. UPJOHN, Brig.
VP CA Section,
Deputy Chief of Staff.

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His Excellency Ivanoe Bonomi,
President of the Council of Ministers,
Italian Government,
R O M E

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

ALLIED COMMISSION
SICILIAN REGION HEADQUARTERS
APO 394

14/11/CAV
FILE:RC/000.1

10 NOV 1944

SUBJECT: Sicilian separatists

TO : HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
(Att: Vice-President Civil Affairs Section)

1. With reference to your 14/11/CA of 28 OCT 44 the following are the facts regarding the two points raised.

2. As regards the question of publication in the *Corriere di Sicilia* of the official communiqué of the decisions reached by the Council of Ministers, the High Commissioner for Sicily drew my attention at the time to the fact that publication had been prohibited in the above mentioned paper. I took the matter up immediately with the local P.W.S. officer here who reported that a new P.W.S. representative had lately been installed at Catania and that, owing to not being fully acquainted with the local rules, he had inadvertently prevented publication. P.W.S. were requested to get into touch with the High Commissioner for Sicily's office and the whole matter was adjusted to the satisfaction of all concerned.

3. As regards the alleged attendance of an American Major and a British Captain at a separatist conference at *Valladolid* on 3 OCT the story is as follows. The two officers concerned belonged to M.I. and did not come under the jurisdiction of this Headquarters. They have since both left the island. The day on which the incident took place was a Sunday and, according to the reports received by me, these two officers proceeded from *Palmi* with civilian friends to visit other friends at *Valladolid*. During their visit there it appears that some ceremony took place concerned with the opening of a mill in which *Pinochiaro Grile* was taking part. More prominence than usual was given to the presence of these Allied officers in the area by the fact that their vehicle broke down short of the town and that their stay there was prolonged by the necessity of sending a break-down vehicle to repair the damaged motor car.

HEADQUARTERS

15 NOV 1944

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those Allied officers when they left Palermo were totally unaware that any separatists ceremony was taking place at Valledomo and they did not in any sense attend a conference convened by Pinocchio Grile.

This matter came to my attention at the time and I discussed it fully with the senior officer of M.I.I.A. here and with the High Commissioner for Sicily and it was agreed that the presence of these two Allied officers at Valledomo on this occasion was purely fortuitous and that there was no need for any further action.

4. In view of the above I do not consider that there is any cause for complaint on the part of the President of the Council of Ministers.

M Carr Brigadier

M. CARR
Brigadier
Regional Commissioner

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

From : Brigadier G.P. URJOHN
VP CA Sec HQ AC

File
✓
Ref 14/1.1/CA

28 Oct 44

Your Excellency

12th
I have to acknowledge receipt of Your Excellency's letter on the subject of certain acts alleged to have occurred in Sicily.

I am causing inquiries to be made and will thereafter cause such instructions to be issued as may appear to be appropriate. Your Excellency can rest assured that the Allied Commission will not countenance any support by its officers of the Separatist movement.

Believe me, Your Excellency,

Yours truly

H E Ivanoe BONOMI
President of the Council of Ministers
Italian Government
R O M E

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

File

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

13a
18

Ref : 11/1.1/CA ✓
SUBJECT : Sicilian Separatists.
TO : HQ Region Sicily.

28 Oct 44

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- 1 The President of the Council of Ministers has complained
 - a) that in Catania the IWB did not allow publication in the Corriere di Sicilia of the official communique of the decisions reached by the Council of Ministers of Sicily.
 - b) that on the 3 Oct an American Major and a British Captain attended a conference at Valledolmo (Palermo) which had been convened by a notorious separatist Finocchiaro Aprile.and that these actions are discriminatory and to the prejudice of the authority of the Italian Government.
- 2 Please report whether the complaints are justified by the facts and submit your comments.

BY COMMAND OF COMMOORE SPONE

G.R. UGONE Brig,
VP CA Sec HQ AC.

SJM/er

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THE PRESIDENT OF THE
COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR

FILE : 9526/559

TO : ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUB COMMISSION

SUBJECT: SICILY - SEPARATISM.

Rome, 19. October. 1944

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

1.

The National Committee of Liberation of Palermo refers:

- a) In Catania the P.W.B. did not allow the official communication of the decisions taken by the Council of Ministers for the Island, to be published on the Corriere di Sicilia;
- b) The 3rd of this month the on. Finocchiaro Aprile has held a conference at Valledolno (Palermo) accompanied by an american major and an english captain.

2.

In reporting the above, it seems advisable that the Branch Offices of the Commission should avoid any action that could imply an encourage to

the view of the general situation this also because of the recent official

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2. In reporting the above, it seems advisable that the Branch Offices of the Commission should avoid any action that could imply an encouragement^{to} the aims of the separatist party: this also because of the recent official declarations.

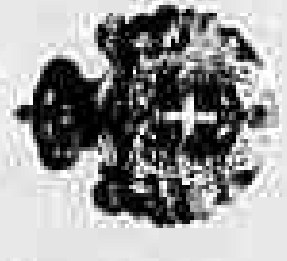
3. I will be very grateful if the Allied Commission will issue dispositions in this regard

THE MINISTER

1423
9214

2856

26 OCT 1944



IL PRESIDENTE
DEL CONSIGLIO DEI MINISTRI
MINISTRO DELL'INTERNO

Roma, 19 ottobre 1944

1216

Nº 9526/559

Oggetto: Sicilia - Separatismo.

ALLA COMMISSIONE ALLEATA DI CONTROLLO
Sottocommissione Interni

R O M A

- I. Il Comitato di Liberazione di Palermo ha riferito:
 - a) a Catania il P.M.B. non avrebbe permesso che venisse pubblicato sul Corriere di Sicilia il comunicato relativo ai provvedimenti decisi per l'isola dal Consiglio dei Ministri;
 - b) il 3 corrente l'on. Finocchiaro Aprile ha tenuto una conferenza a Valledolmo (Palermo) accompagnato da un maggiore americano e da un capitano inglese.
2. In relazione a quanto sopra sembrerebbe opportuno che gli organi periferici di codesta Commissione evitassero qualsiasi atto che possa significare incoraggiamento delle mire della fazione separatista: questo, anche in conformità alle recenti dichiarazioni ufficiali.

3. Sarà grato a codesta Commissione Alleata se vorrà ena-

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3. Sarò grato a codesta Commissione Alleata se vorrà emanare disposizioni in questo senso.

IL MINISTRO

502:

[Handwritten signature]

Pig/

3247

0 1 0 4.
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394
CA SECTION

14/1.1/CA

15 Oct 44

(11A) 15

SUBJECT : Sicilian Separatists-Finocchiaro Aprile.

TO : FC Sicilia.

(PB)

Attached is an extract from matter published in l'Unita'. Can you please say whether the report is substantially accurate and if so whether the Italian Government is proposing to take any and if so what action.

BY COMMAND OF ACTING CHIEF COMMISSIONER

SHW/is
Ext :469

S.H WHITE Lt Col
for Deputy Chief of Staff

5028

2624

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

✓
HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

14/1.1/CA

9 Oct 44

PA 14

SUBJECT : Sicilian Separatists-Finocchiaro Aprile.

TO : COS.

Reference your 515/32 COS. dated 6 Oct 44.

- 1 As the activities of Finocchiaro for some months past have been handled by the CA Section or its SUB-Comans it is considered that this Section should continue to do so.
- 2 I feel very strongly that the prosecution of Aprile is a matter domestic to the Italian Government with which we should not interfere. Our intervention some months ago is possibly the cause of Finocchiaro's attitude.
- 3 NC Sicilia should be asked whether the report is accurate and what action if any the Italian Government is proposing to take.

Ext : 525
SHW/go

G.R. UPJOHN Brig,
V.P. CA Section

5027

2323

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

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
CMT

Office of the Chief of Staff

14/10/1/UA
Ref: 515/32/003.

6 October 44.

SUBJECT: Marquess Giovanni Finocchiaro Aprile.

8 OCT 1944

TO: Civil Affairs Section.
Political Section
Public Relations.

(8A)

1. Reference is made to the attached report published in "Unità" 3 Oct 44.

2. Aprile has been a trouble maker for some time and it is believed that an effort should be made to verify whether he made the statement that has been credited to him.

3. Would you please comment on lines of action to be taken and put forward your recommendations.

William Earl
Chief Staff Officer,
to the Chief of Staff.

5026

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

"UNITA" 3 Oct 44
range declarations of FINOCCHIA (APRILE)

Messina, 30 - On September 19th Penal Court at Messina, a separatist who had written and distributed a clandestine pamphlet against the Italian government, was absolved for he had not committed this act" (88)

Without comments we publish this piece of news, as well as some words of the advocate FINOCCHIARO APRILE who acted as the lawyer for the defence in the trial. 13

"We shall print this pamphlet again without asking anybody's permission, for in Sicily we do not acknowledge the powers of any constituted Italian authority." And in spite of the hints of the magistrate, he went on "I want it publicly known that when Bonomi wanted to have me arrested the Allied Authorities laughed. And if I am here today, it is because the Allies want me to".

5020

2235

11
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
SICILY REGION HEAD-QUARTERS
APO 394

9061
FILM:RC/000.1

SUBJECT: SICILY and SEPARATISM

TO : Executive Commissioner
R.C. & M.C. Section
H.Q. A.C.C. ROME

COPIES : Vice-President Administrative Section
Interior Sub-Commission —

12 AUG 1944

19 AUG 1944

1. A translation of a letter from Vito Cichero Aprile, addressed to the Chancelleries of the United Nations in the name of the so-called "National Committee for the Independence of Sicily", is submitted for information.

2. The letter is full of mis-statement and perversion of the truth, and is composed with evident intent to mislead.

3. The central Allied Publications Board, when at Naples, refused an application from the separatists submitted through Palermo A.P.B. to publish a newspaper, on the grounds that it is not an Italian party. Nevertheless a clandestine paper, pamphlets and booklets are regularly put into circulation throughout the island and attempts by local authorities at suppression or confiscation are only feeble.

4. The attack on the Sabaudia Division is unwarranted and is an indication of separatist policy to have military service in Sicily abolished.

5. Removal of excess railway material and certain electrical equipment by Allied Control Commission to meet urgent needs on the Mainland is distorted into spoliation of Sicily by the Italian Government.

6. The various Parties of the Committee of Liberation in their weekly press caustically comment upon the letter and unanimously deplore the complete travesty of the truth.

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6. The various Parties of the Committee of Liberation in their weekly press caustically comment upon the letter and unanimously deplore the complete travesty of the truth.

7. The separatist question has been discussed in general terms with the new High Commissioner Aldisio, who took over on 7th inst. Although the subject was discussed recently with Bonomi, Aldisio does not appear to have any definite mandate from his Government. He therefore intends to examine the legal aspects of the case, with a view to formulating a policy.

5024

A. Hancock
A.N. HANCOCK
Colonel
Regional Commissioner

1 incl- letter, Pinocchiaro Aprile to Chancelleries of the United Nations re alleged ill treatment of Sicily by Italian Government.
(Copy and translation)

SICILIAN INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT

NATIONAL COMMITTEE

The exceptional situation in which the Italian government has placed the great majority of the Sicilian populace, desirous of liberty and independence, compels this National Committee to make a fervid appeal to all Chanceries.

We here are living under a most abominable regime of oppression.

Not only are we denied liberty, but we are exposed to ill-treatment of every kind.

While liberty of the press is granted to all parties, even to those who number a few dozen members, we are not allowed to publish even one newspaper, notwithstanding the fact that the independence movement now includes several hundred thousand followers. Thus we are the subject of criticism and insult by a band of political profiteers, without a possibility of response.

Thus we, and we alone, are not allowed to publish even the smallest and most insignificant poster, because all the printing houses are daily searched by the police, who do not allow the printing of that which we have ordered.

Thus, by facile pretence or by the invention of insistent reasons such as the fear that we may spread propaganda against the Government of Spain to the utmost - altogether a falsehood - we are denied the right of meeting, largely conceded to all parties, and this to prevent the people from continuing to manifest, as always, their great sympathy for the independence of Sicily.

So the followers of the independence movement are not only listed as reproaches in special files but they are also subjected to threats and reprisal and membership in the movement is considered an unworthy title through which our followers can obtain nothing.

Consequently, those of our friends who, at the time of the liberation, were called by the Allies to take public office are now invited to resign, though they have performed their duty in an admirable fashion, and are threatened, on the contrary, with discharge.

Thus we, and we alone, are not allowed to publish even the smallest and most insignificant poster, because all the printing houses are daily searched by the police, who do not allow the printing of that which we have ordered.

Thus, by little pretence or by the invention of incident reasons such as the fact that we may spread propaganda against the consignment of grain to the enemy - altogether a falsehood - we are denied the right of meeting, largely conceded to all parties, and this to prevent the people from continuing to manifest, as always, their great sympathy for the independence of Sicily.

So the followers of the independence movement are not only listed as reprobates in special files but they are also subjected to threats and reprisals and membership in the movement is considered an unworthy title through which our followers can obtain nothing.

Consequently, those of our friends who, at the time of the liberation, were called by the Allies to take public office are now invited to resign, though they have performed their duty in an admirable fashion, and are threatened, on the contrary, with disgrace.

As though this were not sufficient, our persons are exposed to the most vile attacks. At Regalbuto, where a few of us went with entirely peaceful intentions, to explain the reasons in favour of independence, we were attacked by a band of communists and mercenaries, among whom were officers from the Saurma Division, all armed with machine guns, revolvers and hand grenades, and only a miracle prevented a slaughter. The band was organized by the Prefect of Enna, a certain Bruno. Not only did the government authorities fail to deplore the actions of this man and the other ruffians, but they expressed their approval of the repression.

The Italian government has had the effrontery to ask the Allies to authorize the arrest of the President of our National Committee, Gality or nothing but an ardent love of our Sicilian fatherland and the wish to see it free of the oppression, servitude and exploitation to which it has been subjected for about a century by Italy.

In addition, our cities are as in a state of siege. Not only is there an enormous number of Carabinieri and Agents of Public Security, but the streets are overflowing with officers and soldiers of the Italian army whose manner is provocative and who would better fulfil their duty on the battle front. Their presence in Sicily for the purpose of intimidation, overpowering and violence is not at all liked, incidents are frequent and any moment may bring

forth a dangerous reaction.

Attention should be called to the fact that the Italian government is adopting Sicily of everything, as though to punish her for her hostile attitude. Railway cuts, autobuses, electric turbines, industrial plants, material and goods of every kind are being taken away from us to be transported to Italy, rendering our life impossible. The Italian government cares not at all that Sicily remains bereft of all.

We, therefore, make most strong protest against the unavailing and barbarous conduct of the Italian government which daily becomes less worthy of the support of the United Nations and unworthy of the transformation of co-belligerency in alliance, such as it pitifully and insistently asks.

This National Committee invokes for the oppressed Sicilian populace the termination of this intolerable state of affairs created by the Italian government, according to the supreme laws of civilization and humanity and counsels upon all chancelleries to inform the Italian government of their disapproval and to invite it to desist from the use of methods that not even the fascist regime ever used in Sicily.

Our sufferings, the absolute lack of liberty, the hate of the Italian government cause us to fervently desire the military re-occupation of the island by the U.S. and England so as to put an end to our complaints.

The National Committee, on this occasion, facing the abyss which the government has created between Sicily and Italy, reaffirms its own unalterable intention to continue the battle for the separation of the two nations, in conformity with the supreme moral political and economic necessities of the Sicilian populace and raises its appeal that said populace be given a plebiscite under international control, not having any faith in the Italian government, and a chance to declare its will to govern itself in an independent sovereign state.

Please accept the expression of our highest esteem.

The General Secretary: ANTONINO VARRATO

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Please accept the expression of our highest esteem.

The General Secretary: ANTONINO VIVAREO

The President: ANTONIO PINOCCHIERO APOLLO

5022

MOVIMENTO PER L'INDIPENDENZA DELLA SICILIA

COMITATO NAZIONALE

AL SIGNOR SEGRETARIO DI STATO PER GLI AFFARI ESTERI DEGLI STATI U. ti
AL SIGNOR MINISTRO DEGLI AFFARI ESTERI D'INCHIILTERRA,
AL SIGNOR COMMISSARIO PER GLI AFFARI ESTERI DI RUSSIA,
AL SIGNOR GENERALE DE GAULLE,
AL SIGNOR CIANG KAI SCHEK,
AL SIGNOR CARDINALE SEGRETARIO DI STATO DI SUA SANTITA',
AI SIGNORI MINISTRI DEGLI AFFARI ESTERI DEL BELGIO, DI CECOSLOVAC-
CHIA, DI DANIMARCA, DI GRECIA, DI JUGOSLAVIA, DI NORVEGIA, DI OLAN-
DA, DI POLONIA, DI SVEZIA.

Falermo, 20 Luglio 1944.

L'eccezionale situazione nella quale il governo italiano ha po-
sto la grande maggioranza del popolo siciliano, anelante alla pro-
pria libertà ed indipendenza, impone a questo Comitato Nazionale
l'obbligo di rivolgere un fervido appello a tutte le Cancellerie.

Noi viviamo qui sotto il regime della più abominevole oppres-
sione.

Noi non solo ci vediamo negate le libertà, ma siamo esposti a
violenze di ogni genere.

Mentre la libertà di stampa è concessa a tutti i partiti, anche
a quelli che hanno poche decine di iscritti, è negato a noi di
pubblicare anche un solo giornale, nonostante che il movimento per
la indipendenza abbracci ormai parecchie centinaia di migliaia di
aderenti. Così noi siamo oggetto di tutte le critiche e di tutte
le contumelie da parte di una masnada di approfittatori delle po-
litica, senza potere neppure rispondere.

Così a noi, e a noi soltanto, è vietato di pubblicare anche il
più piccolo ed insignificante manifesto perchè tutte le tipografie
sono quotidianamente perquisite dalla polizia, la quale non consente
che stampino quel che sia stato ordinato da noi.

Così, sotto futili pretesti o inventando ragioni inesistenti,
come il timore che noi si possa fare propaganda perchè non sia con-

prata libertà ed indipendenza, impone a questo Comitato Nazionale l'obbligo di rivolgere un fervido appello a tutte le Cancellerie.

Noi viviamo qui sotto il regime della più abominevole oppressione.

Noi non solo ci vediamo negate le libertà, ma siamo esposti a violenze di ogni genere.

Mentre la libertà di stampa è concessa a tutti i partiti, anche a quelli che hanno poche decine di iscritti, è negato a noi di pubblicare anche un solo giornale, nonostante che il movimento per la indipendenza abbracci ormai parecchie centinaia di migliaia di aderenti. Così noi siamo oggetto di tutte le critiche e di tutte le contumelie da parte di una masnada di approfittatori delle politiche, senza potere neppure rispondere.

Così a noi, e a noi soltanto, è vietato di pubblicare anche il più piccolo ed insignificante manifesto perchè tutte le tipografie sono quotidianamente perquisite dalla polizia, la quale non consente che stampino quel che sia stato ordinato da noi.

Così, sotto futili pretesti o inventando ragioni inesistenti, come il timore che noi si possa fare propaganda perchè non sia consegnato il grano agli ammassi - cosa completamente falsa - ci si interdice il diritto di riunione, largamente concesso a tutti i partiti, e ciò per evitare che il popolo continui a manifestare, come sempre ha fatto, il suo grande favore per l'indipendenza della Sicilia.

Così gli aderenti al movimento per l'indipendenza non solo sono iscritti come reprobri in speciali elenchi, ma sono sottoposti a continue minacce e rappresaglie e si considera come titolo di demerito l'adesione al movimento stesso per effetto del quale nulla possono i nostri adepti ottenere.

Così quei nostri amici che, al tempo della liberazione, furono chiamati dagli Alleati a coprire cariche pubbliche sono invitati a dimettersi, pur avendo adempiuto in modo encomiabile il dover loro, e minacciati, in caso contrario, di destituzione.

Come se ciò non bastasse, le nostre persone sono sottoposte ai più villi attentati. A Regaluto, dove ci eravamo recati in pochi, con intenzioni del tutto pacifiche, per spiegare le ragioni che militano a favore dell'indipendenza, noi fummo aggrediti da una banda di comunisti e di monarchici, fra i quali erano anche ufficiali della **divisione "Sabauda"** tutti armati di fucili mitragliatori o di rivoltelle o di bombe a mano, e fu un miracolo se non avven-
./.

no un eccidio. L'anda era stata organizzata al prefetto di Enna, un certo Bruno. Ora le autorità governative non solo non deplorano il contegno di costui e degli altri manigoldi, ma esprimeranno la loro implicita approvazione dell'aggressione.

Il governo italiano ha avuto la tracotanza di chiedere agli alleati l'autorizzazione di procedere all'arresto del presidente del nostro Comitato Nazionale, di null'altro reo che di amare ardentemente la nostra patria siciliana e di volerla svincolata dall'oppressione, dalla servitù e dallo sfruttamento in cui è stata tenuta per circa un secolo dall'Italia.

Aggiungiamo che le nostre città sono come in istato di assedio. Non solo vi è un enorme numero di carabinieri e di agenti di pubblica sicurezza, ma le vie rigurgitano di ufficiali e militari dell'esercito italiano con atteggiamento provocatorio, mentre si farebbe molto meglio a dare loro un compito sui fronti di battaglia. La loro presenza in Sicilia per una funzione d'intimidazione, di sopraffazione e di violenza non è affatto gradita e gli incidenti sono frequenti e si potrebbero da un momento all'altro avere pericolose reazioni.

Zi si tenga presente che il governo italiano sta svuotando la Sicilia di ogni cosa, quasi a punirla del suo atteggiamento ostile. Carri ferroviari, autobus, automobili, turbine elettriche, impianti industriali, materiali e merci di ogni genere ci vengono tolti per essere portati in Italia, rendendo impossibile la nostra vita, nulla importando al governo italiano che la Sicilia rimanga priva di tutto.

Noi, pertanto, rivolgiamo le nostre più vibranti proteste contro questa incivile e barbara condotta del governo italiano che si rende ogni giorno più indegno della sopportazione delle Nazioni Unite ed immeritevole di vedere tramutata la coesistenza in alleanza, come va pietosamente ed insistentemente chiedendo.

Questo Comitato Nazionale invoca per l'oppresso popolo siciliano che la intollerabile condizione di cose creata dal governo italiano venga meno come esigono le supreme leggi della civiltà e della umanità, e si rivolge fiducioso a tutte le cancellerie perchè facciano giungere al governo stesso la loro deplorazione e l'invito a desistere da metodi che neppure il regime fascista aveva mai usati in Sicilia.

Le nostre differenze, l'assoluta privazione della libertà, l'odio del governo italiano verso di noi ci fanno vivamente desiderare che gli Stati Uniti e l'Inghilterra rioccupino militarmente l'isola per porre fine ai nostri mali.

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Le nostre sifferenze, l'assoluta privazione della libertà, l'odio del governo italiano verso di noi ci fanno vivamente desiderare che gli Stati Uniti e l'Inghilterra rioccupino militarmente l'isola per porre fine ai nostri mali.

Il Comitato Nazionale, con questa occasione, di fronte all'abisso che il governo ha creato fra la Sicilia e l'Italia, conferma il proprio indefettibile proposito di continuare la sua lotta per il distacco delle due nazioni, conformemente alle supreme necessità morali, politiche ed economiche del popolo siciliano e rinnova l'esortazione che questo sia chiamato con un plebiscito sotto il controllo internazionale, non avendo noi alcuna fiducia nel governo italiano, a dichiarare di volersi governare da sé, in uno stato sovrano indipendente.

Voglia gradire l'espressione dei sentimenti della nostra alta considerazione.

IL SEGRETARIO GENERALE: Antonino Varvaro
IL PRESIDENTE: Andrea Finocchiaro Aprile

5020

Copiato: Palermo 4 agosto 1944
1 originale, 7 copie.

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

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

INCOMING MESSAGE

TO : NAPLES

FROM : MESSINA

REFERENCE N° 686151

DATE AND TIME OF ORIGIN: 8 JULY.

File 3/11/8

THIS PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE SICILIAN INDEPENDENCE RAISING VIVID PROTEST BECAUSE OF TRANSFER OF ARTILLERY COMMAND FROM MESSINA TO PALERMO DENOUNCES TO THIS COMMISSION AND PUBLIC OPINION EVIDENT MANOEUVRE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT DIRECTED TO CREATE SECESSION AMONG SICILIAN SISTER CITIES. IN FACT GOVERNMENT PROVISION COMFLICTS WITH SPECIFIC SEPARATIST MOVEMENT PROGRAM TENDING TOWARD DECENTRALIZATION OF PUBLIC OFFICES AMONG VARIOUS ISLAND CITIES. PRESIDENT GALASSO PROF. RENATO CALAFAI.

Confidential

ACC ADV DIST.
ACTION - C.A. BR.2
INFOR - D.C.C.
FILE
FLOAT 2

1. This letter is a piece of effort by the Italian independence committee who are getting better in their demands.

2. Best answer is to ignore and remain.

File 3/11/8

5015

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

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
R.C. & M.G. Section
APO 394

Ref/769/11/EA.

12 July 1944.

SUBJECT: Sicilian Separatism.

TO : R.C. Region I.

I attach hereto copy of a signal received here today.
I should be glad to have your comments before taking any
action.

NORMAN E. FISKE,
Colonel,
Deputy Executive
Commissioner.

Incl
as above.

✓ Copy to: Admin Section

5018

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

14/1.1/AS.

U. S. SECRET
Equals British1222/
OFFICE/SH 6/
5/97
3062
JULY (14B)
Sent on
1400 de Courci

SECRET

PRIORITY

ADD REAR

JHS

JUL 7 1944

ACTIVITIES OF FINGOCHIANG IS SUBJECT YOUR NO BLUNT ZERO ZERO ZERO POINT ONE DATED
 ONE JULY REFERS TO TO JHS FOR ADD REGION ONE FOR REGIONAL COMMISSIONER FROM
 ADD REAR FROM AMEN SIGNATURE TO HIS REMOVAL TO AN INTERMENT CAMP MUST
 INADVISABLE TO RECOMMEND THAT IF EVIDENCE IS SUFFICIENT JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES
 BE ADVISED TO PROSECUTE UNDER ARTICLES FOUR ONE FOUR AND FOUR ONE FIVE OF PIRAL
 CODE FOR INDIVIDUAL OTHERS NOT TO AMEND CLAIM FD FINGOCHIANG IS ENTITLED TO
 APPLY TO JUDGE FOR PROVISIONAL LIBERTY PENDING TRIAL BUT PROSECUTOR SHOULD
 BE INSTRUCTED VIGOROUSLY TO OPPOSE THIS IN VIEW OF NATURE CIRCUMSTANCES AND
 CONTRIBUTIONS OF OFFENSE IN PLEASE ADVISE AS TO ACTION TAKEN SOONEST

AUTHENTICATED:

E. Chiocci
 E.J. CHIOCCA
 CMC USA
 Adjutant

DISTRIBUTION:

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- 1 - Interior
- 1 - Legal
- 1 - Admin

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HEADQUARTERS,
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION,
APO 394.

Regional Control and Military Government Section.

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Ref: 15/103/CA.

6th July 1944.

SUBJECT: Sicilian Separatism.

TO : Vice President,
Administrative Section.

- 7 JUL 1944

1. I refer to RC/000.1 of 1. July. 1944 from Regional Commissioner, Region I, copy of which was sent to your Interior Sub-Commission.
2. Colonel Hancock has produced the following stenographic notes (of which I enclose a copy) of a speech made by FINOCCHIARO APRILE on 25th May in which he is reported to have said:-

"We solemnly declare that no one will bring to the ammasso a grain of wheat. Those in particular who are near us and desire the rebirth of our land should absolutely keep their word in regards to doing so."

3. The above statement, if correctly reported, appears to be a definite incitement to disobedience and in my opinion the man should be arrested by the Italian authorities and charged with the offence.
4. Regional Commissioner, as you will see from the memorandum on grain enforcement, also recommends the removal of AVVORATO DE MARTINO and BARON CESARE BRUNO DI BELMONTE. He has no definite case against these two men except that they are close adherents of FINOCCHIARO APRILE and in view of the latter's definite incitement against grain collection, I think it would be wise if the Italian Government would remove them from the Island. It would certainly help the task of the Regional Commissioner and the High Commissioner in enforcing the Italian Government decrees.

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MSL/JG.

Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

MSL 5010

NOTES ON THE SPEECH MADE BY ANDREA FINOCCHIARO APRIL 25/5/44
AT REGALBURTO.

We ask a sovereign State for the dependents of Sicily. We have to liberate ourselves from the oppression suffered for 84 years, years in which no one has remembered us. They (those of the Mainland) have oppressed our agricultural development, hindered our industry, and all our efforts for the rebirth of our land have remained sterile in front of the super-capitalism of the North, that continually pulverise all our projects at their birth. Today this system of oppression still continues. The government of those beyond the Strait of Messina has established in 189 and 1910 the price of grain for the ammasso. We solemnly declare that no one will bring to the ammasso a grain of wheat. Those in particular who are near us and desire the rebirth of our land should absolutely keep their word in regards to doing so. This constitutes a first and necessary duty.

During 84 years all has been done for the Northern regions. Nothing for the Southern regions. If we think of the great industries of North in comparison to the misery reserved for Sicily, we find the complete justification for our conception of independence.

We are not a party, but we represent a movement that receives men of all parties. I add that all parties, including the Communist Party, those who are with us are the best, the most intelligent.

The Italian government of Badoglio (shouts "down with Badoglio") has gathered representatives of the Italian Communist Party - Nothing against them - We only express the certainty that from such a hybrid union an organism capable of guiding the country towards a better future, cannot arise.

We have been the first Sicilians to ask administrative elections. The other parties have been afraid of such elections, and making their fright by saying that they weren't ready for the elections, have hindered our proposal by affirming that before the elections it would be better to await the return of our soldiers. We agree to the fact that during the war period it is impossible to call a meeting for the purpose of elections. But I think that it is possible to er-

estimates a first and necessary duty.

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When these elections are made, the population, we are certain, will vote for the independence of Sicily.

Let those who are in military service vote also; but we ~~do not~~ ^{do not} those Sicilians who are still fighting, because the war for us is over.

We are the apostles of a new State, not a bourgeois State, never sovietic or governed by a few. We dream a State that does not exist on earth, in which the population is really ruler - and where all those cities, from Palermo to Catania, from Trapani to Messina, will have equal rights and duties.
We do not want to associate ourselves to any State, especially Communist.

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

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PRIORITY

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with Admin Section 14/1 SW

Sent on 1400 hr
courier

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BE ADVISED TO PROSECUTE UNDER ARTICLES FOUR ONE FOUR AND FOUR ONE FIVE OF PENAL
CODE FOR IMITTING OTHERS NOT TO ARREST GRAB IN PINOCCHIARO IS ENTITLED TO
APPLY TO JUDGE FOR PROVISIONAL LIBERTY PENDING TRIAL BUT PROSECUTOR SHOULD
BE INSTRUCTED VIGOROUSLY TO OPPOSE THIS IN VIEW OF NATURE SERIOUSNESS AND
CONSEQUENCES OF OFFENSE TO PLEASE ADVISE AS TO ACTION TAKEN SOONEST

AUTHENTICATED BY

E. J. Orsica
E.J. ORSICA
CWO USA
Adjutant

DISTRIBUTION:

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Intercom
CONFIDENTIALALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
SICILY REGION HEADQUARTERS
APO 3941A
3947 63164-7
FILE:RC/000.1

1 July 1944

SUBJECT: SICILIAN SEPARATISM.

TO : Executive Commissioner
R.C. & M.C. Section
H.Q. A.C.C. Naples

Reference letters 3/CA of 13 JUN 44 and 15/32/CA of 23 JUN 44, with attached documents addressed to the Chief Commissioner and the Allied Control Commission.

1. The Sicilian Separatist movement in the person of PINOCCHIARO APRILE, a Watch List suspect, having inevitably clashed with the Communists at a Separatist Meeting held at REGALBUTO (MINA Province) on 28 MAY 44, protests in the name of free speech and liberty, and enlists A.C.C. support and sympathy against the reactions which Separatist doctrine provokes in the minds of Sicilians who are loyal to ITALY.

2. The late Badoglio government, and the former Minister of the Interior ALDISIO in particular, embarked on a policy to suppress separatism in SICILY and difficulties were put in the way of holding meetings on the grounds of public security.

3. An application to A.P.B. Naples to publish a weekly newspaper was rejected on the grounds that the movement does not represent a recognized Italian political party.

4. Recent speeches by Pinocchiaro Aprile have contained passages inciting farmers not to deliver wheat to the people's granaries and also against the Italian Army and military service. I am informed that the Italian government has been so acquainted.

5. I have informed Pinocchiaro Aprile as follows:

(Translation)

With reference to the papers sent me on 19 and 20 JUN regarding the distressing incidents at REGALBUTO, it is contrary to Allied Control Commission policy to intervene in or interfere with the Italian Administration.

The sole concern of the Allied Control

Commission is that SICILY, as co-belligerent, make the greatest possible contribution to the successful prosecution of the war and that it does not hinder the war effort, which imposes obligations upon all, with inopportune demonstrations, and that the consequences of the war be considered in their ultimate effect on every country. (63A) 1

6. The question is essentially one for the Italian government to decide upon and in my opinion there is sufficient evidence to take action under the law.

7. If I were asked for a recommendation I should say that in the best interests of the war effort and public security in SICILY, Pinocchio Aprile's removal to an internment camp, with other members of his group for company, is to be advocated.

A. N. Hancock Col
A.N. HANCOCK
Colonel
Regional Commissioner

Copies To: Interior sub-Commission
Public safety sub-Commission
Public safety Region I

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U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
JAN 10 1964

Wm. H. Ransom

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JAN 1968
U.S. AIR FORCE

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