

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

7850/6

ACC

10000/105/674

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 7850/6

10000/105/674

ELECTIONS IN ISTRIA
JAN., FEB. 1946

5;

Ex Comm.
Ref 1A. Drafts of 3A prepared by CA Section
submitted for approval. H.S. 112
See your M281 in Vol IV.

Issue 112/112.

C. A. Section

Your file returned. Drafts submitted by you
approved. Letters have been sent on to file & copies
forwarded to your section
11/12/12. H.S.

5167

Minutes

Minute Sheet.2.

VP-CA Section

I suggest that you refer copies to British and American Embassies for reference to their Govts. and inform Italian R.M. accordingly. Our Govts. may feel that it is something they will want our missions in Belgrade to take up with Yugoslav Govt.

L. Weller Jones
Poland (A) Jan 23/46

VP-CA Section.

I agree with Mr. Tine.

65/1/46
Sent 25.1.46

W. J. Jones (br.)
H. J. Jones (br.)

3.

Office of Executive Commissioner

5166

1A was marked 1/2 this Section for Action.
Following on Memorandum 2. action was being taken

1A was marked to this Section for action.
Following on Munster's action was being taken
in accordance with drafts of 3A. Presumably
the full complete action.

M. Paul Bay
V.P.C.O.S.

30/1

(4)

ALC

Refer file 2806/EE (att.) folio 282. CA Sec have
drafted the letters att. in this temporary packet
but think they should come to us: with this
I agree. If Ex. Comm approves the drafts
I will have them typed & submitted for
signature on our file.

30/1

E/S.I/CA ✓

File per.

(10)

5 FEB 1946

Ref: 2806/291/EC.

5. February 1946.

SUBJECT: Elections in Croatia ISTRIA.

TO : Allied Force Headquarters.
Attn: G-5 Section.

300 (1A)

1. Herewith is forwarded copy of a letter dated 15 January received from the Italian Prime Minister concerning elections which took place in that part of ISTRIA south of the River DRAGONIA. The letter deals with a subject outside the jurisdiction of this Commission.

2. Copies of the Prime Minister's letter have also been forwarded to the US and British Embassies who will, it is understood, take the matter up with their respective Governments. The Governments may wish to take the matter up with their missions in BELGRADE.

For the Chief Commissioner:

M. S. L. C.

Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

5164

Copy to: CA Section. ✓



Translation

14/8.1/CA ✓ Aler

9 FEB 1946

(6A)

Laghorn, Feb. 2nd, 1946

To Admiral Stone - Rome

On the eve of the departure of the Allied experts for Venezia Giulia, we remind Your Excellency of the regime of terror established in the zone occupied by the Yugoslavs by Tito's troops, against the peace-loving, hardworking and patriotic Italian population.

Arrests, mass deportations, massacres, which filled with corpses Italian foibe, violence, threats, immigration on a grand scale from Slavs from beyond the border, changing of files in the offices of vital statistics and electoral lists, prevent the population from expressing its feelings and its will.

It is essential that, in accordance with the Armistice clauses, the Anglo American troops should occupy all Venezia Giulia, that all people deported be liberated, and that all Italians, and inhabitants of Fiume and Zara who have now taken shelter in Italy be made to vote.

Thus only could the Allied Commission realize the ethrical situation of the region and make a just decision in accordance with the principles of the Atlantic Chart.

Sincerely yours,

s. The Laghorn Committee for
Venezia Giulia

5163

.....

e/c

E.C. DIST - 9 Feb

Action: E.C.

Info: C.C.

C.A. Lee

Polad A

- B



Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 7850/16

Ref: 2806/290/EC.

7 February 1946.

- 7 FEB 1946

My dear Mr. Prime Minister:

(1A) I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 5/29 of 15 January concerning elections in Istria. I have taken the matter up with the US and British Embassies who will in all probability refer the matter to their respective Governments. It is a matter which is outside my jurisdiction and with which I can do little other than forward your letter to the appropriate quarters.

Yours very truly,

/s/ Ellery W. Stone

ELLERY W. STONE
Rear Admiral, USNR
Chief Commissioner

Dott. Alcide de Gasperi,
President of the Council of Ministers,
The Italian Government,
R O M E.

5162

Copy to: CA Section.



(3A)

Ref: 2806/232/10.

6 February 1946.

SUBJECT: Elections in ISTRIA.

TO : US Embassy.
British Embassy.

Herewith is forwarded copy of a letter dated 15th January received from the Italian Prime Minister concerning elections which took place in that part of ISTRIA South of the River DRAGONA. The matter was raised with Polada (A) and (B) who consider that it might be referred to your Government in case it may wish to take the matter up with its Missions in BELGRADE.

For the Chief Commissioner:

MS Lush
Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

Copy to: QA Section.

5161

521
FEB 10 1946
AMERICAN ARMY

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 7850/16

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

Office of the Chief Commissioner
APO 394

28 JAN 1946

23 January 1946

Ref: 2306/EC

SUBJECT: Elections.

TO : ✓ G.A. Section.

Ref Prime Minister's letter 5/29 dated 15 January 1946
forwarded to you for action on the 19th January.

The Executive Commissioner has requested that this letter
be forwarded to G-5 AFHQ and the Embassies with a covering
note for his signature.

*EDS - gbk
Laptr*

h Chief Staff Officer
to Executive Commissioner

5160

2806
CA
18

Il Ministro degli Affari Esteri

rough translation

n° 5/29

Rome, January 15th, 1946

21 GEN 1946

Dear Admiral Stone,

You are certainly aware that during the second half of November last, some elections, which were announced as "Administrative", took place in the so called "Croatian Istria" (by such name, the Yugoslav pretend to designate that part of Istria south of the river Dragogna).

Should these elections have had no different purpose than of providing for the local administration, I would not have deemed it necessary to interest you in the matter. But, on the contrary, they were greatly transformed in such a way that they ended up by being a true and proper political speculation for the purpose of showing the unanimous will of the Slav and Italian populations of the whole of the Venezia Giulia to see the region annexed to Yugoslavia.

It has not been possible to clearly identify what legislative measure was the base for holding said elections. All real guarantees were missing for the formation of electoral rolls, the secrecy and the freedom of the ballot.

It has not been possible to clearly identify what legislative measure was the base for holding said elections. All real guarantees were missing for the formation of electoral rolls, the secrecy and the freedom of the ballot.

The elections took place in an intimidatory atmosphere. In many places the Italians were subject to threats, ranging from the warning that the non-voters would have been deprived of food ration cards to serious menaces against the freedom and even against the life of those who would have failed to go to the polls. Propaganda speeches and posters stated that non-voters and those opposing the only ticket were to be considered as being the enemies of the "people's cause", which was identified with the Yugoslav cause. Before and during the elections many persons were arrested.

There can be no doubt that the elections' results were artificially and unscrupulously altered. According to Yugoslav figures, the affluence to the polls would have been nearly one hundred percent, and nearly unanimous would have also been the vote in favour of the only ticket.

Admiral Ellery W. Stone
Chief Commissioner
Allied Commission
R O M E

p.t.o. 5159



EC DIST - 19 Jan.
ACTION - CAPTAIN (2)

INFO - CC
- EC

Yet, from countless reports in my possession, there is a well grounded evidence that those who abstained from voting were very numerous, and there were very many blank ballots and ballot forms hailing Italy.

The true purpose of such pseudo-elections was made clear in the final stage of the electoral operations, when a "Regional Popular Committee of Istria" was elected at Parenzo.

The speeches delivered in the "Assembly" which was to choose among its components the above mentioned Committee's members, clearly showed that the "democratic and secret" elections were held under the leadership of the "Italo-Slovenian antifascist Union", an association which is known to be dominated by Yugoslav agents.

Among the delegates present in Parenzo there were some self-styled delegates from Pola and from Trieste as well as some representatives of the "Comitato Regionale Popolare del litorale Sloveno", of the Yugoslav Military Administration in Istria and even a member of the Yugoslav Constituent Assembly.

Several speakers have asserted the unanimous ("plebiscitary") will of the population of Istria, Trieste and Pola to join the Federal Yugoslav Republic. It has been furthermore declared that the members (15) named by the "Regional Popular Committee of Istria" are the only authentic representatives of the popular will of the Venezia Giulia.

...Federal Yugoslav Republic. It has been furthermore declared that the members (15) named by the "Regional Popular Committee of Istria" are the only authentic representatives of the popular will of the Venezia Giulia.

Such assertions have been summed up and solemnly reaffirmed in a final motion in which it has been also stated, on behalf of said populations, "the firmest resolve to keep on marching under the leadership of Marshal Tito and the decision to fight against any attempt to separate Istria or any part of the Venezia Giulia from the Yugoslav Republic".

In view of the above, I cannot refrain from expressing to you, dear Admiral Stone, in your capacity of Chief of the Allied Commission, my high disapproval for such methods of political struggle, which are foreign to genuine democratic spirit, and from formulating my protest and all my reserves as to this new scheme attempted by the Yugoslavs to coerce or mystify the will of the Italians of Istria.

Believe me, Dear Admiral Stone,

Very sincerely yours

(sgd) DE GASPERI

5/29

Il Ministro degli Affari Esteri

Roma, 15 GEN 1948

21 GEN 1948

Caro Ammiraglio,

Le sarà certamente noto che, nella seconda metà di novembre scorso, si sono svolte nella cosiddetta "Istria Croata" (con tale termine gli jugoslavi intendono designare l'Istria a sud del fiume Dragogna) delle elezioni che erano state annunciate come "amministrative".

Se queste elezioni non avessero avuto effettivamente altro scopo che quello di provvedere all'amministrazione locale, non giudicherei necessario intrattenermi su tale argomento.

Ma, al contrario, esse sono state gradatamente trasformate si' da concludersi in una vera e propria forma di speculazione politica tendente a dimostrare un'unanime volontà da parte degli slavi e degli italiani di tutta la Venezia Giulia di vedere la regione annessa alla Jugoslavia.

vi e degli italiani di tutta la Venezia Giulia di vedere la regione ammessa alla Jugoslavia.

Le elezioni sono state indette senza che sia possibile identificare chiaramente il provvedimento legislativo in base al quale esse sono state fatte.

E' mancata qualsiasi seria garanzia per la formazione delle liste elettorali, per il segreto e la libertà del voto.

Le operazioni elettorali si sono svolte in un'atmosfera di intimidazione. In innumerevoli località elementi italiani subirono minacce che andavano dall'annuncio che gli astenuti sarebbero stati privati delle carte alimentari, fino alle intimidazioni più gravi concernenti la libertà ed anche la vita stessa degli eventua-

Ammiraglio ELLERY W. STONE
Capo della Commissione Alleata

ROMA

51



li astenuti. Scritte murali e discorsi di propagandisti dichiaravano gli astenuti e i contrari come nemici della causa popolare identificata con la causa jugoslava. Prima dell'inizio delle operazioni elettorali, e nel corso delle stesse, vennero compiuti numerosissimi arresti.

Quanto ai risultati di tali elezioni, essi vennero senza alcuno scrupolo alterati. Infatti, secondo le cifre pubblicate da parte jugoslava, la partecipazione alle urne sarebbe stata quasi totale, e quasi totalitaria l'adesione alle liste uniche presentate.

Ora, da innumerevoli informazioni in mio possesso, risulta che gli astenuti furono moltissimi, e numerosissime le schede bianche o recanti scritte inneggianti all'Italia.

Lo scopo effettivo di tali pseudo elezioni si è chiaramente rivelato nella fase finale delle operazioni elettorali, e precisamente con le elezioni svoltesi a Parenzo per la nomina del "Comitato popolare regionale dell'Istria".

Dai discorsi tenuti nell'"Assemblea" che doveva nominare dal suo seno i membri del "Comitato", è apparso che tali elezioni "democratiche e segrete" sono state condotte sotto la guida dell'"Unione antifascista italo-slovena", organo notoriamente completamente dominato dagli agenti jugoslavi.

I membri del "Comitato", è apparso che tali elezioni "democratiche e segrete" sono state condotte sotto la guida dell'"Unione antifascista italo-slovena", organo notoriamente completamente dominato dagli agenti jugoslavi.

Fra i delegati presenti a Parenzo si notavano pure dei pretesi delegati di Pola e Trieste, nonché rappresentanti del "Comitato regionale popolare della litorale slovena", dell'amministrazione militare jugoslava in Istria ed anche un deputato e membro della Costituente jugoslava.

Vari oratori hanno affermato la plebiscitaria volontà della popolazione istriana, triestina e polesane di unirsi alla Repubblica federativa jugoslava. I membri (15), nominati dal "Comitato popolare regionale dell'Istria" vennero dichiarati soli autentici rappresentanti della volontà popolare della Venezia Giulia.

Tali affermazioni sono state riassunte e ribadite in forma solenne

./.

Il Ministro degli Affari Esteri

- 2 -

in una mozione finale nella quale anche si dichiara, a nome delle predette popolazioni, "la più ferma volontà di continuare a marciare sotto la guida del Maresciallo Tito e la volontà di lottare contro qualunque tentativo di separare l'Istria, o qualsiasi parte della Venezia Giulia, dalla Repubblica Jugoslava".

In vista di quanto precede non posso esimermi dall'esternare a Lei, caro Ammiraglio, nella Sue qualità di Capo della Commissione Alleata, i miei sentimenti di viva contrarietà per metodi di lotta politica tanto lontani da ogni genuino spirito democratico, e dal formulare la mia protesta ed ogni riserva per questa nuova manovra tentata dagli jugoslavi per coartare o mistificare la volontà degli Italiani dell'Istria.

Mi abbia, caro Ammiraglio,

Segretario

MINISTERO DEGLI AFFARI ESTERI

Rough Translation

Copy

No. 5/29

Rome, January 15th, 1946

Dear Admiral STONE,

You are certainly aware that during the second half of November last, some elections, which were announced as "Administrative", took place in the so called "Croatian Istria" (by such name, the Yugoslav pretend to designate that part of Istria south of the river Dragogna).

Should these elections have had no different purpose than of providing for the local administration, I would not have deemed it necessary to interest you in the matter. But, on the contrary, they were greatly transformed in such a way that they ended up by being a true and proper political speculation for the purpose of showing the unanimous will of the Slav and Italian populations of the whole of the Venezia Giulia to see the region annexed to Yugoslavia.

It has not been possible to clearly identify what legislative measure was the base for holding said elections. All real guarantees were missing for the formation of electoral rolls, the secrecy and the freedom of the ballot.

The elections took place in an intimidatory atmosphere. In many places the Italians were subject to threats, ranging from the warning that the non-voters would have been deprived of food ration cards to serious menaces against the freedom and even against the life of those who would have failed to go to the polls. Propaganda speeches and posters stated that non-voters and those opposing the only ticket were to be considered as being the enemies of the "people's cause", which was identified with the Yugoslav cause. Before and during the elections many persons were arrested.

There can be no doubt that the elections' results were artificially and unscrupulously altered. According to Yugoslav figures, the affluence to the polls would have been nearly one hundred percent, and nearly unanimous would have also been the vote in favour of the only ticket.

Yet, from countless reports in my possession, there is a well grounded evidence that those who abstained from voting were very numerous, and there were very many blank ballots and ballot forms hailing Italy.

The true purpose of such pseudo-elections was made clear in the final stage of the electoral operations, when a "Regional Popular Committee of Istria" was elected at Parenzo.

E.C. DIST 51 ^{19 Jan}
Action: CA Dec. (2)
Info: C.C.
E.C.

- 2 -

The speeches delivered in the "Assembly" which was to choose among its components the above mentioned Committee's members, clearly showed that the "democratic and secret" elections were held under the leadership of the "Italo-Slovenian antifascist Union", an association which is known to be dominated by Yugoslav agents.

Among the delegates present in Parenzo there were some self-styled delegates from Pola and from Trieste as well as some representatives of the "Comitato Regionale Popolare del litorale Sloveno", of the Yugoslav Military Administration in Istria and even a member of the Yugoslav Constituent Assembly.

Several speakers have asserted the unanimous ("Plebiscitary") will of the population of Istria, Trieste and Pola to join the Federal Yugoslav Republic. It has been furthermore declared that the members (15) named by the "Regional Popular Committee of Istria" are the only authentic representatives of the popular will of the Venezia Giulia.

Such assertions have been summed up and solemnly reaffirmed in a final motion in which it has been also stated, on behalf of said populations, "the firmest resolve to keep on marching under the leadership of Marshal Tito and the decision to fight against any attempt to separate Istria or any part of the Venezia Giulia from the Yugoslav Republic".

In view of the above, I cannot refrain from expressing to you, dear Admiral Stone, in your capacity of Chief of the Allied Commission, my high disapproval for such methods of political struggle, which are foreign to genuine democratic spirit, and from formulating my protest and all my reserves as to this new scheme attempted by the Yugoslavs to coerce or mystify the will of the Italians of Istria.

Believe me, Dear Admiral Stone,

Very sincerely yours,

(sgd) DE GASPERI

- 2 -

The speeches delivered in the "Assembly" which was to choose among its components the above mentioned Committee's members, clearly showed that the "democratic and secret" elections were held under the leadership of the "Italo-Slovenian antifascist Union", an association which is known to be dominated by Yugoslav agents.

Among the delegates present in Parenzo there were some self-styled delegates from Pola and from Trieste as well as some representatives of the "Comitato Regionale Popolare del litorale Sloveno", of the Yugoslav Military Administration in Istria and even a member of the Yugoslav Constituent Assembly.

Several speakers have asserted the unanimous ("Plebiscitary") will of the population of Istria, Trieste and Pola to join the Federal Yugoslav Republic. It has been furthermore declared that the members (15) named by the "Regional Popular Committee of Istria" are the only authentic representatives of the popular will of the Venezia Giulia.

Such assertions have been summed up and solemnly reaffirmed in a final motion in which it has been also stated, on behalf of said populations, "the firmest resolve to keep on marching under the leadership of Marshal Tito and the decision to fight against any attempt to separate Istria or any part of the Venezia Giulia from the Yugoslav Republic".

In view of the above, I cannot refrain from expressing to you, dear Admiral Stone, in your capacity of Chief of the Allied Commission, my high disapproval for such methods of political struggle, which are foreign to genuine democratic spirit, and from formulating my protest and all my reserves as to this new scheme attempted by the Yugoslavs to coerce or mystify the will of the Italians of Istria.

Believe me, Dear Admiral Stone,

Very sincerely yours,

(sgd) DE GASPERI

