

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

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DEFASCISM, ORG/ ITALIAN, REGION VI
JUNE 1944 - OCT. 1945

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016DF/548CA ✓

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Admin. Sec.

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9 OCT. 1945

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Herzfeld memorandum about Serbia

MS 3/5/44

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The political situation in Sardinia, from information in our

possession, can be stated as follows:-

1. Officials who held office under the Fascist Govt. of MANGILI remain in the majority of cases. No purge has been made of Fascist officials continuing on the old system.
2. Since the Allied occupied Sardinia the prisons have not been controlled and they contain thousands of arrested persons. For example in the prison of CAGLIARI most of the prisoners await trial but the powers of the judiciary have not been decided.
3. Officials of ANO in Sardinia do not show the energy indispensable to a "reconstruction" of the political order in Sardinia conforming with the Armistice terms. Any action taken must comply with Articles 29, 30 and 31 of the Armistice of 25.Aug.43.
4. On this subject the Advisory Council for Italian Affairs recommends to the Allied Military Commander-in-Chief:-
 - (a) That ANO takes the following proposals to the Italian Govt. for the execution of Articles 29, 30 and 31 of the Armistice of 25.Aug.43:-
 - (1) To proceed immediately with the purging of Fascist officials still concerned in local administration in Sardinia and particularly officials in the local councils, police, gendarmerie, justice, and
 - (ii) To remove M. ATTAVIALE, Prefect of the Province of Sassari, who has held this position since the time of the Mussolini Govt.,
 - (iii) To remove, arrest and bring to trial, ANO officials who continue to hold office in Sardinia, e.g., M. MARINO, Commissioner of Police

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"demonstration" of the political order in Sardinia conforming with the limitations terms. Any action taken must comply with Articles 23, 30 and 31 of the Articles of 26.Aug.43.

4. On this subject the Advisory Council for Italian Affairs recommends to the Allied Military Commander-in-Chief:-

(a) That AGO make the following proposals to the Italian Govt. for the execution of Articles 23, 30 and 31 of the Articles of 26.Aug.43:-

(i) To proceed immediately with the purging of Fascist officials still observed in local administrations in Sardinia and particularly officials in the local councils, police, gendarmerie, justice, and

(ii) To remove M. ATTAVIALLI, Prefect of the Province of Sassari, who has held this position since the time of the Mussolini Govt.,

(iii) To remove, arrest and bring to trial, GMA officials who continued to hold office in Sardinia, e.g., M. VAGHET, Commissioner of Police at Sassari, and M. M. MAGGIOLO CORONA and Salvatore BIELI, vice commissioners of the police.

(iv) Conduct a public enquiry as quickly as possible into the names of persons arrested at Sassari on 15.Jan.1944 on the occasion of a demonstration.

(b) To direct that AGO will supervise the execution on the part of the Italian Govt of the terms of para (a) (i) (ii) (iii) & (iv) above.

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TOP SECRET

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

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SUBJECT: Spurnation of Fascists and Prison Conditions in Sardinia.
 (reference request for information on an aide memoire on this subject made by the Advisory Council at its last meeting)

1. A.C.C. control of Sardinia commenced on 1st January, 1942. It is noted that the Italian Government under the direct control of Axis and it is presumed that the Advisory Council informed itself of conditions in the Island through Axis.

2. Spurnation of Fascists.

Of the officials who held office under the Fascist Government to have been removed up to date. By order are still under consideration by the Italian Government. These results are largely due to constant pressure applied by the A.C.C. representatives in Sardinia.

Asciavalle and Sabina have been removed as have 3 officers of the OVA and 7 officers of the Fascist Militia.

It should be remembered that the efficient working of the Sardinia does since the head of the Sardinia has had to be retained in his appointment although he is known to have held Fascist views.

Colonna and Velli, both members of the OVA, continue to hold office though with different functions and in spite of requests to remove them.

It should be remembered that Russian was not so strongly supported by the Sardinia as by the Italians on the mainland. I am satisfied that since A.C.C. took over control in Sardinia the A.C.C. representatives have done their best to urge the Italian authorities to carry out as effective purge of Fascist officials. It must be remembered that in this respect the A.C.C. representatives have no executive power and that the late Italian Government was weak.

It is to be anticipated that under the new Italian Government the requests of the A.C.C. will receive speedier and more effective response.

3. State of the Courts in Sardinia.

The state of the courts at the end of January was deplorable. It was with the greatest difficulty that the Italian judges who had taken

to have been removed up to date. 2. There are still some organizations by the Italian Government. These require more immediate due to constant pressure applied by the A.C.C. representatives in addition.

At present, the situation has been improved by having 2 officers of the A.C.C. and 7 officers of the A.C.C. in addition.

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It should be remembered that people are not as strongly motivated by the cards as by the Italian in the island. I am satisfied that since A.C.C. took over control in addition to the A.C.C. representatives have done their best to urge the Italian authorities to carry out as effective purge of judicial officials. It must be remembered that in this respect the A.C.C. representatives have no executive power and that the late Italian Government was weak.

It is to be anticipated that under the new Italian Government the requests of the A.C.C. will receive speedier and more effective responses.

2. State of the Courts in Palermo.

The state of the courts at the end of January was deplorable. It was with the greatest difficulty that the Italian judge who had taken refuge in the interior could be persuaded to return to Cagliari and the Italian officials were most lethargic in finding alternative accommodation for the courts of justice and other judicial bodies whose buildings had been destroyed or occupied by the Italian Army.

An Allied officer of the legal sub-commission who visited the island in March with the object of re-establishing the courts of justice succeeded in persuading the Italian authorities to re-open the Civil Court of Appeal and the Criminal and Civil tribunals and create courts during April. There is, however, still a grave shortage of judges which would have continued had not the Chief Legal Officer of the Allied Control Commission persuaded the Minister of Justice to promote 12 lower judicial and despatch 6 new judges to the island.

The condition of the jails is bad, although there are slight signs of improvement. In the P. M. prisons there is no congestion but in the judicial prisons, especially at Sassari, there is considerable overcrowding, and 2,377 persons are detained in prisons of which the capacity is 1,277 only.

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The two chief reasons for overcrowding are the stagnation in the courts and the number (264) of military personnel awaiting trial. At the beginning of April 1944 civilians were awaiting trial: 300 however were granted an amnesty during the month at the instigation of A.S.C. officers and the figure is probably considerably less at present. Arrangements have also been made through the efforts of A.S.C. officers (though they are not yet complete) to detain military personnel in special military camps.

During March the officers of the Legal Sub-Commission and the Regional Commissioner held numerous meetings with the High Commissioner and his officers at which they insisted on immediate action. As will be seen some success has been achieved.

There is no doubt that the presence inordinarily of a very large number of Italian troops whose general conduct has been in certain instances unsatisfactory has contributed substantially and adversely to the Island's problems.

The new Italian Government is being urged to take drastic action immediately and to support effectively the efforts of the Regional Commissioner and his staff who, it must again be remembered, had and have no executive powers.

JOHN JACOB MACFARLANE,
Lieutenant-Colonel
Chief Commissioner.

11th May, 1944.

TO: The Secretariat
of the Advisory Council for Italy.

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the island's problems.

The new Italian Government is being urged to take drastic action immediately and to support effectively the efforts of the Regional Commissioner and his staff also, it must again be remembered, had and have no executive powers.

ROMA (ASAP) (ASAP) (ASAP),
Lieutenant-General
Chief Commissioner.

14th May 1944.

20. The Secretariat
of the Advisory Council for Italy.

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TOP SECRET

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From: Lt Col S.H. WHITE
CA Section HQ AGHEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

Ref DB/3.4/CA

6 Jan 45

Your Excellency,

The following information is passed to you in case it may be of assistance. I am not in a position to say whether or not the allegations made are correct.

It is suggested that in Sardinia your representative is meeting with certain difficulties. First, the Schedas which he requires have not arrived. Secondly, it is stated that no arrangements have been made to supply him with funds for petty disbursements. Thirdly, that no arrangements have been made to provide him with petrol and there are other minor matters as to which it is understood that the Prefect states that he has no authority to provide or arrange.

The point is I think that it is insufficient to ask the Prefect to co-operate or to assist your representative. He has not the authority to do all that may be required. He can only assist within the limits permitted by his general instructions; if more is necessary, he must either receive wider instructions from the Ministry of Interior or your representative must be given express authority to incur certain expenses, draw petrol and the like.

I do not know whether this criticism applies generally or is particular to Sardinia.

Believe me, Your Excellency,
Yours truly

M. S. BOCCIMAZZO
Alto Commissariato per le Sanzioni
contro il Fascismo,
Palazzo del Viminale,
ROMA

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CONFIDENTIAL

DF/3-4/CA
HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED COMMISSION
SARDEGNA REGION

23 November 1944

26 NOV 1944

REFERENCE: L/1423

SUBJECT: Defascism

TO: Headquarters, Allied Commission

1. With reference to your DF/4.3/CA of 16 Nov 44, I attach for your information a short report on Defascism as, so far, practiced in SARDINIA, by Lt. Col. PRICE who acts as Provincial Commissioner for the 3 Provinces.
2. I cannot feel ~~much~~ confidence in the Defascism progress made so far in this Region.

JAC Perryquice

J. A. C. PERRYQUICE,
Colonel,
Regional Commissioner.

JACP/ech

HEADQUARTERS

26 NOV 1944

A. C.

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ALLIED COMMISSION FOR SARDINIA
PROVINCIAL HEADQUARTERS

22 NOV 44

Ref. : CP/EP/30

Subject : Defascism. Provincial Liaison.

To : The Regional Commissioner, Region G.

With reference to DP/4.3/GA of 16 NOV 1944, from H.Q., A.C. requesting the co-operation and assistance of the Regional and Provincial Officers to enable representatives of the High Commissioner for Defascism to [] Comunes etc.

Every assistance will be given as far as the Provinces are concerned. So far the High Commissioner for Defascism representatives have studiously avoided us. The information regarding Defascism, as I know it at the moment, is as follows.

A Provincial Commission is to be appointed of three members. One appointed by the High Commissioner for Defascism, by the Prefect, and by the Procuratore del Re.

So far the Prefects and Procuratore del Re have nominated their members but the High Commissioner for Defascism has taken no action beyond sending to the Island a pronounced Communist named GILIE who has spent the two months he has been here either in hospital or else in dispensing Communist propaganda. He has selected three High Commissioner representatives and sent their names to the High Commissioner for Defascism. It is significant that two are Communists and one is a member of the Sard Party.

They are - CAGLIARI Signor COI, a Communist,
NUERO AVV. PULIGHERDU, Sard Party,
SASSARI A retired Carabinieri Maresciallo who is a Communist.

Lieut. WOOD tells me the SASSARI man is not a very good type. He is a very rough, rather uneducated person.

The NUERO man is a very good type and is very well liked by everybody.

The CAGLIARI man is a poor type. He is coming in to see me on Thursday.

It would appear from this that the Communists, who actually are a very weak party in SARDINIA, are going to endeavour to control the Spuration, and it seems that we are playing right into the hands of one particular political party. There are numerous good men who never were Fascists and who stood out and suffered because they were not in accord with the Fascist rule. Yet they are passed over and people who toadied to the Fascists, but now come out as Communists etc., are placed in positions of considerable importance. If this is the outcome of giving the Italians the reins then the sooner we return to A.M.G. methods the better.

So far the Prefects and Procuratore del Re have nominated their members but the High Commissioner for Defascism has taken no action beyond sending to the island a pronounced Communist named GRILLE who has spent the two months he has been here either in hospital or else in dispensing Communist propaganda. He has selected three High Commissioner representatives and sent their names to the High Commissioner for Defascism. It is significant that two are Communists and one is a member of the Gard Party.

They are - CAGLIARI Signor COI, a Communist,
 MUCRO Avv. FULIGHERDU, Gard Party,
 SASSARI A retired Carabinieri Marasciallo who is a Communist.

Lieut. WOOD tells me the SASSARI man is not a very good type. He is a very rough, rather uneducated person.

The MUCRO man is a very good type and is very well liked by everybody.

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WJW

(3d) E. POWELL PRICE,
 Lt. Col., R.W.F.
 Provincial Commissioner.

Copy to: Legal Division.

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HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
SARDEGNA REGION

CA Sect.

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23rd October 1944.

To : Headquarters, Allied Control Commission,
Vice President of Civil Affairs Section.

Subject : Defascism.

Reference : L/1423.

28 OCT 1944

Reference 313/172/CA dated 15th August 1944 and your
DF/63/AS dated 25th September 1944, the situation in this Region
as at 15th October 1944 was as under.

Cagliari Province - No Commission functioning.
Sassari Province - No Commission functioning.
Nuoro Province - No Commission functioning.

HEADQUARTERS

27 OCT 1944

A. C. C.

For the Regional Commissioner.

R. G. S. Alexander

R. G. S. ALEXANDER,
Major.

Regional Legal Officer.

REHA/sjs.

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~~DEFERS~~ Lt. Col S.H. WHITE. (1A)

EXTRACT FROM REGION 6 REPORT FOR JUNE 1944.

"The work of the Provincial De-Fascistisation Commission is proceeding. Some misgiving is felt as to the justice and general effectiveness of these Commissions. Attendance at their deliberations by Provincial Officers lends colour to the view that personal ambitions and animosities play a large part in their proceedings. It is felt that at the end of the day the more dangerous and important Fascists will remain where they were, whilst the harmless and often quite efficient subordinate employees will be out of work".

DEFERS Station Officer Reports R. VI

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