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DEFASCISM, RETURNS & REPORTS, CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION
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Monthly Report - November

Defascism. The problem in Italy is very different from that in France; in Italy the roots of Fascism go back over 20 years - fascist decrees passed many years ago have not merely to be repealed but measures have to be found to undo what they effected. It may take a considerable time and work to undo a wrong done a dozen or more years ago. The Italian Govt is tackling the problem methodically and consistently. It may not be generally realised that since July 13 1943 the Government has published 70 decrees on this, 40 of which it had published before the invasion of the mainland had commenced and this does not take into account decrees which merely appoint new controllers to fascist bodies.

With regard to operation of the Government machinery in 8 out of the 13 Ministries all support member officials (down to Grade IV incl) had by the 30 Nov either been dismissed or suspended and the other 5 Ministries were (at the 30 Nov) expected to be completed within the next few days, lack of transport has caused delay in certain investigations.

With regard to the lower ranks at the 30 Nov 28,000 cases had been or were under consideration. Of these 1,700 had been suspended at the request of the Commission, statistics are not available as to the numbers suspended by the Ministries themselves without reference to the High Commission but they are believed to exceed by far those suspended on the request of the High Commission, and nearly 7,000 cases i.e. 25% of the cases investigated have been referred to the hearing commissions for decision as to whether or not the persons concerned should be dismissed.

With regard to Fascist "Crimes" for which punishment from death downwards may be awarded, over one thousand two hundred cases have been investigated of which in only five cases has it been decided that the evidence does not justify trial; the cases have already commenced to be heard. These do not include crimes committed by Fascists which are punishable under the ordinary penal code such as the recent Garuso trial.

Now does this report deal with operation of small undertakings in the provinces, the provincial commissions are only now in the process of formation, some few have actually started, but generally speaking this work is only about 50 complete.

GO 35 and Admin Instructions setting up machinery for the operation of the Italian Administration during the period between occupation of recovered territory and its restoration to a degree of tranquillity, that the Italian Govt can undertake its own operation has been drawn up. It provides for investigation of the antecedents of officials of certain grades and for deciding whether or not they should be suspended. It does not come into effect in any Region without approval of this Hq.

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