

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

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DO SITREPS, BOLOGNA
(EMILIA REGION)
APR. 1946

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ALLIED COMMISSION
LIAISON OFFICE
BOLOGNA

CONFIDENTIAL 2

23 April 1946

To : Brigadier M.S. LUSH
Acting Chief Commissioner,
HQ Allied Commission
R O M E

APR 25 1946

Sir,

In advance of the monthly report I submit a resumé of conditions as they exist in Emilia Region.

Politically, all seems fairly quiet; following the elections for local Government, there is not so much political activity but, no doubt, that will intensify shortly. Elections here were held in a quiet orderly fashion and voting was heavy. The Socialists and Communists were successful and correspondingly jubilant. Speaking to the leader of the local Monarchist Group I was informed that he thought that voting on the Referendum would be about 50-50 with a slight majority in favour of a Republic.

The supply situation is difficult to diagnose; officially, the Region is living from hand to mouth so far as grain is concerned, depending entirely upon foreign shipments, and there is no pasta ration. Unofficially, there seems to be plenty of black market bread and pasta. Other foods, except sugar, are off the ration, but the shops are full of hams, cheese of all varieties, some butter, salami and the like. There is plenty of meat. Prices are still high but there has been some reduction since the free market started. Fruit and vegetables are plentiful.

Public safety remains about the same, maintaining the improvement in February. A somewhat disturbing incident occurred a few days ago when about ten armed men, with a large truck entered an Italian munition dump, shot the guard, and took away several cases of hand grenades, explosives, fuses and cartridges. Reliable information has been received of ex-partisan members of the Questura in Reggio Emilia being told not to take orders from the Questore on 2nd June, but from "a special Commission which will be set up". This is being investigated by Major Way.

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Public health remains good, the only outstanding matters to report being an incidence of measles and whooping cough.

Unemployment is still a grave problem and we can expect demonstrations about this.

Crop prospects are good.

So far as finance is concerned, it is interesting to note that even the very rich are beginning to feel the pinch and are cutting down expenditure; before, they were inclined to maintain their old standard of living at whatever cost. On the other hand one hears of gambling casinos being opened at various places in the area.

Apart from these points there is nothing outstanding to report.

Yours Obediently,

W. J. Vatter
Lieut Col.

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