

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017

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10000/104/292
(VOL. II)

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000/104/292
VOL. II)

BOLZANO SITUATION
AUG., SEPT. 1945

183

Send copy of 182 to Brig Gen. [unclear]
 regarding [unclear] to [unclear]
 opinion & draw his attention
 to para 3.

184

185

185

185: Please see in attached P/S file 1801, the PS memorandum in answer
 to our letter 20A in 184 file (1745 in 184 file). There is no yet of reply
 from M.M. 1A.

186

Note:

The substance of the memo referred to in 185 was as follows:

1. On objection to the caption "Line Continuation".
2. CCBB are not available for Guard Duty.
3. Any increase of CCBB in Belgium could only be arranged at the expense of another Province.

185

C.B.G. Please see in attached P/S file (4601), the P/S memorandum in answer

to our letter SOA in that file (7941 in that file). There is no yet a reply

from M.A.A.

186

Note:

The substance of the memo referred to in 185 was as follows:

1. On objection to the caption "Civil Commission"
2. CCR are not available for Grand Duty.
3. Any increase of CCR in Belgium could only be arranged at the expense of other Province.

4. St. Gout has been promised that no CCR will be transferred to North from Southern, Sicily or S. Italy.

5. In short, there can be no extra CCR for Belgium but the CCR could recruit within Public Safety Agents if necessary.

187

Revert to: New two Grand Duty
L.A. 5/14 answer

5/15/14

4360

164

TO: Executive Commissioner.

4 one

Reference Minute 161.

1. Folio 129 - Suggested change over of Folgore and Priuli Groups.

(a) Prior to folio 129, FIFTH Army had expressed the opinion (in folio 125) that the real cause of the trouble was bad disciplines among the Italian troops and that as the Priuli were as bad as the Folgore nothing would be gained by changing them over.

(b) AFHQ signalled:

(1) to FIFTH Army in reply to 125 (at 133) saying that the possibility of replacing Italian troops by Allied troops is ruled out by the fact that the former would in any case have to take over responsibility in Sept., and that Italian Military discipline must be improved.

(11) To A.C. in reply to 129 (at 137) saying that they agree with FIFTH Army's views at (a) above and do not propose to make any changes at the moment. FIFTH Army or 2 District can replace Folgore later if it seems desirable.

(c) For your further information, FIFTH Army have since (at 138) stated that in their signal at 125 they did not intend to admit bad conduct on the part of the Folgore, and have asked to be given details of alleged disorders etc; we have asked Prime Minister (146) and R.C. Venezia Region (147) to report on the matter.

2. Folio 130 - Fraternisation with German Population, POLAND.

Please see AFHQ replia 162 and 163 - i.e., no fraternisation allowed with German prisoners, but this cannot be enforced with civilian population.

5/3/48

P. P. S. L.

30 Aug 45.

3/Cont.

165

(ii) To A.C. in reply to 129 (at 137) saying that they agree with FIFTH Army's views at (a) above and do not propose to make any changes at the moment. FIFTH Army or 2 District can replace Folgore later if it seems desirable.

(c) For your further information, FIFTH Army have since (at 138) stated that in their signal at 125 they did not intend to admit bad conduct on the part of the Folgore, and have asked to be given details of alleged disorders etc; we have asked Prime Minister (146) and R.C. Venezia Region (147) to report on the matter.

2. Folio 130 - Pratermination with German Population, BOLZANO.

Please see AFHQ replies 162 and 163 - i.e., no fraternisation allowed with German prisoners, but this cannot be enforced with civilian population.

5/3/46

W. P. Kelly

30 Aug 45.

3/Comm.

165

15/Sept 45 G S on ff 162 & 163 Told them

that 163 was negative & advised them to read
p. 2. Dir.
barrage. They promised to do so

AS 3/4

21:14

4367

E. SO.

125 (160)

What reply has been received to

P 107 + P 108
129 130

DS/10/8

Pol. Ad. B.

(154)

he should appreciate your comments in ¹⁵²fold ~~the~~ please.

Risk. 23/8

(155)

as regards correction I agree with the Italian front. could be added to do more.

I might meet him front. need already published a device for "denazification" which was then implemented by G.A. in Bologna. But if they have not done so they must certainly be forced to do so before the territory can be handed back.

[Signature]

.. August 29.

785017

published a device for
which was now implemented by Am. O. in
"denazification"

Belgium.
But if living
it contains
be food
to do
back.

thing
 positive
 can

before

20

Aug 29.

4.2

80 to Ex Com

Political Adviser (A)

Political Adviser (B)

14 Aug 45

[Signature]

See Trends

107

Ann - *[Signature]*
P.O. Ad (Chw) Aug 21/45

[Signature] 11. 12 (6-)

P.O. MP

[Signature] San Com

folio 103 for info

106

113

Chief Commissioner.

112

1. The attached letter from Mr. Hopkinson to Sir Noel Charles on the situation in BOLZANO is most interesting. I will take the opportunity of Brigadier Dunlop's presence here on Monday to discuss it with him. My present recommendation is that we should send him straight back to BOLZANO to take up the recommendations, such as he can, made by Mr. Hopkinson.
2. The present position of the Folgore Division is that AFHQ told 5 Army that the Division is causing trouble and have asked for their recommendations as to its withdrawal. I think we should press AFHQ immediately to have it withdrawn, whatever 5 Army may say.
3. I recommend that we should take the opportunity of the presence in ROME of the Prefect of BOLZANO to impress on the Italian Government the necessity of taking action on the

113
Chief Commissioner.

- 112
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 2. The present position of the Folgore Division is that AFHQ told 5 Army that the Division is causing trouble and have asked for their recommendations as to its withdrawal. I think we should press AFHQ immediately to have it withdrawn, whatever 5 Army may say.
 3. I recommend that we should take the opportunity of the presence in Rome of the Prefect of BOLZANO to impress on the Italian Government the necessity of taking action on the lines of Mr. Hopkinson's second recommendation.
 4. Brigadier Dunlop can take action on recommendations 3 and 4 (with General Nares) and 5. With regard to 6, we shall have to wait until the Combined Chiefs of Staff have replied to any recommendation which AFHQ may have sent forward.

14 Aug 45
MSL/33.

MSL
Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

EC took this file, personally, into CC
8/8

4561

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY
APO 464 US ARMY

24 August 1945

SUBJECT : Conduct of Folgore Gruppo

TO : SACMED

1. Reference is made to TOW Freedom FX 36237 171104B August.
2. Forwarded herewith is a report of Investigation of the conduct of the Italian Folgore Gruppo and their relationship with the civilian population in the Bolzano area. It is believed that it presents the facts and factors involved in their true light and indicates the situation there as it now exists. The recommendations of the Investigating Officer are concurred in by this Headquarters.
3. Close supervision of Italian Grupos will be continued.
4. Separate copies of this report are being forwarded to Headquarters No 2 District and to Headquarters MMIA.

FOR THE ARMY COMMANDER.

J.F. CASSIDY
Colonel, GSC
Deputy Chief of Staff.

4353

RECEIVED
FIFTH ARMY

CONFIDENTIAL

5 AUGUST 1945

SUBJECT: - Report on tour carried out by Col K.G.F. CHAVASSE
in POLIGORE and PRIULI Groups Area.

Copy to: - G-1 G-4
G-2 G-5
G-3

TO: - Chief of Staff,
FIFTH ARMY.

1. OBJECT.

The object of the investigation was to ascertain whether the reports of ill-discipline in relation to the civilian population of the group, particularly POLIGORE were correct and to make any recommendations to improve the discipline if necessary.

2. Col K.G.F. CHAVASSE was accompanied by Lt Col P.M. MARJORIEUX-
JERSON from MOIA.

3. PERSONS CONTACTED.

Lt Col TAYLOR	53 PLU
Lt Col MONTAGNEY	Provincial Commissioner BOLZANO Province.
Major-General PLACER	COC POLIGORE Group.
Siriano of PRUNIO	OC 3rd IN REGIO Regt.
Major DESSI	OC REGIO Regt.
Col RONCO	Secretary to Siriano of CORTINA
Major-General NEGRO	Territorial Commander, BOLZANO.
Major MAVIS	Provincial Commissioner, PRETTO.
Lt Col SOUTHERN	50 PLU
Major-General SCATENI	COC PRIULI Group.

4. Lt Col TAYLOR - 53 PLU with POLIGORE Group said that in his opinion the reports of ill-discipline were greatly exaggerated and that there was no terrorisation of the local population. The POLIGORE group as a whole were not as well disciplined as a British or American Division. There had been numerous complaints from civilians which when investigated, had usually been found groundless. There had been a few cases of fair-weather cases of murder, in which the accused was awarded 18 years penal servitude, one alleged case of rape and one alleged case of murder. Both the latter cases are sub judice.

He was of the opinion that the request for the removal of the Group came from two sources.

1. From the Prefect of BOLZANO, who is a communist and resents the anti-communist tendencies.

3. PERSONS CONTACTED.

Lt Col TAYLOR	53 BLP
Lt Col MONTAGNEY	Provincial Commissioner BOLZANO Province.
Maj-General PLACOREL	600 POLCORE Group.
Sindaco of ERMENTO	
Major JESSI	603 3rd IN NEMO Regt.
Col ROMEO	603 NEMO Regt.
Secretary to Sindaco of CORTINA	
Maj-General NEGROMI	Territorial Commander, BOLZANO.
Major MAVIS	Provincial Commissioner, TREVISO.
Lt Col SOUTHERY	50 BLP
Maj-General BUZZATI	600 TRIUMI Group.

4. Lt Col TAYLOR - 53 BLP with POLCORE group said that in his opinion the reports of ill-discipline were greatly exaggerated and that there was no terrorisation of the local population. The POLCORE group as a whole were not as well disciplined as a British or American division. There had been numerous complaints from civilians which were investigated, and usually been found groundless. There had been a few cases of fair-~~outing~~ ^{outing} and one case of murder, in which the accused was awarded 16 years penal servitude, one alleged case of rape and one alleged case of murder. Both the latter cases are sub judice.

He was of the opinion that the request for the removal of the group came from two sources.

1. From the Prefect of BOLZANO, who is a communist and resents the presence of an Italian formation with anti-communist tendencies.
2. From the Sud Tyrol police parties - a political organisation dedicated to work for the return of south Tyrol to AUSTRIA - which dislikes the presence of an Italian division as occupational troops in the area.

Consequently everything possible was done in the area to bring discredit on Italian troops and many incidents reported, which were alleged to have been committed by Italian troops, had in fact been done by Allied troops, German POWs, or had not happened at all.

contd./sheet 2

735017 4562

The NEMO regiment had always been rather a problem as they had been originally recruited as paratroopers from a more excitable type of Italian than the rest of the group. He thought that the discipline of the NEMO regiment had now greatly improved.

General PIALORE, who took over command of the group on 10 July, is a live-wire and had made a number of changes and had tightened discipline up considerably. The full effect of his changes was already apparent, and in a few weeks the improvements would be more obvious.

The POLCORE group was originally a fascist division, and the NEMO regiment are definitely anti-communist.

5. Lt Col MORRATBY.

Col MORRATBY said that there had been very few cases of serious ill-discipline on the part of POLCORE group in relation to the civilian population.

There had been many trivial cases which on investigation were proved to be unfounded. It was noticeable that the majority of these cases came from Tyroleans as opposed to people of Italian origin.

The Tyroleans definitely resent Italian military occupation in the area, and when the group first arrived, were hostile.

There was more trouble in the NEMO area than elsewhere.

He had noticed an improvement during the last three weeks.

He believed that the troops had "feathered their nests" and had made large sums of money by selling captured enemy equipment to civilians.

He stated that the Prefect of POLZANO is a socialist, but is doing a good job of work. He undoubtedly does not like having anti-socialist troops in the area.

Col MORRATBY would prefer to have carabinieri instead of troops, but agreed that if there must be a division in the area, no useful purpose would be served by making an exchange and he would prefer the POLCORE group to remain.

6. Major General PIALORE, COO POLCORE GROUP.

Stated that on taking over command of the POLCORE group he had found it necessary to make certain changes but not as many as he had expected.

He has already removed certain officers from command in the NEMO group and has submitted a list of 23 others to the War Ministry.

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The tyroloans definitely resent Italian military occupation in the area, and when the group first arrived, were hostile.

There was more trouble in the NESBO area than elsewhere.

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COL MONTANARY would prefer to have carabinieri instead of troops, but agreed that if there must be a division in the area, no useful purpose would be served by making an exchange and he would prefer the POLCORE group to remain.

6. Major General PLACORSI, GOO POLCORE Group.

Stated that on taking over command of the POLCORE group he had found it necessary to make certain changes but not as many as he had expected.

He has already removed certain officers from command in the NESBO regiment, and has submitted a list of 23 others to the War Ministry, requesting their removal.

Considering the strength of the group and the time it had been in the area, there had been very few major incidents of ill-discipline in relation to the civilian population. He submitted a list of the only eight, which is attached as Appx "A".

He is instituting a campaign in the NESBO regiment to try and change their worklike attitude, to one more suitable to the present situation.

He welcomes the arrival of the GARIBOLDI Regiment which has an excellent reputation, and he feels are a better disciplined formation than the SAN MARCO.

contd./sheet 3

4301

Sheet 2

He invited me to contact the ginkoes in the area, to get their opinions of the group in relation to the civilian population.

7. SINIAKO OF BRUNICO

Stated that owing to there being no carabinieri in the area, there had been a large amount of petty thieving in the town by Italians. The troops undoubtedly took part in this but local civilians were equally as bad. Having no carabinieri, he could do nothing to stop it, but it had lessened in the last few weeks.

He got on well with the military authorities.

He had heard of no money being stolen.

There had been an incident of Italian soldiers demanding food in the local inn. On being refused, they started to make a row. An Italian officer quickly got the matter under control.

There had been no shooting incidents or trouble over women, or major incidents of ill-discipline, and the troops generally had established good relationship with the population.

8. Major LESSI, OC JRL IN NEMO post

Had taken over command of the RN three weeks previously.

He kept close touch with the SINIAKO of BRUNICO and had asked the latter to report any trouble to him immediately, should there be any.

There had been no trouble during his three weeks of command.

9. Colonel MONDO, OC NEMO post

Said there had been two major cases of ill-discipline in his regiment in the last 3 months - one murder in which the soldier got 18 years, and one rape, which was still under investigation.

His relations with the civilians were excellent and he kept close touch with the local government officials in his area. He invited me to ask any of the SINIAKOs to hear out what he said.

He said his regiment was non-political but - if anything - anti-communist

There is a NAZI influence in the Gui Tyrol police party which causes stories to be invented against the Italian soldiers.

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8. Major LESSEL, 00 3rd IN NEMO REGT

Had taken over command of the 3rd three weeks previously.

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His relations with the civilians were excellent and he kept close touch with the local government officials in his area. He invited me to ask any of the SINDACOS to bear out what he said.

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There is a NAZI influence in the GUL TYROL police party which causes stories to be invented against the Italian soldiers.

On arrival in the area, his advice was asked as to whether the new SINDACOS should be chosen from men of Italian origin, or from the Tyroleans. He advocated Tyrolean SINDACOS as ~~two-thirds~~ ^{three-quarters} of the population is Tyrolean.

As an example of the good relationship with the civilians, when one of his soldiers was accidentally killed by a high-tension wire the other day, over 100 civilians attended the funeral.

In his opinion the Prefect of BOLZANO - a communist and put in by the Italian government - was at the bottom of the desire to remove the group, and magnified any complaints against the military.

10. Secretary to the SINDACO of CORTINA

Had nothing but good words to speak regarding the behaviour of the local soldiers of POLICRE group (NEMO).

4350

cont/street 4

Sheet 4

11. Generalissimo, territorial commander, BOLIVIA.

Has not remained around over either group but has been in a position to observe them. He said he would like to speak quite frankly about them and has no axe to grind.

Regarding the Generalissimo group he said that on their first arrival in the area, they had behaved like the Italian Army behaved in 1918, and like the British and Americans behaved on the cessation of hostilities. In other words, they lost respect for private property and engaged in looting.

They also behaved like occupational troops from a foreign country which was greatly resented by the civil population.

There was also the temptation of seeing so much captured enemy material put under their charge. This temptation proved too much for them, and he had no doubt that they turned a lot of this to their own advantage. There was also a feeling among some of the officers and men that they would like Italians, as opposed to the Americans, to be in the material.

He also stated that the junior officers were just as much "in the pockets" as the men.

Discipline was consequently seriously undermined. Most of this happened in the San Juan and NEBO regiments and was illustrated by the fact at that time - General MORICI - who has since been removed.

The arrival of General PIAZZI has greatly improved matters. He said the latter was energetic, honest and quick to act, but has a very difficult task to put everything right. He has already removed certain officers and wants to remove others.

The policy of San Juan by CAHILLAN will improve the situation.

The discipline of the Artillery, Engineers and Services is good.

The discipline of the NEBO regiment is the worst in the division.

He would recommend the NEBO be pulled out and taken in hand in a training area, and another regiment substituted. When it was pointed out that there is no other regiment available to take its place, he said that the other alternative was a complete cut-out of the undesirable officers in the NEBO regiment, and substitution of good officers from other units.

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He also stated that the junior officers were just as much "in the racket" as the men.

Discipline was consequently seriously weakened. Most of this happened in the SAN MARCO and NEMO regiments and was alleviated by the GCO at that time - General MORICI - who has since been removed.

The arrival of General PIORSI has greatly improved matters. He said the latter was energetic, honest and quick to act, but has a very difficult task to put everything right. He has already removed certain officers and wants to remove others.

The roll of SAN MARCO by CARBANI will improve the situation.

The discipline of the Artillery, Engineers and Services is good.

The discipline of the NEMO regiment is the worst in the division.

He would recommend the NEMO be pulled out and taken in hand in a training area, and another regiment substituted. When it was pointed out that there is no other regiment available to take its place, he said that the other alternative was a complete cut-out of the undesirable officers in the NEMO regiment, and substitution of good officers from other units.

Relations of the area with the civilians had greatly improved and there is no resentment now, to their presence in the area except on political grounds.

The police parties dislike having Italian troops occupying their territory and this party enlarges and magnifies trivial incidents to bring discredit on the military.

The Prefect of POLZANO is a socialist. He recommended administrative autonomy for POLZANO and TRETO. This was good as far as it went, but instead of keeping his activities to the work of reconstruction, he started introducing socialist republican propaganda in the area. He regards the presence of the POLZANO group as an obstacle to his political aims, especially in view of the forthcoming elections. Consequently he does all he can to bring discredit on the group, and exaggerates minor incidents reported to him by his subordinates.

contd/sheet 5

4331

Sheet 5

Carabinieri would be popular but their introduction would not remove the necessity for troops. Both are required - the carabinieri to maintain public order and troops to back them up if necessary.

In regards the PRIULI Group, he stated that not having had the same temptation as the POLCORE, they did not loot to the same extent. There is not the same pro-Austrian element in their area. They have been recruited from more stable elements than the POLCORE, and their discipline has been better.

12. Major MAYIS, Provincial Commissioner, TRENTO

The PRIULI Group is in his province, but there had been elements of the POLCORE Group in TRENTO.

He considered both groups ill-disciplined especially regarding their responsibilities of guarding dumps. He thought they were stealing from the dumps and selling material to the civilian population. He thought the PRIULI were more to blame than the POLCORE for this. He admitted that they were not the only troops involved in this practice. He said he had very little concrete evidence to back up these opinions.

He had no trouble in his province regarding the relationship of the PRIULI Group with the civilian population, except with regard to the operation of road blocks, which caused annoyance to civilians.

He advocated the abolition of road blocks, but his prefect disagreed with him. If he had sufficient carabinieri, he would like them to operate the road blocks.

13. Lt Col SOUTHEY - 50 ALU with PRIULI Group

Stated that the general discipline of PRIULI Group was not too bad, but there was great discontent in the group which was not conducive to discipline.

This was caused by the delay in demobilization. The 1916-1920 classes were "sweating" on demobilization and it was difficult to raise any enthusiasm in them.

Major Davis, Provincial Commissioner, TRENG

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This was caused by the delay in demobilization. The 1916-1920 classes were "swinging" on demobilization and it was difficult to raise any enthusiasm in them.

The news had also spread that their pay would be drastically cut on 1 Oct, which was causing discontent.

The road discipline of the group is poor, and the military carabinieri are weak.

There have not been any cases reported of bad relationship with civilians, and very few cases have been reported of looting from dumps.

14. Major General SALTER, COC PRIULI group

Confirmed the discontent in the group regarding slow demobilization.

He stated that he was getting a very poor type of man sent to him as reinforcements to replace those being discharged. Mostly men from disbanded service units who are untrained.

He also stressed the discontent and consequent lack of discipline that would arise from the cut in pay. The information about this has not been disseminated through the group, but he admitted that rumors of it might have got round.

Sheet 6

CONCLUSION

The general impression I got was that there was probably a considerable amount of looting shortly after the two groups moved in, and that discipline was at a low ebb arising from the general "end of war" feeling.

The dismissal of General MORICI from the FOLCORE was very necessary.

General PLAZZONI has improved the discipline of his group, and is continuing to do so. The substitution of the GARIBOLDI regiment for SAN MARCO will also make a difference, if reports received of the former are true.

While there was undoubted resentment of the early behaviour of the FOLCORE group by the inhabitants, this has now ceased, except where politics are concerned.

Recent requests for the removal of FOLCORE group to be removed are due to political considerations caused by the Sul tyrol folks parties and the socialists, for their own ends.

It is recommended that :-

1. The Italian Government be asked to reconsider the pay-out.
2. The question of a comb-out of officers in the NEMO regiment be carefully considered and that specially selected officers be put in to take their place. From the little I saw of Col ROMEO, I was favourably impressed, and I do not think he should be removed.
3. If it is found possible to concentrate the NEMO regiment for training and disciplining, this should be done, as it is very difficult to "shake up" a regiment so widely scattered in "penny packets".
4. More civil carabinieri be installed in BOLZANO province, in addition to the troops required there.

W. J. Blum

Col GS

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It is recommended that:-

1. The Italian Government be asked to reconsider the pay-out.
2. The question of a comb-out of officers in the MEMO regiment be carefully considered and that specially selected officers be put in to take their place. From the little I saw of Col RCHOG, I was favourably impressed, and I do not think he should be removed.
3. If it is found possible to concentrate the MEMO Regiment for training and disciplining, this should be done, as it is very difficult to "shake up" a Regiment so widely scattered in "penny packets".
4. More civil carabinieri be installed in BOLZANO province, in addition to the troops required there.

W. J. Chawry

Col GS
Deputy Chief of Staff (Asst)
HQ Fifth Army

4337

APPX "A" to
Col K. G. F.

DATE	Incident Reported	Result of Inquiry
10 Jul 45	Murder of KOFLER Albino at DOBLADO	parachutist provoked by civilians, found to be responsible.
1 Jul 45	LUTNER Maria - a loose woman - German subject. Shaving of hair.	LUTNER Maria according to investigations made by BOLZANO carabinieri approached an Italian soldier and said "Italian pigs, who demand nothing because the Americans are in command; you are all thieves" adding in German and still meaning the soldier "Get down to that dirty pig from where you have come".
3 July 45	Murder of BERNARDINI Giuseppe at RESSA.	Committed by Marinaio LAMBIOLI Umberto
23 July 45	S. SIGISMONDO - PUSTICIA unknown soldier who, having mounted a horse, threatened the proprietor of the hotel.	Reported by unknown person - found to be a false statement.
30 May 45	Premises of SCHWEITZER Ernesto - 5 sacks of sugar stolen.	The statement does not hold parachutists responsible.
30 July 45	RIBER hotel of MONGUELLO - reported to prefecture thefts of large quantities of sheets and linen.	A statement made by the caretaker declares that the thefts took place before the arrival of Italian troops and that German and US troops were responsible. It has been ordered that the 7 blankets taken by the unit be replaced.
23 July 45	S. GIORGIO di BRUNICO (GAIES) - slapping and threatening to cut the hair of a loose woman (accompanying Germans of Japanese origin).	Ascertained that these incidents were the result of words insulting the Italians.
23 July 45	CHIENIS area. Prods HITLER-sized by 2 soldiers-tied to a tree-hair shaved.	Investigations being made. From the first inquiry made it has been found that the facts are less serious. It concerns an experienced woman. Interrogation of soldiers of some units has brought no results.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017

Apix "A" to report on tour carried out by
Col K.G.F. CHAVASSE in FOLGORE & FRIULI Groups Area
dated 22 August 1945

Incident	Result of Inquiry	Action Taken
DORELLAO	parachutist provoked by civilians, found to be responsible.	17 July: Military Tribunal sentenced chief perpetrator of crime to 18 years and perpetual observation. The other two men to lesser sentences. A cash grant was made to the murdered man's family.
man -	LUTNER Maria according to investigations made by BOLZANO carabinieri approached an Italian soldier and said "Italian pigs, who command nothing because the Americans are in command; you are all thieves" adding in German and still meaning the soldier "get down to that dirty pig from where you have come".	The woman was indicted for infringement of Art 290 C.P.C. Action will be taken against the two soldiers as soon as the results of the verdict against LUTNER are known.
at	committed by Marinio LAMBOLLI Umberto	Indicted on 16 Jul to appear before the military Tribunal.
man a horse, of the hotel.	Reported by unknown person - found to be a false statement.	Trying to find the author of this report to take proceedings against him as per Articles 367, 368 C.P.
to - 5 monks	The statement does not hold parachutists responsible.	Unit CC replaced through lack of capable command.
reported to quisition of	A statement made by the caretaker declares that the thefts took place before the arrival of Italian troops and that German and US troops were responsible. It has been ordered that the 7 blankets taken by the unit be replaced.	replaced unit CC through his failure to take disciplinary action.
- slapping of a loose of Japanese	Ascertained that these incidents were the result of words insulting the Italians.	punished the responsible soldier.
seized by shaved.	Investigations being made. From the first inquiry made it has been found that the facts are less serious. It concerns an experienced woman. Interrogation of soldiers of some units has brought no results.	

SECRET

24 September 45.

Ref: 505/MC.

SUBJECT: The "Ladin Union."
TO : Regional Commissioner,
Venetian Region.

1. The following is an extract from a summary of an Italian press article.

"The 'Ladin Union' was set up in the second half of July under the auspices of the Prefect of Bolzano. The first meeting of the Union was held in Cortina under the presidency of Leo Demetz. According to reliable information, behind the 'Ladin Union' rabid Nazi elements are at work and are conducting a propaganda campaign for the annexation to a Socialist-Communist Austrian State of the Regions inhabited by the Italian Ladins. In the circular letter issued by the Committee of the Union to announce the holding of the first meeting of the adherents to the association, it was stated that the authorities had promised to give all possible help. Commenting upon this report Italia Nuova says that 'it is not the first time that we receive news of the activities of Nazi elements in Alto Adige, where it seems that Germans and German-speaking inhabitants, who are fanatically and openly in favour of Hitler, enjoy a peculiar freedom. But that these elements should enjoy the protection of a Prefect passes the limits. Are the Allies, who are still responsible for administration in Alto Adige, aware of the plots that are being hatched against our and their own security in the province of Bolzano?'"

2. I shall be grateful if you will tell me anything you know about the Committee and the circumstances of its establishment.

B. TALBOT
Brigadier,
Executive Commission.

*See file 227
Vol 10-III*

1. The following is an extract from a summary of an Italian press article.

"The 'Latin Union' was set up in the second half of July under the auspices of the Prefect of Bolzano. The first meeting of the Union was held in Cortina under the presidency of Leo Demetz. According to reliable information, behind the 'Latin Union' rabid Nazi elements are at work and are conducting a propaganda campaign for the annexation to a Socialist-Communist Austrian State of the regions inhabited by the Italian Italians. In the circular letter issued by the Committee of the Union to announce the holding of the first meeting of the adherents to the association, it was stated that the authorities had promised to give all possible help. Commenting upon this report Italian news says that 'it is not the first time that we receive news of the activities of Nazi elements in Alto Adige, where it seems that Germans and German-speaking inhabitants, who are fanatically and openly in favour of Hitler, enjoy a peculiar freedom. But that these elements should enjoy the protection of a Prefect passes the limits. Are the Allies, who are still responsible for administration in Alto Adige, aware of the plots that are being hatched against our and their own security in the province of Bolzano?'"

2. I shall be grateful if you will tell me anything you know about the Committee and the circumstances of its establishment.

B. TALBOT

✓ Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

Copy to: Political Adviser (B)

4000

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

785017

(188 - 90)

Letter R x11 / 850.13 dated 23 September 45
from Vengye Regan and enclosed
letter 108 dated 19 Sept 45 from
PC Balzano, subject Troops in
Balzano.

Transferred to 8277/ET

4354 -

164

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

785017

SECRET

Ref: 585/EC

17 September 1945

SUBJECT: Reich Germans in Bolzano Province

TO : Regional Commissioner, Venezia Region

1. Enclosed please find copy of letter G-5: 091.112-75 dated 12 September 1945 from AFHQ on the above subject.

2. Your appreciation of this situation would be appreciated as early as possible, and I am directed to draw your attention particularly to paragraph 3.

R. W. KENSLEY

Brigadier
Executive Commissioner

1 Incl:
as above

B/V

27/9

4553

585-40
3964
SECRET

Ex. Comm. 186
519

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 512

G-5: 091.112-75

12 September 1945

SUBJECT: Reich Germans in Bolzano Province.

TO : Headquarters Allied Commission, APO 394.

SEP 14 1945

1. The situation created by the presence of Reich Germans in Bolzano province was mentioned by Brigadier Lush on a recent visit to AFHQ and was also brought to the notice of officers of G-2 and G-5 Sections of this Headquarters who have lately been in Northern Italy.
2. Your views are requested as to whether you consider that, in view of the special political situation existing in Bolzano province, the presence of these Reich Germans constitutes a sufficient menace to internal security to justify their repatriation to Germany.
3. If repatriation is recommended, you are requested to give an indication of the numbers involved and to state when lists of names could be forwarded to this Headquarters.
4. It is understood that the Germans referred to are those who migrated to Bolzano province from Reich Germany during the war, evidently in order to be within the "Alpine Redoubt", and that they are distinct from the South Tyrolean population of the province, some of whom acquired German citizenship at the time of the Hitler-Mussolini agreement.



[Signature]
S. G. A. PARSONS,
Brigadier CG,
Deputy Asst Chief of Staff, G-5.

Copy to: G-2 Section

SECRET

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

785017

585 41

EC (151)

W/25.1/DA

13 September 45

My dear Dr. De Gasperi,

(135)

I am anxious to assure you that every effort is being made to investigate the report which you brought to my notice in your letter of 9 Aug 45, stating that the municipal authorities in the Merano Region have received orders to be ready to receive 8,000 persons, originally from that district and who emigrated to Germany in conformity with the 1939 agreements.

You can rest assured that the Allied Military Government is in entire agreement with the Italian Government that citizens of Italy who opted for Germany and actually left for Germany, have automatically lost their Italian citizenship.

Yours very truly,

[Signature]

HARRY F. SPENCER
Rear Admiral, USNR,
Chief Commissioner.

Dr. Alcide DE GASPERI
Minister of Foreign Affairs,
Italian Government,
Rome.

(10A)

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

785017

180

Letter 588/EC dated 14 Sep 45
to RC Venezuela Region

Subj: ~~Elguera~~ IIIS.

transferred to 8277/EC

4351

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017

585
x
AC/1187/3/L.

Ex Com 179A
/slp.
5 September 1945.

SEP - 6 1945

My dear Dr. De Gasperi.

Further to my letter of 22 August 1945 I have now received the answer to my enquiries into the letter written by Capt. Earl to the Sindaco of Merano on the question of the status of Roman PRINCE.

I am informed by the Provincial Commissioner of Bolzano that so soon as he heard of Capt. Earl's letter, he instructed Capt. Earl to inform the Sindaco of Merano that a mistake had been made and that Mr. Prioth had lost his Italian citizenship.

I hope this information will prove satisfactory.

Yours very truly,

11/2/45
HILARY E. STONE
Rear Admiral, USNR
Chief Commissioner

Dr. Aloise De Gasperi
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Italian Government
Rome

4350

(167)-179)

Report 40/24 dated 28 Aug 45 from
hand Jones SC

Letter 50/46 dated 3 Sep 45 from
hand Jones SC

Letter 585/179/EC dated 15 Sep 45
to C-S Sec, AFHQ

Letter C-S : 091.711.1 Italy dated
6 Sep 45 from AFHQ

Letter 585/EC dated 10 Sep 45
to CA Sec & hand Jones SC.

Letter Rx11/ADM/148.3 dated 6 Sep 45
from RC Veneyne Region

and appropriate minutes

transferred to 8277/EC

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

785017

166

Tel: 235

Ref: 585/166/20.

4 September 1945.

SUBJECT: Electoral Lists and Education - BOLZANO.

TO : Civil Affairs Section.

1. With reference to the American Embassy letter dated 20 August 1945 on the above subject, addressed to Chief Commissioner with copies to Civil Affairs Section, the Political Adviser (B) has made the comments attached.

2. Will you please prepare a letter to the Prime Minister, for the Chief Commissioner's signature and see that the Sub-Commissions concerned take appropriate action.

[Signature]
Chief Staff Officer,
To Executive Commissioner.

Incl:
as above

[Handwritten notes and signatures]
10/9/45
[Signature]

166A

C O P Y 155

MINUTE FROM POLITICAL ADVISER (B)

"As regards education I agree that the Italian Government could be asked to do more. I thought that the Government had already published a decree for "de-nazification" which was then implemented by A.M.C. in Bolzano. But if they have not done so they must certainly be told to do so before the territory can be handed back."

27 AUG 45.

4347

785017

5

146B

PA

Circle 280 to take charge
circulate.

M. 5118

Return to
Library 1969-1972

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017

Ref: 585/20.

3 September 1945.

SUBJECT: Bolzano Situation.

TO : Civil Affairs Section.

1. Please obtain the Regional and Provincial Commissioners' views on the attached copy of a letter dated 26 August 45.
2. Political Adviser (B)'s comments are forwarded herewith for your information.

E. M. ...
Chief Staff Officer,
To the Executive Commissioner.

Incls.

B/V
14/9
H. S. ...
4345

785017

Minutes.

Executive Commission

Pol. Advisor (a) U.S. Embassy received copy + annexes, also

I understand that you have both received copies of this document. I presume that as far as A.C. is concerned it will be dealt with by the Civic Affairs section and that the views of the Regional and Provincial Commissioners will be sought on it. It is a well presented case but, to my own knowledge, contains a good many distortions of the facts. I do not propose to take any action on it as far as the Embassy is concerned until we get the observations of the Ambassador.

ft. & copy in
Pol. Advisor (B) 30

Nothing to be Written in this Margin.

To the Allied Control Commission in Rome

AUG 21 1945

The Sudetengruber Volksgemeinschaft feels itself compelled to inform the Allied Control Commission about the very serious situation in North-Czechia and to ask for its intervention, since we failed to secure the natural rights of the South-Czechians people from the competent provincial authorities.

Our demand of a free South-Czechia

The totality of the South-Czechians demands the reunion of their country with Austria as the only just solution of the South-Czechian question. We recognize the difficulties, which have been created through the Fascist policy to change by force our country into an Italian province particularly through mass immigration and building up of industrial plants. On the other hand we are convinced, that the Italian interests created during this period can easily be safeguarded in case of the above mentioned reunion.

We apparently offered autonomy control to Austria as a compensation for the reunion with Austria. Our experiences since May 1945 confirm our fears, that the Italians even under Allied control are unable to renounce to their nationalistic aims in favour of a true democratic cooperation. The final political decision remains with the Allies. We confide, however, in the sense of justice of the Allies, to whom it must be well known that the attempted Italianization of our country is to say the very least, a very grave political wrong and that the separation from the mother-country Austria has been dictated by the late President Wilson and other prominent Allied men as a serious mistake. Only a free Plebiscite could repair this mistake, if the Allies should not use their way to reunite us to Austria by their own authority.

Meanwhile we present to the Allied authorities some of the most urgent desires and complaints of the population.

Our actual desires and complaints

The Sudetengruber Volksgemeinschaft has been constituted in agreement, and with express desire of the A. U. S. and the Italian government via the German Plenipotentiary, as the representative of the German speaking population and to safeguard the rights thereof. A cooperation on Germanic basis has been assured us. This promise, however, has never been maintained. All administrative decisions have been made arbitrarily by the Italian Prefect without in the least consulting the Sudetengruber Volksgemeinschaft. It has never

Our demand of a free South-Tirol

The totality of the South-Tyrolens demands the reunion of their country with Austria as the only just solution of the South-Tyrolan question. We recognize the difficulties which have been created through the Fascist policy to change by force our country into an Italian province partly early through mass immigration and building up of industrial plants. On the other hand we are convinced, that the Italian interests created during this period can easily be safeguarded in case of the above mentioned reunion.

The apparently offered autonomy cannot be accepted by us as a compensating substitute of the reunion with Austria. Our experience since May 1945 confirms our fears, that the Italians even under Allied control are unable to renounce to their totalitarian aims in favour of a true democratic cooperation. The final political decision remains with the Allies. As conflict, however, in the sense of justice of the Allies, so when it must be well known that the attempted identification of our country into any the very least, a very severe political wrong and that the separation from the mother-country Austria has been admitted by the late President Wilson and other prominent Allied statesmen as a serious mistake. Only a free Plebiscite could repair this error, if the Allies should not see their way to reunite us to Austria by their own authority.

Meanwhile we present to the Allied authorities some of the most urgent desires and complaints of the population.

Our actual desires and complaints

The Südtiroler Volkspartei has been constituted in agreement, nay with express desire of the A.C.C. and the Italian Committee on Administrative Reforms, as the representative of the German speaking population and to safeguard the rights thereof. A cooperation on democratic basis has been assured us. This provision, however, has never been maintained. All administrative decisions have been made arbitrarily by the Italian Prefect without in the least consulting the Südtiroler Volkspartei. It has never been informed of such decisions, nor have its competent protests been listened to. The same old fascist policy has been carried on under the banner of democracy, which never found realisation. Innumerable instances of flagrant violation of the principle of democracy prove our assertion. One of the most striking examples of the spirit that animates the present provincial authorities is the shepard invitation made to the Volkspartei to enter as sixth Italian party in the A.C.C., which would place in a Yugoslav minority.

785017

we demand with the elimination of fascism and the abolition of the consequences deriving from the fascist regime. The abolition of 1933 regarding the option of migration of the Jewish-Italian population. The option has been treated with our people, he vote for the German, has in last analysis been nothing else but a solemn condemnation of the fascist oppression. The abolition of the option legislation ought naturally and logically to produce two effects:

1. The 60,000 South-Tyrolians, who were forced to abandon their country, must in future retain their national rights of citizens of South-Tyrol, including the right to return to their fatherland. They were obliged to leave in the knowledge that the Italian authorities in Austria do not recognize the right of South-Tyrolians as citizens and try to send them back as they have done already in many cases. The Italian on the other hand withheld from them the Italian and the nation-state and have already started to gather them as people in camps with the intention of expelling them.

2. The second consequence shall be the so-called option law, although it means that a German subject, residing in South-Tyrol, can even accede to the Italian law of the year 1938, which is still in force. These people are to be considered as Italian citizens. Notwithstanding that this law is clearly contemplated by the law, the Italian government now to expel at least part of them by creating new legal regulations in order to make place for the daily arriving Italians.

In the name of the South-Tyrol people, who in the past 150 years had a majority of nearly 80 per cent and despite of the official denial of migration and the forced migration of the population of 1938 still much more than two thirds of the present population, we protest against the Italian policy, which continues to force into the country thousands of Italians, particularly from South-Tyrol and of proletarian character. This migration must be stopped by all means and at once. In theory it has been stopped by the prefect, but in practice it is continuing at the same time. It is that since 1938 it has reached the considerable number of 10,000.

In consequence of the undemocratic and authoritarian proceeding of the effect the whole administration of the South-Tyrol is at present practically in the hands of the Italian government. The present provisions of the self-government under allied control are not to be put into effect. The demand of the Italian government is the present Italian policy from the other provisions to prevent against the Italian government and against the Italian troops including the large Italian forces, which in turn are to be used for the purpose of maintaining the Italian in the Germanic Alps and in Val d'Aosta only the Italian troops against the country.

4342

Tab 5

no aid or protection against Italian oppression

We beg the Allied Control Commission not only to accept this our solemn protest, but to take immediate and anxious steps in order to protect our rights and to safeguard the peaceful evolution of our political life. In particular, we are the Allied authorities, the Allied control forces, before our vital rights have been completely around. We ask for that so much more, because our people have lately been so much alarmed to see that the Allies withdraw some troops and foreign every day more and more to the Italians and to their armed forces the power over South-Tyrol.

We consider it our duty, to inform the Allies of the present grave situation, for we must take further responsibilities of what may happen, if things are allowed to develop in this way we fear they are.

If the facts stated here were exaggerated, we beg the Control Commission to send observers to our country in order to examine for themselves the true state.

Done, 26th August 1945

Signed by the delegates of the South-Tyrolean party.

Michael Gauer

(Rev. Canon Michael Gauer)

Dr. Anthony Foerle

(Prof. Dr. Anthony Foerle
ex-anglo-american chaplain)

Dr. Josef Pöschel

(Dr. Josef Pöschel
ex-political prisoner of German)

every day were and new to the Italian and to their armed forces the power over South-Lyons.

As regards to our duty, in fact the allies of the present grave situation, for a period of time further responsibility of what may happen, if things are allowed to develop in the way we fear they are. If the facts stated here seem exaggerated, we beg the pardon of the Commission to send characters in our country in order to examine for themselves the true state.

Done, 25th August 1945

Signed by the delegates of the South-Lyons party.

Michael Gaudier

(Mr. Owen Michael Gaudier)

Dr. Anthony Joseph

(Prof. Dr. Anthony Joseph, ex-ambassador to the United States)

Dr. Joseph Gaudier

(Dr. Joseph Gaudier, ex-political prisoner of Lyons)

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017

5856

COPY EC

MASON Kennedy for information
as requested.

EX 38859

1/529

163

AUG 2613388

AUG 2616308

PRIORITY

FROM : AFHQ SIGNED SACHED SITE PHOAS

TO : ALCON INFO DISTRO

130

CONFIDENTIAL

Ref measures suggested in ALCON signal 3777 of 16 August para 2.

1st. Not considered practicable to enforce in province of BOLZANO
rules applicable to Allied personnel in GERMANY or AUSTRIA in view of
difficulty of identification and fact that the province is Italian territory.

2nd. Separate instructions are being issued.

Dist

From, Action - CA Sec
Info - Chief Commissions
File 2
Fleet

CONFIDENTIAL

P77

4518

(Mason Kennedy) Ruk

1064

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

785017

312, 522 + 545 78

201

1631

MINISTERO DEGLI AFFARI ESTERI

6/3068/1438

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ALLIED COMMISSION

SUBJECT: Transmission of official communique' on the Val d'Aosta autonomy.

1635

162A

1. Reference is made to the letter n. 3/1422 addressed by Foreign Minister DE GASPERI to the Chief Commissioner on August 26th, 1945.
2. The Ministry for Foreign Affairs beg to forward to the Allied Commission, herewith enclosed, the official text of the communique' issued after the meeting at the Council of Ministers held on August 23rd, concerning the measures taken in order to insure the administrative autonomy of the Val d'Aosta and the provisions that are about to be passed in favour of other non-Italian speaking populations of the Northern and Eastern frontier zones.

Rome, August 31st, 1945.

EO DEST - 4 Sep 45

ACTION - Ex Commar
Info - Chief Commar
Polad (A)
" (B)

One Encl.

4339

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017

COPY

TranslationAutonomy of Valle d'Aosta.

The debate of the Council of Ministers about Valle d'Aosta is important in itself and because of the attitude of the democratic government which it expresses. It grants to a territory inhabited by Italian citizens who speak another language complete equality of language and an administrative decentralization for all matters of local interest which can be defined as truly broadminded and new. This means a self-administration in which those men elected by the people exercise their own powers and also functions entrusted to them by the State.

Besides, the principle of institutional decentralization is also asserted in the legislative decree for Valle d'Aosta. The Aosta Council will be able to issue regulations to discipline such matters as have been decentralized. The way to local legislation is therefore open. Of course, on this ground, concretely to define the spheres of competency, further regulations are foreseen, and a final legal discrimination will only be possible at the Constituent, when the decentralizing tendency which has asserted itself in so many parts of the country will have been concretized in a fundamental law, and when what must be reserved to the State because of its unitarian requirements, and what can be decentralized to local organizations, has been decided.

Even now, for what concerns local autonomies, the legislative decree for Valle d'Aosta proves that the democratic Government does not stop after the solemn statement lately made by the Council of Ministers, but intends to handle little by little the concrete situation, beginning by the zones where differences of languages or race make decentralization more necessary, as a guarantee for the minorities.

In the same way as for Valle d'Aosta, the Government now intends to issue in the same spirit the necessary regulations for the regions of the Eastern frontier and for those of the Northern frontier, consulting the representatives, of the populations and local interests. The Council of Ministers has already referred another time to Alto Adige in particular; we may now add that consultations are now taking place and to be rapidly carried out, also in relation with the problem of regional autonomy for Venezia Tridentina, where the need for Administrative autonomy is greatly felt.

The Italian State is thus giving proof of its strong and wise democratic spirit and wish for pacification.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017

FX 38560
AUG 261339B

155
162
F/5393
AUG 261530B

APHQ SIGNED SACRED SITE PHOENIX

COMING GENERAL POW COMMAND MEXICO DISTRICT INFOR ALCON DARS ITALY

CONFIDENTIAL PD

Subject is fraternisation between German prisoners working on railways etc sick and wounded and german speaking civilians in Bolzano Province. Request you issue instructions to all guard units concerned to prevent prisoners fraternising in this province.

ACTION : C.A. Section

INFO : Chief Commissioner
File 2
Float

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017

COPY

Translation

The Minister of Foreign Affairs

Rome, 26 August 1945.

3/1422

Dear Admiral,

Referring to my letter of July 16th, n. 3/1152, I enclose the text of the office note issued after the meeting of the Council of Ministers of the 23rd current month, in relation with the action which the Royal Government has taken to assure the administrative autonomy of Valle d'Aosta, and similar dispositions which it intends to take in favour of the other Regions of the Northern and Eastern frontiers where part of the population is foreign.

I don't need to stress the fact that by carrying out under a concrete form, and after barely more than a month, the regulations announced in a general way in a statement of July 12th, and announcing that similar action is to be taken on the same basis and in the same spirit for Venezia Tridentina and Venezia Giulia, the Italian government confirms and proves by facts that it definitely intends to reach a fair and rapid settling of the internal problems of such zones of her own frontiers as have foreign populations. At the same time, this brings an efficacious contribution to the solving of the international aspects of the said problems.

The fact that discussions are now taking place with local representatives in Alto Adige and that more discussions are to begin with the local representatives of Venezia Giulia, to come to an agreement about the principles of the regional autonomy which has been promised to these territories clearly shows that the solution of these very complex problems is being reached through methods of a scrupulous democratic justice, taking in consideration the real interests and requirements of the population.

I trust you will appreciate to its full value the meaning of the note which I enclose and point out to the Allied governments how effective a contribution Italy is bringing to the peaceful solution of the problems concerning her frontier zone, by carrying out the principles expressed in this note.

Believe me,

Yours very truly,

A. De Gasperi

Admiral Ellery W. Stone
Chief Commissioner
Allied Commission, Rome.

RC EUST - 28 Aug 45

Action - Ex Comm
Info - Chief Comm
Polad (A)
" (B)
4530

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

785017

COPY

1623

Translation

" The deliberation of the Council of Ministers regarding Valle d'Aosta is important in itself and because of the tendency of the democratic government which it expresses. It grants to a territory inhabited by Italian citizens, who speak another language, complete equality of language, and administrative decentralization in every matter of local interest, which may be defined as fully broad-minded and new. It is a matter of self-administration in which the men elected by the people will exercise not only their own powers but also functions delegated to them by the State.

The principle of institutional decentralization is also asserted in the legislative decree for Valle d'Aosta. The Aosta Council will be entitled to deliberate legal regulations to discipline such matters as have been decentralized. The road to local legislation is therefore open. On this matter, more legal regulations have been foreseen, and a final legal discrimination will only be possible in the Constituent, when the decentralizing tendency which has asserted itself in so many parts of the country will have been made concrete in a fundamental law.

However, even now, the legislative decree for Valle d'Aosta proves that, for what concerns local autonomies, the Democratic Government does not limit itself to the solemn general statement, recently made during the Council of Ministers, but means to face the concrete situation little by little.

In the same way as for Valle d'Aosta, the Government intends to elaborate in the same spirit the regulations which are necessary for the regions of the Eastern frontiers and for those of the Northern frontiers, consulting the representatives of the populations and of local interests. To the Alto Adige in particular, the Council of Ministers has already referred, we may now add that negotiations are now taking place, and to be carried on without delay, in relation with the problem of the regional autonomy of Venezia Tridentina, where the need for administrative autonomy is greatly felt."

trans: e/o

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

785017

585

AG/4217/3/1.

/rlp.
21 August 1945.

AUG 23 1945

My dear Dr. De Gasperi:

I thank you for your letter of 12 August 1945 in which you draw my attention to the case of ROSSO BILMOTH of Merano and to the letter written by Capt. Earl to the Sindaco of Merano on the case.

I am making enquiries into the case in order to find out the circumstances in which Capt. Earl's letter was written.

I wish to assure you, however, that the Allied Military Government is well aware that any question of Italian citizenship is a matter for determination strictly in accordance with Italian law and that we have no intention of interfering in any way with the provisions or the operation of the Italian law on the subject.

Yours very truly,

ELBERT W. STONE,
Rear Admiral, USNR,
Chief Commissioner.

Dr. Alcide De Gasperi
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Italian Government, Rome

See 179A

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017

Tel: 234

Ref: 585/80.

20 August 1945.

SUBJECT: Nationality Problem in Bolzano Province.

TO : Civil Affairs Section.

1. Attached please find copy of letter 1/1513 dated 9 August 1945 (received in this office 18 August 1945) from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and passed to you for action.
2. It is further to the enclosures forwarded with our 585/80 dated 15 August 1945 addressed to you for the attention of the Legal Sub-Commission.

R. W. KEMSELEY

Incl:
as above

Chief Staff Officer,
To Executive Commissioner.

Copy to: Polad (A) } with enclosure.
Polad (B) }

4334

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017

585

22 August 1945

AUG 22 1945

Subject: Transmittal of Letters re Bolzano Province

To: G-5, Allied Force Headquarters, APO 512

Enclosed for your information are copies of two letters dated 20 August 45, which have been received from the American Ambassador.

L. W. STARRS
L. W. STARRS
Major, AGD
SO to CC

2 Incls.

cc: EXEC. COMMR.
CA SEC.
ML ADPR. (A) & (B)
G-5
CC FILES

4333

(MBN)

585

157

22 August 1945.

AUG 24 1945

My dear Mr. Ambassador:

Thank you for your letter of 20 August 1945 informing me of the views of the Department of State regarding the preparation of electoral lists in the Province of Bolzano and the Italian Government's position with respect to those residents who may be eligible for registration.

The views of the Department of State will be made known to the Italian Government, and at the same time it will be pointed out that present discussions on this subject are without prejudice to the final disposition of this Province.

Sincerely yours,

ELBERT W. STONE
Rear Admiral, USNR
Chief Commissioner

4332

The Honorable Alexander Kirk,
American Ambassador,
119 Via Vittorio Veneto,
Rome.

cc Ex. Comm
C.A.E.C.

2605 - 585

(156)

22 August 1945.

My dear Mr. Ambassador:

AUG 24 1945

(156)

Thank you for your letter of 20 August 1945 informing me of instructions received from the Department of State regarding the interim administration of Bolzano Province.

It is hoped that modification of FAN 536 will be received shortly in order that the Province of Bolzano may be returned to the jurisdiction of the Italian Government along with other northern provinces in September, in which case the Italian Government will be informed that this return is without prejudice to the final disposition of Bolzano Province by peace treaty.

Sincerely,

ELBERT W. STONE
Rear Admiral, USNR
Chief Commissioner

435

The Honorable Alexander Kirk,
American Ambassador,
119 Via Vittorio Veneto,
Rome.

(INFO/Action Copy on D605/HC)

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017

585
HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
Office of the Chief Commissioner
A.P.O. 394

22 August 1945

153
15.
AUG 22 1945

Executive Commissioner:

Reference attached letter of 20 Aug 45 from American Ambassador, the Chief Commissioner requests that you please check with the Political Adviser (B), and if he concurs prepare letter (for CC's signature) to the Prime Minister and see that appropriate action is taken by Education Subcommittee and others concerned.

[Signature]
L. W. STEARNS
Major, AGD
SO to CC

4530

(MAJ KIMSLEY)

1072

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017

152 14

C O P Y

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

AMERICAN EMBASSY

Rome, August 20, 1945

Dear Admiral Stone,

EXTRACT
To
2806/CC
Clinton file

Regarding our various conversations concerning preparation of electoral lists in the Province of Bolzano and the Italian Government's position with respect to those residents who may be eligible for registration, I am happy to inform you of the views of the Department of State which I have just received. The Department is of the opinion that we should accept the Italian proposal concerning those persons in Bolzano who may be inscribed in the electoral lists but that the Allied Commission should bring to the attention of the Italian Government that expulsion of persons from the province who opted for Germany, emigrated and subsequently returned to Bolzano, should be effected only after agreement with Allied authorities in Germany has been reached. With respect to the sending of an Italian commission to Bolzano to examine individual cases, the Department feels that this is an administrative matter for decision by you.

(Folio 66 Vol I)

With respect to Professor Parri's comments on education in his letter of July 5, it is felt that Allied Military Government should not be bound by the views of the Italian Government. If, as appears probable, the measures contemplated are inadequate, with respect to German language and instruction, to meet the needs of the population of the Province, the Department has expressed the view that such instruction should be provided through high school grades at least. The Department also noted the lack of any reference in the letter from the President of the Council of Ministers regarding Italian separation legislation affecting Nazis, such as was suggested in your letter of July 23, to complement similar AMG decrees which will lapse when the province is returned to Italian jurisdiction.

4328

IN

Rear Admiral Ellery E. Stone,
Chief Commissioner,
Allied Commission,
Rome.

CC ANT:
Exec Comm.
CA Section (3)
Pol. Advis. (A)
En. Advis. (B)

G-5, AFHQ

13
15

- 2 -

In conclusion, the Department is of the opinion that, in present discussions on the province of Bolzano, the Allied Commission should make it clear to the Italian Government that they are without prejudice to the final disposition of this province.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ A. Kirk

4328

^{ultimate}
The Problem of the Supremacy
of Portugal
(Letter of Ambassador to
President of Council of the
Commonwealth of the Americas)
and
(1)
Memorandum of the
State for the
Council
(2)
Letter of Ambassador to
Chief of the
and
(3)
These documents have been
many, indicated in some pages
see table
10/10/1992

585

12

COPY. (Also on 16 2605/EC)

The Foreign Service
of the
United States of America

AMERICAN EMBASSY
Rome 20 AUG 1945
AUG 27 1945

Dear Admiral Stone,

I have received recent instructions from the Department of State regarding the interim administration of Bolzano Province. As you will remember, the Department of State had originally contemplated the maintenance of Allied Military Government in Bolzano Province, as in the compartment of Venezia Giulia, until the final determination of northern Italian frontiers. This was likewise contemplated in instructions from the Combined Chiefs of Staff to the Supreme Allied Commander on April 28 (PAN 536).

I am now informed that the Department would not object to the return of the Province of Bolzano to Italian administration when the remainder of northern Italy reverts to Italian Government jurisdiction if the Allied Commission and Allied Force Headquarters consider the retention of AMG there no longer necessary. The Department assumes that the Supreme Allied Commander will recommend modification of PAN 536, in this respect, to the Combined Chiefs of Staff before proceeding with the restoration of Bolzano Province to the Italian Government.

It is my Government's view, however, that, if it is decided to return the Province of Bolzano to Italian jurisdiction with the rest of northern Italy, the Italian Government should be informed at that time that this return is without prejudice to the final disposition of this territory by the peace treaty.

Sincerely yours,

(signed) A. Kirk.

Rear Admiral Ellery W. Stone,
Chief Commissioner,
Allied Commission,
ROME.

22/8
OC DIST
Executive Commissioner
Civil Affairs Section (5)
Political Adviser (A)
Political Adviser (B)
C-5, AFHQ
OC Files.

ACTION copy 2605/EC Henderson Territory

(137 149)

Signal FX 36521 dated 18 Aug 45
from AFHQ

Signal 3699 dated 19 Aug 45
from 5 Army

Signal FX 36922 dated 20 Aug 45
from AFHQ

Letter 585/121/EC dated 24 Aug 45
to the Prime Minister

Signal 4081 dated 23 Aug 45
to RC, Venetian Region

drafts and relative minutes,
all subject Treaties Bologna
transferred to 8277/EC

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017

136/10
SECRET.

Ref: 585/EC.

18 August 45.

SUBJECT: Vichy French in BELLAIR Province.

TO : Political Adviser (A)
Political Adviser (B)

14
Enclosed please find copy of reply by Regional Commissioner, VERMOREL Region, to our enquiry with regard to the situation of Vichy French in BELLAIR Province.

R. W. KENSLEY

NORMAN E. FISKE,
Colonel,
Acting Executive Commissioner.

Encl.

Ex. Party 1856
English translation
(132)

E/1913

David A. Dyer-Stella, *Stella*

No. 785017

785017

I have informed you of the attitude that certain officials of the United States Government in 1950 have taken toward the United States Government in 1950. I have also informed you of the attitude that certain officials of the United States Government in 1950 have taken toward the United States Government in 1950. I have also informed you of the attitude that certain officials of the United States Government in 1950 have taken toward the United States Government in 1950.

I wish not to call your attention to a report, which has come to me from a reliable source, that the United States Government in 1950 has taken a certain attitude toward the United States Government in 1950. I wish not to call your attention to a report, which has come to me from a reliable source, that the United States Government in 1950 has taken a certain attitude toward the United States Government in 1950.

Legislation may sometimes be considered as to whether the laws themselves are to be considered absolute - and if so, to what point they may be applied. I am not a lawyer, but I am sure that the laws of the United States are not absolute. I am sure that the laws of the United States are not absolute. I am sure that the laws of the United States are not absolute.

This is exactly the case of those who exercised the right of self-defense. It is exactly the case of those who exercised the right of self-defense. It is exactly the case of those who exercised the right of self-defense.

Should the above report prove true, it becomes a question of a plan for the transfer of Italy to the United States. It becomes a question of a plan for the transfer of Italy to the United States. It becomes a question of a plan for the transfer of Italy to the United States.

There is no need for me to point out that the above is a statement of fact. It is a statement of fact. It is a statement of fact. It is a statement of fact. It is a statement of fact.

p. 1.0. 482

See H

Ministro degli Affari Esteri

3/1/1939

Roma,

Caro Ammiraglio,

con una lettera n. 3/13112 dell'8 agosto. Le ho già segnalato l'atteggiamento assunto da certi organi del Governo militare Alleato in alto Adige in merito alla questione generale degli accordi italo-germanici del 1939 per il trasferimento della popolazione di lingua tedesca, nonché nei riguardi dello stato di cittadinanza degli optanti.

Scrivo ora per richiamare la sua cortese attenzione sulla notizia, teste giunti da fonte seria ed attendibile, nel senso che sarebbero state date disposizioni alle autorità municipali della zona di Merano di prepararsi a ricevere circa ottomila individui originari della regione e che, emigrati in Germania in applicazione agli accordi del 1939, verrebbero dalle Autorità Alleate nuovamente diretti in Italia.

A prescindere dalla questione giuridica della decadenza o meno degli accordi del 1939 - e tengo a precisare che, in linea di diritto, è opinione del Governo Italiano che essi siano tuttora perfettamente validi - quello che mi preme in particolare luogo sottolineare è che tutti coloro, optanti o non, i quali hanno conseguito volontariamente la cittadinanza straniera, han-

degli accordi italo-germanici del 1939 per il trasferimento della popolazione di lingua tedesca, nonché nei riguardi dello stato di cittadinanza degli optanti.

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4323

1.

All'Ammiraglioallery W. STONE; U.S.N.R.
Capo della Commissione Alleata

R O M E

si tratta che dell'inizio di ulteriori trasferimenti del genere.

E' superfluo che io Le faccia presente la gravità che, se confermato, riveste il fatto in questione : il quale oltretutto non potrebbe non essere considerato in contraddizione con le assicurazioni a suo tempo fornite al governo italiano nel senso che l'occupazione militare di determinati territori italiani, non intende pregiudicare in alcun modo l'assetto definitivo di essi.

Le sarò pertanto molto grato, caro Ammiraglio, se Ella vorrà cortesemente disporre gli accertamenti del caso, dandomene a suo tempo cortese notizia.

Soggiungo, per Sua informazione, essere precise intenzioni del Governo italiano di perseguire una politica che, ispirata a concetti di libertà e di rispetto dei valori umani, assicuri la armoniosa convivenza entro i confini della Penisola degli elementi di lingua non italiana. Esso non può, tuttavia, ammettere in via di principio, il diritto degli interessati ad una revisione delle opzioni; né tanto meno, che tale revisione, la quale irveste una questione così gelosa come

nel senso che l'occupazione militare di determinati territori italiani, non intende pregiudicare in alcun modo l'assetto definitivo di essi.

Le sarò pertanto molto grato, caro Ammiraglio, se Ella vorrà cortesemente disporre gli accertamenti del caso, dandomene a suo tempo cortese notizia.

Saggiungo, per sua informazione, essere preciso intento del Governo italiano di perseguire una politica che, ispirata a concetti di libertà e di rispetto dei valori umani, assicuri la armoniosa convivenza entro i confini della Penisola degli elementi di lingua non italiana. Esso non può, tuttavia, ammettere in via di principio, il diritto degli interessati ad una revisione delle opinioni; né tanto meno, che tale revisione, la quale investe una questione così gelosa come quella della attribuzione o meno della cittadinanza italiana, possa essere effettuata all'inuori di ogni regolare procedura legislativa.

Voglia accogliere, caro Ammiraglio, i miei migliori saluti.

Ammiraglio

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

785017

(132 + 133)

Signal 3871 to G-5 AFHQ mtd
5 Army + 2 Division
dated 18 Aug 45

Signal FX 36237 dated 17 Aug 45
from AFHQ

only. The Balzano 4322

transferred to 8277/EC

1088

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

785017

Form 109

(C)

After signal 803566 dated 1/1/45
transferred to 803566.

Subject: Transfer of Control

W. H. Miller

1/1/45

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017

585
10. AFHQ G-5 SECTION RPT. FOR INFO DISTWO, NO VENETIAN REGION

3777

16 AUGUST 1945

PRIORITY

AUG 16 1945

CONFIDENTIAL PD

PARA ONE PD SUBJECT IS FRATERNISATION WITH GERMANS PD

PARA TWO PD REPORTS RECEIVED ON SITUATION IN BOLZANO PROVINCE INDICATE THAT THE FOLLOWING TWO MEASURES ARE NECESSARY CEN FIRSTLY CMA AS REGARDS FRATERNIZATION BETWEEN ALLIED PERSONNEL AND REICH GERMAN CIVILIANS IN AREA INTRODUCTION OF GASE RULES AS APPLY TO ALLIED PERSONNEL IN GERMANY PD SECONDLY CMA MEASURES TO PREVENT GERMAN PRISONERS WORKING ON RAILWAY BETWEEN SIDE AND WOUNDED CMA FRATERNISING WITH CIVILIAN POPULATION PD

PAGE TWO ABLE FOR HQS QUEEN GEORGE FIVE SECTION RPT. FOR INFO DISTWO CMA REGIONAL COMMISSIONER VENETIAN REGION FROM ALCON SITE ACCORDING

PAGE THREE PD REQUEST URGENT ACTION IF YOU AGREE

INT. DIST.

Executive Commissioner
Polad A
Polad B

FROM CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

457

H.B.-S. HARTLEY, Colonel

NICHOLAS POMBINO
CWO, USA
Asst Adjutant

4321

(Per Keweenaw)

(125 - 129)

Signal 7771 dated 9 Aug 45
from 5 Army

Draft signal to AFHQ

Signal 3776 to AFHQ re: 5 Army & 2 Divs

and minutes

Subj: Info - Balyans

transferred to 8277/EC

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017

EE ET

(124)

Ref: 583/30.

16 August 1945

My dear Mr. Ambassador:

I took the opportunity of Brigadier Lanlop's presence at a meeting on Bolzano in Rome yesterday to prepare the attached short memorandum in reply to your letter of 11th August.

Sincerely yours,

1st Lt. Elmer E. Stone

ELMER E. STONE
Rear Admiral, USNR
Chief Coordinator

The Honourable Alexander Kirk,
US Ambassador,
American Embassy,
ROME.

4020

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

785017

16 August 1945.

MEMORANDUM OF SITUATION IN BOLZANO.

Any present reaction of the Germanic speaking inhabitants of Bolzano is, of course, subject to ignorance of the future organization and government in Austria and also of the Italian Government's policy towards Bolzano. They form a community of Germanic stock with a strong individuality in race and culture. They dislike things Italian and distrust Italian promises. Though sentimentally closely linked with the Austrian Tyrol, they are definitely apprehensive of the result of union with an Austria of the future and would resent rule from Vienna. Like many other minorities, setting aside extremist views they aim at national independence under an Allied guarantee of integrity, or, as second best, large scale autonomy with Italy, such autonomous rights to be under the protection of the great powers.

1093

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

785017

14 Aug 45

Executive Commissioner--

Would you please see the Chief Commissioner regarding
this matter.

Deletion

[Signature]
L.W.S.



THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

AUG 14 REC'D
CE 1170

121

SECRET

AMERICAN EMBASSY

Rome, August 11, 1945

Dear Admiral Stone,

I have been asked to report telegraphically any information which may be in the possession of the Allied Commission or which it can obtain without difficulty and delay with respect to the feeling of the people of the Province of Bolzano on the question of union with an independent Austria. If information on this subject is not already available in AC, perhaps you will be good enough to ask your Regional Commissioner for an urgent report.

Sincerely yours,

A. R. K.

Rear Admiral Eliery W. Stone,
Chief Commissioner,
Allied Commission,
Rome.

SA F. 124
1945

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017

Ref: 585/20

15 August 1945

SUBJECT: Nationality Problem in Bolzano Province

TO : Civil Affairs Section (Attention: Legal Subcommittee)

1. Attached is copy of a letter from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, 3/1312, dated 12 August, enclosing copy of a letter addressed by the ANO Provincial Officer, Western Area, Bolzano, to the Sindaco of Merano.
2. Will you please submit a reply to be signed by the Chief Commissioner, and take any other action necessary.

2 Incls:
as above

R. W. KEMSLEY
Chief Staff Officer
To Executive Commissioner

Copy to: Polad (A) } with enclosures
 Polad (B) }

585

1280

EXCCOMMR

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS
VENEZIE REGION
Allied Military Government
APO 394

9 August, 1945

AUG 14 1945

TO : Headquarters, Allied Commission

SUBJECT : Vichy French in Bolzano Province.

FILE NO : RXII/850.13

Reference your letter, 585/82/EC dated 27th
July, 1945.

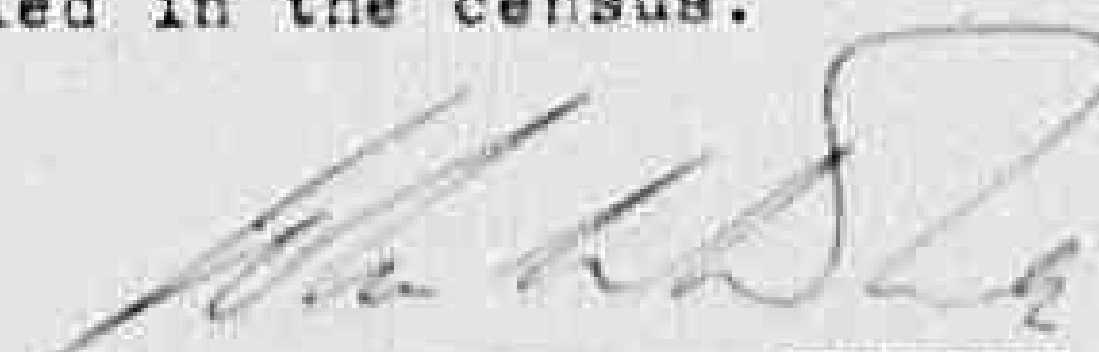
I have discussed this matter with Provincial
Commissioner, Bolzano on the occasion of a recent visit,
and have since received a written confirmation of his
views.

It is said that there are a number of Vichy French
living in the Province. They inhabit the small hotels and
Pensioni in which the Province abounds. They appear still
to have enough money left to keep themselves alive. They
avoid any publicity and hence are no trouble to the auth-
orities.

For the above reasons, it is difficult to assess
their numbers. Estimates run from a few hundreds to 18,000.
The latter figure appears highly exaggerated.

The first step clearly is to establish a census,
and this can be done now that you have approved a Regional
Order for the registration of aliens.

The next action must, to some extent, depend on
the size of the problem as revealed in the census.


Regional Commissioner

Copy to:- P.C. Bolzano
JKD/lgc

Ministro degli Affari Esteri

3/1312

Rome, August 1945, 1945.

AUG 14 1945

Dear Admiral Stone,

I am in a very interesting position - a copy of this is enclosed - addressed by the Special Officer of Intelligence to the Chief of Staff.

I am in a position to detail the details of the case. However, I must be the position of a former Italian citizen who the case to move in Germany and eventually achieve his purpose by acquiring, by full right, the German nationality.

Aside from the question of the 1939 Italo-German agreement, I wish to point out that - as it is provided by the laws of nearly all the countries - it is a basic principle in the Italian law that an Italian subject who, by his own will and accord, acquires a foreign citizenship, automatically loses his nationality of origin.

Dr. Schuster has indicated that, in any case, his Italian citizenship and should therefore be able to be reacquired and thus for the purpose of Italian law preserving.

But even without considering this particular aspect of the case, I do not see how it can be argued that Capt. CAUL's assertion that "all options in favour of Germany are to be considered null and void and, consequently, all those who were Italian citizens and opted for Germany are now to be

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I am led therefore to believe that there is a misunder-

Encl. 1

Admiral Ellery W. Stone
Chief Constable
Allied Commission

431.
See P. 120-121
D.F.O.

P.O. 812

Translation

COMUNE OF MERANO

BOLZANO PROVINCE
Venetia Region
Allied Military Government
A.P.O. 394

Date 21/7/45

Subject : Foreign races (allogeni)

To : Sindaco of Merano

Various cases have lately been pointed out to me, of which I mention the following.

ROMAN PRINOTH, born in Innsbruck, but who always lived in Italy for he had the Italian citizenship.

In 1940, he chose Germany. Now he has come back from Stiria. Your housing office refuses to allot him a flat, and says that he is a German.

I want to make it clear that all options for Germany are to be considered as non existing, and therefore, all those who were Italian citizens and have opted for Germany are now to be considered as Italians.

They are therefore entitled to the same treatment as all the other Italians. Will you kindly inform all your offices about this.

M.D. HOWARD E. EARL Capt
Provincial Officer
Western Area
Prov. of Bolzano

trans. e/c

4314

Il Ministro degli Affari Esteri

3/1312

AUG 14 1945

ROME, AUGUST 14, 1945.

Dear General Stone,

I wish to call your attention to a letter - a copy of which is enclosed - forwarded by the Department of Justice to the United States of America.

I do not possess any reliable source in the United States. However, it is the question of a former Italian citizen who came to live in Germany and who is suffering from a disease by acquiring, by this right, the German nationality.

Aside from the question of his 1938 Italian-German agreement, I wish to point out that - as it is provided by the laws of nearly all the countries - it is a basic principle in the Italian law that an Italian subject who, by his own will and accord, acquires a foreign nationality, automatically loses his Italian citizenship.

It is therefore to be expected that, in any case, the Italian authorities will have to take only the law into consideration and not the person's will.

It is even without consideration that the Italian Government of the 1930s, I do not go beyond your country. I am surprised at Capt. KARL's assertion that "all operations in favour of Germany are to be considered null and void and, consequently, all those for Germany are now to be

standing in the case, but since it is a matter of a very delicate nature, I shall be very grateful if you will excuse an inquiry to be made and shall greatly appreciate it to hear soon from you on this subject.

Believe me, dear Admiral Stone,

Sincerely Yours

(Sgd) DE CAMPBELL

Encl. 1

Translation

COMUNE OF MERANO

BOLZANO PROVINCE
Venetia Region
Allied Military Government
A.P.O. 394

Date 21/7/45

Subject : Foreign races (allogeni)

To : Sindaco of Merano

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They are therefore entitled to the same treatment as all the other Italians. Will you kindly inform all your offices about this.

s.d. HOWARD E. EARL Capt
Provincial officer
Western Area
Prov. of Bolzano

trans. e/c

4314

Il Ministro degli Affari Esteri

3/1312

Roma,

1945

Caro Ammiraglio,

vorrei richiamare la Sua particolare attenzione sulla lettera, di cui allego copia, diretta il 21 luglio scorso al Sindaco di Merano dal Provincial Officer di Bolzano.

Non ho elementi precisi sul caso del signor Kemnath. Deve tuttavia evidentemente trattarsi di uno degli ex cittadini italiani che non solo a suo tempo optarono per il trasferimento in Germania, ma che di fatto eseguirono questo proposito acquistando di pieno diritto la cittadinanza germanica.

Indipendentemente dalla questione degli accordi italo-germanici del 1939 osservo essere un principio fondamentale della legislazione italiana - come del resto della maggior parte delle legislazioni di tutti i paesi - che il cittadino il quale acquista di sua spontanea volontà una cittadinanza straniera, decade automaticamente da quella originaria.

Il Kemnath, pertanto, ha comunque perduto la cittadinanza italiana, e solo potrebbe riacquistarla alle condizioni ed in base alla regolare procedura prevista dalla legge italiana.

Prinot. Deve tuttavia evidentemente trattarsi di uno degli ex cittadini italiani che non solo a suo tempo optarono per il trasferimento in Germania, ma che di fatto eseguirono questo proposito acquistando di pieno diritto la cittadinanza germanica.

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Il Prinot, pertanto, ha comunque perduto la cittadinanza italiana, e solo potrebbe riacquistarla alle condizioni ed in base alla regolare procedura previste dalla legge italiana.

Ma a prescindere da questo aspetto del caso particolare, debbo manifestare la più viva sorpresa per l'affermazione contenute nella lettera del Cap. Earl, nel senso che "tutte le opzioni per la Germania sono da considerarsi nulle e quindi tutti quelli che erano cittadini italiani ed hanno optato per la Germania sono ora da considerarsi italiani".

All'Ammiraglio Allery W. Stone, U.S.N.R.
Capo della Commissione Allente

R o m a

4311

nessuna disposizione del genere è stata presa dal governo italiano né esiste fra questo e le autorità alleate alcun impegno od accordo in base al quale il riacquisto della cittadinanza italiana possa essere deciso e reso esecutivo da parte dell'A.M.G. Ritengo quindi che si tratti di un equivoco, ma data l'estrema delicatezza della questione Le sarò molto grato se vorrà disporre gli accertamenti del caso e inviarmi un cortese cenno di riscontro.

Con i migliori saluti

Luigi

COPIA

COMUNE DI MERANO

BOLZANO PROVINCE
Venezia Region
Allied Military Government

A.F. O. 304

Date 21/7/45

Subject : Allogeni

TO : Sindaco di Merano

Ultimamente mi sono stati segnalati diversi casi di cui cito
il seguente :

Roman PRINOTH, nato a Innsbruck, ma che ha sempre vissuto in
Italia avendo la cittadinanza italiana.

Nel 1940 ha optato per la Germania. Ora è tornato dalla Stiria.
Il suo ufficio alloggi si rifiuta di assegnargli un appartamento
asserendo che si tratta di un tedesco.

Tengo a chiarire che tutte le opzioni per la Germania sono
da considerarsi nulle e quindi tutti quelli che erano cittadini
italiani ed hanno optato per la Germania sono ora da considerar-
si italiani.

Essi quindi hanno diritto al medesimo trattamento di tutti gli
altri italiani. Prego di informare tutti i suoi uffici.

Subject: Aliigeni

TO : Sindaco di Merano

Ultimamente mi sono stati segnalati diversi casi di cui cito il seguente :

Romen PRINOTH, nato a Innsbruck, ma che ha sempre vissuto in Italia avendo la cittadinanza italiana.

Nel 1940 ha optato per la Germania. Ora è tornato dalla Stiria. Il suo ufficio alloggi si rifiuta di assegnargli un appartamento asserendo che si tratta di un tedesco.

Tengo a chiarire che tutte le opzioni per la Germania sono da considerarsi nulle e quindi tutti quelli che erano cittadini italiani ed hanno optato per la Germania sono ora da considerarsi italiani.

Essi quindi hanno diritto al medesimo trattamento di tutti gli altri italiani. Prego di informare tutti i suoi uffici.

Cto Howard E. EARL Capt
Provincial Officer
Western Area
Prov. Bolzano

4312

CONFIDENTIAL

Department of Defense
Military Office
APO 394

Dear Sir:

8 August 1946.

I have just arrived in Milan after two useful days in Bolzano where I sent direct on arrival there on Friday, that the A.F.S. meeting had been postponed. During my visit I met the Provincial Commissioner, Bolzano and his Executive Officer the head of the A.F.S. unit (British) Merano, the head of Counter Intelligence Corps unit Merano (American), the Public Safety Officer, Merano (British), the second-in-command of the British Liaison Unit, Folgore Division, the chairman of the C.L.M. Merano, the chief of police Merano and finally the Secretary General of the Southern Volkspartei. I enclose a copy of a record of my conversation with the last-named individual.

From the above conversations and from my own observations I have reached the following conclusions:-

The situation in the province has deteriorated politically. Although there is at present no risk of armed clashes, the relations between the German and Italian speaking elements of the population have become more strained. This is due to a variety of reasons. One is certainly the presence of the Folgore Division. The Folgore, and especially the Santo Regiment have lived their own pockets in the process of regarding claps and have committed many aggressive acts to which Allied Officers. South Tyroleans and Italians all bear witness.

Another is the complete lack of confidence on the part of the German-speaking population in any promise or aim by the Italian Government. This feeling is accentuated by the fact that while at the centre, Allied Military Government, the Prefect and Senior Italian officials are trying to carry out a policy of tolerance and equality of treatment for both races, in the smaller towns and in the country districts Italian on spot-baggers are springing up who indulge in bullying, extortion and minor acts of irritation.

A third reason is the complete absence up to date of separation of Fascists and particularly of Nazis both South Tyroleans and Reich Germans. The important Nazis, have mostly been pulled in but there are a certain number of bad men still in hiding, while there are thousands of Reich Germans including wives and families of Nazi officials. Army officers and diplomats, living in comfort in villas and chalets who are a constant source of irritation to the Italians and of stimulation to the South Tyrolean separatists. Indeed it can be said that at the moment, Bolzano province is perhaps the only place in central Europe where Nazis remain undisturbed and where Nazi ideas and ideals can continue to be propagated. The uncertainty to which this state of affairs has given rise has not been diminished by the fact that certain Allied officers, particularly in the Merano area have entered into and encouraged the most cordial relations with Reich Germans, including former members of the S.S. and Gestapo, some of whom, until recently, were actually employed in A.F.S. offices. A further contributing factor to the general malaise is the presence of numerous German prisoners, and apparently quite at liberty and able to fraternize with the local German-speaking population.

The personality of the Prefect of Bolzano, Colonel De Angelis, has been another disturbing factor. He is criticized by both Italian and South Tyrolean alike. In as much as he is seeking to carry out a middle policy, disliked by

Division. The Prefecture, and especially the Bolzano Regiment have lived their own pockets in the process of separating and have committed many aggressive acts to which Allied officials. South Tyroleans and Italians all bear witness.

Another is the complete lack of confidence on the part of the German-speaking population in any promise of aid by the Italian Government. This feeling is accentuated by the fact that while at the centre, Allied Military Government, the Prefect and Senior Italian officials are trying to carry out a policy of tolerance and equality of treatment for both races, in the smaller towns and in the country districts Italian ex-fetters are springing up the image of a third reason in the complete absence of up to date of expropriation of fascists in bellying, extortion and minor acts of irritation. The important

A third reason is the complete absence of up to date of expropriation of fascists in bellying, extortion and minor acts of irritation. The important and particularly of Nazis both South Tyroleans and Italian Germans. The important Nazis, have mostly been pulled in but there are a certain number of bad men still in hiding, while there are thousands of which Germans including wives and families of Nazi officials. Army officers and diplomats, living in comfort in villas and chalets who are a constant source of irritation to the Italian and of stimulation to the South Tyrolean separatists. I would like to say that at the moment, Bolzano province is perhaps the only place in central Europe where Nazis remain undisturbed and where Nazi ideas and ideals can continue to be propagated. The uncertainty to which this state of affairs has given rise has not been diminished by the fact that certain Allied officers, particularly in the Bolzano area have entered into and encouraged the most cordial relations with Nazi Germans, including former members of the S.S. and Gestapo, some of whom, until recently, were actually employed in S.S. offices. A further contributing factor to the general malaise is the presence of numerous German prisoners and apparently quite at liberty and able to fraternize with the local German-speaking population.

The personality of the Prefect of Bolzano, Colonel De Angelis, has been another disturbing factor. He is criticized by both Italian and South Tyrolean alike. In as much as he is seeking to carry out a middle policy, disliked by both Italians and South Tyrolean alike, this is perhaps to his credit. But articles appears to centre more on his own past record. He is accused of being an opportunist who played with the fascists, Germans and S.S. in turn. He is undoubtedly very popular, but Colonel McBratney has confidence in his and my own feeling is that if he can deliver the goods in the form of satisfactory schemes for local autonomy he should be kept on.

I did not see the Prefect himself in Bolzano as he was on the point of leaving for Rome. I made a careful enquiries however both in Bolzano and Merano into the allegations he had made in Rome on the subject of French activities in Bolzano province. Although it is widely believed both in official circles and among the public that the French are intriguing on behalf of the separatist, alleged would get no evidence of the existence of the clandestine wireless set, alleged to be broadcasting from the French Government of Austria or of the posting of notices by the French. There is said to be a Soviet station broadcasting in German to Bolzano and I suspect it would not however be doing the monitoring in place of P.M.B. to investigate both allegations. A small French military mission of three officers has however arrived in Bolzano with an unspecified object. I suspect to Colonel McBratney that this mission be investigated. The French have been sending small parties in over the frontier to buy food. This has been topped. In one truck as it goes through this small town where once stands the French have arrived.

Communications are as follows:

(1) The Polgore division should be withdrawn and replaced by Carabinieri as has been suggested by Colonel Mistravsky. I understand that a conference on this subject is being held at 5th Army today.

(2) The Italian Government should be advised to publish and put into effect as soon as possible a decree not only providing for linguistic equality but also establishing some form of local autonomy on the lines of that contemplated for the Val d'Aoste. Particular care is to be taken to ensure that it can be made effective in the lower levels as well as at the top e.g. by increasing the number of German-speaking local officials and functionaries in para-statal services. If the Italian Government could be persuaded to agree to the appointment of allied observers to supervise the carrying out of the decree so much the better.

(3) The most active steps should be taken to carry out a drastic operation of Nazis. As far as possible this should be carried out by courts composed of anti-Nazi German-speaking persons. All Nazi Germans not actually imprisoned should be removed to Germany or Austria as the case may be as soon as possible. Meanwhile their activities should be carefully watched with a view to stopping propaganda among the local German-speaking inhabitants. Every effort should be made to ensure that German working in the province or German sick and wounded should be treated as what they are - prisoners of war. They should not be allowed to circulate freely and they should not be allowed to mix with the local inhabitants.

(4) Allied Military personnel should be warned to adopt the same rules of fraternization as exist in Germany in regard to fraternization with non-Germans.

(5) Efforts should be made by the monitoring service to establish the identity of any wireless station broadcasting in German to Bolzano and to collect any material they may be putting out. The G.I.C. or whoever takes their place should be asked to keep a careful watch on all French activities in the province.

(6) If it is the intention of the Allied Governments to leave Bolzano province as part of Italy a public announcement either official or unofficial should be made to that effect as soon as possible. If these things are done and if, as I understand is the desire of the G.I.C. 2 District, two battalions of British troops are kept in the province after the withdrawal of the U.S. 349th Regiment on or about August 25th. I believe that the problem of Bolzano is capable of a solution which would be fully satisfactory to both parties.

420. am

By [signature]

TO: R.E. Sir Noel Charles Pt. R.C.M.G.
British Embassy, Rome.

Colonel [signature]
Brig. [signature], A.C. [signature]
Colonel [signature], A.C. [signature]

(4) Allied Military personnel should be ordered to adopt the same rules of fraternization as exist in Germany in regard to fraternization with Polish Germans.

(5) Efforts should be made by the monitoring service to establish the identity of any wireless station broadcasting in German to Belgium and to collect any material they may be putting out. The C.I.C. or whoever takes their place should be asked to keep a careful watch on all French activities in the province.

(6) If it is the intention of the Allied Governments to leave Belgium provinces as part of Italy a public announcement either official or unofficial should be made to that effect as soon as possible. If these things are done and if, as I understand is the desire of the U.S.C. 2 District, two battalions of British troops are kept in the province after the withdrawal of the U.S. 34th Regiment on or about August 20th. I believe that the problem of Belgium is capable of a solution which would be fully timely satisfactory to both parties.

yes

of. fraternization

TO: H.E. Sir Noel Charles St. Leger, D.C., M.C.,
British Embassy, Rome.

Grades to:

Brig. Gen. A.C. Rome
Colonel FINE, A.C. Milan.

4380

UNITED STATES ARMY
MILITARY OFFICE
PG 394

2 August 1945.

MEMORANDUM

1. When I was in Bolzano this week, I thought it useful to take the opportunity of meeting advocates and officials, the Secretary General of the "Gustaf Adolf Volkspartei". The Provincial Commissioner, Col. Rindfleisch, considered him to be one of the best and most reliable members of the party. In fixing the interview he made it clear that it was entirely private and that nothing was to be said about it all.
2. I told Rindfleisch that my object in seeing him was entirely with the object of obtaining information. I knew the Prefect, Colonel De Angelis well and I was fully aware of the point of view of the Italian Government, and the Italian speaking section of the population of Bolzano. I was however anxious to learn the point of view of the German-speaking section.
3. He began with a long history of the South Tyrol beginning with the Treaty of London of 1915 and ending, down to the signing of the Hitler-Mussolini agreement of 1939 and the German occupation of 1943. As far as Bolzano province was concerned, when its annexation to Italy took place in 1919 the vast majority of its inhabitants were German-speaking and had no desire to sever their connection with Austria. The promises made by the Italians in the early years to respect their language and customs had not been kept. On the contrary during the period of the Fascist regime every effort had been made to Italianize the population. In addition large numbers of Italians, most from Naples and Sicily, had been imported into the province to man the industries, many of them quite uneducated, which the Italians established. Italians were appointed to all Government posts, as well as the banks and other semi-public services. Thus the Italian-speaking population had now risen to one third of the whole province, and Bolzano itself had become largely an Italian City. None of the Italian language, however were farmers and mine-workers of the land still remained in the hands of the German-speaking inhabitants. What the South Tyrolean people's party now wanted was a plebiscite to decide whether the territory should remain Italian or should be allowed to re-join Austria. Even if, as he supposed, the peace terms imposed on Austria were much more severe than the Italian terms and even if Austria was to be run by an extreme left-wing group in Vienna, the South Tyroleans (through a conservative people) would prefer to take the risk.
4. I said that the problem was not quite as simple as that. It was in fact a most complicated problem. Not only had the Italian-speaking population grown until they now represented a large minority, but the Italian Government (quite legitimately) had developed the hydro-electric power of the province to such an extent that it now supplied the requirements of 17% of the vast industry of Northern Italy. This power was their life-blood and it was

3. He began with a long history of the South Tyrol beginning with the Treaty of London of 1915 and ending, down to the signing under the Hitler-Mussolini agreement of 1939 and the German occupation of 1943. As far as the province was concerned, when the annexation to Italy took place in 1939 the vast majority of the inhabitants were German-speaking and had no desire to a ever to be connected with Austria. The promises made by the Italians in the early years to respect their language and customs had not been kept. On the contrary during the period of the Fascist regime every effort had been made to Italianize the population. In addition large numbers of Italians, sent from Naples and Sicily, had been imported into the province to man the industries, many of them quite uneducated, which the Italians established. Italians were appointed to all government posts, as well as the banks and other semi-public services. From the Italian-speaking population less than fifteen per cent lived in the whole province, and Italians themselves had become largely an Italian City. Some of the Italian immigrants, however were farmers and agriculturists of the land still remained in the hands of the German-speaking inhabitants. What the South Tyrolean people's party now wanted was a plebiscite to decide whether the territory should remain Italian or should be allowed to re-join Austria. Even if, as he supposed, the peace terms imposed on Austria were much more severe than the Italian terms and even if Austria was to be run by an extreme left-wing group in Vienna, the South Tyroleans (though a conservative people) would prefer to take the risk.

4. I said that the problem was not quite as simple as that. It was in fact a most complicated problem. Not only had the Italian-speaking population grown until they now represented a large minority, but the Italian Government (quite legitimately) had developed the hydro-electric power of the province to such an extent that it now supplied the requirements of 17% of the vast industry of Northern Italy. This power was their life-blood and it was difficult to ask them to hand over its control to another country. There was also the strategic factor. Moreover, in spite of the initial guilt of the Fascists in coming into the war, after the armistice Italy had fought for the Allies and had rendered valuable services whereas most the German-speaking population of the South Tyrol had collaborated closely with the Nazis up to the end. He said that there were many, like himself, who had been anti-Nazi throughout. He personally had been put into a concentration camp when the Germans came in on September 9th 1943 for his active opposition to the signing of German-speaking elements for Germany in 1939. I asked him why it was that so many South Tyroleans had opted to join the Reich. He said that it was under South Tyroleans had opted to join the Reich. He said that it was under intense Fascist and Nazi pressure. Their true feelings could be seen from the fact that two-thirds of those who opted for Germany had not proceeded there. I asked him what would happen if Bolzano remained as part of a democratic Italy and the Italianists were asked to opt again. He said that the great majority would certainly choose Italian nationality so as to be able to remain in their homes.

430

CONFIDENTIAL

5. I asked Raffenner whether the Italian Government's desire ration promising equality of treatment in bi-lingual areas had not created a favourable impression in Bolzano. They were already working out a plan for local autonomy for most provinces, and it was not unreasonable to suppose that they might be willing to introduce a similar system in Bolzano. Raffenner replied that though the intentions of the present Government might be good, they had had many such promises in the past which had never been fulfilled. The South Tyroleans had no confidence in any Italian. Moreover a Government might come in at a late date which would reverse the position again.

6. I asked him whether there was any strong feeling of attachment to Austria in Bolzano. He said there was not. On the contrary the South Tyroleans had always disliked the Germans. The ideal solution would be the creation of a second Switzerland, a tri-lingual state - German, Italian and Ladinian, made up of North and South Tyrol, including Bolzano and parts of Trento, Bolzano and Udine provinces. He said that he had had many requests from Italian-speaking people in Trento province for amalgamation with Bolzano, even as part of Austria. He said, that whatever language they spoke, they were all Tyroleans of the ancient Ladinian race, he thought that from his international point of view there might be considerable advantages in having a second multi-lingual neutral state between Italy and Germany, and its creation would certainly correspond to the wishes of the inhabitants. But he realised that this was probably not a practicable proposition and that the choice lay between joining Austria and remaining Italian. He asked anxiously whether the Allies had taken any decision about the future of Bolzano. I said I did not know but that at present it was certainly regarded as part of Italy.

the said, that whatever language they spoke, they were all Tyroleans of the ancient Italian race, he thought that from his international point of view there might be considerable advantages in having a mono-lingual neutral state between Italy and Germany, and its creation would certainly correspond to the wishes of the inhabitants. But he realized that this was probably not a practicable proposition and that the choice lay between joining Austria and remaining Italian. He asked suddenly whether the Allies had taken any decision about the future of Bolzano. I said I did not know but that at present it was certainly regarded as part of Italy.

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
VENEZIE REGION.

14th August 1945.

SUBJECT: BOLZANO Situation.

TO : Executive Commissioner,
HQ Allied Commission.

*Some German speaking in Bolzano subject to German
of course, perhaps speak of Austria, Austria, Italy, Bolzano*

My personal appreciation is that the German speaking inhabitants of BOLZANO form a community of Germanic stock with strong individuality in race and culture. They dislike things Italian and distrust Italian promises. Though sentimentally closely linked with the Austrian Tyrol they are apprehensive of the result of union with AUSTRIA of the future. Setting aside extremist views they would welcome either national independence under Allied guarantee of integrity or, as second best, large scale autonomy within Italy, such autonomy rights to be under protection of great powers.

JKD/JG.


Brigadier,
Regional Commissioner.

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

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HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY APO 164 US ARMY G-5 SECTION

9 August 1945

TO: HQ Allied Commission, APO 394

(103)

AUG 13 1945

Forwarded for your information.

For the Asst. Chief of Staff, G-5:

13 AUG 1945

Thomas J. Michie

THOMAS J. MICHIE,
Lt. Col. A.C.
Executive.

See memo 105-106-107

(S/Comd Pers)

4300

BOLZANO PROVINCE
VENEZIE REGION
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
A. P. O 394.

SUBJECT: Political meeting at Innsbruck.

DATE: 6 August 1945.
WEM/eq.

TO: Hdqrs A.M.G. 5th Army, (G-5 Section)

REF: RMT/B2/123.



I have had reported to me that at Innsbruck last week there occurred a public meeting at which the political aspirations of the North and South Tyrolian people were publicly spoken of and that the Commanding General of the French Military Organization of that area was present and that he spoke.

I have no text of his speech. It has been reported to me that he said the aspirations of the South Tyrolian people to join Austria, would be presented to France and the general impression was that he was favourably inclined to the "Anschluss". -

William E. McBratney
WILLIAM E. McBRATNEY
Lt. Col., S.R.,
Provincial Commissioner.

*6. All...
of...*

See File 2

430.

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