

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

ACC

10000/109/620
(VOL. I)

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

10000/109/620
(VOL. I)

LOCAL GOV'T ELECTIONS
DEC. 1944 - JULY 1945

82.

9/7 PRO. in action as per Cio
comment.

83

Note: Spec entry of Feb 80 (and accompanying
release) with following comment in handwriting
of chief comm. returned to P.R.O.:

"I am sorry but this is not up
to naval standards. It needs a
lot of polishing. It reflects little credit
on the Italians. Pol. Admin (A) - (B)
should approve first

(initial) E.W.S."

Delivered PRO. 0850 hrs
10 July 45.



85.

Excerpts M. Sec 79 info and minute 83
above. Also M. Sec 84 in
note book

to meet standards. It needs a
lot of polishing. It reflects little credit
on the Italians. Pol. Admin (A) - (B)
shared afternoon first

(initial) E.W.S. "

Received P.R.O. 0850 hrs
10 May 45.

AK Wick

85.

Excerpts M. Sec 79 cfo and minute 83
above. Also pl. sec 84 in
reply to him 83.

85. 10/7. 5003

Executive Commission

106.

Three pages 102 & 103 - the latter
being Mr. Thompson's recommendations on proposals
of PRB as 102.

CSO 106.

CSO c. 50.

1277. Action - 105. 106. 107 (1817)

10 8 2 3

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70

A/Exec

I doubt if you have seen
79 which is an independent
Signal
Σ 4/7

5/7 noted - 7

78

CSO

72 is answer to E's signal at 71. Sh

6/7/45

Acting Executive Commission

To see pages 71 & 72 for information.

Sh
E.S.O.

6/7/45

6/7 7.

81

5002

5/7 noted - 7

78

CSO

72 is answer to ECs signal at 71.

[Signature]

6/7/45

⁷⁴
Acting Executive Commissioner.

To see plus 71 & 72 for information.

[Signature]
E.S.O.

6/7/45

6/7 7.

81

5502

Colfiter

Re Ben Releane an Electronic ^{operator}

I have pencilled in in page 3.

The release is supposed to be

to cover the fact that there

will not be changes in ATT 6

territory - ATT 6 bill has been

by the House the bill is ready.

6/7/7.

53

Vice President,
Civil Affairs Section.

The Chief Commissioner read your draft cable at Folio 57 to the Chief of Staff, British Resmin and US Polad this morning. It caused great interest and the Chief Commissioner was asked to send it as amended. Will you please take action. (Please consult Polad.)
Advise)

MS
Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

25 June 45.

⁵⁴
To Pol Adviser (A)
~ (B)

To see 57 & 58 for comments
please before dispatch of 57.
25th

55
I have no comment on draft cable

56
Nov 1.
26/11/45.

26/11/45.

(B)

To see 57458 + for comments
please before dispatch of 57

28th

Spahn

55

I have no comment on draft cable

6/26

Spahn
Plad (H)

56

Mar 1.

26/11/48.

Spahn
(A. S. HALFORDS)
Asst. Political Adviser (Br.)

⑤7

Local Government

Send

27 June

⑤8(60)

CA Section

27 June

Cable dispatched as directed in minute ⑤7 — see
for 58 + 59. Copy retained in our file.

18/12/48

Spahn
for Director, L.A.S.C.

ExCm
CSO

more info on electoral lists at (45)

16/6/45

15/6

[Signature]

CA See

(47)

Should have gone out over CCs or my signature.
Draft - letter to R.C. by name instructing them in action
of CCs before their election

17/5/6

CA See

(49)

Please see above minute for your
prompt action please.

Office of EC
29/6/45

[Signature]

Ex Commission

Draft of D.O. letter submitted.

21 June

[Signature]
1945.

[Signature]

(51)

Issue as amended. 17/5/6

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Chase

Please see above minute for your prompt action, please.

Office of EC
20/6/45

LX. Commission

draft of L.O. letter submitted.

21/11

SSAC as amended. (51)

5

5600
 Sir, Ref your 51 - letters for signatures opposite — I enclose,
 recd 53.
 J.S. 17/6.

$\frac{12}{6}$

and its

Shodorung

D. B. Campbell
LAS.

178/21/6

5600.

opposite — toward,

and its

CSO

423

EC will wish to see 241

Sh

14/6/45

43

Chief Commissioner

Idid h77 hews hani to shew
the to Exec. Com: before he
left to Nilan. 15/6

44

This is result of discussion at your

last V.P.'s meeting (you were away). Noted by CC

175/15/6 10/2/46

Idid 457. hoto hene to show
the to Exec. Com? before he
left to Nitar. (3)

15/6

4th.

This is result of discussion at your

last V.P.'s meeting (you were away). Noted by CC
HSS (15/6) *[Signature]*

5559

36

Examine

local for it is reply to
34 is at 35. CC has copied
What action was taken
attached.

at 11/6. (39)

Chief Commissioner 37,

You asked what action was being taken

in p 34. P 35 is the reply.

JUN 11 1960

178/11/6.

E.C.

38

The reply is not satisfactory.
See my appended notes

SWD
cc

39

12/6

37.

Chief Commissioner

You asked what action was being taken

in p 34. P 35 is the reply.

JUN 11 1960

178/11/6.

E.C.

38

The reply is not satisfactory.
See my appended notes

SWD

12/6

39

ca

Chief Commissioner

The Local Government Sub Commission has been in action over this with the Electoral Committee of the Government in an endeavour to get the forms printed before June 23rd. They will continue in the earliest date, the printing of 8 tons of forms. Action has also been taken to be borrowing the committee. But, beyond ship them as soon as they are printed. But, beyond constant pressure on capacity, I think, take the printing into our own hands - we could not get them printed much earlier ourselves. I think you must lay the delay at the door of the P.C. & not your Local Govt Sub Com.

178/12/6

0 2 3 3

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C.S.O.

17.
Please see 16.

31/3.

PA. 11. 2/4.

31/3.

E.C.

18

Review approved. Awaiting publication of Blencoe in Gazette Appointments. What then no further action can be taken.

S. A. 1940.

Ch. 2. 1940.

19

C.S.O.

Ref 16, minute 18 shows action being taken. I do not think a reply is called for now & will B/V in 10 days.

S. A. 1940

[Signature]
S. A. 1940

NO. 24

TO: Office of the Executive Commissioner.
Reference Folio 22.

A reply is awaited from the Prime Minister to the Chief Commissioner's letter of 19 Apr 45 (Folio 20) before any action is taken on Folio 22. If it is felt that 22 is a reply to 20 Min. Study, then no action until R.

2 May 45
C A Section.

Let so. See AC/AS/AC

Folio 68 5.1

A. D. B. 1940.
A. D. B. 1940.
Lt. Colonel.

CSD

Ref 4, minute 18 shows action being taken.
I do not think a reply is called for now
& will B/v in 10 days.

Sapr 45

[Signature]
SAPR

NO. 24

TO: Office of the Executive Commissioner.
Reference Folio 22.

A reply is awaited from the Prime Minister to the Chief Commissioner's letter of 19 Apr 45 (Folio 20) before any action is taken on Folio 22.
If it is felt that 22 is a reply to 20 then, surely, there is no action until R.

2 May 45
C.A. Section.

Let So. See ACUS/A/AC

ACUS 68
A reply to CC's letter
of 19/4 is being prepared.

A.D. BONHAM
Lt. Colonel.

C.S.O.

I think you should see 28.

DL 26/5/45

Thank you

S. 27/5

5556

Captn Mullen:

Do you know why 4 is to Toscana
only? Have the others replied to
3, & if so, why haven't we copies?

21/1

6

C50

Ref 5 Signal at 4 was sent as Toscana Region
has not replied to 3.
Action is on Pot Sec file which has the other
replies.

22 Jan 45

I

File

Well then signed at 4 should
have gone out from Pot Sec
and not in.

Spike Wilcox 22/1

23/1

0833

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

CSO

Ref 5 Signal at 4 was sent as Toscana Region
has not replied to 3.
Action is on Pol Sec file which has the other
replies.

22 Jan 65

I

Will then Signal at 4 should
have gone out from Pol Sec
and not us.

Spoke Wilcox at 22/1
at 23/1

CSO

Please see Folio 13 for your information

DL 28b

DL 30/3

5555

DL

CONFIDENTIAL

UNITED STATES INFORMATION SERVICE

ITALY

July 17, 1945

Addendum To Special Guidance On Italian Elections Is Issued

July 2, 1945

The following addendum was approved by the Coordinating Committee, USIS, Italy, on July 16, 1945. It is to be added to the last page of the Special Guidance on Italian Elections, which has already been distributed.

USIS material regarding elections or other democratic processes should not refer directly or indirectly to the forthcoming Italian elections.

This ban may only be modified by action of the Coordinating Committee.

0238

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

100
The following addendum was approved by the Coordinating Committee, USIS, Italy, on July 16, 1945. It is to be added to the last page of the Special Guidance on Italian Elections, which has already been distributed.

USIS material regarding elections or other democratic processes should not refer directly or indirectly to the forthcoming Italian elections.

This ban may only be modified by action of the Coordinating Committee.

5598

By *[Signature]*
(*[Signature]*)
v/v

AB/px

108

2806

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

AG/45/A/LC

Tel: 475706
13 July 1945
JUL 19 1945

SUBJECT: Preparation of electoral lists.

TO : Distribution as below.

1. As Regional and Provincial Commissioners are aware, the right to vote (or rather, to be inscribed in the electoral lists) has been granted to those Italian citizens who reached the age of 21 by 31 December 1944. As it now appears unlikely that it will be possible to hold elections until the late autumn, it follows that all those who reach the age of 21 during 1945 would be disfranchised. The Italian Government have therefore decided, in agreement with this HQ, to alter the franchise in this respect.

2. A Decree has therefore been prepared and agreed and will shortly be passed into law whereby those Italian citizens--men and women--who reach the age of 21 by 31 December 1945 will also be entitled to be inscribed in the electoral lists. It is intended to publish this Decree in a supplement to the Official Gazette and to insert in the same supplement the usual ordinance implementing it for Military Government Territory. In this way, the Decree will come into force in Military Government Territory at the earliest possible moment.

3. In Southern and Central Italy, where the electoral lists have been completed or nearly so, it will be necessary to prepare supplementary lists of those who reach 21 during this year. In Northern Italy, however, this can and must be avoided: and in the lists preparation of which commenced on 15 July there will be inserted the names of all those (a) who have already reached the age of 21 this year or (b) who will reach that age before 1 January 1946.

4. RCs will ensure that Prefects and Sindaci are instructed accordingly, and that they include these additional persons in the lists at once, and without waiting for the new Decree to be published and distributed.

BY COMMAND OF THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER:

G R Lyette

G. R. UZON, Brig.
VP CA Section

Distribution:

RE Emilia
Liguria
Lombardia
Piemonte

with copies for RCs

passed into law whereby those Italian officers--men and women--who reach the age of 21 by 31 December 1945 will also be entitled to be inscribed in the electoral lists. It is intended to publish this Decree in a supplement to the Official Gazette and to insert in the same supplement the usual ordinance implementing it for Military Government Territory. In this way, the Decree will come into force in Military Government Territory at the earliest possible moment.

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BY COMMAND OF THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER:

Distribution:

- | | |
|--|-----------------------|
| RC Emilia | } with copies for RCs |
| Liguria | |
| Lombardia | |
| Piemonte | |
| Venezia | |
| Chief Commissioner | |
| Executive Commissioner | |
| Polad (A) | |
| " (B) | |
| Legal Sub Commission | |
| AIC Commissioner - Naples | |
| " - Ancona | |
| " - Pisa--Livorno | |
| CAG Pantelleria (through Liaison Officer, Palermo) | |
| " Lampedusa | |

G.R. Lyette

G. R. UFFONI, Brig.
VP CA Section

5593

See 1945 for II

PA

(M. N. N. N.)

1084

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

APO 394

Office of the Executive Commissioner

107

Ref: 2806/106/EC.

18 July 45.

Subject: Special Information Campaign Prior to Italian Elections.

To: Distribution below.

102

Attached is a letter from Public Relations Branch on the above subject, together with copies of MOI and USIS plans.

Will you please give every assistance possible to USIS and MOI in the implementation of their schemes.

For Chief Commissioner:

GH Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

Distr:- Regional Commissioner, Liguria
" " " Venetia
" " " Piemonte
" " " Lombardia
" " " Emilia.
SCAO, VERONIA GIULIA.

5532

0842

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

2806
105
HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

Office of the Chief Commissioner

APO 394

17 July 1945.

SUBJECT: Special Information Campaign Prior to Italian Elections. JUL 17 1945

TO : Executive Commissioner. 102

Referring to PRB's memo of 12 July, file 100/PRB, on the above subject, I approve the recommendation made in para 6 that the Executive Commissioner's Office transmit copies of PRB's memorandum of 12 July, together with attachments, to all regional Commissioners.

W. H. Stone

ELLEY W. STONE
Rear Admiral, USNR
Chief Commissioner

Copy to: PRB

See 106107

5581

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on effectiveness of material
put out, etc. This will
be especially important
in what I section
is going. Will you
be making with the C.C.?

July 12

103

Executive Commission
P.R.O. takes of 'periodic
meetings' with H.O.I. and U.S.I.S.
reps. on the development of
plans. My own view is that
a committee meeting at
regular periods is required
if plans are to be satisfactorily
made and carried out. We
should also ask for special
reports from A.R.G. officers
on what is required,

5500

9845

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

on effectiveness of material
put out, etc. This will
be especially important
in what I section ~~has~~
is going. Will you raise
the matter with the C.C.?

July 12

0846

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

2806

102

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

GSE/mew

100/PRB

12 July 45

JUL 12 1945

SUBJECT: Special Information Campaign Prior to Italian Elections

TO : Chief Commissioner
Executive Commissioner

1. At the conference of Regional Commissioners on June 27 there was discussion concerning the need for an Allied program of information and education designed to guide and assist Italians toward democratic processes, especially in the matter of free elections.

2. Your paper to the Supreme Allied Commander, Mediterranean Theatre, on future policy toward Italy contained two paragraphs emphasizing the need for such an educational campaign.

3. It was suggested at the conference that the Director, PRB meet with the Directors in Italy of the United States Information Service, the Ministry of Information and the British and United States Press Attaches to ascertain what their respective agencies were doing in this field and what they planned for the future. It was suggested that periodic meetings be held to coordinate the efforts of the two information agencies and to plan future programs.

4. A meeting was held with the above mentioned agencies on July 7 at which the problem was discussed and analyzed. From the discussion it was apparent that both USIS and MOI already have done a great deal toward the desired objective and have extensive plans for the immediate future. I asked them to give me reports summarizing their plans. Attached hereto is a summary of MOI plans and a directive from USIS to its staff on this question. Both will give you a good idea as to how they are tackling this problem. I hope their plans meet with your approval. (97-100)

(92-96) 5. USIS and MOI will not be able to establish effective offices in the cities of northern Italy for several months and will need the help of the Regional and Provincial Commissioners in the distribution of their material. At the conference of Regional Commissioners several commissioners indicated their willingness to assist USIS and MOI in carrying out their educational programs.

See 100

55-5

(Not Followed)

- 2 -

6. It is recommended that the Executive Commissioner's office transmit copies of this memorandum and the attached reports to the Regional Commissioners with instructions to them to assist USIS and MOI in every way possible to carry out their educational and informational programs.

7. It is planned to have periodic meetings with the representatives of USIS and MOI on the development of plans for this educational campaign.

Stewart Brown
G. STEWART BROWN
Director,
Public Relations Branch

Attachments (2)

Summary of MOI Plans
USIS Directive

Copies to: Political Advisors
Mr. J. Linin, USIS
Mr. Michael Stewart, British Embassy

EC DIST - 12 July 45.

C. A. Sec.

5588

(3 spare copies)

10 8 4 8

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

2806

(D)

THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR
Direction General of Civil Administration
Electoral Service

File No. 15600 L.

Rome, 2nd July 1945

JUL 13 1945

TO THE PREFECTS OF THE PROVINCES OF
NORTHERN ITALY

SUBJECT : Compilation of electoral lists.

As it is known, the Allied Authorities, who have shown an eager interest in the matter, have established that the time limits for the first compilation of the electoral lists in the Communes which have not yet been restored to the Italian Administration, shall begin on the 15th of this month.

Although the Ministry is quite aware of the short time available and of the many contingent difficulties, it is nevertheless confident that the prefects, the sindaci, the communal secretaries, the electoral commissions and all the others who are called to cooperate, will execute their respective tasks with the utmost effort, so that the necessary preliminary operations connected with the elections will be completed within the period set out by the ministerial decree of 24 October 1944.

It is particularly necessary to bear in mind that the work connected with the compilation of the lists has already reached an advanced stage in the Communes of Central and Southern Italy, and, owing to the absolute necessity of assembling the "censis" without delay, the election machinery must be set up immediately throughout the national territory.

While bringing this directive to the attention of the agencies and bodies concerned, the Prefects will not fail to point out that the quick completion of the administrative work connected with the compilation of the electoral lists constitutes a great benefit to democracy, because it contributes to restoration of free representative institutions which are greatly desired by the entire country.

IL MINISTRO
Ferruccio Parri

5587

COPY: FROM: LOCAL GOVT SC
TO: EXEC COM

(As Anson)

CONFIDENTIAL

UNITED STATES INFORMATION SERVICE

ITALY

July 9, 1945

Special Guidance on Italian Elections

The following Special Guidance on the Italian Elections was approved by the Coordinating Committee, USIS Italy, on July 9, 1945, and is now in effect.

The Special Guidance consists of two parts, a Background describing the informational task of USIS in connection with the forthcoming elections, and a Program section asking for specific action by USIS departments and branches. In view of the importance of the program, the Coordinating Committee would like to receive as soon as possible additional proposals from USIS departments and branches on ways of implementing the Guidance in the various media.

* * *

Background

A national election is planned in Italy to select a Constituent Assembly. The exact date of this election has not yet been determined, but it will probably be held during the coming winter or next spring.

The election, and the period leading up to it, will be crucial in Italian history. The country is emerging from twenty years of Fascism, and most Italians have virtually no knowledge of democratic thinking and procedure. Even before Fascism, there was little democracy in Italy, especially as regards the exercise of the franchise, as Americans or British understand that term.

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* * *

Background

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The election, and the period leading up to it, will be crucial in Italian history. The country is emerging from twenty years of Fascism, and most Italians have virtually no knowledge of democratic thinking and procedure. Even before Fascism, there was little democracy in Italy, especially as regards the exercise of the franchise, as Americans or British understand that term.

The desire to see established a free and democratic Italy is basic in American policy. It is obvious that "democracy" cannot be imposed upon a country like Italy, but must arise naturally out of conditions favorable to it. It is also obvious that after so many years of authoritarianism, the creation of an environment favorable to the growth of democracy will require a broad program of re-education of the Italian people.

It is not the business of the American Government to tell Italians what kind of democracy or government they should have. It is not our function to state or imply that American democracy is better than any other kind of democracy. But we can try to help Italians in their political evolution by telling them about our political experience, with the thought that they

(3 STATE COPY)

-2-

can learn from both our mistakes and our successes. We believe that world security must be largely dependent upon mutual understanding between democratic, peace-loving nations, and one of our most urgent tasks, therefore, must be to explain the true character of American democracy and to give every possible aid to any people in need of information about how democracy works.

The months preceding the Italian elections offer an exceptionally favorable opportunity to bring to Italians information about democratic procedures. It will be a time of intense political debate and agitation. It should be remembered that a people without democratic political experience often do not understand some of the most basic principles of conduct in democracies, such as the principles of restraint, fair play, a willingness to abide by the will of the majority, as well as a respect for the rights of minorities. This means that our informational program should be broadly based, and include not only material on our electoral system and functions of government, but also material on the rights and responsibilities of the individual citizen, and the way in which democratic principles are applied in labor, industry, the school and the community, for example, as well as in State and national government.

Our information must also be broadly based in the sense that it should be designed to reach all classes of Italians. One important target is the class of government officials, administrators, educators and other group leaders who should be provided with thorough and reliable information on the principles and machinery of democratic elections. The other important target is the mass of Italian people who, by their political competence as expressed in their use of the franchise, will determine the ultimate success of Italian democracy.

Program

I. Booklets:

1. Reprinting of "Elections in the United States". A few minor changes are required in the text to bring it up to date. A print run of 150,000 copies is required, distribution to include the mailing list for all technical bulletins.

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Program

I. Booklets:

1. Reprinting of "Elections in the United States". A few minor changes are required in the text to bring it up to date. A print run of 150,000 copies is required, distribution to include the mailing list for all technical bulletins, as well as distribution in the North through Civil Affairs Officers and elsewhere in Italy through USIS branch offices.
2. Reprinting of the booklet "How the United States Government Works". A press run of 100,000 copies is suggested, with distribution to the list receiving the educational bulletins as well as through Civil Affairs Officers in North Italy and USIS branch offices.
3. Reprinting of the booklet on Documents of Liberty". A press run of 100,000 copies is suggested, with distribution as in #2 above.

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-3-

4. Reprinting of the booklet "Making the American Constitution", including a complete text of the Constitution and Amendments. A press run of 100,000 copies is suggested, with distribution as above.

Production of the four booklets should be undertaken immediately in Rome, with delivery in not longer than one month. A more attractive format is recommended for the new edition of the booklets, with the use of color on the covers. Suitable introductions should be prepared explaining the purpose of the booklets.

The Publications division has editorial responsibility for the new editions of the booklets. An Italian translation of "Making the American Constitution" is required; this should be done in Rome by the Publications section.

A letter should be prepared by the Publications section offering additional copies of the booklets in bulk to persons whose names are on the Complimentary List, such as Italian Government officials.

II. Books:

The Book Department should make an intensive effort to obtain and distribute to responsible Government officials authoritative books on electoral procedure.

A determined effort should be made to facilitate translation and publication, by Italian publishers, of good American books on government and politics.

III. Periodicals:

1. Nuovo Mondo - Regular publication of a series of articles on elections and other democratic processes in America and other democracies should begin at once.

2. U.S.A. and Victory - New York should be asked to give special emphasis to the same type of material in future Italian editions.

IV. Radio:

A letter should be prepared by the publications section offering additional copies of the booklets in bulk to persons whose names are on the Complimentary List, such as Italian Government officials.

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IV. Radio:

New York should be asked to prepare suitable material on elections and democratic processes for direct broadcasting in commentaries and other programs. The Radio Bureau should also be asked to prepare special series of recordings, such as one on the American election system, for re-broadcasting on local Italian stations.

V. Motion Pictures:

Suitable plans for both theatrical and non-theatrical distribution should be obtained from New York. The USIS film

97
-4-
officer should begin as soon as possible to arrange for distribution in commercial theatres and by means of USIS 16-mm. projectors, working in cooperation with the British Ministry of Information.

VI. News and Features:

In addition to a continuing service of news, features and pictures on democracy in action, the News and Features Division should prepare a special background kit for editors on U.S. elections and political procedure.

VII. Special Projects:

This Division should undertake an investigation of possibilities for speakers, forums, exhibits, etc. in the field and submit specific proposals for action to the Coordinating Committee.

VIII. Library:

Special collections of books and articles on elections and political procedure should be assembled and prominently displayed in all USIS information libraries.

It is proposed that the program above should be carried out in consultation with the Allied Commission and particularly with the advice and counsel of the Civil Affairs Officers in northern Italy. It is contemplated that these officers will cooperate with USIS in the distribution of materials.

USIS material regarding elections or other democratic processes should not refer directly or indirectly to the forthcoming Italian Elections.
This can only be modified by action of the Coordinating Committee.

per. folio no. 114

This Division should undertake an investigation of possibilities for speakers, forums, exhibits, etc. in the field and submit specific proposals for action to the Coordinating Committee.

VIII. Library:

Special collections of books and articles on elections and political procedure should be assembled and prominently displayed in all USIS information libraries.

It is proposed that the program above should be carried out in consultation with the Allied Commission and particularly with the advice and counsel of the Civil Affairs Officers in northern Italy. It is contemplated that these officers will cooperate with USIS in the distribution of materials.

USIS material regarding elections or other democratic processes should not refer directly or indirectly to the forthcoming Italian Elections

This can only be modified by action of the Coordinating Committee.

see below no. 9744

5583

0857

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

DPR/OJ

BRITISH EMBASSY,
R O M E. 96

9th July, 1945.

Dear Stewart Brown,

The following is a summary of the Ministry of Information's present plans for the British side of Allied propaganda towards Italy, and of the proposals for intensifying this campaign which will be discussed by the Ambassador and by Mr. Stewart in London next week. I hope this will give you the information which you requested at the meeting on Friday.

The Ministry of Information's plans for the immediate future, which are at the moment being put into effect, are as follows:

- (i) The Treasury have authorised seven provincial offices in Naples, Palermo, Florence, Milan, Genoa, Turin and Venice, in addition to the office in Rome. Those south of Rome are already established, and it is hoped to establish those in the north by the 1st August at the latest.
- (ii) Each office, with the exception of those in Rome and Milan, which are larger, will be staffed by an Information Officer, an Assistant Information Officer and British and Italian clerical assistance.
- (iii) The duties of the Information Officers will be to maintain in contact with the local press, to organise a news, feature and photograph service to the press, to attend to the distribution of limited supplies of English newspapers and books, to build up a reference library, and in two posts, probably Rome and Milan, to arrange when possible for relays and exchange programmes between the Italian radio and the B.B.C.

G. Stewart-Brown, Esq.,
Director of Public Relations,
Allied Commission,
ROME.

5562

(2 SPARE COPIES)

(iv) Ultimately we hope to establish further information centres in other provincial cities, which will depend either on the Ministry's main provincial posts or on the Anglo-Italian Association. I do not, however, see any prospect of starting these on a general scale for several months, and perhaps not for a year or more.

(v) The distribution of films will remain the responsibility of P.W.B. until the commercial companies take over in September or October. Thereafter, the Ministry of Information will only concern itself with arranging for the exhibition of Government and Government-sponsored documentary films.

(vi) The Ministry of Information does not at present intend to publish its own daily or periodical paper, nor to print for sale or free distribution large quantities of its own or H.M.S.O. publications. It has, however, an arrangement whereby Italian publishers can obtain the Italian translation rights of certain English books against lire payments to the Press Office.

(vii) These plans are the outcome of proposals submitted by Mr. Stewart in March and May of this year. They were designed to give us a decentralized propaganda organisation, the working basis of which would be personal contact with newspaper editors and other controllers of organs of mass information, and the provision of certain specialized but limited services, i.e. facilities for obtaining translation rights, etc.

The following are Mr. Stewart's proposals for increasing the strength and output of this propaganda. For convenience they are listed under channels :

BRITISH EMBASSY,
ROME.

G. Stewart-Brown, Esq.

2

9.7.45.

(a) Distribution

We should accept A.M.G.'s offer to distribute our material and see that the offices of the provincial commissioners receive supplies of material for distribution to the press. These offices will be more numerous than ours, and can act as our distributing agencies in cities where we have no office.

We should also have a sixth provincial office north of Rome in Bologna.

(b) Italian Correspondents in England

The British Government have agreed to accept six Italian correspondents in England, but there is difficulty in financing them. It is suggested that the Government should pay them in sterling in England against lire payments to the Press Office in Rome.

(c) Publications and Periodicals in England.

Financial authority is required to spend up to £5,000 or £8,000 to print locally any publications which we might consider useful. The material would be selected by the Press Attaché or a member of his staff from any official or commercial material which appeared suitable. Locally printed material would be distributed free to newspapers and other useful organs of propaganda, and put on sale at a normal price to the public.

Special efforts should be made to continue the publication of IL MESE until at least March or April of next year.

5580

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

93

(d) Broadcasting

The B.B.C. Italian Service should be revised to give special emphasis to the points which we wish to put across, i.e. social services, educational reform, etc., and the Press Office Broadcasting Officer should arrange where possible for local relays and supply material to the Italian radio which would be useful to them in their programmes.

(e) Films

P.W.B. film distribution is excellent, and we may expect that when the commercial companies take over they will in their own interests try and maintain P.W.B.'s standard. The difficulty is the films. Practically the whole of British film production during the last five years has been devoted to war films: these, except as an indication of character and toughness, are not of immediate value in Italy. The commercial companies are presumably producing peace time films, but it is doubtful if any of these will be shown in Italy for many months. All we can do in the meantime to ensure that such films as we have at our disposal already and which serve our purpose are widely shown through the P.W.B. distribution units, and later through the commercial companies.

(f) British newspapers and periodicals

The Press Office is already receiving and distributing free to newspapers and other bodies a limited number of British newspapers and periodicals. This number must be increased to cover similar distribution lists in our provincial offices and an estimate of requirements has been prepared. In addition, the Ministry of Information has a plan for sending by air approximately 3,000 copies all

BRITISH EMBASSY,
R O M E. (92)

G. Stewart-Brown, Esq.

3.

9.7.45

told of about a dozen British dailies for commercial sale in Italy. The Press Office is attending to the details of local distribution. This is a most useful plan, but the number of newspapers ought to be at least doubled.

(g) Library Books

Supplies of standard reference books and British Stationery Office books for Rome and the provincial posts have been ordered and are expected. Should these books be out of print or in short supply, as many of them are, second-hand copies should be obtained, or else the books concerned should be withdrawn from other posts abroad, the importance of which has dwindled.

It should be added that one of the essentials in carrying out this programme is the obtaining of suitable staff and equipment which can often be done only with great difficulty and delay. Typewriters, stenographing machines, cars and filing cabinets may seem small matters, but no office can function without them. Representations are being made to the military authorities for assistance in these matters, and it is hoped that if Admiral Stone's memorandum is approved in principle, these representations will meet with success.

Yours sincerely

(Sgd)

D. Pemberton-Pigott,
Lt. Col.,
Assistant Press Attaché.

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

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FX 20874
JULY 11 1629B

8/3299
JUL 12 1945
PRIORITY

From: FREEDOM SIGNED ALEXANDER CITE PHOEG
To: ACTION TROOPERS INFO ALCON ROME

JUL 22 1945
JUL 12 1945

SECRET.

Reur 573500A 2 (b). National elections in ITALY.

Answer is provided by telegram ALCON to AFHO Info TROOPERS 1266 dated 5 July with which this Headquarters agrees.

DIST

INFO-ACTION - CA SEC
INFO - CHIEF COMMISSIONER
EX COMMISSIONER 2
POLAD (A)
POLAD (B)
LBRAL SC
LOCAL GOVT SC
FILE

SECRET



(As Ascent)

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

RESTRICTED

JULY 06 NPT

From: PROVINCIAL COMMR BOLZANO PROV
To: HQ ALCON CIVIL AFFAIRS

E/8870
JULY 09 1945
ROUTINE

JUL 10 1945

RESTRICTED

HQ ALCON Civil Affairs for Prime Minister PARRI repeat for
Foreign Minister de GASPERI.

Shall be in ROME next week to report on situation and commu-
nicate on ethnic questions. Signed Prefetto DE ANGELIS BOLZANO.

WILLIAM B. MCBRATNEY, Lt Col RS, Prov Commr

Dist

Action - CA Sec 2
Info - Chief Commissioner
Exec Commr 2
File 2
Float

RESTRICTED



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PA
(Ras Ras)

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

2806
20

(34)

TO: RC VENEZUELA REGION

1497

9 Jul 45

OPERATIONAL PRIORITY

JUL 10 1945

(28)

IN CLEAR PD

PARA ONE PD REFERENCE OUR SIGNAL NUMBER ONE FOUR THREE SIX OF EIGHT JULY PD
PARTE TO REGIONAL COMMISSIONER VENEZUELA REGION FROM ALCON SITE AGCAS PARTI
PARA TWO PD VISIT OF DIRECTOR OF BOLZANO IS TO ADVISE THE PRIME MINISTER
SO THAT HE MAY ANSWER A POINT PUT TO HIM BY THIS COMMISSIONER PD CHIEF
COMMISSIONER CONSIDERS THAT NO USEFUL PURPOSE WILL BE SERVED BY PRESENCE
OF REGIONAL OR PROVINCIAL COMMISSIONERS

Internal Distribution: Executive Commissioner
Chief Commissioner.

Civil Affairs Section

437

NICHOLAS FIORELLI,
CWO H&A,
Asst. Adjutant.

5575

(Handwritten signatures and initials)
PA

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

TO: AMO VENEZIA REGION

1436

8 Jul 45

OPERATIONAL PRIORITY

JUL 9 1945

IN CLEAR PD

PARA ONE PD PRIME MINISTER HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO SEE PREFECT OF
BOLZANO PD CHIEF COMMISSIONER HAS AGREED PD

PAREN TO AMO VENEZIA REGION FROM ALCON CITE ACCAS PAREN

PARA TWO PD PLEASE ARRANGE TO SEND PREFECT AND PROVINCIAL COMMISSIONER
TO ROME IMMEDIATELY GMA YOU TAKING FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROVIDING
TRANSPORT BY FASTEST POSSIBLE MEANS PD

PARA THREE PD SUBJECT OF INTERVIEWS WILL BE ELECTIONS IN BOLZANO PD
PERSONAL PRESENCE OF REGIONAL COMMISSIONER IS PURELY OPTIONAL

Internal Distribution: Executive Commissioner,
Chief Commissioner,
Local Government Sub-Commission,
Polad (A),
Polad (B)

FROM: Civil Affairs Section,

437

NICHOLAS PIOMBINO,
CWO USA
Asst. Adjutant.

5574

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017AC/45/B/LG

7 July 1945

My dear Mr. Prime Minister:

I desire to bring to your attention the correspondence which in recent months has passed between the former Prime Minister, Signor Bonomi, and myself upon the subject of administrative elections.

At my request, and knowing the great interest which the Allies take in the subject of democratic elections in Italy, Signor Bonomi was good enough in a letter of 27 February to give me an outline of what his Government had in mind with regard to the reconstitution of elective local authorities and the conduct of the elections for them. Premising that the definitive structure of local government is but a part of the institutional reforms upon which the Constituent Assembly will be called to determine, Signor Bonomi indicated that provision of a transitory nature should be made, so as to give immediate effect to the elective principle without, on the other hand, prejudicing the ultimate creation of a system of local government as a part of the new constitution.

The late Government, therefore, proposed to return to the Unified Text of 1915 and to reconstitute the elective Communal and Provincial Councils contemplated by that Text, and to revive those of its provisions which govern the method of voting for the Communal and Provincial Councillors. It was their intention, however, to make certain minor amendments and simplifications in the Text, as for example, a certain reduction in the numbers of the Councillors and the abolition of the separate Presidency of the Provincial Deputation.

After a careful examination of the relevant provisions of the Unified Text of 1915, I pointed out to the then Prime Minister, in my reply of 19 April, that the voting measures which the then Government proposed to adopt did not provide sufficient controls and guarantees to ensure the possibility of holding an independent, free and secret vote. In particular, I indicated to Signor Bonomi that some of the principal defects in the system of the 1915 Text were:

- (a) no formal nomination of candidates prior to voting;
- (b) no official ballot paper;
- (c) no control of electioneering at the polling places;

and I most earnestly recommended that the election law be amended prior to the holding of the elections in territory under the control of the Italian Government.

10862

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

As to territory under Allied Military Government, I had to state that because of these procedural defects the Allied Commission could not countenance the holding of elections according to the 1915 system.

On 20 May, Signor Bonomi answered my letter of 19 April, giving, however, only his personal point of view on the questions raised by me, which I may summarize as being that the provisions of the 1915 Text were, in his opinion, adequate.

So that you may have the fullest comprehension of the matter, I am enclosing copies of the correspondence in question.

In bringing to your notice the criticisms of the 1915 law which I have already urged upon Signor Bonomi, I am representing to the Italian Government the official view of the Government of the United States of America, with which the Government of the United Kingdom is in agreement. I would therefore urge, with all the gravity which the issues involved demand, that the views of the Allied Governments be given the earliest and fullest consideration by your Government, and that I may be informed of the Italian Government's plans and intentions in the matter under discussion with all possible speed.

It may be advisable to indicate that the three particular defects named in my letter of 19 April are not exhaustive and that other points of criticism might be enumerated. Some of those may be susceptible of a reasonable explanation in the course of discussions between representatives of the Italian Government and the Allied Commission, entered upon with the common object of ensuring to the Italian people the fairest, freest, and most democratic method of recording their votes that can be devised. Others, however, are clearly not consonant with the spirit of modern democracy. As an instance, I may mention the provision of the Text of 1915 which, while permitting officers of the armed forces to exercise the franchise, denies it to non-commissioned officers and men - a provision to which the Allied Governments have taken particular objection.

Yours very truly,

ELLERY W. STONE
Rear Admiral, USNR
Chief Commissioner

Professor Ferruccio Parri
President of the Council of Ministers
R o m e

DIST

an ambassador

R " 5512

U.S. POLAD

Br RRSMIN

CA. SEC.

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

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HEADQUARTERS
PIEMONTE REGION
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
APO 394

2 July 1945.

JUL 10 1945

Office of the Regional Commissioner

My dear Brigadier Lush,

EXTRACTED
To:
CA Sec
(Action)
Chief Clerk
(INFO)

In reply to your AC/45/A/LG dated 22 June 45, please let me assure you that the preparation of electoral lists in Piemonte will have the personal attention of both the Regional Legal Officer and myself. The essential material is now in process of distribution throughout all the communes except for those limited areas where AMG is not at present in operation. The necessary machinery is being set up and the education of the Italian Officials who are to function has been initiated. The importance of this work as the first step in establishing democratic processes has been impressed on all Prefects.

By reason of past experience I have some reserve as to the speed and accuracy with which the communal officials may be expected to function, but the compilation can start in Piemonte by 15 July, and we shall check carefully to see that the work is prosecuted vigorously.

May I take this opportunity of again expressing to you my appreciation for the courtesies you extended to me during my recent visit in Rome. I think your meetings were very useful and I was able to obtain much guidance and clarification of a number of moot points. If the Joint Committee which you authorised can come forward promptly with an overall plan it will be most helpful.

Sincerely yours,

Potter P. MacBride

Brigadier M.L. Lush.
Executive Commissioner,
HQ AC, Rome.

55-111 M85
11/7

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

ALLIED [REDACTED] COMMISSION
INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Attached Press Release

FILE No. 1/PRB

TO : Chief Commissioner
(Through Acting Executive Commissioner)

7 July

194 5

9761 2 III

The attached release on the preparation of electoral lists is submitted for the approval of the Acting Executive Commissioner and the Chief Commissioner. We would like to get it out fairly soon.

G. STEWART BROWN
Director, PRB

(Mas Brown)

(See M 83
5570)

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

(79)

Preparation of electoral lists in North Italy will begin July 15, the Allied Commission announced today.

The electoral lists registering all Italians qualified to vote are a basic requirement preparatory to holding any election. More than 50 tons of forms and instructions have already been dispatched to the Northern AMG regions of Liguria ($4\frac{1}{2}$ tons), Emilia $9\frac{1}{2}$ tons), Venezia $12\frac{1}{2}$ tons), Piemonte (10 tons) and Lombardy $1\frac{1}{2}$ tons - five for Milan Province alone), the Local Government Sub-Commission said.

Transport is also being made available to take the official papers to outlying communes and to facilitate the work of Italian officials in the preparation of the lists. Steps are also being taken to free premises which may be of use later as polling places.

"The Allied Commission and the Allied Military Government will do everything in their power to assist the Italian authorities to prepare for future democratic elections, which will be one of the fundamental steps that Italy will take towards becoming a true democracy," Rear Admiral Ellery W. Stone, USNR, Chief Commissioner of the Allied Commission said.

A prime pre-requisite of preparing the electoral lists is the prompt functioning of local government officials in every one of the 40 provinces and 4,083 communes of the North, the Local Government Sub-Commission said.

Electoral lists, however, will not be prepared in the five provinces and 170 communes of Venezia-Giulia.

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- 2 -

The Italian local government officials must be on hand since it will be their responsibility to carry on the actual work of preparing the lists.

AMO officials have only the duty of insuring that the necessary officials are operating and of expediting the procedures.

Most local government officials have been appointed or are in process of being appointed, with the exception in some provinces of the Deputazioni Provinciali. This body chooses three out of four members of the all-important Electoral Commissions, which validate the final and definitive electoral lists.

Electoral lists in Southern Italy have now been practically completed, work having started in February. Preparation of the lists in Umbria-Marche provinces and in part of Tuscany started in May and in the rest of Tuscany in June. The time-table fixed for completion of the lists in AMO territory is 105 days, starting from July 15. Extensions of time may be granted only if absolutely necessary at the recommendation of the prefect.

The local government officials who will figure in the work of preparation include, besides the Prefect, the Vice Prefect Inspector, the manager of the Prefectural Electoral Office, and the Sindaco and Communal Secretary of every commune. Where the Sindaco, as the result of bi-monthly reports, indicates that the lists will not be completed in time, prefects may appoint special Commissari to take over the task.

The monumental job of preparing for elections faces many handicaps. Italy has not had a national election since 1922, a local election since 1925 and even the last call to the polls for a vote of confidence in the Fascist regime occurred in 1934. There are few officials left who understand the mere mechanics of the process.

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Records, vitally important because of the cross-checking necessary to fulfill the legal requirements of proper electoral lists, are also in many instances in a poor state. They are lost, bumed, destroyed, scattered. Communications are difficult in many cases, individual transport is short and even adequate wood and glass for the ballot boxes themselves are scarce.

The 1915 law, upon which present preparations for elections are based, is being re-examined by the *Italian Govt at the Washington Office* (Allied Commission and the Italian Government in its application to AMO territory) to insure that all proper safeguards are taken for free and secret balloting as well as to modernize provisions relating to the extent of franchise, the possible use of proportional representation, the qualification and nomination of candidates, the safeguarding of the independent nominee and the printing of the official ballot papers.

The steps to construct the lists are simple, though their execution is liable to prove long-drawn-out. First, the Sindaco advertises for all who want to vote to come forward and apply to be registered. In other words, before the legal electoral lists can be formulated, there has to be a register of those who are obviously qualified, not necessarily to vote, but to be registered. This qualification may be defined as applying to any Italian citizen, man or woman, who was 21 years old December 31, 1944. This register or Elenco is usually taken from the permanent population records of the municipality. Where such records are missing, records of marriages, births, etc. may serve.

The next step involves a great deal of labor in cross-checking the register for disqualifications. For example, the present law forbids the vote to enlisted men of the Italian armed forces, lunatics, habitual drunkards,

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brothel-keepers, registered prostitutes, permanent inhabitants of public welfare institutions, bankrupts, certain police suspects, certain criminal convicts, former Fascist hierarchs down to communal posts, persons convicted of Fascist crimes and persons whom a special Provincial Commission (not the Provincial Epuration Commission) deprives of civil rights for offenses against the civic morality. This last-mentioned Commission will examine many such charges against alleged Fascists and may order them disqualified from voting as late as ten days before any election.

The duly constituted Italian authorities for public assistance and for public safety must send the Sindaco the names from his commune. Where criminal records in the Cassellari Giudiziali have been lost, the Allied Commission is asking for immediate notification from the AMD regions so that adequate measures may be taken to aid the Italian authorities to obtain substitute data.

All persons affected by disqualifications may appeal to the courts. Refugees, incidentally, will be able to register in the commune in which they are presently located or in their permanent residence. All qualified registrants may later change their voting address.

The electoral lists then go to the Electoral Commission itself, which reviews all relevant documents and again may add or subtract names on the basis of later information. There will be such a commission in every judicial district of mandamento, and a sub-commission for every 50,000 inhabitants or fraction thereof of the district. The lists are then declared valid, are posted publicly in the communal municipio and cannot

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

- 5 -

be changed except by death of a voter, disqualification through criminal conviction, or loss of civil rights or by an appellate court decision.

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

101) AFTER 6-5 INFO TROOPERS

2806

1266

5 July 45.

OPS PRIORITY

JUL 6 1945

SECRET PD

PARA ONE PD SUBJECT IS NATIONAL ELECTIONS PD SEE TROOPERS SIGNAL FIVE SEVEN THREE
NINE ZERO CHARLIE ABLE TWO PAREN BAKER PAREN DATED FOUR JULY AND REFERENCE
CONVERSATION HERN DASH UPJOHN PD

PARA TWO AVOID GROUND FIVE INFO TROOPERS FROM ALONG QUIN AGCAS PAREN

PARA TWO PD THE POSITION IS NOT PRECISELY AS STATED IN SIGNAL PD THERE IS NOTHING IN
ITALIAN LAW WHICH PROHIBITS NATIONAL ELECTIONS TAKING PLACE AT ANY TIME AFTER
COMPLETION OF ELECTORAL ROSTERS THROUGHOUT ITALY PD SUCH ELECTIONS COULD TAKE PLACE
BEFORE OR AT ANY TIME AFTER LOCAL ELECTIONS PD

PARA THREE PD AS A PRACTICAL MATTER CMA HOWEVER CMA IT WOULD BE UNDESIRABLE TO HOLD
NATIONAL ELECTIONS UNTIL DECREE HAS BEEN PASSED SETTING OUT POWERS CMA DUTIES AND
FUNCTIONS OF THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY FOR MEMBERSHIP OF WHICH THE PEOPLE WILL BE
ASKED TO VOTE AT THE NATIONAL ELECTIONS PD

PARA FOUR PD MANY OBSERVERS BELIEVE THAT THE PREPARATION OF THIS DECREE CMA ITS
CONSIDERATION BY THE CONSULTA PAREN A BODY ITSELF NOT YET FORMED PAREN AND FINAL
APPROVAL BY THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MAY TAKE FIVE OR SIX MONTHS PD IF THIS PERIOD
IS SHORTENED THE ELECTIONS CAN BE HELD EARLIER PD

EVEN HERNY CMA WHO CMA AS YOU WILL RECALL CMA IS CHARGED WITH THIS TASK CMA DOES
NOT SEE HOW NATIONAL ELECTIONS CAN BE HELD BEFORE SPRING

INT DISTRIBUTION:

Chief Commissioner
Executive Commissioner
POLAD (A)
POLAD (B)
Legal S/O
Local Government S/O
Civil Affairs Section

From: CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION
535
G.R. UPJOHN, Brig.

NICHOLAS PIGORINO
CWO USA
Asst Adjutant.

60 10
Noted 9/7

SEE 91

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

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SECRET

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JULY 041630

JUL 5 1945

E/B172

JULY 051050
OF PRIORITY

From: TROOPERS

To: FREEDOM FOR GS INFO ALCON

SECRET.

From LUSH.

At meeting today with British Ambassador at Foreign Office it was agreed it was most desirable that national elections should be held at the earliest possible moment. I explained the present law by which communal elections cannot take place until mid November earliest and national elections 3 months later. I have been asked to enquire from you whether it would be possible for Italian Government by legislation or otherwise to arrange for national elections to be held simultaneously with or immediately after communal elections. Grateful early reply.

DIST

CA Sec (2)

INFO-ACTION: KAC COMMISSIONER #
INFO: CHIEF COMMISSIONER
~~CA SEC~~
LEGAL SC
FILE

SECRET

(A.A. Nord)

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B/c 2

Noted

PA

REARERS

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMISSIONER

EXECUTIVE MEMORANDUM

NO.

5

1 July 1945
JUL 1 - 1945

PREPARATION OF ELECTORAL LISTS

1. The Schedule to this Executive Memorandum is a brief description of the procedure for preparing the electoral lists, with 2 Appendices.
2. The Chief Civil Affairs Officer has fixed 15 July as the date upon which the preparation of the electoral lists in Military Government Territory will commence. This excludes Venezia-Giulia Region, but includes the provinces of Bolzano and Udine for which supplemental instructions will be issued.
3. The Chief Civil Affairs Officer directs that the preparation of the electoral lists be completed as a first priority, and so as to conform to the utmost extent possible to the prescribed time-limits.
4. The actual work of compiling the lists is a matter for the Italian agencies concerned. It is the function of officers of Allied Military Government to ensure that the requisite Italian agencies are properly constituted and that they set to work promptly and proceed expeditiously.
5. At the same time, the lists must be prepared with impartiality and accuracy so that the Italian people can and shall have confidence in them. These considerations are emphasized by the number of political appointments to public office which the circumstances of the North have required. In this connection, special attention is drawn to para 4 of the Schedule as to disqualifications for Fascism.
6. RCs and PCs will give their immediate attention to the proper constitution of the local government agencies prescribed by Executive Memorandum No. 39, with particular reference to:-

- (a) the Prefect. In those cases where the formal confirmation by Allied Military Government of the appointment of a Prefect has not yet been given, this must be forthcoming before 15 July;
- (b) the Vice Prefect Inspector. The Prefect should make available adequate transportation facilities for this official.
- (c) the Electoral Office in the Prefecture. A suitable and competent official must be available to be designated to take charge of it;
- (d) Sindaci. In those cases where confirmation of any CM appointment has been withheld in order to see if the appointee is really suitable, the formal appointment must no longer be delayed;
- (e) Communal Secretaries. Where qualified officials are not available, the fullest use must be made of local candidates capable of discharging their duties as "reggenti" and of the device of combining small communes under one Secretary.

3342

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(b) the Vice Prefect Inspector. The Prefect should make available adequate transportation facilities for this official.

(c) the Electoral Office in the Prefecture. A suitable and competent official must be available to be designated to take charge of it;

(d) Sindaci. In those cases where confirmation of any CLM appointment has been withheld in order to see if the appointee is really suitable, the formal appointment must no longer be delayed;

(e) Communal Secretaries. Where qualified officials are not available, the fullest use must be made of local candidates capable of discharging the duties as "reggenti" and of the device of combining small communes under one Secretary;

(f) Provincial Deputation. The immediate appointment of this body is urgent.

7. PCs will require their Prefects to keep them closely informed of all action taken and to report progress to them at regular intervals. It will be noted from para 27 (a)(iii) of the Schedule that Sindaci must report progress to the Prefect every 15 days.

8. Any recommendations that the Prefect wishes to make for an extension of the time-limits in a particular Comune (see para 27(c) of the Schedule) must be in the PC's hands on or before 25 July. PCs will immediately transmit such recommendations to Regional HQ with their observations. Further instructions will be issued to PCs as to how these recommendations will be determined. Applications for extensions must only be recommended in cases of absolute proved necessity on account of war conditions.

9. Officers of Local Government Sub-Commission will visit every province during July (where they have not already done so) to advise further.

BY COMMAND OF THE CHIEF CIVIL AFFAIRS OFFICER;

- 2 -

Distribution:

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2806
/r
HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APQ 394
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

AS/45/N/LG

27th June 1945

JUL 2 - 1945

Subject: Elections and Electoral Lists

To: Executive Commissioner

Herewith are sent :-

1. For your files - 2 copies of Local Government Sub-Commission's Note of the Conference held in the Chief Commissioner's room on Saturday 23 June 1945. Copies have been sent to US and British Political Advisers.
2. For use of Chief Commissioner, Executive Commissioner, Deputy Executive Commissioner, etc. - 6 copies of the Memorandum on Electoral Lists Procedure which was distributed to Regional Commissioners this morning, and to which reference will probably be made at Local Government Committee of the Regional Commissioners' Conference tomorrow morning.

P. D. Bantam
/r G.R. UPJOHN, Brig
Vice President
Civil Affairs Section

5501

NOTES OF CONFERENCE ON LOCAL ELECTIONS

CHIEF COMMISSIONER'S ROOM--SATURDAY, 23 JUNE 1945

AT 11:15 HOURS

PRESENT:

Chief Commissioner Rear Admiral Ellery W. Stone, USNR

Executive Commissioner Brig. M.S. Lush
CSO to Exec. Commissioner Lt. Col.

VP CA Section, Brig.
G. R. Upjohn

E. C. Talbot

US Pol. Ad. Mr. MacBride
Br Pol. Ad. Mr. Halford

CSO CA Section, Lt. Col.

A. D. Bonham-Carter
Director, Local Govt. S/C

Col. E. R. Cripps

Exec. Officer, Local Govt. S/C
Major C.G.R. Williams

Chief Commissioner:

I refer to the draft Decree printed in the Ministry of the Interior's "Blue Book" which has been sent down to me with a short memorandum on it by Local Government Sub Commission. As I understand it, this is only a technical study which does not bind the Government. The draft Decree, however, only fills out the policy already outlined to me by Sig. BONOMI and does nothing to meet the points I have raised in correspondence with him. Will the Executive Commissioner please outline the purpose of this meeting.

Exec. Commissioner:

As I see it, we are here to decide what approach to make to the Italian Government on the subject of their voting procedure at local elections, how far we can impress the views of the Allies on them and what sanctions we can apply if they refuse to meet us.

Chief Commissioner:

According to your last minute, it is suggested we should consult the Embassies on this question.

Exec. Commissioner:

Yes. I am concerned as to how far we can go and I thought this might be a matter which the Embassies could more properly take up.

Mr. Halford

: There is just this point. I don't think we have power under the Armistice terms to compel the Italian Government to alter their voting procedure; but there is the Moscow Declaration and the Allies...

Chief Commissioner:

I refer to the draft Decree printed in the Ministry of the Interior's "Blue Book" which has been sent down to me with a short memorandum on it by Local Government Sub Commission. As I understand it, this is only a technical study which does not bind the Government. The draft Decree, however, only fills out the policy already outlined to me by Sig. BONOMI and does nothing to meet the points I have raised in correspondence with him. Will the Executive Commissioner please outline the purpose of this meeting.

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Exec. Commissioner:

Yes. I am concerned as to how far we can go and I thought this might be a matter which the Embassies could more properly take up.

Mr. Halford

: There is just this point. I don't think we have power under the Armistice terms to compel the Italian Government to alter their voting procedure; but there is the Moscow Declaration and the Allies could make representations as to their views.

Exec. Commissioner:

And if they don't agree with our views, what action do we take? We have already told them that we won't have the present system in Military Government Territory: but we know it will take some months before elections can be held, by which time we shall probably have handed the territory back so that there is not much in this point. We could, of course, refuse to prepare the electoral lists.

Chief Commissioner:

I don't feel we should take that attitude. I think we must go ahead with the preparation of the electoral lists no matter what we do about the elections themselves.

As to acting under the Embassies, I don't think that will be necessary, if this is the view of both the U.S. and British Governments. More the two Governments' agreement, the proper channel to convey their views to the Italian Government is the Allied Commission. The question is, am I representing the views of both the Allied Governments in this matter? If I am,

(1 page copy)

then I think I should act on their behalf as representing the views of the two Governments and not as the Allied Commission enforcing the Armistice terms. I know what position the U. S. Government have taken up: what is the British view?

Mr. Helford

: The British Government is in general agreement with the U.S. Government on this matter, although they have not been so specific. You can say that the British Government is in accord with the views of the United States.

Chief Commissioner :

I have a draft letter before me which I think will require alteration, as we now have a new Government. I shall state in it that I am representing the view of the Government of the United States, with which the British Government is in agreement.

The first paragraph should be shortened considerably:

I don't think we should take any position on the question of proportional representation.

Exec. Commissioner :

What we want is a new letter pointing out what are the main defects: in other words, we should let the new Government have a re-statement of our position.

Chief Commissioner :

If there are any other defects than the three particularly mentioned in my letter of 19 April, we should state them: but we should not take points in detail unless they are truly undemocratic. We should forward to the new Prime Minister copies of my letter to Sig. BONOMI and his reply.

The question of national elections also arises. I think we have the right to ask the Italian Government what their position is with regard to this. That might be done by adding a paragraph to the new draft.

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5559

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

SCHEDULE

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

APR 394

LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUB-COMMISSION

Ref: AG/45/4/1G

25 June 1945

Preparation of Electoral Lists - Brief Description of the Procedure.

1. Annexed are :-

a) Appendix "A" indicating the action to be taken by the Italian Agencies involved and the time limits fixed for each step.

b) Appendix "B" giving a list of the local government and judicial agencies on whom duties are imposed, with notes on the more specialised ones.

The Appendices are intended as a convenient means of reference: the description set out below gives, it is thought, the information mostly required by RCs and PCs.

THE FRANCHISE

2. Before one can describe how voters will be registered, it is necessary to ascertain who are to be registered and how they are defined, i.e. the franchise. All Italian citizens, men and women, who have reached the age of 21 by 31 December 1944 are qualified to be registered. The phrase "qualified to be registered" is to be noted. The franchise is a qualification to be registered and NOT a qualification actually to vote. The right of an individual to vote is determined solely by reference to the Electoral Lists which are final and conclusive on this point.

3. To the broad and simple qualification described above there are a number of exceptions - lunatics, habitual drunkards, bankrupts, brothel-keepers, registered prostitutes, persons in receipt of public assistance, persons subject to police "ammonizione" or "confinio" or to preventive detention, and those sentenced for quite a number of specified crimes and certain fascists.

4. The extent to which franchise is a disqualification deserves special attention. There are three classes :-

a) Certain high ranking officials of the former NPF have been declared incapable of voting from the Secretary of the Party down to the "fedele" and to the "Segretario

e) Appendix "B" giving a list of the local government and judicial agencies on whom duties are imposed, with notes on the more specialised ones.

The Appendices are intended as a convenient means of reference: the description set out below gives, it is thought, the information mostly required by PCs and POs.

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4. The extent to which Fascism is a disqualification deserves special attention. There are three classes :-

- a) Certain high ranking officials of the former NPF have been declared incapable of voting from the Secretary of the Party down to the "Federale" and to the "Segretario Politico" of Communes of 20,000 inhabitants or more. Officers of the MVSN in effective permanent service and above the rank of Centurione are likewise disqualified.
- b) Those whom the special Provincial Commission set up under Art. 8 of D.L. 159 has sentenced to ineligibility for public office or loss of civil rights.
- c) Those Fascists convicted by the regular criminal courts for the fascist crimes found in Title I of D.L. 159.

/These are the only.....

These are the only disqualifications on the ground of fascism: any tendency on the part of Prefects, Sindaco and others to exclude persons considered to be fascists on other grounds than those must be rigorously suppressed.

5. Let it be emphasized that the Provincial Commission set up under art. 8 above mentioned is NOT the same as the Provincial Epuration Commission, which is an entirely distinct body with distinct functions.

6. It is also necessary to determine the particular Electoral List in which a qualified citizen is to be registered. The citizen must be registered in the list of the Comune in which he has his permanent residence and in whose register of permanent population or "anagrafa" he is inscribed. That is the rule; but there are the following exceptions to it.

a) Refugees and evacuees will be registered in the Comune in which they are temporarily living but they can opt for their Comune of permanent residence;

b) Apart from refugees, a citizen may be living in a Comune different from that in whose register of population he is inscribed. If he has lived in the Comune in question for at least 6 months, he can, if he wishes, claim to be registered there;

c) The citizen can also, if he wishes, claim to be registered in the Comune where he has the principal seat of his personal business or interests.

PREPARATION OF THE LISTS

7. With the foregoing rules in mind, the procedure for preparing the Lists is seen to be logical and comprehensible. It falls into 5 main stages :-

A. There has to be ascertained those who are prima facie entitled to be registered in the Comune. This is the task of the Sindaco and Segretario Comunale.

B. Those affected by one or another of the disqualifications have to be ascertained and struck out; this is primarily the task of a number of agencies in possession of the requisite information, who have to furnish it to the Comune.

C. The list of names so obtained has to be published as the Electoral Lists and then reviewed and approved by an independent authority, the Electoral Commission. The Lists now become definitive.

D. Steps must now be taken for registered electors to opt for another Comune under art. 10.

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C. The list of names so obtained has to be published as the Electoral Lists and then reviewed and approved by an independent authority, the Electoral Commission. The Lists now become definitive.

D. Steps must now be taken for registered electors to opt for another Commune under Para. 6 (b) and (c) above. Refugees and evacuees who wish to do so under para. 6 (a) must do it at Stage A.

E. Finally, the Commune has to be divided into Polling Districts ("Sezioni Elettorali") and a Polling Place specified for each district. This will not be necessary in village Communes, of course. It is to be noted that Stage B, though the last to be enumerated here, is actually carried out contemporaneously with Stage C.

8. The Elector does not have to apply to be registered, but he may if he wishes. Provision has been made for this and for letting the public know, at the very beginning, of their right to put in such an application. It is wise to apply. It is of help to the authorities - and to the citizen - in ensuring that he will be able to exercise his vote.

/St 3 A

3.

Stage A - Ascertainment of Qualifications:

9. The immediate tasks of the Sindaco are two:

- a) he must publish a notice in the prescribed form at the Municipio and other public places stating that the preparation of the lists has been started and that citizens can apply to be registered.
 - b) he must proceed to compile the "Elenco". (It is convenient to keep to the Italian word for this document, as the only adequate English translation is "list" and that word is required in another connection.
10. The "Elenco" is made up by copying from the register of permanent population particulars of all Italian citizens of the right age. It is evident that this automatically gives the names of those who are "prima facie" qualified, subject to (a) any defects in the register of population, and (b) the addition of refugees and evacuees. It will now be seen how the register of permanent population is the absolute root and basis for all subsequent operations and how important it is that it should be in order and brought up-to-date. If it is not, however, the Sindaco is allowed to refer to any type of official record, such as registers of births, marriages and deaths, conscription lists, etc.

Stage B - Ascertainment of Disqualifications:

11. Here the undermentioned bodies have to take the initiative:

- a) Public Assistance Institutions and ECA have to send the comune a list of those chargeable to them who belong to that comune.
- b) The Police Authority (i.e. the Questura) has to send a similar list of brothel-keepers and those subject to "razionazioni" or "razioning".
- c) The President of the Provincial Commission under Art. 8 of D.L. 159 has to send a similar list of those deprived of civil rights under that Article.

12. There is a fourth source of official information as to disqualifications, namely, the Judicial Records Offices (Cassellario Giudiziale) of the various Tribunali, but in that instance it is the Sindaco who has to take the initiative. The reason is that convictions are registered according to place of birth. The Sindaco, therefore, has to make extracts from the "Elenco" according to birthplace and send these to the Records Office of the Tribunale within whose jurisdiction the persons enumerated in each extract were born. The Records Office returns the extract with the proper certificates of conviction, if any, annexed. In this way the Sindaco is able to ascertain the civil and criminal status of his constituents.

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a) Public Assistance Institutions and ECA have to send the commune a list of those chargeable to them who belong to that commune.

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Stage C - Compilation and Approval of the Lists :

13. From his "Elenco", as amended by the various returns from the authorities just referred to - and after deciding upon any application to register he may have received - the Sindaco now constructs the Electoral List and sends it in duplicate to the Electoral Commission for examination and approval.

14. The Electoral Commission is very important. There must be one for every judicial district or "Mandamento" in the Province. Its President is

/ex-officio the President....

ex-officio the President of the Tribunale, or if there is none, the Pretore. There are four other commissioners. One is appointed by the Prefect. The others are three citizens of the "Municipality" to be appointed by the Deputazione Provinciale.

15. Sub-Commissions will also be appointed in the ratio of one for every 50,000 (or fractions of 50,000) inhabitants of the "Municipality".

16. Before sending the Electoral List to the Commission, the Sindaco must deposit it at the Municipio and give public notice to that effect. During this time, objections to the entry or omission of a name may be made. The list is then sent up, with all applications to be registered, all objections, and a complete record of the Sindaco's proceedings.

17. The Electoral Commission examines all these documents and decides on the validity of the Lists. They can add names as well as strike them out. Its decisions are notified to the commune and the Sindaco makes the necessary alterations in the list deposited at the Municipio. It is now deposited for public inspection at the Communal Secretary's office and public notice of this is given.

18. The Lists are now definitive, i.e. they cannot now be altered except by reason of (a) the death of an elector, (b) the loss of Italian citizenship, (c) conviction for a disqualifying crime, and (d) by decision of the Courts on an appeal.

19. There is, however, another class of alteration which may be made in the list even as late as 10 days before the date of an election, and that is in the case where the Provincial Commission, under Art. 8 of D.M. 159, decrees a fascist ineligible for public office or to lose his civil rights. The reason for allowing such declarations to have effect on the Electoral List up to so late a date as 10 days before an election is to be found in the delays which are likely to be encountered in constituting these Provincial Commissions and the long time they are likely to take in completing their tasks. It is, however, most important that alterations in the Lists for this cause subsequent to their becoming definitive should be reduced to the absolute minimum, and that every effort be made to constitute the Commissions under Art. 8 of D.M. 159 and to get them to work immediately.

20. There is a right of appeal to the Courts against the decisions of the Electoral Commission by any citizen and by the Procuratore del Regno of the provincial capital.

Stage D - Transfer of Registrations:

21. The elector can now apply to have his registration transferred to:-

- i) the Commune in which he has been in fact residing for the last 6 months - see para. 5 (e); or

ii) The Commune in which he has the principal place of his

deposited for public inspection at the Provincial Secretary's Office and public notice of this is given.

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- i) the Comune in which he has been in fact residing for the last 6 months - see para. 6 (b); or
- ii) The Comune in which he has the principal place of his personal business or interests - see para. 6 (c).

All he has to do is:-

- a) apply to the Comune where he is now registered for that entry to be cancelled and for the Sindaco to send him the proper Declaration of Cancellation;
- b) apply to the Comune where he wants to be registered, sending the Declaration of Cancellation with his application.

/ Stage E

Stage I - Polling Districts and Polling Places:

22. As soon as the Sindaco has completed his Electoral Lists for submission to the Electoral Commission, he can - and must - take action on this subject. He is required to make and publish a "deliberazione" - or, as we might say in English, an ordinance - defining the boundaries of the polling districts and the polling place for each district. The ordinance is placed on deposit for 10 days so that any citizen who desires may file an objection. Then the ordinance and the objections are sent up to the Electoral Commission for approval or amendment.

23. Each polling district should include from 100 (in exceptional cases 50) to 1,000 electors. Up to 4 polling places (i.e. for 4 districts) can be had in one building; but not more than 2 may be accessible from the same street. The Prefect can dispense with this restriction as to access, where necessary; and he can also authorize up to 8 polling places in one building.

WOMEN

24. Women have the same qualifications as men but they must be entered on a separate Electoral List. The Lists for men and women should be prepared at the same time, however, and the procedure for them both should go forward contemporaneously. For practical purposes the Lists can be regarded as one List in two parts - one for men and the other for women.

TIME LIMITS

25. Appendix "A" shows that from the "fixed date", which the Chief Commissioner will determine as the day on which the preparation of the Lists is to start, to the date when the Lists become definitive is 100 days - provided, of course, that the time limits are strictly kept. This is not likely, and, in fact, the Prefect is empowered, within 10 days of the "fixed date" to propose extensions of the time limits for Communes which cannot possibly keep to them. Nevertheless, every effort should be made to adhere to the time-table prescribed, and extensions should only be allowed in cases of absolute and clearly-proven necessity.

26. The date for compilation of the Lists by the Sindaco ("Appendix A", para. 14) is important. This must be done by 60 days from the "fixed date" at the latest. If, however, the compilation can be finished earlier, then subsequent time limits run from the actual completion of the Lists and the total time is thereby shortened.

THE PREFECT

27. The Prefect's main functions are:

a) to supervise generally the preparation of the Lists. This is done 1) through the Vice-Prefect, and 2) through the Vice-Prefect's assistants.

24. Women have the same qualifications as men but they must be entered on a separate Electoral List. The Lists for men and women should be prepared at the same time, however, and the procedure for them both should go forward contemporaneously. For practical purposes the Lists can be regarded as one List in two parts - one for men and the other for women.

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THE PREFECT

27. The Prefect's main functions are:

- a) to supervise generally the preparation of the Lists. This ⁵⁵³⁶ involves:
 - i) through the Vice-Prefect Inspector;
 - ii) through the Electoral Office, which must be constituted in each Prefecture under a Consigliere or Ist Segretario,
 - iii) from the progress reports which the Sindaco must submit to him every 15 days.
- b) to determine alterations in the areas of the Electoral Commission.
- c) to recommend extensions of the time limits for particular Communes.
- d) to secure the proper and timely appointment of Electoral Commissions and Sub-Commissions.
- e) to appoint a Comissario to take over from any Commune which falls behind the time-table.

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

APPENDIX A

TABLE showing action to be taken by Italian agencies, with time-limits

Notes: (i) The figures in col. 4 are obtained by adding together, step by step, the max from the "fixed day".

(ii) The citizen is not required to lodge the various applications, objections and he does, time-limits for doing so are fixed.

ACTION BY	BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ACTION TO BE TAKEN
	<u>A - Ascertainment of qualifications</u>
1. Sindaco & Segretario Comunale	1. Publish Notice that application to be entered on Electoral List may be
2. Prefect	2. Recommend extension of time-table for Communes where, by reason of the adherence to time limits is absolutely impossible.
3. "	3. Decree variations in areas of jurisdiction of Electoral Commissions, w situation of places and difficulties of communication make changes adv
4. Sindaco & Segretario Comunale	4. Compile (from register of permanent population or other official record the "elenco" of Italian citizens over 21 with permanent residence in C
	<u>B - Ascertainment of Disqualifications</u>
5. Public Assistance, Institutions & RCM	5. Notify Segretario Comunale of paupers belonging to Comune.
6. Provincial Commission under DLL 159 Art. 6	6. Notify Sindaco of those Fascists disqualified from public office or ex of political rights.
7. Questore	7. Notify Sindaco of residents in Comune who are brothel-keepers - regist prostitutes - subject to "ammonizione" or "confinamento"
8. Any qualified citizen	8. May make application to Town Hall to be entered on Electoral List.
9. Sindaco & Segretario Comunale	9. Publish notice of applications received.

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

APPENDIX A

Table showing action to be taken by Italian agencies, with time-limits

Figures in col. 4 are obtained by adding together, step by step, the maximum period allowed for each step or "fixed day".

Person is not required to lodge the various applications, objections and appeals mentioned below; but if time-limits for doing so are fixed.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ACTION TO BE TAKEN

DAYS
ALLOWED

CUMULATIVE
DAYS FROM
FIXED DATE

Determination of qualifications

Publish Notice that application to be entered on Electoral List may be made.

Immediately

0

Recommend extension of time-table for Communes where, by reason of the war, adherence to time limits is absolutely impossible.

10 from
"fixed date"

10

Make variations in areas of jurisdiction of Electoral Commissions, where situation of places and difficulties of communication make changes advisable.

"

"

Compile (from register of permanent population or other official records) the "elenco" of Italian citizens over 21 with permanent residence in Commune.

20 from
"fixed date"

20

Determination of Disqualifications

Notify Segretario Comunale of paupers belonging to Commune.

"

"

Notify Sindaco of those Fascists disqualified from public office or exercise of political rights.

"

"

Notify Sindaco of residents in Commune who are brothel-keepers - registered prostitutes - subject to "ammonizione" or "confinio".

"

"

May make application to Town Hall to be entered on Electoral List.

"

"

Publish notice of applications received.

"

"

557

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- | | |
|--|--|
| 10. Refugees & Evacuees | 10. May apply to Comune of temporary residence, if they desire to be registered in Comune of permanent residence |
| 11. Sindaco & Segretario Comunale | 11. Transmit applications of refugees and evacuees to Comune of permanent residence--note names for exclusion from Electoral Lists of Comune of temporary residence. |
| 12. Sindaco & Segretario Comunale | 12. Send extracts from "Elenco" to the Judicial Records Offices ("Casellario Giudiziale") of the Tribunali, containing particulars of those born within the jurisdiction of each Tribunale--or, in case of difficulty, to the Central Judicial Records Office of the Ministry of Pardon and Justice. |
| 13. Judicial Records Offices of Tribunali and of Ministry of Pardon and Justice. | 13. Return extracts to Comune, with certificates of disqualifying convictions |
| 14. Sindaco & Segretario Comunale | C - Completion and Approval of Lists
14. Completion of Electoral Lists in duplicate. |
| 15. " " | 15. Notify applicants for registration whom Sindaco has rejected. |
| 16. " " | 16. 1 copy Electoral List to be deposited with Segretario Comunale -- notice to be published and Prefect to be notified. |
| 17. Any citizen | 17. May lodge with Comune objections against Deposited Electoral Lists (to be decided by Electoral Commission or Sub-Commission). |
| 18. Sindaco & Segretario Comunale | 18. Forward to Electoral Commission (a) "Elenco", (b) 2nd copy Electoral List, (c) Applications to be registered, (d) Objections received and (e) Record of Comune's proceedings. |
| 19. Prefect, President of Tribunale, and Deputazione Provinciale | 19. Constitute Electoral Commissions and Sub Commissions |

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May apply to Comune of temporary residence, if they desire to be registered in Comune of permanent residence

Transmit applications of refugees and evacuees to Comune of permanent residence--note names for exclusion from Electoral Lists of Comune of temporary residence.

Send extracts from "Elenco" to the Judicial Records Offices ("Casellario Giudiziale") of the Tribunali, containing particulars of those born within the jurisdiction of each Tribunale--or, in case of difficulty, to the Central Judicial Records Office of the Ministry of Pardon and Justice.

Return extracts to Comune, with certificates of disqualifying convictions, etc.

Completion and Approval of Lists

Completion of Electoral Lists in duplicate.

Notify applicants for registration whom Sindaco has rejected.

Copy Electoral List to be deposited with Segretario Comunale -- notice thereof to be published and Prefect to be notified.

May lodge with Comune objections against Deposited Electoral Lists (to be decided by Electoral Commission or Sub-Commission).

Forward to Electoral Commission (a) "Elenco", (b) 2nd copy Electoral List, (c) Applications to be registered, (d) Objections received and (e) Record of Comune's proceedings.

Constitute Electoral Commissions and Sub Commissions

20 from "fixed date"	20
Immediately	--
5 from completion of "Elenco"	25
15 from receipt of extract	40
60 from "fixed date"	60
"	"
3 from completion of List, but within 60 days of "fixed date"	"
10 from publication of notice of deposit of lists	70
5 from last day for lodging appeals	75
within 75 days of "fixed date"	60

- 3 -

- | | |
|---|---|
| 20. Electoral Commission | 20. Hold first meeting of Electoral Commission or Sub Commission |
| 21. " | 21. Amend and approve the Electoral List--notify Commune of decisions in individual cases and return the List. |
| 22. Sindaco & Segretario Comunale | 22. Make necessary amendments to Deposited Electoral Lists--notify electors affected by decisions of Electoral Commission or Sub-Commission. |
| 23. Sindaco & Segretario Comunale | 23. Publish notice of deposit of Definitive Electoral Lists. |
| 24. " | 24. Deposit Definitive Electoral Lists with Segretario Comunale for public inspection. |
| 25. Any citizen : and the Procuratore del Regno at the Provincial capital | 25. May appeal to Court of Appeal and thence to Court of Cassation. (N.B. --the time limits for appeals are not stated here, because pending appeals do NOT affect the Definitive Electoral Lists, until finally decided) |
| D - Transfers of Registration | |
| 26. Any registered elector | 26. May apply for cancellation of registration in Commune <u>from</u> which it is desired to transfer |
| 27. Sindaco & Segretario Comunale | 27. Cancel registration and send applicant a Declaration of Cancellation |
| 28. " | 28. Send to Electoral Commission or Sub Commission a list of cancellations
Cup made
FC
4/ |
| 29. The elector concerned | 29. Apply to be registered in Commune <u>to</u> which it is desired to transfer, forwarding the Declaration of Cancellation above-mentioned |

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first meeting of Electoral Commission or Sub Commission

5 from
receipt of List, etc. 80

and approve the Electoral List--notify Commune of decisions in individual cases and return the List.

15 from
receipt of List, etc. 90

necessary amendments to Deposited Electoral Lists--notify electors affected by decisions of Electoral Commission or Sub-Commission.

10 from
receipt of List from
Communes 100

publish notice of deposit of Definitive Electoral Lists.

for 10 days 110

deposit Definitive Electoral Lists with Segretario Comunale for public section.

Immediately on completion of amendments in Deposited Lists. ---

appeal to Court of Appeal and thence to Court of Cassation.

--the time limits for appeals are not stated here, because pending appeals do NOT affect the Definitive Electoral Lists, until finally decided)

Transfers of Registration

apply for cancellation of registration in Commune from which it is desired to transfer

15 from
publication of
Definitive List 115

cancel registration and send applicant a Declaration of Cancellation

Immediately ---

submit to Electoral Commission or Sub Commission a list of cancellations made

10 from
last day for applications for cancellation 125

submit to be registered in Commune to which it is desired to transfer, attaching the Declaration of Cancellation above-mentioned

15 from
last day for applications for cancellation 130

- 4 -

30. Sindaco & Segretario
Comunale

31. Sindaco & Segretario
Comunale

32. "

33. Any citizen

34. Sindaco & Segretario
Comunale

35. Electoral Commission

30. In the Commune to which it is desired to transfer: --
(a) if the Electoral Lists have NOT yet been completed (see para. 14
ve) register the elector in the ordinary way;
(b) if the Electoral Lists HAVE been completed (see para 14 above)
register the elector by publishing a Supplemental List.

E - Division of Commune into Polling-Districts ("Sezioni Elettorali")
(N.B.-- This process is contemporaneous with Stage C, paras. 14-23
above)

31. Publish Decision as to division of Commune into polling-districts,
rics of polling districts, and polling-places for each district--not
Prefect-- complete Electoral Lists for each District.

32. Decision of Sindaco to be deposited for public inspection.

33. May lodge objections to Sindaco's Decision at Town Hall, for
transmission to Electoral Commission.

34. Forward Decision, Polling District Lists and objections to Electoral
Commission

35. Decide objections and approve Polling-District Lists.

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- 4 -

the Comune to which it is desired to transfer: --
 (1) if the Electoral Lists have NOT yet been completed (see para. 14 above) register the elector in the ordinary way;
 (2) if the Electoral Lists HAVE been completed (see para 14 above) register the elector by publishing a Supplemental List.

Division of Comuni into Polling-Districts ("Sezioni Elettorali")
 A.B.-- This process is contemporaneous with Stage C, paras. 14-23 (see above)

publish Decision as to division of Comuni into polling-districts, boundaries of polling districts, and polling-places for each district--notify the effect-- complete Electoral Lists for each District.

Decision of Sindaco to be deposited for public inspection.

to lodge objections to Sindaco's Decision at Town Hall, for transmission to Electoral Commission.

Forward Decision, Polling District Lists and objections to Electoral Commission

to lodge objections and approve Polling-District Lists.

Supplemental Lists
 to be published
 at monthly intervals

15 from
 completion of Lists 75

for 10 days 85

10 from
 publication of decision 95

5 from
 last day for lodging
 objections 90

15 from
 receipt of Decision
 etc. 105

60
APPENDIX B

ITALIAN AGENCIES INVOLVED IN PREPARATION OF ELECTORAL LISTS

Generally at all Stages

Sindaco
Segretario Comunale
Prefect

Vice Prefect Inspector
Electoral Office

- to be organized in each Prefecture in charge
of a specially designated official.

Stage A - Ascertainment of Qualifications

Public Assistance Institutions (e.g. hospitals, workhouses, orphanages, etc.)
Ente Comunale D'Assistenza (ECA)

Provincial Commissions appointed under D.L. 159 of Oct 6 - consisting of a
Magistrate and two persons qualified to be jurors at Courts of
Assize

Questore, and local branches of the Questura.

Judicial Records Offices at Tribunali

The Central Judicial Records Office of the Ministry of Ration and Justice

Stage C - Completion and Approval of Lists

Deputazioni Provinciali - to appoint 3 out of 4 members of Electoral Commissions
and Sub-Commissions

Presidents of Tribunali - to preside over Electoral Commissions and to appoint
chairman of Sub-Commissions.

Pretori - to act instead of the President of the Tribunali where there is no
such Court in the "marche" area

Magistrates, serving or retired - to preside over Electoral Sub-Commissions.

Appeals to the Courts

Court of Appeal
Court of Cassation
Procuratore del Regno of the Provincial Capital.

Public Assistance Institutions (e.g. hospitals, workhouses, orphanages, etc.)
Ente Comunale D'Assistenza (ECA)
Provincial Commissions appointed under D.L. 159 of Oct 8 - consisting of a
Magistrate and two persons qualified to be jurors at Courts of
Assize
Quarters, and local branches of the Questura.

Judicial Records Offices at Tribunali

The Central Judicial Records Office of the Ministry of Justice

Section C - Completion and approval of lists

Deputazioni Provinciali - to appoint 3 out of 4 members of Electoral Commissions,
and Sub-Commissions
Presidents of Tribunali - to preside over Electoral Commissions and to appoint
a member of Sub-Commissions.
Pretori - to act instead of the President of the Tribunali where there is no
such Court in the 'marchese' district
Magistrates, serving or retired - to preside over Electoral Sub-Commissions.

Appeals to the Courts

Court of Appeal
Court of Cassation
Procuratore del Regno of the Provincial Capital.

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65 AFHQ
59
7
~~REPEATED~~ REPEATED AME NIGHTARMY AND AME THIRTEEN CORPS FOR INFO

681

27th June, 1945

Priority

SECRET PD

SUBJECT IS VENEZIA GIULIA PD

PARA ONE PD INSTRUCTIONS ARE REQUESTED ON POLICY WITH REGARD TO ABLE NATIONAL
ELECTIONS BAKER LOCAL ELECTIONS ON COMMUNAL LEVEL CHARLIE LOCAL ELECTIONS ON
PROVINCIAL LEVEL PD

~~PARA TWO~~ REPEATED AME NIGHTARMY AND AME THIRTEEN CORPS FOR INFO FROM HQ ALCON
CITE ACSOC PARAH

PARA TWO PD ABLE NATIONAL ELECTIONS PD NEW ITALIAN GOVERNMENT INTEND TO SUMMON
CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE PD ASSEMBLY MAY DETERMINE INSTITUTIONAL
QUESTION AND MAY ALSO DETERMINE NEW ITALIAN CONSTITUTION IN GENERAL PD INQUIRY BY
ITALIAN GOVERNMENT MAY BE EXPECTED IN NEAR FUTURE AS TO WHETHER PARTS OF VENEZIA GIULIA
UNDER AME WILL PARTICIPATE PD REFUSAL WOULD DENY TO INHABITANTS ANY SAY IN FUTURE
CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE PD BRACKET ONE BRACKET FROM WHICH THEY HAVE NOT YET BEEN
FORMALLY DETACHED BY ANNEKTION AND BRACKET TWO BRACKET TO WHOSE JURISDICTION THEY
MAY ULTIMATELY RETURN PD

PARA THREE PD BAKER LOCAL ELECTIONS IN COMMUNES PD IF YUGOSLAV GOVERNMENT SETS UP
ELECTED LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN THE AREA IT ADMINISTERS CMA DENIAL BY ALLIES OF THE

LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUB COMMISSION

478190

(See M 705551)
NICHOLAS PIOMBINO
CWO USA
Asst. Adjutant.

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58

RIGHT OF LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT IN THEIR AREA WILL CREATE UNFORTUNATE IMPRESSION PD
ON THE OTHER HAND CMA POSSIBLE REFUSAL BY POPULARLY ELECTED LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO OBEY
AMG ORDERS OR THEIR APPOINTMENT OF UNACCEPTABLE OFFICIALS WOULD CREATE COMPLICATIONS PD
THERE IS NO PRACTICAL DIFFICULTY IN HOLDING SUCH ELECTIONS FOR ALL COMMUNES WHOLLY
COMPRISED WITHIN AMG AREA PD ELECTION MACHINERY CONSTITUTION AND POWERS OF ELECTED
BODIES WOULD CORRESPOND TO THOSE IN REST OF ITALY AND WOULD BE SET UP BY AMG ORDER PD
YOU MAY CONSIDER IT DESIRABLE TO DEFER ISSUE OF INSTRUCTIONS ON THIS QUESTION UNTIL
IT IS SEEN WHAT POWERS ARE CONFERRED ON LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN REST OF ITALY BY ITALIAN
GOVERNMENT PD

PARA FOUR PD CHARLIE LOCAL ELECTIONS AT PROVINCIAL LEVEL PD SAME CONSIDERATIONS AS
IN BAKER APPLY CMA BUT AMG AREA CONTAINS PARTS ONLY OF THE PROVINCES OF GORIZIA CMA
TRIESTE AND POLA PD ELECTIONS ON PROVINCIAL LEVEL WOULD CMA THEREFORE CMA INVOLVE
ESTABLISHMENT OF SPECIAL TYPE OF LOCAL AUTHORITY FOR SUCH PARTS PD IT IS DOUBTFUL IF
THIS IS ADMINISTRATIVELY PRACTICABLE PD

LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUB COMMISSION

478190

5550

NICHOLAS PIONBINO
CWO USA
Asst. Adjutant.

DRAFT C SECRET

681. 57

TO: AFHQ, G-5 Section.

Copy to AMG 8 Army.)
AMG XIII Corps) for information

FROM: Chief Commissioner

SUBJECT: VENEZIA GIULIA.

1 Instructions are requested on policy with regard to:

(a) National Elections.

(b) Local Elections on Communal Level.

(c) Local Elections on Provincial Level.

2 (a) National Elections. New Italian Government intend to summon

Constituent Assembly as soon as possible. Assembly will determine institutional question and may also determine new Italian Constitution in general. Inquiry by Italian Government may be expected in near future as to whether parts of VENEZIA GIULIA under AMG will participate. Refusal would deny to inhabitants any say in future constitution of the State.

(1) From which they have not yet been formally detached by annexation and.
(2) To whose jurisdiction they may ultimately return.

3 (b) Local Elections in Communes. If Yugoslav Government sets up elected local authorities in the area it administers, denial by Allies of the right of local self-government in their area will create unfortunate impression. On the other hand, possible

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3 (b) Local Elections in Communes. If Yugoslav Government sets up elected local authorities in the area it administers, denial by Allies of the right of local self-government in their area will create unfortunate impression. On the other hand, possible refusal by popularly elected local authorities to obey AMG orders or their appointment of unacceptable officials would create complications. There is no practical difficulty in holding such elections for all communes wholly comprised within AMG area. Election machinery constitution and powers of elected bodies would correspond to those in rest of Italy and would be set up by AMG order. You may consider it desirable to defer issue of instructions on this question until (1) it is seen what action, if any, is taken by Yugoslav authorities in their area, and (ii) what powers are conferred on local authorities by Italian Government.

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- 2 -

4 (c) Local Elections at Provincial Level. Some considerations as in (b) apply, but AMG area contains parts only of the Provinces of GORIZIA, TRIESTE and POLA. Elections on Provincial level would, therefore, involve establishment of special type of local authority for such parts. It is doubtful if this is administratively practicable.

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55-18

6.

L. G.

T. with him 4.

I fully agree in EOC (auditory remarks, Major Williams I think?)

est.

Spelling

CAS

NOTE.

6

Major Williams is the wife & has been married 22

ys.

The fl is returned and the mother will be brought before you for discussion when the stage has been reached

J. R. Leight

7.

→ Ex. Commissioner

Minut. & noted by responsible officer. Your copy of folio

returned.

26 June

recovered

C80

27/6.

A. D. Benton (after L. G.)
CAS

27/6 PA
5547

10/2/61

Maja Williams is the wife of her son which is

the file is returned and the matter will be brought before you for discussion when the stage has been reached

P. G. Langford

I.

(403)

→ Ex. Commissioner

Minute is noted by responsible officer. Your copy of folio returned.

76 June

D. D. Bingham / Carter L. L. L.

CAS

C80 *see* 27/6

see 27/6 PA 27/6
55-17

NS/C-5/6

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V.P. CAS

4~~3~~

(56C)

A most useful memorandum. I commend
the writer. Will you discuss the whole
subject when we have finished the first
approach to 91 Gns

125/23/6

Received 25/6 1946

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3.

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PA Libran

5546

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

AFPO 394

LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUB-COMMISSION

AC/45/4/LG

JUN 24 1945

Memorandum

on the Ministry of the Interior's "Draft Bill" for the

Reconstitution of Executive Local Authorities in Communes
and Provinces

1. On Tuesday, 19 June, there became available to this S/C a copy of the "Blue Book" submitted herewith. It has been given a preliminary examination and a few more copies obtained. It is in course of translation.
2. The "Servizio Elettorale" is a sub-division of the Direction-General of Civil Administration in the Ministry. The "Blue Book" is a purely technical production by professional civil servants. It does not state or impute policy. It merely sets forth a decree which could be made if certain policies were adopted. It is believed to be the work of H.S. VIGORANI, the Director-General of Civil Administration, and of the Vice-President Dr. SERENO, the Head of the Electoral Service.

3. The "Blue Book" contains:--

- (a) an explanatory Introduction;
- (b) the "Draft Bill" or Decree; and
- (c) a group of alternative clauses.

The Draft Bill deals with:--

- I - Organs of Communal and Provincial local government
- II - Eligibility for local government office
- III - Election procedure for Communal Councils
- IV - " " " Provincial "
- V - Criminal offences
- VI - Miscellaneous, transitional and enacting clauses

4. Organs of Communal and Provincial Local Government. The "Draft Bill" would revive the Communal and Provincial Councils of the Code of 1915 - the last before Russian. It would also continue the respective Executive Committees (or

To Executive Committee
36C 3

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- V - Criminal offences
- VI - Miscellaneous, transitional and amending clauses

4. Organs of Communal and Provincial Local Government. The "Draft Bill" would revive the Communal and Provincial Councils of the Code of 1915 - the last before Fascism. It would also continue the respective Executive Committees (Giunta Comunale and Deputazione Provinciale) and Chief Citizens (Sindaco and Presidente of the Provincial Administration) for which provision has been made in Ex. Reg. No. 39, save that these would be chosen by the Councils, instead of appointed by the Prefect. And the Councils would make decisions of policy or of major importance, a power which the Ex. Memo. has (in absence of such Councils) conferred on the Executive Committees.

5. The number of members of the Communal and Provincial Councils is specified and varies with population. The "Draft Bill" appreciably reduces the numbers of the Code of 1915 in order (says the introduction) to make the Councils more compact and business-like and to allow for the huge increase in urban population in the last 50 years. It is doubtful if this is a good thing. They propose 60 Councillors for cities over half-a-million population. In England, this would be the number for a town of about 80,000 population: Councils of 120 or 140 strong for larger cities are quite usual. Large Councils are not infrequent in the USA, it is believed. They certainly give a closer tie between Councillor and electorate. However, this appears to be a matter in which AD should not interfere.

See *W. H. L.*
F 514-B

- 2 -

- 5692
6. On the other hand, the Draft Bill would increase the membership of the Executive Committee. This is all to the good. The members of Giunta and Deputazioni act individually (as well as in a body, as assistants to the Sindaco or President and take charge of departments. The Sindaco and President needs all the help he can get, in these times. The largest would be a Giunta Comunale of 12 (with 6 substitutes) for cities of over half-a-million, which is not too large for a Committee.
7. Eligibility. The clauses of the "Draft Bill" as to qualification and disqualification for office call for no comment; they seem quite reasonable.
8. Election of Communal Councils. This part reproduces substantially the text of 1915 with, however, considerable simplifications and "stream-linings" -- a literal translation of Sgr. BONALDI's word for it. But these amendments do not touch any point of principle; and they do not touch at all the questions raised in Sgr.'s letter of 19 April to Sgr. BONALDI (fo. 58). It is improbable that the correspondence between the CC and the late RA is known to the authors of the "Blue Book".
9. Election of Provincial Councils. The procedure for this is the same in principle as that for Communes and the same comment applies.
10. The remainder of the "Draft Bill" does not, it is thought, call for comment at this stage; although the examination of it, cursory as it has been, has brought to light further objectionable features. For instance, provincial and communal elections are to be held on the same day; but no provision appears to be made for keeping them distinct and for preventing e.g. provincial ballot-papers getting into the communal ballot-box and so going void. Another point is that to allow election petitions to be decided in the first instance by the very Councils which have just been constituted by that election is hardly a sound measure; such petitions should go to a judicial authority.
11. However, it will perhaps be felt desirable to keep to broad principles and to speak to the Italian Government in general terms at the present moment. Moreover, some of the criticisms which have occurred to the Sub-Commission may be susceptible to a reasonable explanation, if the Italian Government will discuss the matter.
12. The alternative clauses provide for proportional representation in case it should be decided to have that system. The clauses provide for a list system with proportional representation on the quotient basis, as in Switzerland; and they have been worked out from:--
- (a) the NITVI bill presented to the Chamber of Deputies in 1920;
 - (b) the counter proposals of the MATTEOTTI bill presented to the same session; and
 - (c) the bill produced by the Committee of the Chamber to which the NITVI and the MATTEOTTI bills were referred. This bill had reached the Senate when the session terminated; and nothing more was heard of it.

No comment is made on these clauses. The question of proportional representation does not seem directly relevant.

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No comment is made on these clauses. The question of proportional representation does not seem directly relevant to the questions of freedom and secrecy of voting now before the CC. Moreover, these clauses would require such more thorough study and consultation than there has been opportunity to give them in two days.

13. Apart from these alternative clauses the "Draft Bill" is therefore an accurate translation into legislative language of the proposals outlined in Sgr. BONAI's letter of 27 February (fo.50) and further clarified at the conference noted at fo.52.

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14. As has been said, this is a technical study for the use of the political directors of Italy's government. It has not committed the Italian government to anything - a fortiori the present one. While there can be no denying that this is the formal situation, yet the publication of the "Blue Book" is a step forward and does in fact import a certain hardening of the position. Its publication could therefore (it is submitted) properly be made an additional basis for further representations to the RAPI Government.

15. It may be useful to add a note as to women serving on the Councils. The right to vote was granted on 1 February last to women over 21. The "Draft Bill" follows this up by making women eligible for the office of Communal or Provincial Councillor and for membership of the Giunta Comunale and Deputazioni Provinciali. It excludes them, on the other hand, from the offices of Sindaco and of President of the Provincial Administration and from being elective members of the Giunta Provinciale Amministrativa -- an important organ of the Prefecture with extensive powers of control over and approval of all major acts of the Communes and consisting of 6 official members and 4 elective ones to be chosen by the Provincial Council. It is difficult to see any reason in these days for a timid half-measure of this kind.

R. R. CHIPPES

R. R. CHIPPES
Colonel
Director
Local Government Sub-Commission

21 June 1945

0920

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

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R. R. O'NEILL

R. R. O'NEILL
Colonel
Director
Local Government Sub-Commission

21 June 1945

5543

SECRET

23 June 1945

SUBJECT: Venezia Giulia--local elections.
TO : Director, Local Government Sub Commission
FROM : Major C. G. R. Williams

1. Draft signal to AFHQ as directed by CC this morning is at fo. 54
2. I think this should be cleared with Legal S/C. They should confirm whether we can lawfully introduce our own system of local government into Venezia Giulia by general order. I think we can: this is direct Military Government and, from the legal standpoint, we should only be doing what we did in Sicily. They should also pass on the question whether we can lawfully set up a sort of Provincial Council for part only of a province.
3. The more I think of it, the more strongly I feel the importance of NOT denying the right of local self-government, in countries at least. The points seem to be as follows:

(a) Local elections are going to be held in a matter of months in the whole of the rest of Italy. The question of the North being under AMG does not arise as there will probably be no AMG by the time such elections can be held.

(b) Tito is certain to set up local elective authorities in his part of Venezia Giulia immediately. His elections will no doubt be inadequate, All that the world will know is that the Yugoslavs have allowed the Venetians to vote but the Allies have forbidden it.

(c) We can ensure that our elections are fair and make that point in any further dispute.

(d) I am not very greatly impressed with the dangers of a conflict between an elective local authority and AMG. We have the same problem now to a certain extent in the North because our local authorities there, though formally appointed by the Prefect and approved by AMG, are in fact nominated to us by the C.M. If we were to dismiss, e.g. a C.M.-recommended Sindaco in the North, no doubt there would be an out-cry about undemocratic methods. But if we could show good cause for the dismissal, then it just becomes a public relations question.

Anyway, I feel that a principle is involved and the practical difficulties of a possible clash between local authorities and AMG should not be allowed to stand in the way of implementation of the principle. I think, that it is just such practical difficulties as we can probably say.

3. The more I think of it, the more strongly I feel the importance of NOT denying the right of local self-government, in counties at least. The points seem to be as follows:

(a) Local elections are going to be held in a matter of months in the whole of the rest of Italy. The question of the North being under AMG does not arise as there will probably be no AMG by the time such elections can be held.

(b) Tito is certain to set up local elective authorities in his part of Venesia Giulia immediately. His elections will no doubt be inadequate, partial, undemocratic and "managed" to the last degree but that is immaterial. All that the world will know is that the Yugoslavs have allowed the Venetia-Giulians to vote but the Allies have forbidden it.

(c) We can ensure that our elections are fair--and make that point in any further dispute.

(d) I am not very greatly impressed with the dangers of a conflict between an elective local authority and AMG. We have the same problem now to a certain extent in the North because our local authorities there, though formally appointed by the Prefect and approved by AMG, are in fact nominated to us by the CLM. If we were to dismiss, o.s. a CLM-recommended Sindaco in the North, no doubt there would be an out-cry about undemocratic methods. But if we could show good cause for the dismissal, then it just becomes a public relations question.

Anyway, I feel that a principle is involved and the practical difficulties of a possible clash between local authorities and AMG should not be allowed to stand in the way of implementation of the principle. We can probably say, I think, that it is just such practical difficulties that we exist to solve.

C. G. R. Williams
Major

C. G. R. WILLIAMS
Major
Executive Officer
Local Government Sub Commission

CCRW/pec

BY ITALIAN GOVERNMENT MAY BE EXPECTED IN NEAR FUTURES AS TO WHETHER PARTS OF VENEZIA GIULIA UNDER AMG WILL PARTICIPATE. REFUSAL WOULD DENY TO INHABITANTS ANY SAY IN FUTURE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE (1) FROM WHICH THEY HAVE NOT YET BEEN FORMALLY DETACHED BY ANNEXATION AND (2) TO WHOSE JURISDICTION THEY MAY ULTIMATELY RETURN.

(B) LOCAL ELECTIONS IN COMPLEXES. IF YUGOSLAV GOVERNMENT SETS UP ELECTED LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN THE AREA IT ADMINISTERS, DENIAL BY ALLIES OF THE RIGHT OF LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT IN THEIR AREA WILL CREATE UNFORTUNATE IMPRESSION. ON THE

OTHER HAND, REFUSAL BY POPULARLY ELECTED LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO OBEY AMG ORDERS ^{possible} ~~WOULD CREATE COMPLICATIONS.~~ ^{or this approach is to be approved by acceptable officials} ~~WOULD CREATE COMPLICATIONS.~~ THERE IS NO PRACTICAL DIFFICULTY IN HOLDING SUCH

ELECTIONS FOR ALL COMPLEXES WHOLLY COMPRISED WITHIN AMG AREA. ^{Electon machinery} ~~WHICH~~ ^{WHICH} ~~WOULD~~ ^{WOULD} ~~BE~~ ^{BE} ~~SET~~ ^{SET} ~~UP~~ ^{UP} ~~BY~~ ^{BY} ~~AMG~~ ^{AMG} ~~ORDER.~~ ^{ORDER.} ~~YOU~~ ^{YOU} ~~WILL~~ ^{WILL} ~~CONSIDER~~ ^{CONSIDER} ~~IT~~ ^{IT} ~~DESIRABLE~~ ^{DESIRABLE} ~~TO~~ ^{TO} ~~DO~~ ^{DO} ~~THIS~~ ^{THIS} ~~IF~~ ^{IF} ~~IT~~ ^{IT} ~~IS~~ ^{IS} ~~SEEN~~ ^{SEEN} ~~WORTH~~ ^{WORTH} ~~THE~~ ^{THE} ~~TRouble~~ ^{TRouble} ~~WHICH~~ ^{WHICH} ~~IT~~ ^{IT} ~~COULD~~ ^{COULD} ~~BE~~ ^{BE} ~~SET~~ ^{SET} ~~UP~~ ^{UP} ~~BY~~ ^{BY} ~~AMG~~ ^{AMG} ~~ORDER.~~ ^{ORDER.}

(C) LOCAL ELECTIONS AT PROVINCIAL LEVEL. SAME CONSIDERATIONS AS IN (B) APPLY. BUT AMG AREA CONTAINS PARTS ONLY OF THE PROVINCES OF CORITZA, TRIESTE AND POLA.

ELECTIONS ON PROVINCIAL LEVEL WOULD THEREFORE INVOLVE ESTABLISHMENT OF SPECIAL TYPE OF LOCAL AUTHORITY FOR SUCH PARTS. IT IS DOUBTFUL IF THIS IS AUTHORIZED

^{Prochaska} ~~AT INTERNATIONAL LAW.~~ ^{ADMINISTRATIVE} ~~IF~~ ^{IF} ~~IT~~ ^{IT} ~~IS~~ ^{IS} ~~SEEN~~ ^{SEEN} ~~WORTH~~ ^{WORTH} ~~THE~~ ^{THE} ~~TRouble~~ ^{TRouble} ~~WHICH~~ ^{WHICH} ~~IT~~ ^{IT} ~~COULD~~ ^{COULD} ~~BE~~ ^{BE} ~~SET~~ ^{SET} ~~UP~~ ^{UP} ~~BY~~ ^{BY} ~~AMG~~ ^{AMG} ~~ORDER.~~ ^{ORDER.} ~~YOU~~ ^{YOU} ~~WILL~~ ^{WILL} ~~CONSIDER~~ ^{CONSIDER} ~~IT~~ ^{IT} ~~DESIRABLE~~ ^{DESIRABLE} ~~TO~~ ^{TO} ~~DO~~ ^{DO} ~~THIS~~ ^{THIS} ~~IF~~ ^{IF} ~~IT~~ ^{IT} ~~IS~~ ^{IS} ~~SEEN~~ ^{SEEN} ~~WORTH~~ ^{WORTH} ~~THE~~ ^{THE} ~~TRouble~~ ^{TRouble} ~~WHICH~~ ^{WHICH} ~~IT~~ ^{IT} ~~COULD~~ ^{COULD} ~~BE~~ ^{BE} ~~SET~~ ^{SET} ~~UP~~ ^{UP} ~~BY~~ ^{BY} ~~AMG~~ ^{AMG} ~~ORDER.~~ ^{ORDER.}

~~DISORDERLY CHIEF GOVERNMENT BE ALLOWED TO INHABITANTS~~ ^{action if any is taken by Yugoslav authorities in this area and (2) what power are conferred on local authorities by Italian Govt}

10925

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

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

APO 394

Office of the Executive Commissioner

53

Ref: AC/45/A/LG.

22 June 1945.

I particularly want to draw your attention to the letter from the Civil Affairs Section on the subject of "Preparation of Electoral Lists". The letter went out under reference AC/45/A/LG on 13 June 1945.

AS
The Chief Commissioner feels very strongly indeed that this question of making full preparation for early elections is among our most important tasks. Will you give it your personal interest?

The Italian Government is doing well over delivery of material, and everything for Emilia, Liguria and Venezia should now have reached its destination. The material for Piemonte and part for Lombardia will have left by the end of the week.

MSL

Brigadier J.K. Dunlop, RC, Venezia Region.
Brigadier M. Carr, RC, Liguria Region.
Colonel R.P. Marshall, RC, Piemonte Region.
Colonel G. Peletti, RC, Lombardia Region.
Colonel A. Bowman, RC, Emilia Region.

Copy to CAS

COPY TO: Ex. Com.

AL PA

see F24
11/25/45
2/6

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUB COMMISSION

AO/45/3/LG

Tel: 478190

SUBJECT: Distribution of material for preparation of electoral lists.

18 June 1945

19 JUN 1945

TO : Distribution as below.

1. Over-leaf is set forth a statement of the number and weight of the parcels of the forms, instructions and other material required for preparation of the electoral lists in each of the provinces under your command. The statement also gives the date when the Italian Government have promised that this material will be packed and ready for dispatch from the State Printing Works in Rome.

2. The material will be dispatched to you as soon after that date as arrangements for transport can be made. In the last resort, air transport may have to be used for Lombardy, Piemonte and Venezia Regions. You will be advised by signal as soon as possible of the means of transport that are being employed and of the ETA of the material.

3. Will PCs please provide for the distribution of the material to Provincial HQs, and PCs (in consultation with their Prefects) for its distribution to Communes. No doubt PCs and PCs have already put in hard arrangements for this. It is urged that every available means of transport--civil or military--be pressed into service.

4. The Italian Government state that each parcel will be clearly labeled with the name of the province for which it is destined and that, in loading, they will arrange to keep all parcels for a particular province together. No re-sorting should, therefore, have to be done at Regional HQs.

5. For distribution from PCs to Communes, however, the position is different. The Italian Government state that it is not possible to sort and pack the material by communes here in Rome because (a) sufficiently accurate information as to the needs of each commune is not available in Rome but only at the respective Prefectures and (b) to pack in this way would greatly delay the process. Each parcel, therefore, contains a given quantity of one type of document only: a statement is enclosed within each parcel giving the description and quantity of the material it contains.

6. On arrival of the material at Provincial HQ, it will therefore be necessary for the staff of the Prefecture to open the parcels, to re-sort their contents according to the requirements of each commune and to re-pack and address them for dispatch. The Italian Government estimate it should take the Prefectures from two to three days to do this.

7. It is requested that this HQ be informed by signal as soon as the dispatch of the material has been completed (a) to all Provincial HQs and (b) to all

2. The material will be dispatched to you as soon after that date as arrangements for transport can be made. In the last resort, air transport may have to be used for Lombardia, Piemonte and Venetia Regions. You will be advised by signal as soon as possible of the means of transport that are being employed and of the ETA of the material.

3. Will ROs please provide for the distribution of the material to Provincial HQs, and ROs (in consultation with their Prefects) for its distribution to Communes. No doubt ROs and ROs have already put in hand arrangements for this. It is urged that every available means of transport--civil or military--be pressed into service.

4. The Italian Government state that each parcel will be clearly labeled with the name of the province for which it is destined and that, in loading, they will arrange to keep all parcels for a particular province together. No re-sorting should, therefore, have to be done at Regional HQs.

5. For distribution from ROs to Communes, however, the position is different. The Italian Government state that it is not possible to sort and pack the material by communes here in Rome because (a) sufficiently accurate information as to the needs of each commune is not available in Rome but only at the respective Prefectures and (b) to pack in this way would greatly delay the process. Each parcel, therefore, contains a given quantity of one type of document only: a statement is enclosed within each parcel giving the description and quantity of the material it contains.

6. On arrival of the material at Provincial HQ, it will therefore be necessary for the staff of the Prefecture to open the parcels, to re-sort their contents according to the requirements of each commune and to re-pack and address them for dispatch. The Italian Government estimate it should take the Prefectures from two to three days to do this.

7. It is requested that this HQ be informed by signal as soon as the dispatch of the material has been completed (a) to all Provincial HQs and (b) to all communes in a province.

FOR THE DIRECTOR:

5539

Ralph R. Temple
RALPH R. TEMPLE
Major
Deputy Director
Local Government Sub Commission

CCAC/pec

Distribution:

RO Liguria	(with copies for ROs)
Lombardia	" "
Piemonte	" "
Venezia	" "
SMLO 5 Army	Transportation S/G
" 8 Army	Executive Commissioner
" IV Corps	Chief Commissioner

R (MAY NORDEN)

DISTRIBUTION OF MATERIAL FOR REPERATION
OF AERONAUTICAL LISTS

REGION and estimated date of readiness	PROVINCE	No. of Parrels	Total parrels for Region	Weight in Kgs.	Total weight for Regions in tons (Approx.)
LIGURIA	Genova	72	147	2160	4.5 tons
18 June	Imperia	22		660	
	La Spezia	26		780	
	Savona	27		810	
VENEZIA	Belluno	27	407	720	12.25 tons
20 June	Bolzano	30		900	
	Padova	48		1440	
	Rovigo	29		870	
	Trento	36		1140	
	Troviso	42		1260	
	Udine	57		1710	
	Venezia	47		1410	
	Verona	46		1380	
	Vicenza	43		1290	
PIEMONTE	Alessandria	44	322	1320	9.75 tons
23 June	Asti	27		810	
	Asi	27		810	
	Cuneo	48		1440	
	Novara	39		1170	
	Torino	99		2970	
	Vercelli	36		1140	
LOMBARDIA	Bergamo	45	322	1350	9.75 tons
27 June	Brescia	54		1620	
	Como	42		1260	
	Crotone	34		1020	
	Mantova	36		1080	
	Milano	167		5010	
	Pavia	44		1320	
	Sondrio	21		630	

14.5 tons

VENETIE 20 June	Belluno	27	720
	Bolzano	30	900
	Padova	48	1440
	Rovigo	29	370
	Trento	30	1140
	Treviso	42	1260
	Udine	57	1710
	Verona	47	1410
	Verona	46	1380
	Vicenza	43	1290

407

12.25 tons

PIEMONTE 23 June	Alessandria	44	1320
	Aosta	27	810
	Asti	27	810
	Cuneo	48	1440
	Novara	39	1170
	Torino	99	2970
	Vercelli	38	1140

322

9.75 tons

LOMBARDIA 27 June	Bergamo	45	1350
	Brescia	54	1620
	Como	42	1260
	Cremona	34	1020
	Mantova	36	1080
	Milano	167	5010
	Pavia	44	1320
	Sondrio	21	630
	Varese	37	1110

440

14.5 tons

10930

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Executive Commission
2806/17

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

APO 394

CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

AC/45/4/10

Tel: 478190

SUBJECT: Preparation of Electoral Lists.

13 June 1945

5 JUN 1945

TO : Distribution as below.

1. Attention is drawn to Article 5 of D.L. 12 April 1945, No. 201, published in the "Gazzetta Ufficiale" No. 59 of 17 May. The effect of this article is stated in the next paragraph. The Decree has now been implemented for Military Government Territory by the order (No. 829) of Allied Military Government published in the "Gazzetta Ufficiale" No. 68 of 7 June 1945.

2. Although all the Italian legislation upon the preparation of the electoral lists has been given a formal implementation in Military Government Territory, its practical effect has hitherto been confined to Italian Government Territory. With respect to provinces under Allied Military Government, the Italian legislation provided that the procedure for preparing the lists was to be continued in any such provinces 10 days after the return to the Italian Government: no provision was made for any steps to be taken during the period of Military Government. On the reorganisation of this M.G., the Italian Government has altered this by the enactment of Article 5 of the Decree quoted in par. 1, which provides for Allied Military Government to fix the date or dates for commencing preparation of the lists.

3. Authority to fix a date or dates accordingly for the provinces under A.M.G. will be exercised by the Chief Civil Affairs Officer at HQ AC. The RGs through the SCAGs will advise the CCAG as to the earliest date that can be met. The purpose of this directive is to give an indication of the consideration to be borne in mind in this connection.

4. The existence of electoral lists is a condition precedent to any sort of elections--national or local. The preparation of the lists is the first practical step in the return of Italy to the basis of democratic government, namely, the election of representative institutions, and it is thus an implementation of one of the fundamental policies of the Allies towards Italy.

5. The liberation of the whole of the country has brought the matter into ever higher relief. Before that event, the lists could only be considered, for practical purposes, in connection with the holding of local elections in those parts of Italy that lay to the rear of our lines. Now, however, the holding of local elections throughout the whole of Italy now or less simultaneously is a possibility. The essential preliminary to local elections, the formation of the electoral lists, is already well under way in Southern and Central Italy: and the importance of not allowing the North to lag behind is obvious.

6. The preparation of the electoral lists and the necessary implementation therein in Military Government Territory are, therefore, a matter of the highest priority and SCAGs and RGs will deal with the matter on that basis.

5538

2. Although all the Italian legislation upon the preparation of the electoral lists has been given a formal implementation in Military Government territory, its practical effect has hitherto been confined to Italian Government territory. With respect to provinces under Allied Military Government, the Italian legislation provided that the procedures for preparing the lists was to be commenced in any such province 10 days after its return to the Italian Government; no provision was made for any steps to be taken during the period of Military Government. On the representation of this AF, the Italian Government have altered this by the enactment of Article 5 of the Decree quoted in para 1, which provides for Allied Military Government to fix the date or dates for commencing preparation of the lists.

3. Authority to fix a date or dates accordingly for the provinces under AF will be exercised by the Chief Civil Affairs Officer at HQ AF. The AGs through the SAGs will advise the CCAO as to the earliest date that can be set. The purpose of this directive is to give an indication of the considerations to be borne in mind in this connection.

4. The existence of electoral lists is a condition precedent to any sort of elections--national or local. The preparation of the lists is the first practical step in the return of Italy to the basis of representative government, namely, the election of representative institutions, and it is thus an implementation of one of the fundamental policies of the Allies towards Italy.

5. The liberation of the whole of the country has brought the matter into even higher relief. Before that event, the lists could only be considered, for practical purposes, in connection with the holding of local elections in those parts of Italy that lay to the rear of our lines. Now, however, the holding of local elections throughout the whole of Italy more or less simultaneously is a possibility. The essential preliminary to local elections, the formation of the electoral lists, is already well under way in Southern and Central Italy; and the importance of not allowing the North to lag behind is obvious.

6. The preparation of the electoral lists and the necessary preliminaries thereto in Military Government territory are, therefore, a matter of the highest priority and SAGs and AGs will deal with the matter on that basis.

5538

7. The work of preparing the lists is intricate and complicated. It consists of a series of formal steps--such as the publication of notices, the deposit of provisional lists, the receipt of and adjudication upon claims by citizens to be entered on the lists, etc.--for each of which a precise time-table is laid down. Accuracy, strict impartiality, and the strictest possible adherence to the time-table are essential. The responsibility for these tasks rests almost entirely upon the Prefects and his administrative officials, upon the Sindaco of each comune with the General Secretary, as well as Municipal Councils. It is obvious that an adequate number of personnel trained in Italian administrative procedures will be necessary to assist.

8. In the first place, therefore, the immediate preparation of the electoral lists requires that the organization of the Prefectures should be completed and that there should be employed at each of these a sufficient number of trained staff. The establishment of the organs of local government described by Executive Order number No. 39 is essential for this purpose. For instance, an Electoral Commission must be established in every comune which in the center of judicial districts.

AF
(Plas Nelson)
(See folio 53)
see M. 2225
16.47

0932

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- 2 -

This Electoral Commission is presided over by the President of the Tribunal, or, none, by the Prefect, and is composed of four commissioners of whom one is appointed by the Prefect and three by the Deputazione Provinciale. The necessity for the institution of the underlined local body is apparent. The re-organization of the Prefecture and of local government should, therefore, be completed with all possible speed. Any delay will postpone the work of compilation of the election registers.

9. As this re-organization proceeds, the newly appointed local authorities of the Communes should turn their attention at once to the revision of their registers of population. As is generally known, a register ("anagrafe") of the population is an always has been required to be kept in the Municipality of each Commune, and this register is the basis for which the first draft electoral lists will be prepared. The bringing up to date of these registers must, therefore, be put in hand as soon as possible. A circular from the Ministry of the Interior to the Prefects, No. 5284 of 28 May 1945, has recently been distributed through the AC channels, whereby the Italian provincial and communal authorities are advised to proceed with the bringing up to date of the registers of Italian population.

10. Finally, revision of the lists cannot be commenced until such census has been furnished with the forms and other stationary necessary for the purpose. The Italian Government is responsible for the printing of these and for supplying them to this HQ. It is expected that this printed material will be available within a few days. This HQ will then arrange for the transport of the material (all packaged and labeled) to the HQ of the Regional Commissioners of the five northern regions. HQs in their turn will immediately distribute to Provincial Commissioners from which point the latter will be responsible for further distribution to every commune. The commencing date for the revision of the lists cannot be earlier than a week after distribution of the forms to the last commune. Local Italian officials must have at least one day to study the forms, the local procedures and to make their preparations accordingly. In advising us to the date which should be fixed, HQs must also full allowance for this.

11. In the actual fixing of the date, each Region must be dealt with as a whole. It would be possible to fix separate dates, provinces by province, according to each one becomes ready to begin. It is such to be preferred, however, that one single date be fixed for the whole of a Region. If possible, the same date will be set for all the northern Regions, but in any event if there are different dates they will be but a few days apart.

12. Please give this matter your immediate consideration and inform this HQ how soon after receipt of the electoral material the compilation of electoral lists can commence in your Region.

BY COMMAND OF THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER:

Distribution:

Action

1 - G. R. UPJOHN, D-15.
VP O.A. Section

J. L. Fiske Co.
J. G. R. UPTON, Pres.

G. D. UPTON, Jr.
VP & Section

2025-01-14

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{admission} \\ \text{admission} \end{array} \right\}$$

Author	(with copies to P.O.)
McCullin	" "
Morgan	" "
Landorin	" "
Pisano	" "
	" "

—chap.

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

2806

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

(41)

Ref: AC/45/N/LG

23 Jun 45.

SUBJECT: Electoral Lists.

JUN 14 1945

TO: Executive Commissioner.

- 1 The Government Representative concerned with Electoral Lists was interviewed again this morning and the position is as follows:
 - (a) In Southern and Central Italy many communes have been completed and lists are already in print. It is expected that everything South of a line through the Northern edge of Lazio will be ready by the end of July, that is, 6 months after the date for commencement of the compilation.
 - (b) It is expected that with the experience gained, the time can be cut down by one month in future.
 - (c) The printing is well in hand and as the Prime Minister himself has taken a keen interest in it I am hopeful that we will get continued and complete co-operation on this side. The bottleneck is the packing and efforts are now being made to get improvement in that department.
 - (d) Forms for Emilia Region are expected to be ready this week and I will see that they are despatched as fast as they can be delivered.
 - (e) The real danger, as I explained to you this morning, is not so much on the question of getting material to the Communes but in ensuring that the necessary people are there to comply with the Italian law and set the machinery going. No doubt the appointment of a Deputazione will, with the help of the CLN, be much quicker and easier than has been the case in the South, but I am anxious about the appointment of Sindaci. For example, the Provincial Commissioner of Milan Province has to approve of the appointments of nearly 250 Sindaci and there are other Provinces where the figures are nearly as high. For that reason above all others, I must express grave doubts as to whether we shall really be in a position to start the compilation of Electoral Lists properly on the 15 July 45. I have, of course, given the 1 Jul 45 as the date and this may have the result of speeding things up so much that we can get it going by the middle of the month.

537

(NATS Noted)

see M.3 + H
PA 11/2/45

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- 2 -

40

(f) Full directions have gone out from here today as to how the work must be done and also a signal in which I point out that the 1 Jul 45 is your aim and what officials are necessary.

(g) The Deputy Director of the Local Government Sub-Commission is making a special visit to the North Western Regions next week and the full effort of the Sub-Commission is turned on to this very important matter.

A.D. Bonham-Carter

A.D. BONHAM-CARTER, Lt. Col.,
CSO Civil Affairs Section.

5536

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

To : AMG FOUR CORPS FOR HOPKINSON

9508

10th June 1945

PRIORITY

11 JUN 1945

CONFIDENTIAL PD

PARA ONE PD REFERENCE SIGNAL ONE FOUR THREE OF NINE JUNE PD

PAREN TO AMG FOUR CORPS FOR HOPKINSON FROM HQ ALCOA CITE AGLEST PAREN

PARA TWO PD IMPLEMENTATION OF DECREE TWO ZERO ONE PROVIDING FOR COMPILATION OF ELECTORAL LISTS HAS ONLY JUST BEEN PUBLISHED IN GAZZETTA UFFICIALE PD INSTRUCTIONS TO REGIONAL COMMISSIONERS ARE BEING PREPARED TO ENABLE THEM TO FIX A DATE FOR COMMENCEMENT OF SUCH COMPILATION PD ONE FACTOR OVER WHICH AC HAS NO CONTROL IS AVAILABILITY OF ELECTORAL FORMS AND OTHER MATERIAL FOR DISTRIBUTION TO NORTHERN REGIONS PD CLOSE CONTACT IS BEING MAINTAINED WITH THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT IN THIS AND ALL OTHER PHASES OF SUBJECT PD SUGGEST THAT SUBJECT BE MADE PART OF AGENDA FOR FORTHCOMING REGIONAL COMMISSIONERS MEETING AT ROME

Internal Distribution:

Chief Commissioner
Executive Commissioner

From : LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUB COMMISSION

476706

5535

NICHOLAS PIOMBINO
CWO USA
Asst Adjutant.

(CSO)

2806

35A

EXTRACT FROM LETTER TO MR. H. HOPKINSON

Ref: 1DO/EC

10th June 1945.

"I have before me your telegrams 141 and 143.

With regard to electoral lists, the position is that the Allied Commission has informed the Italian Government that their present system of preparation of electoral lists is so cumbrous and impracticable that the Allied Commission does not intend to instruct its Regional Commissioners in AMG territory to take any action. I am asking the Chief Commissioner to have a meeting on this matter at the earliest possible moment because I am convinced that we must get on with the question of elections.

With regard to consultation by the Allied command on the movement of Italian troops, I wrote a letter to the Admiral on May 31st suggesting that he must press for consultation on movements and locations of all troops and he spoke to AFHQ who said that the movement of troops was a matter for 5th Army and that Hume would be consulted and it was up to 5th Army AMG to put up any protests. This is merely passing the buck and is most unsatisfactory. I will have a further talk with the Admiral tomorrow."

SECRET

2806-147.

143
JUNE 091532B

W/4329
JUNE 091630
URGENT

IV CORPS FROM HOPKINSON.
HQ ALBOM

10 JUN 1945

SECRET.

I think it is very important that preparation of electoral lists in the 5 Northern Regions should be carried out as soon as possible. Orders have not yet been received by Regional Commissioners and I hope that they can be sent out at once.

DIST

ACTION - EX COMMISSIONER 2
INFO - CHIEF COMMISSIONER
S.O. TO C.C. 2
CA SEC
ECOM SEC
POLAD (A)
POLAD (B)
FILE

*Local govt telephoned
E.C. They had prepared a
signal for despatch & wanted E.C.
concurrence, copy will be sent
to this office.*

SECRET

5533

see ACTION taken on 147/EC "Polado Telegrams from the North"

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

AG/45/A/16

Tel : 478190

SUBJECT : Preparation of electoral lists in Military Government Territory 6 June 1945

TO : His Excellency the President of the Council of Ministers

JUN 8 1945

Your Excellency :

1. I refer to Your Excellency's letter of 1 June addressed to the Chief Commissioner, which has been referred to this Section.

2. Your Excellency will be aware, in your capacity of Minister of the Interior, that some months ago the Ministry was requested by Local Government Sub Commission to alter the Italian legislation upon the subject so as to enable the preparation of the electoral lists to be put in hand in those provinces which are still under Allied Military Government, without waiting first for them to be returned to the control of the Italian Government. The Decree which enables this to be done has, however, only just been published, namely, in the "Gazzetta Ufficiale" No. 59 of 17 May last : and it will be implemented in the usual way, I anticipate, within a few days. Until this Decree was published, it was not, of course, possible for any steps to be taken for fixing a date or dates as from which in Military Government Territory the time limit for the preparation of the electoral lists would run.

3. I would, however, assure you that the desirability of avoiding too great a disparity of dates with respect to the provinces under Italian control and those under Military Government is fully appreciated in this Headquarters; and nothing will be overlooked which may contribute to the commencement of the preparation of the lists in Military Government Territory at a date or dates as early as the practical difficulties involved will permit.

FOR THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER :

G. R. Upjohn
G. R. UPJOHN
Brigadier
VP CA Section

REC/eg.

Copy to Executive Commissioner ✓

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017E.C. To follow up, pls
Translation
Em

CHIEF COM 32

The President of the Council of Ministers
Minister of the Interior

Rome, 1 June 1945

Dear Admiral Stone,

knowing your interest for the democratic renewal of my country, I want to bring to your attention a requirement which, I hope, will not meet with special difficulties.

After the recent passage of the provinces of Marche, Umbria, and also of some of those of Tuscany under Italian civilian administration, the delay for the drafting of the electoral lists in the communes included in the said circumscriptions begins on the 20th of this month, for no regulation on this subject had been formerly issued by this Commission, except for the province of Pesaro.

As the electoral material has already been distributed to the remaining provinces of Tuscany, and to avoid, in the same region, and what is more, in neighbouring provinces, a disparity of situation for what concerns the renewal of the election systems, it would be greatly appreciated if the Allied Commission allowed to fix as soon as possible the date on which it will be possible to start forming the lists for the Florence, Pisa, Lucca, Pistoia, Apuania and Livorno provinces. This according to art. 5 of the legislative decree 12 April, 1945, n. 201.

I think that this deserves your kind comprehension, and thanking you, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

S. I. Bonomi

Spoke E.S.O. CA Section
who is following up.

JL 5/6/45

B/47/6/45

Admiral Stone,
Allied Commission
RomeSpoke E.S.O. who is sending
letter down to-day.
E.O.

JL 7/6/45

E.E. DIST - 2 JUNE 45

ACTION: CA SECT (2)

INFO: CHIEF COMMR

Ex. COMMR

5531

CC 204

29 May 1945

MAY 31 1945

My dear Sir Noel:

I am enclosing for your information copies of
correspondence exchanged with Prime Minister Bonomi
on the subject of local elections in Italy

Sincerely,

/s/ Ellery W. Stone

ELLERY W. STONE
Rear Admiral, USNR
Chief Commissioner

3 Incls:

- 1 - Ltr AC/45/A/LG, 19 Apr 45
- 2 - Ltr 344, 24 Apr 45, fr H.E. Bonomi
- 3 - Ltr 18209, 20 May 45, fr H.E. Bonomi

CC Files

cc: Exec. Comm.
Sir Noel Charles, St., K.C.M.G.
British Ambassador
84 Via Ventì Settembre
Rome

5530

PA 2/6

(Miss L)

CC 204

29 May 1945

MAY 31 1945

Dear Mr. Kirk:

I am enclosing for your information copies of correspondence exchanged with Prime Minister Bonomi on the subject of local elections in Italy.

Sincerely,

ELBERT W. STONE
Rear Admiral, USNR
Chief Commissioner

3 Incls:

- 1 - Ltr AC/45/A/16, 19 Apr 45
- 2 - Ltr 344, 24 Apr 45, fr H.E. Bonomi
- 3 - Ltr 18209, 20 May 45, fr H.E. Bonomi

Hon. Alexander Kirk
American Ambassador
119 Via Vittorio Veneto
Rome

cc: Exec. Comm'r
CC Files

5529

10942

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

TranslationThe President of the Council of Ministers
Minister of the Interior

18209

Rome, 20 May 1945

Dear Admiral,

after my letter of April 23rd, and referring to the new verbal explanations asked about a), b), c) of your letter of the 19.4.45, concerning some modalities of the future administrative elections, I repeat what I already told you, i.e., that the details of the electoral procedure will have to be fixed by a special regulation, when the political problem of the choice of the system considered to be most adequate will have been solved. As you know, this problem is still the object of many discussions within the parties and the press is also debating about it, so that, as the Government hasn't yet a formed opinion or a determined purpose, it is impossible to give more precise information about the above mentioned points.

However, I can tell you that, for what concerns point a), the previous designation of the candidates in the administrative elections has never been foreseen in Italy, either in positive right or in the electoral custom, and except for the decisions which can be made on this subject as reform, I think there are no serious reasons for making innovations in the system which is in force.

For what concerns point b), the political electoral law always mentioned the type and characteristics of the poll-ticket to be used in political elections. For what concerns administrative elections, the official text of the communal and provincial law 4 February 1915, n. 148, states in art. 76, that 'the poll-ticket can be written, printed or partly written and partly printed', and adds that 'the poll-tickets must be made of white paper, without any sign which might help to recognize them'. To my mind, though this question, as well as that of the former point a), is still being studied, the limits and precautions stated by the law appear to be sufficient, on general principles, to guarantee the secrecy and genuineness of the vote.

For what concerns point c) it must be made clear that it is absolutely forbidden to make electoral propaganda in the place chosen for the poll, where the supporters of the various candidates are only allowed to distribute the poll-tickets, refraining from all forms of pressure on the electors. The obligation to guarantee the respect of this law falls the police authority, which is entrusted with the maintenance of order, and the regular development of the electoral operations.

I have given you, my dear Admiral, my personal point of view on the questions you asked me, which will certainly be adequately solved within the frame of the electoral system which will be definitively adopted.

E. C. DIAT - DE HAYEN

ACTION C.A. 28/5

INFO - Chief Clerk

Ex. 10000

Yours very truly,

S. I. Bonomi

Admiral Stone
Chief Commissioner - Allied Commission

0944

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

2806

(27)

AG/45/A/10.

23 May 1945.

My dear Mr. Prime Minister:

(20)

5461 88 4VW

In my letter of 19 April, I made some detailed observations concerning the voting methods proposed to be used by your Government in the holding of local elections. In your response of 24 April, you were good enough to summarize generally the position to date.

Officials of the Ministry of the Interior have informed Local Government Sub-Commission that it is your intention to send me a specific answer, taking up directly the points mentioned in my letter. I shall be grateful for an early opportunity to study such a communication.

Yours very truly,

/s/ Henry W. Stone

HENRY W. STONE
Rear Admiral, USNR
Chief Commissioner

His Excellency Ivanoe Bonomi
The President of the Council of Ministers
Italian Government
Rome.

PA 23/5
5527

(PA)

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

RESTRICTED

RVB/wfb

2806
ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
APO 512

Ex. Comm. (26)

AG 014.35/185 GEG-O

20 May 1945

SUBJECT: Italian Local Government Elections

MAY 22 RECD

TO: All Concerned

1. The Italian Government intends to hold, as soon as practicable, local government elections in all communes in territory handed back to their administration. For this purpose it will be necessary for them to establish a very large number of polling stations. The question has been raised as to the attitude to be adopted should the Italian authorities desire the temporary use for polling stations of rooms in buildings of a public nature requisitioned by the Allied authorities.

2. The following principles will apply:

a. Where the Italian authorities represent, and local Allied commanders agree that sufficient suitable accommodation for polling stations is not available to them in non-requisitioned buildings they may apply to the local military commander for facilities to be made available for that purpose in public buildings, schools, etc. which have been requisitioned by the Allied authorities.

b. In the circumstances set out in a. above, local military commanders will, wherever possible, providing military operations or security are not hampered, make available to the Italian authorities rooms in the buildings referred to above for use as polling stations subject to the following conditions:

- (1) The rooms should be ground floor rooms only with direct access to a street (one large room will usually suffice in any one building).
- (2) The use of the rooms for any one election should in general be limited to one day per election but may in exceptional cases be extended to two days.
- (3) The Italian authorities must provide all necessary furniture for use in the polling stations and will not be entitled to use of any Allied equipment. They should, however, be provided with lighting as necessary, if it is available.

c. Records will be kept of rooms made available to the Italian authorities in pursuance of the above.

AC DIST

ACTION - ESTAB. SEC
INFO - EX. COMM
LOCAL GOVT 7C

RESTRICTED

(Mrs. Menden)

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

RESTRICTED

Ltr, AFHQ, AG 014.35/185 OEG-O,
dtd 20 May 45 (Cont'd)

4. United States or British personnel on duty in the vicinity of the polling places will be instructed to the effect that no Allied interference will be permitted in the actual electoral activities.

BY COMMAND OF FIELD MARSHAL ALEXANDER:

C. W. Christenberry
C. W. CHRISTENBERRY
Colonel, AGD
Adjutant General

DISTRIBUTION:

- 5 - PES
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- 5 - RAC
- 5 - Florence Comd
- 2 - DMRS, Italy
- 5 - No 1 Dist
- 5 - No 2 Dist
- 5 - No 3 Dist
- 5 - AAF/ATO
- 2 - US POLAD
- 2 - Br Res Min
- 3 - ALCOM
- 1 - G-1 (A)
- 1 - G-1 (B)
- 1 - Q(Mint)
- 1 - G-4 (A)
- 1 - G-4 (B)
- 6 - G-5
- 2 - AG Records

2
RESTRICTED

2806
COPY

AC/45/N/LG

SUBJECT: Note of interview - Ministry of the Interior.

DATE : 2 May 1945 - 1130 hrs

PRESENT: Dott. Adalberto BERRUTI, Capo di Gabinetto
Major Ralph R. Temple
Lt. D. MODIANO, interpreting

1. I directed Dott. BERRUTI's attention to the letter of April 24 from BONOMI to Admiral Stone (folio p. 66) on the subject of elections and asked whether this was in direct response to the Admiral's letter of 19 April, (folio p. 58). He read both letters and said that it was not a response to the April 19 letter — it probably was a resume of the situation upto date. He recorded some of the points of the letter of April 19 and said that we would very likely receive an answer shortly.

2. I asked what the position was regarding the publication in the Gazzetta Ufficiale of an amended Decree which will permit the compilation of electoral lists in AMG Territory without waiting for the turnover to the Italian Government of said territory. He said there were some other amendments tacked on and that held up the publication, but that it should be published soon. I informed Dott. BERRUTI that we were holding up the distribution of some circulars which the Ministry had sent us because they referred to the Electoral Decree which up to now was not in effect in AMG Territory.

/s/ RALPH R. TEMPLE
/t/ RALPH R. TEMPLE
Major
Deputy Director
Local Government Sub-Commission

RRT/pec

see M 24
5525
NOTE: This is A Copy Of Folio 68 FILE
AC/45/A/LG SUBMITTED BY CASUC
FOR INFO OF EXC ON 3 MAY 45.

(Miss Nelson)

PA 10/5

PA 6/5

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

2806
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
INTER OFFICE MEMO

From: Office of Chief Commissioner

SUBJECT: Distribution of Letter from
Prime Minister re Local Elections

FILE No.

28 April 1945

TO: Executive Comm'r Clerks
CA-Section Clerks

APR 28 1945

This office has made the following further distribution of
letter No. 344 of 24 April from H.E. Bonomi to Admiral Stone with
reference to the regulations adopted for local elections:

U.S. Ambassador
British Ambassador
Political Adviser (A)
Political Adviser (B)

5524

1/3 J. H. Hamilton
Chief Clerk

2806

22

Translat 1

The President of the Council of Ministers

27/4

3141

Rome, 24 April 1945

APR 26 REC'D

Dear Admiral,

I must specify the nature of the regulations which have been up to now adopted for the elections.

Up to now, we have only made a series of regulations relative to the drafting of electoral lists and to the premises where the citizens will vote.

These regulations are:

- 1) law 24 October 1944, according to which all male citizens over 21 figure on the electoral lists;
- 2) law 1 February 1945 putting women also on the electoral lists.
- 3) laws of April (which are being published) regulating some details about the lists, and prescribing that in the electoral sections men and women will vote together; when it will be possible, the electoral sections will see that there are two entrances, a common one and one for the women.

The work for the drafting of the lists will take about five months.

As in the 36 provinces which are under Italian administration the work was begun in the first days of February, we figure that the administrative elections could only take place at the end of June. These could take place in various regions and on several Sundays for instance; one Sunday in all the municipalities of Calabria, another in half Sicily; another Sunday in the other half, and so forth.

As for the provinces of Tuscany, Umbria and Marche which are still under Allied Administration, supposing that the said administration allowed to begin the drafting of the lists, these could only be ready toward the end of September.

5523

Nothing can be said about North Italy. Supposing that in the North the drafting of the lists might start in June, the first elections could only take place in November.

As for the electoral system to be adopted, nothing can yet be said.

Admiral Gallery M. Stone
Chief Commissioner
Allied Commission
Rome

24 23 9 M 24

100 1/5
He led on

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

- 2 -

(21)

In Italy, various systems have been tried for the political elections as well as for the administrative elections. For the political elections, a law had been drafted which offered secrecy of vote and a possibility of control. It certainly was one of the best electoral laws in Europe.

But nowadays, no regulation can be made if we do not first solve the problem of the electoral system. You have certainly seen the polemics of the newspapers. For the administrative elections, some parties want the proportional system, other parties want the majority system.

I think this question will have to be solved with the help of the Consulta. Once the question of the system will be solved, we will have to find practical means to enforce it. Italy's experience acquired during the long period when she exercised a full and sound democracy will help to determine the modalities and procedure for the elections.

Hints and suppositions about future electoral laws are therefore quite premature. The government itself, which is formed of parties which disagree on this point cannot have formed an opinion, nor have definite intentions.

Truly yours,

G. L. Bonomi

E. C. DIST - 26 APR 65

ACTION : C A SECT (2)

INFO : CHIEF COMMR
EX COMMR

5522

for further dist
all files 28
L

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

Objections of AC to Italian
Government's Proposed Methods
of Holding Local Elections
(Letter of Chief Commissioners
AC to Prime Minister Bonomi,
19 April 1945)

WLL



ACC File, 1000/109/620

19 Apr 45
WLL
to State

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

(25)

2800-17

AC/15/4/10

19 April 1945.

My dear Mr. Prime Minister,

APR 19 RECD

Following the receipt of your letter of 27 February 1945, in which you gave us a general view of your Government's intention with respect to the holding of local elections, officers of the Local Government Sub-Commission conferred with officials of the Ministry of Interior in order to get a clarification and elaboration of your proposed plans. I cannot but feel that the voting methods intended to be used by the Italian Government based upon the 1915 law do not provide sufficient controls and guarantees to ensure the possibility of holding an independent, free and secret vote. As described to us, the system lends itself too readily to corruption of the voters and electoral officials, misuse of the ballot by the voters and unfair political party pressure.

Some of the principal defects in the existing system are:

- (a) no formal nomination of candidates prior to the voting;
- (b) no official ballot paper;
- (c) no control of electioneering at the polling places.

Since the Allies are greatly interested in the rehabilitation of democratic institutions in your country, I feel that I must most earnestly recommend to you that the present election law be amended prior to the holding of elections in territory under the control of the Italian Government.

Furthermore, the Allied Commission could not countenance the holding of elections in Allied Military Government Territory under the 1915 system. Substantial improvements and amendments to the existing law, tending to establish more truly democratic procedures, would first have to be made in AMG Territory.

I wish to reaffirm my interest in this subject and my readiness to have the Allied Commission available for any assistance and advice which your Government may deem desirable.

Yours very truly,

/s/ Henry W. Stone

HENRY W. STONE
Rear Admiral, USN
Chief Commissioner

His Excellency Ivanoe Bonomi
President of the Council of Ministers
Italian Government
Rome.

PA BH

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BTM 1/20/4

0953

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

2806

EC (16)

Translati

The President of the Council of Ministers
Minister of the Interior

Rome, 30 March 1945

MAR 31 1945

Dear Admiral Stone,

In answer to your request, I am glad to be able to send you the text of the article which modifies the ministerial decree of October 24th, 1944, in the part concerning the delay for the drafting of electoral lists in the territories which haven't yet been handed over, to the Italian administration.

I want to tell you that the said modification was made in accordance with the suggestions made by the Local Government Sub-Commission, greatly appreciated by me, to gratify as soon as possible the legitimate aspiration of the Italian nation for the re-establishment of free elective representation.

I think it advisable to point out that the Sub-Commission to which I communicated the same text, answered by letter n. 45/4, of the 26th, that it had no observations to make on the subject.

I take this opportunity to ask you to support the most useful and highly appreciated work that the Sub-Commission is doing so that the administrative elections may take place as soon as possible in the above mentioned territories. In reference with this, I must tell you that, courteously agreeing to the request made, some time ago, by the competent office of the Interior Department, the Sub-Commission has already taken action for the removal and distribution to the Prefecture of Umbria, Marche and Tuscany of the material required for the first drafting of electoral lists, and has said it would give orders to promote as quickly as possible the formation of the said lists in these regions.

Truly yours,

A. I. BONOMI

see M. 17, 18, 19

PA 17/4

Admiral Ellery W. Stone
Chief Commissioner
Allied Commission
Rome

EC DIST - 31 Mar 45

ACTION: CASEC (2)

INFO: CHIEF COMM.

: EXEC COMM.

a.c.

15/4
Noted

PA 17/4

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

(15)

Translation

Interior Department

The date for the formation of electoral lists in the Municipalities included in the territories which have not yet been handed back to Italian administration starts from the day which will be fixed, for each province, by the Allied Military Government, or failing this, from the sixth day after the date of the resumption of the powers by the Italian Government.

Art. 26 of the ministerial decree, October 24th 1944, has been abrogated.

e.o.

5519

10953

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

Translation

The President the Council of Ministers

2806
TJ

13

Rome, March 1945

MAR 28 1945

Dear Admiral,

I am not yet able to supply you with other particulars on the subject of administrative electorate, for the regulations which are to establish the suffrage system and the representation of the territorial autarchic organizations to be created by the vote of the people, are still being drafted.

The work of the competent office is being done with speed and with a truly cooperative comprehension, so that the practical application of these regulations may take place without delay; I know that their drafting is rather difficult, for, besides requiring a deep study, it implies the solution of complex questions of a practical and principally of a political order.

I am grateful for your kind interest for the rehabilitation of free institutions in my country, and will let you know as soon as possible about the concrete plans of the Italian Government in this very delicate sector.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

S. I. Bonomi

folio 12 refers

T M 14

Admiral Wilby A. Stone
Chief of the Allied Commission
Rome

SRV

S.O.

PA 4/4
20/4
10/4
Noted

E.C DIST - 28 Mar 45.

ACTION: CA Jec (2) 5518

INFO: CHIEF COMMR

: EXEC COMMR.

PA 4/4

2806

(12)

AC/45/LG.

6 March 1945

MAR 8 1945

My dear Mr. Prime Minister,

I acknowledge with many thanks the receipt of your letter of 27 February 1945 and I am grateful for the general view that you have given me of the Government's intentions with respect to the question of holding local elections. My interest in the subject is wellknown to you and I shall be very glad to be kept informed of the progress that is being made and of the further details to which you refer in your final paragraph.

Yours very truly,

M. S. LUSH

Brigadier

for ELDER W. STONE
Rear Admiral, USNR
Chief Commissioner

See 13

His Excellency Ivanoe Bonomi
The President of the Council of Ministers
Italian Government
ROME.

PA *[initials]*

PA *[initials]*

5517

(Copy passed for cc files - 6 MAR 45)

TRANSLATION No. 527

THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

Dear Admiral Stone,

I most willingly comply with your request and am happy to offer you another proof of the genuinely democratic aims pursued by the Government over which I preside.

As you so well understand, the organization of local self-government bodies is part of the greater problem of the institutional reforms which the constituent assemblies will be required to bring about through the medium of laws and institutions more consonant with the new consciousness and the increased political, economic and social needs of the Italian people.

The new code of local self-government, in its multitudinous aspects involving the agencies and the procedures for their constitution, as well as the authority, will be that which the free expression of the collective will and a good electoral law can and will assure.

Meanwhile, considering the exceptional circumstance existing in the country, which is not completely liberated as yet, and the fact that many of its citizens are either prisoners or deported, or otherwise far from the main centres of their interests, it seems a wise measure to have recourse to a transitory solution which, while not prejudicing the creation of more suitable constitutional institutions, would give immediate effect to the fundamental democratic principle of entrusting to a body of electors the appointment of local public authorities.

As matters are at present, I think a suitable solution would be to restore the consolidated text of the communal and provincial law n. 143 of 4 Feb 1915 which, since it was issued prior to the advent of fascism and is inspired by clearly democratic tendencies could, with suitable retouches and simplifications (particularly in regard to the composition of the elective assemblies and to the dissolution of such institutional agencies as are not strictly necessary), meet fully the requirements of the moment and replace all the temporary provisions established by RDL n. 111 of 4 April 1944 which, although following the same lines as the afore-mentioned consolidated text, do not make any concrete contribution towards a return to truly democratic procedures.

The present structure of the local organization as represented by the Communes and the Province - which are bodies having a juridical personality, with their own councils and executive and representative agencies elected by these councils from among their own members (i.e. the provincial deputations and its president, the communal board and the mayor) - would thus remain, even though temporarily only.

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

see Feb 12 1945
20

powers, the functions and the relations with one another and with the central authority, will be that which the free expression of the collective will and a good electoral law can and will assure.

Meanwhile, considering the exceptional circumstance existing in the country, which is not completely liberated as yet, and the fact that many of its citizens are either prisoners or deported, or otherwise far from the main centres of their interests, it seems a wise measure to have recourse to a transitory solution which, while not prejudicing the creation of more suitable constitutional institutions, would give immediate effect to the fundamental democratic principle of entrusting to a body of electors the appointment of local public authorities.

As matters are at present, I think a suitable solution would be to restore the consolidated text of the communal and provincial law n. 118 of 4 Feb 1915 which, since it was issued prior to the advent of fascism and is inspired by clearly democratic tendencies could, with suitable retouches and simplifications (particularly in regard to the composition of the elective assemblies and to the dissolution of such institutional agencies as are not strictly necessary), meet fully the requirements of the moment and replace all the temporary provisions established by RDL n. 111 of 4 April 1944 which, although following the same lines as the afore-mentioned consolidated text, do not make any concrete contribution towards a return to truly democratic procedures.

The present structure of the local organization as represented by the Comune and the Province - which are bodies having a juridical personality, with their own councils and executive and representative agencies elected by these councils from among their own members (i.e. the provincial deputation and its president, the communal board and the mayor) - would thus remain, even though temporarily only.

As regards the procedure for the elections, the consolidated text of 1915 adopts the majority system. The voter, in fact, is not allowed to write on the ballot paper as many names as there are communal councillors to be elected, since a certain number of the vacancies is reserved for the representation of minorities. This regulation is supported by proper guarantees and sanctions, as is also the regulation concerning the secret ballot.

As to the place and date of the elections, since their scope is the constitution of representatives who are local it is not necessary that the elections take place at the same time in all communes, as is the normal procedure on the other hand for political elections. At any rate, since the elections will be carried out on the basis of the ex nunc compilation of the lists, I can assert with certainty that as soon as this is done, the citizens will be called immediately to the ballot wherever circumstances permit. In spite of numberless difficulties, which are well known to you, the lists are being prepared at a rapid pace and I trust that, thanks to the goodwill of everybody, and to the vigilant supervision of the Government, they will be completed in most of the provinces restored to the Italian Administration within the period of time established by the Ministerial decree of 24 October last.

(10)

With the restoration of the consolidated text of 1915 and by virtue of the recent DIL which extends universal suffrage to women, all citizens possessing the prescribed qualifications will participate in the election of communal councillors. The election of the provincial councillors will take place at the same time and according to the same procedure. Separate returns will, however, be made: it is necessary to bear in mind that since the number of the provincial councillors is divided by districts, the election will take place on the same day in all the communes within the boundaries of the district.

I have nothing to add in particular on the participation of political parties and independent candidates, since this participation can be inferred from the "majority system" explained above: however, modifications may eventually be desired by various political currents, particularly in connection with the election of the provincial councillors.

I believe I have furnished you with an adequate general picture of the Government's aims in the field of administrative elections. I shall be very glad to give you more details as soon as possible, as well as any other information on the subject that you may need.

TRANSLATORS POOL

CA SECTION

VB

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

EC Sub- 28 Feb 45

ACTION - CH Sec

INFO - CHIEF COMM

EXEC "

5515

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

TRANSLATORS POOL

CA SECTION

VB

EC Dist- 28 Feb 48
ACTION - CA Sec
INFO - CHIEF COMMR
EXEC - "
5515

I believe I have information, Government's aims in the field of administrative elections. I shall be very glad to give you more details as soon as possible, as well as any other information on the subject that you may need.

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

Ref : AG/45/LG

27 Feb 45

My dear Mr. Prime Minister,

FEB 27 1945

9.6/ 8
On 3 Feb 45 I addressed a letter Reference AG/45/LG to you on the subject of the holding of local elections.

While appreciating that the matter is one for the Italian Government, this Commission has as you know been directed to encourage the holding of such elections and I write to enquire if you are now in a position to give me the information previously asked.

Yours very truly,

/s/ Ellery W. Stone

ELLERY W. STONE
Rear Admiral, USNR
Chief Commissioner

His Excellency Ivanoe BONOMI
The President of the Council of Ministers
Italian Government
R O M E

PT [initials]
5514
[initials]
(COPY RETAINED BY CC)

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

10/15/10

2806
T
COS (8)
6 February 1945

FEB 6 1945

My dear Mr. Prime Minister:

In connection with the compilation of electoral lists to be used for local elections, I would appreciate being informed as to the plans your government has in mind with regard to the holding of elections and as well as to the bodies to be elected.

A number of points arise concerning the form of local government contemplated. These include such items as: what organs are to be formed, their size, composition, powers, functions; the relationships between the provincial and communal bodies as well as the relationships involved with the central government agencies; the participation of the people in the local organs such as attendance at public meetings, etc. In short, what system will supersede R. D. No. 111, 4 April 1944?

With regard to the electoral proceedings and mechanisms themselves there are many aspects on which I would be glad of more information, particularly the system of voting plans, (such as proportional representation, single-member district or multi-member district, whether voting will be secret) when and where elections are to be held and the participation of organized political parties and independent candidates.

At a later date, I should like to be informed of the full details of the elections but at the present moment it would be of great assistance to me if you could give me an outline of your proposals to include such items as I have mentioned above.

Yours very truly,

[s] Ellery W. Stone

 PA *[initials]*
 ELLERY W. STONE
 Rear Admiral, USNR
 Chief Commissioner

 His Excellency Ivanoe Bonomi
 The President of the Council of Ministers
 Italian Government
 Rome

RRD/pec

(Copy retained for CC files)

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

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AND TUNISIA REGION

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19 JAN 45

PRIORITY

JAN 20 1945

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SECRET 13

REPORT ON AND DISCUSSION OF THE RESULTS OF THE

THE VIEW ON PROPOSED HOLDING OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS EXPRESSED TO IN
OUR LETTER NUMBER FIVE SEVEN TWO THREE OF ONE FOUR DECEMBER AND URGENTLY
RE-UNITED

Copy to: Office of the Chief of Staff ✓

PTA
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Political Section /

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R. L. G. A. HARRISON
A/ice President

0964

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

2806

COS

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Tel: 475725

Ref: 7/523

11 December 1944

SUBJECT: Local Government Elections in Italy. 20 DEC 1944

TO : Regional Commissioner, Sicilia Region.
 " " " Southern "
 " " " Lazio-Umbria Region
 " " " Abruzzi-Marche "
 " " " Sardegna Region
 " " " Toscana "
 " " " Emilia "

2-3

I enclose a copy of a memorandum which has been prepared by the Local Government Sub-Commission in consultation with the Political Section in regard to the desirability and possibility of holding local government elections in Italy at the present time. As you are no doubt aware, proposals for the holding of such elections have from time to time been put forward in the Communist and Republican papers. It has been decided that Regional Commissioners should be asked to furnish their observations on this proposal and I should be grateful for your urgent comments as far as your Region is concerned. In seeking my advice on the subject you should, of course, avoid any consultation with any Italian authorities.

M. S. L...
 Brigadier,
 Chief of Staff.

Copies to:

Regional Commissioner, Piemonte Region
 " " " Liguria Region
 " " " Lombardia "
 " " " Venetia "
 Senior Civil Affairs Officer, 5th Army
 " " " " "

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SECRET

CONFIDENTIAL

13. THE DEMOCRATIC AND POLITICAL SITUATION IN ITALY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS
ITALY AND FRANCE

(1) ITALY

1. It has always been understood to be a part of the functions of the Allied Commission not only to secure the abolition of the Fascist local government structure, but to substitute for it a system distinctively democratic. Considerable experience along these lines was gained from the operations of AMIOT in Sicily. On the basis of what was done there, Orders were issued last January for the establishment by Allied Military Government of local authorities in occupied provinces and communes. With the transfer of Southern Italy to the control of the Italian Government, that Government continued the AMG system by a Decree of April 1944.

2. The Orders and Decree provided for the re-establishment in part of the local government system contemplated by the re-Fascist Law of 1915. In the absence of any possibility of elections at that time, the elective communal and provincial councils were not re-established. The standing executive committee and the executive and presiding heads of the local authorities were re-introduced on the basis of appointment by the Prefect.

3. It was made clear in both Orders and Decree that this legislation was purely temporary.

4. The temporary local government structure thus contemplated has been established almost in its entirety throughout Italy behind the battle line.

5. The next development was the promulgation by the Italian Government of a decree of 23 September 1944 for the compilation of electoral lists, which decree revived the law of 1919 on the subject.

(II) POLICY IMPLICATIONS IN THE ABOVE

6. It is obvious that the Decree of April last contemplated a further step in the democratization of Italian local government; i.e. the establishment of elective local authorities and the holding of elections for them. The 1915 system was partially adopted as being the Fascist democratic system to hand; but its adoption did not imply that the elective local authorities provided by it were the particular ones ultimately contemplated.

7. In fact, the Italian Government have this autumn established a commission of experts to study and make recommendations on the whole administrative system of the Italian State, including local government.

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4. The temporary local government structure thus contemplated has been established almost in its entirety throughout Italy behind the battle line.

5. The next development was the promulgation by the Italian Government of a decree of 28 September 1944 for the compilation of electoral lists, which decree revived the law of 1919 on the subject.

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6. It is obvious that the Decree of April last contemplated a further step in the democratization of Italian local government; i.e. the establishment of elective local authorities and the holding of elections for them. The 1915 system was partially adopted as being the most democratic system to hand; but its adoption did not imply that the elective local authorities provided by it were the particular ones ultimately contemplated.

7. In fact, the Italian Government have this autumn established a commission of experts to study and make recommendations on the whole administrative system of the Italian State, including local government.

8. If, therefore, local government elections are to be contemplated in the near future, it is necessary first to decide what local government bodies are to be elected. The final and permanent form of Italian local government must obviously rest on the will of the Italian people freely expressed. Presumably, this can only be expressed through some form of national legislature or constituent assembly.

(III) PRACTICAL FACTORS AFFECTING THE PROPOSAL

9. If the foregoing observations are held not to influence the present problem or that such problem is capable of solution, it would be necessary to give consideration to the following points:

(a) Electoral lists or registers must first be compiled. As stated above, a Decree for this purpose has been issued. It appears, however, that the compilation of the lists will take many months, in some provinces considerably longer than in others.

(1) The scattered state of the population, for example, prisoners of war, refugees, those bombed or shelled out of their homes, members of the Italian armed forces. (The Decree of September makes provision for the registration of such people but there is no provision for absentee voting).

(2) Transport and communications. If communal elections are to be held, these difficulties will be most, especially if elections are held in the winter. In certain country districts they will make voting almost impossible.

(3) Lack of material, e.g. paper, printing services, ballot boxes or urns, etc.

(4) The lack of qualified staff. There have been no true elections in Italy since 1926 at the latest. Trained State and local civil servants are in extremely short supply.

(IV) POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES OF THE PROPOSAL

10. Assuming that the practical difficulties enumerated above could likewise be overcome or at least overlooked, consideration should be given to what the possible results of the holding of local government elections in Italy now would be.

11. In the first place, it is uncertain whether these elections would produce a real expansion of the popular will. The practical difficulties above-mentioned in themselves would militate against this. A more serious factor however, is the state of politics in the country generally.

(a) The victory at the election would go to the best organized party or body and not necessarily to the most representative one.

(b) The appearance of popular support thus created in favour of particular parties or organizations will influence in advance the eventual settlement of the new Italian constitution. Whether this is done by constituent assembly or by referendum, all basic points in the program cannot fail to be affected by the results of the preceding local elections.

(c) Parties may, therefore, feel it of vital importance to win the clearest possible victory at the local elections so that such elections might precipitate just those disorders that they are intended to avoid.

(d) There is a possibility that local government elections will be accompanied by a measure of disorder which may possibly even continue afterwards. Many factors suggest this including the following:

(i) Political passions are running high.

(ii) Larger and less of restriction of life strenuous than the tendency.

(iii) Little confidence is felt in the ability of the Italian

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(a) The victory at the election would go to the best organized party or body and not necessarily to the most representative one.

(b) The any curbing of popular support thus created in favour of particular parties or organizations will influence in advance the eventual settlement of the new Italian constitution. Whether this is done by constituent assembly or by referendum, all taking part in the process cannot fail to be affected by the results of the preceding local elections.

(c) Parties may, therefore, feel it of vital importance to win the clearest possible victory at the local elections so that such elections might precipitate just those disorders that they are intended to avoid.

(d) There is a possibility that local government elections will be accompanied by a measure of disorder which may possibly even continue afterwards. Many factors suggest this including the following:

(i) Political passions are running high.

(ii) Hunger and lack of necessities of life strengthen the tendency.

(iii) Little confidence is felt in the ability of the Italian functionaries who will be in charge of the elections either to conduct them independently or properly.

(iv) The morale and numbers of the forces of public order may not prove adequate to control the situation.

12. The disorders consequent on an election might be looked upon with a lenient eye as having at least a constructive object. Rioters would at least be rioting in order to obtain the local government they desire and not in order to force the authorities to provide food or boots from some unspecified but presumably existent source. Their appearance to be a military and a political element on this. From the military standpoint all disorder in a country which is a theatre of operations and a source and base of supply is objectionable, no matter what its purpose. Politically, all attempts to apply force to the settlement of questions of government are the negation of democracy, no matter how laudable the object. The example of Greece adds point to this observation.

(V) POLITICAL ASPECTS OF THE PROPOSAL

13. i. The holding of local government elections should raise the prestige of Italy by making it the first European country to get back to the basis of modern democracy. Even if the elections cannot be held till next Summer (see para. 12 (1) above) an announcement now that they were to be held would have an immediate effect. (As to being the first in the field, however, an indication has been observed in the press that the French are considering local elections in February.)

14. The elections would provide an outlet for the political feeling of the average Italian and may be a useful safety valve and a preventative of disorder.

15. They would give some sort of basis to Italian political parties, in that it could not then be said with absolute truth that they were "not hampered by having been elected by anyone". It is not suggested that the elections would prove anything as to the extent to which a political party represents Italian opinion. On the contrary there is sound reason to believe that the elections would not express the popular will, -- see para. 14 above. But the results would at least provide a measure of sorts which could be treated as a gauge of the relative strength of parties. At present there is none.

16. The announcement that local elections were to be conceded should raise the prestige of the Allies as a concrete proof of the character of their intentions towards Italy. The announcement would stand out in relief against the present situation in Greece and illustrate what could be done there - and in other countries - were it not for the forces of disorder.

(VI) PARTIAL ELECTIONS

17. The foregoing observations are based on the assumption that the elections contemplated would be held (a) throughout liberated Italy and (b) simultaneously in all communes, provinces or such other local government areas as may be determined. It might be thought desirable, however, to limit elections either to a part only of the country or to a certain class of local authority.

18. As to territorial limitation, it is fairly obvious that elections could not be held in the areas under the control of AMG 5th and 8th armies. Not only would the practical difficulties enumerated in Section III be at their highest but the C-in-C could be expected to take strong objection to the diversion of the energies of AMG officers, Italian functionaries and the population generally away from tasks of military importance.

19. These objections have not quite the same force in Military Government Territory under Regional Control though they are still undoubtedly present. On the other hand, in this Territory, where Allied officers are governing directly, is found the best chance of the elections being really free and independent. In all

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19. These objections have not quite the same force in Military Government Territory under Regional Control though they are still undoubtedly present. On the other hand, in this Territory, where Allied officers are governing directly, is found the best chance of the elections being really free and independent. In all Military Government Territory, however -- whether under Regional or Army control -- it has to be considered whether elected local authorities would prove satisfactory instruments. If the Prefectures were to be substituted by some elective institutions, there might be something in this; but if only communal and provincial councils or similar bodies are envisaged, there is little reason to believe that their elective basis would create any serious tendency to go contrary to Allied wishes. Moreover, if the 1915 law is adhered to, the executive heads (Sindaci in communes and Presidenti in provinces) and the standing executive committee (Giunte Comunali and Deputazioni Provinciali) would continue; and the law gives to these institutions such a wide measure of authority independently of their councils as would be sufficient for Allied purposes.

APPENDIX

Local Government areas in liberated Italy, as at 10/10/44.

Type of local authority	Military Government Territory	Italian Government Territory	Total
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Total Provinces	4	11	51
Total Communes	155	474	3,224
Communes of 50,000 pop. and over	7	6	29
Communes of 20,000 pop. and over			
Provincial capitals if of least population	13	29	121

NOTE (1) For the purposes of this table it has been assumed that

(a) the whole of the following provinces are in our hands :-

LUCCA
PISTOIA

(b) no part of the following provinces are in our hands :-

COLCINA
PISTOIA

NOTE (2) The city of LUGO is included among the appropriate figures in col. (4)

Total Counties	155	474	2,595	3,224
Counties of 50,000 pop and over	7	6	16	29
Counties of 20,000 pop and over	13	29	111	153
and				
Provincial capitals if of less population				

NOTE (1) For the purposes of this table it has been assumed that (a) the whole of the following provinces are in our hands :-

LUGGA
PISSTOLA

(b) no part of the following provinces are in our hands :-

BOLOMA
RAVENTA

NOTE (2) The city of BOLE is included among the appropriate figures in col. (4)

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