

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

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ITALIA
MAY 19

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ITALIAN ARMY, POLITICAL INFLUENCES
MAY 1945 - APR. 1946

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CONFIDENTIAL.

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Ref: 8274/EC

30. April 1946.

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Thank you for your letter A 331 dated 27th April.

The invitation to send a representative group to the ceremony on 25th April was conveyed to me from the Presidency of the Council of Ministers and I was assured that it would be a national ceremony at which representative detachments of the Italian Armed Services would be present.

I have since conveyed to the President of the Council of Ministers a protest, not only at the lack of organisation in receiving the Allied officers who went from this Commission, but at the subsequent deterioration of the ceremony into a political demonstration. I do not think that the presence of the officers of the Commission at this ceremony will be deemed to involve the Commission, and particularly your Sub-Commission, in any lack of impartiality on political issues.

M. S. LITTON

Major-General L. Browning, CB, CBE, MC,
GOC, Land Forces S/C (MFA),
HQ. ALLIED COMMISSION.

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Subject : Policy - M.M.I.A.Land Forces Sub-Comm. A.C.
(M.M.I.A.) R.O.M.B.

A 331

27 Apr. '46.

APR 30 1946

To : Executive Commissioner A.C.*My dear Maurice*

You will remember your verbal request to me on 25 April for representatives of Land Forces Sub-Commission to attend at request of Italian Government, a parade to celebrate the liberation of Italy. I duly sent two officers

Lt-Col L.R. ALBERT (US)
Major J.D. STICKER MC (Br)

whose account of the proceedings indicate that it turned out to be a red flag, partisan political meeting at which pro-republic speeches, questions and cheering were indulged in.

I cannot feel that it is right at this moment for us to accept such short notice invitations and attend such demonstrations until the sponsors and their intentions have been properly screened.

In my directive from AFHQ I am particularly warned to avoid partiality and to prevent my officers from taking sides politically; I feel therefore that at any rate until the elections are over we should be very careful not to lend support to any but strictly non-party affairs.

I understand Brig. GARN attended this meeting also and no doubt he could confirm my opinion.

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*Yours sincerely**Langley Browning*Major General,
M.M.I.A.

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TOP - SECRET

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARM.
G-5 SECTION
APO 464 US ARMY

TOP SECRET
By Authority
CG, Fifth Army
Initials
Date 3 June 1945
EX COMMISSIONER

319.2 TB

2 June 1945

SUBJECT: Discipline IOGs - Anti-Regular
Army Propaganda.

TO : HQ Allied Commission,
A.P.O. 394, U.S. ARMY.

1. Attention is invited to attached documents.

For the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-5:

2 Incls:
1-ltr, 28 May 45.
2-Excerpt from L'UNITA* of 25 May 45.

VICTOR H. RUST,
Captain, Cavalry,
Admin. Officer.

TOP - SECRET

Subject: - Discipline IOGs - Anti Regular Army Propaganda.

Land Forces Sub Commission A.C.,
(M.V.L.A.)

50 British Liaison Unit.

O/TB.

28 May 45.

1. As a result of an article in "L'UNITA" of MILAN - the ITALIAN organ of the Communist party - written by PALIRO TOGLIATTI, Vice President of the Council under Sig. BORGOMI, and also one of the founders of the above paper, General SCATTINI GOC FRIULI has requested this office to make certain representations to both MEDIA and HQ FIFTH ARMY. The original cutting from this paper is fwded to MEDIA and a translation fwded to FIFTH ARMY. The following represent General SCATTINI's views.

2. It is felt - and there is evidence for it - that the present propaganda by the Communist Party against the ITALIAN Gruppi is undermining discipline within this Gruppo.

(a) There are known to be nuclei of anti-Regular Army bodies, incl officers, in this Gruppo. These bodies are outwardly good officers and soldiers, but they are in fact working for the disintegration of the Gruppo.

(b) The deserter rate came down to almost NIL during this Gruppo's three months of active operations. In the past ten days the total number of deserters has risen from 160 to 340 and this increase is NOT believed to be due to change of location, as leave is now granted on a reasonably liberal scale.

3. The major objection to the utterances of TOGLIATTI is NOT that he is head of the Communist Party - freedom of the Press would demand that - but that he is Vice President of the Council and therefore a leading member of the government and senior to the War Minister. Hence his views expressed on the Press assume something like governmental authority and consequently place the GOC of a Gruppo in a very invidious position. In this connection it is pointed out that apart from Allied officials, General SCATTINI can see only the Minister for War and the Chief of the ITALIAN General Staff, both of whom presumably carry less weight than TOGLIATTI.

General SCATTINI is however at present visiting ROME with the object of seeing the Minister of War, Chief of Staff and possibly General BROWNING, Head of MEDIA. But he feels that unless some weight is given to his case by Allied authority, he will not get much done.

4. It is felt that the Gruppi are a great deterrent to Communist activity on a possibly disorderly scale. General SCATTINI expresses the view for himself and for the majority of his Gruppo that the Regular Army is NOT necessarily ROYALIST, but is in fact non-party. Finally, he feels that the Gruppi having been formed to assist Allied military operations in ITALY, are now in fact a stabilising influence (ITALIAN) as opposed to a stabilising influence (ALLIED) in the country, but that unless Allied

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FRIB/HIS.

Copy to:- G-3 (Br Incr) HQ FIFTH ARMY

W. S. S.
Major,
(M/GSO I).

2259

IT IS NECESSARY TO DISARM RE-ACTIONARY FORCES".

Our policy will continue to be national unity, which means we pledge ourselves to maintain the principles of freedom and democracy in our Country. We have not the slightest intention of staging a "coup de main" against this or that party at the expense of the freedom we have now. We feel certain we can achieve our ends in freedom and democracy because we have the support of the majority of the population for such achievement and it would be criminal on our part to embark on any senseless adventure. If we are asked whether this means disarming and laying down arms my answer is

"My dear friends the Communist Party has never run an army or armed organization; the Communist Party only organizes armed groups to fight for Italian independence and has always put forward the purpose to fuse these groups with those of other parties into one great National Army of Liberation.

Today we want disarmament but first of all we want all re-actionary elements to be disarmed. We do not want to see those so called independent groups to carry arms -- those so called independent groups among whom we know existed remnants of the old ruling classes who under the monarchial banner aimed at disrupting the national forces and while pretending to fight the Germans were in reality intriguing against us.

If at the head of some "gruppi di combattimento" of the Army there are any generals of a re-actionary type who are nursing the illusion that they might be able to make use of the arms entrusted to them by the nation for the purpose of effecting or fomenting some "coup de main" at the advance guard of the democratic forces, we demand that such units be disarmed and such generals removed from office.

We want the Army to be fundamentally changed, we want fundamental changes in the police forces so that these forces, who should be armed forces in a well ordered state, cannot be used against the people to twist or thwart the will of the people.

Therefore there is no such policy of forces in the Communist Party who only wish to pursue a policy of liberty, a policy designed to solve immediate problems confronting us and all workers in the grave and tragic situation we find ourselves. Our directive is one of a national anti-fascist solidarity which means above all else this: That the enormous efforts which confront us in order to start on the reconstruction of the country should fall not on those who have suffered at the hands of fascism but on those who were responsible for and aided or abetted fascism.

National antifascist solidarity means that we shall not discourage private enterprise but that we shall definitely discourage speculation. We do not wish to see today speculation profiting by the miseries of the people.

National antifascist solidarity means, in addition that we must see the factories re-opening as soon as possible. We know that in order to achieve this we shall require in most cases the assistance of the State and of foreign economical institutions; we shall require coal and some raw materials. Later

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(Signed) PALMERO TACCHETTI.

Extract from "L'UNITA"

MILAN 25 May 45.

Mussolini

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