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POLITICAL SUMMARIES
FEB. - APR. 1944

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HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 374

Regional Control and Military Government Section

Ref: 59/9/CA.

10th April 1944

POLITICAL SUMMARY No. 4

1st April - 15th April 1944

1. As reported in Political Summary No. 3, leaders of the Communist Party in Southern Italy were conveyed in Naples following the arrival in Italy of the Communist leaders. On 1st April the Party leaders approved a resolution calling for a rapid solution of the political situation on the following four bases: (a) maintenance of the united front of the democratic and anti-Fascist forces; (b) assurance that the institutional question would be freely decided by the people of Italy by means of a national Constituent Assembly elected by universal suffrage upon the termination of hostilities; (c) the creation of a new Government of a temporary character to include representatives of the anti-Fascist Parties capable of organising the proper war effort throughout the country and of creating a strong Italian army to fight against the Germans; (d) assurance to all Italians that the struggle in which the Communist Party is engaged is directed toward the freeing of the country from the invader and from the traitors who were responsible for the national catastrophe and that in the national democratic front there is room for all.

In making this resolution public, Togliatti explained at a press conference that the main object of the Communist Party was to intensify Italy's war effort. There also emerged from this conference the fact that the Communist Party no longer insisted upon the King's abdication as a condition of joining a coalition Government and that the Party had no objection to serving under Badoglio.

2. The Communist initiative broke the political log jam and was shortly followed by a meeting of the Junta at which the San Parties agreed that the political crisis should be promptly resolved without waiting for the liberation of Rome. Prior to the meeting the King's proposal to withdraw in favour of the Prince of Piedmont as Lieutenant General was the liberation of Rome had been made known to the Parties by Senator Ciano. The Parties agreed that the proposal would facilitate the creation of a new representative Government but expressed the opinion that the King should not delay putting into force until Rome.

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3. Following the Party declaration, the King on his part issued a formal declaration on April 12 stating (a) that he had decided to withdraw from public affairs and to appoint his son the Prince of Piedmont as Lieutenant General of the Realm; (b) that this appointment should become effective by the formal transfer of power on the day when Allied troops entered Rome; and (c) that this decision, which the King considered would further national unity, was final and irreversible.

4. The King's declaration was followed by Party consultations which culminated in a meeting of the Junta on 15th April and resulted in the formal announcement that the Junta had decided to accept the King's plan and to enter a new Government to be composed mainly of representatives of the Six Parties provided that such a Government reiterates its pledge that the Italian people would determine the future form of the state by means of a Constituent Assembly upon the termination of hostilities. Although the announcement included no formal statement to the effect that the Parties were prepared to serve under Badoglio, this was the consensus of opinion. The action Party, however, had

certain...../

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certain reservations and the matter was left for adjustment in the discussions between the Parties and Badoglio which would provide the basis for the establishment of a new Government. At the close of the period under review it was expected that the new Government would be formed promptly and that announcement thereof could be made shortly.

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Executive Commissioner.

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C. Fiske

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once.

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— 2/4.

CC is familiar
with all this —
no need to see

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~~W. F. Lawrence~~
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4/1/44

BRIGADIER LUSH:

Herewith the Political
Summary for the entire
month of March.

The Political Section
presents its apologies
and hereafter will make
every effort to prepare
them on a fortnightly
basis.

It will be appreciat-
ed if ten copies, when
mimeographed, could be
sent to the Political
Section.

S.R.

HC

Recd: 1700 hrs
1st April 44

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ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394SECRET

Regional Control & Military Government Section

Ref/59/8/CA.

4 April 1944.

POLITICAL SUMMARY NO. 3.4 March - 21 March 1944.

1. On March 4, it was locally reported that President Roosevelt had stated at a press conference in Washington that one-third of the Italian fleet which had surrendered to the United Nations would be made available to the Soviet Government. Press accounts of the President's statement were confused and gave rise to the interpretation in liberated Italy that the United States and Great Britain intended to hand over a number of Italian vessels to the Soviets. The Badoglio Government and Italian public opinion as a whole were deeply disturbed by the implications of such a proposal and the Government threatened to resign. This political crisis was, however, averted since both the President and Mr. Churchill made further statements on the subject showing that there was no present intention to make delivery of any Italian ships but only that they or their equivalent might be utilized by the Soviets. It is generally believed that Badoglio's position was reinforced by the strong stand he had taken against a transfer.

2. As a result of the agreement with the Allied authorities cancelling the strike on March 4, the Party of Action, Socialist and Communist Parties and the Confederation of Labor held a mass meeting in Naples on March 12. The meeting took place without incident or disturbance to public order, and an estimated attendance varied between six and ten thousand, of which the Communists were the most prominent and best organized. The meeting approved a resolution to intensify Italy's war effort requiring as the essential condition therefor that the national administration be purged beginning with the supporters of the Monarchy, and that a democratic Government composed of all political parties be created. It is noteworthy that this was the first proclamation of any of the Parties condemning the Monarchy as an institution.

3. It will be recalled that the mass meeting was to be followed by the preparation of a petition to demonstrate the extent of popular support of the opposition. Immediately following the meeting there was strong support for the petition particularly from the Communist Party, and the Giunta agreed the petition might be circulated in the name of all six parties. Enthusiasm therefor has markedly waned since that time. It would appear that the Communists have become indifferent and it seems likely that the whole plan will be dropped. The change of attitude of the Communists has no doubt been influenced by the announcement that the Soviet and Italian Governments had agreed to exchange diplomatic

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4. Following conversations between the Soviet representative, N. Bogdanov, and Marshal Badoglio the Italian Government issued a statement on March 14 to the effect that agreement had been reached with the Soviet Government to exchange diplomatic representatives. No prior consultation with the British and American Governments had taken place, and following Anglo-American inquiries at Moscow it appeared that the intention of the Soviet Government was not to derogate from the authority either of the Allied Control Commission or of the Advisory Council for Italy. In fact, the Soviet appointment of the diplomatic representative

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carries only the rank of Counselor or Minister and he will be under the orders of the Soviet representative on the Advisory Council for Italy. Regardless of the form that these relations may take, however, there is no doubt that the Soviet move has had a marked influence throughout liberated Italy. Various interpretations have been given to it. Some consider that it will strengthen the hand of the Badoglio Government and others believe that it will increase the influence of the Communist Party throughout Italy. There is no question that since the announcement was made the tone of the Communist press and Communist declarations has altered. Many rumors are current that this will lead to changes in the Government and possibly even in the King's position in the near future. So far, no positive steps in this direction appear to have been taken.

5. The leader of the Communist Party in Italy, Mario Togliatti, otherwise known as Broccoli, arrived in Italy on the 26th March from Moscow after eighteen years of exile. Immediately following his arrival the leaders of the Communist Party were convoked in Naples. Indications are that his leadership will be undisputed. A statement of Communist policy is expected in the first days of April.

6. Marshal Badoglio paid a short visit to Sicily at the end of the month to be present for the induction into office of Francesco Musotto the newly appointed High Commissioner for Sicily.

M.S. LUSH,
Lieutenant,
Executive Commissioner.

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M.S. LUSH,
Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

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of the next fortnightly Political Summary.

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Experimental Det., G-2, Room 41, Bank of Naples Building, Naples.
I.S.L.D., 126 Via Alessandro Mazzini.

Col. Foster to P.B.S.

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In file copies of his letter to go to D. Henderson, PW & E

HEADQUARTERS,
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394

SECRET.

Regional Control & Military Government Section.
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Ref: 59/3/CA.

6th March 1944.

POLITICAL SUMMARY No. 2.

15th February - 4th March, 1944.

1. More complete reports from the provinces received since the last political summary indicate that the transfer of administration to the Italian Government oriented relatively little interest. Some regret has been expressed that this transfer seemed to show the Allies' intention to strengthen the Badoglio Government.
2. As stated in the previous summary, the Executive Giunta set to work to prepare an agreed programme of action for presentation to the Allied Governments. No reply to their communication calling upon the King to abdicate had been forthcoming. The Giunta's programme must remain a secret document pending consideration by the Allies. As might be assumed it includes a proposal that the King should abdicate.
3. Other proposals now under consideration envisage the King's withdrawal from the political scene without actual abdication.
4. It had been agreed with the Giunta that, pending the consideration of its proposal, no action would be taken by any of its members to aggravate the political situation and that the programme should be considered confidential and not communicated to the press.

5. On 22 February the British Prime Minister made a statement in the House of Commons that the "policy which His Majesty's Government have agreed to provisionally with the Government of the United States was to win the battle of Rome and take a new view when we are there." This statement was received with satisfaction in Royal and Governmental circles, but was taken by the opposition as a negative reply to their proposals. The Party of Action and the Socialist and Communist Parties in Naples decided to call a ten minute strike for eleven a.m. Saturday, 4th March, as a protest. But in order to emphasize that they did not intend any damage to the Allied war effort they called upon workers to do fifteen minutes overtime during the luncheon period on the same day. It was made clear to the three parties and the Union leaders that the Commander-in-Chief would not tolerate any strike under any circumstances in this area. Further announcement was therefore made at the last moment by the three parties and the Confederation of Labour cancelling the strike and announcing, in

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6. The Badoglio Government has announced the appointment of Signor Zaniboni as High Commissioner for the Purging of Fascism from public life. Zaniboni was elected a Socialist Deputy in 1919, continued in active opposition to Fascism after the advent of Mussolini and was involved in an attempt on his life in 1925. Since that date, he has been in prison and only reached the mainland of Italy from the island of Ponza with the arrival of Allied troops. He has expressed his intention of working in the closest possible collaboration with Allied authorities and his determination to carry out his duties with thoroughness and method. On accepting this post, he was expelled from the Socialist Party of Naples which continues to refuse to permit any of its members to collaborate with the Badoglio Government.

Distribution overleaf.

M. S. LUSH,
Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

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Ref: 59/2/CA

15th February 1944

Subject: Political Summary.

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In order to keep you in touch with the political situation a summary compiled by the Political Section will be issued to you twice a month. I attach the first, with sufficient copies for distribution to Provincial Commissioners.

M. S. LUSH,
Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

NSL/JC.

See that Security Branch
get copies of all subsequent
issues L 18/2

PAE

3.3.2.E.2.E

POLITICAL SUMMARY
February 1-14, 1944

The Congress of the Six Parties of National Liberation, which met in Bari on January 28 and 29, adopted a resolution calling for (1) the immediate abdication of the King, (2) the formation of an extraordinary government with full powers and with the participation of all parties, and (3) the constitution of a permanent Executive Committee of the Six Parties to prepare conditions necessary to give effect to the foregoing. The resolution further signalized the agreement of the Congress to postpone settlement of the institutional question until a Constituent Assembly could be convened as soon as possible after the cessation of hostilities.

Whereas unanimity was achieved in respect of the foregoing program, it nevertheless represents a compromise designed to conceal the lack of agreement with regard to how the proposed extraordinary government should function. The Rome delegates, Signor Longobardi, indicated that the desire of the six parties in the capital was that the government should assume all powers for the interim before the Constituent Assembly, shelving the monarchy for this period, but it was not clear whether this in fact represented the considered view of the Parties there or merely his interpretation and that of his party, the Socialists. Three of the parties at Bari, the Liberals, the Labor-Democrats, and the Christian Democrats refused categorically to accept proposals put forward by the Action Party, the Socialists and the Communists which would have led to an indictment of the King and the immediate creation of a self-styled government to rival the authority of Badoglio. The unwillingness of the three first mentioned parties to accept such a radical program brought about the compromise which leaves the way open for the succession of the Prince of Piedmont if agreement can be reached upon the extent of powers he should delegate to the government for the interim period.

Upon the return to Naples of the delegates the Executive Junta was formed to include Vincenzo Arancio-Ruiz, Liberal; Francesco Ceratona, Labor-Democrat; Angelo Raffaele Jervolino, Christian Democrat; Vincenzo Calace, Action Party; Oreste Longobardi, Socialist; and Paolo Tedeschi, Communist. The Junta has met several times in Naples, one of its first acts being the dispatch of a communication to the King, which recited the decisions of the Bari Congress and invited him to abdicate forthwith. This communication was made on February 6, but has

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In the meanwhile as previously scheduled the transfer of administration of the southern mainland provinces, Sicily and Sardinia to the Italian Government took place as of 0001 hours February 11, and the Badoglio Government with the exception of the defense ministries began to operate from its new temporary capital of Salerno. No incidents or demonstrations have been reported to HQ Headquarters in this connection, although various rumors had been current that the transfer would not be welcomed by the people in many sections.

At Taranto two manifestations of labor disturbances occurred during the first week in February which resulted in the removal of the Prefect and Questore but did not take the form of the threatened strike among the dock workers. Although the alleged cause had been lack of food and dissatisfaction with working conditions, investigation indicates that the underlying reason was political in order to discredit the government.

S.S.A.R.E.I