

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

ACC

10000/109/1884

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

10000/109/1884

CONDITIONS IN REGION VII
JUNE, JULY 1944

13.
Lt. H. Enamara.

Sir,

Would you please
check whether this
is to be submitted
to A/C.C. — See
para. 4, Folio 5.

J.S. Gal. 27/7.

Will discuss with A/C.C.

PA

M (31/7)

2120

785017

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394
ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION

9/3.4/AS.

29 JUL Recd

28 July 44

SUBJECT : Special Report, RC Region VII dated 11 Jul 44

TO : Executive Commissioner

Further to this Section letter ref 9/3.4/AS dated 26 Jul 44, the following is a report by Legal Sub-Commission on this matter :-

"With reference to paras 9 and 10 of report from Region VII dated 11 July 1944. I have talked with the Minister of Justice today. I have also talked with him concerning the riots referred to in paras 14 and 15 of such report. The Minister said he had not received any previous word on either of these affairs and that he would have immediate investigation made, adding that naturally he could not issue any orders without knowing himself what the situation was. However, he promised to make immediate investigation and take whatever action would be necessary."

I will send to you any further information in this regard received from the Minister of Justice.

G.R. Upjohn
G.R. UPJOHN
A/head Adm Sec.

2113

785017

190
HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394
ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION

9/3.4/AS

26 Jul 44

SUBJECT : RC VII's Special Report, 11 Jul, RVII/90/1.

2 AUG Recd

TO : Executive Commissioner.

1 I agree the report does make rather disturbing reading, lack of confidence in this Government has been expressed elsewhere. I have ordered action by various Sub-Commissions of this Section as at attached minute "A".

10. 2 The remarks of Interior and Public Safety are attached for your perusal "B" and "C".

3 You will see that the number of CCRP in Calabria is 29 officers and 1737 CCRP, no action to reduce this number has been taken or will be taken without first reference to you. Ceilings are our trouble both in CCRP and Public Safety officers, ACC. I feel we should not make a reduction of CCRP at present if it can possibly be avoided. The Minister of Interior maintains that he was unaware of the facts contained in para 10. Interior are having this investigated.

4 Legal have a meeting to-day with the Minister of Justice, one of the items for discussion is that raised by this report in paras 10 and 15.

5 If the picture is a really true one, it has to be taken into consideration when considering my suggestion that this area is to be evacuated by ACC personnel entirely. It does not however lie across the Army's present L of C.

G. R. Upjohn
G.R. UPJOHN, Col
A/Head Adm Sec.

RRC/wb
Ext: 525.

2118

"A" 10

C O N F I D E N T I A L

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394
ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION

MEMO

20 Jul 44

TO : Legal Sub-Commission. ✓ *R.H.W.*
Interior Sub-Commission. ✓
Public Safety Sub-Commission.

Reference attached report Region VII, RVII/90/1 dated 11 Jul 44
and Executive Commissioner's letter 1012/EC dated 20 Jul 44.

- 1 Addressees will circulate quickly, the last named to return to Admin Section.
- 2 Action will be taken by Sub-Commissions concerned as indicated below.
 - (a) PARA 10 of report.
 - (i) Legal will take up with Minister of Justice and ask him to order continuance of prosecution and order ROSSO's re-arrest. RC VII must be kept advised.
 - (ii) Interior will find out if Minister of Interior gave any order for release of RUSSO and if so why. If Minister of Interior did order release he will be asked to cancel and order re-arrest.
 - (b) PARA 15.
Legal will see that prosecution is undertaken.
 - (c) PARA 17.
Public Safety will answer this and also para 3 of Executive Commissioner's letter.
 - (d) PARA 18.
Interior to report on present position of Prefect of COSENZA.
- 3 All reports and answers will be forwarded to this Section for co-ordination.

2117

R.R. Cripps
R.R. CRIPPS, Colonel,
for A/Head, Adm Sec.

785017

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394
INTERIOR SUB-COMMISSION

"B"

9

ACC/1/7/Int

22 Jul 44

SUBJECT : Region VII report on Calabria dated 11 Jul RVII/90/1 to Executive Commissioner.

TO : Vice President, Administrative Section.

1 In accordance with your Memo of 20 July covering the above, I have to report as follows;

(1) Para 10 of Report - Sindaco Russo

This Sub-Commission had no previous knowledge of the occurrence. A letter was addressed yesterday to the Minister of the Interior as ordered. His Excellency Berruti, Chief of Cabinet, was verbally informed of the matter and told that the above letter had been sent. He did not know the facts but undertook to ascertain the position and give an early written reply to the enquiry.

(11) Prefect of Cosenza.

The attention of His Excellency Berruti was drawn to the long delay in the filling of this vacancy. He explained that a large number of appointments, transfers etc of Prefects had been under consideration by the Council of Ministers. The Council has now finally decided upon its recommendations and at the interview, Berruti handed over a complete list for ACC's approval. (This list gives effect to various arrangements made with and suggestions made by Interior Sub-Commission). The list includes the nomination of Dott. MIRAGLIA Costantino for this specific appointment which will be speedily made immediately ACC's approval is given. HC, Region VII has been notified accordingly.

R.G.B. SPICER,
Colonel,
Director,
Interior Sub-Commission.

2118

785017

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Public Safety Sub-Commission
APO 394

CONFIDENTIAL

"c" 8

Tel. 489081-Ext. 502

ACC/14094/PS

24th July, 1944

SUBJECT : Conditions in Calabria

TO : Administrative Section.

1. Reference is made to your memorandum of 20th July, 1944.

2. As regards firearms, on 26th June, 1944 the Minister of the Interior gave instructions to all Prefects in Italian Government territory to publish an order requiring all civilians to surrender "war arms, ammunition and explosives of any kind" and also to declare to the police any other weapons in their possession (copy attached) . This order is enforced by the Italian police.

3. As regards Carabinieri in Region 7, the present strength is:

Officer
29

CC.RR
1737

In view of the ceiling imposed by the Army Sub-Commission this number is likely to be reduced in the future.

4. As regards the strength of Public Safety Officers in Region 7, the separate communication referred to in paragraph 17 of the Regional Commissioner's report dated 11th July, 1944 has not yet been received by the Public Safety Sub-Commission.

2115

5. According to the distribution of Public Safety Officers laid down in your memorandum 4/LA/AS dated 26th June, 1944, the strength for Region 7 is two officers. It would, of course, be an advantage to increase the strength from two to three officers in Region 7, but that would mean exceeding the ceiling of 120 Public Safety Officers for the whole of Italy. If the necessary authority is given, an additional Public Safety Officer can be assigned to Region 7.

Paul G. Kirk

PAUL G. KIRK,
Colonel, Inf.
Chief, Public Safety
Sub-Commission.

AFW/hgd

6
REAR HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Public Safety Sub-Commission
APO 394

ACC/14757/PS

29 June 1944

SUBJECT : Proclamation - Possession of Firearms by Civilians
TO : RPSOs I, II, III, VI, VII (through Region Commissioners)

The Minister of the Interior has given instructions, dated 26th June 1944, for the undermentioned order to be published forthwith in Italian Government territory.

Forwarded for your information:-

THE PREFECT OF THE PROVINCE OF.....

As it is necessary, on the ground of public order, to have an exact knowledge of the arms whose possession is allowed and strictly forbid the possession of war arms by civilians;

Whereas the instructions given by the Ministry of the Interior in agreement with the Ministry of War;

Whereas Arts. 697 and sequence of the Penal Code;

Whereas Arts. 38 and sequence of T.U. of P.S. Laws approved by R.D. 18-6-1931, as well as Arts. 44 and sequence of the Regulations for carrying out said T.U. approved by R.D. 6-5-40, No. 635.

ORDERS:

1. All holders of fire arms and any other arms, which are normally used as an offence against the person, are obliged to have them recorded independently of any other recording previously made - not later than...
..... to the local P.S. Officer or, in its absence, to the CC.RR. Command.

2. Transgressors are punished under Art. 697 of the Penal Code with arrest up to four months and fine up to three thousand lire.

3. All persons who, without permit, bring arms out of their homes or its appurtenances are punished under Arts. 699 and 700 of the Penal Code.

4. All civilians who, without a special permit, hold, for any purpose whatsoever, war arms or parts thereof, munitions or explosives of any kind, must deliver them to the nearest CC.RR. Station, or military command within ten days from the publication of this ordinance. 2113

5. All those persons who conform to this ordinance within said length of time, will be exempted from punishment for having disobeyed similar ordinances previously issued by military or P.S. Authorities.

6. All those persons who, by the end of the time stated in paragraph

...for the undermentioned order to be published forthwith in Italian Government territory.

Forwarded for your information:-

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4. All civilians who, without a special permit, hold, for any purpose whatsoever, war arms or parts thereof, ammunitions or explosives of any kind, must deliver them to the nearest CC.RR. Station, or military command within ten days from the publication of this ordinance. 2113

5. All those persons who conform to this ordinance within said length of time, will be exempted from punishment for having disobeyed similar ordinances previously issued by military or P.S. Authorities.

6. All those persons who, by the end of the time stated in paragraph 4, have not obeyed, will be arrested and denounced to the Judicial Authority.

Date.....

THE PREFECT.

Paul G. Kirk
PAUL G. KIRK
Colonel, Inf.
Chief, Public Safety
Sub-Commission

785017

CONFIDENTIAL.

Ref: 1012/92.

20th July 1944.

SUBJECT: Conditions in Calabria.

2 AUG Recd

TO : Vice President,
Administrative Section,
Political Section.

1. I attach report from Colonel Feasey, Regional Commissioner, Region VII, which, in a covering letter, he explains is the result of two months observation and represents the views of other officers as well as his own.

2. He makes the point that the new Government is not trusted any more than the recent one.

3. The report is disturbing from the point of view of maintenance of law and order and I particularly dislike the presence of machine guns, vide para 15. I should like to know how many Carabinieri there are in this Region and whether Public Safety Sub-Commission agrees with para 17.

4. Would you let me have the reports back with your comments so that I can submit it to the Acting Chief Commissioner at the earliest possible moment.

See II

MSL/JL

M. S. Carr
Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

Is this true? He makes the point that 2T12
politics in Calabria remain unsettled. They
do a damned well. But provided we can supply
3 Public Safety Agents requested in paragraph 17.
They should not get out of hand until we find other
boon - Examine 1 doubt whether Calabria will be the most

Calabria does! Aug 27/44

CONFIDENTIAL 790

HEADQUARTERS REGION VII

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

File Ref:

Rv11/90/1

Date: // July 1944.

2 11/5 Recd

SUBJECT: A short Report on Present Conditions in Calabria (Region VII)

TO: Brigadier M.S. Lush,
Executive Commissioner,
Advanced Headquarters, Allied Control Commission.

1. There is a general feeling that the status quo will be maintained so long as ACC remains: after that the deluge. Some want us to stay almost indefinitely, others would prefer matters to be brought to a head at the earliest possible opportunity, all are agreed that trouble must come.

2. Efforts made to keep the political truce during grain collection have been partially successful, and the speeches made by the Minister of Agriculture in different parts of the Region have helped to this end. No opportunity has been lost of impressing on all classes that we have no politics, and that under no circumstances will any particular group be favoured.

3. The view that we are not really sincere in our avowed aim to eliminate fascism is attracting more supporters because of former fascist officials against whom no action has been taken. In many quarters there is a feeling of frustration and disappointment at the turn of events, and the number of potential dangerous fascists, not in official positions; but nevertheless still at liberty is a disturbing influence. Probably the so-called Philo-Fascist movement would never have been started if it had not been thought that the very fact of these persons circulating freely indicated that the allies were ready to forget the past.

4. In addition the work of the governmental committees for the removal of fascist officials has not been thorough. Immediate action, which would have far reaching effects, could be successful now that morale is higher, and fascists could be cleared out entirely, provided that there was a radical change in the attitude of certain officials of whom the Prefect of Catanzaro is the worst offender. The signal of the 3rd June has not yet been acted upon on the grounds that it does not authorise any action; but both the translation forwarded from the Ministry of its own signal and that done at this H.Q., are identical and make it clear that the sittings of the committees are not to be suspended. Despite all attempts at persuasion and of advice given in a friendly spirit the Prefect persists in his determination to do nothing until he

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5. This presumably is known to the ministry, which also seems to have done nothing. Major Richardson, the R.P.S.O., and I both feel as if we were up against a wall of cotton wool on which no impression can be made.

6. It is fairly well established that former fascists have found new spiritual homes at the opposite ends of the scale namely the Christian Democrat and the Communist. In Reggio in particular, and to a certain extent elsewhere Socialist brain is wooing Communist brawn in preparation for action, both lawful and unlawful, when they consider the time is ripe for it.

7. The Monarchist versus Republican or other form of government and the burning question of the Church might bring disaster to

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Calabria, where feudal conditions exist in many parts. There are staunch supporters of the monarchy among the nobility, who exercise controlling influence over their people even now. It remains to be seen whether their authority would prevail in the inevitable clash. Where they have been good overlords it would, and a bitter struggle might easily ensue. Feelings have run high over this issue in my presence.

8. From political friction to a flare-up is but a step. Labour organisations were very nearly taken over completely by the Communist party in an attempt to exclude all but those of their own political beliefs. This was settled satisfactorily, and the official offices will not indulge in any political activities in the future, while political parties who wish to establish branches in the communes will do so under their own names and not use the labour offices as a cloak for furthering purely political ends. It is extremely doubtful whether this will be strictly observed as time goes on; but it is something of an achievement on the part of the Regional Labour Officer to have accomplished voluntarily even a temporary cessation of political infiltration.

9. An incident which occurred at the end of April is a good example of what is happening and of the difficulties experienced in any attempt to bring accused persons to trial when politics are involved. During a demonstration at Laureana de' Borrelle in honour of the Festa del Lavoro a dispute arose between the organisers of the Camera del Lavoro and the Combattenti (ex-soldiers). A vice-brigadier of the CC.RR. was stabbed and then shot his assailant. The Sindaco, Avv. Francesco Russo, interrupted his speech to throw a hand grenade among the people and wound 22 persons. Investigations show that the dispute was caused by the refusal of Russo to allow the Combattenti representative to put the Italian National Flag with the Communist and Socialist Flags on the Balcony of the Camera del Lavoro building. Russo is a member of the Socialist Party.

10. Further investigation was undertaken by the Questure and the CC.RR. and full reports sent in. Meanwhile Russo, who had been arrested, remained in gaol in spite of influence brought to bear for his release. On 12 May, however, the Procuratore del Re of Catanzaro acting it is alleged on instructions from the Minister of the Interior ordered his immediate release. No application was or has since been made to the Public Safety Office, which has not been advised officially of the release of Russo, who is now at liberty in Reggio without any sort of supervision.

11. There have been manifestations of lawlessness, which 15 undoubtedly will occur more frequently now that there are no provincial officers available to tour. The mere presence of an Allied officer is often sufficient to quell disorder; but this may not hold good for very much longer and in any case the Italian Government is now responsible.

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9. An incident which occurred at the end of April is a good example of what is happening and of the difficulties experienced in any attempt to bring accused persons to trial when politics are involved. During a demonstration at Laureana d'Arrotelle in honour of the Festa del Lavoro a dispute arose between the organisers of the Camera del Lavoro and the Combattenti (ex-soldiers). A vice-brigadier of the CC.RR. was stabbed and then shot his assailant. The Sindaco, Avv. Francesco Russo, interrupted his speech to throw a hand grenade among the people and wound 22 persons. Investigations show that the dispute was caused by the refusal of Russo to allow the Combattenti representative to put the Italian National Flag with the Communist and Socialist Flags on the Balcony of the Camera del Lavoro building. Russo is a member of the Socialist Party.

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12. Instances of what has occurred in the way of civil commotions are supplied by what took place in the adjoining communes of Riace and Stignano in the province of Reggio Cal. on the 2nd July this year. Approximately 300 persons demonstrated in front of the respective Municipios demanding the opening of the flour mills and the removal of the Sindaco: the mills had been closed by order during grain collection. One mill in each commune was entered by the crowds, and at Stignano the Municipio was occupied and a little damage done.

- 3 -

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13. The Maresciallo of the CC.RR at Riace who tried to maintain order was injured, and both places were in an angry mood and ready to resist any attempt to restore order on the part of the authorities. Under the circumstances Capt. Hobbs, the Provincial Public Safety Officer, decided to visit both communes by himself, and on the following day advised the people to submit their grievances to the Prefect in a proper manner with the result that both mills were re-closed and no further trouble took place. The Prefect is visiting both communes in person to give all concerned a fair hearing. The point is that CC.RR would have met with armed resistance, and blood would have been shed but for the opportune appearance of an Allied officer.

14. That is one type of trouble: another and more serious one is what occurred at Santa Euphemia Aspromonte where two well armed bands had been staging robberies. Dissension arose between them and a vendetta started, which up to the 10th of July had led to the death of four banditti and six ordinary members of the general public. On that day the numerically stronger band entered Santa Euphemia armed with Breda guns, machine guns, one .37 Mill. gun, automatic rifles and hand grenades, terrorized the population and forcibly took over the Municipio, the caserma of the CC.RR and private houses at strategic points.

15. On the 11th a strong force of CC.RR and Questure accompanied by two ACC officers, ~~and~~ succeeded in arresting 21 members of this band, two of whom were wounded. No other persons were injured. Machine guns and a considerable quantity of ammunition, hand grenades and automatic weapons were taken. Later in the day a further 18 members were arrested by the Questure; but two of the three leaders escaped and search is still being made for them. The commune has now been freed from a state of siege and law and order restored, while an adequate force of CC.RR and Questure has been left behind to patrol the area.

16. In this case, too, the presence of Allied officers was the probable cause of the failure of the bandits to put up a real fight. A rather alarming feature was the discovery that the ammunition, found in a truck stopped at a control post on its way to the scene, had come from an Italian Army dump at Pellegrino. This dump was left there when the units departed and had been put in charge of a guard, who handed over a quantity of ammunition either under threats of violence or from sympathetic motives. Which it was has not yet been ascertained; but enquiries are proceeding.

17. The foregoing fully justifies the claim that has been put up in another communication that a minimum of three Public Safety Officers is absolutely essential in this area.

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17. The foregoing fully justifies the claim that has been put up in another communication that a minimum of three Public Safety Officers is absolutely essential in this Region. Additional arguments are the number of deserters operating in motor vehicles, and the illicit movement of grain &c under cover of darkness coupled with the generally lawless nature of Calabria, and the question of Ovrà agents and informants.

18. The lack of a Prefect for Cosenza increases our difficulties, and it is hoped that an early appointment will be made. It must be admitted that this is no easy matter, for the two strong men of Cosenza, Mancini Socialist, former Prefect and now cabinet minister and Gullo, Communist and Minister for Agriculture are keen rivals. The former has embarrassed the Vice-Prefect on more than one occasion when visiting Cosenza, and whoever the man may be who becomes Prefect, he has no enviable job even if he has no political views at all. Politics enter into every phase of life in the cities and often not for the best motives.

19. The reorganisation of local government now being urged is not universally popular, and opinion is freely expressed that before one had to keep on the right side of one man only, the Sindaco, now one has to keep in with four or more of the same kidney - so many assume that a Sindaco, ipso facto, is corrupt.

20. The two Prefects, Catanzaro and Reggio, are very different types. The former, a career man without any known political leanings, has not made a good impression in the four months that he has been in office, and no real constructive efforts can be expected from him. The latter, who is a fervent Socialist, would like to resign, I fancy, so as to devote more of his time to politics. He is a good man; but has had to be reminded that politics must be subordinate to the prefettura and not vice versa. In the early days he was able to say of any unpopular order that it came from AMG., now that he is sometimes called upon to take action on his own account, which may re-act unfavourably against members of his own party, he is extremely reluctant to initiate it.

21. The young Archbishop of Reggio seems to be a very good influence, and is a very different type from his opposite number of Catanzaro.

22. It is manifest that we must be prepared for trouble and very close touch is being kept with the R.P.S.O.. At the same time the policy of instilling into all officials a due sense of their responsibilities continues.



G.G. FRASEY
LT.COL. R.A.
REGIONAL COMMISSIONER.

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