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POLITICAL INT REPORTS

Dec. 10, 1945 - June 20, 1946

(459
465)

THUR - FRANCH FRINGE SHEET

SECRET

SUBJECT: Communist Influence, Italian Army

LAND FORCE HQ, AC (MIA)

INT/210

20. Jun 46

TO : A.F.H.Q.

Ref AFHQ letter CBT.399.451 of 13 Jun 46.

1. A full report of the incidents described in the annexure to your letter was received from the British Liaison Unit in UDINE at the time of the incident. This HQ also received a copy of the report made by the Italian Territorial Commander to the War Ministry on the same subject. A report on this and other Communist activities at Recruit Training Centres was included in this HQ Intelligence Summary No. 5, copies of which were forwarded to you on 17 May 46.

2. This incident was one of a series of similar though more minor incidents which occurred at Recruit Training Centres in April which, by the similarity of their nature, of the demands made and of the period in which they occurred, tend to prove that they were deliberately engineered by a subversive organization.

3. UDINE is peculiarly susceptible to disturbances of this kind in that not only is the town itself a hot-bed of Communism but the barracks ~~themselves~~ are right in the town itself with many buildings which overlook the parade grounds and from which subversive elements have been known to address remarks to the soldiers.

In this connection it is worth remarking that this training centre trains recruits from UDINE province as it has been impossible to find adequate barrack accommodation in UDINE province itself owing to the requirements of Allied troops. The War Ministry are pressing for the release of suitable accommodation for a training centre in UDINE province in order to avoid having to use the undesirable site at MONFALCONE; this HQ has taken up the matter with AFHQ but has been informed that 13 Corps cannot make any accommodation available at present.

4. It is considered that Communist influence in the Italian Army generally has not penetrated to a very great degree in spite of the fact that local Communist newspapers have been permitted to publish the most scurrilous and virulent attacks on Army regime and to print articles encouraging subversive activities and disloyalty among troops. There are also known instances of welfare centres for soldiers run and financed by Communist bodies where troops are entertained freely and indoctrinated with Communist principles at the same time. There are also a few cases where it is known that Communist youths have been instructed to join the Army as recruits and behave in an exemplary manner pending the moment when their services may be required in the Communist cause.

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Ref AMH letter CBT.399.454 of 13 Jun 45.

1. A full report of the incidents described in the annexure to your letter was received from the British Italian Unit in UFFS at the time of the incident. This RI also received a copy of the report made by the Italian Territorial Commander to the War Ministry on the same subject. A report on this and other Communist activities at Recruit Training Centres was included in this RI Intelligence Summary No. 5, copies of which were forwarded to you on 17 May 45.

2. This incident was one of a series of similar though more minor incidents which occurred at Recruit Training Centres in April which, by the similarity of their nature, of the demands made and of the period in which they occurred, tend to prove that they were deliberately engineered by a subversive organization.

3. MEDEA is peculiarly susceptible to disturbances of this kind in that not only is the town itself a hot-bed of Communism but the barracks ~~themselves~~ are right in the town itself with many buildings which overlook the parade grounds and from which subversive elements have been known to address remarks to the soldiers.

In this connection it is worth remarking that this training centre trains recruits from UFFS province as it has been impossible to find adequate barrack accommodation in UFFS province itself owing to the requirements of Allied troops. The War Ministry are pressing for the release of suitable accommodation for a training centre in UFFS province in order to avoid having to use the undesirable site at MEDEA; this RI has taken up the matter with AMH but has been informed that 13 Corps cannot make any accommodation available at present.

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4. It is considered that Communist influence in the Italian Army generally has not penetrated to a very great degree in spite of the fact that local Communist newspapers have been permitted to publish the most scurrilous and virulent attacks on Army regime and to print articles encouraging subversive activities and disloyalty among troops. There are also known instances of Welfare centres for soldiers run and financed by Communist bodies where troops are entertained freely and indoctrinated with Communist principles at the same time. There are also a few cases where it is known that Communist youths have been instructed to join the Army as recruits and behave in an exemplary manner pending the moment when their services may be required in the Communist cause.

5. The principal cause for the recent increase in attempts by Communist bodies to undermine the discipline of the Italian Army has undoubtedly been the fear that the Army as a whole would be used in support of the monarchial cause at the time of or subsequent to the elections and referendum and the consequent necessity, from the Communist point of view, to ~~improve~~ ^{improve} its efficiency.

In spite of this it is not considered that there exists any marked degree of Communist influence within the Italian Army and it is felt that, now that the Army is the servant of the Republic and not of the King, there will be a reduction of attempts to undermine its discipline and morale.

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6. As a possible indication of the lead that may be given by the more responsible Communists in the country, Signor COLAJANNI, a Communist member of the Government, addressed the recruits at MONTENA when on a visit there subsequent to the disturbances of 2nd April and informed them that a Communist Government would require just as good an Army as any other Government, and he also visited the local Communist HQ to induce them to stop their subversive and anti-Army activities.

M. W. Hop 855
Major-General,
MIA.

MWH/PA

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ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2
APO 512, U.S. Army

GBI.389.451

13 June 1946

SUBJECT: Communist Influence; Italian Army.

TO : DIA

1. The attached extract from 3 District (North) Security Intelligence Summary No. 2, dated 6 June 1946 is forwarded for information and any action considered necessary.

2. It would be appreciated if your comments on the allegations as to Communist influence in the Italian Army could be forwarded to this section.

For the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2:

To See: B G S man
G-1 (20) Am
G-2 (1) Index 15 VI 46

Earle B. Nichols
EARLE B. NICHOLS
Colonel, G.S.C.,
A/A.C. of S, G-2

JLC/rpk

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RECEIVED 4 JUN 1946

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EXTRACT FROM
HQ 3 DISTRICT NORTHERN DETACHMENT
SECURITY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No 2

6 June 1946.

(d) Subversive Movements and Political organisations of Security Interest.

(i) Communists.- activities of.

(a) The following is quoted verbatim from an FS report reference Communist influence within the Italian Army:

On the 2 April, an incident occurred at MODENA by recruits of the 6th ARTILLERY REGIMENT, which has given rise to a great deal of comment and speculation as to the extent of communist influence in the Italian Army at the present moment.

On the 31st of March all leave was stopped because of the local administrative elections, and the troops were provided with a special meal and cinema show in the camp as compensation for not being allowed to leave the camp area. On the 1st April the Communists having won the elections, large groups of demonstrators gathered outside the Comando Distretto singing the 'RED FLAG' and other songs, waving flags etc. Eventually, the demonstrators returned to camp in the small hours of 2nd April, full of Communist propaganda and wine, climbing the camp walls in an endeavour to get to bed. At reveille on the morning of the 2nd April, the recruits refused to get out of bed, the excuse being that one of their members had been placed in the guard room and that the bread was black, and not white, as on the preceding day.

At 0700 hrs the recruits were got out of bed, after four of the most recalcitrant had been lodged in jail; and instruction started for the day. At 1230 hrs, about 400 gathered outside the Colonel's office singing the 'RED FLAG' and throwing bread rolls about. The Colonel came out and started to speak to the men, and was promptly met with opposition. Interesting points during the speech were the remarks passed by the men, such as 'LET HIM ALONE, WE KNOW WHY WE ARE HERE' and 'WE ARE NOT HERE FOR THEM'; together with other phrases signifying that these recruits were not in the Italian Army for the Italian authorities. During this episode other troops were on the walls trying to obtain arms from the civilians outside the camp. The demonstration broke up at about 1530 hrs.

The mutineers put a note to the Colonel, the contents of which were as follows:

1. The bread is black and uneatable.
2. The rations are very small and always the same.
3. The type of pasta is always the same and you must make spaghetti every so often.

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4. The meat must be more abundant and the pay 25 lire and not 24.
5. With the apples and almonds we do not know what to do, and it is better to buy other food.
6. The soldiers responsible for the rations carry out business with them.
7. The officers eat very well and they also must eat the rations.
8. On enlistment the soldiers were told they would get Allied rations.
9. It is an injustice that the soldiers should only get 24 lire a day and the members of the police 300 lire. 24 lire is not enough to write home.
10. We are all poor and workers here, because the rich have paid the Distretto not to call them for service.
11. That the 2,000 lire of the family allowance be paid to PILATE and HEROD.
(This means that this money has never been paid to them and it is only a subterfuge to get them in the army).
12. That seven hours instruction is too much and cannot be done on the food.
13. That the free period from 1800 hrs to 2130 hrs is not enough.
14. That we want to return to camp when it suits us as a few hours sleep are enough.
15. That the officers impose discipline but this is Fascist stuff and we do not want it.
16. That we want to see the Colonel any time we want to, not through the regular channels, as this is not Democracy but Fascism.
17. That the official stamps have the crown of SAVOIA on them and we do not want the king.
18. That at the Distretto we were promised roses and flowers and we have not received them, and if things continue we shall return home.
19. That the officers on guard duty carry a revolver and this constitutes a provocation.
20. That if the Government has not the money to look after us, it is useless to call us for service.
21. That the first four months of the 1924 class did only three months of service and we have to do one year.
22. That as the Government is not a regular one, it could do better than to call troops for service.

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Inter-Office MemoEE/210 ←

FROM : C 1801A (Tel Ext: 218)
TO : Public Safety Sub-Com AC (1 copy)
CC, FR Sec 1801A (1 copy)

Left on Top Secret File.

All notes on Communist org are passed to you
for info and retention by you.

3 June 46

[Signature]
Lt-Col,
CS

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APHQ FOR G-5, U.S. Polad, British Resmin

9157

10 December 1945

URGENT

CONFIDENTIAL PD

NEW ITALIAN GOVERNMENT FORMED LAST NIGHT UNDER DEGAZIO PAREN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT
PAREN AS PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS PD HE CONTINUES AS MINISTER FOR
FOREIGN AFFAIRS PD

PAREN TO APPEAL FOR GEORGE FIVE DUCLE SUGAR POLAD BRITISH RESMIN FROM BE ALONG FROM
ADMIRAL STONE CITE ACSCC PAREN

PARA TWO PD SERVICE MINISTERS ARE DEQUENTIN NAVY AND GEVOLSTIC AIR CMA BOTH
INCUMBENTS PD NEW MINISTER FOR WAR IS BRUSTO CMA LIBERAL PD PURSUANT ORAL
INSTRUCTIONS FROM SACRED LAST NIGHT I HAVE GIVEN THE COMMISSIONS APPROVAL TO
BRUSTO APPOINTMENT AS WELL AS THE MINISTERS FOR NAVY AND AIR PD

PARA THREE PD NAMES OF OTHER MINISTERS CONTAINED BY HEAT FOLLOWING TELEGRAM

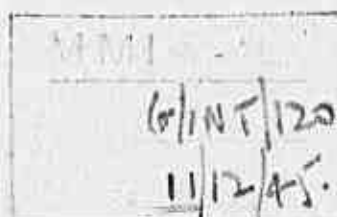
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MILBRY W. STONE
Rear Admiral, USNR
Chief Commissioner



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