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10000/125/255

53/10 / PAT

WELFARE FOR PATRIOTS

AP. 1945



FILE

MINUTE SHEET No. 1

53/10/1947

DATE

PAGE

Cap D. Robilant

Could you please draft a letter to

Princessa di C. - C - informing her of Col Craig's view  
of the action taken at (3), i.e. argu-  
ing that she should contact  
the Italian Red Cross.

M. P. Kirby for Genl  
D. D. Director.

11 April 45.



0 2 4 1

gesting that she should contact  
the Thabun Red Cross.

M. Pasby for Genl  
↓ D / Director.

11 April 45.

4290



H.Q. ALLIED COMMISSION  
APO 394  
Local Govt. Sub Com.  
Patriots Branch.

Ref: 53/10/PAT

27 April 1945

Dear Princess Di Castagneto Caracciolo,

Col. Craig has had to go North for a week or so, and as he had to leave before he could answer your letter of the 23 April, he has asked me to write to you.

He is very sorry not to be able to help you in the matter of transport, but this Branch is not in a position to acquire any vehicles at all. The Italian Military Patriot Representatives are being provided with transport by the Ministry of Occupied Italy, who have authorized the Prefects to requisition cars for this purpose; and possibly, if you approached them, they would be able to make a similar arrangement for you.

With regard to billets the position is very much the same. There is really nothing we can do in connection with living accommodation for non military personnel, although it seems likely that the Ministry of Occupied Italy could help you in this matter also. As far as accommodation for canteens is concerned, we feel confident that any A.M.C. officers in the Regions or Provinces, whom you approached on the subject, would do all in their power to assist you.

Yours sincerely

M.P.

M. PRICE,  
J/Comd.  
Executive Officer, Pats Branch  
Local Govt. Sub Com.

To the Princess  
DI CASTAGNETO CARACCIOLO,  
Via Panama, 86,  
ROME

4289

/mlo.

281



Via Panama 86 Rome  
Tel. 86663-

5

April 23 - 1945

53/10

Dear General Craig

Many thanks for your kind letter of April 16th.  
I am indeed very happy to know that you are  
still interested in the little work proposed for  
the Patriots.

Unfortunately, however, I fear the mobile  
battions cannot be realized without the aid  
of the Patriot Branch to help in the solution  
of Transport and Ballistics, as an Italian  
organization has that possibility today -

I had thought it might be practicable  
to join these proposed units to the Patriot  
branches of the different Regimes as Plenums  
and so on - each branch calling the  
number of women workers required by them

4288



these welfare and canteen units to be attached to the Regional Patriot branches as "welfare workers" to be used as required.

I have been assured by both the Ministry of War and the Territorial Committee that either of them are ready to do all that is possible for them to further this work. The funds needed should be obtained by subscriptions and donations.

I would have been happy had it been possible to realize this work, which at this time I believe would have proved useful. If the Patriot Branch reconsider the question I will always be at your service to do all I can for this little work. As for any other service in which I could be useful.

Yours sincerely

Margaret M. Custard



836



CROCE ROSSA ITALIANA  
COMITATO CENTRALE

IL SEGRETARIO GENERALE

12953/G

53/10

Roma, 4 April 20, 1945  
Via Veneto, 11

To Col. Craig  
Local Government Sub-Commission  
Patriots Branch, A.C.

3

My dear Col. Craig,

Your letter 53/PAT, dated April 11, 1945.

Confirming what I said to you over the telephone, I have explained to Princess Margaret Caracciolo that any welfare work for patriots in the forward areas, consisting mainly in the establishment of Canteens and Clubs, is not within the normal scopes of Italian Red Cross activities. Nothing prevents, however, a local Committee of ladies, sponsored by the local Provincial IRC Chapter, from setting up any such Canteen.

As I explained to the promoter of the scheme, any such departure on a national basis, should be sponsored by the War Ministry, "Ufficio Benessere del Soldato" or by the Ministero dell'Italia Occupata, "Ufficio Assistenza".

*Ugo Theodoli*  
(Ugo Theodoli)  
Sec. Gen. IRC.

*This does not appear to call for any action as the Theodoli has told the Princess of the contents.*

*M.P. 22/4 agreed @*



Local Government Sub-Commission  
Patriots Branch, A.C.

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M.P. 22/4

agreed @

4287



ALLIED COMMISSION  
APO 394  
Local Govt. S/C.  
Patriots Branch.

Ref: 53/10/PAT.

16 April 1945.

My dear Princess,

I have received your letter of 13 April 45, and I am sorry to find that you gained the impression that I was not interested in the work which you have been considering undertaking for Patriots. On the contrary I feel, and so does Capt. Lambert, that there is a very great deal that could and should be done on the welfare side, on the lines you suggest.

It is only right however to make it clear to you at this stage, that the Patriots Branch is not in a position to authorise uniforms and officer status for yourself and any ladies working with you, or to help you by supplying funds or transport, although I fully appreciate how necessary all these things will be if your plans are to be successful.

In addition, it would be for reasons of policy, and because you would be working in forward areas, impracticable for you to put your scheme into operation unless you did so as a member of some properly authorised body.

You say that you have discussed the matter with Count Casati at the War Office, and possibly he would be able to give you official recognition and the status and material things that you require. On the other hand, in the light of experience gained during 5 years of war, I should very strongly recommend that rather than start a new and separate organisation, you should join yourself to some existing body which is sufficiently well established to give you the full moral and material support you need.

I understand that certain ladies of the Italian Red Cross have undertaken work of this nature for the army, and it appeared to me that you might very profitably affiliate yourself to the Italian Red Cross also. I have therefore written to the Marchese Theodoli telling him of your scheme, and informing him and that should you approach him on the subject, and it were possible to come to some arrangement such as I have suggested, your work would be welcomed and appreciated by this Branch.

Yours sincerely

*R. R. R.*

4286



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Yours sincerely

*Rang*

6286

R. CRAIG,  
Lt. Colonel,  
Deputy Director,  
Local Govt. S/G.

To the Princess  
DI CASTAGNETO CARACCIULO,  
Via Panama, 86,  
ROME.

/mfg.



4

Rome 13th April 1945

Dear Colonel Craig,

After our little chat over the telephone on Monday, I was left under the impression that what had been so far planned and done about the mobile canteens for partisans did not interest you any more.

I wish to recapitulate briefly the facts and ascertain if my impression is correct before abandoning, at least on its actual form, an idea that I thought might have been useful.

After having been put in touch by you with Captain Limbert, I went to Florence, where I worked some days in the centre of Via Montebello, collecting furniture, interesting other women in the running of the canteen, etc.

Talking things over with Captain Limbert, he suggested that the thing ought to be done on a bigger scale. That it should develop in all the centres that were or would be instituted by the Allied armies (about 40), possibly among the labour units of the partisans, and where ever else needed. He kindly added that he thought this work would fill a real need and that it would be backed by him. This implicated the formation of a few mobile units that we thought should be formed of one woman with full knowledge of English and Italian, a second one directly acquainted with partisan psychology, and an auxiliary. These mobile units having the primary task of organising and putting to work local energies for the running of the canteens, the collecting of funds for local purposes, etc;.

Captain Limbert advised me to go back to Rome and to your office, to get some sort of recognition, necessary to solve problems that would arise, like the billeting of persons that would have to work a few days in devastated or overcrowded areas, or like eventual facilities of transport.

I came back to Rome, discussed the problem once with Major Snie, who asked for a written report - which he told me he approved of-, a second time with another very kind major of whom I don't recollect the name.



Dear Colonel Craig,

After our little chat over the telephone on Monday, I was left under the impression that what had been so far planned and done about the mobile canteens for partisans did not interest you any more.

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./.

4285



In the meanwhile I had talked about this plan with Count Casati at the War office, who told me that it met his approval <sup>fully</sup> and that he would sign it officially when ever requested. I ~~think~~ any other Italian authority would do the same. But of course the only approval that really matters is yours. Because the work is to be done in centres run and controlled by the Allies and because the few facilities that may eventually be required depend on the Allied authority.

I have perhaps been so far unfortunate in the expression of my thoughts. What I wish to know is this. Is the Patriot branch interested in this proposed work? If it is will you signify this approval, so as to enable us to comply with requests such as those expressed by Captain Linbert? If you condition your approval to the agreement of some Italian authority, is it Casati, Scoccimarro, or Gasparotto that ought to give it?

Excuse me, dear Colonel Craig, if I take some of your valuable time for this little matter. But I feel it my duty to do what I can for this work in whatever small way I may serve.

Sincerely yours,

Margaret Casati di Castagnoli

Via Panama 86 - Telef. 80.663 -



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Sincerely yours,

Margaret Casati di Castagnoli

Via Panama 86 - Telef. 80.653 -

4284



Ms. Allied Commission  
APO 394  
Local Govt. Sub Com.  
Patriots Branch.

Ref : 53/PAT.

11 April 1945.

My dear Marchese,

Princess Margaret di Castagneto Caracciolo came to see me a fortnight ago, and offered to undertake and organise canteen and welfare work for Patriots in the forward areas. Since then she has discussed the matter with Capt. Limbert, the Patriot Officer with AMG 5th Army, and both he and I are of the opinion that she could make a very valuable contribution to the Patriot organisation, on the lines suggested in the attached memorandum, which she handed to me on her return to Rome this week.

I feel however and the Ministry of Occupied Italy is in agreement with me in this, that as a matter of policy and also for material reasons, it is impracticable for her to put her scheme into action unless she does so as a member of some properly authorised body; the more so as a number of unauthorised and uncoordinated individuals (frequently with political motives) have started welfare organisations for Patriots, with somewhat undesirable results. I understand that certain ladies of the Italian Red Cross are undertaking work of this nature for the Italian Army and I have suggested to her therefore that she and any other ladies who wish to work for Patriots, should do so through your organisation.

I entirely agree with the Princess's suggestion that uniforms, officer status, etc. would be necessary for these ladies, and this they would receive as members of the Italian Red Cross, whereas it could not be authorised by this Branch.

I must also point that this Branch is not in a position to supply either funds or transport.

Yours sincerely,

F. CRAIG,  
Lt. Colonel,  
Deputy Director,  
Local Govt. S/C.

4283

To : Marchese THEODOLI,  
President Italian Red Cross,  
Via Puglia,  
Rome.

Copy to : Capt. LIMBERT,  
AMG 5th Army

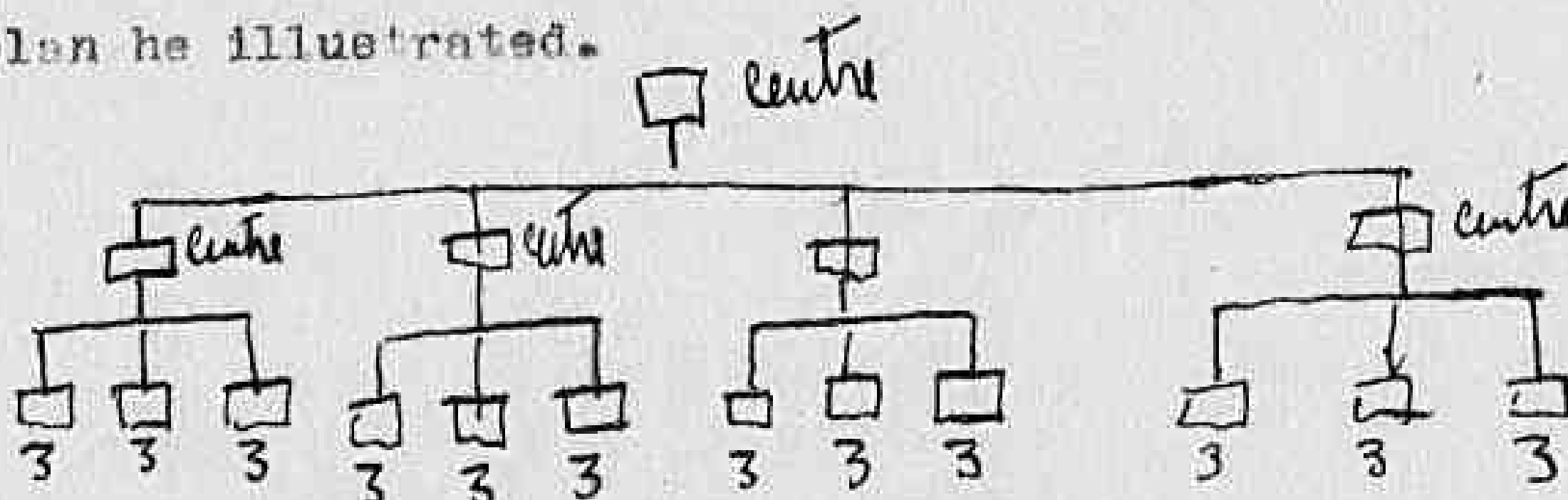


*originally -*

1. The idea was <sup>originally</sup> formed of getting up some mobile units for canteen and welfare work with the partisans on the front as they passed the lines, or elsewhere as needed.

2. After my going to Florence and entering, quite unofficially, in the Patriot Center, Via Montebello, a few days, Captain Limbert advised me to return to Rome to get official status and recognition for the work, which he believed he said could be of real use and which he personally would wish to use, as he considered it filled a definite need.

3. Captain Limbert idea was to form a number of these units on a plan he illustrated.



That is, mobile groups of 3 women each to be ready to go to form canteens and do welfare work in the partisan centers, on the front where the partisans pass, among the work units and where ever needed.

4. Uniforms - It might be expedient these women wear uniforms.

5. At the Partisan centers it would be useful to have a canteen and rest room serving coffee, wine, etc. at cost price - with books, papers, games and so forth, with women capable of directing this, and contacting the partisans and also able to find <sup>funds and</sup> substitutes among the women at the place of the center. - as Florence and Pescia <sup>at present</sup>

6282

When the unit had done its work of organisation, it would leave the carrying on and collecting of funds to the local women, who had been formed to do this work.



6. On the front the units would work as the military canteens.
7. Transport - To fulfill their task, the units should be given transport to the point desired. I believe to work at all efficiently it is indispensable the centers should have some kind of car at their disposal.
8. Billeting - The women of these units would need billeting and food on the status of that given to an officer.
9. Remuneration - If, and as received by the Italian mobile army canteens.
10. These units shall be formed of 3 women :
- a) one who speaks english
  - b) one experienced in Resistance and Partisan life
  - c) an auxiliary -



Via Panama 86-112  
 Telephone - 80663-

Dear Mayor Sir

I enclose a synopsis in plain H of the proposed Panamanian world conference and welfare service of which I spoke yesterday. I would be really grateful for any comment or criticism you should make.

This service if carried out, could, I am convinced fill a definite need.

The Panamanians should, I believe, find a conference most on the front as they pass, in the Panama Centres, and again in the labor bonds where they work as also in the Panama Fighting bonds. as these men should be able to find their friends in the liberated area from the 1st moment and whenever useful. They should understand



I include a synopsis of plan of our proposed program

world conditions and welfare services of which I spoke yesterday. I would be ready grateful for any amendment or criticism you should make.

This service if carried out, could. I am convinced fill a definite need.

The Puritans should, I believe, find a better way on the front as they pass, in the Patriot Centers, and again in the labor bonds where they work as also in the Patriot Fighting bonds. As these men should be able to find their friends in the liberated area from the 1st moment and wherever needed - they should understand also that these bonds worked in strict collaboration with the Allied Forces. It would indeed be well that they



worked largely with and under the allies -

28

This service is really very very heart, as I have  
worked and been with some of the partisan groups,  
in the USSR and Canada; and know of their  
ways and life from experience. There are hopes  
of finding women capable of the working of these  
units

At your earliest convenience I would be glad of  
hearing your opinion; would you care to come here  
tomorrow afternoon perhaps to speak of the matter?  
Or do you prefer I drop in to your office? Perhaps  
you will let me know by telephone which and what  
time suits you best.

Yours sincerely  
Margaret M. Lawrence



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time suits you best.

Yours sincerely  
Margaret de Castro

4279

0260

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

Princess Margaret di Castagneto Caracciolo  
Via Panama, 86.

✓  
File 58, BU 27/8  
MP

4278



Copy

- A. A small group of persons particularly interested in, and with experience of the resistance movement of Northern Italy ~~would~~ wish to offer their services for the formation of a canteen and rest house of great mobility for the use of Partisan groups at the moment of their contact with the advancing Armies, or as soon after as would be feasible to allow this.
- B. This canteen and rest house should be ready to supply meals, and lodging, with a staff capable of giving information, and advice to these men who after months and almost years of separation from normal life it is earnestly to be feared will often find great material and psychological difficulty in adjusting themselves and becoming absorbed in the environment that awaits them.
- C. We in no way wish to encroach upon any existing organisation or institution, but ~~merely~~ to fill a gap which so far ~~appears~~ to exist, and are ready to cooperate with any organisation for the furthering of this work.
- D. We deem it advisable to have our contact with these men. I repeat, as soon as feasible, not only to be able to give them the material need possible, but to be able to give them the warmth and welcome that can only come from persons intimately acquainted with their life & psychology - in the time of transition, before they are will to contact their new environment and the regular offices which by their very nature must be much more cold and impersonal.
- E. Our needs for the 1st moment
1. The possibility of requisitioning a house
  2. Food and 1st aid supplies as possible
  3. A small truck and another car.
  4. If possible an Officer of Allied Armies to cooperate in this work.
- F. In case this experience should prove as successful as we hope, it could be immediately expanded - practically each member of this unit having the qualities necessary to form and organise a similar unit.
- G. Our motives in proposing our services are 1st our friendship and loyalty to these men whose daily life and struggle we have each shared - and secondly the sad constatation that with the first contact with their new environment a certain disillusionment arises with the partisans and often a sense of bitterness toward the Allied Armies and the Italian Government institutions arising from lack of understanding and from difficulties of adaptation, which we feel it a strict duty to do all in my power, offering what experience and understanding we have to help everyone. This is a problem which concern the best men of Italy, who have as volunteers withstood the long and uneven struggle of the North, ill equipped, ill warmed, often ill fed, who have been proud to believe themselves fighting with the Allied the same way against an oppression they have been capable of judging and revolting against. This "Resistance" is a vast popular movement in the North, often without practically leadership. It is in spite of its certain and obvious shortcomings, very sincere,

- 2 -

If these men felt they are trusted, and honourably treated. I for one, I am sure, they will prove in the great majority to be trustworthy and honest citizens.

The partisan movement of the North, has the sympathy and the backing of a very large part of the population. Its adherents come from all classes, and every strata of society, and the movement is by this not only complicated but enriched, its very complexity being a chief element which promises an early and happy solution, if in its first contacts with its new environment it finds the understanding, the sympathy and the appreciations that is its due.

MARGARET CARACCILO DI CASTAGNETO.

P.S. This endeavour, unofficial as it is, could I believe, if properly presented help greatly in the creation of a better understanding of the Allied intentions and attitude toward Italians problems.



1  
1C  
A. A small group of persons particularly interested in, and with experience of the resistance movement of Northern Italy, would wish to offer their services for the formation of a partisan and not base of great utility for the use of partisan groups at the moment of their contact with the advancing armies, in as soon after as would be feasible to allow this -

B. This partisan and not base should be ready to supply needs, and lodging, with a staff capable of giving information, and advice to those men who after ~~reaching~~ <sup>reaching</sup> them, need almost years of separation,

A. A small group of persons particularly interested in, and with experience of the resistance movement of Northern Italy would wish to offer their services for the formation of a liaison and most basic of great mobility for the use of partisan groups at the moment of their contact with the advancing armies; we as soon after as would be feasible to allow this.

B. This liaison and not base should be ready to supply needs, and lodging, with a staff capable of giving information, and advice to those men who after ~~separation~~ <sup>separation</sup> of almost years of separation from normal life it is ~~hardly~~ <sup>hardly</sup> to be feared <sup>4275</sup> will offer fine great material and psychological



2 difficulty in adjusting themselves and becoming absorbed in the environment that awaits them.

C. We in no way wish to ever back upon any existing organization or institution, but merely to fill a gap which so far appears to exist, and are ready to cooperate with any organization for the furthering of this work.

D. We deem it advisable to have our contact with these men. I repeat, as soon as feasible, not only to be able to give them the material and possible, but to be able to give them the warmth, and welcome that can only come from persons intimately acquainted with their life and psychology - in the time of transition before they are able to cut out their new environment and the regular stress which by their very nature



existing organization or institution, but merely to fill a gap which so far appears to exist, and are ready to cooperate with any organization for the furthering of this work.

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3.

E. We need for the 1st unit.

1. The possibility of requesting a house
2. 4 food and 1st aid supplies as possible.
- 3 a small truck and an other car.

4 if possible we need of allied groups to cooperate in this work.

F. In case this experience should prove as successful in the future, it could be immediately expanded... in actually each member of this unit having the qualifications necessary to form and organize a similar unit.

G. Our notions in proposing our services are 1st. Our friendship and loyalty to these men, whose daily life and struggle we have each shared. and secondly the good intentions that with the

3 a small body and an other car.

4 If possible we plan to allow groups to cooperate in this work.

7. In case this experience should prove as successful as we hope, it could be immediately expanded - by actually each member of this unit having the qualifications necessary to form and organize a similar unit.

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4. and often a sense of bitterness both toward the allied  
groups and the Italian government institutions  
arising from lack of understanding and from  
difficulties of adaptation, which we feel it a  
strict duty to do all in our power. Offering  
what experience and understanding we have  
to help overcome. This is a problem which  
concerns the best men of Italy - who have as  
volunteers withstood the long and uneven struggle  
of the north - ill equipped, ill armed, often ill  
fed. Who have been proud to relieve themselves  
fighting with the allies the same way against  
an oppressive thing have been capable of judging  
and nothing against - This "Resistance" is a  
great lesson learned in the north - often without



concerning the lack of understanding and gross  
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5 and various shortcomings. My sense, of those  
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 to be trustworthy and honest witnesses.

The particular movement of the north, has the significance  
 and the backing of a very large part of the population.  
 The workers come from all classes, and every  
 strata of society, and the movement is by this  
 not only unopposed but enriched, its very complexity  
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 due.

The August University of Costa Rica.



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We are at the university of Costa Rica.

0 2 7 3

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

785016

P.S. This matter involved as it is; could I believe  
it properly presented help ~~anyway~~ in the creation  
of a better understanding of the alien intentions  
and attitude toward Italian problems.

1270



0274

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

..... Alexander Proby A.S.  
Patriots Branch.



Princess Margaret di Castagneto Caracciolo

Via Panama, 86. Rome.

Also has house in Florence.

Recently come from Switzerland via Marseilles

NO SECURITY OBJECTIONS

OK

Office use.

Cap.

SECURITY DIVISION, AIRCOM

1289

Tru Cndr PROBY RTS.

Patriots Branch. Tel 321.

GP

