

ACC 10000/125/364

116/PAT.

DEMONSTRATION AT MACERATA

NOV. 1944

FILE

116/PAT.

MINUTE SHEET No. 1

DATE.

PAGE.

1453

For the information of Major Sir Philip Magnus.

17 NOV Recd

m&c.

AS/15/5/10

116

16 November 1944

SUBJECT: Demonstration at Macerata.

TO : Director, Local Government S/C

FROM : Capt. C. G. R. Williams

SEEN	INITIALS
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1. Yesterday afternoon, Col. Chapman, Director, Public Safety S/C came to see Capt. Temple and myself and showed us a copy of a cable he had received from the P.S.O. Macerata, as to a demonstration in the town. Copy of cable at No. 1 on the file. He inquired what we thought of the Prefect, Dr. G. A. PONTE. We showed him the Prefect's card and told him what we knew.
2. Capt. Temple asked for a copy of the cable to be sent to us and asked me to get in touch with the Ministry about the matter and see what they know.
3. Within a few minutes of Col. Chapman's leaving, Dr. PONTE himself was announced. Capt. Temple and I took him along to see Col. Chapman, where, with the aid of a certain number of questions, he made a long statement. I took full notes and the statement is Appendix "A" of this report. Lt. Modiano interpreted.
4. The matter was left as follows:
 - (a) Col. Chapman will consider the possibility of sending down an officer to investigate the incident and let us know his decision;
 - (b) We will let him have a copy of our notes of the interview;
 - (c) Copy to Patriota Branch also.
5. Later in the evening, Capt. Temple informed Major Sir Phillip Magnus over the telephone.
6. This morning the Prefect called again at 12:15 hours and saw me, Lt. Modiano interpreting. All he was concerned about was his luggage. He said Major Denning had promised to send it up by truck--it should have arrived yesterday morning--he had nothing in Rome. He thought something might have happened to the truck--would I telephone Major Denning and find out the position.
7. I said I did not think there was telephone communication with Macerata and in any event I would advise him not to trouble the P.O. on a personal matter of this kind just yet.
8. The Prefect inquired if any decision had been taken on the matter generally. I said I had received no instructions yet.

1452

- 2 -

9. Lt. Mediano tells me that as the Prefect was leaving, Dr. POME asked him to represent that he should be put at disposition because he really thought he would be of no use in Macerata again.



C. G. R. WILLIAMS
Captain
Local Government Sub Commission

CGRW/pec

1451

APPENDIX "A"Statement of Prefect

1. Patriots:--when I took up my duties as Prefect of Macerata at the beginning of August, I found a confused situation. There are large numbers of Patriots at large. They are mostly Communists. They are all armed, having concealed hand grenades, machine guns, etc. They have committed a number of acts of violence under the guise of reprisals against the Fascists--one murder, one attempted murder and a number of beatings, assaults and thefts.
2. The line I took at the beginning was that I was the person to deal with the Fascists through the forces of public order--that there was no longer any excuse for acts of violence by Patriots--and that they must surrender their arms. I myself caused about 150 Fascists to be arrested and they are now in jail--also some 100 clerks and employees of local authorities. On my instructions, the C.C.F.R. have made ~~seizures~~ ^{acquisitions} of some of the Patriots' houses and found concealed weapons.
3. Local Government:--I have now appointed Sindaci and Giunta in 40 out of the 56 communes in the Province, in all cases reaching agreement with the CLN. At Recanati, (about 20,000 pop.) the Sindaco and Giunta resigned about six months ago. I asked the CLN to submit other names. For one month they failed to agree. At last they agreed the Sindaco should be a Socialist or Communist and the Vice Sindaco a Christian-Democrat, but at the last moment, the Christian-Democrats backed out. The town having been without an administration for about two months, I had no alternative but to appoint a Commissario Prefettizio--one of my Consigliere di Prefettura, MANCINI. The CLN expressed considerable resentment at my taking this action without first obtaining their consent.
4. At Pollenza, (about 5,500 pop.) the Sindaco resigned: he was leader of the Action Party. I approved the nomination of the CLN to succeed him. The ex-Sindaco, however, promptly resented the fact that I did not consult him personally and represented that he, as the retiring Sindaco, should have the nomination of his successor.
5. These two factors--the resentment of the Patriots at my curtailing their activities and the resentment of the political parties over local government appointments--came to a head 5/6 days ago. Pamphlets were circulated in the town attacking me and making me responsible for the shortage of food, particularly sugar and salt. Macerata is one of the largest agricultural Provinces, yet it is on a 200 gram flour ration, as against 300 grams for the south of Italy. This is naturally resented, but it is not the fault of the Prefects.
6. Yesterday, 1st November 1944, at about 10:30 hours, a crowd assembled in the square in front of the Prefecture, demonstrating against me--a mixed crowd of men and women Communists and Patriots. The demonstration lasted an hour. Then a deputation was admitted to see me and the Provincial Officer Major Denning. The deputation asked me to speak to the crowd from the balcony: but while I was doing so, about 50 people burst into the office behind me, dragged me back from the window and began to

- 2 -

beat me. I managed to free myself. They then went upstairs to my apartments, struck my wife and family, wrecked the kitchen and took all the food they could lay their hands on. I rescued by wife and family from the mob and took refuge with them in Major Denning's room.

7. There were not enough police to deal with the crowd. I requested the Major, CC.RR and the Questore to use force, but they ~~would~~ not use their weapons because they knew the Patriots were armed and feared reprisals.

8. The crowd began to go away and the demonstration was over by 12:00 hours. Major Denning went out of the room for a few minutes while I was there. I do not know if he spoke to the crowd. The driver of my car afterwards told me that the crowd went to the house of the Sindaco of Macerata and to other houses and shops and looted them and took away the pillage in trucks.

9. In agreement with Major Denning, I decided to take my family to Rome. He took me in a truck as far as Tolentino. From there I went on in a Prefettura car to Rome, arriving yesterday evening.

10. I went to the Ministry of Interior this morning and saw the Chief of Cabinet. He made no comment on the incident, but agreed that I should go to the Allied Commission.

11. I do not understand how the main entrance to the Prefettura was opened to the mob who invaded my office and private apartments. Besides the regular Agenti di P.S., there are some 30 Agenti Ausiliari recruited from the Patriots. They may well still be in league with them.

12. I do not think I should go back to Macerata. I shall have no more authority there. I appreciate this means that the dissident elements will have succeeded in chasing a Prefect out of the Province; but they have already succeeded in that. What is needed, in my opinion, is no more Prefect but direct Military Government. Let the Macerata people's rations be reduced as a punishment.

13. As instances of the disorder in the Province, at San Severino Marche there is a self-appointed Sindaco who is the head of the local Patriots bands. Other leaders are TURIO at Tolentino and NICOLA at Pieve Torina. The latter has a number of "Montenegrini" in his band and they are out robbing and thieving every night.

14. I have no doubt the CLN was behind this demonstration. They are in close relation with the Patriots who have a representative on the CLN: incidentally, he is a Communist. The composition of the CLN is as follows:

Communists	2	(including the Patriot representative)
Socialists	2	(including the CLN Secretary)
Action Party	1	(Prof. GIOTTO)
Christian-Democrats ..	1	
Liberal	1	(CIAPPI, their President)

1449

- 3 -

Not one party leader showed up at the demonstration to quiet the crowd.

15. In my opinion, the CLM should be dismissed and the following members arrested:

Prof. UENIO	Action Party member
CARNEVALINI	
CARLETTI	Socialist members
PASQUINI	Communist
CHIAVELLI	Communist and Party Secretary

Although the Socialists and Communists have such strong representation on the CLM, yet the people of the Province are by far the greater part Christian-Democrats, the Province having been the birth place of several Popes and been formerly part of the States of the Church.

16. I have left the new Vice Prefect AROZZI in charge of the administration. He is not too good: the former Vice Prefect was more competent. However, the provincial administration is quite capable of functioning well under his control--as an administration.

1468

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