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Daily Digest of
June 1944 - July

10000/121/184

Daily Digest of the Rome Press - 1
June 1944 - July 1944

PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

PRB/R/8.

21 June 1944.

(3)

Daily Digest of Rome Press - Wednesday, 21 June

Italia Libera. "Economic Reconstruction". Suggests state control of public utility services to ensure necessities for all: the Italian people must express themselves through their government: the present chaos may be turned into new liberty or new tyranny. "Bread and Patience". Praises increased bread ration, comments that bread has been available from the day of liberation in spite of requirements of armies. "Special military restaurants". Praises High Command and General Clark for opening two restaurants, and three more on Saturday next, for troops who had ousted civilians from restaurants.

Reconstruction. Welcomes the confidence in Italy shown by the Allies in permitting a popular Government to be formed while the Armies are still fighting. Notes that the Bonomi Government has shown democratic strength in getting over its first difficulties.

Unita. "War Justice". Accuses "Risorgimento Liberale" of endeavouring to shield Fascists by dwelling on the desirability of waiting patiently for the "legalities" of Sforza's epuration committee.

Il Popolo. "Partnership in War". Comments on the difficulty of reorganizing the Italian army and suggests that the Allies, though well provided with material, may hardly think it worth while for the time being to help such a sick man. "Weak-kneed intellectuals". Deplores the gradual yielding of nearly all intellectuals to Fascism.

Risorgimento Liberale. "Fear of Requisition". Deplores the fact that no fruit or vegetables reached Rome yesterday owing to the lack of trucks whose owners fear they may be requisitioned. Assures its readers that the Allied Command does not behave like Nazis and will not requisition vehicles. "Telephones". Comments that with the departure of the Germans people thought that they would be able to talk freely on the telephone again, but the telephone doesn't function.

Avanti. "Start from the top and begin with the industrial oligarchy." A passionate plea for the epuration of big industrialists such as Boccardo, Falk, Agnelli, Benni, Volpi, Motta, Pirelli etc etc who "exercise greater power than democracy itself." If such men were purged at once, commissari could be appointed and industry would not suffer at all. If purging doesn't start from the top, it will be a farce. "Telephone control". The Nazi-Fascist control of telephones should be abolished instantly. "Requisitions". The Allied Command has permitted civilians to use their cars up to the 30th but cases of requisitioning on the streets, in Nazi-Fascist fashion, are occurring daily. The authorities should issue precise directions.

5424

PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

PRB/8.

22 June 1944. (4)

Daily Digest of Rome Press - 22 June

All papers splash the arrival of Colonel Poletti as Regional Commissioner of Rome and quote his policy to provision the city and to make a clean sweep of Fascism.

Ricostruzione

"Men of democracy": Praises Meuccio Ruini and declares that the Labour Democrats look to him as one of the builders of the new Italy.

"The liquidation of Littoria": It is certain that this province, set up by the late regime solely for political ends, will have to be suppressed.

"The Society of Authors": Comments that the president and directors have vanished, but that authors have convened a small meeting to report on the situation and this has been marked by the reappearance of some of the best-known worshippers of Fascism and the most highly paid writers employed by the Ministry of Popular Culture. The Government should take swift and energetic action.

Risorgimento Liberale of

"Advice to the absent": One of the most significant aspects of the new Liberal party is its creation of its own new party organization. In the past there were many liberals in political and government posts, but for the most part they each went their own way. This danger of lack of collusion was seen too late in 1919. Now every Liberal is urged to take an active part in the life of the party. Every absentee is a menace to the material reconstruction and the moral reeducation of the country.

"The two politics": Asks whether the people is responsible for the sins of its government and decides after weighing up the evidence that it is. Italy, where the gulf was wide between the cultured classes and the average man, needs a cultural clearing-out and a political reeducation. To wait for others to reeducate Italy is to destroy it - the work must be done by Italians of their own free will and with the benefit of their traditions. Those who follow primarily their own interests or party menace the well-being of the nation as a whole, and only when this mentality is eliminated will Italy be really free. But this day should not be far off. An example has been set in the common fight against the Germans, and the tendency to sacrifice the interests of the country to the interests of a particular party must be just as sternly combatted.

5423

Unita

"Our business only?": Refutes the assertion in "Quotidiano" that the ideals of the "Bandiera Rossa" and the Italian communist movement are the same as those of Unita, and not only denies all connections with this movement, but condemns it as a trouble-making faction.

"Communists and Catholics": Referring to Togliatti's declaration that Communists should find common ground with Catholics, declares that the opposition between Communists and Catholics was a Fascist invention. States that Catholics and Communists joined hands to fight Fascism not only in Italy, but also in other countries such as France. / "Clean-up ..

-2-

"Clean-up of Journalists": Several Fascist journalists and collaborators are appearing here and there. You can find them at Aragno and the Press Association. Some of their sillier colleagues listen to them and support them. A Committee is needed quickly to purge the Press Association.

Italia Libera

"Peace problems": Urges Italians to do all they can to help in the common effort, especially now Churchill has spoken for the first time with hope and optimism of the possibility of an early victory. Partisan warfare is Italy's great hope and it is the first duty of the Italian Government and people to help the Partisans; and once victory comes a real peace will be impossible unless the peoples of Europe are freed from their shackles.

Avanti

"Clarity and coherence": Urges every party to state its aims clearly on the institutional question. Criticizes "Ricostruzione" for approving the new compromise whereby the President of the Council will take oath according to the old formula. If circumstances compel the acceptance of compromises, then real republicans cannot accept them.

"Review of ranks in the Army": Urges elimination of all those, including effective officers, who profited as a result of Fascism.

PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

PRB/RS

23 June 1944

Daily Digest of Rome Press - 23 June 1944L'Osservatore Romano

Comments on the unhappy situation of the Italian Catholic Action party: suggests that society needs reformation by saints and saints need theatres, cinemas, newspapers, to spread Christian culture

Quotidiano

Raises the question as to whether Christian workers can belong to Sindacal organizations which are indifferent or hostile to religion. Concludes that they can but must bear in mind that their work is of a legal, economic character and avoid religious or political questions.

Notes Myron Taylor's return to Rome and audience with the Pope and suggests that this is a diplomatic event which give hope for future peace.

Avanti

The cooperative movement must be revived in a socialist and revolutionary way. The bourgeois will try to delude the proletariat with "reform". The socialist and communist parties must work together against this, perhaps even with a mutual headquarters.

When Germany is conquered Prussian militarism and Hitlerism must be smashed: victory must be followed by revolution.

L'Unita

The 40,000 Republican Fascists of Rome have not all gone north. A fifth column is at work and the authorities, even if they know about it, are doing very little and seem to be satisfied by the most flimsy evidence of anti-fascism.

Pleads for unity of all Italy: war has eliminated contrasts of north and south.

Deplores large measure of unemployment in Rome; it is a problem of the first magnitude to which the Allies should give immediate attention.

Italia Libera

In an article "These are Fascists" accuses Fascists known to the public of saving their skins by producing documents, or receipts for large donations given to the parties of the Committee of Liberation. Accuses members of the Circolo della Caccia of being Fascists and quotes an incident there: Lamberto Fuggaro, Squadrista, Officer of the Milizia, Director of the Committee of the Race-Purge of Naples, was seen in General Bencivenga's anteroom and is going freely about Rome in a car. You have been warned.

Ricostruzione

Attacks "Avanti", which accused it of praising the attitude taken by Bonomi about the oath. Declares that it is not monarchical.

Replies to "Risorgimento Liberale", which accused it of shielding Fascists by pressing for "legality". Agrees that "forza's work might be helped by ad hoc committees to make immediate decisions.

Il Popolo

Starts a series of articles "Dibattiti" on problems of the day. First is by Stefano Reggion D'Aci on the law of May 26 1944 on Fascist crimes.

He comments that Democratic Christian principles will not tolerate violations of elementary rights and morality and suggests that the new government has enough problems on its hands without making new laws which cause hatred and disorder.

An article entitled "Franco-Italian Friendship" welcomes the meeting of French and Italian journalists at the Press Federation and declares that there are no insoluble problems between France and Italy.

Risorgimento Liberale

The National Consultative Assembly should be convened at once to help the government and gain the confidence of the people until such time as a constituent assembly can be formed.

Carlo Jacarino, who made millions out of the blood and tears of patriots, has been released after 24 hours and is living at No 1, Via Tarvisio, boasting and strutting about Allied protection. His bosom friends were the first to get permission to go to Naples. Why this painful insult to the feelings and hopes of so many patriots?

All newspapers carry the account of Colonel Poletti's press conference yesterday. It is fully reported - as a speech - and no comments are made except by "Unita", which points out that a crowd of unknown and even Fascist journalists were admitted. Some of the, it says, vanished when Colonel Poletti spoke of epuration, but many others impudently remained until the very end, stamping and shouting.

PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

PRB/RB.

24 June 1944.

Daily Digest of Rome Press - 24 June 1944Quotidiano.

"Politics and charity" - Complains that there is far too much political intrigue going on and that this is damaging to the nation and contemptible in the eyes of the Allies.

Comments favourably on work of Allies to restore gas, light and water, but asks for reconsideration of intention to stop all lifts working.

Avanti.

"In France" - Holds up the success of General de Gaulle and the French patriots as an example to Italy.

"A victory for democracy" - Praises the decree-law passed on Thursday at the first meeting of the "Government of Liberation" which undertakes to put the institutional question to a Constituent Assembly. Observes that the Prime Minister did not, after all, take the usual oath. This reduction of the powers of the Crown vis-a-vis the Government is in accordance with the country's wishes. A plebiscite cannot decide the question: only a Constituent Assembly should do so.

"Socialists and Freemasons" - Reports a directive of the Socialist Party to the effect that no Socialist can be a freemason.

Risorgimento Liberale.

"The Black Market" - Although the Allies have declared their intention of crushing the Black Market, it has reappeared, after a few days, stronger than ever. This time it has got its claws into vegetables and fruit. Hundreds of the market gardens on Monte Mario keep their gates closed from early morning onwards but inside them are people with lots of money who buy up every vegetable at any price. The Allies must take energetic action. Fruit and vegetables do arrive in the city, but the markets where they ought to be sold are empty.

"Nazi Fury" - An article on the horrors of the German refugee camp at Cesano. "The Allies quickly improved the situation by sending 14 trucks of food."

"The Trades Union Question" - Lashes out against Gronchi who declared (according to the Quotidiano of June 23) that the Socialist, Communist and Christian-Democrat parties had temporarily taken over the direction of the Confederation of Labour. The Liberal Party had passed a resolution deploring the fact that a Minister should emit such binding judgments when the whole Trades Union question was under discussion by the Committee of Liberation; and asking for immediate steps to be taken against the seizure of ex-Fascist unions by the Confederation; and urging its representatives in the Government to take strong action against every attempt at monopoly or privilege in the trades union field.

Italia Libera.

"Royal Propaganda" - Declares that the monarchy is undoubtedly

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-2-

finished, and that it won't save its skin by the clandestine "Italian Alliance" or by the mysterious "Italian Political Centre" or by the wall-manifestos which are being put up in Rome, and which the long-nailed population will soon tear down.

"These are Fascists" - Among those who stick to their posts like glue is the glittering figure of Professor Morelli, President of the Forlanini Institute, squadrista, Fascist deputy for Valtellina. To save himself in the very last days of Nazi occupation he recruited a "band of partisans" among his patients. This trick didn't prevent the inmates of the Forlanini from demanding Morelli's epuration by unanimous vote. But he's still going strong.

Unita.

"Ill-advised" - Observes that although the anti-dynastic parties are keeping their word to refrain from discussing the institutional question until Italy is free and has a constituent assembly, the monarchists are using every possible means to advertise themselves and are doing everything to split the country at a critical moment. The pledge applies to both sides. Factional strife of this kind is simply treason.

Il Popolo.

"New World" - A new brotherhood must be founded on economic justice: this is essential to spiritual regeneration. The proletariat and class warfare must be abolished: these are the evils which rot so-called bourgeois or capitalist society. On the portals of the new world shall be written: "No capitalists or proletariat here - because capital based on labour is the economic protection of all."

Distribution: - Deputy Chief Commissioner
Colonel G. Poletti
Political Section
Major Bergin, DDPR, Naples
File R8.

5418

PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

File R8

PRB/RB.

25 June 1944.

Daily Digest of Rome Press - 25 June 1944Il Popolo

"Democratic truth and falsehood" - Attacks "Avanti" for suggesting that a referendum is a reactionary and unreliable method of ascertaining national desires. Suggests that a Government or Constituent Assembly has a perfect right to employ what means it chooses, and can control a referendum as easily as an election.

"Plutocracy" - Italian plutocracy is not founded on ability but on favouritism and egoism. Therefore "Il Popolo" agrees with "Avanti" that plutocracy must be epurated. But a final solution is not easy: consumers may be exploited by interested workers just as much as by plutocrats. Useless to substitute one group for another. Every business concern has its problems which will have to be examined individually. In the meantime state control is necessary.

Ricostruzione

"Parliament and Liberty" - A long article in praise of the British parliamentary system. The great thing for Italy is to see that a new parliamentary system is not upset by any resort by the parties themselves, or by majorities or minorities, to violence and disorder.

Avanti

"Problems and polemics" - Asserts again the right of the socialist, communist and christian-democrat parties to control the General Confederation of Labour. "Loyally accepts" the pact of political alliance "and its fiction of parity" but insists that the Confederation of Labour exists to fight against dictation by employers or state and cannot be directed by the political representatives of employers.

"Eputation at the top" - Again attacks large business organizations, mentioning particularly I.M.I. (Istituto Mobiliare Italiano), I.R.I. (Istituto Ricostruzione Industriale), F.I.N.S.I. D.E.R. (Societa Finanziaria Siderurgica) and F.I.N.M.A.R.E. (Societa Finanziaria Marittima) as being shot through and through with Fascism and corruption.

"Recovery" - Recovery depends chiefly on the eradication of corruption and egoism. This cannot take place unless men who control distribution and production give the example. This is not the case and a few men are enough to strangle all initiative and progress. The first duty of the Government is to fight against corruption.

"Reap the harvest" - The harvest is ripe but there is not enough electrical energy or petrol to get it in. Cannot the Allies allow the countryside to get petrol supplies? Failing this, there are methods of using lignite, wood and coal. If the owners of cars and machines charge too much for hiring them they must be requisitioned.

"Save the children" - Draws attention to the urgent need of providing milk, flour and medicine for "L'Opera Nazionale Materna ed Infanzia".

-2-

Unita

"Scandalous arrests" - The carabinieri and questura have arrested people tearing down wall-notices posted by monarchists. These people should be freed immediately, and the authorities should find out the authors of these provocative manifestos.

Risorgimento Liberale

"Italian youth" - Article by Benedetto Croce deploring the lack of knowledge, will and energy created by Fascism. Youth has to be completely re-educated.

N.B. The tone of the Roman press during the week is noticeably flat, timid, dull. Scarcely any criticism is voiced - for instance there is no mention of food or behaviour of troops, and even after two Press Conferences no comment is made on Colonel Poletti, whose declarations are merely reported. The only faint liveliness is in the field of inter-party squabbles. It is clear that the present press - which is an artificial set-up imposed by the Allied Publications Board - is unrepresentative, nervous and probably poorly-staffed. The resumption of "Il Messaggero" and "Il Mondo" may cause sparks to fly. One may guess, however, that if the present press does not wake up, there will undoubtedly be an outbreak of clandestine controversial journalism.

5416

PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

PRB/RS.

27 June 1944.

Daily Digest of Rome Press - 27 June 1944

Avanti!

"Summer of victory" - complains that while Allied victory draws near Italians are still treated with contempt and distrust - unjustly, because such feelings are based on the mistakes of Fascism. Two things are essential to Italian recovery - the right to fight and the right to work. But nothing is being settled because the Government is kept at Salerno, the Governorate administration doesn't know what it is supposed or allowed to do, and the Allies themselves are floating about on a sea of rules and regulations which are often contradictory. Epuration is the first thing to get on with; and Colonel Poletti has started the ball rolling: let it roll. But above all let us have precise directions about work and volunteers. The Allies and the Government should tell us their intentions frankly.

"Cement Eaters" - Building firms and private people have made money out of the Germans. The lists need checking with the municipality and the Ministry of Public Works so that compromised persons may be brought to book.

"Epuration Order" - A good order: like all such orders it is empirical: those who administer it will have their work cut out.

"Return of faith" - Praises Colonel Poletti's short but firm radio talk.

Il Popolo

"Dibattiti" - continues the open discussion of the law of May 26, 1944 (Punishment of Fascists). Perla writes that C'Acci (the last contributor) wants nothing except the application of common law which would mean wiping out the past, but Il Popolo sees nothing against exceptional measures - perhaps a little different from that under discussion - provided that they hasten the epuration of the country.

"The war goes on" - Rebukes folk who, after seeing the magnificent and illimitable resources of the Allies, think that the war is won and do nothing to help. The Allies, England in particular, have suffered: and everyone must help.

"Ethics and the State" - Protests against any idea that the State is the guardian of morals. Politics must be subservient to morality and not vice versa.

Ricostruzione

"Trades Unions and democracy" - Again attacks "Avanti" and "Unita" about the control of the General Confederation of Labour. Labour-Democrats have the right of representation in all trades union organizations.

"Black List" - Submits the names Giovanni and Attilio Michieletto of the Federation of Consorzi Agrari as ripe for

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Ricostruzione

"Trades Unions and democracy" - Again attacks "Avanti" 5/15 and "Unità" about the control of the General Confederation of Labour. Labour-Democrats have the right of representation in all trades union organizations.

"Bacon List" - Submits the names Giovanni and Attilio Michieletto of the Federation of Consorzi Agrari as ripe for epuration.

Italia Libera

"Criticism the first duty" - The people must learn to criticize freely: no good accepting a Committee of Liberation clique in place of a Fascist clique. The parties must serve the public by clearing the atmosphere and restoring the courage of criticism: the people must not mumble grumbles but criticize openly.

"The miracle of the loaves" - Praises the work of Poletti, who is now one of the most popular figures among the Allies.

Interview with Professor Egidi on the hygiene situation. No infectious disease: continual supervision of aqueducts and sources: many public baths soon to be opened.

Unita

Replies to Croce who proposed (in "Risorgimento Liberale") to re-educate youth which had fallen for communism on account of the bankruptcy of Fascism. Quotes Foglietti, and says that Communism is the only creed which can fill the spiritual void of youth.

"Break the Black Market" - The present officials can't do it: they are untrustworthy. The Committee should form its own Rationing Committee to denounce offenders, supervise distribution, and see that Allied orders are carried out. Exceptional measures for exceptional times.

Risorgimento Liberale

"Telephones for all" - We are told by experts that the whole Roman telephone network only needs 200 kilowatts. This is no more than a generator can provide. It appears that the Azienda Tramviaria offered several generators to the Tegi at a meeting suggested by the Allied Command. In these days when transport is so scarce the telephone is a real necessity and if the Allied Command wants to help us we do beg them to restore the telephone system without delay.

5214

PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

PRB/RB.

28 June 1944.

Daily Digest of Rome Press - 28 June 1944

Quotidiano

"Religion and politics" - Comments on two articles published on 22nd (Reale in Unita and Jacobbi in Ricostruzione) on this subject, and welcomes this sign of Italy's return to religion.

"Problems of the city" - Reports Colonel Poletti's press conference and praises his practical sense, clarity of mind, and firm determination.

Osservatore Romano

"Future of Catholic Action Party" - Reports conference which took place on 19th - 25th and the speech of Monsignor Montini. Usual sentiments of fraternity and unity.

"Cesano Camp" - The PWB description of the camp is inaccurate. A corrective is needed to prevent the public and the authorities from being misled, especially as the PWB is an official agency. From Easter onwards the Pope had sent considerable supplies of flour, bread, pasta, rice, peas, and fats to the unfortunate inmates of the camp. This was continued throughout air raids, right up to June 5. From June 6 to 18 the camp was maintained and fed exclusively by the Vatican. On the 19th the Regional Commissioner handed over the camp to Major Dafur, and this exchange took place in an atmosphere of complete cordiality.

"Price control" - Approves the price list, which seems fair to producers and consumers. Offenders should be severely punished.

Avanti (Special Number for Socialist Youth)

"Politics in the sacristy" - Attacks priests who use the pulpit as a political platform.

Italia Libera

"Unemployment" - Unemployment is the worst problem of Southern Italy. The Government and the Allies should face up to the problem. There should be a census of unemployed and everyone should be made to work or fight, no matter whether in Italy or elsewhere, whether for a short time or for ever.

"Evacuation has started" - Interview with the High Commissioner Mario Berlinguer of the Action Party. The Commission has three sub-Committees viz: to deal with illegal profiteering and state confiscation of illegal profits; to deal with the dismissal of officials; and to deal with crimes and illegal acts committed by Fascists. These laws are based on the presumption that the

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Italia Libera gives details without comment of Colonel Poletti's epuration order and the arrangements for the Committee chosen by the Committee of Liberation.

/ Ricostruzione

Piccostruzione

"The happy holidays of the Fascist Special Tribunal" - Several members of the tribunal are going around in Rome. There is the President, Lemetere, and the Procurator-General Santoro, who now ranks in an antifascist party.

"Expuration of Fascists" - Comments on Colonel Poletti's order and observes that this may put an end to the illusion of those who hoped that everything would end in a general embrace. Quotes names of arrested persons and wants more names quickly. Strike hard and strike at the top first.

"Traffic in identities." - Membership cards of clandestine resistance movements are now being sold for thousands of lire and political virginity is being acquired by bank notes. The severest penalties are necessary.

Il Popolo

"Expuration" - It will be a difficult and delicate matter to carry out the order; extremely difficult to trace past history right back to beginnings of Fascism; such orders are always apt to hit the innocent as well as the guilty; conviction should only be based on proven active consent and cooperation.

"Sacred or profane politics?" - Accuses Avanti of taking a Fascist attitude towards the clergy who did a very great deal for the cause of clandestine resistance. Their unselfish behaviour is now attacked by unscrupulous careerists who wish to play at politics.

Risorgimento Liberale

"Colonel Poletti's order" - Disapproves of the order: too many categories: same punishment for different degrees of guilt. Persons who are dependent on salary or wages are punished before they can be judged, merely on presumption of responsibility. Judgment no doubt will be made but it will take a long time. In the meantime there should be only suspension for those who earn low wages - which in itself presupposes honesty and good faith.

Also deplores the fact that the Poletti Rome order differs from similar orders in the South: Italian citizens should not have to defend their past on different grounds, according to whether they happen to be here or there.

PRB/RB.

29 June 1944.

Daily Digest of Rome Press - 29 June 1944.

Ricostruzione

"Referendum or Constituent Assembly?" - This favourite argument continues as usual: Ricostruzione holds that a referendum is a perfect means of misinterpreting and falsifying public opinion.

"Finding the way" - Deplores the restoration of a party called "Italian Peasant Party" which now has its temporary Headquarters at 36 Via Palermo.

"Black List" - Demands ejection of Dr Enrico Degli Atti, Commissario Prefettizio dell'Ente Istituti riuniti di assistenza e tessificenza.

Avanti

Leader. Asks for a distribution of salt, washing and toilet soap, and medicines.

Unita

"Ejection without mercy" - Gives full approval to Poletti's order, and has no reservations such as those expressed by Il Popolo and Risorgimento Liberale.

"Iniquitous and absurd" - Characterizes by these adjectives any possible reappearance of Il Messaggero.

Risorgimento Liberale

"A double game" - Aristocratic and bourgeois drawing-rooms which were the haunt of the nazi-fascist elite are now filled with allied officers. It is dangerous: the police should watch this development.

"Exceptions to the rule" - The fact that there can be no Parliament or Senate until the Constituent Assembly draws up a new constitution is no reason for the Bonomi Government to extend its powers out of all present and future control. It should remain as nearly as possible constitutional: and it will not do so if it makes decrees which are laws, if it evades all control, if it ignores technical advice.

"The disaster of two nations" - Plea for understanding and friendship between France and Italy.

Italia Libera

"All at work and work for all" - Reports and comments favourably on the declaration of the Action Party.

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Italia Libera

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Copy to: Acting Chief Commissioner
Political Section
Colonel C. Poletti
Major T.G. Bergin, DOPR, AGC Main HQ

5211

PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

PRB/RS.

30 June 1944.

Daily Digest of Rome Press - 30 June 1944

Avanti

"Sicilian separation and regional autonomy" - Regards separation as out of the question but considers that a measure of economic autonomy is justifiable and could be carried out through Regional Councils including representatives of workers and peasants.

"Mussolini's musketeers" - (I moschettieri del Duce) - Asks why these people have not been included in Poletti's epuration order.

Ricostruzione

"Vanguard of an Army" - Quotes Churchill in praise of patriots and insists that all Italians be allowed to fight.

"War Damage" - Discusses "scorched earth" conditions south of Rome and points out need of farmers and peasants for equipment, seed and subsidied.

"Consumers and society" - Announces the formation of a "Civil Society" by the "Partisan Supreme Command" to protect consumers of goods and products.

Unita

The ACC, in agreement with AMG, has appointed a Rector and clean-up Committee for the University. On this Committee are Filippo Vassalli and Nicola Spano, the latter as Administrative Director. The political antecedents of these two men make them quote "unfit for such office." Evidently there has been a mistake which will be corrected.

"Epuration Order" - Praises Poletti's order whole-heartedly. No false pity.

"Black Market" - Notes the formation of an expert Committee to fight the Black Market by the Communist section of Centocelle. Excellent results.

5410
"Fascist Editors" - a meeting of surprises" - On an invitation published in the Press, Roman editors went to the Palazzo del Drago. First surprise - it was a meeting of I.R.C.E. - the fascist institution for foreign cultural relations. Master of Ceremonies was Grand Officer Luciano de Feo (evidently confirmed in his office as Director General!). Second surprise - presence of Fascist editors. Third surprise - Comm. Rusca of Casa Mondadori nominated as President Grand Officer Giovanni Rardi,

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Il Popolo

"Epurazione" - Repeats doubts about the Poletti order.

"University Clean-up" - Letter from Prof. Avv. Gastano Vitagliano, professor of law in Rome University and now member of the Epurazione Committee of the University. He says that there are only three University professors (Caronia, De Ruggiero, and Vitagliano) who are really anti-fascist and have never had a tessera. What is this "antifascist committee of professors"

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which the Press announces? Who is it composed of and what does it represent? Enough of these chameleon tactics.

Italia Libera

Interview with Smuts. The war going well: won't last long now. There won't be one peace conference but a series of them extending over 10 or 20 years and bringing about a "gradual integration" of the Nations of the World. Of course there must be some supreme control and an international police.

Risorgimento Liberale

"Justice" - Denies accusations made by Unita to the effect that Risorgimento's criticisms of the Poletti order were intended to shield those responsible for the Fascist regime.

"Caronia is installed" - The appointment by the Acc of a University Clean-up Committee has aroused very lively comment. What is the relation of such a committee to Poletti's Epuration Committee? Will its decisions be temporary or permanent? Some of the names chosen are very perplexing. The inclusion of Nicola Spano, the famous "pundicator" of the Fascist organ "University Life" and the admirer of Bottai, makes one wonder - could custodian custodes?

"Paper for books" - Publication of anti-Nazi and anti-fascist books by well-known writers should be allowed.

Distribution: - Acting Chief Commissioner
Political Section
Colonel G. Poletti
Major T.G. Bergin, DDP, Naples
Information Division.

5709

-2-

Il Quotidiano

"Trades Unions" - There are now three Federations of Labour in Italy, one in Rome and two in the South, all three of divergent political character. The work of the three (Left) Parties tends towards fusion, but before that can come about it is possible that the number of unions may increase with the backing of the other parties, now in opposition.

"The Catholic Action Party" has set up a Press Bureau and an Information Office to deal with the Italian and Foreign Press on all Catholic questions.

"Water" - Thanks to the Allies and the workers and directors of the Marcian and Aegan aqueducts, Rome will have its normal water supply again in a very few days.

Ricostruzione

"Black List" - Gives the names of two individuals ripe for expiation, Nicola Spano, Administrative Director of the University, nominated on the University Clean-Up Committee, and Comm. Arnaldo Cittadini, ex-federal secretary of Turin, squadrista, Littoria band, march on Rome, etc. etc. now Senior Inspector in the Rome Customs Offices.

Italia Libera

"Evidence not indulgence" - Many men who were affiliated in their more or less recent past to the Fascist regime have aided the Committee of Liberation and the Committee and Parties have recognized and will continue to recognize services performed for the underground organization. As the Committee has done, so also will the Party of Action does not intend to pardon guilty men. It awaits facts, it does not pronounce sentences. You cannot judge a Fascist only on the basis of his activity in these last ten months.

"National Association of Editors" - The second reunion of editors, held yesterday, voted an order of the day expressing the desire to purge itself of Fascist editors. A committee of five members was elected to study a plan of reorganization. This committee will present its findings 15 July.

5107

-3-

Avanti

"End of American Isolation" - Announces that America's two major political parties have renounced isolationism.

"What goes on at L'Istituto delle Assicurazioni?" - When Signor De Liguoro took office as Commissario per l'Istituto delle Assicurazioni after his appointment by the Badoglio Government it was all wrong, according to Avanti. After postulating that the directors of the parties, the Committee of Liberation and the Confederation of Labour should have greater weight in the selection of heads in the departments at L'Istituto delle Assicurazioni than the defunct Badoglio Government, it observes that the Institute's 38 milliard lire is not a matter to be treated lightly. "The recommendations of the Committee of Liberation should be considered before any appointments of Commissioners are made and we will not alter our view on this matter", the article concludes.

"The Messenger Again" - Vigorously protesting against the reappearance of this former morning paper, Avanti warns that it will mean the return of Fascist journalists. "We identify one with the other," is says.

Under the title "Attention Chameleons" a bystander is shown asking a hurrying blackshirted figure who carries a valise where he is going so fast. Without stopping, the man in the blackshirt replies: "They have asked me to take part in the Epuration Committee and I have not yet had time to change my shirt."

Osservatore Romano

"A medical necessity" - Hospitals and nursing homes which use electric appliances must be allowed a steady supply of electric light.

Ricostruzione

"Reconstitution of the Mercantile Marine" - The "Marina Militare" is trying to get the Mercantile Marine under its control in order to fill it with officials who ought to be sacked.

"Black List" - Professor Foricchia, former Fascist Deputy, Sig. Marchini, former party representative and deputy and Sig. Bisacco, who was formerly a "ferocious Fascist Republican", are still employed by the Società Anonima Esportazione Importazione Bastiane. Since this is a government institution, "Ricostruzione" asks "how come?"

I'Unita

"Swindlers" - Two more cases where the public has been swindled by self-styled partisans have come to light. A circular has been received by several Roman merchants demanding their immediate membership and substantial contributions. It is pretentiously signed "Partisan Headquarters". More audacious attempts have been made on the credulity of citizens in Trastevere, where a group signing itself "The Italian Communist Party" has tried to circulate 10 lire promissory notes "for victims of the Battle for Liberty".

"Unemployment versus Public Works" - The solution for unemployment, which daily becomes more serious in Rome, is the immediate inauguration of a public works program. Damaged railroad facilities and homes present the municipal and Allied authorities with an opportunity which is for Rome an urgent necessity.

Aventi!

"Battle for Northern Italy" - Italians living in liberated Italy can contribute much to the winning of the war in Germany occupied Italy. By increasing our voluntary enlistments our present regiments may grow into brigades and divisions, our press, in cooperation with Allied directives, may wage strong propagandistic campaigns against the enemy and meanwhile the students and statesmen among us can search for solutions to Italy's economic problems.

"N.B." (Moroccan troops) - This paper politely requests the Allied Control Commission to make a public report on current happenings at Fesinone which involve French Moroccan troops. "In time of war, even in a conquered country," the article states, "there are some things which civilized people do not permit."

/ Il Porcilo.

-2-

Il Popolo

"The next step" - Italy, according to this paper, awaits the reestablishment of the national government at Rome. Allied authorities should realize the necessity for this and bring it about, the article says.

Disorginamento Liberale

"Reminders" - Attention is called to the fact that some time ago Allied authorities promised citizens that they might soon have access to their safety deposit boxes. Since many people have all or most of their liquid assets locked away in banks and vaults they must either be able to get at them or go hungry.

L'Italia Libera

"Fourth of July" - Deftly using the anniversary of American Independence to review the progress that has been made during the four weeks of Allied occupation, this writer notes with favour that a democratic government has been established, that the control of foreign affairs and the armed forces have once again been placed in the hands of civilians who are responsible to the people and that it practically has been decided to return the national government of Italy to Rome. "But," the article vigorously states, "the problems of unemployment, national sequestration of Fascist industries, repatriation of prisoners of war and the securing of raw materials are yet to be solved." Looking forward to the peace the writer warns that before there can be any thought of participation in the reconstruction of a free and united Europe Italy must be restored to her rightful place in the commerce of the world.

"We lacked prudence"

Apparently allied music lovers will not let the local press forget that it was largely its enthusiasm for Gigli which made him abandon his scheduled public performances. So Averati says, "We made a mistake. By objecting to Gigli's singing because of his opinions we made an important political figure out of him when actually he is not a man, but a tenor. Indeed we erred," the article concludes, "Had we forced him to sing we would have offended him more."

"Tor Marinella needs help"

Artificial conditions exist at the little village of Tor Marinella where 600 families are living in miserable hovels lacking any kind of sanitation. An average of 12 persons eat and sleep in the crowded rooms of this little village which has apparently been abandoned by the authorities.

L'Italiana Libera

"The three phases of execution"

There should be three distinct phases in the application of Colonel Relutini's recent execution ordinance according to L'Italiana Libera. First the article states all persons referred to in the ordinance should be immediately apprehended; second, and individual cases should be examined and the less guilty persons placed on some kind of probation and third, immediate punishment should be meted out to all those who are clearly guilty. The guilty, this paper further advocates, should be examined by three different judicial commissions who would then pass sentence: (a) Commission for illicitly wealthy fascists, (b) Commission for fascist State Employees and (c) Commission for fascist crimes. If the execution proceedings are conducted according to this scheme, the article concludes Italians may be sure that there will be no hate and false pity and that justice will be done.

"Preferred customers"

Taking up the complaint of householders all over the city who each night observe lights go on the in house next door while their own rooms remain plunged in darkness, L'Italiana Libera this morning asks, "How come? We have received the reply that current for electric light is sent to all persons whose names are on preferential list, but does this mean that the authorities give electricity only to those whom they wish?"

5404

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among whom are Masco, O.V.R.A. chief, and a man by the name of De Simone whom the writer regards with particular disfavor because notwithstanding his arrest by the Allies he still possesses besides a Villa at Forlì an automobile.

During the past ten days the Rome press has continually harped on the arguments for and against a referendum as opposed to a Constituent Assembly. It is worth noting that, although arguments turn on various aspects of the legality or efficacy of either, the fundamental quarrel is between Monarchists and Republicans. It seems to be generally thought that a Constituent Assembly would be "rigged" by the six parties (which now tend to be accused of representing nobody but themselves) and would therefore be overwhelmingly anti-dynastic, while a referendum appealing to the conservative masses of the peasants, would be decisively pro-monarchic. Therefore, under the mask of this constitutional debate, the institutional question appears to be very much alive.

5403

they should not be allowed to come into contact with civilians the Osservatore staff. It endorses a similar article on this subject which appeared two days ago in the Avanti.

"War as a Means Toward Peace"

The war is actually leading toward universal peace, according to a Vatican commentator, because the whole world is involved in its travail and suffering. Because common suffering can lead only to common brotherhood, the present halo-courtesy is a practical demonstration of the Pope's words that war can be and ought to be only a means toward peace, he says.

Il Popolo - "Old Staff"

It is not a disaster but it does no good when journalists write and paper's publish distortions against the church. Maybe, Il Popolo, asks, persons who vilify the church might be considered as likely cases for the excommunication committee. We do not speak of changing men, we are interested only in ideas, the paper adds.

Avanti! - "Osservatore: Romano Says Avanti Right"

Evidently glad for Vatican support in its campaign for immediate action on the part of allied authorities to stop the atrocities of Moroccan troops at Frosinone, Avanti today adds a new element to its plea. "We have made our appeal to the authorities in the name of the church and charity and have gotten in return a warm and human sympathy, but no action," the paper states. "But if these reprehensible acts continue who is going to accept the responsibility for the inevitable popular reaction of the Italian people?"

"How about the War Damaged Towns?"

After noting that the small surviving towns in the province of Rome have been almost totally destroyed by war--Frascati, Velletri, Albano, Genzano, etc., -- Avanti calls attention to the fact that the rebuilding of streets, electric power lines, street car and railroad systems and, above all, social and cultural life, must be undertaken on a province-wide basis. In particular the attention of the authorities is called to Frascati and Velletri where flour mills and an electric light plant still stand inactive but undamaged.

/Avanti.

Il Quotidiano - "Wages and the Cost of Living"

How can one live, Il Quotidiano asks, when the cost of living has increased ten times in the last five years while wages have only doubled? This paper believes that the only way to escape the economic misery imposed by the Fascists is to promptly set about equalizing wages and prices. This is a necessary first step in solving Italy's economic problems, it says.

Riformamento Liberale - "Government without Opposition"

It is not right that only the big parties presently included in the Government should have the right to publish newspapers, according to Riformamento Liberale. Because there is a certain tendency for them to argue about their political differences and ignore their larger problems facing Italy. Only a press that is truly free can represent the affairs of a nation, it concludes.

L'Unita' Libera - "Truth and Light"

Evidently all problems are useless, water and lights are turned on only for preferred lists of Fascist customers and for all that we say," L'Unita' Libera comments this morning. "Is it possible to expect that the authorities will do something about this and do we have to wait much longer?" it asks.

"L.D."

With one exception the Rome press printed Colonel Poletti's radio speech of yesterday, either in its entirety or in part. There was no editorial comment.

-2-

11 Feb 66. "Togliatti's Speech". Notes Togliatti's appeal for agreement between communists and socialists and the Christian Democrat Party and, although not dismissing an "armistice" under present conditions, doubts the possibility of such cooperation, in view of fundamental differences in the conception of a democratic state. Hopes that the intention to respect the Catholic faith may mean the end of anti-clericalism and also of any attempt to confuse religion and politics.
