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Daily Digest of Rome Press - Transl of Copy Filed by Correspondents
Aug. 1944 - July 1945

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

RG/PRB

APO 394

GSB/dp

PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

July 31, 1945

SUBJECT: Reference attached.

TO : Chief Commissioner

Reference is to your memorandum inquiring as to the sources of stories referred to in paragraphs 4 and 6, page 1, Daily Press Digest of July 21.

The story quoted in paragraph 4 is an ANSA despatch datelined Bologna and reads as follows:

"We learn that on the night of August 4 and 5 all of the provinces of Emilia and Romagna will be returned to the administration of the Italian Government by the Allied Military Government. In this connection an official announcement is awaited." Apparently ANSA got a tip in Bologna on this story.

Paragraph 6 reference is to an INS despatch datelined Chiasso. The despatch reads as follows:

"Chiasso (INS) The Allied Commission has suggested that the Italian Government should hold general elections in Italy as soon as possible. At the same time the Commission gave indication that the British and Americans are reluctant to invest important capital in Italy for the necessary work of reconstruction until after the elections have been held."

This sounds like a Chinigo story and what his source was I haven't the vaguest idea. I suspect he has been talking with some of our AMG officers in the North.

G. STEWART BROWN
Director
Public Relations Branch

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

Office of the Chief Commissioner

APO 394

30 July 1945.

MEMORANDUM TO: Director, Public Relations Branch.

Referring to yesterday's Daily Digest of the Rome Press, will you please check the source of the stories referred to in paragraphs 4 and 3 on page 1.

As you know, I did not clear the story on the transfer of additional territory to the Italian Government and have been holding it until all points have been cleared.

I am particularly interested in finding out who in A.C. stated that the investment of foreign capital in the Italian economy would depend on the results of the elections.



ELMO W. STONE
Rear Admiral, USNR
Chief Commissioner

1916

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
TRANSPORTATION SUB-COMMISSION

Tel: 318

MJS/h1

396/189/TN 3

SUBJECT: Daily Digest of Rome Press

12 May 1945

TO : Public Relations Office

1. Reference your RE/FRB/AC, dated May 11th, it is noted that the "Libera Stampa" reports that 15,000 goods wagons have been saved in the North.

2. Is it possible to find out from where this information was obtained or what it is based on? Latest records show a census of something over 1100 wagons so far counted. Undoubtedly, this figure will increase considerably when all wagons have been checked and counted; at the same time, if the impression gets around that there are a very considerable number of railway wagons available for traffic in the North, this will increase the present laxity ~~and~~ wastage which is occurring, especially in the use of rail transport.

3. May this matter be taken up with the "Libera Stampa" to see if some more accurate information can be published?

M. J. Sieff

M. J. SIEFF, Colonel,
Chief, Movements Division

Mr. O'Brien:

*Will you have a look at this?
If the article gives the authority of it -
if not you might ask them where
they get their facts.*

1945

sgb

14 May 1945

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
INFORMATION AND CENSORSHIP SECTION
PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE BRANCH
ITALIAN THEATRE HEADQUARTERS
P.W.B. UNIT No. 12 U.S.A.P.O. 512
FILM PRODUCTION SECTION

O.K.
ay.

4 May 1945.
Friday.

To : Allied Commission,
Public Relations Office,
Via Veneto 62.

From : Mogens Brandt, Office Manager,
P.W.B., Via Bellini 27.

Subject : "Daily Digest of Rome Press".

From tomorrow Saturday 5 May 1945 you are kindly
asked to send 2 copies of the above digest to:

Mrs. K. NAYLOR,
"D" Section,
Room n° 521,
P.W.B., Via Veneto 62.

As this Section is now closing down, we shall not need
the 5 copies sent to this Section in the past. The 2
copies for Mrs. Naylor will not be fetched in your
office, and they should therefore be forwarded through
the Message Centers.

On behalf of the Section I thank you for
having sent us the digest which has proved most useful
to us.

Mogens Brandt
Mogens Brandt
Film Production Section

MB/-

11 a ~~6-30~~
Tel: 478808

SUBJECT: Distribution - Basic News.

26 January 1945.

TO : Civil Affairs Section, 15 Army Group.

In addition to the copy of Basic News now being sent daily by you to Brig. Lush it would be appreciated if two further copies could be obtained and sent here, one copy addressed to the Office of the Chief of Staff and the other to the Public Relations Officer, this Headquarters.

Copy to: P.R. Branch

~~Chief Staff Officer,~~
To the Chief of Staff.

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

APC 394

PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

8/PRB

5 January 1945.

SUBJECT: Request for Publications.

TO : Lt. Col. W.P. Browne, AG, Hqs AAFSC, Mediterranean Theater of Operations, APO 588.

1. Ref your In-2-10 dated 30 December 1944.

2. "Daily Digest of Rome Press" will be forwarded to the Intelligence Section, your headquarters, beginning with copy dated 5 January 1945.

3. "Trend of copy filed by correspondents" is no longer published by this Branch but we have requested Public Relations, AAFHQ, to let you have copies of their issue regularly.

LIONEL FIELDEN

Major,

Public Relations Director.

1913

HEADQUARTERS
ARMY AIR FORCE SERVICE COMMAND
MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS
APO 528

IN-2-10

30 December 1944.

SUBJECT: Request for Publications.

TO : Headquarters Allied Commission, APO 394, US Army.
Public Relations Branch.1. Request that Intelligence Section, this Headquarters,
be placed on mailing list for the following:

- a. Trend of copy filed by correspondents.
- b. Digest of Rome Press.

For the Commanding General:

Request for (c) passed
to Lieut. Col. Hayden
on 5/1/45.

J. P. Browne
W. P. BROWNE,
Lt. Col., AGD,
Adjutant General.

1912

MR. DOWDERS CALLED COM. INCHON
AND 384
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

13 Dec. 1944

10a/PHE

SUBJECT : Rene Digest of Dec., 13

TO : Chief Commissioner

I have spoken to Astley (the PWB had not done so) and he will transmit the information to General McChrystal.

Better still, I think, will be to circulate to all members of the party today's Rene digest (attached). This I can do through Weidman who is acting as their conducting officer. It is a normal PR routine to circulate such material to visitors. Do you agree?

LIONEL TILLEN
Major
Public Relations Director

1911

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
INFORMATION AND CENSORSHIP SECTION
PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE BRANCH
ITALIAN THEATRE HEADQUARTERS
P.W.B. UNIT No. 12 U.S.A.P.O. 512

13 December 1944.

To : Allied Commission HQ.,
Public Relations Branch,
Via Veneto - Rome.

From : P.W.B. - Film Production Section
Via Bellini 27 - Rome.

Subject: "Daily Digest of Rome Press".

We hereby ask you kindly to give five copies of the above digest (instead of four) to bearer of this letter, Mr. P. Pini. The copies are distributed to the following persons all working in this Section:

Mr. A. Mackendrick - Chief
S/Sgt. P. Elliottsmith - Acting Chief
Mrs. K. Naylor (specially working for
Mrs. F. Orlando (our News Roll Units.
Miss L. Reilly (

We thank you in advance.

Mogens Brandt
Mogens Brandt
Film Production Section

Phone
478658.

10A

ADVANCED ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
Liaison Section.

{Via 23 MARZO}

20 Nov 44

SUBJECT: Daily Digest of Rome Press.

TO : Public Relations Branch, Hqs. A.C., Rome.

Sir D'Arcy Osborne, K.C.M.G., His Majesty's Minister to the Holy See, would be grateful if the Daily Digest of Rome press could be sent to him direct to the following address.

Sir D'Arcy Osborne K.C.M.G.,
British Legation to the Holy See,
Via del Parlamento 14.
ROME.

John de Salis

(COUNT DE SALIS)
Lt-Colonel.

*It would be much appreciated if you
would very kindly acknowledge receipt by
telephone.*

acknowledged by phone.

RTB

23/11/44.

1919

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

10A/3/FRB

19 November 44.

Subject: Trend of Copy and Matthews article.

To: Chief of Staff.

As requested, I attach a note on the Matthews-Trend imbroglio.

(Sd)
MICHAEL FIELDER,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

1948

NOTE ON THE TREND OF COPY COVERING NEW YORK
TIMES INTERVIEW WITH THE LIEUTENANT GENERAL

The regular publication of extracts from copy filed by correspondents is a customary function of IR. Its object is to acquaint those immediately concerned with the attitude taken by correspondents towards their organization and activities. Its chief value lies (a) in providing an immediate check on correspondents' messages and (b) showing exactly what line correspondents are taking themselves, as distinct (and there is frequently much distinction) from what their editors print.

The Trend of Copy made for the ACC was originated by me in Naples, where I used frequently to spend the evenings with the censors going through the copy. I must stress here the fact that, in order to make this service interesting and valuable, I invariably read all service messages, spoke to correspondents and censors, took note of all excisions, and endeavoured to the best of my ability to produce a trend of copy which showed not only what correspondents had written but why they had written it. And this I consider to be the real value of such a service.

At Naples the Trend of Copy was done by me only at rare intervals - perhaps once, or sometimes twice, a week - when events seemed to justify it. When we arrived in Rome, however, Commodore Stone sent for me and told me that both the Trend of Copy and the Digest of the Rome Press were exceedingly valuable services which should be done with the utmost regularity and spread. Since each service needs at the very least five hours work, I could not do these myself every day: I therefore directed Major Bergin to take over the Digest as a regular feature and Lieutenant Braydon to do the same with the Trend.

Lieutenant Braydon started the Trend on July 1 and since then has done it regularly, making a precis from his shorthand notes which now amounts to some 80,000 words, condensed from a pile of messages of which those who have not seen it can have no conception: it must be remembered that ACC material is frequently mixed up with war despatches and other messages and the whole file has to be combed. Lieutenant Braydon is a man of extreme caution and correctness, and the service which he carried out has seemed to meet with approval on all sides during the past 4½ months.

The Trend is mimeographed and corrected by Lieutenant Braydon and I have never seen any reason to supervise it myself before issue since all the copy in it is made public overseas long before our Trend is done: the only possible danger in it is that, if by chance a message were delayed and at the same time our Trend got into the hands of the Italian Press, an item might be published here before it was published elsewhere. With this potential danger in my mind I gave orders

valuable, I invariably read all service messages, spoke to correspondents and censors, took note of all excisions, and endeavored to the best of my ability to produce a trend of copy which showed not only what correspondents had written but why they had written it. And this I consider to be the real value of such a service.

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Lieutenant Braydon started the Trend on July 1 and since then has done it regularly, making a precis from his shorthand notes which now amounts to some 80,000 words, condensed from a pile of messages of which those who have not seen it can have no conception: it must be remembered that JCC material is frequently mixed up with war despatches and other messages and the whole file has to be combed. Lieutenant Braydon is a man of extreme caution and correctness, and the service which he carried out has seemed to meet with approval on all sides during the past 4½ months.

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On November 1 Lieutenant Braydon included in the Trend Matthews' copy of his interview with the Lieutenant-General (copy attached). The interview was preceded by a description of the difficulties encountered in getting it and the fact that it had been "tooth-combed" by Bonomi, Orlando, and Visconti Veroste, and that therefore it should be printed word for word as it stood. Matthews claims that it is was an FVI message. Lieutenant Braydon states that to the best of his recollection it was not, and was incorporated in the ordinary text, as indeed such messages frequently are. Since Matthews, by say in one despatch that Bonomi had seen the interview and in another

th, he had not, has lied, I do not see any reason to accept his word as final: but it is of course possible that Braydon made a mistake. If he did so, I am quite sure it was unwitting: and it must be remembered that the great volume of correspondents' copy does make such a mistake easy. I shall endeavour to check this with Colonel Astley and the Cable Company.

In any case the Trend of Copy of November 1 was read by 69 distinguished people, including our Political Section, Charles, Kirk, G-5, the AFM Political Adviser, G-2, and Bonomi himself: no-one found anything objectionable in it. Since the message was of some importance and came at the very beginning of the Trend I can hardly believe that the copies sent to Bonomi's own office went unremarked. I certainly saw no objection since I presumed that Matthews and the Lieutenant-General were wisely covering themselves.

Obviously, when Bonomi and Matthews chose to deny what had in fact happened, our document became politically valuable. But long before this, in fact on the date when the interview was first reported in the Italian Press, ITALIA NUOVA suggested strongly that Bonomi, Orlando and the Crown Prince were all in league to present a new Italian policy to the world.

When on November 12 ITALIA NUOVA stated that Matthews had told his paper that Bonomi had seen the interview, it was clear that a leakage had occurred. It may very well have occurred through our Trend. On the other hand it may also have occurred in many other ways. There is no very great security in AFHQ PR through which a mass of people move. Four copies, I understand, were made of the message, one going to the cable company, one to PR, one to the Lieutenant-General and one to Matthews. In order to try to find out how far our Trend was implicated I went and saw both the Lieutenant-General and the editor of ITALIA NUOVA. The latter, Selvaggi, whom I know quite well, certainly did not know of the existence of our Trend. Naturally he would not tell me from whom he got the information but he said, I think convincingly, that he had it by word of mouth from an Italian official who, to the best of his belief, had no connection with this office whatever. The Lieutenant-General told me that the information was given by an Italian official and certainly not through anything done here.

It is, of course, difficult if not impossible to have any real proof of the source of leakage. If Braydon did in fact copy an FYI message he is very much at fault, but I must stress the fact that one mistake in a work extending over 4½ months is something which a normal human being is apt to make. And I doubt whether the people who read this Trend, and found nothing amiss, can seriously blame him. The fault of this business can hardly be made to fall on a man who, through an oversight, perhaps failed to cover up thumping lies told by a Prime Minister and the correspondent of a distinguished paper. But those who lie naturally look for a scapegoat.

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

APO 384

PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

10/1/PRE

13 November 1944.

Subject: Trend of Copy and Matthews article.

To: Acting Chief Commissioner.

After seeing Matthews and hearing all the relevant details, I am at a loss to understand why there should be so much excitement. You will remember that:

(1) You first of all asked for, and constantly praised, this Trend of Copy, which over and over again has quoted service messages incorporated in the text. No-one has ever objected. I have never seen the slightest reason not to do this.

(2) Yourself, Schott, Hopkinson, Charles, Kirk, Spofford and his Political Adviser, and Bonomi himself - not to speak of Poletti, Brown, Low, Wedermeyer, Fischer, Lush, Upjohn - ALL had copies of this Trend on November 1st, 13 days ago, and not one among you objected to it. Nor did I. Why should we have done so? It was an excellent thing to show that Bonomi and Orlando had agreed to the text, as far as we then could know: there was not the slightest reason to suppose that it was a deadly secret. Moreover I knew that Bonomi had told Charles he had seen it.

(3) The Trend of Copy has never been classified nor has anyone ever suggested that it should be. Even if it were, it would make little difference in this building. Officers are continually coming to me for extra copies of our "Secret" Bulletin - which they say they have lost! Apart from that the idea of newspaper correspondents - who are the first to shout about any secret-keeping by anybody - wanting to keep high political secrets to themselves is decidedly odd.

(4) Lieut Braydon, who does the Trend, has always done a very excellent and conscientious job. He can hardly be blamed when 69 distinguished people who read it failed to notice anything amiss until 13 days had elapsed.

(5) Nothing, as far as I am aware, has yet come to light to prove that "Italia Nuova" got its information - or rather its guess - from our Trend. I actually quoted the guess in the Bulletin and nobody took any exception to that. No doubt there is a political storm, but that is the affair of Bonomi and Matthews.

(6) I should, of course, feel outraged if it were proved that this Trend had been deliberately sold or given to "ItalianNuova" for political purposes. But that has to be proved.

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WIONEL GIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
FINANCE SUB-COMMISSION
APO 394

B

13115/F.

19 October 1944

SUBJECT: Daily Digest of Rome Press.

TO: Public Relations Officer,
Allied Control Commission. ✓

1. May future copies of the above mentioned publication hitherto addressed to Colonel Foley please be addressed to Lt.Cmdr. J.J. Lawler U.S.N.R.

for *BE L Timmons*
Joint Director
Finance Sub-Commission.

1904

Telephone

6 6 3 9 8

HEADQUARTERS
ROME ALLIED AREA COMMAND

Room 36

Friday, 22nd September, 1944

Public Relations Branch

A.C.C.

I would be grateful if you would be good enough to send me ~~transmission~~ duplicate copies of "Trend of Copy" and "Daily Digest" every day, i.e. an additional set to the one with which you provide me already.

These additional copies are required for Sir D'Arcy Osborne, H.M. Minister to the Holy See, who has asked me to send them on to him daily if possible.

John de Salis
Lt. Colonel.
Political Advisor.

An extra copy for
Count de Salis added to the
Distribution wef 23 Sep.

1903

R18Major Fielden

I had noticed this discrepancy, & had included the last two parcels.

Perhaps AHG Volterra can help us.

Braydon

11/8

Lieut Braydon

I have not seen to be any action we can take. Presumably we have done a good job in exposing the 1902.

AB

Tel. 489081

HEW/co

R10a

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Public Works and Utilities Sub-Commission
APO 394

ACC/088/PWU

10 Aug 44

SUBJECT: Malaria.

TO : HQ. A.C.C., Public Relations Branch
(through Economic Section)

1. We desire to draw your attention to the following extracts from "Trend of Correspondents' Copy", which appear difficult to reconcile :-

(a) - 26 July 1944. BROWN (Lenter) : -

4 1/2 tons of quinine, enough for Italy's entire population for a whole year, have been discovered by AMG officers of the 5th Army in the small town of Volterra. The major portion will be distributed for civilian use in malarial areas.

(b) - 6 Aug 1944. COE (Blue Network) : -

Owing to the flooding of the Pontine Marshes and the shortage of quinine the first cases of pernicious malaria have been reported in Rome.

(c) - 7 Aug. 1944. GEORGE MOONAL (CBS) : -

..... Pernicious malaria has re-appeared (in Rome) for the first time in many years, but there is no quinine......

G. E. Rhodes

G.E. RHODES,
Lieut-Colonel, R.E.,
Deputy Director.

Copy to: Public Health Sub-Commission
(for information of
Malaria Control Div.)

1901

10 Aug
80 J

1739