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CATHOLICS
Feb. 1944

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394

Reference #696

14 February 1944

MEMORANDUM TO: Civil Affairs Section, Allied Force Headquarters
SUBJECT : Suppression of Catholic Action Groups in Allied-occupied Italy

Reference is made to Civil Affairs memorandum of February 10, 1944 concerning the Department of State's inquiry in respect of a report published in Rome that the Italian Government had "suppressed all Catholic Action groups in the territory occupied by the Allies".

The Italian Foreign Office states categorically that no such action has been taken by the Italian Government and no evidence has reached the Headquarters of the Allied Control Commission to indicate that any orders of this nature have been issued in the territory freed from German occupation. In fact it is understood that Catholic Action groups continue to exist in this area.

SAMUEL REBER
Director, Political Section

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ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
Civil Affairs Office

February 10, 1944.

Memorandum to: Political Section, Allied Control
Commission, Naples.
Military Government Section, AFHQ.
Subject : Report of suppression of Catholic
action groups in Allied occupied
territory.

The Department of State has advised the Civil Af-
fairs Office that the Vatican has made inquiries regard-
ing reports published in Rome that the Italian Govern-
ment has "suppressed all Catholic action groups in the
territory occupied by the Allies."

The Department further states that the Cardinal Sec-
retary of State made it clear that he did not believe
these reports were true, but that, nevertheless, he
would appreciate denial of them through appropriate Uni-
ted States authorities since he is not able to communi-
cate directly with the bishops in Allied occupied terri-
tory.

It would be appreciated if the Allied Control Com-
mission and the Military Government Section can supply
this Office with appropriate information for a denial
of the reports to be communicated to the Vatican through
the Department of State.

H. J. L'Heureux
H. J. L'Heureux
Acting Chief Civil Administrator

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Letters and petitions and radio reports:

29 Jan 44

- 1. Party comments over radio.
- 2. Committee in ^{*Ravenna*} Regg~~io~~ disapproves Badoglio's Govt.
- 3. Catholics support Badoglio and King.

Letters forwarding same for info.

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