

ACC

10000/136/334

10000/136/334

SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITY, NORTH ITALY  
DEC. 1944 - APR. 1945

2623/CC

# LIST OF PAPERS

Office of the  
Chief Commissioner

ALLIED COMMISSION

File under No. 2623 SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITY, NORTH ITALY  
From 1 Jan 45

~~Confidential~~

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0	Ltr Min For Affrs	28 Dec 44	Stone	Anti-Italian activity in the Trento & Bolzano Provinces
1	Ltr P/385.04 Schott	31 Dec 44	Min For Affairs	
2	Ltr 504/110/COS	1 Jan 45	RC Venezia Reg	Anti-Italian activity in the Trento & Bolzano Provinces
3	Ltr Maj Page	9 Jan 45	Stone	Pamphlets distributed in North purporting return of Trieste, Udine, Pola, etc. to Slovenia.
4	De Gasperi 16/02705/8	3 Mar 45	Stone	Conditions in ADIGE area (Bolzano, Trento, Udine, Belluno).
5	P/385.04, Talbot	10 Mar 45	RC Venezia Reg	Further report on Alto ADIGE for info/action.
6	Ltr, OSS, It Div, SI, MEDTO	4 Apr 45	Stone	Political trends in Piedmont, Fascist and Partisan.

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~~Confidential~~

# LIST OF PAPERS

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SERIAL NUMBER	FROM—	DATE	TO—	SYNOPSIS

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ACC-Italy  
RE 331  
Folder 10090/136/334  
3 documents / 10 pages [# 107-117]

ACCESS RESTRICTED

The item identified below has been withdrawn from this file:

File Designation 334

Date 1945 - 3055

From DOES RE PC1

To \_\_\_\_\_

In the review of this file this item was removed because access to it is restricted. Restrictions on records in the National Archives are stated in general and specific record group restriction statements which are available for examination. The item identified above has been withdrawn because it contains:

- Security-Classified Information
- Otherwise Restricted Information

[Signature]  
Authority

4/4/74  
Date

WITHDRAWAL NOTICE

8

Ch. [unclear]

**SECRET**

MAR 10 RECD

Ref: F/385.04

20 March 1945

SUBJECT: Reports of Army Anti-Italian Activities

TO : Regional Commissioner,  
Venetia Region.

(2)

With reference to my letter dated 1 January 1945 (Reference: No. 504/110/003) on the above subject, I attach an additional report regarding conditions in Alto-Adige which was received by the Chief Commissioner from the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Major E. Talbot

✓  
Brigadier,  
Executive Commissioner

Copy to: SOAC HIGHWAY ARMY

1 Encl: Report: Situation in Alto Adige.

26-2-3/10

DECLASSIFIED  
E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(a) and 5(a) or (c)  
By: [signature]  
Date: 11/1/74  
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**Confidential**

(5)

Translation

The Minister of Foreign Affairs

16/02705/8

Rome, 3 March 1945

CHIEF COMM

Dear Admiral,

0

after my letter of December 28th, 1944, I enclose further news which I received about the situation in the Alto Adige.

I remain, my dear Admiral,

Very truly yours,

s. De Gasperi

2623/ce

(S)

SR

Admiral Dudley W. Stone  
Chief Commissioner  
Allied Commission

REC IIIST - 4 MAR 45

Very truly yours,

S. De Gasperi

Admiral Ellery M. Stone  
Chief Commissioner  
Allied Commission

R o m e

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REC LIST - 4 MAR 45

ACTION: OFFICE POLITICAL  
ADVISERS

INFO: CHIEF COMM

INFO COMM

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(4)

117



Translation

SUBJECT: Situation in Alto Adige

The news contained in the present report were gathered among elements of the Alto Adige, at present living in Rome, and who emigrated from these regions after the German occupation. These news are worthy to be taken in consideration, for they have been confirmed by several reliable sources.

1) GENERAL SITUATION AND NAZI ORGANIZATION

When the Germans occupied the Alto Adige on September 9th 1943, they didn't proceed formally to annex the territory as it has been erroneously said, but they gave it a sui generis status, very much like that which was established in 1939 in the 'Pomerania and Moravia Protectorate'. That is to say, the citizens of German blood were declared to be 'subjects' of the Reich, but the territory itself kept the exterior appearances of Italian sovereignty, though it was ruled by laws which were quite different from those which had been enforced in the rest of occupied Italy.

All the vexing regulations against the Italians were not directly made by the authorities of occupation; local organizations constituted on purpose and exclusively formed of people who were not native of the region were made to issue these regulations, so that when the Italians protested, they were answered that the authorities of the Reich had no intention of controlling the work of these organizations.

In Alto Adige, the German right was and is still in force for the citizens of German blood, while the Italian right is in force for the Italians, (though they have to submit to the German war right). Practically, the Italians are only tolerated and have neither rights nor means of defense.

The Germans who opted for Italy in the 1939 option were and are still considered as the citizens of the 'Reich' who are politically suspect. Those who made anti-nazi propaganda during the operations connected with the option were charged with high treason.

During the first period of the occupation especially, the vexations against the Italians were numberless. Killing, looting of houses and shops, deportations, regulations restricting personal liberty can no longer be counted.

The ultimate end of all these vexations, as it is easy to understand, is to germanize the region entirely, eliminating the Italian population or obliging it to emigrate.

That this aim hasn't yet been reached is due to the fact that the Italian population of the Alto Adige is numerically much more important than it is

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That this aim hasn't yet been reached is due to the fact that the Italian population of the Alto Adige is numerically much more important than it is thought to be. The legend that the inhabitants of the region are mostly Germans spread in Italy and abroad as a result of the 1939 option.

Nevertheless, people didn't take in consideration the way in which this option was organized and took place (it is useless to remind that the German as well as the fascist government made a very active propaganda to save the inhabitants who were of German descent out for Germany; deceit and violence were used), nor did they take in consideration the fact that this was not a plebiscite, as the Germans now pretend it was, for the right of suffrage was exclusively reserved to the citizens of German descent. The option took place in the so-called 'agreement territory' (which included the Bolzano province and a few German ethnical islands which existed in the Triento Udine and Belluno provinces) and gave the following results.

Provinces	to vote	the Reich	%	for Italy
Bolzano	223,200	160,480	72.2%	63,912
Trento	24,423	13,311	53.2%	11,458
Udine	2,223	4,576	81.7%	977
Belluno	7,429	1,006	13.5%	6,423
				27,270
				46,874
				19,374
				86,926



- 2 -

Considering the Italian population living in the Alto Adige, excluded from the vote reserved to the citizens of German descent, we see that the percentage changes considerably, and, while it gives a small German minority in the Trento, Udine and Bolzano provinces, the said percentage is of little more than 50% for Bolzano. To be convinced of that, it is enough to compare the figure of those who voted with the total figure of the population living in the Alto Adige, Italian or of foreign origin.

This can be clearly demonstrated as follows:

Provinces	Residing popul.	Population opting for transf. in Germany	$\frac{2}{7}$
Bolzano	213,989	166,488	53,02
Trento	391,309	13,015	3,50
Udine	721,670	4,576	0,63
Belluno	210,553	1,006	0,47

For this reason, the Germans couldn't realize their wish of getting rid of the Italians living in the Alto Adige, for they would have struck a death blow to the economy of the region by doing so.

To sum up, in the Alto Adige the organization of the population of German descent is like that which exists in the Reich. The various Italian organizations have been kept and German commissioners put at their head. These commissioners were chosen among the members of the so-called 'opposite commissions'. (After the 1939 option, the Germans had formed commissions for those who opted for Germany'. For instance, there was a syndicate of the Italian agricultural workers and an identical German 'commission' which protected the workers who had opted for Germany during the relay of their transfer). In the Credit Institutes, and in the important organizations, the commissioners were chosen among the German employees of the enterprise itself.

Some of these organizations are still rather important because of the number of their members. For instance, the syndicates of the industrial workers (all the workers were and are Italian). In those syndicates, fascist regulations are still in force, though they are under the control of a German commissioner.

#### 29 NAZI POLICE FORCES

A short time after the German occupation, the inhabitants of German descent were called under arms as in the Reich, (natural consequence of what has been said above). Those who had made themselves prominent for a long time

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2) NAZI POLICE FORCES

A short time after the German occupation, the inhabitants of German descent were called under arms as in the Reich, (natural consequence of what has been said above). Those who had made themselves prominent for a long time by their Nazi zeal (the local Nazi party officially formed after 1939 among those who opted for Germany had been keeping a list of them for a long time) were incorporated in the 'SS' or in the police forces. Most of them were sent in other provinces of occupied Italy where their knowledge of the Italian language might prove useful. (The 'Pozan' police battalion won an evil fame in Rome).

Local elements were used for the police of the region but they were led and directed by men of the 'Reich'.

Those who lived in the Alto Adige during Nazi occupation state that the police forces are inferior to those of the remaining occupied Italian territory but superior to those which exist in identical zones in Germany.

3) COLLABORATIONIST ELEMENTS

In a general way, all those who had opted for Germany may be considered collaborators of the Nazi.

All those who emigrated from Alto Adige and are now in Liberated Italy

1415



are unanimous in describing the hearty welcome given by the part of the population which is of German descent to the German troops, their animosity against the Italian element, and the fanatical help given by them to the Nazi during the present conflict.

This indiscutable state of things must be neither hidden, nor diminished, for, should the Alto-Adige question arise tomorrow, we will certainly hear those who are of German descent mentioned as mild 'Austrians'; it will then be advisable to point out that it would be supremely unfair and dangerous to favour at our expense the very part of the population which proved violently Nazi. It will be advisable to remember that ever since the period in which the region belonged to the Habsburg Monarchy, the Bolzanoes of German descent (in opposition to the faithful Tyrolese of the North) were Pro-Germanist. It would therefore not be advisable to add a population which is traditionally favourable to the 'Anschluss' to the re-made Austria, for it would weaken its organism instead of strengthening it.

The great majority of the Italians of the Alto Adige have and are behaving very well and oppose either passive or active resistance to the invader. A very large number of fascists have also adhered to the ideas of the liberation.

4) FINANCIAL QUESTION

In the Alto Adige, the currency is still the Italian one.

As it is well known, the Italian State had pledged itself, through the 1939 agreements, to buy through an organization (Ente delle tre Venezie) the property of the elements of German descent, who, in accordance with the same agreements, were to be transferred to the Reich. When the region was occupied, the property of the elements of German descent was in one of the following positions:

- a) - property which had already been bought by the 'ente' and sold by it to Italians;
- b) - property which had already been bought by the 'ente' but not yet sold;
- c) - property for which the estimation operations were taking place.

For what concerns the first category the Italian buyers were expropriated of the property they had bought without receiving any compensation, and the property was given back to its former owner who made a request against payment of a sum to the German Financial Commission. The second and the property of the first which had not been claimed back went to the property temporary administration of the same Commission which also alienated some

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After the liberation, it will be advisable to deal with the question immediately, for the property abusively detained by the Nazis might form one of the few sources of war indemnities which we are entitled to have.

s.c.

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(17)

360



April

20/11/04

Pol. Sec. 8  
5 - SECRET

CC 101

12/4

To: Admiral Stone,  
Chief Commissioner,  
Allied Commission.

No. 0792

From: I.S.L.D. (Major Page),  
o/c R.A.A.C.

9 January 1945.

Enclosed are translations of two pamphlets which have apparently been circulated in MILAN.

Enclosure A. purports to be addressed by Slovene Communists to Italian Communists.

Enclosure B. purports to be addressed by the C.L.N.A.I. to the people of MILAN.

It is stated that the contents of pamphlet B. have, in fact, been broadcast over the Republican Radio, which, if true, would appear to point to these publications being Fascist propaganda.

The contents of these leaflets reached us through our source SMD. The date of the information is early January.

2623/CC

*W. Page*  
Major, R.M.

(3)

*Capit. Page*  
I feel certain that is Fascist or more probably, German propaganda. In the light of the recent declaration by the C.N.C. of Venetia Giulia (copy attached) I do not think we need pay too much attention to it. *W. Page*

(3)



CC 101

"A" Enclo re to Ho. 0722

12/1

1. We, Slovene Communists of the O.P. of the T.S.H.G.P. (the Directorate of the National Front of Slovene Partisans), wish to greet our Italian comrades on the occasion of the agreement reached between the G.L.N.A.I. and the O.P. This agreement is of historical importance since by it the G.L.N.A.I. recognises the existence of a free Slovene state and decrees that after the Nazi-Fascists have been expelled from TRIESTE, GORIZIA, FISSI and POLA, these cities and their territories shall be restored to the Slovene state, to which they naturally belong.
2. Our renunciation to SLOVENIA's historical claims to the cities of VERICE and UDINE demonstrates our will to peace and harmony between the two nations.
3. After twenty years or more of slavery our martyred cities are to be restored to us. It is a great act of justice and understanding, possible only from the anti-Fascist parties.
4. At the very moment of the defeat of Fascist imperialism there will arise, at the side of a free ITALY, a free SLOVENIA, knowing how to forgive her neighbour for the long succession of wrongs suffered at his hands and ready to march, united with him, towards the brotherhood of all the free nations of the world.
5. Italian comrades, the Slav cities of TRIESTE, GORIZIA, FISSI and POLA are solemnly recognised as sure and guaranteed to us for the future. All our anger against you is abated! We bring you, therefore, our fraternal greetings and acclaim you as more than comrades, as brothers!
6. Death to Fascism! Liberty to the people! Long live Free SLOVENIA! Long live Free ITALY! Long live Communism! Long live the world union of soviet socialist republics!

**Note.** This pamphlet bore a round stamp containing a five-pointed star bearing the hammer and sickle at the centre and encircled by the following inscription: KOMUNISTIČKA PARTIJA SLOVENIJE  
CENTRALNI ODBOR.

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(3)

"B" Doc. No. 0792

CC 101  
12/1

1. People of ALBANIA! The National Committee of Liberation in Northern ITALY is happy to bring to your notice the noble message sent by the Slav Communist Delegation of the U.V. to their Italian comrades, as the indication of a pact of historic significance concluded between the two peoples.
2. There can be no honest and truly Italian citizen who does not rejoice that justice has finally been done to the gallant Slav people, so long and so cruelly oppressed by heathen Fascism.
3. The martyr cities of TRIESTE, GORIZIA, UDINE and FRIULI will at last be restored to our new sister-state.
4. A small clique of aristocratic and war-songering imperialist reactionaries sought to create the myth of ITALY's right to these territories, without any justification, and dragged us into a bloody war of conquest and extermination. Only stupid and egotistic Fascist imperialism could praise such conquests and exhort the Italian people to further dangerous adventures in order to "realise natural aspirations", which would inevitably lead to the enslavement of innocent peoples.
5. Ex-Fascist supporters, now incorporated in the U.L.F., conscious of the task of reconstruction which it will be a necessary duty to undertake when ITALY is liberated, have also decided that the latter's first act in international affairs must be to conclude a pact with the Slav liberation front.
6. The agreement which has been reached is a great act of justice, which serves to demonstrate to the world that true Italians, those that is, who were not misled by Fascism, can themselves spontaneously fulfill their duty without waiting for the terms of an Allied armistice or the adjustments of the peace.

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Note. This pamphlet was signed: The National Committee of Liberation in Northern ITALY.

TRANSLATIONEncl. (1)

The parties forming the Committee of National Liberation of Venezia Giulia hold as sacred and inviolable the principle of Italian unity achieved in these territories with the fullest sacrifice of blood and recognised by the Western democracies in the last war of liberation with which was closed the cycle of the wars of the "Risorgimento". The parties therefore believe that the inclusion of Venezia Giulia in Italy is a problem to be solved and defined as a matter of principle in the interest of the European community.

ii. The parties of the Committee of National Liberation desirous of removing all obstacles to brotherly collaboration between Slavs and Italians look upon themselves as promoters of any settlement which would tend to remove any reasonable cause for irridential movements between the Slav and Italian peoples and, in justice and equity and without violating the rights of the two nations, would be the true and concrete realisation of the Four Freedoms proclaimed by the Atlantic Charter, the statute of the new Europe which is arising.

iii. Since the national problem of Venezia Giulia and the economic problem of the commercial future of Trieste and Fiume can only find their definitive solution under autonomous conditions, the parties of the Committee of National Liberation will fervently support in the future Italian Constituent Assembly the widest autonomy of the Venezia Giulia Region according to the principle of democracy and specific politico-economic needs.

iv. The parties of the Committee of National Liberation are therefore prepared to promote: (a) the autonomous administration of the Venezia Giulia region and of its economy and of the administration of the latter by the people of Venezia Giulia itself who are directly interested, always within the framework of national unity; (b) the juridical, cultural and economic equality of the citizens of the two different nationalities, to whom shall be guaranteed the preservation of their cultural and linguistic peculiarities through the recognition of their sacred right of using their own language and the institution of cultural, religious, sporting and economic associations; (c) the cooperation and the co-existence of the two ethnic groups in a special settlement which will abandon all ideas of minorities and in which each group will look upon itself not as a lesser, but as an equal.

2. The order of the day therefore looks forward with hope to the time when in the new Europe liberated from all nationalistic and imperialistic prejudices and the absurd and uneconomical ideas of autarchic autonomies and living spaces, Trieste will be transformed into a truly free port, that is, into a market open to all flags and governed, as far as its administration and commercial organisations are concerned, by a port authority in which the municipality and the competent public organisations will play a realistic part together with all the armament, industrial and commercial concerns, that is, all producing concerns whether national or foreign.

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100  
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SECRET

Tel: 478730

1 January 1945.

Ref: 504/110/003

SUBJECT: Reports of Enemy anti-Italian Activities.

TO : Regional Commissioner,  
VENEZIA Region.

I forward copy of a letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs for your information. You probably receive much information of this sort from other sources but I think that seeing that this comes from the Minister himself and appears to be a summary of various reports which he has received, and in view of the importance which the Italians attach to this area, I would be grateful for your comments on the matter.

Brigadier,  
Chief of Staff.

2623/cc

109 - COPY to: SCAG EIGHTH ARMY.

Incl:  
16/05988/15 dtd 28 Dec 44.

2

A file  
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FILES A

Ref: P/385.04

31 December 1944

SUBJECT: Anti-Italian Activity in the  
Trento and Bolzano Provinces.

TO : Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

1. Reference letter No. 16/05988/15 dated 28 December 1944, from His Excellency, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, to the Chief Commissioner, A. C.
2. The receipt of the information contained in this communication is acknowledged with appreciation and it is being forwarded to the appropriate Allied Authorities for their information.

WILLIAM W. SCOTT  
Vice President, Political Section

1402  
Copy to Chief Com  
6/5

①

A<sup>n</sup>

Chief Commr

Translation

Department of State  
16/6/988/15

Rome, 28 December 1944

Dear Admiral,

I want to draw your attention on some very serious news which we recently received, through the committees of liberation of north Italy, about the anti-Italian activity which is being exercised by the Nazis in the Trento and Bolzano Provinces.

This activity and the ferocity and acts of intimidation which go with it, have the unavowed but obvious aim of trying to change the character of those provinces to include them in the Reich, by making them appear as German and not Italian provinces.

The said regions have been included in a 'zone of operation of the Pre-Alps', officially created with exclusively military aims and with a purely military character, and meaning to eliminate all that is 'Italian'.

Neither a single carabinieri, nor a single agent of the Italian Police have been left in the Alto-Adige; the Italian authorities have been turned out from every office and every organization, and substituted by German Commissioners whose activity consists in sending away the greatest possible number of Italians.

Arbitrary acts, acts of violence are too numerous to be counted; arrests and murders take place more and more frequently. The Italian schools have been closed and Italian newspapers abolished. The Italian names of the villages, streets and squares have been replaced by German names. Decrees dismissing the Italian employees have been issued; the continuous drafts and deportation of the Italians of the high-Adige for compulsory work take away large masses of the population.

The elements belonging to the minorities, and which according to the 1938-German agreements of 1937 had chosen Italy, are now being called into favoring their choice, and those who refuse to are sent away.

These acts of violence have already caused 30-40 thousand people to be sent away from these regions, but this figure is destined to increase with an accelerated rhythm as long as the Nazis will occupy this region.

I have deemed it necessary to inform you about all this, my dear Admiral, so that the Allied organs which will have to govern these regions as soon as they will be liberated, get timely information, about the anti Italian action taken by the enemy; I will forward to you all the informations which I will receive.

I remain,

Truly yours,

S. De Gasperi

To Admiral Stone  
Chief Commissioner, Allied Commission

LIST  
ACTION: POLITICAL SEC  
INFO: CHIEF COMM  
C OF S  
e.v. FILES A

2625/100

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