

ACC

10000/136/349

349

PALERMO DISTURBANCES
OCT. 1944

LIST OF PAPERS

Office of the
Chief Commissioner

ALLIED COMMISSION

File under No. 3605 PALERMO DISTURBANCES, 19 Oct 44

~~SECRET~~

SERIAL NUMBER	FROM—	DATE	TO—	SYNOPSIS
1	Cbl ACC 5018 Pub S	19 Oct 44	AFHQ	Disturbance Palermo, will inform
2	Cbl Dist 3 0 734	20 Oct 44	AFHQ & ACC	Details Palermo incident
3	Cbl Sicily Region	21 Oct 44	ACC for Lush	Trouble. Further rpts follow.
4	Cbl Sicily REO 326	21 Oct 44	Lush	Situation under control.
4a	Cbl Sicily, 328	22 Oct 44	ACC for Lush	Quiet - Interim report by rail
5	Cbl Sicily REO 329	22 Oct 44	ACC for Lush	Under control. Investigating
6	Cbl Sicily RPS 57	22 Oct 44	ACC for Pub Safety	Situation calm
7	Cbl Sicily RPS 56	22 Oct 44	ACC for Lush	No further incidents
8	Cbl Sicily	22 Oct 44	ACC for Lush	Quiet
9	Cbl Sicily	23 Oct 44	ACC for Lush	Quiet
10	Ltr Stearns	23 Oct 44	C of S	Ital garrison Sicily
11	Memo Col Cripps	23 Oct 44	CCS	Civil Disturbances in Palermo. Facts & action taken.
12	Cbl Sicily RPS 59	24 Oct 44	ACC for Lush	Situation calm; least daily sitrep
13	Cbl ACC, PS, 5407	25 Oct 44	Sicily Region	No further reports daily needed
14	Cbl AFHQ, F-43510	25 Oct 44	ACC	CCS wish know (1) how many CA off in Sicily, (2) extent of control in Sicily; also apply same to all Italy
1733	Cbl, AC COS 3473	27 Oct 44	AFHQ	Answer to folio (14).

~~SECRET~~

SECRET

INFORMATION.

5473

AFHQ

ACC HQ

5473

27 Oct 44

PRIORITY

C of S.

SECRET PD ANSWERING YOUR BOX FOUR THREE FIVE ONE ZERO OF TWO FIVE OCTOBER ~~XXXXXXXX~~ CITE
 NINE SUBJECT PALERED DISTURBANCES PD PAREN TO AFHQ FOR GEORGE DASH FIVE SECTION FROM
ACT HQ SIGNED STONE PAREN PARA ONE PD REGARDING YOUR PARA NINE PD THERE ARE THREE FIVE
 ALLIED COMMISSION OFFICERS NOW IN SICILY WHOSE DUTIES ARE AS FOLLOWS COLON HEADQUARTERS
 EIGHT CMA CHARLES NINE ONE APOSTROPHE SUGAR FIVE CMA FINANCE FOUR CMA TRANSPORT TWO
 CMA PUBLIC WORKS ONE CMA SUPPLY THREE CMA PUBLIC HEALTH ONE CMA AGRICULTURE ONE CMA
 PUBLIC SAFETY TWO CMA LEGAL ONE CMA LABOUR ONE CMA PROPERTY CONTROL TWO CMA COMMERCE
 THREE CMA INDUSTRY ONE CMA TOTAL THREE FIVE PD OF THIS NUMBER THREE ARE UNDER ORDERS TO
 LEAVE PD PARA TWO PD YOUR PARA BAKER PD THE FOLLOWING FROM A DIRECTIVE TO ALLIED
 COMMISSION OFFICERS IN ITALIAN GOVERNMENT TERRITORY CRISTALLIZED EXTENT OF CONTROL IN
 SICILY QUOTE OFFICERS OF THE COMMISSION IN THE REGION ARE REMINDED THAT THEY ARE THERE
 NOT AS GOVERNORS BUT TO ADVISE THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT PD ONE OF THEIR MOST IMPORTANT
 1732 FUNCTIONS WILL BE LIAISON BETWEEN ALLIED MILITARY FORMATIONS IN THE AREA AND THE ITALIAN
 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIALS PD ACTION MUST BE RESTRICTED TO ADVICE PD UNQUOTE PD I WOULD
 REMIND YOU AS PER MY LETTER NINE SLANT CHARLIE CHARLIE THREE TWO ONE DASH ONE DATED
 NINE OCTOBER THAT WHEN PRIME MINISTER WAS INFORMED THAT IN ACCORDANCE WITH POLICY IT
 WAS PROPOSED TO WITHDRAW ALLIED COMMISSION STAFF FROM SICILY AS FROM OCTOBER EIGHT
 FIRST HE REQUESTED ME TO DELAY THEIR REMOVAL PD PARA THREE PD YOUR PARA CHARLIE PD
 REMAINDER OF ITALIAN GOVERNMENT TERRITORY COMPRISES PAREN ONE PAREN WHOLE OF SOUTHERN
 REGION WITH FOUR ONE OFFICERS AT REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS AND FIVE FOUR OFFICERS IN
 PROVINCES INCLUDING SPECIALISTS OF CATEGORIES IN PAREN NINE PAREN ABOVE CMA PAREN TWO

SECRET

-2-

PAREN LAGIO DASH UMBRIA REGION LESS PROVINCES OF TERNI AND PERUGIA SIX NINE OFFICERS
 AT REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS AND TWO FIVE OFFICERS IN PROVINCES INCLUDING SPECIALISTS CMA
 PAREN THREE PAREN ABRUZZI DASH MARCHE REGION LESS PROVINCES OF MACERATA CMA ASCOLI CMA
 ANCONA AND PESARO THREE NINE OFFICERS AT REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS AND ONE NINE OFFICERS IN
 PROVINCES INCLUDING SPECIALISTS PAREN FOUR PAREN SARDEGNA REGION ONE THREE OFFICERS
 INCLUDING SPECIALISTS PD PARA FOUR PD ADVISORY POLICY APPLIES TO PAREN CHABLE PAREN
 ONE CMA TWO CMA THREE AND FOUR AS FOR PAREN DAKER PAREN ABOVE PD PARA FIVE PD AT
 LAGIO DASH UMBRIA AND ABRUZZI DASH MARCHE REGIONS A PROPORTION OF OFFICERS AT
 HEADQUARTERS ARE ADMINISTERING PROVINCES NOT YET HANDED OVER TO ITALIAN GOVERNMENT

1732

(15)

SECRET

NICHOLAS W. DRAGNETT
 Major, AGD
 ADJUTANT

SECRET

9034

ACC

N96/25

AFHQ SIGNED SACRED

F 43510

PRIORITY

Oct251058

CITE FHQRC

SECRET. Reports of recent disturbances in Palermo have brought queries from Washington on following points.

- A. How many Civil Affairs Officers are there now in Sicily and what are their duties.
- B. What extent of control is exercised by you over Sicily.
- C. With regard to remaining portions of Italy returned to Italian Control what is situation with regard to points in A and B above.

Request figures and necessary information urgently on which to base reply.

1730

ACTION - ACC DIST
INFO - C. o S. (2)
FILE A/CC
FILE

✓

✓

~~SECRET~~

143

OCT 251430

3605- Palermo Dist.

8

REGIONAL COMMISSIONER SICILIA FOR ACTION AFHQ FOR INFORMATION

HQ ACC

RESTRICTED

5407

PRIORITY

25/10/44

Public Safety S/C

REFERENCE DAILY SITUATION REPORTS FOLLOWING PALERMO INCIDENT PD PAREN TO REGIONAL
COMMISSIONER SICILIA FOR ACTION AFHQ FOR INFORMATION FROM HQ ACC SIGNED STONE PAREN
AS SITUATION IS CALM NO FURTHER REPORTS NECESSARY UNLESS DIFFICULTIES ARISE PD

✓

1729

Copy to : A/Chief Comm.
Chief of Staff.

13

3605

1905

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No.

785015

8
RESTRICTED

HAACO ROME FOR LUSH P SAFETY AND LABOR SC RPTD FOR INFO TO 9009
GO 70 SUB
AREA CATANIA 78/25
ACC SICILIA REGION (GARR)

OCT 241715A

ROUTINE
CITE RPS 59

RESTRICTED. 8 Special Sitrep. Situation PALERMO calm total casualties from incident of 19 Oct according latest information from Italian authorities. 26 dead 156 injured. This is last daily Sitrep on PALERMO situation any new developments will be reported.

Dist

Action - P Safety (2)
Info - A/CC
C o S
Labour
Econ Sec
Ca Sec
File

1728

3605

OCT 251330A

~~RESTRICTED~~

(12)

SA. SECTION.To. Cos.Memo.

6/6.1/CA.

23 OCT. 44.

Civil Disturbances in Palermo.Brief Facts.

During the early part of the week commencing 15th October, there were sporadic strikes and demonstrations against the high cost of living in Palermo.

On the morning of the 18th October, strikers attempted to call out on strike other elements, including youths and boys. Some raiding of food shops took place.

At about 12.30 hours a crowd collected outside the Prefettura to demonstrate. An official, not yet identified, called for the assistance of Italian troops to protect the Prefecture building. One officer and 35 men arrived in trucks at the Prefettura where it is alleged two handgrenades were thrown by the crowd, exploding underneath the trucks. Nine soldiers were wounded. The soldiers replied with handgrenades and rifle fire. Sixteen civilians were killed and one hundred and four wounded.

At no time was the situation out of control.

The incident aroused some resentment against Italian troops.

On the 20th October, a crowd of about 1,000 civilians threw stones at Italian troops guarding the U.S. Naval Base in Palermo. The Italian troops replied with rifle fire and handgrenades. There were no serious casualties. As a precautionary measure British and United States Military and Naval units withdrew Italian soldiers guarding their installations and replaced them with Allied guards.

On the 21st October, the Italian Police raided the Separatist Headquarters in Palermo and arrested ten persons in connection with the illegal printing of propaganda leaflets.

No incidents occurred when the funerals of the victims took place.

1727

"Palermo"

"A" file

23 OCT

2.

Receipt of Messages.

The first information of the Palermo disturbances was telephoned by Lt. Col. Snook, Regional Public Safety Officer, Sicily, to Brigadier Lush, Chief of Staff, A.C.S. This was early in the afternoon of the 19th October. The information was passed to Public Safety Sub-Commission and a cable was dispatched to A.F.H.Q. G-5 on the same afternoon.

At 1330 hours, 20th October, Lt. Col. Snook telephoned to Public Safety Sub-Commission, giving rather fuller details of the incident. Col. Snook stated that the situation was under control and that there was no cause for alarm. The details were passed to Public Relations Officer, H.Q., A.C.S.

On the morning of the 21st October, a signal was received from 3 District, giving information of the attack on the Italian guards which took place on the 20th October. A copy of this signal had been sent to A.F.H.Q. and no action was taken by Public Safety Sub-Commission.

On the evening of the 21st October, a signal was received from A.C.S., Sicily Region, giving information of the demonstration on the 19th, when the civilians were killed and wounded. This signal was dated 21st October and classified "Secret". It had been sent in code and it is understood that considerable delay had occurred in coding and decoding the signal. A copy of this signal was sent to A.F.H.Q. G-5, at about 2030 hours on the 21st October.

On the 22nd October, a report was received from Regional Commissioner, Sicily, dated 21st October, giving details in confirmation of the original messages. It was stated that a full enquiry was being carried out and a report would follow.

Reinforcement of Public Safety Agencies.

(14)
At 6 p.m. on the 19th October, Brigadier Lush and Brigadier Upton discussed the situation in Palermo. It was agreed that no more G.I.R. should be withdrawn from Sicily unless replaced by Italian troops attached to the G.I.R. Representations were made for the return of the battalions of

8

3.

Italian garrison troops recently withdrawn from Sicily.

R.R. Leppers
Lt.

1725

(11)

Tel Ext 341

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394

LWS/el

23 October 44

MEMORANDUM TO: The Chief of Staff, Hq, ACC

SUBJECT : Italian Garrison, Sicily

According to the Army Subcommittee (Colonel Kerr), the present garrison in Sicily consists of the Scaudis and Aosta Divisions with a combined effective strength of approximately 9200. The last known disposition of these troops is that of 24 September 44 which was as follows:

Palermo.....	2550
Catania.....	3000
Galtanissetta.....	1500
Agrigento.....	500
Scattered units.....	1650
	9200

1728



E. W. STEARNS
Major, AGD
Office of the C/S

10

8

0

Strength of CC.PP. IN SICILY.Legion of MessinaLegion of Palermo

Prov. Messina	1662
Prov. Catania	779
Prov. Siracusa	337
Prov. Ragusa	235
Prov. Enna	283
	3296

Prov. Palermo	2769
Prov. Trapani	682
Prov. Caltanissetta	526
Prov. Agrigento	749
	4726

GRAND TOTAL CC.PP. IN SICILY 8022

1724

Strength of CO. RR. IN SICILY.MessinaRegion of Palermo.

Prov. Palermo	2769
Prov. Trapani	622
Prov. Caltanissetta	526
Prov. Agrigento	749
	4726

GRAND TOTAL CO. RR IN SICILY 6022

8
RESTRICTED

8924

HQ ACC ROME FOR LUSH AND PUBLIC SAFETY LABOUR SUB COMMISSION INFO HQ 70 SUB AREA
CATANIA

50/24

ACC SICILIA REGION (CARR)

NONE

IMMEDIATE

OCT 23/1645

CITE: RPS 58

RESTRICTED. Special sitrep number 7. Situation PALERMO today quiet and almost
normal though area still strongly patrolled

ACCDIST

ACTION : PUB SAFETY (2)

INFO : C o S
A/CC
LABOUR
ECON
CA SEC
FILE

1728

9
~~RESTRICTED~~

OCTOBER 24/1420

8
RESTRICTED

8925

ACC ROME FOR LUSH

ACC SICILIA REGION (CARR)

ROUTINE

OCT 22

RESTRICTED. Fifth special sitrep PALERMO 1100 hours 22nd. Situation quiet on
 bed 6. A strike of public workers occurred at CORMIONE but strikers returned 21st
 without incident

1722

ACC DIST

ACTION P SAFETY (2)
 INFO CoS
 A/CC
 ECON SEC
 C A SEC
 LABOUR
 FILE

~~RESTRICTED~~

OCT 24

1915

785015

RESTRICTED

8925

ACC ROME FOR LUSH

ACC SICILIA REGION (CARR)

ROUTINE

OCT 22

RESTRICTED. Fifth special sitrep PALERMO 1100 hours 22nd. Situation quiet on
bed C. H. strike of public workers occurred at CORNICONE but strikers returned 21st
without incident

1722

✓

(8)

~~RESTRICTED~~

ACC DIST

ACTION & SAFETY (2)
INFO CoS
A/CC ✓
ECON SEC
C A SEC
LABOUR
FILE

OCT 24

8
~~RESTRICTED~~

8837

ACC FOR LUSH

1059/23

ACC SICILIA REGION (GARR)

RFS 56

ROUTINE

Oct 22

RESTRICTED. Fifth special Sitrep PALERMO 1110 hours 22nd
situation quiet obed ch strike of public workers occurred at
CORMIONE but strikers returned workers occurred at CORMIONE but
strikers returned 21st without incident.

DIST

Action : P. Safety (2)

Info : C.C.S.

A/CC

S.A. Sec

Econ Sec

File

1721

7
~~RESTRICTED~~

October 231500

8 RESTRICTED

8838

HQ ACC ROME FOR PUBLIC SAFETY LUSH LABOUR SUBCOMMISSION COMMANDING OFFICER 70
SUB AREA CATANIA

58/23

ACC SICILIA REGION REGIO

N/HPS 57

IMMEDIATE

OCT 22/NET

RESTRICTED. Sigt special sitrep. Situation PALERMO 1600 hours calm.

ACC DIST

ACTION : P SAFETY (2)

INFO : C O S
A/C
CA SEC
ECON SEC
FILE

1720

~~RESTRICTED~~

OCTOBER 23/1600

8
RESTRICTED

8740

HQ ACC FOR LUSH ROMA, PUBLIC SAFETY AND LABOR SUB COMMISSIONS

NS1/22

ACC SICILIA REGION (CARR)

REQ 329

ROUTINE

Oct 21/44

RESTRICTED. Sitrep 1608 hours PALERMO 21 October some unrest during day but situation under control some demonstration satisfactorily dealt Separatist Headquarters raided 10 persons arrested illegal printed material STATED TO have been confiscated and Headquarters now under police guard.

ACC DIST

Action : Public Safety S/C (2)

Info : C. o. S. (2)

C.A. Sec

Econ Sec

Labor S/C

A/CC

File

1719

(5)

~~RESTRICTED~~

1919

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No.

785015

8
SECRET

9027

ACC HQ FOR LUSH HOME

83/25

ACC SICILIA REGION

328

ROUTINE

OCT 211730

SECRET. Special sitrep situation 1000 hours this morning PALERMO city quiet latest casualty report dead 19 wounded 108. Nearly all casualties occurred on 19 in one place and high rate appears to have been due to use of hand grenades in confined area. Hope to despatch more details interim report this morning rail

1718

3605

ACC DIST

ACTION	P SAFETY (2)
INFO	CoS
	MOON SEC
	C A SEC
	A/CC
	FILE

~~SECRET~~

OCT 251315

(4) a

8
SECRET

8822

HQ ACC FOR LUSH ROME

42/23

ACC SICILY REGION (GARR)

REG 326

IMMEDIATE

SECRET. Reference disturbances at PALERMO 19th Oct. Situation remains under control but with some unrest in PALERMO. Resentment exists against Italian Troops. Complete facts have not yet been ascertained. Inquiries by Italian Authorities to determine responsibility are proceeding. Latest casualty report 16 dead all civilians, wounded 104 civilians, 11 military or police.

ACC Dist

Action - Pub Safety SC (2)
Info - A/CC
C o S (2)
CA Sec
Econ Sec
File

1717

~~**SECRET**~~

OCT 23 1130A

SECRET

8669 A

HQ ACC FOR LUSH ROMA

80/21

ACC SICILIA REGION

IMMEDIATE

OCT 211000A

SECRET. Demonstration by several hundred persons started 1030 PALERMO today. Discontented public employees demanding higher wages and lower prices. Commenced parading on the streets closing and looting shops. Procession continued to the Government Offices (Prefect and High Commissioner) where the crowd was dispersed by Police Carabinieri and Italian troops. Hand grenades thrown by crowd caused (?) Italian troops to return fire with hand grenades and rifles. Present report 14 civilians dead 20 injured and 9 soldiers wounded. Situation under control of Italian police and military. Unrest quite widespread in city appears to be directed against Italian troops (not carabinieri).

1716 Further report will follow.

DIST

ACTION: C.O.S. Sec 3
INFO: P. Safety
Econ Sec
C.A. Sec
A/CC-~~advis~~
File

~~**SECRET**~~
OCT 21 1957

8
RESTRICTED

8613

AFHQ (G3 6PS BR) INFO 52 AREA - (FOR GOC 3 DIST) ACC ROME - MBIA

DISTHREE

O 734

OP PRIORITY

OCT 201935A

RESTRICTED. Ref our 726 of 20 Oct. 70 Sub Area report further incident PALERMO today. Mob approx 1000 attacked Italian Gd at US Naval Base with stones. Italian Gd replied by throwing hand grenade and fired shots. No serious casualties. Local Anti-Italian TP feeling high as result incident yesterday. Italian Gds on British installations returned to barracks and replaced by British Unit personnel. US Navy taken similar action except for Gds within port perimeter. Feared funeral civilians killed yesterday will occasion further incidents. For ACC our O 723 of 20 Oct refers.

Dist

Info-Action - C o S Sec (3)
 Info - A/CC
 CA Sec
 MBIA (2)
 P Safety
 Econ Sec
 File (2)
 Float

1715

~~RESTRICTED~~

OCT 210035A

A.F.H.Q. G-5

HQ ACC PUBLIC SAFETY S/C

5018

19/10/44

SECRET

PRIORITY

PUBLIC SAFETY S/C

RPSO SICILY REPORTS BY PHONE SERIES STRIKES AND PROCESSIONS PALERMO BECAUSE
ALLEGED INADEQUACY WAGES AND HIGH PRICE FOOD CULMINATING TODAY DISORDERLY
DEMONSTRATION OUTSIDE MUNICIPIO AND PREFETTURA PD PAREN TO AFHQ G-FIVE FROM
HQ ACC SIGNED STONE PAREN PD ITALIAN TROOPS OPENED FIRE TEN KILLED SITUATION
UNDER CONTROL BUT CITY NOT CALM WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED PD

1714

Q. M. G. Form 353 (Old No. 490)
Revised July 26, 1918

LIST OF PAPERS

File under No. 602.3

TRANSFER OF TERRITORY

(1)

8-0788

SERIAL NUMBER	FROM—	DATE	TO—	SYNOPSIS
1) FARGO	GEN. MAC F.	26 JAN.	FREEDOM	GENERALLY DISCUSSES T.O.F.T.
2) FARGO	GEN. MAC F.	27 JAN.	FREEDOM	DISCUSSES TRANSFER DOCUMENTS
3) FATIMA 2191	CAPT. STONE	28 JAN.	FREEDOM	SUGGESTS CHANGE OF WORD IN TFER. DOCS.
4) 091.1 (MEMO)	CAPT. STONE	29 JAN	GEN. MAC F.	MEMO FWDG. DRAFT PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT RE T.O.F.T. DOCS. AND FATIMA 2191. DRAFT ANNOUNCEMENT LATER GIVEN TO P.R.O.
5) FARGO	GEN. MAC F.	1 FEB.	FREEDOM	REPORTS ON IT. VIEWS OF TFER DOCS.
6) FREEDOM 46943	CINC.	3 FEB.	FARGO	REPLY TO (5)
7) FARGO 745	GEN. MAC F.	5 FEB.	FREEDOM	REPLY TO (6)
8) DP/G/33		6 FEB.	withdrawn doc & placed in safe	HAS COPY OF VARIOUS TFER. DOCS & CHANGES
9) FREEDOM 48486	CINC.	7 FEB.	FARGO	REPLY TO (7)
10) FARGO 780	GEN. MAC F.	7 FEB.	FREEDOM	FURTHER REPLY TO (6)
11) FARGO 833	GEN. MAC F.	9 FEB.	FREEDOM	REPORTS ON BADOLLO'S SIGNING TFER. DOCS.
12) FARGO 834 1713	GEN. MAC F.	9 FEB.	FREEDOM	REPORTS GEN. MAC F.'S DISCUSSION WITH BADOLLO JUST BEFORE LATTER SIGNED DOCS.
13) CC/G/43	GEN. MAC F.	9 FEB.	in safe AFRO Withdrawn	FORWARDS COPY OF 5 TFER DOCS. ADDITIONAL COPY FILED HERE.
14) FARGO 856	GEN. MAC F.	10 FEB.	FREEDOM	ALTERATION OF TEXT OF PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT ON T.O.F.T.
15) CC/P/47	GEN. MAC F.	12 FEB.	GEN. ALEXANDER	SENDING TRANS. OF DOCS. FOR SIGNATURE. SENDING COPY OF LETTER WRITTEN TO GEN. WILSON. REPORTING ON I'VIEW WITH BAD.
16) CC/G/50	GEN. MAC F.	13 FEB	COL. UPJOHN	FWDG. SIGNED COPIES OF TRANS OF DOCS AND REQUEST ABOUT RETURN OF PANT, LAMP & LINDY TO IT. JURIS.
17) RT/220	REGION II	16 FEB.	BRIG. LUSH	INFO. COPY REPORTING TO LOCAL REACTION TO T. OF T.
18) CC/G/74	GEN. MAC F.	17 FEB.	CINC.	CONCERNING BAD'S ORAL DEC. AT TIME OF SIGNING DOCS., LATER ENCLOSED IN LETTER. COPY OF BAD'S. LETTER FWDG. H'DITH.

INSTRUCTIONS.—When papers on a subject become numerous they will be numbered serially and brief entries made on this form.

1925