

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

10000/136/528

CONTROL OF UNITED NATIONS
OCT. 1944

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10000/136/528

CONTROL OF UNITED NATIONS PROPAGANDA IN ROME
OCT. 1944

9255/CC

DSG ACC

LIST OF PAPERS

Office of the
Chief Commissioner

File under No. 9255 CONTROL OF UNITED NATIONS PROPAGANDA IN ROME

ALLIED COMMISSION

~~TOP SECRET~~

SERIAL NUMBER	FROM—	DATE	TO—	SYNOPSIS
1	FC (44) 116 Pol Comm AFHQ	6 Oct 44		Proposal for self-denying ordinance to prevent damaging inter- U Nations propaganda
2	Per 6 Minutes 28th Meeting	12 Oct 44	Pol Comm AFHQ	SACMED directs no further action on self-denying ordinance. Discuss
3.	Per 2 Minutes 29th Meeting	17 Oct 44	Pol Comm AFHQ	Stone suggests individual action be taken. SACMED agrees.
4	Per 2 Minutes 30th Meeting	24 Oct 44	Pol Comm AFHQ	Stone reports that there will be no suppression of Trotsky's works despite Russian request.

TOP SECRET

PC (44) 30th Meeting Of Political Committee AFHQ

24 October 44

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3

2. CONTROL OF UNITED NATIONS PROPAGANDA IN ROME

(Previous reference PC (44) 29th Meeting - Minute 2)

SEE 9257/cc

COMMODORE STONE reported that the Russians wished to suppress the publication in Italy of works by Trotsky on the grounds that Trotsky was a Fascist. The Allied Control Commission had taken the view that to accede to the Russian request would involve a breach of the freedom of speech.

THE SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER:

Took note with approval of the action of the Allied Control Commission in this matter.

FOR DETAILS OF ACTION,

SEE 9257/cc

4257/cc
X-9257/cc

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TOP SECRET

4

Extract from PC (44) 29th Meeting of Political Committee AFHQ 17 Oct 44

TOP SECRET

(2)

2. CONTROL OF UNITED NATIONS PROPAGANDA IN ROME

(Previous reference PC (44) 26th Meeting - Conclusion 6(a))

MR STEEL pointed out that the instruction which had been sent to the Commanding General, Rome Allied Area Command, appeared to be directed against the Poles, whereas apparently no direction was given regarding anti-Polish propaganda.

COMMODORE STONE replied that it had been agreed to deal with instances of anti-Polish propaganda in the Italian Communist Press as they arose. Replying to a question by the Supreme Allied Commander, he expressed the view that, while it would be possible to indict editors, guilty of such incidents, before military courts, it would be better to handle them through the Italian Government as agreed at the last meeting of the Committee.

THE SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER:

Took note of Commodore Stone's suggestion and directed that no action be taken to indict before military courts editors of Italian newspapers, guilty of the dissemination of matter liable to embarrass the Allied authorities, unless previous attempts through the Italian Government to restrain such activities had failed.

~~TOP SECRET~~

1008
1010

(3)

Extract from PC (44) 28th Meeting of Political Committee AFHQ

12 Oct 44

TOP SECRET

6. CONTROL OF UNITED NATIONS PROPAGANDA IN ROMY:

(Paper No. PC(44) 116)

THE COMMITTEE had before them a note by Chief, Liaison Section, drawing attention to recent cases where propaganda disseminated by an nation had included material liable to discredit the good name of another nation and suggesting that representatives of the various United Nations on the Allied Advisory Council and of the Italian Government be requested to adhere to an undertaking to restrain such activities by their nationals.

MAJOR GENERAL BEAUMONT NESBITT, amplifying the paper, stated that the proposal was designed to assist the Poles. Their Public Relations Branch, being a military organization, was subject to a censorship which could stip publication of any material liable to embarrass the Allied authorities, whereas the Russians were free to do as they pleased and were apparently using certain sections of the Italian Press and other organizations to reproduce Russian material, including anti-Polish propaganda. Replying to a question by Mr. Macmillan he added that the Poles, if given a free hand, would almost certainly produce material which would provoke protests from the Russians.

MR. MACMILLAN pointed out that the various representatives of the Allied Advisory Council would probably be unwilling to sign the proposed self-denying ordinance without consulting their respective governments and that this would open up wider issues. He suggested therefore that the general procedure proposed was impractical and that incidents should be dealt with individually as they arose through the Allied Control Commission.

MR. KIRK supported this view, adding that the general procedure proposed by Chief, Liaison Section, amounted in effect to political censorship, and that in any case reference to the Advisory Council would probably reveal unwelcome difference of view between its members.

MR. BARNES pointed out that PWB ran exhibitions depicting the ~~part~~ of the principal United Nations. He suggested that the Poles be told that IWB could undertake any further exhibitions desired by them. It could also be possible to penalize offending newspapers by arranging for ~~the~~ ~~case~~ ~~supplies~~ of newsprint.

COMMODORE STONE observed that there were limits to the extent to which certain papers could be penalised. Thus it would doubtless be undesirable to compel the leading Communist papers to cease publication by withholding supplies of newsprint. He felt that Signor Bonomi might well be required to instruct Signor Iogliatti to dispose of editors who consistently ignored his orders in matters of this kind.

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THE SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER:

(a) Directed that no further action be taken regarding the self-denying ordinance proposed in Paper PC (44) 116, but that GOS instruct Allied Control Commission to be prepared to take action to censure any individuals responsible for instances of the kind indicated in the paper.

(b) Directed that Director, PWB, inform the Polish Public Relations Branch in Rome that PWB would be willing to undertake any other exhibitions of Polish art and culture to be held in the theater, but that no compulsion be exercised in the matter.

TOP SECRET

C O P Y

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERSPC (44) 116
6th October 44

SECRET

COPY NO. 49

POLITICAL COMMITTEECONTROL OF UNITED NATIONS PROPAGANDA IN ROME

Note by Chief, Liaison Section

1. There are in ROME military and political authorities representing many of the United Nations. A prominent feature of the work of these authorities is the dissemination of propaganda in favour of their respective countries by printed publications, communiques to the press of other nations, the holding of cultural exhibitions, and other means.

2. Recently cases have occurred where the propaganda disseminated by one nation has included material liable to discredit the good name of another nation. The following are examples:

- (a) On 15th August, Major General VASSILIEV, Soviet Deputy Representative Plenipotentiary to the Advisory Council, made a protest to the Deputy Commander, Rome Area Allied Command, against an exhibition of Polish art and culture held by Polish Public Relations Branch in ROME without the consent of Allied authorities. This exhibition was considered by Major General VASSILIEV to contain material hostile to the SOVIET, and was closed on 16 August 1944. On 1 September 1944, Major General VASSILIEV made a further protest against a map exhibited in ROME by Polish Public Relations, advocating a Central European Union which he contended infringed upon the sovereign territories of the SOVIET Union.
- (b) On 13 August 1944, the Italian Communist paper, "L'Unita" published a front page article entitled "Towards the Liberation of POLAND", being a reprint from the Soviet periodical "War and the Working Classes". This article contained statements derogatory to the Polish Government (recognized by the Governments of Great Britain and the United States) and to the Polish Commander-in-Chief, and was the subject of a letter of protest from General ANDERS, Commander, 2 Polish Corps, to General ALEXANDER, who forwarded the letter to the Supreme Allied Commander.
- (c) On 18 September 1944, Major General VASSILIEV, during what was ostensibly a courtesy visit to the Supreme Allied Commander, took occasion to protest against the display by the Polish Public Relations Branch of certain maps and photographs in the Corso Umberto, ROME.

The incidents outlined at Para 2(a) and 2(b) above have already been considered by the Political Committee; Minute 2 of the 22nd Meeting (1 Sept) and Minute 2 of the 23rd Meeting (7 Sept) refer.

CONTROL OF UNITED NATIONS PROPAGANDA IN ROME

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The incidents outlined at Para 2(a) and 2(b) above have already been considered by the Political Committee; Minute 2 of the 22nd Meeting (1 Sept) and Minute 2 of the 23rd Meeting (7 Sept) refer.
3. It is obviously undesirable that the Allied authorities should be embarrassed by repeated protests from Polish and Russian authorities against propaganda activities which tend to discredit their respective countries. Furthermore, the continuance of conditions under which Polish and Russian Public Relations authorities can either directly or indirectly egg each other repeatedly into approaching the Allied authorities on this subject, can only render a solution of the present Polish-Russian question even more difficult and impair the war effort of each of these two nations.

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(b) Polish Public Relations Branch is a military organization and therefore can be, and is in fact, subject to a censorship which can stop publication of any material liable to embarrass the Allied authorities. Italian organizations are subject to a military censorship by the Allied Control Commission, but the scope of this censorship is not construed by the Allied Control Commission, ~~which is~~ as extending to material which, though politically embarrassing to the Allied Military authorities or to troops of one of the United Nations under their command, is unobjectionable on grounds of military security. It is, therefore, impossible at present to assure the Poles that they are receiving treatment on a equal basis with other nationalities in the matter of censorship.

(c) As a matter of principle it is undesirable to impose a censorship except in the interests of military security, or in cases where publication might be detrimental to the war effort. It is, however, often difficult exactly to define the limits of military security; anything which may seriously impair the morale of a contingent from one of the United Nations serving under the Allied Command can be either prejudicial to military security, or detrimental to the war effort.

5. While the imposition of a censorship equally applicable to the various authorities and organizations of all the United Nations therefore presents some difficulty, treatment on an equal basis is essential. As an equitable solution to this dilemma, it is suggested that our object might be achieved if the representatives of the various United Nations on the Allied Advisory Council, and of the Italian Government, would adhere, on behalf of their Governments, to some form of self-denying ordinance by the terms of which they would undertake to restrain such activities of their nationals as are likely to be derogatory to others of the United Nations. The Soviet authorities in Rome ~~are~~ ~~not~~ ~~likely~~ ~~to~~ ~~adhere~~ ~~to~~ ~~such~~ ~~an~~ ~~ordinance~~, since, officially, they do not issue any publications or other propaganda material.

- 6. Draft of such a self-denying ordinance is attached as Annex "A".
- 7. It is requested that the Political Committee approve this draft and that, if approved, the Supreme Allied Commander direct that it be forwarded to the Allied Advisory Council and the Allied Control Commission to secure the adherence of representatives of the United Nations and of the Italian Government in Rome.

(intd) F.G.B.-N
/DISTRIBUTION

Handwritten initials

(1)

G. M. C. Form 153 (Old No. 400)
Revised July 26, 1918

LIST OF PAPERS

File under No. 000.1

Politics

(8)

B-1708

SERIAL NUMBER	FROM-	DATE	TO-	SYNOPSIS
187) FATR 2683	CC	27 April	FDM	Bad. sat'd. w/first cabinet mtg.
188) CC 000.1 X-157/44.	CC Commo. Palmer	28 25	CG, AAI CC	CC. Aspects to report "Naples" change of attitude toward Allies.
189)				May Day Celebration - Washont
190) 398/22/CA .. 121/..	Col. Fiske	28 ..	CC	No foundation to Vishinski's rpt. about involvement of Sicilians for anti-fascism.
191) CC/C/238	CC	28 ..	VP, AS	Re appointment of Italian Council
192) CC/P/244	"	28 ..	Gen. Alva.	"Soldiers Guide to Rome"
193) M 150	"	28 ..	Fdm	Publicity re (175).
194) MAIN 4031	Ruber	29 ..	Fdm	Symbolic Parliament to be established.
195) CC 000.1	Dvr	29 ..	AFHQ	Feds new Govts disc. of policy referred to in 187.
196) CC/P/247	CC	29 ..	Gen. Giff	Further to (182). Russian influence
197) CC/P/249	"	29 ..	Badoglio	"Knights of Liberty" - N.G.
198) 1/112	Gen. Bromberg	22 ..	HQ/ACC	"
199) F-39466	Fdm.	30 ..	CC	Publicity re 175 OK
200) CC/C/251	CC	1 May	M. Rigner, PWB	Notifia of (199).
201) MGS 387.4	Col. Stofford	25 April 25	CC	Ack. rept of (172)
202) MGS 334-28 it al	"	1 May	"	(181).
203) 88/11/CA	CC	5 ..	Badoglio	Copies of 2 memos later 172+181 sh. be sent direct to Adm. Council.
204) M 184	"	6 ..	AFHQ	Replies to (185).
205) M 185	"	"	"	Bad. delighted w/his new Govt.
206) M 186	"	"	"	" defascistization & expunction
207) CC/P/273	"	8 ..	Gen. Wilson	trying to form liberal Bloc"
208) Fds 1350 517/AC 125/8/8 2530/02..	Bad. Orlando Maj. Barclay Gen. Dezza	5 May 2 .. 20 March 21 ..	CC Ch. of Gen. Bari Off. Comdr. with Gen. Corp. Comdr.	Bad. & Gen. Pao willing to carry on after fall of Rome
209) M 189	CC	7 May	AFHQ	Public Order at Bari
210) CC/P/274 M 190	"	8 .. 7 ..	Gen. Gammel AFHQ	Badoglio 1919 - best solution
211) Fds 1389	Badoglio	9 ..	CC	Expunction of Fascists in Sardinia
212) -	CC	5 May	-	Ricciotti & Egio - no bonus
213) -	Gen. Alva	6 ..	CC	Notes - Badoglio interview 5 May
214) M 196	CC	12 ..	AFHQ	Comments on (180)
215) M 195 CC/P/244 #1458 M 199 CC/P/245	CC CC Badoglio CC CC	12 .. 13 .. 13 .. 14 .. 14 ..	Badoglio CC AFHQ Badoglio	On in view of Badoglio 12 May
216) #487V	Badoglio	16 ..	CC	Re Crown Prince's interview w/ Turner
217) M 204	CC	18 ..	AFHQ	Correspondent
218) M 205	CC	18 ..	AFHQ	Lefty St. Oppants visit & meeting HCC Pub stability mtg - w/Gen. St. Oppants

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

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