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ALLEGED
DEC. 194

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ALLEGED STATEMENTS BY ALDISIO
DEC. 1944 - JAN. 1945

DATE	PAGE
Jan 10.	1. ① V.P. / I cannot see that we can do anything material in this regard. Long ago there keep the documents on record. (2) L. G. Agreed. <u>SP-1</u> 10/10 <u>R. A. McLean</u> Colonel. V.

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUB COMMISSION

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AC/1/1/7/LG

Tel: 478190

SUBJECT: High Commissioner for Sicily.

12 January 1945

TO : RC Sicilia Region.

1. I thank you for your RC/OL4-12 of 4 January on which I have consulted the Vice President Civil Affairs Section.
2. I agree with you, and the Vice President approves, that in the absence of first hand evidence as to what ALDISIO actually said, we cannot usefully take any action.
3. I do appreciate your letting us know what is being said about ALDISIO's statements and I am sure you will keep me informed of any further developments of this kind.


R. G. B. SPICER
Colonel,
Director,
Local Government Sub Commission

CGRW/pec

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10 JAN 1945

To: C.S.O.

for V.P.

1) It seems clear that, even allowing for the fact that these statements are out of context, that they are hostile.

2) We are entitled to ask Alderson:

a) Whether he did make hostile comments about the Allies;

b) To point out to him the seriousness of such conduct; and

c) To ask for a retraction in the press.

No. Not yet. (c) To ask for a retraction in the press.

3) To "save face" for Alderson, he should be privileged to claim misquotation. But in view of the conditions in Sicily, (which may grow worse under Sicilian attempts to govern themselves after so many years of misgovernment - even before Mussolini) - unless we insist upon the High Commissioner's good behavior, we are in for real trouble.

4) Even if his charges are true, as a Government official he should transmit them to his Prime Minister for us.

W.G.S. Dollard, Major

1085

ALLIED COMMISSION
SICILIA REGION HEADQUARTERS
APO 394

SECRET

OFFICE: REGIONAL COMMISSIONER
PHONE: 13533 EXT 1

FILE: RC/014.12

4 Jan 1945

SUBJECT: High Commissioner of Sicily
TO : Headquarters Allied Commission
ROME
(Att: Local Government Subcommittee)

I wish to draw your attention to certain information which has appeared in the local PWB reports. Copies of the relevant extracts from these reports are enclosed (two enclosures).

It will be observed that no firsthand evidence is available as to the precise terms of the alleged statements. As regards the gravity of statements (1 and 2) a good deal might depend on the context and on their exact wording. As regards statement (3) it is not easy to understand why such a statement as alleged should be made having regard to the fact that no local grain has been exported by the Allies and that, if it had been, knowledge of it would have been fairly general with consequent public repercussions at the time.

It would appear, however, that the sources of information as to the general lines of the statements are not unreliable and that there are therefore grounds for believing that statements, to say the least, of an indiscreet nature were made.

It is difficult to advise as to what, if any, action should be taken.

M. Carr

M. Carr
Brigadier
Regional Commissioner

2 Encls-Extracts from PWB reports.

(1A)

DECLARATIONS MADE BY THE HON. ALDISIO IN THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF CATANIA.-*(Translation of 1B)*

It has been referred to us by several persons, who assure to have been present at the reunion of traders held at the Chamber of Commerce of Catania the 27th of November, 1944, that H.E. Aldisio in this occasion said bitter words against the Allies.

It has been assermed that he said :

- 1) that the lamented lack of prestige and authority of the Government is due to the interference continuous/ on the Allies part in the affairs.
- 2) that it is not just to charge the Government for the obbligatorly collection of wheat and for the moderateness of the price given to the agriculturals, because such conditions are wanted and imposed by the Allied Authorities.
- 3) That if wheat is insufficient in the Island, it is due ti the fact that a certain quantity has been brought away by the Allies apart from that of the Government for the needs of the continental populations.

Verykeen has been the excitement in ~~the~~ various circles of the town as a result of the spreading of these declarations made by the Hon Aldisio, which on the other hand, would confirm rumors of this kind which have been spread since some time by officials of public administrations who's fascist sentiments are known.

C O P I A

Weekly Report no 411
page 6

2) DICHIARAZIONI DELL'ON.le ALDISIO IN UNA RIUNIONE TENUTA ALLA CAMERA
DI COMMERCIO DI CATANIA-

(18)

Si riferisce da parte di piu' persone, che asseriscono essere stati presenti alla riunione di commercianti tenutasi presso la Camera di Commercio di Catania il giorno 27 scorso mese novembre, che S.E. Aldisio in tale occasione abbia pronunziato parole roventi verso gli Alleati.

Si afferma che egli abbia asserito:

- (1) che la lamentata mancanza di prestigio e di autorita' del Governo, e' dovuta alla continua interferenza da parte degli Alleati nella condotta degli affari.
- (2) che non e' giusto dar carico al Governo per l'ammasso obbligatorio del grano e per la tenuta' del prezzo corrisposto agli agricoltori, poiche' tali disposizioni furono volute ed imposte dalle Autorita' Alleate.
- (3) che se il grano oggi difetta nell'Isola, cio' si deve al fatto che una certa quantita' e' stata asportata dagli Alleati oltre che da parte del Governo per i bisogni delle popolazioni continentali.

Vivo e' l'orgasmo prodotto nei vari ambienti della citta', circa la propagazione di tali asserite dichiarazioni da parte dell'On.le Aldisio, le quali, del resto, verrebbero a confermare voci del genere fatte circolare da tempo ad opera di noti funzionari delle pubbliche amministrazioni di non dubbi sentimenti fascisti.

C O P Y

REPORT FROM CATANIA (continued)

10

Information on the meeting at the Chamber of Commerce in Catania on 27 November, 1944.

In addition to the information already furnished about this meeting (See Supplement to Weekly Report No. 41, page six), in which it was reported that allegedly Aldisio had made some anti-Allied statements, the following data has been sent in to us:

1. The meeting was private.
2. The Public was excluded from the meeting.
3. Only persons representing the industries, business, and farmers of the province were present, in addition to the ex-prefect Giannichele and Avv. Garozza, president of the Ente.
4. Dott. Carmelo Puglisi, the one official from the Chamber of Commerce who was certainly present at the meeting was interviewed by a person whom he did not suspect. He confirmed the general lines of the anti-Allied statements reportedly made by the High Commissioner for Sicily on this occasion. The first information secured about the Commissioner's talk was obtained through the indiscretion of a businessman, Emanuele Empoli, living in Catania on Via Caff.

It is hoped that it will be possible shortly to obtain a copy of the order of the day voted at this meeting. This has never been published through the press.

20/12/44

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