

ACC

10000/141/64

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LOCAL GOV'T, FLORENCE
(NOV. 1944); MAY-DEC. 1945

1234

AC/11/8/9/LG

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

FLORENCE
AND

PREPARATION OF ELECTORAL LISTS

<u>To</u>	<u>Date</u>
<u>Chief Officer for</u> <u>Local Government</u>	<u>15/11</u> <u>16/11</u>

FLORENCE
AND

PREPARATION OF ELECTORAL LISTS

To	Date
Civil Affairs Sec Local Government	15/11 16/11

10000 / 141/64

THIS FOLDER

CONTAINS PAPERS

FROM MAY 1945

TO DEC 1945

CATALOGUE -

DATE

19 June

To: Director.

(7)

1. Reference paragraph 3 Folio 6 we have had no answer to this; I endeavoured to telephone MORGAN on 16 and 17 June without getting through.

2. CIGLI was Vice Prefect during the Nazi-fascist period and the CIN took some objection to him at first. As they changed malversation of public funds, we had MASOLO, the Ministry's Prefect-Inspector-General, go to FLORENCE and hold a formal enquiry. MASOLO found that CIGLI, when in charge of APP administration, had an air raid shelter constructed in his own house out of public money. It was thereupon agreed to suspend him, and a substitute, M. BRINI, was sent down on 24 April.

3. The first intimation we had that CIGLI was still in office was in the D's monthly report for April, to which Folio 7 is the reply.

4. Detaining a man formally found guilty of fraud, and that after his successor has arrived, is, of course, quite unsound and makes us look foolish in the eyes of the Ministry. However, the damage is done and in view of the handover on 19 June we are helpless.

Orig. minute in AC/6/1/60/LG

U.S.
C. G. R. WILLIAMS, Major
Local Government 4/3.

20 June.

Above minute seen by Director on file 4/1/60. H.A.

(8)

PAGE

6

DATE	MINUTE SHEET NO. 1.	PAGE
Jan 15	① Florence survey should be done. ② The matter of Gighi has been argued decided on another file. ③ My own view is the position is headstrong. Wated. ② 16/1/45. <i>R. A. [unclear] [unclear]</i> ③ Comments on folio 5. Original on file 27/1/45 minute 18.	5

7. FLORENCE (4)

(A) It is not understood why there is no Presidente of the Deputazione Provinciale. There was one when Lt. Col. Rolph addressed their first meeting on 25 November 1944—see fos. 2D and 2E on Florence file.

(B) We do not understand why Dott. GIGLI is still in office. His removal was agreed on long ago and TEMPERINI was sent to replace him.

(C) The comments of the NU seem rather emphatic and we feel he has not given sufficient weight to the previous history of AMG in this province.

25 May V.P. History is of course, a man of strong views. Nothing I think of great moment here but interesting as a Province which has

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repeated in our file.

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head there.

R. A. Jones
Col.

Noted ②
grain

10/1/45

③
Comments on file 5. Original on file
27/2 minute 18.

Jan. 16th

7. FLORENCE

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has not given sufficient weight to the previous history of ABG in this
province.

VP. Hurdley is a former, a man of strong
views. He has a high, of great moment here
but interesting as a Province which has
been pushed around. (AB)

25 May

1938

no action in P. C. report.

28 May

grain

all

HEADQUARTERS
FLORENCE PROVINCE
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

15 Jun 45

75/983 (CONFIDENTIAL)

SUBJECT : Local Government

TO : R.O. AMG TOSCANA Region (2)

1. Ref. your letter RVIII/12/47 dated 4 Jun 45,
enclosing copy of HQ AC LG/SC letter AC/27/4/LG dated
30 May 45.

2. In regard to the points raised in the HQ AC letter,
the following explanations are given :-

a. Presidency of Prov. Deputation.

The statement by the Prefect that no President had been appointed was correct at the time, as the former President, MARTINI, had left to take up an official position in BRAZIL, and his successor had not yet taken office. The post was filled very shortly afterwards. The name of the new President is DONATINI.

b. Vice Prefect Vicario.

The case for the dismissal of GIGLI began in Dec 44, during the time of the last Provincial Commissioner but one. Since then, the files show that there have been many ups and downs and changes of opinion. First he was to go, then he was to stay then to go and be replaced by one DE PASQUALE. The latter never materialised, so GIGLI stayed. Finally at the end of April, FRAPERINI arrived, almost at the same time as the undersigned arrived at Provincial Commissioner. The Prefect expressed ignorance of the case, and was told to find out about it. He now states that he has been "awaiting orders from ROME" and as none materialised, GIGLI is still here.

In view of your letter, GIGLI is being sent back to ROME at once, and it is regretted that the chain of circumstances resulted in his not being sent before.

30 May 45.

1 p. 6

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1937

JHS/ag

LASER J. HENSLEY
Colonel, CB,
Provincial Commissioner
Florence Province.

6165

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
AFC 394
LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUB COMMISSION

AG/27/A/LG

Tel: 473190

SUBJECT: Local government reports for April 1945.

30 May 1945

TO : RG Toscana Region.

1. Reference is made to your two letters, XVIII/12/43 of 16 May, and XVIII/12/45 of 20 May, forwarding the PCs' pro forma reports on local government for the month of April. These reports are much appreciated here and the only comments that need be made are as follows:
2. Florence. It is noted that there is no Presidency of the Provincial Deputation. There appears to have been one when officers of the Sub Commission visited the Province on 6 January last. May the Sub Commission please be informed how the vacancy arose and what steps are being taken to fill it.
3. It is not understood why Dott. GIGLI is still in office as Vice Prefect Vicario: his removal was agreed upon a long time ago and Dott. TRIFERINI was sent down to replace him.
4. Lucca. No doubt the small number of communes with Giunta Comunale--12 out of 35--is due to the fact that a large party of the province was in German occupation until recently; and it is presumed that steps are being taken to establish local government in these communes as quickly as possible.
5. No comment is made as to the provinces of Arezzo, Grosseto and Siena, as these have now passed to the Italian Government, and further returns in respect of these four provinces will not be required.
6. No comment is made on Apuania either in view of its recent liberation: indeed, a report for April was hardly to be expected in this case.
7. Copies of this letter are enclosed for transmission to PCs Florence and Lucca, should you desire to do so.

FOR THE DIRECTOR:

L. G. H. S. M. i.
RALPH S. TEMPLE
Major
Deputy Director
Local Government Sub Commission

1936

OGRE/pec
Encls. as in (7) above.

4254

1242

1/8/9

5

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REPORT

FOR THE MONTH OF April 1945

REGION Toscana

PROVINCE Florence

9 MAY 1945

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT

1. Has a President of the Province been appointed?
2. Has a Deputazione Provinciale been established?
3. Have the 4 elective (citizen) members of the Giunta Provinciale Amministrativa been appointed?

NO

YES

YES

4.	Date of Appointment	Surname	First Name & Title	Description & Number of Substantive Grades
(i) Prefect	14. Ag. 1939	PATERNÒ	Dr. Giulio	Prefetto - Grade III
(ii) Vice Prefect Vicario	30 Dic. 1938	GIGLI	Dr. Gino	Vice Prefetto Vicario
		TEMPERINI	Dr. Arturo	Vice Prefetto Vicario - Grade V
(iii) Vice Prefect Inspector	18 Set. 1944	MAZZA	Dr. I. Libero	Act. Vice Prefetto Ispettore

COMMUNAL GOVERNMENT

1. Total Number of Communes	49
2. Number of Communes with a Giunta Comunale	46
3. " " " " Sindaco	46
4. " " " " " Commissario Prefettizio	3
5. (i) " " " " " Career Secretario Comunale	32
(ii) " " " " " Non-Career " "	17

* NOTE: In para 4(i), (ii), (iii) particulars of the grade held on last appointment by the Italian Government are required. This is not necessarily the grade of the office now held, eg. a Consigliere of Grade VIII may be acting as Vice Prefect Inspector (Grade VI).

1935

RAPPORTO SULLA SITUAZIONE AMMINISTRATIVAPER IL MESE DI Aprile 1945REGIONE ToscanaPROVINCIA FirenzePROVINCIA

1. E' stato nominato un Presidente della Provincia?	NO - è in corso la nomina			
2. E' stata costituita una Deputazione Provinciale?	SI			
3. Sono stati nominati i 4 membri elettivi (cittadini) della Giunta Provinciale Amministrativa?	SI			
4.	Data della nomina	Cognome	Nome e titolo	Qualifica e grado ricoperto attualmente
(i) Prefetto	14 Ag. 1939	PATERNÒ	Dr. Giulio	Prefetto-Grado III
(ii) Vice Prefetto Vicario	30 Dic. 1938	GIGLI	Dr. Gino	Vice Prefetto Vicario
(iii) Vice Prefetto Ispettore	13 Sett. 1944	TEMPERINI MAZZA	Dr. Antero Dr. Libero	V. Prefet- Grado V to Vicario- Grado V E. Vice Prefetto Ispettore

COMUNI

1. Numero totale dei Comuni	49
2. Numero dei Comuni con una Giunta Comunale	46
3. " " " " un Sindaco	46
4. " " " " " Commissario Prefettizio	3
5. (i) " " " " " Segretario Comunale di Carriera	32
(ii) " " " " " " " non di carriera	17

Nota.

Nei paragrafi 4 (i), (ii), (iii) si indicano i particolari del grado tenuto all'epoca dell'ultima nomina da parte del Governo Italiano. Questo non è necessariamente il grado relativo all'ufficio tenuto attualmente, vale a dire un Consigliere di grado VIII potrebbe agire come Vice Prefetto Ispettore (Grado VI).

5A

SHORT APPRAISAL BY PC OF UNDERMENTIONED OFFICIALS. IF THE PC'S VIEWS HAVE NOT
ALTERED SINCE LAST REPORT, WRITE "NO CHANGE".

1. PREFECT

During the interval in which the undersigned has been the Provincial Commissioner of Florence Province, it is concluded through various reliable channels, popular opinion, and this Officer's own observations that the present Prefect of Florence had and still has very strong fascist tendencies. He is extremely unpopular with all concerned. He has absolutely no hold on the people at all, and is greatly influenced by the actions of the Committee of Liberation. This Officer strongly recommends an immediate change, and the appointment of a new Prefect.

2. VICE PREFECT VICARIO

2 and 3

It is the opinion of this Officer that the whole Italian Prefecture of which the Vice Prefect Vicario and the Vice Prefect Inspector are a part, is painfully weak and inadequate. Both the Vice Prefect Vicario and the Vice Prefect Inspector lack most severely the necessary ability and practical capacity to actually accomplish their duties to the people and the Province at this critical time. The entire civilian governmental organization in this Province is made up of men who are prone to theorize with no ability or intention of arriving at actualities.

3. VICE PREFECT INSPECTOR

SHORT STATEMENT BY THE PC AS TO THE GENERAL STATE AND CONDITION OF THE LOCAL
GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION'S MENTIONED ON P. 1 AND ANY VIEWS HE MAY WISH TO
EXPRESS THEREON

Procrastination of action on the part of the local government here is influenced too heavily by ancient Fascist theories of procedure that greatly hinder results under critical conditions.

Lester J. Hensley
LESTER J. HENSLEY, Col., C.E.
Provincial Commissioner.

1934

P.C. FLORENCE

Lieutenant-Colonel RADICE; 22nd February, 1945.

E.puration Committee: A good deal of spade work has been done by the E.puration Committee; it is constituted and functioning well. The President is Dott. Dario GABRIELI, who I personally interviewed, and with whom I certainly was not impressed. Several of the Committees, although a considerable amount of spade work has been done, are not yet finally constituted, nor have they started to operate.

In regard to Local Government, there is to be no Local Sub Commission, but they are sending some 50 names to Rome for adjudication. Dott. Gabrieli says epuration in Florence Province will take some six months to complete.

There is a position that we might be able to help over, and that is in regard to the daily newspaper of Florence, the Corriere del Matino, which has been handed over by PWB to the Comune. Apparently it has all been done in a perfectly legal manner, but the Prefect is nervous and has not finally approved the liberation, and has sent the matter to Rome with an adverse report. He is nervous of the paper getting into the hands of the majority party, that is to say the Communists. This was some two months ago and Rome have not answered.

I discussed the Prefect again with Col. Michie, who gave it as his impression that Paterno was too bull-like and he would advise his removal if the CLN attacks on Paterno died down, but he would not suggest his going until they did, as it would appear if they did this that the CLN had had a complete victory.

1933

1/8/9

3

REPORT No. 132

SUBJECT: Interview with the Provincial Commissioner and the Prefect of Florence.

DATE : 7 January 1945

1. The interview with the Prefect was largely confined to arrangements discussed the previous day (and contained in report of interview with the PC) regarding personnel at the Prefettura.
2. The Prefect entirely supported and urged the retention of CIGLI. He also was desirous of securing the suggested arrangement in regard to Dr. MAZZA.
3. The Prefect was shortly to be in Rome and would see Col. Spicer before proceeding to the Ministry of Interior where he desired to secure the above arrangements.

READ AND NOTED BY:

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

R. V. M. LEWIS
Captain
Local Government Sub Commission

Date:

Jan. / 15/2

1932/

REPORT No. 131

SUBJECT: Interview with Lt. Col. Rolph, Provincial Commissioner,
Florence Province.

DATE : 6 January 1945.

1. I interviewed Lt. Col. Rolph regarding local government organization and the Provincial administration and report as follows:

2. Personnel

(a) Prefect--PATRINO: The PC stated that PATRINO continued to work well and to his complete satisfaction in all respects. He stressed the difficult conditions under which the Prefect operated and the attacks that were still being made upon him. In spite of these, PATRINO refused to be "brow-beaten" and insisted on the observance of Italian law in administrative affairs. The PC stated that a further attack had been made upon PATRINO which arose out of the dismissal of two Septral officials who had been nominated by the CLN. It was necessary to discharge them for inefficiency (with which the CLN agreed, incidentally). This in turn was followed by an attack upon PATRINO in which a speech was recalled made by him in January of 1944, when Prefect of Presinone, in which he was exhorting Italians to continue the then struggle and had made numerous strong anti-Allies statements. The Prefect had approached the PC and admitted the occasion, saying that as a Government official he was required to carry out orders which had been given to him and all other Prefects for the purpose. The PC did not report this with a view to any steps being taken against PATRINO, whom he desires should be retained in office.

(b) Vice Prefect Vicario--CIGLI: Reference was made to the previous arrangements under which CIGLI was to be removed from Florence following MASCOLO's report. The PC now stated that in the meantime, CIGLI had continued to work to his complete satisfaction and had proved efficient and conscientious official. The PC considered that no person or body was any longer connected with CIGLI's dismissal or removal and he, the PC, desired that he should be retained in office. The PC advised in this sense for the above reasons, and was also influenced by the fact that owing to the admitted shortage of satisfactory Italian officials it was doubtful whether he would ever be adequately replaced. The PC requested that this should be submitted to ACHQ with a view to CIGLI's retention.

(c) Vice Prefect Inspector--DE FRANCISCI: The PC had no objection to the removal of this official as previously arranged. With regard to the vacancy thus caused, both he and the Prefect were desirous that Dr. MAZZA, present Capo di Gabinetto, should be promoted to the acting rank. If this were done, it would be necessary to obtain a capable Consigliere for the cabinet work, which would in practice be continued under MAZZA's supervision.

(d) Other officials: In all other respects, no shortages were reported.

3. Local Government Organization

(a) Giunte Comunali: These existed in the 49 communes through the Province. A number of shortages had been necessary from the persons originally

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3. Local Government Organization

(a) Giunta Comunale: These existed in the 49 communes through the Province. A number of changes had been necessary from the persons originally appointed by spearhead A/C officers, and this remark also applied to Sindaco. Further changes may still be necessary, but in the main present appointments were proving satisfactory.

(b) Rappresentanze Provinciali: This has been formed and was in operation. Its members included representatives in various parts of the Province. The PC attended their first meeting and a copy of his speech on that occasion is attached hereto and marked No. 1.

1231

(c) Giunta Provinciale Administrative: This had been formed and was in operation.

(d) Florence City: Giunta Comunale existed and the Sindaco PIETRACCINI was still in office. In the PC's view, he was a person who was mutually approved by all political parties, but the man himself was in fact old and lacking in drive. The Vice Sindaco, a local Avvocato, was in fact the principal power. Some difficulty had arisen regarding the Segretario Comunale of Florence, Dr. SOMMA, who the PC said was a capable, hard-working and conscientious official and one who (like the Prefect) insisted on the observance of Italian administrative law. For this reason, he was unpopular with the Giunta who at times excluded him from their meetings. The PC did not recommend any change or action by ACNQ and intimated that he had a plan in mind for dealing with the situation. The report in this respect was for information only.

(e) General: In conclusion, Lt. Col. Rolph stated that the provisions of R.D.L. 111 had been completely following in all respects and expressed the view that now that the organization had been set up, ALI could do no more and it was incumbent upon the Italians themselves to operate the system properly.

4. Comitato di Liberazione

The PC stated that the influence of this body during December was less marked than previously, but on 31 December, he had found it necessary to address a letter (copy attached hereto marked No. 2) to the Comitato ordering them to refrain from assuming or purporting to assume powers and authority which in law they did not possess.

The PC mentioned that he had reason to believe that members of the CLN were obtaining financial benefit by reason of their activity with the Comitato. He further stated that it had come to his notice in certain parts of the Province that the CLN had been obtaining money from farmers by way of subscription to the Comitato, which were in fact nothing more or less than an illegal "levy". With regard to local government bodies, the CLN had no strong representation thereon and were inclined to take a superior attitude thereto. He further mentioned that throughout the communes, the CLN did not exist in areas where little political interest was shown among the local populace; e.g. purely rural areas.

W. V. M. LEWIS
Captain
Local Government Sub Commission
15 January 1945

READ AND NOTED BY: *[Signature]*

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READ AND NOTED BY:

[Signature]
[Signature]

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

Date: Jan/15.

WV/L/pec

W. V. M. LEWIS
Captain
Local Government Sub Commission
13 January 1945

1930

DISCORSO ALLA DEPUTAZIONE PROVINCIALE TENUTO
DAL TEN. COL. R.L. ROLPH IL 25 NOVEMBRE 1944.

Signor Presidente, Signori Membri della Deputazione Provinciale di Firenze !

Ho molto piacere di essere presente oggi a questa cerimonia. Voi siete i membri della prima Deputazione Provinciale di Firenze, dopo oltre 20 anni, e l'espressione della rinnovata amministrazione rappresentativa dell'ente nei suoi affari locali. Questo è un grande passo innanzi nell'eliminazione del disprezzato sistema dittatoriale a cui siete stati soggetti per questo lungo periodo.

Io desidero ricordarvi che la vostra nomina è avvenuta in maniera non conforme alla legge fondamentale Italiana, ma in base ad una legge provvisoria, a causa dell'impossibilità, nel momento attuale, di procedere alle elezioni. Se procedere alle elezioni fosse stato possibile, il primo corpo amministrativo ad essere formato sarebbe stato il Consiglio Provinciale, assemblea dei rappresentanti regolarmente eletti per i vari distretti della provincia, e nel cui seno sarebbero stati nominati i membri della Deputazione.

Io vi parlo di questo per richiamare la vostra attenzione sulla vostra qualità di rappresentanti ufficiali di questa popolazione, i cui bisogni voi dovete tener presenti nella trattazione degli affari

1252

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Siete stati chiamati a questa carica nel momento forse più critico che questa provincia abbia mai dovuto fronteggiare. Le difficoltà che vi stanno di fronte

22

sono immense, ma sono sicuro che con la vostra buona amministrazione e con la pazienza della popolazione riuscirete a porre di nuovo in ordine tutte le opere di pubblica utilità, strade, ponti, scuole, istituti culturali ed artistici, ospedali ed istituti di beneficenza, in breve tutte le opere necessarie alla ripresa normale della vita.

In tale compito io vi posso assicurare che gli Alleati faranno del loro meglio per aiutarvi. Se per il presente questo aiuto non appare adeguato alle necessità, io debbo ricordarvi che noi ancora stiamo combattendo questa terribile guerra che richiede sempre da ciascuno di noi i più duri sacrifici.

Termino augurando ad ognuno di voi di potere svolgere proficuamente il proprio lavoro per il bene della provincia, sino a quando, con la vittoria, sarà possibile dedicarsi con tutta l'energia alla ricostruzione del Paese.

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1928

2E
1A
I am very happy to be present at this ceremony. You are the members of the first Provincial Deputation of Florence to be formed after more than twenty years, and the expression of the reborn administration representing the organization in its local activities. This is a great step ahead, as it does away with the discarded dictatorial system to which you have been subjected for such a long period of time.

I wish to remind you that your appointment has been effected in a manner which is not in conformity with the fundamental legislation of this country, but on the basis of a provisional law, due to the impossibility to hold elections at the present time. If it would have been possible to hold elections, the Provincial Council would have been the first representative body to be formed; this being the assembly of the representative regularly elected for the various districts of the province, and within which the members of the Deputation would have been elected.

I am speaking to you of this to bring to your attention the quality of the official representatives of this population, whose needs you must consider in dealing with provincial matters.

You have been put in office in what is perhaps the most critical moment that this province has ever faced. The difficulties facing you are immense, but I am sure that with your good administration and the patience of the population, you will succeed in putting back in order all the projects of public interest, roads, bridges, schools, cultural and art institutes, hospitals and welfare institutes; in short, all the projects necessary for the resumption of normal life.

I assure you that the Allies will do all they can to assist you in this task. If at the present time this aid will seem inadequate, I must remind you that we are still at war and that this terrible war will continue to require the hardest sacrifices from each one of us.

I will end wishing each one of you success in your individual tasks.

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I will end wishing each one of you success in your individual tasks which are for the benefit of the entire province; until the day of victory ¹⁹²⁷ with all our energy it will be possible for us to devote ourselves to the reconstruction of our Country.

Translation by V. Bonanni

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ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

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FLORENCE

31st December 1944

To : Comitato Toscano di Liberazione Nazionale
Florence.

Gentlemen :-

Referring to your letter 3533 A/I/P of 21st December 1944 addressed to the Bank of Naples of Florence, we wish to confirm what Col. Ralph has already informed your President Dr. Raghianti in connection with this matter, namely that the C.F.L.N. has no authority to give any orders or instructions either to the Bank of Naples or to any other institution or governmental body.

As Col. Ralph informed Dr. Raghianti, if you consider that certain action such as that which was the subject of your letter should be taken, you may, advise the appropriate officer of A.M.G. accordingly, who will then proceed to act as may be considered desirable.

In this connection a number of notices have appeared in the local newspapers as to the plans or proposals of the C.F.L.N. so phrased as to lead the public to believe that the C.F.L.N. does have some official governmental position or authority. We therefore take this opportunity of reiterating what we have previously pointed out to you, that is, that while your advice and assistance is welcomed at all times and while we are fully appreciative of what you have done in the past, especially during the emergency period, the C.F.L.N. has no constitutional powers and no governmental authority and, in order to avoid any possible future misunderstanding, we hereby order you to refrain from assuming or purporting to assume or leading the public to believe that you possess such powers and authority. Violation of this order will be subject to punishment under paragraph 42 of Art.V of Proclamation No.1 of the Allied Military Government.

Yours truly

Referring to your letter 3033 A/1/2 of 21st December 1944 addressed to the Bank of Naples of Florence, we wish to confirm what Col. Ralph has already informed your President Dr. Maglianti in connection with this matter, namely that the C.T.L.N. has no authority to give any orders or instructions either to the Bank of Naples or to any other institution or governmental body.

As Col. Ralph informed Dr. Maglianti, if you consider that certain action such as that which was the subject of your letter should be taken, you may advise the appropriate officer of A.M.C. accordingly, who will then proceed to act as may be considered desirable.

In this connection a number of notices have appeared in the local newspapers as to the plans or proposals of the C.T.L.N. so phrased as to lead the public to believe that the C.T.L.N. does have some official governmental position or authority. We therefore take this opportunity of reiterating what we have previously pointed out to you, that is, that while your advice and assistance is welcomed at all times and while we are fully appreciative of what you have done in the past, especially during the emergency period, the C.T.L.N. has no constitutional powers and no governmental authority and, in order to avoid any possible future misunderstanding, we hereby order you to refrain from assuming or purporting to assume or leading the public to believe that you possess such powers and authority. Violation of this order will be subject to punishment under paragraph 42 of Art.V of Proclamation No.1 of the Allied Military Government.

Yours truly

THOMAS J. NICHOLS, Lt. Col. A.C.
S.C.A.O.; A.M.C. Florence City.

RALPH L. ROLPH, Lt. Col. A.C.
Provincial Commissioner.

Call 1 *To top* *1/8/19* *1*
File
See it *Sam* *1/10/19* *1/20/19*
 28 November 1944

SUBJECT: A.C. Report

TO : S.C.A.O., A.S.G., 5th. Army, attention Chief of Staff

1. In the A.C. weekly bulletin N° 30 of 29 October 1944, the following statement occurs:

"On Saturday (Oct. 24) a special messenger arrived in Florence from Rome with the news, disquieting to the Liberal King of the FORL, that Minister-without-Portfolio Saragatini would not be able to address them here the following day owing to the fact he had been unable to leave Rome; then came Sunday and the news, disquieting to local military government officials, that Minister of Commerce and Industry Gronchi had already arrived in Tuscany and, allowing only for short stop-overs for speeches, was making for Florence where he was scheduled to address a meeting of Christian Democrats the following Wednesday. In the nick of time, an Allied officer intercepted Minister Gronchi at Figline and in Florence on Wednesday a meeting at which Gronchi was present was held in Lt. Col. Michie's office. Neither Dr. Paterno, Florence Prefect, nor Col. Spicer, AC's Chief of Local Government Sub-Commission, who was in Florence for the day, were present."

2. This statement is inaccurate throughout. Nothing that could properly be described as a "meeting" was held in Col. Michie's office. Acting on a previous request of Capt. Johnson made before Minister Gronchi arrived in the Province, two prominent members of the Christian Democratic Party, one of them Vice Sindaco Nelli with whom we are in constant contact, and the other On. Martini, President of the Deputazione Provinciale and a member of the C.F.L.M. whom we also see quite frequently, brought Minister Gronchi to the S.C.A.O.'s office at an hour unspecified in advance for a courtesy call and to give the S.C.A.O. an opportunity to explain to the Minister why it had been necessary to cancel his proposed public meeting. As no time for this visit was said in advance,

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Doctor Paterno and Colonel Spicer could not well have been invited nor would it have occurred to the S.C.A.O. to invite them in view of the purpose of the visit even if he had known that Col. Spicer was still in town which, according to his present recollection, was not the case. The article is also inaccurate in a number of other respects which, however, do not appear to be important enough to warrant correction.

THOMAS J. MICHIE, Lt. Col., A.C.
S.C.A.O., A.M.S., Florence City

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