

ACC

10000/141/207

APPOI
JUN.,

0572

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

785021

141/207

APPOINTMENT OF HIGH COMMISSIONER, SICILY, ALDISIO
JUN., JULY 1944

Minute Sheet No. 3

DATE

PAGE

④

July
24.Regal

Rebate initial para 3. & 4. L

4.
2

MINUTE SHEET N. 2.

DATE

Page

(14)

Jul. 13

Int

- ① A.V.P. has discussed this with Acting CC and Treasurer Com.
- ② Acting CC will take up the matter with PM
- ③ Let's wait therefore till we can make a decision

R. D. Gifford
 Asst. Sec. for
 Admin. Serv.

July 17.

V.A.

(5)

1. You may care to see this
2. It would seem to me that R. Regim I does not exactly care for Mdisio.
3. The Orlando interview is of interest
4. I propose to do nothing - do you agree?

July 18

To Int.

(6)

Your para 4. I agree.

gph

July 21

S.O. King up. Benatti asks if Ital. Govt. has announced officially as yet appointment of Mdisio

No comment except say that the purpose of my inquiry is to notify Col. Hancock officially of a fait accompli.

Aug 22.

Director In L.O. spoke to Benatti. Mdisio has been appointed H.C. of Sicily by the Council of Ministers as far as the Ital. Govt. is concerned. It is still necessary to complete the matter as the appointment is the subject of a decree & certain other formalities. The content of your letter, however, are correct.

MINUTE SHEET N° 1.

DATE

Page

July 11

①

V.P. In my judgement, Liguori Maino will be far more unbarriered in his outlook. I concur with his appointment vice the present incumbent and as a man likely to produce what is wanted in all directions both by the U.S. & Italy than the present regime.

As A. M. M.
—
Ad.

Noted
—
gpm

July 12

Let Re: 12 & 29.

②

① Acting V.P. intends to discuss this with Acting Chief Commissioner or his assistant, probably tomorrow.

② He will require Col. Spina to be present, and bring the file.

③ Time of interview will be sufficient.

④ No action pending.

R. D. Campbell
—
Ad.

C.S.O. Adm. Sec.

Noted. L.

July 13

Adm. Sec.

③

shall want this file to-morrow

663

(4)

ACC/4/1/55/Int

SUBJECT: Note of telephone conversation. RC Region I - Director, Interior S/C.

Date and Time: 22 July, 1944, 1030 hours.

1. Col Hancock, RC, Region I called Col Spicer. Disquieting rumours had arisen since yesterday afternoon as to a change in the office of High Commissioner for Sicily. Was it true that ALDISIO was to be appointed?

2. Col Spicer said he had had no official information but he understood that the Government had decided to appoint ALDISIO. The matter was being handled at the Acting Chief Commissioner's level. Col Hancock's letter (No. 3 on file) was before Capt. Stone the day before yesterday. Since then, all Col Spicer had heard was unofficial statements and rumours.

3. Col Hancock asked Col Spicer to pass the following message to Director, Legal S/C: -

GENTILE, Giovanni, 1st President Court of Appeal, appointed by Gen. McSherry on 30 Nov 1943, had been dismissed by Italian Government and replaced by one MIRABILE, Guido. Thus there were now two 1st Presidents. RC had received no official notification of any kind and had not been consulted. RC considers this new appointment to be a serious breach of the Armistice terms.

NAW GENTILE had received orders to report to Rome. He could not leave by aeroplane before 25 July: RC was trying to get him away by road.

4. Col Spicer saw Col Wilmer (Acting Director, Legal S/C) immediately and gave him the above message.

Conversation, etc., noted by:

C. G. R. Williams

C. G. R. WILLIAMS
Captain
Ass't Executive Officer
Interior Sub-Commission

Read and noted by:

RAA/McM
Colonel.
July 24.

662

AND CONTROL COMMISSION
SICILY REGION HEADQUARTERS
APO 394

Confidential
Interior S.C. (3)

1742
ITAL:RO/014.12

12 JULY 1944
17 JUL 1944

5728

SUBJECT: High Commissioner for Sicily

TO : Executive Commissioner
S.C. & M.C. Section
R.G. M.C.C. Naples
for Interior Sub-Commission

HEADQUARTERS
17 LUG 1944
A. C. C.

P.1.

P.1E

P.2A

1. On your 3086 of 6 JUL I replied with MY REQ 236 of 10 JUL. As reported in my RC 014.12 of 10 JUL, there has been considerable political manoeuvring in Palermo to oust Gasotto on no other grounds than the political ambitions of a certain group which radiates round La Loggia, a pre-fascist Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Finance. This group found a fortuitous ally in Alaisio when he was appointed Minister of the Interior in the former Salvo Lima government. As head of the Christian Democrat Party in Sicily, Alaisio is prepared to go to any length to get members of his party into the key positions in communal and provincial administrations and to this end was prepared to come to terms with the La Loggia group in the conspiracy against Gasotto. Matarrella, who was a member of the Giunta Consultiva and is now Under-Secretary of State for the Ministry of Education in the present government, is an Alaisio satellite who is undoubtedly continuing the campaign in government circles against Gasotto which Alaisio initiated. The latter, having fallen from grace after his brief tenure as Minister of the Interior, is now seeking to restore his prestige and at the same time achieve his political programme in Sicily by badgering Bonomi into appointing him High Commissioner at Gasotto's expense.

2. Those of us who recall Alaisio since the earliest days of the occupation until his appointment last January as Prefect of Caltanissetta, would not consider him either stronger or more energetic than the present High Commissioner. His actions are generally prompted and dominated by party interest and he is not about to fishing in troubled waters.

3. I am strongly of the opinion that Gasotto should be given a fair and square trial with the full support of the present Italian government. The original decree which put him in office needs revision; the Giunta Consultiva should be reintegrated and its functions clarified by appropriate regulations; the institution of the Alto Commissariato requires co-ordinated with other local government agencies through the ministries concerned, all of whom should channel their communications through the High Commissioner and not direct.

661

(3A)

4. I discussed the question at some length with His Excellency V.E. Orlando during his visit to Palermo last week and he fully concurs with the view that a change of High Commissioner at this time is undesirable. He also considers that the present status of the Giunte consultiva is unsatisfactory and intends, I believe, to talk over this and other Sicilian matters with Bonomi.

A.N. Hancock

A.N. HANCOCK
Colonel
Regional Commissioner

Copy to CAB.

660

SECRET

Action copy to Director

(2A)

621

11 JUL 1945

(2A)

ACC ADV FOR UPJOHN FOR SPICER AND FOR INFO TO LUSH TO ACC MAIN FOR ADMINISTRATIVE
SECTION

11

BOMBSTER FROM HANCOCK

SECRET

S 12314

PRIORITY

JULY 10/1445

CITE: REG 236

REFERENCE YOUR 3966 STRONGLY URGE NO CHANGE OF HIGH COMMISSIONER AT THIS JUNCTURE.
ALDISIO IS TOO MUCH A ONE PARTY MAN AND INTRIGUER FOR THIS REASON HE WAS NOT POPULAR OR
STRONG AS PREFECT OF HIS OWN PROVINCE (CALTANIBESFIA ?). PRESENT HIGH COMMISSIONER IS
TAKING FIRM AND LOYAL ACTION IN REGARD TO GRAIN COLLECTION. HIS EXCELLENCY VITTORIO
ORLANDO ON VISIT TO PALERMO ~~ATTACHMENT~~ AUTHORIZES ME TO ADD THAT HE CONCURS IN NO
CHANGE RECOMMENDATION.

*Carded 26/7/45**To A.V.P.*ACC ADV DIST

ACTION ADM SEC (2)

INFO CA EN (2)

FILE

FLOAT (2)

*This should be read in conjunction with at Spicer's
answer always in a file*

R. D. Lippe

SECRET

9/639

JULY 11/0234

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

INCOMING MESSAGE

11 JUL 1941

TO: ACC ADV FOR UPJOHN FOR SPICER AND FOR INFO TO LUSH TO ACC MAIN FOR ADMINISTRATIVE

SECTION

SIGNAL MESSAGE CENTER No: 11

FROM: BONSTEEL FROM HANCOCK

CLASSIFICATION: SECRET

REFERENCE No: S 12314

PRECEDENCE: PRIORITY

DATE AND TIME OF ORIGIN: JULY 10/1941 OFFICE OF ORIGIN: CITE: REO 236

REFERENCE YOUR 3066 STRONGLY URGE NO CHANGE OF HIGH COMMISSIONER AT THIS JUNCTURE. ALDISIO IS TOO MUCH A ONE PARTY MAN AND INTRIGUER FOR THIS REASON HE WAS NOT POPULAR OR STRONG AS PREFECT OF HIS OWN PROVINCE (CALTANIBESSETTA ?). PRESENT HIGH COMMISSIONER IS TAKING FIRM AND LOYAL ACTION IN REGARD TO CRAIN COLLECTION. HIS EXCELLENCY VITTORIO ORLANDO ON VISIT TO PALERMO ~~ATTACHMENT~~ AUTHORIZES ME TO ADD THAT HE CONCURS IN NO CHANGE RECOMMENDATION.

ACC ADV DIST

ACTION ADM SEC (2)

INFO CA ER (2)

FILE

FLOAT (2)

0 5 8 1

REFERENCE YOUR 3066 STRONGLY URGE NO CHANGE OF HIGH COMMISSIONER AT THIS JUNCTURE.
ALDISIO IS TOO MUCH A ONE PARTY MAN AND INTRIGUER FOR THIS REASON HE WAS NOT POPULAR OR
STRONG AS PREFECT OF HIS OWN PROVINCE (CAITANHESETTA ?). PRESENT HIGH COMMISSIONER IS
TAKING FIRM AND LOYAL ACTION IN REGARD TO GRAIN COLLECTION. HIS EXCELLENCY VITTORIO
ORLANDO ON VISIT TO PALERMO ~~ADMINISTRATIVE~~ AUTHORIZES ME TO ADD THAT HE CONCURS IN NO
CHANGE RECOMMENDATION.

AOC ADV DIST

ACTION ADM SEC (2)

INFO CA ER (2)

FILE

FLOAT (2)

658

DATE and Time of RECEIPT JULY 11/0224

Distribution:

561115

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
INCOMING MESSAGE

Int Sec
(1A)
490

TO: ACC ADV HQ FOR SPICER RPT LS FOR ACC REGION I FOR HANCOCK

SIGNAL MESSAGE CENTER No:

FROM: ACC REAR FROM U.S. JOHN CLASSIFICATION: SECRET

REFERENCE No: 3066 PRECEDENCE: PRIORITY

DATE AND TIME OF ORIGIN: 080945 OFFICE OF ORIGIN:

BONCHI STATED AT INTERVIEW THIS MORNING THAT HE WAS CONSIDERING APPOINTING ALDISIO HIGH COMMISSIONER SICILY IN PLACE OF MUSOTTI. HE THINKS ALDISIO IS A STRONGER MAN MORE LIKELY TO DEAL ENERGETICALLY WITH PROBLEMS OF GRAIN COLLECTION. PLEASE LET ME HAVE YOUR VIEWS ON THE PROPOSAL SOONEST.

ACC ADV DIST

(ACT) INT SEC
(INF) CA BR
FILE
FLOAT 2

APPOINTING ALDISIO HIGH COMMISSIONER SICILY IN PLACE OF MUSOTTO.
HE THINKS ALDISIO IS A STRONGER MAN MORE LIKELY TO DEAL ENERGETICALLY
WITH PROBLEMS OF GRAIN COLLECTION. PLEASE LET ME HAVE YOUR VIEWS ON
THE PROPOSAL SOONEST.

ACC ADV DIST
(ACT) INT SEC
(INF) CA BR
FILE
FLOAT 2

657

DATE and Time of RECEIPT

Distribution:

U. S. SECRET
 Equals British

OUTGOING
 SECRET

UPJONE/mar

9/07

3066

7 JUL 1944

JULY

1
 Sent on 1700 hr
 courier

SECRET

PRIORITY

ACC REAR

ACC ADV RPT IRS

BONOMO STATED AT INTERVIEW THIS MORNING THAT HE WAS CONSIDERING
 APPOINTING ALBERTO HIGH COMMISSIONER SICILY IN PLACE OF MUROTTO PD
 TO ACC ADV RE FOR SPICER RPT IRS FOR ACC REGION ONE FOR HANCOCK
 FROM ACC REAR FROM UPJONE SIGNED STONE PD HE THINKS ALBERTO IS A
 STRONGER MAN MORE LIKELY TO DEAL ENTHUSIASTICALLY WITH PROBLEMS OF
 GRAIN COLLECTION PD PLEASE LET ME HAVE YOUR VIEWS ON THE PROPOSAL
 SOONEST

APPROVED:

E. J. CHIOCCA
 CWO USA
 Adjutant

DISTRIBUTION:

- 1 File
- 1 Fleet
- 1 DGC
- 1 Admin
- 1 Interior SO Rear
- 1 Adj Main

656

U. S. SECRET
 Equals British SECRET

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
SICILY REGION HEADQUARTERS
APO 394

FILE:RC/014.12

16 June 1944

SUBJECT: Appointment of High Commissioner - SICILY

TO : Executive Commissioner
R.C. & M.C. Section
H.Q. A.C.C. Naples
for interior sub-commission

See Page 23.

P.21.

1. The note from BAVIERA to Chief Commissioner was attached to copy of RC/014.12 of 10 JUN forwarded for Executive Commissioner R.C. & M.C. Section.

2. The letter was addressed by BAVIERA personally to Chief Commissioner: no copy is therefore in possession Region I.

A.N. HANCOCK
Colonel
Regional Commissioner

copy held by RC & M.C. S.

HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES COMMISSION
INTERIOR SUB COMMISSION
APO 394

ACC/1/1/1/Int

12 June 1944

SUBJECT: Appointment of High Commissioner - Sicily

TO : RC, Region I

1. Reference your letter of 10 June 1944 (File: RC/014.12).
2. The enclosure you referred to, namely a letter from Bavaria to the Chief Commissioner, was not received by us. Furthermore, the message center at Naples and RC & MI Section, have no trace of the letter also.
3. Will you please forward to us a copy of the missing letter?

ERT/jgt

R. G. B. Spicker
R. G. B. SPICKER
Colonel
Director
Interior Sub-Commission

654

(22)

13

Contacted message centre Naples on 11-6-44.

They could not say definitely that P.21
enclosure to Reg I letter RC/014.12 dated 10.6.44
had not been received but could find
no trace of it there.

RC + MG Section were contacted and
they could not trace it either.

Suggest that Region I be asked whether
enclosure was in fact forwarded.

Pls Wright. 9/54.
11.6.44.

Retained by RC + MG Section. See P. 26.

BW.
20.6.44.

11 JUN 1944

CONFIDENTIAL

ARMED CONTROL COMMISSION
SICILY REGION HEADQUARTERS
APO 394

10 June 1944

TIME: RC/014.12

SUBJECT: Appointment of High Commissioner - SICILY

TO : Executive Commissioner
R.C. & M.C. Section
R. A.C.C. Naples
for Interior Sub-Commission

HEADQUARTERS

10610 1544

A. C. C.

1. The running for the High Commissioner is in full swing. On Tuesday 6th inst. Aldisio, Minister of the Interior, arrived here at 1300 hours by special plane and left after a stay of 6 hours. During this time he spent some 2 hours with Masotto and had a long session with the recently appointed Prefect of Palermo, D'Antoni and the Rector of the University, Avv. Baviera, both of whom were at Salerno and Naples last week.

2. Masotto reported to me immediately the details of his talk with Aldisio which was apparently confined to convening the Giunta Consultiva at an early date without Alcomare (Messina) and Saitta (Catania), for whom Aldisio promised to telephone the names of substitutes; the eventual substitution of the Prefect of Messina, Stanganelli, and Prefect of Agrigento, Pancano, by career Prefects; a complete change of the Giunta Comunale, Palermo. The two Prefects and the Giunta Comunale, Palermo are all A.M.C. appointments and Masotto took the stand with Aldisio that any changes must be first agreed with A.C.C.

3. Late yesterday evening the object of Aldisio's talk with D'Antoni and Baviera leaked out. The latter must have been offered the appointment of High Commissioner in place of Masotto and it is understood from an intercepted letter to Badoglio that he is prepared to accept. The enclosed communication from Baviera to the Chief Commissioner may have some significance in this connection.

4. Before his recent visit to Salerno, Avv. Baviera recalled to me that he was originally offered the appointment of High Commissioner before Masotto and that he declined because he felt unequal to the task due to inexperience and was literally afraid of it.

5. Masotto, who is now acquainted with the foregoing circumstances, has asked my advice. I have reminded him that he is appointed by Royal Decree, that a new government is being formed, that it will need a new decree to replace him and that consequently he should stick to his post and call his Giunta Consultiva together without further delay to deal with

(21A)
(1F)

immediate business, particularly the harvesting of the wheat crop.

6. I am sending you these hurried early details just ascertained in order to catch this morning's plane leaving with A.C.C. personnel.

Shirley. Hutchins
lt Colonel
for A.W. HANCOCK
Colonel
Regional Commissioner
(who wrote letter but is absent on duty.)

Encl-Communication, Baviera to Chief Commissioner.

651

0590