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OFFICIALS FOR POLA PROVINCE
JULY 1945

MINUTE SHEET NO. 1

DATE	PAGE

Report on local government organization of Pola, 27 July 1945.
Person interviewed:

Lt. Col. Orwood (B) Area Commissioner, Pola.

1. Pola area consists of the Comune of Pola alone, less a part of the city lying to the North. When the Yugoslavs took over, there was a Regional District organization set up. The Yugoslavs left the Italian officials in office while they set up the new type government with Provincial HQ at Albano (east of the Targu line). AMG, when it entered, found a Town Committee called the "Comitato Popolare Liberatorio" (CPL). This Committee consists of 12 members: 10 Slovenes and 2 Italians. The President is Italian; the Secretary, Yugoslav. Each member of the Committee is in charge of a branch of municipal government, such as finance, civil engineering, public welfare, etc. The CPL represents the anti-Communist element and is not divided into separate parties such as exist in Italy. It is pro-Yugoslav. Communists are part of this group. Lt. Col. Orwood said that the Christian-Democrat Party as a separate entity is beginning to manifest itself.

2. The population of the Comune of Pola is approximately 30,000, of which the national distribution, according to Lt. Col. Orwood, is as follows:

60% pure Italians
20% Croats
20% mixture of Austrian, Slovenes,
Croats and combinations

5980

The CPL is 60% Italian and 40% non-Italian, but all are pro-Yugoslav in sympathy. The CPL appointed the Town Committee described above which is the Government of the Comune. Lt. Col. Orwood said that the Communist Party, which is now part of the CPL, is beginning to look toward the Italian Communists for guidance.

3. Besides the CPL, there are 2 other organizations, namely the Fronte Popolare, which is an offshoot of the CPL, and the Comitato Cittadini Popolare. The latter (COP) was formed a month ago and consists of Italians only. It purports to represent the Italian population. Lt. Col. Orwood is attempting to form an Advisory Council of 2 persons from each of the 3 groups; namely, CPL, COP and the PP. He is also attempting to get a broader base for the Town Committee by introducing several prominent anti-Fascists and anti-Italians into the Town Committee. The Italian organization COP has no contact with the CPL and is itself composed of weak people. Apparently, the CPL, according to Lt. Col. Orwood, is agreeable to the idea of broadening the base of the Town Committee. There are only 2 former Provincial offices which are in existence in the Comune, namely, finance and public works. The former functions under the Intendenza di Finanze who has been brought back and is taking care of the Comune as well as provincial financial matters, as far as they affect the Comune. Fire service, prisons, RAI are under AMG police. Post is functioning independently. 2 separate budgets are prepared, one for the Comune and one for payment of former provincial and State employees who still receive salaries. Genio Civile and Genio Marino are functioning under the Comune. There is a Vice Superintendent of Studies who also operates under the Comune. SERSU has been reconstituted with a Trieste set-up and works more or less on its own under

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4. Lt. Col. Orwood said that he would like to carry on the form of organization as it is, with the exception of broadening the national base gradually. He has verbally recognized the Town Committee, in fact. He said he would like to think over the use of the name Cittadini which was suggested by Col. Robertson.

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