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OFFICIALS FOR GORIZIA
JULY 1945

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APPENDIX "D"

Report on Local Government Organization of Corvinia Area, 30 July 1944.
Persons interviewed:

Lt. Col. Smith (S) Area Commissioner, Corvinia
Col. Robertson (R) Deputy CAO XIII Corps AG
Major Gold (A) Legal Officer, Corvinia Area

1. The Yugoslav Liberation Committee set up a Council of 14, consisting of 7 Yugoslavs and 7 Italians, plus a Yugoslav consultant, to control the Area. The Area is populated with a majority of Slovenes.
2. Most of the former prefectural officials are functioning.
3. With the formation of the Council, the Yugoslav Liberation Committee went out of existence more or less.
4. Commissioners were set up to take over the functions of the Prefecture, except for finance; for example, there is a Commissioner of Justice, etc. The whole idea apparently was to abolish the Italian system, but lack of time prevented the Yugoslavs from doing this.
5. There were 9 districts varying in size and formed by combinations of Communes and Prefectures. Members of the District Committee head the functional departments of the government and meet collectively to deliberate. Each Committee has a President and who presumably has been elected by delegates from the Communes. The western part of the Corvinia Area is Italian, while the rest is mostly Slovene.
6. The relationship between the Area and the District Committee is not clear, Lt. Col. Smith stated.
7. In the Italian Area, the Communal system prevails. In some cases, the Districts are identical in geographic area to the Communes. Where a Commune exists, it does not function under the District. In other words, the District system is aimed to abolish Communal line. The District Committee functions and is subject to the control of the Area President.
8. An Italian Civil exists, consisting of the other, Socialist, Liberal-Democrat and Labor-Democrat Parties. Communists are not part of the CIM, but have allied themselves with the Yugoslav Liberation Committee. Where the identity of Communes has been preserved, there are Communal elections in operation. Where they have been supplanted, District elections function. Lt. Col. Smith indicated that he aimed to preserve as much of the District system as possible, at the same time importing the Italian system of government. He had had his legal officer prepare a plan, which he submitted to Col. Robertson. This plan had been studied by us and as much of it as seemed administratively sound was retained in another scheme prepared by us after conference with Col. Robertson. My plan was discussed with Lt. Col. Smith and Major Gold, who approved it with one or 2 minor suggestions for possible changes.

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5. With the formation of the Council, the Yugoslav Liberation Committee went out of existence here or long.

6. Committees were set up to take over the functions of the Prefecture, except for finance; for example, there is a Committee of Justice, etc. The whole idea apparently was to abolish the Italian system, but lack of time prevented the Yugoslavs from doing this.

7. There were 9 districts varying in size and formed by combinations of Communes and fractions. Members of the District Committees head the functional departments of the government and meet collectively to deliberate. Each Committee has a President and the presumably has been elected by delegates from the Communes. The western part of the Corrida Area is Italian, while the rest is mostly Slovene.

8. The relationship between the Area and the District Committees is not clear, Lt. Col. Santa stated.

9. In the Italian Area, the Communist system prevails. In some cases, the Districts are identical in geographic area to the Communes. Where a Commune exists, it does so function under the District. In other words, the District system is aimed to abolish Communist line. The District Committee functions and is subject to the control of the Area President.

10. An Italian CDE exists, consisting of the Action, Socialist, Liberal-Communist and Labor-Communist Parties. Communists are not part of the CDE, but have allied themselves with the Yugoslav Liberation Committee. Where the identity of Communes has been preserved, there are Communist secretaries in operation. Where they have been supplanted, District Committees function. Lt. Col. Santa indicated that he wished to preserve as much of the District system as possible, at the same time injecting the Italian system of government. He had had his Legal Officer prepare a plan, which he submitted to Col. Robertson. This plan had been studied by me and as such of it as seemed administratively sound was retained in another scheme prepared by me and after conference with Col. Robertson. My plan was discussed with Lt. Col. Santa and Major Gold, who approved it with one or two minor suggestions for possible changes.

R. R. Temple
Major

RAUL A. TOLAN
Major
Deputy Director
Local Government Sub Commission

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