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JUVENILE DELINQUENCY
OCT. 1944

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 HEADQUARTERS
 ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
 APO 394
 CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

el al Gov. ①

18 OCT 1944

RET

15 Oct '44

Ref: 4/19.E/OA

SUBJECT: - Juvenile Delinquency.

TO: -

RC Abruzzi-Marche Region,
 RC Emilia Region,
 RC Toscana Region,
 RC Sardegna Region,
 RC Venetia Region,
 SCAG VIII Army,
 SCAG V Army,
 RC Piemonte Region,
 RC Liguria Region,
 RC Lombardia Region,
 RC Lazio Region,
 RC Sicilia Region,

1. For some time past the problem of child delinquency which has led to children being involved in numerous offenses such as pimping and prostitution of minors, acting as "pencos" for stolen goods, etc, and pilfering from Allied trucks, has given rise to a good deal of concern, and while it is appreciated that Provincial Commissioners have, of course, endeavoured to meet this problem by more the usual administrative methods such as the opening of schools and the enforcement of attendance, law enforcement in these matters through Public Safety and Welfare agencies. Cases have arisen, and are daily arising in the more populated districts, where the difficulties involved in the methods set out earlier in this paragraph have led to a high percentage of child delinquency. This was particularly noticeable in the large cities of Naples and Palermo.

2. I have recently read the report of the Provincial Commissioner at Naples on the steps he has taken to alleviate what is in that city a major problem, and I set out below in short the methods he has adopted. These methods are proving highly successful and are for your information and similar action should the like difficulties be met with in other populous areas.

3. a) A Committee was set up of the most highly influential people that could be put together. These included the Archbishop, a senior member of the Committee of Liberation and a local influential landlord.
- b) The Committee's first action was to collect funds, in fact 2 million lire were collected.
- c) Buildings were then obtained in which to house the children, one building for boys and one for girls, for these children who

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 RC Venetia Region
 RCAD VIII Army
 RCAC V Army
 RC Piemonte Region
 RC Liguria Region
 RC Lombardia Region
 RC Lazio Region
 RC Sicilia Region

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3. a) A Committee was set up of the most highly influential people that could be got together. These included the Archbishop, a senior member of the Committee of Liberation and a local influential landlord.
- b) The Committee's first action was to collect funds, in fact 2 million lire were collected.
- c) Buildings were then obtained in which to house the children, one establishment for boys, and one for girls, for these children who were parentless, stray or needing immediate removal from their surroundings.
- d) The Committee works as a voluntary organization encouraging other movements such as the Boy Scouts and establishments teaching handicrafts.

4. The Provincial Commissioner, while not in fact taking any executive action himself continued always to energize the Committee and act as a support to whom the Committee could turn for advice and for help, particularly in such matters as the obtaining and derequisitioning of suitable buildings and contacts with the military authorities.

5. Although the Committee was only formed at the beginning of August '44, at present some 700 boys are cared for and it is proposed to extend the scheme to cater for a much larger number.

6. It is worthwhile considering such an organization in all main centres of population which may be encountered in the future, and the committee should be established early in order rather to be preventative of the state of affairs that has been experienced in the past than to be a curative organization.

7. Sufficient copies of this letter for distribution to Provincial Commissioners are enclosed.

S. R. URJOEN, Brig.
VP CA Sec.
Dep. C. of G.

Copy to:- C.C.S.

Southern Region
SCAO V Army
SCAO VII Army
Econ. Sec.

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C.R. UPJOHN, Enig.
VP CA Sec.
Dep. C. of C.

Copy to:- G.O.C.
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SCAG V Army
SCAG VIII Army
Econ. Sec.
P.B.
P.H.
Education
Local Gov.
I.R. & D.P.

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