Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785021

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NOTES OF INTERVIEWS
APR. 1945 - JUN. 1946

115

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 794
LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUB COMMISSION

AG/45/8/5/16 Tel: 319

SUBJECT: Observation of Political Elections 13 June 1946
Milan and Pavia

TO : Director LG S/C

Diary of my visit to Milan: 31 May - 4 June 1946

31 May. Accompanied by Dr. Cesare Rizza, Inspector General of the Ministry of the Interior, I paid a visit to the Prefect of Milan, Avv. Troilo. He gave us a brief review of the electoral situation of the Province and in particular of Milan. He stated that 25,000 electoral certificates had not yet been delivered, but number would be decreased by 1200 hours of 2 June. Later we found out from the Head of the Electoral Service that the figure given by the Prefect was not an accurate one (see Appendix). No trouble was anticipated for the election days. Asked whether the "reduci" had received in time their electoral certificates, the Prefect assured us that he was taking personal care of them and that the situation could be described as satisfactory.

1 June. Dr. Rizza and I visited the Officer in charge of the Electoral Service, Vice Prefect Alongante. He seemed very worried. He tried, however, to oblige and gave us the information we wanted. The Inspector General of the Province, Prefect Aloe, who happened to be there, told us that during his inspection of the Province he did not come across any irregularities. Later in the afternoon we saw the Questore and the Sindaco. The latter said that if we wanted any information about the procedure followed in the preparation of the electoral lists and the way the electoral certificates had been distributed we could pay a visit to the electoral office of the Comune at the Castello Sforzesco. Dr. Rizza had actually been at the Castello the day before, and the impression reported to me was good.

2 June. From early in the morning until late in the evening we drove through the streets of Milan where 890 polling stations were located. That Sunday in Milan could be described as a summer week-end in London. One could not tell whether people were going to church or to vote. That was in complete contrast with what we saw the previous day when meetings and gatherings were going on everywhere accompanied by shouts and speeches from the numerous microphones placed at every square. Several polling sections were placed in one building. The entrance was guarded by Agents of P.S. on duty in civilian clothes with a carbine and a bracsard and one or two Carabinieri. Order was perfect and no large queues were observed at the polling stations. Dr. Rizza, who entered a few of them, reported to me that the voting was progressing very smoothly.

3 June. Dr. Rizza and I paid a very short visit to Pavia. We saw the Prefect and the Questore. Dr. Rizza entered two polling stations. In Pavia we had the same impression of order reigning everywhere.

4 June. No excitement or particular rejoicing was noticed at the

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Milan and Pavia

TO : Director IC G/C

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2 June. From early in the morning until late in the evening we drove through the streets of Milan where 898 polling stations were located. That Sunday in Milan could be described as a summer week-end in London. One could not tell whether people were going to church or to vote. That was in complete contrast with what we saw the previous day when meetings and gatherings were going on everywhere accompanied by shouts and speeches from the numerous microphones placed at every square. Several polling sections were placed in one building. The entrance was guarded by Agents of P.S. on duty in civilian clothes with a carbine and a brassard and one or two Carabinieri. Order was perfect and no large queues were observed at the polling stations. Dr. Rissa, who entered a few of them, reported to me that the voting was progressing very smoothly.

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4 June. No excitement or particular rejoicing was noticed at the first partial results of the elections published by the newspapers. No incidents had been reported until our departure. We left Milan on 5 June.

J. V. VILLA
Captain

JVV/rbe

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APPENDIX

Commune of MILAN

Population (1936 census)		1,119,343
" (present estimate)		1,290,495
Registered Electors	M 407,079	
	F 463,902	
Total		870,981
Refugees included in the Electoral List of Milan		30,000
Electoral Certificates undelivered		48,700
	(5% of the total registered electors)	
People excluded		
a) for Fascism		400
b) for crimes		4,300
Total votes cast		
Total votes void		

Commune of PAVIA

Population (1936 census)		51,741
" (present estimate)		61,512
Registered electors	M 20,415	
	F 23,762	
Total		44,177
Electoral Certificates undelivered		858
Total votes for the Monarchy		
Total votes for the Republic		

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Registered Electors	M 407,079 F 463,902	
Total		870,981
Refugees included in the Electoral List of Milan		30,000
Electoral Certificates undelivered		48,700 (5% of the total registered electors)
People excluded		
a) for Fascism		400
b) for crimes		4,200
Total votes cast		
Total votes void		
Comune of PAVIA		
Population (1936 census) (present estimate)		51,743 61,512
Registered electors	M 20,435 F 23,762	
Total		44,177
Electoral Certificates undelivered		858
Total votes for the Monarchy		
Total votes for the Republic		

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114

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 794
LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUB COMMISSION

AC/45/8/5/14 Tel: 314

SUBJECT: Observation of Political Elections— 10 June 1946
NAPLES and District

TO : Director LG S/C

1. The following is a brief diary of my movements:-

31 May:- inspected Electoral Office of Naples Commune and arrangements for delivery of electoral certificates and duplicates—viewed the arrangements of several polling stations, and arrangements for scrutiny at the Court of Appeal and for collection and communication of results to the Prefecture.

1 June:- similar inquiries and inspections at Salerno.

2 June:- visited numerous polling stations in typical quarters of Naples—in the evening made similar observations at PORTICI and RESINA.

3 June:- continued observations in Naples—collected further information and figures at the Prefecture.

2. Figures are given in the Appendix.

3. Electoral lists. I made a full inquiry into the preparation of the lists with Comm. ANGIUS, the Inspector-General of the Ministry of Interior who for the last two months has been controlling the work of the Communal Electoral Office. The lists are not in as perfect order as one would like. The number of undelivered certificates is higher than it should be. I was unable to get any reliable details as to returned prisoners of war or persons excluded from the lists.

4. It is clear that from the beginning the Communal administration has not dealt with the problem with that precision and drive which it requires. This dates back 18 months ago when all Communes were directed to bring their registers of population up to date in anticipation of the coming into force of the law for the preparation of the electoral lists. This was not done with sufficient care and attention at Naples, and it is of course impossible in the last month or two to correct fundamental errors of this kind. However, Comm. ANGIUS has done everything possible since he has been there to bring the lists into as good order as circumstances permit.

5. It is to be borne in mind that the practical difficulties in preparing the lists accurately which have been met with in greater or less degree all over Italy have been particularly troublesome in Naples. I allude to such problems as:-

(a) The homeless who have left the Commune and never bothered to notify the authorities, so that they remain on the registers of population and therefore on the electoral lists. There has of course been much destruction in Naples, especially in the populous quarters near the port.

(b) Numbers of the homeless have not left the Commune but gone to live in another part of it, again without notifying the authorities of the change of

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(a) The homeless who have left the Commune and never bothered to notify the authorities, so that they remain on the registers of population and therefore on the electoral lists. There has of course been much destruction in Naples, especially in the populous quarters near the port.

(b) Numbers of the homeless have not left the Commune but gone to live in another part of it, again without notifying the authorities of the change of address. The result is that their electoral certificates cannot be delivered and they get posted to polling districts away from the neighborhood where they now live.

(c) In the last 2½ years many refugees and homeless have come back to Naples but not to their previous homes. The results in these cases are the same as in (b).

(d) Appreciable numbers refused to take delivery of their electoral certificates, denying their identity and in a number of cases pretending they were dead.

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(c) The lists, certificates, etc. have all had to be written by hand, and the temporary clerks employed often write illegibly or make mistakes in transcription. The haste which has had to be employed in the last 2 months to get Naples ready for voting has multiplied errors of this type.

6. In my opinion, however, the state of the electoral lists at Naples can be regarded as reasonably satisfactory taking into account the special difficulties of the locality.

7. Electoral certificates. A large school in Piazza Dante had been taken over as the office for the delivery of electoral certificates. On the opposite side of the square (where the electoral offices are) a large hall on the ground floor had been allotted for the distribution of duplicates. We visited both these places several times on 1 and 2 June. On Saturday 1 June the counters in both offices with their windows were lined 2 or 3 deep, but there were no queues and no one had to wait for more than a few minutes for attention. On Sunday 2 June there were very few people in either office. There is no doubt that electors were slow in coming forward to claim their certificates or duplicates. The Commune had done everything they could by posters, the press, the radio, and loudspeaker vans, to urge the electors to apply. They had even announced that those who did not obtain their electoral certificates would not receive their ration cards on the next distribution, which is not true but which it was hoped would bring the public forward.

8. The number of certificates remaining undelivered is somewhat high, but in the special circumstances of Naples I regard it as not unsatisfactory. It is 7% of the electorate capable of voting, as near as one can ascertain. I watched many individual cases dealt with in the office. In most of them the certificate was found and delivered fairly quickly. In only one case where the certificate could not be found could the officials give no satisfactory explanation: in others it was found, e.g. that the applicant had been struck off the lists as disqualified.

9. In accordance with the Ministry's instructions arrangements were made for opening special additional lists for the registration of troops upon a certificate from their CO that application had been made to the commune of residence for an electoral certificate and that Commune had replied that the soldier was not registered there. 3,861 troops were registered in this way. At the same time civilians were registered in additional lists, a proceeding authorised by the Ministry owing to the inadequate preparation of the lists at an earlier stage. 7,825 civilians were so registered. An individual took proceedings before the Court of Appeal to have this registration annulled, but as regards troops only. The case was heard on 31 May. The Court decided that the appeal was factious, as the appellant had made no objection to the similar registration of civilians to which exactly the same arguments were applicable, and the appeal was accordingly rejected.

10. Party Propaganda. I gathered that party meetings had been held regularly and that there had been no attempt to disturb them. Every possible building was covered with manifestos, etc., the Monarchist ones being in much the greater majority. During the two days of election no attempt at any form of political propaganda in public places or near polling stations was noted by me or reported to the authorities.

11. Polling stations. The furniture and arrangement of those I inspected were good. The voting booths in particular were well made of good solid timber. Their number varied between 3 and 4 per station, which appeared adequate. All polling stations had been readied by 31 May. In some cases the premises selected

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11. Polling stations. The furniture and arrangement of those I inspected were good. The voting booths in particular were well made of good solid timber. Their number varied between 3 and 4 per station, which appeared adequate. All polling stations had been roadied by 31 May. In some cases the premises selected were inconvenient, e.g. small rooms up 2 or 3 flights of stairs. This is to be expected. Great difficulty had been experienced in finding suitable premises, owing to the extent of war damage and the extreme density of population in the populous quarters. The Prefecture's map of the polling stations showed how the density of population had forced the concentration of as many as 10 to 14 polling stations in the same building.

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12. Voting procedure: There were large queues at all polling stations I observed throughout Sunday 2 June. Electors had been standing in line since 0500 hours. At some polling stations the voting went quite expeditiously; at others it was very slow. The Sindaco of Naples and my Inspector-General entered the polling stations, and from what they tell me I judge that the speed with which electors are dealt with depends entirely on the president of the polling station. If he is a good organiser and divides up the various duties among his 10 polling clerks, things go quite smoothly. But many presidents, especially judicial officials, try to do everything themselves and are over-scrupulous in their attention to unimportant detail. For instance, at one polling station presided over by a judge of tribunal two electors in succession spoiled their ballots. It took the president one whole hour to give them new ballots and make the prescribed record, during which time voting was at a standstill. At this station there were many loud complaints from electors who had stood in the sun for over 6 hours. The Sindaco arranged for the women in the queue to be accommodated in a waiting room on the ground floor.

13. From discussions with my Inspector-General and other officials the following criticisms of the voting procedure laid down in the law appear:-

(a) Ten voting clerks are too many. Some of them had little or nothing to do, even at the counting of votes.

(b) A major cause of delay is the requirement that the elector must fold and gum up the ballot papers and do so within the polling booth. Many cases were reported of electors having to be sent back to the booth time after time until they got the ballots correctly folded and sealed. One frequent error was the sealing of the referendum ballot within the constituent assembly ballot. One woman had to go back to the polling booth 10 times. It would have been much better to adopt the system used at the administrative elections where the ballot was delivered to the elector already folded into four and the elector had merely to refold it in the same way without having also to gum down a flap.

(c) Some polling clerks still continued the practice—noted during the administrative elections—of signing the register against the name of every elector who voted. A clerk should only do this when he personally guarantees the identity of an elector, and the majority of electors of course prove their identity by the production of identity cards.

(d) I doubt whether many electors gave preference votes or, if they did, whether they gave them intelligently. There were cases of electors having to come out of the polling booth several times to have a look at the lists. They did not seem able to remember the names or numbers of the candidates to whom they wanted to give their preference votes.

14. All the 707 polling stations in the Comune of Naples contain over 500 electors. Therefore they were all open for voting on Monday 3 June. Up to the close of the poll on 2 June (2200 hours) the poll was estimated at 64%. The Prefecture thought it would be 75% by midday on 3 June. Actually I believe it will be higher. The fact remains that there was heavy polling right through Sunday, but very few people were observed at the polling stations on Monday. ~~By 1100~~ I gather that most people did not realise they could vote on the Monday.

15. My own view is that the carry-over of the voting to Monday was unnecessary IF all presiding officials had organised the work properly and not fussed over unimportant details. No one seems to have thought of calling a meeting of presiding officials and giving them a drill to follow.

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16. Public order. I can only describe this as excellent. On 2 June the streets of Naples presented an appearance curiously like a Victorian English Sunday. In spite of the long waits for many hours in the hot sun, there was no disorder. There was a lot of shouting in some sections, but it was all good humored and mere Neapolitan exuberance. Only one "incident" was reported to the Questura and that in a small country village of the province where a few members of two prominent families, always in opposition, met in the street and came to blows. The incident was solved by the removal of all the contestants to the hospital with cuts and bruises.

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17. Police were very scarce. A number of polling stations had only one guard, and very few had more than two. Four hundred troops, 150 sailors, and 150 additional police had been drafted in, but even with these reinforcements the Questura had had to send forces out of Naples to the communes of the Province. There were large numbers of Agenti di P.S. on duty in civilian clothes with merely a carbine and a brassard. Nevertheless, I consider the polling stations were adequately guarded at night because of the way they were grouped several in one building so that the Questura could arrange for the group of stations to be patrolled at night by 4 to 8 guards. There was no sign of any attempt upon the security of the polling stations.

18. The arrangements for the scrutiny at the Court of Appeal, which I visited on 31 May, seemed adequate, and proper provision had been made for the public. The arrangements at the Prefecture for collecting figures and reporting them by wireless to Rome were very well thought out and functioned smoothly. Figures were reported to the Prefect hourly and within 20 minutes after the hour. All polling stations finished their scrutiny operations by the time prescribed, i.e. 1200 hours on 4 June.

19. Salerno. I paid a visit to this Commune on 1 June, but owing to difficulties with my car and other reasons I was not able to visit Salerno on either of the actual voting days. The electoral lists appeared to have been well prepared, and arrangements for the issue of electoral certificates to be adequate. I visited several polling stations. The Commune had been forced to use buildings without doors or windows and otherwise in a very bad state of repair. They had been very ingenious in carrying out temporary repairs, and while the furnishing of the polling station was hardly adequate, I consider the authorities have done the best possible in the circumstances. Figures for Salerno are given in the Appendix.

20. Portici and Resina. The Inspector-General and I made a quick visit to some half dozen polling stations in these two Communes in the afternoon of 2 June. No special comment required. Public order was excellent as in Naples, and the voting seemed to be expeditious everywhere.

C.G.T. WILLIAMS
Major
Executive Officer
Local Government Sub Commission

CGTW/rbc

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C.G.R. WILLIAMS
Major
Executive Officer
Local Government Sub Commission

CGRW/rbe

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APPENDIX

Comune of NAPLES

Population (1936 census)			865,913
" (present estimate)			970,000
Registered electors	M 258,467		
	F 300,352	558,819	
Registered electors since found to be dead, undergoing imprisonment, POWs not returned, etc.		12,923	
Registered electors to whom no ration cards have been issued		20,166	
		33,089	= 6.
X Therefore, estimated available Electorate		525,730 X	= 94
			100

Electoral certification

Delivered to electors' residences	474,538		
Applied for personally	13,838		
	488,426		= 93 % of X
Remaining undelivered	37,304		= 7 % of X
		525,730	100 %

Comune of SALERNO

Population (1936 census)			67,009
" (present estimate)			84,779
Registered electors	M 22,952		
	F 27,239	50,191	

Excluded for	a) fascism	37	
	b) crime	324	
	c) other reasons	1,227	1,638

POWs registered as electors	about	300
" unregistered or abroad	"	900

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(present estimate) 976,000

Registered electors M 258,467
F 300,342
558,809

Registered electors since found to be dead, undergoing imprisonment, cards not returned, etc. 12,923

Registered electors to whom no ration cards have been issued 20,166

33,089
X Therefore, estimated available Electorate 525,730 X = 6%
= 94%
100%

Electoral certificates
Delivered to electors' residences 474,538
Applied for personally 13,038
488,426
Remaining undelivered 37,304
525,730 = 93% of X
= 7% of X
100%

Commune of [redacted]

Population (1936 census) 67,009
(present estimate) 84,779

Registered electors M 22,952
F 27,239
50,191

Excluded for a) fascism 37
b) crime 324
c) other reasons 1,227
1,638

Dead registered as electors about 300
" unregistered or abroad " 900

Electoral certificates undelivered as 1 June 3,268

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 78502/

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113

AC/45/B/LG

SUBJECT: Note of Interview - Ministry of Interior

DATE : 20 May 1946 - 1700 hours

PRESENT: Dott. STRANO Paolo, Director of Electoral Service, Ministry of Interior
Major C.G.R. WILLIAMS, Executive Officer, Local Govt Sub Commission
Sig. Arrigo NICE, interpreter

1. I referred to the statement in "Il Tempo" of 18 May alleging that some 15,000 military personnel at Naples had not had their electoral certificates--see folio 85. At our last meeting Dott. Strano had mentioned that the Ministry were taking some steps about this. I asked him to explain to me what these steps were so as to put the S/C in a position to answer any queries that might arise.

2. Dott. Strano referred to the provision in Article 21 of the Political Elections Law (D.L.L. 10 March 1946, No. 74), which required military commanders to apply to the appropriate Sindaco for the electoral certificates of their troops. This had to be done by 2 April. The Ministry of War and military commanders generally had taken a great deal of care and trouble over this.

3. It had transpired, however, that in a large number of cases the Sindaco had replied saying that the soldier in question was not inscribed in the lists of his Commune. The reasons for this were several. Many soldiers, sailors, and airmen had been serving with the forces for a great many years--and had gotten out of touch with their Commune of permanent residence or birth. Some of them had had their houses destroyed or their families had changed residence for other reasons. Destroyed registers of population was another reason. In many cases the soldiers had no idea of the Commune in whose register of population their names might appear. As the electoral lists are based on the registers of population, the Commanding Officer in such cases could not know the Commune to which he ought to apply for the electoral certificate.

4. This difficulty first arose in Rome. It was discussed by the Council of Ministers and the proposals of the Ministry of Interior approved. These were as follows:-

a. Troops stationed in Rome who were not registered in their Communes of birth or permanent residence were given a further opportunity to be registered in the Commune where they were stationed.

b. For this purpose the Commune of Rome was to keep open additional electoral lists until 18 May.

c. Military commanders were to submit to the Commune the names of troops to be registered.

d. Each name or list of names was to be accompanied by a certificate that:

(1) application had been made for the electoral certificate to the Commune of birth or permanent residence; and

(2) that Commune had replied that the soldier in question was not inscribed in their electoral lists.

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e. The Ministry of War was to notify all military commanders to put these arrangements into operation at once.

5. These arrangements had worked quite well with the full cooperation of the Ministry of War. By the time the additional lists were closed on 18 May, some 12/13,000 troops had been inscribed.

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6. The same arrangements were to be applied in any other part of the country where the problem arose. In the case of Naples the Prefect had been instructed to proceed on these lines in agreement with the Electoral Commission and the military commanders. Incidentally Dott. Strano thought the figure of 15,000 troops for Naples was considerably exaggerated.

7. The Ministry were not sending out a circular about this because by making these arrangements they were stretching the law a bit. The Ministry of War, however, had notified commands throughout the country and it was up to Commanding Officers to take the matter up with the Prefect where they found any difficulty of this kind. Dott. Strano had no doubt at all they would do so. He reiterated that the military authorities had played all along the line.

8. Although no actual case had yet arisen concerning sailors or airmen, Dott. Strano said the Ministry of Interior had made similar arrangements with the Ministries of Marine and Aviation, who had given assurances of their full cooperation.

C.G.R. WILLIAMS
Major
Executive Officer
Local Government Sub Commission

CGRW/rbe

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SUBJECT: Note of Interview - Ministry of Interior

DATE : 16 May 1946 - 1130 hours

PRESENT: Prefect Dott. VICARI, Chief of Cabinet, Ministry of Interior
Prefect Dott. STRANO, Director of Electoral Service, Ministry of Interior
Prefect Dott. DE CESARE, Vice Chief of Police
Major C.G.R. WILLIAMS, Executive Officer, Local Govt Sub Commission
Sig. Arrigo NICE, interpreter

1. Dott. Vicari confirmed that the Prefects Mastrobuono, Pavone, and Rizza would be available to the Sub Commission as Inspectors General to accompany officers of the S/C when observing the national elections on 2 and 3 June. They would be put at our disposition a week before the election so that we could make the necessary arrangements with them.

2. I told Dott. Vicari we should be interested to know of the arrangements the Ministry had in mind regarding security of the polling stations overnight and for the safe conduct of ballots and other election documents from polling places to the counting centers and so on. At this point Dott. Strano and Dott. De Cesare came in on other business and Dott. Vicari invited them to remain during our discussion. The information given them is summarized as follows:

3. The Ministry aimed to have at least 4 guards on duty at each section. If there are 2 polling places in one building, there would be 8 guards--if 3 polling places under one roof, then 12 guards--and so on. Of these guards, one at least, and in the great majority of cases two, will be police. Of the two policemen, one will be a Carabiniere and the other an Agente di PS. The remaining two guards will be found from forest guards, finance guards, fire brigade, municipal police, etc., and troops.

4. The Ministry of Interior are now making final arrangements with the Ministry of War for 40,000 troops to be put at their disposal.

5. In addition the Ministry have approached the Headquarters of the political parties and drawn attention to their right under the law to appoint two "representatives of the list" or polling agents for each polling station. On the nights of Saturday/Sunday 1/2 June and Sunday/Monday 2/3 June when the polling stations are closed and under guard, the law provides that no one may approach the polling stations except these duly appointed polling agents. The Ministry have suggested that these polling agents should play a part in the safe custody of the stations and if any disturbance should arise, they should in their capacity of authorized representatives of the political parties endeavor to assist in calming it and preventing any incident from occurring.

6. After the close of the poll the police and troops on guard at the polling stations will be regrouped so as to form escorts to accompany the papers from the polling station to the nearest Tribunale and thence to the Central Office, where the votes are counted.

7. Similarly, when the papers are consigned from the Central Offices of the various election districts to the Court of Cassation at Rome, they will be accompanied by an escort of police or troops.

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Prefect Dott. DE CESARE, Vice Chief of Police
Major C.G.R. WILLIAMS, Executive Officer, Local Govt Sub Commission
Sig. Arrigo NICE, interpreter

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Executive Officer
Local Government Sub Commission

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File 14/1

AC/45/B/16

SUBJECT: Note of Interview - Ministry of Interior

DATE : 9 May 1946

PRESENT: Dott. STRANO, Chief of Electoral Service, Ministry of Interior
Maj R.R. TEMPLE, Director, Local Government Sub Commission
Sig. Arrigo NICE, interpreter

1. Dr. Strano showed me the letter that the Ministry of Interior had received from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs asking that some action be taken in connection with the memorandum sent to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs by the American Embassy. The memorandum from the American Embassy called attention of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the use of the American flag in the symbol presented by the political group called Movimento Unionista Italiano. This group had presented lists in 8 Colleges as well as in national Colleges. The memorandum asked that the symbol be corrected and the American flag be removed in order that the voters might not be misled to believing that the American Government was supporting the movement.

2. Dr. Strano stated that the Ministry was very much preoccupied because some 35,000,000 electoral ballots were in the process of being printed and quite a large quantity already had been distributed. To change the symbol of this particular political group would involve the republication of 35,000,000 ballots—an impossibility if the elections were to be held on June 2. In other words, preparation and distribution of new ballots would necessitate a postponement of the elections. I indicated to Dr. Strano that I did not believe that the Embassy would want to delay the elections on that account and that perhaps wide publicity to the statement of the American Embassy might have the desired effect of correcting any misimpression which the voters would have. However, I said that I would call the Embassy and ascertain the position.

3. I thereupon spoke by telephone to Mr. Wesley Jones, American Political Adviser to the Allied Commission and First Secretary of the Embassy, and explained the situation to him. He suggested that the Ministry of Interior write a formal reply to the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs pointing out the impossibility of reprinting election ballots at this stage without resulting in the postponement of elections and also indicating in the letter a willingness on the part of the Ministry of Interior to do anything that might be necessary to offset any impression which voters might get that the American Government was supporting the Movimento Unionista Italiano. Mr. Jones also said that I might point out to the officials of the Ministry of Interior that the United States Government does not intend to insist on a change in the symbol used by this offending political group if it would result in the postponement of the elections.

4. Dr. Strano was extremely gratified at the assistance I had given him and at the attitude taken by the American Embassy. He said he would send a copy of the letter that would be prepared by the Ministry of Interior to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to me for my information.

5. I then discussed with Dr. Strano the general situation with regard to the preparation of the election lists and the distribution of electoral certificates with particular emphasis on the situation in Rome and Naples. Dr. Strano pointed out that there were a few Communes in Naples province that were not yet ready for elections because their certificates had not been delivered. He said these were for the most part small Communes that were recently established and that only the formal publication of the act establishing the Communes was neces-

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6. The situation in the Commune of Naples as given to me by telephone after I had left Dr. Strano's office is as follows:

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7. All sections lists have been approved. Additional lists have been opened for new registrations, as has been done in other Communes throughout Italy. Out of 547,133 electoral certificates prepared for the Commune of Naples, 392,000 had been delivered before the 2nd of May within the provisions of the law. On 2 May, therefore, there were some 155,133 certificates undelivered. It has been ascertained that many of these certificates had not been delivered due to negligence of messengers, some of whom have been punished. However, some 60,000 certificates have been claimed since personally and of these, 46,000 have already been delivered. It has been ascertained, too, that 12,000 certificates are duplications or of deceased people or prisoners. Some 80,000 certificates, therefore, remain undelivered. Dr. Strano stated that he believes the situation in Naples will be considerably improved within a very short time.

8. The situation in Rome as described by Dr. Strano is as follows: About 256,000 electoral certificates had not been delivered to the voters although an attempt had been made to do so. Of this number, 43,401 had been delivered to applicants between May 3 and May 6 inclusive. The Electoral Office at the Palazzo dell'Esposizione in Via Nazionale had received 45,126 requests for changes in electoral certificates. About 4,000 duplicate certificates had been issued, and 5,153 corrections of names had been made in electoral certificates. The distribution of undelivered electoral certificates will continue according to law up to and including the day of election. However, it is planned to check the tax records and food cards against undelivered certificates after May 15 and, after making corrections in the certificates, to effectuate delivery by messenger to the voters. It is hoped that by May 15 there will be a considerable diminution in the crowds, enabling this work to be done. There is reasonable basis to believe that practically all certificates will be in the hands of voters before the day of election. This applies not only to those who had been originally inscribed in the lists but also those who are being inscribed in the additional lists.

9. I discussed with Dr. Strano the possibility of opening additional sub offices for the distribution of electoral certificates, correction of names, etc. He stated that his office had examined the possibility rather thoroughly and were unable to find adequate places in Rome to handle crowds that would come to each sub office. It was therefore decided, because of the room and facilities at the Palazzo dell'Esposizione in Via Nazionale, to use that place alone. Sub offices, however, are handling the fractions in the outskirts of Rome.

10. I told Dr. Strano that I was interested in ascertaining the number of electoral certificates that had not been distributed as yet throughout Italy. He stated that he had already telegraphed the Inspectors General throughout Italy asking for this information and that as soon as it was received he would bring it to my attention.

R. R. Temple Major

RALPH R. TEMPLE
Major
Director
Local Government Sub Commission

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SUBJECT: Note of Interview - AC HQ

DATE : 4 May 1946 - 1245 hours

PRESENT: Major R. R. TEMPLE, Director, Local Government Sub Commission
Major C.G.R. WILLIAMS, Executive Officer, Local Govt Sub Commission
Dott. Paolo STRANO, Chief of Electoral Service, Ministry of Interior
Sig. Arrigo NICE, interpreter

1. The Director stated that in the last fortnight or so a number of complaints had been made to him about the preparation of the sectional lists for the elections in the city of Rome. The complaints were that electors had been located in sections a considerable distance from their homes or that members of the same family or persons living in the same house had been allotted to different sections, some far distant and some nearby. Those making the complaints had suggested that the reason for all this was a political one, a deliberate attempt to make voting more difficult for those who might be expected to vote for the Right.

2. Similar complaints had been made to other officers of AC and not only officially but on private or social occasions.

3. The Director said he had referred the persons in question to the Italian Government and to their remedies under Italian law. In particular he had drawn their attention to the Sindaco's manifesto which appeared all over the city about a week ago inviting those allotted to distant sections to apply for rectification by 5 May. As, however, the number of complaints of this character appear to be growing in volume, the Director thought he should inform the Ministry of that fact. While there appeared to be a considerable number of such cases, he (the Director) had no evidence that the allegation of political purpose had any foundation. He merely considered that the Ministry should be informed of the nature of the complaints that were being made to AC.

4. In the course of the interview Dott. Strano gave a full explanation of how it had come about that electors had been allotted to distant sections and of the steps taken by the Ministry in conjunction with the Prefecture and the Commune of Rome to put the matter right. His explanation is summarized in the following paragraphs.

5. The sectional electoral lists for the city were published about the beginning of February. It is a fact that they were badly prepared and many electors were allotted to sections far distant from their homes. The reason for this is stated later. In accordance with the law, due notice was given of the deposit of the sectional lists, of the electors' right to inspect them, and of their right to appeal against the section in which they had been placed. There are about 960,000 registered electors in Rome: only 123 appeals were made.

6. The appeals so made were duly dealt with by the Electoral Commission and the sectional lists confirmed. In March the Commune proceeded to prepare and issue to each elector his electoral certificate as required by the law. These certificates state, among other things, the section to which the elector has been allotted and the address of the polling place for that section at which he or she will vote. It was only when the electors had received their certificates that they began to complain that they had been allotted to the wrong section

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785021

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Sig. Arrigo NICE, interpreter

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7. On realising the extent to which this had happened, the Ministry took the following steps:

a. They directed the Sindaco to give the public a further opportunity to appeal against their sections. This was done by the Sindaco's notice affixed all over the city about 26 April, notifying the public that they had until 5 May to do this.

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b. The Commune's electoral office was moved from the Campidoglio to the Palazzo dell'Esposizione in Via Nazionale, which was properly fitted up and furnished with 200 windows at the counters at which the public could make the necessary applications.

c. An additional 300 clerks were taken on.

d. The Electoral Commission was in continuous session at the Palazzo dell'Esposirione dealing with applications for rectification of the sectional lists as fast as they came in.

8. The reasons for the errors in the preparation of the sectional lists were as follows:-

a. The bad state of the registers of population for the city. The public are required by law to notify changes of address to the "Ufficio Anagrafe" of the Commune in order that the registers of population may be kept up to date. They habitually failed to do this. There have, of course, been special reasons in the last 3 years in Rome for such failures, e.g. the influx and outflow of refugees and persons going into hiding from the Fascists and the Germans.

The general electoral lists are based on the registers of population, and the sectional lists are based in turn on the general lists. Consequently, out-of-date addresses will be repeated in the sectional lists and people allotted to sections where they used to live once but do not live now.

b. The lack in many parts of the city of adequate accommodation for polling stations. It had been found that there were sparsely populated parts of the city with plenty of vacant premises which could be used, whereas other areas (often quite close to the first type) were thickly populated and had no vacant suitable premises. To get over this the Commune had, with the Ministry's agreement, divided the city into 80 largish zones, each of which would comprise several sections or polling districts. Within each zone there would thus be sufficient premises for the number of sections comprised in it; but the individual polling station would not necessarily be within the boundaries of the section it served. Use could thus be made of a number of suitable premises in a sparsely populated area to serve an adjlining thickly populated area.

This naturally involved people having to go some distance to their voting station but should not involve them in too long or inconvenient a journey.

c. The communal electoral office, however, had carried out this idea badly. In allotting the electors first to zones and then to voting districts or sections within the zones they had not followed any regular criterion. They had taken the names at random. Instead they should have grouped the electors according to the addresses given in the general lists and should have adopted a system whereby members of the same family or household were kept together.

d. Another reason for the present difficulty was the failure of the public to exercise their rights last February and appeal against the sectional lists when they were published. The fact that only the trifling number of 123 appeals had been made entirely misled the Prefecture and the Ministry as to the size of the problem until a late hour.

9. The Ministry would have liked to have given longer than 5 May but they could not in view of the subsequent operations. After 5 May at least 10 days would have to be allowed to the Electoral Commission to clear up all remaining applications for rectification. The sectional lists would then have to be

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lists as fast as they came in.

8. The reasons for the errors in the preparation of the sectional lists were as follows:-

a. The bad state of the registers of population for the city. The public are required by law to notify changes of address to the "Ufficio Anagrafe" of the Commune in order that the registers of population may be kept up to date. They habitually failed to do this. There have, of course, been special reasons in the last 3 years in Rome for such failures, e.g. the influx and outflow of refugees and persons going into hiding from the Fascists and the Germans.

The general electoral lists are based on the registers of population, and the sectional lists are based in turn on the general lists. Consequently, out-of-date addresses will be repeated in the sectional lists and people allotted to sections where they used to live once but do not live now.

b. The lack in many parts of the city of adequate accommodation for polling stations. It had been found that there were sparsely populated parts of the city with plenty of vacant premises which could be used, whereas other areas (often quite close to the first type) were thickly populated and had no vacant suitable premises. To get over this the Commune had, with the Ministry's agreement, divided the city into 80 largish zones, each of which would comprise several sections or polling districts. Within each zone there would thus be sufficient premises for the number of sections comprised in it; but the individual polling station would not necessarily be within the boundaries of the section it served. Use could thus be made of a number of suitable premises in a sparsely populated area to serve an adjlining thickly populated area.

This naturally involved people having to go some distance to their voting station but should not involve them in too long or inconvenient a journey.

c. The communal electoral office, however, had carried out this idea badly. In allotting the electors first to zones and then to voting districts or sections within the zones they had not followed any regular criterion. They had taken the names at random. Instead they should have grouped the electors according to the addresses given in the general lists and should have adopted a system whereby members of the same family or household were kept together.

d. Another reason for the present difficulty was the failure of the public to exercise their rights last February and appeal against the sectional lists when they were published. The fact that only the trifling number of 123 appeals had been made entirely misled the Prefecture and the Ministry as to the size of the problem until a late hour.

9. The Ministry would have liked to have given longer than 5 May but they could not in view of the subsequent operations. After 5 May at least 10 days would have to be allowed to the Electoral Commission to clear up all remaining applications for rectification. The sectional lists would then have to be rewritten and new electoral certificates prepared (say another 10 days). This brings us to 25 May, 7 days before the election. In those 7 days the new certificates would have to be delivered personally (as required by the law) to the electors.

10. Dott. Strano added that he himself was a victim of the business. He lives near Piazza Bologna behind the University. His wife has been allotted to that section but he himself to a section near Piazza Mazzini, i.e. in the Prati quarter below Monte Mario, several kilometers away from his house.

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11. The Director referred to a newspaper report that some 300,000 electoral certificates remained undelivered, i.e. about 3%. Dott. Strano said no, the figure was 260,000. He reminded the Director that the law required these certificates to be delivered by hand by the communal messengers. Owing to the failure of the public to notify changes of address (as stated above), these 260,000 undelivered certificates were all cases where the communal messengers had not found the elector at the address given in the registers. He referred to the many cases during the communal elections up and down Italy where the same phenomenon had been observed and for the same reason.

12. Dott. Strano did not think the figure of 260,000 undelivered certificates was excessive at the present moment, 4 weeks before the election. The public could apply for their electoral certificates personally at any time up to and including election day. For this purpose the Palazzo dell'Esposizione would remain open continuously.

13. The Director thanked Dott. Strano for his visit and expressed his appreciation of the full explanation afforded to him which would give him ample material to refute the allegations that electors had been allotted to distant sections for political reasons.

C. G. R. WILLIAMS
Major
Executive Officer
Local Government Sub Commission

CGRW/rbe

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785021

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C. G. R. WILLIAMS
Major
Executive Officer
Local Government Sub Commission

CGRW/rbc

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785021

1906

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785021

AC/37/LG.

SUBJECT : Note of interview - AC HQ

DATE : 15 April 1946 - 1530 hours.

PRESENT : Brig.M. CARR , VP CA Section
Major C.G.R. WILLIAMS, Executive Officer Loc.Gov. S/C.
Lt. Col. CHIAPETTI, from the Italian Commission of War Graves, Milan
Sig. A.Fico, interpreting.

1. Col. Chiapetti made the following statements :-
a) he had that morning received from the Ministry of Post-War Assistance the instruction that his office was to take charge of German War Graves ;
b) his office had already registered particulars of German soldiers buried outside regular cemeteries ;
c) his office, however, had no records with respect to any ~~record of~~ regular cemeteries constructed by the German Army ;
d) he believes these records were held by the German Graves Unit at Merano. He asked if his office could make direct contact with this Unit;
e) as soon as he could get information as to the records of cemeteries his office would make an immediate start by :-
(i) seeing that all Germans were decently buried ;
(ii) seeing that their graves were decently maintained ;
(iii) registering particulars of each grave.
The concentration of bodies from scattered graves into a regular cemetery will be dealt with at a separate stage as soon as the financial means were available.

2. Brigadier Carr undertook to refer to AFHQ on the point of direct contact with the German Graves Unit at Merano.

3. Col. Chiapetti said that as soon as he would be back in Milan he would write a letter to this office stating forth what he told us to-day.

C.G.R. WILLIAMS
Major
Executive Officer
Local Government Sub Commission

CGRW/ww

Distribution :- AC/37/LG.
AC/24/1/LG.
Float.

1319

108

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUB COMMISSION

AC/45/45/S/LG.

Tel: 319

11 April 1946

SUBJECT : Observations on Local Elections held on 7 April at Perugia and Umbertide (Province of Perugia).

TO : Director, Local Government S/C.

1. On the 6 April accompanied by Dr. Rizza, Inspector-General of the Ministry of the Interior I arrived at Perugia. We met the Prefect, the Questore and the commanding officer of the Carabinieri who informed us that they were expecting the Ministers Corbino, Gullo and Romita. The Prefect asked me whether I wanted to meet Romita. I replied that I would be delighted to see him at the Prefettura. Meanwhile he gave us a complete review of the electoral situation of the Province and added that he was not anticipating any trouble anywhere except at Umbertide, an industrial commune of 13,146 inhabitants. He informed us that 50 Carabinieri arrived from Rome for the day of the elections.

2. Dr. Rizza asked the Prefect and the Questore whether it was true that in the afternoon a bomb had been placed in the offices of the Liberal Party at Perugia. The Prefect confirmed it but added that the bomb was empty.

3. We were still talking to the Head of the Provincial Electoral Service when Romita arrived at the Prefettura. We exchanged greetings and then he said to me that he was very pleased to see that although for twenty years the Italian people had been prevented holding free elections, nevertheless in this occasion they were showing such a maturity in democracy that the Allies could not help admiring. I replied that I was very much impressed myself from what I had heard about the orderly way in which the elections were carried out.

4. We left the Prefettura at 21.00 hours.
Conclusions of our interview at the Prefettura :
Each party was able to hold its pre-electoral meetings ; no threat or bribe was used ; the electoral certificates and other voting material had been delivered in time to the communes. Every precaution had been taken to maintain order on the day of the elections.

5. On April 7, day of the elections, we met the Sindaco and the Secretary of the Comune of Perugia, who said that the electoral law has been properly followed in all its pre-electoral provisions. The Inspector-General of the area who happened to be there confirmed the Sindaco's statement.

6. PERUGIA

Population (census 1936)	82,407
Present population	91,531
Registered	58,795
Male list	27,948
Female list	30,847
Councilmen to be elected	40
Excluded from voting:	
For Fascist crimes	22
For welfare assistance	158

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785021

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Excluded from voting:	
For Fascist crimes	22
For welfare assistance	158
Insane	74

7. There were 74 polling sections, all located in public buildings and schools. The Presidents of the polling sections were magistrates or judicial officials or lawyers.

8. Each party had its representative among the "scrutatori."

9. Three cabins had been placed in each section.

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785021

10. Seven lists were presented as follows with 40 candidates each list:

Socialist Party
Christian-Democrat Party
"Uomo Qualunque" Party
Communist Party
Republican Party
Liberal Party
Action Party

11. There was a great display of posters, slogans, and banners of the Socialist and Communist block. Order was perfect. People were calmly waiting outside the polling sections their turn to vote.

12. Results:

14 seats won by the Socialists
11 seats by the Communists
10 seats by the Christian-Democrats
2 seats by the Republicans
2 seats by the Independents
1 seat by the Liberals

The total of votes cast is not yet available.

13. Exhibits are attached hereto.

14. UMBERTIDE

a) Umbertide was the next commune we visited:

Population (census 1936)	15,146
Present population	15,925
Registered	9,559
Male list	4,684
Female list	4,875
Councilmen to be elected	30
Excluded from voting	
For Fascist crimes	6

b) There were 13 polling stations, all located in public buildings and schools. The presidents of the polling sections were magistrates and judicial officials. One polling section was presided by a lawyer.
c) The "scrutatori" were equally divided among the parties.
d) Two cabins had been placed in each polling section.
e) We met the Sindaco (a Communist), the Secretary of the Commune and the officer of the Carabinieri. They told us that each party was able to hold its pre-electoral meetings. Order was perfet before and during the elections. You could anticipate the results of the elections by the great display of Communist and Socialist posters and slogans stuck on the walls and by the red flowers worn by the great majority.

15. Two lists were presented as follows with 24 candidates each list: a) Socialist and Communist block; b) Christian-Democrats.
Total votes cast : 8256 Percentage of voter : 89%.
Male 4,207
Female 4,049
Results : 24 seats won by the Socialist and Communist block
6 seats won by the Christian-Democrats.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785021

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16. Exhibits are attached hereto.

J. V. VILLA
Captain
Asst. Executive Officer
Local Government S/C.

JVV/ww

1317

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 78 5021

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1471

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
AFO 394
LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUB COMMISSION

45/45/5/LG.

Tel: 314

SUBJECT : Observation of Communal Elections - Trapani and Marsala, Sicily - 7 April 1946

11 April 1946

TO : Director, Local Government S/C.

1. This tour of observation had an interest of its own. Trapani and Marsala are about the same size - 70,000 people - situated 20 miles apart in the extreme western end of Sicily. One of them, Trapani, is one of the best administered Communes in Italy that I have inspected. Marsala is one of the worst.

M A R S A L A

2. My Inspector-General, Dr. Pavone and I arrived at Marsala in the morning of April 6. The Municipio was in an uproar. The corridors and halls were invaded by crowds of very poor and ragged people demanding public assistance. We had hardly opened our discussions when the room was invaded by some 15 to 20 people announcing themselves to be presidents of the polling stations for the next day and enquiring about accomodation. After a minute or so of everyone talking at once, the Inspector-General requested the Sindaco to take us to his private office where we resumed our discussions.

3. We could get no precise information and the head of the electoral office could not be found. After much talk (see para. 6 below) we went to the room where the lists were kept. There were no clerks in it. There were no guards on the door and the public had free access to the room and were turning over the registers. My Inspector-General went immediately to the Segretario-Generale and insisted on the room being cleared immediately and a guard being placed on the door. This was done.

4. We then went to the office where electoral certificates were being distributed. This was being done with regularity and comparative efficiency. 4,094 certificates remained to be distributed - a not too excessive number. In the adjoining office a polling station was being fitted up. The Inspector-General asked if it would be ready in time. Profuse assurances were given that everything would be "all right on the night" but no arrangements had been made for the polling stations to be inspected to make sure that this would be so. The Inspector-General directed this to be done. It was observed that owing to lack of suitable materials (Marsala is still half ruined and the neighbourhood is not timber producing) many of the voting booths had been constructed with stiff paper. No provision had been made to repair them if they should become badly torn. The Inspector-General gave directions as to this also.

5. After about 1½ hours the head of the electoral office was found and he gave us some figures. An official of the Prefecture was also present in the Municipio, a Vice-Segretario, I think. He did not give the impression of exercising supervision and control over the municipal officials, but rather of getting involved in the details himself. I thought him rather too young for the job. The Segretario-Generale obviously took no interest in the elections at all.

6. The Sindaco (Regina, Vincenzo, Actionist, a local business man) told us some strange tales. He said that there was a Communist cell among the clerks of the electoral office who had succeeded in stealing some 4,000 blank electoral certificates. He said that the crowd of paupers filling the Municipio had been coming there for days and that this was a Communist manoeuvre to discredit him. He said that the Avvocato who was the head of the electoral office was one of those people who think they know everything but really know nothing and that he could not get any work out of him. He said he had no

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107A

7. Neither the Inspector-General nor I believe any of this. It is extremely unlikely that the Sindaco would have said it if it were true . We think that as he did not expect to be re-elected or his party to win (and it certainly has not - see the figures in Appendix "A"), he was doing his best to discredit the others in advance.

8. The contesting parties were :

Labour-Democrats - Symbol - Three wheat ears. This was thought to be the strongest and was headed by one Armato, the former Fascist Segretario-Politico of Marsala. He has been cleared by epuration and has great local influence. Though he can neither be a candidate nor vote , all the Democratic-Labour manifestoes contained in large type the words " W Armato ! " A strange situation.

Socialists - Symbol - an anchor - unusual. This was thought to be the next strong party.

Communists - Symbol - hammer and sickle and star. Said to have little following.

Demo-Christians - Symbol - crossed shield.
Republicans - Symbol - ivy leaf.
Party of Action - Symbol - a watch (stopped at a quarter to twelve for some reason)
Uomo Qualunque and Agrarians or Farmers - Symbol - a bunch of grapes.

Workmen's Progressive Party - (Partito Operaio Progressista) This is a purely local group which has managed to put up 40 candidates. They seem to have no distinctive policy. At the head of this list is a cobbler (Milazzo), so they have adopted as their symbol a shoe. The main point of this party's manifesto was " W Milazzo ! "

9. It is to be noted that the various prognostications about the comparative strength of the parties have proved inaccurate, as it not unusual. All parties put up a maximum number of candidates - 40. Only 3 of the 8 parties put up women candidates, 5 Progressives, 2 Communists and 2 Demo-Christians. Marsala has the proportional representation system.

10. Figures are given in Appendix "A".

11. The election in Marsala had been postponed from 31 March to 7 April because of objections to the Sindaco's original decision as to location of the polling places. The comune is extensive, with a number of country villages in it. The Sindaco had put all sections in the town on the ground that country people always came tinto town on Sundays anyhow. The parties objected to this, so he established 2 country sections. The parties appealed against this also and finally 12 country sections were established. There are therefore 39 sections, 27 in the town and 12 in the country, all of them in schools. Even so, country people had been put to vote in town sections & vice-versa.

12. The presidents of the electoral sections seem to be regularly appointed. The scrutators had been appointed in consultation with the party chiefs, some of whom however could not whip up enough representatives.

13. I have never seen a town so plastered with party propaganda. Stencils were used to a large extent. For example the flank wall of one of the biggest churches was covered with rows and rows of stencilled reproductions of the Party of Action's symbol of the watch.

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14. We returned to Marsala on the afternoon of election day. It was evident that our previous visit had shaken things up. In the Municipio work was proceeding smoothly. Operations in the electoral certificates office were proceeding regularly, as also in the office where duplicates were issued. 169 duplicates had been issued by 14.30 hours. The streets were beflagged with party banners and there were a surprisingly large number of party committee rooms. Streets were rather more crowded than I would have expected on any other Sunday. Public order was good.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 778502

15. We visited half a dozen sections: there were large crowds outside each. At some sections people were getting irritated by the long delay at getting in to vote. These were mainly country people put to vote in town sections as mentioned above in para.11. I gathered that the operations within the polling stations were going on regularly. One or two minor errors of procedure were corrected by the Inspector-General.

16. The Prefect of Trapani is aware of the situation in Marsala and intends to send the Head of the prefectural electoral office (see next para) to see to it that things are properly managed for the political elections.

T R A P A N I

17. This town is governed by a Commissario Prefettizio, Caliri, who is also a Councillor of Prefecture and Head of the prefectural Electoral Office. The Sindaco having resigned three months earlier, the Prefect put in Caliri with the special object of ensuring the regularity of the electoral operations. Both he and the Vice-Segretario-Generale (the office of Segretario-Generale is vacant) made an excellent impression, which the Inspector-General and I took pains to mention to the Prefect.

18. We visited Trapani first in the afternoon of the day before the elections. We looked at the offices and records and found everything proceeding very well. We noticed how in many respects the local authorities were going even beyond their instructions to ensure that everything went well. For instance, the Ministry of the Interior had given instructions that electric light had to be available in every section. At Trapani this had been done, but the authorities has also installed in each section oil lamps and a supply of oil in case the electricity should fail. Another instance of the care taken in this commune is that sub-offices for the issue of electoral certificates had been opened in the buildings selected for each of the 10 country sections.

19. The authorities have had an unusual difficulty in Trapani because of the village of Paceco (of some 11,000 people) becoming a separate commune again on 1 April. All the electoral lists had therefore to be revised at the last minute. The Electoral Commission cooperated very well and made a very careful and yet rapid examination.

20. Propaganda was conspicuous enough, though less so than in Marsala. There were well attende public meetings going on in the square, the Labour-Democrats first and then the Qualunquisti. The main point made by both parties seemed to be abuse of Russia. Public order was excellent both at the meetings and on election day.

21. The contesting parties were as follows :

Labour-Democrats - Symbol - Three wheat ears. This is considered the strongest party, It is headed by one Nasi, the son of the former pre-fascist Deputy for the neighbourhood. The son is not a candidate for the Communal Council, reserving himself for the Costituente.

Demo-Christians - Symbol - crossed shield. This party seem to be giving the Labour-Democrats the strongest competition.

Socialists - Symbol - the rising sun. They seem to be the next strongest, but the separation of Paceco (see para. 19) has lost them many voters. It is noteworthy how here and at Marsala the Socialists have endeavoured by their symbol to distinguish themselves as much as possible from the Communists.

- Symbol - a hand-press.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785021

properly managed for the political elections.

TRAPANI

17. This town is governed by a Commissario Prefettizio, Caliri, who is also a Councillor of Prefecture and Head of the prefectural Electoral Office. The Sindaco having resigned three months earlier, the Prefect put in Caliri with the special object of ensuring the regularity of the electoral operations. Both he and the Vice-Segretario-Generale (the office of Segretario-Generale is vacant) made an excellent impression, which the Inspector-General and I took pains to mention to the Prefect.

18. We visited Trapani first in the afternoon of the day before the elections. We looked at the offices and records and found everything proceeding very well. We noticed how in many respects the local authorities were going even beyond their instructions to ensure that everything went well. For instance, the Ministry of the Interior had given instructions that electric light had to be available in every section. At Trapani this had been done, but the authorities had also installed in each section oil lamps and a supply of oil in case the electricity should fail. Another instance of the care taken in this commune is that sub-offices for the issue of electoral certificates had been opened in the buildings selected for each of the 10 country sections.

19. The authorities have had an unusual difficulty in Trapani because of the village of Paceco (of some 11,000 people) becoming a separate commune again on 1 April. All the electoral lists had therefore to be revised at the last minute. The Electoral Commission cooperated very well and made a very careful and yet rapid examination.

20. Propaganda was conspicuous enough, though less so than in Marsala. There were well attende public meetings going on in the square, the Labour-Democrats first and then the Qualunquisti. The main point made by both parties seemed to be abuse of Russia. Public order was excellent both at the meetings and on election day.

21. The contesting parties were as follows :

Labour-Democrats	- Symbol - Three wheat ears. This is considered the strongest party, It is headed by one Masi, the son of the former pre-fascist Deputy for the neighbourhood. The son is not a candidate for the Communal Council, reserving himself for the Costituente.
Demo-Christians	- Symbol - crossed shield. This party seem to be giving the Labour-Democrats the strongest competition.
Socialists	- Symbol - the rising sun. They seem to be the next strongest, but the separation of Paceco (see para. 19) has lost them many voters. It is noteworthy how here and at Marsala the Socialists have endeavoured by their symbol to distinguish themselves as much as possible from the Communists.
Uomo Qualunque	- Symbol - a hand-press.
Liberals	- Symbol - the national flag.

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Party of Action - Symbol - the town coat-of-arms. Headed by a notary, Manzo, the first Sindaco after the liberation of the town. The Actionists are said to have been rather violent in their speeches and propaganda.

Republicans - Symbol - ivy leaf. Said to be very small.

Communists - Symbol - the red flag with the hammer and sickle and the star and imposed on the national flag. This is the symbol adopted by the party for the political elections in Trapani. This list contains a few independents.

22. All parties put up the maximum number of candidates, except the Communists (32) and the Republicans(16). Four of the parties put up women candidates :- 2 Socialists, 1 Labour-Democrat, 5 Demo-Christians and 2 Actionists. The proportional representation system applies in Trapani. Figures are given in Appendix "A".

23. The Presidents of polling stations seem to have been duly qualified and appointed. Forty of them are magistrates and ten civil servants of good standing. Of the 50 sections 10 are situated in the country. All have been located in schools. The scrutatori had been appointed in consultation with the heads of all political parties taking part in the elections.

24. In touring the city on election day I noticed that the queue outside the sections were not great, and voting was proceeding expeditiously. Trapani is the only place where the Inspector-General had not to correct any errors in the procedure at polling stations.

G E N E R A L

25. From the foregoing the following conclusions may be drawn :

a) Public order was excellent both before and during elections.
b) There was a heavy poll, though noticeably less than has been the experience in Continental Italy. The percentage of women voting was slightly higher than the men.
c) Party divisions are sharp and turn more upon personal rivalries than political programmes.
d) There was no evidence of bribery, indimidation, or other election malpractices, and the procedure was on the whole well observed, in spite of the slackness of the communal administration in Marsala.
e) Forecasts of the results proved more than usually inaccurate.
f) The voting procedure was well understood by the electors. The number of those who failed to understand were rather more in Sicily than elsewhere, but the percentage of these is still infinitesimal.

26. As a matter of interest I have listed in Appendix "B" one or two rather amusing instances of misconceptions that existed in the minds of the more ignorant. I would repeat, however, that these are not typical.

C.G.B. WILLIAMS

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 78 502 /

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C.G.R. WILLIAMS
Major
Executive Officer
Local Government Sub Commission

CGRW/ww

Encl: Appendix "A"
Appendix "B".

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APPENDIX "A"

Election Statistic

MARSALA

Population (1936 census)			62,171
" (present estimate)			69,826
Registered Elections .....M..	18,469		
F..	20,428		38,897
Excluded for crime.....	2,720		
" " fascism.....	16		
Total votes cast (not final)			25,825 (=66%)

Results (not final):

Republicans	7079	votes	=	12 seats
Communists	5509	"	=	9 "
Socialists	4567	"	=	8 "
Demo-Christians	2644	"	=	4 "
Labour-Democrats	2366	"	=	4 "
U.Q. & Agrarians	1333	"	=	2 "
Party and Action	935	"	=	1 "
Progressive Party	447	"	=	0 "
	24,880			40
The difference of.....	945			
spoilt ballots or may be due to an error in calculation	25,825			

TRAPANI

Population (1936 census)			64,150
" (present estimate)	82,608		
Less Paceco	11,000		71,608
Registered voters.....M..	19,778		
F..	23,041		42,819
Excluded for crime.....M..	627		
F..	62	689	
" " fascism	28		
Total votes cast (not final).....M..	13,150		
F..	14,151	27,301	(=64%)

Results (not final):

Labour Democrats	7437	votes	=	12 seats
Socialists	5336	"	=	9 "
Party of Action	4184	"	=	7 "
U.Q.	2806	"	=	4 "
Demo-Christians	2234	"	=	3 "
Liberals	1577	"	=	2 "
Republicans	1359	"	=	2 "

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Excluded for crime.....	2,720				
" " fascism.....	16				
Total votes cast (not final)					25,825 (=66%)
Results (not final):					
Republicans	7079	votes	=	12	seats
Communists	5509	"	=	9	"
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Party and Action	935	"	=	1	"
Progressive Party	447	"	=	0	"
	24,880			40	
The difference of.....	945				
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Liberals	1577	"	=	2	"
Republicans	1359	"	=	2	"
Communists	827	"	=	1	"
	25,760			40	

The difference between this and the total stated above is probably due to errors in calculation.

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APPENDIX "B"

SOME SICILIAN MISCONCEPTIONS AS TO HOW TO VOTE

1. In one commune the Republican Party adopted as their symbol the bearded head of Garibaldi. A number of devout ladies duly voted Republican under the impression that this symbol was the picture of St. Joseph.

2. On being asked by the President of the polling station, "Do you know how to vote?" (in Italian:- "Sapete votare?"), a man gave a brusque and vigorous assent, took the ballot paper, walked in to the polling booth, slowly turned round on his heels, through a complete circle, and came out. I am told that in the Sicilian dialect "votare" also means "voltare" = to turn round.

3. One old lady refused her ballot paper because it contained no reference to Saint Calogero. She explained that when her son was taken prisoner of war she made a vow to the Saint, to be performed on his release. As her son had come home a few weeks ago she wanted to pay her vow and would they please give her the proper paper. It should perhaps be explained that the Italian "voto" means "vow" as well as "vote".

4. Sperlinga - a little village of some 1,700 people in the heart of Sicily - has always had the reputation of being "again the Government". For instance, at the time of the famous Sicilian Vespers in 1282, when all Sicily rose against French oppressors, Sperlinga was the only place to side with the French. Having heard that the Government were indulging in such novelties as giving votes to women, the men of Sperlinga took their own measures. On election day, no Sperlinghese mother, wife, sister or daughter went near the polling stations. Only 2 women voted - and those were two spinster schoolmistresses.

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUB COMMISSION

AC/45/45/5/LG

Tel: 495

SUBJECT: Observations of the Election in the Commune of Milano on 7 April 1946

11 April 1946

1 Accompanied by Dr. Gaetano Mastrobuono, Inspector General of the Ministry of Interior, I observed the elections that took place in the Commune of Milan on 7 April 1946. The city, because of its industrial and political position as well as size, provided an interesting spot to observe the exercise of free suffrage after many years under Fascism.

2. The day before elections we visited the Prefettura where we conferred with the Prefect (the political appointee--Socialist), the Questore, the Colonel of the Carabinieri, the Head of the Electoral Service of the Province, the Sindaco (Socialist), the Segretario Generale of the Commune, and the Head of the Electoral Service of the Commune. We were informed by the officials that all necessary precautions had been taken to preserve order. All electoral material had been delivered and required notices posted according to law. The presidents of the 903 electoral sections into which the town was divided were for the most part magistrates or personnel of judicial offices. The Scrutatori--5 for each section--were numbered by the various parties and confirmed by the Giunta Municipale. About a thousand functionaries delivered electoral certificates to voters. The delivery of the certificates began on 20 March and finished on 2 April--5 days before the election as provided by law. However on the day before election when we visited the Sindaco, about 70,000 Electoral certificates had not been delivered as of 2 April out of a total of 835,781 entitled to receive these certificates.

3. The newspapers, especially those representing the Right parties, made quite a fuss about this fact, erroneously stating incidentally that 100,000 certificates had not been delivered and indicating that the majority were members of the Right parties. The communal officials pointed out that there were various causes for failure to deliver, mainly incorrect addresses which did not correspond to the actual residences, stabili sinistrati; many had moved from damaged dwellings to new residences without informing the Ufficio Anagrafe; many persons were located outside of Milan either as prisoners of war or because of their work; many certificates contained the maiden name of women whose present married name was known only to the porter of the house. We paid a visit to the Central Office where distribution of certificates was going on before the election and also during the day of election. There were huge crowds gathered outside of the offices. Many of these were not entitled to certificates because they were not inscribed on the electoral lists. Many had waited until the last minute although there was ample time before elections to ascertain their position and to get original or duplicate copies of electoral certificates. Conversation with many revealed that they were not home nor was anyone else of their family to receive certificates which were being delivered by communal functionaries. It was evident from their dress that a great majority of the crowd were of the poor classes. Several trucks bearing Communist flags and which were used to carry persons to this Central Electoral Office were in evidence. Inside the building were 2 huge offices--one for women and the other for men--in which about 150 clerks and civil police were working to supply the applicants with certificates if they were entitled to them. When we returned to the Central Office about 530, the doors to the building were closed, although there were still crowds outside. The Inspector

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 778021

Commune of Milano on 7 April 1946

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4. The town was leterally plastered with placards, manifests, and ordinary paint and chalk writings of every description representing every political party. It was quite evident however that from the standpoint of number and quality of manifests that were seen the Madonnina group had spent the most money. This group represented liberals and other political units and used as its symbol the Milan cathedral Madonnina placed on the background of an Italian flag. The other parties resented use of this religious symbol--one type of manifest on the walls reading, "Our Madonnina is above political speculation." The Communists pasted circulars stating that the best way to preserve the Catholic church was to vote for the Communists. The political meetings held before the day of election were tremendous gatherings of persons most of whom were held in the Piazza del Duomo. All of them were orderly. One tremendous crowd would move out of the square to permit them to hear their favorites. After the elections were over--on Tuesday when the results were announced--there were huge parades and gatherings in the squares. It was all colorful and although enthusiasm ran high, all was orderly. No evidence was presented which would indicate that voters were intimidated or bribed to vote contrary to their own personal desires.

5. At several polling stations representatives of the various parties armed with lists showing the changed locations of several polling places informed voters the proper place to go to vote. The turn-out of voters was high. By six o'clock in the better communities about 70% had voted while in the poor sections from 70 to 80% had cast their vote. Tentative final results seem to indicate close to 80% of Milanese has exercised their right of suffrage.

6. Significant electoral information is as follows:

Population according to 1936 census		1,114,815
Estimate population as of 31 December 1945		1,244,049
Registered voters		835,781
Male	390,454	
Female	445,327	
Excluded from lists		72,518
Registered in other communes	55,140	
Penal	14,867	
Welfare boards (1)	2,500	
Ex Fascist officials (2)	11	
Councilmen to be elected		80
Lists presented		6

(Communists; Demo-Christians; Republican and Action Group; small shopkeepers group; Socialists; Madonnina list consisting of Liberals and other groups).

Number of polling sections	903

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 778021

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Number of polling sections	903
Electoral certificates not delivered	

(1) (The authority to include welfare wards in the list of registered voters arrived after the lists had been made definitive and there was no time to make the necessary modifications.)

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(2) (The small number of ex Fascist officials excluded has been attributed to the failure of the commission of sanctions against Fascist to function properly.

7. The tentative results of the election are as follows:

Socialists	229,283
Demo-Christians	167,314
Communists	155,139
Madonnina (Liberals, etc.)	63,864
Mazzini (Republicans and Actions)	19,167
Esercente (shopkeepers)	9,931
Total	647,698

8. Exhibits A, B, and C attached.

RALPH R. TEMPLE
Major
Director
Local Government Sub Commission

RRT/rbe

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Above

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUB COMMISSION

AC/45/45/3/12a. Tel: 495

SUBJECT : Observation of Administrative Elections in Venezia Province on 24 March 1946. 26 March 1946

1. Accompanied by Dr. Gaetano MARTONARO, Inspector-General of the Ministry of the Interior I observed the administrative elections that took place in the Communes of Venice and Chioggia in the Province of Venezia. The day before the elections we visited the Prefettura and Municipio of Venice and discussed the general situation with the Prefect, the Questore, Captain of the Carabinieri, the Head of the Electoral Service of the Province, the Vice-Sindaco, Segretario Comunale and the Head of the Communal Electoral Service. The Prefect said that he expected no difficulty in the Commune of Venice, although the 248 polling places were not guarded by the police as well as he would want it . Fortunately many polling stations were grouped together in the same building, so that the guarding part was therefore less complicated. The Prefect said that, as most trouble was expected at Chioggia, a small Commune south of Venice where there were many unemployed , he had arranged to send as reinforcements some Army and Navy personnel to act as police guards.

2. The Prefect and Questore said that they had uncovered no threats or bribery to influence voters.

3. The Vice-Sindaco at the Municipio pointed out that polling meetings held up till now had been calm . All the electoral material had been distributed.

4. Venice The significant electoral data concerning this commune were as follows :-

Population according to 1936 census		269,699
Present estimated population		300,542
Registered voters		164,517
Male	86,147	
Female	98,370	
Excluded from lists :		
Penal		1,488
Welfare wards		1,265
Confusion of faculs		59
Councillors to be elected		60
Lists presented		6

(Communist ; Democratic Concentration ; Pro-Christian ; Liberal ; Republican ; Socialist).

5. On Sunday 24 March, the day of the election, the Inspector-General Martonaro and I toured the town, by means of a motoscafo put at our disposal by the Prefect. There was no display of bunting or flags on the various boats of all descriptions that passed along the canals and the only party symbolisation we observed in profusion stencilled along the walls of the Grand Canal were those of the Communist party. I observed one large boat with Communist flags which was carting some potential voters to the polls. This was not usual ; the overwhelming majority came by their own means of transport and lined up in orderly fashion outside the polling station. Everything was orderly and dignified. The general atmosphere could be typified by the enquiry made of me as I was walking on the bridge over a small canal, on each side of which was a polling station. A civilian, a young Cherlony, stopped me and pointing to the persons lined up in front of one of the polling stations asked me if the Pope was coming to explain to him that this was not a church but a polling station and that

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 78502

1. Accompanied by Dr. Gaetano [redacted], Inspector-General of the Ministry of the Interior I observed the administrative elections that took place in the Communes of Venice and Chioggia in the Province of Venezia. The day before the elections we visited the Prefettura and Municipio of Venice and discussed the general situation with the Prefect, the questore, Captain of the Carabinieri, the Head of the Electoral Service of the Province, the Vice-Sindaco, Segretario Comunale and the Head of the Communal electoral Service. The Prefect said that he expected no difficulty in the Commune of Venice, although the 248 polling places were not guarded by the police as well as he would want it. Fortunately many polling stations were grouped together in the same building, so that the guarding part was therefore less complicated. The Prefect said that, as some trouble was expected at Chioggia, a small Commune south of Venice where there were many unemployed, he had arranged to send as reinforcements some Army and Navy personnel to act as police guards.

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4. Venice The significant electoral data concerning this commune were as follows :-

Population according to 1936 census		269,699
Present estimated population		300,342
Registered voters		164,517
Male	86,147	
Female	99,370	
Excluded from lists :		
Penal		1,443
Welfare wards		1,265
Ex-fascist officials		99
Councillors to be elected		60
Lists presented		6

(Communist ; Democratic Concentration ; Demo-Christian ; Liberal ; Republican ; Socialist).

5. On Sunday 2[illegible] March, the day of the election, the Inspector-General Mastrobuono and I toured the town, by means of a motorboat put at our disposal by the Prefect. There was no display of bunting or flags on the various boats of all descriptions that passed along the canals and the only party symbols which we observed in profusion stencilled along the walls of the Grand Canal were those of the Communist party. I observed one large boat with Communist flags which was ouriing some potential voters to the polls. This was not usual ; the overwhelming majority came by their own means of transport and lined up in orderly fashion outside the polling station Everything was orderly and dignified. The general atmosphere could be typified by the ordinary scene of which I was walking on the bridge over a small canal, on each side of which was a polling station. A civilian, a young American, stopped me and pointing to the persons lined up in front of one of the polling stations asked me if the Mass was over. I had to explain to him that this was not a church but a polling station and that the people were lined up waiting their turn to vote.

6. Most of the polling stations had 4 voting booths each so that voting proceeded at a rapid pace. Representatives of the parties presenting lists were present in the polling stations pursuant to provisions of the electoral law which permits such representation in towns using the proportional representation system. Many of the representatives were some symbol indicating the party affiliation.

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The polling stations were all open, ready for business, at 8.00 a.m., preliminary operations having begun at 6,00 a.m. There was one exception:we found out that at Section No. 55 where one of the scrutinisers failed to turn up the President of the Section designated an elector to substitute the absentee and polling in that section began at 9,30 a.m. In the poorer quarters as this Consulate from 50 to 60% of the voters had cast their ballots by noon. When we returned at 6.00 p.m. after a short visit to Chioggia, we observed that voting was still continuous but light. In some sections up to 90% of the electors had cast their ballot. All the Presidents of the polling stations and other people stated that very little difficulty was experienced by the voters in understanding the ballot. The counting of the votes did not begin until Monday, 25 March, the ballot boxes having been sealed and placed under guard during the night in each polling section. The Inspector-General Mastrobuono asked the Prefect whether it was not advisable to increase the guards. In one school we had 9 Sections but only 4 guards. However no disorder or incident was reported or any breaking in of the polling places. To this moment the results available in 246 sections out of 248 are as follows :

Party list	Votes cast	Seats won
Christian Democrats	54,749	20-21
Communists	40,544	17
Socialists	36,400	15-16
Republican Concentration (Actionists, Republicans, etc.)	7,453	3
Democratic Concentration (Liberals, U.D.)	6,881	3
Liberals	2,242	1
Total	148,314	60

8. Chioggia. Inspecto-General Mastrobuono and I paid a quick visit to the Commune of Chioggia south of Venice. This town which in 1936 had a population of 40,000 is principally a fishing village , but it is also important as an agricultural centre. There is great unemployment in the town . It was expected that the Communists would prevail. The trouble that was anticipated never took place and all was quiet and orderly. The Captain of the Carabinieri to whom we spoke said that, so far as he knew, no money had been paid, nor other illegal means of influencing voting had been indulged in.

9. The proportional representation system was used in the town since it had over 30,000 people. Seven party lists were presented on the ballot :- Democ-Christian; Communist ; Socialist ; Action ; Liberal ; Veterans ; Independent. The results in the town confirm what had been anticipated :-

Party list	Votes cast	Seats won
Communists	10,892	22
Christian Democrats	4,567	12
Socialists	1,813	4
Independents		2
		40

10. As a final observation on the elections both in Venice and in Chioggia it may be stated that no ballot boxes were found floating in the canals (remember the election in New York when first run for governor and ballot boxes were found floating in the Hudson river), nor were any bodies found floating.

11. Pertinent electoral material is attached hereto.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785021

understanding the ballot. The counting of the votes did not begin until Monday, 25 March, the ballot boxes having been sealed and placed under guard during the night in each polling section. The Inspector-General Mastrobuono asked the Prefect whether it was not advisable to increase the guards. In one school we had 8 Sections but only 4 guards. However no disorder or incident was reported or any breaking in of the polling places. So this present the results available in 246 sections out of 248 are as follows :

Party list	Votes cast	Seats won
Christian Democrats	54,789	20-21
Communists	40,544	17
Socialists	36,400	15-16
Republican Concentration (Actionists, Republicans, etc.)	7,458	3
Democratic Concentration (Liberals, U.D.)	6,861	3
Liberals	2,242	1
Total	148,334	60

8. Chioggia. Inspecto-General Mastrobuono and I paid a quick visit to the Commune of Chioggia south of Venice. This town which in 1936 had a population of 40,000 is principally a fishing village , but it is also important as an agricultural centre. There is great unemployment in the town . It was expected that the Communists would prevail. The trouble that was anticipated never took place and all was quiet and orderly. The captain of the Carabinieri to whom we spoke said that, so far as he knew, no money had been paid, nor other illegal means of influencing voting had been indulged in.

9. The proportional representation system was used in the town since it had over 30,000 people. Seven party lists were presented on the ballot :- Demo-Christian; Communist ; Socialist ; Action ; Liberal ; Veterans ; Independent. The results in the town confirm what had been anticipated :-

Party List	Votes cast	Seats won
Communists	10,895	22
Christian Democrats	4,567	12
Socialists	1,513	4
Independents		2
		40

10. As a final observation on the elections both in Venice and in Chioggia it may be stated that no ballot boxes were found floating in the canals (remember the election in New York when first man for governor and ballot boxes were found floating in the Hudson river), nor were any bodies found floating.

11. Pertinent electoral material is attached hereto.

R. R. Temple major

RALPH R. TEMPLE
Major
Director
Local Government Sub Commission

RT/ew

1305

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785021

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUB COMMISSION

G/45/45/3/LG.

Tel: 478190

SUBJECT : Observation of Local Elections held on 24 March 1946 at Albano and Velletri (Province of Rome).

28 March 1946

TO : The Director of Local Government Sub Commission.

1. Accompanied by Dott. Giulio Cesare RIZZA, Inspector-General of the Ministry of the Interior I paid a visit to the Prefect of Rome the day before the elections. Conversations were held with him, with Dott. Giovenco, Head of the Provincial Electoral Service and the Chief of the Cabinet of the Prefect.

2. The Prefect reviewed the situation of the Province and concluded that no trouble was anticipated. He stated also that the electoral certificates and other voting materials had been delivered to the Communes and that all precautionary measures had been taken to maintain order.

3. Dott. Giovenco mentioned to us that he had been to Albano a few days before to investigate about complaints made by people who were left out of the electoral lists. He said that the number of these amounted to 400. The result of his enquiry was that as the Central Registry of Albano was destroyed through enemy action and many people born and residing at Albano during the war had left without sending any notification as to their present address, it was almost impossible for the Sindaco to prepare a complete list.

4. The Sindaco had nevertheless notified the population to check with the list which was at the Municipio and apply for the inclusion of their names if they were omitted. Dott. Rizza had an opportunity to make an enquiry himself on the day of the elections and found that the statement made by Dott. Giovenco was correct.

5. On the day of elections, 24 March, accompanied by Dott. Giulio Cesare Rizza, Inspector-General of the Ministry of the Interior, I visited Albano and Velletri.

Albano has a population of	11,469
Registered	6,533
Male lists	3,385
Female lists	3,148
Councilmen to be elected	30

6. At Albano we met the Sindaco, the Secretary of the Commune, the Commissario of Public Safety and the Tenente of the Carabinieri. At the Municipio we saw some 200 people complaining that they had been left out of the electoral lists. Few of them expressed the desire to see Dott. Rizza. He spoke to them and they admitted that they had complained to the Sindaco only two days before the elections. He then replied that that was too late and consequently neither the Sindaco nor any other authority could add any names after the list had been finally approved by the electoral Commission.

7. There were 9 polling sections. They were located as follows ; four at the elementary school ; one at the municipio ; two at Palazzo Savelli ; two at Cecchina. Each section was presided by a magistrate or a judicial official. The "scrutatori" were equally divided among parties. Two [illegible] had been placed in each section.

8. [illegible]

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2. The Prefect reviewed the situation of the Province and concluded that no trouble was anticipated. He stated also that the electoral certificates and other voting materials had been delivered to the Communes and that all precautionary measures had been taker to maintain order.

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4. The Sindaco had nevertheless notified the population to check with the list which was at the Municipio and apply for the inclusion of their names if they were omitted. Dott. Rizza had an opportunity to make an enquiry himself on the day of the elections and found that the statement made by Dott. Giovenco was correct.

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Albano has a population of	11,469
Registered	6,533
Male lists	3,385
Female lists	3,148
Councilmen to be elected	30

6. At Albano we met the Sindaco, the Secretary of the Commune, the Commissario of Public Safety and the Tenente of the Carabinieri. At the Municipio we saw some 200 people complaining that they had been left out of the electoral lists. Few of them expressed the desire to see Dott. Rizza. He spoke to them and they admitted that they had complained to the Sindaco only two days before the elections. He then replied that that was too late and consequently neither the Sindaco nor any other authority could add any names after the list had been finally approved by the electoral Commission.

7. There were 9 polling sections. They were located as follows ; four at the elementary school ; one at the municipio ; two at Palazzo Savelli ; two at Cecchina. Each section was presided by a magistrate or a judicial official. The "scrutatori" were equally divided among parties. Two [redacted] had been placed in each section.

8. Three lists were presented as follows : Christian Democrats and Republicans with the symbol of the cross on a shield and the ivy leaf ; Socialists with the symbol of the hammer/sickle and the star on the book.

People were calmly waiting outside the polling stations their turn to vote. No disturbances took place.

Results : 24 seats won by the Christian Democrats and Republicar
6 seats won by the Communists.

Percentage of voters : 90%.

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1042

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUB COMMISSION

AC/45/45/3/LG.

Tel: 47190

SUBJECT : Observation of Local Elections held on 24 March 1946 at Albano and Velletri (Province of Rome). 28 March 1946

TO : The Director of Local Government Sub Commission.

1. Accompanied by Dott. Giulio Cesare RIZZA, Inspector-General of the Ministry of the Interior I paid a visit to the Prefect of Rome the day before the elections. Conversations were held with him, with Dott. Giovenco, Head of the Provincial Electoral Service and the Chief of the Cabinet of the Prefect.

2. The Prefect reviewed the situation of the Province and concluded that no trouble was anticipated. He stated also that the electoral certificates and other voting materials had been delivered to the Communes and that all precautionary measures had been taken to maintain order.

3. Dott. Giovenco mentioned to us that he had been to Albano a few days before to investigate about complaints made by people who were left out of the electoral lists. He said that the number of these amounted to 400. The result of his enquiry was that as the Central Registry of Albano was destroyed through enemy action and many people born and residing at Albano during the war had left without sending any notification as to their present address, it was almost impossible for the Sindaco to prepare a complete list.

4. The Sindaco had nevertheless notified the population to check with the list which was at the Municipio and apply for the inclusion of their names if they were omitted. Dott. Pisma had an opportunity to make an enquiry himself on the day of the elections and found that the statement made by Dott. Giovenco was correct.

5. On the day of elections, 24 March, accompanied by Dott. Giulio Cesare Pisma, Inspector-General of the Ministry of the Interior, I visited Albano and Velletri.

Albano has a population of	11,469
Registered	6,533
Male lists	3,385
Female lists	3,148
Councillors to be elected	30

6. At Albano we met the Sindaco, the Secretary of the Comune, the Commissario of Public Safety and the Comete of the Carabinieri. At the Municipio we met some 200 people complaining that they had been left out of the electoral lists. Few of them expressed the desire to see Dott. Pisma. He spoke to them and they admitted that they had complained to the Sindaco only two days before the elections. He then replied that that was too late and consequently neither the Sindaco nor any other authority could add any names after the list had been finally approved by the electoral Commission.

7. There were 9 polling sections. They were located as follows ; four at the elementary school ; one at the municipio ; two at Palazzo Savelli ; two at Cecchina. Each section was presided by a magistrate or a judicial official. The "scrutatori" were equally divided among parties. Two Bakins had been placed in each section.

8. Three lists were presented as follows : Christian Democrats and Republicans

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versations were held with him, with Dott. Giovenco, Head of the Provincial Electoral Service and the Chief of the Cabinet of the Prefect.

2. The Prefect reviewed the situation of the Province and concluded that no trouble was anticipated. He stated also that the electoral certificates and other voting materials had been delivered to the Communes and that all precautionary measures had been taken to maintain order.

3. Dott. Giovenco mentioned to us that he had been to Albano a few days before to investigate about complaints made by people who were left out of the electoral lists. He said that the number of these amounted to 400. The result of his enquiry was that as the Central Registry of Albano was destroyed through enemy action and many people born and residing at Albano during the war had left without sending any notification as to their present address, it was almost impossible for the Sindaco to prepare a complete list.

4. The Sindaco had nevertheless notified the population to check with the list which was at the Municipio and apply for the inclusion of their names if they were omitted. Dott. Rizza had an opportunity to make an enquiry himself on the day of the elections and found that the statement made by Dott. Giovenco was correct.

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Albano has a population of	11,469
Registered	6,533
Male lists	3,385
Female lists	3,148
Councilmen to be elected	30

6. At Albano we met the Sindaco, the Secretary of the Comune, the Commissario of Public Safety and the Tenente of the Carabinieri. At the Municipio we saw some 200 people complaining that they had been left out of the electoral lists. Few of them expressed the desire to see Dott. Rizza. He spoke to them and they admitted that they had complained to the Sindaco only two days before the elections. He then replied that that was too late and consequently neither the Sindaco nor any other authority could add any names after the list had been finally approved by the electoral Commission.

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8. Three lists were presented as follows : Christian Democrats and Republicans with the symbol of the cross on a shield and the ivy leaf ; Socialists with the symbol of the hammer/sickle and the star on the book.

People were calmly waiting outside the polling stations their turn to vote. No disturbances took place.

Results : 24 seats won by the Christian Democrats and Republicans ;
6 seats won by the Communists.

Percentage of voters : 90%.

1303

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 78502/

103

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUB COMMISSION

AG/A5/45/1/LG. Tel: 495

SUBJECT : Observation of Administrative Elections in Como Province on 10 March 1946. 18 March 1946

Accompanied by Dott. Gaetano MASTROBUONO, Inspector-General of the Ministry of Interior , I visited a number of communes in the Province of Como, one of the two provinces in the North participating in the 10 March elections. The communes were small as were the majority throughout Italy for this election. Visits were made the day before the election to the Prefecture and conversations were held with the Prefect, Questore, Head of the Provincial Electoral Service, Chief of the Carabinieri and other Italian officials. General information was obtained indicating the regularity of the pre-election procedures and the arrangements for the preservation of public order. The general feeling was that in the seven communes of Como which were situated either on the lake or in the hills and which catered to tourist trade principally, local issues were involved and not connected with national political ones. Sample ballots were secured and one fact seemed to stand out, namely the similarity of names in the list of candidates. For example in the commune of Palasco which had 130 persons inscribed on the election list and turned out a mighty 120 voters, two independent lists were submitted, one containing 11 names and the other 10. All of the candidates with the exception of three had the name of BUSI or MARCONI and of these three, two had the name of DENTI. It was clear that the Busi and Marconi families won the election in a walk. For the knowledge of the uninformed, the law forbids only relatives in the first degree to be members of the same communal council ; others are eligible. Another fact that stood out was the originality in the symbols used on the ballots. Everything from a quarter moon to an alpine flower was used.

One upset was recorded, namely in the town of Lierna which had 750 inscribed on the election register of which 601 voted. The officials took it for granted that the Christian Democratic Party list would win although two independent lists were, in addition, presented, one of which was sponsored by the Socialists and Communists. Results however showed Socialists and Communists won 12 seats and the Christian Democrats 3.

An interesting election took place in the Commune of Campione d'Italia which is located 17 kilometres outside the borders of Italy and whose chief attractions are its beautiful location on Lake Lugano and its Casino. The usual frontier formalities have to be met when one wishes to visit the town. Its currency is Swiss although part of the proceeds from the gambling Casino goes to the Province of Como of which it is a part. Of the 900 inhabitants 582 voted. Three independent lists were presented and victory went to the one that favoured autonomy for the commune. No one had the slightest concern about the national politics or the regular political parties.

Some of the results in the Province of Como are as follows :

LIERNA
750 registered
601 voted
15 Councilmen to be elected
3 lists presented (Socialists and Communists ; Independents ; Christian Democrats).

The Socialists and Communists won a majority of 12 seats, the remaining 3 going to the Christian Democrats.

CAMPIONE (D'ITALIA) 582 registered

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 778502

Accompanied by Dott. Gaetano MATTEOBUONO, Inspector-General of the Ministry of Interior , I visited a number of communes in the Province of Como, one of the two provinces in the North participating in the 10 March elections. The communes were small as were the majority throughout Italy for this election. Visits were made the day before the election to the Prefecture and conversations were held with the Prefect, Questore, Head of the Provincial Electoral Service, Chief of the Carabinieri and other Italian officials. General information was obtained indicating the regularity of the pre-election procedures and the arrangements for the preservation of public order. The general feeling was that in the seven communes of Como which were situated either on the lake or in the hills and which catered to tourist trade principally, local issues were involved and not connected with national political ones. Sample ballots were secured and one fact seemed to stand out, namely the similarity of names in the list of candidates. For example in the commune of Palanzo which had 130 persons inscribed on the election list and turned out a mighty 120 voters, two independent lists were submitted, one containing 11 names and the other 10. All of the candidates with the exception of three had the name of BUSI or MANZONI and of these three, two had the name of DENTI. It was clear that the Busi and Manzoni families won the election in a walk. For the knowledge of the uninformed, the law forbids only relatives in the first degree to be members of the same communal council ; others are eligible. Another fact that stood out was the originality in the symbols used on the ballots. Everything from a quarter moon to an alpine flower was used.

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Some of the results in the Province of Como are as follows :

LIERNA
750 registered
601 voted
15 Councilmen to be elected
3 lists presented (Socialists and Communists ; Independents ; Christian Democrats).

The Socialists and Communists won a majority of 12 seats, the remaining 3 going to the Christian Democrats.

CAMPIONE (D'ITALIA)
581 registered
536 voted
15 Councilmen to be elected
3 lists presented (all Independents).

Majority of 12 seats won by the Independent list with the legend:"Per la libera comunita" which favoured autonomy; the remaining 3 seats going to the Independent list calling itself "Libera-Unita".

VENDROGNO
588 registered
350 voted
15 Councilmen to be elected
2 lists presented(one Christian Democrat, the other Independent)

1302

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785621

Majority of 12 seats won by the Christian Democrats, the remaining 3 seats going to the Independent list with the legend "Neceno".

MARENO
554 registered
431 voted
15 Councilmen to be elected
2 lists presented (both Independent).

Majority of 12 seats won by list with the legend "Comune di Grandola", the remaining 3 seats going to the Independent list with the legend "A".

PARLASCO
130 registered
121 voted
15 Councilmen to be elected
2 lists presented (both Independents).

Majority of 12 seats won by the Independent list with the symbol of an Alpine flower, the other Independent list winning 3 seats.

The elections were suspended by the Prefect in the Commune of Oliveto Lario because the segretario comunale had erroneously but in good faith changed the symbol of one of the party lists himself, without submitting it to the Electoral Commission for action.

The elections in the province were run with unusual calm and interest. The ballot presented no complication or difficulties to the voters. Polling was fast, election officials were efficient and everybody seemed to be happy. All the voters entitled to receive their voting certificates got them before election day and all the necessary material and notices were delivered on time. Carabinieri were well distributed at polling stations and throughout the Communes but had little occasion to do very much except stand around. No political propaganda was in evidence within 200 metres of polling stations with the exception of the Commune of Lierna where the Christian Democrats had two huge placards on the wall of the school house where voting took place. (Apparently this had no effect on the results since the Socialist-Communist block won the majority of seats). All voters in the polling stations had ample opportunity to cast their ballots. No intimidation was reported.

A few sample ballots are attached hereto.

RALPH R. TEMPLE
Major
Director
Local Government Sub Commission

RRT/sw

1930

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Majority of 12 seats won by list with the legend "Comune di Grandola", the remaining 3 seats going to the Independent list with the legend "A".

PARMA300

130 registered
121 voted
15 Councilmen to be elected
2 lists presented (both Independents).

Majority of 12 seats won by the Independent list with the symbol of an Alpine flower, the other Independent list winning 3 seats.

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A few sample ballots are attached hereto.

RALPH R. TEMPLE
Major
Director
Local Government Sub Commission

RRT/bw

1301

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 778502/

1300

102

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUB COMMISSION

AC/45/45/4/1G

Tel: 314

SUBJECT: Observation of Communal Elections at Terni and Narni on 31 March 1946.

2 April 1946

TO : Director

I - T E R N I

1. This provincial capital of about 80,000 people is an industrial town dependent largely on (a) the armour-plate cannon and heavy steel foundries of the Societa' Terni (b) the calcium carbide works and (c) the hydro-electric generating stations. It suffered heavy air bombardments. About 50% of the town is destroyed, the Prefettura and the Municipio being among the buildings heavily damaged. Reconstruction is only now beginning to any appreciable extent. The industrial works however were hardly touched. The principal generating station and the adjoining carbide works were put out of action by the retreating Germans. Although the steel foundries do not now do much business, the electricity station has been restored - largely by the skill of its own workpeople - and unemployment is not exceptionally high.

2. In these circumstances the town is leftist in trend. The Prefect thought that victory lay between the Socialist and Communist parties. The Socialists of Terni are moderates of the type of Silone and Saragat rather than Nenni. The Sindaco (Morelli, Commando, a Communist, in office since the liberation of the city) thought his party would win 20 seats.

3. All parties seem to have brought their big guns to Terni for the few days before the election - Nenni, Togliatti, Gingoland, Pacciardi and Brosio. Romita was to speak on Saturday 24 March. The incident of 23 March when Brosio was shouted down seems to have been rather exaggerated by the Roman Press and by the parties. The Prefect and the Sindaco told us that, the Republican Party having fixed a meeting for 17.30 hours at which Pacciardi would speak, the Liberals made the mistake of fixing one for 17.00 hours. Brosio thus naturally found that he was before a largely Republican audience and as he spoke somewhat lengthily, he was in due course interrupted by those impatiently waiting for Pacciardi.

4. Romita refused to attend the Socialist meeting on 24 March as a protest against the treatment of his colleague Brosio and his place was taken by Silone who delivered quite a temperate and reasonable address. He was heard with patience but not with any passionate interest. The crowd was large but not particularly attentive and there was a good deal of moving about. Communist leaflets were showered down at intervals from the windows of the damaged part of the Municipio.

5. Throughout the Commune the manifesti of the Communists were very numerous and conspicuous, those of the Socialists rather less so, those of the Republicans were rare and hardly any were to be seen of the Demo-Christians and the Democratic Concentration. In one small village part of the Commune - Papigno - there was nothing but Communist manifesti and every man, woman and child in the street wore a red flower.

6. Relevant figures for Terni are as follows:

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785021

TO : Director

I - T E R N I

1. This provincial capital of about 80,000 people is an industrial town dependent largely on (a) the armour-plate cannon and heavy steel foundries of the Societa' Terni (b) the calcium carbide works and (c) the hydro-electric generating stations. It suffered heavy air bombardments. About 50% of the town is destroyed, the Prefettura and the Municipio being among the buildings heavily damaged. Reconstruction is only now beginning to any appreciable extent. The industrial works however were hardly touched. The principal generating station and the adjoining carbide works were put out of action by the retreating Germans. Although the steel foundries do not now do much business, the electricity station has been restored - largely by the skill of its own workpeople - and unemployment is not exceptionally high.

2. In these circumstances the town is leftist in trend. The Prefect thought that victory lay between the Socialist and Communist parties. The Socialists of Terni are moderates of the type of Silone and Saragat rather than Nenni. The Sindaco (Morelli, Communist, a Communist, in office since the liberation of the city) thought his party would win 20 seats.

3. All parties seem to have brought their big guns to Terni for the few days before the election - Nenni, Togliatti, Gingolani, Pacciardi and Brosio. Romita was to speak on Saturday 24 March. The incident of 23 March when Brosio was shouted down seems to have been rather exaggerated by the Roman Press and by the parties. The Prefect and the Sindaco told us that, the Republican Party having fixed a meeting for 17.30 hours at which Pacciardi would speak, the Liberals made the mistake of fixing one for 17.00 hours. Brosio thus naturally found that he was before a largely Republican audience and as he spoke somewhat lengthily, he was in due course interrupted by those impatiently waiting for Pacciardi.

4. Romita refused to attend the Socialist meeting on 24 March as a protest against the treatment of his colleague Brosio and his place was taken by Silone who delivered quite a temperate and reasonable address. He was heard with patience but not with any passionate interest. The crowd was large but not particularly attentive and there was a good deal of moving about. Communist leaflets were showered down at intervals from the windows of the damaged part of the Municipio.

5. Throughout the Comune the manifesti of the Communists were very numerous and conspicuous, those of the Socialists rather less so, those of the Republicans were rare and hardly any were to be seen of the Demo-Christians and the Democratic Concentration. In one small village part of the Comune - Papigno - there was nothing but Communist manifesti and every man, woman and child in the street wore a red flower.

6. Relevant figures for Terni are as follows:

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1936 population			68,890
Present estimate of population			75,000
Registered electors	M. 23,979		
	F. 25,701	Total	49,680
Excluded for Fascism +	M. 31		
	F. 2	Total	33
Excluded for crime +	M. 699		
	F. 191	Total	890
Number of sections 39; in delegations 20		Total	59
Number of Councillors to be elected			40

+ particulars of these are annexed.

7. For the lists presented see the copy of the official manifesto annexed. The constesting parties were:

Communist	with the symbol of hammer and sickle, star and wheat-ears.
Republican	with the symbol of the ivy leaf.
Demo-Christian	with the symbol of crossed shield.
Democratic Concentration (i.e. Liberals, Labour, Democrates, Qualunquisti and Independents)	with the symbol of the national flag and wheat-ears.
Socialist	with the symbol of the hammer and sickle and book.

The Socialists put up 2 women, the other parties 1 each. All lists contain the maximum number of candidates permissible - 40. In Terni proportional representation applies.

8. The Province of Terni was carved out of Perugia Province in 1928; at the same time the Commune was much enlarged in area by the inclusion of 7 neighbouring rural Communes. These are now worked as "delegations", i.e. they do not have any autonomy but are served by sub-offices of the Municipio. None have been constituted separate election districts.

9. The lists seem to have been properly prepared in all particulars. The head of the Communal Electoral Office was formerly a minor official of the Ministry of the Interior. He seems competent and rather above the usual type. The electoral certificates had all been got out in good time. Some 4,000 had been returned undelivered. This was stated to be due to the number of people who changed their address owing to bombardments but without notifying the Municipio. In these circumstances the number is not excessive. We visited the offices where electoral certificates were being delivered personally on demand, one for men and one for women, the one for women staffed entirely by women clerks. There was a steady influx of applicants to both. Business was done smoothly and efficiently and applicants got their certificates promptly.

10. On Sunday my Inspector-General Dr. Pavone and I toured the Commune in company with the Sindaco. They went into several of the sections in the town itself and also into a number on the Rieti road - Papigno, Le Marmore and Piediluco. I gathered the individual presidents of the sections seem to have organised the business very well and voting was done expeditously and efficiently. Various systems of dividing up the responsibility among the other officials of the section had been adopted by individual presidents, all of them quite sound. The Inspector-General took the opportunity to correct one or two minor misapprehensions as to procedures to be followed. Everything was perfectly normal, save in one of the country sections where there was a good deal of shouting. This, it seems, was due to slackness of the officials in stamping and preparing the ballot papers, whereby they did not open

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 778021

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11. In the Communes in general there were no particular crowds or excitement except for the innumerable posters on the walls. Nobody passing through the town would have known there was an election on or would have been able to distinguish the occasion from any other Sund[illegible] CCRR, Agenti di P.S. and Vig[illegible] di Fuoco were

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in evidence, 4 or 5 at every section and the Major of the CCRR was moving about the town. They had nothing to do but to control the queue at each section.

II - N A R N I

12. This is an ancient town of some 19,300 inhabitants about 7 miles southwest from Terni on the Via Flaminia, perched on a cliff which controls the passage of both the River Nera and the Via Flaminia. It is of considerable area with several fractions and though a slight majority of its inhabitants are employed in the industrial establishments of the river valley, a large number of them are agriculturists.

13. Relevant figures for Narni are as follows:

1936 census of population			17,660
Estimated present population			19,300
Registered electors	M. 6,209		
	F. 6.176	Total	12,385
Number of sections: 4 in the centre, 10 in the fractions			Total 14.
Number of Councillors to be elected			30

14. The lists seem to have been in order. The number of exclusions for common crimes were about 250. Two had been excluded for fascism - a Vice-Segretario Federale of Terni and an Ispettore di Zona. Only 200 electoral certificates had been returned undelivered. A few electors had refused to accept delivery of their certificates in spite of the fact that it had been carefully explained to them that there was nothing to pay!

15. The section had been sited, No.1 in the Municipio, another in a private house and the remaining 12 in schools. Eight of the presidents were magistrates, The other 6 were public officials, a school master and a retired CCRR officer. For some reason their names and qualifications had not been communicated to the Segretario Comunale and he was waiting for them to rpesent themselves personally on Saturday evening.

16. For the lists presented see the copy of the official manifesto annexed. The contesting parties were:

Demo-Christian	with the symbol of the crossed shield
Republican	" " " " " ivy-leaf
Socialist and Communist	" " " " " hammer and sickle

All lists have at least are woman candidate and all contain the maximum number of candidates permitted - 24. In Narni the majority system applies.

17. The Segretario Comunale thought that victory lay between the Republican and the Socialist-Communist lists; the Republican Party, he said, was very strong in Narni. The present Sindaco - Robusti,Roberto, a Socialist who had been in office since the liberation - was not a candidate owing to an internal dispute within his party over personalities.

18. The town was well plastered with manifestoes. In this instance those of the Demo-Christians and Republicans were at least as prominent as those of the Socialists and Communists. Both the Sindaco and the Segretario Comunale confirmed that much interest had been displayed at a number of election meetings. Both

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785021

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19. We visited Narni again in the afternoon of election day and saw four sections in the town and one in a fraction - Vigne. My Inspector-General tells me that by the middle of the afternoon over 80% of the electors had already voted and the sections were pratically empty except for the officials. The procedure prescribed by law was being properly followed.

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III - C O N C L U S I O N S

20. My general conclusions from my visit to these two towns are that, as on previous Sundays in other places, public order was unexceptionable, the public showed considerable interest, their behaviour was moderate and controlled, the officials knew their job and the election was on the whole properly conducted.

21. If received in good time the results in both communes will be given in the Appendix.

C.G.R. WILLIAMS
Major
Executive Officer
Local Government Sub Commission

CGRW/mm

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 788021

in the Appendix.

C.C.R. WILLIAMS
Major
Executive Officer
Local Government Sub Commission

CCRW/mm

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 78 S021

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APPENDIX

Provisional Election Results in Terni and Narni.

TERNI

Total votes cast	38,829	= 78%
Communists	16,692 votes	= 18 seats
Socialists	8,041 "	= 8 "
Dems-Christians	6,988 "	= 7 "
Republicans	5,917 "	= 6 "
Democratic Concentration (i.e. Liberals/Labour-Democrats/Qualunquisti/ Independents)	1,191 "	= 1 "
	38,829 votes	40 seats

NARNI

Total votes cast	M. 5,403		
	P. 5,276	= 10,679	= 86%
Socialists/Communists			24 seats
Republicans			6 "
Dems/Christians			0 "
			30 seats

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785021

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 78502/

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUB COMMISSION

AC/45/45/3/LG.

Tel: 495

SUBJECT : Observation of Administrative Elections in Venezia Province on 24 March 1946.

28 March 1946

1. Accompanied by Dr. Gaetano MASTROBUONO, Inspector-General of the Ministry of the Interior I observed the administrative elections that took place in the Communes of Venice and Chioggia in the Province of Venezia. The day before the elections we visited the Prefettura and Municipio of Venice and discussed the general situation with the Prefect, the Questore, Captain of the Carabinieri, the Head of the Electoral Service of the Province, the Vice-Sindaco, Segretario Comunale and the Head of the Communal Electoral Service. The Prefect said that he expected no difficulty in the Commune of Venice, although the 243 polling places were not guarded by the police as well as he would want it . Fortunately many polling stations were grouped together in the same building, so that the guarding part was therefore less complicated. The Prefect said that, as some trouble was expected at Chioggia, a small Commune south of Venice where there were many unemployed , he had arranged to send as reinforcements some Army and Navy personnel to act as police guards.

2. The Prefect and Questore said that they had uncovered no threats or bribery to influence voters.

3. The Vice-Sindaco at the Municipio pointed out that polling meetings held up till now had been calm . All the electoral material had been distributed.

4. Venice The significant electoral data concerning this commune were as follows :-

Population according to 1936 census		269,699
Present estimated population		300,542
Registered voters		184,517
Male	86,147	
Female	98,370	
Excluded from lists :		
Penal		
Welfare wards		1,483
Ex-fascist officials		1,265
Councilmen to be elected		59
Lists presented		60
(Communist ; Democratic Concentration ; Demo-Christian ; Liberal ; Republican ; Socialist).		6

5. On Sunday 24 March, the day of the election, the Inspector-General Mastrobuono and I toured the town, by means of a motoscafo put at our disposal by the Prefect. There was no display of bunting or flags on the various boats of all descriptions that passed along the canals and the only party symbols which we observed in profusion stencilled along the walls of the Grand Canal were those of the Communist party. I observed one large boat with Communist flags which was carting some potential voters to the polls. This was not usual ; the overwhelming majority came by their own means of transport and lined up in orderly fashion outside the polling stations. Everything was orderly and dignified. The general atmosphere could be typified by the enquiry made of me as I was walking on the bridge over a small canal, on each side of which was a polling station. A civilian, a young American, stopped me and pointing to the persons lined up in front of one of the polling stations asked me if the Mass was over. I had to explain to him that this was not a church but a polling station and that the people were lined up waiting their turn to vote.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 778502

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6. Most of the polling stations had 4 voting booths each so that voting proceeded at a rapid pace. Representatives of the parties presenting lists were present in the polling stations pursuant to provisions of the electoral law which permits such representation in towns using the proportional representation system. Many of the representatives wore some symbol indicating the party affiliation.

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7. The polling stations were all open, ready for business, at 8.00 a.m., preliminary operations having begun at 6,00 a.m. There was one exception:we found out that at Section No. 35 where one of the scrutinisers failed to turn up the President of the Section designated an elector to substitute the absentee and polling in that section began at 9,30 a.m. In the poorer quarters of the Commune from 50 to 60% of the voters had cast their ballots by noon. When we returned at 6.00 p.m. after a short visit to Chioggia, we observed that voting was still continuous but light. In some sections up to 90% of the electors had cast their ballot. All the Presidents of the polling stations and other people stated that very little difficulty was experienced by the voters in understanding the ballot. The counting of the votes did not begin until Monday, 25 March, the ballot boxes having been sealed and placed under guard during the night in each polling section. The Inspector-General Mastrobuono asked the Prefect whether it was not advisable to increase the guards. In one school we had 8 Sections but only 4 guards. However no disorder or incident was reported or any breaking in of the polling places. To this moment the results available in 246 sections out of 248 are as follows :

Party list	Votes cast	Seats won
Christian Democrats	54,789	20-21
Communists	40,544	17
Socialists	36,400	15-16
Republican Concentration (Actionists, Republicans, etc.)	7,458	3
Democratic Concentration (Liberals, U.D.)	6,881	3
Liberals	2,242	1
Total	148,314	60

8. Chioggia Inspecto-General Mastrobuono and I paid a quick visit to the Commune of Chioggia south of Venice. This town which in 1936 had a population of 40,000 is principally a fishing village , but it is also important as an agricultural centre. There is great unemployment in the town . It was expected that the Communists would prevail. The trouble that was anticipated never took place and all was quiet and orderly. The captain of the Carabinieri to whom we spoke said that, so far as he knew, no money had been paid, nor other illegal means of influencing voting had been indulged in.

9. The proportional representation system was used in the town since it had over 50,000 people. Seven party lists were presented on the ballot :- Demo-Christian; Communist ; Socialist ; Action ; Liberal ; Veterans ; Independent. The results in the town confirm what had been anticipated :-

Party list	Votes cast	Seats won
Communists	10,895	22
Christian Democrats	4,567	12
Socialists	1,813	4
Independents		2
		40

10. As a final observation on the elections both in Venice and in Chioggia it may be stated that no ballot boxes were found floating in the canals (remember the election in New York when Hirst ran for governor and ballot boxes were found floating in the Hudson river), nor were any bodies found floating.

11. Pertinent electoral material is attached hereto.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 748021

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9. The proportional representation system was used in the town since it had over 30,000 people. Seven party lists were presented on the ballot :- Demo-Christian; Communist ; Socialist ; Action ; Liberal ; Veterans ; Independent. The results in the town confirm what had been anticipated :-

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11. Pertinent electoral material is attached hereto.

RRT/ww

R. R. Temple

RALPH R. TEMPLE
Major
Director
Local Government Sub Commission

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785021

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUB COMMISSION

/45/45/3/LG. Tel: 478190

SUBJECT : Observation of Local Elections held on 24 March 1946 at Albano and Velletri (Province of Rome). 28 March 1946

TO : The Director of Local Government Sub Commission.

1. Accompanied by Dott. Giulio Cesare RIZZA, Inspector-General of the Ministry of the Interior I paid a visit to the Prefect of Rome the day before the elections. Conversations were held with him, with Dott. Giovenco, Head of the Provincial Electoral Service and the Chief of the Cabinet of the Prefect.

2. The Prefect reviewed the situation of the Province and concluded that no trouble was anticipated. He stated also that the electoral certificates and other voting materials had been delivered to the Communes and that all precautionary measures had been taken to maintain order.

3. Dott. Giovenco mentioned to us that he had been to Albano a few days before to investigate about complaints made by people who were left out of the electoral lists. He said that the number of these amounted to 400. The result of his enquiry was that as the Central Registry of Albano was destroyed through enemy action and many people born and residing at Albano during the war had left without sending any notification as to their present address, it was almost impossible for the Sindaco to prepare a complete list.

4. The Sindaco had nevertheless notified the population to check with the list which was at the Municipio and apply for the inclusion of their names if they were omitted. Dott. Rizza had an opportunity to make an enquiry himself on the day of the elections and found that the statement made by Dott. Giovenco was correct.

5. On the day of elections, 24 March, accompanied by Dott. Giulio Cesare Rizza, Inspector-General of the Ministry of the Interior, I visited Albano and Velletri.

Albano has a population of	11,469
Registered	6,533
Male lists	3,385
Female lists	3,148
Councilmen to be elected	30

6. At Albano we met the Sindaco, the Secretary of the Commune, the Commissario of Public Safety and the Tenente of the Carabinieri. At the Municipio we saw some 200 people complaining that they had been left out of the electoral lists. Few of them expressed the desire to see Dott. Rizza. He spoke to them and they admitted that they had complained to the Sindaco only two days before the elections. He then replied that that was too late and consequently neither the Sindaco nor any other authority could add any names after the list had been finally approved by the electoral Commission.

7. There were 9 polling sections. They were located as follows ; four at the elementary school ; one at the municipio ; two at Palazzo Savelli ; two at Cecchina. Each section was presided by a magistrate or a judicial official. The "scrutatori" were equally divided among parties. Two ballots had been placed in each section.

8. Three lists were presented as follows : Christian Democrats and Republicans

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785021

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2. The Prefect reviewed the situation of the Province and concluded that no trouble was anticipated. He stated also that the electoral certificates and other voting materials had been delivered to the Communes and that all precautionary measures had been taken to maintain order.

3. Dott. Giovenco mentioned to us that he had been to Albano a few days before to investigate about complaints made by people who were left out of the electoral lists. He said that the number of these amounted to 400. The result of his enquiry was that as the Central Registry of Albano was destroyed through enemy action and many people born and residing at Albano during the war had left without sending any notification as to their present address, it was almost impossible for the Sindaco to prepare a complete list.

4. The Sindaco had nevertheless notified the population to check with the list which was at the Municipio and apply for the inclusion of their names if they were omitted. Dott. Rizza had an opportunity to make an enquiry himself on the day of the elections and found that the statement made by Dott. Giovenco was correct.

5. On the day of elections, 24 March, accompanied by Dott. Giulio Cesare Rizza, Inspector-General of the Ministry of the Interior, I visited Albano and Velletri.

Albano has a population of	11,469
Registered	6,533
Male lists	3,385
Female lists	3,148
Councilmen to be elected	30

6. At Albano we met the Sindaco, the Secretary of the Commune, the Commissario of Public Safety and the Tenente of the Carabinieri. At the Municipio we saw some 200 people complainig that they had been left out of the electoral lists. Few of them expressed the desire to see Dott. Rizza. He spoke to them and they admitted that they had complained to the Sindaco only two days before the elections. He then replied that that was too late and consequently neither the Sindaco nor any other authority could add any names after the list had been finally approved by the electoral Commission.

7. There were 9 polling sections. They were located as follows ; four at the elementary school ; one at the municipio ; two at Palazzo Savelli ; two at Cecchina. Each section was presided by a magistrate or a judicial official. The"scrutatori" were equally divided among parties. Two ballots had been placed in each section.

8. Three lists were presented as follows : Christian Democrats and Republicans with the symbol of the cross on a shield and the ivy leaf ; Socialists with the symbol of the hammer/sickle and the star on the book.

People were calmly waiting outside the polling stations their turn to vote. No disturbances took place.

Results : 24 seats won by the Christian Democrats and Republicans ;
6 seats won by the Communists.

Percentage of voters : 90%.

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 78 5021

9. VELLETRI

Velletri is the most populated town of the so called "Castelli Romani." It has been badly damaged during the war.

It has a population of	30,164
Registered	18,460
Male list	8,838
Female list	9,562
Councilmen to be elected	40

Here the system of proportional representation applies.

Ten persons have been excluded for fascist crimes from the electoral list by the Provincial Epuration Committee.

10. At Velletri we met the Commissario Prefettizio, the Secretary of the Commune, the Vice Questore and the Captain of the Carabinieri. They said that each party was able to hold its pre-electoral meetings and that no complaints were received about the compilation of the electoral lists. No trouble was anticipated.

There were 24 polling stations, of which 12 in town and 12 in the country.

11. All polling stations were located in school buildings.

12. The Presidents of 21 polling stations were either magistrate or judicial officials. Two polling stations were presided by representatives of the Ministry of Public Instruction and one by a lawyer.

The "scrutatori" were equally divided among the parties.

Two cabins were placed in each polling station.

13. Six lists were presented as follows:

Christian Democrats with the symbol of the cross on the shield (they presented 40 candidates);

Communists with the symbol of the Sickle-Hammer and the star (they presented 40 candidates);

Republicans with the symbol of the spade surmounted by ivy (they presented 40 candidates);

Socialists with the symbol of Sickle-Hammer and the book (they presented 16 candidated);

Democratic Labourists with the symbol of three entwined stalks of wheat; (they presented 40 candidates.)

Actionists with the symbol of the sword enclosed in flames. (They presented 12 candidates.)

14. Order was perfect before, during and after the elections.

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Male list 8,838

Female list 9,562

Councilmen to be elected 40

Here the system of proportional representation applies.

Ten persons have been excluded for fascist crimes from the electoral list by the Provincial Epuration Committee.

10. At Velletri we met the Commissario Prefettizio, the Secretary of the Commune, the Vice Questore and the Captain of the Carabinieri. They said that each party was able to hold its pre-electoral meetings and that no complaints were received about the compilation of the electoral lists. No trouble was anticipated.

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Democratic Labourists with the symbol of three entwined stalks of wheat; (they presented 40 candidates.)

Actionists with the symbol of the sword enclosed in flames. (They presented 12 candidates.)

14. Order was perfect before, during, and after the elections.

15. Results: 21 seats won by the Republicans;

8 seats won by the Christian Democrats;

7 seats won by the Communists;

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3 seats won by the Democratic Labourites

1 seat won by the Socialists

1 seat won by the Action Party

Percentage of voters 80%.

Exhibits are attached.

J. V. VELLA
Captain
Asst Executive Officer
Local Government Sub Commission

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 78 5021

Exhibits are attached.

J. V. VELLA
Captain
Asst Executive Officer
Local Government Sub Commission

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 78 5021

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUB COMMISSION

AC/45/48/LG.

Tel: 314

SUBJECT : Observation of Communal Elections on 24 March in Latina Province - Communes of Cisterna, Cori and Sezze.

27 March 1946

TO : The Director of Loc. Gvt. A/C.

1. Accompanied by Dr. Tommaso PAVONI, Inspector-General of the Ministry of the Interior I made the following visits :-
25 March - Latina Prefecture and preliminary enquiries at Cisterna and Cori ;
24 March - Observation of electoral operations at Sezze and Cori ;
25 March - I visited Cisterna and Cori during the counting of the votes.
In all three Communes we conferred with the Sindaco or Commissario Prefettizio, Segretario Comunale, Maresciallo of C.C.R.R. and the Commissario di P.S. and also some of the Presidents of the Sections, Secretaries of local political parties, etc. At Latina Prefecture we interviewed the Prefect and his chief officials (including the Vice-President directing the electoral office) and the provincial chiefs of the Police.

2. Cisterna stands on the Via Appia about 8 miles south of Velletri and is one of the most heavily war-damaged communes. Its population is down from about 60,000 to 10,000. The other two communes are mountain towns of the usual type on the edge of the Pontine Marshes. The main interest is cattle farming.

3. The Prefect expected the mountain communes to go left on the ground that they looked to the left to get back for themselves their right of pasturing cattle on the lowlands, which they lost when the Pontine Marshes were reclaimed. Calling the Sindaco (Communist) was certainly a victory for the Socialist-Communist list. At Sezze, however, as the two parties had quarrelled and put up separate lists because the Socialists insisted on the inclusion of one or two candidates thought to be tainted with fascism, the Demo-Christians expected to win by reason of the split vote. At Cisterna the local officials expected at demo-christian majority, though that party had also laid itself open to criticism by including a candidate supposed to be tainted with fascism. There is also a strong republican party club of long standing in Cisterna which was putting up its own list.

4. State of the Electoral Lists. No particular difficulty was discovered. Both Cisterna and Sezze had a fascist Ispettore federale excluded from voting by sentence of the Provincial Commission. The number excluded for ordinary crimes was not excessive. All communes expected a considerable number of of electoral certificates to be applied for personally on the day of voting. At Sezze there was quite a queue for them. Cisterna with 6,257 electors had only issued 2,300 certificates, principally owing to the large number of electors who were refugees. The communal secretary actually went out personally to the D.P. Camp at Sabaudia to issue certificates there.

5. Preliminary operations. These all seem to have been done to time when the polls opened on the stroke of 08.00 hours. All communes had done very well in fitting up sections (I was able to see something of them on the day before the election), especially at Cisterna and invariably in section No. 1(where the final count takes place) was at the Municipio.

6. Propaganda In all the communes the competing parties were having final meetings on Saturday evening, with a great display of banners, slogans and beflagged [illegible]

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 78 5021

1. Accompanied by Dr. Torrisi PACINI, Inspector-General of the Ministry of the Interior I made the following visits :-

23 March - Latina Prefecture and preliminary enquiries at Cisterna and Cori ;
24 March - Observation of electoral operations at Sezze and Cori ;
25 March - I visited Cisterna and Cori during the counting of the votes.

In all these Communes we conferred with the Sindaco or Commissario Prefettizio, Segretario Comunale, Maresciallo of C.C.R.R. and the Commissario di P.S. and also some of the Presidents of the Sections, Secretaries of local political parties, etc. At Latina Prefecture we interviewed the Prefect and his chief officials (including the Vice-President directing the electoral office) and the provincial chiefs of the Police.

2. Cisterna stands on the Via Appia about 8 miles south of Velletri and is one of the most heavily war-damaged communes. Its population is down from about 60,000 to 10,000. The other two communes are mountain towns of the usual type on the edge of the Pontine Marshes. The main interest is cattle farming.

3. The Prefect expected the mountain communes to go left on the ground that they looked to the left to get back for themselves their right of pasturing cattle on the lowlands, which they lost when the Pontine Marshes were reclaimed. Calling the Sindaco (Communist) was certainly a victory for the Socialist-Communist list. At Sezze, however, as the two parties had quarrelled and put up separate lists because the Socialists insisted on the inclusion of one or two candidates thought to be tainted with fascism, the Demo-Christians expected to win by reason of the split vote. At Cisterna the local officials expected a demo-christian majority, though that party had also laid itself open to criticism by including a candidate supposed to be tainted with fascism. There is also a strong republican party club of long standing in Cisterna which was putting up its own list.

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5. Preliminary operations. These all seem to have been done to time when the polls opened on the stroke of 06.00 hours. All communes had done very well in fitting up sections (I was able to see something of them on the day before the election), especially at Cisterna and invariably in section No. 1(where the final count takes place) was at the Municipio.

6. Propaganda In all the communes the competing parties were having final meetings on Saturday evening,with a great display of banners, slogans and beflagged trucks bringing people into town for them. The law forbidding electoral propaganda on the actual electoral day seemed to be properly observed. Lorries bringing voters to the polls were in evidence everywhere, mostly flying the national and the red flags, except at Sezze where all the trucks I saw bore demo-christian manifestoes. There was

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no incident of any kind except one of an encouraging nature at Cori. On Saturday evening while the demo-christian meeting was being addressed by Cingolani, the latter was greeted towards the end of the speech by a certain amount of whistling. Thereupon the local Communist and Socialist leaders stood up and publicly apologized for the disturbances which were caused by some of their followers. Cingolani and his escort then drove off among the cheers of the population.

7. Public order and attitude of the population. The police were well in evidence, mostly the C.C.R.R., all carrying tommy-guns, two or three at every section and also the police had been drafted in. They had nothing at all to do. The C.C.R.R. captain drove from commune to commune inspecting the electoral sections.

The political meetings on the evening before election day were well attended and perfectly ordinary. Election day was like any other Sunday - neither great excitement nor indifference. The voters stood in queues at the door of every section patiently and obeyed the directions of the C.C.R.R. promptly and without question. On the day after the election there was a large crowd waiting outside the Municipio awaiting the result. The people then displayed more interest than on the day before, disputing and arguing quite excitedly among themselves, but all in quite natural manner. At Cisterna on this day my hitherto successful efforts at being inconspicuous quite broke down. There were loud cheers, much handclapping and shouts of "Viva l'Inghilterra" on my going into and coming out of the Municipio. An alley was formed to the car and we departed in a roar of good will.

8. All the officials appeared to be regularly appointed, some of the "scrutator were women, one or two did not turn up and had to be substituted at the last minute. Cisterna's president of the 3rd Section died in his place a few minutes after 06.00 hou when he was about to commence operations and a substitute was promptly found for him in accordance with the law.

9. Counting of the votes The recent alterations in the polling hours whereby electoral sections were to open at 06.00 hours and polling to begin at 08.00 hours and to continue till 22.00 hours have had the result that no attempt was made to begin the scrutiny that evening, considering that it takes almost the whole of the next day to get the results. With the majority system, however, the results in one or two sections became practically apparent by certain indications. I gathered that practically everyone had voted a straight ticket and the number of spoilt ballot papers was surprisingly low.

10. Figures are given in the Appendix and copies of the official notices giving lists of the candidates are annexed.

C.G.R. WILLIAMS
Major
Executive Officer
Local Government Sub Commission

CGR/aw

Encl: as above.

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785021

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CGW

C.G.R. WILLIAMS
Major
Executive Officer
Local Government Sub Commission

CGRW/mw

Encl: as above.

1283

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785021

99B

APPENDIX

C I S T E R N A

Population (1936 census) 12,471
(Note:- Owing to war damage, present population estimated at 10,700)
No. of registered electors :-
Male:- 3,273 + Female:- 2,984 = 6,257

No. of Sections :- 6
Lists presented :
Socialist/Communist/Action 24 candidates
Demo-Christian/Labour-Dem. 24 "
Republicans 24 "

Total votes cast :- Male:- 2,046 + Female:- 1,708 = 3,754 (60%)

Results :-
Republican 24 seats
D.-C/D-L. 6 "
30 "

C O R I

Population (1936 census) 9,289
No. of registered voters :- Male:- 2,768 + Female:- 2,786 = 5,554

No. of Sections :- 7

Lists presented :
Socialist/Communist 16 candidates
D-C/D-L/Republican 16 candidates

Total votes cast :- Male:- 2,362 + Female:- 2,388 = 4,750 (85%)

Results :-
Socialist/Communist 16 seats
D-C/D-L/Republican 4 "
20 "

S E Z Z E

Population (1936 census)

No. of registered electors :- Male:- 4,365 + Female:- 4,404 = 8,769

No. of Sections :- 10

Lists presented
Communist/Republican 24 candidates
Socialist 24 candidates
D-C/D-L/U.Q./Reduci 24 candidates 1288

Total votes cast :- Male:- 3,292 + Female:- 3,956 = 7,248 (82%)

Results :-
Socialists 24 seats
Communist/Republican 6 "
D-C, etc. 0
30

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785021

No. of Sections :- 6
Lists presented :

Socialist/Communist/Action — 24 candidates
Dems-Christian/Labour-Dem. — 24 "
Republicans — 24 "

Total votes cast :-

Male:- 2,046 + Female:- 1,703 = 3,754 (60%)

Results :-

Republican — 24 seats
D.-C/D-L. — 6 "
30 "

C O R I

Population (1936 census) 9,289
No. of registered voters :- Male:- 2,768 + Female:- 2,786 = 5,554

No. of Sections :- 7

Lists presented :

Socialist/Communist — 16 candidates
D-C/D-L/Republican — 16 candidates

Total votes cast :-

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Results :-

Socialist/Communist — 16 seats
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Total votes cast :-

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Results :-

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Communist/Republican — 6 "
D-C, etc. — 0
30

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785021

45/48 98

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED C[illegible] ISSION
APO 394
LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUB COMMISSION

AG/45/45/1/LG. Tel: 478190

SUBJECT : Observation on Local Elections held on 10 March at Marcellinara and Tiriolo (Province of Catanzaro). 15 March 1946

TO : The Director of Local Government Sub Commission.

Accompanied by Dott. Giulio Cesare Rizza, Inspector-General of the Ministry of the Interior, I visited two communes in the Province of Catanzaro, one of the three provinces in the South participating in the 10 March elections. Visits were made the day before and conversations were held with the Prefect of Catanzaro, Dott. Solimena, the Head of the Provincial Electoral Service, the Chief of the Cabinet of the Prefect and the Questore.

The Prefect complained about the small number of carabinieri at his disposal although he had previously asked the Ministry of the Interior for reinforcements. With the purpose of avoiding trouble on the day of the elections, he himself had visited all the communes and asked the leaders of the different parties to sign a statement that order would be kept. He mentioned that the election in the communes of Badolato and Cardinale had to be postponed owing to some incidents which occurred during the pre-electoral meetings. An inquiry had been ordered and a questore from the Ministry of the Interior had arrived for that purpose. The electoral certificates and other voting material had been delivered in time.

He concluded his review of the Province by saying that every precaution had been taken to preserve order.

On the 10th of March I visited the Commune of Marcellinara, a rural commune between Cosenza and Catanzaro. Marcellinara has a population of 1,958.

Registered	1,144
Male list	534
Female list	610
Councilmen to be elected	15

There were two electoral sections located in school buildings with a single entrance for men and women. Each section was presided by a magistrate. Two cabins had been placed in each section. The "scrutatori" at each polling station were equally divided among the parties. Two lists were presented, one by the Christian-Democrats with the symbol of the cross on a shield and one by the Communists - Socialists - Republicans and Independents with the symbol of the star . The polling stations opened at 8 a.m. At Marcellinara we met the Maresciallo of the Carabinieri who said that he was not anticipating any disorder. He complained about the cunning propaganda used by the leftists the day before the elections with the purpose of deceiving the population. The leftists had stated that those who voted for the star, were voting for the Americans (Of this I submitted a separate report). The voting was calm and no incident took place.

Results :- 3 seats won by the Communists
3 seats won by the Socialists
3 seats won by the Republicans
3 seats won by the Independents
3 seats won by the Christian-Democrats.

We left Marcellinara at 9.30 a.m. and we arrived at Tiriolo at 10 a.m. 1267

Tiriolo

Tiriolo has a population of 4,832

Registered	2,786
Male list	1,971
Femle list	1,515

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785021

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Tiriolo has a population of 4,832

Registered	2,736
Male list	1,971
Female list	1,515
Councilmen to be elected	20

There were three Electoral Sections, all of them in suitable buildings with a single entrance for men and women. The Presidents of the polling station included one magistrate and two judicial officials. The "scrutatori" were equally divided among the parties. Two cabins had been placed in each section.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 78 5021

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Three lists were presented as follows :- Christian-Democrats with the symbol of the cross on the shield ; Communists with the symbol of the hammer-sickle and the star ; Socialists, Republicans, Actionists and Independents with the symbol of the olive branch with leaves. Polling stations opened at 8 a.m. The voting was calm and no incident took place.

Results :- 16 seats won by the Socialists, Republicans, Actionists ;
4 seats won by the Communists.
No seat was won by the Christian-Democrats.

J. V. VILLA
Captain
Asst. Executive Officer
Local Government Sub Commission

JVV/ww

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 778502/

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUB COMMISSION

AC/45/48/LG.

Tel: 314

SUBJECT : Observations of Communal Elections on 24 March in Latina Province - Communes of Cisterna, Cori and Sezze.

27 March 1946

TO : The Director of Loc. Gvt. S/C.

1. Accompanied by Dr. Tommaso PAVONE, Inspector-General of the Ministry of the Interior I made the following visits :-
23 March - Latina Prefecture and preliminary enquiries at Cisterna and Cori ;
24 March - Observation of electoral operations at Sezze and Cori ;
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In all three Communes we conferred with the Sindaco or Commissario Prefettizio, Segretario Comunale, Maresciallo of C.C.R.R. and the Commissario di P.S. and also some of the Presidents of the Sections, Secretaries of local political parties, etc. At Latina Prefecture we interviewed the Prefect and his chief officials (including the Vice-Prefect directing the electoral office) and the provincial chiefs of the Police.

2. Cisterna stands on the Via Appia about 8 miles south of Velletri and is one of the most heavily war-damaged communes. Its population is down from about 13,000 to 10,000. The other two communes are mountain towns of the usual type on the edge of the Pontine Marshes. The main interest is cattle farming.

3. The Prefect expected the mountain communes to go left on the ground that they looked to the left to get back for themselves their right of pasturing cattle on the lowlands, which they lost when the Pontine Marshes were reclaimed. At Cori the Sindaco (Communist) was certain of a victory for the Socialist-Communist list. At Sezze, however, as the two left parties had quarrelled and put up separate lists because the Socialists insisted on the inclusion of one or two candidates thought to be tainted with Fascism, the Demo-Christians expected to win by reason of the split vote. At Cisterna the local officials expected a Demo-Christian majority, though that party had also laid itself open to criticism by including candidates supposed to be tainted with Fascism. There is also a strong Republican Party club of long standing in Cisterna which was putting up its own list.

4. State of the Electoral Lists. No particular difficulty was discovered. Both Cisterna and Sezze had a fascist Ispettore-Federale excluded from voting by sentence of the Provincial Commission. The number excluded for ordinary crimes was not excessive. All communes expected a considerable number of electoral certificates to be applied for personally on the day of voting. At Sezze there was quite a queue for them. Cisterna with 6,257 electors had only issued 2,500 certificates, principally owing to the large number of electors who were refugees. The Communal Secretary actually went out personally to the D.P. Camp at Sabaudia to issue certificates there.

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1283

6. Propaganda. In all the communes the competing parties were having final meetings on Saturday evening. With a great display of banners, slogans and bellowing

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 78 5021

1. Accompanied by Dr. Tommaso PAVONE, Inspector-General of the Ministry of the Interior I made the following visits :-

23 March - Latina Prefecture and preliminary enquiries at Cisterna and Cori ;
24 March - Observation of electoral operations at Sezze and Cori ;
25 March - I visited Cisterna and Cori during the counting of the votes.

In all three Communes we conferred with the Sindaco or Commissario Prefettizio, Segretario Comunale, Maresciallo of C.C.R.R. and the Commissario di P.S. and also some of the Presidents of the Sections, Secretaries of local political parties, etc. At Latina Prefecture we interviewed the Prefect and his chief officials (including the Vice-Prefect directing the electoral office) and the provincial chiefs of the Police.

2. Cisterna stands on the Via Appia about 8 miles south of Velletri and is one of the most heavily war-damaged communes. Its population is down from about 13,000 to 10,000. The other two communes are mountain towns of the usual type on the edge of the Pontine Marshes. The main interest is cattle farming.

3. The Prefect expected the mountain communes to go left on the ground that they looked to the left to get back for themselves their right of pasturing cattle on the lowlands, which they lost when the Pontine Marshes were reclaimed. At Cori the Sindaco (Communist) was certain of a victory for the Socialist-Communist list. At Sezze, however, as the two left parties had quarrelled and put up separate lists because the Socialists insisted on the inclusion of one or two candidates thought to be tainted with Fascism, the Demo-Christians expected to win by reason of the split vote. At Cisterna the local officials expected a Demo-Christian majority, though that party had also laid itself open to criticism by including candidates supposed to be tainted with Fascism. There is also a strong Republican Party club of long standing in Cisterna which was putting up its own list.

4. State of the Electoral Lists. No particular difficulty was discovered. Both Cisterna and Sezze had a fascist Ispettore-Federale excluded from voting by sentence of the Provincial Commission. The number excluded for ordinary crimes was not excessive. All communes expected a considerable number of electoral certificates to be applied for personally on the day of voting. At Sezze there was quite a queue for them. Cisterna with 6,257 electors had only issued 2,500 certificates, principally owing to the large number of electors who were refugees. The Communal Secretary actually went out personally to the D.P. Camp at Sabaudia to issue certificates there.

5. Preliminary operations. These all seem to have been done to time when the polls opened on the stroke of 08,00 hours. All the communes had done very well in fitting up sections (I was able to see something of them on the day before the elections), especially at Cisterna and invariably section No.1 (where the final count takes place) was at the Municipio. 1283

6. Propaganda. In all the communes the competing parties were having final meetings on Saturday evening, with a great display of banners, slogans and beflagged trucks bringing people into town for them. The law forbidding electoral propaganda on the actual election day seemed to be properly observed. Lorries bringing voters to the polls were in evidence everywhere, mostly flying the national and the red flags, except at Sezze where all the trucks I saw bore Demo-Christian manifestoes. There was no incident of any kind except one of an encouraging nature at Cori. On Saturday evening while the Demo-Christian meeting was being addressed by Cingolani, one of the

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national leaders of the party, he was greeted towards the end of his speech by a certain amount of whistling. Thereupon the local Communist and Socialist leaders stood up and publicly apologized for the disturbances. They then escorted Cingolani from the town among the cheers of the population.

7. Public order and attitude of the population. The police were well in evidence, mostly the CCRR, all carrying tommy-guns, two or three at every section. Extra police had been drafted in. They had nothing at all to do. The CCRR Captain drove from commune to commune inspecting the electoral proceedings.

The political meetings on the evening before election day were well attended and perfectly orderly. Election day was like any other Sunday - neither great excitement nor indifference. The voters stood in queues at the door of every section patiently and obeyed the directions of the CCRR promptly and without question. On the day after the election there were large crowds waiting outside the Municipios awaiting the result. The people then displayed more interest than on the day before, disputing and arguing quite excitedly among themselves, but all in quite a natural manner. At Ceri on this day my hitherto successful efforts at being inconspicuous quite broke down. There were loud cheers, much handclapping and shouts of "Viva l'Inghilterra" on my going into and coming out of the Municipio. An alley was formed for the car and we departed in a roar of good will.

8. All the officials appeared to be regularly appointed. Some of the "scrutatori" were women. One or two did not turn up and had to be substituted at the last minute. Cisterna's president of the 3rd Section died in his place a few minutes after 06.00 hours when he was about to commence operations and a substitute was promptly found for him in accordance with the law.

9. Counting of the votes. The recent alterations in the polling hours whereby electoral sections were to open at 06.00 hours and polling to begin at 08.00 hours and to continue till 22.00 hours have had the result that no attempt was made to begin the scrutiny that evening. It takes almost the whole of the next day to get the results. With the majority system, however, the results in one or two sections indicate with practical certainty the final result. I gathered that practically everyone had voted a straight ticket and the number of spoilt ballot papers was surprisingly low.

10. Figures are given in the Appendix and copies of the official notices giving lists of the candidates are annexed.

C.G.R. WILLIAMS
Major
Executive Officer
Local Government Sub Commission

CGRW/vm

1284

Encl: as above

Distribution :- 45/45/3
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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 78502

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Local Government Sub Commission

1284

CCRW/mw

Encl: as above

Distribution :- 45/45/3
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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785021

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AC/14/1/LG

SUBJECT: Memorandum of Visit to Electoral Office of Commune of Rome

DATE : 29 March 1946

PRESENT: Major C.G.R. Williams, Local Government Sub Commission
Capt. Pert, AMG, V.G.
Dr. MUNARI, Director of Rome Commune Electoral Office

Dr. Munari showed the party into a large room where extracts of the anagrafe were kept. Each person has a card (Male-white, Female-Red, Refugee-Pink) on which is kept a record of his name, present address, date and place of birth, added to this card later is the No. of the sectional list in which the person appers. The Male and Female cards are kept separately, in boxes which hold approx. 2000 cards.

From the above card index the "Elenco Preparatorio" is compiled in two copies. The first copy is sent to the Casellario Office for checking, and then returned to the Commune who then make any necessary notations on the duplicate copy. The Commune, on receipt of the corrected "Elenco Preparatotio", remove the cards of all those persons who are ineligible to vote.

The Electoral lists are then compiled from the revised card index. These lists are made in duplicate. One list is submitted to the Electoral Commission for review and the second list is held by the Commune authorities.

The electoral lists are then reviewed by the electoral Commission, the commune then make any corrections necessary to the duplicate copy.

From these latter lists the final sectional lists are compiled, each section having approximately 1000 names. These lists are male and female combined. The Sectional lists are made in three copies; one for the Electoral Commission, one for the commune and one for the President and scrutators of the section.

Dr. Murari then proceeded to show Major Williams and Capt. Pert some copies of the minutes of meetings of the Electoral Commission.

S. PERT
Captain
H.Q. A.M.G. 13 Corps

SP/mm

1283

AC/45/B/LG.

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SUBJECT : Note of interview - The Ministry of the Interior

DATE : 27 March 1946

PRESENT : Dott. STRANO , Head of the Electoral Service, Ministry of the Interior
Major Williams, Executive Officer Local Government Sub Commission
Capt. Pert, H.Q. A.M.G. 13 Corps
Mr. A. Nice, interpreting.

1. Major Williams explained the reason for the meeting, i.e. change of Electoral Rolls officer in Venezia Giulia. Capt. Pert having studied the draft general order to be published in Venezia Giulia had some points to raise, which Dr. Strano might be able to answer from practical experience already gained. The first question asked was in regard to the financial aspect of the Electoral Law. Dr. Strano explained that the Prefects had been authorized to spend such money as was necessary to complete the electoral lists in the specified time ; there is no limit to the amount spent as long as careful accounts were kept and there was no excessive waste of money. The State was prepared to reimburse communes to the full extent on the above regulations. Owing to the varied conditions in each area, Dr. Strano stated, it was impossible to lay down hard amfast rules.

2. The second question referred to refugees. After a lergthy discussion it was decided that the Sindaco was responsible for deciding whether a person was a refugee, or purely a person taking advantage of his peculiar position. To assist the Sindaco in his decision, he could refer to the Displaced Persons Section, to the local Committee of Assistance and to the local branch of the C.L.N., who are compiling lists of refugees. If the Sindaco is at all uncertain about a person, he should put the name on the list and let the Electoral Commission decide.

3. The third question asked by Capt. Pert also referred to refugees, but in this instance to persons who had left Venezia Giulia and were now resident in other parts of Italy. The difficulty is that these persons have probably chosen to vote in their present commune of temporary residence ; owing to postal difficulties, etc. the communes in Venezia Giulia have no knowledge of these persons, and so these people, if they chose, could vote twice. There were two ways of remedying this, the first suggested by Major Williams was that the Ministry of the Interior circularize all Prefects and ask them to notify the Ministry of all residents of Venezia Giulia who had selected to register in the place of their temporary residence. The Ministry could then pass this information on to the appropriate communes via AC Local Government S/C. The only objection to this was the colossal amount of work involved for such a few people. The second proposition suggested by Dr. Strano was as follows : each person (i.e. refugee or temporary resident) who claims a place on the Electoral Roll of a commune in Venezia Giulia, must produce a certificate from his commune of permanent residence, to say that he has not already voted, or that he is not on that commune's Electoral Roll. It was decided to adopt the second proposition as it was easier to manage and just as effective.

4. During the above conversation it was noted that anyone who applied to be placed on the Electoral rolls on the 2nd June 1946 or after would have to produce evidence that they had not already voted in any other part of Italy. 2 June 1946 is the date for the Political Elections.

5. Dr. Strano had suggested in his conversations with Lt. Etheridge that the State Printers might be able to assist in the printing of pro-formas for Venezia Giulia ; but on enquiring it was discovered that the printers could not handle large lettering in the Slovene language. All printing will

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 778502/

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S. PERT
Captain
H.Q. A.M.G. 13 Corps

SP/ww

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 778021

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785021

AD/45/12/10.

SUBJECT : Note of interview AD Hq

DATE : 8 March 1946

PRESENT : Dott. BENUSSI Silvio, temporarily Prefect of Bolzano
Major C.C.R. Williams, Executive Officer Local Government A/C.

1. Special Commission Dr. I. said the Government were going ahead with this and a Decree constituting a Special Commission would be published, he thought, before the end of March. His idea was a Commission of 15 of whom at least 5 would be German-speaking representatives such as a Minister of Religion, two Bishops, a Judge and so on.

2. Autonomy Dr.I. himself is working on a project of administrative autonomy. His great difficulty, he said, was to provide guarantees for a minority. Whatever were the boundaries of the new autonomy region there would be a minority. If the new region were Bolzano Province only there would be an Italian minority; if it were Bolzano and Trento Provinces combined there would be a German minority. (Note:- I rather think, from I's attitude, that the autonomous region will be Bolzano and Trento). In either case the problem is not so much one of writing guarantees into a Decree as of providing appropriate administrative institutions or procedures to ensure that the guarantees are observed.

3. Dr.I. reminded me of P.L.L. 22 December No.821 (A/C.U. 16 January 1946 No.13) providing for the use of German in Bolzano Province. One of his main jobs at present was working out details of this. He intended to see, for instance, that there was one at least bilingual official in every public office.

4. Preparation of Electoral Lists Dr. I. confirmed the position as disclosed in his report to the Ministry of the Interior of 8 February 1946 (for period 16 - 31 January 1946) i.e.
a) All Communes in Bolzano (97) have compiled their male and female lists;
b) None of the lists have been approved by Electoral Commissions ;
c) Electoral Commissions are dealing with the lists by : -
i) Examining the validity of the Sindaco's proceedings ; then
ii) Examining the entitlement to be registered of those whose Italian citizenship is clear ;
iii) Leaving cases of doubtful citizenship on one side at present.

5. Dr. I. said the Electoral Commissions would not proceed any further until the Special Commission had settled cases of doubtful citizenship. He confirmed therefore that there would be no communal elections in Bolzano Province this spring, neither would any of the electoral lists be ready in time for the anticipated date of the elections to the Constituent Assembly at the end of May.

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6. He did not think that these facts would produce any unfavourable reaction among the population. Among the German-speaking inhabitants, the pro-Austrian was more interested in the possibility of participating in an Austrian Parliament than in an Italian Constituent Assembly. As to the remaining allogeni, before the date of the Constituent Assembly elections the scheme of autonomy would have been published and the allogeni would be more interested in electing their own regional Assembly than in sending delegates (deputati) to the Costituente. This, he thought,

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would also be the attitude of the Italian-speaking population.

7. Dr. I. said he did not think it would be possible to publish the scheme of autonomy before the Special Commission got to work on the citizenship problem. He did not think the absence of an autonomy scheme would have any great influence upon those who may be called upon to exercise a fresh option for Austrian or Italian citizenship. He thought the D.L.L. (quoted above) as to the use of the German language had gone a good way to meet this point and indicated the intentions of the Italian Government.

8. Alto Atesini among German POWs Dr. I. referred to the number of natives of the Alto Adige who had served in the German Army, had been taken prisoner and were now held in POW camps in various parts of Italy. Many of these had written to the Prefecture and elsewhere to ask if they could be released and go home to their native places and the Italian Government were rather anxious about this. The problem is, of course, bound up with that of citizenship, but I gathered that the Italian Government did not object in principle to the release and return to their native places even of those who had opted under the German 1939 Accords, providing the Italian Government were sure after enquiries made by them that :-

a) the prisoners did in fact have a home and family in the Alto Adige ;
b) they had a reasonable prospect of supporting themselves there.

The question of their citizenship would be dealt with by the Special Commission in any event.

I pointed out that this problem was not within the competence of this H/Q and all I could do was to bring Dr. I.'s observations to the notice of my superior officers. Dr. I. said that on this matter there had been some correspondence between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Chief Commissioner last August. He thought it would be well if he mentioned the subject to Col. Miller. I said I thought there could be no objection to this and that Col. Miller as CLG Bolzano would no doubt communicate on the matter with this H/.

G.G.R. WILLIAMS
Major
Executive Officer
Local Government Sub Commission

GGRW/ww

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Note of Interview - Ministry of the Interior - Office of the Minister

Present : Minister ROMITA
Major TEMPLE, Director of Local Govt. S/C
Dgr. Arrigo Nico, interpreting

Date : 23 February 1946

1. I told Minister ROMITA that the purpose of my visit was to get his general reaction to a plan of observation on the trend of the forthcoming elections which the Allied Commission was considering and to ascertain what assistance could be given us in the matter. I explained that, since for the last two years we had assisted in and followed every step in the building up of the electoral machinery, this most democratic instrument which will give a voice to the will of the Italian people, it was the Allied Commission's desire to see how it functionned and to be able to say by itself that the elections were held in a free and unfettered manner. On the other hand the Allied Commission was very sensitive and scrupulous on the point that its actions in carrying out such observations might not be in any way construed as a desire to intervene or interfere with the elections themselves. I pointed out, for instance, that if it would be decided that our officers should here or there visit for brief moments the actual voting places, it would be embarrassing for them to make such visits without being properly introduced by some official representative of the Italian Government or without previous arrangements having been made. I told the Minister I had approached Dott. STRANO on the subject and that the latter seeing the usefulness of a plan of observations and supervision of the elections in the interest of the Italian Government, said he intended to propose to the Minister that special Italian officials (Inspectors General) be retained and assigned to this task and eventually cooperate with the Allied officers.

2. Minister ROMITA replied that he was going to talk tomorrow with the President of the Consulta, Count SFORZA, and the head of the Electoral Commission of the Consulta in order to find out whether it was necessary that a special provision should be introduced in the law authorizing Inspectors General to gain admission to an electoral seat during the time of poling or if a ministerial circular was sufficient for the purpose. He pointed out that under the present electoral law no one, not even himself, could enter an electoral hall without the consent of the President of the polling section. The Minister said he intended to visit some voting places during the next elections to see for himself that everything was proceeding well and was pretty sure that no objections would be raised concerning his visits. He believed that this also would be the case if some Allied officers wanted to do the same; however there may be some President of an Electoral Seat who might object and Minister ROMITA said he would not like that such an embarrassing situation could arise that an Allied officer would be refused admittance.

3. I asked Minister ROMITA not to take any official action in this matter yet as it was at present under consideration by the Allied Commission. It is a question of policy and it had not been decided yet whether it was desirable that Allied officers show themselves at polling stations. In the meantime I had come to get his general reaction to the plan itself. 1229

4. The Minister stated he wholeheartedly approved of it and he thought that the Allied Commission should see for itself that the elections in Italy are going to be free and carried in an orderly manner throughout the country.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 78502

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4. The Minister stated he wholeheartedly approved of it and he thought that the Allied Commission should see for itself that the elections in Italy are going to be free and carried in an orderly manner throughout the country.

5. I then acquainted the Minister with some particulars of the plan which I had in mind to submit to my superiors once the question of policy had been decided. I said that the plan could be divided in two parts: a) observation to be carried out by Allied liaison officers situated in the various regions of Italy who are already charged with the task of observing and reporting anything unusual in the situation of the country; b) the task which would be assigned to the Sub Commission of which I was the Director. I pointed out to Minister ROMITA that we in our Sub Commission were the specialists who were very familiar with the electoral machinery and the Italian Law.

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6. With regard to our liaison officers, I suggested that the Ministry might give instructions to the Inspectors Generals already attached in the various provinces to get in touch with them and assist them in their task of general observation of the elections. The observations carried out by my Sub Commission would be more precise and detailed. It would however be desirable that each of my officers and myself would make our observations in different parts of the country moving around at each different date of elections in order to gain a general picture of the whole. I said it was important that we should make our independent survey as comprehensive as possible because our Sub Commission will certainly be called to answer many inquiries from many quarters, Embassies, newspapermen and other agencies official and private status. Interest abroad in the first democratic test of Italy was very keen and naturally they would come to us for information. It was natural also that having been god father to the child we would like to see how he was going to walk.

7. I then told Minister KOMITA that inasmuch as in the fulfilment of the above task I and my officers would have to travel around in different parts of the country and make contact with Italian authorities we never met before, we should appreciate learning if it was possible that Minister could place at our disposal three Italian officials of high rank to accompany us and facilitate necessary contacts and be helpful to us in all other pertinent matters. Minister KOMITA said he would ~~furnish~~ be pleased to furnish us with such persons and kindly offered to submit to us a few names of Italian official from which we would choose the persons we would like to cooperate with us for the above purpose.

R. R. Temple major

HARRY R. TEMPLE, Major
Director
Local Government Sub Commission

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 778502

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No te of Interview - Ministry of the Interior

Present : Dott. STRANO, Head of the Electoral Service
Major T[illegible]LE, Director of Local Cvt.S/C
Sgr. Arrigo Vice, interpreting

DATE : 18 Feb 46

1. I told Dott. STRANO that the purpose of my visit was to get posted on the last developments in the preliminary operations to the fast approaching administrative elections and on the preparation of the political elections and to get his vew on some proposal that I was going to put to him in the course of the present interview.

2. I asked Dott. STRANO whether he thought that in view of the presen speed by which the political electoral law project was being examined by the Consulta, the antecipated date of 26 May for the holding of the elections could be maintained. Dott. STRANO said that inasmuch as the much burning question of the compulsory voting was over, he believed the debate on the other controversial points should narrow down to another few days or to the end of this week at the latest. If so, there would be sufficient time for the final drafting of the law, its presentation to the Council of Ministers, its approval and publication. According to Dott. STRANO the dead line for the publication of the decree and for the publication of the notice should be respectively 12 March and 16 March in order to hold the elections on 26 May. He xplained that the notice cannot be published until the number of the decree, which must be inserted in it, is known. He repeated that if the project of law would get through the Consulta by 23 February, thing would work out smoothly. A further delay beyond that date would probably be remedied by hard work on the part of all concerned, but such delay should not stretch over a week's time at the most beyond that limit.

3. I asked Dott. STRANO whether another alternative date for the holding of the political elections in the spring, besides that of 26 May, was contemplated in the event that the latter date had to be abandoned. Dott. STRANO said that the date of 2 June had been mentioned as a possible substitute date, but that political factors would have to be considered and that beyond 2 June no elections could be held on account of the setting in of the harvesting season and vacationing period.

4. I inquired then of Dott. STRANO shether in his opinion compulsory voting would have an effect on the work in connection with the elections. Dott. STRANO said he believed it would have, and that as a matter of fact he was quite concerned about it. He pointed out that the electoral lists for South and Central Italy are compiled on the basis of the population records of November 1944 and those for Northern Italy as of July 1945. In the meantime there has been quite some shifting of population, refugees going back to their homes, people in search of work, etc. Probably a great many of them didn't bother to go through the procedure of cancelling their names in the list of their former residence and will find that they are unable to vote in the new residence. These and other people will rush to get duplicate electoral certificates at the last moment for fear of incurring in some penalty if they did not vote. A great afflux of voters to the polls will certainly put a strain on the electoral service during the elections.

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5. As to the presentation of the lists of candidates for the next administrative elections, Dott. STRANO said that only a few of these lists had so far been

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1. I told Dott. STRANO that the purpose of my visit was to get posted on the last developments in the preliminary operations to the fast approaching administrative elections and on the preparation of the political elections and to get his vew on some proposal that I was going to put to him in the course of the present interview.

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1272

5. As to the presentation of the lists of candidates for the next administrative elections, Dott. STRANO said that only a few of these lists had so far been notified to his office. Indications were that, as a general rule, the lists presented will be few, which will be a blessing from the thecnical point of view and is otherwise welcomend because it shows to a certain extent the political maturity of the Italian people. The tendency is of presenting joint lists by groups of parties of similar ideologies, especially in small towns and localities, while in the larger ones where the proportional representation system will be applied, each political party will for the most part present its own list. He read to me a report received from AREZZO where a joint list was presented by

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the socialist and communist and another one by the Liberals and Democratic Labor pa rties. The policy of the Democratic Christian Party is to present a separate list, but to include in it a good many names of c andidates well known locally and who are independent but sympathetic to said party. The same policy seems to have been adopted also by the liberals. Dott. STRANO reserved however any judgment on this point until later when a treater number of candidates' lists will be at hand.

6. Dott. STRANO gave the following dates representing the dead line for the presentation of candidates' lists in the forthcoming administrative elections:

8	February	for the	10th	March	election
15	"	"	17	"	"
22	"	"	24	"	"
1	March	"	31	"	"
8	"	"	7	April	"

7, Dott. STRANO then introduced to me an expert from the Central Institute of Statistics which had been attached to his office, who showed me the attached questionnaire. This questionnaire will have to be filled by each Commune within five days from the holding of the elections, and will serve for the preparation of the statistical information so important and so interesting in connection with these first elections. He said that in addition to this detailed information Communes will have to wire the most important data soon after the scrutiny of the votes.

8. With regard of the actual holding of the elections I told dott. STRANO that naturally my Sub Commission desired to follow as closely as possible, through observers, the actual carrying out of the election, the functionning of the electoral machinery, and the behaviour of the electors at the polling stations. I pointed out that this was the first election in Italy after the long period of totalitarian regime and that both official and public opinion abroad were very keen in seeing how Italy will undergo this first democratic test. I added that before drawing up a plan to be submitted to my superiors, I wanted to get his views as to the technical possibilites and limitations and see how far this observation could be effected without incurring in any public reaction to the effect that Allied Commission wished to interfere or tak e sides in the elections. I said that in my country in many States there is a special officer whose duties is to supervise the trend of the election on election day and make observations and eventually be helpful with suggestions.

9. Dott. STRANO replied that he understood the usefulness of the point so much so that he had already in mind to propose to his superiors a plan for the carrying out of this observation in the interest of the Italian Government. He thought that some Inspectors General should be appointed to this task and they could work hand in hand with the Allied observers. Some of these inspectors are already in the North supervising the trend of the pre-election preparations. They could get in touch with our Liaison officers, others could be appointed for central and southern Italy to accompany some of my officers and myself.

10. With reference to the Administrative electoral law, DDL 7 January 1946, Dott. STRANO said it had been necessary to issue a new legislative decree amending art.13 of said law concerning the elegibi ity of candidates, and gave the text of said legislative decree and a report on it setting forth the reasons for its issuance.

11. Finally Dott. STRANO gave me a list containing the latest figures, as of 18 February of the compilation and approval of lists and of the number of communes ready for the administrative elections. He promised also to send us several copies

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R. R. Temple major

RALPH R. TEMPLE
Major
Director,
Local Government Sub Commission

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NOTE of visit on 29 January 1946 to the ELECTORAL OFFICE OF THE PREFECTURE O F ROME and to the ELECTORAL OFFICE OF THE COMMUNE OF ROME, (arranged by Dott. Strano, Head of Electoral Service, Ministry of Interior, at request of Major Temple)

Participants: Major Temple, Director of Local Government S/C,AC
lt. Etheridge, Legal Branch, AMG Venezia Giulia
Dott. Cecovini, " " " "
Sgr. Arrigo Nice interpreting.

1. ELECTORAL OFFICE OF THE PREFECTURE OF ROME

This office located at N.8 Via San Marco (near Piazza Venezia) is headed by Dott. Giovenco. Major Temple asked Dott. Giovenco to explain what were the functions of his office and how it was organized. He pointed out that the purpose of our visit was to give us an opportunity to see his office in actual operation with a view of observing the practical execution of the electoral law and procedures.

Dott. GIOVENCO said that the main purpose of his office was to control and supervise all the electoral operations which are to be complied with by the Communes. The Communes send in a report on the trend of the operations every ten days. It was thus possible to see which Communes were lagging behind and so be in a position to assist them to overcome their difficulties.

Major TEMPLE asked how control and supervision were actually carried out by the office. Dott. GIOVENCO replied that in the first place there were the two Inspectors General of the Prefecture whose task was to supervise the electoral operations as a whole. He himself and the other officials of his staff dealt with any special cases. Asked if there had been any communal secretaries who had to be substituted on account of incompetency, Dott. GIOVENCO said that there had been just a few cases of such substitutions, mainly because of negligence on the part of said officials. In all cases, they had been replaced by other officials of the same rank and qualifications.

We then made a tour of the office itself. Dott. GIOVENCO conducted us first into the Accountant's room. This section of the office has the task of keeping a record of all expenses in connection with the electoral operations and service, and to see to it that they are kept within the allotment. Electoral expenses are born by the State and hence the necessity of Prefectural supervision. Bookkeeping records are held for each Commune. Each Commune has its own file, containing records of expenditure, invoices, contracts, orders, estimates and miscellaneous correspondence. There is a general ledger in which all the Communes of the province are listed. On the debit side there are entered the various contributions made by the State; on the credit side entry is made of all the expenses born by each commune in chronological order. By this method it is possible at a glance to see whether expenses are kept within limits.

Next room we entered was the Office of Statistics. One of the activities of this section is the preparation of statistical records of the results of the elections themselves. Graphs are being prepared which will show the percentages relative to the number of electors who actually voted, both male and female, void votes and so on. The importance of this work is enhanced by the fact that it is long since Italy had its last elections.

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Dott. GIOVENCO then showed us into the Central Clearing Office. It deals with the incoming and outgoing mail which are registered in three special protocols. It contains the archives. Each Commune has its own file containing reports on the trend of the operations, instruction from the Prefecture, and general correspondence. A separate file is kept for each stage of the operation. The first stage is that of the compilation of the lists, up to their approval. The second starts with the proper electoral operations which begin with the fixing of the date of the elections. A map on the wall shows the trend of the

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operations for each Commune by means of entries of dates, in proper columns, of the completion of each operation. It is possible in this way to discover at a glance which are the Communes legging behind and need to be assisted.

In this same room there are also special files (with red covers) also divided by Communes containing decisions of the Mandamental Commissions as to the exclusions of electors from the lists. These records contain the names of the electors to be stricken off the lists and the reasons therefor. Three copies of this document are made: one goes to the Commune which has to effect the necessary changes on the lists, one to the Judiciary authorities, and one to the Electoral Office of the Prefecture. When the Communes send in the exemplars of the definitive electoral lists, the Electoral Office of the Prefecture is thus able to check up as to whether the Communes have effected the changes ordered by the Mandamental Commissions.

Dott. GIOVENCO showed us records prepared by him in which entries are made concerning the completion of the various proper electoral operations from the fixing of the date of the elections up to the holding of the elections themselves. He pointed out that since the time for each operation is short and because of the existing difficulties this is the crucial period that needs close watching. Any loss of time may mean the annulment of the elections. These records are also kept by Communes.

Lastly we came to the Shipping Department, which takes care of the transmission to the various Communes of the electoral material. A regular bookkeeping system has been devised in order to register shipments and consignments of important forms and materials. Dott. GIOVENCO explained the control that will be kept on the delivery of the ElectoralCertificates and Duplicate Electoral Certificates, by means of detachable stubs to be used as receipts. Only a fixed number of these certificates equal to the number of the registered electors plus a small surplus will be delivered to each Commune which will have to return all unused certificates. Another record is kept for the outgoing parcels.

Dott. GIOVENCO stressed again the importance of his office in controlling and supervising all electoral operations. He said it was necessary to enforce strict discipline on the Communes who were naturally inclined to take things easy. He pointed further more out that the scope of his office went beyond the tasks of mere control and supervision. It was at times necessary to intervene in executive way and take action in order to bring things back to normal. Dott. GIOVENCO was asked if in his opinion reports for the period of ten days by the Communes on the preliminary operations were adequate or should they be submitted at longer intervals. He replied he would make them even more frequent, if possible, in order to follow the work very closely.

2. ELECTORAL OFFICE OF THE COMMUNE OF ROME.

This office is located in the Campidoglio. We were met by the director Dott. MUNARI. He first showed us into a room where all the first records for the compilation of the electoral lists are kept. They consist of cards containing an extract of the population register (Anagrafe). There are two types of cards: white ones for men, red ones for women. All these cards are arranged in alphabetical order and kept in wooden boxes, each containing about 2000 cards. Dott. MUNARI then showed us the general lists and the sectional lists. He stressed the difficulties that had to be overcome due to lack of material and printing facilities. He also said that although the procedure of the work in his office is a simple one it entails an enormous work due to the great number of electors.

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Here we met Dott. CINO CRISTO, Secretary General of the Commune of Rome. He thanked the Director, Major Temple, for the honor of the visit and took the occasion to call his attention to a problem that still had to be solved, viz. the securing of premises for the polling places. There are about 900 such places to be

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provided for in Rome. Dott. CRISPO asked whther the Allied Commission could help them in this matter which was worrying them. Major Temple replied that to his knowledge the Allied Military Authorities had already sent out instruction to their officers to meet as far as possible the requirements of the Italian officials for premises to be used on the day of the elections for voting. The Secretary General of the Commune also asked whether Major Temple could interpose his good offices towards the setting aside of PALAZZO DELLE ESPOSIZIONI in Via Nazionale, which is now occupied by a British Sergeants' Club for the purpose of installing there temporary offices for the handling out of duplicate Electoral Certificates. Dott. MUNARI pointed out that about 300 thousand people are estimated to call at this office in the few days prior to the elections to get their certificates. This is due to the poor mail facilities, and that many women are registered by their maiden names instead of their husband's names and so on. To deal with the crowd of applicants, a big building with many windows for the distribution of the certificates would be most suitable. The Palazzo delle Esposizioni would be ideal for the purpose; it had been used for other similar purposes before. Major Temple suggested that the Secretary General write a letter containing this request with all particulars to him that he would bring it to the attention of the proper authorities. Dott. CRISPO said that the Sindaco Principe Doria Phamphili had already written but could not give details as to the adressee . He stated that he would send us a copy of that letter.

3. POLLING PLACE.

Finally we paid a visit to a polling place, to get an idea of the furnishings and of their arrangement. We saw the booths, the tables, partitions dividing the electoral hall, the urns etc. We saw how school benches and shelves could be utilized for this purpose. It was pointed out that some communal schools had been left bare of all furnishings by the Germans and everything will have to by provided by the Communes.

31 Jan. 1946

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R. R. Temple Major

RALPH R. TEMPLE
Major,
Director,
Local Government Sub Commission

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SUBJECT: Note of interview - Ministry of the Interior

DATE : 29 January 1946 - 1745 hrs.

PRESENT: Dott. STRANO, Chief of the Electoral Service, Ministry of the Interior
Dott. VINCENTI, Deputy Chief of the Electoral Service, Ministry of the Interior
Lt. Etheridge, Legal Officer AC Venezia Giulia
Dr. CECCOVINI, Italian Legal Adviser to AMG Venezia Giulia
Major C.G.R. Williams, Executive Officer I/G. S/C

1. Dr. Strano gave Dr. Ceccvini a complete set of various forms, notices, etc. issued by the Ministry in connection with the preparation of electoral lists and also specimens of various forms of the lists themselves.

2. Dr. Ceccvini asked if the Ministry could supply these forms to Venezia Giulia. All their printing was done locally by private firms and it was very expensive and not satisfactory. Dr. Ceccvini thought the number of electors would be 400,000 at the most.

3. Dr. Strano made enquiries. The Ministry has not sufficient forms in stock of these numbers of electors. He said he could easily arrange with the Poligrafico to print what was required.

4. Lt Etheridge and I asked Dr. Strano not to take any action in the matter at the moment as we were at present consulting him purely in a private capacity. At a later stage AMG could ask the S/C if they could provide the forms and the S/C could then make arrangements with the Poligrafico through Dr. Strano. In this way, officially the forms would be supplied by the S/C.

5. Lt Etheridge pointed out that all the forms would have to be printed in 3 languages--English and Slovene as well as Italian. Dr. Strano said he could find out how far the Poligrafico was capable of printing in foreign languages and types, in a general way, without mentioning anything about AC or AMG or Venezia Giulia. Thus, if the S/C should take up the matter at a later date, he would be in a position to give an answer. The British Officers saw no objection to Dr. Strano enquiring in general terms in this way.

6. Dr. Ceccvini enquired also about the provision of stamps for marking the ballot papers. Dr. Strano showed him a sample of those manufactured by the Italian Mint. Dr. Ceccvini enquired if the Ministry could supply stamps for Venezia Giulia. He estimated the total number of sections (and therefore the total number of stamps required) at 400 - 500 at the outside. Dr. Strano said the Ministry could certainly do that. The British Officers asked however that nothing be said to the Mint at present, but the AMG should put the point to the S/C at a later date.

7. Major Williams referred to the Draft Decree for allowing the penal precedents of men to be ascertained through the Police instead of the Judicial Records Offices (as already allowed in the cases of women) which the Ministry had recently sent us. He asked Dr. Strano's opinion as to applying that procedure in Venezia Giulia.

8. Dr. Strano thought it would be better to adhere to the Casellario procedure. He thought that there would have been great changes in Police personnel and that their records would be incomplete, stolen or destroyed. Dr. Ceccvini agreed and said that the Casellari at Trieste and Gorizia were functioning and could account for the penal precedents of the majority of voters. He and Lt Etheridge were not sure of the position at Pola, whether the Casellario was not on the other side of the Morgan Line and so not available. Those not born in Venezia Giulia Dr. Ceccvini put at about 100,000. Dr. Strano said these could easily be handled at the Central Casellario which could now deal with 45,000 a day.

9. I pointed out that in Central and Southern Italy great delay had been caused by the

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by the Ministry in connection with the preparation of electoral lists and also specimens of various forms of the lists themselves.

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7. Major Williams referred to the Draft Decree for allowing the penal precedents of men to be ascertained through the Police instead of the Judicial Records Offices (as already allowed in the cases of women) which the Ministry had recently sent us. He asked Dr. Strano's opinion as to applying that procedure in Venezia Giulia.

8. Dr. Strano thought it would be better to adhere to the Casellario procedure. He thought that there would have been great changes in Police personnel and that their records would be incomplete, stolen or destroyed. Dr. Cecovini agreed and said that the Casellari at Trieste and Gorizia were functioning and could account for the penal precedents of the majority of voters. He and Lt Etheridge were not sure of the position at Pola, whether the Casellario was not on the other side of the Morgan Line and so not available. Those not born in Venezia Giulia Dr. Cecovini put at about 100,000. Dr. Strano said these could easily be handled at the Central Casellario which could now deal with 45,000 a day.

9. I pointed out that in Central and Southern Italy great delay had been caused by the Casellario procedure, even where Casellari had suffered no damage, so that I did not feel confident that the same procedure would not also produce great delays in Venezia Giulia. I suggested that more accurate information should be obtained before any decision was made. For instance, the availability of the Pola Casellario ought to be determined and enquiries made as to the availability of the Police records and those of the Trieste and Gorizia Casellari. AMG could then consider the matter further and await in the meantime Dr. Strano's opinion. This was agreed.

Distribution: - 45/19/3
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C.G.R. WILLIAMS
Major
Executive Officer
Local Government Sub Commission

CGRW/rbe

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785021

1994

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785021

14/1
89

AC/45/36/LG

SUBJECT: Note of Interview - Ministry of Interior

DATE : 29 January 1946

PRESENT: Ing. Giuseppe ROMITA, Minister of Interior
Avv. Giuseppe SPATARO, Undersecretary of Ministry of Interior
Dr. STRANO, Head of Electoral Service, Ministry of Interior
Maj Ralph R. TEMPLE, Director, Local Government Sub Commission
Mr. Arrigo NICE, Interpreter

1. I opened the interview by referring to the visit of nine Italian jurists to England during November and December 1945 for the purpose of studying the British political, constitutional, and administrative system with a special view to the forthcoming elections in Italy. The visit, I pointed out, was financed out of funds available to the British Embassy. The value of the mission, I said, could have been much greater if Italian technicians who were charged with the responsibility of drawing up the laws and procedures were members of it, but in any event the mission was highly beneficial.

2. I stated that it had occurred to us that a mission composed of electoral technicians of the Ministry of Interior as well as one or two members of the group that went to England, accompanied by myself, would derive great benefit by visiting the United States and talking with election officials regarding the practical functioning of elections. The scope of the mission might even be broader and include other phases of public administration and intergovernmental structural and administrative relationships. The American Embassy, I said, had been approached on the subject and, although very favorable to the idea, had indicated that they had no budgetary allotment to finance such a visit and it therefore would have to be financed by the Italian Government. The Allied Commission had approved also of the idea, and I had been instructed by the Chief Commissioner to approach the Italian Government to secure its reactions.

3. The Minister and the Undersecretary said the plan was excellent and they approved of it entirely. The difficulty, however, was that the very persons that they would want to send to the United States on the mission were those whose services were absolutely essential now in Italy for the preparation of the manifold tanks in connection with the forthcoming elections. Consequently, the Minister pointed out, the time of departure of such a mission would have to be postponed till after elections were over. He agreed, however, that even after the elections the knowledge that would be gained from such a visit would be of great assistance to the Constituent Assembly in framing legislation for the future. In that event he would want the scope of the mission to embrace other phases of government, such as relationships between local units and the national government. The Italian Government, he said, would be willing to finance the project.

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1993

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785021

4. The Minister concluded the interview by asking me to report to the Chief Commissioner that he was very favorable to the proposal and that he should like to submit a memorandum indicating a suggested scope, composition, and date of departure. The mission would presumably leave after the elections were out of the way. I replied that we would be glad to receive such a memorandum. He then told me that he wished to express his gratitude for the cooperative attitude of the Allied Commission and the American Government in suggesting that matter to the Italian Government.

R. R. Temple major

RALPH R. TEMPLE
Major
Director
Local Government Sub Commission

HRT/rbe

AC/45/19/1c.

SUBJECT : Note of interview - Ministry of the Interior.

DATE : 29 January 1946 - 17.45 hrs.

PRESENT : Dott. STRANO, Chief of the Electoral Service, Ministry of the Interior
Dott. VINCENTI, Deputy Chief of the Electoral Service, Ministry of the Interior
Lt. Etheridge, Legal Officer AC Venezia Giulia
Dr. CECOVINI, Italian Legal Adviser to AMG Venezia Giulia
Major C.G.R. Williams, Executive Officer I/C. S/C

1. Dr. Strano gave Dr. Cecovini a big set of various forms, notices, etc. issued by the Ministry in connection with the preparation of electoral lists and also specimens of various forms of the lists themselves.

2. Dr. Cecovini asked if the Ministry could supply these forms to Venezia Giulia. All their printing was done locally by private firms and it was very expensive and not satisfactory. Dr. Cecovini thought the number of electors would be 400.000 at the most.

3. Dr. Strano made enquiries. The Ministry has not sufficient forms in stock of these numbers of electors. He said he could easily arrange with the Poligraphical to print what was required.

4. Lt. Etheridge and I asked Dr. Strano not to take any action in the matter at the moment as we were at present consulting him purely in a private capacity. At the last stage AMG could ask the S/C if they could provide the forms and the S/C could then make arrangements with the Poligraphical through Dr. Strano. In this way, officially, the forms would be supplied by the S/C.

5. Lt. Etheridge pointed out that all the forms would have to be printed in 3 languages - English and Slovene as well as Italian. Dr. Strano said he could find out how far the Poligraphical was capable of printing in foreign languages and types, in a general way, without mentioning anything about AC or AMG or Venezia Giulia. Thus, if the S/C should take up the matter at a later date, he would be in a position to give an answer. The British Officers saw no objection to Dr. Strano enquiring in general terms in this way.

6. Dr. Cecovini enquired also about the provision of stamps for marking the ballot papers. Dr. Strano showed him a sample of those manufactured by the Italian Mint. Dr. Cecovini enquired if the Ministry could supply stamps for Venezia Giulia. He estimated the total number of sections (and therefore the total number of stamps required) at 400 - 500 at the outside. Dr. Strano said the Ministry could certainly do that. The British Officers asked however that nothing be said to the Mint at present, but the AMG should put the point to the S/C. at a later date.

7. Major Williams referred to the Draft Decree-for allowing the penal precedents of men to be ascertained through the Police instead of the Judicial Records Offices (as already allowed in the cases of women)-which the Ministry had recently sent us. He asked Dr. Strano's opinion as to applying that procedure in Venezia Giulia. 1269

8. Dr. Strano thought it would be better to adhere to the Casellario procedure. He thought that there would have been great changes in Police personnel and that their records would be incomplete, stolen or destroyed. Dr. Cecovini agreed and said that the Casellari at Trieste, Pola and Gorizia were functioning and could account for the penal precedents of the majority of voters. He and Lt. Etheridge were not sure of the position at Pola, whether the Casellario was not on the other side of the Morgan Line and so not available. Those not born in Venezia Giulia Dr. Cecovini put at about 100,000. Dr. Strano said these could easily be handled at the Central Casellario which could now

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 778822

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4. Lt. Etheridge and I asked Dr. Strano not to take any action in the matter at the moment as we were at present consulting him purely in a private capacity. At the last stage AMG could ask the S/C if they could provide the forms and the S/C could then make arrangements with the Poligraphical through Dr. Strano. In this way, officially, the forms would be supplied by the S/C.

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9. I pointed out that in Central and Southern Italy great delay had been caused by the Casellario procedure, ever where Casellari had suffered no damage, so that I did not feel confident that the same procedure would not also produce great delays in Venezia Giulia.

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785021

I suggested that more accurate information should be obtained before any decision was made. For instance the availability of the Polo Caselliario ought to be determined and enquiries made as to the availability of the Police records and those of the Trieste and Gorizia Caselliari. AMG could then consider the matter further and await in the meantime Dr. Strano's opinion. This was agreed.

C.G.R. WILLIAMS
Major
Executive Officer
Local Government Sub Commission

CGRW/ww

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785021

1999

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785021

14/34

AG/45/40/16

SUBJECT: Note of Interview - AG HQ

DATE : 31 January 1946 - 1045 hours

PRESENT: Dr. SCANDAGLIATO from Cabinet of the Ministry of Interior
Maj R. R. TEMPLE, Director, Local Government Sub Commission
Maj C. G. R. WILLIAMS, Executive Officer, Local Govt S/C
Sig. Arrigo NICE, interpreting

1. Dr. SCANDAGLIATO showed the Director a telegram sent to the Ministry of Interior by the Prefect of ~~the~~ Macerata, Dr. CARTA. The telegram stated that the Prefect had held a meeting of the leaders of all political parties in the province, at which the Socialist and Communist representatives referred to the presence of Polish troops and said they feared these troops would disturb public order during the electoral campaign and the elections. The telegram suggested that the police service of the Polish troops should be entrusted also to Allied elements of other nationalities.

2. Dr. SCANDAGLIATO said that he had been entrusted to call to ascertain whether, if the suggestion made in the telegram was put to Allied Commission, it would be considered.

The Director said that

3. ~~That~~ if the Italian Government were of opinion that the fears of the Socialist and Communist political leaders in Macerata were founded and communicated accordingly with Allied Commission, such a communication would certainly be considered. If the Ministry were of that opinion, he suggested they should write to the Sub Commission accordingly, inclosing a copy of the telegram.

4. The Director also suggested, however, that before writing to Allied Commission, the Ministry should ascertain the facts from the Prefect, particularly what and how many Polish troops were referred to and where they were stationed and what exactly the Prefect meant by "Allied elements of other nations" and what these additional troops were supposed to do. If these points were clarified and stated in the Ministry's letter, it would assist him in obtaining a decision as the matter would have to be referred to the appropriate military command.

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C.G.R. WILLIAMS
Major
Executive Officer 1267
Local Government Sub Commission

CGRW/rbc

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2000

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785021

~~Highly Confidential~~

SUBJECT: Note of Interview - Dr. GIANNINI

DATE : 25 Jan 1946

PRESENT: Dr. GIANNINI, Chief of Cabinet, Ministry for the Costituente
Maj R. R. TRIPLE, Director, Local Government Sub Commission
Mr. Nico, Interpreter

1. Dr. GIANNINI came at my invitation to inform me as to the present position regarding the proposed national elections law. He said that the special commission of the Consulta that had been studying the law had completed its work and that he would send a copy of its report as soon as he had it. He expressed the opinion that there were no changes in the fundamental principles which the Allied Commission had raised heretofore. He thought the chief change had been with regard to the size of the constituencies.

2. Dr. GIANNINI left some copies of the latest "bollettino." I expressed the opinion that the articles in the bollettino were quite timely and well prepared.

3. I then told Dr. GIANNINI that there was a 20-minute documentary film produced by United States Information Service with a running commentary in Italian entitled "The First Tuesday in November," dealing with elections in the United States. I suggested that he and others in his Ministry might be interested in seeing it for any ideas they might get for a similar type of film dealing with Italian elections. Dr. GIANNINI said he would be very much interested to see the film and that, as a matter of fact, they were planning to prepare a similar documentary film. He inquired as to the number of people who would be present at the showing.

4. Dr. GIANNINI left the office after expressing his thanks and stating that he would keep us informed as to developments in connection with the enactment of the Political Election Law.

RALPH R. TRIPLE
Major
Director
Local Government Sub Commission

RRT/rbe

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785021

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AC/4/26/IG

SUBJECT: Note of Interview - Mr. AC

DATE : 26 January 1946

PRESENT: Dr. STRANO, Head of Electoral Service, Ministry of Interior
Maj R. R. TEMPLE, Director, Local Government Sub Commission
Mr. MIKE, Interpreter

1. I informed Dr. STRANO that there was a documentary film prepared by United States Information Service with a running commentary in Italian which he and officials in the Ministry of Interior might be interested in seeing. I explained that it showed the carrying out of an election in the United States and that it might contain suggestions for the making of a similar type of film for Italian elections. There are 40 copies of 35mm. size that have already been distributed to first run houses in Italy and 6 copies of 16mm. also are available for private showings. I pointed out that there was a huge task which the Ministry had in educating people for elections and that among other methods that might be used, that of a documentary film would be very helpful. I informed him also that the Ministry for the Constituente had been thinking along those lines also and that it might be desirable if the Government saw fit to cooperate in the issuance of one film, the cost of which would not be much and would be well worth the expense.

2. Dr. STRANO said he appreciated our cooperation and would take advantage of the opportunity. He would inform the Minister and the undersecretary and arrange a list of officials who might be present at the showing.

R. R. Temple
Major

RALPH R. TEMPLE
Major
Director
Local Government Sub Commission

RRT/rbe

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2007

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785021

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AG/1/25/15

SUBJECT: Note of Interview - HQ AG

DATE : 15 January 1946

PRESENT: Dr. STRANO, Head of Electoral Service, Ministry of Interior
Maj R. R. TEMPLE, Director, Local Government Sub Commission
Mr. MACE, Interpreter

1. Although Dr. STRANO was in to see me on another matter, I took the opportunity to present to him Lt. HENDRIDGE and Dr. CECCONI, who had come down from Venezia Giulia in connection with the preparation of electoral lists in that area.

2. We had an off-the-record discussion of some of the provinces, and Dr. STRANO indicated that he would not even inform the Minister of the subject, in order to keep our confidence.

3. At my suggestion he said he would arrange to have the aforesaid Venezia Giulia people visit the electoral office of the Prefecture of Rome and also that of the Comune of Rome in order to get first-hand knowledge of the organization of an office for the handling of electoral matters. He also agreed to furnish us with copies of all electoral forms issued by his office.

4. I stated to Dr. STRANO that there would probably be further consultations with him, and he expressed his thanks for our interest and promised his fullest cooperation.

R. R. Temple
Major

RALPH R. TEMPLE
Major
Director
Local Government Sub Commission

RRT/rbo

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2003

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785021

interview file 26

AG/1/26/46

SUBJECT: Memo of Interview - HQ AG

DATE : 26 January 1946

PRESENT: Lt Col BRIGHT
Dr Paolo BONTANI, Inspector General
Brig R. H. TEMPLE, Director, Local Government Sub Commission
Mr. HICH, Interpreter

1. Dr. BONTANI had been sent over by the Ministry of Interior in order to receive any instructions and assistance that the Commission could give him. He had been assigned the task of inspecting and supervising the activities of Italian officials in connection with the preparation for elections in the communes of the provinces of Udine, Belluno, and Treviso.

2. I gave Dr. BONTANI a letter of introduction to Lt Col BRIGHT, Provincial Commissioner of Udine, and one to Brig BRUCE, Chief Liaison Officer of Venezia region. While we were conversing, Col BRIGHT came in and I introduced Dr. BONTANI to him. In the course of conversation Dr. BONTANI indicated that from the records at the Ministry there were four communes that had their election lists approved and were ready for elections. They are, with population indicated: ARELLO (2154); PALUZZA (3039); PRATO CARNICO (2200); VERZEGNIS (1500). He stated that the Prefect of Udine hopes to have 29 communes ready for the last elections to be held in March. In order for the Prefect to fix the date for elections for 24 March, publication of such a manifest must be done by 8 February at the latest. In other words, the Prefect must know whether the date is to be final at least by 4 February in order to prepare for the printing of the necessary notices.

3. Dr. BONTANI then asked whether the Prefect would be permitted to fix the date for elections in the communes which are ready in the province of Udine. I informed him that we would let him know very shortly.

4. Since Col BRIGHT was not able to accomodate Dr. BONTANI in one of the cars going back to Udine, I informed the latter that we would arrange to fly him up to Treviso, where he said he would make his first stop of one week. He then left the office.

5. I then discussed with Col BRIGHT the problem of setting the date for holding of elections in the communes of Udine which were ready for them. Col BRIGHT said that he believed that 6 communes were ready up to date. He pointed out that at least one of those mentioned by the Prefect, named PALUZZA, has a commissario prefettizio who had been appointed by the Provincial Commissioner to run the town in the place of the Sindaco and the Giunta. Col BRIGHT pointed out that he saw no objections to holding the elections in the communes of Udine except in those wherein commissari prefettizi had been appointed. He believed there were 6 of these. He said that an embarrassing situation would arise if the Sindaco and the Giunta which had been removed were elected to office. He raised another point; such as what the effect would be if the Giunta and Communal Council turned out to be recalcitrant, and what the position of minorities would be.

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785021

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6 I told Col BENZE that the decision to give the Prefect the right to fix elections would be made by higher authority in the Allied Commission and that he would be informed thereof.

R. A. Gumpel
major

RALPH R. BENZE
Major
Director
Local Government Sub Commission

RRB/mbe

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X

2003

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785021

14/1

AG/45/12/1

SUBJECT : Note of interview.

DATE : 23 January 1946 - 10,00 hrs.

PRESENT : Dott. Silvio INNOCENTI, Consigliere di Stato
Major R.H. Temple, Director Local Government S/C.

1. Dott. INNOCENTI said that he had come to present his compliments and stated that he had been designated by the Italian Government to draw up a report on the Bolzano situation and also to act as Prefect there. He said that he expected to be back in Rome in 3 weeks when he would again visit me and present a copy of the report. He hoped also to be able to meet Brig. Carr then.

2. At his request I have given him a card of introduction to Col. Miller, Chief Liaison Officer in Bolzano.

3. Dott. Innocenti said that it was extremely important that the decree dealing with the citizenship problem be enacted as quickly as possible, also because it served as the basis for much action in dealing with other phases of civil government. He said he had participated in the formulation of the decree. He pointed out that the creation of a special means of dealing with the re-acquisition of Italian citizenship was consistent with the adoption of a special means of losing Italian citizenship, i.e. with the 1939 Law. He pointed out also that the 1912 law on citizenship which might be applicable in cases of loss of citizenship by people in other parts of Italy, for example in the case of all those who went to the States and then returned, was not applicable here because the people in the Upper Adige region denounced their Italian citizenship on political and racial grounds, in order to acquire German citizenship. In the case of people going to the States and elsewhere the purpose was, for the most part, that of economic betterment. Besides there was no special law created to govern their denunciation of the Italian citizenship and the acquisition of another nationality. I told Dott. Innocenti that very likely our observations would be forthcoming very shortly.

RJ

RALPH R. TEMPLE
Major
Director
Local Government Sub Commission

HRT/ww

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUB COMMISSION

AC/45/12/1/LG

SUBJECT : Note of Interview - AC HQ

DATE : 12 January 1946 - 1030 hours

PRESENT : Dott. CASARDI of the General Secretariat, Ministry of For.Affairs
Cons.Dott. SORRENTINO, Legislative Office, Presidency of the Council
Major Ralph R. Temple, Director, Local Government S/C
Sig. Arrigo Nice, interpreting

1. I informed Dtt. CASARDI and Dott. SORRENTINO at the opening of the conference that I wanted to make perfectly clear that the letter written by the Chief Commissioner on 21 December 1945 concerning the citizenship decree had been written while the territory was under the jurisdiction of the Allied Commission and that it was now a matter to be handled by the Italian Government entirely. Dott. SORRENTINO said he realized that, but would appreciate knowing the basis for Allied Commission's disagreement with the decree in order that they might possibly make the necessary changes if they thought it desirable.

2. Dott. SORRENTINO was particularly anxious to know the objections to Article 1 of the proposed Decree which set forth who were considered citizens in the Alto Adige region.

3. I thereupon informed him that we had been advised that the proposed decree altered the existing law. For example, paragraph 3 of Art. 1 declared not to be Italian citizens those optants who went into German service. Under the Nationality Law of 1912, it appears that such persons would remain Italians until the Italian Government gave them notice to abandon foreign service within a fixed time and they continued in such service after the expiration of the time so limited. I also pointed out that para 2 of Art. 1, as we have been advised, also changes the existing law, by declaring not to be Italian citizens those optants who did not emigrate but had obtained the German citizenship.

4. Dott. SORRENTINO said that he agreed with the Allied Commission as to para 3 of Art. 1 not being strictly in accordance with the 1912 law, but it was necessary to remember that it included those who opted for Germany and placed themselves in the German service. He said it was impossible to give notice to these persons since Italy was at war with Germany. However he considered that inasmuch as officially Italy did not go to war with Germany until October 1943 that there might have been ample time to have given such notice. Such notice, incidentally, he stated did not have to be brought personally to the attention of the optant but simply through a public notice. He thought that perhaps a distinction might be drawn between those who entered German service before and those after the declaration of war against Germany by Italy. Dott. SORRENTINO wished to point out that on moral grounds it was desirable to exclude these people from the Italian citizenship, since (a) they included the worst elements such as SS men, (b) [redacted] after 1943 they were really not Italian because they were working for the German [redacted]

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5. DOTT. SORRENTINO said he disagreed with Allied Commission's interpretation of para 2 Art. 1. He submitted copy of the Decree 31 aug 39 and pointed out that Art.2 hereof states that the acquisition of German nationality is sufficient

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785021

PRESENT : Dott. CASARDI of the General Secretariat, Ministry of For. Affairs
Cons. Dott. SORRENTINO, Legislative Office, Presidency of the Council
Major Ralph R. Temple, Director, Local Government S/C
Sig. Arrigo Nice, interpreting

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1260

5. DOTT. SORRENTINO said he disagreed with Allied Commission's interpretation of para 2 Art. 1. He submitted copy of the Decree 31 aug 39 and pointed out that Art.2 hereof states that the acquisition of German nationality is sufficient for a person to lose Italian citizenship.

6. Dott. SORRENTINO further pointed out that Art.1 should be considered in connection with the rest of the decree which gave an opportunity to all to re-acquire Italian citizenship, the renunciation of which according to the Hitler Mussolini accords was irrevocable. He cited article 4 of the 21 aug 1939 law to that effect. He added that this was the spirit of the proposed decree, namely a regularization of the position.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 778021

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7. Dott. SORRENTINO stated that the discussion by the Consulta on the proposed decree has been postponed for 10 or 15 days. Although the official position of the Allied Commission was reiterated by me, as indicated in para 1 of this note, he insisted on his sending us a pro-memoria setting forth the position as the Italian Government interpreted it for any observations which we cared to give. I consented in a spirit of cooperation and collaboration to receive such pro-memoria, but pointing out again that no comment was really necessary as the Allied Commission wished not to hold up any official act on the part of the Italian Government.

RALPH R. TEMPLE
Major
Director
Local Government Sub Commission

MRT/an
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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 778502

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AG/45/19/LG.

SUBJECT : Note of interview - Ministry of the Interior.

DATE : 4 January 1946 - 11,00 hrs.

PRESENT : Dott. STRANO, Chief of the Electoral Service, Ministry of the Interior
Major R.R.Temple, Director Local Government S/C.
Capt. W.I. Cunningham, Executive Officer Local Government S/C.
Sig. A. Nice, interpreting.

1. The Director explained to Dott. Strano that he had come to him not as a representative of the Italian Government but as a technical expert in electoral matters and that it was necessary that the matters discussed at this interview should be treated as confidential for reasons which will would be apparent to Dr. Strano during the course of the interview.

2. Dott. Strano said he agreed and was always willing to help this Sub Commission in any way possible.

3. The Director then explained to Dott. Strano the Local Government administrative position in Venezia Giulia in some detail. It had now been decided to proceed with the preparation of electoral lists in Venezia Giulia and the Local Government S/C. were anxious that the lists should be prepared according to the Italian Law and practice so far as possible in order that when a settlement was arrived at concerning Venezia Giulia the Italian Government might find it possible to utilise the lists. Dott. Strano would appreciate the necessity of treating this as confidential because it was possible that the whole project for the preparation of electoral lists in Venezia Giulia would have to be abandoned if this conference became a political question.

4. Dott. Strano said he appreciated this fully and would not mention the matter ever to his own Minister. He would deal with it personally. He thanked us for the confidence which we had reposed in him.

5. Dott. Strano was then given a copy of the draft General Order for the compilation of electoral lists in Venezia Giulia. He was told that the draft was in effect a Testo Unico of the regulations contained in the following Italian laws :

a) D.L.L. 26 September 1944 n.247 - Compilation of Electoral Lists.
b) D.M. 24 October 1944
c) D.L.L. 1 February 1945 n.23 - Extension of suffrage to women.
d) D.L.L. 8 February 1945 n.55 - Expenses for the compilation of the Electoral Lists to be charged to the State
e) D.L.L. 12 April 1945 n.206 - Division of the Communes into Electoral Sections and formation of Sectional Lists.
f) D.L.L. 22 April 1945 n.214 - Ditto Ditto

and that the wording had been changed where necessary to allow for the different nomenclature of the various administrative bodies set up in Venezia Giulia. He was also given publications Nos. 1, 2 and 3 which are the instructions of the Ministry of the Interior for the formation of the electoral lists which had been cross-referenced to the draft Decree. We asked Dott. Strano to study these documents and let us have his opinion and suggestions, if any, as soon as possible. Dott. Strano said it would give him great pleasure to do this and promised to let us have his comments on Monday next 7 January.

1 2 3

6. The Director then referred to the administrative instructions which have been issued from time to time by the Ministry on the subject of preparation of electoral lists and suggested that certain of these instructions might be of use in Venezia Giulia.

7. Dott. Strano promised to provide this Sub Commission with an Index of all the

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1. The Director explained to Dott. Strano that he had come to him not as a representative of the Italian Government but as a technical expert in electoral matters and that it was necessary that the matters discussed at this interview should be treated as confidential for reasons which ~~will~~ would be apparent to Dr. Strano during the course of the interview.

2. Dott. Strano said he agreed and was always willing to help this Sub Commission in any way possible.

3. The Director then explained to Dott. Strano the Local Government administrative position in Venezia Giulia in some detail. It had now been decided to proceed with the preparation of electoral lists in Venezia Giulia and the Local Government S/C. were anxious that the lists should be prepared according to the Italian Law and practice so far as possible in order that when a settlement was arrived at concerning Venezia Giulia the Italian Government might find it possible to utilise the lists. Dott. Strano would appreciate the necessity of treating this as confidential because it was possible that the whole project for the preparation of electoral lists in Venezia Giulia would have to be abandoned if this conference became a political question.

4. Dott. Strano said he appreciated this fully and would not mention the matter ever to his own Minister. He would deal with it personally. He thanked us for the confidence which we had reposed in him.

5. Dott. Strano was then given a copy of the draft General Order for the compilation of electoral lists in Venezia Giulia. He was told that the draft was in effect a Testo Unico of the regulations contained in the following Italian laws :

a) D.L.L. 26 September 1944 n.247 - Compilation of Electoral Lists.
b) D.M. 24 October 1944
c) D.L.L. 1 February 1945 n.23 - Extension of suffrage to women.
d) D.L.L. 8 February 1945 n.55 - Expenses for the compilation of the Electoral Lists to be charged to the State
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f) D.L.L. 22 April 1945 n.214 - ditto ditto

and that the wording had been changed where necessary to allow for the different nomenclature of the various administrative bodies set up in Venezia Giulia. He was also given publications Nos. 1, 2 and 3 which are the instructions of the Ministry of the Interior for the formation of the electoral lists which had been cross-referenced to the draft Decree. He asked Dott. Strano to study these documents and let us have his opinion and suggestions, if any, as soon as possible. Dott. Strano said it would give him great pleasure to do this and promised to let us have his comments on Monday next 7 January.

6. The Director then referred to the administrative instructions which have been issued from time to time by the Ministry on the subject of preparation of electoral lists and suggested that certain of these instructions might be of use in Venezia Giulia.

7. Dott. Strano promised to provide this Sub Commission with an Index of all the administrative instructions which have been issued to date indicating :-a) those which may be issued in Venezia Giulia as they stand ; b) those which might be issued in altered form with suggested alterations and c) those which are obsolete in the light of the new Order and should not be issued. For this purpose he wished to have an extra copy of the draft Order.

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8. The Director thanked Dott. Strano for his cooperation and promised that an extra copy of the draft Order would be sent to him immediately (This copy of the Order was delivered to Dott. Strano in person by Mr. G. Chevalier at 5 o'clock the same evening).

9. Dott. Strano then referred to the new Decree on administrative elections which he said had now been passed by the Council of Ministers with a very few alterations and he gave us a copy of the Decree with the alterations marked in it. He mentioned that the Decree would probably be published in a special edition of the Official Gazette early next week.

10. The Director pointed out that this Decree would have to be implemented by AMG in Udine and said that we would study the Decree and see if it might be possible to implement it in Udine simultaneously with its publication in the Gazzetta Ufficiale.

11. Dott. Strano also supplied us with copies of the proposed nomination papers and ballot papers which had now been printed and also with 2 booklets which he thought we might like to study, one being the modifications proposed by the Ministry of the Interior for the adoption of the State ballot paper and the other the scheme for the reconstruction of communal and provincial administration on an elective basis. The Director thanked Dott. Strano for his cooperation.

W.I.Cunningham Capt

W.I.CUNNINGHAM
Captain
Executive Officer
Local Government Sub Commission

WIC/ww

1257

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785021

14/1/LG 76

AG/45/W/LG.

SUBJECT: Note of interview.

DATE : 22 December 1945

PRESENT: Dott. PIZZARO of the Electoral Service, Ministry of Interior
Capt. W.I.Cunningham - Executive Officer Local Government S/C.
Sig. A. Nice, interpreting.

1. Dott. PIZZARO produced the telegram at folio 55 and said it had already been sent to the Prefects of Italian Government territory and he asked had we any objection to it being sent to Prefects in A.M.G. territory.

2. I asked what the effect of the telegram was. Did it alter the position in regard to emigrants voting.

3. Dott. Pizzaro said that the telegram did not alter the position at all. According to law an emigrant could not be registered and this telegram was merely clarifying the position as some Prefects had queried whether emigrants could be registered. He estimated that there were only some 10,000 Italian emigrants who had retained their Italian nationality and he doubted if more than one or two hundred of them would return to record their vote even if the law were altered to enable them to do so.

4. I told Dott. Pizzaro that the A.C. had no objection to the telegram going to Prefects in A.M.G. territory.

5. Dott. Pizzaro said he would have it sent off immediately and would send us a copy as it would have a different reference number to folio 55 but would be the same wording.

6. I thanked Dott. Pizzaro and wished him the compliments of the season.

W.I. Cunningham Capt.

W. I. CUNNINGHAM
Captain
Executive Officer
Local Government Sub Commission

WIC/ww

1256

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AC/45/15/A/LC

SUBJECT: Note of interview - Ministry of the Interior

DATE : 15 December 1945 - 10.00 hrs.

PRESENT: Dr. Giuseppe ROMITA, Minister of the Interior
Dr. Giuseppe SPATARO, Under Secretary of the Ministry of the Interior
Dr. CATENACCI , Chief of the Cabinet
Major R.H.Temple, Director, Local Government B/C.
Mr. Arrigo Nice, interpreter.

1. I told Dr. ROMITA that I was paying this visit as a courtesy call and that I wished him all success in his new office.

2. I assured him that the same cooperation which existed between the Local Government B/C. and his predecessors would continue. He expressed his gratitude for my call and that he was sure relations would continue to be cordial.

3. I informed the new Minister that the matter of having inspectors-general to watch the progress in compiling electoral lists had been raised at the Regional Commissioners' meeting in Milan, and that the idea had been approved.

4. I could therefore inform Dr. Romita that the proposal of the Ministry to organise a special inspection service had the approval of the Allied Commission.

5. I also informed him that I would send a formal letter to that effect.

6. I told Dr. Romita that instructions would have to be issued shortly by the Ministry to all Prefects in the territory which was coming under the jurisdiction of the Italian Government on 31 December explaining whom to contact in connection with various military or civil administrative matters.

7. At the present time instructions to Liaison Officers and Military Commanders were being prepared.

8. I showed all three officials the graphs that had been prepared by the Sub Commission which depicted progress concerning the compilation of electoral lists. They were enthused about them and Dr. Romita asked if they might be borrowed by the Ministry so that copies could be made. I left the charts with them for copies to be made.

9. After I had left Dr. Romita's room, Dr. Spataro raised the matter of the replacement of the Prefect of Milan. I told him that I was awaiting a decision by the Government. Dr. Spataro then asked whether I would be good enough to discuss the situation with Dr. Romita. I consented to do this whereupon Dr. Spataro called Dr. Romita into the room. I told Dr. Romita that I had mentioned the subject to Dr. CATENACCI two days before.

1255

10. It was desirable to fill the vacancy at Milan caused by the assumption of the post of Minister of Transport by the former Prefect of Milan. I informed Dr. Romita that the Regional Commissioner had expressed his opinion that a career Prefect was desirable, and that he asked whether the Italian Government may consider in particular the candidacy of Dr. TRIACHINO former Prefect of Como, when the RC. had met at Milan.

11. However I made it clear to Dr. Romita that the Allied Commission was not insisting on the appointment of any particular type of Prefect that is career or non career, or any specific man - that this was a decision for the Italian

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785027

1. I told Dr. ROMITA that I was paying this visit as a courtesy call and that I wished him all success in his new office.

2. I assured him that the same cooperation which existed between the Local Government S/C. and his predecessors would continue. He expressed his gratitude for my call and that he was sure relations would continue to be cordial.

3. I informed the new Minister that the matter of having inspectors-general to watch the progress in compiling electoral lists had been raised at the Regional Commissioners' meeting in Milan, and that the idea had been approved.

4. I could therefore inform Dr. Romita that the proposal of the Ministry to organize a special inspection service had the approval of the Allied Commission.

5. I also informed him that I would send a formal letter to that effect.

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7. At the present time instructions to Liaison Officers and Military Commanders were being prepared.

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9. After I had left Dr. Romita's room, Dr. Spataro raised the matter of the replacement of the Prefect of Milan. I told him that I was awaiting a decision by the Government. Dr. Spataro then asked whether I would be good enough to discuss the situation with Dr. Romita. I consented to do this whereupon Dr. Spataro called Dr. Romita into the room. I told Dr. Romita that I had mentioned the subject to Dr. CATTANEO two days before.

1255

10. It was desirable to fill the vacancy at Milan caused by the assumption of the post of Minister of Transport by the former Prefect of Milan. I informed Dr. Romita that the Regional Commissioner had expressed his opinion that a career Prefect was desirable, and that he asked whether the Italian Government may consider in particular the candidacy of Dr. TRICOMO former Prefect of Como, when the RC. had met at Milan.

11. However I made it clear to Dr. Romita that the Allied Commission was not insisting on the appointment of any particular type of Prefect that is career or not career, or any specific man - that this was a decision for the Italian Government to make -. Dr. Romita said that he understood perfectly.

X

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12. Note (Dr. Catemacci later in the hall explained that was perfectly obvious to me, i.e. that there was a division of opinion on the subject of career and non-career Prefects between the new Minister who is a Socialist and the Under Secretary who is a Christian-Democrat.

Apparently Dr. Catemacci and Dr. Spataro hoped that I might tip the balance in favour of a career Prefect by indicating that this was officially the desire of the Allied Commission.

I carefully refrained from taking any stand on this point).

RALPH A. [redacted]
Major
Director
Local Government Sub Commission

RAP/ww

1254

Distribution : - 45/15/4/LG
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4/1/105/LG

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RHT/ww

Robert R. TERRELL
Major
Director
Local Government Sub Commission

1254

Distribution : - 45/15/4/LG
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6/5/4/LG
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2017

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785021

45/15/A/LG.

14/1/74

SUBJECT: Note of interview - Ministry of the Interior

DATE : 13 December 1945 - 11.30 hrs.

PRESENT: Dr. CATENACCI , Chief of the Cabinet, Ministry of the Interior
Dr. STRANO, Head of the Electoral Service, Ministry of the Interior
Major R.R. Temple, Director, Local Government S/C.
Mr. Arrigo Nice, interpreter.

1. I mentioned to Dr. CATENACCI that we had received the letter from Director-General VICEDOMINI of the Electoral Service, in which the latter proposed to organise an inspection service to follow more closely the progress of electoral operations and assisting local Government officials in their tasks.

2. I told him that in fact I had been thinking along the same lines and as a matter of fact had asked that the matter be raised at the meeting of regional commissioners at Milan.

3. I had intended to take the matter up with the Italian Government as soon as I was informed of the reaction of the regional commissioners to my suggestion.

4. As soon as I received this information I promised Dr. CATENACCI to take it up with the Italian Government officially.

R. R. Temple Major

RALPH R. TEMPLE
Major,
Director,
Local Government Sub Commission

RRT/ww

Distribution : 45/15/A/LG
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2016

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785021

14/1/46.

SUBJECT: Note of interview - Ministry of the Interior

DATE : 13 December 1945 - 11.30 hrs.

PRESENT: Dr. CATENACCI, Chief of Cabinet, Ministry of the Interior
Major R.R. Temple, Director Local Government S/C.
Mr. Arrigo Nice, interpreter.

1. I told Dr. CATENACCI that we had received a telephone call from the Regional Commissioner of Lombardia and pointed out that a replacement was necessary for the Prefect of Milan, inasmuch as the incumbent, Dr. Lombardi, had been appointed Minister of Transport in the Cabinet, and was relinquishing his post of Prefect.

2. I explained that the RC had suggested that a career Prefect be nominated and asked that the Italian Government consider the possible nomination of Dr. Mario TRINCHERO . The latter had beer Prefect of Como until the Fascists threw him out of office.

3. The RC who had met him was very favourably impressed by him. I told Dr. CATENACCI, however, that I understood that the CLN in Milan was split on the question as to whether a career Prefect or a non-career Prefect should be appointed. Furthermore I informed Dr. CATENACCI that the Allied Commission was not insisting on the appointment of a career Prefect, but merely wished to bring to the Government's attention the suggestion of the Regional Commissioner, who was usually in a position to appraise the local situation most accurately. Dr. Catenacci said that he was familiar with Dr. TRINCHERO , and that the latter was a very capable official who had been imprisoned by the Fascists and in fact had escaped to Switzerland.

4. He said Dr. Trinchero had a very good reputation and probably would be politically acceptable. In any event he would have the matter taken up with the Ministry of the Interior and the Presidency of the Council and would let us know.

5. I intimated that if the Government desired to submit several names they may do so.

R. R. Temple

RALPH R. TEMPLE
Major
Director
Local Government Sub Commission

RRT/ww

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2019

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785021

14/1/15

72

2/15/A/LG

SUBJECT: Note of interview - Ministry of the Interior

DATE : 13 December 1945 - 11,30 hrs.

PRESENT: Dott. CATELLACCI - Chief of the Cabinet, Ministry of the Interior
Dott. STRANO - Head of the Electoral Service, Ministry of the Interior
Major R.R. Temple - Director Local Government S/C.
Mr. A. Nice, interpreter.

1. Dr. STRANO explained to me that he had prepared his report for the President of the Council of Ministers following our conference on the 17th November which had been suggested in the Chief Commissioner's letter to the Prime Minister of the 8th November. The Government crisis however had prevented its transmission to the Office of the Presidency, and that consequently the letter from the Prime Minister to the Chief Commissioner dealing with the electoral laws was not ready to be despatched.

2. He agreed however that there was nothing to prevent an immediate response from the Italian Government dealing with the Constituent Assembly Law, inasmuch as there had been complete agreement with that Ministry on all points raised by the Allied Commission concerning that law, and in fact the Ministry for the Costituente had included the agreed changes in their draft to be presented to the Consulta.

3. Dr. STRANO showed me 2 sample ballots which he had prepared for consideration by the President of the Council, one based on the majority system in use in Communes under 30000, the other based on the proportionate representation list system used in Communes over 30000. Both followed the suggestion which I made at the interview on the 17th November. Dr. STRANO said that they would be submitted for consideration at a conference which he expected would take place as soon as the President read his report.

4. Dr. STRANO said that the semi-monthly report indicating the situation with regard to progress in compilation of electoral registers would be sent to us in a few days.

5. He stated that the situation according to the latest returns is as follows:-

2905 male lists and 5233 female lists compiled, making a total of 8138
Lists approved are 898 male and 1116 female lists, making a total of 2014
(there are 1120 lists involved in Italy)

6. Dr. STRANO expressed the opinion that the laws themselves had to be discussed by the Consulta and then passed by the Council of Ministers, and he hoped that the local elections might take place before the end of February. He hoped that by then the lists would be ready in most of Central and Southern Italy.

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7. He did not expect the Local Elections' Law to be enacted before the end of January.

RALPH R. TEMPLE
Major
Director
Local Government Sub Commission

RRT/ww

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C/45/3/1/46

SUBJECT: Note of interview - HQ. AC. - Constituent Assembly Documentary Film

DATE : 6 December 1945 - 11.15 hours

PRESENT: CRESPI, Dr. Gabriele - Cabinet, Ministry of the Costituente
D'AGNANO, Prof. - " " " " "
Major C.G.R. Williams
Mr. J. Chevalier, interpreter.

1. Dr. CRESPI handed me(a) the Note as to what was done about the film for the Bank of Italy loan, at fo. 2 ; (b) a synopsis of the film on the Constituent Assembly at fo. 3.

2. Prof. D'AGNANO stated that, under Italian law as it now stands,no cinema can be compelled to show a documentary film. To make the showing of the Costituente film obligatory, they do not propose to alter the law. Instead they ask that PWB be desired to act. PWB have reserved the right to compel the showing of any of their own films, D'AGNANO said. This applies in Italian Government Territory as well as Military Government Territory. What they ask therefore is that PWB give directions for the compulsory showing of the Costituente film as if it were one of their own. This is what was done in the case of the loan film. D'AGNANO added that PWB would not, of course, assume any responsibility for the contents of the film.

3. PWB is about to close down, but D'AGNANO said there will be a body taking over from it the distribution of U.S. films and that body could give the necessary directions for the compulsory showing.

4. The film has not been started yet. They have asked PWB for the loan of some of their sets which has been granted. For some of the scenes they will use cuttings from other films in which the incidents to be portrayed appeared. They think the film will be ready about 14 January. It will cost 3½ million lire.

5. I said I would contact PWB. D'AGNANO said the person to speak to was Capt. Levy, Film Section, PWB, in Via Santa Susanna.(tel.no. ascertained later - 489361/2/3)

6. Dr. CRESPI said would we treat the matter as urgent as they were waiting for our answer before they could obtain authorisation for the expenditure.

C.G.R. WILLIAMS
Major,
Executive Officer,
Local Government Sub Commission.

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5. I said I would contact PWB. D'AGNANO said the person to speak to was Capt. Levy, Film Section, PWB, in Via Santa Susanna.(tel.no. ascertained later - 489381/2/3)

6. Dr. CRESPI said would we treat the matter as urgent as they were waiting for our answer before they could obtain authorisation for the expenditure.

C.C.R. WILLIAMS
Major,
Executive Officer,
Local Government Sub Commission.

1250

CCRW/ww

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2022

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785021

AC/4/1/180/LG

SUBJECT: Note of Interview - HQ. AC.- Officials for Savona.

DATE : 4 December - 1530 hrs

PRESENT: Dott. DE MAGISTRIS, Vice Capo Ufficio, Ministry of the Interior
Major Ralph R. Temple, Director Local Government S/C
Capt. J.L. Russell, Asst. Executive Officer, Local Government S/C
Sig. Arrigo NICE, interpreting

1. Major Temple said that, with reference to the proposal to appoint Avv. Rolla as Prefetto Reggente of Savona, the opinion of the Regional Commissioner of Liguria had been obtained. The RC had stated that he would be agreable to the appointment of Avv. Rolla as VPV; but that he was firmily of the opinion that a career Prefect was needed, who was familiar with the details of administrative procedure: the lack of such an official was felt in the administration of Savona. Accordingly, Major Temple stated the Sub Commission felt obliged to renew their previous request for the nomination of a career Prefect.

2. Sig. De Magistris said that he would see that immediate attention was given to this request. He pointed out that the nomination would be dependent upon a meeting of the Council of Ministers, and that there might be a delay of 3 to 4 days; but he promised to see that the matter was put on the agenda and marked for the immediate attention of the Council at its next meeting.

3. Major Temple said that, with reference to the vacancy for VPI, it was desirable to postpone the appointment until the new Prefect was installed.

4. Sig. De Magistris said that he would telephone the details of the nomination of the Prefect to this Sub Commission to avoid delay, and would prepare the usual biographical details.

RRT

John L. Russell Capt.

J.L. RUSSELL
Captain
Asst. Executive Officer
Local Government Sub Commission

JLR/nm

Distribution: AC/4/1/180/LG
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Float

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2021

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785021

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AC/45/3/LG
AC/115/21/LG.

SUBJECT: Note of interview - Ministry of the Interior

DATE : 4 December 1945 - 1100 hours.

PRESENT: Dott. STRANO, Head of the Electoral Service, Ministry of the Interior
Capt. J.L.Russell, Asst. Executive Officer, Local Government S/C
Sig. J. Chevalier, interpreting

1. I explained that the purpose of our visit was to ascertain to what extent the prefects' fortnightly reports on electoral progress had been reaching the Ministry direct, with particular reference to those reports which had not been received at all by the Sub Commission.

2. Dott. Strano produced an index of reports received by the Ministry, and this was checked against our list of reports still required. For Lombardia Region, out of 23 reports overdue, 10 had been received by the Ministry direct. For Liguria Region, out of 7 overdue, 2 had been received by the Ministry. For Venezie Region, out of 44 overdue, 14 had been received by the Ministry. For Piemonte Region no reports were overdue, and all had passed through the normal channels.

3. Dott. Strano suggested that prefects in AMG territory should be instructed to send their reports to the Ministry direct, with a copy to AC Local Government Sub Commission: he said that at present the Ministry found themselves in the position of being unable to take any action to ensure receipt of the reports.

4. I pointed out that this question had been raised previously, and that, as Major Williams had stated, the additional delay due to transmission of reports through AC channels was very small. I said that the Local Government Sub Commission intended to take firm measures to speed up the forwarding of reports, and that for that reason it was particularly desirable that all reports should pass through our office so that we could be certain as to which reports the Ministry had received and which were still required.

5. Dott. Strano stated that the Ministry staff were by no means infallible, and said that when letters addressed by our Sub Commission to the Electoral Service had to be translated they had been known to go astray after translation and additional delay might be caused thereby. To obviate this he requested that letters concerning electoral matters be marked for his personal attention; and he also suggested that if a personal letter had to be sent to the Minister dealing with electoral matters, a copy should if possible be sent to himself (Dott. Strano) so that he could personally ensure prompt delivery of the original. I promised to make known this suggestion to the Director and thanked Dott. Strano for the information supplied by his office.

John L. Russell Capt.
Asst. Executive Officer
Local Government Sub Commission

JLR/mm

P.S. The figures given in para 2 above relate to reports for period 15 July to 15 November NOT received up to date (4 December).

X JLR

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2024

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785021

Interview 1267

10/1

SUBJECT: Note of Interview - AC HQ

DATE : 1 December 1945 - 0930 hours.

PRESENT: Signor CASARDI, General Secretariat, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Dott. SORRENTINO, Legislative Office, Presidency of the Council
Major C.G.R. Williams, Executive Officer, Local Government S/C
Sig. Arrigo MICH, interpreting.

1. The purpose of the interview was to clarify certain obscurities in the Draft Decree at folios

2. Art.1 - The word 'originarie' is not a term of art and has no precise legal meaning. It is used here simply because it is also used in the Hitler - Mussolini Accords and in the Law of 1939 which implements them so that persons within the ambit of those documents will also be within the ambit of the new Decree.

3. The meaning of 'anche prima' in para (3) of Art.1 is that those who entered German service before the Armistice are covered by this para, as well as those who entered that service after the Armistice.

4. Art.3. - the time limit of 30 days is is peremptory, i.e. applications made later can NOT be considered.

5. Art.4. - the phrase "nominate nelle provincie etc." has been inserted because otherwise the earlier words "Commissioni provinciali" would require the appointment of Commissions in every province throughout Italy in which an optant happened not to be living. Instead, there will be one separate Commission for each of the provinces of Bolzano, Trento, Belluno and Udine.

6. The penultimate para of Art.3 means dividing a Commission into sections when necessary (and it will only be necessary for the Bolzano Commission) by appointing additional members. Thus if 2 sections are deemed necessary then an additional 5 members are appointed, i.e. 11 in all, who sit and acts separately with all the powers of the Commission. If a third section is thought necessary then another five additional members have to be appointed. The thing works in the same way as the Sections of the Council of State or the Court of Cassation.

7. Art.5. - "presumibilmente" in the first para does not imply that the Commission can dispense with all evidence, but only that it may dispense with strict proof. There will usually be indications only of what the optants may have been: the Commission may draw an inference from such indications.

8. The last para of Art.5 is necessary because the Hitler - Mussolini Agreements require optants to emigrate. Although this requirement is not being enforced, technically it remains in existence as a legal obligation. The object of this para is to suspend that legal obligation temporarily. It does not imply any intention of the Italian Government actually to expel anyone.

9. Art.7. - There is a mistake in the first para of this which should read "nel prima e seconda comma dell'art.1".

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10. The "competent judicial authority" referred to in the 5th para of Art.7 is the Tribunal and thence to the Court of Appeal and Court of Cassation. The disputes referred to in this Art. are questions of fact, e.g. did or did not a particular individual emigrate - did or did not another individual enter German service. It is therefore considered proper to allow appeal to the ordinary courts of law. Decisions granting or refusing citizenship under Art.5 however involve considerations of policy. Appeal from these decisions is therefore made to lie to the administrative court, i.e. the Council of State.

11. Arts. 8 and 10. The legislative office appreciates that DLL 149 is not in force in the Upper Adige. Dott. SORRENTINO said the CC had written to the PM that DLL. 149 could be put into force with certain amendments. If this is done before the new Decree on citizenship is enacted, then the reference to DLL. 149 would be appropriate. If not, then an alteration will be made so as to refer instead to DLL. 159.

C.G.R. WILLIAMS
Major,
Executive Officer,
Local Government Sub Commission.

CGRW/fre

DISTRIBUTION.

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2026

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785021

To Lt. Cross file
11/4/66

AG/45/29/12

SUBJECT: Note of Interview - Office of Vice President, Civil Affairs Section

DATE : 30 November 1945 - 1145 hours.

PRESENT: Lt. Col. S. H. White, Acting Vice President, CA Section
Major Ralph R. Temple, Director, Local Government S/O
Dott. D'ANGELIS Bruno, Prefect of Bolzano

(Notes transcribed by Cpl. Paul E. Carr)

1. Lt. Col. White explained that the conference had been arranged in order to discuss in general terms the Draft DLL as to citizenship in the Upper Adige. The Allied Commission was not yet in a position to make observations because the Draft DLL was still being studied. However, it had been thought desirable to obtain the views of the Prefect.

2. In the course of the discussion that followed, Dott. DE ANGELIS indicated agreement on the various points of the Draft Decree, with the following exceptions.

3. Article 1. Dott. DE ANGELIS stressed the point that he felt that the Law of 1912 should be made applicable in its entirety as the basis for determining citizenship. He considered that:—

(1) those are citizens of Italy who have documents of German citizenship but who have not transferred to Germany;

(2) those have lost their citizenship who have transferred to Germany;

(3) those have lost their citizenship who have remained and who have acquired German citizenship and have taken a German office.

As outlined in the Draft Decree, Dott. DE ANGELIS said he felt that the first category was stated correctly; the second was too indefinite, and the third was too indefinite and too wide.

4. Article 3. It was felt that the period of 30 days should be altered to 3 months.

5. Article 4. Dott. DE ANGELIS indicated that, instead of having a separate Commission for each province, he preferred to have established one Central Commission with functional Sub-Commissions in order to insure uniformity.

6. Article 5. Objection was taken to sub para (1) of this Article. It was thought preferrable to proceed under the epuration laws with necessary modifications.

7. Article 8. Lt. Col. White stated that the only difficulty in connection with this Article was that Decree 149 has not been implemented in AMG Territory. Dott. DE ANGELIS stated that this did not matter because the epuration laws would apply in any event.

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R. R. Temple mdj

RALPH R. TEMPLE, Major
Director, Local Government S/O

pec

2021

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785021

Interrogation 65

AG/45/3/16

SUBJECT: Note of interview - AC HQ

DATE : 28 November 1945 - 1030 hours.

PRESENT: Dott. STRANO, Head of the Electoral Service, Ministry of the Interior
Major C. G. R. Williams, Executive Officer, Local Government S/C
Capt. J. L. Russell, Ass't Executive Officer " " "
Sig. Arrigo NICE, interpreting.

1. Dott. STRANO stated that the Royal Mint had practically finished the manufacture of the official stamps for marking ballot-papers. The Mint are also manufacturing the inking pads, etc. to go with the stamps and the box (about 6" x 5" x 2"). These boxes would be sealed.

2. The Ministry would then have to send them out to the Prefectures in the ratio of one box to every electoral section. The Ministry have not yet got accurate information as to the number of sections in the various communes of each province but they would send out an estimated number calculated so as to leave a sufficient reserve to be held in the Prefecture.

3. The Ministry expects to be ready to begin distribution in about 20 days. They propose to start distributing to Southern Italy. Dott. STRANO mentioned the matter to us now as the question of transporting this material to North Italy would arise in about a month and he thought we would like to be making plans. I said we certainly would but we should not be able to do anything without some figures as to estimated quantities and weights. It was agreed that Dott. STRANO would let us know as soon as possible:—

(i) the weight of one of the boxes;

(ii) the estimated weight of one of the big cases into which the boxes would be packed;

(iii) the estimated number of boxes to go to each of the 30 provinces in North Italy.

We discussed the possibilities and it seemed that rail transport was probably the best. As an instance, Dott. STRANO said Como had about 500 sections—about 100-150 boxes went into a packing case so that Como would require about 4 large cases. This covered one province only and not one of the largest. Dott. STRANO suggested we might consider special rail vans.

4. In reply to my inquiry, Dott. STRANO said this material certainly ought to be guarded and the Ministry would provide armed guards from the Rome Questura special squad.

C. G. R. WILLIAMS, Major
Executive Officer
Local Government Sub Commission

CGRW/pec

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785021

AC/45/D/MG

SUBJECT: Note of Interview - AC HQ

DATE : 28 November 1945 - 1000 hours.

PRESENT: Dott. STRANO, Head of the Electoral Service, Ministry of the Interior
Major C. C. R. Williams, Executive Officer, Local Government S/C
Sig. Arrigo HICS, Interpreting.

1. The purpose of the interview was to discuss the Draft Decree and report at folios 48, 48A, 49 and 49A.

2. I told Dott. STRANO the S/C was in full agreement with the Ministry as to the objects aimed at under the Draft Decree. The Ministry could, therefore, go ahead with its enactment. There were a few points, however, on the language of the Decree on which we would like to ask questions to make sure that we fully understood it.

3. The explanations given by Dott. STRANO are summarised in the following paragraphs.

4. Time-Limits: The time-limits of 31 December 1945 in Articles 1, 2 and 3 are peremptory. The time-limits fixed for action by officials, i.e. 15 January 1946 in Article 2--15 days in Article 4--are not peremptory.

5. "Commune of Origin" means the Commune of birth or, if the emigrant was born abroad, the Commune of his parents' birth. Emigrants do not appear in the "anagrafe" but the entries in the necessary register of births remain. By reference to these, the Sindaco of the Commune of origin will be able to control the emigrant's application.

6. No particular form is prescribed for the application. A simple letter or telegram will do provided it gives the emigrant's name.

7. The Decree relates solely to the right of the emigrant to be inscribed in the electoral lists. It gives him no right to vote from abroad. He must attend the Commune where he is registered for this. No provision for postal or proxy voting is contemplated.

8. An emigrant attending at the polling station to vote will produce his passport instead of his identity card. Incidentally, production of a passport also controls the fact of citizenship. The Ministry are making this proposal to the Ministry for the Constituent Assembly so that a similar provision may be inserted in the Draft Law for Constituent Assembly elections.

9. The Draft Decree will go before the Council of Ministers today or tomorrow--anyway this week. The Government crisis does not affect it. Prime Minister PARRI has already indicated his approval and desires that the Decree be enacted quickly.

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10. The Ministry have prepared a telegram to all Prefects giving them advance notice of the Decree. They will send us a copy of this. We will then telephone our formal approval to the Ministry dispatching this telegram to Prefects in AMG Territory direct. On the basis of the telegram, we will then issue to RCs and PCs any instructions we may think necessary, to keep them in the picture.

11. In view of the very short time-limits fixed, it was agreed that immediate implementation was necessary. For this purpose, we would arrange with Legal Sub Commission for publication in an ordinary supplement to the Gazette together with the implementing order.

12. Dott. STRANO mentioned in passing that they had had quite a number of representations on the point of emigrants being registered from Prefects mainly in the North. These appeared principally to affect the border provinces. A number of emigrants had already written in asking if they could be registered. These applications had come principally from France, Belgium and Luxembourg.

C. G. R. WILLIAMS
Major
Executive Officer
Local Government Sub Commission

CGRW/pec

Distribution:

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AC/14/1/LG
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14/1

Int. Territoriale fol 63

AC/45/B/2/LG

SUBJECT: Note of interview - AC HQ

DATE : 17 November 1945 - 10:30 hours

PRESENT: Dott. STRANO Paolo, Head of the Electoral Service, Ministry of Interior
Major Ralph R. Temple, Director, Local Government Sub Commission
Major O.G.R. Williams, Executive Officer, Local Government S/C
Sig. Arrigo NICE, interpreting.

1. We discussed the observations upon the Draft Law for local elections made in the letter from CC to PM of 8 November.

2. Publication of duly nominated candidates. Dott. STRANO admitted the desirability of this. He demurred, however, to the suggestion that the length of notice should be at least 20 days.

3. Instead he suggested a time-table as follows:

Action	Communes under 30,000	Communes of 30,000+ over.
Prefect fixes date of election	25 days before electn	30 days before electn
Nomination of candidates	16 " " "	21 " " "
Verification of nominations	15 " " "	20 " " "
Publication of nominations	10 " " "	15 " " "

4. He said the Ministry did not want to make the periods longer because it would mean postponing the date of the local elections. The Council of Ministers had announced their intention to commence local elections by the end of the year: and in a recent speech in the North, the PM had said the local elections would take place in the last half of December and the first half of January.

5. Major Temple replied that the actual day of election could be kept the same and the date when the Prefect gives notice of the election brought back earlier so as to allow a sufficient period. Dott. STRANO pointed out, however, that the election law had to pass the Consulta, be returned, etc. This would take about a month and there would not be time to set back the date as Major Temple suggested.

6. Major Temple said a period of ~~fifteen~~ 20 days had been specified by the CC in his letter and it had been ~~noted~~ accepted without any suggestion of a shorter period by all who had considered the matter in AC. He therefore did not consider that he had authority at the present moment to agree to a shorter period. He would, however, consider recommending the acceptance of a shorter period but he would first wish to know if the periods of 10 and 15 days now suggested were the definite formal proposals of the Government. Dott. STRANO said he would take

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this point up and writs.

7. In that event, Major Temple said he would be prepared to recommend acceptance of a single period of 15 days for all local elections subject to anything else that might arise on consideration of the rest of the Draft Law. Dr. STRANO eventually agreed that the same period for all administrative elections would be best, because simplest.

NOTE:--As a matter of fact, the whole question of the election period is affected by the official ballot-paper question, as to which see para. 12(c) below.

8. Major Williams mentioned provincial elections. It was agreed that if 15 days notice of duly nominated candidates is agreed for the Communes, the same period should apply for provincial elections.

9. Implementation. Dott. STRANO said the Ministry propose to delete Article 102 of the Draft Law and to substitute for it an article in the same words as Article 74 of the Draft Law on Constituent Assembly elections. It was agreed that this would meet the point taken about implementation.

10. Official ballot-paper. There was a lengthy discussion about this, Dott. STRANO not being able to see how the practical difficulties could be overcome. The practical difficulties which he urged were:--

(a) the ballot-paper would be very complicated and a large number of the less educated electors would not understand it:

(b) it would cost money and use up a lot of paper:

(c) there would not be adequate time to print and distribute it:

(d) printing establishments capable of producing such a complicated ballot-paper were not available to the smaller Communes:

(e) he did not see how an intelligible ballot-paper could be devised.

11. After some discussion in which it was evident that Dott. STRANO did not appreciate the importance of the official ballot-paper, Major Temple told him that he could not discuss whether it was desirable. The AC view was that an official ballot-paper was fundamental, that without it there was no adequate freedom of voting. Major Temple could, therefore, only discuss with Dott. STRANO the practical difficulties in the way of adopting an official ballot.

12. In the course of discussion, the following points were made in answer to Dott. STRANO's objections:--

(a) It was considered that Dott. STRANO under-valued the intelligence of the average Italian. The unofficial election at ATRI was quoted as an example, where the much more complicated system of the single transferrable vote was adopted and there was a high poll and no spoilt ballots. In any case, the official ballot was considered fundamental for ensuring the freedom of independent voting and our view was that freedom should be assured to the voter even if he did not know how to use it.

(b) The paper would be used in any event. The cost involved was a very small part of total State expenditures and was a secondary consideration.

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(c) As to the time for printing and distribution, Major Temple pointed out that this was ~~not~~ in his mind when he suggested a minimum of 20 days for publication of the duly nominated candidates. The point should and could be got over by lengthening the election period.

(d) The absence of printing facilities in small Communes is a mere matter of administrative machinery. The Prefect or the Electoral Commission could be required to organise the printing and do it in the main centers.

(e) Several examples were quoted to Dott. STRANO of ballots actually used, and 2 specimens used in New York City were lent to him.

13. A method was discussed whereby the Parties would deposit with the proper authority a sufficient quantity of printed ballots containing the names of their own candidates only but in the form and type prescribed by law. To these the authority responsible would add blank ballots, i.e. ballots in the prescribed form but containing spaces only and no names. The elector would receive a sort of pad of these ballots, i.e. one copy of each of the ballot-papers deposited by the Parties plus a blank ballot. He would then go to the booths, vote on the particular ballot-paper he wished to use and deposit the whole pad in the ballot box.

14. Dott. STRANO was obviously taken by this idea. It was pointed out to him, however, that it can only be regarded as a very second best and had many disadvantages, e.g. there would be a tendency for the more ignorant voter to use the ballot-paper which happened to be on top of the pad.

C. C. R. WILLIAMS
Major
Director
Local Government Sub Commission

CCRW/pec

20 November 1945

Distribution:
AC/45/B/2/LG
AC/14/1/LG
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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785021

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Interviews file 67

HEAD-QUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUB COMMISSION

AC/45/E/1/13 Bol: 478706

SUBJECT: Note of interview - AC HQ

DATE : 17 November 1945 - 1000 hours

PRESENT: Dott. SPATAFORA Mariano--Chief of the Legislative Office, Presidency of the Council
Dott. STRANO Paolo--Chief of Electoral Service, Ministry of Interior
Major Ralph E. Temple, Director, Local Government Sub Commission
Major C.G.R. Williams, Executive Officer, Local Government Sub Commission
Sig. RICE Arrigo, interpreting.

1. Dott. SPATAFORA referred to the observations upon the Draft Law for elections to the Constituent Assembly which were made in the Chief Commissioner's letter to the Prime Minister of 8 November. He said these observations were clearly justified and the Italian Government were ready to meet them. At the Consulta, they were now putting in hand the printing of the Draft Law and the report of the Commission, which provided an opportunity to insert in the print the amendments consequential upon the acceptance of the Allied Commission's observations.

2. Electoral propaganda near polling stations. The Italian Government propose to insert in the Draft Law a clause in the same terms as Article 43 of the Draft Law for the administrative elections.

3. Publication of duly nominated candidates. The Government would make an amendment to Article 16 of the Draft Law requiring publication by the Sindaco not later than 20 days before election day. As the Court of Appeal has to examine and approve the lists by the 30 th day before election day, this proposal would allow a space of 10 days for printing and distribution to Sindaci.

4. Implementation. The Government would insert in Articles 5 and 6 the necessary references to Article 8 of ECL 27 July 1944 No. 159.

5. Page and line amendments to the Draft Law were then agreed as set forth in the Appendix to this note.

6. Dott. SPATAFORA added that the suggestion for publication of the Law in a supplement to the Official Gazette together with the Allied Commission's ordinance implementing it was also accepted.

7. Major Temple expressed appreciation of the spirit in which the Allied Commission's observations had been received and of the promptness with which steps had been taken to amend the Law accordingly. In these observations had been made in a letter from the Chief Commissioner to the Prime Minister, Major Temple said he assumed that the Prime Minister would now reply formally to state that these observations were accepted. Dott. SPATAFORA and Dott. STRANO agreed and said this would be done immediately.

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b)A

8. Major Temple undertook to let both representatives of the Italian Government have a copy of the Sub Commission's note of this interview, after which they agreed to act in motion the Prime Minister's formal reply.

C. G. R. WILLIAMS
Major
Executive Officer
Local Government Sub Commission

CGRW/pec

Distribution:

AG/45/R/1/LG
AG/14/1/LG
Dott. GRATAPORA
Dott. SERAFO
Fleet

19 November 1945

2033

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785021

APPENDIX

Draft Law on elections for the Constituent Assembly

Page and line amendments to Draft agreed on 17 November 1945

(NOTE: References to pages and lines are references to the pages and lines of the Draft Law as contained in file 10/45/26/10)

Article 3

Page 3, line 2:—

After the figures "149", insert
"e all'art. 8 del D.L.L. 27 luglio 1944, n. 159".

Article 6

Page 4, line 16:—

The same amendment as above.

Article 16

Page 9, line 20:—

After the words "altri luoghi pubblici", insert
"entro il ventesimo giorno antecedente la data delle elezioni".

Article 31

Insert between this Article and Article 32 the following new Article:—

"Ogni propaganda elettorale e' vietata entro il raggio di 200 metri dall'ingresso della sezione elettorale.
"Le infrazioni sono punite con la reclusione sino a sei mesi o con la multa da lire 2000 a lire 10.000."

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Interview file
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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUB COMMISSION

AC/45/12/1/LG

SUBJECT: Note of Interview - AC HQ

DATE : 16 November 1945 - 1100 hours

PRESENT: Cons. Dott. SORRENTINO, Legislative Office, Presidency of the Council
Major Ralph R. Temple, Director, Local Government S/C
Major C. G. R. Williams, Executive Officer, Local Government S/C
Sig. Arrigo NICE, interpreting.

1. Major Temple referred to the Prime Minister's letter to the Chief Commissioner on 9 November (folio 1) and said there were one or two passages in it which were not quite clear. He had accordingly asked the Presidency if he could see an official who could clarify these points.

2. Dott. SORRENTINO said in a few days they would be sending AC a copy of the Draft of the Decree referred to in the PM's letter. It was ready except for one or two minor details.

3. In reply to Major Temple, Dott. SORRENTINO said that the Decree would deal with citizenship only and not with other matters, such as the structure of local government or the question of autonomy. It would also include provisions dealing with those guilty of criminal responsibilities of a political nature. He explained this by saying that for example the Decree would probably deprive of the right to vote those who had collaborated with the Nazis, just as Fascist collaborators are deprived by the existing legislation.

4. Dott. SORRENTINO added that the autonomy question was much more complex in Bolzano than Aosta and they were dealing with it by stages. Two Decrees had already been passed by the Council of Ministers:--

(a) one providing for the use of German as well as Italian in public acts, etc. and

(b) another dealing with the question of education.

The Decree on language, he said, had been published in the Gazette in the last few days; that on education was not yet published.

5. In reply to Major Temple, Dott. SORRENTINO said he did not know if there had been any discussion with AC on the drafting of these two Decrees. He thought not, as they were of limited scope. It certainly was the intention, however, to send AC a draft of the Decree on citizenship referred to in the PM's letter.

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6. Major Temple asked if the Decree on citizenship would deal with the question merely as affecting the franchise or whether it would deal with citizenship as a whole and for all purposes. Dott. SORRENTINO said the latter.

7. Major Temple then referred to the last paragraph of the PM's letter and asked if this meant that the Government agreed to a temporary registration of certain classes now and pending the making of the Decree on citizenship, the establishment of the Special Commission and the completion of its labours.

8. Dott. SORRENTINO began to speak about the provisions of the Draft Decree but we explained that we were not speaking of that at the moment but of the meaning of this paragraph of the PM's letter. Dott. SORRENTINO then said he was from the legislative office and was only concerned with the drawing up of the Decree. He did not know anything about what the Government might intend to do in the meantime as to the compilation of electoral lists.

9. Major Temple said in that case he was very sorry that Dott. SORRENTINO had had the trouble to come here as he had specifically asked Dott. VARINO (of the Council of the Presidency) that he would like to speak to an official who knew the Government's intentions and could explain the letter. (The interpreter who conveyed the message to Dott. VARINO--Mr. Chevalier--was called in accordingly and Major Temple ascertained that the message had been correctly given). Dott. SORRENTINO said he did not think anyone at the Presidency would be able to answer. The PM's letter was a personal one and would be handled by his private secretary only. He thought, however, that the Ministry of the Interior would have been consulted and suggested we see someone from them.

10. Dott. SORRENTINO telephoned from this office to Dott. CATENACCI, Chief of Cabinet for the Ministry of the Interior, who agreed that Dott. STRANO, Head of the Electoral Service, might be able to help us. Major Temple said as he was seeing Dott. STRANO at 1100 hours tomorrow on the subject, he would mention this matter to him as well at the time.

11. Dott. SORRENTINO said that when he got back to the office he would mention the point to Dott. STRANO so as to prepare him. He would also speak to the PM and explain our point about the last paragraph of the letter and let us know what the PM said. (NOTE: For the result of this conversation between SORRENTINO and the PM, see Minute 3.)

C. G. R. WILLIAMS
Major
Executive Officer
Local Government Sub Commission

CGRW/pec
Distribution:
AC/45/12/1/LG
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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUB COMMISSION

AG/4/1/130/LG

SUBJECT: Appointment of Prefect for Savona--Note of Interview - AG 14

DATE : 13 November 1945

PRESENT: Dott. DE MAGISTRIS, Vice Capo Ufficio, Ministry of the Interior
Dott. BADI, Cabinet Official, Ministry of the Interior
Major Ralph R. Temple, Director, Local Government Sub Commission
Capt. J. L. Russell, Assistant Executive Officer, Local Government S/C
Sig. Arrigo RICH, interpreting.

1. Sig. DE MAGISTRIS, as Vice Capo Ufficio to Sig. PARRI, Minister of the Interior, presented a proposal on the part of the Ministry that Avv. Giacomo ROLLA (at present Vice Prefetto Vicario) should be appointed Prefetto Reggente of Savona. It was the opinion of the Ministry that under Avv. ROLLA, as a non-career Prefect, the "political situation would be stabilised": it was also represented that this appointment could be balanced by the appointment of a career Vice Prefetto Vicario.

2. Major Temple drew the attention of the Ministry's representatives to the completely unsatisfactory state of the administration in Savona Province, as shown in the Provincial Commissioner's report, and to the fact that both present Vice Prefects were non-career men. He also noted delays which had occurred in the past in filling vacancies in the administration. Major Temple stated, however, that he would forward the suggestions of the Ministry to the Regional Commissioner, Liguria, for his observations. He also promised to ascertain whether or not a Vice Prefetto Ispettore was still required.

3. Sig. DE MAGISTRIS promised that, should these suggestions prove acceptable, he would make it his personal duty to see that a career Vice Prefetto Vicario was appointed by the Ministry immediately. Also, should these suggestions be unacceptable, it was believed that a career Prefetto could be found. Sig. DE MAGISTRIS then explained that, apart from the political situation, it was also the policy of the Ministry to refrain from making any new appointments amongst Prefects at the present moment, because a new set of regulations were being drafted: the effect of these regulations would be to lower the age-limit so that the administrative posts would be filled by younger men. Although these regulations were provisional, Sig. DE MAGISTRIS believed that vacancies would be filled very largely by the promotion of Vice Prefects. In answer to queries by Major Temple, Sig. DE MAGISTRIS stated that Sig. PARRI was sure that the appointment of Avv. ROLLA was acceptable to the CLN. He also stated that the present Prefetto Reggente was a member of the Republican Party, but that he was not sure what party Avv. ROLLA supported, though he knew it was not the Republican Party.

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4. Major Temple promised to put the following points before the Regional Commissioner, Liguria:

(i) The Ministry of the Interior have proposed the appointment of Avv. Giacomo ROLLA as Prefetto Reggente of Savona. This appointment is stated to be acceptable to the CLN.

(ii) The Ministry further propose the appointment of a career man as Vice Prefetto Vicario. This appointment would be made immediately upon confirmation of the above appointment.

(iii) The Regional Commissioner, Liguria, is to be asked to state whether or not the appointment of a Vice Prefetto Ispettore for Savona is necessary.

J. L. RUSSELL-Bartolpordeno

J. L. RUSSELL
Captain
Assistant Executive Officer
Local Government Sub Commission

JLR/pec

Distribution

AC/4/1/100/LG
AO/24/1/LG
MG Liguria (with copy for PG Savona)
Fleet

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14/1

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISS.
APO 394
LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUB COMMISSION

AC/45/B/1/LG

SUBJECT : Note of Interview - Ministry of the Interior

DATE : 31 October 1945 - 1030 hours

PRESENT : Dott. Paolo STRANO, Head of the Electoral Service
Major C.G.R. WILLIAMS, Executive Officer , Local Government S/C
Sig. Arrigo NICL, interpreting " " "

1. The purpose of this interview was to discuss and clarify some points on the Draft Law as to Constituents Elections.

2. Art. 8 (b) - The same point arises as in Article 9 (b) of the Local Election Draft. This clause refers to those who have held the offices of Preside or Podesta', with an exception for the few appointed by the Badoglio Government in the month or two after 25 July 1945.

3. Art. 22 - The reference here to the provision of urns and stamps by the Ministry does not imply any change of procedure. The stamps are to be made by the Mint which has nearly finished the job. The urns will continue to be made by the Communes to the prescribed pattern. They will be "~~finished~~ furnished by the Ministry" in the sense that the Ministry prescribes the form and pays the expense of manufacture by the Communes, its agents in this respect.

4. Dott. STRANO showed me a specimen of the stamp : a print of it is annexed. — see back of this sheet in file copy.

5. Art. 33 - I noted that no provision had been made in this part of the Draft for forbidding political propaganda in the neighbourhood of polling stations, whereas there was a provision in the Draft of Local Elections. Art. 43 thereof.

6. Dott. STRANO thought this was a mere oversight. The Local Elections law had been drafted in the Electoral Office, which was aware of the observations of A.C. on this point and had accordingly met them. These observations had not been brought to the notice of the Commission of the Ministry for the Costituente which had drafted the Political Elections Law and the Commission had therefore made no such provision. If A.C. were to renew its suggestion, he did not think there would be any objection to adopting it.

7. Art. 34 - I enquired first how the numbering of the ballot-papers was done and what was its purpose. It could obviously not be used as a means of identifying a particular vote in any legal proceedings impugning the regularity of the election. 1231

8. Dott. STRANO explained that each polling-station was furnished with a series of sheets on each of which is written the numbers 1/100 - 101/200 - 201/300 - and so on up to a number of 100s sufficient to cover all the electors entitled to vote at the station. The ballot papers are done up in bundles of 100. The presiding officer draws the sheets of progressive numbers by lot and hands each

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 78 5021

Date : 31 October 1945 - 1030 hours

PRESENT : Dott. Paolo STRANO. Head of the Electoral Service
Major C.C.R. WILLIAMS. Executive Officer, Local Government s/C
Sig. Arrigo NICE. Interpreting

1. The purpose of this interview was to discuss and clarify some points on the Draft Law as to Constituents Elections.

2. Art. 8 (b) - The same point arises as in Article 9 (b) of the Local Election Draft. This clause refers to those who have held the offices of Preside or Podesta', with an exception for the few appointed by the Badoglio Government in the month or two after 25 July 1945.

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6. Dott. STRANO thought this was a mere oversight. The Local Elections law had been drafted in the Electoral Office, which was aware of the observations of A.C. on this point and had accordingly met them. These observations had not been brought to the notice of the Commission of the Ministry for the Constituents which had drafted the Political Elections Law and the Commission had therefore made no such provision. If A.C. were to renew its suggestion, he did not think there would be any objection to adopting it.

7. Art. 34 - I enquired first how the numbering of the ballot-papers was done and what was its purpose. It could obviously not be used as a means of identifying a particular vote in any legal proceedings impugning the regularity of the election. 231

8. Dott. STRANO explained that each polling-station was furnished with a series of sheets on each of which is written the numbers 1/100 - 101/200 - 201/300 - and so on up to a number of 100s sufficient to cover all the electors entitled to vote at the station. The ballot papers are done up in bundles of 100. The presiding officer draws the sheets of progressive numbers by lot and hands each sheet to a different "scrutatore" with a bundle of 100 ballots for him to mark. Thus no "scrutatore" can know in advance what figures he will have to write. (This seems to be considered important : I don't see why but it seems immaterial-CGR-W). In the result one has a set of ballots numbered through from 1 to 895 (or whatever it may be) ready for use in voting.

9. Dott. STRANO agreed that votes couldn't be identified by this numbering

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because the number was written on a detachable strip which when the elector has voted and before the ballot is put in the urn, is torn off by the presiding officer and thrown away. The said Italian doctrine is against any such identification, even in judicial proceedings upon the election : absolute secrecy at all times is postulated. In proceedings to impugne votes on the ground of eg. personation, the whole of the votes of the section became void : there is no attempt (and indeed it is not possible) to ascertain the votes given by the personators and annul those only. This is regarded as a sort of sanction. See Art. 61.

10. The purpose of numbering the ballots is to ensure against the use of false ballots i.e. papers printed exactly like the official ones but brought in by the voters.

11. Art. 38 - Agreed that this makes it clear that soldiers etc can vote. The matter will be clearer when amendments to the laws on the compilation of electoral lists are published - amendments designed to bring those laws into conformity with Tit.II. Capo 1 of the Political Election Draft. This point was clarified in yesterday's interview on the Local Election law - see para 5 of the note of that interview. on AC/14/B/2/LG

12. Art. 42 - I observed that the "list vote" had to be a vote for the list as a whole. The elector was given no right to cancel names (as in the Local Elections Draft, Art. 67) or to substitute names from other lists.

13. Dott. STRANO said this was a deliberate omission for political reasons which commended themselves to the political members of the Commission. For his part however, he took account of the practical difficulties, which he thought insuperable. What would such a ballot look like ? It would have to have 4 columns : -

1) - conteining the symbols - by putting a mark on top of one the elector gives his "list vote";
2) - for writing in the names of those to whom the elector wishes to give his "preference" votes;
3) - for writing in the names of those for whom the elector does not want to vote, i.e. cancellations;
4) - for writing in the names of those from other lists whom the elector would like to substitute for those cancelled;

The majority of the electors would never get this right. There would be masses of spoilt ballots and wasted votes. Moreover the calculating of the votes would be enormously complicated.

14. Art. 7A - I mentioned that this did not provide for implementation in Military Government Territory and we did not know whether some parts of Italy might not still be under Allied Military Government when the law became published.

15. Dott. STRANO agreed the possibility should be provided for 1230 thought the point had simply not occurred to the Commission and that there would be no difficulty in providing for it.

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C. C. H. WILLIAMS, Major.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785021

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13. Dott. STRANO said this was a deliberate omission for political reasons which commended themselves to the political members of the Commission. For his part however, he took account of the practical difficulties, which he thought insuperable. What would such a ballot look like ? It would have to have 4 columns : -

1) - containing the symbols - by putting a mark on top of one the elector gives his "list vote";
2) - for writing in the names of those to whom the elector wishes to give his "preference" votes;
3) - for writing in the names of those for whom the elector does not want to vote, i.e. cancellations;
4) - for writing in the names of those from other lists whom the elector would like to substitute for those cancelled;

The majority of the electors would never get this right. There would be masses of spoilt ballots and wasted votes. Moreover the calculating of the votes would be enormously complicated.

14. Art. 74 - I mentioned that this did not provide for implementation in Military Government Territory and we did not know whether some parts of Italy might not still be under Allied Military Government when the law became published.

15. Dott. STRANO agreed the possibility should be provided for. I 230 thought the point had simply not occurred to the Commission and that there would be no difficulty in providing for it.

CGW

C. G. R. WILLIAMS, Major,
Executive Officer
Local Government Sub Commission.

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58

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUB COMMISSION

AC/45/B/2/LG

SUBJECT: Note of Interview - Ministry of the Interior

DATE : 30 October 1945 - 1200 hours

PRESENT: Dott. Paolo STRANO, Head of the Electoral Service
Major C. G. R. Williams, Executive Officer, Local Government S/C
Sig. Arrigo NICB, interpreting

1. I stated I had called to talk to Dott. STRANO about the Draft Law for Local Elections. There were a number of points about this which were not clear to me and which I would ask Dott. STRANO to explain.

2. Articles 9 and 11. I said I would like to know the reason for reverting to separate Presidents for the Provincial Council and the Provincial Deputation as in the 1915 text and thus abandoning the suggestion made in the "Blue Book" of June last for combining these offices.

3. Dott. STRANO said this was a directive from the Committee of Ministers. The reason was that the Provincial Council was really a small Parliament. The President of the Provincial Council thus corresponded to Speaker of the House, presiding impartially over debates but not taking part in administration. The President of the Provincial Deputation was more like the Leader of the House: he would direct the administration and defend its acts at Council~~s~~ meetings.

4. Article 17. I said it was not clear to me how soldiers, etc. would have the right to vote at local elections without express provision.

5. Dott. STRANO said that soldiers had been given this right expressly by the Draft Political Law. As a consequence, the Ministry would have to issue amendments to the Laws on compilation of the lists, bringing those laws into line with the new Law on Political Elections. The Ministry intended to have such an amending Decree ready for publication at the same time as (or immediately after) publication of the Law on Political Elections. The result would be that soldiers would be entitled to be registered as voters. As the voters' registers are equally applicable to local as well as national elections, it followed that soldiers would have the right to vote at both.

6. We agreed that under the Draft very few soldiers would actually be able to vote--only those stationed or on leave in their Commune of residence. Dott. STRANO referred to several discussions with us about the possibility of postal or ~~postaxx~~ proxy voting; the Ministry felt this was impractical in existing circumstances.

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7. Article 19(b). Dott. STRANO explained that this referred to those who had held the offices of Preside or Podesta and reminded me that some appointments to these offices had been made by the BADOGLIO Government in the 2 or 3 months after 25 July 1944. I said I thought that the language used implied that the Presidi or Podesta still existed, but Dott. STRANO assured me that the language had in fact the meaning he had explained.

8. Article 28. I asked if consideration had been given to a general publication throughout the Constituency of the names of the duly nominated candidates some days before Election Day.

9. From the full discussion we had on this point, I don't think the need for it had occurred to those responsible for preparing the Draft. Dott. STRANO made the point that in Communes with 30 Councillors there would probably be from 100 to 200 candidates: publication would use up a lot of paper. In the small Communes, he said everyone would know any of them.

10. I made the point that the object of nomination is to give the voters official notice in good time of those running so that they could form a considered judgment. Dott. STRANO took a note of the point about publication.

11. Article 43. Dott. STRANO said "propaganda" would cover everything. Posters and distribution of handbills, ~~flags~~, as well as meetings, speeches, processions, flags, etc., etc..

12. Article 45. Dott. STRANO confirmed that under this Article the printing and distribution of the ballot-papers was left to private enterprise. The ballot-paper only has to conform to the specimen in Annex "A". He agreed that as the Article allows the indications of the vote to be written or printed, the Parties would no doubt issue ballot-papers with the names of their candidates already printed on them. He said such ballot-papers might officially never be put on sale.

13. I inquired about the possibility of having ballot-papers ~~publicly~~ printed and handed to the voter when he votes. The objections are practical— the large number of candidates, the Parties not being limited to the number they may nominate and the lack of facilities for printing in the smaller Communes.

14. Dott. STRANO said they had considered the possibility of issuing the official ballot-paper to the voter with his certificate of registration, but had dropped the idea because of the opportunities it would give for malpractices.

15. Candidates' Agents. I mentioned that there was no provision in the Draft for this and inquired as to whether thought had been given to it.

16. Dott. STRANO said yes, but it was not considered practicable.

17. These elections were not in theory on party lines and there was no means of certifying or fixing the particular list or group of candidates. Consequently the only thing would be to allow each candidate his own agent, which would be much to big a crowd. 1228

18. I said one might at least give the candidate the right of entry ~~appointment~~.

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19. Article 65. Dott. STRANO confirmed that the "list delegates" referred to in this Article are those nominated under Article 64, para 3.

20. Article 67. This Article provides for cancelling names on the ballot-papers but does not expressly provide for substituting them. Dott. STRANO said that "additional votes" had been dropped by directive of the Ministerial Committee. It had been found that the additional votes allowed under the 1919 Law had led to all sorts of malpractices.

21. Article 68. Dott. STRANO agreed that in this case also the ballot-paper would be provided by private enterprise. The observations made about the ballot-paper under the other system contained in paras 1/2/4 above are equally applicable here.

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C. G. R. WILLIAMS
Major
Executive Officer
Local Government Sub Commission

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUB COMMISSION

AC/45/24/LG

SUBJECT: Constitution of Provincial Commissions for the Disfranchisement of Fascists - Note of interview - AC HQ

DATE : 26 October 1945

PRESENT: Dott. MANFRA (of the Cabinet of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers substituting in the absence of Dr. VARINO)
Major C. G. R. Williams
Miss P. Rasmussen
Sig. Arrigo NICE, interpreting

1. Major WILLIAMS opened the conversation by saying that the position regarding the constitution of the Provincial Commissions for the Disfranchisement of Fascists did not seem to be clear to the Presidency and he would explain it. DLL No. 159 of 27 July 1944 was executive in AMG Territory. DLL No. 149 of 26 April 1945 was not. It was therefore necessary that the Provincial Commissions in AMG Territory should be constituted under the former Decree. The Presidency had written on 29 August agreeing to this and that Presidents would be appointed by Decree of the Prime Minister, to be subsequently rendered executive by AC. Major WILLIAMS handed Dr. MANFRA a copy of the form of letter used to notify ECs of the appointments of Presidents of Provincial Commissions and whereby such appointments by the PM were rendered executive.

2. Dr. MANFRA raised the point that the PMs Decrees above-mentioned recited DLL 149. Major WILLIAMS said the Decrees were incorrect in form in that respect. To have returned them for re-drafting however would only have meant further delays. However, since the nomination of the President of the Council of Ministers required the approval of the Allied Commission for their appointment in AMG Territory, the Decrees of the President of the Council of Ministers were regarded by Allied Commission simply as recommendations. Their form (and particularly the recital of DLL 149) was thus a secondary matter. It was the AMG sanction that counted.

3. Dr. MANFRA said that he understood perfectly the procedure as outlined.

4. With regard to the appointment of a Deputy President of the Provincial Commission, Major WILLIAMS said that he regretted that he could not confirm the appointment of Dr. Sante SALMENO as DEPUTY PRESIDENT since Decree No. 621 of 14 Sept. 45, under which Dr. SALMENO had been appointed, could not be made executive in AMG Territory. Major WILLIAMS said that he had read the Decree, but that it could not be implemented because it was based on DLL 149. The question of rendering Decree No. 149 executive in AMG Territory is at present being discussed by the Chief Commissioner and the President of the Council of Ministers.

5. Dr. MANFRA agreed to propose to the Presidency of the Council of Ministers that Dr. Sante SALMENO be appointed President of the Provincial Commission for BERGAMO in place of Dr. Carlo HEER. At such time as Dr. HEER, the original nominee, returned to BERGAMO the President of the Council of Ministers could, if he so wished, dismiss Dr. SALMENO and re-appoint Dr. HEER.

Distribution:
Dott. MANFRA

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 778021

DATE : 26 October 1945

PRESENT: Dott. MANFRA (of the Cabinet of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers substituting in the absence of Dr. VARINO)
Major C. G. R. Williams
Miss P. Rasmusser
Sig. Arrigo NICE, interpreting

1. Major WILLIAMS opened the conversation by saying that the position regarding the constitution of the Provincial Commissions for the Disfranchisement of Fascists did not seem to be clear to the Presidency and he would explain it. DLL No. 159 of 27 July 1944 was executive in AMG Territory. DLL No. 149 of 26 April 1945 was not. It was therefore necessary that the Provincial Commissions in AMG Territory should be constituted under the former Decree. The Presidency had written on 29 August agreeing to this and that Presidents would be appointed by Decree of the Prime Minister, to be subsequently rendered executive by AC. Major WILLIAMS handed Dr. MANFRA a copy of the form of letter used to notify PCs of the appointments of Presidents of Provincial Commissions and whereby such appointments by the PM were rendered executive.

2. Dr. MANFRA raised the point that the PMs Decrees above-mentioned recited DLL 149. Major WILLIAMS said the Decrees were incorrect in form in that respect. To have returned them for re-drafting however would only have meant further delays. However, since the nomination of the President of the Council of Ministers required the approval of the Allied Commission for their appointment in AMG Territory, the Decrees of the President of the Council of Ministers were regarded by Allied Commission simply as recommendations. Their form (and particularly the recital of DLL 149) was thus a secondary matter. It was the AMG sanction that counted.

3. Dr. MANFRA said that he understood perfectly the procedure as outlined.

4. With regard to the appointment of a Deputy President of the Provincial Commission, Major WILLIAMS said that he regretted that he could not confirm the appointment of Dr. Sante SALERNO as DEPUTY PRESIDENT since Decree No. 621 of 14 Sept. 45, under which Dr. SALERNO had been appointed, could not be made executive in AMG Territory. Major WILLIAMS said that he had read the Decree, but that it could not be implemented because it was based on DLL 149. The question of rendering Decree No. 149 executive in AMG Territory is at present being discussed by the Chief Commissioner and the President of the Council of Ministers.

5. Dr. MANFRA agreed to propose to the Presidency of the Council of Ministers that Dr. Sante SALERNO be appointed President of the Provincial Commission for BERGAMO in place of Dr. Carlo HEER. At such time as Dr. HEER, the original nominee, returned to BERGAMO the President of the Council of Ministers could, if he so wished, dismiss Dr. SALERNO and re-appoint Dr. HEER.

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C. G. R. WILLIAMS
Major
Executive Officer
Local Government Sub Commission

CGRW/pc

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785021

AC/1/10/6/LG

SUBJECT: Note of interview - AC HQ

DATE : 6 October 1945

PRESENT: Dott. CATENACCI Corrado, Chief of Cabinet, Ministry of the Interior
Major Ralph R. Temple, Director, Local Government Sub Commission
Sig. Arrigo NICE, interpreting.

1. Dott. CATENACCI opened the conversation by stating that in reply to our telephonic question as to whether the Italian Government wished the Decree dealing with the administrative organization of Aosta Valley made effective before the territory were handed back, that President PARRI stated that he would be very grateful if that could be done. I pointed out the difficulties involved, chiefly that of immediate geographical re-organization of the Provinces of Aosta and Turin, with concomitant AMG re-organization. I also pointed out that it would take a little time to have the 25 members of the proposed Council appointed; that there might be some confusion for the Decree to go into effect immediately without the new Council being in existence to take over. However, I made it clear that the Allied Commission was willing and indeed anxious to have the Decree become effective before the turnover of territory.

2. Dott. CATENACCI stated that the existing provincial organization would remain until the new Council had been duly appointed. He agreed that while the territory was under AMG that the nomination of these Councilmen would have to be approved by AMG authority. He suggested that perhaps the implemented clause might so state this. Dott. CATENACCI then stated that he thought it perhaps better to hold up the implementation until all the preparations had been made; that is, until the nominations for the Council came in and they were duly appointed. He said that as a matter of fact a letter was drawn up ready to send out to the Prefect of Aosta, asking him to get the CLN affiliated parties to submit nominations to the Central Directorates of the Parties.

3. I informed Dott. CATENACCI that the Allied Commission was willing and ready to implement the Decree immediately but that if he wanted its execution held up would he prepare a letter in writing to that effect and bring it himself to my office by 12 o'clock Monday, 8 October. I said that if after consideration they wanted the Decree implemented immediately, would they also state this in writing.

4. Dott. CATENACCI stated that he would bring a letter by Monday noon in which the Government would state that it appreciates our desire to make the Decree effective but would we be good enough to refrain from doing so until all preparations were made and AC was informed as to when to put it into effect.

RRT

RALPH R. TEMPLE
Major
Director
Local Government Sub Commission
8 Oct. 45

RRT/pec Distribution: AC/1/10/6/LG
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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUB COMMISSION

AC/45/12/LG

Tel: 620

SUBJECT: Note of interview - AC HQ

DATE : 1 October 1945 - 1000 hours

PRESENT: Lt. Col. W. E. McBratney, ex-PC Bolzano
Major Ralph R. Temple, Director, Local Government S/C
Major C. G. R. Williams, Executive Officer, Local Government S/C

1. Italian Troops

Lt. Col. McBratney said that there was still a good deal of trouble with the FOLGORE Division--numerous instances of bullying and terrorizing the population. He cited one case of a religious festival in a town, which finished up with a party in a beer garden, at which several Italian soldiers had made a disturbance. They were asked to leave by an American officer and did so, but they came back with many more and made another disturbance. A whistle blew and about 50 Italian soldiers armed with automatic weapons entered. After firing a few shots, they beat up the population with gun butts. In the meantime, 2 heavy machine guns had been placed at the ends of the street outside. An Inquiriy was held by the local Italian Command, the result of which was to whitewash everybody.

2. We mentioned that the last we had heard of this problem was that the Italian Government had been asked to remove the SAN MARCO Division. Lt. Col. McBratney said yes they had been replaced by the GARIBALDI Unit, who were no better than SAN MARCO.

3. He had had many deputations on the subject recently, but factual complaints had ceased. The reason was, the deputations told him, that the population was terrified of reprisals. He had promised the last deputation that any complaints would be kept in his safe, and in forwarding them he would omit the names. The result of this assurance was that some 50 specific complaints reached him almost immediately.

4. De-Nazification

Lt. Col. McBratney said that practically no Nazis were now left in public office. There were, however, some 40/50 Reich Germans resident who were being registered under the Provincial Registration of Aliens Order. They were reluctant to register and give particulars of themselves for obvious reasons. Some of them are shortly to be tried for failing to register and his PLO was initiating a drive about it.

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5. Transfer of Aliens

Lt. Col. McBratney thought that registration would be complete shortly and then the problem arose of transferring these Reich Germans back to Germany. Col. Findlay knew all about the problem. He understood permission is being awaited from AFHQ which has not yet been given. There were also a few Vichy French as to whom the position was the same.

6. As to the Reich Germans, he ~~would~~ had arranged for obtaining all the particulars which USFET would require and had asked Col. Findlay to keep the refugee camp in the province open to deal with them.

7. Local Government and Electoral Lists

All Sindaci and Giunte have now been confirmed, except in the case of one Commune. The provincial administration was functioning a little better than before.

8. The Sindaci were registering in the electoral lists all clear cases. None of those who had taken any action under the Hitler-Mussolini Agreements were being registered. We pointed out that this meant that no progress had been made beyond Stage "A". The Sindaci could send their extracts to the Judicial Record Offices, but those extracts would be incomplete. When the time came to deal with the optants, they would have to send further extracts to the Judicial Record Offices. Until all extracts had been sent to and returned by the Judicial Record Offices, no lists could be sent for approval to the Electoral Commissions. The position therefore was that in the near future the preparation of the lists in Bolzano would come to a full stop.

9. Nationality Problem

On this we told Lt. Col. McBratney that our position was as stated in the Chief Commissioner's letter to the Prime Minister of 20 August, agreeing to the Special Commission as a fact-finding body only. A reminder had been sent to the Prime Minister, but no answer had been received.

10. Lt. Col. McBratney said the Prefect had been in communication with the Prime Minister and the Prefect understood that the appointment of the Special Commission would be accompanied by a declaration of the Italian Government as to minority rights in Bolzano. He had seen a telegram from the Prime Minister to the Prefect stating that this declaration as to minority rights had been transmitted to AC on 13 September.

11. We said we doubted if it was necessary to hold up the appointment of the Special Commission for this declaration to be settled. Lt. Col. McBratney said that might be so, but the declaration was very important. He said it was most important that the Special Commission should get to work at once to relieve the increasing tension in the Province.

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12. Conclusion.

Lt. Col. McBratney said that tension and unrest among the population were increasing and that 2 maim things were required to allay it:--

(a) Removal of the FOLGORE Division:

(b) A formal and binding declaration from the Italian Government about minority rights.

He added that when the Prefect had seen the Prime Minister over 2 months ago, the Prime Minister had promised to deal with all of these points at once. The Prefect had returned to Bolzano and had told a meeting of the Sindaci that he had the Prime Minister's verbal promise to that effect, and the population are now awaiting for it to be implemented.

C. G. R. WILLIAMS
Major
Executive Officer
Local Goverrment Sub Commission

CGRW/pec

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785021

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AC/45/12/LG.

SUBJECT: Note of interview - AC HQ

DATE : 1 October 1945 - 1100 hours

PRESENT: S.E. Dott. INNOCENTI Silvio
Major Ralph R. Temple, Director, Local Government S/C
Major C.G.R. Williams, Executive Officer, Local Government S/C

1. Dott. INNOCENTI called to tell us the Ministry of Interior wanted him to visit Liguria and Piemonte on electoral lists and would we give him a letter of introduction. We said we would.

2. In the course of conversation, he told us he was preparing a technical study on the race problem of Bolzano. He is a member of the "Commission for De-limitation of the Boundaries of Italy"--a Commission set up to make technical studies on minority and boundary questions and attached to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. As such, he had prepared 2 reports which are factual studies of the legal and administrative problems involved.

3. Some time ago, he prepared the report on the point whether the Hitler-Mussolini Agreements (and the Italian Law of 1939 made in consequence of them) were still in force--his opinion being that they are. Recently and quite by chance he found that reports and recommendations were being made to the Government on the general question of what to do about the "allogeni", reports which he thought were mistaken in several respects. He therefore prepared a report himself on the subject. He had barely completed this when he received a copy of the Chief Commissioner's letter to the Prime Minister of 20 August--only 5 days ago. He did not alter his report on this account as it is only a technical study and does not settle policy. He has, however, sent it in to the Presidency and the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Interior.

4. His report makes much the same recommendations as those in the Prime Minister's letter of 23 July at fo.23. It is as follows: 23

(a) A Commission of First Instance, consisting of a magistrate, an Italian representative and a South Tyrolese representative:
(b) This Commission to inquire into all doubtful cases and establish what is the present citizenship in these cases according to Italian law:
(c) Those who have become German citizens and left the country are to remain German citizens, even though they have returned:
(d) Those who became German citizens without leaving the country to have a fresh option:
(e) The Commission of First Instance to have discretion to grant such applications or not:
(f) A Commission of Second Grade to be established to hear appeals from decisions of the Commission of First Instance;

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(g) The Commission of Second Grade to consist of a Chairman, appointed by the President of the Council (not necessarily a Judge), a Judge or 2, a representative of the Prefecture and representatives of the Italian and South Tyrolese population.

NOTE: It will be recollected that Dott. INNOCENTI is one of the most senior Prefects in the Italian service and was Chief of Staff to Marshall BADOGLIO when he was Prime Minister.

C. G. R. WILLIAMS
Major
Executive Officer
Local Government Sub Commission

CGRW/ie

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUB COMMISSION

AC/1/27/LG. Tel: 478190

SUBJECT: Note of interview--Palazzo Viminale.

DATE : 24 September 1945 - 1200 hours.

PRESENT: Sig.Manlio BROSIO, Vice President of the Council of Ministers, Minister for the Consulta
Brigadier M.Carr, Vice President, Civil Affairs Section
Col.R.R. Cripps, Director, Local Government Sub Commission
Major C. G.R. Williams, Executive Officer, " "
Sig. Arrigo NICE, Interpreting.

1. Brigadier Carr said that as the Minister probably knew, AC were extremely interested in the holding of local elections. The Chief Commissioner had had correspondence on this with Sig.BONOMI and Sig.PARRI in which attention had been drawn toward what were considered to be the defects in the 1915 law, e.g.:

(a) no prior nomination of candidates:

(b) no official ballot paper

(c) no control of electioneering at the polling places.

2. Brigadier Carr asked if the Minister has seen this correspondence. BROSIO said no, he was not aware of it officially; but he knew something of it in the private conversations he had once had with an AC Officer.

3. Brigadier Carr inquired if and when the Government were going to submit a law for local elections to the Consulta. BROSIO said such a law would certainly be submitted and it would be one of the first. The draft Decree would first have to be settled by the Government: it had not yet been discussed in the Council of Ministers. It would than be submitted to the appropriate Commission of the Consulta--that for Internal Affairs. If any question of principle arose, the Commission would refer the law for discussion at a plenary meeting of the Assembly.

4. BROSIO thought the law would be submitted to the Consulta in about a month, as it was intended to hold, or at least begin, local elections in November or December.

5. BROSIO said he had just begun to study the subject himself. He had before him at the interview the "Blue Book" or "Progetto" published by the Electoral Service of the Ministry of the Interior last June as a technical study and which contains a draft Decree as to local elections reproducing the 1915 law. In his copy of the "Blue Book", he made a note in the appropriate places of the 3 principal objections enumerated in para (1) above.

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6. BROSIO said that AC's objections on the 1915 law would certainly be taken into account and full consideration given to them in the Council of Ministers. He thought the criticisms were well grounded. There might be practical difficulties putting them into effect, but he hoped and believed that these could be overcome--he did not know if the Prime Minister had any criticism about them, but he himself thought there was no question of principle involved.

7. Brigadier Carr said we has also raised the point about officers having the right to vote and not NCOs and men. Sig. BROSIO took note of this too and said he thought that point also was well taken. It would be considered in the Council of Ministers also.

8. BRigadier Carr pointed out that the criticisms which had been discussed were the main ones only and that a closer examination of the Government's proposals when they were known might bring to light other points to which AC would wish to draw the Government's attention. BROSIO said that he quite appreciated that; and if there were any other points they would certainly receive all due consideration.

9. In reply to Brigadier Carr's inquiry, Sig.BROSIO said that the Consulta would meet in the Chamber of Deputies at Palazzo MONTECITORIO and that seats had been reserved for the Allied Commission.

C. G. R. WILLIAMS
Major
Executive Officer
Local Government Sub Commission

CGRW/ie.

NOTE: Marchese CITTADINI tells me that arrangements have been made for the 5 highest ranking officers of AC to attend the opening meeting of the Consulta at 16 hours, 25 September, and for them to sit in on the Tribune of President's box. This is merely an invitation to attend the opening ceremony: nothing has been done about attending subsequent meetings. Marchese CITTADINI said he would speak to BROSIO about this later in the afternoon and arrange something.

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AC/45/A/LG
AC/45/B/LG
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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUB COMMISSION

AG/2/27/46 Tel: 478190

SUBJECT: Interview with BONOMI, Minister for the Consulta--
24 September 1946

Notes for VP CA Section
I - Background

1. 27 Feb.- BONOMI wrote that Italian Govt. would use 1915 law for local elections.

19 April - CC replied criticising 1915 law on the ground of

(a) no nomination of candidates before voting
(b) no official ballot paper
(c) no control of electioneering at polling places.

20 May - BONOMI replied that in his personal opinion the 1915 law was satisfactory.

(NOTE (i) - In addition to (a) (b) and (c) above, a subsequent letter to PARRI mentioned:--

(d) disfranchisement of CRs in armed forces but not officers

(NOTE (ii)- (a) (b) and (c) were mentioned as "some of the principal defects: it is important not to let the Govt. assume they are the only ones.)

2. 7 July - The previous correspondence recapitulated in a letter to PARRI, specifying the 4 principal defects in the 1915 Law.

27 July
29 August - reminders sent; but no answer has been received.

3. In the 5 months since BONOMI's reply, some unfavourable signs have been noticed. The most recent and important is as follows:--

(a) In June, the Ministry of the Interior published a "Blue Book" containing a draft Decree for--

(i) constituting elective Provincial and Communal Councils;
(ii) prescribing the procedure for electing them.

(b) This "Blue Book" adheres to the 1915 law: it does not meet AC criticisms in any way.

(c) The "Blue Book" does not bind the Govt.: it is merely a technical study prepared for the use of Ministers and others.

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(d) On 12 September, the acting Head, Electoral Service, Ministry of the Interior, stated in an interview:--

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(i) that the "Blue Book" would be submitted to the Consulta;
(ii) that 2,000 copies were being printed;
(iii) that the Ministry had recommended the Presidency of the Council that local elections should be one of the first tasks of the Consulta.

4. The Govt. are required by law to submit any Decree as to local elections to the Consulta. Legally, they are not bound to adopt the views of the Consulta; but politically, they might not feel able to over-ride them.

II - PURPOSE OF INTERVIEW

5. The object really is to try and obtain the information which we have not been able to get by correspondence with PARRI, i.e. do the Govt. intend to take any cognisance of AC criticisms of the 1915 law?

6. It is possible BROSIO does not know of the correspondence with BONOMI and PARRI. Neither PARRI's Secretary (VARINO) nor the acting Head of the Electoral Service (MICHELI) knew of it: copies were sent these officials on 5 September.

7. The interview might therefore begin on a broader basis. BROSIO could be told we want to explore and understand the functions of the Consulta as to local government. He could then be asked:—

(a) Will the Govt. submit a Law for local elections to the Consulta?

(b) What priority do they propose to give it?

(c) What form will it take—referring to the "Blue Book"?

(d) Does BROSIO know of the AC criticisms of the 1915 law?

(e) Will the Govt. amend the "Blue Book" accordingly?

24 SEP 1945
CGRW/pec

C. G. R. WILLIAMS
Major
Executive Officer
Local Government Sub Commission

Distribution:

VP CA Section
Director, IS B/C
Major Williams
45/A
45/B
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AG/1/12/3/1G

SUBJECT: Note of interview - AG HQ officer.

DATE : 21 September 1945 - 1530 hours

PRESENT: Dott. BENIGNI—Ministry of the Interior, Dir. Gen. Civil Affairs
Ing. GIOCOSA—Vice Sindaco, Venice Comune
Avv. ZANOTTI—Venice Comune
Avv. CASALIS—Secretary General, Venice Comune
Major Brand, C.I.C. Venice
Major C.G.R. Williams, Executive Officer, Local Government S/C
Sig. Arrigo NICS, interpreting.

1. Major Brand said he had called merely to introduce the representatives of Venice Comune to us.

2. The representatives of Venice Comune explained as follows:—

(a) The Comune owns a Casino on Venice Lido:

(b) By Decree Law of 1940, all Casinos were closed during the war: but power was given to the Minister of the Interior to authorize the re-opening of Casinos when he thought the circumstances warranted it:

(c) The Comune were anxious to re-oper their Casino as a source of income which they badly needed:

(d) They had seen the Ministry of the Interior today who are prepared to agree to the application but had pointed out that this HQ must be consulted as Venice is under AMG.

3. Dott. BENIGNI of the Ministry handed me a letter addressed to this HQ enclosing a draft of a Ministerial Decree which the Ministry propose to make and asking for our formal approval. p.4 p.4.

4. The Casino is requisitioned at the moment as the Churchill-Roosevelt Club. The Venice representatives stated, however, that only the ground floor is actually in use: the first floor and a few rooms above it on the roof are not in use and have a separate entrance. I pointed out that in this case the Authorities would have to be consulted. The Venice representatives said they appreciated that, but it was a secondary point as what they needed was legal authority to re-open a Casino somewhere. If they could not obtain part of the actual Casino building, they would re-open it in some other place.

5. I said that the proposed Ministerial Decree would be of no effect at the present time as the Province was under AMG and all powers of government and administration were vested in AMG and not the Italian Government. A single letter of authority from the HQ would be quite sufficient authorization in law.

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Dott. ESDIGHI agreed, but said the Ministry would probably make their own Decree after the Province has been returned to their control. I said that would be quite a proper course and would help to keep the records straight.

6. I undertook to write to RO and FO on the position.

NOTE: The following day (Saturday, 22 September) I discussed the position here with Lt. Col. P. H. MacCleary, late FC Venice. He said he had felt that the Italian Government should take the responsibility in the matter because there was bound to be a certain amount of odium and newspaper criticism, e.g. left-wingers would probably criticise wealthy people being allowed to come and throw their money about at the gaming table, and the Church might disapprove. However, the Prefect had wisely done something to counter this b getting members of all political parties to sign a request for re-opening.

I said that this was fully appreciated, and the point could be covered in FO's letter of authorisation by saying that the Italian Government and this HQ had been consulted: that the Italian Government were in favor of the proposal : that this HQ felt that a simple letter of authority from the FO was a sufficient authorisation in law and that the FC therefore authorised, etc.

C. G. R. WILLIAMS
Major
Executive Officer
Local Government Sub Commission

CGRW/pec

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785021

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AC/4/1/178/LG

SUBJECT: Note of interview - AC HQ

DATE : 17 September 1945 - 12:00 hours

PRESENT: Dott. PINI, Vice Chief of Cabinet, Ministry of the Interior
Major C. G. R. Williams, Executive Officer, Local Government S/C
Sig. Arrigo NICE, Interpreting.

1. Dott. PINI said that he had been directed by the Minister of the Interior, Professore PARRI, to see the S/C with regard to our recent request that the Ministry have ready the name of a career Prefect to replace PUXEDDU at Rovigo.

2. Dott. PINI said the Minister had already heard that PUXEDDU had been suspended and he had understood that it was due to some irregularities in connection with food supplies. The Minister thought, however, that a short suspension would be a sufficient punishment and he would like us to consider the reinstatement of PUXEDDU as Prefect of Rovigo.

3. Major Williams stated he would like Dott. PINI to be informed of what the RC had reported about this Prefect. RC has stated that PUXEDDU had "shown himself quite incapable of appreciating the responsibility of his high rank", Major Williams also quoted the specific instances of irregularities and direct disobedience to AMG orders, which are specified in RCs letters of 10 and 12 September, folios 25 and 26.

4. Major Williams pointed out that it was evident from RC's letters that these were not isolated instances. This sort of conduct had been going on for some time; the PC and RC had been very patient, but they had now concluded that it was impossible for the province to be properly administered with PUXEDDU as Prefect.

5. Major Williams also pointed out that AMG was not interested in punishing the Italian official. Discipline was a matter for the Italian Government. This has always been the attitude taken by AC. What AMG was interested in was the efficient administration of the province and in having officials who could be trusted to obey orders.

6. In these circumstances, Major Williams, did not see how this HQ could request the RC to reinstate the Prefect.

7. Dott. PINI said that the Minister was not aware of the full story which had just been told him. He would report back to the Minister, after which he would telephone this office as to the position.

C.G.R. WILLIAMS 1213
Major
Executive Officer
Local Government Sub Commission

CGRW/mm

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUB COMMISSION

Notes on Interview held 12 Sept.1945

SUBJECT : Preparation of Electoral Lists : All Italy.

PRESENT : Major R.R. TEMPLE, Deputy Director, Local Government Sub Commission.
Major C.G.R.WILLIAMS, Local Government Sub Commission.
Miss P. Rasmussen, Local Government Sub Commission.
Mister Rice, interpreting
Dott. VINCENTI, Acting Chief of Electoral Service, Ministry of Interior

1. Major Temple said that he wished to discuss any difficulties which were being experienced in the compilation of electoral lists and particularly those difficulties, if any, which may effect the date of the elections.

2. Major Temple said that we had received a report on the progress in Central and Southern Italy from the Ministry of Interior. This report indicated that there were still many communes which had not presented their lists to the Electoral Commissions.

3. Dott. VINCENTI said that the main difficulty was arising with the Cancellari Giudiziali, both provincial and central. Dott. VINCENTI estimated that the work of the Cancellari Giudiziali would be finished as follows :

Cancellario Giudiziale Centrale - for Central and Southern Italy - mid. September
" " " - for Northern Italy - end of November

Cancellario Giudiziale in the Provinces - at the end of November

3. In the case of women : Where Provincial Cancellari have been destroyed the research will be done by the Questore. A decree has been approved by the Council of Ministers and is being published in the Gazzetta Ufficiale. Dott. VINCENTI said that a letter enclosing the draft decree and a circular to Prefects had been sent to A.C. last week. (Major Temple said we had not yet received the letter). Dott. VINCENTI said that this procedure applied only to women born in one of the 14 provinces in which the records of the Cancellario had been destroyed, and that it was an emergency measure only which should not be adopted in other provinces since it could not be considered an entirely satisfactory method.

4. Major Temple said that his report on his visit to the Cancellario Giudiziale Centrale was being taken up by the Chief Commissioner with Sig. PARRI.

5. Regarding difficulties in general Dott. VINCENTI gave the following information :

IN CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN ITALY

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a) - Electoral Commissions cannot approve lists until penal certificates are returned;
b) - All Public Assistance Authorities have completed their returns;

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PRESENT : Major R.R. TEMPLE, Deputy Director, Local Government Sub Commission.
Major C.G.R.WILLIAMS, Local Government Sub Commission.
Miss P. Rasmussen, Local Government Sub Commission.
Mister Nice, interpreting
Dott. VINCENTI, Acting Chief of Electoral Service, Ministry of Interior

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2. Major Temple said that we had received a report on the progress in Central and Southern Italy from the Ministry of Interior. This report indicated that there were still many communes which had not presented their lists to the Electoral Commissions.

3. Dott. VINCENTI said that the main difficulty was arising with the Casellari Giudiziali, both provincial and central. Dott. VINCENTI estimated that the work of the Casellari Giudiziali would be finished as follows :

Casellario Giudiziale Centrale - for Central and Southern Italy - mid. September
" " " - for Northern Italy - end of November

Casellario Giudiziale in the Provinces - at the end of November

3. In the case of women : Where Provincial Casellari have been destroyed the research will be done by the Questore. A decree has been approved by the Council of Ministers and is being published in the Gazzetta Ufficiale. Dott. VINCENTI said that a letter enclosing the draft decree and a circular to Prefects had been sent to A.C. last week. (Major Temple said we had not yet received the letter). Dott. VINCENTI said that this procedure applied only to women born in one of the 14 provinces in which the records of the Casellario had been destroyed, and that it was an emergency measure only which should not be adopted in other provinces since it could not be considered an entirely satisfactory method.

4. Major Temple said that his report on his visit to the Casellario Giudiziale Centrale was being taken up by the Chief Commissioner with Sig. PARRI.

5. Regarding difficulties in general Dott. VINCENTI gave the following information :

IN CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN ITALY

1212

a) - Electoral Commissions cannot approve lists until penal certificates are returned;
b) - All Public Assistance Authorities have completed their returns;
c) - The electoral lists have been compiled as far as they can be;
d) - Only the penal certificates are awaited;
e) - there was 3% female criminality and 20% male criminality.

6. IN THE NORTH

a) - The greatest difficulty again the Casellari Giudiziali;
b) - Communications and transport also difficult (e.g. Ministry circular dated 8 June reached Macerata in September);

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c) - Personnel had in many instances to be replaced by people without a sense of responsibility or duty;
d) - A further difficulty is lack of magistrates;

7. ELECTORAL COMMISSIONS :

Dott. VINCENTI said that where a Pretore is not available it is possible to appoint a retired or honorary magistrate, but these are not available, and it is therefore sometimes necessary to entrust to the nearest Pretore the duty of heading his own Electoral Commission and an additional one as well.

The Ministry had sent a circular to Commissions urging speed in view of the number of lists sent to the Commissions and the few approved.

Again the fact that the lists are with the Commissions and not approved is the fault of the Casellario Giudiziale.

8. COMMISSIONS FOR DISFRANCHISEMENT OF FASCISTS :

a) - They had all been set up in Central and Southern Italy except 6 or 7;
b) - Where denunciations have been received the Commissions have been working on them;
c) - The Commissions had been set up only recently and there is no information on their work of many of them;
d) - There are many cases where Commissions have remained inactive as denunciations have not been made;
e) - Anyone could make denunciations, the police authorities, private persons, etc. and circulars had been sent to Sindaci asking them to collaborate with Commissions in making denunciations. Only if they have definite information is it their duty to make denunciations, but they are asked to cooperate;
f) - It is the specific duty of the Provincial Deputies of the High Commissioner for Sanctions against Fascism to make denunciations;
g) - In the case of those persons who held high office under the Fascist Regime, their position must be examined by the Provincial Commissions since it is possible that some who fall within the category have, since 3 September 1943 "done some meritorious work".
h) - Direct reports are not received from the Commissions;
i) - The Government was going to ask the High Commission for Sanctions against Fascism to instruct Provincial Commissions to report progress to the Prefects.

9. PROVISION OF URNS, BOOTHS, STAMPS, PREMISES, ETC.

a) - The work is proceeding fairly well;
b) - Only in a few provinces has there been a lack of material;
c) - The stamps are being manufactured by the Royal Mint;
d) - There was no possibility that the manufacture of urns, booths, etc., would delay the holding elections either in the North or Central and Southern Italy;
e) - The actual making of urns and booths should be completed by the end of October in Central and Southern Italy;

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it is therefore sometimes necessary to entrust to the nearest Prefect the duty of heading his own Electoral Commission and an additional one as well.

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Again the fact that the lists are with the Commissions and not approved is the fault of the Casellario Giudiziale.

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e) - The actual making of urns and booths should be completed by the end of October in Central and Southern Italy;
f) - There were no difficulties as to premises.

10. VOTING SECTIONS :

a) - The Communes are already compiling the sectional lists for women;
b) - When the men's general lists are finished they will add the men's names;

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c) - The work of dividing the Communes into voting districts is going on and should not be a factor of delay in elections.

11. "SCHEDA" - VOTING PAPERS:

a) - No decision has been made as whether there will be an official ballot paper or not for local elections : it is a matter for decision by the Consulta;

b) - If there should be an official ballot paper printed by the State, it would take about a month for this to be done by the Istituto Poligrafico dello State and for distribution to the provinces, etc.;

c) - If there should not be an official ballot paper, the political parties would provide them; in that case the printing would be done locally.

12. REVISION OF ELECTORAL LAWS :

a) - The Consulta will be convened on 25 September 1945;

b) - The Ministry has recommended to the Presidency of the Council that one of the first tasks of the Consulta should be the review of the Electoral Laws for local elections;

c) - The recently published "Progetto" (being the "blue book" of the Ministry of the Interior giving the results of a technical study of the electoral law of 1915 with the draft of a decree for reviving it) would be submitted to the Consulta : 2.000 copies have been printed;

d) - The Demo-Christian Party had prepared a project which had been circulated amongst the Ministers but it was not yet known whether this project would be put before the Consulta;

Dott. VINCENTI did not know whether the Allied Commission's proposals for the revision of the law would be submitted to the Consulta for consideration.

Dott. VINCENTI thought that all points of view would probably be put before the Consulta.

C. G. R. WILLIAMS,
Major,
Local Government Sub Commissions.

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AG/45/IV/1E

SUBJECT: Note of interview - Local Government S/C offices.

DATE : 5 September 1945

PRESENT: Dott. VINCENTI, Electoral Service of the Ministry of the Interior
Major Ralph R. Temple, Deputy Director, Local Government S/C
Major C. G. R. Williams, Executive Officer " " "
Sig. Arrigo NIOE, interpreting.

1. Dott. VINCENTI stated that he desired to get some information if possible as to the methods and procedures used by Britain and America in providing for voting by persons overseas. He stated that the Italian Government was interested in formulating a plan of voting by Italian prisoners of war and deportees (such as forced laborers) who were now in foreign countries. Major Williams outlined briefly the procedure used by British personnel. Major Temple gave the methods used by American personnel, distinguishing between national and local elections. A booklet describing soldier voting and other forms of material illustrating the American practice were given to Dott. VINCENTI by Major Temple.

2. Major Temple told Dott. VINCENTI that he was quite interested in this display of initiative on the part of the Italian Government to provide a means of exercising franchise for prisoners of war and deportees; that there would be some technical difficulties involved, but that he was sure that the Allies would cooperate with the Italian Government. It was suggested that a draft of their plan be submitted for our observations when drawn up. Dott. VINCENTI expressed his gratitude for the cooperation shown.

3. The question of the right of Italian Senators who have been deprived of their Senatorship to exercise the right to vote was raised. Dott. VINCENTI said that in his own personal opinion, it is necessary for the Provincial Commissions, established under Art. 8 of DLL 159, to consider the case and find the Senator guilty of Fascist activity before he would be excluded from the lists. He did not think the deprivation of the man's Senatorship constituted such a sanction which would cause him to fall automatically within the list of persons to be excluded from the election registers. However, he said he would take this matter up with his superiors and inform us accordingly.

4. Dott. VINCENTI was handed a copy of the circular with attached copy of order, dealing with the appointment of the 2 popular judges on the Provincial Commissions established under Art. 8 of DLL No. 159. He was told that this circular had already been dispatched to Provincial Commissioners for their information and action, as well as that of the Prefects. He did not know whether the President of the Council of Ministers had as yet completed the appointment of the Presidents of such Commissions, but promised that he would make immediate inquiry and let us know.

RRT 1209

RALPH R. TEMPLE, Major
Deputy Director
Local Government S/C

RRT/pec

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUB-COMMISSION

Notes of Interview held 31 August 1945

Subject: Representation of VENEZIA GIULIA in the Consulta.

Present: Colonel R.R.CRIPPS
BROSIO

1. Colonel CRIPPS confirmed a previous telephone message to Prefect TEDESCHI that representatives of VENEZIA GIULIA take their seats in the Consulta. Colonel CRIPPS pointed out that there were one or two questions he wished to ask in order that he might take the answers into account when giving instructions to SCAO XIII Corps with regard to the representatives' movements.

2. a) Could the Sub-Commission please be furnished with the names and addresses of the Consultori selected?

The Minister replied that he would furnish the Commission with these names as soon as they had been finally confirmed. There was at present some doubt with regard to the representatives of the Communist and Socialist Parties.

b) How were nominations made?

3. The Minister replied that they had been made by the Parties centrally in Rome.

4. The Minister pointed out that while this was not entirely in accordance with the present decree on this subject, which requires that the local CLN be consulted, a decree amending the legislation covering this point was at present in the course of construction. A copy of this decree in its final form would be furnished to the Local Government Sub-Commission, as soon as possible.

5. In the course of further conversation, the Minister indicated that the regional Italian CLN was the one recognized in VENEZIA GIULIA and commented that the Communist Party was not, in fact, represented in that CLN. The Communist Party, however, had been requested to nominate a representative, although this was not strictly in accordance with the law. (The amendment mentioned in para. (4) above would correct this point).

6. The Minister enquired again whether it was possible for the Commission to give assistance for the provision of linen and other equipment for the Hotel which is being organized to receive the representatives.

7. Colonel CRIPPS replied that it was not possible to furnish this kind of material from Allied stocks, but suggested that the War Materials Disposal Sub-Commission be contacted to ascertain whether it had any material of this nature which it could furnish.

R. R. CRIPPS, Colonel 1208
Director
Local Government S/C.

Distribution:
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" AG/14/1/LG

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R. R. Cripps

R. R. CRIPPS, Colonel 1208
Director
Local Government S/C.

Distribution:
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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785021

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1411

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
AFO 394.
LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUB COMMISSION

Note of Conference 29th August, 1945.

Present:-

Dr. Catemacci. Capo di Gabinetto. Ministry of Interior.
Dr. Pino. Vice-Capo di Gabinetto. Ministry of Interior.
Colonel Cripps. Director, Local Government Sub-Commission.
Major R.R.Temple. Deputy Director, Local Government Sub-Commission.
Mr. Rice, interpreting.

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1. Oath of Sindaci.

Dr. Catemacci said that he wanted to present the new Vice-Chief of Gabinet of the Ministry, Dr. Pino.

Dr.Catemacci then stated that he had been requested by the President of the Council of Ministers, Prof. Parri, to discuss the following matter. Although he had no special cases in mind, Parri believed that the question as to the oath to be taken by sindaci had presented itself. Parri wished that AMG would not force the issue of taking the oath of loyalty to the king as prescribed by the 1915 law but that it let the matter rest until the territory was returned to the jurisdiction of the Italian Government. Dr. Catemacci was informed by Colonel Cripps that this was precisely the attitude that had been taken in the instances where the matter had come up and that we would conform with the request retaining that position.

2. Payment of Prefectural employees, Venezia Giulia.

Dr. Catemacci stated that the Ministry had been visited by a group of former officials from Fiume, Pola and Gorizia. These officials stated that they represented many functionaries who had been suspended from office. These officials were receiving about 30 lire a day and were near to starvation point. Dr. Catemacci said that the Ministry would like to send a representative to a neighbouring province such as Udine to give money to these people periodically as they came to that province from the Venezia Giulia territory. He pointed out that in Pola the prefecture had been abolished and was in fact located in territory outside. He was particularly grieved about the people from Fiume on the outskirts of Pola who seemed to be abandoned. It was pointed out to Catemacci that Fiume and territory outside the commune of Pola was under the protection of Yugo-Slavia and not under AMG. Furthermore, Colonel Cripps indicated that he doubted whether the presence of a "paymaster" at Udine was a good solution to the problem. He asked for a written statement as to the matter on receipt of which he would take it up with higher authority. The implications, it was pointed out, were political and democratic. Dr. Catemacci promised to have such a statement sent.

3. Cancellerie Giudiziale.

1207

Major Temple then described briefly his visit of the day before to the

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the Cancelliario Giudiziale Centrale at Rome and described the filing conditions there as very disorderly and could quite understand the reason for great delay in providing extracts of criminal records for purposes of excluding people from electoral lists.

4. Provincial Commissions for disfranchisement of fascists - electoral lists.

Major Temple then briefly outlined the substance of his conference with Dr. Visconti of the Electoral Service of the Ministry on August 25th. He pointed out that we were anxiously awaiting a statement from the government as to what they wanted to do about the appointment of provincial commissions referred to in article 8 of decree No.159 whose function was to draw up lists of former fascists to be excluded from the electoral registers. Dr.Catemacci promised to see that this matter was disposed of immediately.

R.H. Temple Major

RALPH R. TEMPLE,
Major,
Deputy Director,
Local Government Sub-Commission.

RRT/pw.

30th August, 1945.

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUB COMMISSION

45/P

Note of Conference with Dr. Vicensi, Electoral Service, Ministry of Interior, - 25th August, 1945.

Present:- Dr. Vicensi
Major K.E. Temple, Deputy Director, Local Government S/C
Miss R. Rasmussen, Local Government S/C
Mr. Miao. Interpreting.

After a trying discussion wherein Dr.Vicensi reversed the field twice, the following points were made:

1. Proy. Commissions - Sanctions against Fascisi

(a) Telegraphic circular of 9 August 1945 of the Ministry could not be sent out since it urged First Presidents of Courts of Appeal to make appointments.

(b) Decree 149 of 26 April 1945 which provides for the foregoing procedure is not in effect in AMG territory.

(c) Decree 159 of 27th July 1944 providing for appointment of the commissions by the President of the Council of Ministers is in effect in AMG territory.

(d) The northern provinces may not be returned to Italian Government jurisdiction for several weeks.

(e) The Allied Commission desires to be notified officially whether the Italian Government,

(i) wishes to and will make the appointments under Decree 159 (answer to 10 August letter to President of Council must be made)
(ii) wishes nothing to be done until the territory is returned at which time Decree 149 will go into effect
(iii) wishes an AMG decree embracing the unobjectionable provisions of Decree 149 to be enacted and thus take care of Udine also (which will remain under AMG longer).

2. Exclusion from lists of persons receiving welfare assistance.

Dr.Vicensi promised to send us other circulars for distribution which would clearly indicate that only permanent recipients of aid were to be excluded. Those getting total assistance temporarily were not to be excluded.

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5. Remarks.

Dr.Vicensi agreed to furnish us with progress reports every two weeks on compilation of election lists after the territory was turned back to Italian control. He furthermore will supply us with reports as to the situation in territory now under Italian jurisdiction.

4. Carabinieri Guidiziale Central.

Dr. Vicensi agreed to arrange for a visit to the central Carabinieri Guidiziale by Major Temple to see the methods employed in making extracts of records.

RALPH R. TEMPLE,
Major,
Deputy Director,
Legal Government Sub-Commission.

RRT/rcw.

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785021

14/1

AG/45/8/IG

SUBJECT: Note of interview - Local Government S/C offices

DATE : 23 August 1945

PRESENT: Dott. ROMITA Ernesto, Representative of the Vice President and Minister for the Constituente
Col. R. R. Cripps, Director, Local Government S/C
Major Ralph E. Temple, Deputy Director, Local Government S/C
Sig. Arrigo NENI, interpreting.

1. Col. Cripps informed Dott. ROMITA that he desired to maintain the closest liaison in order to be informed as to progress regarding the Constituente. Dott. ROMITA stated that a Commission for the study of political electoral law within the Ministry for the Constituent Assembly was to be set up on 1 September. The members of the Commission will be representative of the parties as well as technicians. Its exact size has not been determined.

2. Dott. ROMITA also stated that another Commission within the Ministry of the Constituent Assembly for the study of agrarian and industrial organization was soon to be established. It would consist of 12 members, divided as follows: 6 representing the political parties and 6 technicians.

3. The Ministry for the Constituente intends to public a weekly or bi-monthly review in which the work of the Commissions would be discussed. This review would be given free wide public distribution. The Commission further intends to study foreign laws and practice and to invite the presentation of proposals and suggestions by citizens. These would be discussed in the review. The whole purpose was to whip up interest in the public and to present for consideration of the Constituent Assembly various proposals and plans. Dott. ROMITA assured us that copies of the review would be sent to us. He stated that Vice President NENNI had written a letter to Admiral Stone about 4 days ago, asking for the allotment of necessary paper for the publishing of this review. He asked whether we could be of any assistance. Col. Cripps asked him to supply us with a copy of the letter so that inquiry could be made as to what was being done. Dott. ROMITA was asked to furnish us with the names of the members of the Commissions when they were established. He promised to do this.

4. Dott. ROMITA stated that it was hoped that the studies of the Commissions might be finished by the end of October.

5. In answer to an inquiry, Dott. ROMITA stated that the 1919 political electoral law would be studied as the basis for election of the Constituent Assembly; that recommendations for changes would be presented by the Commission for consideration by the Council of Ministers. It was Dott. ROMITA's opinion that the Council of Ministers was fully competent to enact any legislation making changes in the political electoral law. It was suggested to Dott. ROMITA that he make himself informed of the correspondence between the Commission and the President of the Council of Ministers regarding administrative election procedure.

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for although our criticisms were directed against the 1915 law, they set forth the objectives which should pertain to any election system. Dott. ROMITA stated that a Commission to study the structure of the Government is in existence and is dependent on the President of the Council of Ministers. He hoped that that Commission's functions would be taken over by the Commission to be formed in the Ministry for the Constituent Assembly.

6. Dott. ROMITA was informed that our door is always open to him and that we would appreciate his keeping the closest contact with the Sub Commission. Dott. ROMITA stated that he appreciated this invitation and assured us that his intention was to cooperate fully.

RRT

RALPH R. TEMPLE
Major
Deputy Director
Local Government Sub Commission

RRT/pec

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785021

14/1

AG/1/12/2/16

SUBJECT: Notes of Conference on elections and election lists in Venezia-Giulia

PRESENT: Mr. Hopkinson, British Poland
Mr. Jones American "
Col. R. R. Cripps, Director, Local Government Sub Commission
Major Ralph R. Temple, Deputy Director, Local Government S/C

1. A memorandum prepared by Major Temple on the subject was given to Mr. Jones to read shortly after he came in, and the problem was presented generally by Col. Cripps. Mr. Jones stated that the State Department probably knew all about the difficulties involved, inasmuch as most of them were embodied in letters sent to the Department. He agreed that he thought it might be necessary to lower the barriers that now exist between Venezia-Giulia and the Italian Government, in order to permit contact between the 2 solely with regard to procedure concerning the compilation of election registers. Mr. Jones thought that we ought not to hold up compilation of the registers until the Peace Treaty was formulated, since the latter would be a long drawn out matter and probably take some time. On the subject of the holding of Communal elections at this stage, he thought that in view of the response from XIII Corps, it would not be advisable to press the matter now.

2. At this point, Mr. Hopkinson, British Poland, came in and was given a general idea of the discussion involved. He stated that the British Government favors the holding of Communal elections but not Provincial elections, since the provinces are split up. He does not think National elections are appropriate now. Mr. Hopkinson was then given a copy of the memorandum prepared by Major Temple which he read. He agreed that the problems were rather complicated. He stated that it was his opinion that XIII Corps would oppose the compilation of election lists. So far as elections were concerned, he said that Col. Bowman had indicated he would not be able to work with any elective bodies.

3. A rather involved discussion ensued between the participants of the conference. Major Temple pointed out that the letter from Ambassador Kirk spoke about the Italian Government being permitted to prepare electoral lists and that it was stated that when National elections came along these areas should take part in them on the same conditions as other Italian provinces. The difficulty was that they were not organized as other Italian provinces. Consequently, an AMG order will have to be drawn up which would embody as much of the Italian procedure as was possible, making necessary changes in view of the different local government organization now prevailing in Venezia-Giulia. This would not be difficult, but he thought that the experts in the Italian Government should be consulted and their advice and suggestions on the framing of such an order sought, in order to ensure that the lists which would be compiled would not be discarded as invalid if and when the territory was turned back and elections were held. He also stated that he would not care to take the responsibility of preparing the order without such consultation, being apprehensive lest abortive lists be compiled.

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4. Mr. Jones pointed out that in Udine, which will remain under AMG control, AMG has implemented the Italian Decree and why could it not be done in Venezia Giulia? It was pointed out that the local government organization of Udine is the usual type that prevails in other provinces, whereas in Venezia-Giulia it is different. Furthermore, Italian Decrees are not implemented in Venezia-Giulia.

5. Mr. Hopkinson stated that any fears about the validity of the lists might be purely theoretical, since the Italian Government would be so happy about the restoration of the territory that it would not do anything to throw out the lists. It was pointed out to the Polads that it was possible to hold Communal elections now and improvise a system for registration, that this was entirely different from preparing electoral lists as such, which would be used for the elections that would be held not under AMG auspices, but under Italian Government auspices.

6. There seemed to be agreement with Polads on the following points:

(a) the local AMG authorities would have to be the persons to determine whether to hold Communal elections now, and since they have opposed the idea, it might be best to let the matter rest.

(b) it is desirable to begin the compilation of election registers for Italian National and local elections:

(c) that the basis for the compilation should be an AMG order which would embrace as much of the Italian procedure of the system as possible.

7. The question as to whether the Italian Government should be consulted in the preparation of this order was left in the air.

ART

RALPH R. TEMPLE
Major
Deputy Director
Local Government Sub Commission

RRT/pec

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785021

14/1

AG/3/27/LG

SUBJECT: Note of interview - Local Government S/C officers.

DATE : 23 August 1945

PRESENT: H. E. TEDESCHI Francesco, Chief of the Consulta Office.
Col. R. R. Cripps, Director, Local Government S/C
Major Ralph R. Temple, Deputy Director, Local Government S/C
Sig. Arrigo MISS, interpreting.

1. Col. Cripps informed Dott. TEDESCHI that the purpose of the conference was to find out whether there had been any new developments in connection with the Consulta. Dott. TEDESCHI stated that he had intended to come here himself today to present a draft of a new Decree. However, changes in the Decree were being debated and had not been agreed upon as yet. He stated that as soon as the Decree had taken definite form, he would immediately present a draft for our inspection and discussion.

2. Dott. TEDESCHI informed us that all the political parties had prepared lists of their selections of Consultori, which were to be submitted to the Council of Ministers. The lists included representatives for Venezia-Giulia. The majority of the Venezia-Giulia nominees were residents of that area. Dott. TEDESCHI asked whether any decision had been reached regarding the seating of the delegates for Venezia-Giulia. He was informed that we are still awaiting advice from our Governments, but that the matter would be pressed so that he might be informed as soon as possible.

3. Dott. TEDESCHI said that it is planned to convoke the Consulta on September 15.

4. A plan for transporting the delegates from their provinces to Rome has been prepared for submittion to the Ministry of Transportation. The Hotel DeVille has already been requisitioned by the Allies and in turn requisitioned for the Italian Government for housing the delegates.

5. Dott. TEDESCHI assured us that he would maintain the closest liaison with us with regard to the progress of the Consulta.

RRT

RALPH R. TEMPLE
Major
Deputy Director
Local Government Sub Commission

RRT/pec

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785021

14/1

AG/1/12/3/16

SUBJECT: Note of Interview - AC HQ

DATE : 13 August 1945 - 1700 hours.

PRESENT: S. E. CATENACCI Corrado, Chief of Cabinet, Ministry of the Interior
S. E. INNOCENTI Silvio, Chief of Special Division for Minorities, Ministry of the Interior.
Col. R. R. Cripps, Director, Local Government S/C
Major Ralph R. Temple, Deputy Director, Local Government S/C
Major C. G. R. Williams, Executive Officer, Local Government S/C
Sig. Arrigo NICE, interpreting.

1. Col. Cripps stated that representations had been received from the Prefect of Bolzano that the Giunte Comunali in that province should be enlarged above the number laid down by RDL 4 April 1945, No. 111. His reason was that only in that way could proper representation be given to the German-speaking minority. The Prefect made the same representation with respect to the Deputazione Provinciale. Col. Cripps stated that as far as the S/C were concerned, they did not consider the Prefect's case very strong, but they wished to know what the views of the Italian Government were. Dott. INNOCENTI said the minority problem must be looked at as a whole. He had recently been appointed to head a Special Division in the Ministry which was studying and advising the Government on the technical side of the minority question, wherever it might arise in Italy--in the Upper Adige or in the Val d'Aosta or elsewhere. Questions arose as to equal treatment of the minority language in law courts, in the schools, in public registers and documents, commercial transactions and in numerous other ways. Proper representation of the minority on local government bodies was only one of the many aspects of the whole problem: and it should not be treated as a question of party.

2. Col. Cripps said the question might arise in other provinces where AMG not infrequently found the Deputazione and Giunte had been established with numbers larger than those established by law. He would like to know what the Government's reaction would be to the situation as and when they took over control.

3. Both Dott. CATENACCI and Dott. INNOCENTI said they could not say what the policy of the Government would be, but could only express a personal opinion. Their view was that the numbers fixed by law should be adhered to and they thought the Ministry would take steps to reduce Deputazioni and Giunte with excessive numbers as soon as they had the authority to do so.

4. Dott. INNOCENTI pointed out that there were several ways of treating the question of minority representation on local bodies. One method would be to reserve a fixed number of seats for the minority and to provide a separate election for those seats, at which only the members of the minority would vote. For the remaining seats, the Italian section of the population would vote. The Italian political parties could compete for these seats in the ordinary way.

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5. Dott. INNOCENTI said that this or any other method could only be adopted when there were elections. At present there were none. Moreover, at present we were dealing with six main political parties, but tomorrow the number might be different. For these reasons, any quick solution for Bolzano province alone would be premature.

6. Col. Cripps said he appreciated that Dott. CATENACCI and Dott. INNOCENTI were only expressing their personal views. However, he agreed with them and the S/C would take their advice. He would mention the matter to the VP and, if the latter approved, write to RO Venezia to inform him that both the Deputazione and Giunte in Bolzano must be kept to the legal number.
NOTE: Col. Cripps mentioned the matter to Brigadier Upjohn later in the day: and the latter agreed with the views expressed above.

C. G. R. WILLIAMS
Major
Executive Officer
Local Government Sub Commission

CGRW/pec

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785021

AC/14/1/LG

SUBJECT: Note of interview - Local Government S/C offices.

DATE : 2 August 1945

PRESENT: Dott. CAMERA Andrea, resigning Secretary to the Cabinet, Ministry of Interior
Dott. CATENACCI Corado, Chief of Cabinet, Ministry of the Interior
Major Ralph R. Temple, Deputy Director, Local Government S/C
Sig. Arrigo NICE, interpreting

1. Major Temple informed Dott. CATENACCI that the Ministry's nominee for the position of Prefect of Cremona--Dott. GIANNICHELE--was not acceptable to the S/C and added that a letter had been addressed to the Ministry on 1 August requesting a further nomination. Major Temple pointed out that local government conditions in the northern provinces were somewhat delicate at present and it was our policy to send to the North only those Prefects who were known to be good and to have irreproachable records. Major Temple asked Dott. CATENACCI to let the S/C have the name of the new nominee as soon as possible. Dott. CATENACCI said that he regretted that the S/C was unable to accept GIANNICHELE, since the government knew of no objection to him. However, he fully appreciated the need for the best officials in the North and he would submit a new name as soon as possible.

2. Dott. CAMERA said that owing to the great shortage of officials, President PARRI had said that those officials already at the disposal of the Ministry in Rome should be used first. Dott. CAMERA said that Major Williams had already agreed to have included in the pool those Prefects who might have some minor charges of disfavour against them. However, President PARRI was anxious to send to the North Prefects against whom no objection could possibly be made, particularly as far as epuration was concerned.

3. Major Temple raised the question of the Ministry's nomination of DE ROSA for the position of Prefect of Lucca, and said that no biographical details had been received.

4. Dott. CATENACCI handed a letter containing these details to Major Temple and said that DE ROSA was not subject to epuration proceedings.

5. Major Temple stated that he believed the details to be incorrect insofar as they stated DE ROSA had been Prefect of Lecce during the period 1943-1944. Our records indicated that ROCCA had been Prefect in that Province during the same period.

6. Major Temple said that from the man's record he seemed to be experienced and he would probably be acceptable. Major Temple asked that DE ROSA be sent to the S/C for an interview as soon as possible. Dott. CATENACCI said he would do this.

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7. Major Temple then spoke of Rovigo. A request had been made in the middle of July for a VP for Rovigo and we had suggested that a consigliere ff. may be suitable. Major Williams had asked the Prefect of Rovigo to write direct to the Ministry on this matter and we had no information as to whether this had been done. In any event we had presumed, and had written to the Ministry yesterday, that he had written. Our reports show that a VP is needed in Rovigo, particularly as someone with training was essential for the compilation of electoral lists. Dott. CATENACCI said he would take up the matter.

8. Major Temple then spoke of Ravenna, stating that there was urgent need for both a VPV and a VPI. Major Temple gave a resume' of the correspondence which had already taker place with the Ministry on this subject and asked Dott. CATENACCI to give this matter his urgent attention. Dott. CATENACCI promised to take the matter up.

9. Major Temple said that the Ministry had been asked to nominate a Prefect for Modena. Dott. CATENACCI said that the Ministry were proposing General ZANETTI, who is in the pool, for Modena. General ZANETTI would be promoted Prefetto dal Regno if and when he was appointed Prefect of Modena.

10. Major Temple stated that he thought General ZANETTI would probably be acceptable and asked Dott. CATENACCI to make arrangements to have General ZANETTI report to Rome as soon as possible.

R. R. Temple Major

RALPH R. TEMPLE
Major
Deputy Director
Local Government Sub Commission

PR/pec

Distribution:

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785021

14/11

AG/1/27/LG

SUBJECT: Note of interview - Local Government S/C offices.

DATE : 3 August 1945

PRESENT: His Excellency Francesco TEDESCHI, Chief of the Consulta office.
Col. R. R. Cripps, Director, Local Government S/C
Major Ralph R. Temple, Deputy Director, Local Government S/C
Sig. Arrigo NICE, interpreting.

1. Dott. TEDESCHI stated that he wanted to indicate the position with regard to nominations of representative political parties, inasmuch as Major Williams had raised it in a previous conversation. TEDESCHI said that of the 36 to be selected by the political parties, 10 were to be selected directly by the parties and 26 through local CLNs. With regard to Venezia Giulia, he pointed out that the rules had been changed so that now 26 Consultori would be nominated directly by the local parties to each respective party's central office, who will then designate the representative.

2. Party representatives, he stated, do not have to reside in the area, nor do they have to be local men. They merely represent the views of the area. The Decree, draft of which had been heretofore submitted to the Allied Commission, providing for representation in the Regions recently liberated has already passed the Council of Ministers and been signed by the Luogotenente. It has not been published as yet.

3. Political parties have already received instructions. Most nominations have been submitted, including representatives from Venezia Giulia. The Communist Party has completed its designation of representatives for all Regions; the other parties are expected to complete theirs in a few days.

4. There has been no publicity concerning the designations and Dott. TEDESCHI assured us that it would not be done for several days. He stated that the publication would be held up for 24 hours to allow Col. Cripps to consult with the Vice President on his return.

5. TEDESCHI then asked whether the Allied Commission could assist in the transportation of about 200 representatives from outside Rome. Col. Cripps said he would take that up with higher authority. TEDESCHI also asked about the possibility of the Italian Government buying Army rations for messing of about 150 delegates at Rome. Col. Cripps stated that he doubted very much whether that could be done, since Army regulations prohibit it, but that he would mention the matter to the VP.

R R Temple Major

RALPH R. TEMPLE, Major
Deputy Director
Local Government Sub Commission

RRT/pcc

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785021

141

AG/4/1/149/LG

SUBJECT: Note of interview - AG HQ

DATE : 4th August 1945 - 11:00 hours

PRESENT: Gen. Dismo ZANETTI
Captain W.I. Cunningham - Local Government Sub Commission
Sig. Arrigo NICE, interpreting

1. Gen. ZANETTI called here this morning. He said he had come from the Ministry and had been told he was the Prefect for MODENA. We had a talk on conditions there and Gen. ZANETTI impressed me very favourably.

2. I asked if he was ready to go and he said that as an old soldier he was always ready to move anywhere he was ordered. It would not be fair to MACERATA if he ~~could~~ moved without going back for a few days. He explained that he had not been warned of the move but had only received a telegram which told him to come to the Ministry at Rome to receive an "urgent communication". Therefore he had come immediately. He would require a few days to hand over to his VFV. He would go to MODENA on Thursday or Friday next at the latest. He had his own car and would go direct from MACERATA.

3. I pointed out that as Emilia Region had now been handed back to the Italian Government it was now a matter to arrange with them but I knew that the need for a Prefect at MODENA was urgent.

4. Gen. ZANETTI asked of I could tell him anything about the previous Prefect and officials at MODENA. I did so. He recognised TACOLI's name and said he knew him slightly. He thought that TACOLI probably wanted to get back to his private practice.

5. Gen. ZANETTI expressed confidence that he would be able to handle the Political parties all right. He was a native of Emilia and knew the people.

6. Gen. ZANETTI said he would go back to the Ministry and tell them when he could move to MODENA. He hoped he would see some Allied Officers when he got to MODENA. When AMG was at MACERATA he had had an easy time. It was more difficult when the Province went back to the Italian Government but there was nothing he had not been able to handle.

7. I thanked Gen. ZANETTI for his call and wished him luck in his new Province. The General asked that he should be remembered to Major Temple whom he had met at Macerata.

W.I. Cunningham Capt.

W.I. CUNNINGHAM
Captain
Local Government Sub Commission

WIC/mm

Distribution:
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AG/4/1/149/LG
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1193

Draft.

14/1

File on Conversations file, as is.
R. 3/8.

NOTES ON CONVERSATION HELD :
LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUB-COMMISSION
1100 HOURS : 2 AUGUST 1945

Present:

Major R. R. TEMPLE - Deputy Director

Dott. CATENACCIO - Capo di Gabinetto

Dott. CAMERA - (resigning Secretary of the Cabinet)

Mr. Nice - Interpreting

Major TEMPLE said that he wanted to discuss the personnel situation in the Provinces which have so far been visited by the officers of this S/C. Major Temple said that, wherever possible, we like to discuss these things orally so that we can impress upon the Ministry the urgency that a letter will sometimes not convey. As Dr. Catenaccio knows, the situation in the North is still a little delicate so far as the presence of career officials is concerned, but in the last few weeks it has changed considerably. During the past few weeks the number of requests for officials has increased. The attitude of this S/C has always been to cooperate with the Italian Government to the end that there be efficient administration in the provinces. When officers visited the provinces, and the PC raised questions concerning the personnel situation, they always assured the PC that we would immediately contact the Ministry and do our best to ensure that the situation be improved. Major Temple said that he had often told a PC that we would see to it that an official would be provided shortly - but always with "his tongue in his cheek".

Dr. CATENACCIO said that goodwill was not lacking on the part of the Ministry and they realised what the situation in the North was. Dr. CATENACCIO said, further, that they were going to do their best to meet the demands for officials.

Major TEMPLE said that he agreed that goodwill was not lacking in the Ministry, but

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Dr. CATENACCIO said that goodwill was not lacking on the part of the Ministry and what they realized ~~xxx~~ the situation in the North was. Dr. CATENACCIO said, further, that they were going to do their best to meet the demands for officials.

Major TEMPLE said that he agreed that goodwill was not lacking in the Ministry, but he thought that there was a lack of interest and goodwill on the part of the officials concerned. However, sometimes there seemed to be a lack of judgement on the part of the Ministry. Major TEMPLE quoted the case of the Province of CREMONA as an example. Major TEMPLE visited CREMONA visited CREMONA at the special request of Colonel POLETTI. The present Prefect of CREMONA is an appointee of the CLN. He is not

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functioning well at all and as a matter of fact the President of the CLN is convinced that there must be a replacement and preferably a career appointment. While Major TEMPLE was there the Committee of Liberation met and they came to a decision to have the PC request the Ministry for a good career Prefect. Of all the persons that they could possibly have selected the Ministry submitted the name of a Prefect who has already been rejected by AMG and concerning whom there were adverse reports many months ago. That Prefect is GIANMICHELE.

Dr. CATENACCIO said that, as far as the Ministry was concerned, they did not know of anything against GIANMICHELE, except for the incident in Catania. ~~and Dr. CAMERA spoke to Major Williams about the nomination.~~

Dr. CAMERA said hat he had an interview with Major WILLIAMS in which he pointed out that the pool of Prefects consisted of two categories. One - here in Rome at the Ministry; and the other - Prefects who are at present at some Prefecture. The number of Prefects is limited and President PARRI had said that the Prefects at the disposal of the Ministry in Rome should be used first, and this number is very small and many are ill at the moment. A suggestion was made by DR. CAMERA that some of the Prefects against whom there were only minor charges of disfavour should be included in the Pool of Prefects, and major williams had agreed the suggestion. ~~One of these was GIANMICHELE.~~ Dr. CAMERA said that the exceptions to GIANMICHELE were of minor importance. GIANMICHELE had once been called by the Allied Commission to sign some papers and being very excited he had given Col. SPICER the impression that he did not know how to write. Nothing of importance could be said against this official, who is considered by the Ministry to be a good Prefect. ~~Major Williams had personally agreed, said Dr. CAMERA, that GIANMICHELE could be included in the Pool.~~

DR. CAMERA said that President is very anxious to send to the North those Prefects against whom there is no possibility of objection being raised particularly as far as epuration is concerned.

MAJOR TEMPLE said that he had taken the same view of GIANMICHELE as Dr. CATENACCIO and Dr. CAMERA, although he had not been present at the interview. As far as the interview with Colonel SPICER was concerned, he agreed that the impression had been given because the man was nervous at the time. However, we had sent a letter to the Ministry yesterday rejecting the nomination on the grounds of a report of a PC who had said that "GIANMICHELE is a conscientious and honest man but he is

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DR. CATENACCIO asked on what grounds adverse reports had been made against GIANMICHELE. As far as they knew from personnel contact with this man, there had no objections.

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MAJOR TEMPLE said that it was quite possible that the basis of the criticism sprang from the part that GIANMICHELE had played in settling the disturbances in CATANIA. In any

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event the officer who made the report is regarded by us as a capable one on whose judgement we relied. Furthermore, the observations took place while the territory was under AMG and the nomination is requested for a province which is still under AMG, so that we cannot shelve the responsibility entirely.

MAJOR TEMPLE said that he wanted to impress the Ministry with the fact that we in this S/C are doing our best to encourage good administration and it is salesman job that we have to do in convincing the local people that a better job could be done by a career official after a non-career man has proven unsatisfactory.

DR. CATENACCIO said that it was also the Ministry's policy to send good Prefects to Northern Italy. He was very sorry that in the case of GIANMICHELE this objection had been raised, and said he would make another selection and possibly transfer a Prefect from somewhere else to CREMONA.

MAJOR TEMPLE repeated that he offered no strong objection to GIANMICHELE and said that he may, at some later date, be a good person to have, but at the moment, while the situation is delicate, we have to regard the requests for Prefects as emergency ones and we will press the Ministry to search for their best people, who may only be required for a few months. But when a request comes in they must realize that it is an emergency one and offer their best people.

Dr. CATTENACCIO was in agreement that no personal issue should be made of the rejection of GIANMICHELE for this particular appointment. With regard to the new appointment, Dr. CATTENACCIO pointed out that it could not take place as rapidly as such appointments used to, because of the new procedure. Previously, the Undersecretary had had the authority to make a selection. Now it had to be submitted to Vice President BROSIO and then to the President himself.

MAJOR TEMPLE stated that although he could not dictate the internal procedure of the Italian Government, he wished to urge Dr. CATTENACCIO to impress upon his superiors the fact that it is only when things have come to the point of emergency that a request for a Career Prefect is received from the Northern provinces and consequently all possible speed should be given to the nomination of a new official.

DR. CATTENACCIO said that he realized the point of view and the urgency of the nominations and he would do his best.

MAJOR TEMPLE pointed out that if these were ordinary times and the situation was normal

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MAJOR TEMPLE pointed out that if these were ordinary times and the situation was normal we could anticipate that there would be a request for a Prefect two or three weeks before. But at the present time, when a request for a Prefect was received it was necessary that the new appointment be immediate and we ourselves were hard pressed.

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DR. CATTENACCIO confirmed that he would do his best.

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MAJOR TEMPLE said that he would like to take up the request for a Prefect for LUCCA. The biographical Ministry had nominated DE ROSA but no details had yet been received.

DR. CATTENACCIO handed a letter, containing these details, to Major TEMPLE.

MAJOR TEMPLE stated that he believed the details to be incorrect insofar as they stated DE ROSA had been Prefect at LECCE during the period 1943-1944. Our records indicated that ROCCA had been Prefect in that Province during the same period. 1.

DR. CATTENACCIO said that he had been given the infomation by the Personnel Department and very much regretted that it was incorrect. He promised to submit correct biographical details.

MAJOR TEMPLE asked what the situation was with regard to Epuration.

DR. CATTENACCIO said that DE ROSA was not subject to proceedings and was therefore quite clear.

MAJOR TEMPLE asked whether the Ministry had communicated with DE ROSA concerning his appointment. Did they know whether he was willing to go, or whether he was sick?

DR. CATTENACCIO said that the official had not been contacted but he knew that he was willing to go. Dr. CATTENACCIO asked whether he should contact Da Rosa today.

MAJOR TEMPLE said that the man should be contacted and sent to see the S/C. On the basis of his record he seemed to be experienced and he probably would be acceptable. If he proved satisfactory we would send him to LUCCA. 2.

DR. CATTENACCIO agreed to do this.

MAJOR TEMPLE then spoke of Vice Prefects and said that prompt nomination of VPs was sometimes as important, if not more important, than that of Prefects since often Prefects were non-career men and, although they were good personalities and good leaders, they often were not well enough informed on Italian procedure to run a Province efficiently and hence the need for career VPs.

MAJOR TEMPLE spoke of the case of ROVIGO. A request had been made in the middle of July for a VP for ROVIGO and we had suggested that a consigliere ff. may be suitable. Major Williams had asked the Prefect of ROVIGO to write direct to the Ministry on this matter and we had no information as to whether this had been done. In any event we had presumed, and had written to the Ministry yesterday, that he had written. Our reports show that a VP is needed in ROVIGO, particularly as someone with training was essential for the consolidation of Partisan [illegible]

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MAJOR TEMPLE then spoke of RAVENNA, stating that there was urgent need for both a VPV and a VPI. Major TEMPLE gave a resume of the correspondence which had already taken place with the Ministry on this subject and asked Dr. CATTENACCIO to give this matter his urgent attention.

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DR. CATTENACCIO said that he would take up the matter.

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MAJOR TEMPLE said that the Ministry had been asked to nominate a Prefect for MODENA.

DR. CATTENACCIO said that the Ministry were proposing General ZANETTI, who is in the Peel, for MODENA.

MAJOR TEMPLE said that he would consult General ZANETTI's card and advise the Ministry whether he was acceptable.

MAJOR TEMPLE then spoke of Reggio Emilia. On 16 June a request had been made to the Ministry for a VPI and nothing had been heard since then. On 31 July we had telephoned the Ministry and Dr. Virgilio had said that they had no officials at their disposal and he would talk to Dr. MICALI and see what could be done. Major TEMPLE stated that

DR. CATTENACCIO pointed out that it is not lack of action on the part of the Personnel Div. but there were difficulties which prevented them from obtaining results.

MAJOR TEMPLE said that he was perfectly aware of the difficulties, but pointed out that there had been a lapse of five weeks and he thought that Dr. CATTENACCIO would agree that it was a long time.

MAJOR TEMPLE said that there were a number of requests for minor officials and they, too, were urgent.

MAJOR TEMPLE stressed that the case of VPs for RAVENNA was extremely urgent. Brigadier Upjohn himself had phoned from RAVENNA on a recent visit to that Province to urge prompt nomination. RAVENNA also had urgent need of several minor officials.

DR. CATTENACCIO assured Major Temple that he would take these matters up.

GENERAL ZANETTI

Dr. CATTENACCIO said that on the occasion of the appointment of General ZANETTI to MODENA, he would be promoted Prefect del Regno.

MAJOR TEMPLE asked Dr. CATTENACCIO to make arrangements to have General ZANETTI report to Rome as soon as possible.

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1411

AG/45/14/16

SUBJECT: Note of Interview - Local Government Sub Commission

DATE : 30th July 1945 - 17:30 hours.

PRESENT: Capt. W.I. Cunningham, Local Government S/C
Dott. STRANO, Servizio Elettorale - Ministry of Interior
Sig. Arrigo NICE, interpreting.

1. I told Dott. Strano that I wished to discuss with him the question of how to deal with applications for extensions of time in the preparation of the Electoral Lists. I told him that EC Emilia Region had granted extension of 30 days to each Commune in Bologna and Modena Provinces. A letter to this effect had been sent to the Ministry on 28th July 1945.

2. Dott. Strano and the Government were very anxious to keep extensions to a minimum. He was against the practice of giving a block extension to all communes in a province. It was unlikely that all communes had their population records destroyed and that was the only reason for which an extension should be granted. Another reason which did not now apply would be non receipt of the Electoral Forms. He was afraid that an extension to every Commune in a Province would encourage slackness.

3. I then told Dott. Strano that we had been asked to advise what was the "maximum time limit extension" which could be granted.

4. Dott. Strano said that, of course, there was no "maximum" and the time given should depend on the necessities of the situation.

5. I replied that I understood that but that we were anxious to cut down extensions as far as possible. To this end I proposed to say that the maximum we advised was 30 days, but before doing so I wondered if this extension would be final and binding. Could a commune in which it proved impossible to complete the work with the aid of a 30 days extension get a further extension?

6. Dott. Strano said that there was no reason why further extensions should not be given. He urged keeping them down to a minimum and granting them to specified Communes upon proof that their records had been destroyed.

7. I told Dott. Strano that I proposed to reply to the query that the maximum time extension which we advised was 30 days and that only to specified communes whose population records had been destroyed. I would not say anything at present about the possibility of future extensions in the hope that if no one knew about it none would be necessary.

8. Dott. Strano agreed. He then said that the Ministry had been getting cables direct from Prefects in AMG territory asking for extensions. They had prepared a circular which should reach us soon telling each Prefect that the applications should not be sent to the Ministry but to the Provincial Commissioner of the Province concerned.

9. I thanked him for the information and told him that I will see that the Circular was forwarded without delay as soon as it reached us.

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W.I. CUNNINGHAM
Captain
Local Government Sub Commission

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14/1 - Interviews file

SUBJECT: Note of interview - Local Government S/C offices

DATE : 26 July 1945 - 10:30 hours.

PRESENT: Col. R. R. Cripps, Director, Local Government S/C
Major C.G.R. Williams, Executive Officer
Dott. Socrate FORNI
Sig. Arrigo NICE, interpreting.

1. Dott. FORNI called by appointment, having telephoned for it yesterday afternoon. On Col. Cripps inquiry as to the purpose of his visit, Dott. FORNI said it was to present his compliments to the Director, whom he had not met before, and to bring to his notice that he was still desirous of serving as a Prefect in some Northern Province. He said he understood that certain vacancies were now arising in the North. In particular, he inquired whether his previous nomination to Bologna would still stand should a vacancy arise in that province.

2. The Director said that as and when vacancies arose and provided RC requested us for a career Prefect, we should refer to the Ministry for a nomination. As to Bologna, the present Prefect Regent was believed to be quite satisfactory to the RC and no reason was known in this HQ why a vacancy should arise, but if that should happen the Director thought he would refer to the Ministry again as the previous nomination of Dott. FORNI was made over 3 months ago.

3. The Director assured Dott. FORNI that he was still "on our books" as one of the career Prefects acceptable to the Allied Commission and should the Ministry nominate him to AC for a province, we should be pleased to receive it.

4. Dott. FORNI handed the Director a copy of a letter of recommendation given him last October by Captain W. E. Phillips, then PC Viterbo, copy at fo. 74. Dott. FORNI said he did not know the contents but there was no objection on his part to our taking a copy for our records.

NOTE: Dott. FORNI gave no sign whatever that he knew he had been nominated for Ferrara. I feel, however, that his call, coming on the heels of Dott. CAMERA's call of yesterday (see fo. 73) could hardly be fortuitous: but CAMERA (to whom Capt. Lewis referred of FORNI's call this morning) says there is no connection.

C. G. R. WILLIAMS, Major
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CGRW/pec

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CGRW/pec

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785021

AC/~~4/1/51~~/LG

SUBJECT: Note of interview - AC HQ/

DATE : 25 July 1945 - 11:00 hours.

PRESENT: Cav. Andrea CAMERA, Consigliere di Gabinetto, Ministry of Interior
Major R.R. TEMPLE,)
Major C.G.R. WILLIAMS) Local Government S/C
Sig. Arrigo BICE, interpreting

Dr. CAMERA said that he had beenrequested by us to provide a substitute Prefect for FERRARA and the Ministry had nominated Dr. FORNI. The President of the CLN of FERRARA had come to ROME yesterday and had seen President PARRI and asked that Dr. CAVALLARO should be sent to FERRARA as Prefect. President PARRI accepted the proposal of the President of the CLN of FERRARA and sent a letter to Admiral Stone. Dr. CAMERA produced a copy of this letter (which had not yet been received by Admiral STONE) and it was read by those present. (see translation attached).
Dr. CAMERA said that he believed that the President of the CLN of FERRARA did not, at the time of his visit to PARRI, know that the Ministry had nominated a Prefect, it would seem that he knew only that there was going to be a vacancy and therefore directly contacted President PARRI. CAVALLARO is at present in ROME and is a native of FERRARA; he is at present the President of the Istituto Maternità ed Infanzia, a welfare institution; he is an old man.

Major TEMPLE stated that so far as we are concerned we shall ignore this underhand and back-door attempt to upset the arrangements which Major Williams had already got under way. Major Williams pointed out that we had recived a message this morning from VP C.A. Section, who was visiting FERRARA, that they were waiting for the new carmer Prefect to arrive and it would therefore seem that they were expecting him.

Major TEMPLE asked Dr.CAMERA what the position was about getting Dr. FORNI to ROME.

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Dr. CAMERA said that he was in Rome but he had not been advised of his nomination.

Major TEMPLE said that he did not think that the arrangements already made would be much upset but in so far as the Admiral had

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Major C.G.R. WILLIAMS) Local Government S/C
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Major TEMPLE said that he did not think that the arrangements already made would be much upset but in so far as the Admiral had been addressed on the matter we should have to wait to see his reactions. Major TEMPLE promised that we would get
ACTION in touch with Dr. CAMERA when the matter had developed, and we would also contact the PC of FERRARA and inform him of the position. In the meantime, and since he had not been told of his nomination, Dr. FORNI should not be advised until we had contacted Dr. CAMERA again.

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Major WILLIAMS said that the letter was most unsatisfactory. "The Italian Government has a Ministry which handles Prefects; equally the Allied Commission has a Sub-Commission which handles Prefects. This is being done without consultation either with the Minister or the Sub-Commission. What shall we do? Close the Ministry and the Sub-Commission?"

Dr. CAMERA asked that we keep confidential the fact that President PARRI had acted without consulting his own Ministry. THIS WAS AGREED.

Dr. CAMERA pointed out that insofar as PARRI is President of the Council of Ministers, as well as Minister of the Interior, it was of no consequence that he had used the notepaper of the President of the Council of Ministers.

Dr. CAMERA said that he should point out that the Committee of the CLN did not refer the matter to the PC of FERRARA but went directly to the President of the Italian Government and that the President wrote to Admiral Stone without observing the correct channels. WITH REGARD TO THE COMMISSARIO AND VICE COMMISSARIO appointed by the CLN to head the Ministry of Interior Offices in the North by the Fascist Republican Governme

Dr. CAMERA said that the Undersecretary AMENDOLA, who is in the North, requested the Ministry of Interior to ratify these appointments. The point of view of Dr. CAMERA was that the Ministry could not ratify these since the territory is under the jurisdiction of AMG. It is also against the policy of Brigadier UPJOHN who is of the opinion that all these functionaries should be returned to ROME. 1184

Major WILLIAMS said that as regard the formation and appointment of COMMISSARIO and VICE COMMISSARIO he had received Dr. CAMERA's message and had been trying to speak to MILAN on the telephone to get confirmation, but the line had been very bad and he had not succeeded. On the general question, however, he, personally, agreed with Dr. CAMERA. Whether or not they had been confirmed, the confirmation belonged to AMG. Any confirmation by the Government would have no legal validity and it might be regarded as an infringement of the rights of the AMG. So that not only would it not have

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Close the Ministry and the Sub-Commission?"

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Major TEMPLE said he wished to speak about the Prefect of CREMONA.

Mr. CAMERA, in reply, said that all proposals for the appointment of Prefects were now submitted to President PARRI and

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to Vice President BROSIO. Vice President BROSIO was a collaborator of PARRI in all matters concerning internal policy so that all matters are submitted to him as well.

Major TEMPLE concluded therefore that President PARRI perhaps knew of the nomination of FORNI for the Prefecture of FERRARA and asked Dr. CAMERA whether he knew if President PARRI did in fact know that FORNI had been nominated.

Dr. CAMERA said YES.

Dr. CAMERA said that a letter appointing Dr. FORNI had been written and signed by the Undersecretary but had probably not yet been received by AC. It would appear that PARRI knew about this and nevertheless wrote to Admiral STONE nominating CAVALLARO.

Major TEMPLE informed Dr. CAMERA that the Prefect of BRESCIA had received a cable from the Ministry advising of the transfer of Consiglieri CARUSO from BRESCIA to POTENZA.

Dr. CAMERA took a note of this.

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MC/1 Interview file

MO/1/27/16

SUBJECT: Note of interview - AC HQ.

DATE : 19 July 1945 - 12:15 hours.

PRESENT: H. E. Francesco TARCHIANI, Chief of the Consulta Office
Major C. C. R. Williams
Sig. Arrigo NICE, interpreting.

1. I referred to the Minister MORIO's circular on the Consulta, copy of which he had given to Brigadier Upjohn on 17 July, and said I had asked for consultation with H. E. TARCHIANI to clarify one or two paragraphs in the circular which were not quite clear to us.

2. I referred firstly to the paragraph in the circular (foot of page 6, Italian version---side-lined on page of English version), which mentioned the disqualification of State employees for being "consultori". H. E. TARCHIANI made it clear that the other classes mentioned in that paragraph (e.g. university professors, magistrates, etc. and officers of the armed forces) were exceptions to the general rule and, therefore, all these classes were permitted to be "consultori".

3. I also referred to certain passages (side-lined in the English and Italian versions) of para 4 of the circular--particular dispositions for CLN parties. H. E. explained the position as follows:

(a) if a party is not represented in any of the Regional CLNs of Northern Italy, it has no right to appoint any of its 11 Regional representatives from that part of Italy:

(b) if the party should happen to be represented on one of the Regional Committees, then it could appoint the number of its Regional representatives assigned to that Region:

(c) similarly, for two or more Regions:

(d) as and when the party became represented on the Regional Committee, its right to appoint its Regional representatives would then arise:

(e) this could happen at any time, even after the Consulta had been constituted, called together and started functioning:

(f) the foregoing only applied to the six parties represented on the Central CLN in Rome.

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In practice, the only party affected was the Liberal Democrats, and the rule was made at the instance of their leader in the Government---BONOMI. Any party not so represented on the Central CLN (e.g. Republicans) has no right to appoint Regional "consultori" from the North even though it may be represented on every single Regional CLN in that area.

4. I inquired about the distribution of the circular. H. E. said that

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the Government had sent it to:—

(a) Central Directions of all the parties (CLN and non-CLN) in Rome:

(b) to the Central CLN in Rome:

(c) to the CLNAI.

5. The CLN parties had already, in their turn, passed down their own instructions to their Regional and Provincial organs in the North as well as the South. The non-CLN parties don't have to do this, as they have no Regional representation. The Central CLN has similarly issued instructions to the Regional and Provincial CLNs in Central and Southern Italy, and the CLNAI likewise to the CLNs of Northern Italy. All these organs were already at work on the business of nominations.

6. There is, accordingly, no need for assistance of AC in distributing the Government's instructions in Northern Italy.

7. I inquired if H. E. thought it would assist if the Italian political organisations in the North were at liberty to use AC means of communication to set up their communications to Rome. H. E. said the parties of the CLN had sent representatives personally to the North who were going around collecting the nominations and should come back with lists in their pockets. Nevertheless, he thought there might be one or two cases where it might make for speed if a party or a CLN could send a message up to the Minister through AC channels.

8. I said I would recommend that instructions be issued to RCs and FCs on the following lines:—

If an Italian political agency was of opinion that a communication could be sent to the Ministry more quickly through AC channels than by other means at the disposal of the agency in question, then it would be at liberty to apply to the FO accordingly, who would transmit the communication to this HQ by the quickest available means. It would thus be for the Italian political organisation itself to decide in the first place whether it wanted to use AC communication.

9. H. E. said he thought the Minister might want, in the near future, to send one of his officials down to the North to go around and give advice on technical points. I said if the Minister's office would write us a letter with the name of the official, this S/C would do everything it could to facilitate the proposal. I told H. E. that the position of AC in the matter of the Consulta was that if AC could be of practical assistance to the Minister in the early constitution of the Consulta in any way, then AC would be pleased to do so: but only if the Minister thought our assistance was necessary in any particular respect.

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C. C. R. WILLIAMS, Major
Executive Officer
Local Government Sub Commission

CCRW/pec

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AG/14/1/12

SUBJECT: Note of interview - Local Government S/C offices.

DATE : 16 July 1945 - 11:30 hours

PRESENT: Cav. Andrea CAMERA, Consigliere di Gabinetto, Ministry of the Interior
Major C. G. R. Williams, Captain W. I. Cunningham } Local Government S/C
Sig. Arrigo NICH, interpreting

Prefect of Modena

1. Dott. CAMERA said he had called to tell us that TACCOLI, the present Prefect Regent of Modena, had called to see the Under-Secretary of State SPATARO recently and told him he wished to resign from his office. The Under-Secretary wanted to know if in his place we would accept Avv. GERLO, the present Prefect Regent of Terni. GERLO had been appointed by AMG. Moreover, he was a Christian-Democrat as was TACCOLI, so that the balance of the "equilibrium of the parties" would be preserved.

2. I asked if TACCOLI had communicated his wish to resign to the PC. CAMERA said he did not know: TACCOLI did not say so when he was at the Ministry.

3. I said we could give no answer until we knew the views of the RC and PC. As to GERLO, RC and PC might desire to have a career Prefect or some other person. I promised to communicate with PC as soon as possible.

Prefects of provinces with AMG enclaves

4. CAMERA referred to the provinces of Naples, Pisa and Livorno, the capital cities of which were still under AMG. He inquired whether we considered it necessary for AC to give approval to new appointments of Prefects to these provinces on the grounds that parts of them were still under Military Government.

5. I said no. I thought the question had been considered some time ago within the S/C and resolved in the negative. CAMERA said the Ministry would, of course, inform us of any changes so that the local Commissioners could be kept in touch. I told CAMERA he had anticipated a suggestion I was about to make myself.

C. G. R. WILLIAMS
Major
Executive Officer
Local Government Sub Commission

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CGRW/pec

14/1

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
AFO 394
LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUB COMMISSION

AG/A5/32/1c

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD IN THE OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION
ON 24 JUNE 45

Present: Vice President, Civil Affairs Section
Regional Commissioner, VENEZIA
Political Advisor (British)
" " (American)
Director, Local Government Sub-Commission

The Prefect of Belluno

Mr. Arrigo Rice, Interpreter

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1. VP Civil Affairs Section gave a short recapitulation of the position and outlined the discussion which had taken place on the morning of 23 July 45.

DELETE

2. The Prefect of Belluno stated that he knew that the ex-Prefect of Belluno (Signor TINOZZI) and the ex-Podesta of Belluno City were still in the province. It therefore appeared that, a statement on the lines of the attached Appendix "A" could be issued forthwith.

3. Political Advisers were in agreement, subject to approval of AFHQ.

4. RC VENEZIA Region stressed the importance of immediate action and also suggested an amendment in the last sentence of the communication as follows:

After the word "prejudice" substitute the words "tranquility of the province".

ELECTORAL LISTS

5. The Prefect of Belluno stated that he had discussed the matter of Electoral Lists with Professor Parri. He produced an advance copy of the answer (Appendix "B" attached) to this Commission's aide memoire handed to the President of the Council of Ministers recently.

6. A first reading of this appeared to give a sensible solution of the problem.

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7. The Prefect of Belluno drew attention to the fact that the position of those residents of Belluno province who had opted for German nationality could be regained under the law of 18 October 1945.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785021

Present: Vice President, Civil Affairs Section
Regional Commissioner, VENEZIA
Political Agviser (British)
" " (American)
Director, Local Government Sub-Commission

The Prefect of Bolzano

Mr. Arrigo Rino, Interpreter

---

1. VF Civil affairs Section gave a short recapitulation of the position and outlined the discussion which had taken place on the morning of 13 July 45.

[redacted]

2. The Prefect of Bolzano stated that he knew that the ex-prefect of Bolzano (Signor [redacted]) and the ex-Division of Bolzano City were still in the province. It therefore appeared that, a statement on the lines of the attached Appendix "A" could be issued forthwith.

3. Political Advisers were in agreement, subject to approval of AMG.

4. RC VENEZIA Region stressed the importance of immediate action and also suggested an amendment in the last sentence of the communication as follows:

After the word "prejudice" substitute the words "tranquility of the province".

[redacted] LISTS

5. The Prefect of Bolzano stated that he had discussed the matter of Electoral Lists with Professor Parri. He produced an advance copy of the answer (Appendix "B" attached) to this Commission's aide memoire handed to the President of the Council of Ministers recently.

6. A first reading of this appeared to give a sensible solution of the problem.

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7. The Prefect of Bolzano drew attention to the fact that the position of those residents of Bolzano province who had opted for German nationality could be resolved under the law of 1912 contained in the civil code and no further legislation was necessary.

8. VF Civil Affairs Section undertook to send copies of aide-memoire handed by CC to Prof. Parri and also to have a study made of the legal position.

15 July, 1945.

R. P. CHIPPS. Colonel.

Distribution:
VF Civil Affairs Section
Political Adviser (E)
Political Agviser (A)
Executive Commissioner
RC VENEZIA Region
Local Government S/C

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 778027

14/1

AC/45/A/LG

SUBJECT: Note of interview - Local Government S/C offices.

DATE : 30 June 1945

PRESENT: Dott. STRANO, Vice Prefetto, Direzione Generale Amministrazione Civile, Servizio Elettorale, Ministry of the Interior
Major Ralph R. Temple, Deputy Director, Local Government S/C
Sig. Arrigo NIDE, interpreting.

1. Dott. STRANO brought with him the information I was seeking as to the exact number of cases that had been presented wherein communes have asked for extension of the time-limits for compilation of electoral lists. There have been a total of 254 communes which have been granted extensions. The reasons for the granting of the extensions are that records and other facilities have been totally destroyed, making it necessary for the communes to start all over again in the preparation of records. The enumeration of the communes is as follows:

Area	No. of Communes
Chieti	99
Sicily	8
Abruzzi-Marche	7
Aquila	46
Potenza	91
Frosinone	3
Total	254

In some cases, records have been destroyed not as a result of war, but by criminal ~~[illegible]~~ entries

2. Dott. STRANO said that the President of the Council of Ministers was extremely anxious that very few extensions of time be granted, since he was hopeful that the lists would be compiled as quickly as possible. He mentioned the possibility of an election even for the Constituent Assembly being held in November. At least, he said that was the hope. I informed him that AMG officers had received strict instructions to scrutinize very carefully any requests for extensions and that AMG would not tolerate any nonsense on that score. I said it would be unnecessary to send a Government representative to speak to the Prefects, because it was felt better to have their instructions come from the source of their authority in AMG.

3. Dott. STRANO pointed out that every 15 days the Prefect receives reports on communes and forwards them to the Ministry of the Interior in territory under Italian Government control. He said that the Government was very anxious to see what progress has been made in the North and wondered if they could be kept informed. I said that we would forward to the Ministry information as to progress.

4. Dott. STRANO stated that the President of the Council of Ministers wanted to know what the position of the "Cassellari Giudiziali" in the provinces was, that is whether records were destroyed or not. He said [illegible]

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Major Ralph R. Temple, Deputy Director, Local Government S/G
Sig. Arrigo MUGE, interpreting.

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4. Dott. STRANO stated that the President of the Council of Ministers wanted to know what the position of the "Cassellari Giudiziali" in the provinces was, that is whether records were destroyed or not. He said that the Ministry of Justice has informed them that the "Cassellari" at Ferrara, La Spezia and Piacenza are destroyed. This would mean that duplicate copies of criminal records will have to be furnished from the central "Casellario" of Rome, thus requiring a great amount of work. I informed him that we would ascertain the position in the rest of the North and inform them so that substitute arrangements for the submission of copies of criminal records to the electoral commissions could be made.

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5. He said he was instructed to sound us out on a proposal to set up committees to pass upon the moral and penal records of people in the event that a number of the "Gassellari Giudiziali" were destroyed. He said the President thought that this might be a means of overcoming any delays which would be entailed by the furnishing of copies of records from the central office. I informed Dott. STRANO that the Allied Commission was extremely anxious to do its utmost in assisting the Italian Government in the compilation of the electoral lists and that any proposal submitted would be given our immediate consideration. I did comment, however, that the setting up of a group of persons to determine the past record of a person which already had been recorded in the form of a conviction was a poor substitute for the written record. 6. In answer to Dott. STRANO's request, I informed him that we had no objection and would readily agree to forward any circulars prepared by the Ministry to Prefects instructing them to frown upon requests for extensions of time.

7. Dott. STRANO said that the Provincial Commissions established under Art. 8 of DLL 159, which had the power to defranchise people on the grounds of Fascist activity, have not been set up in the South as yet because the frequent changes in the law made it undesirable to create these bodies until there was some definitive basis for it. They are now in the course of being created. Telegrams have gone out to all Prefects in the South and as soon as the information is received as to the situation, we will be so informed.

8. Although provision is made in the law to have these Commissions turn in their lists within 10 days before elections, Dott. STRANO believed it was better for these Commissions to do their work as soon as possible. He thought it desirable that these Commissions be set up in the North immediately in order to avoid some of the embarrassment and trouble which they had in the South. They found there that the inclusion for long periods of time of names of Fascists, who ordinarily would be thrown off the lists by these Provincial Commissions quickly, gave rise to a considerable amount of unfavorable comment. Many people thought that a mockery was being made of the law. Consequently, Dott. STRANO thought that if these Commissions were established immediately and they got on with their job of excluding people because of their Fascist activity, respect for the whole process would be secured.

9. Dott. STRANO left a complete set of forms and other material that have been sent out to the communes for their information.

Rd. Temple Major

RALPH R. TEMPLE
Major
Deputy Director
Local Government Sub Commission

RRT/pcc

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785021

14/1

AC/45/A/1C

SUBJECT: Note of interview - Local Government S/C offices

DATE : 28 June 1945

PRESENT: Dott. SARI, Prima Segretario, Direzione Generale Amministrazione Civile, Servizio Elletterale.
Major Ralph R. Temple, Deputy Director, Local Government S/C
Sig. Arrigo NICE, interpreting.

1. Dott. SARI stated that in the communes of Naples, Aversa and Livorno which were still under AMG the compilation of the electoral lists had begun some time ago. In fact, he believes that it is almost completed in Naples. This information will be checked and he will call us.

2. I discussed with him a formula to handle requests by communes for extensions of the time-limits for compilation of the lists. Since approval of the PG is necessary for the Prefect's recommendations, I suggested that AMG channels be used and that the PG's recommendations be forwarded to the Ministry of the Interior with a request that a pertinent Decree be enacted. I told Dott. SARI we were desirous of utilizing the existing machinery.

3. Dott. SARI said that there had been several requests for extensions and that it usually has taken about 14 days for a Decree to be enacted. Dott. SARI would ascertain whether the effective date was published in the Gazzetta Ufficiale. I told him that it really didn't matter so far as AMG was concerned, since notification of decision would be given immediately without waiting for formal publication.

4. Dott. SARI pointed out that the time-table for the compilation is merely indicative and not an obligatory one. Requests for extension of time have come in after the initial ten-day period. Dott. SARI believes that the intrinsic effect of the law has been that the dates on the time schedule will permit too short a time for the completion of certain acts. Insufficient consideration was taken of the conditions brought about by the war, such as the non-existence of records.

5. I raised the matter of the exclusion in the law of people who receive public assistance. Dott. SARI said that it was meant to exclude those persons who were habitually residents of welfare institutions in a permanent way and there was no intention to exclude refugees and others who receive public assistance, or those who perhaps might be cared for in the institutions for several months. Recourse by appeal to the electoral commission was had by any one who felt that he was unjustly excluded because of this provision. In any event, there was a very small class involved and to a large extent they are those who would be excluded for other reasons, such as mental debility.

R. R. Temple Lt Col 176

RALPH R. TEMPLE
Major
Deputy Director
Local Government Sub-Commission

RRT/ggo

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Major Ralph R. Temple, Deputy Director, Local Government S/C
Sig. Arrigo NICE, interpreting.

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3. Dott. SARI said that there had been several requests for extensions and that it usually has taken about 45 days for a Decree to be enacted. Dott. SARI would ascertain whether the effective date was published in the Gazzetta Ufficiale. I told him that it really didn't matter so far as AMG was concerned, since notification of decision would be given immediately without waiting for formal publication.

4. Dott. SARI pointed out that the time-table for the compilation is merely indicative and not an obligatory one. Requests for extension of time have come in after the initial ten-day period. Dott. SARI believes that the intrinsic effect of the law has been that the dates on the time schedule will permit too short a time for the completion of certain acts. Insufficient consideration was taken of the conditions brought about by the war, such as the non-existence of records.

5. I raised the matter of the exclusion in the law of people who receive public assistance. Dott. SARI said that it was meant to exclude those persons who were habitually residents of welfare institutions in a permanent way and there was no intention to exclude refugees and others who receive public assistance, or those who perhaps might be cared for in the institutions for several months. Recourse by appeal to the electoral commission was had by any one who felt that he was unjustly excluded because of this provision. In any event, there was a very small class involved and to a large extent they are those who would be excluded for other reasons, such as mental debility.

R. R. Temple Major 176

RALPH R. TEMPLE
Major
Deputy Director
Local Government Sub Commission

RRT/pec

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1411

AMG VENEZIA REGION

937 30 June 1945 PRIORITY

CONFIDENTIAL FM

SUBJECT IS VISIT OF MAJOR WILLIAMS LEGAL GOVERNMENT SUB COMMISSION AS ARRIVED WITH REGIONAL COMMISSIONER AT CONFERENCE HERE AT 2:30 NEXT JUNE FM

PARA ONE FM OFFICER WILL ARRIVE HEADQUARTERS REGIONAL HQ IN CAR VICENZA AFTERNOON OF WEDNESDAY FOUR JULY FM

PARTY TO FOR ACTION AND REMAIN REGION FOUR TO EIGHT JULY ADDED PARTY

PARA TWO FM WILL BE GRATEFUL FOR ACCOMMODATION OFFICER AND ITALIAN CIVILIAN DRIVER AT REGIONAL HQ FM PROCEED VISIT PROVINCIAL HQ PADOVA MORNING OF FIVE JULY CMA RETURN SAME AFTERNOON CMA VICENZA MORNING OF SIX JULY CMA ARRIVE SAME AFTERNOON CMA VENEZIA MORNING OF SEVEN JULY CMA REMAINING AND HOLDS HERE AND EIGHT JULY FM REQUEST ADVISE PROVINCIAL COMMISSIONERS IF POSSIBLE FM

PARA THREE FM ACKNOWLEDGE MAJOR WILLIAMS TO YOUR REGIONAL HQ FM CAN YOU ACCOMMODATE PLEASE

LEGAL GOVERNMENT S/O

473190

NICHOLAS FIORENTINO
CMO USA
Asst. Adjutant

1175

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785021

SUBJECT : Note of interview - Ministry of Interior

DATE : 2 March 1945 - 1130 hours

PRESENT : H. E. Adalberto BERRUTI, Chief of Cabinet
Dott. SP ARNO, Vice Prefect, Servizio Elettorale
Cav. Andrea CAMERA, Consigliere di Gabinetto
Major R.R. Temple } Local Government Sub Commission
Major C . G.R.Williams }
Lt. D. MEDIANO, interpreting

1. We referred to the Prime Minister's reply to the Chief Commissioner (dated 27 February on the subject of local elec tions (of which Berruti was fully informed), and said there were several points in this not altogether clear to us, both as to (a) the description of the local government structure intended to be established as a temporary measure, and (b) the manner of holding elections for such local government bodies.

I - Local Government Structure

2. It was explained to us that subject to certain "retouches and simplifi - cations" (as to which see para 5 below), the Government intended to return strictly and fully to the local government Code of 1915.

3. Under this system, there would accordingly be :

(a) in every commune : -

(i) a Commune l Council of from 15-80 members according to population

(ii) a Communal Executive Committee ("Giunta Comunale") of 2-10 memb ers, according to population, and elected by the Communal Council from among its own members. This body carries out the decisions of the Council and oversees the administration to the Council meetings.

(NOTE- : This is the same body as that introduced for the local government of communes by AC/Ital.Govt.a ction in April 1944, except that as there were no communal councils, it had to be (a) appointed by the Prefect and (b) invested with the powers of the counc il.)

(iii) the ma yo r, i.e. Sindaco. Also elected by the Council from its member. He presides over the Council and Executive Committ ee and controls the officials in the day-to-day administration.

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(b) in every province :-

(i) Provincial Council of 30-60 members, according to population ;

(ii) a Provincial Deputation of 6-10 members, according to population, and elected by the Council from among its own members. Its functions in relation to the province are similar to those of the Communal Executive Committee in relation to the Commune.

(NOTE : This body is likewise the same as that introduced by AC/Ital. Govt. action in April 1944, except that it would in the future, under the proposals outlined in the Prime Minister's letter, no longer (a) be appointed by the Prefect, and (b) have the powers of the Council as well as its own).

(iii) the President, also selected by the Council from among its members, who presides over the Council and Provincial Deputation and acts as principal executive officer of the province, as the Mayor does in the commune.

4. It is not intended to alter the provisions of the local government Code of 1915 either (a) as to the respective powers of the communal and provincial local authorities; nor (b) their relations with one another, or (c) their relationship to the Prefect and the Central Government. It was explained to us that the Government's view is that their proposals are a temporary measure only. Changes in substance are matters for the Constituent Assembly. It would not be proper for the present Government to pre-judge such issues in merely interim measures.

5. Nevertheless, the Government do propose certain "retouches and simplifications", as mentioned in para 5 of the Prime Minister's letter. As an example of what this means, it was stated (a) the Code of 1915 provides for two provincial Presidents. One is President of the Council, who presides over its meetings and little more. The other is President of the Provincial Deputation who is, according to the 1915 Code, chosen by the Deputazione from among its own members ; it is the President who presides over the provincial Deputazione and acts as principal executive officer of the province. It is proposed to abolish the second President and have the President of the Council elected by that body to be a member of and preside over the Provincial Deputation also, and to be the principal executive officer. This is the kind of "simplification" proposed.

(b) Secondly, it is proposed to reduce slightly the number of members of both the Provincial and Communal Councils. Reference was specifically made to the number of Communal Councillors in the largest province, i.e. 80 for communes of over 250,000 population ; and we were told that the government felt this was rather too large and unwieldy a number for present exigencies.

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6. An alteration in the number of members of the Communal Giunta and the Provincial Deputation has not been considered yet. Moreover, we were told that the possibility of other "retouches and simplifications" was being studied and there might be further minor amendments of this nature.

II - Completion of Electoral Lists

7. It was stated that the compilation of the electoral lists was proceeding fairly well, considering the practical difficulties. The last consignment of material required, i.e. the forms, etc., for the preparation of the final edition, so to speak, of the lists, is being sent out by the Ministry (commencing today) to Italian Government provinces. It is going mainly by rail with AG assistance and the dispatch will be spread over 14 days and be done in six stages.

8. It was stated that the Ministry had not yet heard anything as to transportation for dispatch of material to AMG provinces. We stated that full information about this had been given to the Economic Section on 20 February and we would take the point up with them.

9. It will take a minimum of 110 days to complete the compilation of the lists. Owing, however, to such difficulties as roads being snowed up, lack of train stops, and the total or partial destruction of the population lists in some communes, the compilation will take longer in many places.

10. The Ministry has just signed a Decree which is about to be published, extending the time-table in the case of those communes whose "anagrafe" or population lists have been destroyed; and the Ministry are going to send copies of the last census returns to such communes in substitution.

11. The earliest date in Italian Government territory when this can be ready can be taken as 15 May.

III - Date of Elections

12. Having regard to the earliest date for completing compilation of the electoral lists, given in the previous paragraph, it was stated that the actual elections could be anticipated to take place at the end of June or the beginning of July.

13. We discussed the 8th para of the Prime Minister's letter, and it was agreed that this meant (a) that in each commune the electors will vote for their Communal Councillors or Provincial Councillors on the same day; (b) that the Provincial Councillors (unlike the Communal Councillors) are divided up and a certain number of them assigned to each judicial district or "mandamento" in the province according to the population of the "mandamento"; (c) that, therefore, all communes in the same "mandamento" must have their elections on the same day to choose, firstly, the Provincial Councillors for the "mandamento", and secondly their own respective Communal Councillors (d) subject to the above, however, the date for the elections can vary from "mandamento" to "mandamento" and from province to province.

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14. We asked if the Government had given thought to one disadvantage of not having all elections on the same day; namely, that the results of those held first be bound to influence those held later, and thus give an opening for undesirable political manoeuvring. The reply was that the Government were alive to that, but in spite of this disadvantage, they considered the practical difficulties ruled out the possiblity of holding all elections on the same date. As is explained above, in paras 9 and 10, it is impossible in the present state of the country to expect all the electoral lists to be ready on time. As a matter of practical necessity, therefore, the dates for the elections in various areas must be fixed "ad hoc", according to the progress made in each area and the varying dates when the lists are ready.

15. The government admitted that their underlying intention was to have all the elections on dates as close together as possible. They hope that there will be a lapse of not more that a few days between the elections of one "mandamento" and another comprised in the same province. As between provinces and province, however, that they might be able to complete all their local elections in Italian Government territory in about a month.

IV - Method of Voting

16. We had a long, somewhat technical discussion with a view to elucidating what actually happens in a polling station in an Italian town on the day of election for, say, the Communal Councillors. The results are summarised in the following paragraphs.

17. In the first place, there is no nomination of candidates. There used to be in parliamentary elections, but not in local ones. The voter is entitled to vote for anybody whose name is on the register of qualified voters.

18. Secondly, no official ballot papers are supplied, as is done in parliamentary elections. The voter brings his own voting paper or "scheda" as it is called. Provided, it is on white paper (and this requirement will probably relaxed), it can be printed or written or partly one and partly the other, and in any form.

19. What happens in practice, however, is that the political parties issue their own printed "schede" to their own members or supporters. Theoretically, the elector (voter) is entitled when he gets to the polling booth to cross out names from this list and write in the names of other electors. He can also use his own manuscript. In practice, however, the party lists are almost exclusively used and very few alterations are made.

20. For the purpose of voting, the commune is divided into polling districts (sezioni) containing 100-800 electors. The number of councillors is not, however, divided up among the polling districts ; the electors in each polling district vote for the total number of councillors permitted by law.

21. The voting to each polling place is managed by (a) a President and Vice President, who are magistrates of judicial or state officials; (b)

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four election clerks, chosen by the Communal Council from among voters qualified to be jurymen; (c) a Secretary, who is a state judicial or communal official sel ected by the President of the section.

22. The practice of appointment of agents by candidates or political parties to watch the actions of these officials is unknown. Neither are the judicial authorities charged with any supervision over the method of voting, as is the state's Attorney General in many of the United States. However, the election clerks being chosen by the Communal Council, it seems they would amount in practice to an official recognition of party agents.

23. On an elector presenting him self to vote, his identity must first be established. This is done by :

(a) an election clerk or the secretary personally vouching for him and signing the electors list opposite the electors name ; or
(b) another elector, whose identity has been previously established as in (a), vouching for the elector and signing the list as above; or
(c) the elector presenting an identity card with a photograph on it, the number of the card being entered against the electors name in the list. If not in possession of a government identity card, the elector can get a special one from the local "Preture".

24. The elector then goes into the polling booth merely for the purpose of olding, in secret, his "scheda" into four , he is supposed already to have inserted the requisite names. He then hands it to the Presidi nt of the polling district who p laces it in the ballot box or urn. The law requires this to be made of transpa rent glass I. the Gov ernment are considering relaxing this to the extent of permitting the urn to be made of any suitable material with a small glass panel in front.

25. The elector may only vote for four-fifths of the vacancies. For example, if there are 20 Communal Councillors to be elected, yet the elector may not vote for more tha n 16 names. If he does, his ballot-paper or scheda is void. Consequently the political parties, in the printed lists they issue to their supporters, do not put forward n ames for more than four-fifths of the vacancies : in the example, they would h ave 16 names on their schedo.

26. In counting the votes, however, all vacancies ha ve to be filled. In the case of e.g. 20 vacancies, the 20 persons having the greatest number of votes are declared elected. A party putting forward 16 candidates on its lis ts might, i f it had a large following and were well organised, get them all elected. Theoretically, however, it cann ot get more than 16 elected ; and therefore, the rem aining 4 places at least must go to some other party.

27. This is the theory ; and the object is to preserve some representation for minorities, as the Prime Minister sta tes in his letter. Theoretically, the strongest possible political party cannot secure more than four-fifths of the seats in the Council. In practice, however, (as we pointed out) subtle election

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ecring methods can defeat this, e.g. a party can print two or more lists and give careful instructions to their supporters as to which each one is to use.

CGRW/eg.

C. G. R. WILLIAMS
Major
Local Government Sub Commission

14/1

MINUTES OF CONFERENCE ON LOCAL ELECTIONS

CHIEF COMMISSIONER'S MESS—MONDAY, 25 JUNE 1945

AT 11:25 HOURS.

PRESENT: Chief Commissioner Rear Admiral Ellery W. Stone, USNR

Executive Commissioner Brig. M.S. Lush
CMO to Exec. Commissioner Lt. Col. H. C. Talbot
US Pol. Ad. Mr. MacVeigh
Br Pol. Ad. Mr. Balfour
VP CA Section, Brig. G. R. Upjohn
CMO CA Section, Lt. Col. A. E. Berkeley-Carter
Director, Local Govt. S/C Col. R. R. Cripps
Exec. Officer, Local Govt. S/C Major C.C.R. Williams

Chief Commissioner: I refer to the draft decree printed in the Ministry of the Interior's "Blue Book" which has been sent down to me with a short memorandum on it by Local Government Sub Commission. As I understand it, this is only a technical study which does not bind the Government. The draft decree, however, duly fills out the policy already outlined to me by Brig. MUSH and does nothing to meet the points I have raised in correspondence with him. Will the Executive Commissioner please outline the purpose of this meeting.

Exec. Commissioner: As I see it, we are here to decide what approach to make to the Italian Government on the subject of their voting procedure at local elections, how far we can impress the views of the Allies on them and what sanctions we can apply if they refuse to meet us.

Chief Commissioner: According to your last minute, it is suggested we should consult the Embassies on this question.

Exec. Commissioner: Yes. I am concerned as to how far we can go and I thought this might be a matter which the Embassies could more properly take up.

Mr. Balfour: There is just this point. I don't think we have power under the Armistice terms to compel the Italian Government to alter their voting procedure; but there is the Moscow Declaration and the Allies could make representations as to their views.

Exec. Commissioner: And if they don't agree with our views, what action do we take? We have already told them that we won't have the present system in Military Government Territory: but we know it will take some months before elections can be held, by which time we shall probably have handed the territory back so that there is not much in this point. We could [illegible]

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Executive Commissioner Brig. A.T. Lush
CCG to Exec. Commissioner Lt. Col.
H. C. Talbot
US Pol. Ad. Mr. Machride
Br Pol. Ad. Mr. Halford

VT Ch. Section, Brig.
C. R. Upjohn
CCG on Section, Lt. Col.
A. D. Barbar-Carter
Director, Local Govt. S/C
Col. R. R. Griggs
Exec. Officer, Local Govt. S/C
Major C.C.R. Williams

Chief Commissioner: I refer to the draft Decree printed in the Ministry of the Interior's "Blue Book" which has been sent down to me with a short memorandum on it by Local Government Sub Commission. As I understand it, this is only a technical study which does not bind the Government. The draft Decree, however, only fills out the policy already outlined to me by Sig. BONOMI and does nothing to meet the points I have raised in correspondence with him. Will the Executive Commissioner please outline the purpose of this meeting.

Exec. Commissioner: As I see it, we are here to decide what approach to make to the Italian Government on the subject of their voting procedure at local elections, how far we can impress the views of the Allies on them and what sanctions we can apply if they refuse to meet us.

Chief Commissioner: According to your last minute, it is suggested we should consult the Embassies on this question.

Exec. Commissioner: Yes. I am concerned as to how far we can go and I thought this might be a matter which the Embassies could more properly take up.

Mr. Halford: There is just this point. I don't think we have power under the Armistice terms to compel the Italian Government to alter their voting procedure; but there is the Moscow Declaration and the Allies could make representations as to their views.

Exec. Commissioner: And if they don't agree with our views, what action do we take? We have already told them that we won't have the present system in Military Government Territory: but we know it will take some months before elections can be held, by which time we shall probably have handed the territory back so that there is not much in this point. We could, I suppose, refuse to prepare the electoral lists.

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Chief Commissioner: I don't feel we should take that attitude. I think we must go ahead with the preparation of the electoral lists no matter what we do about the elections themselves.

As to acting under the Embassies, I don't think that will be necessary, if this is the view of both the U.S. and British Governments. Where the two Governments agree, the proper channel to convey their views to the Italian Government is the Allied Commission. The question is, am I representing the views of both the Allied Governments in this matter? If I am,

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then I think I should act on their behalf as representing the views of the two Governments and not as the Allied Commission enforcing the Armistice terms. I know what position the U. S. Government have taken up: what is the British view?

Mr. Halford : The British Government is in general agreement with the U.S. Government on this matter, although they have not been so specific. You can say that the British Government is in accord with the view of the United States.

Chief Commissioner : I have a draft letter before me which I think will require alteration, as we now have a new Government. I shall state in it that I am representing the view of the Government of the United States, with which the British Government is in agreement.

The first paragraph should be shortened considerably. I don't think we should take any position on the question of proportional representation.

Exec. Commissioner : What we want is a new letter pointing out what are the main defects. In other words, we should let the new Government have a re-statement of our position.

Chief Commissioner : If there are any other defects than the three particularly mentioned in my letter of 19 April, we should state them: but we should not take points in detail unless they are truly undemocratic. We should forward to the new Prime Minister copies of my letter to Sig. BONOMI and his reply.

The question of national elections also arises. I think we have the right to ask the Italian Government what their position is with regard to this. That might be done by adding a paragraph to the new draft.

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14/1

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUB COMMISSION

SUBJECT: Note of Interview--Ministry of Interior

DATE : 26 June 1945

PRESENT: H. E. Mario MICALI, Director General of Personnel
Marchese PARENTI, Personnale Division, Ministry of Interior
Capt. W. I. Cunningham, Local Government S/C
Sigh. Arrigo NIOE, interpreting.

1. I told H. E. MICALI that I had come to talk to him about the case of the VPI for Modena, PIZZARI, who had been sent back by the PC as unsuitable because of his fascist background. We were disturbed at this as PIZZARI had been nominated by the Ministry in accordance with our agreed policy and accepted by this S/C. However, I had a long interview with both the PC and the Prefect of Modena and they were both quite definite that PIZZARI could not be used as the people of the Province would not work with him and his life would be in danger. We would, of course, have to be guided by the opinion of the PC who knew the local circumstances.

2. MICALI said he had a feeling that PIZZARI had made his case as black as possible when talking to the PC and the Prefect, as he had not wanted to go to Modena. He then asked did we wish to change the policy regarding the supply of officials.

3. I said that a change of policy had not yet been considered but that the PC and the Prefect of Modena were both very anxious to get a good efficient VPI whose background would permit him to be used in that Province.

4. MICALI said that he would give a new nomination for Modena as soon as possible. In future also they would try to pick men with reference to the political state of the Province concerned and would try to avoid nominating "censured" officials except for quiet and settled Provinces.

5. We then discussed the position of officials for Bologna, Ferrara and Reggio. The results are noted on the minute sheets of the respective files.

W. I. CUNNINGHAM
Captain
Local Government Sub Commission

WIC/pec

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785021

PRESENT: H. E. Mario MICALI, Director General of Personnel
Marchese PARENTI, Personale Division, Ministry of Interior
Capt. W. I. Cunningham, Local Government S/C
Sigh. Arrigo NICE, interpreting.

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W.I.Cunningham Capt.

WIC/pec

W. I. CUNNINGHAM
Captain
Local Government Sub Commission

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20 June 1945

Col. R. R. Cripps
Director, Local Government S/C
Allied Commission
APO 394

Arrived in Milano yesterday at 1600 hours (Tuesday, 19 June). I have conferred with RC, PC, Prefect and other officials.

In the hiring of temporary staff in connection with the present Provincial Epuration Commission difficulty has been had in getting people to work at the rates fixed as of 3rd April. The same trouble is expected in hiring temporary employees for electoral list compilation. I suggest Labor S/C be sounded on this matter of payment. The people won't work at those rates in Milan.

I strongly recommend, once again, that AC put out a public release regarding the matter of compilation of electoral lists, AC's assistance, our criticism of voting methods, possibility of holding local elections in South first, etc.--before the Italian press, especially here, publish a gobbled account that will embarrass AMG or make it do a lot of explaining. Col. Poletti supports this.

I'm on to Turin tomorrow by car.

Regards,

RALPH R. TEMPLE
Major

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785021

Interpreters file

AG/45/3/1G

SUBJECT: Note of interview - Local Government S/C offices.

DATE : 14 June 1945 - 1200 hours.

PRESENT: Dott. SARI, Servizio Elettorale, Dir. Gen. Affa. Civile
Ministry of the Interior.
Major C. G. R. Williams, Executive Officer, Local Govt. S/C
Major Ralph E. Temple, Deputy Director, Local Govt. S/C (part of the time)
Mr. Joseph Chevalier, interpreting.

1. Dott. SARI delivered a note of the number of packages of electoral forms for the eight provinces of Emilia Region: this is at fo. 12C.

2. I asked about the weight for each province. He said each parcel weighed 30 kilograms and this could be obtained by multiplying out. This has been done in the statement at 12B

3. As to Pesaro (which is Italian Government Territory), Dott. SARI said the Ministry had not been able to deliver the forms to that Prefecture as yet because there was no civilian railway service to Pesaro town. They had asked Transportation S/C if they could use the Military Service for this purpose, but were told that could not be allowed. Dott. SARI asked if we could send down the Pesaro forms with those for Emilia Region. We agreed and said we would ask RC Emilia to make the further distribution to Pesaro.

4. Dott. SARI gave us the further information as to when and where the Emilia forms would be ready, all of which is summarised in the statement at fo. 12B.

5. With a view to ascertaining what would have to be done at Regional and Provincial HQ, we asked Dott. SARI as to how the packages were made up. He said each package did NOT represent the forms required for a single Commune. The Ministry had not sufficient detail to pack in that way: only the local Prefectures could do that. Each package was limited to quantities of one particular document only: the nature of the document and the number of copies in it would be given in the statement packed inside each parcel. Moreover, within each package, the documents were done up into "sub-parcels", as it were, of 50 to 100 each.

6. The Prefectures would, therefore, have to re-pack and sort out the contents of each parcel into what was required for each commune and re-pack. This he thought should take them from two to three days.

7. Each parcel, before it left the State Printing Works would be clearly labeled outside with the name of the Province for which it was destined: and they would be packed on the truck so that all the parcels for one province were together. There should, accordingly, be little or no sorting to do at Regional HQ.

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8. Dott. BARI said that each parcel also contained a circular from the Ministry giving instructions to the Prefects about the distribution of the material. He promised to let us have a copy of these instructions today, for the information of the S/C.

9. He also said that he would on Saturday, 16 June, bring us another statement giving the number of parcels and the weights for the four remaining Regions, namely, Liguria, Lombardia, Piemonte and Venezia (excluding Venezia Giulia). We asked if on that occasion he would have typed into his statement the weight for each province, to which he agreed.

C. G. R. WILLIAMS
Major
Executive Officer
Local Government Sub Commission

CGRW/pec

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Unclassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785021

AD/45/3/1A

SUBJECT: Note of interview - Ministry of the Interior.

DATE : 13 June 1945

PRESENT: Dott. STRANO, Servizio Elettorale, Dir. Gen. Aff. Civile, Ministry of the Interior
Major Ralph R. Temple, Deputy Director, Local Government S/C
Sig. Arrigo NENNI, interpreting.

Distribution of electoral forms and material.

1. I referred to the telephonic message from Dott. STRANO's office to this S/C that the printing of the electoral forms and other material would be completed approximately June 25. I indicated that the Commission was very much interested in distributing the forms as quickly as possible and impressed upon Dott. STRANO the need for speeding up any of the work in connection with the printing and packaging in order to put us in a position to arrange transportation as quickly as possible. I said that it was important that if it was at all possible the material be ready much before June 25, because the Allied Commission was aiming to fix July 1 as the date for the commencement of the preparation of the lists in AMG Territory.

2. Dott. STRANO stated that he doubted very much whether July 1 would be an appropriate time because every Commune would have to receive the material and it was necessary to allow at least a week's time for study of the material and preparation by the local authorities.

3. He asked whether the organization of local government in AMG Territory was the same as in Italian Government Territory. I assured him that the pattern was identical. He pointed out a fact with which I agreed most emphatically--that it was absolutely necessary that the local government machinery be set up in order that the compilation of the lists could be effectuated.

4. In order to preserve some degree of uniformity in each Region, Dott. STRANO stated that it was desirable to have the same date set in each Region. It might be possible to have different dates for each Region, but in that event they ought not to be very many days apart.

5. With regard to the present position of printing, Dott. STRANO said that, for the most part, the material has been printed. The Istituto Poligrafico is arranging the material into parcels and labeling them. This is an enormous task. The original date set was June 30, but the President of the Council of Ministers has personally sent a letter to the Istituto urging speed and the putting on of extra help, as a result of which the Istituto hopes to cut down its task by four or five days. It is hoped that the printing will be finished in a few days, and naturally it will continue while the packaging is being done. Dott. STRANO feels that the Istituto is working as fast as is humanly possible. In answer to my question as to whether a letter from the Allied Commission might result in a further speeding up, he stated that he did not think so, since the Prime Minister himself has personally intervened.

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6. I suggested that instead of waiting until all the material was printed and packaged before distribution was made that as soon as enough material was accumulated for distribution to any one Region it be transported to that Region's HQ. I asked Dott. STRANO to let me have a plan as soon as possible containing an estimate of the weights of the material by Region and the dates when such material would be ready for transportation to the Regional HQ involved. He agreed with the suggestion and stated that he would immediately act accordingly and send us the plan within a few days.

7. He stated that the material for Emilia Region was ready. I proposed that he inform me by tomorrow as to the weight, so that distribution of the material to Emilia Region could commence without delay. He agreed. Dott. STRANO asked whether there were any provinces which were to be excluded from distribution. I stated that possibly those in Venezia Giulia, but that in any event he should proceed with the packaging for all provinces and all Regions and we would inform him later.

8. Dott. STRANO did not think the proposal to send the material by airplane was practical because it would involve too much loading and unloading; that is, the material would have to be loaded here in Rome in trucks, then transported to the airport where it would be unloaded and then put into the plane. Then when it arrived at its destination, it would have to be further unloaded from the plane and reloaded on another truck to be conveyed to Regional HQ. There would be less confusion, and in the long run it might be just as quick if not quicker.

9. Dott. STRANO, pursuant to a suggestion of mine, stated that he would have a circular prepared for the information of the Prefects in order that the latter might anticipate the receipt of the material. He would send that to us for distribution within the next two or three days.

10. I made inquiry as to the position regarding the compilation of the electoral registers in Southern and Central Italy. Dott. STRANO stated that the material had been distributed to all Communes in Southern and Central Italy south of Emilia Region.

11. In some Communes in Southern and Central Italy the work of compiling the lists has been completed and the lists have been published. He hopes that by the end of July the work of compilation will be completed in all of Southern and Central Italy, excepting Umbria-Marche and Toscana. In the latter two Regions, the date set for the compilation of the lists was March 20. In other words, in Central and Southern Italy, with the exception of Umbria-Marche and Toscana, it would have taken six months to complete the work of compilation (the work commenced on February 1, 1945). However, he hopes that a month will be saved in the job of preparation in the Northern Regions; that is, it would take probably five months to compile.

12. I asked whether it had been necessary to send officials from Rome around to the provinces to advise and assist in the work. He said that lack of transportation and other difficulties made it impossible to do that, but in any event, the work was supervised from the local level. The Prefects either sent VPI's around or other officials in the Prefetture who were assigned the task of supervising the election lists. This indicated the desirability of

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having trained officials who were familiar with administrative procedures in the Prefecture.

13. Dott. SERAO thanked me for the interest which the Commission was taking and assured me that he would do his utmost to expedite the enormous task.

RALPH R. TEMPLE
Major
Deputy Director
Local Government Sub Commission

RRT/pec

2132

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14/1

AC/45/N/16

SUBJECT: Note of interview - Ministry of the Interior

DATE : 11 June 1945 - 1700 hours.

PRESENT: H. E. Adalberto BERRUTI
Cav. Andrea CAMERA
Major C. G. R. Williams
Sig. Arrigo HIOS, interpreting

1. I referred to DLL of 12 April 1945, No. 201, Article 5, and said that this had now been implemented. AMG was therefore now legally in a position to start the preparation of electoral lists in the North.

2. I also referred to the letter written by the President of the Council to COGen 1 June, referring to this Decree, to which we had not been able to give a definite reply. We had, however, assured the Prime Minister that the importance of an early start in the preparation of the lists in the North was appreciated.

3. I said the purpose of my visit was to consult with His Excellency on certain of the preliminary problems in connection with the preparation of the lists for the North. The conversation went as follows:

Major Williams: When does Your Excellency think it would be possible to make a start on the lists in the North?

H. E. BERRUTI : In a very short time, I should think.

Major Williams : The preparation of the lists will, of course, have to be done by the Italian authorities in the North--the Prefects and Sindaci--and we in Local Government S/C feel some doubt whether the administration has been fully re-organised.

H. E. BERRUTI : From the information the Ministry has received, it appears that the administration is almost normal.

Major Williams : The Prefects in the North mostly being non-career men, they will have to rely very largely on their career subordinates.

H. E. BERRUTI : Most of the work has to be done by the Sindaci. The strictest impartiality is required, and with the situation in the North as it is political interference is possible. AC has no doubt got its own information as to the situation and functioning of the administration in the North which should tell them whether the electoral lists can safely be commenced, but the position is very unusual. For instance, Col. Poletti had made an ordinance in Lombardia reducing the CLNs to advisory functions and EC Emilia had made a similar one, but no such order had been made in Venezia.

Major Williams: We have not seen the orders in question and we do not know the ACs' reasons for making them. It is [illegible].

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however, that any such order merely re-stated the position that AMG had always taken up, i.e. that CLNs were advisory only and the executive power was AMG.

H. E. MERCURI : We all know that CLNs have been giving orders right and left. We have Prefects in the North who never correspond with the Ministry but always look to the CLN. Similarly, Sindaci in the Prefectures look to the local CLN. That being the situation, how can we rely on the accurate and impartial preparation of the lists. The other day I was talking to an influential representative of the Socialist Party in the North, who told me that if the Government crisis was not resolved very quickly, they would take their own steps to set up a separate Government in the North--as people have been trying to do in Sicily. For these reasons, I don't think it wise to start the preparation of the lists until the Government crisis has been cleared up. Either we should have a new Government which will be accepted as such in the North as in the Centre and South; or they can make their own Government up there. The position at present is that they don't recognise Rome in the North and we must clear that up first.

Major Williams: I see the point of that and will certainly include a note of Your Excellency's opinion on this point in my report. It seems to me, however, that for practical reasons, it may not be possible to commence the preparation of the lists for some time. In the first place, we understand that the revision of the "anagrafe" or registers of population is essential before the lists can be commenced.

H. E. MERCURI : Yes, that is so. The revision of the "anagrafe" is a matter which has to be done, in any event, annually: and in the North the registers for practically all communes should be up to date. Only in those areas badly damaged by war may there be difficulty in revising them. In those cases it will be necessary to give them an extension of time for preparation of the lists. Therefore, I think that the question of revising the population registers need not of itself delay the preparation of the lists very much.

4. I then said there was another preliminary and that is the distribution of electoral material. As to that, we understand that some of the forms, etc. are still being printed, and we wrote the Ministry on 6 June asking, among other things, for an estimate of the date when all material will be ready to hand to us to transport North. We wanted this information so as to make our plans for transportation well in advance: but it is urgent to have it now for another reason. Decree No. 201 having been implemented, it is necessary to give RCs some preliminary information and instructions and to give them some idea of when the material will arrive, so that operations can be commenced. Would H. E. arrange for a reply on this question of the estimated date to be given us in the next day or two.

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5. I also said there were a number of circulars bearing, not on the actual preparation of the lists themselves, on the revision of the "amgrafo" and other preliminary matters. One at least of these had been sent to us and distributed to the North. There may be others which it is desired to distribute. Would the Ministry let us have a list of the circulars on this subject which they wanted distributed to the North. We would then check those that should go on and arrange for the remainder to be sent. H. E. agreed to see to this.

C. C. R. WILLIAMS
Major
Executive Officer
Local Government Sub Commission

CCRW/pcc

Note of Telephone Conversation - 12 June 1945

The Ministry spoke to us (Dott. STRANO - Major Williams) by phone about 1000 hours on 12 June, with reference to paras 4 and 5 of the above interview note. Dott. STRANO stated as follows:

1. Ministry circulars:
   (a) those relating to the actual preparation of the lists would all be included with the other forms and material which were now being printed and about ready:
   (b) all those relating to operations preliminary to the lists, e.g. revision of the "amgrafo" had already been sent to AG for dispatch to all Northern Provinces.

2. The estimated date when the electoral material for the North would be printed and ready was 25 June.

C.C.R.W.

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15

SUBJECT: Note of interview - Local Government S/C offices.

DATE : 7 June 1945 - 1130 hours.

PRESENT: Prefect DE ANGELIS (Bolzano)
Sig. GELARDI, Vice Prefect
R. A. TISCHLER, Confidential Secretary to the Prefect
Major C. G. R. Williams) Local Government Sub Commission
Capt. W. I. Cunningham)
Sig. Arrigo NEDL, interpreting

1. The Prefect explained that he had had a discussion with Mr. Hopkinson in Milan, and as a result had come to us to discuss two problems:

(a) that of the Italian inhabitants of Alto Adige who had been forced to serve in the German Army and were now Prisoners of War:

(b) that of the expatriation of German and French citizens who had recently come into the Province.

2. As to problem (a), he said he had seen Mr. Halford, who told him that the question of releasing these Italians forced to serve in the German Army was under consideration by the High Command. The Prefect hoped that they would have an early answer.

3. As to the second problem, the Prefect said there were about 170,000 Germans refugees who had come over the Austrian border since and just before liberation. There are also about 50,000 French scattered about the small mountain villages. They were people who had moved into Germany and Austria (under compulsion or otherwise) during the German occupation of France; and about a week before the arrival of the Allies in the Province they began to come over the border. The Prefect said that as Italian refugees were now being moved back through the province from Germany on Allied transport could not this transport on its return journey be used to take back the German refugees. The Prefect also said that he had left with Mr. Halford a draft of a Decree for dealing with the situation.

4. I inquired if he had discussed it with the Provincial Commissioner, Lt. Col. McBratney. The Prefect said yes, and the PC had told him that these were problems to be examined in Rome. Mr. Halford had said he would submit them to this HQ.

5. I told the Prefect that both these questions were outside the competence of this Sub Commission. He said he appreciated that and had only called here to present his compliments, to make our acquaintance and to inform us as to the situation on local government.

6. As to local government, I said Mr. TISCHLER had seen Major Temple yesterday and had given him a certain amount of information, and I asked if H. E. desired to add anything. He said he did not think so.

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7. I inquired if the Prefect had seen the Ministry of the Interior. He said yes, and he had seen H. E. BERRUTI, Chief of Cabinet. He had not seen the Minister: but BERRUTI had told him he had instructions from H. E. BONOMI to inform the Prefect that the Minister was satisfied with the work he was doing in Bolzano.

8. I thanked the Prefect for his call and the interview closed.

C. G. R. WILLIAMS
Major
Executive Officer
Local Government Sub Commission

CGRW/pec

1155

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SUBJECT: Note of interview - Local Government S/G offices.

DATE : 6 June 1945

PRESENT: R. A. TISCHLER, Confidential Secretary to DE ANGELIS, Prefect of Bolzano.
Major Ralph R. Temple, Local Government S/G

1. TISCHLER, who speaks English, showed me a letter from Lt. Col. McBratney, Provincial Commissioner of Bolzano, consenting to TISCHLER's trip to Rome and asking that assistance be rendered him. He informed me that he was the Confidential Secretary to the Prefect, who was at the Ministry discussing various problems. He said that Mr. Halford of the Political Adviser's office had suggested that he speak to this Sub Commission. I told him I was interested in local government matters and under my questioning the following information was adduced.

2. The Prefect--DE ANGELIS--was the former President of the CLN and is a Socialist. There are three Vice Prefects, only one of whom is a career man. They are:--

VPV - Colardi - non-career - Communist
VPI - Amonn Walter " " - South Tyrol Party--represents German-speaking element
VPI - Menegusser - career - Also Vice Prefect during the German occupation. Was in charge of the provincial administration under the title of Commissario Provinciale.

3. The Capo di Gabinetto is a non-career man, as are most of the Consiglieri. The Rag. Capo, however, is the old career official who has been in the province for some ten years.

4. The only person who knows anything about the administrative procedure is the career Vice Prefect Inspector MENEGUZZER. However, TISCHLER did not think there would be a need for other career officials for a while. He said they were afraid the Government would send up Southern Italians whom they dislike very much. None of the local government bodies provided for under RDL No. 111 have been established as yet. That is, there are no Giunte Provinciale Amministrative, Deputazione Provinciale on the provincial level, nor are there any Giunte Comunali on the communal level. In some communes, new Sindaci have been appointed, but for the most part mayors appointed by the Germans are still in office. In the place of a GPA, a body called the Comitato Tecnico has been established, consisting of 5 non-career men representing industry, agriculture and other aspects of social life. Their function is to advise the Prefect on various matters. However, the body does not do any of the work of a GPA, such as reviewing acts of Communes.

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5. 5th Army is still occupying a great deal of the Province. TISCHLER said that he believed Lt. Col. McBratney had about 30 or 40 officers assigned to work under him and that explains why, even though the Italian administrative side has not been organized, AMG is handling the load. TISCHLER said that the Provincial Commissioner has little to do with the CLN. The Prefect, who was formerly its President, consults them regarding appointments and other matters.

6. Epuration has not begun as yet.

7. Politically, the situation is rather unusual, since there is a fairly even division of Germans and Italians in the Province. On the Italian aspect, there is a balance between the Socialists and Communists on the one side, and the Christian-Democrats on the other. The German element is strongly represented by the South Tyrol Party. TISCHLER mentioned that they did not have a Questore and that the Prefect was speaking to the Government about a nominee. There are two Vice Questore in the province, however. I intimated to him that it would have been better for the Prefect to have consulted the head of the Public Safety Sub Commission, Col. Chapman, on that matter. TISCHLER did not know there was such a Sub Commission, and as a matter of fact, he said that Lt. Col. McBratney had not suggested that he see this Sub Commission on Public Safety, but he appreciated the information and would bring it to the attention of the Prefect.

RPT

RALPH R. TISCHLER
Major
Deputy Director
Local Government Sub Commission

RRT/pec

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AG/4/1/100/12

SUBJECT: Note of interview - Ministry of the Interior

DATE : 6 June 1945 -

PRESENT: H. E. Adalberto BENEDETTI, Chief of Cabinet
Cav. Andrea CAMERA, Vice Chief of Cabinet
H. E. Mario MICALI, Director General of Personnel
Major Ralph R. Temple
Capt. W. I. Cunningham } Local Government S/C
Sig. Arrigo NOE, interpreting

1. I took up with BENEDETTI the request of the Regional Commissioner, Emilia Region, to arrange a meeting between the newly appointed Prefects of Emilia Region and the appropriate officials of the Government. I indicated to BENEDETTI that RC did not think the time appropriate. BENEDETTI agreed, stating that it was desirable to wait until the composition of the Government was settled. (I have instructed Capt. Cunningham to bring this to the attention of the Regional Commissioner, and the matter will be taken up again later.)

2. Bologna. A request came in over the telephone from Major Preese that a Vice Prefect Vicario was required for Bologna Province. I took this matter up with BENEDETTI and MICALI at the Ministry, and MICALI stated that DESENA would be the Government's nominee, as soon as there was a judgment concerning his epuration. This was expected to be done Saturday, 9 June. I told BENEDETTI that Capt. Cunningham was leaving Monday for Bologna and that I should like to have a nominee by then. He said he would telephone us on Sunday.

3. At the VP's request, I asked BENEDETTI whether there was any plan contemplated on the part of the Government to enact a Decree conferring powers on the CLN. BENEDETTI said that the present position was to regard the CLN as a consultative body but not given any legal powers as such. In other words, he said the position would be what it is today. He thought a Decree might be enacted setting forth this attitude. I asked what effect he thought this might have on the local government bodies which have been established, namely, Giunte Comunali and Deputazione Provinciale--whether the CLN would substitute these bodies. He said there would be no effect at all since the CLN was not a legal body and there was no intention to have them supplant legally established organs. (This matter was brought to the attention of the VP.)

RRT

RALPH R. TEMPLE, Major
Deputy Director
Local Government Sub Commission

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RRT/pec

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785021

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14/1

AG/11/1/LG
4/26.

SUBJECT: Note of interview - Local Government S/C offices.

DATE : 28 May 1945 - 1715 hours

PRESENT: Marchese PARENTI, Personale Division, Ministry of the Interior
Major C. G. R. Williams)
Capt. W. V. M. Lewis } Local Government S/C
Capt. W. I. Cunningham)
Lt. D. MODIANO, interpreting.

1. PARENTI produced the list (at fo. 11 B-E) of officials available to to North as Vice Prefects.

2. We observed that the first name on the list was ORDEO-SALE, as to whom we had long ago informed the Ministry that he was not acceptable to the Allied Commission in any capacity.

3. We also observed that 7 officials were marked "soltanto giurato". He explained that this meant that the only charge of Fascism against them was that they had taken the oath to the Republican Government, and that they had not yet passed through epuration. I said that under no circumstances could we accept any official who had not undergone due process of epuration.

4. I observed that there were a number of new names on the list we had never heard of before, and I should have to look into it and reply to the Ministry in writing as to who was acceptable or not.

5. He then referred to the discussion on Friday last, 25 May, and to the agreement reached with Dott. CAMERA that all officials liable to serve in the North should be warned in advance of their liability, so that they could make their excuses now. He said the Ministry had overruled Dott. CAMERA and agreed with his view and did not propose to warn people in this way. I said I had written a letter to the Ministry on 26 May summarising the results of this discussion and referring to the proposal of warning officials in advance. If the Ministry were now unwilling to do this, I must have that in writing. He agreed to send the letter.

6. Ferrara. Dott. COCCIA would be in Rome on Friday, 1 June, ready to go North. He has been informed of the new grant of 20,000 lire. (Note: Obviously his plea of illness was a lie.)

7. Piacenza. D'ERRICO has plead illness after being informed of the grant of 20,000 lire. The Ministry will give us another nomination tomorrow.

8. Bologna. I said we telegraphed PC Ancona to facilitate this official's journey to Bologna direct. PS, however, had telephoned today (Major Maunders - Capt. Lewis) to say that MOLLO had just been given 15 days leave to go to Udine on private affairs. As to this, see file 2/117 fo. 133. As there is no signal communication with Venezia Region and it is very improbable MOLLO would leave Udine before his private affairs are completed, no matter how imperative his orders, we said it seemed better to make another nomination. PARENTI agreed and promised to give another nomination tomorrow.

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9. Imperia. PARENTI said the Ministry's nomination for this post was FERRI, Dott. Ermano, now Consigliere 1° classe at Benevento. After some discussion, we accepted him and he said he would be in Rome ready to go on Friday, 1 June.

10. Before agreeing to FERRI, however, we pointed out again that obviously the idea of a "pool" was not working. In this case, for one of the chief vacancies in the North, the Ministry nominated an official quite unknown to us, for whom we have no biographical particulars, and who is not in Rome. + who is now suggested for the "pool" for the first time.

C. G. R. WILLIAMS
Major
Executive Officer
Local Government Sub Commission

CGRW/pec

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14/1

AC/4/3/70/LG

SUBJECT: Note of interview - Local Government S/C offices.

DATE : 28 May 1945

PRESENT: H. E. ALEI, Prefect of Pistoia
Co. R. R. Cripps, Director)
Major Ralph R. Temple) Local Government S/C
Capt. W. V. M. Lewis)
Lt. D. MODIANO, interpreting

1. The Prefect called to pay his respects to Col. Cripps and inquired if there was any possibility of him being appointed to the position of Prefect of Venice. The reason for his application was that he knew those parts, and desired also to live in that area to obtain certain treatment for his physical condition.

2. Col. Cripps stated that he was not in a position to make any intimation to H. E. as he knew of no vacancy and further that the question of such an appointment involved AMG for that area, together with the CLN and the Italian Government.

3. H. E. stated that he had not yet approached the Ministry of the Interior as Pistoia was still under AMG administration, and was advised by Col. Cripps to mention the matter to the Ministry.

4. In answer to Col. Cripps' question, H. E. expressed the view that the provincial administration of Pistoia was in a fit condition for restoration to the jurisdiction of the Italian Government. He agreed that large numbers of Allied troops (he estimated 20,000) were expected in Montecatini, but he did not feel that this would present any substantial difficulties to his administration. He agreed that the presence of AMG in an area where troops were quartered was often a help in dealing with the matters and difficulties which such circumstances caused, e.g. requisitioning of property, etc., but was not at all worried as to the ability of the Italian administration in the province to deal with such affairs satisfactorily.

5. Only one commune in the northern area of the province had been fought in prior to the eventual German retreat.

6. Mine clearance was being satisfactorily dealt with.

7. Patriots presented no difficulty.

WHL/pec

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AC/45/3/LG.

SUBJECT : NOTE of Interview - Dott. SORI

DATE : 25th May 1945 - 11oo

PRESENT : Capt. W.I. Cunningham
Dott. SORI
Signor Arrigo Nico, intepreting

1. Dott. SORI said he had come in reply to our letter (Page 43 on this file) The Ministry were very worried that we could not handle the transportation to the places set out in para 2 of the letter. The Provinces recently handed back to the Italian Government. He urged that we should provide transport.

2. I pointed out that transport was difficult to get and that the last time forms were delivered the trucks had to be sent from Florence and that owing to the advance in the North the trucks might have to come from much farther way. I asked him if MMAC was under the control of the Italian Government why didn't they handle the distribution.

3. He replied that MMAC was now controlled by the Italian Ministry of Transport but that they were employed in moving food and would simply refuse to move paper ! He said it was a matter of petrol and if we could get the petrol he though MMAC could supply the truck. He then produced the Memo at page and suggested that the forms for PESARO, AREZZO, GROSSETO, TERNI and ANCONA should be sent there by rail. This would require Allied authorisation as the railways are used for Military purposes only. He suggested that as Siena and Perugia are on the way to Florence the forms for these two provinces should be put on the truck for Florence and delivered en the way there. They would send the forms for Macerata and Ascoli to the Prefect of Ancona by rail and make him responsible for delivery !

4. I pointed out that it wasn't simply a matter of putting some extra forms for Siena and Perugia on a truck and dropping them off at the Prefecture. The forms for these two Provinces weighed 1,604 Kilos and would probably require another truck. There was also the fact that there was no Allied Officer in either Province to whom we could effect delivery.

5. Dott. SORI said that all he wanted us to do was to unload the forms at the Prefectures and we would be under no liability for delivery.

6. I said I would put all his points forward to the proper authorities and let him have an answer as soon as possible.

7. He left publication No.3 of Instructions for Compiling Electoral Lists for our information.

W.I. Cunningham Capt.

W. I. CUNNINGHAM
Captain
Local Government S/C

WIC/cg.

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Sapper Arrigo Nice, interpreting

1. Dott. SORI said he had come in reply to our letter (Page 43 on this file). The Ministry were very worried that we could not handle the transportation to the places set out in para 2 of the letter. The Provinces recently handed back to the Italian Government. He urged that we should provide transport.

2. I pointed out that transport was difficult to get and that the last time forms were delivered the trucks had to be sent from Florence and that owing to the advance in the North the trucks might have to come from much farther way. I asked him if ENAC was under the control of the Italian Government why didn't they handle the distribution.

3. He replied that ENAC was now controlled by the Italian Ministry of Transport but that they were employed in moving food and would simply refuse to move paper ! He said it was a matter of petrol and if we could get the petrol he thought ENAC could supply the truck. He then produced the Memo at page and suggested that the forms for PESARO, AREZZO, GROSSETO, TERNI and ANCONA should be sent there by rail. This would require Allied authorization as the railways are used for Military purposes only. He suggested that as Siena and Perugia are on the way to Florence the forms for these two provinces should be put on the truck for Florence and delivered on the way there. They would send the forms for Macerata and Ascoli to the Prefect of Ancona by rail and make him responsible for delivery !

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W.I. Cunningham Capt.

W. I. CUNNINGHAM
Captain
Local Government S/C

WIC/cg.

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785021

AC/4/1/100/LG

SUBJECT: Note of Interview - Local Government S/C offices.

DATE : 21 May 1945

PRESENT: Dott. PARISI - Commissario Capo P.S. di Bologna
Dirigente Ufficio Speciale Polizia per
l'Epurazione dei Nazi-Fascisti
Cav. GUIDONI - Ten. Col. Commandante Divisione di Polizia - Bologna
Major R. R. Temple)
Capt. W.V.M. Lewis) Local Government S/C

Sig. Arrigo NEGE, interpreting

1. The above-named officials stated that they were from Bologna and desired to report upon matters affecting certain of the personnel of the Bologna Prefettura, and in particular the VP thereof, DE VITA, and the Capo di Gabinetto, MAGLIONI. They stated that they had seen the Chief of the Personale Division of the Ministry of the Interior and were to see Under-Secretary MOLE on 22 May. The Minister agreed with the views expressed by these officials and had stated that if AC agreed with the changes of personnel which it was desired to propose, the Ministry would similarly agree. They had the Ministry's authority to see Major Temple.

2. In answer to Major Temple's inquiries, they stated that the PC Bologna did not know they were coming to Rome. The Prefect and Questore knew and the latter had issued the pass. It was not an AMG pass. They had not discussed the detailed purpose of their visit with the Prefect as the matter was a delicate one. It was one of concern to the patriots. These two officials were representatives of the CLN, who had proposed their appointment to their present respective positions. The representations they desired to make would be offered on behalf of the Police and Questure. They had been told in Bologna to contact and explain their views to the Chief of Police in Rome and "the Allies".

3. Major Temple explained that the reason for his questions which had adduced the above information was that he wished to know their respective positions, status and purpose of their visit before considering whether he would listen to the representations he understood they desired to make.

4. Major Temple agreed to hear their representations but first made it clear that he would send any information so received to the Provincial Commissioner who was the proper AMG authority in Bologna to deal with matters concerning that area.

5. The officials stated that they were doubtful whether any purpose would be served in giving it to the PC, but agreed that they would give exactly the same information to AMG Bologna as they wished to do here.

6. Dott. PARISI gave the following information:

(i) Personnel at the Bologna Prefettura was the same as under the Fascist-Nazi regime. 1147

(ii) The only honest man was the Prefect--BONCHESE--appointed by the CLN.

(iii) All the work from the [illegible]

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Sig. Arrigo WEBB, interpreting

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6. Dott. PARISI gave the following information:

(i) Personnel at the Bologna Prefettura was the same as under the Fascist-Nazi regime.

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(ii) The only honest man was the Prefect--BORGHESE--appointed by the CLN.

(iii) All the rest from the VPV--DE VITA--downwards were the same.

(iv) DE VITA had received two promotions under the Fascists since September 1943. He was advisor to the Fascist Prefect--FANTOZZI--who fled (and who is believed to have been arrested in Milan.) He was an out-and-out collaborator.

(v) He had been VPV a year, having been put in office from another place in Emilia by FANTOZZI. He had taken the oath. Nearly all the officials had. Probably 20% of the staff were members of the Fascist Party. For these

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reasons, the Prefectural staff made it difficult to contact the PC.

(vi) The Prefect, in spite of his undoubted integrity, was dependant on the VPV for his technical and administrative knowledge.

(vii) The position of the Questore was different. PARISI had been concerned with the clandestine work of organisation carried on by the CLN before liberation. Immediately thereafter, the then Questore was put out of office and replaced by a successor who had previously been chosen for the appointment.

(viii) The VPV had in fact "double-crossed the CLN" by purporting to work for and actually working against them when it suited his purpose. He was hated by the patriots on account of his dishonesty and his past record.

(ix) The favourable report on the VPV which AC had received was evidence of his two-faced behaviour.

(x) The VPI--PORTOGESE--was even worse. He held three offices at one time during the Fascist-Nazi period, which in itself was illegal. He was a complete Fascist-Nazi supporter.

(xi) All the Prefettura staff served the Germans.

7. Major Temple intimated that any charges should be specified and conveyed to the PC. PARISI replied that this would be difficult as the documents would have to go through other officials in the Prefettura.

8. Regarding the VPV, they said that it would be possible for specific charges to be listed. If he and the Capo di Gabinetto could be dismissed, the rest of the subordinate staff could be cleared out.

9. The Ministry of the Interior could supply a successor to the VPV (N.B. This was evidently a reference to the "pool of officials" system established with the Ministry).

10. Regarding the Capo di Gabinetto, he was "the right-hand man" to Prefect PANTOZZI, which latter had, during the German occupation, actually ordered capital sentences. His Capo di Gabinetto was inevitably involved in this work.

11. The present Prefect seemed somewhat afraid of upsetting the administration by dismissals and the people of Bologna were very disturbed. These two spokesmen feared serious trouble if the foregoing matters were not dealt with speedily.

12. Major Temple, in conclusion, repeated his previous intimation to the effect that the proper authority to deal with the subject was the PC of Bologna. The information given at this interview would be conveyed to him and he advised the spokesmen that, as previously indicated, the proper course for them to adopt was to make their specific charges to AMG Bologna.

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Capt.

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SUBJECT: Note of Interview - Ministry of the Interior

DATE : 15 May 1945 - 1200 hours

PRESENT: M. E. Adalberto TUPINI, Chief of Cabinet
Cav. Andrea CAMPEL, Vice Chief of Cabinet
Col. R. E. Griggs, Director; Major Ralph R. Temple, Deputy Director;
Lt. D. MORELLO, Interpreting

2. NOMINATION FOR VICE PREFECT VICARIO FOR PESCARA

TUPINI said that the name of the nominee would be furnished today.

2. CAN NOMINEES FOR PREFECTS BE TRANSFERRED

TUPINI was given the list of nominations to date and informed that the appointment of BORGHESE for Prefect Regent of Bologna has actually been given. He said that he was personally acquainted with the CLN nominee for Mantova--GUARINI. Col. Griggs mentioned that we had been informed that BERTOLI, the Government's nominee for Prefect of Parma, had refused to take the post. TUPINI exhibited much surprise and said he would try to find out what the story was on this matter. Col. Griggs informed him that we had received no written confirmation of this fact as yet.

3. REGULATION OF RIGHTS FOR CONFISCATION OF ELECTORAL LISTS BY ALLIED TROOPS

TUPINI said that he expected the Decree to be published in a week.

4. DELIVERY OF ELECTORAL MATERIAL

TUPINI stated that he would communicate with the Prefects of Pesaro, Ancona and Teramo to ascertain whether the delivery of electoral forms had been made to those provinces.

5. ALLIED MILITARY LETTER OF 19 APRIL CONTAINING ELECTION METHOD

TUPINI stated that MUSCO's letter of April 23 was in fact a reply to the letter of April 19, although he had informed Major Temple last week that it was not. He had checked on the situation. However, he agreed that the response was very general because the Government was not in a position to take up the details mentioned in the Chief Commissioner's letter. He realized that these details went to the heart of the problem and stated that a more detailed letter would be sent very shortly taking up directly the points mentioned.

6. MOVEMENT ORDERS FROM ITALIAN GOVERNMENT TO AUTHORITIES TO TRAVEL NO MOVEMENT ORDERS

TUPINI said he knew nothing about the movement order being issued by the Ministry to MELLO Buonvino, Capo di Gabinetto of Ancona, to proceed to Udine to take up his former duties there. He said he was fully aware of the fact that no such order was proper. However, at our request he would check with the Personale Division to ascertain whether any functionary in the department issued such instructions.

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7. ~~REQUEST FOR MINISTRY TO APPROVE TRAVEL TO PERSONAL MATTERS~~

The request of an official named LIVOI to proceed to Como for personal reasons was mentioned. MINISTRY said that hundreds of such requests are coming in. Col. Cripps mentioned that permits would shortly be issued by the Italian Government itself and that they would have to dispose of the matter without any assistance on our part. MINISTRY took back the letter concerning LIVOI and said they would dispose of it themselves.

8. ~~ARCHIVES~~

In response to the question as to what was being done in connection with the Government's archives in Verona, MINISTRY mentioned that the Government's archives were partly distributed in other provinces, too. Furthermore, he stated that the Chief Commissioner had agreed with the Prime Minister to permit a party representing several Ministries on May 17 to proceed North in order to locate and protect the Government's archives.

RALPH E. TEMPLE
Major
Deputy Director
Local Government Sub Commission

RET/pec

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AC/14/1/12

SUBJECT: Note of interview - Ministry of the Interior

DATE : 5 May 1945 - 1100 hours.

PRESENT: Dott. Adalberto BERRUTI, Chief of Cabinet
Major Ralph R. Temple
Lt. D. MORIANO, interpreting.

(A) DI VITA--VP Bologna.

Dott. BERRUTI stated that a representative of the CLN from Bologna has visited the Ministry and spoken about DI VITA, a career Vice Prefect who has been retained by AMG since the liberation of the province. This Vice Prefect has the full approval of BORGHESE, the CLN nominee for Prefect, as well as the Regional Commissioner, in large part because of his great activity on behalf of the partisans. Dott. BERRUTI said that this CLN representative was of a different opinion and thought that DI VITA ought to be removed because he had been serving under a Fascist regime. BERRUTI said that he was passing on this information in case the matter should come up.

(Comment: No action is to be taken on this matter until we are first asked to do something about it by AMG.)

(B) LORENZINI--Prefetto Reggente of Teramo.

Dott. BERRUTI said that he wished to advance LORENZINI's name as the Government's candidate for the position of Prefect of some small northern province, if we were called upon to supply one. I reminded BERRUTI that although LORENZINI was in the pool of Prefects, still in the list of Prefects ear-marked for specific provinces LORENZINI was not included. I ventured the opinion also that LORENZINI was really neither fish nor fowl--that is, he was neither a local product nor a career Prefect. It would depend upon the personal acquaintance that the Provincial or Regional Commissioner would have of LORENZINI which would determine his possible utilization. BERRUTI agreed to all of this.

(C) Prefect of Siena.

BERRUTI recalled for my information the fact that Prefect BASSI of Siena had been replaced temporarily by MOZZI. He has been informed that BASSI is undergoing a surgical operation and will probably be unable to resume his work for some time. MOZZI, according to BERRUTI, is performing his job very well and the population seem to be very well satisfied with him. He said that the Italian Government, therefore, wished to have the appointment extended definitely, if AMG had no objection. Although MOZZI had been in the pool of Prefects and was originally designated for La Spezia, his name actually had not been advanced in the new list of car-marked Prefects submitted by the Italian Government. Consequently, we were not tied down by any prior commitments to effect a permanent assignment for MOZZI at Siena. I told him I would communicate with AMG authorities and inform him shortly.

(Comment: I am writing a letter to the Regional Commissioner on this point.)

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(D) I left with BERRUTI a copy of the [illegible]

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Major Ralph R. Temple
Lt. D. MORIANO, interpreting.

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(Comment: I am writing a letter to the Regional Commissioner on this point.)

11-43

(D) I left with BERRUTI a copy of the CLN's nominees for Prefects to date. He indicated that he knew the nominee for Asti, to wit CIACCHERO, a Christian Democrat. He characterised him as a good man.

R R Temple Major

RALPH R. TEMPLE
Major
Deputy Director
Local Government Sub Commission

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUB COMMISSION

Ext. 620

4th May, 1945.

REPORT ON VISIT BY DIRECTOR OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUB-COMMISSION TO EMILIA REGION AND SCAOs 8 AND 5 ARMIES ON 28TH APRIL TO 2ND MAY, 1945.

GENERAL.

1. As the result of the tour which lasted 5 days, the main purpose of which was to deliver the directive on the relations of this Commission with the Committees of National Liberation and to explain this to SCAOs and Regional Commissioners, I am satisfied that all those officers visited are in agreement with the principles set out and understand the position with regard to considering the Italian Government nominees before official selection of Prefects and Questors are made.

2. There is in my mind however, as a result of this visit, some concern over the setting up of Allied Military Government in the Northern Regions in view of the strong position and well organised mechanism set up by the CLN. As ROs appear to be very short of the necessary staff to set up Provincial AMG they rely very largely on the existing Italian organisation. This in nearly every case is in fact a CLN organisation. In many instances everything is controlled either by the CLN or Patriots, even to such items as transport, and ROs find themselves in the position of having to accept this organisation and in fact by so doing confirm to some degree that they accept the nominees set up by the CLN. Unless however, officers can be found to expand the AMG organisations within the Provinces, ROs will rely very largely on the organisation of the CLN and so to some degree be dependant on it instead of in control.

3. In general the parts visited which were practically confined to EMILIA Region, seem to be well supplied with food for immediate needs. The population was in good spirits and on May Day were officially or unofficially holding meetings to celebrate.

4. In general there was a very obvious relief at the liberation of the North, particularly in the countryside where farming was being carried on quite normally. The remainder of the report is divided into three parts: (1) Local Government, (2) Patriot matters and (3) Miscellaneous.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

5. On arriving at AMG 5 Army Hq. the directive was delivered and discussed. It was approved by the officers present (Col. SUTHERLAND and Major MINORS). The names of the Prefects nominated by the Italian Government for seven Provinces in 5 Army area

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 78502/

COMMISSION TO EMILIA REGION AND SCAOs 8 AND 5 ARMIES ON 20TH APRIL TO 2ND MAY, 1945.

GENERAL.

1. As the result of the tour which lasted 5 days, the main purpose of which was to deliver the directive on the relations of this Commission with the Committees of National Liberation and to explain this to SCAOs and Regional Commissioners, I am satisfied that all those officers visited are in agreement with the principles set out and understand the position with regard to considering the Italian Government nominees before official selection of Prefects and Questore are made.

2. There is in my mind however, as a result of this visit, some concern over the setting up of Allied Military Government in the Northern Regions in view of the strong position and well organised mechanism set up by the CLN. As RCs appear to be very short of the necessary staff to set up Provincial AMG they rely very largely on the existing Italian organisation. This in nearly every case is in fact a CLN organisation. In many instances everything is controlled either by the CLN or Patriots, even to such items as transport, and RCs find themselves in the position of having to accept this organisation and in fact by so doing confirm to some degree that they accept the nominees set up by the CLN. Unless however, officers can be found to expand the AMG organisations within the Provinces, RCs will rely very largely on the organisation of the CLN and so to some degree be dependant on it instead of in control.

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

5. On arriving at AMG 5 Army Hq. the directive was delivered and discussed. It was approved by the officers present (Col. SUTHERLAND and Major MINORS). The names of the Prefects nominated by the Italian Government for seven Provinces in 5 Army area were handed in and discussed. In one instance, that of DEL GUIDICE for the Province of MASSA and CARARA, the name put forward by the CLN was the same as that of the Italian Government and it is most probable that this individual will be appointed. The remainder were under consideration, but it was intimated that with the probable exception of the Provinces containing very large cities, such as BOLOGNA, General HUME would delegate the official decision to the Regional Commissioner concerned.

6. The directives for LOMBARDIA Region were handed to Col. POLETTI who was present in the office at this time. Those for

/ LIGURIA

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LIGURIA Region were handed to Mr. HALFORD who was intending to go to GENOA the following morning. The directive was discussed with Mr. HOPKINSON and he was informed that the directives for PIEDMONTE were delivered through PIEDMONTE HQ direct and that those for LOMBARDIA were also in the hands of Col. POLETTI.

7. On Sunday 29th April I visited SCAO 8 Army and discussed the directive with him. His one requirement was that the names of Prefects selected for the Provinces with which he is concerned should be furnished by this HQ forthwith. This has now been done. He pointed out that he had already issued a directive on the lines of Mr. HOPKINSON's speech at the RC's meeting held in this HQ on 9th April, and that it was not in fact in conflict with the present directive. A copy of the directive had been handed to Major WILLIAMS on his recent visit to SCAO 8 Army. The Directive however, does NOT contain any paragraphs which deal with the matter of considering the Italian Government's nominees for the appointments of Prefect and Questore. SCAO 8 Army stated that for FERRARA Province he did not intend to make the appointment too quickly and that the nominees put up by the CLN were as follows:

For Prefect: Avv. DIOLEO, Ivo. - Political Party: Christian Democrat.
For Questore: ALLEGRETTA, Nichola
For Vice Prefect: TENUSSI, Mario - A Career Prefect already in office.

8. At the present time the Giunta Provinciale was presided over by one HIRSCH, who is non Political. Only three parties, i.e. Christian Democrats, Communists and Socialists, are represented in the Giunta. Three other parties were taking shape.

9. During the evening the Regional Commissioner VENEZIA Region was visited. The directive was discussed in the presence of the SCAO 8 Army and agreement over the close working and the collaboration in the appointment of Prefects and Questure was reached.

10. On Monday, 30th April, the Regional Commissioner, EMILIA Region was visited and the directive discussed. Accompanied by the RC I visited the PCs of MODENA, REGGIO EMILIA and PARMA. The question of the Prefect for BOLOGNA was also discussed with the PC. Ing. BONGHESE is the CLN nomination for Prefect at BOLOGNA. He is very strongly recommended by the PC who did not consider that the Italian Government's nominee, PURNI, would be acceptable, nor was he personally impressed by him. He did not feel it satisfactory to have a professional Prefect in the circumstances, considered him rather old (58 years) and not being a local man, unsuitable for the post.

11. At REGGIO EMILIA the PC was working with the CLN and wished to nominate their candidate for Prefect. He is a lawyer, young, virile and had so far, in his position as acting Prefect, filled the position very satisfactorily. It was agreed that before taking a decision the Italian Government nominee, MORELLI, who is a local man, and believed to be at present in the Province, was to be located by the Provincial Commissioner and considered.

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12. At PARMA the CLN nominee for Prefect is one FERRARI of the Communist Party. In a short interview with him he did

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9th April, and that it was not in fact in conflict with the present directive. A copy of the directive had been handed to Major WILLIAMS on his recent visit to SCAO 8 Army. The Directive however, does NOT contain any paragraphs which deal with the matter of considering the Italian Government's nominees for the appointments of Prefect and Questore. SCAO 8 Army stated that for FERRARA Province he did not intend to make the appointment too quickly and that the nominees put up by the CLN were as follows:

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12. At PARMA the CLN nominee for Prefect is one FERRARI of the Communist Party. In a short interview with him he did not impress me very much. He did not appear to have sufficient personality for the office of Prefect and I doubt whether he would be satisfactory. The Italian Government nominee, MICHELE, was proposed to the PC, who was not prepared to make a decision immediately. In view of the situation with regard to the Patriots who are still armed and the fact that numbers of the enemy are still in the countryside and have not yet surrendered, it was decided that MICHELE would be infiltrated to the Province at an early opportunity with a view to giving the PC a chance of seeing the local reaction and of judging his capabilities.

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13. At MODENA the President of the CLN is one COPPI, he is not nominated as Prefect, but is President of the CLN. The proposed Prefect is the Marquese TACOLI, who has been trained as a lawyer and is a Christian Democrat. He was the original founder of the CLN which was conducted in his own house. The Marquese TACOLI is at present acting in the capacity of Prefect and seemed to have matters well under his control and extremely well organised. He is popular, with the backing of all parties: he is a local gentleman prepared to act in public office out of public spirit, he does not at present wish to remain permanently as a Prefect but is prepared to do so for a period until conditions are more settled. The position of Questore has not been settled and the Provincial Commissioner has asked his higher HQ if a Questore can be furnished.

PATRIOTS.

14. In Florence the Patriot Centres are holding very much reduced numbers. Some of these were found to have made their way to BOLOGNA, where they were attempting to be housed in a Patriot Centre which is being organised there. Officers were instructed that Patriots would not be allowed to take up permanent residence in BOLOGNA if their homes were available to go to.

15. I visited MODENA, where a large parade was taking place. The numbers were estimated as being 10,000. My own estimate is more in the region of 8,000. The Patriots were given a great ovation and laid down their arms at the end of the Parade when ten truckloads were collected, mainly rifles, some German captured vehicles were also collected, together with one piece of ordnance.

16. The local Emergency Military Hospital was visited in which 150 sick and wounded Patriots are being cared for. This is in excellent condition and medical treatment was being given and all possible aid to the Patriot wounded. General HUME inspected the wards and talked with most of the men. One ward contained approximately 20 German wounded soldiers which were guarded by the Patriots. General Hume personally presented certificates to all the Band Leaders present at the Parade, which numbered some 20, and a speech was made by the President of the CLN which showed a keen appreciation for the Allied effort and the statement that the Patriots worked not only for the freedom of Italy but for the freedom of the world from aggression was made; it was, in fact, a sensible and well balanced speech and was received with acclamation by those present.

17. In REGGIO CALABRIA the Patriots have not yet been disarmed, but it was anticipated that a parade would be held in a few days.

18. At PARMA Patriots are also still armed and are likely to be so for a short period in view of the fact that there are German parties at present in the area who are not prepared to surrender to Patriots. Under the direction of the British Liaison Officer, contact is being kept with them and it is anticipated that when an Allied officer or Allied Troops are available to call upon them to surrender they will do so.

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public spirit, he does not at present wish to remain permanently as a Prefect but is prepared to do so for a period until conditions are more settled. The position of Questore has not been settled and the Provincial Commissioner has asked his higher HQ if a Questore can be furnished.

PATRIOTS.

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19. The situation over Patriots in this city seemed a little difficult. They were mostly Communist or Left in political outlook and were requiring very tactful handling. The BLO, Major Holland, was giving assistance to the Regional Commissioner in these matters. The Italian Military Patriot Officer had already reported to the PC, PARMA, and was ready to start work.

/ MISCELLANEOUS.

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6C

MISCELLANEOUS.

ESTABLISHMENT OF PEOPLES COURTS.

20. A decree establishing Peoples Courts for the purposes of Epuration was received at various HQ during the period of the tour. Most Regional Commissioners were very glad to receive this and were starting to implement its functions immediately. It was a matter giving concern to Regional and Provincial Commissioners as there was some pressure by the Italians to start operating Peoples Courts.

R.R. Cripps Col.

R.R. CRIPPS, Colonel,
Director,
LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUB COMMISSION.

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14/1

5

AG/45/A/LG

SUBJECT: Note of interview - Ministry of the Interior

DATE : 2 May 1945 - 1130 hours

PRESENT: Dott. Adalberto BERRUTI, Capo di Gabinetto
Major Ralph R. Temple
Lt. D. MODIANO, interpreting

1. I directed Dott. BERRUTI's attention to the letter of April 24 from BONOMI to Admiral Stone (folio p. 66) on the subject of elections and asked whether this was in direct response to the Admiral's letter of 19 April, (folio p. 58). He read both letters and said that it was not a response to the April 19 letter--it probably was a resume of the situation up to date. He recorded some of the points of the letter of April 19 and said that we would very likely receive an answer shortly.

2. I asked what the position was regarding the publication in the Gazzetta Ufficiale of an amended Decree which will permit the compilation of electoral lists in AMG Territory without waiting for the turnover to the Italian Government of said territory. He said there were some other amendments tacked on and that held up the publication, but that it should be published soon. I informed Dott. BERRUTI that we were holding up the distribution of some circulars which the Ministry had sent us because they referred to the Electoral Decree which up to now was not in effect in AMG Territory.

RRT

RALPH R. TEMPLE
Major
Deputy Director
Local Government Sub Commission

RRT/psc

1138

X

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1411

AG/4/26/1/14

SUBJECT: Note of Interview - Ministry of the Interior

DATE : 2 May 1945 - 1130 hours

PRESENT: Dott. Adalberto BERRUTI Capo di Gabinetto
Major Ralph R. Temple
Lt. D. MODIANO, interpreting

1. I gave Dott. BERRUTI a copy of a list of names of CLN nominees for Prefects in various provinces in the North, this information having been taken from telegrams we received from our officers in the field. I said the Allied Commission was interested in learning whether the Ministry had any knowledge of these people.

2. He looked over the list and said that he knew only one--the CLN nominee for Prefect of Mantova, namely AVANZINI. AVANZINI, he pointed out, has already been suggested by BONOMI as the Government's candidate for that post and that he was a good choice.

RRT

RALPH R. TEMPLE
Major
Deputy Director
Local Government Sub Commission

RRT/pec

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4/26/10

4A

PROVINCE	C.L.N. nominee	PARTY
MANTOVA	AVANZINI	Christian Democrat
BRESCIA	BULANI	" "
FERRARA	----	----
BOLOGNA	BORGESS	Socialist
MODENA	TACOLI	----
VENICE	MAYER Dr. Camillo	----
TURIN	PASSONO	Socialist
MILAN	----	----

2163

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140 3

AG/4/1/135/LA

SUBJECT: Note of Interview - Ministry of the Interior

DATE : 2 May 1945 - 11:30 hours

PRESENT: Dott. Adalberto BERRUTI, Capo di Gabinetto
Major Ralph R. Temple
Lt. D. MODIANO, interpreting

SUBJECT: SCIORILLI BORRELLI

1. I explained to Dott. BERRUTI that I was here to converse with him off the record concerning SCIORILLI BORRELLI, who is now Capo di Gabinetto in the Ministry of Occupied Italy. I informed him that some time ago, after we had rejected SCIORILLI BORRELLI as Prefect, we received a report of the Epuration Commission which listed SCIORILLI BORRELLI as one who was not subject to the judgment of the Epuration Commission. Since apparently there was a clearance of SCIORILLI BORRELLI by the Epuration Commission, I wondered whether the Ministry and the Epuration Commission were aware of the existence of a document purporting to award the German Eagle Order of Merit to him, at the request of the German Embassy in Rome, a photostatic copy of which I had in my possession. I showed Dott. BERRUTI the document and he said that they were aware of its existence and that as a matter of fact CANEVARI had written to the then High Commissioner for Epuration, SCOCCIMARRO, informing him of this point. Apparently, however, SCOCCIMARRO did not deem this of sufficient importance to warrant a recommendation for dismissal on epuration grounds. Dott. BERRUTI stated that the receipt of German honors is not one of the grounds for epuration.

2. I pointed out that in this photostatic document recommending this German honor for SCIORILLI BORRELLI appeared the names of two other Italian officials--Dott. CARCATERRA and Dott. CANAPERIA. Dott. CARCATERRA has been nominated as a Prefect for a northern province by the Italian Government and heretofore had also been cleared by the Epuration Commission. Dott. BERRUTI pointed out that Dott. CANAPERIA presently is a Medico Provinciale in one of the provinces under AMG, and that he has also been cleared by the Epuration Commission.

3. So far as the receipt of the German honor was concerned, Dott. BERRUTI indicated that it was difficult to evaluate its importance; that it depended upon the attitude of the person receiving it and his position. In the cases of the two officials other than SCIORILLI BORRELLI, Dott. CANAPERIA was a medical technician occupying a medical position, whereas the other, Dott. CARCATERRA, was a Vice Prefect of not great importance. SCIORILLI BORRELLI, however, at the time he actually received the honor had been made a Prefect.

4. Dott. BERRUTI questioned why we should be so concerned about the grounds for asking the removal of the man. He stated that heretofore when the Allied Commission objected to a person they merely stated that they did so on security grounds, without actually stating the reasons, and at no time have the reasons been requested. He intimated that this might be done in SCIORILLI BORRELLI's case.

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3A

5. Throughout this conversation, Dott. BERRUTI was speaking with some hesitancy, and apparently very carefully. I told him that we did not want to do anything that would embarrass either the Allied Commission or the Prime Minister and that although we felt that SCIORILLI BORRELLI was a depraved character, we felt that the only point on which we could base a request for his removal was that of insecurity. BERRUTI then said that he had been speaking very guardedly because of the personal animosity which existed between him and SCIORILLI BORRELLI, of which he said I was perfectly aware. In the past few weeks, there has been no difficulty. SCIORILLI BORRELLI has gone his own way without stirring up any trouble. From a personal standpoint, BERRUTI said it might be just as well to leave the matter as it was. On the other hand, as an official he could not help but state that it was undesirable to have a man of SCIORILLI BORRELLI's attitude in a position of such great importance. He said the man's every gesture and statement bespeak his anti-Allied attitude. He also said they have ample evidence of this. SCIORILLI BORRELLI was issuing passes now to people without exercising the care and scrutiny demanded by an official.

6. Summarizing, I got the definite impression that BERRUTI felt that a formal communication from AC objecting to SCIORILLI BORRELLI's retention on security grounds would be sufficient to bring about his removal. There might be a little fuss and talk which would react perhaps personally against the calm now enjoyed by BERRUTI, but he did not think that was too important. The position occupied by SCIORILLI BORRELLI was characterized by BERRUTI as being one which should require the incumbent's and indisputable loyalty to the Allied cause and there was serious question of SCIORILLI BORRELLI's possessing this attitude.

R. R. Temple major

RALPH R. TEMPLE
Major
Deputy Director
Local Government Sub Commission

RRT/pec

2163

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14/1

2

SUBJECT : Pool of Prefects and Vice Prefects

NOTE of interview with Marchese PARENTI of the Ministry of Interior

INTERVIEWED BY: Major C.C.R. Williams and Capt. W.I. Cunningham

DATE : 10th April 1945 - 16.00 hours

Mr. Nice interpreting

1. Marchese PARENTI said he had asked for this interview as he wished to discuss with us the suggestions in the letter from this Sub Commission dated 3rd April 1945 (page 29 on this file). He did not think the suggestions were good for two reasons :

a) - if officials were notified that they had been chosen to go to the North they would immediately commence to bring all possible pressure, political and otherwise, to bear on the Ministry and other Ministers to rescind their nomination.

b) - having them medically examined now would be no guarantee that they wouldn't go sick when required to move.

2. We said reason (a) was exactly why we had suggested the notification of officials i.e. in order that all excuses could be cleared up.

3. PARENTI said he thought there would be much less delay if officials were not notified till the last minute and thus had no opportunity to organise pressure on the Ministry.

4. We said we had been telling EC's we could supply them with officials. In effect this was not true. Several Prefectures had been without certain officials for over six months now and we could not get officials to fill these vacancies. Fourteen officials in the past 4 months had failed to move when ordered, pleading health or other excuses (see list page 31). We could not continue in this way when the front broke and the North was liberated. We thought excuses should be dealt with now, as when the demands came in from the North we wouldn't have time to deal with excuses. Should we leave the North without an adequate government?

5. PARENTI asked if we had any suggestions to make.

6. We said we had already made the suggestions in the letter. We thought it was a matter of discipline. As regards the excuse of illness we said it would seem to follow that if an official was so seriously ill that he could not move to another Prefecture he was surely too ill to continue working and should be dismissed or retired - two or three dismissals would cure this trouble.

7. PARENTI said this would require an alteration in the law. He also referred to the letter from the Ministry on the subject of the VPI for Lucca (copy attached). He thought that the officials were getting round even the Italian

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2A

Military doctors. He could do no more.

8. He said we appreciated this and would have to write a report on the matter for the attention of our superiors.

9. PARRITT suggested that we should propose that the Ministry should have a Doctor of their own whom they and we could trust who would be sent off to examine an official as soon as he pleaded sickness or better still if Allied Commission would have these men examined by Allied Commission Doctors.

10. He said that the latter suggestion could not work as no Allied Commissio.. officials remained in the portion of Italy under the Italian Government and anyway we considered that the whole matter was the responsibility of the Italian Government.

W.I. Cunningham Capt

W.I. Cunningham Capt.
Assistant Executive Officer
Local Government S/C

WIC/eg

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MESSINA Ugo	4/1/76	69	13/2/45	Health reasons - V.SECRETARY - PESARO
PERUGINI Leopoldo	4/1/63	69	16/12/44	Family reasons - V.P.V. - AREZZO
MORRICA Manlio	4/1/63	110/A	19/2/45	Health reasons - CONSIGLIERE - AREZZO
ANTONUCCI Italo	4/1/63	119/A	28/2/45	Family reasons - V.P.I. - AREZZO
		143	26/3/45	and sickness
MEMO Adolfo	4/1/64	60	8/10/44	Health reasons -CONSIGLIERE - MACERATA
RAFFA Giovanni	4/1/64	77	16/2/45	Health reasons - Primo Archivista MACERATA
CIMADOMO Michele	4/1/67	52	25/1/45	Family reasons - CONSIGLIERE - LIVORNO Reached destination asked substitution- granted leave - did not return - Position still open
MANCINI Angelo	4/1/47	74	4/12/44	Family reasons - V.P.V. GROSSETO however on
	"	83	18/12/44	Ministry deemed advisable to keep him in Salerno
APICELLA Alfonso	4/1/47	104	26/1/45	Health reasons - V.P.V.-GROSSETO
MINUTOLI Gennaro	4/1/57	96	10/2/45	Health reasons - Ragioniere Capo - ANCONA
DE PASQUALE Felice	4/1/60	132	8/4/45	Health reasons - VPV ff.-FLORENCE
PAPALEO Francesco	4/1/69	70	29/3/45	Health reasons - V.P.I.-LUCCA
SANTO Antonio	4/1/69	38	31/1/45	Health reasons - V.P.I. - LUCCA
PARISI Umberto	4/1/60	97	23/1/45	Health reasons - V.P.V.)- FLORENCE Family reasons and "moral question"

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2C

(COPY)

Translation

Rome, 10 april 1945

FROM : MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR
Dir. Gen. Affari Gen. & Pers.

Ref. : Div. 1 N. 5000 in reply to AC/4/1/69/IC. 29.3.45

TO : ALLIED COMMISSION, Local Government S/C.

SUBJECT: Prefecture of Lucca.

This Ministry is perctly aware of the necessity that movements of personnel be effected, under the present circumstances, with the utmost solicitude.

As a matter of fact , with a view of overcoming the possible opposition which, mostly for financial reasons, the personnel might have offered to transfer orders on alleged health grounds, this Ministry, as it is known, has provided by an appropriate circular, that the infermities declared by the personnel at the moment to be transferred to another locality be verified by a special collegial military doctor, departing in this from the procedure followed heretofore in similar cases.

However, once the infermity has been ascertained and recognized through the established guarantees, this Ministry for obvious reasons cannot but conform with the attestation drawn up, under its own responsability, by the military medical authorities,

Should however your Commission be in a position to suggest any other solution which may help obviate the present situation, this Ministry, which cannot depart from the rules governing this matter, would of course be glad to adopt as its own the suggestion in question in order to derive from it every useful advantage.

Having said this, we wish to assure your Commission that under today's date directions have been given to the High Commissariat for Sicily to have deputy Vice Prefect Inspector dr. Stefano Russo report at once to your Allied Commission.

We also wish to confirm that this Ministry will not fail to take disciplinary sanctions against Dr. Papaleo in the event that his infirmity would turn out to be non existant.

FOR THE MINISTER 1130

P/T.

2169

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New Jacket 14/1

SUBJECT : Maggiore Cesare CAPONI - Sindaco of Lucignano (Arezzo)

Note of interview with Dott. CAMERA - Ministry of Interior

INTERVIEWED BY : Capt. W.I. Cunningham RHT

DATE : 10th April 1945 - 10.05 hours

Lt. Dario Modiano interpreting

1. I drew Dott. Camera(s attention to the letter dated 16th February from this Sub Commission to the Ministry (page 2 on this file) forwarding a copy of letter from RC. Toscana Region of 12th February asking for Maggiore CAPONI to be put at the disposal of AMG Arezzo "in carica civile". I then told Dott. CAMERA the contents of the note from RC Arezzo (page 3 on this file) and said that the putting of CAPONI under house 10 days arrest and on 30 days renewable leave for acting as Sindaco at the request of AMG, did not appear to be tactful or co-operative on the part of the Ministry of War.

2. Dott. Camera seemed surprised and said that the 30 days renewable leave was an exceptional action taken by the Ministry of War at the request of the Ministry of Interior in order to co-operate with AMG and to make Maggiore CAPONI available for as long as his services were required. They were prepared to renew this leave for succeeding 30 days periods until AMG no longer required the services of Maggiore CAPONI, after which his leave would expire and he would return to duty.

3. I referred to the 10 days house arrest and said that we were very anxious that Maggiore CAPONI's army career should not be prejudiced in any way by his service to AMG as Sindaco of Lucignano.

4. Dott. CAMERA said that he could not see that Maggiore CAPONI could be prejudiced in any way as the Ministry of War has expressly authorised him to act as Sindaco by giving him this renewable leave. He thought it would be better for Maggiore CAPONI to take up the matter of his 10 days house arrest with his superior officers through Italian Army channels as he did not think that this punishment came from the Ministry of War and any action by the Ministry of Interior on such a high level might only cause more harm than good to CAPONI.

5. I said I would pass this point of view on to the Provincial Commissioner concerned andagain stressed our wish that Maggiore CAPONI's career should not be prejudiced.

6. Dott. Camera said that he thought possibly Maggiore CAPONI was getting worried about promotion, or even retention in the Italian Army after the war. Of course an officer who was working in a civilian job did not stand as good a chance of promotion as an official actually in a fighting unit. As to retention in the Army after the war, no one could give any guarantee that any regular officer would be kept on in the Army as no one knew what reduction would have to be made in the regular army when that war was over.

7. I said I appreciated this and thanked Dott. Camera for the interview. 1129

W.I. Cunningham Capt.

W. I. Cunningham Capt.
Assistant Executive Officer
Local Government Sub Commission

WIC/cg.