

ACC

10000/141/567

VISIT TO 5 ARMY B  
APR. 1945

10000/141/567

VISIT TO 5 ARMY BY DIRECTOR, ON 12-16 APRIL 1945  
APR. 1945

0117

To Local Government, S.C.

Could the UP's queries please  
be answered.

*[Signature]*  
PA&UPCA Sec.

There is no further work in this  
all matters are under hand  
*[Signature]*

1392

REPORT ON VISIT BY DIRECTOR OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
SUB-COMMISSION TO 5 ARMY, 12th to 16th April, 1945.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

12th April

(Left Rome 0900 hrs and arrived Florence HQ 5 Army 1545 hrs)

1. On arrival the Director reported to 5 Army and discussed with Lt. Col. SUTHERLAND and Major MINORS the proposition of the SCAO that the present Prefect (PATERNO) of FLORENCE Province should be removed. Lt. Col. SUTHERLAND stated that the reasons he wished to remove PATERNO were based on a number of actions by him and which in themselves were none of them (taken separately) sufficient to cause his removal, but on the other hand were cumulative in effect and he was of the opinion (speaking for the SCAO) that it was time he was removed. 5 Army AMG had in the past resisted his removal in order that it should not appear that the action was dictated by popular outcry. This had now died down and 5 Army wish to remove the Prefect before handing over the Province of FLORENCE to TUSCANA Region.

2. The matters which brought them to this decision were:

(a) That the Prefect had, in 1941, made a particularly anti-British speech in the Province of which he was then Prefect, this 5 Army maintain indicates that he is a Fascist and that his general behavior at the present time is still somewhat Fascist in outlook.

(b) That in December there had been some difficulty with the then Provincial Commissioner, Lt. Col. ROLPHE, in which it appeared that the Prefect had inserted additional matter to a permission for the payment of employees after Lt. Col. ROLPHE had placed his vista thereon and although the Prefect had given an explanation of this case which was accepted, the matter had never been considered satisfactory.

(c) That in some recent correspondence over the removal of one ARISTA, of the Italian Public Safety Office, H.E. FERRARI at the Ministry of Public Safety in writing to the Questore recommends the removal of ARISTA on the ground that "he has been reported to be tied to the Communist Party, to the Tuscan Committee of National Liberation and to the Provincial Delegate for Epuration, EMILIO GABRIELE, persons who politically dominate FLORENCE in complete disagreement with the Prefect of FLORENCE, who for months has continued to hold his difficult and dangerous position only through the authoritative and benevolent support of the Allied Command."

5 Army consider that the words quoted above came from some report from FLORENCE and very much suspect that the Prefect is the originator, they therefore take grave exception to his attitude which is shown by the words underlined.

(d) That the Prefect is in disagreement with many of his Sindaci in the Provinces and particularly with those with Leftist tendencies: as an instance the case of PRATO is quoted, where a Communist is the Sindaco and is a man who carries out his duties efficiently. 5 Army feel that with the withdrawal of many of the AMG officers Provincial administration may well break down if their support is no longer there to assist the authorities at present in office in maintaining their position. In fact, it was suggested that there might be open disobedience by the Italian administrative authorities when AMG were thinner on the ground.

AMG 5 Army suggested the name of CALAMAN DREI as a possible

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3. AMG 5 Army suggested the name of CALAMAN DREI as a possible successor. They were not aware whether he would be prepared to take the job. His present position is that of Rector of the University of FLORENCE. His name was originally considered for the position of Sindaco of FLORENCE. He is a qualified lawyer.

4. The Director of the IGSC agreed that it did appear that it might be necessary to remove the Prefect, but he would like first to ascertain whether CALAMAN DREI was prepared to take the position before

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approaching the Italian Government. It was therefore agreed that an approach would be made to CALAMAN DREI confidentially by AMG 5 Army.

5. It was also agreed that the Director should discuss the matter with TUSCANA Region, who as yet were not informed of the proposals of 5 Army AMG, in order to get the views of the Regional Commissioner or his deputy.

#### PATRIOTS.

6. Visited the Patriot Centre in FLORENCE and made arrangements with Major SNEE, Captain LIBERT and Captain HAMMOND for the following day to attend the Patriot Course for Provincial Officers then in progress in FLORENCE.

April 13th.

#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

7. Visited MONTECATINI Regional Headquarters, TUSCANA Region, and discussed at length the question of the Prefect of FLORENCE with the Deputy Regional Commissioner as the R.C. was away from HQ in ELBA at the time. The Deputy R.C. gave his views as follows and confirmed the statement which he has signed:

(a) He is prepared to accept the 5 Army point of view with regard to CALAMAN DREI.

(b) If he (CALAMAN DREI) is not appointed he prefers to continue with the present incumbent for the moment rather than have an unknown man pushed in.

(c) If CALAMAN DREI is agreeable and acceptable to the Italian Government he has no objection to his appointment, but in view of the shortage of Provincial Commissioners and the reduction of AMG staff the Region has no objection to the present incumbent for a month or so. In fact this seems to be preferable.

#### PATRIOTS.

8. Visited the Patriot Centre at PESCIA at which the course for P.Cs and C.A.Os was visiting this day. All students were interested and made a thorough inspection of the whole organisation and the documentary system. The latter is highly satisfactory and well organised in this Centre. Pro Formas of the Registration system should be procured and supplied to all Regions. An Allied successor to the present Centre Commandant will be required by Captain LIBERT.

9. The Centre is at present overcrowded, mainly due to the fact that the ALAMANDO Band has some 500 Patriots resting there. As part of this Band is being used operationally and the remainder may also be so used, it appears that Rest Centres for this purpose should be organised by the operating unit and not AMG. The question of getting these men recruited to the Italian Army is urgent as their disposal in this manner will greatly relieve the congestion in the Centre.

10. The Convalescent Hospital attached to this Centre was visited. This was satisfactorily run. There are two Italian Army Doctors working there together with an Italian Red Cross contingent who are mixed with a number of Patriot women.

Medical supplies are just sufficient but some requirements are difficult or impossible to get.

(Action  
Patriots  
Branch)

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1390

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11. There is some shortage of clothing but this can be remedied as stocks have become available and have just arrived in FLORENCE. Action is required here to see that the flow of reconditioned salvaged clothing is kept up by the Priorities Board and Industry Sub-Commission.

(Action  
Patriots  
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12. The Leader of another Band in the Camp (FEDERICO) who had just

/ arrived

arrived, seemed an extremely good type and stated he was likely to be used operationally again in the near future. This is another case of operational units using the Welfare Centres as a Rest Camp. The conclusion from this day's visit to this Centre is that it is essential to reduce the numbers at present in occupation. Some recreation space could be used for accommodation - there is a good theatre which could be used as a dormitory.

#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

13. The SCAO 4 Corps was visited. The position of the Liaison Officer to be attached was discussed and the SCAO explained that he required the officer on the spot to give him advice and help over the appointment of Local Government Officials. He particularly wanted a man forward who could give the answers and the views of this Sub-Commission and the Italian Government in particular instances right away. He will call the officer forward when he is ready for him. The directives of C.A. Section were handed to SCAO personally.

#### PATRIOTS.

14. SCAO 4 Corps wished for some assistance over the matter of equipment of Patriot Centres and suggested if the equipment was not forthcoming then it was necessary to purchase locally any articles urgently required. There should be a limit placed on the amount spent.

15. He stated that PERTRUZZI of the Ministry of Occupied Italy, had allocated to him a mobile medical unit of the Italian Red Cross, which was to report at PESCIA.

#### MINE CLEARANCE.

16. On return to Florence the Director contacted Captain SHORT and discussed the progress being made by civilian units which is satisfactory. The question of the move forward was further discussed and it was discovered that the Italian reliefs to take over in TUSCANA Region had not yet arrived. Captain SHORT is ready to make a move into North West Italy with 4 Corps but he himself is attached to 5 Army from VENEZIA Region. He has agreed that it would be more satisfactory if he were attached to IV Corps.

#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

17. In the late evening Lt. Col. SUTHERLAND and Major MINORS visited the Director at his Hotel and explained that CALAMAN DREI was not prepared to accept the appointment of Prefect of FLORENCE. It was agreed that the Director of the LGSC should return to Rome at the earliest possible moment to discuss this matter with the VP, CAS., and that on Sunday two other nominees which 5 Army have in mind should be approached. They were:

- (i) ZOLI, ADONE - the present Vice Sindaco, and
- (ii) RAGGHIANTE - at present President of the C.T.L.N.

It was agreed that the Director should further discuss this matter with Col. RADICE, Provincial Commissioner, Florence.

14th April,

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14th April.

18. Visited Lt. Col. RADICE, who was strong in his opinion that the Prefect should be removed at the earliest opportunity. His opinions were the same as those set out in paragraph 1 of this report. He particularly stressed the Fascist outlook and bearing of PATERNO and the fact that he is at loggerheads with his Communal administrators. He agreed, however, that from a technical point of view, PATERNO is highly satisfactory.

PATRIOTS.

19. Visited AMT 15 Army Group and found that DOCAO wished the

/ Director

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Director to visit MASSA in APPUNIA as there were a considerable number of Patriots likely to be contacted in the next few days. It was therefore agreed that the Director, accompanied by Captain LIMBERT and Lt. Col. PERSELL, would visit MASSA and CARRARA the following day to discover the immediate situation.

20. Action taken: Rang AC, HQ, and explained the position as it then stood to the VP, Civil Affairs Section, who agreed that the matter of the Prefect could not be rushed and that the Director should proceed to MASSA as arranged.

21. Rang Major HEAKES and arranged that the Italian Mine Clearance personnel should be discussed with the Italian Government and forwarded to TUSCANA Region at the very earliest possible moment.

22. Rang Col. CRAIG, Patriots Branch, and arranged that the Italian Military Patriot Representative for BOLOGNA should be sent forward to report to Capt. LIMBERT forthwith.

#### PATRIOTS.

23. During the afternoon the Director visited the Patriot Centre at FLORENCE. This is not now so overcrowded as previously and the conditions can be described as satisfactory. Recreation accommodation has now been provided for, cooking arrangements seem adequate and food sufficient. Cleanliness is good, particularly so by Italian standards. The ADMS had visited this centre and was satisfied with its condition and approved of the new type of latrines that are now being constructed.

24. Discussed with Capt. LIMBERT and Capt. HAMMOND numerous items of detail over the running of Patriot Centres and the plans for Northern Italy. Among items discussed was the use of captured enemy vehicles, the use of transport from regional resources and the necessity for the early sending forward of Italian Military Patriot Representatives.

25. The Director returned in the afternoon to 15 Army Group H.Q. where the details of the visit for the following day were discussed and the general problem, with the DOCAO. It was agreed that setting up standing resident camps should be avoided if possible but the early setting up of an organisation for Patriot Offices was essential in order that welfare matters should be put in hand and Patriots returned to live at their homes, even if they are occupied in labour, production, or other useful work.

26. Visited Col. HEPE, Commanding OSS 15 Army Group, a long discussion on the matter of Patriots took place. The A.C. Patriot Directive was discussed and explained to Col. HEPE; he retained 6 copies for the use of his office. He did not wish the Director to address his morning conference of officers on this matter.

#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

27. Returned to AMG 5 Army and discussed the Prefect once again in the light of the Provincial Commissioner's remarks in the morning. Col. SUTHERLAND agreed that while he still objected to PATERNÒ he admitted that technically he was good and that he had managed to keep the balance between the interested parties in the Province.

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1308

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28. Called on SCAO 4 Corps where it was agreed that the Mobile Italian Red Cross Unit for assistance to Patriots, referred to in paragraph 15 should not be called forward immediately as on arrival it would be without transport. It would be better therefore to call it forward later to the exact destination at which it will be required. It is therefore to be at 48 hours notice.

Action  
Patriots  
Branch.

29. Patriots Branch confirmed on the telephone that the Unit is a 50 bedded Unit and that not less than 36 hours are needed to move it.

30. Proceeded to MASSA where 92 American Division was contacted. The situation concerning Patriots was investigated. A questionnaire had been prepared and a copy of the answers thereto is attached to this report as Appendix A. Patriots at this time are being used operationally therefore AMG is not yet called upon to handle them. 92 Division however stated that they anticipate within two or three days they will be releasing a number of the men, possibly as many as 200 at a time, and they will need controlling and assistance. It was therefore decided to get forward immediately the Italian Military Patriot Officer to assist the CAO MASSA in setting up a Patriot Office.

31. Band Leader PIETRO was interviewed, together with his interpreter, a doctor who had studied in America and speaks good English. The Band seemed well organized, well disciplined and extremely keen. On a visit to the CAO, MASSA, he was informed of 92 Division's intention in the matter. He was prepared to start working and would be glad of the assistance of an Italian Patriot Representative.

32. Captain LIBERT to take action and follow up this matter.

33. A visit was then paid to CARRARA, which is very little damaged and has been held by the Patriots without much interference from the enemy. They had in fact handed over a number of German prisoners when the town was entered by Allied troops. The town is undergoing steady shelling; shells falling at an average of every two minutes. All the inhabitants were confining themselves to their houses as appearance in the streets leads to mortar fire.

34. It was interesting to note that ALCOM vehicles of the 1st Truck Battalion were entering the town with supplies, they were, in fact, the only heavy vehicles seen North of MASSA.

#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

35. The Director returned to Florence in the evening and was informed by the Provincial Commissioner for FLORENCE that he had discussed the matter of the Prefect with RAGGIANTE, who had stated that he was of the opinion that it was most unwise to select a member of the CTIN for the Prefecture of FLORENCE. He considered that this action would result in a great disagreement among the CTIN which were working at the present moment in perfect harmony, but the Prime Minister if interviewed might have some other name to put up which the local AMG have not yet thought of and that this might prove a solution to the matter.

17th April.

#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT

36. Visited 5 Army and discussed the matter of the Prefect of Florence with Major MYNOES as both General HUME and Col. SUTHERLAND were not available. I expressed the view that I thought it unwise to make the change immediately as it appeared that 5 Army had no candidate to put forward and that it was unlikely that anybody put forward by the Italian Government would be more competent than the present incumbent and that, in fact, he carried out the job reasonably successfully and had maintained the balance between the various conflicting parties well.

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37. Major MYNORS was in agreement that no further action would be taken in ROME unless further requested by AMG 5 Army.

#### PATRIOTS.

38. Visited the Patriot Centre, FLORENCE, where I gave a short address to the new course for Provincial Officers which had commenced that morning and stressed the point that Patriot Welfare was of great importance, but that residential centres such as those that would be seen by the

/ Students

students at FLORENCE and PESCIA, should only be set up when vital necessity required and that the work generally should be done by establishing offices. The work of documentation, payment, etc. should be done through Italian Military Patriot Representatives.

39. Inspected the store of clothing for Patriots, which contains sufficient for immediate requirements: 1000 pairs of boots had just been received, together with a quantity of salvaged clothing, blankets and cooking utensils.



R.R. CRIPPS, Colonel.  
Director,  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUB COMMISSION.

18th April, 1945.

REPORT ON PARTISAN ACTIVITY

MASSA - CARRARA

1. Number of Partisans being used operationally  
at MASSA : 900  
at CARRARA : 400
2. Location of Partisan Centre  
at MASSA : Next to Municipio  
at CARRARA : Not regularized - at Municipio
3. Number of Partisans being fed  
at MASSA : 400  
at CARRARA : 400
4. What rations are being used  
at MASSA : Army - OSS  
at CARRARA : Army - OSS
5. What blankets and clothing have been issued  
at MASSA : OSS has issued  
at CARRARA : OSS has issued
6. What clothing and blankets are still available  
at MASSA : 50 sets of clothing (OSS)  
at CARRARA : " "
7. What clothing and blankets are available  
at FLORENCE : 3000 (Approx.)  
at PESCIA : ?
8. What Italian Partisan personnel are working  
at MASSA : Major Grazzini, AC  
at CARRARA : " "
9. What Allied Partisan personnel are working  
at MASSA : Capt. Blanas (OSS) Flt/Lt. Stott  
at CARRARA : Capt. Murray
10. What hospitalisation is provided at  
MASSA : Military  
CARRARA : Military
11. How many partisans are hospitalised  
at MASSA : Figures not available  
at CARRARA : " "
12. What evacuation is going on of Partisans  
at MASSA : None  
at CARRARA : None
13. Where are they being evacuated to
14. Any certificates, etc. issued ?  
at MASSA : No  
at CARRARA : No
15. If not, when ? When enemy are out of Apuania - or as 92nd Div releases individual groups from action.
16. Are Italian Partisan Officers paying gratuities ? Will do on arrival of

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16. Are Italian Partisan Officers paying gratuities? Will do on arrival of I.M.P.R. due in 2/3 days
17. What scale of payments are being made?

1385

4203

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION  
APO 394  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUB-COMMISSION.

Ext. 620

20th April, 1945.

Subject: Visit to 5 Army  
To: Local Government Sub-Commission.

The Director of the Local Government Sub-Commission has asked me to hand you the attached two copies of a report on his recent visit to 5 Army, and to request that you will take action as indicated.

*Paisiea Kenyon.*

Secretary to Col. R.R. Cripps.  
Director, Local Govt. Sub-Commission

*Pertinent extracts dealing with local govt. have already been taken from the report and put on the Florence file. With regard to action to be taken - the pref-ectural matter is to lie.*

*1384  
RR Temple, Major  
Director  
map 45*

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