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

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(3rd)

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785021

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(3rd)

ELECTIONS, A.C. POLICY
SEPT. 1945 - JUN. 1946

File	Date	Subject	Page
30 Oct.		CAS (11) Ref. VP's memo at p. 12 - a note on proportional representation re. in at p. 13 A. Copies with covering letter for signature are also submitted. <i>CLD</i>	12 13A
31 Oct.		CA Section (12) 1. I had a visit this morning from Capt. VEDMICH (Officer of the Russian Representative with AC); he wants information about Italian elections. 2. The information desired is as follows: - (a) What is the election system that will be used? (b) Who has the right (i) to vote (ii) to be elected? (c) What are the election districts? (d) How are the candidates nominated & by whom? (e) What are the policies of the chief parties towards the elections? (f) As to local elections, the same questions as above? (g) What local bodies are to be elected? (h) Could Col. SAVKO loan copies of the draft laws. 3. I told Capt. VEDMICH I'd like him to see my Director - that I expected Major Temple back to-day	

- (a) What is the right (i) to vote (ii) to be elected?
- (b) Who has the election districts?
- (c) What are the candidates nominated & by whom?
- (d) How are the candidates nominated & by whom?
- (e) What are the policies of the chief parties towards the elections?

4) As to local elections, the same questions as above.

(f) What local bodies are to be elected?

(g) Could Col. SAVKO have copies of the draft laws?

3. I told Capt. VEDMICH I'd like him to see my

Director - that I expected Major Temple back to-day

- & I would ask Major T. to telephone him. Capt.

V. was most anxious to have the info. not later

than Nov. 1.

4. Major Temple's plane is grounded & he will

not be back till about 16 hours on Nov. 1.

5. On the inside, I see no reason against giving the

info. desired (including copies of the draft laws).

Other than para. 2 (E) above. On the other hand, it

may be thought that any info. given should be given

to all members of the Advisory Council.

6. I certainly haven't the time to go preparing reports

for the Adv. Council. Neither have I the time to

go over the whole field, as para. 2 requires, although

an interpreter.

7. I could however send them copies of the draft

laws & tell them to post their questions until

they have read the documents. And I could get

copies of the drafts for the other members of the Adv.

Council if desired.

8. What orders, please?

9. I would like to see the other members of the Adv.

Council, to see the Director, to see S/C.

10. I would like to see the Director, to see S/C.

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MINUTE SHEET C

L. Galt

If you concur please mark the indicated notation
to page 7 to 14.

CAS
4007.1863
X-608

(7)

CAS

9

8 Oct. Ref. minutes ③ - ⑥ & 10.9, this S/C concurs in the addition suggested by Polads at minutes ④ & ⑤. Amended letter submitted herewith for signature accordingly (P)

R. A. Dimpfle, Major
Dir. 6. J. S/C

8

Ex. Comm.

Letter at 11 for signature by C.C. if approved. Polads have agreed to the letter. For the information of the C.C. the last letter written to the Minister of Foreign Affairs by the U.S. Ambassador is at Folio 4.

8/10 8/10 8/10
Man/Byader
V.P. E.A.S.

9

(Ch.) Commission

Ex. (over)

Letter at 11 in signature by C.C. if
 approved. Polads have agreed to the letter.
 For the information of the C.C. the last letter
 written to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of
 the U.S. Ambassador is at Folio 4.

8/10 8/10 8/10 8/10
 M. Carr/Sydney
 V.P. C.A.S.

9

Chad Commission

Submitted for signature. A strong letter
 setting forth the work done by your sub.
 & answering the combined

Com. for Lord Galt. & answer the
 Com. for Lord Galt. & answer the
 Com. for Lord Galt. & answer the

OCT 10 1950

11/50

DV (7/10)

C.A. Sec. (8/10)

11 signed and returned
 for dispatch. Copies have been
 made for cc and cc files
 11. Oct 45.

C.A. Sec. (8/10)

MINUTE SECRET 2.

86

Executive Director

at 9A is a draft of the proposed reply to ARA letter at Folio 7. It is to be observed that the letter of the Deputy US Political Adviser to G-5, ARHQ, at 7B is on somewhat similar lines to that sent by the US Ambassador to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, which is at Folio 4, and which, while it gives strong support to the representations made by the Allied Commission in respect of defects in the existing electoral system, in the concluding paragraph states that the holding of local elections should not be delayed by failure to enact promptly the necessary amending legislation.

There are two main reasons why the Government should not be allowed to continue to operate the system. First, the Government is not responsible for the system. Second, the Government is not responsible for the system.

It is understood that Deputy U.S. Postad's communication at 7B is a paraphrase of a call received from the State Dept. copy of which is set out at (A) here. Postad's name was seen in the draft at 9A.

McLure Bay
N. 50° 11' at 97° 47'.
Tel. Ext. 525
Oct. 15.

T. Peak (A)
Peak (B)

✓ May we leave your opinion on QA-ref also
min. 2. before submitting to Ex.-Comm, please.

AS 4/10

Exp. Cam.

Appearance of draft at 9A with
exception of para 7 which I believe
is not complete. It is well-known
that Admiral Stone has ^{on several occasions} urged the
Italian Govt to modify existing Italian
T. and A. to conform to the new and

3.

To: ~~Polat~~ (A)
 Policy (B)

May we have your opinion on 9A-ref also
 min. 2. before submitting to Ex-Comm, please.

BS 4/10

4.

Ex. Comm.

I approve of draft at 9A with
 exception of para 7 which I believe
 is not complete. It is well known
 that Admiral Stone has urged the
 Italian Govt to modify existing Italian
 electoral laws to assure a free and
 secret vote by the people. I feel that
 this ^{action} should be included as a sub-para
 (d) under 7.

(d) under 7.

L. W. ~~Wiley~~ Jones
 Pol. Ad (Am.) 4050-5/45

5.

I agree.

W. ~~Wiley~~ Jones
 Pol. Ad (Am.) 5/4/45

FILE

ATTACHMENT NO. 1

DATE

PAGE

3 Oct

CNS -

①

1. Herewith on pgs. 9 a redraft of letter to AFHQ for approval of CC in reply to them on pgs. 7, 7a, b, c.

2. Relevant papers have been put on this file, including letter of Amb. KIRK (pg. 3).

3. I discussed this whole matter with Polad (A) and he agreed with the contents of this redraft. He should see it in final form however. Polad (B) was unavailable; his views should be obtained also.

4. Maj. Palmieri indicated to me that it was apparent to him from listening to the discourse at the Forealta meetings that practically everyone is under the impression that elections can be held at once. The Italian people should know the real position. Perhaps this letter and the attached document will achieve this.

3. I discussed this matter with Polad (A) and he agreed with the contents of this redraft. He should see it in final form however. Polad (B) was unavailable; his views should be obtained also.

4. Maj. Palmieri indicated to me that it was apparent to him from listening to the discourse at the Comeneta meetings that practically everyone is under the impression that elections can be held at once. The Italian people should know the real position. Perhaps this letter and the attached document (fo. 8) will clarify our Grote's views also.

RK Temple, Maj
Dir.

4349

19 Feb 46 TO: Civil Affairs Section

I have been turning over in my mind the question as to what sort of observation of the forthcoming elections should be made by the officers of the Allied Commission. This is the first election in Italy after a long period under a totalitarian regime. It is obvious that both official and public opinion abroad are interested in seeing just how Italy will undergo its first democratic test. The Allied Commission and in particular my Sub Commission should follow as closely as possible the actual carrying out of the election, the functioning of the electoral machinery, and the behavior of the electors at the polling stations.

This raises the point as to what our role as observers shall be. Already a CLO has asked what he and his staff are to do during elections. The instructions to Liaison Officers contain the following paragraph:

"The Allied Governments are most anxious to promote free and secret elections and an essential preliminary is the preparation of a proper electoral list. Any points which affect these matters coming to the notice of Liaison Officers should be included in their monthly reports."

It is obvious that care must be taken lest any activity on the part of officers of the Commission be interpreted either as interference or as support to either the whole process or any side. The Italian electoral law permits only electors who present certificates of registration to enter the election halls. In fact, the Italian police and armed forces are forbidden to enter without being requested to do so by the President of the Election Board except in cases of disorders and rioting, when they may do so without such a request.

As observers, therefore, Allied Commission officers would be restricted simply to making a general tour of the polling stations and taking note of things from the outside thereof. They might be invited, however, by the President of the Election Board to stop inside and watch things for a short period of time.

I have been informed by the Head of the Electoral Service of the Ministry of Interior that he is going to submit to the Ministry

"The Allied Governments are most anxious to promote free and secret elections and an essential preliminary is the preparation of a proper electoral list. Any points which affect these matters coming to the notice of Liaison Officers should be included in their monthly reports."

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As observers, therefore, Allied Commission officers would be restricted simply to making a general tour of the polling stations and taking note of things from the outside thereof. They might be invited, however, by the President of the Election Board to step inside and watch things for a short period of time.

I have been informed by the Head of the Electoral Service of the Ministry of Interior that he is going to submit to the Ministry the proposition that inspectors general be appointed to generally supervise the carrying out of the election and to give advice and settle problems where necessary. If the plan were approved and inspectors general were appointed, they could collaborate with our Liaison Officers with respect to observing the trend of elections. Although each inspector general would have a certain area, presumably the same area in which he is now working in connection with the preparation of election lists, it might be also desirable to have several inspectors general who would be available to the officers of my Sub Commission for any assistance they might render.

I know the Italian Government will cooperate in any suggestion that might be made by us and perhaps might even invite us formally to observe the elections officially. Any official invitation is, of course, unnecessary inasmuch as we still have a general mission to see that the Italians exercise their democratic right of voting without being hampered in any way. I should like this matter to be considered by the Commission so that a policy be made as to the extent of our observation on elections.

*Ralph L. Tampley, Major
Dir. Gen. Govt. S.C.*

4348

36

EXTRACT FROM "IL TEMPO" OF
SATURDAY 22 JUNE 1946

L'Amm. Stone si congratula per l'ordine delle elezioni

Il Presidente del Consiglio
am. De Gasperi ha ricevuto te-
rì mattina a Palazzo Viminale
le, il Capo della Commissione
allesta, ammiraglio Stone. Il
colloquio è durato circa un
quarto d'ora. Al termine di

esso la Commissione alleata
ha diramato il seguente co-
municato:

L'Ammiraglio Ellery Stone
ha visitato il Presidente del
Consiglio questa mattina per
esprimere a nome del Gover-
no degli Stati Uniti e della
Gran Bretagna, le loro com-
gratulations per la maniera
ordinata con cui si sono svol-
te in Italia le prime libere
elezioni dopo il fascismo. Gli
Stati Uniti e la Gran Bretag-
na sono rimasti particolar-
mente impressionati del gran-
de numero di elettori che han-
no partecipato alle elezioni
dimostrando così consapevo-
li della responsabilità di co-
scia affidando in una demo-
cracia.

TRANSLATION

Ad. Stone congratulates for the order of the elections.

President of Council on. De Gasperi had yesterday received Admiral
Stone, Chief of the Allied Commission, at Palazzo Viminale. After a conversation
which lasted a quarter of an hour, AC issued the following communique:--
Admiral Ellery Stone has this morning visited the President of Council to
congratulate the orderly way with which the first free elections after the
fascism were carried out all over Italy. United States and Great Britain have
been particularly impressed for the great number of people who took part to the
polling showing themselves conscious of their responsibility of each citizen
in a democracy.

de numero di elettori che hanno partecipato alle elezioni dimostrandosi così consapevoli della responsabilità di ciascun cittadino in una democrazia.

TRANSLATION

Ad. Stone congratulates for the order of the elections.

President of Council on. De Gasperi had yesterday received Admiral Stone, Chief of the Allied Commission, at Palazzo Viminale. After a conversation which lasted a quarter of an hour, AC issued the following communique:-
Admiral Ellery Stone has this morning visited the President of Council to congratulate the orderly way with which the first free elections after the fascism were carried out all over Italy. United States and Great Britain have been particularly impressed for the great number of people who took part to the polling showing themselves conscious of their responsibility of each citizen in a democracy.

N.B. - The same paragraph carried by "Avanti", "Unità" & "Il Messaggero" (inter alia) of 22 June. "Unità" however, carries the additional headline "Final Denial for the Yellow Monarchist Press".

4347

35

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 794
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

Ref. 102/457/FRB

21 June 1946

Press Release - Immediate.

Rear Admiral Ellery V. Stone, USNR, Chief Commissioner of the Allied Commission, called on the President of the Council of Ministers today to express on behalf of the United States and British Governments their congratulations upon the orderly manner in which the first free elections since pre-fascist days have been carried out in Italy. The United States and British Governments have been particularly impressed by the large number of the electors who participated in the elections, thus demonstrating their appreciation of the responsibility of each citizen in a democracy.

Dist. A - B - C.

N.B. — On sight of the para. in the Italian Press of 22 June (see fo. 34) the above copy was obtained the same day from PRO & shown to VP, CA Section who retained a copy of the above communique.

For previous minutes relating to this, see file

AC/45/38/LG at minutes 15 - 20.

L.G. S/C

24/6/46.

[Signature]
Nay

4346

HEADQUARTERS ARMED COMMISSION

ATO 794

CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

CONFIDENTIAL

AC/45/A/LG.

SUBJECT: Stamping of Electoral Certificates
at the Recent Elections

20 June 1946

TO : (See Distribution below)

1. It would seem that it is being alleged to LGS and others that at recent elections, the voters' electoral certificates have been stamped by an official at the polling station with the "Republican stamp", before the voter goes into the polling booth to mark his ballot paper. The object of this procedure, it is alleged, is to be to persuade the voter that there is something official in this stamp so that he will vote for the somewhat similar emblem on the ballot paper, thus giving his vote for the Republic and not the Monarchy. Two such cases have been reported by GSOs in the last few days.

2. The stamp in question consists of a circular metal die $\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter which is impressed by means of an inkling pad. It contains in the centre a profile of a female head wearing a rural crown. Below the head is a 5-figure number and around the edge of the stamp are the words "Ministero dell'Interno-Servizio Elettorale".

3. This is not the "Republican stamp". It is the official stamp of the polling station. It is true that the design bears some resemblance to that of the Republican symbol on the ballot paper for the Referendum. The stamp in question however was designed and manufactured months before the Referendum was even decided upon and certainly before any thought was given to the Republican symbol.

4. The Italian Government made arrangements before the elections whereby voters who had to travel in order to vote could obtain a considerable reduction in fares. They were enabled to claim repayment of this reduction from the transport authorities upon giving proof that they had in fact voted. In order to furnish the voter with the necessary proof, the officials of the voting stations were instructed to put their official stamp upon the electoral certificate, after the elector had voted.

5. As there is this reasonable and proper explanation of the presence of the stamp on electoral certificates, it is considered improbable that the stamp would have been affixed before voting or that the officials of the polling station would have attempted to deceive the voter as to its meaning. It should be remembered that among the officials of the polling station are 3 "scrutatori"

2. The stamp in question consists of a circular design which is impressed by means of an ink pad. It contains in the center a profile of a fasces head wearing a mural crown. Below the head is a 5-figure number and around the edge of the stamp are the words "Ministero dell'Interno-Servizio Elettorale".

3. This is not the "Republican stamp". It is the official stamp of the polling station. It is true that the design bears some resemblance to that of the Republican symbol or the ballot paper for the referendum. The stamp in question however was designed and manufactured months before the referendum was even decided upon and certainly before any thought was given to the Republican symbol.

4. The Italian Government made arrangements before the elections whereby voters who had to travel in order to vote could obtain a considerable reduction in fares. They were enabled to claim repayment of this reduction from the transport authority upon giving proof that they had in fact voted. In order to furnish the voter with the necessary proof, the officials of the voting stations were instructed to put their official stamp upon the electoral certificate, after the elector had voted.

5. As there is this reasonable and proper explanation of the presence of the stamp on electoral certificates, it is considered improbable that the stamp would have been affixed before voting or that the officials of the polling station would have attempted to deceive the voter as to its meaning. It should be remembered that among the officials of the polling station are 8 "scrutatori" who are selected from all the competing parties with the very object of detecting and preventing attempts of this nature. As the fact stated above in paragraphs 3 and 4 should be known to every Italian who has voted, it is doubtful if the allegations described in paragraph 1 are being made in good faith.

6. This particular allegation has been dealt with somewhat fully because it is typical of numbers of similar allegations made to Local Government S/C both before and since the elections. To the officers of this S/C, with their detailed technical knowledge of the procedure, the inconsistency of these stories has been immediately apparent. LOS must treat any such allegations with the greatest possible caution.

4345

7. In the post-election period, EMO policy of the HQ continues to be one of strict non-intervention. Italian law has established adequate authorities to deal with all complaints and an adequate procedure for bringing complaints before those authorities. AC will take no action on any complaints submitted to its officials.

8. In pursuance of this policy, IGA will refuse to receive any documents which it may be tempted to deliver to them personally. If such documents are sent by post they will be merely filed and no action will be taken on them. IGA will discontinue the bringing of complaints to them, pointing out that no action will be taken on them and that the matter must be taken to the Italian authorities.

CCMR/04

DISTRIBUTION:

ALL AT CIMA
AC IO RMA
PC URM

CC
AC (6)
Polar A
Polar B
EHO

CA Section (10)
Recn. Section (15)

for information

M CARR
Brigadier
VP CA Section

MCARR
Brigadier
VP CA Section

SCRU/03

DEFINITION:

ADJ. GEN. 0153
ADJ. GEN. 0154
PT. 0155

CC

53 (6)

Poland A

Poland B

PSO

CA Section (10)

Sec. Section (15)

} for information

4344

43/H 33
TEXT OF AGREEMENT MODIFYING ITALIAN ARMISTICE REGIME

Whereas hostilities have ceased;

Whereas after the Armistice, Italian forces contributed to the war against Germany, Italy declared war on Germany as from 13 October 1943 and thereby became a co-belligerent against Germany;

Whereas the Armistice Terms have thereby become in part obsolete or have been superseded by events;

Whereas the Government of Italy has requested and the Governments of the United States, United Kingdom, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and France have agreed to a modification of the Armistice regime in the light of existing circumstances;

Accordingly, the afore-mentioned Governments have decided that the Armistice Terms shall be modified as follows, pending the coming into force of a Treaty of Peace.

.....

5. The Allied Commission is hereby abolished.

(a) A special section of Allied Force Headquarters under the orders of the Supreme Allied Commander, who will act as Chairman, shall be established to assume the control functions of supervision and direction of the Italian Armed Forces heretofore exercised by the Land, Navy and Air Force Sub-Commissions in the Allied Commission. This Section shall control the production of armaments.

(b) The employment and disposition of the Italian Navy shall remain as at present under the command and control of the Supreme Allied Commander.

(c) Pending the coming into force of a Treaty of Peace, Allied Military Government shall be continued under the Supreme (Allied) Commander, Mediterranean, in Venezia Giulia and in the Province of Udine.

.....

5. Simultaneously with the coming into force of the present agreement, further agreements shall be concluded between the United States and Italy, and between the United Kingdom and Italy, providing for the maintenance in Italy of Allied Forces under redeployment, and for the retention of the Allied Forces required for the Allied lines of communication to Austria.

..... 4343

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.....43.....

10. The Italian Government, in full recognition of the absolute and unhampered right of the people of Italy to choose by constitutional means the form of democratic government they desire, hereby renews its pledge to submit to the will of the people. To this end the Italian Government undertakes to provide through free elections for an expression of the popular will on the democratic forms of government to be chosen by the people, it being understood that the choice shall be decided by the majority of the popular vote, which shall be binding upon the present government and upon bodies constituted through such elections.

.....

12. The present agreement shall enter into force upon signature thereof by the President of the Council of Ministers of Italy, and by the Supreme Allied Commander in Italy duly authorized thereto by the Governments of the United States, United Kingdom, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and France and shall remain in force until superseded by other arrangements or until the coming into force of the Peace Treaty with Italy.

H5A

ALCOM

*Copy in file 45/B/3
(Int. Representation)*13 GIU. 1946
110030B*HB*

32

AFHQ Repeat TO CIO MILAN CIO NAPLES CIO PALERMO CIO LIVORNO
CIO TREVISO CIO GENOA CIO BOLOGNA CIO TURINO

3596

SECRET

SUBJECT IS REFERENDUM PD BY IMMEDIATE PRECEDING TELEGRAM COURT
OF CASSATION HAS PRODUCED INDECISIVE REPORT RESULT OF WHICH KING
HAS DECIDED NOT REPEAT NOT TO LEAVE ITALY BUT TO RETIRE TO COUNTRY
OUTSIDE ROME.

Local Post S/C.

Copies by Courier to: BRITISH EMBASSY
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Internal Distribution: Chief Commissioner
CA Section
Local Government S/C
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Float.

OPERATIONAL PRIORITY
OFFICE OF EX. COM.

(SGD) M.S. LUSH,
Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner



NOTE: This signal has been repeated to AMG 13 Corps,
AMG UDINE, AC CIO BARI, AC CIO BOLOGNA in ALCOM
Signal No. 3604 of 11 June.

4342

45 A

HEADLINE

APR

JUNE 101600 46H

ALCON MISSION OFFICERS VIGILY, BOLZANO, LEONORA, BARI,
LEONORA, ANG UDLER AND ANG T. DEVEN CORRE

SECRET

3592

PRIME MINISTER INFORMS ME THAT COURT OF CASSATION WILL MAKE
INTERIM REPORT ON THEIR STUDY OF REFERENDUM RESULTS AT ONE EIGHT
ZERO ZERO HOURS TODAY PD REPUBLIC MAY REPEAT MAY BE DECLARED
PROVISIONALLY IN EXISTENCE SUBJECT TO FINAL REPORT OF COURT WHICH
WILL BE MADE NOT LATER THAN JUNE ONE SEVEN PD DECISION IN THIS
RESPECT NOT DEFINITE PD

PARA TWO PD KING IS REPORTED IN ANY CASE TO BE LEAVING ROME
TOMORROW BY ITALIAN AIRCRAFT FROM STAMINO AIRFIELD ON DIRECT
FLIGHT TO LINDSEY

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o/s PRIORITY

343

M. S. LUSH
M. S. LUSH, BRIGADIER,
EXECUTIVE COMMISSIONER



4341

COPY

30

HQ ALCON FROM STONE

JUNE 8 1800 46B

AFHQ

3587

SECRET

MY IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING TELEGRAM THREE FIVE EIGHT SIX PD
THOSE WHO DOUBT VALIDITY ARGUE THAT THE MAJORITY MUST REFLECT OVER FIFTY
PER CENT OF THE NUMBER OF THOSE WHO VOTED AT POLLING BOOTHS REGARDLESS OF
WHETHER THEIR VOTES WERE DEEMED TECHNICALLY INVALID OR NOT PD THEREFORE
IF TWENTY SIX MILLION PAREN SAY PAREN PEOPLE RECORDED VOTES AND TWO MILLION
VOTES WERE FOUND TO BE TECHNICALLY INVALID IT WOULD BE ARGUED THAT IN ORDER TO
ACQUIRE MAJORITY EITHER REPUBLIC OR MONARCHY MUST OBTAIN OVER THIRTEEN MILLION
VOTES

DISTRIBUTION

RR EMBASSY
AM EMBASSY

OF PRIORITY

EX COMMISSIONERS

289

M.S. LUSH
Executive Commissioner.

4340

29

45A
COPY

JUNE 8 1700 46E

HQ ALCOM

ALCOM LIAISON OFFICER PALERMO SICILY

3585

UNCLASSIFIED

IT IS REPORTED THAT YOU HAVE RECEIVED DELEGATION AND ARE FORWARDING PETITIONS REGARDING IRREGULARITIES AT ELECTIONS PD ON NO ACCOUNT SHOULD THIS BE DONE PD YOU WILL REFRAIN FROM ANY ACTION CONNECTED WITH THE RESULTS AND MAKE IT PERFECTLY CLEAR THAT THESE ARE MATTERS FOR THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE IN SICILY BY THE HIGH COMMISSIONER PD ACK

Copy to: CA Sec
Local Govt

OF PRIORITY

EX COMMISSIONER

289

M. S. LUSH, BRIGADIER,
EXECUTIVE COMMISSIONER

4339

28

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
AFO 794
Office of the Executive Commissioner

Ref: 2806/EC

7 June 1946

Telephone Message received by Chief Staff Officer to Executive Commissioner from Allied Commission Chief Liaison Officer, PALERMO, at 1730 hrs, 7 June.

"Between 1430 and 1530 hrs on 7 June 1946 a crowd of about 300 monarchists protested outside the HQ at PALERMO against irregularities during the elections. After consulting the High Commissioner, I received a delegation of 6, who gave me 128 apparently irregular electoral certificates and other evidence. I am showing these to the High Commissioner and forwarding to you by 'plane tomorrow. The crowd went home peaceably and the police had no trouble."

/s/ M. W. HEND-SMITH

Chief Staff Officer,
To the Executive Commissioner.

DISTRIBUTION:

ACTION: Civil Affairs Section (2) (Local Govt Sub Commission)
Info: to (Public Safety Sub Commission)

INFO : Chief Commissioner

Executive Commissioner

4338

From the "GIORNALE D'ITALIA" of 3 April 1946

Nessuna inchiesta alleata sulle elezioni in Italia

Il Ministero dell'Interno comunica.

Alcuni giornali del pomeriggio hanno riportato la notizia diramata dall'Agenzia "L'Italia d'oggi" di una inchiesta che sarebbe stata promossa dalla Commissione alleata, trasferendo suoi

ufficiali sia al Ministero dell'Interno che in alcuni comuni, per indagare in ordine a denunce ad essa pervenute circa manipolazioni di schede ed atti di corruzione di elettori compiuti da partiti organizzati. L'anzidetta notizia, per quanto riguarda l'invio di ufficiali alleati presso il Ministero dell'Interno, è priva di qualsiasi fondamento, ed al Ministero nulla risulta di una inchiesta che la Commissione alleata starebbe svolgendo in argomento. Né sono giunte denunce di falsificazioni di schede o di atti di corruzione compiuti durante le recenti elezioni amministrative.

NO ALLIED INVESTIGATION ON THE ELECTIONS IN ITALY

The Ministry of the Interior communicates:

Some newspapers of the afternoon carry the news issued by the Agency "L'Italia d'oggi" about an investigation instituted by the Allied Commission, transferring some of its officers to the Ministry of the Interior and some Communes in order to investigate about certain denunciations concerning tampering with ballot papers and briberies to gain electors by organized parties. The above news, as regards the dispatch of Allied officers to the Ministry of Interior, is without foundation, nor does the Ministry of the Interior know about an investigation set up by the Allied Commission on this matter, nor were denunciations received concerning counterfeiting of ballots or briberies committed during recent administrative elections.

Handwritten note: The Allied Commission who said he did not know how this originated. 3 April 46

4337

26

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394

Civil Affairs Section

8th June 46.

46/15/A/13

Subject: - Election Voting Complaints.

To : - Office of the Executive Commissioner (5)
Economic Section (15)
C.A. Section (10)

Italians who have complaints in connection with the recent Elections are calling at this Headquarters and lodging them with officers with whom they are in some cases acquainted. As a result of interviews given these Italians are being directed to Local Government Sub-Commission.

These complaints must be lodged with the Italian Authorities who have laid down a procedure for considering complaints and irregularities.

Italians calling upon individual officers of this Headquarters must be informed that they should take the matter up with the Italian Authorities in accordance with the procedure prescribed by law. On no account will they be sent to Local Government Sub-Commission.

By Order of Rear-Admiral ELLERY W STONE.

H. GARR, Brigadier,
for Executive Commissioner.

4336

45A
C O P Y

25

HQ ALCOM FROM STONE

JUNE 8 1720 1463

AFHQ

ALCOM LIAISON OFFICERS SICILY, BOLZANO, LEGHORN, NARI, LIGURIA,
AMG UDINE, AMG VENEZIA GIULIA.

3586

SECRET

REFERENCE MY UNNUMBERED SIGNAL DATED FIFTH JUNE PD
 KING HAS NOT YET LEFT BECAUSE THERE IS DOUBT AS TO DATE OF OFFICIAL PROCLAMATION
 OF REPUBLIC WHICH IS DEPENDENT ON DECISION OF COURT OF CASSATION DECLARING
 REFERENDUM VALID PD OWING TO PROXIMITY OF VOTES CAST FOR MONARCHY AND REPUBLIC
 THEIR DECISION WILL PROBABLY NOT BE MADE UNTIL JUNE TENTH PD
 IN SOME ITALIAN CIRCLES THERE IS THOUGHT ~~WILL~~ TO BE POSSIBILITY OF DOUBT AS TO
 VALIDITY OF RESULT OF REFERENDUM PD COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETS THIS AFTERNOON TO
 DISCUSS MATTER PD I AM KEEPING IN CLOSE TOUCH AND WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED

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 BR Embassy

INTERNAL

C. Comm.
 AC Section
 Local Govt
 Eloat

OF Priority
 EX Commissioner

289

M.S. LUSH
 Executive Commissioner.

4335

24

45A

HEADQUARTERS ALCOM.

7 June 46

NAPLES LIVORNO BOLOGNA REGGIO PIEMONTE LOMBARDIA BOLZANO
 VENEZIA SICILY BARI FOR LIAISON OFFICERS.

3571

UNCLASSIFIED.

REPRESENTATIONS MAY HAVE BEEN RECEIVED BY YOU AND MAY CONTINUE TO
 COME FROM ITALIANS ALLEGING IRREGULARITIES IN THE CONDUCT OF
 ELECTIONS AND REQUESTING INTERVENTION OF ALLIED PERSONNEL STOP.

NO ACTION WILL BE TAKEN ON SUCH REPRESENTATION EXCEPT TO INFORM
 THE APPLICANTS THAT SUCH MATTERS MUST BE TAKEN UP WITH THE PROPER
 ITALIAN AUTHORITIES UNDER THE PROCEDURE PRESCRIBED BY THE ITALIAN
 ELECTORAL LAWS.

ROUTINE.

Civil Affairs Section.
 358. J.B.Reakes.Maj.

Samson E. Humphreys.
 CWO, USA
 ASS. ADJUT.

Copy to CC.
 E.C.
 Gen Sec.
 Local Govt S.C. ✓
 CA. Reakes

4334

23

HQ ALOOM

JUNE 18003 46B

8 JUN 1946

ALCOM LIAISON OFFICER PALERMO SICILY

5690

SECRET

REFERENCE YOUR TELEPHONE MESSAGE TO THIS HEADQUARTERS TODAY REGARDING
DEMONSTRATIONS PD ON NO ACCOUNT WILL YOU RECEIVE DELEGATION OR
CONNECT YOURSELF IN ANY WAY WITH APPARENT ELECTION IRREGULARITIES PD
ALL SUCH MATTERS MUST BE REFERRED TO HIGH COMMISSIONER OR PREFECT PD
ALLEGED IRREGULAR CERTIFICATES WILL NOT REPEAT NOT BE FORWARDED BY
YOU PD ATTENTION IS DRAWN TO THIS HQ SIGNAL THREE FIVE ONE EIGHT
OF FIVE JUNE PD ACK

Copy to: CA Sec
Local Govt. /

NOT FOR HQ FLOAT FILE.

OF PRIORITY

EX COMMISSIONER

289

H.S. LUSH, BRIGADIER
EXECUTIVE COMMISSIONER

4333

9268

22
H/S/A

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

Present : Minister ROMITA
Major TEMPLE, Director of Local Govt. S/O
Sgt. Antonio Nice, 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 functioned and to be able to see 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. STENO 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 SPERZA, 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 polling 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 embarrass-

28A

6. With regard to our liaison officers, I suggested that the Ministry might give instructions to the Inspectors General 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 ROMITA 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 ROMITA said he would xxxxxx be pleased to furnish us with such persons and kindly offered to submit to us a few names of Italian officials from which we would choose the persons we would like to cooperate with us for the above purpose.

R. R. Templemeyer

RAIMON R. TEMPLEMEYER, Major

Director

Local Government Sub Commission

any

we should appreciate learning if it was possible that anyone could
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
ROMITA said he would ~~xxxxxx~~ be pleased to furnish us with such persons and
kindly offered to submit to us a few names of Italian officials from which we
would choose the persons we would like to cooperate with us for the above purpose.

R. R. Temple

RAJAH R. TEMPLE, Major

Director

Local Government Sub Commission

an/

4331

Note of Interview - A.C. No. Local Govt. S/C

Present : Prof. GIANNINI of the Ministry for the Constitution
Dott. SPATAPORA of the Local Office Ministry Interior
Mayor SPATAPORA, Director Local Govt. S/C
Sgr. Arrigo Nino, Interpreting

DATE : 20 Feb 46

1. Prof. GIANNINI said he had come to talk on the question of the voting of prisoners of war, which had been raised at the Consulta by Consulatore Cingolani. He said he knew we had discussed this matter with Dott. SPATAPORA of the Electoral Service, Ministry of the Interior, some time way back in September and that he had read a report by Dott. SPATAPORA on the subject and wanted to have confirmation from us of the technical difficulties connected with the execution of any such plan to have the prisoners of war vote abroad.

2. Thereupon I read to Prof. GIANNINI the paragraph of our note of Interview with Dott. VINCENZI (Strano's substitute) concerning the subject and replied that as much as I had been in favor last September that some provision should be made to allow prisoners to vote, I could only repeat what I said then that it was a matter for the Italian Government to decide upon and that the Allied Commission would have been willing to help them in arranging facilities for this purpose. However in my view time was very limited and running short at present.

3. Dott. SPATAPORA said that in his opinion it would have been first of all necessary to find out whether under the existing international law prisoners could vote, whether their status of captivity could be reconciled with the franchise of voting. I replied that, save my contrary opinion that our Ambassadors could have on the subject, I believed that owing to the special status of co-belligerency enjoyed by Italy an agreement could eventually be reached between the powers concerned whereby Italian prisoners of war would be allowed to vote. But there still remained the technical difficulties to be overcome. These difficulties from the point of view of the Italian Government could be summarized as follows: a) lack of diplomatic representation abroad; b) time necessary to carry out the required procedures; c) lack of the necessary material. I told Prof. GIANNINI to have Dott. Vincenzi show him all the papers we furnished him in connection with the elections of American and British soldiers abroad, and get from them a clear idea of the difficulties that would have to be overcome in such brief a time. I reiterated that as far as Allied Commission was concerned we were willing to help but it was a matter on which only the Italian Government would have to decide.

4. I asked then what was the attitude of the Italian Government on the other part of the recommendation put forward by Consulatore Cingolani, i.e. the voting of the Italian prisoners of war. He said it was a very difficult

2. Thereupon I read to Prof. CINGOLANI the draft of the subject and replied that with Dott. VINCENZI (Strano's substitute) concerning the subject and replied that as much as I had been in favor last September that some provision should be made to allow prisoners to vote, I could only repeat what I said then that it was a matter for the Italian Government to decide upon and that the Allied Commission would have been willing to help them in arranging facilities for this purpose. However in my view time was very limited and running short a present.

3. Dott. SPATANGORA said that in his opinion it would have been first of all necessary to find out whether under the existing international law prisoners could vote, whether their status of captivity could be reconciled with the franchise of voting. I replied that, save my contrary opinion that our Ambassadors could have on the subject, I believed that owing to the special status of co-belligerency enjoyed by Italy an agreement could eventually be reached between the powers concerned whereby Italian prisoners of war would be allowed to vote. But there still remained the technical difficulties to be overcome. These difficulties from the point of view of the Italian Government could be summarized as follows: a) lack of diplomatic representation abroad; b) time necessary to carry out the required procedure; c) lack of the necessary material. I told Prof. CINGOLANI to have Dott. VINCENZI show him all the papers we furnished him in connection with the elections of American and British soldiers abroad, and get from them a clear idea of the difficulties that would have to be overcome in such brief a time. I reiterated that as far as Allied Commission was concerned we were willing to help but it was a matter on which only the Italian Government would have to decide.

4. I asked then what was the attitude of the Italian Government on the other part of the recommendation put forward by Consoliere Cingolani, i.e. the voting of the Italian nationals abroad. Dott. CINGOLANI said it was a very difficult question. He emphasized that they had not data available to ascertain how many Italian nationals were involved, who were still citizens, who had lost the Italian citizenship and who enjoyed double nationality. He pointed out that for instance there were only three Italian Consulates open at present in the United States, that most archives of former Consulates had been destroyed or were under reconstruction. Dott. SPATANGORA pointed out that probably there would have to be considered also the attitude of the Government of the countries where these Italians had made their homes. Anyhow, the whole matter of the voting of Italians abroad would in all probability be dropped by the Italian Government in view of the many difficulties and complications. To get a basis for a decision on this score, they had written to the "Direzione Generale degli Italiani all'estero" of the local Foreign Office to furnish them with the necessary data.

5. Coming back to the question of the voting of prisoners of war I told Prof. CINGOLANI that, having attended the meeting of the Consulta when this matter had been discussed, I understood from what speaker Michele had replied to the proposal of Cingolani that since the great majority of prisoners of war abroad would be back home by the middle of May, the only thing that could be done was to make

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provision for a speedy procedure for their registration in additional electoral lists and so enable them to vote. Capt. GIANNINI confirmed this. I suggested to my interviewers to find out the approximate number of prisoners of war who it is anticipated won't be back in time to vote.

R. L. Templeton

RALEIGH E. TEMPLETON
Major,
Director,
Local Government Sub Commission

a n/

2161

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

785021

4329

NO/15/2/46.

SUBJECT: Notes of interview - Ministry of the Interior.

DATE: 4 January 1946 - 11.00 hrs.

PRESENT: Dott. STRENO, Chief of the Electoral Service, Ministry of the Interior
Major R.A. Temple, Director Local Government V.C.

Capt. A.T. Cunningham, Executive Officer Local Government V.C.

Mrs. A. Rice, interpreting.

1. The Director explained to Dott. Streno 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 ~~would~~ be apparent to Mr. Streno during the course of the interview.

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

3. The Director then explained to Dott. Streno 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/O. 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. Streno 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. Streno said he appreciated this fully and would not mention the matter even to his own Minister. He would deal with it personally. He thanked us for the confidence which we had reposed in him.

5. Dott. Streno 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 Teste 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.L. 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.39 - 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 provinces into Electoral Sections and formation of Sectional Lists.

also

f) D.L.L. 22 April 1945 n.214 -

to allow for the different

5. 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 utilize 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.

6. Dott. Strano said he appreciated this fully and would not mention the matter even to his one Minister. He would deal with it personally. He thanked him for the confidence which he had reposed in him.

7. 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 list of the regulations contained in the following Italian laws:

- a) D.L.L. 20 September 1944 n. 247 - Compilation of Electoral Lists.
- b) D.L. 24 October 1944
- c) D.L.L. 1 February 1945 n. 25 - Extension of suffrage to women.
- d) D.L.L. 6 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 - *Atto*

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.

8. 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.

9. 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 entire copy of the draft Order.

4328

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- 2 -

8. The Director thanked Bett. 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 Bett. Strano in person by Mr. G. Chevalier at 5 o'clock the same evening.).
9. Bett. Strano then referred to the two source 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 source with the alterations marked in it. He mentioned that the source would probably be published in a special edition of the Official Gazette early next week.
10. The Director pointed out that this source would have to be implemented by AIG in Haine and said that we would study the source and see if it might be possible to implement it in Haine simultaneously with its publication in the Gazette officielle.
11. Bett. 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 Bett. Strano for his cooperation.

W. Cunningham Capt.

A.I. CUNNINGHAM

Captain

Executive Officer

Local Government Sub-Commission

410/50

W. Cunningham Capt.

E.I. CUNNINGHAM

Captain

Executive Officer

Local Government Lab Commission

4027

10/20

EXCERPT from the newspaper "AVANTI!" of 30 December 1945

PER EVITARE ALTRI RINVII

Una proposta di Nenni per le elezioni amministrative

Il Consiglio dei ministri di ieri si è occupato della proposta di Nenni per le elezioni amministrative.

Nenni ha proposto che si eviti l'attuale sistema di elezione dei sindaci e si passi a un sistema di elezione dei sindaci per liste.

Il Consiglio dei ministri ha approvato la proposta di Nenni.

La proposta di Nenni è stata accolta con favore dal Consiglio dei ministri.

Il Consiglio dei ministri ha deciso di approvare la proposta di Nenni.

La proposta di Nenni è stata accolta con favore dal Consiglio dei ministri.

Il Consiglio dei ministri ha deciso di approvare la proposta di Nenni.

La proposta di Nenni è stata accolta con favore dal Consiglio dei ministri.

Il Consiglio dei ministri ha deciso di approvare la proposta di Nenni.

TO AVOID OTHER POSTPONEMENTS

A PROPOSAL OF NENNI FOR THE ADMINISTRATIVE ELECTIONS.

Comrade Nenni has submitted the following proposal to the Council of Ministers of yesterday:

- 1- In the Communes, whose lists are approved within 15 January, elections shall take place on Sunday 17 February;
- 2- In the Communes where the list will be approved within 9 February, elections shall take place on Sunday 10 March;
- 3- On the date of 10 March the administrative elections will be suspended

TO AVOID OTHER POSTPONEMENTS

A PROPOSAL OF NENNI FOR THE ADMINISTRATIVE ELECTIVE MS.

Comrade Nenni has submitted the following proposal to the Council of Ministers of yesterday:

- 1- In the Communes, whose lists are approved within 15 January, elections shall take place on Sunday 17 February;
- 2- In the Communes where the list will be approved within 9 February, elections shall take place on Sunday 10 March;
- 3- On the date of 10 March the administrative elections will be suspended to be resumed after the elections for the Costituente which will take place on Sunday 5 May.
- 4- In order to expedite the compilation and the publication of the electoral lists, as regards the administrative elections as a departure from the existing provisions the following concessions will be allowed:
 - a) to substitute to the penal certificate a document issued by the local authorities of the Police and of the Carabinieri setting forth that the elector holds the requisites necessary to exercise the right of voting;
 - b) the cancellation from the lists of the fascists who have been deprived of the electoral rights in accordance with D.L. 26 April 1945, n. 149 and of Presidential Decree, 2 February 1945 (G.U. 15 February 1945, N. 20) may take place also after the publication of the list and not after the Sunday preceding the elections. A commission of three members appointed by the Prefect will gather and pass judgment on the denunciations formulated by the citizens.

4526

Excerpt from "Il Tempo" of 27 December 1945

18

2168

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IL CONSIGLIO DEI MINISTRI DI DOMANI LE ELEZIONI AMMINISTRATIVE SI SVOLGEREBBERO NEL MESE DI MARZO

Probabile rinvio delle elezioni per la Costituente - La sostituzione dei Prefetti e dei Questori politici designati dal C.L.N.

Oltre che dell'attuale crisi economica e finanziaria, che sarà completata nella seconda metà dell'anno, il Consiglio dei Ministri si occuperà della riforma dell'amministrazione pubblica, e della riforma dell'amministrazione locale. Il Consiglio dei Ministri si occuperà della riforma dell'amministrazione locale, e della riforma dell'amministrazione locale.

Non è improbabile che, allo scopo di stabilire un certo intervallo tra le consultazioni amministrative e quelle politiche, le elezioni per la Costituente abbiano un ritardo di qualche mese. In ogni caso, si appronta qualche soluzione a questo problema, anche per evitare la soluzione, anche per evitare la soluzione, anche per evitare la soluzione.

Nel prossimo Consiglio dei Ministri che avranno luogo dopo il trasferimento delle provincie dell'Italia settentrionale alla diretta amministrazione del Governo Italiano, si inizierà, in attuazione dell'accordo concluso su base militare, la sostituzione dei Prefetti e Questori politici designati dal C.L.N. con quelli di carriera. Nell'intento di assicurare la neutralità di tutela delle libertà politiche in materia di imparzialità da parte delle autorità governative, la sostituzione sarà condotta a termine prima che s'instauri la campagna elettorale vera e propria.

Il primo momento di Prefetti che avrà una certa importanza e riguarderà anche le elezioni del Nord, che, presa Milano, sarà effettuato.

non scaglierà nella stessa direzione del mese di marzo (10, 11, 12, 13) e che i comitati costituirà, in numero di circa tre, ad essere per primi ricostituiti su base elettorale. Le rispettive amministrazioni sono state, nelle varie regioni d'Italia, tra quelle grandi, medi e piccoli, che oltre ad avere le liste elettorali già pronte, hanno fornito del materiale necessario all'esecuzione del voto.

Non è improbabile che, allo scopo di stabilire un certo intervallo tra le consultazioni amministrative e quelle politiche, le elezioni per la Costituente abbiano un ritardo di qualche mese. In ogni caso, si appronta qualche soluzione a questo problema, anche per evitare la soluzione, anche per evitare la soluzione.

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4323

Commissione della Consilia e
legislativa, che, dopo la ses-
sione del Regno, sarà promul-
gato ufficialmente.

S'intende virtualmente, così,
il periodo delle competizioni
elettorali che vedrà, nel primo
momento, gli organi direttivi
dei partiti intesi a fissare la
linea di condotta da seguire
nei confronti delle altre forze
politiche.

Quando alla data, si assie-
ra che è intenzione del Presidente
del Consiglio di proporre ai
colleghi del Gabinetto che, in
relazione anche al miglior in-
teresse delle forze di polizia di-
spontibili, le elezioni si svolga-

no, le elezioni per la Costa-
lenta subentrano un ritorno di
appena qualche settimana e
questo alla fine di aprile, si
svolgono, anche per evitare la
coincidenza con le feste pas-
quali, il 3 o il 12 di maggio.

Nel prossimo Consiglio dei
Ministri che avranno luogo
dopo il trasferimento delle
proteste dell'Italia Settentrio-
nale alla diretta amministra-
zione del Governo italiano, si
inizierà, in attuazione dell'ac-
cordo concluso in seno alle
sarebbe, la sostituzione dei
Prefetti e Questori politici da
riforma del C.L.N. con quelli di
carriera. Nell'interesse di una
curia in materia di tutela
della libertà politica la mas-
sima imparzialità da parte
della autorità governativa, la
sostituzione sarà condotta a
termini prima che gli altri la
compagna elettorale vera e
propria.

Il primo movimento di pro-
fetti che avrà una certa qua-
lità e riguarderà anche po-
renchie del Nord, com-
presa Milano, sarà effettuato
nella prima settimana di gen-
naio.

In tale occasione si proce-
derà anche alla nomina del
nuovo Capo di Gabinetto del
Ministero dell'Interno in soste-
nimento del Prefetto Catendro-
ci, che sarà destinato ad al-
tro importante incarico.

Il Governo non esclude che
alcuni degli attuali reggenti
di Prefettura e Questure del
l'Italia Settentrionale possano
essere assorbiti nel quadri del-
l'amministrazione statale; ma
al di là di quella assoluta im-
portanza che gli organi sta-
tali sono tenuti ad osservare,
richiede che, diventando pre-
fetti e questori di carriera, i
nuovi nominati non solo si in-
tegrino a non far parte di
partiti politici ma accettino
anche, come condizione pre-
giudiziale, il trasferimento ad
altra sede.

Qualcuno dei prefetti politi-
ci attuali, come ad esempio
quello di Torino, Passoni, che
desidera portarsi candidato
nelle prossime elezioni politi-
che, ha già fatto conoscere al
Ministero dell'Interno la pro-
pria intenzione di lasciare lo
ufficio ricoperto.

EXCERPT FROM "IL TEMPO" of 27 December 1945.

THE ADMINISTRATIVE REORGANIZATION WOULD TAKE PLACE DURING THE MONTH OF MARCH.
Probable postponement of the elections for the Constituency.

.....As to the date, it is the intention of the President of the Council to propose to his Cabinet colleagues that, also in connection with a better use of the police forces available, the election should take place in instalments during the five Sundays of the month of March (3, 10, 17, 24, 31), and that the Communes, in number of about a thousand, to have first reconstructed on elective bases, their administrations be chosen in the various regions of Italy among those which besides having their electoral lists ready are supplied with the indispensable equipment of the electoral seats.

It is not improbable that, in order to establish a certain interval between the administrative elections and the political elections, the elections for the Constituent Assembly suffer a delay of a week or so and that instead of at the end of April, they take place on the 5th or 12th of May also to avoid a coincidence with the Easter Holidays.

During the next Councils of Ministers which will take place subsequent to the transfer of the provinces of Northern Italy to the direct administration of the Italian Government, there will begin the execution of the agreement reached with the esarchy regarding the substitution of the political Prefects and Questori with those designated by the CLN with those of career. In order to insure the greatest impartiality as far as protection of the political liberties is concerned on the part of the governmental authorities, the replacement in question will be carried out before the start of the electoral campaign.

The first movement of Prefects, which will be widespread will affect various prefectures of the North including Milan, will be effected in the first fortnight of January.

On this occasion a new Chief of Cabinet of the Ministry of the Interior will be nominated in substitution of Prefect Catennacci who will be assigned to other important office.

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.....

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Excerpt from "Avanti!" of 27 December 1945.

Dichiarazioni del ministro Romita sulla situazione interna e sulle elezioni

TORINO 26 (Ams) — Questa sera, alle ore 19, il Ministro dell'Interno Romita ha tenuto in Prefettura una conferenza ai rappresentanti della stampa cittadina.

Il Ministro ha anzitutto dichiarato di essere favorevole alla piena libertà di stampa, affermando di non avere egli stesso tutti i giornali per poter conoscere l'opinione pubblica di tutti i settori della vita cittadina. Egli ha raccomandato però a mass media obiettività e soprattutto la prudenza politica, molte volte in buona fede, pubblicazioni intempestive, le invettive intralciavano anziché favorire l'azione delle autorità.

Un altro problema che ha particolarmente interessato il Ministro è stato quello della fiducia nella moralità. A questo proposito, l'on. Romita ha dichiarato che la scelta delle notizie riguardanti la criminalità e la prostituzione è di gran lunga inferiore a quanto pubblicato da taluni giornali, specialmente per quanto ha attinenza alla tratta delle minoranze.

Ed all'invito alla prudenza in tale materia è stato deciso di fare tutto il possibile per salvaguardare la sanità morale del nostro popolo.

Nel quadro del neo fascismo, il Ministro ha affermato di essere strenuo sostenitore della pacificazione ma è convinto che essa non si può raggiungere se non si eliminano con ogni mezzo i tentativi illeciti di far finta di neutralità che non hanno ancora capito che il fascismo è stato ormai condannato dalla storia ed è la causa di tutti i mali della Nazione.

Infine il Ministro ha trattato il problema delle elezioni, dichiarando che purtroppo le difficoltà di organizzazione tecnica, sia al centro che alla periferia, hanno ritardato

l'attuazione del desiderio di tutti gli Italiani. Venerdì sarà approvata per il Consiglio dei Ministri la legge per le elezioni amministrative che sarà poi rapidamente spedita. Queste si svolgeranno per la metà circa dell'anno nel mese di marzo. Verranno poi scisse per dare inizio alla preparazione dei comizi elettorali e alla preparazione della legge elettorale per le elezioni politiche che avranno luogo il 28 aprile o nella prima settimana di maggio.

Il Ministro ha terminato facendo appello alla concordia di tutti i partiti di tutti i capi dei partiti, di tutti i comitati di liberazione nazionale perché lo aiutino nel suo arduo lavoro di ricostruzione morale dell'Italia.

.....Lastly the Minister has spoken of the problem of the elections, declaring that unfortunately difficulties of technical organization both at the center and at the periphery have delayed the carrying out of the desire of all I aliens. Friday night the Council of Ministers will consider a electoral law which will be rapidly applied.

.....Lastly the Minister has spoken of the problem of the elections, declaring that unfortunately difficulties of technical organization both at the center and at the periphery have delayed the carrying out of the desire of all Italians. Friday night the Council of Ministers will approve the administrative electoral law which will be rapidly applied. These elections will take place for half of Italy during the month of March. They will be then suspended to allow for the preparation of the electoral meetings for the political elections which will take place 30th April or during the first week of May.

3022

L'ASCHEDA DI STATO

Un nuovo governo è chiamato in causa, quella della dichiarazione preventiva delle candidature che diventa automaticamente necessaria ed è venuto in questione il problema del rimpatrio. Il passaggio all'indole del rimpatrio il consigliere Rino con alterne pause nei confronti della legge del 1913 come tempo si fossero per cui, senza ritardo che siano eletti, contro una ripartizione il maggior numero di voti e meglio dire, in un momento di crisi.

implied in this decision is also the one on the preventive declaration which renders automatically necessary.

have agreed for reasons of practical opportunity to apply it to the Communes of 10,000 inhabitants. After two pollings by nominal roll call the project has been approved.

As regards the assignment of a fifth of the seats to the minority in the elections of the majority system there has been an unanimous consent.

There came then under discussion the State Ballot Paper, which is not contemplated by the original Government project, but was later introduced by the Government itself by an amendment provoked by authoritative outside intervention.

The Giunta had decided not to accept in principle the amendment, leaving it to the Government the care of examining whether convenience of international order rendered its maintenance opportune. However the opportune observation made in the commission concerning the difficulty in which the poorer parties would find themselves if they had to provide themselves with the ballot papers in the present situation of the paper market, made some member of the Giunta go back from their previous advice and the ~~united~~ State ballot paper was approved.

Implied in this decision is also the one on the preventive declaration of the candidatures which becomes automatically necessary.

The question of the panachage was then discussed. An illimitate panachage, as proposed by Consultore Rizzo, or a step forward as compared the 1915 law, as proposed by Iuzvatto, so that taking for granted that candidates receiving the greatest number of votes should be elected in the order in which they get them, it should be established that candidates could not be chosen from all the lists but only within one list; or at least a compromise should be found whereby the substitutions with names of other lists could be effected within the limitation of a fifth. The debate centered around the issue of a panachage limited in scope or no panachage, and the former thesis supported by the speaker prevails in the end by eighteen votes against fourteen.

Other questions of lesser importance are easily liquidated and then the democristian Piccione raises the problem of the compulsory voting. Allied with him are the liberals. But the argument is a difficult one and the discussion is adjourned to today.

Trans. AN
21/13/45

Copy for Local Government Sub-Commission 15

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

Office of Political Adviser (A)

Subject: Joint Statement of October 13, 1943, concerning
Italian Co-Belligerency

To : Chief Commissioner.

With reference to your memorandum of October 29, 1945, enclosing a paraphrase of a telegram from the Department of State with respect to the powers and purposes of the Constituent Assembly, there is enclosed, in compliance with your request, a copy of the Joint Declaration of October 13, 1943, referred to therein.

J. Wesley Jones
Political Adviser (A)

Enclosure

Rome, November 1, 1945

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COPY

The following is a joint statement by the President of the United States, the Prime Minister of Great Britain, and the Prime Minister of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, re declaration of war by Italy against Germany:

The Governments of Great Britain, the United States and the Soviet Union acknowledge the position of the Royal Italian Government as stated by Marshal Badoglio and accept the active cooperation of the Italian nation and armed forces as a co-belligerent in the war against Germany. The military events since September eighth and the brutal maltreatment by the Germans of the Italian population, culminating in the Italian declaration of war against Germany have in fact made Italy a co-belligerent and the American, British and Soviet Governments will continue to work with the Italian Government on that basis. The three Governments acknowledge the Italian Government's pledge to submit to the will of the Italian people after the Germans have been driven from Italy, and it is understood that nothing can detract from the absolute and untrammelled right of the people of Italy by constitutional means to decide on the democratic form of government they will eventually have.

The relationship of co-belligerency between the Governments of Italy and the United Nations Governments cannot of itself affect the terms recently signed, which retain their full force and can only be adjusted by agreement between the Allied Governments in the light of the assistance which the Italian Government may be able to afford to the United Nations' cause.

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

Office of the Chief Commissioner

APO 394

30 OCT 1945

29 October 1945.

30 OCT 1945

MEMORANDUM TO: Executive Commissioner.
 Vice President, Civil Affairs Section.
 U.S. Political Advisor.
 British Political Advisor.
 Chief Legal Advisor.

There is forwarded herewith a paraphrase of a telegram which has been received from the Department of State with respect to the powers and purpose of the Constituent Assembly and which was sent in response to the Embassy's report of 6 September informing the Department of the views of the C.I.A. as expressed in his memorandum of 30 August.

It would be appreciated if the British or American Embassy could supply the Commission with a copy of the joint declaration of 13 October 1943.

/s/ Ellery M. Stone

ELLERY M. STONE
 Rear Admiral, USNR
 Chief Commissioner

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

Office of the Chief Commissioner

APO 394

30 OCT. 1945

29 October 1945.

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MEMORANDUM TO: Executive Commissioner.
 Vice President, Civil Affairs Section.
 U.S. Political Advisor.
 British Political Advisor.
 Chief Legal Advisor.

There is forwarded herewith a paraphrase of a telegram which has been received from the Department of State with respect to the powers and purpose of the Constituent Assembly and which was sent in response to the Embassy's report of 5 September informing the Department of the views of the C.L.A. as expressed in his memorandum of 30 August.

It would be appreciated if the British or American Embassy could supply the Commission with a copy of the joint declaration of 13 October 1943.

/s/ Ellery W. Stone

ELLEERY W. STONE
 Rear Admiral, USNR
 Chief Commissioner

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The opinion of the Chief Legal Adviser of the Allied Commission (Embassy's telegram of September 6) on the Constituent Assembly is not concurred in by the Department of State, whose view is that Italian constitutional law cannot determine the functions and nature of the assembly since constitutional law, strictly speaking, is based on statutes. The only legal government of Italy is the present one with ultimate law-making powers vested in the Council of Ministers and the Lieutenant General of the Realm. Except for self-imposed limitations and those arising from the instrument of surrender, the powers of the present Italian Government are without legal limits. The present Italian Government, having power to create the assembly, also has authority to limit the assembly to its fundamental task of framing a new constitution. The decree-law of June 25, 1944 (no. 151), did in fact do just this. But while, in broadest interpretation, Italian constitutional law might be understood to include Italian and foreign precedents for the assembly, the phrase "constituent assembly" as used in modern Italy has varied interpretations and there are hardly any relevant Italian precedents. The interpretation of "constituent assembly" as an organization which both creates a new constitution and governs the country is based on European precedents where break-downs of the previously existing legal regimes or revolutions occur, thus necessitating the two different functions of drafting a new constitution and of governing being performed by the assembly. Since a legal regime exists in Italy, competent to administer the country during the convocation of the assembly and also under obligations to the Allied Governments, the case of Italy is not parallel. The Constituent Assembly would have to confine itself to one task under a strict construction of decree-law no. 151 of June 25, 1944, which provides only for a new constitution to be drawn up by the Constituent Assembly and attributes no other functions to it. The decree-law contemplates the continuance of the Council of Ministers as the governing authority until a new Parliament is formed. The term "new Parliament" which is mentioned therein, means the Parliament to be created by the assembly. Furthermore, the joint declaration of October 13, 1943, which established the right of the Italian people to choose, by constitutional means, a democratic form of government, must provide the framework within which the institutional question will be solved, and this requires that there be observed legal continuity. Constitutional conventions, such as have been held in the United States, might be relevant foreign precedents for such procedure. Constitutional assemblies of this nature do not attempt to govern but confine themselves strictly to constitution-making.

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Since it is the opinion here that the pledges of the Allied Governments to the Italian people require continued efforts on the part of the Government of the United States to ensure that the new Italian state is established on democratic principles and to promote democratic processes in Italy, the British Government is being informed of the foregoing views looking forward to the initiation of discussions with the Italian Government on this subject. The Allied Commission should meanwhile be apprised informally of the Department's views.

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

AC/45/A/1G

Tel: 478706

SUBJECT: Elections.

30 October 1945

TO : Executive Commissioner.

1. Last week the Chief Commissioner requested a short note to be prepared upon the difference between voting for single-member constituencies and the proportional representation system in Italy, and the annexed note has been prepared by Local Government Sub Commission accordingly.

CC/15/pec

Copy to: Palad (A)
" (B)

M. GARR
Brigadier
VP CA Section

NR

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

APR 1944

LOCAL COMMISSION THE COMMISSION

REMARKS ON "Single-Member Constituencies" and Proportional Representation

"Single-member constituency" are those where the voters of a given area have to choose one representative only out of the various candidates. The Italian term for constituency or election district is "college" and single-member constituencies are called "unimember colleges". Here the electors of a constituency have to return 2 or more representatives, it is called a "multi-member constituency", or, in Italian phrase, a "multi-member college".

The time-honored method of evaluating the votes cast is to consider as elected the candidate or candidates who receive the highest number of votes. This is called the "majority system".

An objection commonly taken to the majority system is that the minority receives no representation. Under a two-party political system, such unrepresented minorities are often large. Here there are several political parties in the field, the sum of the unrepresented minorities in each constituency is almost certain to be a majority of the country as a whole.

To meet this last criticism, there are alternative methods of evaluating votes which are intended to give representation to minorities by proportioning the numbers of those elected to the votes cast. There are numerous devices and combinations of devices for effecting this purpose, but they are all classified as "proportional representation".

Any system of proportional representation pre-supposes multi-member constituencies. There can obviously be no question of apportioning seats if there is only one to be filled. Moreover, the larger the constituency, and the greater the number of seats assigned to each, the more accurately can the distribution of the seats in proportion to the votes cast be effected.

An elementary form of proportional representation was used in Italy for local elections under the 1919 law. The elector was only allowed to vote for one-fifth of the seats to be filled. Thus, if the General Council consisted of 20 members, the elector had only 4 votes. The idea is that thereby the majority party on the elected body should never have more than four-fifths of the seats and that the minority must get the other one-fifth. In practice, however, it has been found that a powerful party can capture all the seats by ingenious instructions to its supporters as to just which of its candidates to vote for at the various polling stations.

In the 1919 law for parliamentary elections a more truly proportional representation system was adopted--and one of the simplest. The constituencies were the provinces (or combined provinces) and they returned from 2 to 20 deputies each. The elector voted for the party's list of candidates, i.e., the elector voted for the party's list of candidates, i.e., the seats belonging to the

any system of proportional representation pre-supposes multi-member constituencies. There can obviously be no question of apportioning seats if there is only one to be filled. Moreover, the list, for the constitution, and the greater the number of seats assigned to each, the more accurately can the distribution of the seats in proportion to the votes be effected.

6. An elementary form of proportional representation was used in Italy for local elections under the 1911 law. The elector was only allowed to vote for one-fifth of the seats to be filled. Thus, if the General Council consisted of 20 members, the elector had only 4 votes. The idea is that thereby the majority party on the elected body should never have more than four-fifths of the seats and that the minority must get the other one-fifth. In practice, however, it has been found that a powerful party can capture all the seats by ingenious instructions to its supporters as to just which of its candidates to vote for at the various polling stations.

7. In the 1919 law for parliamentary elections a more truly proportional representation system was adopted--and one of the simplest. The constituencies were the provinces (or combined provinces) and they returned from 5 to 20 deputies each. The list system was adopted, i.e. the elector voted for the party's list of candidates and not for the individuals composing the list. The seats belonging to the constituency were then distributed among the parties in proportion to the votes given to the lists.

8. Having distributed the seats among the parties, it remained to be decided which of the candidates on a party's list were to fill its seats. For this purpose the voter was allowed, in addition to voting for the list, to express preference as to the candidates he would like to see elected and the party's candidates who received the highest number of preference votes were declared elected. The elector was not obliged to state a preference and if preference votes were not expressed then the order in which the candidates were named in the lists determined those who filled the seats. The elector had from 1 to 4 preference votes, according to the number of deputies assigned to his constituency.

9. This system, in essentials, is now suggested for (a) the Constituent Assembly elections and (b) local elections in counties of 3,000 or more inhabitants. For Counties of less than 3,000 people the "limited vote" of the 1911 law is proposed.

OGM/pec

Distribution:

Chief Commissioner

Exec. Commissioner

Filed (A)

(B)

10/10/1911

G. G. W. WILLIAMS, Major

Executive Officer

Local Government and Commission

45A RM-12
 ALLIED [REDACTED] COMMISSION
 INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM
 CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

SUBJECT:

FILE No. Tel. Rm. 545.

TO

Local Government Sub-Commission

27 Oct 1945

27 OCT 1945

In accordance with the conversation we had a day or so ago, will you please produce a short note for the information of the Chief Commissioner, explaining the difference between voting for single member constituencies and the proportional voting system so far as Italy is concerned.

This note need not go into details but should merely explain the difference on very broad lines.

hC
 M. G. R. Brig.,
 VP 64 Section.

43745

AC/45/A/LG

10 October 1945

SUBJECT: Italian Local Government Law of 1915.

TO : AFHQ (G-5)

1. I refer to your letter, reference G-5: 091.1 Italy, of 28 September, forwarding copies of the Deputy U. S. Political Adviser's letter of 10 September and the Deputy British Resident Minister's letter of 19 September, upon which you invite my comments.

2. My first comment is that the Allied Commission have been careful to refrain from taking "minor points" in its dealings with the Italian Government on this subject. The objections raised to the Law of 1915 relate to questions which, in my opinion, are fundamental to any democratic electoral system.

3. The criticisms made can be summarized as follows:

- (a) the law of 1915 makes no provision for an official ballot paper. The voter may use any piece of paper, provided it is white in colour and of a specified size. In practice, the political parties issue printed lists of their candidates and the voter has to obtain one of these in order to exercise his franchise;
- (b) There is no nomination of candidates prior to the voting. The voter therefore has no certain knowledge of those who are running for office and no opportunity to form a considered judgment upon their merits;
- (c) No provision is made for the control of political propaganda in the vicinity of the voting places. In view of the past history of Italian elections and the present state of the country, a provision of this kind is essential to ensure full liberty of choice to the Italian people.
- (d) The franchise is granted to officers of the armed forces, but denied to non-commissioned officers and men while actually serving--an indefensible instance of political privilege granted to a particular class.

4. These observations are approved by the United States Department of State, as has been pointed out in the letter of the Deputy U. S. Political Adviser, and the Government of the United Kingdom is in accord with the views of the United States Government. The Italian Government, however, has given

- 2 -

no indication of its policy on these points, although from a recent conversation with the Vice President of the Council of Ministers, Signor Mario BRASIO, it appears possible that the Council of Ministers may consider them in the near future.

5. The objection that insistence on these points is delaying the elections does not arise, since the Italian Government is not, in any case ready to hold elections, or likely to be for some time, for the following reasons:

- (a) Electoral Lists have not yet been completed, except in a small fraction of the total number of communes (actually only 6% of the lists, male and female, have been approved by Electoral Commissions);
- (b) The Italian Government have not yet decided what local bodies or officials are to be voted for by the electorate.

6. I enclose a copy of a report which was presented on 28 September 1945 to the Advisory Council for Italy which sets forth the position with regard to the holding of local and national elections in Italy.

7. The action taken by the Allied Commission, and by the Local Government Sub Commission in particular, in connection with local and national elections in Italy has been:

- (a) to endeavour to discover what are the intentions of the Italian Government;
- (b) to encourage the Italian Government to hold its elections at the earliest possible date;
- (c) to give assistance in the compilation of the Electoral Lists in Allied Military Government Territory;
- (d) to urge the Italian Government to modify existing Italian electoral laws so as to assure a free and secret vote by the people.

8. The unreadiness of the Italian Government to hold local elections is accordingly in no way attributable to the Allied Commission. In fact, I have many times urged the Italian Government to come to a decision on questions which must be settled before such elections can be held.

CGHS/pec

Copies for: Chief Commissioner
Exec. Commissioner
Polad (A)
" (B)

/s/ Ellery W. Stone

4312

ELDERY W. STONE
Rear Admiral, USNR
Chief Commissioner

6659

O 25/A

C. A. ~~Luc~~

11 B

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 512

NPS/cec

G-5: 091.1 Italy

6 October 1945

SUBJECT: Italian Local Government.

-9 OCT. 1945

TO : Headquarters, Allied Commission, APO 394.

p. 7 (vs/A)

Reference: Letter, subject and file as above, dated
25 September 1945. To 29 24/9.

1. Request information as to when a reply to above
cited letter can be expected.

For the Asst Chief of Staff, G-5:

Norman P. Seagrave
NORMAN P SEAGRAVE
Lt Colonel, G.S.C.

Reply sent. See FM

ms
4/10

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A 6-100-8-1945

20 Distribution as below.

- Doc. 1 Government Sub Combination

Chief Commissioner	AGC Commissioner - Naples
Exec. Commissioner	" " - Accon.
Point (a)	" " - Pini-Livorno
" (b)	SGO Portullaria (through District Officer, Palermo)
" (c)	" " " "
Legal Sec. Commission	" " " "

4310

DRAFT

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER

AC/45/A/LG

2 October 1945

SUBJECT: Italian Local Government Law of 1915

TO: AFHQ (G-5)

1. I refer to your letter, reference G-5: 091.1 Italy, of 25 September, forwarding copies of the Deputy U. S. Political Adviser's letter of 10 September and the ~~British~~ ^{British} Deputy Resident Minister's letter of 19 September, upon which you invite my comments.
2. My first comments is that the Allied Commission have been careful to refrain from taking "minor points" in its dealings with the Italian Government on this subject. The objections raised to the Law of 1915 relate to questions which, in my opinion, are fundamental to any democratic electoral system.
3. The criticisms made can be summarized as follows:
 - (a) the law of 1915 makes no provision for an official ballot paper. The voter may use any piece of paper, provided it is white in colour and of a specified size. In practice, the political parties issue printed lists of their candidates and the voter has to obtain one of these in order to exercise his franchise;
 - (b) There is no nomination of candidates prior to the voting.

2.

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3.

The criticisms made can be summarized as follows:

- (a) the law of 1915 makes no provision for an official ballot paper. The voter may use any piece of paper, provided it is white in colour and of a specified size. In practice, the political parties issue printed lists of their candidates and the voter has to obtain one of these in order to exercise his franchise;
- (b) There is no nomination of candidates prior to the voting. The voter therefore has no certain knowledge of those who are running for office and no opportunity to form a considered judgment upon their merits;
- (c) No provision is made for the control of political propaganda in the vicinity of the voting places. In view of the past history of Italian elections and the present state of the country, a provision of this kind is essential to ensure full liberty of choice to the Italian people.
- (d) The franchise is granted to officers of the armed forces,

/but denied....

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but denied to non-commissioned officers and men while actually serving - an indefensible instance of political privilege granted to a particular class.

4. These observations are approved by the United States Department of State, as has been pointed out in the letter of the ~~U.S.~~ Deputy U.S. Political Adviser, and the Government of the United Kingdom are in accord with the views of the United States Government. The Italian Government, however, have given no indication of their policy on these points, although from a recent conversation with the Vice President of the Council of Ministers, Signor Manlio Brosio, it appears possible that the Council of Ministers ^{will} consider ~~the points~~ in the near future.

5. The objection that insistence on these points is delaying the elections does not arise, since the Italian Government ~~are~~ not, in any case ready to hold elections, or likely to be for some time, for the following reasons:

(a) Electoral Lists have not yet been completed, except in a small fraction of the total number of communes (actually only 6% of the lists, male and female, have been approved by Electoral Commissions);

(b) The Italian Government have not yet decided what

the Council of Ministers, Signor Mario Brosio, it appears possible that the Council of Ministers will consider the points in the near future.

5. The objection that insistence on these points is delaying the elections does not arise, since the Italian Government are not, in any case ready to hold elections, or likely to be for some time, for the following reasons:

(a) Electoral Lists have not yet been completed, except in a small fraction of the total number of communes (actually only 6% of the lists, male and female, have been approved by Electoral Commissions);

(b) The Italian Government have not yet decided what local bodies or officials are to be voted for by the electorate.

2308

6. I enclose a copy of a report which was presented on 28 Sept 45 to the Advisory Council for Italy which sets forth the position with regard to the holding of local and national elections in Italy.

7. The action taken by the Allied Commission, and by the Local Government Sub-Commission in particular, ~~with regard to~~ Local and National Elections in Italy has been:

- (a) to endeavour to discover what are the intentions of the Italian Government;
- (b) to encourage the Italian Government to hold its elections at the earliest possible date;

/ (c).....

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3.

- c) to give assistance in the compilation of the Electoral Lists in Allied Military Government Territory.

8. The unreality of the Italian Government to hold local elections is accordingly in no way attributable to the Allied Commission. In fact, I have many times urged the Italian Government to come to a decision on ~~the~~ questions which must be settled before such elections can be held.

ELERY W. STONE
Rear Admiral, USNR
Chief Commissioner

Copies for: Chief Commissioner
Executive Commissioner
Polad (A)
Polad (B)

ELLERY W. STONE
Rear Admiral, USNR
Chief Commissioner

Copies for: Chief Commissioner
Executive Commissioner
Polad (A)
Polad (B)

4302

FASCIST ALLIED COMMISSION

APC 374

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COMMISSIONS

27 September 1943

SUBJECT: Background and Present Status of Plans for the Holding of Local and National Elections in Italy.

1. FASCIST SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT

The Fascist system of central and local government has been totally abolished. In the place of Fascist local authorities, the central democratic nation envisaged by the Fascist law of 1925 have been restored throughout Italy on an administrative basis. This system of local government is a temporary one, pending the reconstruction of elections. No elective national legislature is yet in existence.

Before election of central or local governments, the following preparations must be made:-

- (i) Every citizen has the right to vote must be defined;
- (ii) Registers of the electors must be prepared;
- (iii) The system of elective local authorities to be established must be determined;
- (iv) A procedure for voting for these local authorities must be laid down;
- (v) The procedure for voting for the national legislature must also be determined;
- (vi) The necessary machinery for the actual holding of the elections, e.g. booths, urns, stamps, voting places, etc., must be provided.

2. REGISTRATION

In Italy all Italian citizens, men and women, who have reached the age of 21 by 31 December 1943 are qualified to be registered. The law provides that certain persons who may not be registered, some of whom are lunatics, convicts, persons habitually receiving public assistance, persons sentenced to a number of specified crimes and persons found guilty of Fascist activity. The law also provides for the registration of officials of the former Fascist Party, but those persons convicted by regular courts for Fascist crimes and those declared to be subject to loss of civil rights by special provisions set up under Article 6 of Decree No. 159 as to persons against Fascism.

ILLINOIS GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1967
 5-70770-1

Total number of citations under the first classification	7,252
Total number of citations reported on by the Government	2,626
Number of lists which have been approved by Director	(3024-2)
Cumulative	349
	(20-4425)

2.1. Introduction

8A

offered for their improvement to the end that this bottle-neck be eliminated. Particularly, the Italian Government has approved a measure which will make it unnecessary for members of provincial councils or boards to be made up of the provincial or the central authorities. Since there is only 3% female constituency in the country it is felt that a record reserve in the police officer will be sufficient to in the case of women.

(c) Task of the Electoral Commission. Some delay has been incurred in the completion of the task of these commissions in the case of judicial personnel, but principally due to the delay on the part of the Criminal Court which to avoid the risk to the proper functioning with extension of local elections.

2. REVISION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT SYSTEM

The Italian Government has not yet decided what kind of elective local Italian and officials are to be set up. Obviously elections cannot be held until a date known when and what they are to vote for. In June 1945, the Ministry of the Interior published a project for this purpose. It envisaged the re-establishment of the elective communal and Provincial Councils provided for in the present local government law of 1915. The project is purely a technical study, submitted for consideration by the appropriate authorities in the Italian Government and is not necessarily the one that will ultimately be adopted, nor the only one to be considered. Any proposal for the establishment of local authorities has to be submitted for the opinion of the National Constitutive Assembly.

3. VOTING PROCEDURES FOR LOCAL ELECTIONS

The above-mentioned project also contains a procedure for voting at local elections likewise based on the local government law of 1915. The Italian Commission has made representation to the Italian Government, (both to the FORCET and PARTI Government) criticizing the method of voting as provided for in the Electoral Law of 1925 as unsuitable, and this law be amended. The points raised were:

- (i) No prior nomination of candidates is provided;
- (ii) No official printed ballot by the voter;
- (iii) No separate booth for voting at the polls;
- (iv) No provision for voting by soldiers and non-commissioned officers while on service, although this right is afforded officers.

No response has been received from the Italian Government with regard to these criticisms, although the Italian Commission has recently been informed by the Minister of the Constitution that the Italian Government is considering the

Project local government law of 1915. The project is merely a technical study, submitted for consideration by the appropriate authorities in the Italian Government and is not necessarily the one that will ultimately be adopted. The project will be considered. Key proposals for the establishment of local authority within the country for the opinion of the National Consultative Assembly.

10. VOTING PROCEDURE FOR LOCAL ELECTIONS

The above-mentioned project also contains a procedure for voting at local elections. It is likely that the local government law of 1915. The Italian Government has made representations to the Italian Government, (both to the Council and the Italian Government) criticizing the system of voting as provided for in the electoral law of 1915 and suggesting that this law be amended. The project is not yet decided.

- (1) No representation of minorities is provided.
- (11) No official printed ballot is provided.
- (111) No ballot box is provided for depositing the ballot.
- (12) No provision for voting in soldiers and conscripted officers while on service, although this right is afforded to all.

No response has been received from the Italian Government with regard to these criticisms, although the Italian Government has recently been informed by the Minister of the Consultative Assembly that the criticism would be considered for consideration by the Council of Ministers.

11. VOTING PROCEDURE FOR NATIONAL ELECTIONS

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No indication has been received from the Italian Government as to the voting procedure they propose to adopt for any national legislative body. The Minister for the Consultative Assembly has, however, established a Commission to study this subject and in particular the last project also has to national elections, and of 1919. Any law as to election for the national legislature will also have to be submitted for the opinion of the National Consultative Assembly.

12. PRIORITY OF LOCAL OR NATIONAL ELECTIONS

It should be noted that the Italian Government has not decided whether national elections will precede local or vice versa. However, it will be possible to hold local elections at various dates in parts of the country, particularly in Southern and Central Italy, have completed the necessary preparatory work. The holding of national elections, however, will necessarily be dependent upon the

completion of all necessary work in all parts of Italy. We also hope that the help which has been given to the Government in the past will be continued in the future. The Italian Government has been very helpful in the past and we hope that the same will be continued in the future.

13. REMARKS FOR THE RECORD

No difficulty is expected in connection with the proposed work. The Italian Government has been very helpful in the past and we hope that the same will be continued in the future. The Italian Government has been very helpful in the past and we hope that the same will be continued in the future.

14. REMARKS FOR THE RECORD

It is estimated that of the total population of 13,000,000 in the country, about 20,000,000 will be put on the Electoral Register of 1945. Of this, 15,000,000 are men. By way of comparison it may be noted that at the last General Election in 1921, the population was approximately 12,500,000 or 32% of the total population was registered and approximately 6,500,000 took part in the election. The list for 1945 is more than double the 1921 list. It is estimated that the first time some will have the right to vote.

W. S. Giffes
Colonel
Director
Local Government and Social Affairs

W.S.G./2202

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27 SEP 1945

SECRET

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 512

G-5: 091.1 Italy

25 September 1945

SUBJECT: Italian Local Government.

27 SET 1945

TO : Headquarters, Allied Commission, APO 394.
(Attn: Chief Commissioner).

Attached hereto is a copy of a memorandum received from the U.S. Political Advisor, AFHQ, and also one from the Deputy Resident Minister (Br). May I have your comments in relation thereto.



A. L. HAMBLEN
Brigadier General, G.S.C.
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-5

Incls:

cy memo fr
USPOLAD dtd 10
Sep 45.
cy memo fr Dy Res
Min dtd 19 Sept 45, Ref:
150/9/3.

SECRET

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ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 512

G-5: 091.1 Italy

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SUBJECT: Italian Local Government.

TO : Headquarters, Allied Commission, APO 394.
(Attn: Chief Commissioner).

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A. L. HAMBLIN
Brigadier General, G.S.C.
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-5

Incls:

cy memo fr
USPOLAD dtd 10
Sep 45.
cy memo fr Dy Res
Min dtd 19 Sept 45, Ref:
150/9/3.



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UNITED STATES POLITICAL ADVISER

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS

September 10, 1945

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff
G-5 AFHQ

SUBJECT: Italian local government -- law of 1915

This office has been advised that the Department of State, while concurring in the objections and observations of the Allied Commission Local Government Sub-Commission regarding Italian Government Law of 1915, feels also that the Sub-Commission should speedily conclude its negotiations with Italian officials to avoid any impression that the Allied Governments are responsible for additional delays in holding local elections. Therefore, while the Italian Law of 1915 may not be entirely satisfactory, the Department would prefer to overlook defects pointed out by the Sub-Commission rather than have the elections held up by disputes over minor points. The present law is not a permanent measure, but one which will be used only for the period prior to decisions on local government by a constituent assembly, and the Department considers it a matter of urgency that the Italian Government proceed with local elections in regions where electoral lists are complete.

The Department of State, is, therefore, of the opinion that AFHQ should urge the Allied Commission to have the matter of a project for local government cleared up at once. The Department also recommends that if Italian officials prefer to leave the problem to a constituent assembly, Allied Commission should make recommendations for consideration in drafting of future permanent law on local government.

/s/ C. Offie
/t/ C. OFFIE
Deputy U.S. Political Adviser



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OFFICE OF THE RESIDENT MINISTER
CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN,
A.F.H.Q.,
C.M.F.

150/9/3.

19th September, 1945.

To: Assistant Chief of Staff,
G-5.

From: Deputy Resident Minister

Subject: Italian Local Government.

Reference your memorandum of the 15th September on the above subject. His Majesty's Ambassador to Rome is at the moment in London discussing at the Foreign Office the whole question of elections in Italy.

2. According to present information the Foreign Office agree that local elections in Italy should take place at the earliest possible opportunity but that under the circumstances it may be advisable to postpone the holding of national elections until next year.

/s/ Philip Broad

4301

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6

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. BONOMIA 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 had 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 with the Council of Ministers. It would then 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 had 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/pec

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.



Distribution:

CA Section
AC/45/A/LG
AC/45/B/LG
Float

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5

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND CONSTITUTION

AC/1/27/45

Tel: 473190

SUBJECT: Interview with BONHO, Minister for the Constitution--
24 September 1945

Notes for VP CA Section
I - Background

1. 27 Feb. - BONHO 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 - BONHO 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 BONHO mentioned:-

- (d) disfranchisement of GIs 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 BONHO, specifying the 4 principal defects in the 1915 law.

27 July - reminders sent; but no answer has been received.
29 August

3. In the 5 months since BONHO'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 ⁴²⁵⁸ 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.

(d) On 12 September, the acting Head, Electoral Service, Ministry of the Interior, stated in an interview:-

- 2 -

- (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 BORGHI, i.e. do the Govt. intend to take any cognizance of AC criticisms of the 1915 law?

6. It is possible BORGHI does not know of the correspondence with BORGHI and PARRI. Neither PARRI's Secretary (VARENO) nor the Acting Head of the Electoral Service (VICENZI) know of it: copies were sent these officials on 5 September.

7. The interview might therefore begin on a broader basis. BORGHI 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 BORGHI know of the AC criticisms of the 1915 law?
- (e) Will the Govt. send the "Blue Book" accordingly?

GW

24 SEP 1945

CGR/pec

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

Distribution:

VP CA Section
Director, LG S/C
Major Williams
45/A—
45/B
Plout

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4

Copy for Admiral Stone

Rome, September 15, 1945

My dear Mr. Minister,

I refer to Admiral Stone's letter of July 7, 1945, to the President of the Council of Ministers recommending that the basic Italian electoral laws be amended in certain respects to ensure the possibility of holding an independent, free and secret vote in Italy. Certain of the more glaring defects of the Italian electoral law were pointed out. I understand that the Chief Commissioner has not received any assurances from Professor Parri that the Italian Government intends to enact the necessary legislation.

I have been instructed by my Government to support in the fullest possible manner the Chief Commissioner's previous representations to Signor Bonomi and to Professor Parri on this subject and to urge upon the Italian Government early and serious consideration of the defects in the existing electoral system. My Government has particularly stressed the desirability of

- 1) providing for the control of electioneering at the polling places;
- 2) making adequate provision for formal nomination of candidates prior to the voting;
- 3) making provision for official ballots to be furnished by the local or national government (depending upon the type of election);
- 4) Permitting non-commissioned officers and soldiers of the Italian army, as well as officers and members of any other military corps in the service of the State, to vote.

The Honorable
Alcide de Gasperi,
Minister for Foreign Affairs,
Rome.

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- 2 -

In this connection I should like to recall my conversation with you on August 24, after I had been received by the Prime Minister, in which I expressed the earnest hope of the Government of the United States that communal elections will have been held throughout Italian metropolitan territory before the end of this year, and to refer to my personal letter to you of September 11 containing further observations of my Government in regard to the desirability of beginning to hold immediately administrative elections in Italy. While my Government is of the opinion that a modification of the Italian electoral system along the lines described above is highly desirable, it does not consider that the holding of local elections should be delayed by failure to enact promptly the necessary amending legislations. It is the view of the United States Government that, as I have had occasion to point out previously to you and to the Prime Minister, the Italian Government should begin immediately to prove to the world that Italy is a democratic nation where the normal democratic processes, expressed in local elections, exist.

Sincerely yours,

Kerk

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The Government of the United States desires to reiterate its views that administrative elections demonstrate the workability of electoral machinery and, therefore, in the opinion of the Government of the United States should commence at once and should precede national elections. Furthermore, the arguments sighted for the postponement of elections have not impressed the Government of the United States.³ It is felt that a Government which insists upon its democratic character should take the initial step of seeing that at least local officials in some sections of the nation should have achieved their powers through election by their fellow citizens. Likewise, no reason is seen why local elections in such communes as were first returned to the administration of the Italian Government should be further postponed, while the Council of Ministers is debating the question of first holding national elections. It is noted in addition that the law for the Constituent Assembly is still being discussed, and that therefore the national elections could not be held immediately, while on the other hand local elections in some of the communes could begin at once, and it would thus seem most desirable to begin holding these local elections immediately in the light of the many previous statements on this subject by the Italian Government. In this connection, it is finally noted that if the decision is later taken that the national elections should be held at once, a suspension of local elections would be possible until such time as national balloting might be completed.

The Government of the United States, in conclusion, will watch with interest the steps taken by the Italian Government with regard to this matter.

³ On August 24th the President of the Council of Ministers informed the American Ambassador that the Italian Government has not as yet been able to reach an agreement as to when the elections should be held and also indicated the danger of local uprising and Government crises during the elections.

45/A
 THE FOREIGN SERVICE
 OF THE
 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

3
 1 SEP 1945
 2 SEP 1945
 AMERICAN EMBASSY

Rome, September 7, 1945

Dear Admiral Stone,

I have received official instructions from my Government concerning elections and electoral procedure in Italy which will be of interest to the Allied Commission.

On the assumption that the Italian Government will proceed with its plans for electoral lists for communal and provincial elections and will hold such elections at an early date, my Government is of the opinion that the Italian Government should be permitted to hold elections anywhere in Italy whenever it is ready, provided, however, that in those areas where Allied Military Government is to be maintained, pending the official settlement of frontier questions, local elections, must not be permitted to interfere with Allied Military Government administration.

My Government is of the opinion that the Allied Commission, operating through its Local Government Subcommittee, should continue its function of rendering advice to the Italian Government to ensure that the procedure in local elections is fair, free and democratic, and, furthermore, that the Allied Commission should renew to the present Government of Italy the suggestions made earlier to the former government that the basic electoral law of 1915 be so modified as to provide for 1) adequate provision for nomination of candidates prior to the voting; 2) control of the electioneering of the polling places; and 3) the supplying of official ballots. Within these recommendations, however, it is felt that the Allied Commission should not insist on changes so elaborate that they would tend to place an excessive burden on the smaller communes and that the Allied Commission should be receptive to such views as may be expressed by Italian officials regarding Italian experience in democratic procedures in local elections.

It is the desire of the Government of the United States that local elections be held as soon as possible and, although we must insist that the procedure be fair, free and democratic, technical objections to minor details should not be permitted to delay the calling of these elections. In any case it is probable that the procedure followed in the first elections in Italy will be subject to subsequent revision.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ A. Kirk

CC DIST:
 Executive Commissioner
 Civil Affairs Section (2)
 CC Files

*This ltr has been
 acknowledged by CC.*

4283

7105/LG

SEP 1945

2806/10.

1. September 1945

- 4 OCT 1945

Chief Commissioner.

1. In your aide memoire of 13th June you recommended the retention of five divisions of Allied troops whose role "at all times" and especially during the election period would be as representatives of the democracies. In your letter of 23rd June you repeated the recommendation stating that they should be used as a last resort to prevent the imposition of undemocratic methods by force. In the same letter you stressed the duty of the Allies in educating the minds of Italians towards a democratic way of life. At the Regional Commissioners' meeting of 30th June you stated that careful consideration would be given to the views of the Regional Commissioner, Lombardy Region who urged that a statement should be issued by US and UK Governments which would state definitely and publicly that the US and UK Governments were prepared to do all in their power to see that the elections were free. You will remember that Colonel Poletti thought that with the backing of this statement even a relatively small number of mobile troops would go a long way to raise the morale of the Italian police agencies and would help the Italians to follow true democratic procedure at the polling booths.

2. I submit that the time has now come when we must decide whether we should follow up these recommendations, and if so, how. At your Executive Commissioner's meeting this morning, Colonel Benmore voiced, what I think is a feeling among many officers, and certainly is shared by myself, that we as representatives of democracy must do all we can to see that the Italian people have a free opportunity to express their wishes and that Italians should know that we Allies are not only interested but intend to do all we can to ensure it.

3. I think that we should follow up Colonel Poletti's recommendation and ask the US and UK Governments to issue a statement and that we should ask ARHQ to implement such a declaration with the Allied troops at their command (a) by taking an active and sympathetic part in the training and rehabilitation of the CC.BR and police agencies, and (b) by explaining to them the situation in Italy particularly with regard to the elections and the role which (according to our recommendations) they have to play in the country. We should make it clear that we do not ask that Allied troops should function as policemen before or on polling day but should repeat the argument of the psychological value of troops, a value which will be enhanced if they have knowledge of the situation.

4. A further matter in which a decision is needed is the action now to be taken vis a vis the Italian Government in the light of their failure to reply to or act on our letter and constant reminders to Bonomi (27 February) and Farri (7th July and 29th August) with regard to electoral laws. The 1915 law which affects central elections is very unsuitable. The 1912 and 1919 laws which affect the national election are less noxious, and we have not yet

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against them. We do not know if the Italian Government intends to use the latter laws. Constant verbal pressure has also been maintained on the Italian Government without success. Has the time arrived for the Allied Governments, urged by the Embassies, to take up the matter? While in process of framing the Peace Treaty they must be fully acquainted with the situation about the elections, and it might be politic to bring pressure on the Italian Government in connection with the Peace Treaty.

5. On the general score of educative publicity I believe that we should take more initiative and that P.R.O. should, by frequent and regular meetings with press attaches of both Embassies, ensure that your recommendations are being implemented.

6. I would suggest this be discussed at your political meeting tomorrow.

MSL/JU.

MSL
Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

Copy to: Polad (A)
Polad (B)
CA SECTION

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MRL/JG.

M.S.L.
Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

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20 28/10

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUB COMMISSION

6 SEPT 1945
Tel: 470107

AG/45/A/LG

SUBJECT: Preparation of electoral lists. - *Prov. Commissions under*
art. 8, D.L. 159
TO : The Minister of Interior
Electoral Service.

F15306 45/A 2nd jacket

Enclosed is a copy of the circular sent to Provincial
Commissioners in AG territory with attached orders for your information.

FOR THE DIRECTOR:

KRT

RALPH R. TEMPLER,
Major,
Deputy Director,
Local Government Sub-Commission.

RUT/pgw.

Enc. 1

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