

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

ACC

10000/141/794

ALLEGED ELECT
PROVINCE
NOV., DEC. 1945

10000/141/794

ALLEGED ELECTIONS HELD BY AMG IN BELLUNO
PROVINCE
NOV., DEC. 1945

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

FILE

DATE

MINUTES SHEET NO.

PAGE

28 Dec

CAS

N. P. Delaney

30/10/71

1-4

1. Reference your inter-office memo (40.5), I noted the item in the 15 Nov. issue of "AVANTI" and wrote to the RC for information. (Folios 1 to 4). On receipt of the letter (40.4) I wrote Minute ① which Col. White saw and with which he was in agreement.

R. R. Temple, Major
Dir. Hq. S/C

4510

FILE

48/30

DATE

MINUTE SHEET NO. 1

PAGE

7 Dec

CAS -

①

1. Reference your request for my views on fo. 4. There is little to say chiefly because so much is left undaid by the RC as to what actually took place. We don't know what form the "plan of asking the heads of families to advise him" took. The RC merely states "it was not an election properly so called". What was it then?

2. However we have the RC's assurance that "the method adopted was merely intended as a guide to the PC to make a choice which remained his responsibility". That may be pure rationalization to cover up a situation. The directives heretofore issued by this HQ indicate that elections are not to be held but a PC may secure all the advice he wants to enable him to make a choice for the appointment of officials.

3. I doubt whether we can hope to get any further information from the PC except through personal conversation or - heaven forbid - D/Os. A statement

4909

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3. I doubt whether we can hope to get any further information from the PC except through personal conversation or - heaven forbid - D/Os. I suggest we call it a day.

R/L Temple, Major
Dir. Sec. Gen. S/C

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I capifamiglia di Belluno votano per i comunisti

BELLUNO, 19. — Un curioso esperimento elettorale ha avuto luogo in questi giorni nella provincia di Belluno. Per iniziativa della Democrazia Cristiana e con il suo consenso ed incoraggiamento delle autorità militari alleate in 20 comuni si è proceduto alle elezioni amministrative di carattere provvisorio a cui hanno preso parte i soli capifamiglia. Questo primo saggio elettorale destinato, secondo le speranze dei suoi promotori, a segnare una sconfitta dei partiti democratici e la fine del potere locale del C.L.N. si è concluso con una grossa sorpresa per la reazione. Su 20 comuni in cui si sono svolte le elezioni il Partito Comunista si è classificato primo conquistando il maggior numero di voti.

I risultati possono essere riassunti in poche cifre:

	Sindaci	Assessori
Partito Comunista	6	24
Partito Socialista	3	24
Democrazia Cristiana	5	8
Partito d'Azione	1	4
Partito Liberale	1	—
Apolitici	4	13

Non poco vi sarebbe da dire su serie manovre elettorali che hanno caratterizzato questo esperimento locale.

Ma il risultato è già di per sé abbastanza sintomatico, anche se non esprime in pieno la volontà ancor più nettamente democratica degli elettori.

HEADS OF FAMILIES OF BELLUNO VOTE COMMUNIST.

A curious electoral experiment was taken place lately in the province of Belluno. On initiative of the "Democrazia Cristiana" and with the warm consent and support of the Allied Military authorities, administrative elections of temporary character in which only heads of families voted, took place in twenty Communes. This first electoral test bound, according to the hopes of the people who sponsored it, to mark a defeat of the democratic parties and the end of the local power of the CLN, turned out to be a great surprise for the reactionaries. On 20 Communes where elections took place the Communist Party came out the winner with the greatest number of votes.

Results can be summarized in the following few figures:

.....	
.....	

Quite a bit could be said on certain electoral manoeuvres which characterized this local experiment.

However the result in itself is much of a symptom, even though it does not express in full the still more clear democratic will of the electors.

ALLIED ~~CONTROL~~ COMMISSION
INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT:

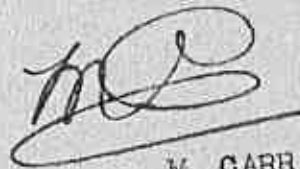
FILE No. _____

TO Director, Local Government S/C

28 Dec, 1945

I saw in the Press Review of 21.12.45 that there was an article in a newspaper on Elections organised by AUG in Belluno Province.

Do you know anything about this?



M. CARR
BRIGADIER
V.P. CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION 4907

JKD/zm
CONFIDENTIAL 4

6 DEC 1945

HEADQUARTERS
VENEZIE REGION
Allied Military Government
APO 394

- 6 DEC 1945

3 Dec 45

TO : HQ. Allied Commission
Civil Affairs Section

SUBJECT : Alleged Elections in Belluno Province

FILE NO : RX/025.111



1. Ref your AC/45/30/LG of 16 Nov. and further to my of 19 Nov 45.

2. I have now had an opportunity of investigating carefully the matters alleged in the "Avanti" report.

3. In the first place I have ascertained that the article which appeared in the Rome paper was a copy almost word for word of a small article which appeared in the C.L.N. paper published in Venice. So far as I have been able to ascertain there has not, at any time, been any further press comment.

4. The matter was mentioned to me by the President of the Regional C.L.N. who subsequently confirmed his conversation in letter form. He was however chiefly concerned with certain results in the border Communes of Livinallongo, Cortina and Colle S. Lucia where he felt that the Tiroler - he called it Nazi - influence was too strong.

5. Colonel Farren, then Provincial Commissioner Belluno, explained the position as follows. In the first instance, he wished to emphasise that any action taken was done in complete agreement with the Prefect and Vice Prefect, both C.L.N. nominees. He found that in his widely scattered and thinly inhabited Province, with few Officers, it was very difficult to get an idea as to who should be good Sindacos. Some men had been put in, in the early days by the C.L.N.s, who got tired of the job and retired, or who were clearly not going to be the right type. Colonel Farren therefore devised the plan of asking the heads of families to advise him as to the likely person for Sindaco. It was not an election properly so called, for the Sindacos were all recommended by the Prefect and appointed by the Provincial Commissioner. When Colonel Farren was asked if he would allow

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- 2 -

Q women and young men to vote, he replied, I submit quite correctly, that he particularly wished to avoid any confusion with the proper administrative elections which would be carried out under regulations laid down by the Italian Government. He did not wish to prejudice in advance any regulations that the Italian Government might make.

The method adopted was merely intended as a guide to the Provincial Commissioner to make a choice which remained his responsibility.

6. I am advised that out of sixty nine Communes, Sindaci were changed in ten as a result of this method. It appears that on the whole the system worked well and secured general approval.


Regional Commissioner

4805

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JKD/zm

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45/30

HEADQUARTERS
VENEZIE REGION
Allied Military Government
APO 394

20 NOV 1945

QV

19 Nov 45

TO : HQ. A.C.
Local Government Sub Commission

SUBJECT : Alleged Elections in Belluno Province

FILE NO : RXII/025.111

1. Ref your AC/45/30/LG of 16 November.
2. This matter has already been brought to my notice and I called for a report at the end of last week. I shall let you know promptly the result.


Regional Commissioner

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUB COMMISSION

AG/45/30/16

Tel: 478706

SUBJECT: Alleged elections in Balluno Province.

16 November 1945

TO : RE Venesia Region (with copy for IC Balluno)

1. Herewith is an extract from the Rome newspaper, "L'Avanti" of 15 November, together with a translation.
2. The Chief Commissioner has called for a report on these allegations. Will you please send a report accordingly to this Sub Commission as soon as possible.

RHJ
RALPH R. TEMPLE
Major
Director
Local Government Sub Commission

GCR/peg
Encls. as in (1) above.

BF 30 Nov 45
CGW
16
11

*(He really didn't but
I wanted Big Dwyer to
take prior action)*

Remains in sent 30/11
CGW

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EXCERPT FROM the newspaper "AVANTI!" of 15 novembre 1945

DEMOCRAZIA IN ATTO

Nessuno lo sa, ma in Italia le elezioni democratiche sono già avvenute. Ci ha messo le mani l'A.M.G., in trenta comuni della provincia di Belluno. Deposti di autorità i sindaci nominati dal C.L.N., si sono indette le elezioni senza dar tempo nemmeno per la campagna elettorale. Con simpatica innovazione, si è limitato il diritto di voto ai soli capi-famiglia. Escluse naturalmente le donne, e senza nemmeno dirlo, i partigiani. Come esempio, non c'è male.

(Translation)

Democracy being enacted.

Nobody knows about it, but in Italy the democratic elections have already taken place. AMG had something to do with it in thirty communes of the province of Belluno. Having dismissed ~~by an~~ ^{from} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~authorities~~ ^{sindaci} appointed by C.L.N., elections have been held without even allowing some time for an electoral campaign. By pleasant innovation the right of voting has been restricted only to the heads of families. Of course women have been excluded, and needless to say, the partisans too.

As an example, not bad.

Democrazia in atto

Nessuno lo sa, ma in Italia le elezioni democratiche sono già avvenute. Ci ha messo le mani l'A.M.G., in trenta comuni della provincia di Belluno. Deposti di autorità i sindaci nominati dal C.L.N., si sono indette le elezioni senza dar tempo nemmeno per la campagna elettorale. Con simpatica innovazione, si è limitato il diritto di voto ai soli capi-famiglia. Escluse naturalmente le donne, e senza nemmeno dirlo, i partigiani. Come esempio, non c'è male.

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