

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

ACC

10000/141/814

COMMUNAL E
FEB., MAR. 19

10000/141/814

COMMUNAL ELECTIONS, TENDA & BRIGA
FEB., MAR. 1946

22 March

CA Sechin

1. Letter submitted for signature at p. 2, as directed in minute ⑥ above.

2. We have just had from the M/Interior another list of alterations in their original list of communes to vote on the various Sundays in March & April. This states that the elections in TENOA & BRIGA are postponed indefinitely.

3. It is felt that this changes the situation & that we need not now discuss the merits of the LO's suggestion, as the Italian authorities have in fact done just what the LO suggested. The only point that need now be made, it is submitted, is that A.C. does not interfere - whether the elections are held on 7 April or postponed or whatever the decision of the Italian authorities might be.

Tel - 496

[Signature]
for *[Signature]* May
Division LG S/C

23 MAR.

LS: Letter signed & file returned.

B. Thomson CPE.
CAS.

2

5883

Review on these facts with
SPS and others accordingly
Gordon and that is correct
to the working paper
part. It is more important
to be prepared to take
as by now the history of these
elections.

14/3

[Signature]

Minute Sheet No. 2.

V.P. C. A.S.

3.

I entirely agree with you & Major Temple.

We should not intervene in any way and, for
one, are all in favour of the people of Tunisia &

Bri - going to the polls. That a democracy.

Restraint smacks of dictatorship. Lt Col Gardner
to see.

MS/13/3.

4.

Seen Col Gardner. 13 Mch 66.Prior to leaving COMEC the Prefect advised
me that the elections would take place in
June. A.A.S.

5.

V.P. C.A.S.

Col Gardner has seen, but no doubt
you will communicate decision to CLO TURIN.

MS/13/3.

FILE

DATE

MINUTE SHEET NO. /

PAGE

11/3/1946

CA Section.

1

1. Ref. VP's pencil footnote to fo.1, I am told that this letter was annexed to a DO letter from GIO Turin to Ex. Commr., but that the DO contains no reference whatever to its enclosure.

2. Two questions seem to arise on fo.1: -

- a) Is it in fact desirable to postpone the communal elections in TENDA and BRIGA?
- b) If it is, is AC competent to offer any advice to the Italian Govt.?

3. On the first question, I differ from Lt.-Col. Gardner on the following grounds: -

a) I ~~would~~ assume that the issue France v. Italy (although quite inappropriate for a town council election) will be the main issue in these two communes. I think that is all the more reason to have the election. These people are entitled to have their own town councils and if they choose to take the opportunity to express their views about their future nationality that is their right under any truly democratic system.

b) The inability of the people (up to now) to make their will felt and themselves to determine, in a constitutional way, who is to govern them is one of the ~~very~~ factors that cause the disturbances to which the LO alludes. The proper (and indeed the only) answer to political agitation is the ballot box.

c) Only 41 out of 206 communes in the province (Cuneo) are voting on 7 April. These are the first batch to vote in that province, so that they are mainly the small communes. The authorities should therefore be able to re-deploy the available police with particular attention to TENDA and BRIGA, with the object of providing adequate forces to control the disturbances feared.

d) This HQ has adopted quite definitely the attitude that the conduct of this election and the preservation of public order are entirely Italian matters; ~~the Italian authorities have decided on 7 April.~~

e) Elections in Italy are long overdue and we ought to be most chary of any postponement on any ground.

4. As to the second question, AC is not supposed to tender advice to the Italian Government until it is asked. Moreover the very precise attitude of non-interference recently adopted would seem to preclude any approach by AC, even if it were thought the postponement were desirable.

5. The Embassies may be in a different position. It does not appear to be within the province of the Sub Commission to advise in connection with any action they may take.

6. On all grounds, to sum up, I feel quite strongly that the people in TENDA and BRIGA should vote and the sooner the better.

Tel - 495

Director, L.G. 3/0.

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72 - 495

Director, LG S/C.

2.

Ex. Comm.

Ref: 1A and 17 with 1. I do not know whether CLO/ICRIN expressed any views in the matter in his D/O letter.

I can see no reason why there should necessarily be disturbances.

I do not consider this a matter in which we should make any form of approach to the Italian Govt.

12/3/46

M. R. P. C. A. S.

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

AG/45/43/16

SUBJECT: Communal Elections in TENDIA and BRIGA.

28 March 1946

TO : AC GIO Piemonte

1. Reference is made to the letter PAC/CC/5 addressed to you on 22 February by Lt. Col. Gardner, LO Cuneo - Tenda, copy of which you forwarded to this HQ.
2. The policy of this HQ is to leave all question about these elections entirely to the Italians to settle and that we should not interfere in any way.
3. However, when Lt. Col. Gardner was here on 15 March, he said the Prefect had advised him that the elections would take place in June. That they have in fact been postponed is confirmed by information received from the Ministry of the Interior by Local Government Sub Commission to-day which shows that these elections are deferred indefinitely.

CC/45/43/16

ML
H. GARR, Brig
VP CA Section

5588

ALLIED COMMISSION (LIAISON)

CUNEO - TENDA

L. O. LT. COL. A. H. GARDNER R. A.

CA See 1A
HS/43

Date: 2nd February 1946

To: Chief Liaison Officer, A.C. PIEMONTE

Ref: PAC/50/5.

8 MAR 1946

Subject:- Communal Elections - TENDA & BRIGA. X

1. The Sindaco of TENDA & BRIGA have to-day received telegrams from the Prefect advising them that the date for the Communal Elections, in both Communes, will be 7th April, 1946.

2. In view of the situation here, I consider these elections should be postponed until after the Peace Conference, the date of which, I believe, is 4th May, 1946.

3. At the present time, the very greatest interest is taken by all inhabitants, in the future of the Communes, and the question I am asked with great regularity, is - "Will TENDA & BRIGA remain Italian?"

4. Both Communes are in a state of tranquillity and peace but the thought of an election would, I know, cause the pro-French element to commence operations immediately - and I can see no point in having disturbances in Mar-April, when a decision as to the ultimate fate of the two Communes is likely to be one of the first items on the Agenda at the Peace Conference in early May.

5. These are entirely my own observations and if you agree with them, will you please forward these suggestions to Local Government Sub-Commission, A.C.

5587

A. H. Gardner.
A. H. GARDNER.
Lt. Colonel. R.A.
Liaison Officer.

ANG/34.

Copy retained by Office of AC

*L.G. S/C. This is addressed to CLO PIEMONTE
Believed out from Ex Commis Office. It is too
any covering letter transcribing it to the Hq. Also please
You sh. to take initial action. It can be a big local decision
to C. & S.*



8063/LG

0 3 3 9

