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ELECTIONS, USIS PROGRAMME
MAR. 1946

March 30, 1946

To: Rear Admiral Ellery W. Stone, USNR
Chief Commissioner, Allied Commission

From: G. Stewart Brown, Director USIS-Italy

Subject: Report on USIS elections program.

Attached is copy of a report on the above subject which I think may be of interest to you.

You will recall it was at your suggestion last summer that USIS and MOI began an educational campaign on democratic electoral processes in the United States and Great Britain. The attached report explains what we have done to date.

I have sent you copies of several of the publications mentioned in the appended report. If other copies are needed by any members of the Allied Commission we shall be glad to furnish them.

GJB
G. Stewart Brown
Director, USIS-
Italy

cc: Brig. Gen M. Lush, Executive Commissioner
Major Temple, Local Government S/O ✓
Major Leacoces, PRE
J.W. Jones, U.S. Polad
A. Halford, British Polad

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SUBJECT: Report on Elections Program in Execution by USIS, Rome
 FROM : USIS Headquarters, Rome

In line with the Special Guidance issued in March by OIC, Washington, we are committed to a "continuing interest in the creation in Italy of those political habits which are essential to democratic rule - primarily the habit of voting". The preparation and dissemination of material of interest to Italians in connection with their own elections began last summer; there is planned an intensification of our activities with the inclusion of specific new programs in April and from then on until the political elections take place two months later. The News section has been preparing material on how America votes, the role of a citizen in a democracy, and similar topics since June, 1945. Thus there is a background of USIS activity antedating the present intensified campaign. Accordingly, this report will cover what has been done to date by the various USIS sections, and what is planned after April 1st.

I. Material already in execution:

Special projects: Miss Baccanelli, Acting Chief, has obtained from the League of Women Voters informative material in quantity which she has distributed to the Alleanza Femminile Italiana Democratica, and the Federazione Italiana Donne Arti Professioni ed Affari (an affiliate of the American Assn. of Business and Professional Women). The Italian organizations have now been put in direct touch with the American and are corresponding on the problems raised by the forthcoming political elections. Miss Baccanelli, in her talks before women's

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organization here, one which will give unsalted facts about the candidates, so that the individual voter can make up his mind as to the candidate's merits.

This section, in conjunction with Mr. Davies (Photographic) and Mr. Fornari (Exhibits) has been preparing five sets of panels (identical in content). These sets show the electoral process and the mechanics of voting in the USA. The individual exhibits are ready and are being sent to Milan, Genoa, Florence, Rome and Naples.

Publications: During September and October, the printing of a series of four booklets on various phases of the American democratic system was completed by the Publications Section. These were: Elections in the USA, Documents of Liberty, Making the US Constitution, and How the US Government Works. Distribution of the booklets (the print order of which was: Elections - 100,000 the other three - 100,000), has been handled in part by EDAI (35,000 of each booklet), by Ministry of Education (25,000 of each), by the Ministry for the Constituent Assembly (1,000 of each), and by educational groups and institutions (Centro di Studi Socialisti, Arici di Critica Sociale, AFID and UDI). There is a residuum of 70,000 of the Elections booklet and about 30,000 of the other three. It is planned to distribute a copy of each booklet after April 1 to every newspaper and weekly whose content indicates that it might draw on our material. Each outpost has received its quota of the booklets.

News and Features: A master lecture has been prepared which has been made available to those most frequently called upon to lecture in Italian. A series of four special features was written by Mr. Fleischer. All these have been prepared and adapted in Italian for publication by the Bollettino del Mi-

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the fourth is due out in April. The Bollettino has taken several features on women and the vote which they have cut down and used in their notiziario section, so that some mention of woman's role in the voting procedure has appeared in every issue. In addition, a total of thirty-six new features of varying lengths and content is available, and past features are used at lectures as handouts at the conclusion of the conversation. Thus we have found that every bit of election material processed by News and Features has been used in the maximum number of ways. However, the most important need is for more adaptable articles and notes from the New York Office.

Photographs. Possible prints which tie in with the electoral features are still inadequate. All available subjects have been paired with the corresponding text material and response is high. For example, in all cases where the feature on woman's acquisition of the right to vote in the USA has been used, at least two of the prints (five in the series) have appeared too. However, the number of times such material can be printed is limited, and new pictures would be useful. Photographs have been used in preparing the panels described under Special Projects and a large choice of pictures was used in Miss Baccarelli's previous exhibit on Women in the USA, especially in the panels on Women in Politics and Women in Labor, both of which tie in with the election material. The choice of photographs for the current voting exhibit was inspected by Dr. Paolo Schweitzer of the Ministero della Costituente, by Dr. Pietro Rambelli of the Centro Studi Socialisti, and by Mrs. Anna Canitano of Radio Rome. The latter mentioned the coming exhibits over her radio programs, describing briefly the choice of photographs. Dr. Rambelli expressed interest in obtaining the Florence set of the voting

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Radio: To date, little has been done in the specific field of elections from this end, although plans for the post-April first date are outlined below.

Exhibits and Films Section: As mentioned previously, a special exhibit on American elections and the mechanics of voting in a democracy has been prepared from available photographs, which have been appropriately captioned and mounted. Five sets of this exhibit were prepared for circulation by all branch offices.

Branch Offices: Palermo, under Julian Fromer, has been particularly active in the distribution of the four election booklets, described above under Publications. Reception of the booklets has been most appreciative and stirring. Letters of appreciation, none solicited, have been received from Prefects, Mayors, political parties, editors, etc. In addition, the Palermo office has given morning showings on Sundays of our film strips before student audiences, and Fromer has begun discussions with various political parties to offer use of the election film (First Tuesday in November) at various party rallies, which are usually held in movie houses in the various small towns. Already the Christian Democratic party has taken several of the films for out-of-town showings.

Library: The home Library has had on constant display for the past four months the following publications: Books: The New American Government and Its Work, by James Young, American Parties and the Elections, by Edward McChesney Sait, County Government and Administration, by John Fairlie and Charles

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Library: The Rome Library has had on constant display for the past four months the following publications: Books: The New American Government and Its Work, by James Young, American Parties and the Elections, by Edward McChesney Sait, County Government and Administration, by John Fairlie and Charles Kneier, The American Party System, by Charles Merriam and Harold Gosnell, American Government, by William Anderson, American Political Parties, their Natural History, by Wilfred Binkley, The Middle Classes in American Politics, by Arthur Holcombe, and A Dictionary of American Politics, edited by

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Edward Smith and Arnold Zucher; Pamphlets: Ballot Analysis and Ballot Changes since 1930, by Spencer Albright, Registration for Voting in the U.S., by John Johnson and Irving Lewis, Constitutional Amendments and Direct Legislation, Government Printing Office, 1940, Presidential Elections, Department of State, The Electoral College, Edwin Halsey, Rural County Government in the U.S., Office of War Information, Our American Government. What it is and How it Functions, in two parts, one taken from the second session of the 77th Congress, the other from the first session of the 79th Congress, Politics and the Electoral College, by William Starr Myers, Our Constitutional Freedoms, by Robert Cushman, and A Model Registration System, by Joseph Harris. Although most of these books are available in the branch libraries, not all the pamphlets are and the office plans to make them available as soon as possible, supplementing them both in Rome and in the field with the pamphlets of the League of Women Voters. The request for this material is very high and the books get constant use. Particularly those pamphlets containing simple graphs and explanatory figures have been found useful.

II. Material Planned after April 1, 1946:

Special Projects: Miss Baccanelli has prepared a suggested guidance for Outposts on use of Elections in America panels. This material will not be exhibited before the first of April and will be circulated thereafter in all the larger communities our transport facilities can reach until June, the date set for the political elections. In addition to delivering lectures on voting procedure in America, Miss Baccanelli has agreed

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News and Features: Continuous preparation of new features has been entrusted to Mr. De Gregorio who is specializing in the application of our electoral procedure to the Italian scene. His work is only hampered by a shortage of new material, but Mr. Di Domenico, News Chief, has cabled repeatedly for supplementary basic material. A new list of ten features is ready for release on April first and thereafter the material will be staggered so that we shall not run out of new features during the next two months. The features will be distributed as backgrounders to the daily papers, then, after a week's time, if none of them has been published in toto, they will be released as exclusives to any one of a dozen weeklies in Rome, and after Rome publication they are available for regional publication. Through the distribution system of the News desk, the four elections booklets will be sent to all Rome dailies and weeklies.

Photographs: Increased use of this section depends on receipt of material from New York and Washington. For the present, material has been asked also from local sources to see if any of it may be adapted to our features.

Radio: Recorded interviews have been planned and will be immediately written and voiced. It is hoped that the following may be interviewed, especially as all are familiar with the electoral procedure in the United States: Sforza, Pacciardi, Cianca, Vacirca, Lupis, and possibly certain of the Ministers who are in a position to discuss their opinions on US electoral procedure. An interview is planned for an Italian PW who has been interned in the States. Interviews with Miss Paccanelli at

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Mrs. Keene are planned for a discussion of women's duties in a democracy. In addition, the suggestion was made to ask Don Sturzo and Ambassador Tarchiani to speak from New York to the Italians on how a democracy functions. This could be arranged over the VOICE OF ALLIED COUNTRIES programs and would certainly elicit a wide response here. Mr. Ravel is supervising the execution of these program and his staff is being aided in their preparation by the "loan" of Mr. De Gregorio from News and Features.

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Exhibit and Film Section: A shortage of film material still exists, although Mr. Fornari has had made six copies of First Tuesday in November. Other films available are Freedom to Learn, and Democracy in Action, each of which has scant election material. The chief contribution of the section has been, accordingly, the help in preparing the five exhibits planned by the Special Projects section on Elections in the USA.

It is planned to open the election campaign on April 1 with the photo exhibits. They will be shown in the central sectors of each city first and then will be circulated to the outskirts. Particular attention will be paid to worker's districts. Where possible, the exhibits will be opened by a lecture by one of the Italian-speaking members of the USIS staff, and in all cases copies in quantity of the election features will be available for free distribution.

Distribution of the Election film will be made, when feasible, on the same basis with an accompanying talk and distribution of mimeographed features. However, the panels and the film are available to interested groups (when their use of the material does not conflict with our schedule) without the presence of any of our personnel.

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