

ACC

10000/141/844

CLN, INFORMAL ELEC
TERRITORY
APR. 1945

10000/141/844

CLN, INFORMAL ELECTIONS HELD IN PARTISAN-FREED
TERRITORY
APR. 1945

DATE	FACE
11 Apr.	Woj. W. Ref. your memo p. 2 - your recommendation in para. 7 is approved. <i>R. R. Temple, Jr. D/Director</i>
13th April.	May. 11. Circular ② This agrees with para 3 of letter from C.A. Section re Espionage Act. 10 Apr 45. (See file AC/3/A/16 page 4.) <i>W.H.</i>
Apr. 14.	③ Note - as to item ①, a para: about infamously elected Quinte Popelari has been incorporated in the revised draft of the consolidated directive in loc. post. Will I am preparing. <i>W.H.</i>
Apr. 17.	④ Major Williams. Re: folio 2. I agree with your proposal. But I feel we must go further than wait for the consolidated directive. And issue a letter on the U.S. signature, indicating this policy and line of action, that we limit the R.D.C. (sic) in the same way as G.S. Will you draft a letter to all R.D.C. of my approval. <i>R. R. Temple, Jr.</i>
Apr. 18.	To. C.A.S. I have held up action on minute 4. above pending the direction you are preparing & issue on the

Apr. 14.

NOTE - as to item ①, a para: about informally elected Guevara Popetari has been incorporated in the revised draft of the consolidated directive in loc. post. (but I am preparing, GPN)

Apr. 17.

Maj. Williams.

Re: paras. 2. I agree with your proposal. But I feel we must go further than with the consolidated draft. And is in a letter on the U.S. signature, indicating this policy and line of action, that we limit the R.D.'s (sic) in the same way as G.S.

Will you prep. a letter to all R.G. for my approval.

R. R. Wright

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Apr. 18.

To: CMS.

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I have held up action on minute 4 above pending the draft you are preparing & issue on the subject of relations with C.N.

Local Government

V.P. 11 of the opinion that you cover this way well in your main directive and no further action is needed

W. B. Humphreys L. Col

Apr. 18

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3/4 3/A
page 4

This agrees with para 3 of letter from C.A. Section on Expansion dated 10 Apr 45. (See file AC/3/A/LG page 4.) W.B.

MEMORANDUM

AC/47/L/IG

TO : Director

FROM : Major C. G. R. Williams

1. The situation described at fo. 1 is most interesting. I do not think we can regard it as an isolated incident. We have met one or two indications in Central Italy of the resistance movement promoting informal elections--and even consultation of public opinion under the aegis of the CAO. Such informal elections are likely to be much more frequent in the North in areas where the German-Fascist grip is light and they way well, I think, increase in frequency as that grip is relaxed.

2. The reaction of such popularly elected bodies to Military Government raises a delicate problem. A general line of policy towards them ought, I think, to be formulated and some guidance given upon it to AMG officers in the field.

3. Simply to brush aside and ignore such bodies is bound to cause trouble. On the other hand, to accept them as the properly constituted local authorities is bound to lead to confusion and to set AMG, the CLN, the local authorities and the Italian Government all at cross purposes. There is, I think, a middle way.

4. I see no objection to the spearhead CAO adopting an informally elected Giunta Popolare as his Giunta or advisory committee, or whatever he likes to call it, for the Commune. Only he should see that they understand that they derive their authority from him and not from a popular mandate.

5. At the next stage, with the PC and a Prefect functioning, we must, I think, adhere to the system of local government described in Ex. Memo No. 39, i.e. Giunta Comunale appointed by the Prefect out of the most representative people in the Commune. An informally elected Giunta Popolare can no more be recognized as the properly established local authority than the CLN can. At this point, however, every effort should be made to absorb into the Giunta Comunale the members of informally elected local bodies. In other words, the attitude of the PC to a Giunta Popolare should be governed by the same considerations as his attitude to the CLN.

6. Everything really depends upon the tact and judgment exercised in approaching the problem.

7. I think a paragraph or two on these lines might well be incorporated in the consolidation of IG S/C directives now in course of preparation. It would fit very well into the chapter dealing with the CLN.

653

1. The situation described at fo. 1 is most interesting. I do not think we can regard it as an isolated incident. We have met one or two indications in Central Italy of the resistance movement promoting informal elections--and even consultation of public opinion under the aegis of the CAO. Such informal elections are likely to be much more frequent in the North in areas where the German-Fascist grip is light, and they may well, I think, increase in frequency as that grip is relaxed.
2. The reaction of such popularly elected bodies to Military Government raises a delicate problem. A general line of policy towards them ought, I think, to be formulated and some guidance given upon it to A/C officers in the field.
3. Simply to brush aside and ignore such bodies is bound to cause trouble. On the other hand, to accent them as the properly constituted local authorities is bound to lead to confusion and to set A/C, the CIN, the local authorities and the Italian Government all at cross purposes. There is, I think, a middle way.
4. I see no objection to the spearhead CAO adopting an informally elected Giunta Popolare as his Giunta or advisory committee, or whatever he likes to call it, for the Comune. Only he should see that they understand that they derive their authority from him and not from a popular mandate.
5. At the next stage, with the PG and a Prefect functioning, we must, I think, adhere to the system of local government described in Ex. Memo No. 39, i.e. Giunta Comunale appointed by the Prefect out of the most representative people in the Comune. An informally elected Giunta Popolare can no more be recognized as the properly established local authority than the CIN can. At this point, however, every effort should be made to absorb into the Giunta Comunale the members of informally elected local bodies. In other words, the attitude of the PG to a Giunta Popolare should be governed by the same considerations as his attitude to the CIN.
6. Everything really depends upon the tact and judgment exercised in approaching the problem.
7. I think a paragraph or two on these lines might well be incorporated in the consolidation of IG S/C Directives now in course of preparation. It would fit very well into the chapter dealing with the CIN.



C. G. R. WILLIAMS
Major
Local Government S/C

CCR W/peo

Everything really depends upon the tact and judgment exercised in
approaching the problem.

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SECRET

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

TS/13/9/CA

7 April 1945

SUBJECT: MUSTER Sitrep No. 51
TO: Local Government Sub-Commission

APR 1945

The following is an extract from SO(M) Liaison Staff (Rome)
MUSTER Sitrep No. 51 dated 30 March 1945 :

"LIGURIA : 24 March - 6th Partisan Zone (Area North and North
East of GENOA).

Elections are now being held in the parts of 6th
Zone freed by the partisans for village administra-
tion committees known as GIUNTE POPOLARI, which are
to replace the old system of FOLESTIA. These
committees are promoted by the administrative
delegates of the local CLAs. Suffrage has been
extended to all men and women over 18. The GIUNTE
are responsible for all local administration on lines
similar to the English Rural District Councils.
They are pledged to loyalty to the ROME Government
and to the partisan movement as part of the forces
of that government. (Source: Senior BLO to LIGURIA)."

A. D. Bonham-Carter
A. D. Bonham-Carter, Lt. Col.
CSC CA SECTION

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SECRET

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