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PATRIOTS BRANCH, T  
OCT. 1944 - JAN. 1945

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PATRIOTS BRANCH, TAKING OVER OF, BY COLONEL R.G.B. SPICER  
OCT. 1944 - JAN. 1945

Page

Minute Sheet No. 1,

Date

48  
5  
Headquarters,  
Allied Control Commission,  
C.M.F..

4th January, 1945

My dear Craig,

I shall be glad if you will let all the Patriots Branch staff know how very much I appreciated the way in which they worked for me during the short time that I had the honour to command the unit. I would like to say how extremely sorry I am to give up the command of the Branch: but I do not want the opportunity to go without expressing in writing my appreciation of all of them without exception.

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Lieutenant-Colonel Craig,  
Director,  
Patriots Branch,

661

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION  
APO 394  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUB COMMISSION

AG/48/16

Tel: 620


SUBJECT: Patriot activities - recruiting agencies.

18 December 1944

TO : Executive Officer, Patriots' Branch.

1. Major Mynors rang me up this morning and stated that in his opinion Major Alfaro's team would work much better when joined up under the unified command of Col. Sansone, so that he could direct in 5 Army area the whole activities of these recruiting agencies. He said this would mean that one officer reported to them and they could deal with one officer instead of having to deal with two. I appreciate his point.

2. It is of interest to note that the recruiting agency obtained 100 recruits at Pesoa last week. Would you please take the matter of the unifying of the recruiting agency teams in 5 Army area up with MEMA and draft reply in this regard to 5 Army Chief of Staff, with copy to Col. Sansone and Major Alfaro if approved of, or let me know the objections.

  
R. G. E. SPICER  
Colonel  
Director  
Local Government Sub Commission

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CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS  
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION  
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION  
PATRIOTS BRANCH  
APO 394

Ref: 16/RAT

Subject: Staff

Od. 22.

22 October 1944.

Dear Roy

With regard to staff I would just like to record the following.

JOHN RATHER would definitely like to have Major DRACE for P.W.B., and DRACE has asked me if he can join them.

If this happens it would create a vacancy which could best be filled by a Captain or Major from No. 1 Special Force. Really to run that job we need in a critical period, such as you may be going into, a first-class Intelligence Officer with practical experience of Patriots.

I believe we may be able to get an officer of this calibre from Comdr. HOLDSWORTH since, as a result of our recent successes in the South of France, Yugoslavia and Greece, several important officers who were working as B.L.O's. in these countries are on the market.

Yrs

Tom McCarthy.

C.D. MCCARTHY,  
Colonel,  
Patriots Branch.

639

To: Col. SPICER  
Copy to: Brig. UPJOHN.

(2)

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS  
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION  
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION  
PATRIOTS BRANCH  
APO 394

22 October 1944.

Subject: Propaganda on Patriots.

To: Brigadier UPJOHN (2)  
File copy for Col. SPICER only.

As you know, I have never been an active supporter of the proposal to reduce the propaganda on Patriots.

Firstly, I feel that it is not fair, and I have always believed that when one adopts an unjust policy one always pays for it in the long run.

Secondly, I feel that it will not work because, say what we will, the activities of the Patriots are the only activities in which the Italian people can have any pride at this period and therefore all Italians will in fact boost Patriots.

Thirdly, let us consider the long term political outlook. Harold Caccia will tell you that H.M.G. want an Independent Italy not too strong and not too weak: i.e. not strong enough to be a menace to us and not weak enough to be an easy prize to others who could from Italy dominate the Mediterranean in another war. I can see no fault in this policy, except that I doubt from what I have seen of the Italians that they can ever be too strong ~~for a very~~ long period. From this it follows that I must think that we should from now onwards boost Italy and help Italy to the maximum. Let us give Italy the best peace terms we can and let us not mind if they do in fact tell us that the Patriots have won the war.

*Wm. C. McCarthy*  
658  
C.D. MCCARTHY,  
Colonel,  
Patriots Branch.

22 October 1944. ①

HANDING OVER NOTES ON THE PATRIOTS BRANCH1. Italian National Patriot Committee.

General ALEXANDER told me personally to get the Italians to do as much as possible for themselves so that, firstly, the Italians should have practice in handling their own affairs, and, secondly, the number of Allied personnel employed on this work should be reduced to a minimum.

The I.N.P.C. was recently formed under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister, to take over and deal with as many of the patriot problems behind the line as A.C.C. wish to pass over to them.

I consider that the main political object of the Committee is to make it clear to the Italian people that the Italian Government is actually capable of giving practical assistance to patriots behind the line.

In the beginning I personally found it extremely difficult to make this Committee function in any way whatsoever, but after the composition of the Committee had finally been settled and Major General O'DONE had taken over the job of Secretary of the Committee things slowly started to happen. Last week the Committee had a meeting which lasted for over three days and which decided, frankly to my astonishment, a considerable number of important points. Consequently I feel that unless a new Government, if it materialises, is allowed to hinder further progress this Committee should now be able to be of real use in solving patriot problems.

2. Italian Patriot Representatives.

In order to help Regional Commissioners, Provincial Commissioners and Civil Affairs Officers in forward areas to handle patriots, it has been agreed that pairs of patriot representatives, one military and one civil, should be sent to help these officers not only to meet patriots and disarm them but also to rehabilitate them. The patriot representative is not allowed to indulge in political propaganda.

A new directive, agreed in principle with the Patriot Committee and the Finance Sub Commission is now up for final approval before the following:

- (a) V.P., C.A.S.
- (b) Finance Sub Commission
- (c) I.N.P.C.
- (d) H.Q., A.A.I.
- (e) V Army A.M.G.

657 .

When this directive is issued my suggestion is that it should be sent out in English and Italian to all concerned, and a copy should be given to every patriot representative so that he knows to what exactly he is entitled.

3. Developments in North Italy.

I have asked Major TULLOCH of No.1 Special Force, who has gone to a meeting in South Italy, to find out from Comdr. HOLDSWORTH if he thinks that the patriot organisation should now be 100% on its toes waiting for a quick forward movement. If the answer is in the affirmative, then two things will have to be done in order to be able to complete arrangements which have already been started. Firstly, the forward Intelligence Teams at FLORENCE will have

Regional Reports Horner?

What's it?

ACCAO (Nelson) - (1A)

What's it? 2.

to be brought up to full strength; secondly, arrangements will have to be made at once to send forward to Regional H.Q.'s. all the patriot representatives for whom the Regions have asked. Most of the patriot representatives are already in place, and I do not think it will be wise to allow any of them to come back to ROME since the problem of collecting them and moving them forward again will be very difficult to overcome. The I.M.P.C. have agreed that they are prepared to give them their full pay of 200 Lira per day while waiting for North Italy to be liberated.

Drage = Not (Rt. Col?)4. Fortnightly Reports.

In order to show the current position, the following reports are prepared at the beginning and middle of every month.

- (a) Staff in ROME and FLORENCE
- (b) Motor Cars
- (c) Numbers of Patriot Representatives with Armies and Regions
- (d) Numbers of Certificates and Posters issued.

Col. FAVA keeps a current list of the names and stations of all patriot representatives.

known with INPC

5. Future of the Patriots Branch.

In August I recommended that at some future date - after the I.M.P.C. had started to function - the affairs of the patriots south of the Gothic Line should be dealt with by one staff officer in ROME, who should be attached to Civil Affairs Branch of R.C. & M.G. Section. In order to deal with patriot problems inside the Army areas and further north, I recommended that a strong representation of the Patriots Branch should move forward so that they will be in close touch with realities. My idea was that if a Forward Echelon of A.O.C. should come into being then these patriot officers should work under the senior officer of the A.O.C. Forward Echelon.

Also it was agreed at a meeting held in mid-September by Brigadier MAINWARING when Comdr. HOLDSWORTH, Mr. RAYNER and myself were present that Special Forces, P.W.B. and the Forward Patriots Branch should work as a team and move forward with "G" Branch of H.Q., A.A.I., so that the Forward Team would always be in close contact with Col. BIERE of G(B), who is the officer of H.Q., A.A.I. who gives instructions to patriots north of the line.

I still feel that this policy is broadly the right one. I was wrong in thinking that the I.M.P.C. could be made to function by the end of September, but since it now appears to be making decisions I feel that within a very short period it should be possible to leave this Committee to carry out very many useful duties, which would otherwise have had to be done by the Patriots Branch in ROME.

Drage in 1st B.O. to Bologna for 1st A.A.I.

656

6. Region IV and Region V.

We have written to Regions IV and V that we expect them to have finished their patriot business almost immediately. In this connection I have asked the V.P. to send a letter to Regions IV and V calling for a report on the rehabilitation of patriots inside their respective regions, but excluding ROME.

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7. Outstanding Problems.

I have three problems which I consider need special watching in the immediate future.

(a) Rome Patriot Committees.

The three Rome Patriot Committees have been very slow in getting off the mark and need prodding.

(b) Employment Agencies.

Employment agencies must be found for Regions in the north. These employment agencies must not only find out from local industries what jobs are available, but must examine the list of patriot bands and fit suitable patriots into the right jobs. Each Provincial Commissioner should, I feel, have an agency attached to him. I have asked the I.N.P.C. to put up a proposal on these lines.

(c) Welfare Organization.

A welfare organization must be started by the I.N.P.C. There are, of course, innumerable things that such a welfare organization can do. It can help to look after wounded patriots in hospital, provide comfortable and pleasant billets in Italian houses for patriots to sleep in, also comforts such as socks, sweaters, shoes, cigarettes for those patriots who are in need of this kind of assistance in the early days when they are overrun by the advancing Armies. I feel that women can play as large a part in this as men, and General ODONNE knows that we expect him to get this organized as fast as he possibly can.

8. No.1 Special Force Liaison Officer.

At present Major TULLOCH sits in an office in our corridor and produces MUSTER reports and other very valuable information which is definitely secret in character, and I have sometimes wondered whether this information should not rather be produced from their head house in ROME. It is, of course, very convenient both for Major TULLOCH and for our Branch to be sitting next to each other since it means, for instance, that he can read without much inconvenience all the reports of patriot representatives as they pass through our office to the I.N.P.C.

Max Salvatore

C.D. McCarthy 655  
Colonel.

C.D. MCCARTHY,  
Colonel,  
Patriots Branch.

Distribution: Brigadier URJOHN (2)  
Colonel SPICER  
Major MAGNUS  
Major DRAGE  
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