Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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MONTHLY REPORTS, LIAISON GROUP, PIEMONTE
JAN. – JUNE 1946

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

TO	INIT.	DATE
DIRECTOR		

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Capt. E.F. Dolter,
Public Safety Section.

By:

JUNE 9 1946

MEMORANDUM REPORT

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PIONEER LIAISON GROUP.

COMMISSION

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ALLIED COMMISSION

PIEMONTE LIAISON GROUP.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT.

MONTHLY REPORT
FOR

JUNE, 1946

By:

Capt. E.P. Dolter,
Public Safety Section.

974

TO	INIT	DATE
DIRECTOR		
DEPUTY DIRECTOR		
EXEC. OFFICER		
POLICE		
LEG. & REG.		
PRISONS		
ADM. OFFICER		
SECURITY		
CHIEF CLERK		

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

ALLIED COMMISSION

PIEMONTE LIAISON GROUP

Public Safety Section.

SUBJECT: Monthly Report. = JUNE, 1946 =

TO: The Chief Liaison Officer, Piemonte Group, A.C.
Copies to:- The Director, Public Safety Sub-Commission, A.C. —
G.S.I., 3 District, c/o. 427 P.S.S., CMF.

1. GENERAL.

The month entered like the bursting of the Atomic Bomb. The tension created by the elections were suggestive of similar results to that of Bikini. The rumours and counter rumours spoke of Civil War and the rather belated departure of the King only added to these possibilities. The strength of the Left Parties and of the Republicans in this Region, however, acted as a brake to any ventures which could have been prompted by some of the more fanatical Monarchists. The elections were conducted in a state of calm which gave credit to the control and to the democratic ideas of the Italian. There were no reported incidents and the atmosphere of the elections coincided with the spirit of the day on which they were held.

The police agencies of the Region were in the main reinforced with military groups who were centred in the "storm" areas, but their services were not called on. The police agencies responded well to the many and arduous duties which the elections imposed upon them and they conducted themselves with bearing and with an impartiality which surprised the most casual observer.

The reactions to the elections have been an anti climax. There was no general enthusiasm to the setting up of the Republic and this was only acclaimed in certain circles. When it was realised that there would be no trouble between the various political factions the general public accepted the results with a certain resignation and in that frame of mind went about their daily tasks in the hope that the victorious parties would create a new world out of the chaos of the old Fascist and Monarchist State.

During the latter part of the month this Region has been interested in the discussions of the Foreign Ministers at Paris and their decisions have been debated and received with an acute disappointment which is truly represented in the daily press and also among the population of the whole Region and not particularly by those living in the disputed areas.

2. ITALIAN POLICE AGENCIES.

CC.RR. The results of the elections and especially that of the Referendum had its effect upon this special branch of the police service. The Carabinieri Reale, as it's name implies, was naturally inclined to the King and the Monarchy. This is now reflected in the state of morale which is observed in the Service. This is especially the case with the older

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TO: The Chief Liaison Officer, Piemonte Group, A.C.
Copies to:- The Director, Public Safety Sub-Commission, A.C. —
G.S.I., 3 District, c/o. 427 F.S.S., CMF.

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2. ITALIAN POLICE AGENCIES.

973

CC.RR. The results of the elections and especially that of the Referendum had its effect upon this special branch of the police service. The Carabinieri Reale, as it's name implies, was naturally inclined to the King and the Monarchy. This is now reflected in the state of morale which is observed in the Service. This is especially the case with the older officers and men who have been steeped in a tradition and custom which no election or propaganda can erase or blot out from their minds. The majority of the older men look to the future with that resignation which is so apparent in the Italian mind and realising that they can now only hope for a retirement and security dependant upon the new Republic. The older officers now show very little interest in their application to their duties

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to their duties/ (2) cont.

and are now living on the memories of the "Good old days".

The younger officers of the Arm are also occupied with the thoughts of their future. They are also Monarchists who have been trained and brought up in the same atmosphere. They, however, have to view the future differently to that of the older members. They entered the CC.RR., as a career but they look to it's future with a reserve which is characteristic of all Italian life today. The future of the Italian Police Service is uncertain. It is known that the Police Service of today is political and it's control and administration is always a battle between the political parties. The difference between the CC.RR., and that of the other police agencies is always apparent. The Police Battalions of the Questura were recruited from among former members of the Partisan formations. In many instances they had many purges during the days of Allied Military Government. The Prisons claimed many of the so called Polizia del Popolo but nevertheless many of the politically minded policemen remained. It seems to be the idea of the Italian Government, or perhaps, particularly, of the Ministry of Interior to organise the Police Battalions on military lines and they are now being administered in that way. The younger officers of the CC.RR., appear to be informed that this is the beginning of an unified police force for Italy and that the CC.RR., will eventually be absorbed into the force administered and controlled by the Ministry of Interior. In the main, the younger officers are proud of their Service and of the tradition which it has given them. They have dealt with the so called Partisan Police Forces. They realise the type and character of the majority of the officers and men forming this Force. The training and experience which the CC.RR., has given to their personnel prompts a certain alarm to the new idea. The CC.RR., are inclined to make comparisions with the two Services and consequently think of their own future with a despondency which cannot be good for the efficiency of the service.

On the other hand it is obvious that the tradition of the Carabinieri is something which is accepted by the people as an Institution. It is to the Italian the real symbol of law and order and the CC.RR., still hold the respect of the public. This feeling of loyalty and respect is obvious in the attitude of the public towards the police service during the past twelve months. After the liberation of Northern Italy the might and force of the Partisan prevailed. The CC.RR., were accepted on sufferance. However, their bearing, impartiality and honesty of the officers and men prevailed upon the people. The CC.RR., were still the servants of the public. The Partisan Police, as time went on, proved themselves to be unwelcome and their actions only enhanced the position of the CC.RR., in the eyes of the public. Many instances have occurred in this Region where the good work of the CC.RR., have been accepted by the public with demonstrations spontaneously and enthusiastically held without the prompting or direction of any political parties. The good will and attitude of the public towards the CC.RR., is obvious in the help and assistance which is now given. The general police work of the CC.RR., is still considered to be good and although in many cases there is the after effect of the Referendum it is to the credit of the CC.RR., that they are serving the people, sometimes, with an efficiency which could do credit to the British Police. Several important cases have been cleared up by the CC.RR., and the persistency of their enquiries, which have lasted over a period of months, have been rewarded by the arrest and breaking up of several large and dangerous gangs.

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d dangerous gangs./
t is hoped that a clarity may come out of the confusion existing at the resent time in the Police Service.

(b). QUESTORI AND AGENTI DI PUBLICCA SICUREZZA.

There have been no changes during the month in the officials of the various Questori in the Region. During the visits which have been made to the respective Questure of the Region it has been observed that the career officials are applying themselves to their work and quietly returning to a state of normality. They are showing results but it is the considered opinion of the writer that their efficiency is not that shown by the CC.RR. The Questura Proper is still suffering the effects of the old Partisan Police and the efforts of the officials are naturally impeded in the idea of mistrust and fear which the liberating Peoples' Police imposed upon the people with their own interpretation of police duty.

During the month we have seen the formation of the Piemonte Division of the Corpo di Guardie. The new formation is part of a national plan to administer all the Police Battalions of the respective Questure. The plan suggests for a Regional administration of the Police Battalions. The Divisional Headquarters will be responsible for discipline, equipment and for the general administration of the units in the seven Provinces of this Region. Each Questore will, however, be responsible for the operational duty of the Police Battalion in his Province in case of public disorders.

No comment is necessary regarding the formation of this military cum civil police organisation and it is suggested that the national plan will eventually provide for the absorption of the CC.RR., into the force. Whether this is the plan of the Italian Government is not known but the power of the Ministry of Interior within any Government is obvious when the control of a unified police force comes under it's control. The direction of the Italian police today is entirely a political one.

(c). RAILWAY POLICE.

There is very little to observe on this police agency. It was pointed out in last month's report of the attitude of the Italian Government towards the Railway Police. There is still no change in the organisation of the Force and the officers and men are still waiting for some official directive on their position. It is however, pleasing to report that in certain parts of the Region the Railway Police are doing some work which can be considered consistent with police duties in the accepted form of the word. The Railway Police have discovered many Black market transactions which have been operated through the railway services. This Black Market have been more marked with the transportation of rice from this Region to Southern Italy and several good cases have been detected through the diligence and activity of certain members of this Police Service. So this month we must give some credit to this despised service.

(d). GUARDIA DI FINANZIA

This branch of the Police Service are performing their duties with an efficiency which is always apparent but not spectacular. In this way they are contributing their share to the establishment of law and order

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law and order./

(e). Forestry Guards.

Nothing of interest to report regarding this Service.

3. CRIME.

No reason can be put forward to account for the decrease of crime in the Region. It may be the anti climax of the elections or the weather conditions which are more favourable to the police than to the criminal. A further point of interest is that of the detections which have been made by the CC.RR., in recent weeks. There have been a slight increase in the number of reported homicides but on the other hand the detections are correspondingly higher. A recent arrest by the CC.RR., of Ivrea (Aosta) is a good example of persistency of enquiry and perhaps good will and co-operation of the public with the police.

The district referred to was infested twelve months ago with a dangerous gang whose depredations were consistent with American gangsterism. Their crimes commenced shortly after the liberation. The efforts of the CC.RR., were thwarted in the early days by the fear which the word Partisan instilled into the law abiding citizen. The CC.RR., patiently made enquiries and success was rewarded to them a week ago when they eventually arrested the leaders of the gang and cleared up crimes which had been committed over a period of twelve months.

Another point of interest is that of detections which are now being made of crimes committed during the early days of liberation by criminally minded Partisans. The criminals were well known to the public who were afraid to give information to the police. The public are now satisfied with the security of the police services and are prepared to offer their information, especially to the CC.RR., in the full knowledge that there will be no repercussions.

It has always been said that the average Piedmontese is an honest Italian with a regard for the law. The wave of crime experienced in this Region was alleged to have been the result of the influx of Sicilians and Neapolitans into the Region during the War. Whether the compulsory ejection of these "foreigners" can be attributed to the decrease in crime or the persistency of the police is not known.

The police today are asking "what will be the effect of the political amnesty upon crime;". They think of the work that has been done during the past twelve months coming to nought. They think of the criminal who lives and works by crime. More often than not the prisoners have political backgrounds which prevent their entry into decent society. They have no work so the necessity to live forces a return into crime. The same thing applies to the real political prisoner who has no means of subsistence. Upon his return he is faced with the alternatives. Will he be accepted into Society as an honest citizen or will he become an outcast, a loper with a disregard for life and property and a critical and jaundiced opinion of his fellow men. In many cases it is therefore obvious that the amnesty will only bring about an increase of crime.

n increase of crime.

4. PRISONS.

With the political amnesty there has been a reduction of the prison population and up to the present time it has resulted in freedom for 20% of the prisoners in this Region. Except for this fact there is little to report under this head.

5. POLITICAL ACTIVITY.

In this sphere it is simply the calm after the storm of the elections. In all parts of the Region there is very little activity in the political field. Of late the deliberations of the Foreign Ministers have prompted some discussions, especially when it has affected Tenda, Brigo and Moncenisio. There has been no violent reaction to the suggestions made by the Ministers.

This tranquil state can only be temporary. In some ways this state of tranquility can be attributed to the presence in Rome of the more noted personalities and organisers of the political parties. Information has been received of the disappointment which the elections gave to the Communist Party. At the end of the summer it is obvious they will intensify their propaganda to prepare for THE victory at the next Constituent Elections

The only agitation being caused at the present time is that of the reduci and Internati who have returned to Italy to find themselves without work and means to obtain it.

The Monarchists of the Region are content to wait and patiently work in the hope that the fickle nature of their countrymen will eventually decide a change in the Constitution.

In general the political activity of a country is dependant upon it's economic life. So it is with Italy. With more settled conditions the more extreme aspect of political life will cease. If industries and factories find work and trade becomes more settled then the workers with full stomachs will be less interested in politics and will be content to look for other interests.

There is still a large number of unemployed in the Region but the figure is considerably less than earlier in the year. The textile mills are working at full pressure in the northern part of the Region but the heavier industries are still affected by the shortages of coal. However it is hoped that the economic life of the country will continue to improve and if the heavy industries can return to a state of normality then there will be no fear of incidents in the autumn. However law and order in the late autumn will be governed by the following factors.

(a). Economical conditions.
(b). Reaction to any Peace Treaty.
(c). Reactivation of political life.

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E.P. Bolter, Capt.

E.P. Bolter, Capt.
Police Liaison Officer.
A.C. Piedmonte.

EB/epb.

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HEADQUARTERS
Police Liaison Group
ALLIED COMMISSION
Piemonte Region

37A

14011/13

REF : PR/L/PS/15. 17th. June, 1946.

SUBJECT : AOSTA - SITUATION.

TO : H.Q., A.C. (Public Safety Sub-Commission).

37B

1. Herewith report by Capt. BOLTER covering the general situation in the Aosta Valley at the present time.

2. Forwarded for your information.

TO	INIT	DATE
DIRECTOR		
DEPUTY DIRECTOR		
EXEC. OFFICER		
POLICE		
LIC. & REG.		
PRISONS		
AUX. DEFENSE		
SECURITY		
CHIEF CLERK		

F. G. GREEN,
Lt. Col.,
CHIEF LIAISON OFFICER.

EB/CGB.

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37B

ALLIED COMMISSION
LIAISON GROUP
PIEMONTE REGION

15 June, 1946

REF. : PR/L/PS/15

SUBJECT : Situation in the Aosta Valley.
TO : The Chief Liaison Officer, Piemonte Group, A.C.

1. On the 14 June,46; I visited Aosta and made enquiries. Among those interviewed were Professor Chabod, the President of the Council and the Police Officials.

2. The position throughout the valley has definitely improved and the feeling of tension which persisted after the incident there on the 25th March, 46, has now been relieved.

Prior to the elections of the 2 June the Valdostani made a good deal of propaganda among their supporters and part of this was an appeal to their followers to render the schede of the ballot void by writing the word "plebiscite" over the form. This appeal received very little support. It is reported that 83% of the voting population went to the polls. There were no incidents and the regard of the voters for the voting system was most regular. In fact, the total numbers of schede rendered void in all ways totalled about 1% and further analysing this, it can be stated that those who applied the word "plebiscite" to their ballot papers numbered about 1,500. The lack of support in this respect has been accepted as defeat and this has been apparent in the atmosphere now prevailing throughout the valley.

During the elections there was a very good feeling between the parties and the leaders gave the President and the Police authorities every help and co-operation to maintain a spirit of good will among all factions of the population.

There was no reaction to the setting up of the Republic and the Monarchists announced at a public meeting that they were content to accept the Referendum and their leader stated that their duty was to co-operate with other parties in the interest of the country and that they would work to that end. This has created a good impression with the other parties.

3. It appears that there is also a division among the Valdostani with and this has weakened the movement considerably. The movement aims to annex the valley to France is almost dead and, at the present time, has very little support. However, on the other hand, the agitation is for a separate state and the political situation of Italy is being used by the supporters of the idea to their end.

4. There are still possibilities of incidents and demonstrations on the part of the Separationists and possibly the Annexationists. If these are staged, it is anticipated that they will be held to coincide with the meetings which will determine the Italian Peace Treaty. There appears to be no possibility of meetings or demonstrations to coincide

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(2) cont.

with the present meeting of the four Foreign Ministers at Paris.

5. There is still illegal movements of persons across the frontier both into France and into Italy. The frontier control has been strengthened by an addition of 40 CC.RR., and it is hoped that the clandestine emigration will be stopped. The majority of Italians wishing to enter France, are those from Sicily and the South. They are generally farm labourers who think that they can find work more profitable in France.

6. The CC.RR., are being supplied with transport and during the past 14 days have received 2 Jeeps, 2 Light Armoured vehicles and two Heavy Lorries. The company of the Turin Mobile Battalion of the CC.RR., are still stationed there and their presence has had a good morale effect upon the population. There is no serious crime to report upon and the position, with regard to public safety, appears to be fairly satisfactory.

E. P. Bolter, Capt

E. P. BOLTER
Capt., - GL
Police Liaison Officer,
A.C. - PIEMONTE.

EPB/epb.

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ALLIED COMMISSION

PIEMONTE LIAISON GROUP

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MONTHLY REPORT

MAY 1946

1601/13

By

Lt.Col. F.G. GREEN.

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TO	INIT	DATE
DIRECTOR		
DEPUTY DIRECTOR		14/6
EXEC. OFFICER		
	GRJ	13/6
SEC.		

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M O N T H L Y R E P O R T

MAY 1946

14011/13

By

Lt.Col. F.G. GREEN.

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TO	INIT	DATE
DIRECTOR	[illegible]	14/6
DEPUTY DIRECTOR	[illegible]	
[illegible] OFFICER	[illegible]	13/6
[illegible]		
[illegible] & REG.	[illegible]	
[illegible]ONS	[illegible]	18/6
[illegible] OFFICER		
SECURITY		
CHIEF CLERK		

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30/6/46

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ALLIED COMMISSION

PIEDMONT LIAISON GROUP

Public Safety Section

SUBJECT : Monthly Report - MAY 1946.

TO : The Director, Public Safety Sub-Commission,
HQ. A.C., A.P.O. 394.
G.S.I., Headquarters 3 District, c/o 427 F.S.S., C.M.F.

1. ACTIVITIES OF POLICE LIAISON OFFICERS.

Continued contact has been maintained with Italian Police Agencies of the Region and every assistance and co-operation is still given by them to the Officers of this group. Other unofficial sources of information have been tapped so that a certain amount of truth can be realised from the many rumours and counter rumours which are and have been appearing from day to day during the intensive pre-election period. The Officers of the group have visited all the Provinces so that a fair appreciation of the situation coul-d be obtained prior to the 2nd June.

2. ITALIAN POLICE AGENCIES.

(a) CC.RR.

The morale of this Police Agency is still improving and this is definitely reflected in the respect and the confidence shown in it by the general public. In this Region, the Carabinieri are fortunate in having good leadership and the work and the efficiency of the men can be judged accordingly. It has been noted that of late, every major police operation completed successfully, is performed by the Carabinieri.

An interesting feature of the propaganda of the Left Parties has been the appeal by their leaders to the Carabinieri. The Communist Party have appealed to the members of this Force to remain irrespective of the result of the referendum as servants of the people and not as servants of the King. NENNI in a declaration also made a similar appeal. However, this Corps has a sense of duty and it is apparent in this Region that their regard for it will not be influenced by politics but that tradition and esprit de corps will prevail as a sure bulwark against those who wish to create disorder and confusion. It is clear that the Carabinieri are policemen, and their regard for duty is decided accordingly and they will serve their country without regard to parties or personalities.

The improvement in the supply of equipment to the CC.RR., is also supporting the morale and the efficiency of the force and although in some cases the distribution may be rather late it is nevertheless a

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The improvement in the supply of equipment to the CC.RR., is also supporting the morale and the efficiency of the force and although in some cases the distribution may be rather late it is nevertheless a condition which is appreciated by the men and their officers who now realise that they are not forgotten men doing a job without tools. Even though they are not fully equipped to meet any emergency, it does, however, seem that they are ready for any eventuality with a sense of courage and a sense of duty. That is more than can be said for other servants of the State.

(b) QUESTORI AND AGENTI DI PUBBLICCA SICUREZZA.

There have been no changes during the month, in the Officials or Officers attached to the various Questore in the Region.

There is one thing apparent when discussing this branch of the Police Service, and that is the unsettled condition which exist among the personnel. It has been noted however that the strike which occurred among the members of the Milan Questura did not spread to

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this Region. There have been many murmurings out as yet no action has been taken. It is the opinion of the writer that a good deal of propaganda has been circulated by political parties at the present time and it has been the policy of certain factions to appeal for improvement of social conditions even among the Police Forces. The Communist Party circulated a pamphlet among the Public Safety Agents of certain Provinces of this Region making an appeal to the members. The propaganda put forward was phrased and couched in the usual promissory language so well known to this party. The influence of politics is still apparent in this Police Agency and until a new type of men is recruited with a true sense of duty, and not influenced by politics, the morale of the Public Safety Agent will not improve, neither will its efficiency improve. Another thing which is lacking in this Police Agency is that of forciful and determined leadership. It is obvious that this virtue of Police Administration is absent and is naturally reflected in the efficient direction which is so much of a necessity in a country so wrought with dis-unity and a delinquency which is the aftermark of civil war and unsettled economic conditions. Although it is admitted that this branch of the Police Service has improved it is always a disturbing thought to connect the Questura and the Auxiliary Police with the Polizia del Popolo we knew twelve months ago. So it is with the word "speriamo" on our lips that we look to the future when considering Public Safety Agents.

(c) RAILWAY POLICE.

Here we have a force who is still "NOBODY's BABY". It seems that the Government will not, or do not wish to make a decision regarding the direction of this force. Consequently this indecision is making a position which was bad, nearly impossible. The history of the force is well known. The type of man that was recruited into the Railway Police is only too obvious. The police records subsequent to the days of liberation will clearly show the criminality which existed even with the knowledge of the Officers. There has always been a lack of discipline and a control, to all intents and purposes, non existent. Consequently taking all these things into consideration it is obvious that there can be little efficiency in the force and the responsibility of its' existence and its' state is that of the Italian Government who have again made a political issue of a matter which should do something more than that.

(d) GUARDIA DI FINANZA.

There is very little to report regarding this police service except the fact that those Officers who perform duty on the frontier still complain of the lack of automatic weapons. They still have to meet bands of "contrabandieri" who are well armed. During the winter months, it was not so difficult but with better conditions in the mountains the activity of the smuggler has improved and the Frontier Guards cannot meet well armed bands with 1891 muskets.

(e) FORESTRY GUARDS.

Nothing of interest to report regarding this service.

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which is lacking in this Police Agency is that of forciful and determined leadership. It is obvious that this virtue of Police Administration is absent and is naturally reflected in the efficient direction which is so much of a necessity in a country so wrought with dis-unity and a delinquency which is the aftermark of civil war and unsettled economic conditions. Although it is admitted that this branch of the Police Service has improved it is always a disturbing thought to connect the Questura and the Auxiliary Police with the Bolizia del Popolo we knew twelve months ago. So it is with the word "speriamo" on our lips that we look to the future when considering Public Safety Agents.

(c) RAILWAY POLICE.

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(e) FORESTRY GUARDS.

Nothing of interest to report regarding this service.

3. CRIME.

A slight increase of Highway Robberies have been noted in the Region. The more violent crime has decreased. A disturbing picture of crime in the Region is that of a systematic and organised planning of certain kinds of robberies. This is apparent in the large robberies which have occurred in some of the industrial areas. The gangs operate from the larger cities and some of the bigger robberies in the Northern part of the Region are planned and executed from Milan. Many factory warehouses are robbed of materials which have an easy market and this type of crime is definitely on the increase. It is hoped that the Police Agencies will become more mobile and that the authorities will realise this and meet up to their responsibilities in the supply of equipment and transport.

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4. JAILS AND PRISONS.

The conditions in the prisons in this Region are improving and there have been no incidents or disturbances during the month. It is noted however, that the prisoners are being dealt with in the good old Italian way, and until the legal system improves there will always be the possibility of trouble with the overcrowding of prisons.

5. POLITICAL ACTIVITY.

Considering the intense propaganda which has been connected with the elections it is a pleasing thought that there have been no incidents. During the latter part of the elections period the activity of the Monarchists was very prominent but there was no violent reaction on the part of the other Republican groups. It is obvious that the more extreme Left Parties have been losing ground and the more intelligent application of the Monarchist propaganda has found fertile ground especially in the Piemonte Region. Whether the propaganda has taken root will be seen in the eventual results of the elections. It has been reported that in many cases the appeal of the working classes have been to the more moderate policy of the Socialist Party whereas a month ago they would have been strong supporters of the Communist Party.

The election fever developed a rumour complex and among these have been the coup d'etat idea. On the one side it is proposed that it would be directed by the extremists of the Communist Party. On the other hand the Leftists suggested that the fanatical members of the Monarchy would do likewise to save their King from exile. There has been nothing to definitely suggest the execution of a plan by either section, but it is the opinion of the writer that there is always the possibility of incidents but nothing on a general scale.

During the past month there have been large meetings and demonstrations but all have been held without trouble. It is hoped that the same discipline and control which prevailed among all political parties during the pre-election period, will be applied after the results of the elections become known. The Police Agencies have planned for the worse and in this respect the situation has been appreciated very well. The temperament of the Italian is well known and his actions cannot be anticipated from one minute to another.

6. ALLIED TROOPS.

There are no Allied Troops in the Region. The Polish Troops having moved from Novara at the end of the month being replaced by Italians. The transference of the Poles will eliminate the possibility of any incident. The Left Parties had caused a good deal of agitation among the workers through the presence of the Poles and a recent incident with the wounding of two civilians by shooting caused a grave feeling of dis-satisfaction among the population and the

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785014

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7. CONCLUSION.

In general the situation of the Region can be summed up by saying that conditions are quickly returning to normal and although the economic conditions are still unsettled there is still hope that with nothing resulting from the results of the elections the "risorgimento" so acclaimed in the past will then really commence.

A disturbing feature in the general life of the community is that of the Gaming House. Many have been opened unofficially and attract the type of person who still hope for an easy life and finding an easy way to live it. Those frequenting the Gaming Houses are not those who can always afford to chance their means on the Green Cloth.

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They are those who still talk of the "Good Old Days". When things came to them easy and without effort. The majority were young irresponsible elements who were brought up in this life and now do not wish to return to a settled life in which effort and energy must be given to maintain an existence. The glamour of gambling therefore, offers a means to an end. They are still feeling for the shadow and losing the substance of the fight for freedom and democracy which was the theme of their supposed ideals. The possible reaction of Gaming Houses to crime is therefore an obvious one when one way fails - try another.

F.G. GREEN,
Lt.Col.,
Chief Liaison Officer.

EPB/JBS.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

ALLIED COMMISSION

PIEDMONT LIAISON GROUP

Public Safety Section

357

1100/13

SUBJECT: Istituti di Vigilanza = Novara and Vercelli Provinces =
TO: The Chief Liaison Officer, Piedmont Group, A.C.
DATE: 14 May, 46 REF: PR/L/PS/15

1. On the 18th. April, 46 the Prefect of Novara issued a decree setting up the above. It has been organised to arrange for the nightly patrols of the large centres of population in the Province. Before the above date a private form of night pat ol was carried on in Novara and other towns in the Province and the organisation was financed by subscriptions of tradesmen and local inhabitants. The organisation is now being enlarged and all persons benefiting from the duties performed will be levied.

2. The guards to be employed will be paid a wage better than that obtained by local p lice agents and will also be provided with uniforms and supplied with arms. The organisation will be set up on military lines.

3. The disturbing feature is that these Vigilantes are prominent members of either the Socialist or the Communist Parties. In the Province of Novara about 55 men have been enrolled the majority of them being those elements who have been dismissed from the Auxiliary P_olice at the Questura. The decree states that this organisation will come under the control of the Questore but it is obvious from the appointments that this will not be the case. The Vice President of the organisation is a well known Partisan known as SPARTACO; his correct name being Milanesi Luigi. He was the Commandant of the Brigata SAP "Campagnoli". Subsequent to the liberation he set up a Transport Company under the name of his Brigade and has the control of about 30 heavy lorries.

4. Six weeks ago the Communists of the Vercelli Province prompted the Prefect of that Province to organise similar Vigilantes at Vercelli and at Biella. The composition of these groups are of similar political tendencies to those in the Novara Province.

4. The constitution of these Night Guards at the present time legalises for many of the extreme elements their possession of arms. It also facilates the uninterupted movement of arms that is no doubt occurring at this stage. The organisation will also provide a strong extreme and active movement in each large Commune and from the knowledge of those enrolled it seems to be the policy

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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TO	INIT	DATE
DIRECTOR		
DEPUTY DIRECTOR		28/6
EXEC. OFFICER		
POLICE		29-/
SEC. & REG.		
PERSONNEL		
LEG. ADVISER		

959

E.P. Bolter, Capt.

E.P. Bolter, Capt.
Police Liaison Group.
A.C. Piemonte.

EPB/epb.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 780016

[illegible] (Section)

[illegible] LIAISON GROUP

Public Safety Section

SUBJECT: Anti Communist Movement.
TO: The Chief Liaison Officer, Tuscant Troops, A.C.
DATE: 1 [illegible] ay, 46 REF: PS/I/F/15

1. Subsequent to the liberation of Northern Italy the Communist Party paid particular attention to the establishment of A.[illegible].A., in the north. All the partisan elements were kept alive through this organisation but of late much activity has been seen with the various groups in this region.

2. [illegible] tried to [illegible] Movement. [illegible] past few months the right [illegible] Re organise a movement similar to that of A.[illegible].

3. Consequently a movement has been instituted in Rome under the leadership and the direction of GENERAL BADOGLIO. It is known as the ASSOCIAZIONE [illegible] D'Italia. (A.N.I.I.). The Association will incorporate all those who have fought for Italy and is open to membership by the veterans of both wars. The movement will therefore try to solicit the support of the ex-servicemen of the Great War and of the present war together with partisans and others who may have suffered at the hands of the enemy in such ways as being interned or being sent to Labour or Concentration Camps.

4. It is known that this movement is received with [illegible] in Rome and Central Italy, but it's presence has not been noted in this Region up to the present date.

[illegible]

TO	INIT	DATE

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 788046

DATE: 1 May 45 REF: FR/I/T/15

1. Subsequent to the liberation of Northern Italy the Communist Party paid particular attention to the establishment of A.N.P.I., in the north. All the partisan elements were kept alive through this organisation and of late much activity has been seen with the various groups in this Region.

2. [redacted] in connection with [redacted] have been [redacted] Government. [redacted] but during the past few months the Right Wing Party leaders [redacted] to organise a movement on the lines of A.N.P.I.

3. Consequently a movement has been instituted in Rome under the leadership and the direction of GENERAL BARI CAGA. It is known as the ASSOCIAZIONE PATRIOTICA ITALIA. (A.P.I.). The Association will incorporate all those who have fought for Italy and is open to membership by the veterans of both wars. The movement will therefore try to solicit the support of the ex-servicemen of the Great War and of the present war together with Partisans and others who may have suffered at the hands of the enemy in such ways as being interned or being sent to Labour or Concentration Camps.

4. It is known that this movement has received support in Rome and Central Italy but as yet [redacted] in Upper Italy up to the present date.

9/45

TO	INIT	DATE
DIRECTOR	[illegible]	[illegible]
DEPUTY DIRECTOR	[illegible]	28/5
EXEC. OFFICER	[illegible]	
POLICE	[illegible]	29/5
I.C. & REG.	[illegible]	
PRISONS	[illegible]	
ADM. OFFICES		
SECURITY		
CHIEF CLERK		

FJI/ept.

[illegible] Colton, Capt.
Police Liaison Officer.
A.C. Piedmont

958

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

33A

ALLIED COMMISSION

PIEDMONT LIAISON GROUP

Public Safety Section

18 May, 46

SUBJECT: Political Situation. = Information =
TO: The Chief Police Liaison Officer, Piemonte, A.C.
REF: PR/L/Pb/15

1. The following information has been received and is submitted for your consideration.

2. At 16.00 hours on the 1st. May, 46 a civilian motor car with URSS. identification plates passed through ROMAGNANO (Vercelli) at 16.00 hours and returned at 22.00 hours the same day travelling in the direction of VERCELLI. The destination of this car was not ascertained but enquiries are now being made to ascertain this fact.

3. There is a good deal of discontent amongst the working classes in the Novara district over the entry of Polish soldiers. The extremists are making a very strong propaganda in this direction and stating that the Poles are Neo Fascists. This fact was apparent in a slight incident which occurred at Novara a few days after the arrival of the Polish soldiers. A number of Poles were accused by some civilians of being Fascists and in the disturbance that followed two civilians were injured.

Rumours are current in the Novara and Vercelli districts that large numbers of American and British troops will be arriving in the area during the early parts of June. The Americans it is stated will be billetted in the Lago Maggiore area.

These rumours are consistent with those with were circulated upon the announcement that AFHQ., were being transferred to Milan.

4. There is a renewed activity with the Movimento Communista d'Italia in the Turin and Novara districts. Prof. CARRO the leader of the Turin Section was arrested after the Turin Journalists' Ball and subsequently the Movement declined. He has now been released and the Movement has taken on a new lease of life and it is alleged that there are about 50 adherents at the present time. They are mostly violent and extreme in their outlook and with anarchist tendencies. One of the leading extremeists is one CIORGI who created the disorders at the Turin Wine Fair two months ago.

It is anticipated that two further sections of this party will be opended shortly one at Alessandria and one at Ivrea.

957

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785046

1. The following information has been received and is submitted for your consideration.

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It is anticipated that two further sections of this party will be opendd shortly one at Alessandria and one at Ivrea.

It is alleged that Garro made a statement recently referreing to the Movement in the Veneto Region. There he alleged the Members were endeavouring to obtain arms and ammunition. Garro then went on to add that in this Region the theoretical stage was passed and that they had now passe into the practical stage. This Movement is co-operating with the Anarchist Party and with the International Communist Party. Some of the extreme elements are contacting the leaders of Partisan Formations and endeavouring to solicit their support. This has been accomplished at CASALE MONFERRATO where 20 ex Garabaldini Partisans who are dissatisfied with the Communist Party have been enrolled. A GIORGIO of CARMAGNOLA Borgo S. Antonio has offered collaboration and the support of 100 Partisans of his Group.

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5. The S.A.P., Brigades are being reformed in all areas and in some factories the Communist Cells are making active propaganda among the younger elements.

6. Fairly reliable sources state that in view of a Right Victory at the elections the extremists and the Partisans of ROMAGNANO, CRIGNASCO, BORGO SESIA, GATTINARA, and VARALLO would unite and put the following plan into effect.

An attack would probable be made upon the forces garrisoning the area. After the primary attack upon the troops certain squads would be detailed for the following.

(a). Occupation of the local STIPEL to avoid calling of reinforcements.

(b). Occupation of VILLA CACCIA to avoid Public Order Forces using Mortar Fire.

(c). Blocking of roads leading to Romagnano.

(d). Attacking the garrison force decentralised whilst on Public Order duty.

It is alleged that these Partisan forces dispose the following armament.

Armoured cars, automatic arms both collective and individual.
3 FIAT and presumably also a Italian Mortar. Hand grenades of all kinds
It is allaged that they are relying upon the FIAT gund for use against Bren carriers and light tanks.

7. In Vercelli a similar plan has been reported. It is suggested that the Communist Party are making active plans for the eventuality of a Right Victory. It is alleged that they have disposed their arms and certain elements are receiving training within the various cells.

The information on this plan takes the following form.
A picked squad within the Municipal Guards have in t eir possession the addresses of the officers of the local Italian Regiment. At the opportune moment these officers would not be allowed to join their units.
There is a list of persons dangerous to the Communist cause in existence and these people would be seized at the first opportunity.

If the opportunity arose the Communist Party of that area would put into effect a plan on the following lines.

(a). General secret mobilisation. (each squad will have to prepare arms and ammunition and distribute same ready for action.)

(b). Insurrection. (The street cells with it's men would have to paralyse the zone under their control and control all [illegible]

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(a). General secret mobilisation. (each squad will have to prepare arms and ammunition and distribute same ready for action.)

(b). Insurrection. (The street cells with it's men would have to paralyse the zone under their control and control all activities.)

(c). In the main centres of resistance the initial forces would be reinforced by auxiliary formation from surrounding districts. Transport will be provided by the Co-operative of the Partisans.

956

B.P. Bolter, Capt

B.P. Bolter, Capt.
Police Liaison Officer.
A.C. Piemonte.

EPB/iii.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785046

COUNCIL of the VALLEY of AOSTA

Presidency.

SECRET.

Aosta, 19th. May, 1946.

Dear Major,

I enclose news that have reached me through my informers (two enclosures).

As you will see, French propaganda is carrying on as before. They now try to induce the population to write on their ballot ticket the word "Plebiscite" perhaps to permit them to make use of this during peace discussions in Paris; this confirms what I told the General and your goodself on Friday.

The news stating the forming, in Savoia, of a VALDOSTAIN armed legion has been given me as a sure fact.

With cordial salutations,

Yours,

Signed Federico CHABOD.

955

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The "Committee of Paris" at the commencement of the Paris conferences drew up a memorandum dealing with the aspirations of the VALDOSTAINS emigrated in France and the VALDOSTAINS at present of pro-French sentiments; in this memorandum the Committee demands the protection of France for the Valley and its Political Independance and were this not possible they ask for the guarantee on the part of the United Nations.

CARVOUNI, noted anarchiest, for some days now in Paris, is keeping in daily contact with elements of the Deuxieme Bureau.

For information in the Valley he is substituted by his son at present an employee at the offices of the Previdenza Sociale (Social Insurance) of Aosta, who receives information from several informers who worked for his father, and he forwards such information weekly into Savoia.

REAL PIERRO. Is the most active element and the most dangerous in the Valley; he maintains an active informative network in all fields of activity in the Valley, and for this purpose he makes use of women for information.

REAL's messenger is Mlle JAQUES who goes into Savoia weekly and every time she goes she is searched by the Gendarmery of PONTE St. MARTIN and never once has she been found in possession of contraband goods.

JAQUES transmits the news to Captain BAILLET at CHERIOUX and to Doctor VOLLET at CHAMBERY.

MOLINARI. Is a new informer of the Deuxieme Bureau in the Valley; the news is not yet confirmed though of reliable source.

MOLINARI lives at Croce di Cotte, first floor, close to the Chetorian bakery.

There has been formed in Savoia the VALDOSTAIN LEGION about a fortnight ago; it is financed by the French Military Staff; adherents are organised on military lines equipped with both individual and formation arms.

They wear the uniform of the French MAQUIS with the addition of the Red and Black neckerchief of the Aosta Colours.

The purpose of this Legion is to enforce respect by force of the pro-French aspirations.

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ACTIVITIES OF AGENTS AND INFORMERS OF THE DEUXIEME BUREAUX.

CAVORCHI - Son - As per previous report the son of the well known annexationist CAVORCHI has been detailed by the Deuxieme Bureaux to take his father's place in the informative activities.

The ninth of May CAVORCHI son received a phone message from the French Consulate in Turin inviting him to call the same day at the Consulate to confer with a person who had arrived from France.

He arrived in Turin by motor bus in the evening and immediately met the person waiting for him at the Consulate; the person in question was the well known French Lieutenant [redacted] agent of the Deuxieme Bureaux and to whom CAVORCHI gave an informative account regarding the Valley's pro-French activities of the Political Parties, regarding the Council of the Valley, regarding the Police Force, regarding the Alpini and news of a general character regarding people contrary to annexation.

The Lieutenant was particularly interested to know what reaction there had been in the Valley regarding France owing to her not having put forward at the Paris Conference an official request for, at least, a Plebiscite or the International guarantee for the Valley.

CAVORCHI answered that the masses, and especially the "COMITATO CENTRALE DELL'UNIONE VALDOSTANA" (Central Committee VALDOSTAN UNION) and the Glandestine Committee were somewhat deluded, but that, however, they had already received from Paris word to the effect not to despair, that the game is not yet "up", but rather there are still good hopes, and in consequence of this, the expenditure of the two Committees have again taken up active propaganda.

The Lieut. also said to intensify among the masses the idea of abstaining from voting or at least writing on both ballot cards the word "Plebiscite" and thus show in an official way the real desire of the Valdostain People.

Lieut. MAURRAIN was in the valley the 10 and 11th May and met VINCENZ and CARLO at CHATILLON and it seemed also with CORGNOLO at VERRES.

During the last 15 days there has been noted a flow of French people in the valley.

Part of them roam the lateral valleys where they carry on annexationist propaganda and promise the people tax reliefs and immense advantages; annexation, according to these people, will come about by means of a "plebiscite" that France will demand at the Conference the 15th June next.

953

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The Lieutenant was particularly interested to know what reaction there had been in the Valley regarding France owing to her not having put forward at the Paris Conference an official request for, at least, a Plebiscite or the international guarantee for the Valley.

CARVOSIN answered that the masses, and specially the "COMITATO CENTRALE DEMOCRATICO VALDOSTANO" (Central Committee VALDOSTAN UNION) and the Clandestine Committee were somewhat deluded, but that, however, they had already received from Paris word to the effect not to despair, that the game is not yet "up", but rather there are still good hopes, and in consequence of this, the organizers of the two Committees have again taken up active propaganda.

The Lieut. also said to intensify among the masses the idea of abstaining from voting or at least writing on both ballot cards the word "Plebiscite" and thus show in an official way the real desire of the Valdostain People.

Lieut. MAURIAUX was in the valley the 10 and 11th May and met VINCENT and CARLOS at CHATILLON and it seemed also with GORGHOS at VERRES.

During the last 30 hours there has been noted a flow of French people in the valley.

Part of them roam the lateral valleys where they carry on annexationist propaganda and promise the people tax reliefs and incredible advantages; annexation, according to these people, will come about by means of a "plebiscite" that France will demand at the Conference the 15th June next.

Several French Agents of the DEUXIEME BUREAUX have entered Italy by way of NICE and have transferred to the ALTO ADIGE ZONE where they are carrying on a Pro-Austrian propaganda contacting local elements; they are supplied with large sums of money.

Agents of the DEUXIEME BUREAUX who are in the western border zone have orders to encourage the sympathy that the population has for France, through local informers and getting them to openly show their feelings with demonstrations, shooting, if it is the case,

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their feelings with demonstrations, choosing, if it is the case, holidays or market days or days when political meetings are being held.

Professor DEFFERE is the most active person of the Union Valdostain and he carries an active propaganda among the various valley committees to encourage them to abstain from voting or to write the word "plebiscite" on their ballot papers.

REAL FERRERO. has informed Colonel VOISIN by means of courier to CHAMONEY, to send funds to the valley in order to intensify propaganda, further more he has sent a report on the valley.

It seems that REAL has received from VOISIN monies for informers and propaganda.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785946

HEADQUARTERS
Police Liaison Group
ALLIED COMMISSION
Piemonte Region

REFERENCE :- PR/L/PS/10. 6th May 1946.

SUBJECT :- Italian Political Parties and A.C., Liaison Officers.

TO :- HQ. A.C.,
(Public Safety Sub-Commission) A.P.O. 394.

1. I attach hereto, report from Captain Bolter of this Group, regarding a Lt.Col. FUSCO, Commanding Novara Group of CCRR.

2. Although nothing definitely detrimental to the Lt.Col. can be proved, it would appear highly probable that the information disclosed has come through him or from his office.

3. The matter will be referred through this office to the Legion Command here, and it is not thought that you would wish to refer it to a higher authority but the report is submitted to draw attention to the fact that information (patently erroneous) regarding the activities of Liaison Officers is apparently of interest to Italian Political Parties and is being obtained through certain channels.

F.G. GREEN,
Lt.Col.,
Chief Police Liaison Officer.

FGG/JBS.

Copy to File PR/L/PS/15.

TO	INIT.	D.
DIRECTOR		
DEPUTY DIRECTOR		
EXEC. OFFICER		
POLICE		
LIC. & REG.		
PRISONS		
ADM. OFFICER		
SECURITY		

RECEIVED 10 MAY 1946

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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(Public Safety Sub-Commission) A.P.O. 394.

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Copy to File PR/L/PS/15.

TO	INIT	D
DIRECTOR		
DEPUTY DIRECTOR	EXB	14/5
EXEC. OFFICER		
POLICE		14/5
INT. & REG.		
FINANCE		
ADM. OFFICER		
SECURITY		
MESS CLERK		

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RECEIVED 22 MAY 1946

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785046

ALLIED COMMISSION

PIEDMONT LIAISON GROUP

Public Safety Section

SUBJECT: Lt. Col. Fusco Commandant of Novara Gruppo, CC.RR.
TO: The Chief Police Liaison Officer, Piedmont Group.
DATE: 2 May, 46 REF: PR/L/PS/15

1. Lt. Col. Fusco has been known to me since July, 45 when I took the position of Provincial Public Safety Officer of Novara Province. I have had every opportunity of observing his work and expressing an opinion as to his efficiency.

2. It is appreciated that the extreme elements were predominant in the Novara Province and for a time great difficulty was experienced in maintaining a good police administration. The political Prefect was Prof. Piero FORNARA. an extreme Socialist. I had great difficulty in maintaining the police administration in the Province because of the opposition set up by Fornara. It was only with the backing of A.M.G., that an efficiency was set up. Lt. Col. Fusco always supported the Prefect and was always partial to the extreme members of the Left Parties. On several occasions it was brought to my notice of the intervention of Moscatelli and other Communists with Fusco on police matters.

He always appeared to be afraid to take action and was content to be satisfied with a policy which always seemed to be one of appeasement to the Partisans. During my period of office he had three young and enthusiastic officers who were prepared to work and perform their duties without fear or favour. They were however hampered in many ways by Fusco. I brought pressure to bear upon him and supported him with some result but he never had my confidence. He always endeavoured to impress me with the strong qualities necessary for the maintenance of law and order in the Province but it was always "niente fatto". What results have been shown in this Province cannot be attributed to his drive or to his efficiency. His junior officers have worked with a will and results have proved them to be good police officers. They do not get any orders or advice from Fusco and they have never received any direct order or given any line of policy to adopt from Fusco. What they have achieved have been the result of their own particular initiative and efforts.

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3. Recently Major Ronnie and I called on Lt. Col. Fusco and spoke to him on general matters regarding public safety in the Province. During the course of the conversation he showed Major [illegible] report which he (Fusco) had submitted

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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950

3. Recently Major Ronnie and I called on Lt. Col. Fusco and spoke to him on general matters regarding public safety in the Province. During the course of the conversation he showed Major Ronnie a copy of a report which he (Fusco) had submitted to his Headquarters on the political parties giving particulars of the number of members names of the heads etc. Major Ronnie asked for a copy of this report and it was given. Subsequently the conversation turned to international affairs and Fusco expressed his own opinion as to the question of Yugo Slavia,, Tito and Trieste. All the conversation was entirely a personal opinion between us and was hot requested or broached by Major Ronnie and I. The interview was in no way official and the visit was purely a routine one.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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4. On the 2nd. May, 46 in company with Lt. Col. Green I visited an informant of this office. The informant has always been a reliable agent and great credence has always been given to his opinion and the information obtained from his source. He has very good contacts, even within the ranks of the Communist Party. He is at the present time acting as a collator of an information service set up by Di Gasperi and the Anti Communist Movement and he covers the Province of Novara. I obtained from him a copy of a recent bulletin which he forwarded through his information channels.

I am attaching herewith a copy of this bulletin as far as it relates to the activities of the writer.

I have at no time contacted any political party in the Novara Province and the only connection which I can make of the reference in the bulletin is to the recent interview which I had with Lt. Col. Fusco. Although the information does not follow the interview it nevertheless in certain regards does approach the conversation with a degree of accuracy. Major Ronnie is not well known to the Colonel and the Italian pronunciation of his name could be ~~xxxxxxx~~ construed to that given. It is obvious that no one knew of the conversation except Fusco and as I place a great deal of reliance upon the information which I have now received I cannot but express the opinion that it was consequently reported to the Left Parties by the Novara CC.RR. Whether it was by Lt. Col. Fusco himself or through his agents I am not prepared to say. I am in no doubt whatever that he was responsible for reporting my visit and perhaps in a distorted report of the conversation the final result is as attached.

5. I am of the opinion that these facts could be discretely brought to the notice of the command responsible for the administration of the CC.RR. for any action they may deem necessary in the matter.

E.P. Bolter, Capt

E.P. Bolter, Capt.
Police Liaison Officer.
Piedmont. A.C.

EPB/epb.

Copy to: Major Hills, 1 B.L.U. CC.RR., Liaison Officer.

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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PART C - News on the activity of the Allies and their organs of information.

1. Capt. Bolter, accompanied by Major I.S. Owens should have recently carried out an enquiry in the Novara area and elsewhere with the exponents of all parties, including those of the left wing, in order to know

a) The eventual attitude of the Italian population in case of an armed conflict with Yugoslavia and Russia.
b) The presumable result of the run to arms, in case of a call up of the younger classes, in the eventuality shown above.

The same enquiry as said to have been entrusted, in Piemonte and Lombardia to English officers R.E.M.S.G. (S.M. English) Immediately after the meeting of their exponents with Capt. Bolter and Major Owens, the Novara Provincial Secretary's Office of the Socialist Party is said to have sent a detailed report of the meeting to avv. Gonzales in Milan c/o Casa Matteotti, whilst the Provincial Secretary's office of the Communist Party is said to have refersed in detail to its superiors by sending a report to a certain Agency Viaggi Autostradale of Milan, not better identified.

N.B. It is of great importance to be able to individualise and have supervise the deliviries of avv. Gonzales and of the Agency Viaggi Autostradale in Milan, also to individualise means of transmission concerning reports coming from Novara and elsewhere.

Translation ac/

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PARTE C - Notizie sulla attività degli Alleati e dei loro organi informativi. -

1) Il Capitano Bolter, accompagnato dal Maggiore I.S. Owens avrebbe recentemente condotto, nel Novarese ed altrove, una inchiesta presso esponenti di tutti i partiti, compresi quelli di sinistra, per conoscere:

a) L'eventuale atteggiamento della popolazione Italiana in caso di conflitto armato con la Yugoslavia e la Russia;
b) Il presumibile risultato di affluenza alle armi, in caso di richiamo delle classi giovani, nella eventualità sovraesposta.

Eguale inchiesta sarebbe stata affidata in Piemonte e Lombardia ad ufficiali Inglesi R.E.M.S.G. (S.M. Inglese).
Subito dopo i colloqui dei loro esponenti con il Capitano Bolter ed il Maggiore Owens, la segreteria provinviale Novarese del partito Socialista avrebbe inviato circostanziato rapporto del colloquio all'avv. Gonzales in Milano presso la Casa Matteotti, mentre la segreteria provinciale del partito communista avrebbe riferito dettagliatamente alla sua superiore gerarchia inviando un rapporto ad una certa Agenzia Viaggi Autostradale di Milano non meglio identificata.

(N.B. - Importantissimo poter individuare e fare sorvegliare i recapiti dell'avv. Gonzales e dell'Agenzia Viaggi Autostradale in Milano anche per individuare staffette e mezzi di trasmissione in genere di rapporti provenienti da Novara ed altrove.

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ALLIED COMMISSION

FIELD LIAISON GROUP

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MONTHLY REPORT

APRIL 1946

140/113/6

By

Lt.Col. F.G. GREEN.

PUBLIC SAFETY SECTION

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

ALLIED COMMISSION

PIS-CNTE LIAISON GROUP

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MONTHLY REPORT

APRIL 1946

By

Lt.Col. F.G. GREEN.

PUBLIC SAFETY SECTION

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

ALLIED COMMISSION

PIEDMONT LIAISON GROUP

Public Safety Section

SUBJECT : Monthly Report - APRIL 1946.

TO : The Chief Liaison Officer, Piedmonte Group, A.C.
Public Safety Sub-Commission, H.Q. A.C., A.F.O. 394.
G.S.I., Headquarters No.2 District, C.M.F.

DATE : 3 MAY 1946.

1. ACTIVITIES OF POLICE LIAISON OFFICERS.

All Provinces have been visited during the month by Police Officers of this Liaison Group, and contacts maintained with Italian Police Officials and the few remaining Allied Security Personnel in theRegion. Interest has apparently been displayed by Political Parties in such visits to Italian Officials and garbled reports of these visits have been made to interested parties. A separate report on a recent instance which has come to notice is being submitted.

From the 22nd to 26th April inclusive, I visited Rome A.C. Headquarters to confirm with Colonel S.Rye, Director of Public Safety Sub-Commission on matters affecting Police Officers of this Group.

The general picture with regard to Public Safety in the Region presents a rapid return to normality with crime decreasing and public order definitely improving.

There has been considerable political activity the month particularly in connection with the celebrations held on the 25th April to commemorate the "Liberation" and the May Day celebrations on the 1st May.

945

These celebrations passed off quietly and without disturbing incidents. Politically the situation is calm on the surface, but there is present in Italian minds considerable apprehension re - the period ahead

2. ITALIAN POLICE AGENCIES.

(a) Carabinieri Reali.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785046

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2. ITALIAN POLICE AGENCIES.

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No changes of senior CCRR Officers have taken place this month. Moral has been materially augmented by the delivery through M.M.I.A. channels of a quantitiy of automatic arms, and by the arrival of some very excellent motor vehicles. At last the CCRR see some tangible proof that they are being considered as an important factor in the re-shaping of Italy. Naturally they ask for more, particularly clothing and boots, but with something concrete in hand they are now prepared to believe the oft repeated promises that their needs would be satisfied.

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Some excellent arrests have been made by CCRR during the month and their reputation has undoubtedly been raised in the opinion of the populace as these arrests have become known. Praiseworthy instances are as follows:-

(a) Turin 2nd April - Three Italian soldiers arrested whilst in warehouse break - soldiers were in possession of an Army Lorry and were armed with automatic weapons.

(b) Turin 5th April - Three men arrested for a murder (motive robbery) which occurred at GRUGLIASCO on 22nd April 1945.

(c) CUORGNE 3rd April - Three men arrested for robbery.

(d) PINEROLO 5th April- Man arrested for robbery found to be in possession of loaded automatic pistol and Beretta Hand Grenade but was disarmed before he could use them.

(e) BIELLA 4th-7th April - Three persons arrested and one denounced as an accomplice for a murder (motive robbery) which occurred in November 1944.

(f) ALESSANDRIA 11th April - Two ~~MARKERS~~ unknown individuals held up the occupants of a farm. Resistance was offered by two of the victims who were immediately with another person present shot dead. 7 hours later at CHIVASSO the two murderers were arrested by CCRR.

(g) ASTI 13th April - Three persons arrested for a robbery which occurred on the 27th March. All were armed - 3 automatic pistols, 3 revolvers and a hand grenade were seized.

(h) AROMA 21st April- Three persons held up a local bank and stole money and bonds to the value of a Million Lire. Enquiries by CCRR elicited that nine ex-partigiani were implicated. Five persons have so far been arrested and a large part of the money recovered together with a quantity of goods purchased with the stolen cash; a loaded pistol and sten gun and ammunition have also been seized.

(b) <u>QUESTORI AND AGENTI DI PUBBLICA SICUREZZA.</u>

Changes have occurred this month in Questori at ASTI and ALESSANDRIA when career officials have arrived to take over from the officials acting in that capacity. 944

Dott. ROSSI appointed Questori at ALESSANDRIA was a Commissairio in the office of P.S. (Ferroviairo) Department of Turin. He has given the impression at Alessandria that he is probably a good office man and capable enough in certain directions, but the CCRR do not feel that he is a strong forceful man required to organise Public Safety in the rather troubled

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I visited Alessandria to make his acquaintance yesterday and made an appointment for 3 p.m. He had not arrived by 3.10 p.m. - it is just possible that he is addicted to the Italian habit of a post-prandial siesta, but the lack of courtesy and punctuality did not impress me.

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At AOSTA a Vice Questore of TURIN, BRUNETTI Guido, has been appointed Questore. He has created quite a favourable impression in the Province and has the appearance of an honest capable man. I was not too favourably impressed as to his forcefulness; but this impression may be due to the fact that he was feeling a little ill at ease and wondering what an Allied Officer really wanted in his office. In any event, ASTI is now a fairly well settled Province and I should think he will be able to handle his problems. Numbers of auxiliary agents have been sent from the various Provinces to attend the Police instructional school at Rome, which has promptly rejected some of the candidates as medically unfit or as unsuitable on other grounds. These people have been brought back to the Police organisation and have resumed duty.

Certain of these men have been talking to the Press and the Gazetta Di Novara of the 27th April, under an article "The situation of the P.S." comments as follows:- "The Auxiliary Agents have been faced with the problem of going to Rome for a special course in order to remain in active service, or resign. About 50 Agents from Novara left for the Capital, but returned after a few days. One of these men told a reporter of the paper that a Roman paper "L'Italia Libera" greeted their arrival with these words. "The Red Police has arrived" and the ex-partisans were called executioners and mocked at every occasion. Many traces of Fascism can still be perceived in Rome. Rows which happen between Southerners and North Italians caused the fact that the latter were deprived of their arms and many left the course. It seems that about 150 Agents from VERONA, 80 from TURIN, 60 from VARESE and COMO deserted the course and returned to their cities. The paper says that the above-mentioned interview concludes a series of investigations in order to learn the situation of the localpolice. Some arising, there are two categories of Agents: The regular ones of the Questura and those of the Auxiliary Police and it seems that they do not get on very well together. Among the many cases of this disagreement there is the one of North and South. We do not side with either of the two, however, if we are not ready to accept the perfect good faith and honesty of the Auxiliaries, neither do we believe that the "Professionals" are the perfect remedy."

943

Whatever the truth of the above comments it is patent that much patient work has yet to be carried out before the ex-partisan auxiliaries can be totally relied on as dependable Public Safety Agents.

On the occasion of the replacement of the young acting Questore of ASTI by the vice Questore of TURIN, a number of hotheads of the Auxiliary Police attached to the Questura at ASTI threatened to strike and invited (by telegram) other auxiliaries to strike in

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A report has been received of more or less serious trouble arising as the result of an order given by the Ministry to the Questore of Novara to disband auxilliary Police there. This is at present under investigation and a further report will be submitted when definite information is to hand.

Despite their troubles, Agenti di P.S. are continuing to perform their duties satisfactorily and good arrests also stand to their credit.

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(c) RAILWAY POLICE.

No decision has yet been received regarding the disposal of this body who are still a great source of embarrassment to Questore - Maggiore Scagno commanding the Piemonte Region has maintained contact with this Headquarters and states that he finds this lack of decision by the Council of Ministers a great handicap, and he also will be glad when the Council finally make up their minds. His number now consists of 1012 men, all told, in the Region, and he says that they are doing a useful job. They are now definitely functioning as Railway Guards and not as Police, and all their denuncias for crimes committed on the Railway etc are being made to the Publicca Sicurezza or the Carabinieri.

Although still armed, they have come to the end of their ammunition (fortunately so perhaps) and clothing and uniform is beginning to present a problem, in fact in Vercelli and Novara his men are on duty without uniforms.

Major Scagno organised a training school for his men and he says that they have all benefitted by this schooling and are very much more disciplined than they were some months ago.

There is, however, a definite complaint about these men from Questore who naturally as the Provincial Heads of Police feel that these men if they still retain any connection with "police" should come under their instructions.

SCNR Officers criticise them on the grounds that they are useless, slack and undisciplined, that they are frequently involved in crime and also for their communist back-ground.

There can be no question that it is high time that a ~~xxxx~~ definite decision one way or other, is forthcoming from the Council of Ministers and that this quasi Police body be put on a definite footing under the Ministry of the Interior or that their status as railway guards as such be established once and for all. Their present position is an impossible one.

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(d) GUARDIA DI FINANZA.

Colonel Dal NEGRO, Giovanni, has taken over the Command of the Turin Legion during the month. He states that he finds the men under his command in good condition, well

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There is, however, a definite complaint about these men from Questore who naturally as the Provincial Heads of Police feel that these men if they still retain any connection with "police" should come under their instructions.

CCRR Officers criticise them on the grounds that they are useless, slack and undisciplined, that they are frequently involved in crime and also for their communist back-ground.

There can be no question that it is high time that a definite decision one way or other, is forthcoming from the Council of Ministers and that this quasi Police body be put on a definite footing under the Ministry of the Interior or that their status as railway guards as such be established once and for all. Their present position is an impossible one.

942

(d) GUARDIA DI FINANZA.

Colonel Dal NEGRO, Giovanni, has taken over the Command of the Turin Legion during the month. He states that he finds the men under his command in good condition, well disciplined and alert and attentive to their duties. His main pre-occupation is uniforms - none of his men having more than one complete uniform, which, under the heavy conditions to which they are subjected especially in the mountains and on the frontier, is quite inadequate.

(e) ROYAL CORPS OF THE FOREST.

Nothing unusual to report.

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3. CRIME.

The state of the Region with regard to crime continues to improve. Highway robberies which a few months ago were of nightly occurence are now a rare occasion. The main crimes reported are shopbreaking and larcenies, but these also, although still numerous, have been educed considerably.

Instances of the more serious crimes during the month are as follows:-

2nd April AOSTA. - Bank robbery at Pont St. Martin. Two armed men held up the bank, Cassa di Risparmio branch and gagged two employees and stole 300,000Lire.

14th April ALESSANDRIA - Triple murder, motive robbery. Two individuals entered a farm with intent to rob, upon resistance being offered they shot dead two men and a woman. The murderers were subsequently arrested by CCRR.

23rd April VERCELLI- On the Autostrada an unknown person in Allied uniform held up a car and robbed the five passengers.

18th April IVREA - Two masked men armed, entered a farm, held up the five occupants and robbed them of 13,500 Lire. They then successively/ raped one of the women present and later departed stealing watches, bed linen etc to the value of 500,000 Lire.

21st April ARONA - Peoples bank of Novara at VARALLO Pombo, robbed by three armed individuals, Lire to value of 1,000,000 Stolen. As result of inquiries CCRR have established this to be the work of 9 ex-partisans, five of whom have already been arrested and a considerable portion of the money recovered.

28th April NOVARA - Ten armed men, entered a tannery at GALLIATE, disarmed two watchmen and held up the caretakers' family. They then stole skins to the value of 8,000,000 Lire and 100,000 Lire in cash, enquiries continue.

(a) Political Crime.

941

For the first time I am able to report a month with no political

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941

For the first time I am able to report a month with no political crimes reported. A very obvious pointer to improved conditions.

4. JAILS AND PRISONS.

The conditions in the Regional Jails this month have apparently considerably improved also.

There have been no mass attempts at prison-breaking and no large scale disorders.

Signor VOLPI, Inspector General of Prisons for Italy, together with Sig. CALDERERA Ugo, Prisons Inspector, visited this Headquarter and they stated that conditions generally are now approaching the normal. The number of prisoners now in the jail at TURIN has been reduced to 800. This admittedly has been achieved by

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transferring prisoners to other jails, such as CASALE and SALUZZO (the inhabitants of these particular cities not being too happy at having to receive these unwelcome guests who are a potential source of trouble in their new homes) but this has at least ameliorated the terrible overcrowded conditions of the Nuova Jail at Turin which was a vortex of disturbances. At the latter jail the work of the repairing all locks, strengthening doors etc. has made good progress and the prison will soon be back to first class conditions as far as security is concerned.

Following the sensational disturbances at the San Vittore Jail at Milan, at the instigation of the Ministry of Grace and Justice a search was carried out in all jails in the Region. Apart from one instance, at Turin Jail, where two files and a diamond glass cutter were found in the cell of one prisoner (to the joy of local journalists who are busy weaving romances thereabout) no arms or other illegal objects were found. All prisoners have been informed that no further nonsense will be tolerated and that any further attempts to escape will be met with shots aimed to kill. The Ministry seems to have been somewhat jolted by criticism arising after San Vittore.

There has, however, been no expedition of cases awaiting trial in the various jails and though these unfortunates have now been more widely distributed, and thereby the picture has been made to appear more rosy, the fact remains that the only real answer to the problem is to hurry along the feet of Justice and bring the people to trial.

5. POLITICAL ACTIVITIES.

Following the Municipal Elections of the month of March and early April, a period of quiet has overtaken the political scene.

The public in general seem somewhat surfeited with politics, and despite the activities of the parties it is possible to discern a general desire to get back to normal every day life and let politicians have a rest.

There is a growing opinion that the forthcoming elections for the Constituente and the referendum will be held quietly and without violence, but there is also a lively apprehension that the danger period will be in the days immediately following the declaration of the results of the elections and the referendum.

940

In this respect it is interesting that the prisoners arrested at ANCONA in connection with the Bank Robbery and all of whom where as stated, ex-partigiani and communists all said

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In this respect it is interesting that the prisoners arrested at ARONA in connection with the Bank Robbery and all of whom where as stated, ex-partigiani and communists all said "well it does'nt matter, after the second of June the communists will be in power and we shall be released." This seems to be the general impression amongst the hangers-on of the leftist parties that after the elections they will be able to enforce their will on all and sundry.

The leaders of the communist party however, by voice and published word continue to stress that the party is not in favour of violence, that they are a legally constituted peoples' party and as such they represent the peoples will for law and order. This law and order they say must, and will, be maintained.

At the same time they stated that all must be prepared to resist acts of provocation and any coup d'etat from the right parties. Banners carried in the May Day processions for

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instance, read "Comrades - we must be united for June 2nd so as to deal with provocation for the re-actionaries".

There is indeed a deal of nervousness among the right and the left. The recent speech of De Gasperi in which he threatened that the Demo-Christians might be prepared to take the law into their own hands has been criticised on the grounds that De Gasperi is the Prime Minister and as such responsible for maintaining law and order with the recognised law-inforcement bodies.

Questori and Senior Officers of the OCRR are not too confident regarding the forthcoming elections and point out that the Municipal Elections were held on different days and the task of maintaining public order ~~and~~ was thereby made easier. The task of maintaining public order on June 2nd will be much more difficult as it is not possible to spread the forces so widely.

It seems reasonable, however, to forecast that the elections themselves will pass off peacefully - whatever may happen afterwards.

The situation on the borders remains fairly stationary. There is still a deal of French Propaganda but no instances of any incidents of any gravity. The Val d'Aosta has been quiet but intrigue, plot, and counter-plot continue, and have led to the proferred resignation of the President of the Council of the Valley, Professor CHABOD. It is not at present clear whether his resignation has or has not been accepted and the position is still in the air. Certain it is that there has been no repetition this month of the scenes of violence which occurred in March. As reported then, there was a general re-action against the demonstrators - a number of whom have since been arrested - and it appears that the demonstration actually did more harm than good to the cause of the annexation-iste - a separate report is being submitted on the happenings at AOSTA.

All is quiet in the Val Susa and at Tenda and Briga with a deal of speculation as to the ultimate fate of these districts. The arrival of the International Commission at Tenda has occasioned particular interest.

The news of irritability between the great powers is the cause of a certain amount of concern, with L'Unità and the Communist organs generally publishing articles, always in favour of the Russian point of view, whatever it may be, and using the

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The news of irritability between the great powers is the cause of a certain amount ofconcern, with L'Unità and the Communist organs generally publishing articles, always in favour of the Russian point of view, whatever it may be, and using the occasion to accuse Britain and America of Anti-Russian and Anti-Italian machinations. Britain particularly is represented as being the Anti-Italian fly in the ointment and but for the wire-pulling of British Capitalists it is suggested that the Peace Treatywith Italy would long ago have been a "fait accompli"

From the other extreme, the Conservative Paper of Turin "CARATTERE" in a recent occasion took England to task as the people who under the pretence of liberating Italy ruined her cities etc, etc.

Themore liberal-minded journals, however, have remonstr with "L'Unità" for its Anti-British articles pointing out that whilst Britain is sending wheat to Italy, so far,

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Russia, a huge producer of wheat has sent nothing.

There have been rumours during the month of Neo-Fascist activities in parts of the Region and a startling report was published of the arrest of a group of Fascist Re-actionaries at NOVARA.

Investigations, however, revealed that five youth of the ages of 15 and 16, sons of Fascist parents, had indeed been arrested, but the whole affair was of a juvenile character and by no means serious. A similar exaggerated report of the arrest of a gang of Monarchists in Turin caused a momentous flutter in the press.

The men arrested have been arrested for possessing arms; there was nothing at all to suggest they were a Monarchist Organisation.

These exaggerated reports are symptomatic of the uneasiness that is felt by all political parties as to the immediate future - they are carried to extremes when Ministers of the Government cry "Fascist" and "Uomo qualunquisti" when common criminals in a jail endeavour to organise and escape.

It is to be regretted that Ministers and Journalists do not realise what harm they are doing to Public Order by raising these canards.

My report under this heading last month included a story of a gang of young Idyurians said to be heavily armed, roaming the mountains of Cuneo and Asti, stirring up a revolt against the Army and leading an Anarchistic existence. This gang had caused a deal of excitement in the locality where they were operating, but interest turned to resentment when it appeared that their chief intent was to live on the local contadini whilst leading an idyllic existence. In any event the police also were unsympathetic and arrested seven of the band and seized a few arms after which the remainder of the gang tired of playing "Robin Hood" went home. Thus ends what one journalist termed "the atmosphere of battle in Piemonte".

6. POLITICAL MEETINGS AND DEMONSTRATIONS.

There have been no demonstrations this month of any gravity and political meetings held passed off without incident.

The 25th April was celebrated as the anniversary of the day of Liberation and as a Public Holiday. Huge crowds assembled in the Piazza Vittorio Veneto and were addressed by speeches

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On May Day, the workers holiday was celebrated with speeches and a march through the city of Turin. The whole thing was good tempered and orderly, and if the songs were somewhat monotonous and the "Vivas" somewhat reminscent of Fascist processions through the same streets at least no harm was done.

Similar meetings were held in all large towns. No untoward incidents are reported.

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7. ECONOMIC SITUATION.

There is no change to report in this direction. Prices of foodstuffs remain about the same, there is plenty in the shops and it is not possible to observe any appearance of shortage, although no doubt the people who are affected do not exhibit their sufferings.

A quasi-commentary on the alleged food shortage in Italy is an article which appeared in "L'Unità", purporting to describe the hardships suffered by Italian Prisoners of War in England and demanding to be allowed to SEND REGULAR FOOD SUPPLIES FROM ITALY TO ITALIAN P.O.Ws. IN ENGLAND. Not a bad effort from a country which is receiving grain from England to the detriment of the English Public. A candid article in the "Nuova Stampa" (Independent) on the food situation blames the Government for not having formulated and acted on a clear plan "Instead of fixing the price of wheat before sowing, it fixed it after. The second fault was with the ammassing; the Government after resolving that the peasants should sell their wheat to the state should have made the people respect the ordinances. Now this year the people took to the ammassos at least 15-20 Millions of Quintals of wheat less than required. The consequence is, that while our bread ration depends of the arrival of supplies from America, we can find white bread everywhere at 120 Lire per Kilo. The same situation is likely to happen next year; we are now at the end of April and the Government has not yet fixed the price of wheat. The peasants not knowing how much they will receive prefer to grow other products. Our Government thinks only of Elections and we have to apply to foreign countries to overcome the present food crisis."

A pointer as to the intentions of the food-producers for the next years harvest may perhaps be seen from an interview which ~~xhis~~ an Officer from this Liaison Group had with farmers in the Alba district.

Here the tendency was to blame the Minister of Agriculture for over optimism in his estimate of the forth-coming crop. Due to lack of fertilisers and nitrates, they stated, the crop which will be obtained will not come within 1/5 of the official estimate. There may be and probably is something to be said for their viewpoint of the lack of fertilisers but it is practically certain that they are already satisfied that they will only ammass 4/5 of the crop estimated by the Government.

937

Unemployment in industry remains about the same level,

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937

Unemployment in industry remains about the same level, but is somewhat helped in this agricultural region that at present there is plenty of seasonable work on the land. The principle need of industry is still raw materials and coal.

3. SECURITY.

There are practically no troops in this Region beyond a few members of the Polish Corps at NOVARA. It is perhaps a pity that it had to be necessary to draft Poles into a Communist Area such as NOVARA. There have been no grave incidents to date, but one incident in which a Polish soldier thought he was doing his job by disarming an Italian in plain clothes who turned out to be an Auxilliary Agent and

taking him to the Carabinieri, has been seized on and magnified by interested parties as grave incidents between the Polish Troops and population.

It is no good closing ones eyes to the fact that Italian Communists are definitely Anti-Polish and Vice-Versa.

Security personnel have been much reduced in the Region, the latest to be withdrawn being No.37 P.S.S. with whom excellent contacts were maintained in the ASTI - ALESSANDRIA zone. Information in this quarter will in future be more difficult to obtain.

9. COLLECTION OF ARMS ETC.

No information has been forthcoming again this month of any large raids for arms by the Italian Police.

In conversation with various Officers, one receives the impression that though there may still be isolated arms dumps, the policy has been to distribute arms to individuals rather than to hold them in dumps. One obliging ex-partisan leader has promised to abandon his hidden army after the 2nd June.

There is still a deal of chatter about movements of arms in the country and of arms being dropped by mysterious planes but no definite information can be obtained. Information received through security channels of the possible location of hidden arms, will be followed up in the near future and results if any, communicated.

10. [illegible] AFFAIRS.

There has been no change of Public Safety Liaison Personnel this month - the Group at present consisting of Major Bourke, Captain Nolan and myself with Lieut.Col. Montague - unattached - assisting.

Lt.Col. Montague as a Fire Brigade expert has, during the month conferred with Fire Brigade Officers who are finding life far more complicated under the Italian Gov't than they did under A. .S. The Brigades generally are in good trim and are receiving supplies of clothing etc, and really have nothing to complain of, ever petrol being adequate through the interest displayed by Prefects. There have been no "first class fires" which Col. Montague

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10. FIRE SERVICE.

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Through the efforts of the British Council, copies of the British Manual of Fire Manship have been distributed by Col. Montague to each Fire Brigade in Piedmont, and others sent to Milan and the Chief of the Northern Fire Brigades for distribution. They were received with enthusiasm. Lt.Col. Montague reports that the Italian Fire Service is "in a most healthy state of efficiency and enthusiasm".

H. Green.
F.G. GREEN,
Lt.Col., G.L.,
Chief Police Liaison Officer.

FGG/JBS.

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w/B830A

ALLIED COMMISSION

PIEDMONT LIAISON GROUP

Public Safety Section.

SUBJECT: Questura at Novara = Auxilliary Police =
TO: The Chief Police Liaison Officer, Piedmont Group, A.C.
DATE: 4 May, 46 REF: PR/L/PS/2

4011/13

1. Reference information report of 3 May which included a paragraph on the Auxiliary Police at Novara.

2. On even date I made personal enquiry with the Questore of Novara and ascertained the following facts regarding the statement.

It appears a meeting of the Commandants of the Auxiliary Police Forces of Lombardia and of Piemonte was held under the chairmanship of the Deputy Chief of Police, Rome at Milan a few days ago.

At this meeting it was decided to apply certain conditions of service upon the present members of the Auxiliary Police. When these conditions would be applied with the Novara Force it was obvious that very few of the members could comply with them. The decision was communicated to the members of the Force and realising the position they protested.

Consequent upon the protest by the members the Novara Provincial C.L.N., took the matter up on their behalf and at the present time the matter is under discussion.

The Questore informed me that if the members of the Auxiliary Police could not satisfy the new conditions of service they would be dismissed as from the 28th. May, 1946. The main point of argument presented by the Provincial C.L.N., is that if the unsuitable members of the Auxiliary Police are to be dismissed then the date should be put back until after the 2nd. June and not applied to the 28th. May under the present system.

3. He assured us that there had been no threat by the Auxiliary Police to take over the police buildings but at the same time two Mariscialli of the Force had been arrested for a criminal offence. They were prominent members of the local A.N.P.I., and it is alleged that if they are still detained their supporters will organise a general strike of factories and

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1401 | 12

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TO	INIT	DATE
DIRECTOR		
DEPUTY DIRECTOR		
EXEC. OFFICER		
[illegible]		
[illegible] & REG.		
[illegible]		
ADM. OFFICER		
SECURITY		
FILE CLERK		

EPB/epb.

E.P. Bolter, Capt.

E.P. Bolter, Capt.
Police Liaison Officer.
A.C. Piemonte.

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6A/19A/22A - SECRET

29A

ALLIED COMMISSION LIAISON GROUP - PIEMONTE.

PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION.

3rd May, 1946.

SUBJECT: Situation in the Aosta Valley.

TO: The Chief Liaison Officer, Piemonte. 6A/19A/22A.

1. With reference to previous reports on the above subject Colonel Montague and I yesterday visited the Aosta valley again with a view to obtaining up-to-date information, and we interviewed Professor Chabod, the President of the Council and Major Pesce, the officer in charge of the Carabinieri.

2. After the incidents of 26th March Professor Chabod reported all the facts to the Government and addressed himself to all the political parties represented in the Council. The headquarters of the Demo-Christian Party in Rome gave instructions that PAGE and ARBANET who, together with CAVERI, of the Action Party, are (according to Chabod) the obstructionists, should be removed from office but the Turin headquarters of the party have not complied with these instructions and, after negotiation, the position now is that the suspension of these two men is now itself suspended. The Action Party have intimated that they are willing to replace Caveri but are awaiting developments.

3. The President took the view that it is impossible for him to continue to work with men who appear to support him in the Council Chamber but outside are doing everything possible for the annexionist cause and conveyed his resignation to the Council.

4. On Monday, 29th April, 1946, the Council passed a resolution deploring the events of 26th March and asked the President to withdraw his resignation and this he intimated that he was prepared to do.

5. At a further meeting of the Council on Wednesday 1st May, 1946, it was stated that the President had agreed to withdraw his resignation but Page addressed the council and said that such a request had not been made. The President later sent for the minutes of Monday's meeting and found that the last paragraph dealt with the proposal that his resignation should be withdrawn and that this

934

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With reference to previous reports on the above subject Colonel Montague and I yesterday visited the Aosta valley again with a view to obtaining up-to-date information, and we interviewed Professor Chabod, the President of the Council and Major Pesce, the officer in charge of the Carabinieri.

2. After the incidents of 26th March Professor Chabod reported all the facts to the Government and addressed himself to all the political parties represented in the Council. The headquarters of the Demo-Christian Party in Rome gave instructions that PAGE and ARBANET who, together with CAVERI, of the Action Party, are (according to Chabod) the obstructionists, should be removed from office but the Turin headquarters of the party have not complied with these instructions and, after negotiation, the position now is that the suspension of these two men is now itself suspended. The Action Party have intimated that they are willing to replace Caveri but are awaiting developments.

3. The President took the view that it is impossible for him to continue to work with men who appear to support him in the Council Chamber but outside are doing everything possible for the annexionist cause and conveyed his resignation to the Council.

4. On Monday, 29th April, 1946, the Council passed a resolution deploring the events of 26th March and asked the President to withdraw his resignation and this he intimated that he was prepared to do.

5. At a further meeting of the Council on Wednesday 1st May, 1946, it was stated that the President had agreed to withdrew his resignation but Page addressed the council and said that such a request had not been made. The President later sent for the minutes of Monday's meeting and found that the last paragraph dealt with the proposal that his resignation should be withdrawn and that this proposal was not opposed. The shorthand writer responsible for the preparation of the minutes was seen and stated that the minute was an accurate one and that the proposal came from Page himself. The shorthand writer also stated that after the meeting she received a telephone call from the Secretary of the Council (who, according the Chabod, is working closely with the three obstructionists) telling her to expunge the last paragraph from the minutes as it was incorrect, and the following morning she was interviewed by one of the secretary's staff and received the same instructions.

6. At a further meeting of the Council which had taken place on the morning that Lt. Col. Montague and I were in Aosta (and which was not attended by the President)

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the sindaco of Aosta, Avv. Torioni, proposed that Chabod be asked to continue his duties, but Caveri put forward the amendment that the matter was closed as Chabod had resumed his duties on Monday; the amendment was carried by 12 votes (including the 3 Communist votes) to 9 votes.

7. The President thinks that Page and his two friends, at the moment, are no more anxious than anyone else to see him go but they have the difficult task of saving their faces before their own supporters whilst, at the same time, preserving a form of support officially to the autonomy. The President is still not satisfied with the situation and is standing by his resignation.

8. Whilst he was recently in Rome Chabod had separate discussions with De Gaspieri, Romita and Brosio, and expressed to them all his point of view; he has also been in telegraphic communication with the government continuously and yesterday received a telegram from De Gaspieri re-affirming his faith in the President and the work he is doing. Chabod has told the government that whilst he believes very strongly in free speech and the right of criticism within the council he cannot tolerate the presence of men who take one line in the discussions and actively associate outside with the very men responsible for the recent disturbances; until they come out openly on one side or the other the situation is impossible. These men know very well, according to the President, that the valley will never go to France but they hope to preserve their personal popularity with an eye to the future with that section of the population which supports them; they are reluctant to abandon their present "god-like" position.

9. At a recent meeting at Chatillon of nine people Vincent Treves said that he was going into France to obtain money for the purpose of organising an armed rising by annexionists by or on 2nd June.

10. It is significant of the state of efficiency of the Carabinieri that Treves (for whom a warrant of arrest has been in existence since he participated in the disorders of 26th March) can circulate freely in the Chatillon area and address meetings without interference from the police.

11. On the question of the proposed armed rising 933
the President stated that he is nor particulraly apprehensive,

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the President stated that he is not particularly apprehensive, and thinks that disorders are only likely to occur if there are serious disorders in the rest of Italy after the elections and referendum, or if there is any trouble in the Trieste area. In the latter connection he states that there is a liaison between the French communists and Tito's government and that simultaneous troubles in Aosta, Triest and other disputed areas would considerably weaken the position of Italy and would be good policy on the part of the Communist element in the various countries.

12. Chabod has asked for and received the approval of the Government for the retention in Aosta of the Alpini regiment with their three armoured cars and the company of mobile carabinieri who were sent there are the time of the demonstration.

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13. With regard to the position of valdastani who are serving members of carabinieri in the valley (referred to in my last report) it has been decided, after discussion in Rome, to remove them from duty at Aosta, Verres, Chatillon, and La Thuille, but to leave some on duty in the smaller and less politically important places in order to avoid charges of discrimination and prejudice.

14. Giving further instances of the inefficiency of the carabinieri Chabod stated that on one occasion he telephoned the Aosta caserma at 11.30 in the morning and stated that the woman VIGLINO (referred to in previous reports as a French frontier crossing agent) could be found at that moment in a certain room on the first floor of a house he named. No action was taken and at 1.30 p.m. Chabod telephoned again; on this occasion some men were sent but the woman had gone.

15. Chabod thinsk that the fault does not lie with Major Pesce who works extremely hard but is handicapped and let down by the Captain at Aosta and by some of the N.C.O's.

16. There has been no improvement in the Questura and it is proposed to cut down the Polizia Stradale from 26 men to 10 men; at the rate at which they are being arrested for crime, taking part in disorders and smuggling people into France this cut would havetaken place, anyway.

17. The Inspector General (whose arrival in the valley was anticipated in my last report) has been and seen and returned to Rome. So far no changes have resulted from his visit.

18. Labour Day passed off quietly and some of the ceremonies were attnded by the Archbishop and the President.

19. The President stated that on 3rd May he was going to Rome by air for further consultations with the government and was taking to De Gaspieri a secret document on the Valdostani question; he handed Lt. Col. Montague and I this document and said that he would call for it the following morning at the A.C. Headquerters before taking the 'plane. This document was studied in Turin and was found to be a

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16. There has been no improvement in the Questura and it is proposed to cut down the Polizia Stradale from 25 men to 10 men; at the rate at which they are being arrested for crime, taking part in disorders and smuggling people into France this cut would havetaken place, anyway.

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20. At Borgo San Maurice there are 50 gendarmes and a company of Chasseurs des Alpes who are being used for repairing military telephones and roads along the frontier. French and Valdostani (mainly from La Thuille) are stated to report at these headquarters

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"for dubious purposes".

21. The troops at Moutiers have also been strengthened - mainly for the purpose of guarding the many German prisoners of war in the area.

22. Albertville is the headquarters and depots of two regiments deployed in Savoy, and there has arrived a regiment of Tirailleurs Marocain consisting of about 1200 men.

23. At Chamonix there are groups of specialists - ski and alpine troops.

24. The Sixth Tirailleurs Marocain are mainly officered by men of Italian origin and amongst them is Colonel Barbano. This regiment is the one into which most of the foreigners are being inducted (see previous reports regarding persons clandestinely crossing the frontier being persuaded to enter the Foreign Legion or the Morocco Regiment). They are shortly being transferred to the Beaufort Region.

25. At Chambery there is a new flying school and 25 aircraft have arrived.

26. The civilian population is not at all happy about all these reinforcements as they believe it will have an adverse effect upon the already bad food situation.

27. People entering France are sent to an office at Albertville and there assigned employment of a kind suitable to their qualifications. Clandestine crossers who refuse military service are sent to prison for 30 days, fined 1200 francs and afterwards assigned work.

28. The police chief who interrogated the informant following his entry into France displayed an astonishing knowledge of the position in the Aosta Valley, and, amongst other things made the remark that the priest of Mone had been killed because of his pro-Italian attitude. He also referred to notable reinforcements of arms which were being sent to ex-partisans in the valley.

29. The police cheif also commented upon the Aosta Questura deploring the fact (which is true) that there are no ex-partisan auxiliaries and that the agenti are all career men left over from the Fascist days. He also mentioned the proposed new local police and said that

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30. The Comitté de Liberation pour l'union Italo-Français issues identity cards to Italians entering France and the object is to distinguish between ex-fascists and those without a political background.

31. At Chambery the informant saw girls wearing

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a shoulder flash consisting of the cross of Lorraine and the Valdostan colours.

32. Many prominent people in Savoy who have followed the development of autonomy in the Aosta valley are considering asking the government in Paris for the same rights and privileges for their province as that granted to the Vald'Aosta by the Italian government.

33. A man named Perrier, a member of the Deuxieme Bureau, who is the father of Major Roger Perrier, a member of the French Embassy in Rome, makes many trips to the Italian capital ostensibly to visit his son but, it is stated, always returns with information regarding Briga and Tenda, Moncenisio and the Val d'Aosta.

34. The French journalists who came to Aosta at the time of the disorders were brought across the frontier by Petigat and Jaquemod of La Thuille, and were accompanied by Treves, Millon and La Houchy; they were met at Pre St. Didier by Viglino with Jaquemod's car and were taken to Aosta. The two who subsequently escaped arrest returned to Borgo S. Maurice and Perrier was sent there to keep an eye on them.

35. Some of the carabinieri at La Thuille are Valdostani and have relations in France; they are assisting people across the frontier - sometimes without payment but often charging up to 2,000 lire a head. When these men are not actually on duty on the frontier posts they advise people where the posts are located and where the patrols will be found. It is known that many people are crossing and on the night of 12th-13th it is reported that 18 persons were successful.

36. It is said that an ex-agenti of the Aosta Questura conducts a business of carrying people in his truck to La Thuille where he introduces them to the carabinieri who are engaged in this practice, plans are discussed over a meal, and the carabinieri arrange the crossing.

37. It is reported that the lot of many Valdostani who have emigrated to France is a poor one and that many people will try to return to Italy this summer.

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W. Perrier
Major.
Public Safety Liaison Officer.

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Copy. P.S. Sub. Commission, A.C.

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5b

- CRISIS IN THE VAL D'AOSTA COUNCIL -

The Position of the President, Professor Chabod, After the Withdrawal of His Resignation.

Aosta, 30 April.

At yesterday's meeting, where twenty members attended, (the first meeting after the noted disorders) the Concilio della Valle d'Aosta found itself suddenly facing a strange and difficult situation. Prof. Dott. Chabod, after the reading and approval of the minutes of the preceding meeting, welcomed in the two new counsellors, who, following the decree in Rome, substitute the partisans, Miss Ida Viglino, the noted "Piera", and Villetaz, now both fallen in disgrace, it is rumoured because of their personal ideas and actions. He then, referred briefly to several communications from the central Government, and then declared his immediate resignation and, without giving a motivation, left the room.

Avv. Page then took over the presidency, and brought to notice that the sudden resignation of the President brought the assembly in front of an unforeseen and difficult situation, of which it is not easy to foretell the importance, as for instance is the appointment of a Commissary for the Government. Therefore in the hopes that the Council can examine calmly this new situation, he proposed to continue the discussion of the different subjects listed on the Order of the Day. A counsellor then tried to expound the reasons for which it was better not to accept the resignation of the President. The public meeting was then suspended.

After difficult negotiations, in which a group of partisans that had been forced to leave the room hissed at the assembly, Ing. Frezia, head of the department of Finance, proposed an Order of the Day, in which was deplored the violence used on the President, to whom were expressed regrets, and deploring the unworthy and slandering press campaign against the counsellors, he then appealed to the population to be united by mutual consense so as to prevent the ascendency of a reactionary antivaldostano campaign.

The Council, unanimously, approved the Order of the Day, that the Giunta handed in personally to the President at his private residence. Prof. Chabod then declared that he would desist from his determination. It seems that the resignation was presented to obtain a vote of confidence. Now all the Valley awaits with impatience the next meeting of the Council, which shall be on May 2nd., because only

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The Council, unanimously, approved the Order of the Day, that the Giunta handed in personally to the President at his private residence. Prof. Chabod then declared that he would desist from his determination. It seems that the resignation was presented to obtain a vote of confidence. Now all the Valley awaits with impatience the next meeting of the Council, which shall be on May 2nd., because only then will the President give official value to the withdrawal of his resignation, presented during a public meeting. It is clear that as it also results from the Order of the Day, that the Council has neither accepted nor returned the resignation, and also no vote of sympathy or confidence was given, and this does not naturally concern the moral figure of Prof. Chabod, incontestably unattackable under every aspect, but concerns the so much discussed Valdostano problem.

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26A

ALLIED COMMISSION

PIEDMONT LIAISON GROUP

Public Safety Section

2 May, 46

SUBJECT: General Information.
TO: The Chief Liaison Officer, Piedmont Liaison Group.
REF: PR/L/PS/15

1. The following information has been reported to me from a reliable source and is submitted for your consideration.

2. It is understood that General Primieri of the Italian Cremona Division is still in contact with the extreme elements of the Left Parties. A meeting was arranged to take place at the home of MOSCATELLI at Novara on the evening of the 1st. May, and General Primieri was to attend together with Moscatelli and other members of the Communist Party. It is not known if the General attended but I am now informed that he gave up his command of the Division on the 2nd. May, and will not take over another command but will remain in service at the disposition of the Italian Ministry of War. He is however remaining in Turin.

3. It is reliably reported that during the second week of ~~February~~ April, 1946 a quantity of arms were dropped in the Valsesia and Domodossola areas of the Novara Province. The details of the arms is not known but is has been established that the Cooperativa Garibaldina under the control of Mocatelli sent ten empty motor lorries to these areas on the 30th. April, 1946. It cannot be established whether this can be connected with the arms question or that they are to be kept in the areas to prevent a requisitioning by the Italian Authorities. It has been suggested that there is a possibility of a number of trucks would be requisitioned and as this Partisan Transport Company has a number of Captured Enemy Material at their disposal the the anticipated move may be a means to retain the vehicles.

4. The Monarchist Party are making every endeavour to get the support of the Right Parties in this Region. A representative of the Monarchist Group met members of the Anti Communist Movement in Novara and proposed to them the formation of armed bands which would be used immediately to arrange a coup d'etat. The Novara Group would not participate as they contended that

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5. It is reported that a number of Russians are in the Valduggia area and are alleged to be working in conjunction with Communist members of the Ansaldo group in assembling armoured cars which were taken by the Partisans in the days of liberation.

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6. It has now been reliably reported that at 5 p.m., on the 2nd. May, 46 General Primieri visited Novara and attended a meeting at which Moscatelli and Longo Luigi were present. The nature of the discussions are not known.

7. The military section of the Communist Party are making preparations to cover any coup d'etat by Tito. It seems to be their intentions to provide support for Tito and to dispose their forces so that a union of all the Communist forces could occupy Northern Italy within two days.

E.F. Bolter, Capt.

E.F. Bolter, Capt.
Police Liaison Officer.
A.C. Piedmont.

EFB/epb.

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27A

ALLIED COMMISSION
LIAISON GROUP PIEDMONT
Public Safety Section

SUBJECT: Situation in the Province of Novara.
TO: The Chief Liaison Officer, Piedmont Group, A.C.
DATE: 2 May, 46 REF: PR/L/PS/23

1. On the 1st. May, 46 in company with Lt. Col. Green I visited the Novara Province and as a result obtained the following information.

2. The May Day celebrations organised by the Left Parties took place without incident. The usual processions and meetings were held but as was expected it became "multo parola e niente fatto".

3. The CC.RR., in certain parts of the Province are not as energetic as those found in other parts of this Region. This morale is particularly seen in the city of Novara and in the opinion of the writer can be attributed to the attitude of the Commandant Lt. Col. Fusco. This officer is known personally to the writer and his work or efficiency never impressed. He was inclined to be influenced by the Left elements in power in that Province. He was no doubt a puppet in the hands of Fornara and this was obvious on many occasions to the writer when dealing with police administration in the Province. Lt. Col. Fusco was always afraid to deal energetically with anything which savoured of a connection with Moscatelli's extreme elements.

4. The relations between the Questore and his Auxillary Police are very strained at the present time. It appears that on the 30th. April an order was received from the Vice Commandant of Police for Italy for the disbanding of the Auxilliary Police at Novara. This was communicated to that group and they have refused to carry out the order. They have threatened the Questore that if the order is carried out they will attack and occupy the Questura building. It was added by the more extreme elements of the Auxilliary Police that even if the order is withdrawn the Questura will be taken over after the 2 June when the Left Parties come into power. My informant is watching the position at the Questura with interest and a report will be submitted to me in the course of a few days on the subject.

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5. The Prefect of Novara is nearly helpless in his efforts to rid the Province of the canker set up during the political administration. He is an honest man and started his office with good and sincere intentions. He found however that there was no support for his efforts and his ideas and plans are frustrated at every move. The economic life of the Province is dictated by the Camera del Lavoro who dictate policy to the industrialists through an oppressive attitude of the workers. Recently the factory workers at Intra organised a strike for the augmentation of the wages. This request was refused by the inddstrialists who took up the matter with the Prefect. He was asked for guidance and help in the matter. He took up the matter with the Questore and the Commandant of the CC.RR., who stated that they could not guarantee the

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rantee the/
intenance of law and order if the workers request was refused. The Prefect could do nothing except to advise the industrialists to accede to the requests of the workers. This does not augur well for the future of the Province.

6. The 2nd. June is the dominant note in the minds of the extreme elements of the Communist members. On two occasions recently visits have been made to CC.RR., stations and it has been reported by the officers in charge that during the interrogation of the Partisan type of prisoner the confidant reply is always made as to their freedom when the Communists assume power after the 2nd. June.

7. Furthering the question of the possibility of armed resistance by the respective parties it appears that up to the 2nd. June there will be no trouble organised by the Left Parties. If any armed resistance is made it will come from the Monarchist Party who wish to postpone the elections. The Left Parties are not afraid of their own position at the present time but seem to have the idea that any armed uprising on their part would advance a support of the Monar-chists by the Allies.

On the other hand the extreme section of the Communist Party are making plans for the eventuality of a move by Tito on the Yugo Slav border. This section of Communists organised by Russian trained Italians would support any move by Tito and their plans at the present time are to arrange a link up with the Yugo Slav forces when they advance into Italy.

8. It has always been argued by the informants of this office that Novara as an organising centre is more important than Milan. It has been pointed out that the movements of personalities can be cloaked more easily in Novara than in Milan. It's proximity to the frontiers of Switzerland and of France is also an important point to be considered in the argument and emissaries sent from other countries have been known to have their political contacts in Novara and not Milan. The passages from other countries were well used during the clandestine period by Partisan emissaries and are now being used certain political parties in connection with their own activities.

9. The L'Uomo Qualunque Party recently set up an office in Novara. It has only a few adherents but a few days after it's inception a night raid was made on the office and everything destroyed. It is reported that three agents of the Auxilliary Police were responsible for the crime and they were subsequently detained on the orders on the Questore. However upon the interventic of certain personalities in the Communist Party they were released.

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E.F. Bolter, Capt.

E.F. Bolter, Capt.
Police Liaison Officer.
A.C. Piemonte

EFB/epb

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26A

ALLIED COMMISSION

PIEDMONT LIAISON GROUP

Public Safety Section

SUBJECT: Lt. Col. Fusco Commandant of Novara Gruppo, CC.RR.
TO: The Chief Police Liaison Officer, Piedmont Group.
DATE: 2 May, 46 REF: PR/L/PS/15

1. Lt. Col. Fusco has been known to me since July, 45 when I took the position of Provincial Public Safety Officer of Novara Province. I have had every opportunity of observing his work and expressing an opinion as to his efficiency.

2. It is appreciated that the extreme elements were predominant in the Novara Province and for a time great difficulty was experienced in maintaining a good police administration. The political Prefect was Prof. Piero FORNARA. an extreme Socialist. I had great difficulty in maintaining the police administration in the Province because of the opposition set up by Fornara. It was only with the backing of A.M.G., that an efficiency was set up. Lt. Col. Fusco always supported the Prefect and was always partial to the extreme members of the Left Parties. On several occasions it was brought to my notice of the intervention of Moscatelli and other Communists with Fusco on police matters.

He always appeared to be afraid to take action and was content to be satisfied with a policy which always seemed to be one of appeasement to the Partisans. During my period of office he had three young and enthusiastic officers who were prepared to work and perform their duties without fear or favour. They were however hampered in many ways by Fusco. I brought pressure to bear upon him and supported him with some result but he never had my confidence. He always endeavoured to impress me with the strong qualities necessary for the maintenance of law and order in the Province but it was always "niente fatto". What results have been shown in this Province cannot be attributed to his drive or to his efficiency. His junior officers have worked with a will and results have proved them to be good police officers. They do not get any orders or advice from Fusco and they have never received any direct order or given any line of policy to adopt from Fusco. What they have achieved have been the result of their own particular initiative and efforts.

3. Recently Major Ronnie and I called on Lt. Col. Fusco and spoke to him on general matters regarding public safety in the

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3. Recently Major Ronnie and I called on Lt. Col. Fusco and spoke to him on general matters regarding public safety in the Province. During the course of the conversation he showed Major Ronnie a copy of a report which he (Fusco) had submitted to his Headquarters on the political parties giving particulars of the number of members names of the heads etc. Major Ronnie asked for a copy of this report and it was given. Subsequently the conversation turned to international affairs and Fusco expressed his own opinion as to the question of Yugo Slavia, Tito and Trieste. All the conversation was entirely a personal opinion between us and was not requested or broached by Major Ronnie and I. The interview was in no way official and the visit was purely a routine one.

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routine/
one.

4. On the 2nd. May, 46 in company with Lt. Col. Green I visited an informant of this office. The informant has always been a reliable agent and great credence has always been given to his opinion and the information obtained from his source. He has very good contacts, even within the ranks of the Communist Party. He is at the present time acting as a collator of an information service set up by Di Gasperi and the Anti Communist Movement and he covers the Province of Novara. I obtained from him a copy of a recent bulletin which he forwarded through his information channels.

I am attaching herewith a copy of this bulletin as far as it relates to the activities of the writer.

I have at no time contacted any political party in the Novara Province and the only connection which I can make of the reference in the bulletin is to the recent interview which I had with Lt. Col. Fusco. Although the information does not follow the interview it nevertheless in certain regards does approach the conversation with a degree of accuracy. Major Ronnie is not well known to the Colonel and the Italian pronunciation of his name could be ~~xxxxxxx~~ construed to that given. It is obvious that no one knew of the conversation except Fusco and as I place a great deal of reliance upon the information which I have now received I cannot but express the opinion that it was consequently reported to the Left Parties by the Novara CC.RR. Whether it was by Lt. Col. Fusco himself or through his agents I am not prepared to say. I am in no doubt whatever that he was responsible for reporting my visit and perhaps in a distorted report of the conversation the final result is as attached.

5. I am of the opinion that these facts could be discretely brought to the notice of the command responsible for the administration of the CC.RR. for any action they may deem necessary in the matter.

E.P. Bolter Capt

E.P. Bolter; Capt.
Police Liaison Officer.
Piedmont. A.C.

ERB/epb.

Copy to: Major Hills, 1 B.L.U. CC.RR., Liaison Officer.

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785046

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COPY

PARTE C - Notizie sulla attività degli Alleati e dei loro organi informativi. -

1) Il Capitano Bolter, accompagnato dal Maggiore I.S. Owens avrebbe recentemente condotto, nel Novarese ed altrove, una inchiesta presso esponenti di tutti i partiti, compresi quelli di sinistra, per conoscere:

a) L'eventuale atteggiamento della popolazione Italiana in caso di conflitto armato con la Yugoslavia e la Russia;
b) Il presumibile risultato di affluenza alle armi, in caso di richiamo delle classi giovani, nella eventualità sovraesposta.

Eguale inchiesta sarebbe stata affidata in Piemonte e Lombardia ad ufficiali Inglesi R.E.M.S.G. (S.M. Inglese).
Subito dopo i colloqui dei loro esponenti con il Capitano Bolter ed il Maggiore Owens, la segreteria provinciale Novarese del partito Socialista avrebbe inviato circostanziato rapporto del colloquio all'avv. Gonzales in Milano presso la Casa Matteotti, mentre la segreteria provinciale del partito communista avrebbe riferito dettagliatamente alla sua superiore gerarchia inviando un rapporto ad una certa Agenzia Viaggi Autostradale di Milano non meglio identificata.

(N.B. - Importantissimo poter individuare e fare sorvegliare i recapiti dell'avv. Gonzales e dell'Agenzia Viaggi Autostradale in Milano anche per individuare staffette e mezzi di trasmissione in genere di rapporti provenienti da Novara ed altrove.

EPB/ii

2 Bob
25A

ALLIED COMMISSION
Piemonte Liaison
Group

1201/1/13

To:CPLC,Piemonte Liaison Group AC

Subject:Politics and Public Safety in Vercelli Province

Date:29 April 1946

1. During the weekend 27-28 April 1946 Major Honnie and I had several discussions with the Questore of Vercelli regarding the political situation in his province with particular reference to the effect on public safety.
2. The Questore was not particularly worried about the period up to and including the day of the General Election,but was patently most anxious about the period immediately after the election;he went so afr as to say that he anticipated very serious trouble whichever way the election went and that the public safety forces at his disposal would be quite unable to restore order.
3. He was convinced that the republicans would declare a republic whatever the result of the referendum in the country as a whole,and that the extremists of both sides would take action against each other.
4. He said that already the communists in Vercelli itself did what they liked in many ways and that the Prefect was too feeble to stand up to their demands;as he had to pass all his communications through the prefect he was naturally unable to inform the ministry of the great weakness of the prefect;every post in the city was being filled with communists and when the prefect appointed a prefecture functionary to take charge of the very rich and much disputed hospital the communists threatened the prefect and he is liable to give in quickly.
5. He had no faith in the loyalty of the Agenti di Pubblica Sicurezza and knew that the Guardia Municipale were communists to a man,having been carefully placed there immediately after the liberation and never weeded out by the later municpal authorities.Only the carabinieri could be expected to do their duty and in some cases he feared they might weaken in view of their isolation.
6. The problem of communications for the corr was particularly bad. During a recent strike of telephone operators he had occasion to telephone urgently to the commissario at Biella,and at first was refused the communication;it was only after he had spoken with the local,communist,strike leader and told him that strike or no strike the forces of public safety must be given facilities to telephone or else all connected would be arrested at once,that he was given a line.His

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Date:20 April 1946

1. During the weekend 27-28 April 1946 Major Ronnie and I had several discussions with the Questore of Vercelli regarding the political situation in his province with particular reference to the effect on public safety.
2. The questore was not particularly worried about the period up to and including the day of the General Election,but was patently most anxious about the period immediately after the election;he went so afr as to say that he anticipated very serious trouble whichever way the election went and that the public safety forces at his disposal would be quite unable to restore order.
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7. Personally the Questore found it most difficult and distressing that he found he could trust only two persons in his own questura.The communists had the most remarkably efficient espionage system and recently were obtaining information direct even from the AC Public Safety Office in Torino;he expressed great satisfaction when informe

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that a certain CARLO MASSA who had been brought to this office from the old AMG office at Vercelli had been dismissed.
8. The questore thought that General Pralormo,the Italian military territorial commander ,was much too weak a man for the job at this time,being afraid to offend any political party.
9. The questore again raised the point of the mondine or women who come into the province,largely from Venezia,to work in the rice fields and will be voting in the TORINO,VERCELLI,NOVARA ward in the general elections;where they come from these persons would probably have voted centre or right;as it is they will almost all be got at by the local communists and be persuaded to vote communist in Vercelli,possibly turning the result of the election;the questore and the centre and right parties in Vercelli want to see their votes transferred back to count in their own residential wards.

L. Montague Ulch

L. MONTAGUE,
Lt.Col., GE.

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SITUAZIONE DELLA PROVINCIA E' DEI PARTITI.

Partito Comunista.
Aderenti 23,250.
Esponenti: SCHIAPPARELLI Stefano, Segretario Provinciale -
CAMMETTO Giorgio - Segretario della Camera del Lavoro,
LAZZARINI Dott. Ermanno, Sindaco di NOVARA.

Ha trovato molti aderenti tra la massa operaia e gli ex partigiani appartenenti alle formazioni garibaldine.

Le organizzazioni femminili e giovanili dipendenti dal P.C.I. contano circa 5000 iscritti.
Periodici: "La Lotta" organo settimanale - Direttore C. Carlo VAI - E' finanziato dal partito. Vengono smerciate circa 10,000 copie; "La stella Alpina" settimanale a sfondo eminentemente partigiano.

PARTITO SOCIALISTA ITALIANO.
Aderenti 11,000.
Esponenti: LACONETTI Dott. Alberto - Segretario Provinciale -
FORNARA Dott. Pietro, già Prefetto di NOVARA -
MELONI Bruno, esponente Sindacale - Ing. PORZIO Giovanola.
Periodici: "Il Lavoratore" settimanale. Direttore Dott. Alberto LACONETTI. E' finanziato dal partito socialista.
Vengono smerciate circa 2,000 copie.

PARTITO DEMOCRISTIANO.
Aderenti: 13,000.
Esponenti: Avv. Natale MERCOTTI, Segretario Provinciale,
" Dante TORELLI.
Periodici: "La Voce del Popolo di Novara" settimanale; direttore G. ROASIO. E' finanziato dal partito Democristiano.
Vengono smerciate circa 3,000 copie.
"Il Sempione" di Arona, settimanale - Direttore responsabile Giampiero BOCCHETTA. Il periodico è di proprietà del Partito Democristiano. Vengono smerciate circa 1,500 copie.

PARTITO D'AZIONE ITALIANO.
Aderenti: poco più di 2,000.
Esponenti: Dott. Pietro MICCA, Segretario Provinciale.
Periodici: "Provincia di Novara - settimanale, è stato soppresso e quanto prima uscirà il "Corriere del Nord".

PARTITO LIBERALE ITALIANO.
Aderenti: 1,810.
Esponenti: Avv. Quintino TITO, Segretario Provinciale.

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LAZZARINI Dott. Ermanno, Sindaco di NOVARA.

Ha trovato molti aderenti tra la massa operaia e gli ex partigiani appartenenti alle formazioni garibaldine.

Le organizzazioni femminili e giovanili dipendenti dal P.C.I. contano circa 5000 iscritti.
Periodici: "La Lotta" organo settimanale - Direttore C. Carlo VAI - E' finanziato dal partito. Vengono smerciate circa 10,000 copie; "La stella Alpina" settimanale a sfondo eminenentemente partigiano.

PARTITO SOCIALISTA ITALIANO.
Aderenti 11,000.
Esponenti: LACONETTI Dott. Alberto - Segretario Provinciale - FORNARA Dott. Pietro, già Prefetto di NOVARA - MELONI Bruno, esponente sindacale - Ing. PORZIO Giovanola.
Periodici: "Il Lavoratore" settimanale. Direttore Dott. Alberto LACONETTI. E' finanziato dal partito socialista. Vengono smerciate circa 2,000 copie.

PARTITO DEMOCRISTIANO.
Aderenti: 13,000.
Esponenti: Avv. Natale MENOTTI, Segretario Provinciale,
" Dante TORELLI.
Periodici: "La Voce del Popolo di Novara" settimanale; direttore G. ROASIO. E' finanziato dal partito Democristiano. Vengono smerciate circa 3,000 copie.
"Il Sempione" di Arona, settimanale - Direttore responsabile Giampiero BOCCHIOTTA. Il periodico è di proprietà del Partito Democristiano. Vengono smerciate circa 1,500 copie.

PARTITO D'AZIONE ITALIANO.
Aderenti: poco più di 2,000.
Esponenti: Dott. Pietro MICCA, Segretario Provinciale.
Periodici: "Provincia di Novara - settimanale, è stato soppresso e quanto prima uscirà il "Corriere del Nord".

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PARTITO LIBERALE ITALIANO.
Aderenti: 1,810.
Esponenti: Avv. Quintino PINAS, Segretario Provinciale,
" Giulio SEIMANDI, Avv. Attilio GINO'.
Periodici: "Il Corriere di NOVARA" direttore Giulio GENOCCHIO. Settimanale - E' finanziato dalla Società Editrice del Corriere di Novara. Vengono smerciate 8,000 copie.
"Gazzetta di Novara" di tendenza liberale democratico. Direttore Giulio CARNEVALI, settimanale. Finanziato dallo stabilimento tipografico Succ. Miglio di Novara. Vengono smerciate 3,000 copie.

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PARTITO REPUBBLICANO ITALIANO.
Aderenti: 1,000.
Esponenti: Ing. VALENTINI Vincenzo, Segretario Provinciale,
Avv. BARCIOCCO Silvio.
Periodici: Nessuno.

PARTITO DEMOCRATICO DEL LAVORO.
Aderenti: 120.
Esponenti: Avv. Mario FIZIA, Segretario Provinciale.
Periodici: Nessuno.

PARTITO MONARCHICO DEMOCRATICO GRUPPO "CAVOUR".
Aderenti: 150.
Esponenti: Avv. Giovanni PICCININI e Mario GHERZI.
Periodici: Nessuno.

PARTITO DEMOCRATICO REPUBBLICANO.
Aderenti: poche unità.
Esponenti: Avv. Agostino REPETTO.
Tale partito si è costituito dalla scissione del Partito d'Azione ed attua il programma dell'ex Presidente del Consiglio Ferruccio PARRI.
Periodici: nessuno.

PARTITO DELLA RICOSTRUZIONE NAZIONALE.
E' in corso di costituzione ed attuerà il programma di NITTI enunciato al S. Carlo di NAPOLI.

MOVIMENTO UNIONISTA ITALIANO.
Aderenti: 150.
Esponenti: Dott. MAROCCHIA Giorgio, Funzionario della Banca d'Italia.
Periodici: Nessuno.

ASSOCIAZIONE MAZZINIANA ITALIANA.
Aderenti: 600.
Esponenti: Avv. BARCIOCCO Silvio.
Periodici: Nessuno.

ASSOCIAZIONE AMICI DELLA FRANCIA.
Aderenti: 500.
Esponenti: Ing. Nino CATTANEO, Segretario Provinciale.
Periodici: Nessuno.

CENTRO ITALIANO FEMMINILE.
Aderenti 5,000.
Esponenti: N.D. MAZZONI Fecia di COSSATO Margherita, Benestante.
Il movimento è apolitico tuttavia a sfondo prettamente cattolico. Si avvale della propaganda a mezzo del giornale "L'AZIONE" organo della Curia Vescovile. O.I.S.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

Periodici: Nessuno.

PARTITO DEMOCRATICO DEL LAVORO.
Aderenti: 120.
Esponenti: Avv. Mario PIZZA, Segretario Provinciale.
Periodici: Nessuno.

PARTITO MONARCHICO DEMOCRATICO GRUPPO "CAVOUR".
Aderenti: 150.
Esponenti: Avv. Giovanni PICCININI e Mario GHERZI.
Periodici: Nessuno.

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Aderenti: poche unità.
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Periodici: nessuno.

PARTITO DELLA RICOSTRUZIONE NAZIONALE.
E' in corso di costituzione ed attuerà il programma di NITTI enunciato al S. Carlo di NAPOLI.

MOVIMENTO UNIONISTA ITALIANO.
Aderenti: 150.
Esponenti: Dott. MARCOCCHIA Giorgio, Funzionario della Banca d'Italia.
Periodici: Nessuno.

ASSOCIAZIONE MAZZINIANA ITALIANA.
Aderenti: 600.
Esponenti: Avv. BARCIOCCO Silvio.
Periodici: Nessuno.

ASSOCIAZIONE AMICI DELLA FRANCIA.
Aderenti: 500.
Esponenti: Ing. Nino CATTANEO, Segretario Provinciale.
Periodici: Nessuno.

CENTRO ITALIANO FEMMINILE.
Aderenti 5,000.
Esponenti: N.D. MAZZONI Tecia di COSSATO Margherita, Benestante.
Il movimento è apolitico tuttavia a sfondo prettamente cattolico. Si avvale della propaganda a mezzo del giornale "L'AZIONE" organo della Curia Vescovile. 918

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

ALLIED COMMISSION
Piemonte Liaison
Group

To:CPLO
Subject:Fire Brigades in Piemonte
Date:17 April 1946

1. During the last ten days I have completed a series of visits to the Provincial Fire Brigades of Piemonte and on 15 April 1946 I attended the regular meeting of the chief officers with the Regional Fire Officer,Col.Moscato, in Torino.
2. All the officers stated that as they had feared life was far more complicated under the Italian Government than it was under AMG,since the Direzione Generale Antincendi at Roma instead of giving the Regional Fire Officer wide powers to approve transfers,leaves,absences of officers from their provinces,journeys,purchases of urgently needed spare parts etc as did AMG had insisted on retaining the work and so wasted much time,paper,and money on telegrams and telephone calls.
3. On the other hand they were agreed that the Direzione Generale had been very fair in not taking away an excessive number of appliances for the use of brigades in Central and Southern Italy;had done well in arranging an issue to take place this month of one working suit and one walking out suit for all wholetime men and one working suit for all parttime men;had confirmed all appointments in the region made on a temporary basis by AMG(notably the chief officers of Cuneo and Vercelli selected jointly by Col.Moscato and the AMG Fire Officer in May and June 1945);and had genuinely tried to help the brigades from a practical point of view apart from retaining too much centralised control.
4. There have been no difficulties over pay or rations, and thanks to excellent support from the prefects petrol supplies had always been adequate.
5. There have been no firstclass fires.This they attributed partly to good fortune(especially in the case of the illegally overcrowded cinemas),partly to the much wider knowledge of the dangers of fire and the urgency of preventive measures brought about by the war with a

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1. During the last ten days I have completed a series of visits to the Provincial Fire Brigades of Piemonte and on 15 April 1946 I attended the regular meeting of the chief officers with the Regional Fire Officer,Col.Moscato, in Torino.
2. All the officers stated that as they had feared life was far more complicated under the Italian Government than it was under AMG,since the Direzione Generale Antincendi at Roma instead of giving the Regional Fire Officer wide powers to approve transfers,leaves,absences of officers from their provinces,journeys,purchases of urgently needed spare parts etc as did AMG had insisted on retaining the work,and so wasted much time,paper,and money on telegrams and telephone calls.
3. On the other hand they were agreed that the Direzione Generale had been very fair in not taking away an excessive number of appliances for the use of brigades in Central and Southern Italy;had done well in arranging an issue to take place this month of one working suit and one walking out suit for all wholetime men and one working suit for all parttime men;had confirmed all appointments in the region made on a temporary basis by AMG(notably the chief officers of Cuneo and Vercelli selected jointly by Col.Moscato and the AMG Fire Officer in May and June 1945);and had genuinely tried to help the brigades from a practical point of view apart from retaining too much centralised control.
4. There have been no difficulties over pay or rations, and thanks to excellent support from the prefects petrol supplies had always been adequate.
5. There have been no firstclass fires.This they attributed partly to good fortune(especially in the case of the illegally overcrowded cinemas),partly to the much wider knowledge of the dangers of fire and the urgency of preventive measures brought about by the war with a result that firstly there was less carelessness and secondly the fire brigades received much quicker and more intelligent calls.
6. Both at Alessandria and at Torino the brigades have attended prison riots,and at Alessandria they were admitted by the prisoners to deal with a fire at a time when the carabinieri could not enter!The rioters' reason was that two years ago when there was a fire in the prison the comandante of the fire brigade had insisted on the removal of all prisoners from the cells into the fresh air away from smoke ,and that his thoughtfulness was remembered.
7. I inspected the Alessandria headquarters station from top to bottom at request of ~~the~~ comandante Negri and congratulated him on the very fine way in which station

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and appliances were kept;the station was built about ten years ago by the comune of Alessandria to Negri's own specifications,and is a credit to the town.
8. Thanks to the British Council it has been possible to give two copies of the new British Manual of Firemanship to each brigade in Piemonte;two copies have also been sent to Milano F.B.,and eight more copies are in the care of Col.Moscato and will be distributed to e other Northern Brigades on application.The chief officers were vastly interested and studied the photographs of recent British appliances eagerly;each is arranging for a translation of this very long work.
9. At every visit great interest is shown in the problems of the British Fire Brigades and their organisation, and Piemonte is keen to send a party to England.
10. The next meeting of the chief officers is to be a festival one at Verbania,Novara Province,and they have insisted that I attend as an unofficial representative of the British Fire Service.
11. As noted many times before this Italian service seems to be in a most healthy state of efficiency and enthusiasm.

L.Montague Lt.Col.

L.MONTAGUE,
Lt.Col.,GL.

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ALLIED COMMISSION LIAISON GROUP - PIEMONTE.

PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION.

14 April, 1946.

SUBJECT: Situation in the Pinerolo area.

TO: The Chief Liaison Officer, Piemonte.

1. On Friday, 12th April, 1946, with Lt. Col. Montague, I visited the Carabinieri caserma at Pinerolo and interviewed the captain in charge of the company.

2. The captain made the comment that there had been a very big improvement in administration since a career Prefect was appointed in Turin. Although he is 40 kilometres from the city he feels the effects very strongly in the interest shewn in his work, the fact that he now receives replies to queries, telephone calls seeking information on local matters from the Prefect himself and, above all, the eradication of party bias from the administration.

3. Referring to the Questura the captain said that he has the impression (and this is shared by other people) that something is lacking on the administrative side: he said that with his 25 years experience in the carabinieri he is unable to put his finger on anything definite but feels that all is not well. He thinks that the substitution of a good career Questore for Dr. Agosti would put things right.

4. The newly elected council will hold its first meeting in the course of the next few days and will elect the new sindaco. The Left wing block won a majority but at the moment the most likely candidates for the position of sindaco are two millionaires (who belong to the Socialist party) and a doctor (a member of the Action Party) who is a very strict high churchman. The captain is of the opinion that there is not likely to be any violent change in the local administration.

5. The trouble makers in this district are not the Communists and Socialists but the Action Party. Members of this Party (which had joined the Left Wing block) broke their agreement by crossing out Socialist and Communist candidates on their ballot papers and leaving only the names of members of their own party. This has caused a little unpleasantness and coolness between the parties of the left.

6. The response to the call-up has been good only 2% failures to answer being reported.

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7. In the captain's area there are only two routes leading to the frontier but there are no recognised passes, and there never has been much trouble from a contraband point of view.

8. The captain drew attention to the position of the casino at Torre Pellice; these premises have never been licensed and information was received one Sunday that the proprietor intended to open for gaming at 8o'clock that evening. The captain went to him in the afternoon and pointed out to him in a friendly way that he was not licensed and advised him not to open adding that if he did so the captain would arrive at five minutes past eight with some carabinieri and close the premises. The proprietor,

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who is a personal friend of the Minister of the Interior, telephoned Rome and the Captain received orders by telephone from the Legion Headquarters instructing him not to take any steps to interfere. The premises are still not licensed (and, as far as the captain knows - he avoids visiting the place as far as possible to prevent embarassement - are still functioning) and there is a great deal of local resentment amongst the mainly Protestant population on religious and moral grounds.

9. Rationed bread in the district is of very poor quality but there is plenty of good bread on the black market.

10. The political situation at the moment is very quiet and one reason for this, in the captain's opinion, is that the left wing parties having temporarily formed an alliance to fight the right and centre in the local elections have now found that they have many things in common and that their respective goals are very similar although their methods of achieving these goals may be rather different. At the moment considerable harmony prevails between theparties of the left.

11. The captain is convinced that there are many hidden arms in the valleys. The Valdesians always have had and always will have arms as it is a tradition and an instinct with them; they were a Protestant minority in a Catholic country and subjected to persecution. In addition to this, however, information has been received that the various parties have allocated arms to individuals for safe keeping and production when called upon.

12. The captain is responsible for policing 39 communes and he has 18 stations under his command; his transport consists of seven bicycles! He has recovered threeother cycles which were stolen from the carabinieri in the confusion following the 8th September, 1943, and for the last nine months he has tried to obtain tyres for these machines but without success. He quoted a case where a telephone message was received to the effect that armed men were holding up workmen leaving a small factory, and at the time the message was received the operation was still in progress - even if he had the machines he could do not better than send a couple of men out on bicycles. His authorised strength is 136 men and his actual strength is 116; he has a sotto-tenente in charge of Pinerolo itself and has 30-35 N.C.O's. It is not the latter of which he is short but ordinary carabinieri.

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12. The captain is responsible for policing 39 communes and he has 15 stations under his command; his transport consists of seven bicycles! He has recovered threeother cycles which were stolen from the carabinieri in the confusion following the 8th September, 1943, and for the last nine months he has tried to obtain tyres for these machines but without success. He quoted a case where a telephone message was received to the effect that armed men were holding up workmen leaving a small factory, and at the time the message was received the operation was still in progress - even if he had the machines he could do not better than send a couple of men out on bicycles. His authorised strength is 136 men and his actual strength is 116; he has a sotto-tenente in charge of Pinerolo itself and has 30-35 N.C.O's. It is not the latter of which he is short but ordinary carabinieri. When the Scottish Horse were stationed at Pinerolo they placed a vehicle at his disposal and gave him every assistance in the form of other transport when needed (as did every Regiment under the command of 7 AGRA) but now he has to rely upon borrowing a private car from any friend who can oblige him.

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13. The company is well off for authomatic weapons and have recently received 29 from Headquarters in Turin. They are, however, completely without pistols and these are particularly needed by his plain clothes men who obviously cannot perform their duties with a mitra tucked underneath their arms.

14. Applications are being received from communes

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for the carabinieri to open stations and offering to meet the expenses from communal funds. This the captain interprets as a sign of distrust and dislike of the Pubblica Sicurezza and an indication of faith in the work and honesty of the carabinieri.

15. The men in the company are all sleeping on blankets and sheets but none of these have been received from carabinieri sources and no issue has been made. These articles were recovered from the Germans and Fascists and put to good use.

16. All the carabinieri have overcoats but with the advent of warmer weather their shabby uniforms will be exposed to the public gaze and the captain is rather concerned because he feels that a smart and well turned out carabinieri is something to which the people have always been accustomed and, to retain their regard and keep hight the morale of the men themselves, new uniforms are very necessary. The men also have all received l ng winter underwear but the captain considers this unsuitable for a 15 kilometres patrol in hot weather in shorts.

17. With regard to the political murders at Pinerolo (regarding which a previous visit was made to the district by Lt. Col. Green and yself) the most recent information received is a report that a drunken young man in the local brothel is alleged to have said that he was happy to have been responsible for shooting two Fascists who had been responsible for the execution of his brother. Enquiries are being made with a view to tracing this young man. No further deaths havetaken place.

18. Before the three murders 23 ex-Fascists were holding meetings in secret and were considered to be a cell of the SAM. Since the last murder a number of them haveleft the district and others are keeping very strictly to themselves. The three murdered persons were all members of the clandestine organisation.

19. The captain is very concerned about the public safety situation during the forthcoming national election. He states that during the local elections his men were on duty for three days continually without relief (covering 52 places) and were exhausted. There are stories circulating of people being intimidated by

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19. The captain is very concerned about the public safety situation during the forthcoming national electich. 113
He states that during the local elections his men were on duty for three days continually without relief (covering 52 places) and were exhausted. There are stories circulating of people being intimidated by elements visiting their homes and ordering them to go to the polls and vote for particluar persons, and in the National election (in the opinion of the captain) when there are no carabinieri patrols the threats will be enforced by the pistol. He is particularly afraid of the transport co-operatives which are run mainly by Sicilians, Neapolitans and Venetians and are all associates of the famous Walter (who, at one time, had his own police force under Capt. Poyet, AMG) and considere them nothing more than gangs. His own suggestion is that every young man who was not living or working in the district on 8th September, 1943, should be forcibly sent back to his home town, and that thelocal people would then come into their own

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and be able to live quiet and peaceful lives. He states that the number of Piemontese involved in these gangs and illegal activities in negligible. As far as maintaining law and order during the elections is concerned the captain stated that, with the men he has available and in consideration of the elements with whom they may have to deal, he cannot accept responsibility and he has so reported to his Legion Headquarters.

W. Sharpe
Major

Public Safety Liaison Officer.

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ALLIED COMMISSION LIAISON GROUP - PIEMONTE.

PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION.

12th April, 1946.

SUBJECT: Situation in the Aosta Valley.

TO: The Chief Liaison Officer, Piemonte.

1. Reference report on the above subject submitted on 8th April, 1946.

2. Herewith are submitted further documents obtained during the enquiry into this matter under the headings:

"Declaration the 6th day of April, 1946, in a most confidential manner to the Major of CC.RR, Vincenzo PESCE MAINERI, following a cross-examination carried out at La Thuille (Aosta) by Mr. Jorrioz, of the late Benvenuto, age 29 years, of Aosta".

"Le Val d'Aosta Libre. Or gane du comité populaire Valdotain de Libération".

Major.

Public Safety Liaison Officer.

Copies to :

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GSI., Headquarters, 2 District.

Public Safety Sub-Commission, Allied Commission.

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THE VALLEY OF AOSTA FREE.

GIVE UNTO CAESAR WHAT IS OF CAESAR

Without wishing to polemise with certain partial newspapers, even too partial to totalitarian methods, I find it would be necessary regarding certain VALDOSTAIN journalists as well as certain autonomy propagandists, that they referred back for a few hours to their old school books for a better study of the significance and the principles of certain words: Democracy, Justice, Liberty.

A few weeks ago, the "PAYSSAN", the so-called voice of the MAQUISARDS VALDOTAINS (we might ask the editors whether they have the birth certificate of Mr Edoardo CONSOLO, Agent of the S.I.M.) in their article dealing with the flight of Prof Chabod from Chatillon, threatened the opposition with the application of the articles, of most perfect fascist character, of the late Mussolinian code which even foresaw death for the separatists.

Those scolars of Appelius, forgetting too easily the existence of an International Code, approved by all civilised states, in which is recognised the vital rights of the minorities and its application.

But the Valdostain "Quislings" have gone as far as drowning their rights, not only but even to doubt our minority character. These gentlemen forget far too soon the history of the VALLEY OF AOSTA.

Doing some absurd reasoning one could say to them:- If we are Italians, among the purest in the same way as the autonomists of AOSTA, we have no right to claim privileges.

Lets' be proud to take our responsibilities towards the dictatorship and the fruits of a disastrous war. Why abandon in the our brothers of Turin, Rome or Naples? It is false and unjust to expect rights.

But if on the other hand, we are a minority, a savoyarde minority, incorporated in the Italian territory, and our history proves it clearly enough, then the VALDOTAIN problem presents itself in a different light to that which they want to impose on us.

Our people, being a minority, have rights and we want our rights to be recognised whatever the solution may be regarding the Valley of Aosta.

It is false to speak about concessions, we must speak of rights, even with Rome and such rights are neither discussed nor are they purchased.

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Prefecturians of Aosta should remember that certain methods lead to the experiences of BUCHENWALD, DACHAU MAUTHAUSEN. 919

That certain minorities desire to remain under "the empire of Rome" we can understand it, and even too well, but let not it be imposed upon others! But the " reasons" of our attitude you well know. You are beaten at the start and therefore you are getting ready to accomplish the new March on Rome and declare a new 3rd January.

BRUTUS.

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IS THE VALLEY OF ~OSTA DYING? NO! SHE WILL ~VE!

For a people, same as for a man, unable to keep its individuality, means death!

And for he who observes us and judges us from without, our people exist no more.

Itshe lost its language, it has to disclaim its forefathers - ancestors - and its history.

In the midst of us, there has encamped a new people and they act as masters.

A different people that has not our "visage" (face) and the weakest among us have passively accepted its language and at times its spirit, a different people who do not love us.

They have proved this to us and continue to prove it.

80,000 VALDOSTANIS are isolated in their own homes. They are isolated from their directing class that has been dispersed or enslaved. They are kept in ignorance of all problems that closely concern them.

The other people regulate the life of the country for they are in the offices from which they administer us; they are at the works where they think of acting as masters; they are in the shops where they are enriching themselves; they are in the schools where they make us forget our language and our history!

And the tragic of all things is that all this is happening not because this people has won over us, but, because we ourselves have contributed to its liberation.

After the bitter and underground struggle that the men came from the plains, commenced and continued after under an apparent cover of legality against the men of the mountain, the country begings to see through it all.

It wants to live, it wants to decide freely as to its destiny.

It wants to live for it is deeply rooted to its native soil, the soil that still belongs to them, and which the foreigners would be unable to render productive or to till. It wants to live for it continues to produce men and these men know how to think and how to act. It wants to live in order that our most dearly traditions may be born again and be perpetrated.

VALDOSTANIS! feed the flames!

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VALDOSTAINS! feed the flames!

The Autonomy

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PIERRE — Tellme, my old Jean! They have recently spoken to me a lot about;;;let me see, I cannot quite remember the name. Oh! I know;;;the auto;;; the autonomy.

JEAN — What is this?

JEAN — Well, I believe it means something like being masters in our own home.

PIERRE — Oh! Well that is quite good! It is far too long now that certain people have come from far to step on our nose. It may be possible to rid ourselves and it is none to early!

JEAN — Do not get over excited. What you say may happen, b the autonomy would have to be a real autonomy.

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PIERRE — What do you mean? Explain yourself!

JEAN — My old friend, it is simple. It is decided in high circles to give you an autonomy. Sure enough they do not consult you for since ages gone be, the people must approve what is imposed upon them. Do you think that the country will own the waters that represent our only wealth...mistake; they belong to the state. You believe also of being lightened of taxes...mistake! You will continue to pay and pay heavier! You believe that at last you will be free to have your own administration.....mistake! They haveprovided controlling commissions the members of which, chosen by the Government, will poke their nose elsewhere!!!!!!!!!

PIERRE — Well then! Why do the newspapers write so much about this autonomy? It seems to be the eighth marvel of the world. I believe it to be a sort of "sleeping- draught" given us that we remain tranquil whilst the "OTHERS" will continue to fleece us.

JEAN — My dear, the newspapers are paid to do propaganda - I say that they want to throw dust in our eyes. It is hoped that someone will end in believing that this pretended autonomy gives us all we want and even more!

PIERRE — What a band of s....! And to think there are people who want to pass for VALDOSTAINS and who lend themselves to this dirty business. Oh! But we know them well. Let us hope that they may soon stop travelling by car on our roads for the purpose of coming to tell us lies. In any case, on that note.... autonomy, I really do not want to ride!

JEAN — And the same here!

ITALIAN SPYING IN THE VALLEY OF AOSTA.

Behold!!!
VALDOSTAINS, open your eyes!!!
We give here a first list of Agents of the S.I.M. who are working among us.
The S.I.M. is the Secret Espionage Service of the Italian General Staff.
It holds an honourable place alongside the Gestapo, Ovra, and many other organisations of sinister memory

Read the names that follow and beware!

1 AUGUST ADAM called BLANC
2 Rag. Candido MARCHIANDO
3 Geom. Ferdinand BICHAZ
4 Marius GUICHAZ late Capt of the~~m~~ Fire-Brigade.
5 Remo CHANOU Place Market specialist

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4 Marius GUERRAZ late Capt of the Fire-Brigade.
5 Remo CHABOD Black Market specialist
6 Aldo CHANOZ
7 Nicolini COLLA
8 Henri FOURNITO, Capt of the Republican Fascists
9 Edouard GONCOLO, Co Director of the "PARTISAN"
10 Aldo ROVERAZ, late Fascists Notary

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All these persons are at the service of the ANTI-VALDOSTAINS. They receive a goodpay and sell their kin for a few coppers. We will shortly give some personal news regarding them and their accomplices who spy upon the VALDOSTAIN at AOSTA and villages of the Valley. Make these names known to your friends and above all things - BEWARE!!!

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THE AUTONOMY PARTY

It is a piece of pretty recent production the author or authors of which are not very well known and who have been produced in our midst at AOSTA and in some Communes such as CHATILLON VERRES etc.

This little theatre which a well orchestrated propaganda announced to us, in which fantasy and humour are mixed so as to entice our curiosity, is animated by a group of actors who do their best to gain the applause of the spectators.

Among those actors we have elected two we desire to introduce to you- they are, on the other hand, the best.

The first comedian is what can be physically described as a "big man", so big in fact that he must experience difficulty at seeing his own feet when he walks. He is thin, but this is no fault of the cook of the "Grand Hotel" of Rome, who, during three months has done his best to re feather. He is an intellectual; it seems he has written some books, which no one reads. It is said he has been shaped to the schooling of an Italo-German philosopher. This would explain the sympathy for the "nazis" for a long while shown by him and for fascism which he honestly served.

As an actor he has a blemish as well as a certain audacity through he has been reproached of not sufficiently studying, whilst on the stage certain nervous contortions which displease the public.

The second comedian has the figure of a real gentleman. His manners are exquisite, his attire impeccable. He gladly proclaims his deep respect for all.....artistic opinions, but it appears not to be a good thing to have an opinion which differs from his .

Those who know him say that one must not be taken in by his air of "honey" and by his sweetening words; his reactions are at times ~~xxxxx~~ vehement. He plays for preference the part of mediator or diplomat; his friends let me believe he excelled in these. Off the stage he is a man who lends himself with sufficient good grace and rare suppleness in taking all the character parts, he is a tidy man who knows how to keep his books and loves his comforts.

The tour our actors have taken on with the Valley of Aosta is not however meeting with great success.

The play they were interpreting and which has a title "Theatres of the Autonomy" has "sovreignly" displeased the VALDOSTANS, who have not hesitated to noisily express their malcontent.

Gentlemen actors, do not insist, change your "repertoire".

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they are, on the other hand, the best.

The first specimen is what can be physically described as a "big man", so big in fact that he must experience difficulty at seeing his own feet when he walks. He is thin, but this is no fault of the cook of the "Grand Hotel" of Rome, who, during three months has done his best to re feather. He is an intellectual; it is as he has written some books, which no one reads. It is said he has been shaped to the schooling of an Italo-German philosopher. This would explain the sympathy for the "axis" for a long while shown by him and for fascism which he honestly served.

As an actor he has a blemish as well as a certain audacity through he has been reproached of not sufficiently endowing, whilst on the stage certain nervous contortions which displease the public.

The second sensation has the figure of a real gentleman. His manners are exquisite, his attire impeccable. He gladly proclaims his deep respect for all.....artistic opinions, but it appears not to be a good thing to have an opinion which differs from his.

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Gentlemen actors, do not insist, change your "repertoire".
Then perhaps you will be listened to-

907

AOSTA

Several hundred people at AOSTA declared on Sunday the 16th instant, their desire to hold a plebiscite to decide the future of our country. They were represented the Communes of COURMAYEUR, MORGEX, AVISE, VALGRISANCHE, RHEMES, INTROD, SAIT NICOLAS, VILLENEUVE, SAIT PIERRE, ARNAVILLES, GRESSAN, JOVENCAN, SAIT-MARCEL, AOSTA.

Before the gates of the sanctuary of Rochepert a well deserving VALDOSTAIN partisan held a thrilling address to a crowd that did not cease to cheer him. The speaker (orator) painted a great picture of VALDOSTAIN history and clearly showed that the VALDOSTAIN have always been very attached to their land, and ~~xxxxx~~ of their liberty.

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He said that this liberty had to be, no-e-days acquired and in order to do this thy were ready to face all sacrifices - they desired to be granted the rights to freely dispose of their destinees.

There followed a long cortège tha wound its way from the sanctuary towards the hamlet (borough)- with VALDOSTAIN flags leading the demonstrators bearing placards on which could be read: " PLEBISCITE - THE VALLEY TO THE VALDOSTAINS" etc.. marched bye singing, mid aplauses and in perfect order.

There were no incidents and the simple but significant ceremony of our desire to resist against alle oppression terminated at the feet of the monument to the fallen in the first world war. 1915/18

V A L T O U R N A N C H E.

The tough mountaineers of VALTOURNANCHE are by nature gifted of a cold and calm temperament.
It must now be said that they expressed in and unequivocal manner that they know on occasions and in an enthusiastic and open way how to express their feelings.

On a Sunday when leaving church after mass, the crowd gathered in the square of the church to listen to the courageous words of a VALDOSTAIN who presented in its true light the famous autonomie that Italy has imposed upon us.

The VALDOSTAINS greeted the salient passages of the address (speech) with repeated an spontaneous acclamations.

A few NON-VALDOSTAINS that curiosity had kept them from the spot expressed their discontent in a noisy manner.

The VALDOSTAINS found themselves compelled to retort and they expelled with the aid of the police if this can be said thes mal-intentioned people who only know living at our expense. The demonstration closed with some district folk songs and with cries often repeated of "VIVE LA VALLEE LIBRE -! PLEBISCITE! " " SHAME TO THE FREED VALLEY !+ PLEBISCITE ! "

PAPERS TO BE BOYCOTTED

We present to you to-day the "Voix des Valdostains"(The Voice of the Valdostains")

The title is indeed great.

It is a plagiary for they have copied the name of the paper that long since was published in PARIS under the care of some members of the VALDOSTAIN COLONY.

It is a barratry because the title of the newspaper does not in any way correspond to its contents.

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The "VOICE OF THE VALDOSTAINS" is in effect, the organ of the "PASSERINS
"PASSERINS OF HERSEVES AND Co." that is to say of a small group of people whose writings and actions are disavowed by the mass of the VALDOSTAINS.

The sub-title of this weekly journal are most for the less pretentious. Imagine this small sheet would pretend to be: The organ of the VALDOSTAIN RESISTENCE MOVEMENT, of the YOUNG VALLEY OF AOSTA and of the ASSOCIATION OF OLD VALDOSTAIN PARTISANS. While they are about it why don't they christen it? the organ of the MILK COOPERATIVE, SHEPHERDS' SYNDICATE, or of the ASSOCIATION FOR THE RATIONAL BREEDING OF CATTLE. It would be, in any case, more useful.
It is really the case of saying "THE MORE YOU HAVE THE LESS YOU GET".
The "VOICE OF THE VALDOSTAINS" is the paper of the RESISTANCE MOVEMENT, but of resistance in accordance to the aspiration of the

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This neo-fascism could not pass as a newspaper of propaganda; this is how the "PARTISAN" came into being.

Excuses are made for the "Italian Government" for residing us in sweet illusion and giving to understand that everything is going very vay well. There regularly are inserted anti-french articles with the idea undoubtedly of improving franco-italian relations.

The aytonomy is mentioned, but it is done to deny us the rights of property over our ~~mines~~ waters which we avenge.

If anyone protests, the protest is published with some wise cuttings-suppressions in order to avoid offending in a serious manner the influential magnates of the leading industries.

Great articles are wri ten, and always in italian and of a good lens four or five times written in french.

They never tire in proposing "Referendums" for or against annexation very well knowing that the replies in order to be published will have to be one sided.

News are so arranged that they say what they want them to mean.

The bonfires of joy that were lit on our mountains the 14th July to show our sympathy towards France became, according to "THE PARTISAN a proof of our love for Italy!

The popular demonstration of friendship towards the French troops leaving the Valley is presented as if the VALLESTAINS were greatly delighted at their departure.

The numerous and at times scorching affronts (failures) of CHABOU and Company during their propaganda tours in favour of the autonomy are passed over in silence.

They relate minute and insignificant facts different from all points of view, but they modestly and purposely ignore public manifestations of popular malcontent which are nevertheless increasing at an accelerated rythm.

Are you not ashamed Mr Robert in putting your name at the bottom of this newspaper? But remain assured for it is not so much the question of your small self that rises our interest, it is your friends whom we denounce. Your shadow is not big enough to cover them. Who has given you the money that allows you to do your dirty work? We reply for you - It is the S.I.M. and their "Show Soldiers" - their filibusters of high finance of which you are only the valet (page).
A day will come when we will recompense you as well as your collab-

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A day will come when we will recompense you as well as your collaborators that we well know - in spite of the transparent veil under which they hide.
Gentlemen of the "PARTISAN", the real (true) VALDOSTAINS and the real (true) partisans do not surely send you their felicitations.

905

CHAT BLEU.

VALDOSTAINS:

Have trust in yourself-
Your lot will improve-
You have been oppressed during manyyears
Complobleted in a nation that was not your nation
Midst people who could not understand you-
A new era appears on the horizon
The Allies to have fought to free people from

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people! It cannot be seen, therefore, how it comes to classify itself as representing the YOUNG VALLEY OF AOSTA.

Its War Cry is THE AUTONOMY WITHIN THE ITALIAN FRAME - APART FROM THAT, THERE IS UNREALITY!

In its first number it tells us "of the new democratic Italy" that does not give us any lying promises!.....that has understood what are our aspirations and our hopes .

It reports in its second number the views of our emigrated regarding the VALDOSTAIN question; it takes jolly good care not to reveal the fact that our compatriots, better informed nowadays than they were in the past, regarding the situation, have adopted the thesis of the re-attachment of the land of to France. They admit in an article entitled " POR LIBERTAS" that we are not free, but this is only referred to in order to conclude that we have not got the right to decide our lot.

We guess (numbers six and twelve) at the Swiss and French Press for the rare articles that view with disfavour the annexation of the Valley to France, and passes in silence over the numerous articles that express an entirely different opinion, etc.

The VOICE OF THE VALDOSTAINS is therefore a paper of a minority subservient to Italy, it presents the news in its own style.

It looks after the interests of our land, but in a upside down manner. Your duty is to boycot it !

Do not read the paper it is dangerous. Do not subscribe; you would lose your money and your time! ~~Neighbours~~

* * *

Do you know"IL PADANIA" ? No? So much the better!

Yes? So much the worse for you!

We had to submit, during fascism a really disgusting paper 100% Anti-VALDOSTAIN which was called "LA PROVINCIA D'AOSTA".

One could read in it ridiculous articles that glorified in pompous (flouting) terms Italy and its regime. 904

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X

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These were inserted some extremely poisonous articles which were an outrage to all that is dear to us, our language, our traditions,etc.... There was never a mention regarding our interests, our problems, or our needs.

It attacked - more courageously than the adversaries could reply - all those who were suspected of thinking differently to Rome.

That was the past, here is the present! Fascism here, has not disappeared; it operates on pretty well. Its men occupy in the various Parties and Administrations Posts of first order. Its methods of coercion and violence are still in force. Its alliance with the arrogant militarism and rapacious capitalism is stronger than ever.

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tyranny,will also free you.
The least they can do is to keep their signature-
Consequently they will give you back your independence.
Whatever is said by certain press of AOSTA paid
By Rome that assures us that the VALDOSTAN
Question is already settled and that it will
No longer rest on the international plane
Do not fear these low threats
We have full confidence that one day there
Will again shine on our peaks the ~~must~~ star of Liberty-
Starting from today with your labour, your
Tenacity with concord and union you
Will make of your Valley a most marvellous garden.

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Le Val d'Aoste Libre

ORGANE DU COMITÉ POPULAIRE VALDOTAIN DE LIBÉRATION

Ce journal ne paraîtra plus lorsque les Valdôtains seront Libres.

Donnez à César ce qui est à César

Sans vouloir faire de la polémique avec certains journaux partisans: même trop partisans des méthodes totalitaires, je trouve que ce serait nécessaire pour certains journalistes valdôtains, et aussi pour certains propagandistes de l'autonomie, de retourner pour quelques heures aux vieux livres d'écoles, pour mieux étudier et comprendre la signification et les principes de certaines paroles : *démocratie, justice, liberté*.

Il y a quelques semaines le « Partisan » soi disant organe des Maquisards Valdôtains (pourrait-on demander à la rédaction si elle possède l'acte de naissance de M. Edoardo Consolo, agent du S. I. M.) ; dans le reportage de la fuite du Prof. Chabod de Châtillon, menaçait l'opposition de l'application des articles, parfaitement fascistes, du vieux Code Mussolinien, prévoyant même la mort ! ! ! pour les séparatistes.

Ces écoliers d'Appelius, oublient trop facilement l'existance d'un Code International, approuvé et sanctionné par tout Etat civilisé, dans lequel on reconnait aux *minorités*, des droits vitaux et leurs applications. — Mais les « Quislings » valdôtains sont allés jusqu'à nier ces droits, non seulement, mais même à mettre en doute notre caractère de *minorités*. — Ces Messieurs oublient trop vite l'histoire valdôtaine !

En raisonnant par l'absurde, on pourrait leur dire : Si nous sommes des Italiens, parmi les plus purs, ainsi que le soutiennent les autonomistes d'Aoste, nous n'avons aucun droit à réclamer des privilèges. Soyons fiers de prendre nos responsabilités envers la dictature et les... fruits d'une guerre désastreuse. Pourquoi abandonner dans le pétrin nos... frères de Turin, Rome ou Naples ? C'est faux et injuste de prétendre des droits...

Mais si au contraire nous sommes une minorité, une minorité savoyarde, englobée en territoire italien, et notre histoire le prouve assez clairement, alors le problème valdôtain se présente bien autrement de celui que l'on veut nous... imposer.

Etant notre peuple une minorité, nous avons des droits et nous voulons que nos droits soient reconnus: quelconque soit la solution du Val d'Aoste.

C'est faux, parler de concessions; il faut parler de droits... même avec Rome, et ces droits on ne les discute pas, ni on les achète.

Les « Prétoriens » d'Aoste devraient se rappeler que certaines méthodes ont porté aux expériences de Buchenwald, de Dachau, de Manthausen.

Que certains minoritaires désirent rester sous « l'imperio di Roma » nous le comprenons, et même trop bien, mais qu'on ne l'impose pas aux autres !

Mais le « pourquoi » de notre attitude, vous le savez :

Vous êtes battus d'avance et alors..., vous vous préparez à achever la nouvelle Marche sur Rome et à prononcer un nouveau 3 Janvier...

BRUTUS.

La Vallée d'Aoste se meurt? Non, elle vivra !

Pour un peuple comme pour un homme ne plus garder son individualité, c'est mourir !

Et pour celui qui nous observe et nous juge du dehors, notre peuple n'existe plus.

Il a perdu son langage, il doit renier ses ancêtres et son histoire.

Au milieu de nous un autre peuple s'est campé et agit en maître

Un autre peuple qui n'a pas notre visage et dont les plus faibles parmi nous ont accepté passivement le langage et quelquefois l'esprit, un autre peuple qui ne nous aime pas.

Il nous l'a prouvé et il nous le prouve encore.

Soixante Valdôtains sont isolés chez eux.

Ils sont isolés de leur classe dirigeante que l'on a dispersée ou asservie. Ils sont tenus dans l'ignorance de tous les problèmes qui nous regardent de près.

L'autre peuple règle la vie du pays car il est dans les bureaux d'où il nous administre; il est dans les usines où il croit agir en maître; il est dans les boutiques où il s'enrichit; il est dans les écoles où il nous fait oublier notre langue et notre histoire !

Et le plus tragique c'est que tout cela a lieu non pas parce que ce peuple-là nous a vaincus mais parce que nous avons, nous, contribué à sa libération.

Après la lutte âpre et souterraine que les hommes venus d'en bas commencèrent et continuèrent, souvent sous le couvert d'une apparence de légalité, contre les hommes de la montagne, le pays enfin voit clair !

Il veut vivre, il veut décider librement de sa destinée.

Il veut vivre car il est profondément enraciné au sol natal, ce sol qui lui appartient encore et que l'étranger ne serait pas capable de faire produire et de travailler.

Il veut vivre car il continue à produire des hommes et ces hommes savent penser et agir.

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Il veut vivre pour que nos traditions les plus chères renaissent et se perpétuent.

Valdôtains ! alimentez la flamme.

La Vallée d'Aoste nouvelle, régénérée par la souffrance et la volonté de ses fils, produira à nouveau des Valdôtains.

Nous serons ainsi les maîtres chez nous !

L'Autonomie !!!

PIERRE. — Dis donc mon vieux Jean, on m'a beaucoup parlé ces temps-ci de... attends un peu, le nom ne me revient pas. Ah ! voilà... de l'auto... de l'autonomie. Qu'est-ce que c'est que ça ?

JEAN. — Ben, je crois que ça veut dire quelque chose comme être maître chez soi.

PIERRE. — Oh ! mais alors, ça c'est très bien. Il y a depuis trop longtemps que certaines gens sont venus de loin nous mettre les pieds sur le nez; on va donc pouvoir enfin s'en débarrasser, ce n'est pas trop tôt !

JEAN. — Ne t'emballe pas trop vite. Ce que tu dis pourrait se vérifier, mais il faudrait que l'autonomie soit une vraie autonomie.

PIERRE. — Qu'est-ce que tu veux dire ? Explique-toi.

JEAN. — Mon vieux, c'est bien simple. On décide en haut lieu de te donner une espèce d'autonomie. Bien sûr que l'on ne te consulte pas car depuis toujours il faut que le peuple approuve tout ce qu'on lui impose. Tu crois que le pays deviendra propriétaire des eaux qui sont presque notre seule richesse... erreur : ça appartient à l'Etat !

Tu penses d'être enfin un peu moins surchargé d'impôts... erreur, tu dois payer et toujours plus fort !

Tu penses d'être finalement libre de t'administrer... erreur : on a prévu, paraît-il, des commissions de contrôle dont les membres, qui seront choisis par le Gouvernement, ficheront le nez partout !!!

PIERRE. — Mais alors, pourquoi les journaux parlent-ils tant de cette autonomie ? Il semble que c'est la huitième merveille du monde. Je pense que c'est une sorte « d'endormia » que l'on nous donne pour que nous restions bien tranquille pendant que les AUTRES continueront à nous plumer !

JEAN. — Mon cher, les journaux sont payés pour faire de la propagande, moi je dis que l'on veut nous jeter de la poussière aux yeux.

On espère que quelqu'un finisse par croire que cette prétendue autonomie nous donne tout ce que nous désirons et même plus !

PIERRE. — Quelle bande de s... ! Et dire qu'il y a des types qui se font passer pour valdôtains et qui se prêtent à faire cette sale besogne. Oh ! mais nous les connaissons bien. Espérons quand même qu'ils auront bientôt fini de voyager en auto sur nos routes pour venir nous raconter des blagues !

En tout cas, moi, sur cette auto... autonomie... je ne veux vraiment pas m'embarquer !

JEAN. — Et moi de même !

L'espionnage italien en Vallée d'Aoste

ATTENTION ! ! !

Valdôtains, ouvrez l'œil ! ! !

Nous vous présentons une première liste d'agents du S.I.M. qui travaillent chez nous.

Le S.I.M. c'est le service secret d'espionnage de l'Etat-Major italien.

Il tient une place honorable (!) à côté de la Gestapo, de l'Ovra et de tant d'autres organisations de sinistre mémoire.

Lisez les noms que nous faisons suivre et méfiez-vous !

1° *Adam Auguste*, dit Blanc.
2° *Marchiando* Rag. Candido.
3° *Bionaz* Ferdinand, géomètre.
4° *Guerraz* Marius, ancien capitaine de la Milice de feu Mussolini.
5° *Chabod* Remo, spécialiste du marché noir.
6° *Chabod* Aldo.
7° *Colla* Nicolino.
8° *Formenton* Henri, capitaine de la République fasciste !
9° *Concolo* Edouard, co-directeur du « Partisan ».
10° *Rovevaz* Aldo, ex-notaire fasciste.

Tout ce monde est au service des antivaldôtains.

Il perçoit une bonne paye et vend son prochain pour un peu d'argent.

Nous dirons bientôt quelque chose sur leur compte personnel et sur leurs complices qui espionnent les Valdôtains à Aoste et dans les bourgades de la Vallée.

Faites connaître ces noms à vos amis et surtout MEFIEZ-VOUS ! ! !

La farce de l'Autonomie

C'est une pièce de production assez récente dont l'auteur ou les auteurs ne sont pas très connus et que l'on a présentée chez nous, à Aoste, et dans quelques bourgades comme Chatillon, Verres, etc. Ce petit théâtre qui nous avait été annoncé par une propagande bien orchestrée où la fantaisie et l'humour se mêlaient pour piquer notre curiosité, est animé par un groupe d'acteurs qui font de leur mieux pour s'attirer les applaudissements des spectateurs.

Parmi ces acteurs nous en avons choisi deux que nous vous présentons ; ce sont d'ailleurs les meilleurs.

Le premier comédien est au physique ce qu'on appelle un grand type, tellement grand qu'il doit avoir de la peine à voir ses pieds en marchant. Il est maigre, mais ce n'est pas la faute du cuisinier du « Grand Hôtel » de Rome qui, pendant trois

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mois, a tout fait pour le remplumer. C'est un intellectuel : il paraît qu'il a écrit des livres, que nul ne lit d'ailleurs. On dit qu'il s'est formé à l'école d'un philosophe italo-allemand. Ceci expliquerait la sympathie qu'il a longtemps démontrée pour l'Axe et le fascisme qu'il a servi honnêtement.

Comme acteur il a du cran et fait preuve d'une certaine audace, bien qu'on lui reproche de ne pas maîtriser suffisamment, lorsqu'il est en scène, certaines contorsions nerveuses qui déplaisent au public.

Le second comédien est taillé comme un vrai gentleman. Ses façons sont exquises, sa toilette impeccable. Il proclame volontiers son profond respect pour toutes les opinions... artistiques, mais il paraît qu'il n'est pas bon d'avoir un opinion différente de la sienne. Ceux qui le connaissent disent qu'il ne faut pas se laisser prendre à son air mielleux et à ses paroles doucâtres; ses réactions sont souvent véhémentes. Il joue de préférence les rôles du médiateur et du diplomate ; ses amis lui laissent croire qu'il y excelle. En dehors de la scène, où il se prête d'assez bonne grâce et avec une rare souplesse, à remplir tous les rôles, c'est un homme rangé, sachant tenir sa comptabilité et aimant ses aises.

La tournée que nos acteurs ont entreprise en Vallée d'Aoste n'a cependant pas eu un grand succès.

La pièce qu'ils interprétaient et qui avait pour titre « la farce de l'autonomie » a souverainement déplu aux Valdôtains qui n'ont pas hésité à manifester bruyamment leur mécontentement.

Messieurs les acteurs, n'insistez pas, changez votre répertoire.

Alors peut-être vous écoutera-t-on.

ARVIER

Plusieurs centaines de personnes ont manifesté à Arvier, dimanche 16 courant, leur désir de pouvoir faire un Plébiscite pour décider de l'avenir de notre pays.

Etaient représentées les communes de Cormayeur, Morgex, Avise, Valgrisanche, Rhêmes, Introd, Saint-Nicolas, Villeneuve, Saint-Pierre, Aymavilles, Gressan, Jovençan, Saint-Marcel, Aoste.

Devant la porte du Sanctuaire de Rochefort un partisan Valdôtain bien méritant fit une vibrante allocution à une foule qui ne se lassait pas de l'applaudir. L'orateur brossa un large tableau de l'histoire valdôtaine et démontra avec évidence que les Valdôtains ont toujours été attachés à leur patrie et à leur liberté.

Il conclut en disant que cette liberté nous devons, aujourd'hui encore, la conquérir et, pour ce faire, nous sommes prêts à tous les sacrifices. Nous voulons que l'on nous reconnaisse le droit à disposer librement de notre destinée.

Ce fut ensuite un très long cortège qui se déroula de l'esplanade du Sanctuaire vers la bourgade. Drapeau Valdôtain en tête les manifestants qui portaient de nombreux écriteaux sur lesquels on lisait : Plébiscite, la Vallée aux Valdôtains, etc... défilèrent en chant sous les applaudissements et dans un ordre parfait.

Il n'y eut pas d'incidents et la crémonie simple, mais significative de notre volonté de résistance contre toute oppression se termina au pied du Monument aux Morts de la première guerre mondiale.

VALTORNANCHE

Les solides montagnards de Valtornanche sont par nature dotés d'un tempérament calme et froid.

Il faut dire maintenant qu'ils ont manifesté d'une façon non équivoque qu'ils savent, à l'occasion, prendre fait et cause pour une idée d'une manière enthousiaste et ouverte.

Un dimanche, à la sortie de la grand'messe, la foule se réunit sur la place de l'Eglise pour entendre les paroles courageuses d'un Valdôtain qui présenta sous son vrai jour la fameuse (!) autonomie que l'Italie vient de nous imposer.

Les Valtornains saluèrent les passages saillants du discours par des acclamations répétées et spontanées. Les quelques non-Valdôtains que la curiosité avait retenus sur place manifestèrent alors leur mécontentement d'une façon assez bruyante. Alors les Valtornains se virent dans la nécessité de réagir et ils expulsèrent, *manu militari* si l'on peut dire, ces gens mal intentionnés qui ne savent que vivre à nos dépens. La manifestation se clôtura par des chants du terroir et par les cris souvent répétés de : W. la Vallée libre ! Plébiscite !

Journaux à boycotter

Nous vous présentions aujourd'hui la « *Voix des Valdôtains* ».

Le titre est vraiment très beau.

Mais c'est un *plagiat* car on a copié le nom d'un journal qui se publiait jadis à Paris par les soins de quelques membres de la Colonie Valdôtaine.

C'est encore une *escroquerie* parce que le titre du journal ne correspond guère à son contenu.

La « *Voix des Valdôtains* » est en effet l'organe des Passerin d'Entrèves et Compagnie, c'est-à-dire d'un petit groupe de gens dont les écrits et les actes sont désavoués par la grande masse du peuple valdôtain.

Les sous-titres de ce journal hebdomadaire sont pour le moins prétentieux.

Figurez-vous que cette petite feuille voudrait être encore : l'organe du Mouvement de la Résistance valdôtaine — de la *Jeune Vallée d'Aoste* et de l'Association des anciens partisans valdôtains !

Dès qu'elle y est pourquoi ne se baptise-t-elle pas aussi l'organe des Coopératives laitières, du Syndicat des Bergers, de l'Association pour l'élevage rationnel du bétail, etc... ? Ce serait en tout cas plus utile.

C'est vraiment le cas de dire : qui trop embrasse, mal étreint.

La « *Voix des Valdôtains* » est le journal de la Résistance, mais de la Résistance aux aspirations du peuple !

On ne sait donc pas comment il ose se qualifier de représentant de la « *Jeune Vallée d'Aoste* ».

S'il représente ou non les intérêts des Partisans ce n'est pas facile à établir ; n'y a-t-il pas pour cela « *Le Partisan* » qui est d'ailleurs son digne confrère ?

Le journal est dirigé par un d'Entrèves, c'est pour ce qu'on l'appelle couramment « *La voix des Passerins* ».

Ces d'Entrèves sont partout... et toujours pour le plus grand bien de la Vallée !!

On a donné à son jeune directeur une centaine de billets de mille qui se trouvaient dans la caisse de la Préfecture d'Aoste et le journal a commencé à paraître.

Quand les fonds seront croqués (et ce sera vite fait) quelque bon mécène italien, ami de la Vallée (!) se chargera de remplir la caisse, quitte à laisser tomber le tout quand la question valdôtaine sera définitivement tranchée.

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Le journal en question affecte, dans ses articles une modération somnoise et hypocrite, il s'efforce de cacher son jeu; pour donner le change sur ses vraies intentions il imprime un peu de sa prose en français. Il reste cependant un fidèle instrument de la propagande italienne et son cheval de bataille est : l'autonomie dans le cadre italien, hors de là il n'y a pas de salut !

Dans son premier numéro il nous parle « de la nouvelle Italie démocratique » qui ne nous donne pas des promesses mensongères !... qui a compris quelles étaient nos aspirations et nos espérances !

Il rapporte dans un deuxième numéro la pensée de nos émigrés à propos de la question valdôtaine ; il se garde bien de relever que nos compatriotes, mieux informés aujourd'hui de la situation que par le passé, ont adopté en masse la thèse du rattachement du pays à la France.

Il reconnaît, dans un article intitulé « Quatre libertés » que nous ne sommes pas libres, mais c'est pour conclure que nous n'avons pas le droit de décider de notre sort !

Il glane (numéros 1 et 12) dans la presse suisse et française les rares articles où l'on ne voit pas de bon œil l'annexion de la Vallée à la France et passe sous silence les nombreux articles qui expriment une toute autre opinion. Etc...

La *Voix des Valdôtains* est donc un journal d'une minorité asservie à l'Italie.

Elle présente les nouvelles à sa façon.

Elle fait l'intérêt de notre pays mais à rebours.

Notre devoir est de le boycotter.

Ne lisez pas ce journal, il est dangereux.

Ne vous y abonnez pas; vous perdriez votre argent et votre temps.

***

Connaissez-vous « *Lo Partisan* » ? Non ? Tant mieux ! Oui ? Tant pis pour vous ?

Nous devions subir, au temps du fascisme, un journal vraiment dégoûtant, antivaldôtain au roc pour roc, il s'appelait la « *Provincia di Aosta* ». On y lisait des articles ridicules qui glorifiaient en termes pompeux l'Italie et son régime.

On y exaltait les plus pures gloires du fascisme, c'est-à-dire les bandits de la première heure qui avaient su si bien manœuvrer le bâton et le revolver.

On y insérait des articles virulents qui étaient un outrage pour tout ce qui nous est cher, notre langue, nos traditions, etc...

On n'y parlait jamais des intérêts de chez nous, de nos problèmes ou de nos besoins.

On y attaquait — d'autant plus courageusement que l'adversaire ne pouvait répondre — tous ceux qui étaient soupçonnés de ne pas penser comme l'on pensait à Rome.

C'était le passé, voici le présent.

Le fascisme, chez nous, n'a pas disparu; il se porte même assez bien. Ses hommes occupent dans les partis et les administrations des postes de premier ordre. Ses méthodes de coercition et de violence sont encore en vigueur. Son alliance avec le militarisme outrecuidant et le capitalisme rapace est plus forte que jamais !

Ce néo-fascisme ne pouvait se passer d'un journal de propagande; c'est ainsi que naquit « *Lo Partisan* ».

On y fait l'apologie du Gouvernement italien pour nous bercer dans la douce illusion que tout marche très, très bien !

On y insère régulièrement des articles antifrançais destinés sans aucun doute à améliorer les rapports franco-italiens.

On y parle de l'autonomie mais c'est pour nier le droit de propriété que nous revendiquons sur nos eaux. Si quelqu'un réclame, on publie la protestation avec de savantes coupures afin de ne pas trop se heurter aux grands magnats de la haute industrie.

On y écrit de grands articles et toujours en italien.

Dans quelque coin, on peut apercevoir, en se servant d'une bonne loupe, quatre ou cinq lignes en français.

On ne se lasse pas de proposer des « referendum » pour ou contre l'annexion tout en sachant fort bien que les réponses, pour être publiées, devront être à sens unique.

On arrange les nouvelles pour qu'elles disent ce que l'on veut leur faire dire.

Les feux de joie allumés sur nos montagnes le 14 juillet pour manifester notre sympathie envers la France deviennent pour « *Lo Partisan* » des preuves évidentes de notre amour pour l'Italie !

La démonstration populaire d'amitié à l'égard des troupes françaises quittant la Vallée est présentée comme si les Valdôtains s'étaient vivement réjouis de ce départ.

Les nombreux et parfois cuisants échecs de Chabod et compagnie dans leur tournée de propagande en faveur de l'autonomie sont passés sous silence.

On relate des mêmes faits divers à tout point de vue insignifiants mais on ignore pudiquement et de propos délibéré les manifestations publiques du mécontentement populaire qui se multiplient pourtant à un rythme accéléré...

N'avez vous donc pas honte, M. *Robert*, de mettre votre nom au bas de cette feuille ?

Mais rassurez-vous, ce n'est pas tant votre petite personne qui nous intéresse, c'est vos amis que nous dénonçons.

Votre ombre n'est pas assez grande pour les couvrir.

Qui vous a donné l'argent qui vous permet de faire votre sale besogne ? Nous répondons pour vous. C'est la S.I.M. et ses traîneurs de sabres ce sont les flibustiers de la haute finance dont vous n'êtes que le valet.

Un jour viendra où nous vous récompenserons ainsi que vos collaborateurs que nous connaissons bien malgré le voile d'un anonymat transparent, sous lequel ils se cachent.

Messieurs du *Partisan*, les vrais Valdôtains et les vrais partisans ne vous envient certes pas leurs félicitations.

CHAT-BEAU.

VALDOTAIN !

Aie confiance en toi-même.

Ton sort s'améliorera.

Tu as été opprimé pendant de longues années, englobé dans une nation qui n'était pas la tienne.

Parmi des gens qui ne pouvaient te comprendre.

Une ère nouvelle s'annonce à l'horizon.

Les Alliés qui ont combattu pour délivrer les peuples de la tyrannie, te délivreront aussi.

Ils ne peuvent faire moins que d'honorer leurs signatures.

Par conséquent ils te redonneront ton indépendance.

Quoiqu'en dise certaine presse d'Aoste salariée par Rome, qui nous assure que la question Valdôtaine est déjà réglée, et qu'elle ne sera plus posée sur le plan international.

Ne crains pas ces basses menaces.

Nous avons entière confiance qu'un jour : brillera à nouveau sur nos cimes l'Astre de la Liberté.

A partir de ce jour-là, avec ton labour, ta ténacité, la concorde et l'union, tu feras de ta Vallée un jardin merveilleux.

DECLARATION - handed in the 6th April 1946 in a most confidential manner to Major Vincenzo PESCE GAINENI of the CCRR after a cross-examination carried out at La Thuille (AOSTA) of Mr Francesco JORDAN of the late Giuseppe, born in La Thuille 22 yrs of age.

REFERRING TO QUESTIONS

During the month of September 1945, one evening, between 2100 hrs and 2200 hrs, there arrived at La Thuille from AOSTA by car the French Lieutenant JAQUEMOD of the Chasseurs des Alps (Mountain Rest) who was inquiring after me. As soon as he met me, he delivered me numerous copies of the paper "LA VAL D'AOSTE LIBRE" (THE VALLEY OF AOSTA FREE), the official organ of THE FOREIAN VALDOSTAIN COMMITTEE OF LIBERATION, which is printed, I believe, in PARIS under the direction of Abbott PERRET with French assistance.

The total weight of the papers was 5 kilos. A large number referred to the edition which was seized from me and which I never distributed (over 800 copies). In that edition, double paged, there are two articles, one entitled "LE SPIONAGE EN VALLEE D'AOSTE" (ESPIONAGE IN VALLEY OF AOSTA) where there are given the name of 10 persons among which that of Maj. Augusto ADAM and Captain Remo GIANOD, and the other article entitled "L'AUTONOMIE" (THE AUTONOMY) where such a concession is ridiculed.

The other part referred to another issue of the paper, a single sheet issue, in which the autonomy is ridiculed. I should have stuck this latter to me on walls at La THUILLE and distributed the other issue for ~~annex~~ French propaganda pro annexation and against the autonomy, which, however, I did not do. It turns out that Lieutenant JAQUEMOD formed part of the so called "LIAISON OFFICER" which had been constituted at AOSTA and which resided in the late building of the "CORPORAZIONI" (Corporations) when the French troops settled in the Valley of AOSTA had left the national territory.

At the head of this office was the well known french Major MICHELET whom I had known during the FASCISM period then a Captain.

I know that at first when the Germans were still in the Valley, but later he was interested in the VALDOSTAINE Question.

901

Lieutenant JAQUEMOD has been several times to La THUILLE always for the purpose of annexationist propaganda. I know that there has also been in the same locality another french Lieutenant, of thin appearance who belonged to the well-known Commission of AOSTA. I do not know the exact scope of this french office in Aosta, but it certainly had also that of annexationist propaganda for the officers belonging to it went to all the villages in the Valley for the purpose of spreading this propaganda.

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I know that at first when the Germans were still in the Valley, but later he was interested in the VALDOSTAINE Question. 901

Lieutenant JAQUEMOD has been several times to La THUILLE always for the purpose of annexationist propaganda. I know that there has also been in the same locality another french Lieutenant, of thin appearance who belonged to the well-known Commission of AOSTA. I do not know the exact scope of this french office in Aosta, but it certainly had also that of annexationist propaganda for the Officers belonging to it went to all the villages in the Valley for the purpose of spreading this propaganda.

I know that this Office had the duty of keeping together all those who favoured annexation.

The Commission of Aosta was founded after the french Commission of INTERCO had been suppressed and which was headed by Colonel VOISIN. Of this latter Commission there favoured part also the french Major MAYNOR.
The COMMISSION OF INTERCO is the very same that in February 1945 when dealing with us, Partisans in french territory had taken us to AMBERCY at the end of February treating us with every regard, boarding us in Hotels, in the hopes that we lent ourselves to propaganda work for the annexation of the Valley of AOSTA to France in antic ation to the liberation from the Germans.

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I belonged then to the "PIERRE" Partisan group, that had transferred (expatriated) to the VAL D'AOSTE to escape from the Germans.

The following lent themselves to such propaganda: the French Officers Lieutenant VOSQUANET , Lieutenant LARBRET and Captain SALOMON - the latter originating from TENIN.

These Officers came to the valley after the liberation with the French Troops and spread pro-annexationists propaganda.

Be distributed cult in the valley was the Commission headed by Colonel VOISIN. When the French Liaison Commission left AOSTA there was formed at BOURG ST. MAURICE a special french under the care of an Officer who besides being engaged in annexation propaganda he was to giving work to VALDOSTANIS going across to France.

There formed part of this Office the well known VALDOSTAIN agitators Gino or Marcello VASER, Vincent REVES, Lieutenant MILLOZ late Officer in the 4th ALPINI all of whom were appointed with a salary of about 6000 francs per month in addition to expenses.

VASER, REVES and MILLOZ went once a month in the Valley of AOSTA, crossing the border by the PICCOLO S. BERNARDO pass to carry on their annexationist propaganda. They then would return to (direct) PARIS where is the so called FRENCH COMMITTEE OF AGITATION.

The three abovementioned upon arriving at AOSTA go/the well known dealer in fertilizers CAVAGNIN and also call upon a certain Fernando DARIN native of LA THUILLE, but resident in AOSTA, a man of many trades.

I know that until recently, CAVAGNIN was interested in distributing french newspapers. As he collects mountain herbs from many mountain folk that call upon him he is in a position through these people of carrying out an active annexationist propaganda.

I know that a daughter of CAVAGNIN during the A.M.G. period was interpreter to Major Howell, Allied Governor of AOSTA.

I know that Miss VIGLINO acts as courier at the service of the French for MILLOZ, REVES and VASER.

I am informed that after the departure from AOSTA of the FRENCH LIAISON COMMISSION there came to the Valley during December and January last some french Officers and various members of the VALDOSTAIN PROPAGANDA COMMISSION PRO ANNEXATION.

A french Officer came once as far as the third refuge of the PICCOLO

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There formed part of this office thewell known VALDOSTAIN agitators Gino or Marcello VASER, Vincent TRIVES, Lieutenant MILLOZ late Officer in the 4th ALPINI all of whom were appointed with a salary of about 5000 francs per month in addition to expenses.

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I know that until recently, CAVAGNIN was interested in distributing french newspapers. As he collects mountain herbs from many mountain folk that call upon him he is in a position through these people of carrying out an active annexationist propaganda.

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I am informed that after the departure from AOSTA of the FRENCH LIAISON COMMISSION there came to the Valley during December and January last some French officers and various members of the VALDOSTAIN PROPAGANDA COMMISSION PRO ANNEXATION.

A French officer came once as far as the third refuge of the PICCOLO ST. BERNARD to take some photos of the clandestine expatriators who were going into France.

At GRENOBLE there has been formed a Commission lead by Major MATRON the same who acted for the DEFENCE BUREAU for it seems that the office at GRENOBLE had been suppressed by the Allied Authorities - MILLOZ, VASER and TRIVES were his dependents.

I once saw CAVAGNINI in France and a certain WILLEMINOZ from ST. VINCENT who formed part of the MILLOZ Gang.

I understand that the noted agitators TRIVES, MILLOZ and VASER a few days ago precisely Thursday or Friday 21st and 22nd March, came into Italy over the Piccolo ST. Bernardo to carry out the well known propaganda on the occasion of the noticeable demonstration

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which subsequently took place the 26th instant.

VASER is a native of HONT BAUD and lives at NICE where he married a French woman. He came to La Thuille the evening of the demonstration by car towards 2100 hrs. He looked for me, but not having found me, he went to sleep at La Thuille at the CONCERTA. The following Thursday he approached me to know whether the French Journalists who had been detained had been released.

I met him at PONT SERRAND -- He had come to Italy in company of the French guide CHESEN, and upon learning that the journalists had already been released and accompanied duringthe morning by the Customs and Excise Guards to the PICCOLO ST. BERNARD Pass, he also went to the border with CHESEN taking with him to cinema cameras that had been brought from France by CHESEN with six or seven reels of duly exposed film reproducingthe demonstration at AOSTA. CHESEN is a guide of BORG SAIT MAURICE and I believe that during his journey he accompanied the aforesaid journalists towards the valley.

I believe that MERLOZ, TREVES and VASER came to AOSTA to organise and encourage the demonstration. Miss VIOLINO is directly in contact with the well known VALDOSTAIN COMMISSION in PARIS and takes over to France information regarding the VALDOSTAIN situation. At the same time I believe she carries on currency contraband and also contraband in various goods. Stopped on one occasion by French Gendarmerie who seized a parcel of silk stockings she was immediately freed by order of the DOUANIER BUREAU.

To Miss BOUCY, also at the service of the anti-annexationist propaganda, it is easy to cross the frontier not by the PICCOLO ST BERNARD pass, but by the VALLEY OF RHEMES where she has a house.

Regarding [redacted] DANIEL I have suspicions he plays many parts.

He was once with the fascists in a syndicate Office, then he went against the fascists and against the republicans, then with the French, and next I don't know if with the Italians.

He is a person I take to be doubtful.

I have nothing to add in answer to the questions put to me and I subscribe,

899

AOSTA, the 6th April 1946

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Excise Guards to the PICCOLO ST. BERNARD pass, he also went to the border with CERESOLE taking with him to cinema cameras that had been brought from France by CERESOLE with six or seven reels of duly exposed film reproducing the demonstration at AOSTA. CERESOLE is a guide of BORG SAIT MAURICE and I believe that during his journey he accompanied the aforesaid journalists towards the valley.

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To Miss NOUCY, also at the service of the annexationist propaganda, it is easy to cross the frontier not by the PICCOLO ST BERNARD pass, but by the VALLEY OF ISERE where she has a house.

Regarding ~~MARIA~~ DANIEL I have suspicions he plays many parts.

He was once with the fascists in a syndicate Office, then he went against the fascists and against the republicans, then with the French, and next I don't know if with the Italians.

He is a person I take to be doubtful.

I have nothing to add in answer to the questions put to me and I subscribe,

ACSTA, the 6th April 1946

899

(Signed) Francesco JORDAN
" Major CORP PESCE MAINERI.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785046

DECLARATION - Delivered the 6th. day of April, 1946, in a most confidential manner to the Major of the CCRR. Vincenzo PESCE MAINERI following a cross-examination carried out at LA THUILLE (AOSTA), by Mr. JORRIOZ of the late Benvenuto, 29yrs, of AOSTA.

I have been a chief partisan during the clandestine struggle, at the head of a formation named after me, which during the month of September 1944 had to pass over to the Valley of ISERE because continually chased by the germans in the Valley of AOSTA.

At the end of February 1945 upon my return to Italy and precisely in the valley to organize here a lively resistence against the nazi-fascists, part of my old formation was taken to ANNECY by French Officers of the VALDOSTAIN COMMISSION, Deuxieme Bureau.

The Commission was formed by the French Lieutenants MOSQUADET, LABORET, and Captain SALOMON.

The 29th. April 1945 whilst I was in AOSTA at the TESTA FUOCHI Alpini barracks, immediately after the departure of the germans, I was approached by Lieutenant MOSQUADET who had been promoted Captain whi had purposely come from France by way of the PICCOLO St. BERNARDO upon hearing of the departure of the germans and he tried to pursuade me to pass over to France with my Partisans, guaranteeing the command of the VALDOSTAIN Battalion with which I would have paraded in PARIS before General DEGAULLE.

As I would not accept, the French Officer then offered me money and motor cars all of which I refused.

Regarding the annexationists propaganda in the Valley of AOSTA I can state as follows:-

During the morning of Tuesday 26th. March there was a going and coming in the AOSTA home of CAVORSIN.

I believe that Messrs. MILLOZ, TREVES and WASER came to AOSTA to organise the demonstration.

I know that a daughter of CAVORSIN was interpreter to Major HOWEL in AOSTA, Governer with the then A. M. G. I heard say in a confidential way that the confidential reports of Major ADAM called BLANC for Major HOWEL passed through the Office of the interpreter Miss CAVORSIN, and it is believed she took copies and saw to passing them into France.

The work of Major BLANC with the A.M.G. was therefore easily controlled by these means.

I know that Miss VIGLINO went to

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I believe that Messrs. MILLOZ, TREVES and WASER came to AOSTA to organise the demonstration.

I know that a daughter of CAVORSIN was interpreter to Major HOWEL in AOSTA, Governor with the then A. M. G. I heard say in a confidential way that the confidential reports of Major ADAM called BLANC for Major HOWEL passed through the Office of the Interpreter Miss CAVORCIN, and it is believed she took copies and saw to passing them into France.

The work of Major BLANC with the A.M.G. was therefore easily controlled by these means. 898

I know that Miss VIGLINO went to France pretty easily for the annexationists information service which was also in touch with french elements.

When I was a Partisan I got to know in the Valley of ISERE the french Major CLLION who belonged to the DEUXIEME BUREAU of GRENOBLE. Major CLLION was very busy on the VALDOSTAIN question.

He was in the Valley of AOSTA when French troops were there.

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I knew that when Major MICHELLET was in the Valley he came under the Command of Major OLLION.

I have nothing to add to the questions put to me and I subscribe.

(Signed) Giorgio JORRIOZ.

P.O.C.
9th. April, 1946.

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ALLIED COMMISSION LIAISON GROUP - PIEMONTE.

PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION.

12th April, 1946.

SUBJECT: Information received from the Questore of Vercelli.

To: The Chief Liaison Officer, Piemonte.

1. On Thursday, 11th April, 1946, in the course of a visit to this Headquarters, the Questore of Vercelli explained the constitution of the newly elected council which consists of 17 communists, 14 Christian Democrats, 7 Socilaists and 2 Liberals; the new sindaco is Dr. ANSALDI, a communist, and the vice-Sindaco is Dr. Marengo (a woman) who is also a communist.

2. The party representation in the council obviously does not give the Communists a working majority but, at the moment, they are carrying the socialists with them and are receiving their support (allegedly by offering them small posts and positions) thereby obtaining their own way in everything. The Questore is of the opinion that this is a temporary phase and that in a month or two there is bound to emerge a line of action by personalities and a split will ensue.

3. The most difficult problem in the Province at the moment is that of appointing a director to the board of governors of the local hospital. This hospital is, apparently, very rich owning many farms and much property; it has been run, since thedays of the Liberation, by the communists. One of the first acts of the new council was to appoint a new board of governors and the communists demanded that all four seats should be allotted to them. The Christian Democrats and the Liberals said that this was not democratic practice and suggested 2 communists, one Christian Democrat and one Liberal. However, with the help of the Socialists, the Communists won the day and the Christian Democrats refused to have anything further to do with the matter. Now the Prefect has to appoint a director for the board and the communists are clamouring for a member of their party to be appointed. The Prefect is inclined to appoint someone who is outside party politics but is rather afraid of the consequences - the result will be awaited with interest. The Prefect explained that the reason for such an interest in the hospital is that it is so easily run (being very rich) that it affords

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4. The Bishop of Vercelli is very interested in this matter because in the early days the Communists tried to send away the nuns who work in the hospital.

5. The Questore drew attention to the strike by the employees of the Stipel telephone service. He had tried to telephone his Commissario at Biella regarding a rapine which had just taken place but had been unable to do so. He is making representations to higher

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authority and making the suggestion that essential public services such as thepolice, fire brigades, etc., must be given facilities by the maintenance of a small skeleton staff during a strike.

6. The Questore stated that the recently appointed Questore of Alessandria was the Questore of Vercelli during the Fascist regime and for a short time served under the Republican administration as Inspector of Police for Novara and Pavia; he never resigned from this position. He has recently been in service at Modena and the Questore is of the opinion that he is being very foolish in returning to a part of Italy where he is so well known. It is particularly unfortunate that he is going to Alessandria where the need for a very good and very strong man is well known.

7. The new Questore of Asti also served under Fascists as vice-Questore of Turin, and remained in that capacity with the Republican Government.

8. The Questore reports that many people are making comparisons between the ruthless epuration methods of the Carabinieri (whereby any man remotely connected with Fascism is discharged and in many cases worthy men who conscientiously tried to do their job as responsible police officers without political bias have suffered) and those of the Ministry in connection with officials of the Pubblica Sicurezza. It is so obviously a stupid thing to arouse public resentment by restoring men with whom they associate the miseries of the past - particularly when those men were sometimes responsible for the imprisonment of people who had worked in the underground movements and are now free to express their opinions in no uncertain manner. If there is a shortage of trained and qualified personnel it should be a simple matter to arrange that transfers are made in such a manner that an official serves in a part of the country where his background is not known - at any rate, not at first hand.

W. Lowe
Major.

Public Safety Liaison Officer.

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5. The Questore stated that the recently appointed Questore of Alessandria was the Questore of Vercelli during the Fascist regime and for a short time served under the Republican administration as Inspector of Police for Novara and Pavia; he never resigned from this position. He has recently been in service at Modena and the Questore is of the opinion that he is being very foolish in returning to a part of Italy where he is so well known. It is particularly unfortunate that he is going to Alessandria where the need for a very good and very strong man is well known.

7. The new Questore of Asti also served under Pasciata as vice-Questore of Turin, and remained in that capacity with the Republican Government.

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Public Safety Liaison Officer.

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ALLIED COMMISSION LIAISON GROUP - PIEMONTE.

PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION.

12th April, 1946.

SUBJECT: Situation in the Provinces of Alessandria and Asti.

TO: The Chief Liaison Officer, Piemonte.

1. The Prefect of Alessandria, in an interview with Lt. Col. Montague and myself on the morning of 10th April, 1946, stated that the biggest problem in his Province is the provision of coal for the important cement industry. There are 21 cement works in Piemonte and 19 of these are in Alessandria Province in the area of Casale; they are allocated 3,000 tons of coal a month as a against an estimated need for full production of 12,000 tons. The necessity for producing the maximum amount of cement cannot, in the opinion of the Prefect, be over emphasised in view of the enormous amount of reconstruction work which is waiting to be done and the important part played by cement and concrete in the programme. When production is increased it will be possible to employ at least another 2,000 people at the works at Ozzano Monferrato and the industry can easily absorb at least 70% of the unemployed of the Province.

2. On the question of food the Prefect said that the amassing drive which he recently organised (referred to in my last report on the Province) has been far less successful than he anticipated. As far as grain is concerned he is in a good position until the end of April but expects May and June to be very difficult months. Fats, which have been comparatively plentiful in Alessandria (for reasons given in my last report) are now becoming scarce as the pig killing season is over; some olive oil is expected but the Prefect feels May and June will also be critical months from this point of view. The situation generally is becoming more serious as it is no longer a problem only of the big cities and towns but even some of the agricultural centres are now running short of food and appealing for help; the Prefect states that every day more and more communes send to him. The Prefect pointed out the lesson learned (he hopes!) by those who sold their wheat in the Black market at 2,500 lire and, now that they need it themselves, find that it will cost

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3. The Prefect expressed the opinion that the Government should increase prices to the producers and stated that the people would prefer to pay a little extra for their bread if they could be certain of getting their full ration. At the moment they receive, for example, ½ kilo on the ration andhave to supplement this by purchases in the Black market; the total cost exceeds

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any reasonable increase which might be made by virtue of amended prices to the farmers and, if this were explained to the people, there would be an enormous improvement all round.

4. The Prefect reported that the elections had passed off quietly and that one Captain Vella, of Allied Commission Headquarters (attached to the Ministry of the Interior for the purpose of observing the elections) had been in the Province in the course of his duties.

5. The new Questore is expected to take up his appointment on 15th April. He has previously been in office at Modena and the Prefect says that he enjoys a good reputation with the Ministry.

6. The Prefect spoke well of the work of the carabinieri and cited a recent case in which a bank was robbed of nearly a million lire by five men; the carabinieri arrested four of the men in Liguria and recovered nearly all the money. The point was made that the CC.RR are now ignoring boundaries in the investigation of crime and come and go in neighbouring Regions without interference. This piece of work increased the prestige of the carabinieri with the local people enormously and their behaviour during the elections impressed the public still more. There were very few visibly on duty (the reserves of police and soldiers were kept in their barracks) and those who were made no attempt to interfere with the free circulation of the people - making a complete contrast with police methods during the days of the Fascist regime. The carabinieri in Genoa have recently put on a drive and have arrested many known and habitual criminals; this has had repercussions in Alessandria Province in the form of a marked drop in serious crime due to thefact that the Province has been a happy hunting ground for elements from Liguria.

7. Large quantities of black market goods are being carried on the trains through the Province. The CC.RR are doing their best to intercept property at the railway stations but once the marketeers have succeeded in boarding the train it becomes the responsibility of the Railway Police to enforce the law. One gathers that they are not being particularly successful and the methods adopted in the AMG days, ~~if~~ax. i.e., holding up trains between stations by police and

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8. The Vice Questore of Alessandria, on being questioned regarding the deplorable state of the Auxiliary Police in the Province (for details see my last report) stated that he had again wired the Ministry for permanent and professional officers. The auxiliaries sent a deputation to the Prefect and stated that they do not want permanent and profesional officers in command of them; they built up the force and they intend to run it on their own lines. This is an incredible state of affairs and it is to be hoped that the new Questore, when he takes office, will prove to be a strong and ruthless individual capable of

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restoring some sort of order and discipline into this unruly mob.

9. The only demonstration of note has been held at Acqui when a razor blade factory discharged 100 men because no work was available for them; the firm continued to pay the mob 65% of their wages whilst they were idle but the local Communist Party organised a protest meeting.

10. At Asti we found, in conversation with the Prefect, that the problems of the Province are very similar to those of Alessandria and, from the food point of view, the situation is almost identical.

11. Here, also, the new Questore will take office on the 15th of the month. The present Acting Questore has been summoned to Rome to give an account of his investigations into the recent sending of a telegram in his name to all the other Questori in Piemonte calling upon them to strike because he was being replaced by by a permanent career official of higher grade than he. The telegram appears to have been sent by some of the misguided agenti who are loyal to the Acting Questore personally but the actual men responsible have not yet been traced.

12. 17 communes in the Province - because their lists were not prepared in time - have not yet voted, and these elections well be postponed until after the National election. They are all very small agricultural towns and villages.

13. The essential Public works programme (referred to in my last report) has been passed by higher authority and work will begin at the end of this month. A new project is the construction of Case Popolare in the city of Asti but this scheme (and others) largely depends upon availability of materials - including the cement which can be produced in Alessandria (see paragraph 1 of this report).

14. The first meeting of the newly elected council will be held on this coming Saturday, 13th April.

15. The April petrol allowance for the Province has not yet arrived and the position is serious.

W. Kenyon

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W. Rose
Major.

Public Safety Liaison Officer.

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ALLIED COMMISSION LIAISON GROUP - PIEMONTE.

PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION.

8 April, 1946.

SUBJECT: Situation in the Aosta Valley.

TO: The Chief Liaison Officer, Piemonte.

1. On Thursday, 4th April, 1946, I visited Aosta and had an interview with Professor Chabod, the Presidente del Consiglio.

2. We discussed the recent disturbances and the President stated that many of the people who were induced to take part in the demonstration now fear the consequences and had not intended to be involved in a brawl; a number of the persons who actually entered the President's office and assaulted him have been arrested. From information received during the past few days it appears that the demonstration was organised in Paris (some of the arrested persons are suspected agents travelling between Aosta and Paris) and that the assault upon the President was part of the plan. It is alleged that Major Michelet, who had commanded French troops in the Aosta valley and had remained there all last summer, was present at the meeting.

3. I asked the President if there had been any reaction from the Italian Government and he stated that he had kept them fully informed of developments with the result that he had received a telegram from De Gasperi deploring the incident and assuring the President of his continued esteem.

4. 2 mobile companies of carabinieri from Turin have been sent to Aosta (with the approval of the Italian government) and will remain there at the President's disposition for as long as he deems it necessary to retain them. The President stated that extra police were badly needed in the valley for two reasons (a) to stop clandestine ex-patriation from the valley into France and (b) to prevent smuggling (with which is involved political activity as the smugglers are said to convey messages and literature). The mobile companies will be retained in Aosta and local men released by their presence will

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5. During a recent search of a house at La Thuille (which is on the route the St. Bernard passes) the carabinieri found parcels of pamphlets which are alleged to have been printed in France for distribution in the

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valley immediately prior to the disturbances and similar pamphlets were, in fact, distributed. The carabinieri also found a large quantity of Saccharine and cigarette papers.

6. Referring again to the police situation the President said that no steps have yet been taken to form the local police (the plans for which were described in my last report of Aosta) because, for one thing, he has too many administrative problems at the moment to find time to deal with this matter and, secondly, he is most anxious that the new police shall in no way resemble the auxiliary police that have become attached to Questure throughout the country but shall be formed of specially chosen and trained men. An Inspector of Borders from the Ministry in Rome has recently visited Aosta and the President ook the opportunity to stress the very great importance of strengthening the police on the frontier.

7. The President also drew attention to the need for cleaning up certain criminal elements in the valley and searching for the many arms he believes to be hidden. There are groups of hotheads at Issogne, Chatillon, Verres, and Rone. As an example he quoted a Case at Pont St. Martin on 2nd April when armed men held upea bank and stole 400,000 lire; the men concerned are said to be some of those who used force in the demonstration. No arrest has yet been made in the case of the murder of the priest at Rone.

8. The President is anxious to have these various bad elements arrested before the elections take place, and on Saturday last he talked to all the leaders of the various political parties and asked them to give orders to their members to refrain from violence at the same time affording every means to ensure freedom of thought and speech.

9. Speaking of the major of carabinieri the President said that he was a very pleasant manner and apparently zealous in his personal duties but the President is not satisfied with the state of efficiency of the local carabinieri. Again referring to the demonstration he said that the CC.RR had definite orders not to use firearms but were to admit a small deputation for an audience with the President; instead of admitting the

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persons have thereby escaped; the major of CC.RR is personally investigating one case of this kind. The President has asked the Ministry to withdraw certain men from local duty as it appears that they are natives of the valley and have family friends in the district. It is against carabinieri policy to station men in their home areas but a special exception was made in these cases and it is now realised that a mistake was made. Summing up, the President said that there is some inefficiency in the carabinieri and there is a need for a strong hand.

10. With regard to the Questura the President said that there were certain men who cannot be trusted and these are not in the ranks of the auxiliaries. A report has been sent to the Government with a request for the attendance of an Inspector-General of Police in Aosta with a view to re-organising the Police service in the valley. One member of the Road police was recently arrested for breaking into an office.

11. The President stated that he has so many people around him whom he cannot trust that he writes all his confidential reports personally, and he simply has not time to continually supervise the work of the police; he should have officers to whom he can leave this with confidence.

12. The food situation in the valley is quite good and rations are always available on the production of the tessera. This situation, the President explained, is due to the fact that, even before he took office, he always made it clear to the responsible authorities that the valley (lacking its own agricultural resources) must be supplied from other sources. He produced a telegram from Rome which stated that extra quantities of wheat, pasta, oil, evaporated milk and soup were being dispatched, and said that this was the result of a conference he had had with Alberti, the Food Minister. Asked if the provision of regular rations to the Valley had a political significance inasmuch as the Italian government realised the necessity for keeping the people without undue cause for complaint the President replied in the negative and said that Alberti approached the problem purely from an alimentation point of view.

13. The labour situation is as much under control as the distribution of food and all difficulties

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13. The labour situation is as much under control as the distribution of food and all difficulties have been resolved by friendly negotiation. Quoting a recent case in which the administrative workers of the Cogne iron works were threatening to strike the President described how he called a meeting of all the interested parties and arrived at a solution of the problem. A recent demonstration of women protesting against high prices in the shops was dealt with by the President explaining the steps that he is taking to bring about a reduction in the cost of living. The President keeps in touch with Capital, management and labour and personally seeks a compromise in every dispute.

14. I later had a conversation with Major Pesce, who is in charge of the carabinieri, and enquired what progress he had made in the enquiries

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regarding the murder of the priest at None. He said that he had received information from a Christian Democrat who had overheard a conversation between three communists in a cafe during which the remark "Before Carnevale is finished we shall have a great festa" was made. This the major interprets as a reference to the murder. He has detained for interrogation two of the three communists but has temporarily abandoned the enquiry because of pressure of other work.

15. The major gave details of the bank hold-up at Pont St. Martin, and said that a small red runabout truck was used by the criminals. There are three such vehicles in use in the area and a check-up is being made.

16. The two companies of the Turin mobile battalion of CC.RR temporarily stationed in Aosta consist of 4 armoured cars and 3 trucks and 6 motor cycles, together with a captain, two subalterns, and 70 and 80 men respectively with each company. They are stationed in the Alpini barracks and are under Major Pesce's command.

17. Under his permanent command the major has 170 carabinieri in the valley and 130 in the Ivrea area; there are also 30 men undergoing training at the ski school. His transport consists of one truck, one car without tyres and a motor cycle which is awaiting repair. To visit his stations he is sometimes able to borrow a car from the President of the Valley.

18. Relations between the public and the carabinieri are good but in cases of serious crime or in political matters the people are afraid to give information.

19. With regard to the recent demonstration Major Pesce stated that he had been told by informants that the whole thing was arranged in Paris, and that some of the "journalists" who had been arrested were actually members of the Deuxieme Bureau. He has in his possession a list of names of men who were to be "beaten up" and one of them was actually assaulted and had a rib broken (he was described in the list as a black marketeer but is really a regular army officer and Pesce declares that he has never had any connection with the Black market). It is reported that much French money is crossing the border for the purpose of paying agents.

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20. The major stressed the impossibility of policing the important St. Bernard passes with only two or three men on duty at each time and said that to attain any degree of efficiency twenty men on skis

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constantly on duty would be needed. He stated perfectly frankly that it is easy for any determined to person to cross under present conditions and there is nothing that the carabinieri can do about it.

21. I visited the Carabinieri caserma at La Thuille (the station responsible for controlling the frontier traffic) and was told by the Captain that he has 4 men at one post and 5 at the other. His assessment of the needs of the situation was roughly the same as the major's.

22. 1,500 tons of explosives have been found at La Thuille and consist of German and Italian materials. It is apparent that a large quantity of ballistite has been stolen by persons who gained entry through holes made in the walled up entrances. The matter has been reported to the Italian army authorities and on the day of my visit a party of engineers had arrived and had commenced to load railway trucks with shells for use at an artillery range at San Maurizio al Campo.

23. The carabinieri are completely without transport of any kind, and the disposal of arrested persons is a problem.

24. They are comparatively well off for authomatic weapons and have a machine gun, 4 automatic rifles and 8 other weapons with 100-300 rounds per weapon.

25. The caserma is not on the telephone and the captain pointed out the necessity for the frontier posts to be connected with his station and he, in turn, to be connected with Aosta. The station is wired for a telephone but they are unable to obtain an instrument.

26. There are coal mines at La Thuille employing between 400 and 500 people; production, as a result of concessions made to the workers, has risen recently from 7,000 to 12,000 tons a month but is of poor quality. There is no unemployment in the district.

27. The captain stated that all the wall writing in the valley is done by one group of seven or eight people who travel by night, and is not the result of acts by normal people living in the area.

28. There are 15 GG.FF at La Thuille and when the weather and state of the passes permit they operate road blocks with the carabinieri. At the moment they only patrol the roads. They, too, are without a telephone.

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28. At Ivrea the captain was absent on duty but I had a talk with the maresciallo. He stated that public reaction to the Aosta disorders outside the autonomous area was definitely against the French activity and the drunkeness of the demonstrators and the form the demonstration took was generally condemned.

29. The maresciallo expressed the opinion that the attitude of the middle classes now is the same as when Fascism rose to power. A small minority - the Communists - well organised, well armed and very good from the propaganda point of view are forcing themselves upon the people who are too apathetic to take any action.

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30. The maresciallo also expressed the opinion that the people of the lower part are inclined towards the Monarchy and associate Republicanism with Communism; they do,not necesarily want to retain the House of Savoy but the institution.

31. It was noticeable that the Communist Party did not use the hammer and sickle design during the election period in the Ivrea district but sheaves of wheat, anvils etc., as they knew that their symbol would prejudice people outside party membership.

32. The carabinieri have one captured enemy truck, one captured enemy car and 5 motor cycles in the area. They anticipate considerable difficulty in covering the area during the National elections with their available men and materials.

33. The food situation is not good and the harvest in this part of the country was so bad last year that even the peasants are badly off. Two or three days every week there is an issue of maize flour instead of bread, and white bread costs 170 lire in the black market (even this is rarely available as bakers' stocks are becoming low). Last week, following a demonstration, there was an issue of a kilo of pasta and half a kilo of rice per head of the population. All issues of rationed items are much behind time, and in March no pasta, rice, fats or oil were available on the tessera.

34. Attached to this report are various documents connected with the demonstration in Aosta and the autonomy question generally. Perhaps the most interesting is that in which the clergy, who have always maintained a disinterested and neutral attitude have come out on the side of the President and the ~~xxxkx~~ work which he is doing.

35. Documents attached:

A. A report by the President.
B. Order of the Day issued the Christian Democratic Party.
C. Order of the Day from ANPI.
D. Order of the Day from the CLN.
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F. Information recevied from an agent.
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W. Rowe
Major.
Public Safety Liaison Officer.

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REPORT
ON HAPPENINGS OCCURRED AT AOSTA
26 MARCH 1946

It was on Saturday, 23 March, that I was warned that on the following Tuesday, the 26th, there would be held at Aosta a great demonstration in favor of holding a plebiscite.

Judging that the real scope of the demonstration was clearly of an anti-national character, for the demand of a plebiscite was equivalent to a demand of separation from Italy, the manifestation should have been prohibited; I decided, however, to allow it to be put into effect in order to give proof of a broader democratic spirit.

Following such line of conduct I took the necessary steps to ensure public order, such as keeping the three or four squads of CCRR on patrol duty in the town which since taking up my duty in the valley I had always kept on roaming duty every Tuesday market day on account of the flocking into town of people from all parts of the valley; and I also had the CCRR guard at the Prefettura strengthened from three to ten. I made arrangments with the commander of the Piemonte Aosta Alpini Battalion that his troops be kept in readiness at the barracks.

To all forces I gave very definite instructions not to make use of their arms.

I took instead two other measures:-

i) Two road blocks of CCRR, one just outside CHATILLON and the other just outside VILLENEUVE, to control the transit of lorries loaded with passengers, stop them, and enquire of the drivers and examine their papers to ascertain whether or not the lorry was authorised to carry passengers; if the papers were in order the lorry was to be allowed to proceed to Aosta, but in cases where such papers did not authorise such transport of passengers the letter were to be invited to disembark.

ii) I had carried out during the night an inspection of the duplum documents of all travellers who had taken lodging in the hotels.

Such inspection enabled us to discover eight persons who were not in order regarding documents - amongst them the Valdostano PIETRO LEXERT, from Paris, in contact with the committee of the paper "Vallée d'Aosta" controlled by the wellknown ABBOT PETIGT; three French journalists, Messrs FRANCOIS BONNAURE, resident of Grenoble, MARCEL RAMUS, also of Grenoble and reporter to the newspaper "Dauphiné Libéré", and ANDRE SEVERAC, also of Grenoble and reporter to the newspaper "Les Allobroges". Later SEVERAC reported to the major of the CCRR that he was the head of the reporter staff of that newspaper. The abovenamed journalists were in possession of two cameras.

Detained, they were taken to the CCRR barracks where upon

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Detained, they were taken to the CCRR barracks where upon explicit instructions of mine they were treated with every regard; they themselves the following day upon being freed publicly declared amid the demonstrators that the Italian gendarmerie had treated them with every regard and LEXERT speaking with demonstrators admitted that they were not in order regarding their documents.

Having concluded their crossexamination these French journalists were to be freed and accompanied by car to the French consulate in Turin who would have seen to their repatriation by the way most agreeable to them. It was in such a way that I desired to treat them with every courtesy.

THE DAY OF 26 MARCH

During the morning there was confirmation of the news regarding

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the demonstration and the flocking of people from various parts of the valley;specially numerous were those from BOSSES in the valley of the Gran S.Bernardo,CHATILLON,ST.VINCENT,and ~~[illegible]~~ VALTOURNANCHE in general and from VERRES and places near by in the lower valley,and from MORGEX in the upper valley.

These are the main points of seperatism.It is to be noted that quite a lot of people came to Aosta without any precise knowledge of what was about to happen and were purposely deceived by the promoters of the demonstration;as a matter of fact it has been definitely ascertained that the peasants of BOSSES were given to understand that requests were being put forward for a plebiscite to secure the free zone,and it is significant that ~~there~~ those summoned from INTROD upon learning the real scope of the day was a demonstration of ~~separtist~~ separatist character refused to take part and returned to their homes.

Towards midday I was phoned by the mayor,who was worried because of rumours that demonstrators wanted to invade the town hall to expel staff not belonging to the valley.I ~~therfor~~ therefor ordered that two light armoured cars belonging to the Alpini were to proceed and take up positions opposite the townhall and two others in front of the palace of the prefecture, where there still are the offices of the presidency of the valley,and so with their presence induce the demonstrators to think again.

Towards 1300 hours a committee came before me formed by four persons,amongst them a woman,to demand the immediate release of ~~the~~ the detained French journalists and of Lexert.One of the committeex told me that the French journalists had been purposely invited in order that they might assist the manifestation and thus report to the French papers.

I replied that there was no question of arrest,that the said journalists had been detained only temporarily for necessary investigations as to their identity and that ~~xxxxxxxx~~ as soon as the questioning was concluded they would be left free.As one of the commission made some reference to threats that if they were not set free immediately they themselves would set them free I warned them seriously not to take up that attitude because by so doing they would bring a different aspect onto the case and I would have to take the necessary steps in order to guarantee the respect of the law.

I told them that they were perfectly free to hold their ~~demonstrat~~ demonstration,to sing,and to carry posters,and that I would receive if they so desired a delegation of theirs,but I also warned them to keep strictly within the law and good order.

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The demonstration began about 1330 hours.Part of the demonstrators gathered in the station square in front of the Palace of the Prefettura,and here their numbers never exceeded four hundred; another gathering took place in the piazza Carlo Alberto,the centre of Aosta;altogether according to reliable estimates the total number did not exceed fifteen hundred or at most two thousand people. 384

There were eight cases of persons being conveyed by lorries from various parts of the valley;others came by train or on foot, and others were already in Aosta where they live,but as already ~~stated~~ stated the mass of demonstrators did not exceed about two thousand.

The demonstrators gathered before the Prefetture asked me to receive a delegation;I had already informed them that I

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would.During the morning I had given orders to the commander of the CCRR picket on duty to allow the delegation to enter,but not more than seven persons;the CCRR however allowed free entrance to the crowd.

The crowd was thus able to enter the palace without meeting any obstacle and so upon going to my office I found the corridor full of people.

Upon entering my office I gave orders to admit the delegation,but naturally instead of seven persons there came many more and others followed to such an extent that within a short space of time there were between fifty and sixty people in my office;also the corridor and the nearby office of my chief secretary were packed with people.One of the demonstrators presented me with a memorandum demanding a plebiscite to enable the Valdostani to pronounce themselves on the following two points:

i) "Status quo"(that is to say Autonomy within the Italian State)
ii) Complete Independance of the Valley of Aosta.

I replied that I would inform the government of their demands.There began bawling and clamouring to signify that the matter was to be decided upon there and then.This first stage could,however,have been overcome without their submitting me to violence and without my having to alter my decisions.

But subsequently they demanded the release of the French prisoners.I pointed out that it was neither a case of imprisonment nor a case of arrest;I explained that no sooner had the questioning been completed which had to be carried out than the detained persons would be set free in accordance with instructions I had given during the morning without even waiting for their request.

It was shouted out that they were to be released immediately so as to come among them and that unless this was done they would take the necessary steps to free them even using force.I replied that I was not prepared to yield to any form of violence.It was then desired I should go on the balcony of the palace to address the demonstrators to announce to them the setting free of the prisoners;I replied that I had already spoken to them,that I had received them purposely for this and that it was they who had to refer to the demonstrators.

From this moment violence predominated.There began punches on the head,tearing of hair,etc,etc;I was given five minutes time to decide and meantime some frenzied elements began to lay waste my office.

I was dragged by force to the balcony from which some wanted to drop me;after a few brief moments I said a few words.

Upon returning to the office,still amid blows,I detailed Commissario De Vita to go to the CCRR station to free the detained persons.A little later there arrived the Major and Captain of the CCRR who afterwards returned to their station and freed the journalists and

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The mass of demonstrators then took itself in front of the CCRR station giving a triumphal reception to the French journalists and Lexert and then flowed back to the Piazza Carlo Alberto.

The scenes of violence continued;isolated carabinieri were assaulted a and brutally beaten;the crowd even fell upon the small armoured cars of the Alpini.Faithful to the orders received not to use arms two Alpini officers were also severely beaten and two armoured cars overcome by the demonstrating mass passed for a few moments into their possession.It was sufficient for the commander of the Alpini

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Battalion to order out of the barracks a platoon of Alpini and fire a f
few shots in the air for the demonstrators to clear off and the
armoured cars to return in the possession of the Alpini soldiers.

A French journalist spoke to the crowd from the balcony of the townhall and then the demonstration gradually died away,also owing to the fact that the participants who had come from outside Aosta were returning to their homes.

Towards 1800 hours public order was reestablished in the town.

As soon as I was free I phoned to the Prefect of Turin to ask for reinforcements and in fact he immediately sent the mobile CCRR company of Turin with two armoured cars.

I also took steps to close all public places at 2000 hours.

The balance for the day can be summed up as follows:two Alpini officers wounded,one with a broken nasal septum;three carabinieri injured with a broken jaw,but all however getting on well;two agenti of P.S. were beaten up,as well as a civilian noted for his Italian sentiments - Capt.Reno Chabod.

On the part of the demonstrators no victims.

ENSUING MEASURES

Immediately after the demonstration measures were taken to prevent any attempt at expatriation towards France,as presumably most persons mostly compromised in the demonstration would attempt to do.

It was thus possible to detain about forty persons;nearly all were working men expatriating in search of work,but there were also two more French journalists;GILES BONNEAU,resident at Clichy,and ROBERT PETIOT,resident in Paris;both declared themselves to be general newsreporters;the Major of CCRR who interrogated themwas firmly convinced that he was dealing,specially in the case of BONNEAU,with disguised military elements;they were in possession of a camera.In the knapsack of SEVERAC,who was in their company with RAMUS and BONNAURE,there was found a Sten loader;Severac stated that it was not his and that someone must have placed it in his knapsack,a statement which he also signed;after the crossexamination carried out personally by the major of CCRR they were allowed to proceed by the Piccolo S.Bernardo pass.

But far more important was the detention in the same circumstances of M.JEAN FRASSY.

This person had been until quite recently one of the most active agents of the French propaganda in the valley of Aosta,with which he is well acquainted.Having been brought to Aosta and interrogated he made the statements herewith attached,the importance of which I believe it is hardly necessary to underline.He is now under arrest,

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ENSUING MEASURES

Immediately after the demonstration measures were taken to prevent any attempt at expatriation towards France,as presumably most persons mostly compromised in the demonstration would attempt to do.

It was thus possible to detain about forty persons;nearly all were working men expatriating in search of work,but there were also two more French journalists;GILES BONNEAU,resident at Clichy,and ROBERT PETIOT,resident in Paris;both declared themselves to be general newsreporters;the Major of CCRR who interrogated themwas firmly convinced that he was dealing,specially in the case of BONNEAU,with disguised military elements;they were in possession of a camera.In the knapsack of SEVERAC,who was in their company with RAMUS and BONNAURE,there was found a Sten loader;Severac stated that it was not his and that someone must have placed it in his knapsack,a statement which he also signed;after the crossexamination carried out personally by the major of CCRR they were allowed to proceed by the Piccolo S.Bernardo pass.

But far more important was the detention in the same circumstances of M.JEAN FRASSY.

This person had been until quite recently one of the most active agents of the French propaganda in the valley of Aosta,with which he is well acquainted.Having been brought to Aosta and interrogated he made the statements herewith attached,the importance of which I believe it is hardly necessary to underline.He is now under arrest, be it for attempted clandestine expatriation,be it because a party in the group of individuals who devastated the Office of the President of the Valley,thus ~~incurring~~ concurring in the crime (art 336 and 339 of the Penal Code) of violence against a public official and (art 605 and 112 of the Penal Code) the crime of sequestration in the person of the President of the Valley,and (art 635 and 112 of the Penal Code) for damages to the Offices of the President of the Valley.

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(signed) FEDERICO CHABOD

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LIST OF FRENCH SUBJECTS LODGED AT THE ALBERGO "ALPINO"
OF THIS TOWN DURING THE NIGHT

25th TO 26th MARCH 1945

1) ANDRE FERDINANDO SEVERAC, son of Daniel and Maddalena Girard, born in QUISSAC, France, 10 February 1906; resident in Grenoble, France, journalist.

2) PIERRE LEXERT, son of Cesare and Josephine Vercellin, born in Paris, France, 6 Febraury 1923, resident in Paris, rue Lacuec 14, student in political science.

3) ALBERT MARCEL RAMUS, son of Serafin ~~xyz~~ and Marie Billon, born in S.Pierre d'Antremont, France, 23 March 1913, resident in Grenoble, France, Boulevard Clemenceau 3, journalist.

4) FRANCOIS LOUIS BONNAURE, son of Henri and Marie Luise Michel, born in Carcasonne Aude, France, 19 January 1911, resident in Grenoble, France, Quai Claude Bernard 13, journalist.

Detained at La Thuille
27 March 1946

5) ROBERT PHILIPPE PETIOT, son of the late Auguste and Anois Barcligé, born in Paris, France, 6 January 1907, resident in Paris, Rye François Ier, 35, newspaper reporter.

6) GILLES BONNEAU, born in Paris, France, 29 June 1919, resident in Clichy, France, Rue de Belfort 14 bis.

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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ORDER OF THE DAY VOTED BY THE AOSTA SECTION OF THE DEMOCRATIC - CHRISTAIN PARTY THE

27th MARCH 1946.

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the happenings of yesterday, and the motives that were their direct cause, the vile episodes which chhracterised the demonstration, unworthy of all civic sense.

RE-AFFIRM their line of conduct consistent with that expressed in their order of the day of the 13th May 1945 be it regarding the necessity that the Antonomist Policy should remain within the Italian State, be it in harmony with the Antonomy itself,

REJECT all charges that interested parties may cast upon the Party as a whole,

INVITE all its follwers to cluster around theparty standard in defence of its moral and social postulates,

EXPRESS its solidarity and sympathy to Prof. Federico CHABOD for his work in aid of the VALDOSTAIN people.

NATIONAL PARTISAN ASSOCIATION OF ITALY

Section of AOSTA

Aosta 27th March 1946.

TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL OF THE VALLEY,
Prof. Federico CHABOD,

AOSTA.

The Council of the Committee of the Valley of Aosta of the N.P.A.I. Learns with deep regret the acts of violence carried out by hooligans against your person during the demonstration of the 25th instant, and whilst, once again, they deplore the excesses to which a section of the demonstrators let themselves go renew to you, PARTISAN and PRESIDENT of the Valley, all their confidence and their admiration for the work so far carried out in your delicate post.

With great esteem,

THE COUNCIL OF THE VALLEY OF AOSTA OF THE
N.P.A.I.,

(Signed) Claudio MANGANONI
" Luigi SAPEGNO.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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Prof. Federico CHABOD,

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N.P.A.I.,

(Signed) Claudio MANGANONI
" Luigi SAPEGNO.

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ORDER OF THE DAY OF THE PROVINCIAL C.L.N.

of AOSTA.

TheCommunist, Socilist, Democratic-Christian, Action, and Liberation Parties, in assembly at the C.L.N. Provincial Offices to examine the deplorable happenings of the 26th instant., ascertained that the manifestation degenerated into episodes of violence brought about by elements interested in hindering the VALDOSTAIN Antonomy, deplore all illadvised acts apt to disturb even in the slightest of ways the peaceful and democratic life in the valley; invite the population to keep calm in all its manifestations and not allow itself to be dragged into actions contrary to the traditional laborious and peaceful life of the inhabitants of the Valley of Aosta, they congratulate the Armed Forces who with their coolness avoided useless spreading of blood; they declare that the problems of the VALLEY OF AOSTA can only be resolved with the Antonomy within the Italian State; they express their solidarity and sympathy towards Prof. Federico Chabod, President of the VALDOSTAIN Council for his work in favour of the population of the valley.

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

AOSTA 26th March 1946.

Your Excellency Mr. President.

Deeply disgusted at the grievous vicissitudes of this day, the Superior Priests and Teachers at the Major Seminary, the Minor Seminary and the Episcopal College, feel it their duty of expressing to you their sentiments of grief for the ingratitude and brutality of a section of the VALDOSTAIN people and their deeply felt admiration for your generous and courageous behaviour.

They gather around you, dear Mr President to convey their assurance to you of their total solidarity, of their unaltered faith in your work (efforts) and they implore from the Almighty light and strength that you may, with undiminished rectitude and sacrifice absolve your difficult task.

Canon	Gabriele	Pession
"	Giuseppe	OTTIN
"	Cesare	JEANTET
Abbot	Louis	BERTUQUIN
Canon	Augusto	QUEY
"	Angelo	PESSION
"	Alfonso	COMOD
Rev.	Angelo	FAUSTINO VALLAINC
"	Giulio	BRUNOD
"	Mosè	CUC
Canon	Luigi	ALLAIS
"	Eugénio	BRUNOD
Rev.	Almer	MEYNET
Priest	Elia	JUNOD
"	Osvaldo	PERRENCHIO
Rev.	Giuseppe	PEAQUIN
Priest	Agostino	BORETTAZ
Reveredd	Nilo	DONDEYNAZ

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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" Mosè CUC
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Priest Agostino BORETTAZ
Reverend Nilo DONDEYNAZ

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NEWS COME FROM FRANCE

The demonstration of the 26th of March was organised at a meeting in PARIS at which was present the French Major MICHELET who from May 1945 onwards is, among french military men, the most enraged over the Aosta Valley question.

At that same meeting, there was discussed the part concerning the breaking into my office and violences against me.

After thedemonstration, on theThursday or Friday, Mr Marcello RAMUS one of the three journalists detained at AOSTA the night of the 25th to the 26th of March, who in reality is a functionary or atleast an envoy of the french FOREIGN OFFICE, spoke at GRENOBLE to a group of young VALDOSTAN there resident to relate upon the demonstration at AOSTA and to invite them to keep in contact with him; if the need arises these young men will be calledupon to enter the Valley and give a landing hand to the VALDOSTANS.

Thesame things we said at CHAMBERY to other young VALDOSTAIN by the ill-famed Doctor VOISON who, with MICHELET, isathe most active french agitator.

These young VALDOSTAIN are not, for the moment at least, armed.

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785046

The yaar 1946, the 28th. day of the month of March at 11.10 hrs. in the Offices of the QUESTURA of AOSTA. Before us Functionaries of P.S. Doc. Mario PIRRO' there is present Giovanni Cesare FRASSY, of Giuseppe and of Simona BORDET, born in PARIS the 27th. April, 1924, University Student, resident in AOSTA, Via Xavier de Maistre 8, who, duly questioned, answers:-

I confirm in every part what I declared yesterday in the minutes of the interrogatory to which you submitted me. I desire, however, to specify that the aim of the demonstration was not to provoke incidents as I erroneously stated, but to show that the Authorities of AOSTA would have opposed the demonstration and show to the French journalists and photographers who had come over from France, that the VALDOSTAINS here were not allowed to express their opinions in a democratic manner and that there continued to reign fascist systems.

The last time I went into France was at the end of January for the purpose of going to PARIS, and during the month of February for the purpose of going to NICE to visit family relatives who live there.

I went beyond the border strictly only for family reasons.

There does not exist in France, officially, a movement or Committee "PRO VALLEY OF AOSTA" composed of French elements; it exists in a semi-official way, and to it belong the Minister DE MENTHON who is very deeply interested in the VALDOSTAIN question and who has in his hands the directing of the whole question, Countess DE MENTHON, his wife, Senator BOREL, Doctor VOISIN of ANNECY who is that certain Col. VOISIN who was at INTROD Commander of the French Political Mission, Commander MICHELIN, Major in the Army, who was the last representative of the French Military Troops in AOSTA when the latter withdrew.

Alongside this Committee which I have called "semi-official" there exists another: The VALDOSTAIN COMMITTEE of PARIS. This Committee which really goes under the denomination of VALDOSTAIN COMMITTEE of LIBERATION with Headquarters in PARIS is composed of those members of that Committee formed by the French during the first days of Liberation and the list of whose members was handed at that time to Major HOWEL, Commander of the A.M.G. and who reside now in PARIS and are MILLOZ, TREVES and Maria NOUCHY, and those members of the PARIS VALDOSTAIN COMMITTEE whose exponents are signatories of the proclamation which appeared and was stuck on the walls of AOSTA the night preceeding the demonstration.

This latter Committee at one time had as aim the assistance to the needy, but now having amalgamated with the old elements of the VALDOSTAIN COMMITTEE of LIBERATION has, as this latter Committee, political aims of Annexationist character. This, however, is only extressed in a semi-official manner [illegible]

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 798016

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This Committee has here as element of Liaison the CAVORSIN of whom I have spoken yesterday.

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He is the chief collaborater for the intellectuals, such as CAVERI, PAGE, VAGLINO and the Directors of the UNION VALDOSTAIN who see things in the same light as CAVORSIN are not desirous of being compromised, leave it to CAVORSIN to carry on the double game.

I have no proof that the members of the UNION are in direct contact with PARIS. I am informed, though, that for what takes place in PARIS and concerns the Valley of AOSTA they are acquainted with because members of the VALDOSTAIN COMMITTEE of LIBERATION when they come to AOSTA call upon the above mentioned members of the UNION VALDOSTAIN.

CAVORSIN has as direct and closest collaborators VUILLERMINAZ, CARLON and GERBORE, his men of trust, for that part that concerns them every demonstration.

Of the latter, CARLON I am sure receives no moneys either from CAVORSIN (who most certainly receives money from PARIS) or from France direct, for he is an idealist even though a bit exalted; VUILLERMINAZ often goes to PARIS as a Liaison member, in agreement with CAVORSIN and he has also been over recently. I cannot say whether he receives moneys from CAVORSIN or not, but it may be possible he receives moneys directly in PARIS because he is certainly not an idealist. GERBORE, who is a doubtful character, does not enjoy the trust of the VALDOSTAINS COMMITTEE of LIBERATION in PARIS; he is, however, in touch with Military elements of GRENOBLE from whom he receives moneys.

The very CAVORSIN, as I have stated, receives moneys from PARIS and has a fund for expenses; with such funds there have been the expenses for the lorries. I exclude the fact that wines were paid for the peasants in order to "warm them up" in preparation for the demonstration which took place.

Among those present, the day of the demonstration, in the Office of the President Chabod I noticed VASER, CARLON, TREVES, MILLOZ, Maria NOUCHY, the VIGLINO (female), who has lately been to PARIS.

I do not know where these persons are at present, whether in France or in the Valley, the guests of peasants; they certainly feared being arrested.

I do not know who wrote on the walls of AOSTA the phrase "WE WANT THE PLEBISCITE"; I know, however, that it was CAVORSIN to issue such orders.

Regarding the bills which appeared stuck up on the walls of AOSTA the day of the demonstration these were torn before the demonstration began and precisely during the early hours of the morning by a certain FONTAN and friends of his. FONTAN told me that he tore them because they exalted the Italian feelings of the Valley.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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Made, read and signed.

(Signed) Giovanni FRASSY.

Dov. Mario PIRRO'

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785046

The year 1946, the 27th. day of the month of March at 20.15 hrs. at the Offices of the QUESTURA of AOSTA.

Before us Functionaries of P.S. Doc. Mario PIRRO' is present Giovanni Cesare FRASSY of Giuseppe and of Simona BORDET, born in PARIS the 27th. April, 1924, University student, resident in AOSTA, 8, Via Xavier de Maistre, who duly questioned answers:-

The organisation of the demonstration which took place yesterday was studied in its most minute details by the promoting Committee in PARIS; its aim was to provoke incidents and an open manifestation of the sentiments of the VALDOSTAINS in order to permit FRANCE to put forward a request to the United Nations for the annexation to FRANCE of the Valley of AOSTA.

In fact, the three journalists detained by the CCRR. had actually entered Italy protected right up to the border by the French Authorities, in order to witness the demonstration and were furnished with cameras and cinema equipment. I, however, only saw the cameras because only now whilst you cross-examine me am I acquainted of the existance of cinema equipment.

The promoting Committee of PARIS maintain their contacts with the Valley of AOSTA by means of exiled VALDOSTAINS who often enter Italy clandestinely; they maintain these contacts also through a certain CAVORSIN who is that herborist who has his shop in Via Umberto 1° at the corner of Via Torre dei Balivi.

CAVORSIN, owing to the nature of this business, is in contact with peasents of the Valley who go to him for the purchase of fertilisers and for the sale of herbs. He received, by means of smugglers, French newspapers dealing with articles interesting the Valley of AOSTA, and he distributed same and spread the ideas. By means of these smugglers he sent the Committee articles and newspapers cuttings, always relating to the Valley of AOSTA and kept it informed on the Political and Economic situation of the Valley.

I logically deduct, seeing that CAVORSIN is the principle exponent and receiver of orders from PARIS, that he is supplied with cash funds originating from FRANCE; frankly I cannot say to have ever seem him actually spend moneys for the demonstrations.

He still has a great influance specially over peasants not only owing to his long stay in PARIS, but, according to what I believe he told me, also because before the advent of fascism he founded with CHANOUX the Ancient VALDOSTAIN UNION. In any case, even if not a founder he formed part of it as a member.

For the reasons I have given his shop becomes a real "sea port".

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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For the reasons I have given his shop becomes a real "sea port".

Another person interested in the question of Annexation is a certain GERBORE, associate of CAVORSIN.

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I am unable to identify him better, but he is well known; I myself know him; he is a fair chap who once worked in the chemical branch of the Cogne. Particulars of this chap can be given by Aldo ROVEYAZ.

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GERBORE goes often to France, specially to GRENOBLE and there has contacts with some Officers who belong to the DEUXIEME BUREAU. In fact a few months ago there came here some Officers to visit the Cogne works and GERBORE was on goods relations with these persons.

He is a collaborator of CAVORSIN for what concerns the upper Valley and, though I cannot positively vouch for it, I am sure he has notified those peasants of the demostration that was to be held.

Collaborators with CAVORSIN, for what concerns the lower Valley, are captain VUILLERMINAZ, a stout chap of St.VINCENT who always wears a basque "berret" and who is a hated Communist, and CARLON of CHATILLON, that famous one of whom everyone speaks about, and who is the very one who, during the demonstration, stood on the desk of Prof. CHABOD and with his boots broke the glass cover.

I know that CAVORSIN, for he told me himself, has called upon the intellectuals of AOSTA to invite them, without success though, to take part in the demonstration. For "intellectuals" I understand those who are members of the VALDOSTAIN UNION.

I have nothing to add as only at the very last moment did I learn that the demostration was to be held.

Made, read and signed.

(Signed) FRASSY Giovanni.
Dec. Mario PIRRO'.

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ALLIED COMMISSION

PIEDMONTE LIAISON GROUP

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MONTHLY REPORT

MARCH 1946

By

Lt. Col. F.G. GREEN.

PUBLIC SAFETY SECTION.

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ALLIED COMMISSION

PIEDMONTE LIAISON GROUP

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MONTHLY REPORT

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MARCH 1946

By

Lt. Col. F.G. GREEN.

PUBLIC SAFETY SECTION.

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 783016

ALLIED COMMISSION

PIEDMONT LIAISON GROUP

Public Safety Section

SUBJECT : Monthly Report - MARCH 1946.

TO : The Chief Liaison Officer, Piedmonte Group, A.C.
Public Safety Sub-Commission, HQ.AC., APO 394.
G.S.I., Headquarters No.2 District.

DATE : 3 APRIL 1946. REF : PR/L/PS/24/2.

1. ACTIVITIES OF POLICE LIAISON OFFICERS

All Officers have been occupied during the month with general liaison duties - all Provinces have been visited and contacts maintained with Carabinieri and Police Officials. Particular attention has been paid at weekends during polling for the Municipal Elections and every Officer has been engaged on observation duties.

The usual contates with Security Services, G.S.I., 2 Dist. etc., have been maintained during the month with mutual benefit.

The month has been unusually quiet from a public safety point of view, and the situation may be summed up as satisfactory. Crime is undoubtedly decreasing and public order is daily becoming more normal.

2. ITALIAN POLICE AGENCIES

(a) Carabinieri Reali.

No changes have taken place this month as regards Senior Officers - Colonel Butti, Brigade Commander Turin Brigade, has been seen and expressed himself as generally very satisfied with Carabinieri morale and performance of duties. Naturally he states that they still have the same "needs" as before, transport, uniform and arms. Given these he states the CCRR will be ready to perform any duties. Actually, clothing and arms are arriving, if slowly, and as one goes about the Region the fact that the CCRR are commencing to look better dressed is quite apparent, but this is by no means the universal rule. The outstanding need now, is for "means of transport" - and motor fuel. A recent visit to Cuneo Province for instance has disclosed that the only transport available(usable)to CCRR in the Province is three motor cycles; any rapid police work necessitating the quick movement of men under these circumstances is obviously

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1. ACTIVITIES OF POLICE LIAISON OFFICERS

All Officers have been occupied during the month with general liaison duties - all Provinces have been visited and contacts maintained with Carabinieri and Police Officials. Particular attention has been paid at weekends during polling for the Municipal Elections and every Officer has been engaged on observation duties.

The usual contacts with Security Services, G.S.I., 2 Dist. etc., have been maintained during the month with mutual benefit.

The month has been unusually quiet from a public safety point of view, and the situation may be summed up as satisfactory. Crime is undoubtedly decreasing and public order is daily becoming more normal.

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The morale of CCRR is undoubtedly on the upgrand, and some very spectacular arrests made have impressed quite considerably local feeling. The most spectacular of these arrests was by the Carabinieri of VENARIA REALE, of three persons in connection with what has become known as the Villarbasse Massacre which took place in November 1945 when ten persons were murdered by blows of a hatchet and their bodies with, stones attached to the feet, were thrown into a well at VILLARBASSE near VENARIA Reale - Torino Province. The murders, the motive for which was robbery, took place in a most cold-blooded manner and roused considerable local

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feeling which quickly turned to criticism of the Police as the weeks went by with no trace of the criminals being discovered. CCRR had, however, been working patiently on the case and on the 24th March, the arrest of three persons (Sicilians) was announced - it is stated that they have all since confessed to the crime - the detention of a ~~third~~ fourth person is sought.

At Alessandria, on the 2nd March, CCRR arrested four individuals armed with automatics rifles, pistols and hand grenades. These people had for some time past, been terrorising the countryside, breaking into lonely houses at night.

On the 7th ult. at OLEGGIO - NOVARA Province, a patrol of CCRR under an N.C.O. challenged a group of three persons who opened fire. In the skirmish which followed, CCRR killed one of the group and arrested another.

On the 4th March, an impudent escape was engineered from the prison at Turin by means of forged documents and through the intervention of a bogus CCRR Officer, Carabinieri eventually arrested the escapee, his lover and the bogus CCRR Officer who turned out to be the brother of the released man.

At PINEROLO, CCRR discovered the authors of a serious robbery, arrestedone man, recovering cheques to the value of 330,000 Lire and articles of clothing etc - Inquiries for the arrest of four others are proceeding.

At REGIO PARCO, Turin, CCRR arrested a gang of twelve robbers and denounced seven persons for receiving. This gang have confessed to the armed theft of a lorry laden with Caustic Soda which occurred in July 1945, a theft of shoorings to the value of 250,000 Lire which occurred in Turin in December, armed robbery of money and valuables to the value of 500,000 Lire which occurred in Turin in November 1945 and other crimes. The gang known as the "Generale" gang were armed with a "Sten", five pistols and various implements. They haveundoubtedly been responsible for many of the serious crimes committed in the Turin area, and their arrest has been most favourably commented on in the local press.

Other arrests for armed robbery have been made by CCRR at BORGO DORA (Turin) and at CANELLI.

A spectacular arrest occurred at PALLANZA - Novara Province, when 24 criminals who had escaped from the local jail on the 28th instant were all re-arrestedby Carabinieri within a few hours. This feat caused great local excitement and the CCRR enjoyed the rather novel experience of being cheered in the streets and invited to take wine with the overjoyed local folk.

From the above instances, to which others could be added, it will be seen that the CCRR are really performing some first class

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From the above instances, to which others could be added, it will be seen that the CCRR are really performing some first class work and are definitely gaining ground in the esteem and confidence of the people.

(b) Questori and Agenti di Pubblica Sicurezza. 869

There have been no changes in Questori this month. This is perhaps not an undesirable state of affairs - except in the Province of Alessandria - as generally speaking Questori are all working well and with competence. They have been chiefly concerned this month with arrangements for maintaining public order during the municipal elections and it would be fair to say that with the limited means at their disposal, (transport andpetrol being their particular worries) the arrangements have been well made and carried out.

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To revert to Alessandria, I havementioned in my last two Monthly Reports the needs of a strong man being sent as Questure to this Province. It is now quite obvious that no serious attempt is being made to fill Aloatta's vacancy and the post of Questore is being temporarily filled by the Vice Questore. As I have mentioned before he is a FEEBLE ELDERLY TYPE, likeable enough, BUT QUITE INCAPABLE OF HOLDING DOWN THIS TROUBLESOME Province. He admits himself that matters are beyond his control - the auxilliary Police for instance have, without reference to him, opened up Police Casermas in various communes. He is afraid to do anything in the matter and indeed has no authority over these people. It is earnestly suggested if any influence can be brought to bear at this stage, that the Minister of the Interior be asked to fill this post immediately with a strong capable successor to Aloatta.

I would like to add a word for the non-professional Questore of CUNEO, Avvocato Claudio ROGGERI. This man is a political appointee of the left, but is a very keen and efficient Questore. He is performing a very useful task in CUNEO Province and is always very helpful and co-operative in all matters concerning the Allies. It is very desirable that he remain in Office as Questore. Under his control the Province remains calm and peaceful and I recommend to the Italian Authorities his retention as long as possible.

No more has been heard of the alleged political factions within the Questore at Turin, but the Questore of Novara states that it has come to his attention that there are two district political camps within his Police Battalion, one Communist and one Demo-Christian. The Questore is making enquiries with regard to these movements and willtake action when he has procured the evidence. The Questore has also been engaged with other troubles having had occasion to arrest seven agenti, who have been in association with criminals.

Good arrests have also been made by Agenti di P.S. for serious crimes. At Novara on the 4th instant two persons, one an auxilliary police agent were arrested for armed robbery and stealing 900 Lire and various gold articles to the value of 50,000 Lire.

At ASTI, on the 13th instant, the Questura arrested the Mayor of Galliano who is also a Sub-Lieutenant of the Auxilliary Police, a Vice-Brigadier of his company of Auxilliary Police, and a tradesman - late Commandant of the 45th Garibaldi Grigade. These three persons had on the 11th instant, carried out a masked and armed holdup on the highway and had stolen a Fiat Car.

At Torino, on the 23rd instant, agents of the Questura arrested two men for a burglary in the town on the 11th instant when goods to the amount of 1,600,000 Lire were stolen. The goods have been recovered.

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The Agenti di Publicca Sicurezza are not so much perhaps in evidence as the CCRR, and have many disadvantages as compared with the former body. Nevertheless, they perform a quiet and useful service and deserve more recognition. Their chief greivance is rations, and it is a great source of dissatisfaction that they have not yet been restored to thespecial rations they had compared with civilians before the war. It is certainly not easy to explain why the CCRR should be fed as soldiers whilst the Agenti have to be content with a lower civilian ration and are expected to perform practically the same duties. The Questore of Turin reports that he has seven agenti suffering from Phthisis which he attributes to malnutrition. He states that all his men are underfed.

(c) RAILWAY POLICE.

Like the poor, the railway police are always with us, a

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source of embarrassment to the various Questori, and quite a problem to all and sundry, including themselves. It is high time that the Council of Ministers decided which particular Ministry, if any, is to be made responsible for this body, so that the Corpo can be rigourously cleaned up and re-organised.

(d) (e) FINANCE GUARDS - Royal Corps of the Forest.

Nothing unusual to report.

3. CRIME

The state of the Region with regard tocrime has undoubtedly improved. Highway robberies have greatly diminished, justifying the claims made by Police that the gangs responsible have been largely broken up. There still continue to be reported however, isolated cases and a number of serious larcennies from shops etc., but these also have diminished, possibly due to the lighter evenings.

Instances of the more serious crimes reported during the month are as follows:-

Torino 1st March. A citizen was held up by an armed thief who threatened him with a pistol. The threatened man shouted for help and with help given by a neighbour, disarmed the thief who fled. Shortly afterwards whilst returning to his house, the man was stopped by another person who said he was an Agenti di P.S. and persuaded him to hand over the pistol which he had taken from the first man. The so-called Agenti then robbed him of his bicycle, and a purse containing bills of credit for 516,000 Lire and 15,000 in Bank Notes.

Torino 5th March. Three individuals, one of them armed, claiming to be Agents of P.S. robbed a doctor on the highway of 400 lire, and a gold watch and chain.

Arona 8th March. Highway robbery by four men.

Saluggia (VERCELLI) 16th March. Three armed men robbed the Casa di Risparmio de Torino to the extent of 43,000 Lire, binding and gagging the bacnk clerk in charge.

Susa. 18th March. A handgrenade was thrown and pistol shots fired at CCRR returning from election duties; no person was hurt and enquiries continue : no political significance.

Torino 20th March. A certain RODANO Albino gave himself up for the murder of his wife from whomhe was separated. Just previously she had come to his home against his wishes - a quarrel ensued and he stabbed her to death with a knife.

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Susa 26th March. Two individuals one a Pole, and the other a supposed French Canadian Lieutenant, were stopped at Moncenisio whilst attempting to cross into France. Taken into the CCRR Office for their documents to be examined, the supposed French Canadian suddenly drew a pistol and shot and wounded a Vice Brigadiere of CCRR. He ran from the Office and tried to get across the border on skis. He was followed by CCRR who opened fire and fatally wounded him. Enquiries are in hand by P.S.S.

Aosta 27th March. A certain Giovanni BIGATTI attempted to kill his sterdnughter with a hatchet. In the fray, BIGATTI was seriously injured by a kitchen knife used by the woman in self defence, and died after admission to hospital. The cause of this crime is at present unknown.

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(a) Political Crime.

No cases of mass political crime have occurred, but there have been two individual cases reported as follows.

(1) At HONE (Aosta Province) on the 5th March, the local priest was shot and killed in the churchyard whilst on his way to sound the Angelus at 0500 hours. The victim who had made Anti-Communist speeches from his pulpit had received warning letters which were found in his safe after his death and also had been threatened verbally. Eight persons were arrested by CCRR for this crime, but no evidence was forthcoming against them and all have been released. Enquiries continue.

(2) At VENARIA REALE (Torino) at 0900 hours on the 24th, three unkown persons travelling in a Fiat 500, stopped the car on the road and shot and killed one JACAZIO Nerone, a director of the Auti-strada whom they had apparently kidnapped the previous evening. The dead man was a former fascist who had been tried and acquitted by an extra-ordinary Court of Assize, a verdict which did not apparently please the local people. Enquiries are in hand but so far without result.

4. JAILS AND PRISONS

Reports have been submitted during the month to P.S. Sub-Commission on the happeningsat the jail at Torino, where there have been large scale disorders and attempts at escape.

Signor UGO CALDERERA, Inspector from the Ministry of Grace and Justice, called at this office on the 18th. ultimo and stated that he had come from Rome to survey the situation and had made certain arrangements to improve it. Five hudred prisoners would be trans-ferred to the prison at CASALE and four hundred to the military prison at Turin, whilst work would be put in hand to carry out the repairs necessary to strengthen the prisons at Turin. Also a new director would be sent to replace the present prison director who he agreed was weak. Certain transfers of prisoners have taken place to a totalof 476. This has relieved the situation temporarily but there are to date 1089 prisoners still in this jail - the normal accommodation of which is 650. The hiatus appears to be that the director of the prison at CASALE has stated that he can at the utmost accept 300 (not 500) and that at present until more prison guards are forthcoming he can only accept 50. Likewise the military authorities are only disposed to accept 300 and to date have only accepted 128. The other prisoners transferred have been sent to other jails such as Saluzzo (97) and Alessandria (47). This has produced an immediate complaint of overcrowding at Saluzzo which is only a small jail (from which there has already been one prison break in the last two months) and although the situation at Turin has been allieviated by these transfers it must be realised that only by a drastic transfer of prisoners to a specially prepered prison, can the situation be really improved.

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The Prison Director has not been replaced but another official, who has since departed, was sent to assist him temporarily. Repairs are taking place slowly and for the present the situation is quiet.

As mentioned above (under arrests by CCRR) twenty-four prisoners transferred from Milan jail to the re-educatimal prison for minors at PALLANZA forced the gates, overpowered the guards and escaped from this establishment on the 28th ultimo. They were all all recaptured within a few hours. These prisoners were of a particularly dangerous type-many of them held for homicide and the

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prison for minors is not constructed or equipped to hold such prisoners. The guard has been re-inforced and no further escapes are anticipated.

5. POLITICAL ACTIVITIES.

Under the heading "Atmosphere of battle in the Piemonte Provinces" "Opinione" of Turin, on 22 March, drew attention to the activities of a band of several young Liguriens who were alleged to be heavily armed and terrorising the southern part of Asti Province near the Cuneo Border. An investigation of the position revealed that the CCRR Captain at Alba had telephoned to the Questore of Cuneo reporting the presence of over two hundred armed rebels in the area of Cortemilia and asking for assistance. Six plain clothes men were sent, and they "relieved" the caserma (the carabin-ieri had barricaded their building and posted machine guns at the doors). The agenti surrounded three men and after some shooting they made one arrest; later, the CCRR made a sally and effected three arrests. A number of automatic weapons (including two machine guns) were seized and a quantity of literature was found; the band took to the hills. The Questore (who estimates the bands' number as 25) is satisfied that the activities of the band are political and not criminal - their posters are addressed to the farmers of the Langhe - urging them not to be afraid because the Partisans have again gone into action, this time against Capitalist Militarism, and to young men instructing them not to respond to the call-up to the Army, but to join the G.I.A.M. (Gruppi Italiani Anti-Militaristi). In addition, copies of a book entitled "Perchè siamo Anarchici?" were found. The enquiry is being continued.

At Vercelli similar posters have been seen, signed by the "Vercelli Anti-Militarist Committee".

The members of the Liberal Party in Turin recently held a secret referendum on the Institutional question and it is reliably reported that the result was as follows:

For the Monarchy	52%
For the Republic	46%
Indifferent	2%

A titled Italian Army Officer, who is a friend of the Luogo-Tenente, recently informed a member of this Liaison Group in confidence that during a recent discussion he had with the Prince he formed the opinion that the latter was in a pessimistic frame of mind with regard to the future of the Monarchy, and he stated that, if it were not for the country and his young son, he would have retired into private life as he is very tired of Political Intrigues and manoeuvres.

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With reference to report S/SRC/POR of the 28th Feb 46.

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With reference to report G/SMC/IOR of the 28th Feb 45, of this Headquarters, regarding the arrest of Avvocato COLLA GINO (a prominent member of the local Communist Party and their Legal Advisor) and some Yugoslavs by the Security Services in connection with alleged Yugoslav Espionage activities, it has now been decided by ~~XXX~~ No.2 District that COLLA shall be released on condition that he reportsweekly to 315 FSS, the Yugoslavs are also being released. Theexpected storm of protest from Left Wing Circles did not materialise (from which, perhaps, certain conclusions can be drawn) and his release only drew casual comment in the press.

Following reports sent to GSI No.2 District regarding Anti-Allied Publications by the Communist Newspaper "L'Unità" in Turin, and the suggestion that this almost constituted a threat to

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military security (an opinion which this Headquarters considered greatly exaggerated) the O.C., 315 PSS had a 2½ hour interview with the editor of the paper. The editor denied that the policy of his paper was deliberately anti-allied but said that there were certain grievances under which the left wing parties were labouring, namely the economic measures brought to bear upon Italy by the Allies, the continued presence of Polish Troops in the country, and the treatment meted out to left wing supporters by AMG Officers in general, and Col. Fiore in particular. The editor expressed his appreciation of the opportunity given to him to discuss the matter with an allied representative, and thought that this would help to establish better relations.

The Mostra della Meccanica opened in Turin on 24th March 1946, and De Gasperi, the Presidente del Consiglio, was present as the guest of honour at the opening ceremony. De Gasperi made a speech of an entirely political nature - obviously in his capacity as leader of the Christian Democrats - and replied to points made by Togliatti in his recent speech at Bologna.

Nenni has also spoken in Turin during the past month.

A Russian Commercial Mission and a French Trade Mission have visited Turin; the former were received by the Prefect and Sindaco and taken to Fiat Mirafiori Works where they were met by Professor Valetta (whohad known Dr. Vassili Kamenski, the leader of the Mission, before). The Russians have since visited other factories of importance in Piemonte.

Antonicelli, the head of the CLN, is reported to have resigned from the Liberal Party, and he is being followed by other prominent members; it is understood that the break is on the Institution -al question - Antonicelli and others holding Republican views. The formation of a new party is under consideration.

It is reported that the Partito D'Azione is in a bad way financially - so much that they are ceasing publication of their Milan newspaper and relying upon distribution of the Turin edition.

The wave of excitement regarding neo-Fascist activities in general and those of SAM in particular which arose following grossly exaggerated articles in the Left Wing Press, had apparently abated (probably owing to a complete lack of solid fact to support the wild statements) but enjoyed a temporary revival by the publication in the Gazetta d'Italia of 27th March of a story regarding the breaking up of a SAM organisation at Novara by the arrest of ten persons. The Questore of Novara told the Liaison Group that he had no evidence to support the statement that the persons arrested (six youths between 15 and 19 years of age and a woman of 40) were connected with a neo-Fascist organisation and that it was pure supposition on the part of the journalist who wrote the article.

It is thought that an interesting feature of Piemonte politics will be the increase in size and power of the Contadini Party

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It is reported that the Partito D'Azione is in a bad way financially - so much that they are ceasing publication of their Milan newspaper and relying upon distribution of the Turin edition.

The wave of excitement regarding neo-Fascist activities in general and those of SAM in particular which arose following grossly exaggerated articles in the Left Wing Press, had apparently abated (probably owing to a complete lack of solid fact to support the wild statements) but enjoyed a temporary revival by the publication in the Gazetta d'Italia of 27th March of a story regarding the breaking up of a SAM organisation at Novara by the arrest of ten persons. The Questore of Novara told the Liaison Group that he had no evidence to support the statement that the persons arrested (six youths between 15 and 19 years of age and a woman of 40) were connected with a neo-Fascist organisation and that it was pure supposition on the part of the journalist who wrote the article.

It is thought that an interesting feature of Piemonte politics will be the increase in size and power of the Contadini Party whose activities, at the moment, are confined to the Provinces of Cuneo and Asti with a slight infiltration in Alessandria. This party represent -ed these provinces in the last government prior to the Fascist Regime and, although only recently formed by SCOTTI Alessandro (brother of the original founder who is now deceased), has such a powerful appeal to people engaged in agricultural pursuits (on theprotection of whose interests the whole policy of the party is based) that it is already a considerable embarrassment to the Communists, Socialists and Christian Democrats in these Provinces. The Questore of Cuneo - himself a Communist - prophesies that the success that theyparty have gained in the elections (remarkable as it is in view of the recent developement-

Cont. overleaf/

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and lack of organisation of the party) as nothing to the success that they will achieve in the future and is firmly of the opinion that in the next elections they will sweep the board in the rural areas. Relations between townspeople and the peasants in some districts are not good and the latter are blamed for the food shortage and accused of selling their produce in the black market instead of ammassing.

Elections were held in Piemonte on 17th, 24th and 31st of March, and Liaison Group Officers spent these days in unobtrusive observation. Everywhere perfect calm prevailed and a high percentage of the people went to the polls. In may places, there seemed to be a holiday atmosphere abroad, and there was a complete lack of excitement.

6. POLITICAL MEETINGS AND DEMONSTRATIONS.

There have been the usual party meetings during the month: no serious incidents have arisen in connection therewith.

Public Meetings in Biella and Turin have been addressed by the Ministers Nenni and De Gasperi. These were largely attended and also passed off without incident.

A general strike of all workers other than state employees and transport workers took place in all Provinces, as in other parts of Italy on the afternoon of the 14th ultimo. Gatherings were held in public places in all the principal cities and the following subjects were discussed (a) The payment of contributions to worker's syndicates - the contention of the worker's being that all contributions, (previously paid by workers and employees) should be paid by the employers (b) increase of salaries to all employees - (c) the calling up of workers to the armed forces. No incidents occurred in connection with these meetings.

A rather serious demonstration as already reported (see report PR/L/PS/11 dtd 28th March) occurred in Aosta Province on the 26th ultimo, when a crowd of 1500 Valdostani clamoured in front of the Palace of the President, Dr. Chabod, demanding a plebiscite on the future status of the Valley of Aosta. A number of demonstrators forced their way into the Palace and manhandled the President rather severely. The incident was rather exaggerated by the Local Press, the real seriousness of the matter lying in the fact that the incident had been planned from across the French Border and that a number of French journalists and photographers illegally entered Italy with a view to witnessing the demonstration.

The situation in the valley has since been quiet - no further trouble having arisen and the local population have expressed feelings of disgust at the behaviour of the imported demonstrators. The forty persons arrested by CCMR (mentioned in the said report) turned out to be persons attempting to migrate to France for the purpose of obtaining work and were not connected with the

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There have been some minor demonstrations, notably at Saluzzo and Ivrea, organised by women to protest against rationing and food difficulties. These have passed off without violence.

7. ECONOMIC SITUATION.

The economic situation generally remains about the same, worsening in some respects particularly as regards rising prices of flour and rice in the black market, the scarcity of rationed goods, and made more difficult by the additional numbers of repatriated prisoners of war, and the fact that the ban on dismissing employees has been partially lifted.

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Prices of clothing, particularly boots and cotton goods have fallen smartly, but many articles are still accessible only to privileged purses. Falling prices however have not touched food-stuffs, particularly fruit and vegetables which have reached a very high quotation. In the month of March, Turin Province has had no pasta ration, a reduced rice ration whilst the quality of bread has considerably worsened in spite of the fact that the price has risen. A late news flash reveals a sudden fall in the black market price of wheat from 15,000 to 7,000 Lire per quintali, said to be due to the fact that bakers having laid down heavy stocks on the black market, forsee that they will be caught with stocks on hand when the next harvest supplies are available and also shipments arrive from abroad.

Unemployment still remains fairly high, despite the fact that some industries are taking on extra workers e.g., wool-combing in the Biella district and the cotton firm of Cuccerini Coates at Pallanza. Many industries however, are only working part time for lack of coal and/or raw materials. The position is ameliorated to a great extent by reason of the fact that large parts of the Region being of an agricultural nature, it is possible to absorb many unemployed industrial workers in seasonable work on the land.

8. SECURITY.

There is now just a scattered handful of troops throughout the entire Region, and problems of their security have become a matter for individual precaution.

The erstwhile Garrison Troops, 75th Med. Regt R.A., have been dispersed and now only a remnant of a rear party remains. Novara transit camp - of memories to U.N.R.R.A. Personnel returning from MEDLOC - has been closed down, and transferred to MONZA. Only about sixty military personnel now occupy the camp temporarily, and consequently what was always rather a difficult part of the Region has passed into a quiet area as far as security problems are concerned.

A peculiar case of sabotage of a civilian nature is reported from BARSIGNANA where at 23.00 hours on 25th March, four unknown and masked individuals after having removed by threats the personnel on watch, exploded two charges under the ferry across the River TANARO rendering it unserviceable

9. COLLECTION OF ARMS ETC.

No information has been received this month of any large raids by Italian Police for arms.

At S.Giorgio (Torino Province) on the 10th March, CCRR found hidden in a library of the Casa Communale:-

1 Machine Gun - S. Etienne with 1700 cartridges

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1	Machine Gun - S. Etienne with 1700 cartridges	862
24	rifles and muskets - Italian models	
5	hand grenades	
2670	cartridges for various types of arms.	

The Sindaco of this Commune has been denounced for unlawful possession of these arms.

A few arms have been recovered in connection with the arrests of criminals etc, including at Torino on 3rd March, 2 Sten Guns, 3 Muskets, 1 rifle and a quantity of ammunition. At Alessandria, 2nd March, 4 automatic rifles, 4 pistols and a number of hand grenades At Verbania, 1 Beretta automatic rifle, 3 pistols and a quantity of ammunition. At Pinerolo, 22nd March, 1 pistol. At Torino on the 26th, 1 "Sten" and 5 pistols.

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10. MISCELLANEOUS.

Public Safety personnel this Liaison Group, now consists of three Officers, Captain Scaife having been transferred during the month to Venezia Giulia.

This is a large Region to be covered and especially now that there are practically no troops here, if information is to be obtained it is necessary for constant trips to be made in the Region. There is still quite a steady flow of correspondence on Public Safety and Legal matters, matters dealing with prisoners etc., as well as a number of Italian callers daily seeking assistance on AMG lines, and with the best intentions it is not possible for the office to be left unattended without accumulating a pile of documents awaiting disposal.

As long as a Liaison Group of Allied Commission remains in this Region, I strongly advise that the number of Public Safety personnel be not further reduced.

F.G. Green.

F.G. GREEN,
Lt.Col., G.L.,
Chief Police Liaison Officer.

FGG/JBS.

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17A

ALLIED COMMISSION
LIAISON GROUP
PIEMONTE REGION
Public Safety Section

To: CPLO, Piemonte Liaison Group AC.
Subject: "Atmosphere of Battle in the Piemonte Provinces"
Date: 29 March 1946.

1. On 22 March 1946 "Opinione" of Torino published an article under the above title, drawing attention to an alleged band of several hundred young Ligurians who were supposed to be heavily armed and terrifying the area of southern Asti Province near the Cuneo border.
2. On the same day Major Ronnie and I called on Major Venechi, Group Commander of Asti Province CCRR., and he raised the matter. He stated that the band was of an unknown number and was based on CORTEMILIA and MONESIGLIO both in Cuneo Province; that they had only once been reported in Asti Province, at VESIMO, a small village near the border where they had affixed a small red poster in one place calling on young men to refuse to report for military duty, on other citizens to help them with information, and on soldiers to desert; he had no reports of offences against the person or property; he had little faith in the Maresciallo commanding the chief CCRR. station in the area at BUBBIO, but was confident that Lieutenant Ferrari, in charge of the Tenenza of CANELLI, had taken all necessary steps; he had communicated with the Cuneo authorities.
3. On 26 March 1946 the Asti Province CCRR had no further incidents to report.
4. On 25 March 1946 I was informed by Major Borla, commander of the Gruppo Interno of Torino that he had received detailed information of the location of the band and their habits and that he had forwarded it several days before to the Cuneo authorities.
5. On the same day it was reported by AC Liaison Officer Cuneo that in fact the leader had been arrested and that it was anticipated that the others would be traced.
6. On 26 March 1946 I attended at the HQ of the Alba Company of CCRR, covering the area concerned and interviewed the captain, who created a poor impression; he is a Neapolitan and appeared to be very nervous and to know little about his area; he stated that he had made an expedition in force several days before but had found none of the band, who had, he alleged retired over the border into Asti Province; he confirmed that no reports had been received of offences against the person or property; he had no knowledge of any arrests.
7. In view of the conflict between the evidence of Questore of

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heavily armed and terrifying the area of southern Asti Province near the Cuneo border.

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3. On 24 March 1946 the Asti Province CCRR had no further incidents to report.

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7. In view of the conflict between the evidence of Questore of Cuneo, through Liaison Officer, and that of the CCRR Officer commanding the area Major Ronnie and I on 28 March 1946 attended at the Questura and the CCRR Group HQ at Cuneo and saw the commanding officers.

8. The Questore reported that on 14 March he had been telephoned to by the CCRR captain of Alba (of whom he also has a poor opinion); the captain had reported the presence of over two hundred armed rebels in the area of CORTEMILIA and requested assistance, especially in transport. The Questore sent six plain clothes men, who "relieved" the CCRR caserma; the CCRR had barricaded themselves in their caserma and posted machine guns at the entries. The disorderly elements had apparently been forewarned, but the agenti surrounded three men who had opened fire; the police replied and captured one prisoner; there were

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no casualties; the CCRR later plucked up courage and made three arrests; a number of automatic weapons, including two machine guns, and literature were seized; the remainder of the band took to the country and the low hills.

9. From information received the Questore is satisfied that the band consists of only about twenty-five young men, all Ligurians who have come from La Spezia and Savona, and who have smuggled their arms up in suitcases on the Savona-Torino torpedone, which untill the Alba ferry was swept away by flood water passed through the area three times a week but now travels by Mondovi, Fossano and Bra (I have myself travelled twice on this bus and observed that it is used regularly for smuggling of foodstuffs and is never checked by the police); the Questore produced the attached seized documents which support his view that these men are not Communists but Anarchists; he stated that among the leaders are one German and one Austrian; he is interrogating the four prisoners with a view to tracing the other members of the gang and will pass any information extracted to all other police agencies surrounding Cuneo and to this HQ.

10. The Major commanding the Cuneo CCRR Group confirmed in the main the statement of the Questore, without however putting the CCRR in such a poor light; he stated that the great difficulty of the CCRR was that they had not a single motor vehicle in action apart from three motor cycles and so were unable to send reinforcements. He said the propaganda of the band had had no visible effect on the presentation of young men for military service so far, butthat he thought a number of farmers had been impressed by their general anarchist propaganda. He estimated the total of the band at 70.

11. Both the Questore and the CCRR Major thought that the lieutenant of CCRR at Cunelli had arrested about another dozen of the group, but this appears to be a confusion of the group of fifteen rapinatori arrested recently at Cunelli.

12. Attached documents are:

a) Sample of "Perchè siamo anarchici?" by Saverio Merlino, one of a nupber seized by Agenti at Cortemilia.

b) Sample of poster addressed to Popolani, richiamati and soldati regarding military service-seized by CCRR and Agenti.

c) Copy of poster addressed to the Farmers of the Langhe, in which the writers urge them not to be afraid because the partisans have again gone into action in the Langhe this time against Capitalist Militarism.

In both the last two documents the signature is G.I.A.M. (Gruppi

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L. Montague Lt Col

L. MONTAGUE
Lt. Colonel, G.S.

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POPOLANI, RICHIAMATI ALLE ARMI, SOLDATI DEL R. ESERCITO.

Vi invitiamo a collaborare con i G.I.A.M. (Gruppi Italiani Antimilitaristi), onde abolire il militarismo ed il capitalismo.

POPOLANI: potete collaborare con noi accorrendo nelle nostre file e fornendoci tutte le indicazioni che possono esserci utili.

RICHIAMATI: rifiutate di presentarvi nell'esercito. Rifiutate di essere servi della infame Casa Sabauda, sabotando il loro esercito e pervenendo nei nostri gruppi.

SOLDATI: disertate in massa le file dell'esercito monarchico.

L'unione fa la forza, e solamente con questa si può abbattere definitivamente la classe aristocratica boghese.

G. I. A/ M.

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c)

CONTADINI DELLE LANGHE

Il nostro ritorno su queste montagne non deve avere su di voi una impressione sgradevole, ma bensì dovete essere solidali a noi che siamo venuti appositamente per poter lottare a viso aperto contro ogni forma di militarismo capitalista. -

Ricordate o contadini, che abbiamo bisogno della vostra collaborazione dato che il nostro scopo è di fare l'interesse di tutta la massa lavoratrice e quindi anche di voi lavoratori della terra. -

Dovete avere fiducia in noi perchè già ci avete conosciuti ed in nome dei nostri compagni caduti non potete respingerci. - Da oggi potete ricorrere a noi quando avrete bisogno di far valere i vostri diritti di fronte alle angarie dei nemici di ieri, che oggi si nascondono sotto altre forme, ma sempre tiranniche. -

GRUPPO ITALIANO ANTI MILITARISTI
(G. I. A. M.)

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16A

GENERAL POLITICAL SITUATION FOR THE TOWN
OF
V E R C E L L I

The Town of Vercelli can be divided into two main political blocks: one of red colour (Communist and Philo-communist) the other White (Anti-communist) - Whilst the first is not numerous the second is very numerous - In detail the situation presents itself as follows: -

1st. PHILO-COMMUNIST BLOCK -

(a) COMMUNIST PARTY ITSELF - Secretary Francesco Leone, a capable person, determined, intelligent and no scruples - Born in Vercelli he is wrapped in a halo of mistery regarding the vicissitudes of his political activities in Russia, (he attended the revolutionary school of Moscow) France and in Spain where he was an agent of the Comintern - He is the only capable person within the Communist Party and when he is absent everything lags and gets stranded. - His collaborators are: - Guido SOLA PIETRO, Mayor, a person of not great intelligence, but capable and determined. Without scruples he displays on each argument an exceptional dialectic though he is not a well informed person. He is a committed at strong and convinced heart and for this faith of his has suffered 12 years imprisonment. -
Doctor CANUTI, Vice Prefetto, a not very capable person but very cultured and full of good-will. - unscrupulous, but of sure faith. - Viscally extremely fearful. - Doctor MALENGO (female) intelligent, educated, volitive and capable. - She is an exalted in her ideas absolutely in bad faith as all the rest. -
The party has a strenght of about 6000 registered members including the young of less than 21 yrs. down to 15. - Not all are registered in good faith and most of them have done so for reasons of interest. -
The organisers are chosen amongst the very active and completely resolved. - Their initiatives are always timely and at great respite.- They have an enormous bureaucratic apparatus that they maintain thanks to the exceptional consistancy of their finances. -
At all manifestations they spend, without exagération, millions without ever causing embarassment to their finances. -
Supported by inextinguishable funds their propaganda is exceptionally intense and well done even if often it seems to lose bite. - They work now only on the

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Doctor CINUTTI, Vice Prefetto, a not very capable person but very cultured and full of good-will. - unscrupulous, but of pure faith. - Risically extremely fearful. - Doctor NANNINI (female) intelligent, educated, volitive and capable. - She is an exalted in her ideas absolutely in bad faith as all the rest. -
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At all manifestations they spend, without exagération, milions without ever causing embarassment to their finances. -
Supported by inextinguishable funds their propaganda is exceptionally intense and well done even if often it seems to lose bite. - They work now only on the working man and lower classes by means or their own cells by all ways and means. - Plain dealing people are enraptured and in effect it can be asked whether the Communist party isn't actually and sincerely desirous of raising society towards a new well-being stage along with the other parties. -
Its real activity though that they exercise covered by the above stated appearances is indeed much different in its aims. -

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(b) SOCIALIST PARTY = Is tied by a pact of union to the Communist party, but the headers do not agree amonst themselves. - Few within the Socialist Party express their favour to the fusion and collaboration. - All maintain that the Socialist party must fulfill its own particular histbric mission, along its own road, with its own particular countenance, drawing up against the system and the methods of the Communist party. -
It has neither capable or representative men. - Its leaders are honest persons, worthy, and of moderate tendencies. -
The juvenile Group of the Socialist party is of Anti-Communist tendency. - In fact it appears they are organising themselves on military lines to oppose the communist military organisation. -
To conclude: At Vercelli, only at Vercelli the Socialist party whilst considering itself a party of the left does not agree very well with the Communsit party and the strongest current within its ranks is most decidely against fusion and is in fact anti-communist. -

(c) UNION OF ITALIAN WOMEN = Meant to be an association without political character but is in realty a creation of the Communist party and is by this financed and largely sustained. - President of the Union is Doctor ANNA MARENGO of the Communist party. - Followers of this union are many women theough all not worthy of consideration and of doubtful seriousness. - There also are women in good faith but they are rare. - The organisers are people of poor assurance and all communist. -

(d) ITALIAN NATIONAL PARTISAN ASSOCIATION = On this association I will report more fully separately. -

(f) YOUTH MOVEMENT = It was meant to be the organism that had to cordinate the activity of all youth Movements of the various parties in the common interest of youth, but from the start it immedaitely manifested itself communistic tendencies so much, that one after the other the youth groups of the Right withdrew and lastly even the Socialists definitely left their communist companions. - At the present time the Youth Movement is solely formed of Communist youths who seek for adherents within the ranks of those without political character by developing sporting, cultural, recreative activities on some considerable scale, financed by the Communist party. -
It helps also as a cover to the activity of the armed organisation. -

(g) ACTION PARTY = Has neither members or registered members - A few of its leaders follow in all ways the Communist party but are ~~subserviently~~ substantially averse towards it, they do so for ambitious speculation in order to obtain a stay for their rather tottering seats. -

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(c) UNION OF ITALIAN WOMEN = Meant to be an association without political character but is in reality a creation of the Communist party and is by this financed and largely sustained. - President of the Union is Doctor ANNA MARENGO of the Communist party. - Followers of this union are many women though all not worthy of consideration and of doubtful seriousness. - There also are women in good faith but they are rare. - The organisers are people of poor assurance and all communist. -

(d) ITALIAN NATIONAL PARTISAN ASSOCIATION = On this association I will report more fully separately. -

(e) YOUTH MOVEMENT = It was meant to be the organism that had to coordinate the activity of all youth Movements of the various parties in the common interest of youth, but from the start it immediately manifested its communistic tendencies so much that one after the other the youth groups of the Right withdrew and lastly even the Socialists definitely left their communist companions. - At the present time the Youth Movement is solely formed of Communist youths who seek for adherents within the ranks of those without political character by developing sporting, cultural, recreative activities on some considerable scale, financed by the Communist party. - It helps also as a cover to the activity of the armed organisation. -

(g) ACTION PARTY = Has neither member registered members - A few of its leaders follow in all ways the Communist party but are substantially adverse towards it, they do so for ambitious speculation in order to obtain a stay for their rather tottering seats. -

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(h) COOPERATIVE OF CONSUMPTION = Are exclusive creation of the Communist party and are created to hide activities of various kinds, from that of party speculation to that of personal speculation for the benefit of those who manage them. - They serve as excellent means of propaganda over the people brought to follow that part whence material favours hail from. -
In conclusion the left wing block presents itself on the whole very compact and strong enrolled with exceptional possibilities for expansion and with obscure but considerable financial resources. - It embraces only the working and lower classes. -

2nd. ANTICOMMUNIST BLOCK = Is represented by: -

(a) CLERGY = Very active even if not numerous and not very

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capable. - It possesses some persons of distinction of exceptional value and courage and their official informing publicat on, "Esebiano" (The Esebiano) can be called the newspaper of all those wothout a political following within the Province. - They are anti-communists for evident reasons that run foul with their moral offices. -

(b) WITHOUT PARTY-POLITICAL FOLLOWING - All indiscrimcly even if they do not follow, often, owing to justified diffidence a particular party are all profoundly anti-communists. - Anticommunism is the only banner that can at any time bind them together for they belong to that category called the "Middle Class" and for this reason are always apparently absent from active political life. -

(c) DEMOCRATIC CHRISTIAN PARTY - Has not many registerd members and represents all categories. - Its leaders are not professional politicians but nevertheless possesses a leading Council formed of men both capable and determined. - It is the only party that competes in the political field against the Communist party. - Its possibilities of action are rather limited owing to absolute lack of funds but nevertheless its propaganda theough not of a visible nature is very much felt. - It has beside it an enormous mass of sympathisers who will certainly not fail to do their duty whilst matters follow a course of normality and order. - It is very highly considered also within opposing circles as happens within its own circle when considering some of the men of the left wing. -
In all every day happenings public opinion is now used to see the antagonism between Democratic-Christians and Communists. - The affirmances up to the present are about counterbalanced but would totally change in favour of the Democratic-Christians if they were able to obtain the slighter broader affirmation. -

(d) LIBERAL PARTY - Embraces a catagory of people very confined and not favourably looked upon. - These men are always professionally capable but lack decision. - A few elements amongst the leaders are really trained and prepared. - Their form is essentially based on the individual capacity of the men enlisted? - They possess a fairly large sphere of influence on a large mass of non party men people represented by the managing category. -

(e) ITALIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY AND THE "CAVOUR" GROUP - It is the Monarchist Group and has men really determined and capable. - All ex-officers and young people of good families, of the Vercellese Province who show that politically they are capable. It does not appear that they run an underhand organisation but certainly their propaganda is pretty intense also in enor-/

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(f) ITALIAN FEMALE CENTRE = Is a branch of the CATHOLIC ACTION and as such depends from the Clergy. - It is the woman's organisation set about to counterbalance the Union of Italian Women. -

(g) VARIOUS ASSOCIATIONS = (ex-internees, returned Veterans, ex-Service Men etc.) Are all anti-communist.
To conclude: The anti-communist block embraces the totality of all ranks excluding a part of the working class. -
The most representative men of such category have practically within their control the administration of the town but this block exposes (shows) a marked split: the lack of effective organisation, lack of discipline and homogeneouness in action. -
There is yet to believe that if there should come the day

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that sees an arraying "in extremis" of their force, there being already a skeleton-like form of organisation that at the last moment might gather all these people, even the deficiency in organisation would be overcome and on the basis of plans prepared beforehand might prove very useful in defending the liberties of the Italian people. - It appear s infact that elements of the anti-communist block are trying to carry out with great enthusiasm, an armed movement to collaborate with elements of Order(P.S.) in case of an insurrection of subversive elements. -

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WC/ii

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ALLIED COMMISSION LIAISON GROUP - PIEMONTE.

PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION.

29 March, 1946.

SUBJECT: Situation at Susa and district.

TO: The Chief Liaison Officer, Piemonte.

1. On 27th March, 1946, with Lt/Col. Montague, I visited the Carabinieri caserma at Susa and discussed the local situation.

2. It was discovered that the information given by Colonel Buti of the Legion of Carabinieri (who, at the time, was extremely worried regarding the disorders at Aosta) regarding the shooting of a brigadiere and the subsequent suicide of the French officer responsible at the frontier post at Moncenisio was far from correct in detail. The true facts were that two men in civilian clothes approached the post from the Italian side and were taken to the brigadiere's office in order that their documents might be examined. One of the men apparently gained the impression from the brigadiere's questions that the officer did not intend to allow him to pass into France and drew a revolver which he pointed at the brigadiere. The NCO put out his hand to push the weapon on one side and the man fired with the result that a bullet passed through the brigadiere's hand and entered his body. The man then fired at another carabiniere who had entered the office and ran from the post in the direction of the frontier. He was pursued by carabinieri on skis and as he was obviously not going to stop they fired some shots into the air; the man turned and fired at the carabiniere who replied with the effect that the man was wounded and died on the way to the post. In his possession was found an identity document (which, owing to its appearance and poor French, is believed to be a forgery) issued by "The Commandement de la Marine Francaise, Base (K), 12 Section, 2e Zone" to Monsieur Alexander Borduas, No. 29450, dated 2.3.46, and which bears a photograph of the dead man. He also carried several envelopes written by one Rino ACUNZO, of Santo Spirito 46, Napoli, and addressed to Lieut. W.L. Borduas, Canadian Hospital, Canadian Army Overseas, England, which had apparently been returned by the Army Post office to

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The second man who was detained - a Polish soldier named WINIARSKI Franciszek, No. 129/W/1924/III - stated that he met Borduas at the railway station in Turin on

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26th and they agreed to enter France together; Borduas then wrote the two chits previously referred to and Winiarski - who claims to have been demobilised but has no documents to support this claim - is in possession of similar documents which he states are genuine. He is still in possession of his AB 64 and other army papers and the Polish military Police have been informed by this office. The Pole took no part in the shooting incident and, on the contrary the carabiniere state that he did everything possible to assist them.

The captain of carabinière stated that French propaganda in the Susa valley has dropped off considerably in the past few months and there is very little political activity at the moment.

The director of the local prison (who had apparently been advised of our arrival in the town) called to seek advice about a Czecho-Slovak soldier who had been lodged in his jail 40 days ago by Sergt. Eames, of the 315 FSS and who still remained in custody; the director had written to Turin to enquire the position but had not received a reply. This matter will be taken up with the FSS by this office.

The main needs of the local carabiniere are the same as elsewhere - they are particularly short of mattresses and nine calibre ammunition.

3. We were unable to visit the frontier post at Moncenisio because the road is impassable for 8 kilometres as far as vehicles are concerned and can only be passed by ski; it is not anticipated that the road will be open until the end of April.

4. We called at the frontier post at Claviere (which had been cut off for 15 days owing to landslides blocking the road and has been, and still is, without telephone communication for the past 10 days). The maresciallo in charge reported that everything was normal and that there had been very little traffic since the road was re-opened.

5. The caserma at Cesana (probably the worst in Italy) was visited but the maresciallo was absent on duty; the carabiniere with whom we spoke was a recent arrival and far from intelligent so that we were unable to obtain a picture of the local situation.

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5. The caserma at Oulx (probably the worst in Italy) was visited but the maresciallo was absent on duty; the carabiniere with whom we spoke was a recent arrival and far from intelligent so that we were unable to obtain a picture of the local situation.

6. On our return journey we called at the caserma at Pinerolo but found that all the officers were out. 851
It is intended to make a further visit in the near future in view of the serious political activities in this area two months ago.

W. Lowe
Major

Public Safety Liaison officer.

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ALLIED COMMISSION LIAISON GROUP - PIEMONTE.

PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION.

14A

26th March, 1946.

SUBJECT: Situation at Cuneo.

TO: The Chief Liaison Officer, Piemonte.

1. On 27th March, 1946, with Lt. Col. Montague and I visited the Province of Cuneo to investigate the story of anti-militarist activities on the Cuneo-Asti border concerning which much conflicting information had been received. This enquiry has been dealt with in a report from Lt. Col. Montague.

2. The Major of carabinieri stated that the greatest handicap under which the police of the Province worked was the lack of transport; at the moment there are threemotor cycles - one at Saluzzo, one at Borgo and the third at Headquarters at Cuneo. The few cars that were previously available have all broken down and in some cases are beyond repair. Themajor quoted cases where immediate reports of crime had been received with a very good possibility of immediate detection but in which the offenders had escaped solely because of the lack of mobility of the carabiniere. Many of the stations in the valleys even lack telephones.

3. The carabiniere have some good information regarding the whereabouts of hidden arms but they are taking no action at the moment for two reasons - (1) they are engaged for four days a week upon election work (oneday is spent taking the men to the town in which they will perform duty, the second day is the day of the election, the third day they remain on duty whilst the votes are counted, and on the fourth day they return to their proper stations) and (2) the lack of mine detectors. With regard to the second reason it is understood that there is considerable delay whilst applications are forwarded through ordinary carabimiere channels, and there seems no earthly reason why a Group commander (a major) cannot make application to the nearest sappers of the Cremona Division (or other Italian unit) without reference to high ranking officers. The Cremona Gruppo are only too willing to send sappers with mine detectors with the carabiniere

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Themajor complained bitterly about the slow working of the courts in the Province and the too lenient sentences meted out in many cases. As an instance of the former he referred to a case at Grassi where, five months ago, two men were killed and two wounded; the persons responsible were arrested at the time but have still not been tried. He was asked if the reason for the delay in his Province is the same as elsewhere, i.e., lack of judicial and legal personnel untainted by Fascism but the major expressed the opinion that the whole Italian system is too slow and cumbersome. With regard to the sentences passed he referred particularly

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to the practice of giving short suspended sentences and stated that this had a bad effect - not only upon evil doers who were inclined to derive encouragement from this lack of serious punishment but upon the morale of the carabinieri who often laboured long and hard to arrest offenders and later have the mortification of seeing them released under a suspended sentence.

Many political denunciations have recently been made and the majority are designed solely, apparently, with a view to getting people out of the jobs that they hold. In most cases there has been a failure to remove the individual by process of epuration and consequently allegations (often found to be false) are made against them by interested parties. Themajor takes the view that there is very little point in following up accusations of this kind nearly a year after the liberation.

4. We called at the caserma at Savigliano (a town of some 20,000 inhabitants) and talked with a captain who had only taken over on the previous day, and with the maresciallo. Themain industry of Savigliano is centred around railway repair shops and,surprisingly,in view of the dalage to Italian railways, these shops are not fully occupied. Asked if the reason was lack of materials the maresciallo replied that this was not entirely so but there was insufficient work coming in. There are 300-400 unemployed in the town - mainly reduci. The food situation appears to be particularly bad - the price of butter has increased from 500 to 600 lire in the past week, and they have not had white bread on any day for some time. There has not been any serious crime recently. The elections will be held on 7th April and a Christian Democrat victory is thought probable. Lt. Col. Fiore, late Provincial Commissioner of Turim, is addressing the "Friends of America Society" this week.

5. At Carmignano we learned that the administrative elections will not beheld until after the National elections because the lists of voters were not prepared in time. This, together with all the other ills that 849 have befallen the commune, are apparently blamed upon the simdaco, a Torinese who only visits the town for a few hours each day, was a friend of the late Prefect of Turin and of Brosio, the War Minister. There is, it is gathered, a general feeling against this man and a

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the usual complaints about lack of transport and the slowness of justice.

W. Lowe
Major.

Public Safety Liaison Officer.

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13A

ALLIED COMMISSION

PIEDMONT LIAISON GROUP

Public Safety Section.

SUBJECT: Alleged arrest of "S.A.M." members at Novara.
TO: The Chief Liaison Officer, Piedmont Group, Allied Commission.
DATE: 29 March, 46 REF: PP/I/78/15

1. It was reported in an edition of the Gazette d'Italia of the 27 March that a centre of the "S.A.M." organisation had been broken up at Novara by the arrest of ten persons.

2. I made enquiries regarding this statement and ascertained that the true facts were not as stated by the press. The Questore of Novara informed me that he had no evidence to prove that the persons arrested were members of the organisation and it was purely supposition on the part of the journalist that they were so. He had not released the information to the press and suggested that some of the facts had been given by members of the Auxilliary Police and the author of the article added the rest.

3. The true facts are that on the evening of the 26th. March, 46 three young men were stopped and interrogated. One of the youths was found to be in possession of a hand grenade and another had a dagger. As a result of the interview with them three other youths and a woman were arrested. The ages of the youths varied between 15 years and 19 years but the woman was 40 years of age. They were all natives of Vigevano in the Province of Pavia.

It is alleged that they were acting under the orders of some person at Vigevano and were sent on a mission to Pisa where they would tear down posters put up by political parties and substitute other posters. None of these were found in their possession. One else stated that he was going to Bergamo where a meeting of a clandestine Fascist organisation is to be held in the near future. From the evidence now in the possession of the police it appears that all the youths were members of fascist families but they cannot yet be connected with the S.A.M., organisation.

4. The Questore regretted the premature announcement of the arrests for he thought that any future enquiries would naturally

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4. The Questore regretted the premature announcement of the arrests for he thought that any future enquiries would naturally be frustrated. He intends to further his enquiries at Vigevano and at Bergamo because the persons detained have no connections in the Novara Province and if there are any developements in the case they will, of course arise out of any enquiries which may be instituted at the other places.

5. A complete report of the investigations will be submitted to me in due course.

E.P. Bolter, Capt.
~~E.P. Bolter, Capt.~~

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RA

ALLIED COMMISSION LIAISON GROUP - PIEMONTE.

PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION.

30 March, 1946.

SUBJECT: Situation in Northern Part of Turin Province (Lanzo Valley).

TO: The Chief Liaison Officer, Piemonte.

1. On Friday, 29th March, 1946, with Lt. Col. Montague, I visited towns in the Lanzo Valley (where a few months ago there was very serious crime wave) to ascertain the present situation from a police and other points of view.

2. The lieutenant stated that there is now no serious crime in the area of Cirie (of which he is in charge); the bands which caused so much trouble in the summer and autumn of last year have all been arrested or dispersed. There has been one rapine in the past week but the culprit is known and an arrest is expected.

Small quantities of arms have been recovered recently but the lieutenant is firmly of the opinion that there are many arms hidden in his area; they are no longer held in large dumps but have been issued to individuals (this, according to our information elsewhere, is the policy throughout Piemonte). The Mobile Battalion from Turin has made two unsuccessful searches with the aid of mine detectors. Many families in the outlying areas of the countryside have retained weapons for the purpose of protecting their property.

The population of the area covered by the Tenenza is 75,000, and there are approximately 400 unemployed. There are about 45 factories in the district (mainly engaged in the manufacture of textiles and metal goods) and some of them only work one or two days a week. This, however, does not cause the hardship that normally one would expect as most of the people who work in thefactories also own a plot of land and when they are unable to devote themselves to their industrial occupations they return to agricultural pursuits. Lack of coal is, as usual, the reason given for lack of production in the factories.

The food situation in the district is very bad for three reasons (a) the drought in the valley was more prolonged and acute than elsewhere (b) owing to its close

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2. The lieutenant stated that there is now no serious crime in the area of Cirie (of which he is in charge); the bands which caused so much trouble in the summer and autumn of last year have all been arrested or dispersed. There has been one rapine in the past week but the culprit is known and an arrest is expected.

Small quantities of arms have been recovered recently but the lieutenant is firmly of the opinion that there are many arms hidden in his area; they are no longer held in large dumps but have been issued to individuals (this, according to our information elsewhere, is the policy throughout Piemonte). The Mobile Battalion from Turin has made two unsuccessful searches with the aid of mine detectors. Many families in the outlying areas of the countryside have retained weapons for the purpose of protecting their property.

The population of the area covered by the Tenenza is 75,000, and there are approximately 400 unemployed. There are about 45 factories in the district (mainly engaged in the manufacture of textiles and metal goods) and some of them only work one or two days a week. This, however, does not cause the hardship that normally one would expect as most of the people who work in thefactories also own a plot of land and when they are unable to devote themselves to their industrial occupations they return to agricultural pursuits. Lack of coal is, as usual, the reason given for lack of production in the factories.

The food situation in the district is very bad for three reasons (a) the drought in the valley was more prolonged and acute than elsewhere (b) owing to its close proximity to Turin and the mountains there was a great deal of partisan activity and both the partisans and the Germans repeatedly made demands upon the cattle and food stocks of the district (c) a great deal of food last year passed into the black market. Thepeople of the valley are normally great polenta eaters so that they suffer no inconvenience from the inclusion of this food in their rations but the lack of fats in the town of Cirie is a big problem; the lieutenant states that the people below the mountains produce sufficient butter for themselves but they are not interested in the people of the towns. The harvest prospect, at the moment, is good.

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The population take their politics very calmly

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and although Communist propaganda has made headway with people living in the towns and engaged in industry the effect upon the country people has been negligible. There is no contadini party in the Tenenza.

The lieutenant reported that his men are badly off for automatic weapons and ammunition, and he has no transport at all. In order to supervise his district he has to rely on " means of fortune" and this is very obviously lowering both to his dignity as a carabinieri officer and, which is more important, to his ~~xxxxxx xxxxxxxxx~~ efficiency and the efficiency of his section.

3. At Lanzo there are four carabinieri to police six communes - the farthest of which is 15 kilometres from the caserma. If a crime is reported the carabinieri have the option of walking or obtaining a lift - they haven't even a bicycle. The brigadiere complained that whenever he has found transport for which no owner is traceable and has made application to use it but Turin has taken the vehicle for use at Headquarters. Despite the lieutenant's statement regarding the lack of automatic weapons in his tenenza the brigadiere assured ~~xxx~~ us that his men are well armed because he has retained a proportion of weapons and ammunition found in arms raids and has not reported the fact officially because he is certain that Headquarters will adopt the same policy as they do in the case of transport. The elections will take place on 31st March; no difficulties are anticipated and a victory for the Demo-Christian party is thought likely. The brigadiere reported that many people are crossing the Italian-French frontier at Ghiamberto (which is on his section) on skis, but he does not think that much contraband traffic is taking place. Asked about the route taken by people engaged in the Vercelli rice black market into France he expressed the opinion that most of this traffic goes by way of Ceresole Reale. The chief industries in the area are textiles, the manufacture of metal goods and paper; there are also asbestos mines but there is the usual complaint of lack of coal. At Ballangero there are factories full of pre-war cotton goods which had been manufactured for export to England - they are apparently blocked and application has been made to the appropriate Ministry for permission to sell these much needed goods. The population of the Lanzo area is 12, 663 but there are only officially 60 unemployed as most of the people are small landed proprietors and engage in work on the land when the factories are idle. The unemployed are mostly reduci. There has been very little serious crime lately - a short

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4. The population of the tenenza of Venaria Reale is about 100,000 - the main concentrations being at Venaria with a population of 18,000 and at Rivoli where there are 9,000 people. The tenente is in charge of 9 stations (four of which are without a telephone) and

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is responsible for policing 24 communes. His strength is 22 N.C.O's and 44 men (he is 10 men below his authorised strength - he complains that he receives orders regarding transfers but never receives replacements), and he hasn't a vehicle of any sort - not even a bicyle. In view of the size and importance of his area he made application to the Cremona Division (who have a regiment stationed at Venaria) for a vehicle which could stand by at night at the Cremona barracks for use by the carabinieri in the event of urgent calls but this application was politely refused. There has been little serious crime but we took the opportunity to discuss the Villarbasse murders (purely as professional police officers and because the lieutenant and his NCO's knew that I had spent a considerable amount of time at Villarbasse and had pushed through the publicity side of the story regarding the wanted men) and xxx saw the three men who had been arrested (one of whom had, at one time, been employed at these Headquarters as a watchman). The textile works in the district are operating and there is very little serious unemployment as the lieutenant stated that the workers drift from factory to factory as they open and close a few days each week. With regard to the food situation it was stated that, with the exception of eggs, prices continue to rise. The political situation is normal and the only comment made was that meetings of the left wing parties pass of quietly whereas meetings of the right wing are often abandoned because of the heckling from members of the left; this, however, has not led to any incidents. The present sindaco is Communist but is very highly spoken of by the lieutenant who describes him as a very serious, hard working man very much interested in his comune. Carabinieri relations with the public - particularly since the arrests for the Villarbasse murders - have improved enormously and a demonstration recently took place in honour of the carabinieri.

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Public Safety Liaison Officer.

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W. Rowe
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Public Safety Liaison Officer.

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11-A

A) ASCERTAINED AUT. ITY OF ITALIANS IN RELATI TO OTHER COUNTRIES.-

DOMODOSSOLA SECTOR =

It appears that days ago the commissary of Public Safety Doctor SCALERA head of the Polive Office of the Frontier Station of Domodossola helped the entry into Switzerland on the part of two Slav elements. - This may have been possible owing to the fact that various Italians went across the border to celebrate the failure of the mines placed by the Germans inside the Simplon Railway Tunnel. - Scalera is a somewhat compromised individual regarding the late regime. -

B) FRONTIER ACTIVITY =

Nothing very notable - It is signalled that there exist in the region clandestine radio transmitters; search is only possible by means of radio-localizers. -

C) INTERCOURSE BETWEEN MILITARY AND POPULATION. =

1st. Intercourse with civilians - Good - A certain agitation was caused amongst the population by a rumour that the military were being transferred elsewhere. -

2nd. Intercourse between Troops and C.C.R.R. - Excellent from all points of view. -

3rd. Intercourse between Troops and Police. - It seems that the few elements of the Auxiliary Police left in the various seats (offices-stations) have definitely acquired a more disciplined behaviour - There have been no further incidents regretted in the past. -

4th. Intercourse between Civilians and Police. - Though the Police maybe undergoing a process of arrangement it cannot be said to have secured sufficient "prestige" to guarantee safety to the citizens. - It is known that a certain part of the Auxiliary Police is formed of elements not at all keen on work and who preferred to become policemen, not an irksome job and pretty well remunerated. - In consequence the population is far from considering the police as a sure element of order well knowing the doubtfull past of many of its elements. -

D) POLITICAL TENDENCIES AMONGST THE TROOPS =

On the whole the soldiers are indifferent to political problems of the moment; even the most elementary matters and of actuality do not call upon their attention. - There is a continual insistance in illustrating the most elementary meaning of civic liberties and the duties and the rights of the citizen; unfortunately the results obtained are not very satisfactory because the soldiers retain little, and this little they easily forget. - From this it can be deducted that our soldiers, on the whole, are politically immature and once dismissed the service become easy prey of the first political ring-leader desirous of making use of them. - There is however a consolation and that is that save some sections almost all bear sentiments of loyalty and honesty towards the

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E) SUBVERSIVE ELEMENTS =

Internally - No evident manifestations. -

Externally - Cases reported by the various Police Sections to the competent authorities. -

F) PUBLIC SECURITY =

There still persists the urgent, pressing and unsolved problem of Public Security . - It cannot be faced if the organism of the Police are deprived of the minimum indispensible of both elements and necessary means. - The carabineers, specially those belonging to Territorial Stations, where very often there are no more than three persons, perform miracles and it is often the case of asking oneself how they manage to arrest so many people, to intervene in repression being as they are no more in the condition of preventing.

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(G) NEWS OF ECONOMIC CHARACTER =

1st. Industrial Situation - In some localities there have been strikes against ~~unessential~~ economic questions. Work has been resumed after a few days without incidents taking place. - The situation at the Works is about the same, but good hopes are entertained in competentcircles for an early revival. - In the Biellese Province there are in course the stipulating of many contracts with abroad where our textile industry is appreciated for its precision and the efficiency of its modern machinery. - There are, however, many complaints of the scarcity of raw materials assigned which has caused reduction in operative hours and influencing upon the yield of the workmen. -

2nd. Unemployment - On the increase - It is foreseen that the figure will go up yet after the raising of the blockade against discharging of hands which is about to commence these days. -

3rd. Veterans and prisoners - Manufacturers would give the preference in appreciation of their goods ~~still~~ and allowances for their yield certainly greater. - But up till now they have been hindered by the provision blocking all discharges. -

4th. Alimentary Situation - Weir - But there are complaints for the delay in distribution of rats. - there have been no further complaints regarding supplied of flour. -

H) PARTY ACTIVITY =

A more serious and appeased propaganda has been initiated by the various parties through their press and propagandists, leaving aside, for the moment from attacking persons but troubling themselves only in divulging their own theories in anticipation of the forthcoming administrative elections. - There have taken place and still take place many meetings of the various parties tending principally to explain the economic party theory to be applied to the future Communal administration. - There is the impression that following in the wake of the extremist parties, the more moderate parties are in a bustle to constitute armed groups. - It is to be borne in mind that whatever the political tendency of such armed ~~conformations~~, whatever their colour, it cannot always be guaranteed that amongst them there are only the best and most judicious and wise and therefore they are all equally dangerous and inapt in the maintenance of peace within the zone. - The Communist party of Novara have posted up a bill inviting youths of the 1924 class to present themselves to the colours and so assist in democratizing the army with a really new spirit of discipline. -

The Royalist "Cavour" party has posted upa bill inviting the people to consider the Republic as a "leap in the Dark", whilst with a monarchy, after the fashion of that existing in Great Britain, Sweden etc, etc; there can follow real democracy and well being of the citizen. - The antimilitarist Committee of Q.I.

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(I) MORAL OF OFFICERS AND OF THE TROOPS =

It is known - Various are its causes already known. - Officers also, even if not all, are discouraged because they clearly see that on the one side pressure is exercised to weaken the Army as a consequence to logical party programme whilst in the opposite field nothing is done to counterbalance the situation thus created. - Not only, but owing to a complicated number of actions the aims and reasons of which escape it really seems as though all is done to assist the forces working against the army. -
The lack of political character of the Army is a fact but it is a duty to defend oneself to avoid being strangled and the non putting into effect such a defence is a sign of serious slackness in carrying out ~~xxx~~ one's office. - ./.

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It is no good deceiving oneself - Commanders are desperately acting with dexterity in a dangerous game in order to reach their dim but it is attempting impossibilities. -
And the soldiers, conscious of their weakness, become vilified and desert, and blame their superiors losing all confidence in them. -
In such a surrounding the few external elements find easy bait. -
Who Commands is often compelled to reply "I do not know what to do, my boys, have patience", a phrase that is both humiliating and void. - From such a phrase there has come forth the following one exploited by the soldiers and party currents: "If you cannot hold us send us home". -
It does not suffice to know the evil and thoroughly examine it, it is necessary to combat it, confine it and eliminate it. -

(L) VARMOUS =

It is ascertained that "Pegsu" a partisan leader of Grignasco at present director of the Transport Cooperative "Garibaldi" of Grignasco is in contact with elements of the British Police of Novara in conjunction with whom and by compensation obtains authorisation to run about on Allied tyres (5000 lire each, "Jeep"tyres). =

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YOUTHS DO NOT REPORT TO THE COLOURS. =

The anti-militarist Italian movement, bring forth their appeal to all of you, youths, workmen, toilers and mental workers, to avoid you falling in the grips of the dirty and bloody hands of the militerists. -

YOUTHS! Your wishes are being insulted, overpowered by theimposition of compulsory call-ups. -

The Army , and the Royal Army in particular is the means for a new enslavement. -

DO NOT TURN UP TO THE COLOURS. -
Do not take part in a game that signifies the abolition of all liberty. -

YOUTHS? MOTHERS? WIVES, WORKMEN ALL. =
Do not let yourselves be dragged towards a catastrophe far greater than the passed one. -

DO NOT TURN UP TO THE COLOURS SET AGAINST ~~MEXXMEXNS~~ BY ALL MEANS AGAINST THE FORCES OF REACTION. =

C. A. V.
Vercelli Antimilitarist Committee.

WH/ii

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ALLIED COMMISSION LIAISON GROUP - PIEMONTE. 10A

PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION.

14011/B 22 March 1945.

SUBJECT: Current situation in the Provinces of Asti and Alessandria.
TO: The Chief Liaison Officer, Piemonte.

1. On 20 March; 1945, I visited Alessandria and interviewed the Prefect, Dott. De Sena, and the Vice Questore, Vettecchi.

2. The Prefect stated that elections within his Province had passed off quietly on ~~24~~ 17 the March, and that the only complaint he had received was that a farmer was alleged to have with held some of his employees from voting; this matter was investigated by the carabinieri and was found to be a false accusation. There were odd cases of manifesto destruction in different places (this had been noticed by Colonel Montague and myself during our observation tour and reported upon). In the 39 communes there was an average poll of 80%, and in some places as many as 93% of the voters went to the booths. The results were as follows:-

Social-Communist block	21.
Christian-Democrat (with independent or other party blocks)	6
Independent	8
Liberal	1
Mixed lists	3

On Sunday next there will be 170 elections and some larger communes (such as AcQui with 18,000 people, Tortona with 20,000 and Nove Ligure with 21,000) will be taking part. Arrangements have been made for a fixed squad of police to be present in each commune, five mobile squads will be available to deal with any situation which may threaten to get out of hand anywhere in the Province, and a company of Italian soldiers will be stationed in each large commune.

The Prefect said that the elections of ~~24~~ 17th were not necessarily a guide to the results on 24th as in some communes the Social-Communist block is not represented and in others the Christian Democrats appear to be strong. With regard to the National election he hesitated to make a forecats because the attitude of the women is such an unknown quantity. A noticeable feature of the elections

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Questore, Vettecchi.

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2. The Prefect said that the wheat situation in the Province was bad; in the early days of the liberation wheat was sent to Turin and Genoa, and the amount realised by amassing was very poor, since then a great deal of wheat has found its way into the Genoa black market. A special amassing drive has begun and it is hoped to obtain 25,000 quintals of wheat by this means (it is estimated that about 200,000 quintals have gone into the Black market) but even if this is successful it will be impossible to maintain the present bread ration without imports from

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Genoa. At the moment polenta is only being issued on Sundays.

The fat situation is quite good as plenty of pork is raised in the province, but the all pig-fat ration is not popular. There is no rice issue, but a ration of ½ a kilo a month of pasta; milk is available to hospitals, children and old people.

Supplies in hand are sufficient to maintain the bread ration until 15th April.

3. When the new prefect took over there were 1550 unemployed persons in the province; an order has been issued to industrialists to employ 5% more labour in their factories to absorb the unemployed and the Prefect reserves the right to increase this figure to 10%. During a previous visit to Alessandria with Lt. Col. Green it was learned that demonstrations had taken place with regard to the replacement of women in administrative offices by reduci and that threats of violent action had been made if the demands were not met with. I enquired if there had been any developments in this connection and was told that women are being dismissed where it is absolutely necessary and replaced by men.

4. With regard to industry the usual complaints were met with, i.e., lack of coal and raw materials; several factories are closed (especially concerned are those engaged in the manufacture of silk goods), and at Casale and Monferrato industry is entirely at a standstill with the result that 1000 workers are doing nothing.

5. The position with regard to the Questore of Alessandria remains obscure as Alloati (who was called to Rome and given a position in the Ministry) has not yet been replaced. The Vice-Questore, Vertecchi, who has been in charge for some time, has not yet been confirmed in his appointment (he was appointed by the Republican Government two years ago and accordingly his case has to be examined by the Ministry) and is is the strong opinion of AC Public Safety Officers that the police situation in Alessandria Province will never be anything but bad until a complete house cleaning takes place. The Vice Questore - obviously compromised - is also a weak individual and on his own admission is unable to exercise control over certain members of the auxiliary police. He assured me that the situation was good and improving every month; in the next breath he stated

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activities the vice- Questore states that these are quite useless; he added that these men are a nuisance to him and - as one officer was caught recently escorting a lorry loaded with black market rice from Vercelli - sometimes an embarrassement. There are 19 officers in the auxiliary police (the vice-Questore states that six are more than sufficient) and there are - in addition to the uniformed men - 16 NCO's in uniform who do ~~xxxxx~~ absolutely nothing. So far Rome has turned a deaf ear to his appeals for assistance.

6. No searches for hidden arms have been made in the past month by the Questore (and I don't suppose that any will bemade in the next month!). In response to the Prefect's proclamation calling for the surrender of arms without prejudice to the individual not a single weapon was turned in.

7. The Vice-Questore stated that the political ~~xituation~~ was quiet, there had been no demonstrations, no serious crime, and that the people had been completely apathetic with regard to the recent quashing of a death sentence on two local political prisoners. The prisons are very full but, with the exception of one attempted escape, there has been no trouble. The Black market is losing ground because, in the opinion of the Vice-Questore, so few things are now rationed. His biggest difficulty is transport - his few motor cycles have broken down and communication with outside stations is slow; as against his allotment of 1,000 litres of petrol under AMG he now receives 250 litres

8. The new prefect struck the AG officers as being a capable man and a worker; there had, apparently, been no demonstration against his appointment and the impression was gathered that the ordinary people were thankful to have a man who would devote his time to the interests of the Province and not to the~~xmarkxof~~ benefit of members of a particular party.

9. The new Prefect of Asti, Marchesio (formerly vice- prefect of Turin), also made a good impression and appears, in the short time he has been in the Province, to have secured a considerable knowledge of affairs. He stated that the elections had passed off quietly and gave the results for 17th March as follows:

Contadini	7 communes.
Independent	4

837

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837

Contadini	7 communes.
Independent	4
Combattenti	1
Christian Democrats	3
Communist-Socialist block	2
Democratic Labour Party	1
Democratic block	1

The average poll was 80% and in some districts 94% of the voters registered.

10. The food situation is good in the districts of Asti; white bread is issued se week in the city but the smaller towns hav or three days a week; the fat siatuation in Alessandria; there has been a small rice and a pasta ration of 500 grammes issued duri.

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month. In normal times Asti Province exports a little wheat but recently amassing has been below the usual level; in addition to this 9000 quintals were lent to Turin and it is hoped to recoup this amount from shipments coming into Genoa. The Prefect of Asti has also commenced an amassing drive and is hopeful of results.

11. There are about 4,000 unemployed in the Province and about 2,200 of these are in the city of Asti. The industries mainly concerned those engaged in the manufacture of cycles and glass ware, and lack of coal and, to some extent, naptha are the main reason for lack of work. The Prefect said that many of the unemployed will be absorbed shortly - if the weather remains good - upon the land, and others will be employed upon public works projects which have been placed before the Inspectorate in Turin and which are awaiting approval. It is proposed to rebuild the Rochetta bridge on the Tanaro river, and to perform very essential repair work on the Asti-Alba road; both of these projects are regarded as urgent. Public transport situation is satisfactory and the railway service is improving continually.

12. There is a shortage of fertilisers for agriculture - less than 10% of the pre-war quantity being available. Most of the fertilisers were imported from Algeria, Tunisia and Germany and these sources are not at the moment available. Fertilisers manufactured in Italy are difficult to botain because of lack of transport.

13. The Questore gave details of a band of anti-militarists in Cuneo Province who are making armed raids into Asti Province. No raids for hidden arms have been made during the month.

14. The Questore is a young man for the position he holds and is actually not qualified - he is of the 6th grade and it is necessary to be of the 7th before promotion to Questore can be obtained. The Prefect, however, said that he is very satisfied with his work and proposes to retain him until Rome appoint a new man.

836

15. The number of auxiliaries who have been retained is very few; the Questore estimates that 95% of them will, with proper training, make good policemen,

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15. The number of auxiliaries who have been retained is very few; the Questore estimates that 95% of them will, with proper training, make good policemen, and, in this connection, batches of eight are being sent to Rome for instruction. Petrol is a great problem - in AMG days the Questura received 1200 litres; now, the Questura and Prefettura together receive only 300 litres. In 10 days of normal work they are without petrol. In the event of any serious disturbances this would be a very serious problem indeed. The Questura are also very short of ammunition for Sten guns and pistols.

16. There have been no arrests for neo-Fascist activities in the Province. A photograph of Mussolini with the caption "Duce - we will revenge" was found

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on the walls of one small village but no importance is attached to this.

17. The prison situation is the same as elsewhere; the main difficulty being overcrowding. An attempt is being made to have some prisoners transferred.

18. The Major of carabinieri at Asti reported the rounding up of a gang of eighteen bandits in the Nizzo Monferratto district; most of them were associates of Rocco (late sindaco of Canale and ex-Garibaldini leader) but this gentleman is apparently not personally involved. Incidentally, Rocco must have changed his coat as he is now a capitalist and is running a confectionery factory in Asti. Another well known personality in the partisan and political world, Gatto, has been arrested whilst running black market rice from Vercelli to Salerno. Yet another shooting star had fallen in the shape of the sindaco of Cagliano who has been arrested for being concerned in armed hold-ups (it is interesting to note that he was also a lieutenant of the auxiliary police!).

19. Themajor stated that he has received confidential information that the arms recently found at Mombercelli were on their way to Spain. The men who were transporting them (and who had a running fight with the carabinieri) were entering France on foot and then making their journey to Spain by means of fortune.

20. The major is very concerned about the lack of mattresses for his men; they are 2oo short and the men have been sleeping on straw for months. 81 automatic weapons and the necessary ammunition have been supplied through Major Hills, of MMIA.

21. The carabinieri in this Province impress one as really doing their job, and this impression is confirmed by the fact that the public are now co-oeprating with them to a greater extent than ever before. This is a lesson which might well be driven home to some of the more nervous CC.RR elsewhere - if they are energetic and fearless in the discharge of their duties they will restore the confidence and respect fo the public and their tasks will bematerially lightened.

22. The carabinieri captain made an interesting (but absolutely unofficial) forecast of the probable strengths of the respective parties in the Province at the time of the National election, and his figures

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22. The carabinieri captain made an interating (but absolutely unofficial) forecast of the probable strengths of the respective parties in the Province at the time of the National election, and his figures are as follows:

Communists	about 7000
Socialists	about 8000
Christian Democrats	About 11,500
Other parties	about 4,000

The captain stated that he had noticed that the Communists were slowly losing ground in the country districts and were ebing replaced in popularity by the Contadini party.

Copy to:
Director, P.S. Sub-Commission

W. Rowe
Major.
Public Safety Liaison Officer.

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ALLIED COMMISSION

PIEDMONT LIAISON GROUP

Public Safety Section

9A

1001/3

SUBJECT: General Information. = Security =
TO: The Chief Police Liaison Officer, Piedmont.
DATE: 21 March, 46 REF: PR/L/PS/16

1. The following information has been reported to me from a reliable source and is forwarded for your consideration.

2. It has now been established that CAPTIAN MOSCHELLA an Italian who fought with the Russian Army is a member of the Russian Propaganda Centre. He held a public meeting at Novara on the 15th. February and also spoke in connection with the Italo/Russian Cultural Association at Turin on or about the 27th. February, 1946.

It has been learned that Moschella held a meeting at the Municipio, Novara. Beside the known Communists a number of other personalities attended the meeting. These men are not of interest but the point is that although previously they were not adherents to the Communist cause they have since been noted as Communist candidates at the forthcoming Administrative Elections for Novara.

3. Another person of interest in Novara at the present time is a Marisciallo in the Questura and named BARINZONZO. He is a member of Moscatelli's secret committee and it is alleged that his position with his chief is more important than that of ANGIN.

He has been of late connected with a small organiseation who are arranging for the escape of a number of Partisans who have been imprisoned during the past few months for criminal activities.

4. The Communists consider the Valsesia Zone to be very important at the present time and very keen watch is made of any strangers who enter the enter.

In the same zone the ANSALDO Communist Cell is still functioning. The members of this cell it is alleged are now engaged on the repair and assembling of some of the war material still hidden in the area.

5. At a meeting of an Internal Commission at a Novara Factory the members were addressed by CARRETO the Secretary of the Camera del Lavoro. It is reported that during his speech he made the following remark.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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5. At a meeting of an Internal Commission at a Novara Factory the members were addressed by CARRETO the Secretary of the Camera del Lavoro. It is reported that during his speech he made the following remark.

" The English will be expelled within a month".

The significance of this remark is not understood but it is the opinion of the writer that a leakage of information from the local Transit Camp may have prompted this statement.

6. It is authoritatively reported that members of ANGIN'S Information Service are all selected men who get 8,000 lire on enlistment and subsequently are paid 20,000 lire monthly. To cover the expenses of the Communist Party for the Piedmont Region

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the Central Committee at Rome 3,000,000 lire monthly.

7. Methods of blackmail are still imposed upon certain industrialists by the Communist Party and it appears that the funds of many of the local parties are implemented in such a way.

8. It is understood that the following movements are operating in the Milan district as Anti-Communist and Anti-Tito Groups.

Yugo Slav (Nastachia Movement).
Roatta Movement.
Croatia Group.
Pavolich Group.

No further particulars are known regarding these movements but any information regarding personalities etc., will be communicated immediately. These groups are also connected with Fascist Groups and elements in the Milan area.

E.P. Bolter, Capt.

E.P. Bolter, Capt.
Police Liaison Officer.
A.C. Piedmont.

EPB/epb

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

8A

ALLIED COMMISSION

PIEDMONT LIAISON GROUP

Public Safety Section.

SUBJECT: Incident at Novara. 20 March, 46
TO: The Chief Liaison Officer, Piedmont
REF: PS/L/PS/23

1. At 13.00 hours on the 19 March, 46 a small explosive charge was placed on the stairs leading into the apartment of the Archbishop of Novara. Although there was a certain amount of damage to the building there were no persons injured.

Subsequently the following circular was distributed in the town and a translation is appended.

" Cittadini Novaresi,

Alle 13 ore di oggi, ignoti
" criminale ha posto un ordigno esplosivo sulle scale
" che adducono all'appartamento di S.E. Mons. Vescovo
" in Vescovado.

Per essendo notevoli i danni
" provvidenzialmente no si alcuna vittima.

La gravitàdell'attentato non
" tuttavia alla cittadinanza la quale è invitata a
" convenire nel cortile del Vescovado, per le ore 18
" di oggi ad esprimere a S.E. Mons. Gasola che rientrerà
" dalla visitàPastorale, i sentimenti di esultanza per
" lo scampato pericolo e a ripeferGli l' unanime cordiale
" venerazione.

19 Marzo 1946 La Direzione Diocesana Dell'Azione Cattolica."

" Citizens of Novara,

At 13.00 hours today an unknown
" criminal placed an explosive bomb on the stairs leading to
" the aprtment of H.E. the Bishop at the Bishop's Palace.

Though there was some damage,
"fortunately there were no victims.

The gravity of this act however does
" not pass unnoticed on the part of the citizens, who are
" invited to gather in the courtyard of the Bishop's Palace
" at 18.00 hours today to express to the Bishop, who returns

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785046

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" invited to gather in the courtyard of the Bishop's Palace
" at 18.00 hours today to express to the Bishop, who returns
" from a Pastoral visit their sentiments upon his escape and
" to reconfirm to him their unanimous cordial veneration."

2. It should be noted that the Communist newspaper "La Lotta" made an attack upon the Bishop a few days ago and it may be the agitation which the letter caused has prompted this more violent and tangible act against the Reverend Gentleman.

3. Forwarded for information.

E.P. Bolter, Capt.
Police Liaison Officer.
A.C. Piedmont.

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7A

ALLIED COMMISSION

FIELD INT LIAISON GROUP

Public Safety Section.

SUBJ CT:	Situation in Novara.
TO:	The Chief Liaison Officer, Piedmont.
FROM:	Capt. Bolter, Public Safety Liaison Officer.
DATE:	19 March, 46 REF:

TO	NOV 1 2	
DIRECTOR	20 MAR 1946	
DEPUTY DIRECTOR		
ADMIN.		
FINANCE		
LEGAL ADVISER		
SECURITY		
CHIEF CLERK		

1. On the 18 March, 1946 I visited Novara and interviewed the Questore on public safety questions in that Province.

2. It appears that at the present time there is a good deal of tension among the various Parties regarding the forthcoming Communal Elections. An incident occurred at Novara on the morning of the 18th. March, 46 which has caused a little concern.

The Christian Democrat Party has issued a certain number of Propaganda Posters and these have been distributed in the town. A certain Communist was seen to tear one of these from the wall and a Christian Democrat intervened. A violent argument ensued and subsequently the Christian Democrat produced a revolver and pointed it at the Communist. The argument was reported to some Questore Agents who were in the vicinity and the man was arrested and is now being charged with being in possession of firearms.

All the parties have made intercession for this man's release but the Questore has refused to allow the man bail and he is at present detained in the local Prison. He has reported all the facts to the Chief of Police at Rome but up to the present time has received no instructions from higher authority.

3. The Questore also informed me that it has come to his notice that there are two distinct political camps within his Police Battalion. The one side are inclined to the Communist Party and the other have Christian Democrat tendencies. The Communist Group are led by "[illegible]" a follower of Moscatelli and is alleged to be one of [illegible]'s henchmen. The Questore is making enquiries regarding these movements and will take action when he has procured the evidence.

4. There is also a good deal of feeling between the Communists and the Christian Democrats regarding a very scathing

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891

SECURITY		
CHIEF CLERK		

1. On the 15 March, 1946 I visited Novara and interviewed the Questore on public safety questions in that Province.

2. It appears that at the present time there is a good deal of tension over the various Parties regarding the forthcoming Communal Elections. An incident occurred at Novara on the morning of the 15th. March, 46 which has caused a little concern.

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3. The Questore also informed me that it has come to his notice that there are two distinct political camps within his Police Battalion. The one side are inclined to the Communist Party and the other have Christian Democrats tendencies. The Communist Group are led by "Elia" a follower of Moscatelli and is alleged to be one of Secchia's henchmen. The Questore is making enquiries regarding these movements and will take action when he has procured the evidence. 8?1

4. There is also a good deal of feeling between the Communists and the Christian Democrats regarding a very scathing article directed by the Communists against the Archbishop of Novara. The Communist Party have also taken umbrage against some posters issued by the Christian Democrats on the Priests question. They have communicated with the Questore and with the Prefect criticising these officials for allowing such offensive posters to be issued. I saw the posters in question but had to agree with the Questore that there appeared to be nothing critical or offensive in the purport of the manifesto.

5. It is understood that military units will be centred in Novara during the elections in the Province and will be used as a reserve to the regular police forces in the event of any troubles.

R. Baeter, Capt.
Police Liaison Officer.

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6A

ALLIED COMMISSION LIAISON GROUP - PIEMONTE.

PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION.

15 March, 1946.

SUBJECT: Position in Val d'Aosta.

TO: The Chief Liaison Officer, Piemonte.

1. On 14 March, 1946, I visited Aosta and interviewed Major Pesce, of the CC.RR., Dott. Chabot, the President of the Council for the Valley, and Dott. Romano, the Questore.

2. I asked Major Pesce for details of the murder of the priest at Hone (a report of which had been published in the Turin papers) and the facts of the case to date are as follows:

When the bodies of three ex-Republican Fascists were recently found in the mountains near Hone the priest, Reverendo BORDET, wanted to give them a christian burial but this received local opposition (chiefly from partisan sources). On 3rd March the priest delivered a sermon the gist of which was that Communism and Christianity were incompatible and that no persons could embrace the christian faith and remain a member of the communist party. It is stated that a woman (a local communist) attended the service for the express purpose of taking notes of the sermon, and that same afternoon a meeting of the party was held to discuss the purport of the sermon and decide what action could be taken against the priest. Information has been received that some youths met the padre whilst he was out for a walk and threatened him with severe consequences if he persisted in his political attitude (unfortunately, the priest did not confide the identity of youths concerned to any of his friends). On Monday 4th, whilst taking the children's catechism, the padre made a significant remark - "What would you say if your priest were to suddenly die and leave you alone?" and the carabinieri are of the opinion that he must have received another threat. On the evening of 4th BORDET was visited by a priest from another village and this friend decided to stay the night, get up early in the morning and make his way to Turin. It was arranged that Bordet would rise shortly before 5o'Clock, prepare the altar for early mass (his house adjoins the church), go to the belfrey

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Made a number of night searches in force, and have arrested eight people on suspicion; at the moment there is no definite evidence upon which charges can be made.

Major Pesce stated - with regard to the general situation - that there had been an increase in crime mainly in the district around Chatillon and Pont St. Martin.

I discussed with the Major the question of the proposed formation of a new police force in the valley (referred to in the Turin press) and he explained that under Articl 6 of the Decree of Autonomy "Public order will be provided by the President of the Valley by sections of State Police and sections of local police in accordance with directions of the Government" At the moment no action has been taken but the matter is being considered by the Council of the Valley; police work is still being carried out by the normal Italian agencies - CC.RR., Questura, GG.FF, etc. That part of the Province of Aosta outside the autonomous area is administered by the Prefect of Turin and the agenti are under the command of the Questore of Turin.

The carabinieri's chief handicap in the performance of their duties is the usual one - lack of motor transport; they have one truck (with poor tyres) which is used mainly for collecting and distributing rations, etc, and they have no cars or motor cycles. Major Hille, the Police Liaison officer of MMIA , has visited Aosta and as a result the carabinieri are expecting 50 automatic weapons shortly.

From the point of view of man power the CC.RR and GG.FF will - according the Major Pesce - be insufficient in numbers to cope with frontier control when the snow has gone; at the moment (with 5 metres lying in the passes) there is no difficulty and smuggling and unauthorised traffic generally is at a minimum. The major states that a certain class of people crossing the frontier into France (those with political or criminal record, for instance, who have very urgent reasons for leaving Italy) are stopped by the French gendarmerie and invited the serve in the French Foreign Legion or a machine gun unit in Indo-China as an alternative to being handed back to the Italian Police under arrest.

The President of the Valley has been given powers by the Central Government (for a period of three months) to issue permits to Valdostani to cross the frontier; these permits are issued upon the recommendation of the carabinieri.

During my interview later with the President I again referred to the formation of the new Police Force with

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and sections of local police in accordance with directions of the Government? At the moment no action has been taken but the matter is being considered by the Council of the Valley; police work is still being carried out by the normal Italian agencies - CC.RR., Questura, GG.FF, etc. That part of the Province of Aosta outside the autonomous area is administered by the Prefect of Turin and the agenti are under the command of the Questore of Turin.

The carabinieri's chief handicap in the performance of their duties is the usual one - lack of motor transport; they have one truck (with poor tyres) which is used mainly for collecting and distributing rations, etc, and they have no cars or motor cycles. Major Hills, the Police Liaison officer of MMIA , has visited Aosta and as a result the carabinieri are expecting 50 automatic weapons shortly.

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During my interview later with the President I again referred to the formation of the new Police Force with particular reference to its function and liaison with the existing State Police. The President explained that it was not intended that the new police (probably numbering 20 men) should usurp the functions of the existing agencies but would rather be used to release personnel of these services for more important duties, e.g., carabinieri are used for guarding the premises of the Bank of Italy, the Council chamber, etc., and other similar non-productive duties. The use of local police would release carabinieri and; in this connection, the President stated that he regards the question of frontier control as of such vital importance that he will send every available man to the border (it will be remembered that Italian troops, by virtue of the agreement between the allied authorities in Italy and the French, are not

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allowed within a distance of 15 kms. of the frontier, and this means that the Alpini stationed in Aosta can only travel one kilometre beyond the city). The new police will also, certain tax enquiries - chiefly in connection with the sale of wood (one of the few exportable commodities in the Province). The President said that timber dealers visit the Province for a few months in the year, engage in exceedingly profitable transactions and then return to their homes - thereby escaping taxation. The new police, recruited from local men and with good knowledge of the situation, could deal with these people far more efficiently than the State Police who have not the time or the personnel to keep themselves well informed on the particular aspects of a matter of this kind. The President said that crime is on the increase and he has had requests from sindaci for more police protection. Recruiting has not yet begun as the council are most anxious to take only the very best type of men (the President made a point of the fact that he wishes at all costs to avoid anything similar to the Questura auxiliaries who have given so much trouble in many places) and it is hoped to recruit ex-carabinieri and men of that stamp; the cost of the force will be met from local funds.

The food situation in the valley is very difficult as it is entirely dependent upon the valley of the Po for the necessities of life; no rice, corn or wheat are grown in the Aosta valley. The only exportable produce is the famous Fontina cheese, cattle for slaughter (most of which goes to Genoa and Turin) and wood; in the autumn fruit (mainly apples) is also available. The President states that the peoplehave always received the rations to which they are entitled by their cards owing to the excellent co-operation of the authorities in Lombardia and Piemonte who appreciate the unusual situation of the people of the valley. I enquired if black market rice from Vercelli Province is making its way in any quantity into Aosta and was assured that the traffic on any organised scale is practically non-existent.

In view of the importance of the timber industry in the economic life of the valley I asked the President if the council had a programme of re-forestration. At the moment, I gathered, little is being done; the need for timber for reconstruction purposes is so great that the main object is to supply requirements. In the past re-forestration was toyed with but the Council have had

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On the political side the President was of the opinion that French propaganda (which increased in volume during the month of December) is losing ground, and that the reason is that the people of the valley are impressed by the work of the Council and the benefits derived from their autonomous state. He

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mentioned specifically the attitude of certain members of the council itself who, prior to autonomy, had been pro-French but who were now veering round to a completely Italian point of view and drew attention to the fact - as a pointer - that he (always pro-Italian) had been elected President. This, fairly obviously, has not the meaning which the President intended to convey; these pro-French members of the Council, having attained power and position in the autonomous state, probably realise that they are better off personally now than they would be under French rule; this is not political but the normal workings of human nature.

The date on which communal elections will be held has not been decided as certain changes have to take place. Under the Fascist regime 15 communes were merged but Article 19 of the Decree of Autonomy gave powers to the Council to revise the changes which had been made by the "previous regime" on a basis of the position existing before 1922. This, the President said, could have been done without consultation with public opinion but in view of the new spirit of democracy prevailing it was decided to circulate all the sindaci concerned and invite them to submit signed lists from the communes in question. These lists have now been received and shew a large majority in favour of reverting to the old order of things, and consequently the necessary steps are being taken to retore municipal authority to the communes previously absorbed. This work will, of necessity, have to be completed before the matter of local elections can be considered.

I questioned the President with regard to Major Pesce's statement that persons crossing the frontier are subjected to a veiled form of intimidation with the object of securing recruits for the French Foreign Legion. He said that this is not quite accurate - people are <u>invited</u> to join but he is not aware that any pressure is brought to bear upon them. A rather interesting point he made was that workers who went into France last autumn have returned in numbers and they are discontented and disillusioned as a result of the treatment they received; this has the effect of offsetting to a considerable extent the propaganda put out by the pro-French section of the population.

327

The number of unemployed in the valley is 1,600; in the next few weeks a large programme of public wroks and reconstruction will be put into operation and this includes the repair of roads, maintenance and repair

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827

The number of unemployed in the valley is 1,600; in the next few weeks a large programme of public wroks and reconstruction will be put into operation and this includes the repair of roads, maintenance and repair of retaining walls and dykes, work on war damaged houses (most of which were destroyed by the Germans as reprisals against the partisans) and a scheme for the reclaiming of 500 hectares of good agricultural land. This programme will be financed by the State who, again - according to the President - understand the special needs of the Aosta valley (nothing was said during the discussion on the reasons for this unusual "understanding" but it is obvious that the motive is purely a political one and designed to retain the loyalties of the people of the valley). In this connection special concessions are being made with regard to the provision of materials needed and which are not available locally.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785046

The Questore, during my conversation with him, confirmed previous statements that French propaganda is decreasing and the people as a whole are drawing away from France. This he attributes to the interest and energy shewn by the President and Council in dealing with the problems peculair to the valley (and shews the wisdom of the responsible Italian authorities in "understanding" the needs of the Val d'Aosta!). An article by Nitti in the"Gazetta d'Italia" was badly received locally and gave rise to a feeling that a change of central government might lead to a loss of autonomous status; in the local paper it was suggested that an international guarantee of autonomy should be asked for and that the valley should not be left to the whims of changing governments in Rome. A considerable increase in mural decoration resulted from these articles.

The transfer of the trial of the late Republican Questore from Aosta to Genoa was the reason for a partisan demonstration. Public disapproval was also registered when it became known that four collaborationists who had been sentenced to death at Aosta had made successful appeals on technical grounds and were to be re-tried elsewhere. In each case the President and the Procuratore del Regno received deputations but there were no incidents.

The Questore diplomatically would not commit hilself to a statement of opinion but I gathered that he does not regard the formation of a new police force with any considerable degree of enthusiasm. He has reduced the number of auxiliaries to twelve and is satisfied with the morale and work of his men. His chief complaint was that his traffic police are completely without transport and are therefore of very little value at the mo ent.

15. [signature]
Major.

Public Safety Liaison Officer.

826

Copies to:

The Director, Public Safety Sub-Commission,

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 783019

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Public Safety Liaison Officer.

826

Copies to:
The Director, Public Safety Sub-Commission,
Headquarters, Allied Commission.
GSI., Headquarters, 2 District.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

ALLIED COMMISSION

PIEDMONT LIAISON GROUP

Public Safety Section.

Please initial

SUBJECT: Situation in ASTI Province.
TO: The Chief Liaison Officer, Piedmont.
FROM: Capt. Bolter, Police Liaison Officer.
DATE: 1 March, 1946 REF: PM/L/PS/11

1. On the 1st. March, 1946 I visited Asti and made enquiries regarding the general situation prevailing in the Province. It appears that the substitution of a career Prefect for the political one is causing a good deal of agitation among certain sections of the community.

2. On the morning of the 28th. February, 1946 a demonstration was organsied by the Christian Democrat Partisans protesting against the new Prefect who at the present time holds the position of Vice Prefect of the Turin Province.

At a meeting which was held at Asti on the 27th. February, 1946 the Communists and the Socialists refused to participate in the demonstration and also sent out orders to the workers of the local factories to refrain from joining. The workers were told by the Communist leaders that if they left work they would receive no pay and would be black listed at the factories.

On the morning of the 28th. February, 1946 the Partisans belonging to the Right Parties formed the demonstration and went to the factories but the influence of the Communist Party prevailed upon the workers and no one left their work.

3. The demonstration was composed of about 250 Partisans and at the Prefettura was addressed by the following Partisans.

Otello Pulmine
Poli
Tek

Their speeches were of a violent nature and they stressed the point that the Communists would not participate and were obstructionists. The speakers added that the Partisans present would eventually thrash the Communists and that the new Prefect would not be allowed to take office at Asti. There was a good deal of tension during the day but at the present time

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4. From the information which I received I gathered that the old Prefect is a Christian Democrat. Other positions held by by the Communist Party are those of the Vice Prefect, President of the Provincial C.L.N., and also that of the Sindaco of Asti.

5.

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5. It appears that the political Prefect was in direct opposition to the Communists and was always moderate in his views and policy. It is the opinion of the writer that the new Prefect would be inclined to the Left Parties and this seems to be assured in the attitude of the Communist and Socialist Parties in their refusal to participate in the demonstrations.

It has been suggested that the newly appointed Prefect was at one time a Republican but some months before the occupation of the northern part of Italy transferred his affections to the Socialist Party. Although a career Prefect he would nevertheless have a certain allegiance to the Socialist Party and his previous record in politics would be held against him by the Leftists unless he inclined his policy to their views.

6. It is interesting to note that of the 105 Communes in the Province of Asti 70 of them are predominantly Christian Democrat. Further to this it can be added that the Province is an agricultural one and in the main the small contadini are "apolitici" and steering a middle course. There is also the religious influences at work with this section of the community and it is certain that their trend of thought and sympathy would be inclined to the parties of the Right.

It is estimated that the members of the respective Parties are as follows.

Christian Democrats.	13,000
Communists	6,000
Socialists	8,000
Action.	1,500
Liberal	600

7. The contention of the Right Partisans is that the present Prefect should remain in office until after the elections and they maintain that if a change is made there will be demonstrations and disorders against the Provincial Administration.

The new Prefect has not yet arrived at Asti and I ascertained that representations had been made to Rome during the past week for the cancellation of the substitution of Prefects but up to the present date no reply had been received. The Capo di Gabinetto at Asti Prefettura has assured the local CC.RR., that the new Prefect will possibly arrive there on or about the the 7th. March, 1946.

8. The local CC.RR., are alive to the situation and will report developements to this office for information.

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785046

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E.P. Bolter, Capt

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Police Liaison Officer.
A.C. Piedmont.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

L A

1400 P

A L L I E D C O M M I S S I O N.

P I E D M O N T L I A I S O N G R O U P.

M O N T H L Y R E P O R T

F E B R U A R Y, 1946

BY

LT. COL. F.G. GREEN.

PUBLIC SAFETY SECTION.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

A L L I E D C O M M I S S I O N.

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M O N T H L Y R E P O R T

F E B R U A R Y, 1946

BY

LT. COL. F.G. GREEN.

PUBLIC SAFETY SECTION.

TO	UNIT	DATE
DIRECTOR	[illegible]	[illegible]
DEPUTY DIRECTOR	[illegible]	[illegible]
EXEC. OFFICER	[illegible]	[illegible]
POLCO		
G. & REG.	[illegible]	[illegible]
ASSTS		
FIELD OFFICERS		
SECURITY		
CLERK		

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785046

ALLIED COMMISSION

PIEDMONT LIAISON GROUP.

Public Safety Section.

SUBJECT: Monthly Report = FEBRUARY, 1946 =

TO: The Chief Liaison Officer, Piedmont Group, A.C.
Public Safety Sub-Commission, H.Q., A.C., APO.394.
G.S. I. Headquarters, 2 District.

DATE: 2 March, 1946. REF: PR/L/PS/24/2.

1. ACTIVITIES OF POLICE LIAISON OFFICERS.

A considerable amelioration of the transport situation during the month has allowed all Provinces to be visited by Police Liaison Officers. Prefects, Questori and Chief Officers of CC.RR., have been visited and information obtained on local conditions etc. Much of this information of value to security services has been passed to No.2 District through security channels.

Weekly Conferences held by G.S. I. 2 District have been regularly attended by Major Ronnie.

Relations with Security Services remain excellent and contact has been maintained with the O.C., Garrison Troops, 75th. Medium Regt., R.A.

As a result of the general survey of the Region the situation may be summed up as quiet, particularly in the Provinces of Aosta, Asti, Cuneo and Alessandria. Turin with it's large industrial population is also fairly quiet, whilst the possible danger spots are undoubtedly the Communist dominated areas of Novara and Vercelli.

2. ITALIAN POLICE AGENCIES.

(a). Carabinieri.

There have been no changes in Senior CC.RR., officers during the month. Colonel Cozzo, Legion Commander of Alessandria called during the month to present himself. He is of the opinion that the change over to the Italian Government has not affected the way in which the CC.RR., perform their duties and that arrests by CC.RR., and crimes discovered maintain about the same level of success as they did under A.M.G. This does not fit in with the opinion of the visiting officers of this Liaison Group who consider that some officers of the CC.RR., are inclined to sit back and let events take their course, especially in the matter of searching for hidden arms etc., and particularly where political parties are concerned..

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It is reported, particularly from the Provinces of Novara and Vercelli, and Colonel Cozzo agreed, that it was true of his Legion area also, that epuration amongst the CC.RR., is causing not only consternation but also loss of morale and interest. Cases are reported of what is alleged to be very severe discrimination against loyal career Carabinieri who merely obeyed orders, but having been asked to furnish particulars of their conduct, did so truthfully, and as a consequence are dismissed from the service, whilst others with a much more questionable record, but with less regard for the truth are maintained. Epuration in general against the CC.RR., is said to be severe particularly when compared with the epuration of other Police Agencies and it is suggested, with what basis, in fact it is known, that this is a Socialist inspired way of disgracing the

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Royal Carabinieri and has a far deeper meaning than dismissal or punishment of the individual, being a general reflection on the Corps.

I asked Col. Cozzo what appeal channels were open to men in such instances. He said that officers and sotto-officiali had the right of appeal but for lower ranks there was no such right except to the Council of Ministers, which would be a very lengthy process and would not achieve much result. The aspect of epuration which is, however, causing great concern and is responsible for the loss of morale, is it's slowness. With the sword of Damocles hanging over his head, no individual Carabiniere feels secure as to his future and the future of his family. In such circumstances it is only natural that men lose interest and begin to look around to see how they can live if they also are discharged. The immensity of the task of epurating a large body of men like the CC.RR., is realised but there can be no denying that the process is exceedingly slow and for the good of all concerned should be expedited.

It is also apparent that loss of morale has derived from political interest on the part of lately recruited personnel and that the Corps is to some extent at least not so apolitical as could be desired in these days.

A sore point with the CC.RR., is that they are not yet in possession of the same transport facilities, uniforms and arms as have been made available to other formations of the Italian Army. No doubt M.M.I.A., are now trying to overcome this but the fact remains that CC.RR., are imbued with an inferiority complex when confronted with other regular Italian Army units. They feel that they have very little support from the Ministry of War.

The withdrawal of Carabinieri from the districts of Novara and Vercelli, mentioned in my last monthly report, has not been altered and in these districts, regarded as the potential danger areas, Questori are not satisfied with the strength of CC.RR., Detachments. Towards the end of the month a company of the Mobile Battalion has been "showing the flag" in these areas, which is felt to be all to the good, but it is part of higher authority's policy to conserve the battalion for use as a shock battalion in the case of serious need, and there may be something to be said for this policy, nevertheless it is felt both by the officers of this Liaison Group and by the officers of the Mobile Battalion itself that it would be a good thing both as practice for the members of the Battalion and for the education of the general public if they were seen in action more often. The battalion is now well equipped as regards transport and ammunition and no good purpose can be served in letting it rust out in barracks.

(b). Questori and Agenti di Publicca Sicurezza.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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It is also apparent that loss of morale has derived from political interest on the part of lately recruited personnel and that the Corps is to some extent at least not so apolitical as could be desired in these days.

A sore point with the CC.RR., is that they are not yet in possession of the same transport facilities, uniforms and arms as have been made available to other formations of the Italian Army. No doubt M.M.I.A., are now trying to overcome this but the fact remains that CC.RR., are imbued with an inferiority complex when confronted with other regular Italian Army units. They feel that they have very little support from the Ministry of War.

The withdrawal of Carabinieri from the districts of Novara and Vercelli, mentioned in my last monthly report, has not been altered and in these districts, regarded as the potential danger areas, Questori are not satisfied with the strength of CC.RR., Detachments. Towards the end of the month a company of the Mobile Battalion has been "showing the flag" in these areas, which is felt to be all to the good, but it is part of higher authority, to conserve the battalion for use as a shock battalion in the case of serious need, and there may be something to be said for this policy, nevertheless it is felt both by the officers of this Liaison Group and by the officers of the Mobile Battalion itself that it would be a good thing both as practice for the members of the Battalion and for the education of the general public if they were seen in action more often. The battalion is now well equipped as regards transport and ammunition and no good purpose can be served in letting it rust out in barracks.

(b). <u>Questori and Agenti di Publicca Sicurezza.</u>

There have been no changes in Questori during this month. Signor Alsatta Questore of Alessandria has not returned from Rome nor is it thought that he will do so. The Vice Questore is an honest man and no doubt tries to do his job, but he is of a rather feeble elderly type and is not forceful enough for a Province, which although I have described it as quiet at the present, has it's difficulties = reduci, partigiani, and disoccupati = and needs a stronger and more forceful Questore in charge. It is rumoured that a career man may soon be appointed from Rome. It is hoped that this is true and that the appointee will be a younger and stronger man.

Asti still has it's Questore, a young political appointee, Dott. Pastorino G. This man is also an honest, hardworking and intelligent official. Against him as a Questore are his youth and

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inexperience. He has a grasp of the public safety situation and has done much to clean up the public safety services in Asti. Nevertheless I feel that it would also be advantageous if a career man of mature years and experience could be sent to take over in this Province.

In Turin itself the Questore is Dott. Agosti, a political appointee of the Action Party, an astute and competent lawyer, who is anxious, so he says, to relinquish the post of Questore as soon as a substitute can be found. He has the universal respect of all in Turin, who see him as an honest man who cannot be bought, (a rara avis indeed He performs his office with zeal and ability and has done excellent work in dealing with the Partisan elements who found their way into the Police. One cannot help but like him, nevertheless I feel that as soon as Rome can be persuaded to overcome their reluctance to substitute him, it would be as well that a new Questore, divorced entirely from political loyalties should be found to replace him.

Dott. Di Guglielmo, the recently appointed Questore of Novara is settling down well in his office and appears a solid capable type. It is understood that his appointment is a temporary one and if there is any criticism to be made about him it is that he will play up to the Ministry and will do nothing to jeopardise any future appointment.

Dott. Avogadro, Questore of Vercelli, who incidentally is not a career Questore but a Major of Carabinieri, impresses well and is carrying out his duties in a satisfactory manner. The removal, on orders from the Ministry of the Vice Questore Bertozzi, a Communist, has caused a good deal of resentment in Vercelli and has been the object of demonstrations of protest.

There are no special observations to be made with regard to the Questori of Aosta and Cuneo who are both capable men and their offices are functioning well.

A general criticism of the seven Questori of the Region however would be that they are each and all satisfied with too low a standard of Police work. A crime situation, which would in England be regarded as shocking, is regarded by them as "abastanza bene". One must'nt overlook the fact however that the country has just passed through a period of a foreign war and a civil war and that the times are particularly out of joint. Nevertheless one would like to see more driving force in the work of the Questori.

There are persistent rumours, (and information given by security informers) of an extremist underground movement in the Questura at Turin, with members organised in a mobile battalion ready to eliminate any right wing monarchist or kindred movements which may attempt a coup d'etat. The Capo di Gabinetto who is considered to be a trustworthy man, as well as being fully aware of all that is

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am inclined to disbelieve it.

A circumstance which has given cause for local feeling was the arrest of two persons, one an auxiliary policeman and the other an auxiliary "Guardia Scelta" of the Questura, who had carried out an armed and masked robbery of a cinema manager in Turin. It says much for the honesty of the Police that these men were arrested, charged, and the facts made public. Nevertheless it has led to quite a lot of comment in the public press and has not served to lessen the growing distrust of the public in their police forces.

The absolute lack of police action in the case of a mob disturbance in Turin (which will be dealt with later under "demonstrations") has again caused another drop in police prestige, with more press criticism, and apprehension as to how the police will manage to control disturbances, if they occur, as it is universally expected, in the coming elections.

The police situation with regard to petrol has not been improved. No police agency has sufficiency of petrol and I suppose that the official answer is, that it is not available. Nevertheless one sees many beautiful luxury cars on the roads and the Italian Army has apparently plenty of vehicles and petrol to spare. Some official is just being stupid in the matter.

(c). Railway Police.

The position of the Railway Police has resumed the "status ante quo". The reduction and reorganisation promised by the arrival of the Commissario of the Ministry of Interior (reported last month) and especially dispatched to deal with the matter has been put into abeyance by the receipt of orders from Rome to suspend action for the present. It is said that the Ministry of Communications does not want this body and the Ministry of Interior would like to take it over and deal drastically with it whilst the "Corpo" itself wants nothing to do with the Ministry of Interior. The matter awaits the decision of the Council of Ministers.

Meanwhile the Polizia Ferroviaria, nobody's children, are an embarrasment to the local Questori, whose orders they decline to accept and are accused rightly or wrongly of being responsible for or concerned in a good deal of crime both on and off duty? Numbers of hold ups reported, concern criminals who are said to be railway police personnel and certainly definate arrests have been made of such implicated in criminal activity. One case in particular occurred in Alessandria where three railway police agents and four railway workers were arrested and charged with being members of a criminal association who had between November, 1945 and the 15th. February, 1946 been engaged in seven distinct cases of theft, stealing large quantities of merchandise the property of the State Railways with the participation of other railway police charged with

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The murder of a man, whose body was found in Cuneo Province in a railway train which had come from Turin is thought by the Questore of Cuneo to have been the work of the Railway Police. At this stage it is not much more than supposition and enquiries are continuing, but the supposition at least indicates the state of opinion in which the Railway Police are held by the Questori.

Major Scannio, Commanding the Polizia Ferroviaria for the Region called during the month and discussed the situation with me. He seems an honest and efficient type and stated that although he would prefer that his men come under the Ministry of Communications when they would cease to be police but would become railway

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service guardians, he will be glad when a decision is made on the matter. His men are all fully armed with automatic arms which they took over from the Milizie Ferroviaria but now lack ammunition, a matter, perhaps, of some comfort. He admits that there are bad individuals amongst his men, although he says that they have dismissed quite a number, but he maintains that as a body they are performing an honest and useful service to the State Railways.

(d). Finance Guards.

Nothing to report.

(e). Royal Corps of the Forest.

Colonel Francardi Commander for Piemonte and Liguria and Capt. Carrino, Gruppo di Torino have both been contacted during the month. The total number of officers and men now in the Force in this Region is 474 including 44 Auxiliaries who will be replaced when trained effectives are ready to substitute them. They are performing a quiet and useful service in their own sphere. In the heavily timbered districts they have much work to do but are hampered by complete lack of uniforms and arms. They have been "promised by the Ministry."

3. CRIME.

The state of the region as regards crime may by Italian standards be regarded as satisfactory. Questori report that highway robberies are diminishing and claim that most of the gangs responsible have been broken up. Nevertheless the press continues to report cases of robbery and there are many denunciations of robbery and serious thefts. There have been however some good arrests notably in Cuneo Province where a large band of criminals, who have operated in the Province and in the City and Province of Turin has been broken up. This band, ten of which have been arrested to date have been identified in sixteen cases of theft value of which total 20 million lire. Enquiries in these cases are still in hand.

In Asti Province also two large bands, twenty three persons in all have been arrested and trials are proceeding.

Cases of the most serious crimes reported during the month are:-

Cuneo. Three persons murdered in connection with robberies.

Turin. On the night of the 1st./2nd. February three agents of the Squadra Mobile surprised thieves stealing tyres. A gun battle ensued in which one agent was wounded. Thieves including one woman arrested.

Novara. On the 9th. February, six persons armed and with transport held up a porter at the People's Bank and stole a bag containing 2,700,000 lire and State Bonds, exact amount not known. It is understood that this gang were subsequently arrested for other thefts against banks in Milan.

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Asti. On the 14th. February, a man was shot and killed. He was accompanied by a woman and the criminals robbed her and also took away all the property found on the dead man. 818

Calso di Ivrea. Two armed and masked men entered an hotel and held up the Manager, his daughter and two guests. The Manager disarmed the one man whereupon the other opened fire killing the manager and his daughter and wounding the other people. The assailants fled and so far have not been traced.

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Alessandria. On the 9th. February, a 57 year old railway worker was found dead in his bed having been killed with blows of a hammer. Thought to have been the work of a woman whom he had taken to bed with him.

Condove (Turin). On the 12th. February, a certain Brunetto was arrested after having committed robbery, armed and masked and carrying hand grenades.

Biella (Vercelli).

On the night of the 23rd. February, about 20 unknown armed and masked individuals forced an entry into a wool factory, immobilised the night watchman and stole large quantities of textiles and money value between 40 and 50 milion lire. The thieves had at their disposal two large lorries, a small truck and a private car. Enquiries in hand.

Turin. Four persons arrested for armed robbery and using brutal violence.

A feature of these crimes is the number of young men of no previous convictions and of good families who are concerned. Many of the persons arrested are said not to be in a position of great want and the crimes which they have committed are apparently to be attributed to a post war need for excitement, bravado and probably to the fact that having, during the insurrectionary period lived dangerously. Many young men found that particular way of life easy and attractive.

(a). Political Crimes.

There have again been no mass political murders but three individual cases have been reported. Last month I reported an execution by a so called "People's Court" at Pinerolo when a former Fascist was found dead with pistol wounds in the head. In the same town there have been two similar murders this month, one on the night of the 13th. February when a certain Petruzzi Alfiero aged 24 years ex Brigata Nera was killed. Similar notices signed by the Primo Gruppo d'Azione Popolare were posted in these cases as were exhibited in the first case. These killings caused quite a sensation both in and out of Pinerolo. A feature which calls for comment is the extremely small amount of effort made by the police to trace the culprits. Pinerolo was visited by Liaison Officers of this Group and the CC.RR., Group Captain was interviewed. He appears to be a very conscientious and energetic man and was very disturbed that these things should have happened in his area. Asked what he was doing about the matter he stated that he has only 124 CC.RR., at his disposal responsible for a large area leaving ~~xhs~~ about 30 for use in the town of Pinerolo. Consequently although he wished to place out special night patrols to prevent future occurrences of this nature he could not spare the men and had requested reinforcements from Turin. They had not then arrived. He stated that there was much alarm in the town and neighbourhood and although people were appalled at what had happened no one would talk. I asked him to

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A dozen CC.RR., reinforcements were eventually sent to Pinerolo - possibly it may only be a coincidence that they were sent after it was known that Allied Officers had been interesting themselves

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in the happenings.

No progress has been made in the enquiries in this case. Two days ago I spoke to the Questore Agosti on the matter and he said, " No we have no information and never shall have. You see everybody in Pinerolo is in agreement with the killings and therefore no one will talk. Pinerolo was heavily stricken by Fascism. There is scarcely a family who does not mourn a victim. It was silly to send these people back, a great mistake by the Government to allow them to come back". (The victims were all released from Coltano Concentration Camp). "Anyway the remainder of the forty five have all left and the people are happy and we shall never know who did it". He added that if he were living at Pinerolo and was not a police officer and knew who was responsible he would not say.

From the above therefore it would seem that the CC.RR.'s Captain's hunch that the Action Party were responsible is not beyond the bounds of possibility.

One other political killing is reported from Arona (Novara). On the 20th. February a certain Vercesi Remo aged 48 years member of the ex P.P.R., was shot in the head by unkwn persons. Enquiries are proceeding.

4. JAILS AND PRISONS.

The state of the Prisons is unchanged and overcrowded to a degree and so far nothing has been done to remedy the matter. The Prison at Turin for instance has a capacity of 700 detainees. It now houses 1,700 and it's cells are nearly all without locks and it is not surprising that there are mutinies and troubles in this jail.

On the 26th. February the military prisoners in the Civil Jail at Turin, on the occasion of a visit by the Procuratore Militare ventilated grievances about rations and treatment.

An attempted jail break occurred at Saluzzo (Cuneo) on the night of the 26th. February when 14 political prisoners who have been awaiting trial for months broke through the ceiling of their cell. This gave access to a wall inside the precincts of the Prison and four prisoners had escaped on to the wall before the alarm was given. Reinforcements of CC.RR., prevented further escapes and the four men were recaptured, inside the prison premises.

These political prisoners are like others; thousands of whom are in custody throughout Italy, who have been awaiting trial, often on flimsy or no evidence and will be kept in custody for a long while yet before any charge is made against them.

816

5. POLITICAL ACTI-VITIES ETC.

Propaganda continues in the Susa area (Turin Province) notably at Ulzio with the object of promoting a plebiscite in favour of annexation to France. Such propaganda takes advantage of

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5. POLITICAL ACTI-VITIES ETC.

Propaganda continues in the Susa area (Turin Province) notably at Ulzio with the object of promoting a plebiscite in favour of annexation to France. Such propaganda takes advantage of the miserable conditions of the villagers in this district where many villages were burned by Nazi Fascists and many destroyed by bombings etc. These centres where people largely made their living by working at winter sports hotels etc., are today deprived of their principal source of income. Lack of communications, schools and food add to the difficulties of life of the villagers and propagandists (said to be belong to the C.A.D., Groupes Anciens Dauphinio) are taking advantage of such difficulties, promising communal autonomy, relief from taxes, absorbing the unemployed, repair of the roads, increased tourist traffic and immediate repayment of war damage. This propaganda is causing some concern to the Italian Authorities who are keeping a sharp eye on it. There have been the usual incidents of appearance of French flags and French inscriptions on the walls.

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Similar propaganda is maintained in the Vald'Aosta where French flags have appeared at Novalese and at Tenda and Briga. No serious incidents have however occurred in any of the border areas.

CC.RR., of Aosta on the night of the 7th. February, stopped at La Thuille a group of 140 persons who had gathered for the purpose of clandestine emigration to France. Their explanation was that they wanted work in France and could not wait to overcome the bureaucratic procedure necessary to obtain regular passports.

Political activities by the parties in the Region is being intensified in view of the approaching elections and advantage is taken of any incident to get the workers out of the factories into the street to protest, the object being to stimulate political interest. Despite this there is among the disillusioned mass a diminishing lack of interest in politics and the huge majority are without membership cards of political parties. Faith in the De Gasperi Government is weakening and the anticipated revision of international boundaries, with Italy always the loser, is causing yet further loss of faith in the government.

The Communist Party though strong in the factories is the bogy man of the Italian people as a whole and many people appear to welcome it's prospect of a new world - war with Britain and the U.S.A., ranged against Russia and satellite nations with the hope that Communism may br crushed in Italy (and their interests saved to them).

More thoughtful people attribute this war talk to the lack of constructive propaganda by Britain and the U.S.A. The Communist Party are concentrating on this weakness and attempting to put before the workers the great part played by Soviet Russia in winning the war against Fascism and Nazism.

Meetings are held in factories in Novara and Vercelli particularly at the completion of the days work. The policy of the British Government towards Italy and Greece is particularly criticised. This policy is alleged to be impeding the reconstruction of Italy.

This note is also constantly sounded in the Communist press. References to America are usually more discreet as it is still hoped that the rich Americans will provide money, food and goods for Italy.

Actually the Communists have lost ground outside the ranks of the Proleteriat particularly with the contadini and the peasant class.

815

The Demo-Christian Party remains very strong among the masses though somewhat losing ground with the failure of the De Gasperi Government to produce an immediate new heaven and a new earth.

A new Party has made it's appearance in this Region viz

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A new Party has made it's appearance in this Region viz/ the Partito Contadini under the direction of one Scotti brother of the On. Scotti (deceased) who founded a similar party after the last European War. This party has no political programme and is mainly anti urbanist and considers only the interests of the contadini, developing propaganda against amassing agricultural products and endeavouring xkz to maintain the highest possible prices for such products. The Party has made headway in the Province of Asti with many defections from the Demo Christian Party.

The Liberal Party of smaller numbers but including many intellectuals is making great efforts to obtain support of the non-i.crit

"L'Uomo Qualunque" made it's first appearance in public at the Nazionale Cinema, Turin on the night of the 3rd. February? Speakers were contsantly interupted by Communists and Socialists who

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constituted about half of the audience and eventually the meeting closed in disorder. The recent approach to the Monarchist Party has greatly discredited this Party and has given the extreme Left the opportunity which they have grasped to shout "Fascists" or "qualunquisti" whenever they make their appearance.

No signs are apparent of Neo-Fascists activities as such in the Region. The recent activity of the police against neo-fascism appearing to be largely alarmist in character.

6. POLITICAL MEETINGS AND DEMONSTRATIONS.

There have been the usual polit cal meetings of all parties during the month and these have not occasioned any serious incident.

Demonstrations of a more lively character have however occurred in the Region but so far without serious incident. A feature of these demonstrations is that for the most part they are held in the vicinity of the factories to allow for the attendance of as many factory workers as possible and also that apart from these workers very few other people bother to attend. It is obvious that the great organising centre is the factory "cell" formation and it is a matter for speculation as to how many workers attend out of personal interest and how many attend from fear of repercussion if they refrain from attending. With the approaching elections every excuse is seized to bring the workers on to the streets.

In Asti Province a demonstration was held on the 28th. February to protest against the substitution of the Prefect who is a Christian Democrat. His proposed successor is inclined to the Left wing parties and the supporters of the outgoing Prefect are of the opinion that by his substitution by a prefect who is politically favourable to the left at a time just before the elections would favour the Left Wing. Their excuse for opposing the new Prefect however is that, they allege, he was once a Republican official. The local Socialists and Communists banned the demonstration and ordered the workers to refrain from attending. The demonstration consisted of about 250 Right Wing Partisans. Speeches of a violent nature were made accusing the Communists of obstruction and asserting that the new Prefect will not be allowed to take office. There was a good deal of tension during the day and the demonstrators have stated their intention of creating violent disorders. There is still a great deal of nervousness in the Province. 814

In Vercelli Province a demonstration of about 3000 persons was also held to protest against the substitution of the Prefect and also as mentioned before the removal of the Vice Questore Bertozzi. This meeting passed off without incident. A further large demonstration was held in the town to protest against the removal of the hearing of cases against 15 political prisoners from the Tribunale of Vercelli

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In Turin Province demonstrations have been held again the call up of the 23/24 classes and also combined political demonstrations against the Spanish Government and the recent executions carried out in Spain. On the 27th. February large scale demonstrations were held against the decision to transfer the a noted Fascist Brandimarte from Turin to Florence. This was of the Court of Cassation on the application of the accused trial to be held in another town on the grounds that he would receive a fair trial if held in Turin. The attitude of the about 25,000 people who gathered bearing banners "Hang Brand with boards representing a Fascist hanging from a gallows w

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words "Brandimarte Cosi" be sufficient justification for the removal of the trial from Turin. Efforts are being made by the Communist Mayor Roveda for Brandimarte to be brought back to Turin. It is thought that these efforts will be unavailing and that the trial will be held in Florence. If Brandimarte is brought back to Turin after the excitement which has been worked up he will certainly be lynched despite Roveda's promise of good behaviour by the "workers".

A further demonstration which caused a deal of excitement in Turin occurred on the night of the 28th. February when a mob of about 300 people prevented the holding of a Press Ball for charity. The Ball an annual affair had been widely advertised, cost of admission being 1000 lire and a box 10,000 lire for the evening. Food and drinks were to have been equally expensive and all profits were for charity. Threats had been received that the ball would receive the attention of the "unemployed" and the Police were well aware of this. They had however received instructions not to use undue force and this they interpreted literally. About 500 persons, all told, including spectators gathered outside the Theatre where the Ball was to be held and by catcalls and whistles intimidated such persons as were therein into leaving and informed the management that the dance would not be held. Twenty energetic and well led police, unarmed, could have cleared the square of the rioters. Instead the police on duty, stood with rifles slung on their shoulders and their hands in their pockets and did nothing but look on. I asked two police who were on duty, how many police were present and was told 15 CC.RR., and 50 Agenti. When I asked why they had not prevented the occurrence they shrugged the shoulders and said "Well we could have used force but we can't fire on the unemployed who are hungry and have nothing while other people can spend 20,000 lire on a dance" There was very little actual violence and no harm done except for the mob victory and the loss of prestige of the police. The Press and the people are asking now, with justification, what chance there is of peaceful elections if this is the way the police act when faced with a minor disturbance. Two so called organisers of the riot are reported to have been arrested since the event but the damage has been done. The Italian Police appear to have no conception of controlling a crowd other than by shooting them and it is a sad fact that so low is the respect in which they are held that they are probably right.

7. Economic Situation.

The general economic situation has not improved during the month. Large stocks of finished products are available for sale but buyers are waiting for prices to drop. In most industries wages have been boosted to the levels of the recently stipulated agreement for North Italy.

Unemployment has increased due not only to the removal of the ban on discharging workers but also due to diminishing stocks of raw

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Unemployment has increased due not only to the removal of the ban on discharging workers but also due to diminishing stocks of raw materials and lack of carburants. No strikes of any consequence have been reported this month.

Rationed food commodities are becoming more scarce yet foodstuffs are flowing to the markets at high prices out of proportion to salaries. Sugar, oil, butter and fats in general, tobacco and flour are particularly scarce yet can be bought openly by people with sufficient purchasing power. The rationing system is thus practically useless and is the cause of disillusion among the populace.

The unemployed situation is not made easier by the presence of large nulbers of refugees from the "meridionale" who apparenetly have no intention of returning to their homes. The immediate economic

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needs are:-

(1). Raw materials and coal.
(2). An honest control of foodstuffs and an honest rationing system.
(3). The re-valuation and stabilisation of the lire and the withdrawal from circulation of the hoards of paper money which have been accumulated.

8. SECURITY.

On the 12th. February, 1946 a Russian subject by the name of Bazlov Nicola was arrested by the CC.RR., near Domodossola This office was informed by the CC.RR., and Major Ronnie and Capt. Bolter went to Domodossola to ascertain the facts. Bazlov who apparently came to Italy with the Todt Organisation was not considered of any great security interest by the Italian Police and after interrogation was given a "Foglio di Via Obligatorio" and ordered to return to Bergamo where he has been living. The facts as ascertained by our officers were reported to G.S. I of No.2 District.

A further arrest in the same area of a Belgium named Umnels who was equipped with C.I.C., spare passes and other documents and who was dressed in American uniform and posing as an American Officer was also investigated at the same time. This is held at present charged with the larceny of a Jeep and other cars and is being investigated by the Italian Police who will send further particulars to this office when available? Such details as are already known have been furnished to G.S. I and to Public Safety Sub Commission, Security Branch.

Information that the Communist Party at Novara are taking a great deal of interests in the drafts entering and leaving the depot has been received and also passed to G.S. I of No.2 District.

The conduct of Allied Troops remains excellent and no report has been made of any complaints in this direction. 812

It is alleged that there is a tendency for shopkeepers to refuse to accept A.M.G., currency. Such cases as have been investigated have revealed that the refusal comes from the fear of accepting forged currency and is not due to any other reason.

It is reported that there is considerable activity of persons using unauthorised radio transmitters notably in Vercelli Province. This information has been passed to No.2 District and efforts are being made to investigate these reports.

9. COLLECTION OF ARMS etc.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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9. COLLECTION OF ARMS etc.

Reports, so far unsubstantiated, have been received of small garages and workshops making weapons, hand grenades etc., in the Biella district. The Italian Police are investigating.

From Novara, reports (probably true) have been received of arms moving into the Valsesia area. No arms raids have been carried out in this area since the departure of A.M.G., and it appears probable that arms are being put into the hiding places from which others were taken two or three months ago.

Searches for arms by CC.RR., continue on a much reduced scale and some arms have been recovered. It must be remembered that a large part of the Region has been and still is under snow, making searching difficult. With the approach of finer weather it is hoped more results will be obtained.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785014

Information points to the fact that arms trafficking has increased, one reason suggested being that ex-partisans are now running short of cash. They are said to be selling to any buyers and as the Left Wing Parties have the cash they are the principal customers. The reputed price of a Thompson sub machine gun which used to be 20,000 lire is now 7,000 lire and a Sten can now be bought for 1500 lire previous price being 6-7,000 lire. The police in the Biella district state that there are plenty of arms in their district although they claim hat they are hidden in individual possession rather than in dumps.

It is the considered opnion of experienced British Police Officers who know the district well that there are still large deposits of arms in the Vercelli and Novara area.

Following are details of arms recovered this month.

CUNEO. 11 automatics arms and 10 rifles.
2 pistols.
500 German Hand Grenades.
8000 rounds of ammunition.

NOVARA. 439 rifles.
12 Machine Guns.
1 Automatic Arm.
1 Mortar
1 Spa Armoured Car.
Spare parts, barrels etc., for Machine Guns.
Large quantities of ammunition.

ASTI. 1 Machine Gun.
25 Automatic Rifles.
20 Rifles.
4 Revolvers.
7 Hand Grenades.
6000 rounds of ammunition.

ALESSANDRIA. 2 Automatic Rifles.
4 Barrels for Heavy Machine Guns.
110 Rifles.
17 Pistols.
40,000 rounds of ammunition.

10. MISCELLANEOUS.

811

There has been no change in Public Safety personnel during the month.

I wish to express my appreciation of the way in which all concerned are working together and the intelligence, keenness

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785046

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Following are details of arms recovered this month.

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2 pistols.
500 German Hand Grenades.
2000 rounds of ammunition.

NOVARA. 439 rifles.
12 Machine Guns.
1 Automatic Arm.
1 Mortar
1 Spa Armoured Car.
Spare parts, barrels etc., for Machine Guns.
Large quantities of ammunition.

ASTI. 1 Machine Gun.
25 Automatic Rifles.
20 Rifles.
4 Revolvers.
7 Hand Grenades.
6000 rounds of ammunition.

ALESSANDRIA. 2 Automatic Rifles.
4 Barrels for Heavy Machine Guns.
110 Rifles.
17 Pistols.
40,000 rounds of ammunition.

10. MISCELLANEOUS.

311

There has been no change in Public Safety personnel during the month.

I wish to express my appreciation of the way in which all concerned are working together and the intelligence, keenness and efficiency which each displays.

I have been informed by Public Safety Sub Commission that there is a possibility that I may have to lose either Captain Bolter or Scaife, one of whom may be transferred to Venezia Guilia owing to shortage there of professional Police Officers.

I should greatly deplore the loss of either of these officers each of whom has been in the area for some time and has gained the support and confidence of police agencies and also have confidents locally who can and do supply valuable information. It is greatly to be hoped that it will not be necessary to transfer these officers.

F.G. Green, Lt. Col. G.L.
A/Chief Liaison Officer/ A.C.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

ALLIED COMMISSION

PIEDMONT LIAISON GROUP

Public Safety Section

SUBJECT: CUNEO. = General Situation =
TO: The Chief Liaison Officer, Piedmont.
FROM: Capt. Bolter, Police Liaison Officer.
DATE: 28 February, 1946

TO	INIT	DATE
DEPUTY FOR		
EXEC. DIRECTOR		
EXEC. OFFICER		
[illegible]		
C. & R.O.		
PERSONS		
CHIEF CLERK		

1. On the 27th. February, 1946 in company with Major Ronnie I visited Cuneo and made enquiries regarding the general situation of the Province.

2. We ascertained that at the present time everything appears to be normal and there is no marked activity on the part of the political parties of the Province. The Party in the majority is that of the Christian Democrats who have an ascendancy over the contadini because of religious and agricultural points in their policy. The Province on the whole is agricultural and there are few large industries operating so this strong predominance of the Right is understandable. Another point of interest is that the influence of the Monarchy is still to be found in the area. Before the war the Royal Family had several estates in the area and although the support for the King is not marked it is nevertheless a respectful consideration for the older generation.

The Communist Party has an influence in the Province but their presence is naturaly overshadowed by the Parties of the Right. The Province of Cuneo was in Pre War Fascist days the home of the Liberal Party but today it is not very active and no doubt it's influence may have a bearing upon those who have no direct attachment to a Party but whose sympathies at an election may sway from past feelings to the Right.

The Agrarian Party is quite strong in the Province and are very active particulary in the more rural areas. Their propaganda has been directed to the youthful contadini and some success has been achieved in this direction in the Province.

The Monarchist Party is also active in the Province and this can be understood when it is considered how close the Royal Family stood with the Province a few years ago.

It is the considered opinion of the writer that there does not appear to be any active elements in the Province to promote acts of violence of those of disorders but from the accepted policy of the Left Parties it should be remembered that they may attempt some course of action which will be to minimise the present popularity of the Right Parties.

810

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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A more detailed report will be submitted on the respective political Parties in the course of the next few days.

3. There is very litte crime of violence in the Province and the complaints registered with the police agencies are those of a minor character.

There have been no political murders since the early days of occupation and the only major crime reported in the last month was that of a murder which was committed in a train travelling from Turin to Cuneo. The dead body was found in the Cuneo Province but enquiries which were instituted have not yet revealed where the actual murder was committed. It is thought that the crime was committed by a member of the Railway Police but this is supposition on the part of the Questore at this juncture of the proceedings.

CHIEF CLERK

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785046

The strength of the Auxiliary Police of the Questura was 200 but this has been reduced to 150 by the transfer of 50 to Rome on the instructions of the Ministry of Interior. It is not known why the 50 men were sent to Rome but it is thought that they are to receive a course of instruction at the school there preparatory to becoming effective Police Agents. There also appears to be a very good relations between the Questura and the Carabinieri.

The Carabinieri in the Province are well up to strength with a concentration of force in the Tenda and Briga area. A disconcerting fact was however revealed in that there is a marked deficiency of autmatic arms. For a strength of 650 men it is noted that the Province are in possession of only 83 Sten Guns and even for those they have very little ammunition to use.

We also found that as is usual in other Provinces there is very little transport at the disposal of the Carabinieri. The Province covers a large area and many of their Stations are 90 miles from the Capoluogo. The only vehicle in use by the Gruppo was a small Balilla car and although a complaint was not made it can plainly be seen of the difficulties present in the distribution of rations etc. To all intents and purposes in case of urgency or of necessity this particular police agency would be entirely static with consequent reactions upon law and order.

4. It is understood that this Province is entirely agricultural and in the main self supporting. There are no general good complaints although at Saluzzo we were informed that there has been no Pasta ration for two months. It is anticipated that in the Spring certain stocks now held in reserve by the Province will be transferred to the Ligurian Coast and this may have a decided effect upon the food situation. There is a black market among the farmers who, as usual, with hold their produce and release it to the market which fetches the best price. This is of course usual throughout Italy and can be dismissed as being an institution accepted by the country.

5. At the present time it is estimated that there are about 7000 unemployed in the Province but in the main this figure can be attributed to theseasonal work which predominates in the area. It is anticipated that this figure will be considerably reduced with the approach of spring and the better farming conditions.

6. On the 1st. March the Prefects of the Province will be changed. There has been no agitation by any political faction in this change and it was suggested that the present Prefect is a member of the Liberal Party and their policy at the present time would be to accept the policy of the Government without incident. The incoming Prefect is a career man who has been attached to the Ministry of Interior and there does not

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 783016

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309

7. It is reported that in the area adjoining the Provinces of Alessandria and Asti there are still depositts of arms but no definate information is yet to hand. With the approach of better weather it is anticipated that raids will be organised by both the CC.RR., and the Questura. Speriamo!

E.P. Bolter, Capt.

E.P. Bolter, Capt.
Police Liaison Officer.
A.C. Piedmont.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

2P

HEADQUARTERS
PIEMONTE REGION
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
APO 394

AC LIAISON GROUP -
PIEMONTE,
APO S 404
C.M.F.

4 March, 1946

SUBJECT: Returns of Arms Raids.

TO : GSI., headquarters, 2 District, CMF.

1. In the past few weeks the CC.RR. of Asti have carried out 12 Raids (resulting in 12 arrests) and have recovered 1 machine gun, 25 automatic rifles, 1 barrel for an automatic rifle; 20 rifles, 4 revolvers, 7 hand grenades and 6,000 rounds of ammunition of various calibres.

2. In Cuneo Province the Questura have made 4 raids and have found 11 automatic rifles, 10 rifles, 2 revolvers, 500 hand grenades and 2,000 rounds of ammunition.

3. Six raids have been made in Alessandria Province by the CC.RR. and 6 mortar bombs, 27 hand grenades, 2 automatic rifles, 110 rifles, 17 pistols, 4 barrels for machine guns, and 40,000 rounds of ammunition have been recovered.

TO	INIT	DATE
DIR/CC		
DEP/CC		
EXEC OFF CP		
P&C		
LAC W. EG.		12/3
PROGS		
PUB. SAFETY		
SECURITY		
C. of C. CLERK		

H. Green.

F.H. GREEN
Lt. Colonel, G.S.
Chief Police Liaison Officer.

808

Copy to Public Safety Sub-Commission, AC.

FG/ii

6361 - SATEX (1000)

ALLIED COMMISSION
LIAISON GROUP
PIEMONTE REGION
Public Safety Section

1A

4th February 1946

Ref. No: PSL/PS/

Subject: Monthly Report for Month of January 1946.

To : C.L.O., Piemonte Group, Allied Commission.
Public Safety Sub-Commission, HQ., A.C., APO 394.
G.S.I., Headquarters, 2 District.

Activities of Police Liaison Officer:

In submitting the first monthly report of this Public Safety Liaison Group it is to be regretted that it is necessary to commence in a vein of complaint arising from a very real feeling of frustration.

The four officers assigned to this group are at their posts ready to commence their duties but the amount of actual liaison work carried out, outside of Turin city has been very small indeed. The difficulty, as already expressed by telegram to Public Safety Sub-Commission has been transport, which from the 10th January up till just before the end of the month, was non-existent. The appeal to the Sub-Commission bore some fruit, three fifteen cwt. trucks and two civilian cars have arrived: three other vehicles are promised for the beginning of next week. A separate report on these vehicles will be submitted when they are all assembled and checked over. At first glance they appear a sorry spectacle, the military vehicles being without spares and tools whilst the civilian vehicles would disgrace a roadside junk heap. However, with much work and repairs, some conniving and scrounging, which apart from the waste of time and the loss of dignity involved, should be entirely unnecessary) it will be possible to make some journeys out into the Region and it is hoped that next month much more actual liaison work will be possible.

Such information as is submitted is largely obtained from security sources, from study of the Italian press and as a result of a conference of all Regional Prefects and Questore which was held at this Head Quarters by the Chief Liaison Officer on the 1st. Instant.

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Contact with Army Formations. Conferences held by G.S.I.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 783016

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Activities of Police Liaison Officer:

In submitting the first monthly report of this Public Safety Liaison Group it is to be regretted that it is necessary to commence in a vein of complaint arising from a very real feeling of frustration.

The four officers assigned to this group are at their posts ready to commence their duties but the amount of actual liaison work carried out, outside of Turin city has been very small indeed. The difficulty, as already expressed by telegram to Public Safety Sub-Commission has been transport, which from the 10th January up till just before the end of the month, was non-existent. The appeal to the Sub-Commission bore some fruit, three fifteen cwt. trucks and two civilian cars have arrived: three other vehicles are promised for the beginning of next week. A separate report on these vehicles will be submitted when they are all assembled and checked over. At first glance they appear a sorry spectacle, the military vehicles being without spares and tools whilst the civilian vehicles would disgrace a roadside junk heap. However, with muck work and repairs, some conniving and scrounging, (which apart from the waste of time and the loss of dignity involved, should be entirely unnecessary) it will be possible to make some journeys out into the Region and it is hoped that next month much more actual liaison work will be possible.

Such information as is submitted is largely obtained from security sources, from study of the Italian press and as a result of a conference of all Regional Prefects and Questore which was held at this Head Quarters by the Chief Liaison Officer on the 1st. Instant.

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Contact with Army Formations. Conferences held by G.S.I. at N° 2 District Milan have been attended by Major Bonnie and myself and questions of interest affecting security matters discussed. Contact has been maintained with Head Quarters of the 75th. Medium Regiment, R.A., the local Garrison troops, in matters of local interest.

Relations with Security Services. These remain excellent. A weekly report is rendered from this office to G.S.O.2 I through 315 Field Security Section on matters affecting security generally

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and useful information has been passed in both directions. Information on movements of clandestine arms and stores of hidden arms have been passed to Italian Police and succesful arm raids have been carried out by them as a result of this information. (See below)

Italian Police Arrested

Carabinieri: Colonel Butti, Legion Commander of Turin Legion and acting in Command of the Brigade of CCRR called to see me during the month. Whilst satisfied with the general morale of his officers and men, he expressed the usual need for arms, uniforms and particularly boots. He stated that from his point of view the public Safety situation was satisfactory and the measures that they were taking to combat banditry act. were showing satisfactory results.

The position regarding CCRR transportation, Col. Butti described as fair.

A situation which is disturbing the minds of the Questore of Novara and Vercelli is the withdrawal of large numbers of CCRR from these troubled districts to reinforce the CCRR of Turin and district. The result has been to leave the former districts very thinly held by CCRR, small casermas being reduced to three or four men. Their representations to Colonel Butti on the matter have called forth the response that he has had to withdraw men to build the mobile battalions, and that the orders to this effect have emanated from CCRR command Rome. A few visits of the mobile battalion or part of the battalion to Novara and Vercelli occasionally might have a soothing effect but shortage of petrol precludes such visits.

CCRR have made a number of useful arrests during the month for armed robberies and criminal association. Whilst they have carried out on their own responsibility a few isolated arms searches, and are always willing and happy to collaborate with Allied Officers when information is supplied to them it is the considered opinion of officers who have been engaged on these cases that members of the CCRR are well aware of the existence of arms dumps but are afraid to take action on their own for fear of offending political parties and others. Though one can understand their not wishing to be accused of being anti- any political party, per se, and not taking action until their information is positive, yet their reluctance goes beyond this stage and prevents any action whatever.

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The Chief of Police Signor FERRARI Luigi, arrived in this Region early in the month and visited this Headquarters where he conferred with the Chief Liaison Officer and with Captain Scaife who was then the only Public Safety Officer present in the Regional Group. He expressed himself as strongly in favour of a strenuous comb-out of personnel both in the Agenti di Pubblica Sicurezza and the Carabinieri, and stated that he was

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was taking measures to this end. The telephone interceptor machine at the Prefettura Turin was also discussed and both the Chief of Police and later the Questore expressed themselves as opposed to its use on the ground that it was instituted by the Fascists and used to tap all telephone messages, and that its use was undemocratic and dangerous. The machine remains at the disposal (with the approval of Field Security) of the Ministry of the Interior. The local press has stated that the machine is not being used at present, but this is not thought to be in accordance with facts.

As stated above all Questioni of this Region attended a conference of Prefects held by the Chief Liaison Officer at this Headquarters on the 1st. instant. Arrangements have been made for them to send in reports on matters which are thought to be of interest to AC and the Allied interests.

One substitution of a Questore has been made since the transfer of authority from AMG, i.e in the Province of Novara where the Questore who was not a career man, but a Captain of the Italian army in whom the then PPSO had much confidence has been replaced by a career official. Although the former Questore did not apparently see eye to eye with the Prefect it is not thought that there was anything particularly significant about this change: the new Questore seems to be a live wire and will probably do well in his Province.

The Questore of Alessandria Alloatti has gone to Rome, it is said to fill a post in the Ministry of the Interior. ALLOATTI who is reported through Security channels to be an ex-member of OVRA who was appointed Questore through influence of commercial circles, is reputed to be pulling strings in Rome for the position of Questore to be left vacant for about a month at the end of which period he expects that the present Government will fall and he will be able to return to the post. Meanwhile the office of Questore is being filled by the Vice-Questore who appears to be an inoffensive rather elderly man who will not stir up too much.

All the Questori reported that the Public order situation is "abbastanza bene", robberies are decreasing and the crime situation is considerably improved. The number of auxilliary police is being considerably reduced and their dismissal is taking place quietly and without trouble.

The main worry of Questori is petrol, as their supplies have been cut in a manner which appears to be absolutely nonsensical. Alessandria for instance in AMG days was allocated 3000 litres per month for Questore purposes. Their allowance has been reduced to 150 litres . Turin formerly 7000 litres - reduced to 1500 and

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It is uncertain as to what amount of pressure if any can at the present stage be brought to bear by Allied Commission on the

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on the various Ministries, but if there is any way of representing to them that police supplies should be augmented and a reserve of petrol put at their disposal (at least for their use during the forthcoming elections) it is strongly recommended that this be done.

Railway Police: An alarming pigeon has fluttered the dovecotes of the Polizia Ferroviaria, in the shape of a Commissario from the office of the Ministry of the Interior who is charged with the reorganising this body whose numbers for the whole of Italy have been stabalised at 2000. (Turin alone has more than 1000). Indignation, to say the least, has broken out amongst the members who foresee the prospect of being dismissed from the railway police and having to work for their living. An unofficial referendum has been held to decide whether in future they will be at the dependence of the Ministry of the Interior or of the Ministry of Communications. The latter offering certain advantages (free travel for the family on holiday etc.) has attracted the popular vote. The position is of course absurd, and the orders of the Ministry will eventually be put into effect. This will result in the gradual dismissal of large numbers of these men who are largely ex-partigiani and the Questori are expecting a certain amount of trouble and even a general strike of the railways police. They are not however unduly alarmed at the strike prospect, although it may lead to some trouble and incidents, as they have enough agents, including auxilliaries to take over without undue worry the duties which the railway police are supposed to perform.

Finance Guards. Colonel Funarola, Commanding the Piemonte Legion, called and discussed problems of the Guardia di Finanza. Clothes, he stated were reasonably good but the usual shortages of replacements and arms etc. remain his chief problem. He has no immediate worries however, and will contact this Headquarters regarding any unusual incidents.

Forest Guards. No contact has recently been made with this Corps but will be made in the near future.

Vigile del Fuoco: This body is in excellent condition in the Region generally. I have visited the main Caserma in Turin and met the Comandante and various officers. They are well able to stand on their feet, their apparatus being very modern and in plentiful supply, I see no reason to maintain regular touch with this body. The Comandante has made a representation to the Questura on the disregard of fire precautions in the theatre gangways overcrowded, smoking in unauthorised theatres etc. and the Questore has given orders for the regulations to be strictly enforced. It

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Crime: The state of the Region as regards crime is stated by the Italian police to be fairly satisfactory. The newspapers report many cases of highway robbery and armed robbery in the house. From the police view point these are isolated instances and there are said to be no large organised gangs operating in the Region.

There have been no outstanding crime reported during the month, the following are quoted from an interest point of view. Turin on the 16th. January - Mobile squad arrested a man for illicit traffic in penicillin and confiscated penicillin to value of about six million lire. At Montercelli - Asti - on the 12th. CCRR surprised a criminal gang of about 15 people. A gun battle ensued at the end of which the gang fled leaving behind them five automatic rifle and 1500 cartridges.
At Salmore - Cuneo, on the 13th. a box of hand grenades, containing 72 bombs was stolen from the military powder factory.
At Alessandria on the 10th. CCRR arrested 15 persons for larceny of important wood supplies and on the 20th. eight persons for a series of large scale robberies in the Province.
At Turin on the 30th. Police arrested MAZZINI Angelo for murder of a woman and a British ex- P.O.W. Thomas Jones at Val Di Lanzo, during the period of the insurrection. Field Security Section have been informed for the necessary enquiries to be made.
At Turin during night of 29/30 CCRR arrested nine persons of Venaria Reale for criminal association. This gang is said to be responsible for many robberies and crimes committed in recent months: during the course of this operation arms and ammunitions were sequestrated.

Political Crimes. There have been no mass political crime during the month but one individual case is reported near Pinerolo on the 14th. January. The body of one, TINELLI Aurelio, aged 51 a clerk and former fascist supporter was found with three pistol-shot wounds in the head.

On the 18th. typewritten notices as follows appeared on the walls at Pinerolo. "TINELLI Aurelio was executed on the 14th. January sentenced by the People's Court as a favourer of Fascism and an organiser of S.A.M. The justice of the people will inexorably do away with all who menace the people's liberty. Fascists, your hour has come. The first People's Action Group has heard the cry of the oppressed. One at a time you will be liquidated. Death to Fascism! Liberty for the People! 1st. Action Group of the People.

Jails and Prisons: Signor Bozzi the Procuratore del Regno has been interviewed with regard to

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Jails and Prisons : Signor Bozzi the Procuratore del Regno has been interviewed with regard to state of the Prisons and will keep this office informed of any outstanding developments. He stated that the prisons are very overcrowded largely owing to the inability of the Judicial authorities to cope with the situation due to lack of competent legal staff. The Italian Government are fully aware of the situation, and an inspector of the Ministry of

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Grace and Justic has visited from Rome to review the legal situation at the same time another inspector attended to inspect the prisons. These two inspectors met and conferred. Consideration is being given to using a barracks at Casale Monferrato as a prison capable of holding 1000 prisoners, and another site is also being inspected. Materials for organising these prisons is however, lacking and it is not likely that there will be any immediate remedying of the situation.
Signor CASSAMATTA, Governor of the Turin Carceri Giudiziarie also called to discuss the general prison situation. He confirms the overcrowded state of the prison. Supplies of blankets for the prisoners are poor but will be improved. Sheets and towels are at an end, and soap and disinfectants are urgently needed. The food situation is good. The morale of the prison guards is poor largely attributable to the poor state of their clothing etc.

The following jail breaks have occured during the month: 2nd. January. Ten persons escaped from the Saluzzo jail - the majority were recaptured by CCRR within forty-eight hours. Six persons escaped from Moncalieri jail on the 6th , was recaptured. On the 31st. nine prisoners escaped from the Jail at Alba - Cuneo - one was re-arrested the same night.

Political Activities etc. There is much activity by all parties within the Region in view of the forthcoming elections. The six parties have agreed to work together in the publishing of electorial lists etc. and it is assumed that with six parties each watching the other some degree of fairness will be attained. Electoral rolls have been completed in the large majority of Communes, but it is significant that the seven Questori in the Region each admitted that he himself had not scrutinised the rolls to see if his own name appeared thereon. It is only to be expected therefore that large numbers of people who are apolitical will find themselves deprived of their vote if they muster sufficient energy to go to the poll.
A certain liveliness and apprehension during the month was caused by rumours that the French frontier had been closed by orders of Allied Headquarters. Whatever may be the facts behind these rumours the frontiers in this Region remained open subject to the normal Military Controls.

Annexation propaganda continues in the Province of Aosta, and in the Commune of Tenda. In the case of Tenda, writings have appeared on the walls calling for the dismissal of the Sindaco on the grounds of [illegible]incapacity as Sindaco. Writings are said to be the work of phil-French. The Socialist party is reported to be intensifying activity with object of forthcoming annexation to France. [illegible]

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The visit on the 11th. inst. of a S. Tenente Aviatore MAURIZZO Guido to Tenda caused some excitement among both the philo-French and the philo-Italian population. This officer crossed the frontier from Valle Roya where he is stationed with a forty-eight hour pass issued by the O.C. XV Military Formation of the Alpe- Maritime at Nice to visit his family residing at T Tenda and also to liaise with the French AMG officer.

Political Demonstrations.

There have been a number of meetings of all parties during the month, but there have been no incidents of any untoward nature.

A feature of which is causing a certain amount of apprehention however is disturbances which are taking place in the Courts of Assise, and in other courts in the nature of threats against the accused etc.

At Vercelli the president of the Tribunale suspended the hearing of a number of cases owing to clamour in the Courts and transferred the hearing to Turin.

On the 15th. - at the Court of Assize at Turin, six people were condemned to death and one to thirty years imprisonment. There was a popular demonstration against the sentenced man who were former members of the Brigata Nera and the Court was closed temporarily by the President.

An important case which will arouse interest is arranged to be heard in this Court on the 4th. of March and officials are already apprehensive of disturbances. Italian police are making special arrangements.

A recent government decision to call up men of the 23rd and 24 age groups to replace older serving men is meeting with a deal of criticism in the left wing papers and it is thought that if it is implemented there will be many absentees with consequent extra work for the police and extra population for the prisons. The possibility of more serious disturbances in addition cannot be eliminated.

Economic Situation The economic situation over the whole Region is at present fair. Food supplies are in hand for the immediate future, but further supplies are causing some concern and the Italian authorities are anxiously anticipating the arrival of imported grain etc. from U.S.A. and assistance from U.N.R.R.A.

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Industry is feeling the effects of lack of coal and electricity. Raw materials are available for most industries, but the necessary power is either absent or in short supply. Concern

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Industry is feeling the effects of lack of coal and electricity. Raw materials are available for most industries, but the necessary power is either absent or in short supply. Concern is expressed at the abundance of manufactured goods in the warehouses awaiting the necessary permission for export. This surplus is rather surprising when one considers the lack of goods in the South of Italy and it would appear that there is a home market that could absorb much of this stock. The problem is probably Italy's need for foreign currency which must be paid for in Italian exports.
A surprising feature from a public safety angle is the amazing display of food stuffs and luxury merchandise in the shops at

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prices which are beyond the reach of the purse of the ordinary citizen. It is a matter for conjecture why the more needy citizens are not moved to anger by these displays and it will not be surprising should the general economic worsen if some of these shops are attacked and looted by hungry people.

There have been a number of strikes in various localities, some of very short durations and there have been no disorders in connection with these disputes.

The more important disputes were as follows:
On the 9th. January a strike of cotton workers at the cotton factory ROTONDI di VARACCO SESIA (Vercelli) This dispute which is still in being is being considered by arbitration and it is thought that if it is not settled to the satisfaction of the workers it will spread to all cotton workers. On the 16th. at Turin 300 workers of the metal works TRIONE di Cuorgné and 250 workers of the metal firm GENISIO Bernardo of PONTE CANAVESE struck work demanding more pay. This is also the subject of arbitration. A dispute which is occasioning more concern with the Turin authorities is a more or less strike of constructional workers the dispute being as usual , pay, The Prefect has held meetings between employers and employed to endeavour to resolve the dispute as it is realised that if these workers remain unemployed they will be attracted to work in France which would be only too ready to receive them.

There have been the usual minor demonstrations in some provinces regarding food, particularly in Alessandria where some of the more improvident having used up their food coupons ahead of the proper period found themselves without bread. The matter was adjusted by the Prefect, at none of these demonstrations was there any serious repercussion.

Security. Persistent reports of Russians being landed by parachute and of Russian agents operating to the North of Domodossola have been received and passed on to Security Services.

Information that arms are being smuggled across the border from France to subversive movements in Italy are also the subject of investigation and it is hoped future action.

No incidents affecting Allied Troops have come to notice. The behaviour of such few troops as are now left in this area is excellent.

Collection of Arms. Information was received through Security Channels regarding stocks of arms said to be hidden in the Casa Del Popàlo , Novara, and also in the Palazzo Faregina. Records show that these places were raided in November without success.

Other information received from the same source as to arms

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not be surprising should the general economic worsen if some of these shops are attacked and looted by hungry people.

There have been a number of strikes in various localities, some of very short durations and there have been no disorders in connection with these disputes.

The more important disputes were as follows:
On the 9th. January a strike of cotton workers at the cotton factory ROTONDI di VARALLO SESIA (Vercelli) This dispute which is still in being is being considered by arbitration and it is thought that if it is not settled to the satisfaction of the workers it will spread to all cotton workers. On the 15th. at Turin 300 workers of the metal works TRIONE di Cuorgné and 250 workers of the metal firm GENISIO Bernardo of PONTE CANAVESE struck work demanding more pay. This is also the subject of arbitration. A dispute which is occasioning more concern with the Turin authorities is a more or less strike of constructional workers the dispute being as usual , pay. The Prefect has held meetings between employers and employed to endeavour to resolve the dispute as it is realised that if these workers remain unemployed they will be attracted to work in France which would be only too ready to receive them.

There have been the usual minor demonstrations in some provinces regarding food, particularly in Alessandria where some of the more improvident having used up their food coupons ahead of the proper period found themselves without bread. The matter was adjusted by the Prefect, at none of these demonstrations was there any serious repercussion.

Security. Persistent reports of Russians being landed by parachute and of Russian agents operating to the North of Domodossola have been received and passed on to Security Services.

Information that arms are being smuggled across the border from France to subversive movements in Italy are also the subject of investigation and it is hoped future action.

No incidents affecting Allied Troops have come to notice. The behaviour of such few troops as are now left in this area is excellent.

Collection of Arms. Information was received through Security Channels regarding stocks of arms said to be hidden in the Casa Del Popolo , Novara, and also in the Palazzo Faregina. Records show that these places were raided in November without success.

Other information received from the same source as to arms etc. hidden at Nonio(Novara) was passed to the CCRR who searched

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the suspected dump on the 29th. January. This search which was attended by Captains Scaife and Bolter in an observer capacity was a great success, and brought to light six truck loads of arms and ammunition all greased and wrapped in perfect condition which were hidden in a cellar the entrance to which had been walled up with stone, and the staircase filled up with rubble and earth to ground level. The materials recovered were comprised as follows. Nine Artillery ranging instruments , 17 Heavy machine guns of various types, 5 machine guns tripods, 1 mortar (81 mm), 1 German rifle, 14 Panzer fausts, 20 barrels (spare) for 20 mm machine guns, 12 spare barrels for automtic arms, 450 hand grenades, 100 mortar bombs, 194 boxes which contained magazines for heavy machine guns, multiple belts for heavy machine guns, ammunition of various calibres, Breda machine gun repair outfit, bundles of rifle cleaning rods. Explosives including Ballastite, Tritol, dynamite and Petranol.

The only other details which have come to hand of arms raids have been received from CCRR of Alessandria Province who have taken possession of four rifles Vetterlin model N° 70.87 calibre 6.5 . One musket mod.91 caliber 6.5, 1 rifle model 91 calibre 6.5, two German rifles, 9 hand grenades, English, one hand grenade unknown make, 10.000 cartridges.

Miscellaneous: Public Safety Liaison Personnel

Lt. Col. F.G. Green
Major W. Rennie
Captain F. Scaife
Captain B. Bolter

F.G. Green
Lt. Col. G.L.
i h Chief Police Security Liaison Officer.

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