

785016

ACC

10000/143/894
(1ST)

10000/143/894
(1st)

PUBLIC SECURITY, VENEZIA
SEPT., OCT. 1945

Memo Sheet

POLAD(A)

-1-

3A for your information -

Chapman
Col. D.P.P.

TX 686

3 October 1945

Public Safety S/C

I thank you very much. I wonder if I could see Regional Commissioners' letter of Sept. 28 referred to para. 5 of his letter of Sept. 30? If so, I should like this report returned with it.

J. W. Kelley, Jr.
Pol. Ad. (Am) Oct 5/45

3.

POLAD (A) ✓

See 24 as letter you requested to see.

John W. Chapman
JOHN W. CHAPMAN
Colonel, DCS

Oct. 8-45
Ext. 686

Public Safety S/C

See with Hanks

R. W. B. B. B.

Oct 15

1290

Letter of Ref. returned with st.
this report returned with st.
J. W. Eley Jones
Pol. Ad (Am) Oct 5/45

3.

FOIAD (A)

See 2A as letter you requested to see.

John W. Chapman

JOHN W. CHAPMAN
Colonel, DES

Oct 8-45
Encl 686

Public Safety SC
I seen with Hanks

Blondie
Asst (Blad) (A)

Oct 15

1660

-8 OCT. 1945

MA

TRANSLATION D.S.

Rome, 2 October 1945.

MINISTRY OF INTERIOR
General Directorate of P.S.To ALLIED COMMISSION
PUBLIC SAFETY S.C.A.G.R. Division - 3^a Sect.

R O M E

No 443/34032

SUBJECT : Political situation in Friuli - Yugoslavs' activity.

Despatch No 19312 Dated 13 September 1945 by the
Questura of Udine:

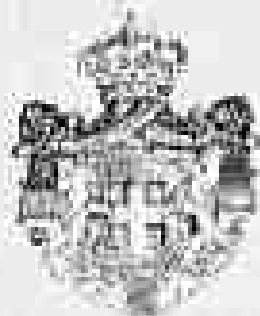
""On 10 inst. at TUSZA (Rosta Commune) Stefano LONARDO, a 40-year-old trades man was killed by unknown persons. No robbery is supposed as 32.000 lire were found on the body. Yugoslav terrorists having entered this territory are believed to be the murderers.""

Forwarded for due information, please.

For the Minister
/s/ Ferrari

TO	DATE	TIME
1 DIRECTOR	10/10	11/10
2 DEPUTY DIRECTOR		
EXEC. OFFICER	10/10	11-10
POLICE	10/10	12-10
LC. & REL.		
PRISON		
ADM. OFFICER		
3 SECURITY		
CHIEF CLERK		

S.



Roma

2 Ottobre

1945

Ministero dell'Interno
DIREZIONE GENERALE DELLA PUBBLICA SICUREZZA

LA COMMISSIONE
ALLEATA
SOTTOCOMMISSIONE PER LA P.S.
ROMA

Direzione A.G.R. Sez. 3^a
Prot. A. 443/34092 Allegato

Responsabile del
Sez. Sez. N°

OGGETTO: Situazione politica nel Friuli. Attività
jugoslava.

Per opportuna notizia, si trascrive la seguen-
te segnalazione telegrafica della Questura di
Udine, N. 19312, in data 13.9.1945:

"Dieci corrente località Tuzza comune Resta
commerciante di Leonardo Stefano anni 40 veniva
ucciso opera sconosciuti esclusa ipotesi rapina
perchè rinvenute su cadavere 32 mila lire ritien-
si che autori siano terroristi sloveni infiltra-
tisi questo territorio".

PEL MINISTRO

Germani

1650

JKD/300

P. SAFETY Spc
6A

TO : HQ Allied Commission
Attn. Executive Commissioner
Rptd. Public Safety Sub Commission

SUBJECT : Bolzano Province

FILE NO : RXII/850.12

3 October 1945

1. With further reference to my 850.12 of 30 Sept. Replying to your 585/EC of 27 Sept and AO/14191/4/PS of the same date.
2. I should like to call your attention to the second sentence in the first paragraph of Pastor Michael Damper's memorial. It quotes to a "Recent Allied Publication". This refers without doubt to an article which appeared in the "Stars and Stripes", itself a repeat of a Roman news item. No doubt this copy of the "Stars and Stripes" was widely known in the Sud-Tirol owing to the presence there of American troops. The Dementi which later appeared did not clearly deny the implication that some special treatment would be accorded to Bolzano, Belluno and Trento. I think it well to call this matter to your attention. There is no doubt that to many Italians, the "Stars and Stripes" and "Union Jack", are officially inspired Allied publications. We may have to hear more about this "Recent Allied Publication".

Regional Commissioner

[illegible]

File 14 145c

1657

1294

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

785016

BOLZANO PROVINCE
VENEZIE REGION
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT -
A P O. 394.

5 A

SUBJECT: Alleged Prosecution of South Tyrolese

DATE: 2 Oct 45.

JBT/az

TO: HQ Allied Commission
Public Safety Sub-Commission APO 394

REF: R XII / BZ / 108

3A

10/10/45

PA

Ref your AC/14191/4/PS dated 27 Sep 45.
Please see RXII/850.12 dated 30 Sep 45.

~~Chief Clerk~~
~~What is this?~~
~~SM~~

J. Bruce Thompson

J. BRUCE THOMPSON
Lt. Col., S.R.,
Provincial Commissioner

TO	INITIALS	DATE
DIRECTOR	JTB	6/10
DEPUTY DIRECTOR		
EXEC. OFF.	3A	8-10
PROCS.		
CLERK		
CHIEF CLERK		

TO	INITIALS	DATE
DIRECTOR		
DEPUTY DIRECTOR		
EXEC. OFF.		
PROCS.		
CLERK		
CHIEF CLERK		

1652

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS
VENEZIE REGION
Allied Military Government
APO 394

JZD/zm

SECRET

Public Safety 5/c

AM

2 October 1945

TO : HQ Allied Commission.
Attn: Public Safety Sub Commission
Rptd: Office of Executive Commissioner.

SUBJECT : Bolzano

FILE NO : RXII/850.12 /

3A

1. With further reference to my 850.12 of 30 Sept, addressed Executive Commissioner repeated to Public Safety Sub Commission.

2. I have now received through the Provincial Commissioner Bolzano, a letter written by the Prefect De Angeli on the subject of the despatch to Bolzano of the Reserve Mobile Battalion of Carabinieri. (Copy attached)

3. You will see that, Colonel Chapman, General Brunetti and S. Ferruccio Parri are all quoted as approving this step. I suspect that Colonel Chapman's reply indicated friendly interest and no more.

4. To move our only mobile Carabinieri Reserve from a central position such as Padova, to a remote corner like Bolzano is a decision not to be undertaken without very serious consideration. Moreover I do not think that the appearance of Police Armoured cars and tanks will produce in Bolzano the feeling of calm which we desire.

5. I remain therefore of the opinion expressed in my earlier letter, that the best solution would be the withdrawal of Folgore for training, and the move into Bolzano of a lesser number of Allied troops. Thereafter it must be a matter for... Carabinieri rein-

I suspect and no more.

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5. I remain therefore of the opinion expressed in my earlier letter, that the best solution would be the withdrawal of Folgore for training, and the move into Dolzano of a lesser number of Allied troops. Thereafter it must be a matter for consideration whether we can possibly send Carabinieri reinforcements by detaching one foot company from the mobile Battalion. I dislike splitting the Battalion but it may be the only solution.


Regional Commissioner

1684

Encl.

Copy to: R.E.S.O. Venezia
~~Pro~~vincial Commissioner, Bolzano.

B/F on file with previous letter referred to
action URGENT

g¹⁰

TO	INITIALS	DATE
DIRECTOR	<i>[Signature]</i>	2/10
DEPUTY DIRECTOR		
EXEC. ADJUTANT	<i>[Signature]</i>	5-10
CHIEF CLERK	<i>[Signature]</i>	5-10
ADJ. GEN.		
SECURITY		
CHIEF CLERK		

1297

COPY

IL PREFETTO DI BOLZANO

Prot.n. 4783
RAT/ez

Bolzano, September 20th 1945

LT.Col. WILLIAM E. McBRATNEY
Provincial Commissioner A.M.G.
Bolzano.

Re: Carabinieri battalion.

Considering the situation I believe it is advisable to insist with General Dunlop that the Carabinieri battalion, now in preparation at Padua and which is at the disposal of the Tre Venezie, be sent, for provisional service of long duration, to Bolzano.

Col. Chapman of the Allied Police in Rome, General Brunetti, Chief Commanding Officer of the Carabinieri and also the Presidency of the Council of Ministers have all personally confirmed to me the necessity of this disposition, which depends from General Dunlop.

THE PREFECT

/s/ D.de Angelis

SECRET AND URGENT

HEADQUARTERS
VENEZIE REGION
 ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
 APO 394

To : H.Q. Allied Commission.
 Bolzano Incidents

Subject :

File No: R XII /850.12

Reference 585/LC of 27 September sent to this H.Q. and
 AC/I4I2I/4/P.S of 27 September sent to P.C. Bolzano, copy to this
 Headquarters.

Both the above quoted letters deal with the same report
 from South Tirol sources which has obviously been left at several
 addresses in Rome. It will probably save further cross references if
 I deal with the matter in one letter.

There are three main allegations in the letter submitted
 by the priest Michael Gamper. They concern incidents at :-

- a) LANA on September 9th.
- b) S. CRISTINA on May 15th.
- c) VINTSCHGAU on July 3rd.

Of these, the two last seem to stand in a different category
 from the first. On May 15 the countryside was still in a very disturbed
 state, feeling between the Italian Partisans at Belluno and the pro-
 German Tirolese of Bolzano was very high. It is quite possible that evil
 deeds of the kind quoted were done. I do not think that much good would
 follow an attempt on our part to trace the Perpetrators.

The affair of Vintschgau was a murder following a dispute
 and scuffle between a soldier and a farmer about a hen. It may have a
 political significance, but it is not a big matter upon which to hang
 the complaint of a whole countryside.

The case of Lana on 9 September is something different and
 more serious because it concerns a brawl between Italian soldiers and
 Sud Tiroler at a traditional local festival. In this case I have already
 sent you in my letter of 28 September a factual report received from
 P.C. Bolzano. An American Officer and soldiers were also involved.
 You will see that the account submitted to you by Priest Michael Gamper
 is overdrawn, nevertheless the incident is disquieting.

Date 30 September 1945

AM

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 AND RECEIVED BY
 OFFICE ON THE LHC

3 A
 SECRET
 PUBLIC

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 c) VINTSCHGAU on July 3rd.

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5. The case of Lana on 9 September is something different and more serious because it concerns a brawl between Italian soldiers and Sud Tiroler at a traditional local festival. In this case I have already sent you in my letter of 26 September a factual report received from P.C. Bolzano. An American Officer and soldiers were also involved. You will see that the account submitted to you by Priest Michael Gamper is overdrawn, nevertheless the incident is disquieting.

I have already written to you at length in my RMII/350.12 of 28 September on the position as regards Troops in the Bolzano Area. It is worth pointing out that the Troops involved at Lana are the newly arrived Garibaldi Regiment who relieved the San Marco, they wear Alpini hats.

7. You know that on September 6 as a result of hard work on the part of De Angelis and Lt. Col. McBratney the two parties, C.L.N. and Sud Tirol Volkspartei signed a concordat. It is my own opinion that if left to themselves the local Italians and the Sud Tiroler might work together in amity. They will not have a chance of doing so if the situation is aggravated by Italian or German elements coming in from outside.

Copy to :-
 Public Safety Sub-Commission
 H.Q. Allied Commission
 P.C. Bolzano

Public Safety Div. Venezia Region;

Regional Commissioner.

Please insert reverse side

JED/EM

SECRETand IMMEDIATE

2A

HEADQUARTERS
VENETIAN REGION
Allied Military Government
APO 394

TO : HQ Allied Commission (2 copies) 28 Sept 1945

SUBJECT : Bolzano Province

FILE NO : RXII/850.12

1. Ref. my RXII/850.13 of 23 September and your 585/191/EO of 25 September.

2. I have just completed a tour in the Provinces of Verona, Vicenza, Trento, Bolzano and Udine during which I have been able to meet with most of the AMG Officials and military Commanders concerned.

3. I am therefore submitting this further report to you rather than taking immediate action on the lines of your letter of the 25 Sept. Moreover I believe that the Commanding General PBS is perhaps now less concerned than others with the troops in the area.

4. It will probably be most convenient if I review briefly the present distribution of troops in the general area of the North Western half of the Region. (Disregarding the provinces of Rovigo and the XIII Corps Provinces of Udine, Treviso and Venezia).

5. British troops in this area are, for administrative purposes, under 217 area (Brig Tennant) with its Headquarters at Bologna. 217 area is, in turn under No. 2 District (Major General Heydeman) at Milan. 6th British Armoured Division (Major General Murray) HQ at Padova, is for operation immediately under AFHQ

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6. United States troops in the area are under G.C. P.S.S.
7. The two Italian Gruppi, Folgore and Friuli, are, it is understood, at present under No. 2 District but will shortly come under the command of the Italian Ministry of War.
8. I propose to deal with troop disposition in the order, U.S., British, Italian.
9. The only substantial body of U.S. Troops still in the area comprises some 300 men of 349 Regt of the 88 Div. with HQ at Bolzano.
88 Div. is in process of moving into Venezia Giulia. It is therefore not expected that the 349 Regt. will remain much longer at Bolzano.
10. British troops are located as under:

- 2 -

a) 6 British Armoured Div.: HQ - Padova (Major General Murray)
3 Regts. of Div. Arty - Abano North Padova
Derbyshire Yeos W. of Padova

2nd Armoured Brigade. (Bays, 9. Lancers, 6 R. Tanks,
1 KRRC)

Vicenza and N.W. there of.

61st Inf.: BDE. (R. Sussex. Welch. Camerons)
Verona and W. there of.

b) From 10 Ind. Division (Detached from Division and under
Command 217 Area)

68th (South Midland) Pz. Regt. Lt. Col. Ashmore

HQ. One Bty Bolzano

One Bty Merano

One Bty Bressanone

1 Kings Own Lt. Col. Hall

HQ Bolzano

Troops distributed Verona to the Brenner guarding
German prisoners etc.

c) There are other technical British Units in the area.
R.E. at Belluno etc. which do not effect the General
position.

11. There are two main Italian formations in the Area

(a) Gruppo Friuli - Major General Scattini

HQ at Levico (S.E. of Trento)

Troops distributed in the General area - Trento - Belluno -
Baseano del Grappa -

(b) Gruppo Folgore - Major General Piacorini

HQ Bressanone

Garibaldi Regt.

HQ Merano

Bn. Appiano

Bn. Lana

Bn. Silandro

HQ Dobbiaco

Bn. Brunico

Bn. S. Candido

Nembo Regt.

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German prisoners etc.

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HQ at Levico (S.E. of Trento)
Troops distributed in the general area - Trento - Belluno -
Bassano del Grappa -

(b) Gruppo Folgore - Major General Pialorsi
HQ Bressanone
Garibaldi Regt.

HQ Merano
Bn. Appiano
Bn. Lana
Bn. Silandro
HQ Dobbiaco
Bn. Brunico
Bn. S. Candido
Bn. Auronzo

Nombo Regt.

Div. Arty Area Icaro - Brennero - Vipiteno - Chiuso -
Postumia
Div. Div. Ortisei - Chiusi

(c) There is the HQ of any Administrative Army Corps at Bolzano
(Lt. Gen. Segroni) but he does not have any command over
the two "Gruppi".

12. I am forwarding under separate cover further re-
presentations sent to me by Provincial Commissioner Molino
on the behaviour of the Folgore Division. I have spoken to
both General Pialorsi and to Lt. Col. Taylor British E.L.C. 630
of the Division. General Pialorsi has only fairly recently
taken command of the Division, he has the reputation of being
a fearless disciplinarian and, from my personal impression,
I am entirely inclined to agree with Col. Taylor's opinion,
that the General intends to make the Division something very

- 3 -

different from its recent state.

In this connection I am moreover bound to state that, on the cursory opportunities provided by a tour, I am inclined to say that the men of the Artillery and Nembo Regiments (I saw few of the Garibaldini) were smarter and better turned out than on the occasions of previous visits.

Nevertheless my personal opinion is that the finest efforts of General Fialorsi will not be able to overcome, with sufficient rapidity, his two outstanding difficulties: first the exceedingly depressed state of his Division, rendering control difficult, and secondly the bad feeling already existing between the Division and the local inhabitants.

13. It may be true to say, as Lt. Col. Taylor maintains that there are faults on both sides. The fact remains that the animosity is there and that it is poisoning the local political and ethical situation.

14. I was much impressed with a discussion I had with General Scattini commanding Friuli Group. He is exceedingly anxious to get his men into a part of the country where there are large barracks so that he can really get his Division in hand.

General Fialorsi had the same general intention but pointed out that his men are of necessity scattered over the countryside guarding scores of small dumps. They are also, incidentally operating a large number of road blocks, many of doubtful utility.

General Fialorsi questioned whether the time had not come for these dumps to be sold or handed over to civilian contractors who would be responsible for moving them South, and in the meantime would provide their own civilian watchmen.

15. On the other hand at Verona, Vicenza and elsewhere there are large barracks now occupied by troops of 6 Armd. Div. Comdr. 61 Inf. Bde told me that the barracks were administratively convenient but not very popular with its veteran troops who had just come out of Austrian castles and hotels.

16. The "Army Order" solution would seem to be (a) to

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16. The "Arm Chair" solution would appear to be (a) to move Folgore down South of the Po for training. (b) To move Priuli to the area Verona - Vicenza - Trento. For training and local duties. (c) To move troops of 6 Armad. Div. up into Folzano - Belluno.

This however to be subject to the rapid abolition of any need for Guard duty on the dumps. It might be good to put a Bn of Alpini or Bersaglieri under command in the Bolzano area to do the technical frontier control.

I have said that the above is an "Arm Chair" solution.

17. I have not discussed it with any of the Commanders involved. It raises political questions in the case of the move of Folgore. It means a further move for British troops who have only just

- 4 -

got settled in, after a move from Austria or Venezia Giulia. It does move part of a GHQ reserve Division away from a central locality.

I propose therefore to take no further action till I have had your comments and, if you think fit, your instructions.


Regional Commissioner

Copy to : Provincial Commissioner Bolzano

1307

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

785016

1670

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
Public Safety Sub-Commission
APO 394

file 1A

27 September 1945

AG/14191/4/TS

SUBJECT : Alleged Prosecution of South Tyrolean
TO : Provincial Commissioner Bolzano.

Please submit, as soon as possible,
reports on the allegations mentioned in the attached
correspondence.

JW
JOHN W. CHAPMAN
Colonel, J.A.G.D.
Director.

Copy : R.C. Venezia Region
ER/G

COPY

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
Political Adviser's Office (A)

25 September 1945

TO : Vice President, Civil Affairs Section

SUBJECT : Alleged Persecution of South Tyrolese by
Italian Partisans and Officials

The American Embassy has received the attached report of "Grave incidents in South Tyrol" from a member of the Sudtiroel Volkspartei and the Ambassador has asked me to inquire what, if any, confirmation the Allied Commission or AMG, Venezia, may have of these reports.

I should be grateful to have the enclosure returned with your reply.

J. Wesley Jones
Political Adviser (A)

Enclosure

Copy to POLAD (B)

GRAVE INCIDENTS IN SOUTH TYROL

According to a publication of the "Ansa" and the "Giornale del mattino" Sept 14th 45, De Angelis, prefect of Bozen announced that South-Tyrol would be shortly released from the control of the Allies and given over exclusively to the Italian administration. This announcement contradicts a recent allied publication, that the provinces of Bozen, Trento, Belluno and Udine would remain under allied control even if in the other North Italian provinces it would end in the near future. The statement of the prefect caused serious alarm in South-Tyrol. It is the unanimous opinion of the population, that the recent bloody attacks of Italian soldiers on South-Tyrolean citizens imperiously call for the maintenance of allied control.

ALPINI INVADERS A POPULAR FESTIVAL

Since more than two and a half centuries at Lana near Meran, St. Marys birthday is celebrated with a religious procession in which participate not only the inhabitants of this important rural community, but also visitors from the neighbouring villages. The festival also attracts many visitors from the farther neighbourhood and offers, on account of the partakers picturesque rural costumes of folkloristic-interesting spectacle. This time also, Sept 9th, numerous allied soldiers arrived, who manifested a sincere rejoicing of this genuine expression of Tyrolean life. There gathered also from different places Italian soldiers who regarded the festival as a political manifestation of aboriginal customs and therefore decided to disturb it. With this obvious intention, in the afternoon of the holiday, they broke into a traditional popular festival that followed the procession. To the peaceful native partakers and to the present American soldiers the Italians pretended that only they were the masters of the country, having fought for it six years. Finally they struck with stools the partakers of the garden-festival who defended themselves equally. Meanwhile more numerous Alpini came up with fire-weapons and began to shoot into the assembly. The wounded partakers were put away by the Italians. At the writing down of this report, Sept 10th the number and kind of the woundings could as yet been assured, as well as the whereabouts of the wounded - which greatly alarms the population. Of nearly a hundred partakers who were arrested with drawn revolvers most of them were released during the following night, twenty were yet in arrest the following day, when this statement was written. Two days before, the prefect of Bozen requested the political parties to conclude a pact of pacification, which they actually did. According to it the parties bound themselves to cooperate at the pacification of the population, eventual disturbances had to be considered and condemned as an expression "of a remnant fascist and nazist mind". The Allies participating at the festival are insuspectable witnesses that Italians broke into a peaceful popular festival, therefore it is easy to state, where the "remnant of fascist mind" has to be looked for.

- 2 -

A tragedy of kidnapping at Gröden.

From Bozen the following mysterious case was announced August 24th. In the early morning of May 15th 1945 a gang of partisans went from Belluno to S. Cristina (Valley of Gröden) and pulled out of his bed the schoolmaster Ploner, arrested him, nearly unvested, and threw him into an autocar. The same occurred to Adolf Senoner; Kosi Demetz was arrested about 11 a/m when he was occupied at the rationing-office and thrown upon an autocar; the same occurred to Riffeser Gabriel whom they bound from backwards, with wire, likewise Pittscheider Joseph. Then the prisoners were transported to Corvara, where they were seen by ocular witnesses. Kosi Demetz was bound with wire to a column, he must have been much mistreated because his face was mutilated. Riffeser was hanged up on a wire; when he was nearly unconscious the partisans let him drop and threw him, hands bound backwards, down a stair. Then all the prisoners were transported (by auto) elsewhere. It is not exactly known, where they had been put to death. Rumor goes that yet living they were wetted with petrol and burned. Fact is that the kidnapped were not seen anymore. The victims were: Senoner Adolf, mayor and merchant in Wolkenstein, father of four children; Ploner Engelbert, teacher in S. Cristina, father of two girls and two boys, one of them killed in action and the other one missing. Riffeser Gabriel, married his son perished in an accident. Pittscheider Joseph, assistant teacher, father of three children.

A Tyrolese peasant murdered by an Italian soldier

Stecher, parish-priest of St. Valentin auf der Heide (Vintschgau, near the border of South-Tyrol and the Switzerland) reports, July 4th 1945, as follows: Joseph Eberhard, 50 years old, dwelling in St. Valentin auf der Heide (Vintschgau) on July 3rd 1945, at 12,30 p.m. was knifed and killed by a soldier of the Italian garrison, division San Marco.

The soldier went to the peasant and asked him for a hen? The peasant refused stating that he had only five hens, all laying eggs which he needed in his housekeeping. The soldier answered that he would take the hen himself and went into the stable; the peasant followed and tried to hinder him, whereas the soldier pulled out his knife and killed him with two stabs. The murdered man was father of five little children. The foul deed caused general alarm and indignation in the whole region.

Only the presence of allied forces of occupation (the more the better) is considered by the population as a guarantee against

- 3 -

increase of such brutal aggressions. Therefore it is the population fervent desire, that the allied control might be continued in South-Tyrol, and they repeat the prayer (already submitted to the Allies) that South-Tyrol as well as the other contested Italian regions (Venezia Giulia, Val d'Aosta) be exclusively occupied by allied forces and that the Italian troops be removed from the country.

Rome Sept. 15th 1945

1313

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

785016

A.C/14314/PS.

"ANTI NAZI-SOCIALIST LEAGUE."

1314

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

10000 / 43 / 894

THIS FOLDER

CONTAINS PAPERS

FROM SEPT. 45

TO OCT. 45

CATALOGUE -

45

1315