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

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PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT OF MR. LA GUARDIA, RE UNRRA
STORES
AUG. 1946

1/10/18

I

V.P. C.A.S.

1A re submitted for information

E.P. By. Col.

16-8-46.

24/10/18

16/1/18

II

Ex Comm.

To be 1A. You may wish to show to CC. I presume Ex Comm. is handling the matter. Although the statement of JAC which appeared in the Press partially covered this case, it did not, so far as I recollect, give clearance, in fact clear, to the V.G. P.S. ce.

17/8/46.

McLan Biv. 1/10/18

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Pres. ~~partially~~ covered (his card it did not)
- So far as I recollect, give clearance, in particular,
to the V. G. Police.

17/8/46.

Macan Biv. *[Signature]* H. 1918
V. G. A. J.

Chief Commissioner.

Attached is submitted for your ~~signature~~ approval
information

[Signature]
17/8/46.

4650

[Signature]
APR 21 1946

[Signature]

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
Public Safety Sub-Commission
APO 794

Tel: 489081-416

AC/14381/PS

22 August 1946

SUBJECT : Press Reports.

TO : S.C.A.P.O.
Venezia Giulia Police Force.

1. Forwarded herewith for your information is a copy of the Rome American Newspaper in which is a letter to the Editor (page 4) from Edward A. Graham commenting on the loss of U.S.R.R.A. supplies at Trieste.

This may be of interest to you.

WJB/ac

EJB
E. J. EYE, Colonel
Acting Director.

1 encl.

4649

HEADQUARTERS
VENEZIA GIULIA POLICE FORCE
13 CORPS

File No: VGP/10/1

Date: 6 August 46

Subject: Press Announcements

To : HQ Allied Commission (Italy)
(attn Col. E. J. Bye, Director, Public Safety Sub-Commission)

Copies to:

Reference your letter/message dated
Attached documents forwarded:
For information and necessary action please
For investigation and report
For note and forward as indicated
For perusal and return, please
For report and completion
For any action considered necessary, please

Remarks: Attached hereto for your information and records is a copy of a report handed by me to SCAO this HQ protesting against the recent statement by Mr. Guardia from Belgrade in connection with so-called UNRRA thefts in this area. Incidentally, police records have been placed in the hands of the authorities here which shew conclusively that policing is effective and that the extent of the larcenies is far from being alarming.

Signature:

Rank and Apptmt:

G. Richardson, Lt Col
SCAPO

4648

18
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT - PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION

13 CORPS

VENEZIA GIULIA POLICE FORCE

ZONE Headquarters

DIVISION -----

TEL. No.: 5347 Trieste

REF. No.: VGP/10/1.

Date 4 August 1946

SUBJECT: Press Announcements

TO: The Senior Civil Affairs Officer,
HQ Allied Military Government 13 Corps.

1. Reference is made to an article appearing in column 1, page 4 of the British Forces newspaper 'Union Jack' dated 3 August 46 which purports to be a reproduction of a statement by Mr. La Guardia, Director General of UNRRA, at Belgrade on 28 July 46 relative to alleged wholesale larceny of UNRRA commodities in Zone 'A' of Venezia Giulia - a copy of the article in question is attached.

2. Your particular attention is drawn to that portion of the statement which reads :-

"Policing is insufficient and ineffective. The condition is not sporadic. It indicates an organised system of pilfering and robbery to such an extent that it could not be carried out without the knowledge or connivance and collusion of those very forces supposed to be protecting those shipments."

The first part alleging insufficient and ineffective policing is accepted as the utterance of a misinformed person who has failed to check up on the information he has received, but that part of the statement underlined is viewed by this Division with grave concern - not merely is it an inference that the law enforcement authority of this Zone, namely, the Venezia Giulia Police Force, is involved in the 'supposed' heavy larcenies, but is an accusation that they are directly implicated.

3. On behalf of my Allied colleagues of the Venezia Giulia Police Force and the indigenous personnel of the Service, I hereby make formal protest in regard to this unsubstantiated and unwarranted attack upon the character of the Force and thus upon our personal characters - this is the one and only view we can take of this statement if the reporting in the newspaper be correct.

Page No.2.

4. A review of the constitution of the Venezia Giulia Police Force shows that all senior positions in that Force are held by British and American Officers. Practically without exception these Officers are career Police Officers who have given long and loyal service and hold positions of rank in the Civil Police Services of their respective Countries. As a result of such service they have been seconded for special duty to commissioned ranks in the Armed Forces of the United Kingdom and the United States of America and to my personal knowledge they have carried out those duties with extreme keenness, energy, without fear or favour and without regard to themselves. Consequently, it will be appreciated how we one and all react to these now well publicised 'accusations' of duplicity and dishonesty - we are bound by military regulations and at the same time by the regulations and procedure of our respective Police Services and thus cannot commence action for redress. Had we been civilians unhampered by military and police regulations our course would have been clear - the institution of proceedings in a Court of Law for defamation.
5. We appreciate fully that the responsible authorities in this area are aware of the conditions here and that Mr. La Guardia's 'accusations' are completely baseless. Is such the case in the UK and the USA to which Countries I understand this statement has been broadcast?; I venture to say no, it is not the case and unless the situation is clarified there is good reason to assume much harm will be done to the Military/Police Officers who some day will return to duty with their Police Services in those Countries.
6. So far I have dealt only with Allied personnel of the Venezia Giulia Police Force and now mention must be made of the indigenous personnel of the Force. They likewise have worked unstintingly in the interests of law and order despite what our many critics may say - facts and figures prove this. Maybe political partiality has been shewn in a few instances, but I defy any person or body of persons to prove general dishonesty amongst the police. 4646
The indigenous personnel of the Force are very indignant concerning these allegations and I must agree that they have every right to be so.
7. In bringing this matter to your notice and in making formal protest, I am duty bound to ask that :-
 - (a) Mr. La Guardia be called upon to produce evidence in support of his accusations of our dishonesty, failing which to retract

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his statement publicly and offer an apology to the Venezia Giulia Police Force as a whole, or

- (b) if the article appearing in the 'Union Jack' is a misrepresentation of what was said then the editor be called upon to rectify this by press publication.

8. In concluding, I would like to add that we would welcome an investigation by a competent and impartial outside authority into these alleged wholesale larcenies of UNRRA properties with which Mr. La Guardia infers police are involved - all assistance would be given by every member of the Venezia Giulia Police Force.



G. Richardson, Lt Col.,
Senior Civil Affairs Police Officer.

Copy to Director, Public Safety S/C.,
HQ Alcom (Italy).

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