[redacted] Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

ACC
AC/14602/10/PS

10000/143/1442

[illegible] E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

10000/143/1442

MINERVINO MURGE INCIDENT
MAR. - OCT. 1945

AC/14602/10/PS

1

MINERVINO MURGE

INCIDENT

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 783046

MINERVINO MURGE

INCIDENT

100WW / 1 43 / 1442

THIS FOLDER
CONTAINS PAPERS
FROM MAR 1945
TO OCT. 1945
CATALOGUE-

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

6g11- Vigevano. Grazia

6g12- Sesto. Giuseppe

6g13- D'Acebedo - Giovanni

6g14- Galuppi - Ferdinando

6g15- Rinaudi - Maria

025750

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

19

Ex. Comm

Draft letter submitted for CC's approval

11 Aug Suggest two copies to AFHQ.

R. A. Bonham Carter — L-101
CAS.

SF 11/8

20

CAS

Issue MS/11/8.

21

Ex. Commissioner

Letter submitted for signature of CC - copies C.C. Ex.C. AFHQ

13 Aug

R. A. Bonham Carter L-101
CAS 3324

SF 14/8

22

Chief Commissioner.

Attached is submitted for your signature/information/approval.

3325

MS/15/8

23

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785246

14/8

CAS

20

Issue 14/8.

Ex. Commissioner 21

letter submitted for signature of CC - copies C.C. Ex.C. AFHQ

13 Aug

A.D.Buchanan Lt Col.
CAS 3324

Lt 14/8

22

Chief Commissioner.

Attached is submitted for your signature/information/approval. 3325

MS/15/8

23

CA Sec (R)

Ref your Minute 21 above, letter to P.M dated today is returned for dispatch.

16 Aug 45

MAJOR

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

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

minute 16.

C.A.

Folio 61A is forwarded for information.

Ref. Folio 60A:

Without an opportunity to peruse the report of 54 Area it is difficult to come to the conclusions contained therein and also to give effect to the recommendations.

It is presumed the suggested removal of the Prefect will be dealt with by L.G. S/C.

In regard to the removal of the CC.RR. Commander it is considered that the Carabiniere were outnumbered and out-gunned and despite all the courage in the world it would have been suicidal to overcome the rebellious element with the resources at their command.

The CC.RR. were short of transport and the automatic arms had been allotted but had not been delivered, consequently in the absence of details of 54 area report I am not prepared to agree to the proposed removal of the officer involved.

See by CGS 11/7 GHL

W. Doherty
Colonel.

P.S.
10 July, 1945.

17

C.A.

Folios 64A & 66A for information

W. Doherty
Col

PS. 18 July 45

PS — Ref 60A letter for despatch

CAS
21 Jul 45

GHarrison S/17.

18

C.A. See — Please see 78A and reply at 79A. The C.C. is not prepared to request the Arabian Government to send 25 trucks to BARI. It is a matter to be dealt with by the Arabians themselves. However, the Commanding General CCRR has been given to understand that he will make a request for trucks to the Government from those supplied by AOC (Tn)

Hoare Johnson
Maj

30?
Tn 365.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 783016

Minute 4.

Ad. C.

Folio 14A for information.

5 Sept 1945

Chapman
Col. D.P.S.

Thank you
6 Sep. 45

A.L. Bonham Carter Lt Col

8

To CAS.

9

Folio 15A for information.

Walter Doherty
Lt Col.

6/9/45

10

Thank you - no further action A.B. Bonham Carter Lt-Col.

11

To. C.A.S. For signature please.

Ogilvy Capt for D.P.S.

9th Sept. 45.

12

To. CAS. 19

L. For signature. please.

Ogilvy Capt
for D.P.S.

20/9/45.

To CAS. 19

13

For approval and signature please. A.L. Bonham Carter Major.
for D.P.S.

2-7-45

14

cc PS Please see cable 1157 copy to you 5 Jul 45.

Thorhaven 5/11

CAS
6 Jul 45

15.

C.A. Folios 45-49 for information

Wm. Doherty
Col

P.S.
7 July 1945

MINUTE

VF CA Section :

AFHQ G-5 have asked to be kept informed of the situation in Minervino. The full details are not yet known, but it is suggested that a preliminary signal be sent to AFHQ giving the following information :

Signal

FROM ALCOM
TO AFHQ G-5

1. Reference GO 953 of 19 March from Disthree to AFHQ regarding incident at Minervino Murge, Bari.

2. The following preliminary information has been obtained from Italian sources. Confirmation and further details are awaited.

3. On 18 March at Spinazzola a ceremony was held to commemorate the massacre of Italian soldiers by Germans in 1943. The Minervino contingent on returning to their own village fired shots into the air apparently from excess of excitement. In dispersing the crowd one Carabiniere was killed and three others wounded.

4. British soldiers of No.2 Commando Training Wing were present but suffered no casualties.

5. On the morning of 19 March reinforcements of 70 CC.RR and 20 Questure Agents were sent by truck from Bari to Minervino. It is understood that no further incidents have occurred.

6. An Allied Commission officer visited Minervino to-day. His report will follow.

21 March 1945.
AFW/G.

- 1 -

CAS.
5A and 7A for information
23 Mar 45.

332
Hyman
Lt-Col

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

1. Reference CO 955 of 19 March from Distree to [illegible] regarding incident at Minervino Murge, Bari.

2. The following preliminary information has been obtained from Italian sources. Confirmation and further details are awaited.

3. On 18 March at Spinazzola a ceremony was held to commemorate the massacre of Italian soldiers by Germans in 1943. The Minervino contingent on returning to their own village fired shots into the air apparently from excess of excitement. In dispersing the crowd one Carabiniere was killed and three others wounded.

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6. An Allied Commission officer visited Minervino to-day. His report will follow.

21 March 1945.
AFW/C.

- 2 -

CAS.
G5A and 7A for information
23 March 45.

332
Chapman
2-Dec

3

C-S 10 a prepared for signature
Chapman
DPS

24 March 45

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

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

INCOMING MESSAGE

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

Originator's Reference: SR/1075
Date/Time of Origin: MAR 201150A

Message Centre No: D/5553
Date Time Rec'd: MAR 201430A
Precedence: PRIORITY

FROM: ALCOM SOUTHERN REGION FOR RPSO
TO: HQ ALCOM FOR ACPSF

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

The following signal has been received, 19 March 1945 from Hq number 3 District.

"" 1. 54 AREA report shooting incidents during last 2 to 3 days at MINERVINO MURGE. 0379. Last night Carabinieri escorting party British Officers through town suffered casualties 3 killed several wounded. No British casualties. British officers had previously been fired upon.

2. Further trouble considered likely. 50 CCRR and field security Sjt proceeding to MINERVINO immediately.

3. Officer commanding 2 Cde Trg Wing satisfied that unit can assume full responsibility for own protection but unable continue Trg at present.

4. Further details awaited. ""

You will be advised of further developement.

TO
DIRECTOR
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
EXEC. OFFICER
POLICE
LIC. & REG.
PRISONS
ADM. OFFICER
SECURITY
CHIEF CLERK

ACTION

20 MAR 1945

Dist

Action - P Safety SC
Info - A/President
Chief Commissioner
CA Section
File (2)
Float

CONFIDENTIAL

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

INCOMING MESSAGE

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

Public Safety 14

Originator's Reference: G0953
Date Time of Origin: MARCH 19/1310
Message Centre No: D/5466
Date Time Rec'd: MARCH 19/1510
Precedence: ROUTINE

FROM: DISTREP

TO : ACTION: AFHQ INFO: AFHQ (G2-G1) , ALCOM, ALCOM SOUTHERN REGION, 15TA

CONFIDENTIAL

INFO - ACTION

CONFIDENTIAL.

1. 5A Area report shooting incidents during last 2/3 days at MINERVINO MURGE. 0379. Last night Carabinieri escorting party Brit offrs through town suffered casualties 3 killed several wounded. No Brit casualties. Brit offrs had previously been fired upon.

2. Further trouble considered likely. 50 CCRR and P/S Sjt proceeding to MINERVINO immediately.

3. OC 2 CDO TG WINO satisfied that unit can assume full responsibility for own protection but unable continue TG at present.

4. Further details awaited.

TO	INIT	DATE
DIRECTOR	[illegible]	19/3
DEPUTY DIRECTOR		
EXEC. OFFICER		
POLICE	G/W	20/3
LIC. & REG.		
PRISONS		
ADM. OFFICER		
SECURITY		
CHIEF CLERK		

DIST

INFO-ACTION : PUBLIC SAFETY SC

INFO : A/PRESIDENT
CHIEF COMMISSIONER
Exec Commissioner
CA SECTION
FILE (2319
FLOAT

20/3 GS AFHQ asked us to keep them informed by signal

20 PS S/C requested information from

5) CG, CCRR
6) Min of Int. 3) RPSO Regn Southern Comm. Bari

HEADQUARTERS 19 MAR 45 A. G.

CONFIDENTIAL

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

P-Safety

INCOMING MESSAGE

102A

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

Originator's Reference: LB/47
Date/Time of Origin: OCT 061100A

Message Centre No: G/214
Date Time Rec'd: OCT 061630A
Precedence: ROUTINE

FROM : ALCOM LO BARI

TO : HQ ALCOM FOR EXECUTIVE COMMISSIONER RPTD CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION, PUBLIC SAFETY SUBCOMMISSION, 52 AREA INFO 54 AREA

RESTRICTED

14602/10

RESTRICTED.

DI GAETANO ring leader June riots ANDRIA-MINERVINO (BARI) arrested.

DIST

ACTION: Pub Safety 2
INFO: Chief Commissioner
Ex Commissioner 2
CA Sec
File 2
Fleet

RECEIVED

TO	INIT	DATE
CO FOR	WOL	8/10
DEPUTY DIRECTOR	[illegible]	8/10
EXEC OFFICER	[illegible]	8-10
[illegible]		
[illegible]		
[illegible]		
[illegible]		
[illegible]		
[illegible]		
[illegible]		

HEADQUARTERS
6th OCT 1945
A. C.

RESTRICTED

3313

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

101A

14602/10
PA

S FIVE AFHQ

6577 6 October 43 [illegible]

[illegible] TO

THE FOLLOWING CABLE RECEIVED FROM ALGIE LO BARI

PARENS TO A FIVE AFHQ FROM ALGIE STOP ABOVE PARENS

BY [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] PARENS [illegible] [illegible]

ARRESTED [illegible]

DIST.: Chief Commissioner
Dy Commissioner
CA Sec

33 7

Public Safety Sub- Comm.

[illegible]

JOHN F. CHAPMAN Col.

G.J. [illegible]
CWO USA
Asst Adjutant

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

RESTRICTED

LB/47
OCT 061100A

G/214
OCT 061630A

ROUTINE

ALCOM LO BARI

HQ ALCOM FOR EXECUTIVE COMMISSIONER RITD CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION, PUBLIC SAFETY SUBCOMMISSION, 52 AREA INFO 54 AREA

RESTRICTED.

DI GAETANO ring leader June riots ANDRIA-MINERVINO (BARI) arrested.

DIST

ACTION: Pub Safety 2
INFO: Chief Commissioner
Ex Commissioner
CA Sec
File
Float

HEADQUARTERS
6 OCT 1945
A.

3316

RESTRICTED

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

100 A

TRANSLATION D.S.

CC.RR. GENERAL COMMAND

No 499/70 R.P.

Rome, 26 September 1945

To ALLIED COMMISSION
PUBLIC SAFETY S.C.

ROME

1460 2/15

SUBJECT : Corato (Bari) - Police operations.

Reference to letter No 499/68 R.P. dated 22 inst.

At Corato (Bari) the police operations gave the following results on 22 inst.

- 10 individuals, against whom warrant of arrest had been issued on charge of participation to an armed gang and of breaking and pillage to the local CC.RR. barracks, were arrested; the crimes were perpetrated on last June;
- 12 deserters were arrested on warrant of capture;
- 4 persons charged with common crimes and unlawful keeping of weapons were arrested;
- a "mitra", an automatic pistol, 5 rotation pistols, 2 hunting guns and various ammunition were confiscated.

TO	INFO	INFO
[illegible]		
[illegible]		
[illegible]	OTE	G-10
[illegible]		
[illegible]		
[illegible]		
[illegible]		
[illegible]		

The General Commander
/s/ Brunetto Brunetti

3315

0591

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

27 SET. 1945

RISERVATO PERSONALE

Comando Generale dell'Arma dei Carabinieri Reali

UFFICIO SERVIZIO - SITUAZIONE E COLLEGAMENTI

N. 499/70 *di prot.* R.P. *Roma, li* 26 settembre 1945

Risposta al *del* *n.* *Allegati n.*

OGGETTO: Corato (Bari) - Operazioni di polizia.

ALLA COMMISSIONE ALLEATA
- Sottocommissione di P.S. -
R O M A

^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^

Fa seguito al foglio n.499/68 R.P. in data 22 corrente.

In Corato (Bari), il 25 corrente, le operazioni di polizia hanno dato i seguenti risultati:

- arrestati 10 individui, colpiti da mandati di cattura perchè imputati di compartecipazione a banda armata e di invasione e saccheggio della locale caserma dell'Arma, reati commessi nel giugno u.s.;
- arrestati 12 disertori su mandato di cattura;
- arrestato 4 persone per reati comuni e detenzione di armi;
- sequestrati: un mitra, una pistola automatica, 5 pistole a rotazione, 2 fucili da caccia e varie munizioni per armi da guerra.

33.4

IL GENERALE COMANDANTE
(Brunetto Brunetti)

Brunetti

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

(Translation U.S.)

99A

CC.RR. GENERAL COMMAND
Situation and Liaison Office

409/68

Rome 22 September 1943

To ALLIED COMMISSION
SUB COMMISSION of P.S.
R O M E

SUBJECT: ANDRIA -Minervino Murge (Bari)-
Police activity.

Q6A 114602/10

Follows Nº 403/56 R.P. dated 21st September.

Police activity in Andria and Minervino Murge (Bari) has given the following ulterior results:

- arrested 5 more persons (total 47);
- sequestered 16 fire arms (" 87);
- various ammunition and equipment material of Allied property.

Persons under warrant of arrest and deserters, hiding in the woods, have formed an armed band which prowls in zones of Minervino Murge (Bari) and Montemilone (Potenza).

-

TO	FOR	DATE
DIRECTOR		
DEPUTY DIR.		
EXEC.	332	1-10
POLICE		
G-5		
G-2		
G-1		
SIGNAL		
CHIEF CLERK		

By General Command:
PELLEGRINO BONNETTI

33-3

332 1-10 folio di Minervino Murge folio.

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

24 SET. 1945

RISERVATO PERSONALE

Comando Generale dell'Arma dei Carabinieri Reali

UFFICIO SERVIZIO - SITUAZIONE E COLLEGAMENTI

N. 499/68 di prot. R.P. Roma, li 22 settembre 1945

Risposta al del n. Allegati n.

OGGETTO: Andria-Minervino Murge (Bari) - Operazioni di polizia.

ALLA COMMISSIONE ALLEATA
-Sottocommissione per la Pubblica Sicurezza-

R O M A

^^^^^^^^^^^

Fa seguito al foglio n.499/66 R.P. del 21 corrente.

In Andria e Minervino Murge (Bari) le operazioni di polizia hanno dato i seguenti ulteriori risultati:

- arrestate altre 5 persone (totale 47);
- sequestrati altre 16 armi da guerra o da caccia (totale 87), munizioni varie e materiale di equipaggiamento di pertinenza dell'amministrazione militare alleata.

Elementi catturandi e disertori, datisi alla macchia, hanno costituito una banda armata, aggirantesi nella zona di Minervino Murge (Bari) e Montemilone (Potenza).

331

IL GENERALE COMANDANTE
-Brunetto Brunetti-

0591

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

10602 IIb

GSP

COPY

AFHQ G FIVE

6336 1 October 45 PRIORITY

SECRET FD

PARA ONE ED THE FOLLOWING SIGNAL WAS RECEIVED FROM ALCOM TO BARI ED

PAREN TO AFHQ G FIVE FROM ALCOM CITE ACTSF PAREN

PARA TWO ED OPERATIONS IN ANDRIA AND MINERVINO HAD EXCELLENT EFFECT ED POPULATION QUIET ED PLANS IN HAND FOR CAPTURE OF ARMED BAND TWO ZERO ZERO STRONG WHO ESCAPED TO COUNTRY WEST OF MINERVINO ED

PARA THREE ED SITUATION LECCE NORMAL ED

Int Dist.

Chief Comm.
Exec. Comm.
Civil Affairs Section

Public Safety S/C

257

W.F. HOELSCHER Maj.

G.J. LEONE
CWO USA
Asst Adjutant

3311

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

INCOMING MESSAGE

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

Originator's Reference: CE/14

Date/Time of Origin: SEP 291320A

Message Centre No: F/512

Date Time Rec'd: SEP 3010?0A

Precedence: ROUTINE

FROM ALCOM LO BARI

TO : ACTION RR ALCOM FOR EXECUTIVE COMMISSIONER RPTD PUBLIC SAFETY SUBCOMMISSION, 52 AREA INFO 5/4 AREA

SECRET ACTION

SECRET.

Para 2 Operations in ANDRIA and MINERVINO had excellent effect. Population quiet. Plans in hand for capture of armed band 200 strong who escaped to country west of MINERVINO.

14602/10.

TO	INIT	DATE
X DIRECTOR		
DEPUTY DIRECTOR		
EXEC. OFFICER		
POLICE		
LIC. & PERS.		
PRISONS		
ADM. SERVICES		
SECURITY		
CHIEF CLERK		

DIST

ACTION: P.Safety
INFO: Chief Commissioner
Dp Commissioner 2
Ex Sec
File

3310

HEADQUARTERS
30 SEP 943
A. C.

SECRET

0596

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

(Translation I.C.)

96A

M.P.R. GENERAL COMMAND
Situation and Liaison Office

Rome 21 Sept. 1945

N° 432/56

14602/10

To ALLIED COMMISSION
VEN COMMISSION OF P...
ROME

SUBJECT: Andria - Minervino Murge (Bari) Police operations.

The noted police operations, initiated at day-break on 20th inst. in the Andria and Minervino Murge (Bari) communes have given till now the following results:

Part of 42 persons arrested, were under warrant of arrest, and others arrested for various crimes.

Sequestered the following fire-arms and ammunition:

- 1 " Borretta" mitre ;
- 4 machine guns
- 35 revolvers
- 31 rifles for hunting
- various side-arms
- " ammunition

When those persons at Minervino Murge were about to be conveyed to BARI jail, unidentified persons fired several shots at the Arma barracks- nothing occured.

A lorry bound for Andria overturned near RUVO di Puglia (Bari). One carabiniere killed and 16 others seriously injured.

Operations continue

3309

BY GENERAL COMMAND

ERNESTO SERVENTI

TO		
X DIRECTOR		
X DEPUTY DIR.		
EXEC. OFFICER		
POLICE		
LIC. & P.S.		
PRISONS		
AD.I. OFFICE		
SECURITY		
CHIEF CI		

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

24 SET. 1945

RISERVATO PERSONALE

Comando Generale dell'Arma dei Carabinieri Reali

UFFICIO SERVIZIO - SITUAZIONE E COLLEGAMENTI

N. 499/66 di prot. R.P. Roma, li 21 Settembre 1945

Risposta al d.d n. Allegati n.

OGGETTO: Andria - Minervino Murge (Bari - Operazioni di polizia.

ALLA COMMISSIONE ALLEATA - Sottocommissione per la P.S.-

R O M A

-^-^-^-

Nei Comuni di Andria e Minevino Murge (Bari),le note operazioni di polizia,iniziate all'alba del 20 corrente, hanno dato finora i seguenti risultati:

= Arrestate complessivamente 42 persone,parte per esecuzione di mandato di cattura e parte per reati vari.
= Sequestrate le seguenti armi e munizioni:
- 1 "mitra" Beretta
- 4 moschetti 3307
-35 pistole
-31 fucili da caccia
- varie armi bianche
- munizioni varie.

In Minervino Murge,all'inizio della traduzione delle persone arrestate,da quel paese alle carceri di Bari,sconosciuti spararono,senza conseguenze,vari colpi d'arma da fuoco contro la caserma dell'Arma.

./...

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

Un autocarro, diretto ad Andria, nei pressi di Ruvo di Puglia (Bari) ribaltò.

Si lamentano un carabiniere morto e altri 16 feriti in modo più o meno grave.

Le operazioni continuano.

IL GENERALE COMANDANTE
-Brunetto Brunetti-

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

Public Safety S/S

95A

14608/10

2656/63/80.

26th September 1945.

SUBJECT: Illegal Stocks of Arms and Civil Disturbances in Italian Government Territory.

TO : Chief of Staff.
A.F.H.Q.

I addressed myself to Professor Ungaro on the subject of your Memorandum of 21st August 1945 and handed him an Aide Memoire (copy attached). The Prime Minister took note of what I said, agreed with the necessity of maintaining order and assured me that steps had already been taken to improve the matter.

My telegram 3306 of 24th September contains the last statement.

[illegible]

[illegible]
Major General, USAF.
Chief Commissioner.

3306

Copy to:
Public Safety S/S.

TO	INIT.	DATE
DIRECTOR	[illegible]	1/10
DEPUTY DIRECTOR		
EXEC. OFFICER	[illegible]	29-9
POLICE	[illegible]	1/10
LIC. & REG.		
PRISONS		
ADM. OFFICER		
SECURITY		
CHIEF CLERK		

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

PS
20 SEP. 1945

C.A. Sec. 095B

21 SET. 1945

Ref: 3636/MO.

Cire

20 September 1945.

AIDE MEMOIRE.

2055-1 1945

1. The Supreme Allied Commander has directed me to convey to you his grave concern at the state of public security throughout Italy, particularly with regard to illegal retention of arms. It is and has been the policy of the Supreme Allied Commander to recommend that the Italian Government take the strongest possible steps to deal with civil disturbance within their own territory. To this end he has also given instructions with regard to the clothing and equipment of the Carabinieri in order that they may be raised to a standard of efficiency. The Carabinieri, however, cannot be expected to take effective action in dealing with disturbances unless they receive guidance and support from the Italian Government and from the local Prefects, who must be prepared to call for military assistance if they consider such a course necessary. To this end the Prefects themselves should receive from the Italian Government clear and definite directives on their duties and responsibilities.

2. The collection of illegal store of arms held by civilians is considered one of primary importance and is a matter which can only be brought about by properly planned and coordinated action between the local governments, the police agencies and the military authorities. In the territories under Military Government much has been done by such coordination and in spite of the known quantity of arms still in the hands of civilians marked progress is being made in their surrender. The Supreme Allied Commander urges that the same coordination should be effected in territory under Italian Government control where, in spite of the long period that has elapsed since the liberation, it is known that a great number of arms are illegally retained.

3. The present situation is viewed with gravity, as it is considered that further deterioration is likely to have serious consequences. In this connection the Italian Government must realise that their ability to maintain law and order must inevitably be an important factor in any decision of the Allied Governments in regard to the releasing of further territory to Italian control.

3305

4. The Supreme Allied Commander is moved to instruct me to make these representations not only on account of the general situation but particularly because it was apparent to him that whatever measures were taken by the Italian Government to deal with the disturbances in the Andriese Minervino areas in June last were inadequate and did not prevent renewed

C.C.S. SECTION
3972

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

incidents occurring in the Bari area on 2 August. Present reports from Allied Officers, which are being transmitted to your Minister of the Interior, point to the possibility of a recurrence of disturbances in this area in the near future.

3. In this connection despite repeated requests I still await a reply to my original letter CC 3604 dated 13 July 1945 addressed to you, in which on instructions from the Supreme Allied Commander I asked for specific information as to the action taken by the Italian Government following on these disturbances.

Delivered to;
The President of the Council of Ministers.
20 September 1945

Copy To: C A Sec

3304

TO	INIT	DATE
DIRECTOR		
DEPUTY		
EXDEC		
POLAD		
G-2		
LEG		
SPECIAL ASSISTANT		
SECRETARY		
COURIER CLERK		

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

INCOMING MESSAGE

26 SET. 1945

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

Originator's Reference: LB/39
Date/Time of Origin: SEPT 24/1730A

Message Centre No: F/8959
Date Time Rec'd: SEPT 25/1900A
Precedence: PRIORITY

FROM AICOM BARI LO

TO : ACTION: HQ AICOM FOR EXECUTIVE COMMISSIONER, CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION, PUBLIC SAFETY SUB COM, 52 AREA INFO: 54 AREA BY HAND

SECRET

SECRET.

Systematic combing by Carabinieri in ANDRIA and MINERVINO continuing without serious incidents. Public order calm

ACTION

DIST

ACTION : PUBLIC SAFETY SC

INFO : 1. CHIEF COMMISSIONER
EX COMMISSIONER (2)
CA SEC
POLAD (A)
POLAD (B)
FILE

N.A.

DIRECTOR		
DEPUTY		
EXEC. O.		
POLICE		
LIC. & REG.		
PRISONS		
AD		
Ch		

SECRET

0503

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

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED C MMISSION
Public Safety Sub-Commission
APO 394

1460/10 (93 A)

26 September 1945

M E M O R A N D U M

TO : C.A. Section.

1. This Sub-Commission has received the following report of the Lecce incident from the C.G., CC.AR.

"This is to inform you that in Lecce at ten o'clock this morning (25 September) 10,000 people demonstrating against the high cost of living, stormed the Prefecture, disarming the guards who were guarding the outside of the building.

"The police force, inside the building at that time, shot their muskets at the crowd.

"According to the news at this time, three of the demonstrators were killed."

2. It will be noted that no mention is made of the use of troops.

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

3307

JWC/C

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

AFHQ CITE SACMED

9868 24 September 45 IMMEDIATE

SECRET PD

SUBJECT IS OPERATIONS IN ANCONA MINERVINO AREA PD

PARA TO AFHQ CITE SACMED FROM AIGOM CITE ACPOL PARA

REPORTING ON ACTIVITIES IN PART AREA RESULTING FROM OUR RECENT REPRESENTATIONS TO ITALIAN GOVERNMENT REQUESTING ACTION BY TWO CMA TO PART SIGNALS QUOTE FOLLOWING IS RESULT TO DATE OF LARGE SCALE CARABINIERI OPERATIONS IN ANCONA AND MINERVINO PARTS PART PROVINCE PARTS WHICH BEGAN TWO ZERO SEPTEMBER AND ARE STILL CONTINUING PD INTENTION AGAINST THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR TEN CIVIL DISTURBANCES IN JUNE AND MANY SUBSEQUENT SEARCH FOR ARMS PD FOUR SEVEN ARRESTS PD EIGHT SEVEN WEAPONS MOSTLY SPORTING GUNS AND PISTOLS PD MANY BEING FLED TO COUNTRY AND FORMED ARMED GANGS PD FIVE NINE ZERO CARABINI INVOLVED PD SKIRMISH RESULTED IN WOUNDS PD NO CASUALTIES AMONG CHARLIE CHARLIE ROVER ROUND DEPUTY SHOTS FIRED BY CARABINIERI BARRAGE WOUNDING PD NO SERIOUS INCIDENTS PD ACCIDENT TO TRUCK CARRYING CARABINIERI RESULTED ONE DEAD ONE SIX INJURED PD UNQUOTE PD

DIST: ~~ADVANCEMENT~~
Chief Commissioner
Ex Commissioner (2)
CA Sec
POLAD (A)
POLAD (P) 330

Public Safety S/S

NICHOLAS FLEMING
CPO USA
Asst Adjutant

560

JOHN P. CHAPMAN Col.

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

91 A

INCOMING MESSAGE

24 SET. 1945 Annotazione

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

Originator's Reference: LD/38
Date/Time of Origin: SEPT 22/1530A
Message Centre No: F/8694
Date Time Rec'd: SEPT 23/0930A
Precedence: IMMEDIATE

FROM ALCOM LO BARI

TO : HQ ALCOM FOR EXEC COMMISSIONER RPTD CIVIL AFFAIRS SEC PUBLIC SAFETY SUB COM
52 AREA DIFO: 54 AREA

SECRET

SECRET.

Following is result to date of large scale carabinieri operations in ANDRIA and MINERVINO (BARI Province) which began 20 September and are still continuing. Intention arrest those responsible for the civil disturbances in June and make widespread search for arms. 47 arrests. 87 weapons mostly sporting guns and pistols. Many persons fled to country and forming armed gangs. 500 carabinieri involved. SANMARCO Regt in reserve. No casualties among CC/RR despite shots fired at carabinieri barracks MINERVINO. No serious incidents. Accident to truck carrying carabinieri reserves resulted 1 dead 16 injured

3309

ACTION

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS 23 SEP 1945

DIST

ACTION : PUBLIC SAFETY SC

INFO : CHIEF COMMISSIONER
EX COMMISSIONER (2)
CA SEC
POLAD (A)
POLAD (B)
FILE

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

CC.RR.GRUPPO COMANDO
Situation and Liaison Office

N°499/66

17 SET. 1945

Roma 7.9.1945

90A

14602/10

OGGETTO: PUGLIE disordini.

At Puglie after the noted avvenimment of last June, the CC.RR. with the collaboration of the P.S. at conclusion of long, laborious and complicate inquiry, for the identification of the responsible, as denounce:

- for the facts of Minervino Murge, 63 persons and
" " " " Andria and Corato, 15.

The General Commandant
/s/ BRUNETTI BRUNETTO

TO	INIT	DATE
INSPECTOR		18/9
DEPUTY DIRECTOR		
EXEC. OFFICER		12-9
POLICE		12-9
P.O. BOX		
SECURITY		
CHIEF CLERK		

39

0607

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

10 SET. 1945

RISERVATO PERSONALE

Comando Generale dell'Arma dei Carabinieri Reali

UFFICIO SERVIZIO - SITUAZIONE E COLLEGAMENTI

N. 499/66 di prot. R.P. Roma, li 7 settembre 1945

Risposta al del n. Allegati n.

OGGETTO: Puglie - Disordini.

ALLA COMMISSIONE ALLEATA - Sottocommissione per la P.S. -

R O M A

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In Puglia, dopo i noti avvenimenti del giugno scorso, l'Arma, in collaborazione con la P.S., a conclusione di lunghe, laboriose e complesse indagini, per l'identificazione dei responsabili, ha denunziato:

-per i fatti di Minervino Murge, 63 persone e
-per i fatti di Andria e Corato, 19.

3293

IL GENERALE COMANDANTE
- Brunetto Brunetti -

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

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
Office of the Executive Commissioner

14 SET. 1945

14 September 1945

Ref: 3629/EC

87A

SUBJECT: Civil Disturbances

TO : Public Safety Subcommission

Would you please remind the Italian Prime Minister that no reply has yet been received to letter AC/14602/10/PS dated 16 August 1945 on the above subject.

TO	INITIAL	DATE
SECTION		
DEPUTY EXECUTIVE COMMISSIONER		
EXECUTIVE COMMISSIONER	JMA	15-9
POLITICAL		
ECONOMIC		
PUBLIC SAFETY		
ADMINISTRATION		
SECURITY		
CHIEF CLERK		

for Chief Staff Officer
To Executive Commissioner

3237

This letter annulled by request from Ex Comm. Office. Duplicate will write this letter 16 Sept 45

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

(Translation C.C.)

4 SET. 1945

Rome 21 Aug. 1945

MINISTRY OF INTERIOR
General Direction

Division A.G.R. Section 2

N. 442/II959

To ALLIED COMMISSION
SUB COMMISSION P.S.
ROME

SUBJECT: Incidents in Bari Province

Recalling previous communications and for last, the note N°442/8627 of 30/8/45, we are transmitting a copy of report issued from Bari Prefect and the scheme of arrangement on the personnel service of that Questura.

The situation in Bari Province remains stationary but delicate owing to bad economic situation with lots of unemployed workmen roaming about the province as there are also many dismissed partisans not yet absorbed. The political situation is not yet made clear.

The Italian Government is seriously preoccupied about their welfare and has therefore ordered utility works on a large scale in order to provide work for at least a good many of them.

Round ups are going on in the best possible manner but part of the men on service in that province had to be sent urgently to province of Matera at the time when re-enforcements necessitated and now it's requested their return to Unit.

By the way, the Prefect of Bari has signalled that the Allied Authorities has ordered the withdrawal of the Unit " Garibaldi" dislocated in that area retaining necessary the return to Bari as the situation is again normalized.

This Ministry has informed the interested section of the Ministry of War.

. The giving up of firearms has not met the expected results although the political parties had also taken great interest in the matter; researches and control are also inefficacious because firearms in most cases are ably concealed.

However, police actions are still taking place.

The last reports arrived here gives the following results: arms given up 1655 of which 1450 regolarly denounced and 205 given up spontaneously including 50 muskets belonging ex "g.i.l", which were under the care of the communist section at Andria.

Of the prisoners arbitrarily freed from judiciary prisons at Andria, 31 are again in custody, while other 3 are no more sought after.

For the Minister
/s/illegible

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

MINISTRY OF INTERIOR

Public opinion is in continuous alarm for the frequency in which episodes of mean delinquency is taken place in the areas of MINERVINO MURGE and SPINAZZOLA. Criminals work grouped in bands and are modernly equiped. Trains charged with goods are searched, in those two localities, under the pretext of food supply and numerous robberies of sheafs from the farmers and scores of other illegal doings are carried on frequently.

The P.S. Authorities have been busy in giving the population the necessary assurance by gradually checking the abuses, arresting 44 of the principal authors of train looting and other robberies, many of whom have confessed their crimes.

On morning of 25/6/45, at MINERVINO MURGE, prejudiced individuals aided by desertors, taking the pretext from the arrest of 3 communists suspected of robberies, started an hostile demonstration against the CC.RR. barracks requesting the release of 3 other self confessed criminals and authors of various robberies and train lootings. Later on during the translation of the prisoners, the CC.RR. were shot at and soon afterwards a mass of armed townspeople appeared firing also with automatic rifles and proceeded to besiege the barracks.

Re-enforcements were hurried to the spot but could not get near the besieged barracks on account of the shooting which issued at their appearence.

One civilian was killed and two others with one carabineer got wounded.

As threatening disorders were issued from other provinces and to avoid open conflict which would have caused a great number of death casualies, The Ministry of Interior gave orders for re-enforcements to withdraw to Andria, on the 26 th disorders broke out also there without plausible reasons. A party of carabineers on patrol were assaulted with hand granades; one got killed and two wounded. Soon after a lorry full of carabineers returning from Minervino was attached by the rioters with fireshots; two of them were wounded. A second lorry with re-enforcements was attached with authomatic arms; two killed and four wounded, the other occupants of the lorry were taken to communist section at Andria and discharged of their arms(20 muskets, 22 pistols and 6 automatic riffles) and of their uniforms. 32295

The a/m crimes have been explained by the pretended faulty activity of the police dealing with fascists. To this effect it becomes necessary to explain that prior to the promulgation of the known

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

laws and still bef[illegible]e the enactment of circul[illegible]s issued by Minister of Interior and High Commissary for epuration, dispositions were given to police to speed up examinations of dangerous fascists in order to easy proceeding against them. The Provincial Commission infact has examined up to now, according to art.166 of the P.S. laws, since April 1945, 99 cases adopting the following dispositions: nn.28 temporarily put off, 3 acquitted, 23 warned for mistrust, 28 warned, 16 confined I detained, 150 cases are under examination. The pretended slowness is to be attributed to the insufficiency of elements which are often drawn against the indicted and have caused the Commission to adopt supplimentary sittings. Notwithstanding all-that, to put a stop to the sad episodes already verified it has been ordered the release of 11 individuals arrested at Minervino to be subsequently denounced on parole and in meantime, during night following 26 th, numerous arrests of took place including fascist already signalled by the Communist Party as dangerous elements. On following morning an armed populace surrounded the CC.RR. barracks while armed communists went to the prison and liberated 46 prisoners of common crimes, 36 in penal servitude, 4 at Allied Authorities disposal and 6 awaiting judgment.

Some armed masses have been requisitioning alle the motor vehicles in circolation including those sent with police re-enforcement utilizing them for concentrating communists at Andria from the surrounding towns.

The local communist chief has declared to be unable to check the excited mass of people except on the condition to have with the Prefecture Commissary a joint Commissary having the people's approval.

Even to this request of the people something was being done, but this appointment and the presence of Minister Barbareschi who expressly arrived on the scene did not serve to cool down the ill feelings of the population, as on the night of the 27th and 28 th groups of violent persons penetrated into Preture Offices, at the P.S. Commissariat and of that of the Industry, destroying all the documents they could find.

3253

The night guard's office was burnt so was that of the rural guards, both were put out by the firemen from Barletta called for the purpose.

On same evening of the 28th, an armed group went out on motorcar to the dwellings of the rural guard DE FEO Michele situated in locality "Santa Chiara"; on meeting his son named Giovanni, soldier, they fired at him with an automatic rifle wounding him in the shoulder. Injured as he was, Giovanni went for his rifle and killed two of the aggressor putting the rest on the run; When they arrived at Corato they referred the incident to the local communists who decided to assault the CC.RR. barrecks of Corato with hand grenads and automatic firearms, wounding one carabineer and compelling the commander to give up immediactly

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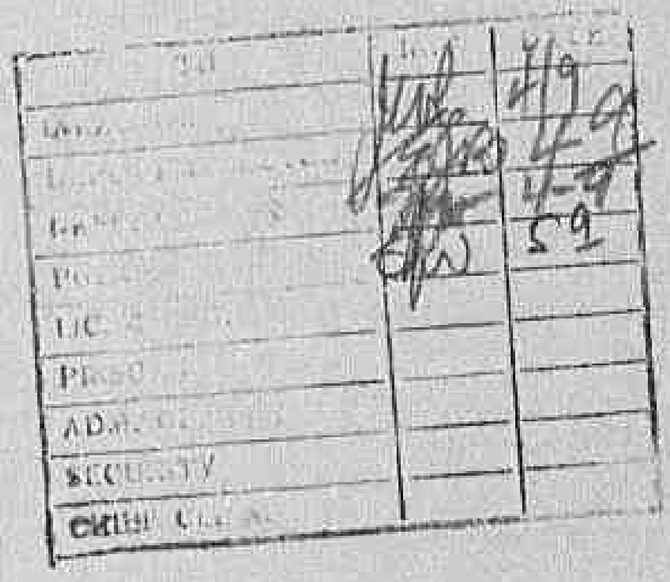
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

arms and ammunitions, at same time sacking-the Commander's private lodgings of his personal valuables. Meantime, a group went to locality "Santa Chiara" for the transportation of the bodies and to withdrew the motor-vehicle which was temporarily abbandoned, another group went to Andria to kill two brothers and a daughter of the rural guard DE FEO Michele and trying to burn their lodgings.

The morning after (29/6/45) the same group on heavy lorry went to trani with the intention to suppress also De Feo Giovanni but nothing was done because after the first aid of his wound he was taken to Bari prisons. On the night of the 30 th about 200 unknown persons stole 50 quintals of corn in sheap, at locality "Acquelotta", from Ercole Antonio residing at Spinazzole.

Bari July 2nd 1945



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

evening they went back and took away 4 quintals of same;

10) II/6/45 twenty unknown persons started to mow wheat in a "140 are" field, the properties of CIANI Vincenzo, BILANZUOLI Luigi, SASSI Paolo, and TANNO Mariano at locality "Caterino" in MINERVINO MURGE carrying away all.

11) On 15/6/45 eight bandits searched the house of Sevino PASQUALE AT Minervino Murge without taking anything away. On same day six others appeared at the house of Belanzuoli Vincenzo; at same time fifteen of them searched three times the house of LASCIO Domenico taking away the total ammount of 170 litres of olive oil;

12) On 16/6/45 other groups of bandits repeatedly searched the house of Ciani Michele at MINERVINO MURGE, nothing was taken;

13) On 18/6/45, always on the same country-side of Minervino MURGE, a band of about 100 bandits tryed to steal wheat from PARTONI Pasquale's field ed also from that of Sevino, nothing was taken away on account of the ready intervention of the CC.RR.

14) On 21/6/45 the CC.RR. arrested TERZULLI Francesco, TERZULLI Giuseppe, MARTINELLI Giuseppe, LORUSSO Angelo and CARLONE Riccardo componente of a gang of armed robbers; the following day the same arrested MARTOCCIA Angelo and SANSONE Pasquale both returned convixts and associated with bandits. On same day were arrested BRIZZI Giuseppe and COSOLO Vernaro for being well known rogues, all being from MINERVINO MURGE;

15) On 24/6/45 the CC.RR. arrested CHIEPPA Francesco 329 BOIA Vincenzo responsible for the robbery of fire-arms belonging to CHICCO Giuseppe.

And lastly, on the night before 1/7/45, a strong force of bandits carried away 50 quintals of wheat; on following day, presumably same robbers, took away other 30 quintals of wheat from same farm belonging to Ercole Antonio at locality " Acquadotta " (Minervino).

The news of trouble reported from Minervino, Andria and Corato and the necessity to disarm all civilians, according to instructions from the government, imposes to the police organs an energetic and decisive action for stopping criminal activities explicated by violent persons, returned convicts and desesters perfectly organized, and instructed with the use of modern fire-arms with which they are in possession. It turns out to be necessary, with the approval of the Ministry, patrol duties with mobile

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

and fixed blo[illegible] houses for P.S. and CC.RR. combined forces in the territory of Minervino, Canosa, Andria, Corato, Spinazzola and nearly towns-, with principle object in view, the capture bandits and sweeping up of their arms.

For the direction of the service, is appointed vice-questore NARDONE Armando who will establish himself at Barletta for the lasting time of the operations, and at whose disposal will be 150 CC.RR.'s and 100 P.S. police with relative officers taken from the O.I. Company of ready formation.

Two motor-cycles will be alloted to each P.S. and CC.RR. on service.

The Comm. Nardone will be assisted by P.S. officials from Barletta and Trani. Similarily the Comm. of CC.RR. external group is begged to take contact with Vice Questore NARDONE in order to take steps for a profitable collaboration in regards to exam of tecnicel details, armament etc. Eight motor-vehicles will be placed at their disposal, three of which for the reserve.

The largest territory to patrol is that included within the area of Canosa, Minervino, Spinazzola, Andria, and Corato with special regards to sector limited by triangle Minervino- Castel Del Monte- Spinazzola (vertex). The services will be assisted by two groups running in the following wide sense.

3290

I) Barletta-Andria-Castel del Monte-territory of Minervino and Spinazzola.

2) Barletta-Canosa-territory of Minervino and Spinazzola.

The vehicles must move at such a distance as to maintain a constant contact for mutual help in case of emergency. The service is to begin at 3 a.m. lasting 8-10 hours.

It's obvious that according to the necessities, such time service might have a radical change now and again; similarily in regards to a/m running directions, as it might be found necessary to choose secondary roads avoiding thus principal ones connecting towns.

Before taking steps for initial operations it should be advisable to procede with a careful examination of said peculiar territory in order to enrure the best exit of the service.

Particular care will be given by Director of the service and by Comm. of external group of CC.RR.

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

for the examinatio of question relation to meeting places, observation, landmarks etc.

The telephone of the pugliese acquiduct at Minervino for exemple will be garrisoned for rapid means of communications with the Chief-town and Barletta as also with the different CC.RR. stations, while others will be eventually found suitable at same acquiduct of the area in question. As said before, the beats have the object in view to capture all criminals and deprive them of firearms, but all suspected, armed or not, found circulating within the territory under the care of patrols have to be rounded up.

Besides control of persons found carrying goods, all properties must receive due attention for any eventual concealment of arms.

Special information services must be appointed for the purpose of identifying suspected or responsibles as for interrogating the people that have been damaged ever since many weeks of months before.

The rounded up are to be transported to TRANI prisons and at the disposal of the P.S.Authorities while the arms sequestrated are to be gathered in a place and disclosed to this Ministry immediately.

After the reconnaissance of the area by the Vice questore NARDONE in armony with commander of external group and after exams of details for the practical use of the services, shall get ready an esteemate of plans completed with particular reliefs on the constitution of armaments, in reference to the various parties, modalities of action, informatives, junctions, etc. To be reported also, necessities and difficulties resulting after the examination of area, proposals and suggestions to better the success of the service.

From the initial of the service, reports are to be given every 24 hours with most rapid means while eventual emergencies shall be communicated by means of telephone or messanger; 3269

The commander of company in re-enforcement shall provide for the victualling and billeting of own unit previous agreement with SEPRAI and other competent authorities.

The attention of operating Organs are re-called upon the importance that the Government annexes to success of the predisposed services on account of the delicate and difficult situation which all of us has to face.

The Questore
/s/ Di Salvia

Mod. 872

Ministero dell'Interno
DIREZIONE GENERALE
DELLA PUBBLICA SICUREZZA

Roma, 21 agosto 1945

All'ON. COMMISSIONE
ALLEATA
Sottocommissione per la
Pubblica Sicurezza
ROMA

Divisione A.G.R. Sez. 2
Prot. N. 442/11953 Allegati

Risposta al Foglio del
Div. Sez. N.

OGGETTO Provincia di Bari. Incidenti.

Richiamando le precedenti comunicazioni e, per ultimo, la nota n.442/8627 del 30 giugno u.s., si trasmettono in copia, per notizia, un rapporto del Prefetto di Bari ed un ordine di servizio di quella Questura.

La situazione nella provincia di Bari - pur essendo cessati gli atti di rivolta e gli altri illegalismi - permane delicata a causa specialmente della situazione economica veramente preoccupante in cui vivono numerosi operai disoccupati, reduci e partigiani che non hanno potuto ancora essere assorbiti. Anche la situazione politica non si è chiarita essendo ~~essendo~~ evidentemente connessi i due 32c8.

Il Governo italiano - superando gravi difficoltà - cerca di venire incontro alle esigenze della popolazione di quelle zone con la messa in opera di lavori di ogni genere, ma non si ritiene che riesca possibile assorbire tutti i disoccupati.

I servizi di polizia e di rastrellamento vengono effettuati nel miglior modo possibile, ma una parte degli uomini, fatti a suo tempo affluire in quella provincia, è stata dovuta inviare di urgenza nella vicina provincia di Matera per sopperire alle necessità che sono sorte in quella zona, a causa di incidenti ivi verificatisi. Si sta cercando di far rientrare a Bari tali forze.

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

DIREZIONE GENERALE
DELLA PUBBLICA SICUREZZA

ALLEATA
Sottocommissione per la
Pubblica Sicurezza
ROMA

Divisione A.G.R. Sez. 2
Prot. N. 242/1195 Allegato

Risposta al Foglio del
Div. Sez. N.

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A proposito di ciò, si deve far presente che il Prefetto di Bari ha segnalato che i militari della "Garibaldi", già dislocati in quella provincia, sono stati fatti allontanare da quella zona d'ordine delle Autorità Alleate ed ha manifestato la necessità che essi siano fatti

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

ritornare a Bari non essendosi la situazione, come già detto, normalizzata.

Questo Ministero ha interessato in proposito il Dicastero della Guerra.

La consegna delle armi, in verità, non ha dato i risultati sperati; i mezzi escogitati, anche attraverso l'intervento dei partiti, sono stati scarsi, mentre inefficaci si mostrano le perquisizioni ed i controlli in massa, perchè le armi, nella maggior parte dei casi, sono state abilmente celate.

Purtuttavia l'azione degli organi di polizia è tuttora in atto.

L'ultima segnalazione qui pervenuta dà il seguente risultato:

- Armi versate 1555, di cui 1450 regolarmente denunziate e 205 versate spontaneamente, ivi compresi 50 moschetti bailli di pertinenza dell'ex "g.i.l.", versati dalla Sezione Comunista di Andria.

Dei detenuti arbitrariamente liberati dalle carceri giudiziarie di Andria 31 sono di nuovo in carcere, mentre altri 3 non sono più ricercati.

PEL MINISTRO

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

Mod 639

Ministero dell'Interno

COPIA

Da qualche tempo nella zona di Minervino Murge e di Spinazzola si erano registrati episodi di bassa delinquenza che tenevano particolarmente allarmata l'opinione pubblica. Anche per la circostanza, più volte accertata e segnalata, che i malfattori operavano raggruppati in bande, armate ed equipaggiate modernamente.

Le varie azioni delittuose, culminavano nel furto, sotto pretesto annonario, di treni allo scalo di Minervino Murge e di Spinazzola, in numerose rapine di covoni di grano in pregiudizio di proprietari locali nonchè in molteplici atti di illegalità, quali perquisizioni, impossessamento di oggetti, sequestro non consentita di merci ecc.

Tale situazione imponeva all'Autorità di P.S. un intervento energico inteso a reprimere gli abusi, in modo da ottenere in maniera graduale, con la eliminazione dei maggiori responsabili, il ripristino della libertà e sicurezza, gravemente minacciate.

Partendo da tale presupposto veniva rinforzata adeguatamente l'Arma di Minervino e si attuavano azioni per identificare i maggiori esponenti delle bande. Si riusciva in tal modo ben presto ad identificare 44 persone che avevano partecipato a mano armata al fermo dei treni, denunciandole all'Autorità Giudiziaria a piede libero. A più riprese poi, nella flagranza, venivano arrestati altri 11 autori di rapine, per la maggior parte rei confessi.

Il mattino del 25 Giugno u.s. a Minervino Murge pregiudicati sbandati e disertori, componenti delle bande armate, cogliendo pretesto del

3237

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

C O P I A

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Tale situazione imponeva all'Autorità di P.S. un intervento energico inteso a reprimere gli abusi,in modo da ottenere in maniera graduale,con la eliminazione dei maggiori responsabili, il ripristino della libertà e sicurezza,gravemente minacciate.

Partendo da tale presupposto veniva informata adeguatamente l'Arma di Minervino e si attuavano azioni per identificare i maggiori esponenti delle bande.Si riusciva in tal modo ben presto ad identificare 44 persone che avevano partecipato a mano armata al fermo dei treni, denunciandole all'Autorità Giudiziaria a piede libero.A più riprese poi,nella flagranza, venivano arrestati altri 11 autori di rapine,per la maggior parte rei confessi.

Il mattino del 25 Giugno u.s. a Minervino Murge pregiudicati sbandati e disertori,componenti delle bande armate,cogliendo pretesto del fermo di 3 compiacenti indagati di rapina e rilasciati poco dopo a seguito di accertamenti negativi,si abbandonavano ad atti di ostilità contro la caserma dei carabinieri,pretendendo il rilascio di altri 3 detenuti,confessi autori di rapina e svaligiamento di treni. In seguito,durante la traduzione degli arrestati i militari dell'Arma

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3237

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 78 S 016

venivano fatti segno a colpi di arma da fuoco andati a vuoto e, poco dopo, le masse minervinesi, armatesi di tutto punto, cingevano d'assedio la caserma contro la quale si iniziava una intensa preparatoria anche con armi automatiche. Alla prima notizia dell'accaduto, ritardata per l'interruzione di ogni mezzo di comunicazione, venivano fatti affluire sul posto rinforzi di carabinieri ed agenti di P.S. che però non riuscivano a raggiungere l'abitato perchè tenuti sotto il tiro di mitragliatrici e mortai appostati sulle alture controllate dagli insorti.

In tale frangente si deplorava la morte di un civile ed il ferimento di due civili ed un carabiniere. La situazione si inasprìva ed il giorno successivo e per la rimozione di due ordini in altri comuni della provincia e di provincie limitrofe e per evitare un conflitto con conseguente enorme numero di vittime, venivano ritirati i rinforzi, su conforme avviso del Ministero dell'Interno, facendoli ripiegare su Andria, paese che fino a quel momento si manteneva calmo. Un capitano dei CC.RR. che aveva raggiunto Minervino per svolgere opera di persuasione, veniva trattenuto in ostaggio e successivamente liberato a condizione che ottenesse il rilascio degli 11 delinquenti arrestati.

Intanto la situazione di Andria cominciava ad aggravarsi, pur senza plausibile incentivo.

Nel pomeriggio del 26 in quest'ultimo paese un pattuglione di carabinieri veniva aggredito con bomba a mano: un militare veniva ucciso e due feriti. Poco dopo un autocarro di carabinieri che ritornava da Minervino, ad un bivio campestre nei pressi di Andria, veniva fatto segno a colpi di arma da fuoco, che ferivano altri due militari. Infine un secondo autocarro mandato in soccorso del primo veniva nuovamente attaccato con armi automatiche; restava ucciso un carabiniere e feriti altri quattro, mentre gli altri carabinieri che occupavano l'automezzo venivano condotti nella sezione comunista di Andria e privati delle armi e delle divise. Venivano così sottratti dai rivoltosi 20 moschetti, 22 pistole e 6 Thompson mitra. La stessa

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

t omatiche. Alle prime notizie dell'accaduto, ritardata per l'interruzione di ogni mezzo di comunicazione, venivano fatti affluire sul posto rinforzi di carabinieri ed agenti di P.S. che però non riuscivano a raggiungere l'obiettivo perchè tenuti sotto il tiro di mitragliatrici e mortai appostati sulle alture controllate dagli insorti.

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I delitti suddetti venivano motivati da una pretesa mancata attività della Polizia circa l'applicazione delle sanzioni contro i fascisti.

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

Mod 839

Ministero dell'Interno

Occorre precisare in merito che questo ufficio, prima ancora della promulgazione delle note leggi repressive e prima ancora della emanazione delle circolari sia del Ministero dell'Interno e sia dell'Alto Commissariato delle Sanzioni contro il fascismo, aveva provveduto ad emanare disposizioni agli organi di Polizia dipendenti per il sollecito esame dei fascisti pericolosi, agli effetti dei provvedimenti da adottare. La Commissione Provinciale di cui all'art.156 Legge di P.S., infatti, ha esaminato e tutt'oggi, dal IO Aprile 1945 N.99 pratiche, adottando i seguenti provvedimenti: rinvii N.28, prosciolti N.3, diffidati N.23, ammoniti N.28, confinati N.16, internati N.1, in istruzione vi sono circa 150 altre pratiche.

La pretesa lentezza è da attribuire alla insufficienza degli elementi molte volte riportati a carico dei prevenuti e che ha costretto la Commissione a supplementi di istruttoria.

Nonostante tutto, per porre termine ai tristi e inodi verificatisi, si ordinava il rilascio degli 11 arrestati di Mirabino, pur essendo denunziati a piede libero e nel contempo, nella notte dal 26 al 27 si procedeva al fermo di ammoniti e diffidati politici nonchè di numerosi altri fascisti segnalati dal Partito Comunista come pericolosi e passibili di sanzioni. Ma ecco il mattino del 27 che dalle prime ore si assedia la caserma dei carabinieri mentre squadre di comunisti armate reclamano al carcere liberando 46 detenuti per delitti comuni, di cui 36 in espiazione di pena, 4 a disposizione dalla Autorità Alleata e 6 in attesa di giudizio.

Inoltre le stesse masse armate requisivano tutti gli automezzi in circolazione, compresi quelli con i quali gruppi tratti inviati i rinforzi di Polizia, utilizzandoli per concentrare ad Arezzo comunisti di altri paesi che dotati di armamenti anche pesanti presidiavano gli accessi all'abita-

3236

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 78-2016

Occorre precisare in merito che questo ufficio, prima ancora della promulgazione delle note leggi repressive e prima ancora della emanazione delle circolari sia del Ministero dell'Interno e sia dell'Alto Commissariato delle Sanzioni contro il fascismo, aveva provveduto ad emanare disposizioni agli organi di Polizia dipendenti, per il sollecito esame dei fascisti pericolosi, agli effetti dei provvedimenti da adottare. La Commissione Provinciale di cui all'art. 156 Legge di P.S., infatti, ha esaminato a tutt'oggi, dal IO Aprile 1945 N.99 pratiche, adottando i seguenti provvedimenti: rinvii N.28, prosciolti N.5, diffidati N.29, ammoniti N.28, confinati N.16, internati N.1, in istruzione vi sono circa 150 altre pratiche.

La pretesa lentezza è da attribuire alla insufficienza degli elementi molte volte rapportati a carico dei prevenuti e che ha costretto la Commissione a supplementi di istruttoria.

Nonostante tutto, per porre termine ai tristi episodi verificatisi, si ordinava il rilascio degli 11 arrestati di Mileto, pur essi denunciati a piede libero e nel contempo, nella notte dal 26 al 27 si procedeva al fermo di ammoniti e diffidati politici nonchè di numerosi altri fascisti segnalati dal Partito Comunista come pericolosi e passibili di sanzioni, ma sono le mattino del 27 che folla armata pose l'assedio alla caserma dei carabinieri mentre squadre di comunisti armate rastrellavano il centro liberando 46 detenuti per delitti comuni, di cui 36 in espiazione di pena, 4 a disposizione delle autorità alleata e 6 in attesa di giudizio.

Inoltre le stesse masse armate requisivano tutti gli automezzi in circolazione, compresi quelli con i quali erano stati inviati i rinforzi di Polizia, utilizzandoli per concentrare ad Amatia comunisti di altri paesi che dotati di armamenti anche pesanti presidiavano gli accessi all'abitato.

La situazione giacchè invece di migliorare si andava aggravando di minuto in minuto ed il segretario comunista del posto ci dichiarava impotente a frenare le masse agitate se non eravamo di sostituire immediatamen-

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

te il Commissario Prefettizio in carica con elemento comunista di loro fiducia. Anche questa richiesta, si ottemperava nell'intento di porre fine ai disordini che minacciavano di trabocoare in una vera e propria guerra civile. Ma neppure tale nomina, come anche la presenza del Ministro Barbaresohi nel frattempo intervenuto, servirà a ridonare la calma, da poichè nella notte del 27 al 28 e nella mattinata del 28 gruppi di facinorosi gestravano negli uffici della Pretura, del Commissariato di P.S. e dell'Industria, distruggendo fascicoli e carteggio. Nell'ufficio dei vigili notturni ed in quello delle guardie campestri veniva appiccato il fuoco che veniva domato dai vigili di Barletta subito accorsi. Inoltre nel pomeriggio dello stesso giorno 28, un gruppo di armati si recava in automobile in contrada S. Chiara di Trani e si presentava nella abitazione del guardiano privato De Feo Michele per motivi ingiustificati. Incontratisi con il figlio del De Feo e nome Giovanni, soldato, gli esplodevano alcuni colpi di fucile mitragliatore ferendolo alla spalla. Il De Feo Giovanni armatosi di moschetto uccideva due aggressori ponendo in fuga gli altri i quali, recatisi a Corato sobillavano quei comunisti. Circa un migliaio di essi, recatisi dopo erano stati radunati presso la Camera del Lavoro tra il 28 e il 29 assalivano la caserma dei carabinieri di Corato con bombe a mano e di fucili automatici, ferendo un carabiniere e costringendo quel comandante di stazione a consegnare immediatamente le armi e munizioni. Nello stesso tempo saccheggiavano la caserma e l'alloggio del comandante, nel quale rubavano valori di sua proprietà. Infine mentre un gruppo di essi si recava in contrada S. Chiara per trasportare ad Andria i cadaveri dei due uccisi e ritirare l'automobile abbandonata, un altro gruppo si portava ad Andria dove uccideva due fratelli ed una figlia del De Feo Michele, tentando di fare alle fiamme la casa.

Verso le ore 12 del 29 stesso gruppo di comunisti di Andria armati si portavano con autocarro a Trani allo scopo di trovare il De Feo Giovanni, per sopprimerlo, cosa che non si verificò perchè costui, dopo le prime

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 78 5016

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 783016

...ucia. Immediatamente richiesta, si ottemperava nell'intento di porre fine ai disordini che minacciavano di trasformare in una vera e propria guerra civile. Ma neppure tale nomina, come anche la presenza del Ministro sottosegretario nel frattempo intervenuto, serviva a ridonare la calma, da poichè nelle notte del 27 al 28 e nella mattinata del 28 gruppi di facinorosi penetravano negli uffici della Pretura, del Commissariato di P.S. e dell'Ingegneria, distruggendo fascicoli e carteggio. Nell'ufficio dei vigili notturni ed in quello delle guardie campestri veniva appiccato il fuoco che veniva domato dai vigili di Palestra subito accorsi. Inoltre nel pomeriggio dello stesso giorno 28, un gruppo di armati si recava in automobile in contrada S. Chiara di Trani e si presentava nella abitazione del guardiano privato De Feo Michele per motivi imprecisati. Incontratosi con il figlio del De Feo a nome Giovanni, soldato, gli esplodevano alcuni colpi di fucile mitragliatore fermandolo alle spalle. Il De Feo Giovanni armatosi di moschetto uccideva due aggressori ponendo in fuga gli altri i quali, raccolti i feriti subito abbillavano quei comunisti. Circa un migliaio di essi, arrestati dopo essersi radunati presso la Camera del Lavoro tra il 28 e il 29 assalivano la caserma dei carabinieri di Corato con bombe a mano e di fucili automatici, ferendo un carabiniere e costringendo quel comandante di stazione a consegnare immediatamente le armi e munizioni. Nello stesso tempo saccheggiavano la caserma e l'alloggio del comandante, nel quale rubavano valori di sua proprietà. Infine mentre un gruppo di essi si recava in contrada S. Chiara per trasportare ad Andria i cadaveri dei due uccisi e ritirare l'automobile abbandonata, un altro gruppo si portava ad Andria dove uccideva due fratelli ed una figlia del De Feo Michele, tentando di darne alle fiamme la casa.

Verso le ore 12 del 29 stesso gruppo di comunisti di Andria armati si portavano con autocarro a Trani allo scopo di trovare il De Feo Giovanni, per sopprimerlo, cosa che non si verificò perchè costui, dopo le prime cure, era stato avviato al carcere di Bari.

Tra il 30 ed il primo corrente in contrada Acquelotta di Minervino circa 200 sconosciuti armati rubavano 60 quintali di grano in covoni in

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te il Commissario Prefettizio in carica con elemento comunista di loro fiducia. Anche questa richiesta, si ottemperava nell'intento di porre fine ai disordini che minacciavano di trabboccare in una vera e propria guerra civile. Ma neppure tale nomina, come anche la presenza del Ministro Barbareschi nel frattempo intervenuto, servirà a ridonare la calma, da poichè nelle notte del 27 al 28 e nella mattinata del 28 gruppi di facinorosi gestravano negli uffici della Pretura, del Commissariato di P.S. e dell'Industria, distruggendo fascicoli e carteggio. Nell'ufficio dei vigili notturni ed in quello delle guardie campestri veniva appiccato il fuoco che veniva domato dai vigili di turno subito accorsi. Inoltre nel pomeriggio dello stesso giorno 28, un gruppo di armati si recava in automobile in contrada S. Chiara di Trani e si presentava nella abitazione del guardiano privato De Feo Michele per motivi imprecisati. Incontratisi con il figlio del De Feo a nome Giovanni, soldato, gli esplodevano alcuni colpi di fucile mitragliatore ferendolo alla spalla. Il De Feo Giovanni armatosi di moschetto uccideva due aggressori ponendo in fuga gli altri i quali, raccolti a Corato sobillavano quei comunisti. Circa un migliaio di essi, recatisi dopo essersi radunati presso la Camera del Lavoro tra il 28 e il 29 assalivano la caserma dei carabinieri di Corato con bombe a mano e di fucili automatici, ferendo un carabiniere e costringendo quel comandante di stazione a consegnare immediatamente le armi e munizioni. Nello stesso tempo saccheggiavano la caserma e l'alloggio del comandante, nel quale rubavano valori di sua proprietà. Infine mentre un gruppo di essi si recava in contrada S. Chiara per trasportare ad Andria i cadaveri dei due uccisi e ritirare l'automobile abbandonata, un altro gruppo si portava ad Andria dove uccideva due fratelli ed una figlia del De Feo Michele, tentando di darne alle fiamme la casa.

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

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Tra il 30 ed il primo corrente in contrada Acquelotta di Minervino circa 200 sconosciuti armati rubavano 30 quintali di grano in covoni in

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

Mod.839

Ministero dell'Interno

pregiudizio di Ercole Antonio residente a Spinazzola.

Il I corr. sei sconosciuti armati perquisivano la masseria "Giacinto dei Selemi" di Spinazzola, senza nulla asportare.

Bari 2 Luglio 1945

3235

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

Mod.839

Ministero dell'Interno

COPIA

R. QUESTURA DI BARI

Bari 8 Luglio 1945

Da qualche tempo, come è noto, nella zona di Minervino e di Spinazzola si vanno registrando episodi di bassa delinquenza che tengono particolarmente allarmata l'opinione pubblica, anche per la circostanza più volte accertata che i malfattori operano raggruppati in bande armate ed equipaggiate modernamente. Le varie azioni delittuose sono culminate nel fermo, sotto pretesto annonario, di treni allo scalo di Minervino Murge e di Spinazzola, in numerose ragine di covoni di grano in pregiudizio di proprietari locali, nonchè in molteplici atti di illegalità, quali perquisizioni, impossessamento di oggetti, sequestro non consentito di merci, sbigeati ecc.

Non mancano episodi che sotto pretesto politico (autodifesa delle classi meno abbienti) nel celano propositi delittuosi da parte di delinquenti comuni che, organizzati in forti nuclei con armi numerose di tipo moderno, infestano tuttora gli agri della zona della Murgia, generando panico tra i contadini della zona stessa con ribalderie soprusi e violenze di ogni genere.

Per la migliore cognizione dei fatti e per le conseguenti misure da adottare, si riportano qui di seguito, in ordine cronologico, gli episodi più rilevanti:

I) il 4 Aprile 1945 nella masseria Postalocone in agro di Canosa

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785019

C O P I A

R. QUESTURA DI BARI

Bari 8 Luglio 1945

Da qualche tempo, come è noto, nella zona di Minervino e di Spinazzola si vanno registrando episodi di bassa delinquenza che tengono particolarmente allarmata l'opinione pubblica, anche per la circostanza più volte accertata che i malfattori operano raggruppati in bande armate ed equipaggiate modernamente. Le varie azioni delittuose sono culminate nel fermo, otto pretesto annonario, di treni allo scalo di Minervino Murge e di Spinazzola, in numerose rapine di covoni di grano in pregiudizio di proprietari locali, nonchè in molteplici atti di illegalità, quali perquisizioni, impossessamento di oggetti, sequestro non consentito di merci, abigeati ecc.

Non mancano episodi che sotto pretesto politico (autodifesa delle classi meno abbienti) mal celano propositi delittuosi da parte di delinquenti comuni che, organizzati in forti nuclei con armi numerose di tipo moderno, infestano tuttora gli agri della zona della Murgia, generando panico tra i contadini della zona stessa con ribalderie soprusi e violenze di ogni genere.

Per la migliore cognizione dei fatti e per le conseguenti misure da adottare, si riportano qui di seguito, in ordine cronologico, gli episodi più rilevanti:

1) il 4 Aprile 1945 nella masseria Postalocone in agro di Canosa di Puglia, sconosciuti armati rubavano 35 pecore, 2 asini ed una cavalla;

2) il 23 Maggio in Minervino Murge, tra sconosciuti armati rubavano dell'abitazione di Fusano Nicola L.18.000;

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

5) il 23 Maggio in Spinazzola,un gruppo di venti armati bloccava il treno in partenza da Barletta ed il giorno successivo quello proveniente da Rocchetta S.Antonio,effettuando perquisizioni ai viaggiatori ai quali venivano asportate merci varie;

4) il 23 Maggio in Minervino Murge,altro gruppo di venti armati bloccavano il treno diretto a Barletta e quello diretto a Spinazzola con lo stesso scopo e risultato;

5) il 5 Giugno in Minervino Murge,in contrada "Bettier" due sconosciuti armati venivano sorpresi a rubare dal proprietario Lombardi Carmine;il giorno successivo altri sette sconosciuti armati si presentavano alla masseria del Lombardi,facendosi consegnare un moschetto di sua proprietà.

6) il 5 Giugno in agro di Minervino,sei sconosciuti armati si presentavano nella masseria Graseuti e si impossessavano di un fucile da caccia,di una rivoltella e di una scatola di cartucce;

7) il 6 Giugno in agro di Minervino,sconosciuti armati rapinavano delle armi la guardia giurata Toselli Luigi;

8) il 6 Giugno in agro di Spinazzola,quattro sconosciuti armati rapinavano la guardia privata Piccoli Vincenzo del fucile con quattro cartucce;

9) il 10 Giugno in Minervino Murge,sette persone perquisivano la casa di Brizzi Michele asportando 50 kg.di grano; la sera successiva tornavano dal Brizzi asportando ql.4 di grano;

10) l'11 Giugno in Minervino Murge,otto sconosciuti "Contrada "Caterino" 20 sconosciuti mietevano 140 are di grano di proprietà di Ciani Vincenzo, di Dilanzolilluigi, di Sessi Paolo e di Tenne Mariano,impossessandosene;

11) il 15 Giugno in Minervino Murge,otto sconosciuti armati perquisivano la casa di Sevino Pasquale ,senza asportare nulla. Lo stesso giorno altri sei sconosciuti si presentavano nell'abitazione di Dilanzoli Vincenzo;contemporaneamente altri 15 sconosciuti perquisivano per tre volte la casa di Di Leccio Domenico, asportando complessivamente 170 litri di olio;

12) il 16 Giugno,in Minervino Murge,altri gruppi armati,perquisivano ripetutamente la casa di Ciani Michele,senza nulla asportare;

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 78 5046

4) il 25 Maggio in Minervino Murge, altro gruppo di venti armati bloccavano il treno diretto a Barletta e quello diretto a Spinazzola con lo stesso scopo e risultato;

5) il 5 Giugno in Minervino Murge, in contrada "Lattier" due sconosciuti armati venivano sorpresi a rubare dal proprietario Lombardi Carmine; il giorno successivo altri sette sconosciuti armati si presentavano alla masseria del Lombardi, facendosi consegnare un moschetto di sua proprietà.

6) il 5 Giugno in agro di Minervino, sei sconosciuti armati si presentavano nella masseria Graceyuti e si impossessavano di un fucile da caccia, di una rivoltella e di una scatola di pallini;

7) il 6 Giugno in agro di Minervino, sconosciuti armati rapinavano delle armi la guardia giurata Toselli Luigi;

8) il 6 Giugno in agro di Spinazzola, quattro sconosciuti armati rapinavano la guardia privata Nicoli Vincenzo del fucile con quattro cartucce;

9) il IO Giugno in Minervino Murge, sette persone perquisivano la casa di Brizzi Michele asportando 50 kg. di grano; la sera successive tornavano dal Brizzi asportando Ql.4 di grano;

IO) l'II Giugno in Minervino Murge, otto sconosciuti in contrada "Caterino" 20 sconosciuti mietevano I40 are di grano di proprietà di Ciani Vincenzo, di Silenmoli Luigi, di Sasci Paolo e di Tanno Mariano, impossessandosene;

II) il I5 Giugno in Minervino Murge, otto sconosciuti armati perquisivano la casa di Savino Pasquale, senza asportare nulla. Lo stesso giorno altri sei sconosciuti si presentavano nell'abitazione di Silenmoli Vincenzo; contemporaneamente altri I5 sconosciuti perquisivano per tre volte la casa di Di Liscio Domenico, asportando complessivamente I70 litri di olio;

I2) il I6 Giugno, in Minervino Murge, altri gruppi armati, perquisivano ripetutamente la casa di Ciani Michele, senza nulla asportare;

I3) il I8 Giugno sempre in agro di Minervino Murge, una banda armata di cento persone tentava di rubare grano dal fondo di Pantone Pasquale di Savino, senza nulla asportare per il pronto intervento dell'Arma;

I4) il 2I Giugno, in Minervino Murge, l'Arma arrestava Tarsulli Francesco,

./.

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

Mod.839

Ministero dell'Interno

Terulli Giuseppe, Martinelli Giuseppe, Lorusso Angelo e Carlone Riccardo, componenti di banda armata ed autori di rapina di quattro covoni di grano; il giorno successivo venivano arrestati Martoccia Angelo e Sarcina Pasquale pregiudicati affiliati ad una banda armata. Lo stesso giorno venivano arrestati Brizzi Giuseppe e di Cecilo Gennaro componenti di bande armate e autori di rapine;

15) il 24 Giugno l'arma di Minervino Murge arrestava Chiapa Francesco e Noia Vincenzo, rea, quest'ili di rapina nei confronti di Chicco Giuseppe al quale erano state tolte le armi.

Da ultimo nella notte sul 1 corrente forti gruppi di armati si presentavano nella masseria di Ercole Antonio sita in località "Acquadetta" agro di Minervino, asportando 50 ql. di grano e il giorno successivo presumibilmente gli stessi malviventi sottraevano altri 50 ql. di grano della stessa masseria.

3283

Le note recenti agitazioni verificatesi a Minervino Murge e Corato e la necessità di attuare il disarmo dei civili, secondo le istruzioni del Governo, impongono da parte degli Organi di Polizia un'azione energica e decisa per stroncare l'attività criminosa di cui trattasi, tanto più precisamente in quanto applicata da elementi facinorosi, pregiudicati e disertori perfettamente organizzati ed adotti dal maneggio delle armi moderne di cui sono in possesso.

In sostanza l'azione che gli organi di polizia devono svolgere mira ad eliminare il fenomeno della delinquenza comune che è retaggio di tutte le guerre e a rendere impotenti i fuori legge, i quali, approfittando delle contingenti agitazioni di natura politica per mandare ad effetto i loro insani propositi di volgari delinquenti.

Si rendono, pertanto, necessari con l'approvazione del Ministero, l'attua-

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

Termilli Giuseppe, Martinelli Giuseppe, Lorusso Angelo e Carlone Riccardo, componenti di banda armata ed autori di rapina di quattro cavalli di grano; il giorno successivo venivano arrestati Mortocchia Angelo e Scarpone Pasquale pregiudicati affiliati ad una banda armata. Lo stesso giorno venivano arrestati Brisci Giuseppe e di Cosolo Gennaro componenti di bande armate e autori di rapine;

15) il 24 Giugno l'Arma di Minervino Murge arrestava Quieppa Francesco e Noia Vincenzo, responsabili di rapina nei confronti di Chirico Giuseppe al quale erano state tolte le armi.

Da ultimo nella notte sul 1 corrente forti gruppi di armati si presentavano nella masseria di Ercole Antonio sita in località "Acquadetta" agro di Minervino, asportando 50 ql. di grano e il giorno successivo presumibilmente gli stessi malviventi sottraevano altri 30 ql. di grano dalla stessa masseria.

3283

Le note recenti agitazioni verificatesi a Minervino, Andria e Corato e la necessità di attuare il disarmo dei civili, secondo le istruzioni del Governo, impongono da parte degli Organi di Polizia un'azione energica e decisa per stroncare l'attività criminosa di due tratti, tanto più preoccupante in quanto esplicata da elementi facinorosi, pregiudicati e sicuramente perfettamente organizzati ed edotti dal maneggio delle armi moderne di cui sono in possesso.

In sostanza l'azione che gli organi di polizia devono svolgere mira ad eliminare il fenomeno della delinquenza comune che è retaggio di tutte le guerre e a rendere impotenti i fuori legge, i quali, approfittando della contingenti agitazioni di natura politica per mandare ad effetto i loro insani propositi di volgari delinquenti.

Si rendono, pertanto, necessari con l'approvazione del Ministero, l'attuazione di servizi di battute e posti di blocco mobili e fissi a mezzo di agenti di P.S. e Carabinieri negli agri di Minervino, Canosa, Andria, Corato, Spinazzola e comuni vicinori. Tali servizi hanno come obiettivo principale la cattura dei delinquenti ed il rastrellamento delle armi.

./.

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

La direzione dei servizi stessi è affidata al Vice Questore Comm.Nardone Armando che si stabilirà subito a Barletta permanendovi per tutta la durata delle operazioni.Ivi sarà al più presto concentrata la forza operante costituita da 150 C.C.RR. e 100 agenti di P.S. della Compagnia C.P. di formazione e rispettivi ufficiali.Saranno dopo di là anche due motociclette fornite dalla Compagnia Mobile di Polizia e due fornite dal Comando competente dell'Arma.

Il Comm.Nardone sarà coadiuvato dai dirigenti degli uffici di P.S.di Trani e Barletta con i quali fisserà diretti accordi impartendo loro disposizioni di dettaglio.Analogamente il Comandante del Gruppo Esterno dei Carabinieri è pregato di prendere contatti con il Vice Questore Comm.Nardone per una proficua e fattiva collaborazione specie per quanto riguarda l'esame dei dettagli tecnici,armamento,mezzi,munizionamento ecc.

Per i servizi in parola; otto automezzi saranno disponibili,di cui tre di riserva; su ciascuno dei cinque camions impiegati prenderanno posto 20 fra agenti e carabinieri compreso l'autista,mentre in Barletta sarà tenuta pronta forte aliquota di uomini per fronteggiare improvvise evenienze.

La zona da perlustrare nella più larga ampiezza è quella compresa degli agri di Canosa,Minervino,Spinazzola,Andria e Corato con particolare riguardo al settore delimitato dal triangolo Minervino -Castel del Monte - Spinazzola (vertice). I servizi saranno aiutati da due gruppi che percorreranno ciascuno le seguenti direttrici di marcia in senso lato:

1) Barletta -Andria-Castel del Monte-Agro di Minervino e Spinazzola;
2) Barletta-Canosa- Agro di Minervino e Spinazzola.

Gli automezzi dovranno muoversi a distanza tale da mantenere i contatti onde potersi valere dell'aiuto reciproco in caso di emergenza.

A tal proposito saranno usati gli opportuni accorgimenti e le misure cautelari del caso per evitare imboscate,avvalendosi specialmente di mezzi fiduciari.I servizi dovranno avere inizio in linea di massima verso le ore 3 del mattino e durare otto -dieci ore.

S'ovvio che,secondo la contingenza e le necessità,saranno variate di

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

costituiti da 150 cc.ma. e 100 agenti di P.S. [illegible]
zazione con relativi ufficiali.Faranno capo alla stessa due motociclette fornite dalla Compagnia Mobile di Polizia e due fornite dal Comando competente dell'Arma.

Il Comm.Nardone sarà coadiuvato da dirigenti degli uffici di P.S.di Trani e Barletta con i quali fissera direttive circa impartendo loro disposizioni di dettaglio.Analogamente il Comandante del Gruppo Esterno dei Carabinieri è pregato di prendere contatti con il Vice Questore Comm.Nardone per una proficua e fattiva collaborazione specie per quanto riguarda l'esame dei dettagli tecnici,armamento,munizionamento ecc.

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Gli automezzi dovranno muoversi a distanza tale da mantenere i contatti onde potersi valere dell'aiuto reciproco in caso di emergenza.

A tal proposito saranno usati gli opportuni accorgimenti e le misure cautelari del caso per evitare imboscate,avvalendosi specialmente di mezzi fiduciari.I servizi dovranno avere inizio in linea di massima verso le ore 5 del mattino e durare otto -dieci ore.

E'ovvio che,secondo le contingenze e le necessità,saranno variate di volta in volta l'ora e la durata dei servizi stessi.Analogamente per quanto riflette l'itinerario,pur tenendo presente a titolo di orientamento le direttrici di cui sopra,sarà opportuno scartare il sistema dei percorsi fissi e battere specialmente le strade campestri,secondarie,i tratturi,ecc. lontane dalle arterie principali e dai centri urbani.

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

Mod 839

Ministero dell'Interno

Sarà bene al riguardo che l'inizio delle operazioni sia preceduto dalla ricognizione dei luoghi essendo la conoscenza topografica della zona di importanza peculiare per il buon esito del servizio.

Particolare cura sarà portata dal Dirigente dei servizi e dal Comandante il Gruppo Esterno dei CC.RR. all'esame delle questioni attinenti ai collegamenti, ai punti di riferimento, di osservazione, ecc.

Il telefono dell'Acquedotto Pugliese di Minervino, a mò di esempio, dovrà essere presidiato perchè possa servire per le celeri comunicazioni col Capoluogo, con Barletta e con le varie stazioni dell'Arma, mentre saranno reperiti altri eventuali telefoni dell'Acquedotto Pugliese nelle zone in parola.

Le battute, come già si è detto, avranno come scopo precipuo quello attinente al rinvenimento delle armi e alla cattura dei delinquenti.

Si procederà quindi al rastrellamento di tutti gli elementi sospetti, armati e non, che fossero trovati a circolare nelle zone [illegible].

Dovrà essere inoltre effettuata visita nelle masserie, fattorie, case rurali e pagliai, con controllo alle persone che trasportano cereali per accertare anche la legittimità del possesso di tali derrate e la loro provenienza.

Dovranno essere disposti speciali servizi di informazione, facendo capo anche ad elementi fiduciari, come sopra cennato, e ponendo mente alle segnalazioni ufficiali delle stazioni dell'Arma delle varie località con le quali saranno stabiliti opportuni contatti, anche per essere edotti su eventuali ripercussioni politiche dei centri interessati per le conseguenti misure cautelative.

Le battute avranno anche lo scopo di raccogliere notizie, indizi [illegible] che possa portare alla identificazione dei responsabili spe-

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 789116

Sarà bene al riguardo che l'inizio delle operazioni sia preceduto dalla ricognizione dei luoghi essendo la conoscenza topografica delle zone di importanza peculiare per il buon esito del servizio.

Particolare cura sarà portata dal Dirigente dei servizi e dal Comandante il Gruppo Esterno dei CC.RR. all'esame delle questioni attinenti ai collegamenti, ai punti di rifacimento, di osservazione, ecc.

Il telefono dell'Acquedotto Pugliese di Minervino, a mò di esempio, dovrà essere presidiato perchè possa servire per le celeri comunicazioni col Comando, con Barletta e con le varie stazioni dell'Arma, mentre saranno reperiti altri eventuali telefoni dell'Acquedotto Pugliese nelle zone in parola.

Le battute, come già si è detto, avranno come scopo precipuo quello attinente al rinvenimento delle armi e alla cattura dei delinquenti.

Si procederà quindi al rastrellamento di tutti gli elementi sospetti, armati e non, che fossero trovati a circolare nelle zone suddette.

Dovrà essere inoltre effettuata visita nelle masserie, fattorie, case rurali e pagliai, con controllo alle persone che trasportano cereali per accertare anche la legittimità del possesso di tale derrate e la loro provenienza.

Dovranno essere disposti speciali servizi di informazione, facendo capo anche ad elementi fiduciari, come sopra cennato, e tenendo mente alle segnalazioni ufficiali delle stazioni dell'Arma delle varie località con le quali saranno stabiliti opportuni contatti, anche per essere edotti su eventuali ripercussioni politiche dei centri interessati per le conseguenti misure cautelative.

Le battute avranno anche lo scopo di raccogliere notizie, indizi e quanto altro possa portare alla identificazione dei responsabili specialmente attraverso interrogatori dei danneggiati, per rischiarare il mistero a mesi o settimane addietro.

I fermati saranno trasportati alle carceri di Trani a disposizione delle Autorità di P.S. mentre le armi dovranno essere radunate in luogo sicuro e che sarà tempestivamente comunicato a questo Ufficio.

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

Il Vice Questore Nardone,d'accordo col Comandante del Gruppo Esterno, dopo la ricognizione dei luoghi e l'esame dei dettagli per la pratica attuazione dei servizi,farà tenere al più presto uno schema preventivo dei piani da completare con particolare rilievo alle costituzione e armamento delle varie squadriglie,modalità di azione,collegamenti,servizi informativi ecc.

Sono segnalate,inoltre,necessità e difficoltà e siano avanzate dopo l'esame in loco,proposte e suggerimenti per la migliore riuscita dei servizi stessi.

Dall'inizio di detti servizi dovranno essere resi noti col mezzo più rapido i risultati conseguiti nelle 24 ore,mentre eventuali emergenze saranno subito comunicate a mezzo telefono o corriere. Il Comandante della Compagnia di rinforzo,provveda, previa intesa preventiva con la SEPRAL e con le altre competenti autorità,ai servizi di vettovagliamento e alloggiamento del proprio Reparto.

Si richiama l'attenzione degli Organi operanti sulla importanza che dal Governo si annette alla buona riuscita dei predisposti servizi,data l'ora difficile che si attraversa. Pertanto il Comp. Nardone segnalerà gli elementi,che, nell'espletamento dei servizi,si saranno maggiormente distinti.

IL QUESTORE
f.DI SALVIA

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785246

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

AC/14602/10/PS

September 1945

My dear Mr. Prime Minister:

I will appreciate an answer to my letter of 15 August 1945 in which I urged you to make full use of the forces at your disposal to search out and confiscate all illegally held arms in Italian territory with particular reference to the Minervino Murge Area.

May I now be told of the steps you have taken toward dealing with the situation, please.

Yours very truly,

3283

ELLERY W. STONE,
Rear Admiral, USNR,
Chief Commissioner.

Professor Ferruccio PARRI
President of the Council of Ministers
Italian Government,
ROME.

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

87

AC/14602/10/PS

16 August 1945

85

My dear Mr. Prime Minister:

I would draw your attention to my letter 3629/71/MS of 5 August to which I have not received a reply.

I have now had the opportunity of considering your letter of 3 August with great care. It is with regret that I must inform you that this Commission cannot feel that adequate steps have been taken to deal with the situation at Minervino Murge.

That there is a dangerous atmosphere in the area is only too apparent and further evidence to that effect has been provided by the more recent outbreaks at Matera.

This is, without doubt, a direct challenge to the authority of your Government and calls for stern measures. In these circumstances it cannot be agreed that to rely on the voluntary surrender of arms is satisfactory, and you are urged to make full use of the forces at your disposal in order to search out and confiscate all illegally held arms. I must also urge you to take severe and prompt action against the ring-leaders.

The Supreme Allied Commander has been taking personal interest in this whole affair and has expressed strong views at what he regards as inadequate steps so far taken.

Yours very truly,

/s/ Ellery W. Stone

ELLERY W. STONE,
Rear Admiral, USNR,
Chief Commissioner.

Professor Ferruccio PARRI
President of the Council of Ministers,
Italian Government,
ROME.

DRAFT

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

Ref AC/14602/10/PS

August 1945

My dear Mr. Prime Minister :

I have now had the opportunity of considering your letter of 3 August with great care. It is with regret that I must inform you that this Commission cannot feel that adequate steps have been taken to deal with the situation at Minervino Murge.

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The Supreme Allied Commander has been taking personal interest in this whole affair and has expressed strong views at what he regards as inadequate steps so far taken.

Yours very truly

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

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That there is a dangerous atmosphere in the area is only too apparent and further evidence to that effect has been provided by the more recent outbreaks at Matera.

32.9

This is, without doubt, a direct challenge to the authority of your Government and calls for stern measures. In these circumstances it cannot be agreed that to rely on the voluntary surrender of arms is satisfactory, and you are urged to make full use of the ~~troops~~ force at your disposal in order to search out and confiscate all illegally held arms. I must also urge you to take severe and prompt action against the ring-leaders.

The Supreme Allied Commander has been taking personal interest in this whole affair and has expressed strong views at what he regards as inadequate steps so far taken.

Yours very truly

ELLERY W. STONE
Rear Admiral, USNR
Chief Commissioner

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

0646

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

Translation

The President of the Council of Ministers
Minister of the Interior

Rome, 3 August 1945

Dear Admiral,

Following the informations I already gave you in my letters of July 11th and 20th, I communicate what follows:

1) The Government, realizing that the incidents which took place in the Bari province have deeper and more serious causes than it was at first thought, i.e. the ever-increasing misery, and the widely spread unemployment, not only in the Bari province, but also in the Puglie zone, ordered the Ministry of Public Works to start at once the carrying out of a plan of urgent public utility works, which would make it possible to employ without delay the greatest possible number of unqualified manpower. A similar action is being taken by local organisms with landowners to absorb the greatest possible number of agricultural manpower.

The situation of repatriated prisoners and ex-combatants is taken in particular consideration to use and employ them for the above mentioned works; I issued orders to have them assisted.

2) For what concerns the situation of public order, there is no doubt that it has been improving lately. Disarmament is taking place methodically, though with slowness and difficulty because of the extreme reluctance of the persons concerned spontaneously to hand over the arms in their possession. The total amount of the arms handed over for all the Bari zone is of about 1700. Mopping up and combing actions are still being carried out by special squadron services, the functioning of which has greatly improved, thanks to the use of the vehicles which have lately been put at their disposal by the Allied Authorities and which have considerably contributed to improve the safety conditions of part of the region.

3) I can assure you that the Government is carefully following the situation and takes care gradually to eliminate all the motives which might bring about further trouble and delay the complete normalization of the situation.

THE MINISTER
S. Ferruccio Parri

Admiral Ellery W. Stone
Chief Commissioner
Allied Commission
R o m e

trans. c/o

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

85

Ref: 3629/71/30. 5 August 1945.

My dear Mr. Prime Minister:

With reference to your letter 4.26927 of 20 July 1945, the Supreme Allied Commander has observed that it does not contain sufficient detail to give him the information which he desires.

For example, in paragraph 2 of your letter it is stated "the Government issued various regulations"; in paragraph 3, "Spanduna services ..... proceeded to arrest numerous people". 32.7
The Supreme Allied Commander wishes to know, in detail, what regulations and orders were issued, the names of the people who were arrested, of what were they accused and what punishment was meted out. Furthermore, he wishes to know if all the instigators of the disorders have been arrested and if not what are the steps being taken to bring them to justice.

I shall be grateful, my dear Mr. Prime Minister, if you will provide the information required at your earliest convenience.

Yours very truly,

/s/ Ellery W. Stone
ELLERY W. STONE
Rear Admiral, USNR
Chief Commissioner

Professor Ferruccio Parri
President of the Council of Ministers
Italian Government
Rome.

Copy to : C.A. Sec

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

84

Tel : 478603

Ref: 3629/70/EC.

3 August 1945

SUBJECT: Disturbances in the Bari Area.

TO : Allied Force Headquarters,
Attn: G3 Ops.

1. With reference to your signal F. 30048, time of origin July 30/2025B, the Italian Government is being asked for supplementary information on this subject.

2. As soon as the information is to hand it will be forwarded to you.

For the Chief Commissioner :

Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

Copy to : C.A.Sec

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

F 30048

JULY 30/2025B

F/1954

JULY 31/0930B

PRIORITY

AFHQ SIGNED SACMED CITE FHECT

ACTION G-3 OPS INFO AIRCOM

RESTRICTED.

1. Report forwarded under reference 3629/65/EC of 24 July does not provide specific information desired by the Supreme Allied Commander as indicated in our F21330 of 12 July. This information is desired earliest

DIST

Action : Ex Commr (5)

Info : Chief Commr
File
O.A.Sec

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

82

Tel : 478201

Ref: 3629/65/EC.

24 July 45

SUBJECT: Disturbances in the Bari Area.

TO : Allied Force Headquarters.
Attn: G-5 Section.

1. Reference AFHQ signal F21330 (cite FHGCT) dated 12 July 45 on the subject of civil disturbances.

2. Enclosed for your information is a copy of letter dated 13 July 45, CC 3601, from the Chief Commissioner to the Prime Minister, which crossed the Prime Minister's letter 25530 dated 14 July 45 giving a report on the situation. A copy of the latter is also enclosed for your perusal.

3. The Prime Minister replied to the Chief Commissioner's letter CC 3601 of 13 July 45 by letter 26527 dated 20 July 45, a copy of which is attached.

For the Chief Commissioner:

Brigadier
Executive Commissioner.

Incls:. 3, as stated ab ove.

Copy to : C.A.Sec

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

Translation

The president of the Cou l of Ministers
Minister of the Interior
26327

Rome, 20 July 1915

81

Dear Admiral,

reference my letter of the 11th, in which I enclosed a report on the unrest in Minervino and Andria, explaining the criterions followed by the Government presided by me, to reestablish order and legality in this zone, I now answer the points of your letter of July 17th, n. 3601

1) As I havealready said in the former report, the Government rejected the solutions which implied a demonstration of force, to prevent the episodes of delinquency which had caused the unrest from increasing the motives for dissatisfaction brought about by the economic, political and social situation of the zone, bringing about, in the case of a deployment of forces, a reaction which might certainly have caused the unrest to increase; this was, very justly too, a cause of preoccupation for you, and ever since the beginning, the Government wanted to avoid it.

The localization of the unrest, and the quick return to normality assured in the places where the unrest took place, have proved that the system followed was the right one.

2) Further to clear up the situation, and to prevent such episodes from happening again, the Government issued various regulations, going from the police regulations now enforced to repress rural delinquency to the appeal made to the legal parties to normalize the political situation, and to the execution of a plan for the immediate execution of public works, which was to help the population and fight the ever increasing unemployment.

The keeping of reinforcements of agents and carabineers on the spot and the transfer of the 'Garibaldi' regiment should help to ensure peace in the zone.

3) For what concerns disarmament, up to the 19th, 1,401 weapons have been spontaneously handed over, while at 4 hours on the 14th, squadron services began their action on the roads, proceeded to arrest numerous people, occupied and searched ~~requisitioned~~ farms identified and searched ~~searched~~ suspected persons, sequestered the first arms, ammunitions and material unlawfully retained. These services began in spite of the difficulties caused by the insufficiency and inefficiency of the means of transport, difficulties which will be gradually overcome till the operations foreseen have been completely organized.

4) I instructed the Prefect of Bari to prosecute with energy all those who are responsible for offences or acts of violence, and strongly to repress rural delinquency I am waiting for definite news about the number of the people arrested or denounced to the judiciary authorities, and the result of the relative proceedings. Meanwhile I have been informed that various arrests took place, and that those who were responsible for the aggression against the relatives of the sworn guard De Feo have been arrested, while a great part of those who escaped the Andria jail have been put in prison again.

THE MINISTER
e. Ferruccio Parri

To Admiral Stone
Chief Commissioner - A.C.
c/c

Copy to : C.A.Sec

Tele 14602/10 Rassegnate

Bari, a lì 11/7/45 194

80,A

R. Questura di Bari

Divisione _____ N. di prot. 05468

Proposta a nota del _____

Oggetto Consegna armi a Minervino, Andria e Corato.

Allegati N. _____

Ufficio Alleato di Collegamento
presso la R.Prefettura di
B A R I

In esito alla richiesta di codesto Spett/le ufficio, si comunica che le suddette sono state consegnate a Minervino, Andria e Corato complessivamente nº 190 armi, per la maggior parte da coloro che le detenevano regolarmente denunziate, secondo i dati di cui al seguente specchio:

Località di consegna	Data di consegna	Nº e tipo delle armi
ANDRIA	5/7/45	Una mitragliatrice pesante inefficiente
"	5/7/45	7 fucili da caccia
"	6/7/45	1 fucile da caccia
"	6/7/45	11 rivoltelle
"	6/7/45	1 sciabola
"	5/7/45	2 pistole
CORATO	6/7/45	8 moschetti
"	6/7/45	1 baionetta
"	6/7/45	1 fucile da guerra straniero
"	6/7/45	5 pistole
"	6/7/45	1 fucile da caccia
"	6/7/45	3 bombe a mano
ANDRIA	7/7/45	9 fucili da caccia
"	7/7/45	21 rivoltelle
"	7/7/45	7 pistole
"	7/7/45	50 moschetto bailila
CORATO	7/7/45	2 moschetti
"	7/7/45	1 moschetto bailila
"	7/7/45	1 fucile da

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

R. Questura di Bari

Divisione _____ N. di prot. 05458

Risposta a nota del _____

Oggetto Consegna armi a Minervino, Andria e Corato.

Allegati N. _____

Ufficio alleato di Collegamento
presso la R.Prefettura di
B A R I

In esito alla richiesta di codesto Spett/le ufficio, si comunica che a tutt'oggi sono state consegnate a Minervino, Andria e Corato complessivamente nº 198 armi, per la maggior parte da coloro che le detenevano regolarmente denunziate, secondo i dati di cui al seguente specchio:

Località di consegna	Data di consegna	Nº e tipo delle armi
ANDRIA	5/7/45	Una mitragliatrice pesante inefficiente
"	5/7/45	7 fucili da caccia
"	6/7/45	1 fucile da caccia
"	6/7/45	11 rivoltelle
"	6/7/45	1 sciabola
"	6/7/45	2 pistole
CORATO	6/7/45	8 moschetti
"	6/7/45	1 baionetta
"	6/7/45	1 fucile da guerra straniero
"	6/7/45	5 pistole
"	6/7/45	1 fucile da caccia
"	6/7/45	3 bombe a mano
ANDRIA	7/7/45	9 fucili da caccia
"	7/7/45	21 rivoltelle
"	7/7/45	7 pistole
"	7/7/45	50 moschetto bailila
CORATO	7/7/45	2 moschetti
"	7/7/45	1 moschetto bailila
"	7/7/45	1 fucile 91
ANDRIA	8/7/45	1 fucile da caccia
"	8/7/45	11 rivoltelle
"	8/7/45	1 sciabola
MINERVINO	8/7/45	2 fucili da caccia
ANDRIA	9/7/45	4 fucili 91

3217

Capo Ufficio Alleato di Collegamento

/././.

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

totale 152

Località di consegna	Data della consegna	Numero e tipo delle armi
ANDRIA	9/1/45	4 fucili da guerra stranieri
"	9/1/45	3 moschetti
"	9/1/45	1 pistola
"	9/1/45	3 rivoltelle
"	9/1/45	1 fucile da caccia
"	9/1/45	1 pistola
"	9/1/45	6 rivoltelle
"	9/1/45	2 fucili da caccia
CORATO	9/1/45	2 fucili da caccia
"	9/1/45	1 pistola automatica
"	9/1/45	1 moschetto straniero
"	9/1/45	1 pistola a rotazione
ANDRIA	10/1/45	1 moschetto
"	10/1/45	3 bombe a mano
"	10/1/45	5 rivoltelle
"	10/1/45	4 fucili da caccia
"	10/7/45	1 pistola
MINERVINO	10/7/45	3 pistole
"	10/7/45	3 fucili da caccia

Totale 198

Il Questore
(F. di Salvia)

2

AR. all'Ammin.ne
(Pubblica Sicurezza)

for information.

D/Sec/45

Allied Commission
Liaison Office
BARI

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785246

ANDRA	9/7/45	4 fucili da guerra stranieri
"	9/7/45	3 moschetti
"	9/7/45	1 pistola
"	9/7/45	3 rivoltelle
"	9/7/45	1 fucile da caccia
"	9/7/45	1 pistola
"	9/7/45	6 rivoltelle
"	9/7/45	2 fucili da caccia
CORIO	9/7/45	2 fucili da caccia
"	9/7/45	1 pistola automatica
"	9/7/45	1 moschetto straniero
"	9/7/45	1 pistola a rotazione
ANDRA	10/7/45	1 moschetto
"	10/7/45	3 bombe a mano
"	10/7/45	5 rivoltelle
"	10/7/45	4 fucili da caccia
"	10/7/45	1 pistola
MINERVINO	10/7/45	3 pistole
"	10/7/45	3 fucili da caccia
		Totale 198

Il Questore
(F.di Salvia)

2/

AR. all'Ufficio Comunicazioni
(Public Safety)

For information.

D/Sup/45

Lt. Hunter Colonel

ALLIED COMMISSION
LIAISON OFFICE
BARI

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

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

79A

ALGOS TO BARI

2751 30 July 43 PIKOIRT

CONFIDENTIAL FD

SUBJECT IS PRIORITY FOR CAVALIERISTA

REPEAT TO ALGOS TO BARI FROM ALGOS SITREP PARIS

PARA ONE FD REFERENCE YOUR LOVE BARRI TWO SEVEN DATED TWO NINE JULY F

PARA TWO FD CONSIDERING GENERAL SITUATION IS NECESSARY THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT BE PROVIDED TWO FIVE TROOPS AT AN EARLY MOMENT FD

78A

327

Public Safety S/S

365

F.J. WILSON Lt. Col.

NICHOLAS PICCIRILLO
CPO USA
Asst. Adjutant.

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

INCOMING MESSAGE

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

P Safety 18A

Originator's Reference: LB 27
Date/Time of Origin: JULY 29 1020

Message Centre No: F/1787
Date Time Rec'd: JULY 29 1300
Precedence: ROUTINE

FROM: ALCOM BARI FROM MILLER
TO : HQ ALCOM FOR PUBLICSAFETY SC

See 79A

UNCLASSIFIED.

Commandant carabinieri BARI urgently request 25 trucks 3 tons for operations ANDRIA MINERVINO and subsequently as permaneent allotment. Kindly press Italian Government to provide.

DIST 3270

ACTION PUB SAFETY
INFO CHIEF COMMISSIONER
CA SEC
TN SC
FILE 2
FLOAT

TO	INIT	DATE
DIRECTOR		
DEPUTY DIRECTOR		
EXEC. OFF.		
✓ POLICE		30?
LIC. A		
[illegible]		
[illegible]		
[illegible]		
SECTION		

HEADQUARTERS
29 JUL 1945
A.F.H.Q.

ACTION

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

0 0 444

CONFIDENTIAL

AFEC CITE FELCT

3201 20 JULY 1945 PRIORITY

CONFIDENTIAL FD

REFERENCE YOUR FOX TWO FOUR FIVE FOUR FOUR OF ONE EIGHTEEN FD

ALTHOUGH REPLY TO MY LETTER OF ONE ZERO JULY HAS BEEN RECEIVED CMA

FAILED TO AFEC CITE FELCT FROM ALCOM FROM ADMIRAL STONE CITE AG GC FAILED

BRITISH MINISTER IS HAVING COMPLETE DETAILED INFORMATION COMPILED ON ALL POINTS

COVERED IN YOUR FOX TWO ONE THREE THREE ZERO OF ONE TWO JULY FD

PRIME MINISTERS APOSTROPHE SUGAR OFFICE EXPECTS TURN OVER HIS COMPLETE REPORT

ON MONDAY CMA TWO THREE JULY FD

WILL FORWARD TO YOU IMMEDIATELY UPON RECEIPT

3203

DISTRIBUTION:

Exec Comm
CA Sec
Pub Safety S/C
Land Forces S/C
GC

TO	INIT	DATE
[illegible]	Stark	7/19
DEPUTY C	Lord	21/7
EXEC. OFF.		
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SECURITY		
CHIEF CLERK		

Chief Commissioner

22

ELLERY W. STONE
Rear Admiral, USNR
Chief Commissioner

CONFIDENTIAL

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

769

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

Ref: AC/S/G5/10/20 21 Jul 45

SUBJECT: Reserve Mine Detail.

TO: Political Adviser (A)
Political Adviser (B).

Attached herewith please find copies of a report on the above subject received from the President of the Council of Ministers, forwarded for your information.

Lt Col. [illegible],
VF GA Section.

Copy to: Allied Commissioner,
Deputy Commissioner

3203

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

From: Brig. G.H. Upjohn,
VP GA Section, HQ AA.

75A

Ref: D.O. AC/AAG2/10/13.

20 July 1943

Dear

I am so sorry I have not been able to send you any more definite information on the Minerving Barge Incident.

The attached reply from Perri is still non-committal and is the reply to the Chief Commissioner's letter of 10 July. The Prime Minister has now received a final reply on Monday to the Chief Commissioner's letter of 13 July.

As you will see, action is now with the Chief Commissioner.

Yours

3257

Colonel S.W. Miller,
AG Liaison Officer,
Protobtuen,
EMEI.

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

Translation

Thr President of the Council of Ministers
Minister of the Interior

25530

JUL 16 1945

744

Rome, 14 July 1945

17 LUG 1945

Dear Admiral,

In answer to your letter of the 10th. I enclose a report on the Andria and Minervino Murge incidents, and on the present situation in this zone.

The above mentioned relation is followed by a brief note about the news which arrived today.

Yours truly,

S. Ferruccio Parri

Seal copies L.P.L.6 (A)(45)

Rear-Admiral Ellery W. Stone
Chief Commissioner
Allied Commission
R o m e

3236

EC DIST - 16 JULY 45

(3629/EC)

ACTION: C A Sec (2)

INFO: CHIEF COMMR
EXEC COMMR

203

s/3

Translation

Ministry of the Interior

748

Unrest in the Bari Province

On June 25th, at about 2 hours, common offenders, mostly stragglers or deserters, made an excuse of the arrest of three communists charged with robbery and released after a short time, investigations having proved they were not guilty, and started hostilities against the barracks of the Carabineers of Minervino Murge, asking for the release of other common offenders, who acknowledged having robbed in Minervino, Gravina, Spinazzola, and Palazzo S. Gervasio.

During the trnsfer of these prisoners, shots were fired at the Carabineers, but without result.

On the 25th, during the afternoon, reinforcements of Carabineers and P.S. Agents were summoned to Minervino, to unblock the soldiers of this station, but on reaching the periphery of the village, these reinforcements were welcomed with shots from rifles and automatic weapons, light and heavy, placed in favourable and commanding positions.

To avoid a violent conflict and the ensuing bloodshed, - and also on the advice of the Secretary of the Bari Communist Federation, who nevertheless demanded the arrest of ex-fascists to be submitted to the Commission for internment - the reinforcements were withdrawn. During the shooting, a civilian was shot, and a carabineer and a civilien wounded; two war rifles with the corresponding ammunition and a handbomb were sequestered.

During the night, shooting went on between the Carabineers of the Minervino barracks and the rioters.

The reinforcements withdrawn from Minervino Murge were concentrated in Andria, were other deplorable incidents were to take place.

As a matter of fact, during the afternoon of the 26th, a patrol of Carabineers was attacked in the woods with handbombs, and one soldier was killed while several others were wounded. 3295

Then, a truck transporting Carabineers who were coming back from Minervino, was shot at at the cross roads to Andria; three carabineers were wounded.

Another truck sent to the rescue was attacked with automatic weapons which caused the death of another carabineers and wounded three or four others.

The other soldiers were taken to the Communist station of Andria and later on released, on the intervention of the leader of this Communist Section, but their uniforms were taken from them.

Meanwhile, a Captain of the Corps, who had reached Minervino Murge to persuade the people, was taken as hostage and later set free, on his pro-

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 78 5016

who acknowledged having robbed in Minervino, Gravina, Spinazzola, and Palazzo S. Gervasio.

During the transfer of these prisoners, shots were fired at the Carabineers, but without result.

On the 25th, during the afternoon, reinforcements of Carabineers and P.S. Agents were summoned to Minervino, to unblock the soldiers of this station, but on reaching the periphery of the village, these reinforcements were welcomed with shots from rifles and automatic weapons, light and heavy, placed in favourable and commanding positions.

To avoid a violent conflict and the ensuing bloodshed, - and also on the advice of the Secretary of the Bari Communist Federation, who nevertheless demanded the arrest of ex-fascists to be submitted to the Commission for interment - the reinforcements were withdrawn. During the shooting, a civilian was shot, and a carabineer and a civilian wounded; two war rifles with the corresponding ammunition and a handbomb were sequestered.

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Then, a truck transporting Carabineers who were coming back from Minervino, was shot at at the cross roads to Andria, three carabineers were wounded.

Another truck sent to the rescue was attacked with automatic weapons which caused the death of another carabineers and wounded three or four others.

The other soldiers were taken to the Communist Station of Andria and later on released, on the intervention of the leader of this Communist Section, but their uniforms were taken from them.

Meanwhile, a Captain of the Corps, who had reached Minervino Murge to persuade the people, was taken as hostage and later set free, on the condition that he would express to the Authorities the desire of the Communists to obtain the release of eleven people arrested the day before, on a charge of robbery.

It was judged advisable to release the said persons who were denounced To the Legal Authorities

On the 27th, the situation in Andria got worse. After the arrest of dangerous 'squadristi' chisen in agreement with the Local Committee for Liberation, and with the Secretary of the communist party, a mass of communists, composed of men and women, proceeded to the arrest of over a hundred citizens, who were not known to be dangerous elements. Immediately after that, the armed and agitated mob proceeded to the prison, imprisoned the gaoler and freed 16 prisoners. Besides, all the vehicles were requisitioned to concentrate in Andria the communists of the neighbouring communes, who, after having been given arm, also heavy ones, were asked to defend the access to the city.

203

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

A group of twenty rioters broke suddenly into the office of the local guards (vigili campestri), and burnt their furniture; then they broke into the premises of the P.S. Office, where they tore up some files, and finally, they destroyed part of the files of the Industry office, on the first floor of the same building where the P.S. Commissariat is located. At 22.00 hours, most of the furniture and files of the Night Guards (Vigili notturni) office was burnt; the ensuing fire was spent by the Barletta firemen.

Meanwhile, the Government ordered to send the reinforcements required - 300 carabineers and 200 agents - and instructed the Bari Prefect to try and quiet down the unrest, and to this end, ordered him to isolate incidents of delinquency from the political, social and economic factors which had added themselves to the first and made it to be feared that unrest would spread over the entire population. With this intention, the Government sent two Ministers on the spot, Barbareschi and Scoccimarro, to try persuasion to reestablish calm and avoid more excesses, and also the Deputy Chief of the Police to coordinate the action of the Authorities that were to reestablish order.

The aim was reached, for after the 28th, except for a few sporadic acts of violence which took place outside inhabited centres (fight on the open country between a group of communists and a sworn guard, believed to be an ex-fascist, in which two communists were killed) and two cases of robbery which also took place in the open land, the situation has gradually improved, and calm has definitively returned among the populations of Andria and Minervino.

To avoid new unrest, the local Authorities, in agreement with those which came from Rome, gave up the idea of using force to collect weapons and catch the offenders; this action would have presented considerable difficulties and uncertainty available means being insufficient and the nature of the places unfavourable; they started an intense work of persuasion, working personally, and through the channel of the political parties, for weapons to be voluntarily handed over.

Nevertheless, as the results obtained up to now must be considered as modest if not altogether bad, and as it is necessary to proceed without delay to the repression of the offenders who infest this area - the hypothesis of a demonstrating military operation on a large scale having been rejected for the above mentioned reasons, for it might cause repercussions and strong reaction in the inhabited centres, - strong instructions have been issued: a) for the arrest of those who are guilty of the offences which have been committed; b) for the immediate organization of fixed posts and combing operations by agents and carabineers, operations which are most adequate for the repression of rural delinquency.

As it is well known, the transfer to Bari of the Garibaldi Regiment is now taking place, and the Government will have it employed where and when it will deem it necessary.

Agreement among the parties which was necessary for a work of pacification has been reestablished. The situation of the public spirit had greatly

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

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3284

Nevertheless, as the results obtained up to now must be considered as modest if not altogether bad, and as it is necessary to proceed without delay to the repression of the offenders who infest this area - the hypothesis of a demonstrating military operation on a large scale having been rejected for the above mentioned reasons, for it might cause repercussions and strong reaction in the inhabited centres, - strong instructions have been issued: a) for the arrest of those who are guilty of the offences which have been committed; b) for the immediate organization of fixed posts and combing operations by agents and carabineers, operations which are most adequate for the repression of rural delinquency.

As it is well known, the transfer to Terni of the Garibaldi Regiment is now taking place, and the Government will have it employed where and when it will deem it necessary.

Agreement among the parties which was necessary for a work of pacification has been reestablished. The situation of the public spirit has greatly improved in Andria, and a rapid normalization , including the elimination of the elements responsible for disorder, is to be hoped for. Regulations have been issued to meet the requirements of the unemployed, thus eliminating one of t e main causes of the unrest. I think that this will not only prevent the spreading of the unrest to the neighbouring zones, but also assure the return of calm and respect of the law within t e whole zone.

I cannot help pointing out that the Government presided by me was faced in Puglie with an exceptional situation, of remote origins, and which matured only during the last few weeks: the presence of numerous weapons coming from remote regions, not under Italian control, the miserable living conditions of an important part of the population, the unemployment of part of the farmhands, the exasperation of political passions, because of the insufficient elimination of the ex-fascists particularly compromised; ancient traditions of

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 78 Rolle

unrest; all these factors have enforced a line of conduct based on the preventive adoption of conciliating regulations, to avoid big and dangerous conflicts, and followed by repressing regulations concerning those who were guilty of violence, and especially in cases of rural delinquency; this action will be inflexibly carried on till the aim is reached.

The unrest in question is limited to a restricted zone, which, for the above mentioned reasons, has always been , unfortunately, one of the most troubled zones in Italy: such local unrest has a local importance, and I think that their importance has been exagerated by the press.

I must also point out that the Government is faced with situations of which it cannot be held responsible; authorities which haven't resumed the necessary efficiency after the collapse of fascism; insufficient public force, not always adequate, the reconstruction of which is slow and difficult because of the scarsity of available means.

THE MINISTER

S. Perruccio Parri

e/c

3203

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

[illegible]ast in the Bari Province

The Garibaldi regiment has reached Trani.

As I had the Bari Prefect inform the Commander of the 5th Area of the British military forces, the presence of the Regiment in this zone gives us greater security; the Government may ask for its intervention if and when it is deemed necessary.

For the moment, we only need reinforcements in vehicles, and a few armoured cars, to assure the succes of the police expeditions which are taking place; the Prefect has already obtained these means, some of which were given by the AlliedCommands.

I repeat that the Government has resolved to see through this matter; it is nevertheless chosing the most appropriate means and regulating their employment, for, at present, it does not deem it necessary to compromise the action of political disarmament, and the pacifying work of the parties by with military operations on a large scale, and it thinks that well planned and efficaciously carried out combing operations are at present sufficient to repress the bands of highwaymen at present entrenched in the Agro di Minervino and in the Murge.

THE MINISTER

s. Ferruccio Parri

3282

e/c

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

Translation.

MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR

Unrest in the Bari Province

On June 25th, at about 8 hours, common offenders, mostly stragglers or deserters, made an attempt at the arrest of three communists charged with robbery and released after a short time, investigations having proved they were not guilty, and started hostilities against the barracks of the carabineers of Minervino Murge, asking for a release of other common offenders, who acknowledged having robbed in Minervino, Gravina, Spinazzola, and Palazzo S. Gervasio.

During the transfer of these prisoners, shots were fired at the Carabineers but without result.

In the 25th, during the afternoon, reinforcements of Carabineers and P.S. Agents were summoned to Minervino, to unblock the soldiers of that station, but on reaching the periphery of the village, these reinforcements were welcomed with shots from rifles and automatic weapons, light and heavy, placed in favourable and commanding positions.

To avoid a violent conflict and the ensuing bloodshed, - and also on the advise of the Secretary of the Bari Communist Federation, who nevertheless demanded the arrest of ex-fascists to be submitted to the Commission for internment - the reinforcements were withdrawn. During the shooting, a civilian was shot, and a carabineer and a civilian wounded; two war rifles with the corresponding ammunition and a handbook were sequestered.

During the night, shooting went on between the Carabineers of the Minervino barracks and the rioters.

The reinforcements withdrawn from Minervino Murge were concentrated in Andria, where other deplorable incidents were to take place.

As a matter of fact, during the afternoon of the 26th, a patrol of Carabineers was attacked in the woods with handbombs, and one soldier was killed while several others were wounded.

Then, a truck transporting Carabineers who were coming back from Minervino, was shot at at the cross roads to Andria: three carabineers were wounded.

Another truck went to the rescue was attacked with automatic weapons which caused the death of another carabineer and wounded three or four others.

The other soldiers were taken to the Communist Station of Andria and later on released, on the intervention of the leader of this Communist

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 788016

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As a matter of fact, during the afternoon of the 26th, a patrol of Carabineers was attacked in the woods with handbombs, and one soldier was killed while several others were wounded.

3231

Then, a truck transporting Carabineers who were coming back from Minervino, was shot at at the exact route to Andria: three carabineers were wounded.

Another truck sent to the rescue was attacked with automatic weapons which caused the death of another carabineer and wounded three or four others.

The other soldiers were taken to the Communist Station of Andria and later on released, on the intervention of the leader of this Communist Section, but their uniforms were taken from them.

Meanwhile, a Captain of the Corps, who had reached Minervino Murge to persuade the people, was taken as hostage and later set free, on the condition that he would express to the Authorities the desire of the Communists to obtain the release of eleven people arrested the day before, on a charge of robbery.

It was judged advisable to release the said persons who were denounced to the legal Authorities.

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

On the 27th, the situation in Andria got worse. After the arrest of dangerous "squadristi" chosen in agreement with the Local Committee for Liberation, and with the Secretary of the communist party, a mass of communists, composed of men and women, proceeded to the arrest of over a hundred citizens, who were not known to be dangerous elements. Immediately after that, the armed and agitated mob proceeded to the prison, imprisoned the gaoler and freed 46 prisoners. Besides, all the vehicles were requisitioned to concentrate in Andria the communists of the neighbouring communes, who, after having been given arms, also heavy ones, were asked to defend the access to the city.

A group of twenty rioters broke suddenly into the office of the local guards (vigili comunali), and burnt their furniture; then they broke into the premises of the P.S. Office where they tore up some files, and finally, they destroyed part of the files of the Industry Office, on the first floor of the same building where the P.S. Commissariat is located. At 22.00 hours, most of the furniture and files of the Night Guards (Vigili Notturni) Office was burnt; the ensuing fire was spent by the Barletta firemen.

Meanwhile, the Government ordered to send the reinforcements required - 300 Carabineers and 200 agents - and instructed the Bari prefect to try and quiet down the unrest, and to this end, ordered him to isolate incidents of delinquency from the political, social and economic factors which had added themselves to the first and made it to be feared that unrest would spread over the entire population. With this intention, the Government sent two Ministers on the spot, Bonomi and Scoccimarro, to try persuasion to re-establish calm and avoid more excesses, and also the Deputy Chief of the Police to coordinate the action of the authorities that were to re-establish order.

The aim was reached, for after the 29th, except for a few sporadic acts of violence which took place outside inhabited centres (fight in the open country between a group of communists and a rural guard, believed to be an ex-fascist, in which two communists were killed) and two cases of robbery which also took place in the open land, the situation has gradually improved, and calm has definitively returned among the populations of Andria and Minervino.

3200

To avoid new unrest, the local authorities, in agreement with those which came from Rome, gave up the idea of using force to collect weapons and catch the offenders; this action could have presented considerable difficulties and uncertainty, available means being insufficient and the nature of the places unfavourable; they started an intense work of persuasion, working personally, and through the channel of the political parties, for weapons to be voluntarily handed over.

Nevertheless, as the results obtained up to now must be considered as modest if not altogether bad, and as it is necessary to proceed without

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 78 3216

neighbouring communes, who, after having been given arms, also heavy ones, were asked to defend the access to the city.

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To avoid new unrest, the local Authorities, in agreement with those which came from Rome, gave up the idea of using force to collect weapons and ambush the offenders; this action would have presented considerable difficulties and uncertainty, available means being insufficient and the nature of the places unfavourable; they started an intense work of persuasion, working personally, and through the channel of the political parties, for weapons to be voluntarily handed over.

Nevertheless, as the results obtained up to now must be considered as modest if not altogether bad, and as it is necessary to proceed without delay to the repression of the offenders who infest this area - the hypothesis of a demonstrating military operation on a large scale having been rejected for the above mentioned reasons, for it might cause repercussions and strong reaction in the inhabited centres, - strong instructions have been issued: a) for the arrest of those who are guilty of the offences which have been committed; b) for the immediate organization of fixed posts and ambing operations by agents and carabineers, operations which are most adequate for the repression of rural delinquency.

As it is well known, the transfer to Trani of the Garibaldi Regiment is now taking place, and the Government will have it employed where and when it will deem it necessary.

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

Agreement among the parties which was necessary for a work of pacification has been re-established. The situation of the public spirit has greatly improved in Andria, and a rapid normalization, including the elimination of the elements responsible for the disorder, is to be hoped for. Regulations have been issued to meet the requirements of the unemployed, thus eliminating one of the main causes of the unrest. I think that this will not only prevent the spreading of the unrest to the neighbouring zones, but also ensure the return of calm and respect of the law within the whole zone.

I cannot help pointing out that the Government presided by me was faced in Puglia with an exceptional situation of remote origins, and which existed only during the last few weeks: the presence of numerous weapons coming from remote regions, not under Italian control, the miserable living conditions of an important part of the population, the unemployment of part of the fascists, the consequent of political passions, because of the unjustified elimination of the ex-fascists, particularly compromised; ancient traditions of unrest; all these factors have enforced a line of conduct based on the preventive adoption of conciliating regulations, to avoid big and dangerous conflicts, and followed by repressive regulations concerning those who were guilty of violence, and especially in cases of rural delinquency; this action will be inflexibly carried on till the aim is reached.

The unrest in question is limited to a restricted zone, which, for the above mentioned reasons, has always been, unfortunately, one of the most troubled zones in Italy; such local unrest has a local importance and I think that their importance has been exaggerated by the press.

I must also point out that the Government is faced with situations of which it cannot be held responsible: authorities which haven't resumed the necessary efficiency after the collapse of fascism; demobilized public forces, not always adequate, the reconstruction of which is slow and difficult because of the scarcity of available means.

3239

THE AMBASSADOR,

(Sgd.) Pietro di Tarsia.

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

Report in the Bari Matter

The Garibaldi Regiment has reached Trani.

As I had the Bari Prefect inform the Commander of the 5th Army of the British Military Forces, the presence of the Regiment in this zone gives us greater security; the Government may ask for its intervention if and when it is deemed necessary.

For the moment, we only need reinforcements in vehicles, and a few armoured cars, to ensure the success of the police expeditions which are taking place; the Prefect has already obtained these cars, some of which were given by the Allied Commands.

I repeat that the Government has resolved to see through this matter; it is nevertheless choosing the most appropriate means and regulating their employment, for, at present, it does not deem it necessary to compromise the action of political disarmament, and the pacifying work of the parties by military operations on a large scale, and I think that well planned and efficaciously carried out sending operations are at present sufficient to remove the bands of highwaymen at present entrenched in the Agro di Minervino and in the Murge.

THE MINISTER.

(Sgd.) Mario de Ruggiero.

3238

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

Translation

MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR

Unrest in the Bari Province

On June 25th, at about 8 hours, common offenders, mostly smugglers or deserters, made an excuse of the arrest of three communists charged with robbery and released after a short time, investigations having proved they were not guilty, and started hostilities against the barracks of the carabineers of Minervino Murge, asking for a release of other common offenders, who acknowledged having robbed in Minervino, Grevina, Spinazzola, and Palazzo S. Gervasio.

During the transfer of these prisoners, shots were fired at the Carabineers but without result.

On the 25th, during the afternoon, reinforcements of Carabineers and P.S. Agents were summoned to Minervino, to unblock the soldiers of that station, but on reaching the periphery of the village, these reinforcements were welcomed with shots from rifles and automatic weapons, light and heavy, placed in favourable and commanding positions.

To avoid a violent conflict and the ensuing bloodshed, - and also on the advise of the Secretary of the Bari Communist Federation, who nevertheless demanded the arrest of ex-fascists to be submitted to the Commission for Internment - the reinforcements were withdrawn. During the shooting, a civilian was shot, and a carabineer and a civilian wounded; two war rifles with the corresponding ammunition and a handbomb were confiscated.

During the night, shooting went on between the Carabineers of the Minervino barracks and the rioters.

The reinforcements withdrawn from Minervino Murge were concentrated in Andria, where other deplorable incidents were to take place.

As a matter of fact, during the afternoon of the 26th, a patrol of Carabineers was attacked in the woods with handbombs, and one soldier was killed while several others were wounded.

Then, a truck transporting Carabineers who were coming back from Minervino, was shot at at the cross roads to Andria; three carabineers were wounded.

Another truck sent to the rescue was attacked with automatic weapons which caused the death of another carabineer and wounded three or four others.

The other soldiers were taken to the Communist Station of Andria and later on released, on the intervention of the leader of this Communist Section, but their uniforms were taken from them.

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

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The other soldiers were taken to the Communist Station of Andria and later on released, on the intervention of the leader of this Communist Section, but their uniforms were taken from them.

Meanwhile, a Captain of the Corps, who had reached Minervino Murge to persuade the people, was taken as hostage and later set free, on the condition that he would express to the Authorities the desire of the Communists to obtain the release of eleven people arrested the day before, on a charge of robbery.

It was judged advisable to release the said persons who were denounced to the Legal Authorities.

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

On the 27th, the situation in Andria got worse. After the arrest of dangerous "squadristi" chosen in agreement with the Local Committee for Liberation, and with the Secretary of the communist party, a mass of communists, composed of men and women, proceeded to the arrest of over a hundred citizens, who were not known to be dangerous elements. Immediately after that, the armed and agitated mob proceeded to the prison, imprisoned the gaoler and freed 46 prisoners. Besides, all the vehicles were requisitioned to concentrate in Andria the communists of the neighbouring communes, who, after having been given arms, also heavy ones, were asked to defend the access to the city.

A group of twenty rioters broke suddenly into the office of the local guards (vigili campestri), and burnt their furniture; then they broke into the premises of the P.S. office where they tore up some files, and finally, they destroyed part of the files of the Industry Office, on the first floor of the same building where the P.S. Commissariat is located. At 22.00 hours, most of the furniture and files of the Night Guards (Vigili Notturni) office was burnt; the ensuing fire was spent by the Barletta firemen.

Meanwhile, the Government ordered to send the reinforcements required - 300 Carabineers and 200 agents - and instructed the Bari prefect to try and quiet down the unrest, and to this end, ordered him to isolate incidents of delinquency from the political, social and economic factors which had aided themselves to the first and made it to be feared that unrest would spread over the entire population. With this intention, the Government sent two Ministers on the spot, Bertoldo and Scoccimarro, to try persuasion to re-establish calm and avoid more excesses, and also the Deputy Chief of the Police to coordinate the action of the authorities that were to re-establish order.

The aim was reached, for after the 28th, except for a few sporadic acts of violence which took place outside inhabited centres (fight in the open country between a group of communists and a mixed guard, believed to be ex-fascist, in which two communists were killed) and the [illegible] of robbery which also took place in the open land, the situation has gradually improved, and calm has definitively returned among the populations of Andria and Minervino.

To avoid new unrest, the local authorities, in agreement with those which came from Rome, gave up the idea of using force to collect weapons and catch the offenders; this action would have presented considerable difficulties and uncertainty, available means being insufficient and the nature of the places unfavourable; they started an intense work of persuasion, working personally, and through the channel of the political parties, for weapons to be voluntarily handed over.

Nevertheless, as the results obtained up to now must be considered as modest if not altogether bad, and as it is necessary to proceed without delay to the repression of the offenders who infest this area - the large

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

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As it is well known, the transfer to Trani of the Garibaldi Regiment is now taking place, and the Government will have it employed where and when it will deem it necessary.

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

Agreement among the parties which was necessary for a work of pacification has been re-established. The situation of the public spirit has greatly improved in Andria, and a rapid normalisation, including the elimination of the elements responsible for the disorder, is to be hoped for. Regulations have been issued to meet the requirements of the unemployed, thus eliminating one of the main causes of the unrest. I think that this will not only prevent the spreading of the unrest to the neighbouring zones, but also assure the return of calm and respect of the law within the whole zone.

I cannot help pointing out that the Government presided by me was faced to regain with an exceptional situation of remote origins, and which matured only during the last few weeks: the presence of numerous weapons coming from remote regions, not under Italian control, the miserable living conditions of an important part of the population, the unemployment of part of the farmhands, the exasperation of political passions, because of the insufficient elimination of the ex-fascists, particularly compromised; ancient traditions of unrest; all these factors have enforced a line of conduct based on the preventive adoption of conciliating regulations, to avoid big and dangerous conflicts, and followed by repressive regulations concerning those who were guilty of violence, and especially in cases of rural delinquency; this action will be inflexibly carried on till the aim is reached.

The unrest in question is limited to a restricted zone, which, for the above mentioned reasons, has always been, unfortunately, one of the most troubled zones in Italy; such local unrest has a local importance and I think that their importance has been exaggerated by the press.

I must also point out that the Government is faced with situations of which it cannot be held responsible: authorities which haven't resumed the necessary efficiency after the collapse of fascism; insufficient public force, not always adequate, the reconstruction of which is slow and difficult because of the scarcity of available means. 3235

THE MINISTER,

(Sgd.) Ferruccio Parri.

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

Unrest in the Bari Province.

The Garibaldi Regiment has reached Trani.

As I had the Bari Prefect inform the Commander of the 5th Area of the British Military forces, the presence of the Regiment in this zone gives us greater security; the Government may ask for its intervention if and when it is deemed necessary.

For the moment, we only need reinforcements in vehicles, and a few armored cars, to ensure the success of the police expeditions which are taking place; the Prefect has already obtained these means, some of which were given by the Allied Commands.

I repeat that the Government has resolved to see through this matter; it is nevertheless chosing the most appropriate means and regulating their employment, for, at present, it does not deem it necessary to compromise the action of political disarmament, and the pacifying work of the parties by military operations on a large scale, and it thinks that well planned and efficaciously carried out combing operations are at present sufficient to repress the bands of highwaymen at present entrenched in the Agro di Minervino and in the Murge.

THE MINISTER.

(Sgd.) Romano to Tarchi.

5234

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

IL PRESIDENTE
DEL CONSIGLIO DEI MINISTRI
MINISTRO DELL'INTERNO

JUL 14 RECD

Roma, 14 luglio 1945

25530

Caro Ammiraglio,

In risposta alla sua lettera del 10 corrente, Le accludo una relazione sugli incidenti di Andria e Minervino Murge e sulla presente situazione in quella zona.

Alla relazione suddetta aggiungo un breve seguito con le notizie pervenute a tutt'oggi.

Molto cordialmente

Ferruccio Parri

3253

Al Contrammiraglio
Ellery W. S T O N E
Commissario Capo della Commissione Alleata

R O M A

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

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Ministero dell'Interno

GABINETTO DI S.E. IL MINISTRO

AGITAZIONI IN PROVINCIA DI BARI

Verso le ore 8 del 25 giugno u.s. elementi pregiudicati, in prevalenza sbandati e disertori, cogliendo il pretesto del fermo di tre comunisti indiziati di rapina, e rilasciati poco dopo a seguito di accertamenti negativi, si abbandonarono ad atti di ostilità contro la caserma dei Carabinieri di Minervino Murge chiedendo il rilascio anche di altri tre pregiudicati, rei confessi di rapine commesse a Minervino, Gravina, Spinazzola e Palazzo S. Ser_ vasio.

Durante la traduzione di tali arrestati i carabinieri furono fatti segno a colpi di arma da fuoco andati a vuoto.

Nel pomeriggio dello stesso giorno 25 furono fatti affluire a Minervino rinforzi di Carabinieri ed Agenti di P.S. per sbloccare i militari di quella stazione, ma tali rinforzi, giunti alla periferia dell'abitato, furono accolti dal fuoco di fucileria e di armi automatiche, leggere e pesanti, poste in località favorevoli e dominanti.

Per evitare un cruento conflitto con grave spargimento di sangue, - su parere anche del Segretario della Federazione Comuni_ sta di Bari, il quale però richiese l'arresto di ex fascisti da sottoporre alla Commissione per il confino di polizia - i rinforzi furono fatti ripiegare. Durante l'avvenuto scambio di fucileria rimase ucciso un civile e vennero feriti un civile e un carabiniere, mentre furono sequestrati due fucili da guerra con relative munizioni ed una bomba a mano.

Durante la notte continuò il fuoco fra i Carabinieri della

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

PRESIDENZA DEL CONSIGLIO DEI MINISTRI

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3253

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Durante la notte continuò il fuoco fra i Carabinieri della caserma di Minervino ed i facinorosi.

I rinforzi, ripiegati da Minervino Murge, furono concentrati ad Andria dove stavano per verificarsi altri luttuosi incidenti.

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

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Ministero dell'Interno

GABINETTO DI S.E. IL MINISTRO

Infatti, nel pomeriggio del 26, fu aggredito in una boscaglia, con bombe a mano, un pattuglione di Carabinieri e rimase ucciso un militare mentre altri tre riportarono ferite.

Successivamente un autocarro trasportante carabinieri reduci da Minervino, al bivio per Andria, fu fatto segno a colpi d'arma da fuoco: tre carabinieri rimasero feriti.

Altro autocarro, inviato in soccorso, fu attaccato con armi automatiche che cagionarono la morte di un altro carabiniere ed il ferimento di tre o quattro.

Gli altri militi furono condotti alla Sezione Comunista di Andria e successivamente rilasciati per l'intervento del dirigente di quella Sezione comunista, dopo essere stati, però, privati delle divise.

Intanto un Capitano dell'Arma, che aveva raggiunto Minervino Murge per fare opera di persuasione, fu trattenuto in ostaggio e poscia liberato a condizione che si rendesse intervento presso le Autorità della volontà dei comunisti di ottenere il rilascio di undici persone arrestate giorni prima perchè indiziate quali autori di rapine.

Per ragioni di opportunità i detti arrestati furono rilasciati e denunziati all'Autorità Giudiziaria a piede libero.

Il 27 successivo la situazione in Andria andò peggiorando: Dopo il fermo degli squadristi pericolosi prescelti d'accordo con il Comitato di Liberazione locale e con il Segretario del partito Comunista, una massa di comunisti, composta di uomini e donne, protestò al fermo di oltre un centinaio di cittadini non noti come [illegible] pericolosi. Subito dopo la folla tumultuante e armata,

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

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

Ministero dell'Interno

GABINETTO DI S.E. IL MINISTRO

Inoltre furono requisite tutte le specie di automezzi, allo scopo di concentrare ad Andria i comunisti dei Comuni viciniori, i quali, dopo essere stati dotati di armamento anche pesante, vennero invitati a presidiare l'accesso alla città. Un gruppo di venti facinorosi penetrò improvvisamente nell'ufficio dei vigili campestri e ne incendiò il mobilio; entrò dopo nei locali dell'ufficio di P.S. lacerandovi qualche pratica ed infine distrusse parte del carteggio dell'Ufficio dell'Industria situato al primo piano dello stesso stabile, dove è ubicato il Commissariato di P.S.-Alle ore 22 fu incendiata gran parte dei mobili e del carteggio dell'Ufficio dei Vigili notturni; l'incendio che ne derivò fu domato dai Vigili del Fuoco di Barletta.

Intanto il Governo, mentre disponeva l'invio dei rinforzi richiesti,e precisamente 300 carabinieri e 200 agenti, dava istruzioni al Prefetto di Bari di cercare di risolvere le agitazioni in corso e, a tale scopo, gli prescriveva di isolare gli episodi delinquenziali dai fattori politici sociali ed economici che si erano innestati sui primi e minacciavano l'estensione delle agitazioni ad intere popolazioni. Con tale intendimento il Governo inviava sul posto due Ministri, Barbareschi e Soccimarro, per svolgere opera di persuasione, al fine di ristabilire la calma ed evitare altri eccessi, nonchè il Vice Capo della Polizia, per coordinare l'azione delle Autorità preposte al ristabilimento dell'ordine.

Lo scopo fu raggiunto perchè dal giorno 26, tranne qualche fatto sporadico di violenza verificatosi fuori dei centri abitati (conflitto in aperta campagna tra un gruppo di comunisti e un guar-

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

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Lo scopo fu raggiunto perchè dal giorno 28, tranne qualche fatto sporadico di violenza verificatosi fuori dei centri abitati (conflitto in aperta campagna tra un gruppo di comunisti e un guardiano giurato ritenuto ex fascista e nel quale restarono uccisi due comunisti) e due casi di rapina operati sempre in aperta campagna, la situazione andò gradatamente migliorando fino al ritorno

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Ministero dell'Interno

GABINETTO DI S.E. IL MINISTRO

definitivo della calma tra le popolazioni di Andria e Minervino.

Le Autorità locali, d'accordo con quelle convenute da Roma, allo scopo di evitare il riaccendersi delle agitazioni, scartarono così l'idea di svolgere un'azione di forza per il rastrellamento delle armi e la cattura dei delinquenti, azione che del resto presentava notevoli difficoltà e incertezze sia per la deficienza dei mezzi a disposizione sia per la natura impervia dei luoghi; iniziarono una intensa opera di persuasione personalmente e attraverso i partiti politici, per la consegna volontaria delle armi.

Tuttavia, poiché i risultati finora ottenuti devono considerarsi modesti, anche se non indifferenti e poiché occorre procedere senz'altro alla repressione dei delinquenti che infestano la zona, scartata, per le ragioni sopra enunciate, l'ipotesi di una operazione militare dimostrativa a in grande stile, che, ripetesi, potrebbe provocare ripercussioni e vaste reazioni nei centri abitati, severe istruzioni sono state impartite: a) per l'arresto dei colpevoli dei delitti commessi; b) per l'immediata organizzazione di posti fissi e di battute di agenti e carabinieri, operazioni che sono le più indicate per reprimere la delinquenza rurale.

3250

Com'é noto, é in corso il trasferimento a Trani del Reggimento Garibaldi di cui il Governo si riserva di richiedere l'impiego se e quando lo riterrà necessario.

E' stato ristabilito in luogo l'accordo dei partiti, necessario per permettere il lavoro di pacificazione. La situazione di spirito pubblico in Andria é molto migliorata, ed é da sperare in una prossima normalizzazione, con la eliminazione degli elementi responsabili dei disordini. Sono state prese provvidenze per venire incon

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Ministero dell'Interno

GABINETTO DI S.E. IL MINISTRO

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Non posso, infine, non rilevare che il Governo da me presieduto si é trovato a dover fronteggiare in Puglia una situazione eccezionale, di lontane origini e maturata solo in queste ultime settimane: la presenza di armi numerose provenienti anche da zone lontane non sotto il controllo italiano, la miseria di una parte notevole della popolazione e la disoccupazione di una parte del bracciantato, l'inasprimento delle passioni politiche per la insufficiente eliminazione degli ex-fascisti particolarmente compromessi, antiche tradizioni di turbolenza; tutti questi fattori hanno imposto una linea di condotta basata sulla preventiva adozione di provvedimenti conciliativi onde evitare pericolosi e vasti conflitti, seguita dai provvedimenti repressivi nei riguardi dei colpevoli di violenza e, sopratutto, nei riguardi della delinquenza rurale: azione che sarà inflessibilmente sviluppata fino al raggiungimento dell'intento.

I disordini lamentati si limitano ad una zona ristretta, che per le ragioni suindicate é stata sempre, purtroppo, una delle zone più agitate d'Italia: tali disordini hanno portata locale, ed io credo che la loro importanza, dalla stampa, sia stata esagerata.

Devo infine osservare che il Governo si trova di fronte a situazioni delle quali non può essergli addossata la responsabilità: autorità che dopo il collasso fascista non hanno potuto riprendere

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Ministero dell'Interno

GABINETTO DI S.E. IL MINISTRO

adatta[illegible], che è lento e difficile ricostruire con gli scarsi mezzi a disposizione.

IL MINISTRO

Federico Landi

3243

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Mod.90bis

Ministero dell'Interno

GABINETTO DI S.E. IL MINISTRO

AGITAZIONI IN PROVINCIA DI BARI

(seguito)

Il reggimento "Garibaldi" è giunto a Trani.

Come ho fatto comunicare dal prefetto di Bari al Comandante della 54 Area delle forze militari inglesi, mentre la presenza del Reggimento nella zona ci dà maggiore sicurezza e serve di monito ai riottosi, il Governo si riserva di chiederne l'intervento se e quando sarà ritenuto necessario.

Per il momento occorrono solo rinforzi di automezzi e alcune autoblinde per avere la sicurezza dell'esito positivo delle battute di polizia in corso, mezzi che il Prefetto ha già raccolto, ricevendone anche dai Comandi Alleati.

Le ripeto che il Governo è deciso ad andare fino in fondo, ma sceglie i mezzi più opportuni e ne gradua l'impiego, giudicando per il momento necessario non compromettere l'azione di disarmo politico e l'opera pacificatrice dei partiti con operazioni militari in grande stile, mentre ritiene, per ora, sufficiente, per la repressione delle bande di grassatori annidate nell'Agro di Minervino e nelle Murge, battute esemplari ben concepite ed efficacemente condotte.

IL MINISTRO

Ferruccio Parri

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

R. PREFECTURE OF BARI

BARI, JUNE 27,1945

Ref. 05468

SUBJECT: PUBLIC ORDER - MINERVINO MURGE AND ANDRIA
TO : COLONEL MILLER

For some time petty crimes have been taking place in the area of Minservino-Murge and Spinazzola; these incidents of common delinquency have been a cause of great alarm to the public, also because of the ascertained fact, that the thieves operated in bands equipped with modern weapons.

These criminal acts consist of stopping, under the pretext of an inspection for rationing purposes, trains on the Minervino and Spinazzola line, with stealing grain loads from the place of production away from the urban centers, as well as of many illegal acts such as searches, appropriation of items in general and unauthorized sequestration of merchandise, etc. This situation forced the public safety authorities to intervene and suppress the abuses in order to restore gradually liberty and safety which are greatly threatened, with the elimination of the persons responsible. Therefore, the Force of Minervino was accordingly strenghtened and measures were taken to identify the persons responsible for the crimes. Forty-four persons were identified in a short time; these had partecipated in stopping trains. They were denounced to the judicial authorities.

Later eleven more thieves, most of whom are confessed criminals, were arrested while committing the offences.

The morning of the 25th of this month ex-convicts, disbanded soldiers and desertors, members of armed bands, finding a pretext from the arrest of three communists charged with rapine, who were released soon after because not found guilty, used violence against the barracks of the Force in Minervino, demanding the release of three other detained men, who had confessed of having committed rapine on trains. Later, while the arrested persons were being taken in, shots were fired at the soldiers which missed their mark, however, and not long after the armed groups surrounded the barracks and opened a heavy fire with rifles and tommy-guns. The soldiers answered the fire and during the conflict a civilian was killed, two civilians and a carabiniere wounded. The rumour spread by the communists that the carabinieri had fired several shots point-blank after making the arrests and before returning to their barracks, was emphatically denied. As soon as reports came in, delayed owing to cut communications, reinforcements of P.S. agents and carabinieri were sent to the scene. They were held up, however, by machine-gun and mortar fire. The situation became worse and as disorder was arising in nearby towns and in order to avoid a bloody conflict, the reinforcements were withdrawn to Andria, following an agreement with provincial communist authorities and orders from the Ministry of the Interior. A captain of the Carabinieri who had gone to Minervino to persuade the men to stop, was held as a hostage for a short time and soon after released on condition that he would obtain from his superior offices the release of the 11 arrested men.

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Meanwhile the situation in Andria, too, threatened to become more complicated, though without any incentive, but simply because of the explicable mentality of rebellious masses. In the afternoon of the 26th a platoon of carabinieri was attacked with hand grenades. One of the carabinieri was killed and two were wounded. Soon after a truck filled with carabinieri, returning from Minervino, was fired upon at a country road junction near Andria; two men were wounded. Finally, another truck which had gone to the aid of the first was again attacked with automatic weapons; one carabiniere was killed and four were wounded. The other carabinieri on the truck were taken to the communist section of Andria where they were released by the communist secretary of that section.

The above-mentioned crimes were justified by the allegation that the police had done nothing to apply the sanctions against fascists.

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

It is to be pointed out on this point that this office, even before the known repressive laws were passed, had given instructions to police bodies under its control to examine without delay the position of dangerous fascists.

The Provincial Commission referred to in art 166 of the P.S. Law met almost every week and 14 fascists were sent to exile (confino), 29 were admonished and 19 more included among 150 cases which are being investigated.

The alleged slowness is due to the fact that the Commission requested an inquiry supplement for many persons, as there was not enough evidence to decide.

11

An order was therefore issued for the release of the men arrested, who were then merely denounced.

After the arrest of fascists and other factious persons chosen during an agreement with the CL and the communist secretary of Andria which took place during the night, a large band of communists began at 8 o'clock arresting about one hundred citizens not known as dangerous fascists.

Immediately after another thousand fully armed communists went to the jail and after capturing the jail-keeper, they released 46 prisoners, 36 of whom were serving their term, 4 were being held for the Allied Authorities and 6 were waiting for trial- one of whom for murder.

The same band of communists requisitioned all the trucks in circulation, including those with which police reinforcements had been sent; these trucks were used to concentrate in Andria the communists of nearby towns who, after having been armed, even with heavy weapons were placed on guard at the entrances of the building.

At the same time armed forces of the people surrounded the CC.RR. HQ. holding the officers, the soldiers and the officials of Police gathered there.

The communist secretary Di Gaetano having been asked to cooperate in clearing this dangerous situtation declared he could do nothing to check the excited masses of people who had taken an aggressive attitude while they were asking for the replacement of the present Prefectural Commissioner with a communist whom they trusted, and who was to be assisted by a communist Communal Board (Giunta).

Since the communist leaders had taken it upon themselves to re-establish order, Vincenzo Barile was temporarily appointed as Commissioner (he had been previously been nominated as assessor of the local Committee of Liberation) until such time as the sindaco and the Giunta were appointed upon the nominations requested from the Provincial Committee of Liberation. The appointment of the Commissioner has contributed to the re-establishment of peace that evening, also after the news reached the communists that the 11 arrested men of Minervino had been released.

Investigations will soon be commenced in order to find the persons responsible for the violent acts committed in Minervino and Andria and for the arrest of those responsible for the theft, as soon as the judicial authorities will issue a warrant of arrest.

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

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Investigations will soon be commenced in order to find the persons responsible for the violent acts committed in Minervino and Andria and for the arrest of those responsible for the theft, as soon as the judicial authorities will issue a warrant of arrest.

Those persons who were released unlawfully are being sought at present.

THE PREFECT

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 783046

ROYAL PREFECTURE OF BARI

File No. 05468

BARI. 29 June 1945

SUBJECT: Andria and Minervino Murge- Public Order
TO : COLONEL MILLER
Liaison Officer
B A R I

Immediate Action

Following the report of 27 inst, we wish to inform you that we have had recent information that in Andria on the evening of 27 and on the morning of the 28th, groups of factious persons entered the offices of the Pretura, of the Commissariat of Public Safety and of Industry, and destroyed records and documents. The office of the night guards and that of the country guards were set fire to, put out by the guards of Barletta who ran to the scene. It was learned moreover that the Carabinieri mentioned in the above report, after being taken to the communist section of Andria, were deprived of the arms and uniforms which have not yet been restored to them. The arms in question are twenty rifles, twenty-two pistols and six tomy-guns. According to fragmentary news come in yesterday evening late, a group of communist who went into the country with the intention of using force against a guard, were stopped by shots fired by the same and two of them killed. The same communists later entered the house of the guard using violence against the family; three persons were killed and one wounded. The people in Andria and nearby towns were greatly alarmed and 50 Carabinieri are still locked up in their barracks. Serious riots took place in Corato in which took part armed groups of persons. The Carabinieri barracks were taken by surprise last night with the intention of disarming the six soldiers occupying them. One of them was wounded. The roads in the district of Murge are still controlled by armed groups.

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THE PREFECT

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 783016

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LEGIONE CARABINIERI, BARI

TO: THE ALLIED COMMISSION
BARI

Fragmentary reports give the following information:

This afternoon, 28th June, communist bands arrested a "giurata" guard, probably an ex-fascist, in a field between Andria and Corata. Two communists were killed in the ensuing conflict. Serious riot has taken place in Andria and nearby towns in rebellion against fascists. Situation in Andi a has become serious again and deaths have resulted from armed conflicts in Corato. Conflicts with the soldiers stationed there have been reported and a carabiniere slightly wounded. Bari and several roads in the ~~xxxx~~ north of Bari Province and held under the control of armed bands.

Lt. Col. Lucchari

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

RESTRICTED

P 24544
JULY 1817572

AMEMB SYDNEY RACHED SITE FIRST
ALSTOM

RESTRICTED.

Request you expedite reply to our P 21339 of 12 July.

TO		
DIRECTOR		
DEPUTY DIRECTOR	WSA	23/7
POLICY		
LIC. & REG.		
PROGRAMS		
ADMINISTRATION		
SECURITY		
CABLE CLERK		

DRAFT

ACTION - SO TO OMITP CONSULATE
INFO - OTHER CONSULATES
AMEMB CANBERRA 2
CA 1:30
1 MARKEY #2
1 FORCHT SO 2
FILE

3243

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

14602/10 RESTRICTED

Pub-Security
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TO		
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JJR 14-7
dfm 16-7

71 A 14602/10

File unit CA 5

[redacted]

1. Reference made [redacted] of 12 July 1945.

2. [redacted] between commercial vessels [redacted] will be conducted in accordance with instructions laid down in par IV [redacted] of 6 July and par VIII of 9 July.

3. Ships to which 5 of the signal will be subject of separate dissemination.

3247

[redacted]

HEADQUARTERS
14 JUL 1945

[redacted]

RESTRICTED

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

R 91A

TO: AFHQ GEORGE FIVE SECTION

16602/12

1653 11 Jul 45 OPERATIONAL PRIORITY

SECRET FD

PARA ONE FD SUBJECT IS MOVE OF GARIBALDI REGIMENT TO TRANI FD

PARA TWO FD SEE PARA FOUR OF MY DUE ONE FIVE SEVEN OF FOUR JULY FOUR FIVE AND YOUR FOX XRAY ONE EIGHT NINE FIVE ONE OF SEVEN JULY FOUR FIVE FD ON THE ADVICE OF MY POLITICAL ADVISERS I HAVE NOT YET ASKED THE PRIME MINISTER TO USE TROOPS IN THE BARI AREA BUT I HAVE WRITTEN TO HIM ASKING FOR A FULL REPORT ON THE SITUATION AND FOR A STATEMENT OF THE STEPS WHICH THE GOVERNMENT IS TAKING OR INTENDS TO TAKE TO PREVENT A INSURRECTION FD

PARA THREE FD I AM INFORMED THAT THE PRIME MINISTER HAS SENT A SIGNAL TO THE PREFECT OF BARI STATING THAT THE GARIBALDI REGIMENT SHOULD NOT BE EMPLOYED IN THE PRESENT EMERGENCY IN THE BARI AREA FD UNOFFICIALLY I BELIEVE THAT THE PRIME MINISTER HAS MADE PLANS FOR THE HANDLING OF THIS INCIDENT WITHOUT USING TROOPS FD IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES AND PENDING AN OFFICIAL REPLY AS TO THE PRIME MINISTERS INTENTIONS CMA IT IS REQUESTED THAT THE MOVE OF THE REMAINDER OF THE GARIBALDI REGIMENT TO BARI BE POSTPONED FD IN VIEW OF THE TIME FACTOR INVOLVED I HAVE TEMPORARILY POSTPONED THIS MOVE WHICH IS DUE TO TAKE PLACE TOMORROW PENDING YOUR DECISION FD

PAREN TO AFHQ GEORGE FIVE SECTION FROM ALCON CTOR ADVCO PAREN

PARA FOUR FD NEW SUBJECT IS SECURITY IN ITALIAN GOVERNMENT TERRITORY FD

1953

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

1653 11 Jul 45 OPERATIONAL PRIORITY

PARA FIVE FD THE PRIME MINISTER HAS RECENTLY ASKED ME IN GENERAL TERMS FOR ADDITIONAL INTERNAL SECURITY TROOPS UNDER ITALIAN OPERATIONAL CONTROL FOR USE SOUTH FD THIS WHOLE QUESTION IS BOUND UP WITH YOUR DECISION ON MY PROPOSALS IN MY EIGHT TWO FIVE ONE BLACK ONE EIGHT ZERO SLANT BAKER CHARLIE DATED SEVEN JUNE FOUR FIVE IN WHICH I PROPOSE THE FORMATION OF ONE INTERNAL SECURITY BRIGADE FOR ITALIAN MILITARY TERRITORIAL REGION I ARMY EXCLUDING SICILY PART AND WOULD REQUEST AN URGENT DECISION ON MY PROPOSALS AS ABOVE FD IN VIEW OF THE EARLY INCIDENT I STRONGLY URGE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF MY PROPOSALS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

3247

Internal Distribution: Executive Commissioner,
Civil Affairs Section,
Public Safety Sub-Commission
Land Forces Sub-Commission
Rome Area Allied Command
FOLD A + B

Civil Affairs Section

437

	TO		
X	DIRECTOR		
X	DEPUTY DIRECTOR	[illegible]	1317
	EXEC. OFFICER	[illegible]	[illegible]
X	POLICE	[illegible]	1317 - See me [illegible]
	LIC[illegible]		
	PUBLIC [illegible]		
	ADMIN [illegible]		
X	SECURITY	seen	
	CHIEF CLERK		

NICHOLAS FIORENTINO
CWO USA
Asst. Adjutant.

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

14002/10/PS

CA Sec (PS) V
704

Ref: 3609/94/30.

13 July 1945.

14 LUG 1945

Dear Signor Nenni:

I have been requested by the Chief Commissioner to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 6 July 1945 with reference to very serious incidents which it is alleged took place in Macerata Province and also in Ascoli-Piceno involving Polish troops.

As these Provinces are no longer AMG territory I am without information as to the nature of these incidents and should be most grateful, therefore, if you will give me some further particulars so that I may take the matter up with the military authorities.

I should appreciate information not only as to the nature of the incidents, but also the dates and places where they are said to have taken place.

	to 17/2	

Yours sincerely,

3233

M. S. LUSH

Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

Signor Pietro Nenni,
Vice President of the Council of Ministers,
Italian Government,
Rome.

48

Copy To: C A Sec.

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

CONFIDENTIAL

14602/10/PS

82
69A

~~SECRET~~

CC 3602

13 July 1943.

My dear Mr. Prime Minister:

Supplementing my letter of 10 July on the Puglia incident, I have just received an urgent communication, as quoted below, from the Supreme Allied Commander, Field Marshal Sir Harold R.L.G. Alexander, which I am instructed to pass to you:

"1. I take a very serious view of the recent civil disturbances in the Andria and Minervino areas and do not consider the action taken to be adequate.

"2. It is directed that I be informed urgently what action the Italian Government has taken:

(a) To clear up the situation in the Andria and Minervino areas and to ensure there is no recurrence in the future;

(b) To hunt down, disarm, and speedily bring to justice the instigators and those who took part in these disturbances.

3233

"3. I expect that persons convicted of taking part in the disturbances will be severely punished and I wish to be informed of the sentences meted out in each individual cases."

I shall be grateful for your reply to my letter of 10 July, as supplemented by the Supreme Allied Commander's communication, at the earliest possible moment.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Ellery W. Stone

ELLERY W. STONE
Rear Admiral, USNR
Chief Commissioner

His Excellency Professor Ferruccio Parri
President of the Council of Ministers
Italian Government
Rome

DISTRIBUTION:
US Ambassador
UK Ambassador
POL ADVSR (A)
POL ADVSR (B)
WF CA Section
Pub. Safety S/C
Econ Counsr.
cc:

CONFIDENTIAL

0704

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

14602/10/PS 2R 68A

TRANSLATION M.C.

GENERAL COMMAND OF THE CC.RR.

No.499/42-r.p. 10th July 1945 - Rome

TO: ALLIED COMMISSION SUBCOMMISSION FOR P.S. -ROME

SUBj.: Puglie - disorders.

We send you copy of telegram No.84/13 -R.P., wired us 10th inst. by the Carabinieri Legion Command at Bari:

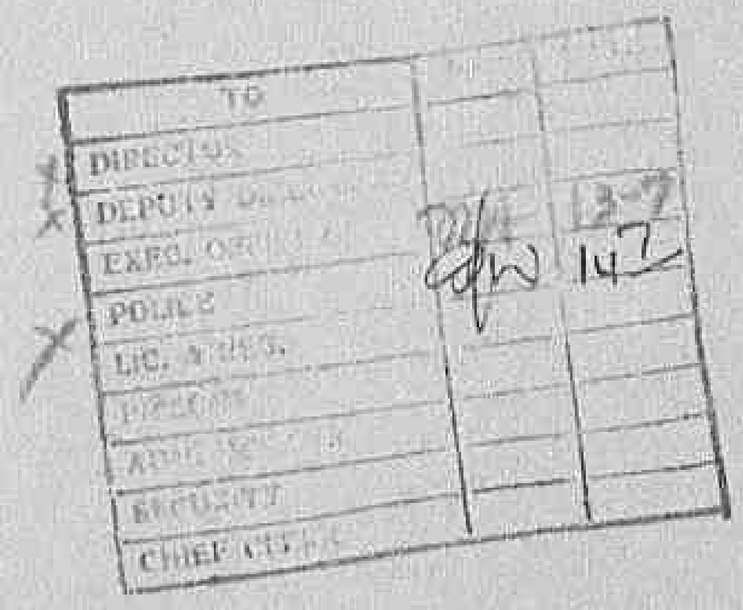
'' General Clark Commander of 54 area (Eri.) has informed territorial Commander and Prefect with reserved communicate due arrival of Garibaldi Regiment composed of two thousand men as necessary reinforcement for repressing common criminals, and the rounding -up of fire-arms considered necessaey by Allied Command.''

4323

For the General Commander a.p.s.

the Vice Commander

- Generale Leonetto Taddei



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

RISERVATO PERSONALE

Comando Generale dell'Arma dei Carabinieri Reali

UFFICIO SERVIZIO - SITUAZIONE E COLLEGAMENTI

N. 499/12 *di prot.* R.P. *Roma, li* 10 luglio 1945

Risposta al *del* *n.* *Allegati n.*

OGGETTO: Puglie - Riservini.

ALLA COMMISSIONE ALLEATA

- Sottocommissione per la Pubblica Sicurezza -

ROMA

****

Trascrivo il seguente telegramma n.84/13 R.P. in data 10 corrente 3236
del Comando della Legione Carabinieri di Bari

"""Generale CLARK Comandante diciottesimo Army Group inglese habet oggi comunicato riservatamente relazione comandante militare territoriale et Prefetto arrivo prossimo Trani un reggimento Garibaldi composto duemila uomini quale rinforzo operazione necessaria repressione delinquenza comune et rastrellamento armi ad ordine alleato annette grande importanza. Habet chiesto istruzioni Ministero. Riserva comunicazioni."""

p. IL COMANDANTE GENERALE e.p.c.
IL VICE COMANDANTE
- Generale Leonetto Taddei -

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

INCOMING MESSAGE

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

P. Safety

Originator's Reference: SD 548

Date/Time of Origin: 11L

Message Centre No: E/9100

Date Time Rec'd: JULY 110850

Precedence: IMPORTANT

FROM: DISTHREE

TO : 54 AREA TERRITORIAL HQ BARI, ALCOM INFO: 227 ITALIAN ADMIN DIV, AFHQ (G3 PS), AFHQ(GS ORG AMG) MMIA, MCV BARI, MMIA LO BARI.

SECRET.

Further my CC 511 of 7th July and to our D 530 of 8th July neither to all. On arrival TRANI GARIBALDI Regt is placed under operation command territorial HQ BARI for such internal security duty as Italian Government may direct. Acknowledge.

TO	INIT	DATE
DIRECTOR		
DEPUTY DIRECTOR	[illegible]	11/7
EXEC. OFFICER	[illegible]	[illegible]
POLICE	[illegible]	11/7
[illegible]		
[illegible]		

DIST

INFO-ACTION - P SAFETY SC
L FORCES SC 3235
INFO - CHIEF COMMISSIONER
CAS
FILE

INFO - ACTION

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS
11 JUL 1945

HQ ALLIED COMMISSION

14602/10

CONFIDENTIAL
CIVIL CENSORSHIP GROUP

STATION AMZON/I/
RECORD No. 16572
IT/A 10280-45

From:	To:
Bari Prefettura Caller : Vice Capo Polizia Give place of Postmark where there is no address.	Rome Ministero Interni Callee : DE BONIS

66A

Date of communication or postmark if letter is un-dated	Type mail	Reg. No.	Language	Previously censored by	Enclosures
8 July 1945	Phonogram Inter.		Italian		

Previous relevant record	Station allocation	C. C. G. Allocation	Disposal of original communication
	TOS	G-2 (CC) AFHQ AC HQ FILE G-5 AFHQ IRB London Dir.Int.ASF Wash	Held Excised Photographed Sent with comment to: Passed P Condemned Return to sender

COMMENT

ORGANIZATION OF POLICE SERVICES AGAINST THE CRIMINAL GANGS IN THE MURGE

3234

Phonogram N.8

"In phonogram N.05468 dated 3 July the Prefect of BARI notified you of the necessity of organising police posts and patrols of police and Carabinieri in the country of MINERVINO MURGE, CANOSA, SPINAZZOLA, ANDRIA in order to check the activity of the criminal gangs. They should also arrest the dangerous criminals who are living in the MURGE, and especially at MINERVINO and discover out in the country clandestine deposits of arms and ammunition.
The Prefect can receive from A.M.A.G. the necessary motor-cars and will eventually request to this Ministry a certain number of drivers and motocyclists and some armored cars.
Since the local available policemen and Carabinieri are not sufficiently numerous for this undertaking the Prefect has the intention of availing himself of the reinforcements, which had been sent here last week. Since 400 on the 480 men would be required for one month at least, I beg you to take this organization in hand and eventually to give us authorization for the use of the reinforcements, in consideration also of orders given by the Ministry telegram N. 24168/17926 dated 5 July.
This organization would raise the reputation of the police in the MURGE and adjust the situation at MINERVINO."

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 783046

6 July 1945	Phonogram Inter.	Italian	

Previous relevant record	Station allocation	C. C. G. Allocation	Disposal of original communication
	TCS	G-2 (CC) AFHQ AC HQ TIJM G-5 AFHQ IRB London Dir.Int.ASF Wash	Held Excised Photographed Sent with comment to: Passed P Condemned Return to sender

COMMENT

ORGANIZATION OF POLICE SERVICES AGAINST THE CRIMINAL GANGS IN THE MURGE

Phonogram N.6 3234

"In phonogram N.05488 dated 3 July the Prefect of BARI notified you of the necessity of organizing police posts and patrols of police and Carabinieri in the country of MINERVINO MURGE, CANOSA, SPINAZZOLA, ANDRIA in order to check the activity of the criminal gangs. They should also arrest the dangerous criminals who are living in the MURGE, and especially at MINERVINO and discover out in the country clandestine deposits of arms and ammunition. The Prefect can receive from A.M.A.O. the necessary motor-cars and will eventually request to this Ministry a certain number of drivers and motocyclists and some armored cars.
Since the local available policemen and Carabinieri are not sufficiently numerous for this undertaking the Prefect has the intention of availing himself of the reinforcements, which had been sent here last week. Since 400 on the 480 men would be required for one month at least, I beg you to take this organisation in hand and eventually to give us authorization for the use of the reinforcements, in consideration also of orders given by the Ministry telegram N. 24158/17928 dated 5 July.
This organization would raise the reputation of the police in the MURGE and adjust the situation at MINERVINO."

TO	INITIAL	DATE
DIRECTOR		
DEPUTY DIRECTOR	wa	17/7
EXEC. OFFICER		
PUBLIC [illegible]		
[illegible]		
[illegible]		
[illegible]		
[illegible]		
[illegible]		

EXAMINER Italian Censor REVIEWER A.S. EXAMINATION DATE 6 July 1945

SPECIAL NOTICE. — The attached information was taken from private communications, and its extremely confidential character must be preserved. The information must be confided only to those officials whose knowledge of it is necessary to prosecution of the war. In no case should it be widely distributed, or copies made, or the information used in legal proceedings or in any other public way without express consent of the Civil Censorship Officer, Allied Commission.

CONFIDENTIAL

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

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

CONFIDENTIAL

65 SRD Safety

F 21330

JULY 12/1345B

AFHQ GRAND QUARTIER GENERAL FORCES

ALLIED

DEPUTY [illegible]	[illegible]	1339
CHIEF OF STAFF	[illegible]	[illegible]
POLAD	[illegible]	14
MC & SD		
[illegible]		
SCAEF		
CHIEF CE		

CONFIDENTIAL

1. Reference our FX 14967 of 29 June and F 15319 of 5 July and your 1237 of 4 July and 1357 of 5 July.

2. The Supreme Allied Commander takes a very serious view of the recent civil disturbances in the ATHENS and SALONIKA Areas and does not consider the action indicated in your cables quoted above to be adequate.

3233

3. The Supreme Allied Commander wishes that he be informed urgently what action the Italian government has taken.

A. To clear up the situation in the ATHENS and SALONIKA areas and to ensure there is no recurrence in the future.

B. To hunt down, disarm and speedily bring to justice the instigators and those who took part in these disturbances.

4. The Supreme Allied Commander expects that persons convicted of taking part in the disturbances will be severely punished and he wishes to be informed of the sentences meted out in each individual case.

CONFIDENTIAL

FINAL

ADDENDUM : DO TO OTHER ADDRESSEES
ZEBRA : CHIEF STAFF, AK CMD'S.
CAS, LAND F,(2) NOS CAT, FWD

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

11692/140. SR
Attach file to 64A

TRANSLATION S.D.

MINISTRY OF INTERIOR - Gen.Direct. of P.S. -

No. 442/9000/Div.A.G.R. Sez.II Rome, 7 July 1945

SUBJECT : The situation in Provincia of Bari - Partisans actually in Rome.

TO : A.C. Public Safety S.C. - Rome -

With reference to what was requested on the 3rd inst., during the weekly meeting, we let you know that our Government, a few days after its installation, was obliged to face a situation in the province of Bari that, caused by episodes of common criminality, threatened to turn into a rebellion on a social, political and economical ground.

Our Government deemed convenient to try - through peaceful attempts personally effected by two Ministers - to isolate the criminal deeds from the causes that had entangled them.

The local parties, complying with the request 323
of the Government Representatives, are persuading the inhabitants to deliver their weapons.

At the same time it was disposed to leave "in loco" the reinforcements sent there for the emergency of non consignment of arms. Action that we feel we must point out, will be performed with the utmost caution considering the wild nature of the places that renders difficult the use of considerable police forces.

It was moreover disposed that the 47 convicts that the rioting crowd delivered from the Prison at Adria should be urgently detected and arrested. Such operation is in course.

No new incident occurred in these last days at Andria and Minervino Murge, so that the situation

./.

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

may be considered normal at least in regard to those inhabitants who did not agree with the rioting elements.

In regard to the violent acts committed in Rome, we inform you that the number of the partisans assembled there, must be reckonned to be inferiof to one thousand. The most careful investigations are being made to ascertain the responsabilities of the various unlawful episodes displayed, in order to adopt severe punishments.

Besides we are going to provide the sending back of partisans to their previous residences after desarming them.

For the Minister
Ferrari

TO	INIT	DATE
DIRECTOR		
DEPUTY		
EXEC.		
POLICE		
SECURITY		
CHIEF CLERK		

✓ 323

Mod. 172

B.

Ministero dell'Interno
DIREZIONE GENERALE
DELLA PUBBLICA SICUREZZA

Roma 7 Luglio 1945

ALLA COMMISSIONE ALLEATA
Sottocommissione per la P.S.
ROMA

Divisione A.C.R. *Sez.* II^
Prot. N. 442/9000 *Allegati*

Risposta al Foglio del
Div. *Sez.* *N.°*

OGGETTO Situazione in provincia di Bari - Partigiani attualmente a Roma.-

Con riferimento a quanto richiesto durante il rapporto settimanale in data 3 corrente, si comunica che il Governo, a pochi giorni dal suo insediamento si è trovato a dover fronteggiare una situazione in provincia di Bari, che, originata da episodi di delinquenza comune, minacciava di trasformasi in una rivolta a sfondo sociale politico ed economico.

3239

Il Governo ha creduto opportuno di tentare attraverso un'opera pacifica di persuasione, svolta personalmente a mezzo di due suoi Ministri, di isolare il fatto delinquenziale dai fattori che su di esso si erano intrecciati.

A tal fine i partiti locali, aderendo all'invito dei Rappresentanti del Governo, stanno svolgendo opera persuasiva per il versamento volontario delle armi.

Nello stesso tempo è stato disposto che siano trattenuti in loco i rinforzi inviati, per l'azione da svolgere nel caso non avesse successo la consegna volontaria delle armi. Azione che, è bene precisare, dovrà essere svolta con la massima cautela, date la natura impervia dei luoghi che rende difficile l'impiego in forza di notevoli contingenti di polizia.

E' stato, infine, disposto che sia provveduto d'urgenza alla ricerca

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

Ministero dell'Interno

DIREZIONE GENERALE
DELLA PUBBLICA SICUREZZA

Sottocommissione per la P.S.
ROMA

Divisione A.G.I. Sez. II^
Prot. N. 442/9000 Allegati

Risposta al Foglio del
Div. Sez. N.

OGGETTO Situazione in provincia di Bari - Partigiani attualmente a Roma.-

Con riferimento a quanto richiesto durante il rapporto settimanale in data 3 corrente, si comunica che il Governo, a pochi giorni del suo insediamento, si è trovato a dover fronteggiare una situazione in provincia di Bari, che, originata da episodi di delinquenza comune, minacciava di trasformasi in una rivolta a sfondo sociale politico ed economico.

3230

Il Governo ha creduto opportuno di tentare attraverso un'opera pacifica di persuasione, svolta personalmente a mezzo di due suoi Ministri, di isolare il fatto delinquenziale dai fattori che su di esso si erano intrecciati.

A tal fine i partiti locali, aderendo all'invito dei Rappresentanti del Governo, stanno svolgendo opera persuasiva per il versamento volontario delle armi.

Nello stesso tempo è stato disposto che siano trattenuti in loco i rinforzi inviati, per l'azione da svolgere nel caso non avesse successo la consegna volontaria delle armi. Azione che, è bene precisare, dovrà essere svolta con la massima cautela, data la natura impervia dei luoghi, che rende difficile l'impiego in forza di notevoli contingenti di polizia.

E' stato, infine, disposto che sia provveduto d'urgenza alla ricerca e all'arresto dei 47 detenuti che la folla tumultuante fece evadere dal carcere di Andria. L'operazione è in corso.

Nessun nuovo incidente si è verificato in questi ultimi giorni nell'abitato dei comuni di Andria e Minervino Murge, sicchè la situazione

./.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 789016

può considerarsi normalizzata, almeno per quanto riguarda quelle popolazioni, che non fanno più causa comune con elementi faziosi.

Circa gli atti di violenza commessi in Roma da partigiani, mentre si informa che il numero dei partigiani convenuto a Roma è da ritenersi inferiore al migliaio, si fa noto che sono in corso le più attive indagini per accertare le responsabilità di ciascuno nei vari episodi illeciti verificatisi, per l'adozione di adeguati provvedimenti di rigore.

Si va, altresì, a provvedere per il rinvio ai luoghi di origine dei partigiani stessi, previo disarmo.

PEL MINISTRO

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 783044

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

14602/10/85.

63A

TO	INIT	DATE
DIRECTOR		
DEPUTY DIRECTOR		11/7
EXEC. OFFICER		
POLICE		20 July 1945.
LIC. & REG.		
PRISONS		
ADM. OFFICER		
SECURITY		
CHIEF CLERK		

U-R-G-E-N-T

My dear Mr. Prime Minister:

Italian press accounts report a series of incidents which occurred in the Minervino-Andria-Spinazzola areas in Puglia late last month which, if correct, would appear to be cause for serious concern, particularly if the reported disturbances should spread into the Bari area where substantial Allied installations still exist.

I should be grateful, my dear Mr. Prime Minister, if you could give me at the earliest possible moment an official re- 3239
port of these incidents, together with a statement as to what steps the Government is taking or intends to take to prevent a repetition.

Very truly yours,

cc. Rome Command
VP CA Section
Public Safety S/C
CC Files

/s/ Kelly W. Stone

KELLEY W. STONE
Rear Admiral, USNR
Chief Commissioner

Professor Ferruccio Parri,
The President of the Council of Ministers,
Italian Government,
Rome.

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

RESERVED PERSONAL LETTER URGENT

TRANSLATION S.D.

GENERAL COMMAND OF CC.RR.

No. 499/36 R.P. 7 July 1945

SUBJECT : Puglie - Desorders.

TO : A.C. Public Safety S.C.

I transcribe despatch No. 78/85 R.P. dated 6 inst. from CC.RR. Legion in Bari:

" Andria-Corato situation persists normal. At Minervi-
" no Murge it tends to normalize. CC.RR. are patrolling daily
" and nightly inhabited centre and the country. Armaments deliver-
" ed to-day: 1 hunting-gun, 11 revolvers and 2 pistols at Andria;
" 4 muskets mod.38, 4 guns and muskets mod.91, 32 hunting-gun,
" 2 pistols, 2 hand-grenades and 12 cartouches for rifled guns
" at Corato. Above materials are efficient except 1 pistol.
" Bari Prefetto = in order to hamper robbery-actions of armed
" riff-raff at Minervino Andria and Murge Area, suggested to
" the Ministry of Interior to form checking-posts and to effect
" road-control by means of motor-vehicles with agents and CC.RR.
" Besides such measures might be useful to discover clandestine
" stores and armaments hidden in the country."

TO	
DIRECTOR	
DEPUTY DIR.	
EXEC. OF	
POLICE	
ADJUTANT	
CHIEF CLERK	

f. The General Commander
The Vice-Commander
General Leonetto Laddei

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

URGENTE

RISERVATO PERSONALE

Comando Generale dell'Arma dei Carabinieri Reali

UFFICIO SERVIZIO - SITUAZIONE E COLLEGAMENTI

N. 499/36 di prot. R.P. Roma, li 7 luglio 1945

Risposta al del n. Allegati n.

OGGETTO: Puglie - Ricordini.

ALLA COMMISSIONE ALLEATA
= Sottocommissione per la P.S. -
R O M A

3207

Trasmetto il seguente telegramma n.75/85 R.P. in data 6 corrente della Legione CC.RR. di Bari:

"Andria Corato situazione pressoche normale. Riservisti Murge tonde normalizzasi. Area ha ripreso servizi diurni et notturni vigilanza abitato et campagna; verificata giornata odierna seguenti armi: Andria un fucile caccia undici rivoltelle due pistole. Corato quattro moschetti mod.38 quattro fucili et moschetti mod.91 un fucile cacciatore due pistole due bombe a mano et dodici cartucce per armi fabbricazione alleata. Tutto materiale efficiente meno una pistola. Prefetto Bari scopo infrenare attività repressatrice bande armate malviventi come Riservino Andria et Murge ha proposto Ministero Interno ponti fissi battute autocarrate con agenti et carabinieri; queste

./.

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

ultimo servirebbero pure ricevere doppelti clandestini
anni occultati compagno."

p. IL COMANDANTE NAZIONALE e.p.c.
IL VICE COMANDANTE
-Generale Leonetto Tedeschi-

HQ ALLIED COMMISSION

CONFIDENTIAL
CIVIL CENSORSHIP GROUP

STATION ROME/T/
RECORD No. 16563
ITA 10249-45

From:	To:
MINISTERO GUERRA Rome, Italy Caller: Col. LOMBARDI Give place of Postmark where there is no address	COMANDO CORPO ARMATA Bari, Italy Callee: a general

Date of communication or postmark if letter is un-dated	Type mail.	Reg No.	Language	Previously censored by	Enclosures
4 July 1945	Telephone Interurban	---	Italian	---	---

Previous relevant record	Station allocation	C. C. G. Allocation	Disposal of original communication
---	---	G-2 (CC) AFHQ ~~AC~~ HQ FILE Dir.Int.ASF Wash IEB London	Held Excised Photographed Sent with comment to: Passed Condemned Return to sender

COMMENT

CARABINIERI ALLEGEDLY INEFFICIENT AT MINERVINO MURGE (BARI)

Callee: I wanted to tell you, LOMBARDI, that what the newspapers published on the ANDRIA, MINERVINO and CORATO affair is completely false. The Carabinieri's prestige has considerably diminished. I received precise news according to which the Carabinieri who had been sent to MINERVINO escaped with their weapons and returned to their families. That's what the situation really is. That's what I have written, and I repeat it now. A few evenings ago the Commander of the Carabinieri Legion reported to me. I realize that he had to speak well of the Carabinieri, but I don't want to be told a lot of nonsense. The Carabinieri have lost all authority they had with the population. The people expected to be protected by them but they never arrived, because they had locked themselves in the barracks, and when they finally arrived on the spot same patrols surrendered. That's what happened, my dear LOMBARDI.... That Legion Commander is a dimwit he has greatly compromised the prestige of the Carabinieri. I take full responsibility for what I have said, especially since there is BONOMI at the Arma dei Carabinieri; you may inform him of all this. The newspapers announced that at 01:00 hours a minister

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

Interurban

Previous relevant record	Station allocation	C. C. G. Allocation	Disposal of original communication
---	---	G-2 (CC) AFHQ AC HQ FILE Dir.Int.ASF Wash IEB London	Held Excised Photographed Sent with comment to: Passed Condemned Return to sender

COMMENT

CARABINIERI ALLEGEDLY INEFFICIENT AT MINERVINO MURGE (BARI)

Callea: I wanted to tell you, LOMBARDI, that what the newspapers published on the ANDRIA, MINERVINO and CORATO affair is completely false. The Carabinieri's prestige has considerably diminished. I received precise news according to which the Carabinieri who had been sent to MINERVINO escaped with their weapons and returned to their families. That's what the situation really is. That's what I have written, and I repeat it now. A few evenings ago the Commander of the Carabinieri Legion reported to me. I realize that he had to speak well of the Carabinieri, but I don't want to be told a lot of nonsense. The Carabinieri have lost all authority they had with the population. The people expected to be protected by them but they never arrived, because they had locked themselves in the barracks, and when they finally arrived on the spot some patrols surrendered. That's what happened, my dear LOMBARDI;.... That Legion Commander is a pigmee he has greatly compromised the prestige of the Carabinieri. I take full responsability for what I have said, especially since there is BRUNETTI at the Arma dei Carabinieri; you may inform him of all this. The newspapers announced that at 01:00 hours a minister called a meeting of all political and military authorities. That's false. I have never been called. I asked to see the minister and met him barely 5 minutes before he left. That's the situation. The other minister who allegedly attended the funerals of two carabinieri, was seen at a distance of 500 meters, which means that he did not attend the funerals. That's the truth! I asked that minister whether I could be of some use to him but he answered: no thank you, you may go.

./.

EXAMINER Italian Censor REVIEWER T.S.M. EXAMINATION DATE 4 July 1945

SPECIAL NOTICE — The attached information was taken from private communications, and its extremely confidential character must be preserved. The information must be confided only to those officials whose knowledge of it is necessary to prosecution of the war. In no case should it be widely distributed, or copies made, or the information used in legal proceedings or in any other public way without express consent of the Civil Censorship Officer, Allied Commission.

CONFIDENTIAL

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

The story about the death of a policeman must be rectified too. I wrote you about it. No policeman died.....Where is the "Folgore" now?

Caller: Up at BOLZANO.

Callee: Do you know ARDRADO from MILAN?

Caller: I do.

Callee: You should tell him to come down here. ARDRADO is the one who was in TUNIS.

Caller: Yes, I know.

Callee: What happened is absolutely monstrous. Give my regards to the minister and tell him I am unchanged.

Caller: All right, general.

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

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

SECRET

P. Safety S/C 172

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 512

CJL/wsw

G-5: 000.5

14602/10 DE

7 July 1945

60A

SUBJECT: Civil Disturbances in Minervino.

TO : Headquarters, Allied Commission, APO 394.

1. The report of 54 Area is now with this Headquarters. It is considered that a few remarks and recommendations may be of interest.

2. Mention is made of the lack of initiative shown by all concerned with the exception of General Boselli, the Territorial Commander and his Chief of Staff who gave the impression of being both resolute and competent. The others appeared fearful of losing their jobs and always awaited orders from Rome before moving. These orders always appeared to favor the Communists.

3. Recommendations were made in the report as follows:

a. That a declaration be made, which will be honored, from the Central Government that those Civil and Military Officials who use their initiative and act in good faith will be supported.

b. That the Prefect and Chief of CCRI in Bari be replaced. Both are too easily intimidated by the prospect of violence and its effect on their careers if they resort to it, however necessary.

4. Troop dispositions were mentioned but it is understood that you are being kept fully informed.

For Asst. Chief of Staff, G-5:

3225

8 JUL 1943
ALLIED COMMISSION

C. J. MACNAMARA,
Major, F. C.

TO		
DIRECTOR		
DEPUTY DIRECTOR		
EXEC. OFFICER		
POLICE		
LIC. & REG.		
PERSONNEL		
PUBLIC WELFARE		
SECURITY		
CHIEF CLERK		

SECRET

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

194

RESERVED PERSONAL LETTER = URGENT

12602/10 pc

TRANSLATION S.D.

GENERAL COMMAND OF CC.RR.

No. 499/34 R.F. 6 July 1945

SUBJECT : Puglie desorders.

TO : A.C. Public Safety S.C.

I trascribe the following phonogram No.78/84 R.F. received on the 5th inst. at 2330 h. from the Command of CC.RR. Legion in Bari:

""" No new incidents took place at Andria and
" Murge Area. Arms as yet delivered 1 machine-gun,
" 7 hunting-gun. Members Andria C.L. bound them -
" selves to affix placard inciting inhabitants, in
" the name of all parties, to deliver spontaneously
" arms. Settled with Vice-Chief of Police all meas-
" ures necessary to restore calm pacifically. To
" night Secretary of Communist Provincial Federa -
" zione was again interested by Vice Chief of Police.
" Ministry of Interior wired Prefetto to maintain
" reinforcements on the spot, awaiting for instruc-
" tions if arms will not be freely delivered. Daily
" free deliveries must be communicated to Ministry
" of Interior."

f. The General Commander
The Vice Commander
General Taddei Leonetto

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

URGENTE

RISERVATO PERSONALE

Comando Generale dell'Arma dei Carabinieri Reali

UFFICIO SERVIZIO - SITUAZIONE E COLLEGAMENTI

N. 499/34 di prot. R.S. Roma, li 6 luglio 1945

Risposta al del n. Allegati n.

OGGETTO: Puglie - Disordini.

ALLA COMMISSIONE ALLEATA
-Sottocommissione per la P.S.-
R O M A

xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Trascrivo il seguente fonogramma n.78/84 R.S. giunto alle ore 23,30 del 5 corrente dal Comando della Legione CC. RR. di Bari e

""Nessun nuovo fatto grave et nuova sparatoria. Ieri sera verso Andria una mitragliatrice,7 fucili scarichi. C.L.N. Andria at completo impegnatosi invitare popolazione con unico manifesto a nome rispettivi partiti effettuare sollecitamente et spontaneamente consegna armi. Concretate con viceprefetto polizia modalità per cercare con tutti mezzi possibili conseguire intenti via pacifica. Stasera viceprefetto polizia ha interessato nuovamente segretario provinciale federazione comunista. Ministero Interno ha disposto con telegramma al Prefetto che siano tratte nuti luogo rinforzi attesa istruzioni per eventualità mancata consegna spontanea armi et da chiesto segnalazione giornaliera versamenti spontanei.""

p. IL COMANDANTE GENERALE e.p.c.
IL VICE COMANDANTE
-Generale Leopoldo Taddei-

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

INCOMING MESSAGE

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

Originator's Reference: FX 12343

Date/Time of Origin: JUIN 061253B

Message Centre No: E/8412

Date Time Rec'd: JUIN 061845B

Precedence: URGENT

FROM: FRIEDOM ALCOM SACMED ALEX EGYPT

TO : ALCOM 3 DISTRICT INFO 1 DISTRICT 2 DISTRICT RAAC 5 ARMY MTOA

SECRET

SECRET

1. BARI AIDI Regiment under command 3 DISTRICT forthwith for employment in BARI area on such internal security duties as may be directed by Italian Govt.

2. Move orders follow separately.

3. For 5 ARMY and 2 DISTRICT. This cancels our 17939 of 5 July. Leading Regt MANTOVA Gruppi will arrive MILAN area 9 10 and 11 July. Details follow.

ACTION

TO
DIRECTOR
DEPUTY DIRS.
EXEC. OFF.
POLICE
T.C.
SECURITY
CHIEF CLERK

Dist

Action - P Safety SO

Info - Chief Commissioner
Exec Force
SA Sec
Land Forces
File

HEADQUARTERS
7 JUL 1945
A

SECRET

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

11660 10

47A

TRANSLATION S.D.

GENERAL COMMAND OF CC.RR.

RESERVED-PERSONAL-LETTER

No. 499/31 R.P. 5 July 1945

SUBJECT : Puglie - Desorders.

TO : A.C. Public Safety S.C. - Rome -

I copy the following phonogram received on the 4th inst. at 2400 h. from the Command CC.RR. Legion in Bari.

" No new incidents took place at Andria and " Minervino Murge. Services are normalizing yet meeting difficulties and obstacles. Minervino Murge Vice " Chief of Police and CC.RR. are actively going on actions for delivery of arms. To-day Adria again inspected in order to ascertain situation and to obtain " immediate delivery of arms with collaboration of " Members Commitee of Liberation. We trust to obtain " to morrow first results because such delivery will " be effected through Section of Communist Party. " To-day Communist Party affixed placards inciting " order and respect of law. The whole Commitee of " Liberation at Bari called on the Prefetto to examine " Andria and Minervino Murge questions, to restore " inhabitants tranquillity and to obtain release " ex fascists not dangerous arrested to-day for " precautionary measure."

3224

Further communications will follow.

TO		
DIRECTOR		
DEPUTY DIR.		
EXEC. OFF.		
POLAD		
U.S. POL.		
U.K. POL.		
S.C.A.C. POL.		
SECURITY		
CHIEF CLERK		

f. The General Commander a.p.s.
The Vice-Commander
General Leonetto Taddei.

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

RISERVATO PERSONALE

Comando Generale dell'Arma dei Carabinieri Reali

UFFICIO SERVIZIO - SITUAZIONE E COLLEGAMENTI

N. 499/31 di prot. R.P. Roma, li 5 luglio 1945

Risposta al del n. Allegati n.

OGGETTO: Puglie - Disordini.-

ALLA COMMISSIONE ALLEATA -
- Sottocommissione per la P.S. -
R O M A

^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^

Trascrivo il seguente fonogramma pervenuto alle ore 24 del 4 andante dal Comando della Legione CC.RR. di Bari:

"""Nessun nuovo fatto Andria et Minervino Murge. Servizi vanno normalizzandosi però con difficoltà et ostacoli. Minervino Murge vicecapo polizia et Arma insistono attivamente per conseguire versamento armi. Oggi nuovo sopraluogo Andria per accertare situazione et concretare sollecita consegna armi con tutti i componenti comitato liberazione. Si spera domani qual che primo risultato dato che domani si procederà consegna at mezzo sezione partito comunista di Andria. Oggi trovansi affisi a cura partito comunista manifesti incitanti at ordine rispetto legge, carabinieri et forze polizia. Comitato liberazione Bari at completo recatosi Prefetto trattando tra gli altri problemi Andria et Minervino Murge per assicurare tranquillità popolazione et richiedere rilascio ex fascisti non pericolosi fermati queat'oggi per misure precauzionali."""

3227

HQ ALLIED COMMISSION

CONFIDENTIAL
CIVIL CENSORSHIP GROUP

ROME/P 16538 46A
STATION
RECORD No.
ITA/T/10213-45

From:
REGIA QUESTURA,
Bari, Italy.
Caller: Il Vice Capo della Polizia, SEVERINI)
Give place of Postmark where there is no address

To:
MINISTERO INTERNI,
Sala Fonogrammi,
Rome.
Caller: A gentleman

Date of communication or postmark if letter is un-dated	Type mail	Reg. No.	Language	Previously censored by	Enclosures
2 July 1945	Phonogram	--	Italian	--	--

Previous relevant record	Station allocation	C. C. G. Allocation	Disposal of original communication
--	--	G-2 (CC) AFHQ AC HQ FILE IRIS LONDON DIR INT SEF WASH G-I (A) AFHQ	Held Excised Photographed Sent with comment to: Passed Condemned Return to sender

pl
14604/10

COMMENT

CRIMINALS AT MINERVINO POSSESSING ARMS PROBABLY SOLD BY NEGROES AMERICAN

Caller: Since MINERVINO MURGE, owing to its position, is a shelter for gangs of criminals and deserters from the nearby provinces, I think it necessary to neutralise their actions, in order to reestablish public order. Those who have been already denounced to the juridical authority and those who can be denounced, should be arrested and completely disarmed. This operation, however, according to the Minister SCOCCIMARRO, the Prefect, and the Police, is extremely dangerous, owing to the mountainous aspect of this country, fit for a long resistance, and be the possession by the criminals of numerous arms and much ammunition, even of Allied manufacture, which apparently were sold by American negroes.

TO		
DIRECTOR		
DEPUTY DIRECTOR	(2)	7/7
EXEC OFFR		
POLICE		
I.C. & PRESS		
PUBLIC SAFETY		

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

2 July 1945	Phonogram	--	Italian	--	--

Previous relevant record	Station allocation	C. C. G. Allocation	Disposal of original communication
--	--	G-2 (CC) AFHQ SC HQ FLIR MIS LONDON DIR INT ASF WASH G-1 (A) AFHQ	Held / Passed Excised / Condemned Photographed / Return Sent with comment to: / to sender

pl

1460 7/10

COMMENT

CRIMINALS AT MINERVINO POSSESSING ARMS PROBABLY SOLD BY NEGROES AMERICAN

Caller: Since MINERVINO MURGE, owing to its position, is a shelter for gangs of criminals and deserters from the nearby provinces, I think it necessary to neutralize their actions, in order to reestablish public order. Those who have been already denounced to the juridical authority and those who can be denounced, should be arrested and completely disarmed. This operation, however, according to the Minister SCOCCIMARRO, the Prefect, and the Police, is extremely dangerous, owing to the mountainous aspect of this country, fit for a long resistance, and to the possession by the criminals of numerous arms and much ammunition, even of Allied manufacture, which apparently were sold by American negroes.

TO		
X DIRECTOR		
X DEPUTY DIRECTOR	[illegible]	7/5
EXEC. OFF.	[illegible]	[illegible]
X POLICE	[illegible]	[illegible]
L.C. & P.W.		
PRESS		
ADM. SERV.		
SECURITY		
CHIEF CLERK		

EXAMINER Italian Censor REVIEWER A.S. EXAMINATION DATE 2 July 1945

SPECIAL NOTICE — The attached information was taken from private communications, and its extremely confidential character must be preserved. The information must be confided only to those officials whose knowledge of it is necessary to prosecution of the war. In no case should it be widely distributed, or copies made, or the information used in legal proceedings or in any other public way without express consent of the Civil Censorship Officer, Allied Commission.

CONFIDENTIAL

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

HQ ALLIED COMMISSION

CONFIDENTIAL
CIVIL CENSORSHIP GROUP

STATION
RECORD No. ITA 10183-45

From:	To:
Bari - Questura Caller : TUZZA Give place of Postmark where there is no address	Rome - Ministero Interno Callee : ARATO

Date of communication or post-mark if letter is un-dated	Type mail	Reg. No.	Language	Previously censored by	Enclosures
29 June 1945	Telephone Interurban		Italian		

Previous relevant record	Station allocation	C. C. G. Allocation	Disposal of original communication
	TCS	G-2 (CC) AFHQ ~~AC HQ~~ FILE G-5 AFHQ IRB London Dir.Int.ASF Wash	Held Excised Photographed Sent with comment to: Passed Condemned Return to sender

COMMENT

COMMUNISTS AVENGE THE KILLING OF HIS COMPANIONS BY A FASCIST

Referring to the phonogram sent you to night, we give you further particulars. This morning very early some communists, out to avenge the killing of two of their companions by the "guardia giurata" (probably : personal body guard of MUSSOLINI) DE FEO, Michele, killed two of his relatives. No other crimes have been notified from ANDRIA, where armed communist squads are going about in the streets and controlling the roads leading to the town. The barracks too are being closely controlled by the communists.

TO	INIT.	DATE
DIRECTOR		
DEPUTY D...		
EXEC. OFF...		
POLICY		
LIAISON SECT.		
PUBLIC...		
COMM. ...		
SECURITY		
CHIEF CLERK		

32:3

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

	Intervrban			
Previous relevant record	Station allocation TOS	C. C. G. Allocation G-2 (CC) AFHQ ~~AS HQ~~ FILE G-5 AFHQ IRB London Dir.Int.ASF Wash	Disposal of original communication Held Excised Photographed Sent with comment to: Passed P Condemned Return to sender	

COMMENT

COMMUNISTS AVENGE THE KILLING OF HIS COMPANIONS BY A FASCIST

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TO	INIT	DATE
DIRECTOR		
DEPUTY		
EXEC. OFF.		
POLICE		
L.C. & DET.		
INVEST.		
MIL.		
SECURITY		
CHIEF CLERK		

32:8

EXAMINER Italian Censor REVIEWER A.S. EXAMINATION DATE 29 June 1945

SPECIAL NOTICE. — The attached information was taken from private communications, and its extremely confidential character must be preserved. The information must be confided only to those officials whose knowledge of it is necessary to prosecution of the war. In no case should it be widely distributed, or copies made, or the information used in legal proceedings or in any other public way without express consent of the Civil Censorship Officer, Allied Commission.

CONFIDENTIAL

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

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

Telephone message from Col. MILLER, AG 10 BARI, at 2145 hrs 29 June

29 GIU. 1945

The line was extremely bad. The following facts were reported:

Col. MILLER has sent a full report by air last night. He intends to come to ROME and expects to arrive on Monday, if conditions remain fairly quiet.

Night 27/28 June. Law courts at ANDRIA were looted by Communists who took away exhibits of evidence and burnt Labour Exchanges and a few other public buildings to the ground.

Night 28/29 June. Two Communists went to illegally arrest two alleged Fascists on the CORATO - ANDRIA road. The alleged Fascists killed both Communists. Some onlookers of the scene returned to ANDRIA and murdered the brother of the alleged Fascists and his wife and daughter.

At CORATO night 28/29 June the local Carabinieri garrison of six men were disarmed by Communists. The Italian Pioneer reinforcements, mentioned in previous telephone message, were not in fact sent to reinforce the Carabinieri at ANDRIA.

It is reported that Dr. BOCCHINARD is expected in BARI today.

The above is based on a report received by Col. MILLER from the Prefect of BARI.

Office of the Executive Commissioner,
29 June 45.

J.C.A. 3217

Copy to: Chief Commissioner
Exec Commissioner
C.A. Sec
FSB

TO		
DIRECTOR		
DEPUTY DIRECTOR		
EXEC. OFF.		
POLICE		27
LIC. &		
PROSC		
ADM. &		
SECURITY		42
CHIEF CLERK		

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

TRANSLATION C.C.

ROMA 30/6/45

14602/10 pe

MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR
Div. A.G.R. Sec.2 K.
N. 442/8627
Object : Incidents at Bari Province.
To : Allied Command (Public Safety S.C.)

With letter n.555/ of the 29 inst., was communicated from Province Bari, the murder of two communists, inscribed members of the local party association, which association proposed to arrest a sworn town-guard otherwisean ex-fascist.

Particulars arrived just now runs thus:

In late afternoon of the 28th, a few communists from Andria went to a contryside locatity named S. Chiara in autobile to proceed to the arrest of the town-guard and ex-fascist De Feo Michele.

When they got into the house of the last named, were met by the owner's son Giovanni(actually a soldier in a camp at Trani) who was fired upon and wounded in the right shoulder. The wounded man in his turn took the rifle he kept in the premises and killed two of the communists.The others run away and repaired at Corato.

Here the population, on hearing the news of the two murdered communists invaded the carabinieri barracks disarming six and wounding one.

During night-time the bodies of the two communists were tranported by unknown to Andria, where for reprisals werekilled two paternal oncles and the sister of De Feo Giovanni; meantime the father Michele delivered to the Public Safety at ~~Andria~~ Trani one machine-gun, one rifle and a pistol belonging to the killed communists.

The soldier De Feo was tranported to hospital at Andria where he is constantly watched over.

About the bomb bursted in the premises of communist's party association of Andria, of which news were given with note 442/8904 under to-days date, informations now received atates that the incident is due to the same communists that unvoluntary provoked the explosion of a hand grenade wounding 5 persons.

As announced before, one of your Police Chiefs has arrived on the scene to restore the needfull calmness among the population.

An urgent appeal for the organic and general relation of the mentioned incidents has been asked for and will be sent on when possible.

For the Minister
F/to illegible

Please initial for file note.

Mod XII

Ministero dell'Interno
DIREZIONE GENERALE
DELLA PUBBLICA SICUREZZA

Roma, 30 giugno 1945

All'On. COMMISSIONE
ALLEATA
Sottocommissione per la
Pubblica Sicurezza
A C M A

Divisione A.G.R. Sez. 2
Prot. N.° 442/3627 Allegati

Risposta al Foglio del
Div. Sez. N.°

OGGETTO PROVINCIA DI BARI. Incidenti.

Con la lettera n.555/ del 29 corrente è stata data comunicazione dell'uccisione, avvenuta in provincia di Bari, di due comunisti facenti parte di un gruppo che si era prefisso di arrestare un guardiano giurato ex fascista.

Sono ora pervenuti i seguenti particolari circa tale episodio:

Nel tardo pomeriggio del 26 alcuni comunisti di Andria si recarono in autombile in contrada S. Chiara, distante 13 km. da Trani, per procedere al fermo dello squadrista De Feo Michele, guardia giurata, pensionato nella casa di questi ed infatuato del figlio diciannovenne, attualmente soldato presso il 3.mo artiglieria di Trani, gli esplodevano contro alcuni colpi di arma da fuoco ferendolo alla spalla destra.

Il ferito, armatosi a sua volta di moschetto che deteneva nella propria abitazione, faceva fuoco sugli aggressori, uccidendone due e provocando la fuga degli altri che si portarono a Corato.

Qui la folla, scoperta della uccisione di tali persone, invase la caserma dei carabinieri, disarmando nel frattempo, uno dei quali riportò lievi ferite.

Durante la notte i cadaveri dei due comunisti uccisi furono trasportati da sconosciuti ad Andria, dove, per rappresaglia, furono uccisi due ex fascisti ed un parente del De Feo Michele.

3215

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

DIREZIONE GENERALE
DELLA PUBBLICA SICUREZZA

ALLEATA
Sottocommissione per la
Pubblica Sicurezza
A.C.C.

Divisione A.G.R. Sez. 2
Prot. N.° 442/A.527 Allegati

Risposta al Foglio del
Div. Sez. N.°

OGGETTO PROVINCIA DI BARI. Incidenti.

Con la lettera n.555/ del 29 corrente è stata data comunicazione dell'uccisione, avvenuta in provincia di Bari, di due comunisti facenti parte di un gruppo che si era prefisso di arrestare un guardiano giurato ex fascista.

Sono ora pervenuti i seguenti particolari circa tale episodio:

Nel tardo pomeriggio del 28 alcuni comunisti di Andria si recarono in automobile in contrada S. Chiara, distante 13 km. da Trani, per procedere al fermo dello squadrista De Feo Michele, guardia giurata, fermamente nelle case di questi ed imbattutisi nel figlio Giovanni, attualmente soldato presso il campo affluenza di Trani, gli esplodevano contro alcuni colpi di arma da fuoco ferendolo alla spalla destra.

Il ferito, armatosi a sua volta di moschetto che aveva nella propria abitazione, faceva fuoco sugli aggressori, uccidendone due e provocando la fuga degli altri due ai portarono a bordo.

Qui la folla, assapetta dalla notizia di tali uccisioni, invadeva la caserma dei carabinieri, disarmando sei militari, uno dei quali riportò lievi ferite.

Durante la notte i cadaveri dei due comunisti uccisi furono trasportati da sconosciuti ad Andria, dove, per rappresaglia, furono uccisi due ex fascisti ed una parente del De Feo Giovanni.

Il padre di questi intanto ha consegnato all'ufficio di P.S. di Trani un fucile mitr., un moschetto ed una pistola appartenenti ai due uccisi.

Il soldato De Feo è stato trasportato all'ospedale militare di Andria dove è piantonato.

./.

32-5

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 789016

Mod. 8/2

Ministero dell'Interno

DIREZIONE GENERALE
DELLA PUBBLICA SICUREZZA

Roma, 19

Al

Divisione Sez.
Prot. N.° Allegati

Risposta al Foglio del
Div. Sez. N.°

OGGETTO

-2-

Circa la bomba scoppiata nella sede del partito comunista di Andria, di cui è stata data notizia con la nota 442/890 in data odierna, si informa che l'incidente è stato originato dagli stessi comunisti che, involontariamente, provocarono l'esplosione di una bomba a mano che ferì cinque persone.

Come è stato già annunciato, trovasi sul posto il V. Capo della Polizia per la direzione delle operazioni necessarie a far ritrovare le cellule in quella zona.

E' stato richiesto intanto l'urgente invio di una organica e coordinata relazione generale su tutti gli incidenti verificatisi, ed appena in grado di riferirà più esaurientemente.

3214

IL MINISTRO

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

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

SECRET

P 12A

F 18113
JUL 061059Z

E/3370
JUL 061613Z
PRIORITY

AFL SIGNED SECRET CITE PRIOR
ACTION ADDS

14602/10

PE

SECRET.

41A

Reference your 1137 of 5 July.

1. Your proposed line of action is strongly supported.

2. Possibility of making CANBERRA TEXT available for internal security duties in PARI area is under urgent consideration.

TO	INIT	DATE
DIRECTOR		7/7
DEPUTY DIRECTOR		7/7
EXEC. OFF.		9/7
EQUIV.		
LEG. ATT.		
PRIV. CO.		
ATOM. OFFICER		
SECURITY		
CHIEF CLERK		

EXDIS

ACTION: CG to Chief Commissioner
INFO: Chief Commissioner
Ex Commissioner 2
CA Sec
Land Forces S/C 2
P. Safety S/C
File

3213

HEADQUARTERS
6 JUL 1943
A

SECRET

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

11602/10

AFSC CITE FLAGS

1157 4 JULY 45 PRIORITY

SECRET FD

PARA ONE FD REFERENCE YOUR FOX XRAY ONE YOKE NINE FOUR SEVEN OF TWO NINE JUNE AND FURTHER TO ALGOA ONE ONE THREE SEVEN OF FOUR JULY FD

PAPER TO AFSC CITE FLAGS FROM ALGOA CITE ADVAN PAREN

PARA TWO FD THE RECENT DISTURBANCES IN ANCONA ARE THE SECOND OF THEIR KIND IN THE DUKEDOM THIS YEAR FD I TAKE A MORE SERIOUS VIEW OF THIS AND WISH TO URGE THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT TO TAKE VERY STRONGEST LINE OF ACTION FD

PARA THREE FD I AM DISCUSSING WITH THE AMBASSADORS THE DESIRABILITY OF MOVING ITALIAN TROOPS INTO THE AREA TO SEARCH FOR ARMS AND TAKE A VERY FIRM HAND ON THE WHOLE SITUATION FD

PARA FOUR FD I REQUEST YOUR REPORTS IN THIS MATTER REGARDING THE USE OF TROOPS AND THAT YOU CONSIDER POSTPONING THE MOVEMENT OF GARIBALDI REGIMENT NOW SCHEDULED

INT DIST: 321

Chief Comm
Exec. Comm
Pub Safety S/C
Land Forces S/C
Civ Affairs Sec

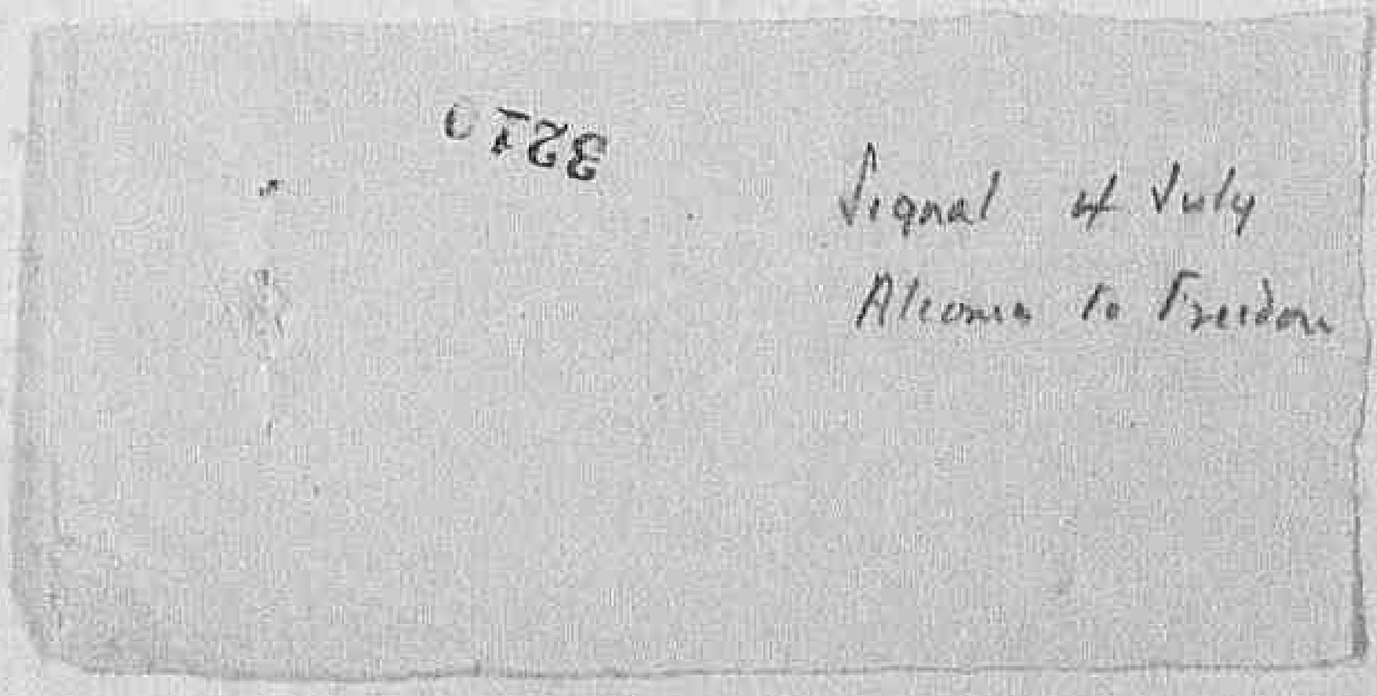
Chief Commissioner

243

ELLERY W. STONE
Rear Admiral, USNR
Chief Commissioner

NICHOLAS PIGNINO
CWO, USA
Asst Adjutant

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



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

1409

(3 FIVE AMIO)

1137 4 JULY 1945 PRIORITY

CONFIDENTIAL

REFERENCE YOUR FOX XRAY ONE FOUR NINE FOUR SEVEN DATED TWO NINE JUNE TO

FAIR TO 3 FIVE ARMY FROM ALCOM CITE ACSF FAIR

CARABINIERI COMMAND DESPATCHED ON TWO NINE JUNE THREE ZERO ZERO AGENTS WHO HAVE LEFT TO AFFECTED AREA AND FORCE IN PART HAS BEEN DELAYED TO EFFECT FURTHER ARRESTS.

3209

Public Safety S/S
475427-SSO

NICHOLAS PICCIRILLO
CTC, USA

V.DORNETE, Col.

Adv

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

TRANSLATION LB

391

COMMANDING GENERAL CARABINIERI

No. 1303/94

8 July 1945

Subject ; Phonogram

TO : Ministry of War and for information:-
AC Public Safety Sub-Commission

Bari CCRR Legion communicates that local MMIA does not consent the local Dircommissariato to distribute rations to the CCRR ri-enforcements sent there for the well-known public disorders and this is owing to the Ministry of War dispatch 12271/S/1 of 22 June 1945 and MMIA order G/1/7B/1 of 11 June 1945. Reason for refusal is that present strength is exceeding the organic strength. If precise dispositions do not arrive before or on July 5 (ration withdrawal date) to MMIA and Bari Dircommissariato, CCRR ri-enforcements will be without food. We beg the Ministry to urgently intervene with MMIA. I will inform the Ministry of the necessity to adopt particular measure for the feeding of the CCRR who are working as a special public security force.

signed General Brunetti

1 Speak to S/Capt Sot. 10 am 4/15.
2 He will arrange rations for reinforcements
4/15.

Translation Section
3208

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

Comando Generale dell'Arma dei Carabinieri Reali

DIREZIONE DI AMMINISTRAZIONE

3ª SEZIONE

N.3/1303/94 di prot. Roma, li 3 luglio 945.-

Risposta al del n. Allegati n.

OGGETTO: FONOGRAMMA PRECEDENZA ASSOLUTA.-

AL MINISTERO GUERRA -Direz.Gen.Serv.Comm.ed Amm.-Div.Sussist.- ROMA

e, per conoscenza;

ALLA COMMISSIONE ALLEATA -Sottocommissione di P.S.- ROMA

Legione carabinieri Bari comunica che locale MMIA non consente al locale Dircommissariato distribuzione razioni viveri per carabinieri colà inviati di rinforzo per note ragioni ordine pubblico et ciò in dipendenza dispaccio Ministero Guerra 12271/s/1 del 22 giugno 945 et ordine MMIA Q/1/7 B/1 dell'11 giugno 945 alt Diniego est motivato perchè forze colà presente est eccedente forza organica autorizzata alt Qualora precise disposizioni non pervengano entro giorno cinque corrente (giornata di prelevamenti) at MMIA et Dircommissariato Bari carabinieri di rinforzo rischiano rimanere senza viveri alt Prego codesto Ministero intervenire urgenza presso MMIA alt Prospetterò subito at codesto Ministero necessità adozione criteri particolari per vettovagliamento arma carabinieri dato suo particolare carattere di forza di pubblica sicurezza alt Generale Brunetti

3207

P.....C.....C.
IL COLONNELLO DIRETTORE
-Giovanni Mottola-

381

The President of the Council of Ministers,
Italian Government, Rome.

This Commission views with considerable gravity the serious civil disturbances in Minervino Murge, Andria and Spinazzola districts, between 25th and 29th June, 1945.

The forces of law and order have been siezed and in some cases shot dead or wounded. Communes have been taken possession of, official records burned and armed bands have assumed power of control for a period.

This is the second occasion in this district where a serious disturbance has occurred and as the latest disorder resulted from the police taking their proper action by apprehending members of the public for thefts and plunder.

It is desired that your government take steps to remedy the situation. The police forces must be installed in their former position; the offenders arrested and a proper form of government established that will prevent a recurrence of banditry and lawlessness.

It is suggested that a force of Italian troops and Carabiniere be assembled in the area and a concentrated investment of the affected places take place as soon as is possible: Such troops and police must be properly equipped with automatic weapons and transport, round up the persons responsible for the disorder, ensure that the Carabiniere are re-established and their prestige restored and that a sufficient force is maintained in the area for such a period that will prevent the untimely incidents which must eventually undermine the successful government of the country.

3205

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

SUMMARY OF INCIDENTS DURING THE CIVIL DISTURBANCES IN BARI PROVINCE - JUNE 1945

OPENING SITUATION

1 For some time past, groups of armed men have been operating in the MINERVINO - MURGIA - SPINAZZOLA areas. Under the pretence of "Food Control" they stopped trains, looted farms, searched houses and seized goods.

2 To restore order, the police at SPINAZZOLA were reinforced in mid-June, with the result that 11 men were identified and denounced to the Judicial authorities.

3 On the 24th June, eleven persons were caught in the act of robbery near ANDRIA, were arrested and removed to TRANI gaol.

4 Events then moved quickly:

25 June : (a) Bands of armed men demanded the release of 4 arrested men held by the MINERVINO police.

(b) When attempting to remove these arrested men, the police were fired on and returned the fire. (Result: 1 civilian killed, 1 Policeman and 2 Civilians wounded.)

(c) Armed men surrounded and shot up the Police Barracks at MINERVINO, established road blocks (covered by machine guns and rifles), and opened fire on 150 Police reinforcements sent from BARI as soon as they approached the town.

THIS WAS THE SITUATION FACING THE PREFECT OF BARI AT 2205 HOURS ON 25 JUNE WHEN, FOLLOWING A TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH ROME, HE ASKED FOR AND WAS REFUSED, ALLIED INTERVENTION.

26 June: (a) During night 25 - 26 June the Prefect was informed the Communists at MINERVINO were prepared to negotiate. Avv. Di DONATO, a Communist leader of BARI, was sent to MINERVINO at daybreak as the envoy of the Prefect. He later in the morning telephoned the terms (shown in Appendix "A" to this summary) under which order would be restored.

(b) A Captain of the Carabinieri was held as a hostage in MINERVINO for some hours, but was released on the condition he demanded from his superiors the release of the 11 men arrested on June 24th.

(c) A Police patrol was bombed in ANDRIA. (Result : one killed and two wounded.)

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

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3205

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(b) A Captain of the Carabinieri was held as a hostage in MINERVINO for some hours, but was released on the condition he demanded from his superiors the release of the 11 men arrested on June 24th.

(c) A Police patrol was bombed in ANDRIA. (Result : one killed and two wounded.)

(d) A Police lorry was attacked on the road MINERVINO-[illegible]. (Result : 2 wounded.)

(e) A second Police lorry, (sent to help the first) was attacked. (Result: 1 killed and 4 wounded.) The remainder were taken to the H.Q. of the Communist Party in ANDRIA where they were disarmed and unarmed and some 20 rifles, 22 pistols, 6 machine guns and the Carabinieri uniforms were taken by the Communists.

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

These men were eventually released by the leader, Sig. DE GASPARO.

27 June: (a) In ANDRIA the Communists arrested over 200 people for alleged fascism. (Many unknown to the Execution Committee as such.)

(b) The Communists forced ANDRIA jail and released 46 prisoners.

(c) The Communists occupied the Municipio, the Post Office and the Telephone Exchange.

(d) All available vehicles were seized by the Communists, including those used to convey the Police reinforcements from BARI to the town.

(e) Armed men surrounded the Carabinieri Barracks and Police officers and men were unable to move out of the building.

(f) An ultimatim was issued by the Communist leader to the Police that unless reinforcements were withdrawn from ANDRIA before nightfall, the barracks would be attacked and the police disarmed.

THIS WAS THE SITUATION FACING THE PREFECT AT BARI AT 1300 HOURS ON 27 JUNE 1945 WHEN HE AGAIN ASKED FOR ALLIED INTERVENTION.

(g) The Commander, 5th Area, placed at the disposal of the Prefect, 1 Companies of Italian Fighters (450 men) under the Italian General BASILI, with 1,000 Hand Grenades and Allied Transport, to convey them to ANDRIA. All were ready at 1800 hrs, but were not called upon by the Government and were eventually "stood down" during the night.

At the same time another Company was made available from 0600 hrs on 28 June but this Coy was not called upon for duty.

28 June: (a) Many public buildings were destroyed by fire during the night 27 - 28 June (Public Security, Industry Buildings, etc.) and the Posture was looted and evidence and exhibits destroyed.

(b) The Minister of Labour made a public speech at ANDRIA.

29 June: (a) Communists in ANDRIA attempted to arrest a Fascist Field Guard. The latter opened fire and killed two of them; the remainder then returned to ANDRIA and murdered the Field Guard's brother, his wife and his daughter.

(b) Communists disarmed the Carabinieri Detachment at CANOSA.

(c) The Communist leaders in ANDRIA guaranteed to restore order

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

3206

(c) The Communists seconed the Municipio, the Post Office and the Telephone Exchange.

(d) All available vehicles were seized by the Communists, including those used to convey the Police reinforcements from BARI to the town.

(e) Armed men surrounded the Carabinieri Barracks and Police officers and men were unable to move out of the building.

(f) An ultimatim was issued by the Communist leader to the Police that unless reinforcements were withdrawn from ANDRIA before nightfall, the barracks would be attacked and the police disarmed.

THIS WAS THE SITUATION FACING THE PREFECT OF BARI AT 1300 HOURS ON 27 JUNE 1945 WHEN HE AGAIN ASKED FOR ALLIED INTERVENTION.

(g) The Commander, 5L Area, placed at the disposal of the Prefect, 3 Companies of Italian Pioneers (450 men) under the Italian General BORELLI, with 1,000 Hand Grenades and Allied Transport, to convey them to ANDRIA. All were ready at 1500 hrs, but were not called upon by the Government and were eventually stood down during the night.

At the same time another Company was made available from 0600 hrs on 28 June but this Coy was not called upon for duty.

28 June: (a) Many public buildings were destroyed by fire during the night 27 - 28 June (Public Security, Industry Buildings, etc.) and the Treasure was looted and evidence and exhibits destroyed.

(b) The Minister of Labour made a public speech at ANDRIA.

29 June: (c) Communists in ANDRIA attempted to arrest a Fascist Field Guard. The latter opened fire and killed two of them; the remainder then returned to ANDRIA and murdered the Field Guard's brother, his wife and his daughter.

(b) Communists disarmed the Carabinieri Detachment at CANOSA.

(c) The Communist leaders in ANDRIA guaranteed to restore order conditionally on the dismissal of certain public officials and the appointment of others nominated by them. This was done (See Appx. "A")

30 June: (a) Area reported quiet. I saw the Prefect and Questura at 1600 hrs and in their view "calm was restored".

(b) The Minister of Finance arrived from ROME to make public speeches in both ANDRIA and MINERVINO.

3294

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

APPENDIX "A" TO SUMMARY

TERMS DEMANDED BY THE COMMUNISTS

Demands were made to the Prefect of BARI as follows:-

DATE	DEMAND	REPLY
26 June 45	MINERVINO	
	1. Carabinieri reinforcements to be withdrawn to ANDRIA	Reported to Ministry and accepted.
	2. All fascists to be arrested	Accepted in principle.
	3. No disarming of rebels	Accepted.
	4. Release of 11 prisoners from TRANI Gaol (arrested 24 Jun 45.)	Referred to Ministry of Interior and accepted.
27 June 45	ANDRIA	
	5. Carabinieri reinforcements to be withdrawn from ANDRIA to their normal station.	I believe this was accepted but was unable to verify if they returned because of this ultimatum or because of the improved situation.
	6. The dismissal of the present Commissario Prefettezio to be replaced by a Communist Giunta Communale.	Accepted. Sig. Vincenzo BANZIN has been appointed Commissario Prefettezio and the Provincial Committee of Liberation "has been urged" to suggest the name of the Podesta and of the Giunta Communale.

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

C O N F I D E N T I A L

CIVIL CENSORSHIP GROUP

From:
PREFETTURA
Bari, Italy
Caller: the "Capo Gabinetto"

To:
MINISTERO INTERNO
Rome, Italy
Callee: His Excellency
BERUTTY

Date of communication or post-mark if letter is un-dated:
26 June 1945

Type mail:
Telephone
Interurban

SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES AT MINERVINO MURGE

Caller: .....At MINERVINO the Captain of the Carabinieri 3202
who had gone there personally, was taken as hostage. Later he was released, because he agreed to transmit to the authorities the categoric request made by those deserters, criminals, stragglers, that the few persons who had been arrested a few days ago, under suspicion of robbing, be released. Should they not be released, arms would be resorted to once more and God knows what they would do. You will certainly understand how embarrassing this request is, because, if we release them, we will give the impression of being weak; they thus would be denounced but not arrested. If we don't release them we would have to send reinforcements and make a show of strength, which we can't do because we have no armored cars to enter MINERVINO, and, besides, we have heard that there is ferment also at CAROSA and SPINEZZOLO, where people are awaiting further developments. I told you already about the Carabinieri business that happened at ANDRIA... Now I should like to hear your opinion.

Callee: My dear fellow....

Caller: We haven't sufficient means to take the energetic steps required. If the Allied Commission could intervene, they have already...

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

Date of communication or post-mark if letter is un-dated:

26 June 1945

Type mail:

Telephone
Interurban

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Callee: My dear fellow....

Caller: We haven't sufficient means to take the energetic steps required. If the Allied Commission could intervene, they have already...

Callee: No, no, no.

Caller: It's impossible?

Callee: I think so.

Caller: They don't want to be bothered? They have the means to intervene with the necessary energy. Here with me are also the Carabinieri Colonel, the Chief of Police...

Callee: Wait a moment... have these people been arrested for common crime?

Caller: Yes, but there is a suspicion of robbery.

Callee: No warrant of arrest has been issued so far?

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 789016

CONFIDENTIAL

CIVIL CENSORSHIP GROUP

From: Bari
Prefettura
(Caller: Dr. DI CAPRIO)

To: Rome
Ministero Interni
(Callee: DELFINO)

Date of communication:
28 June 1945

Type mail:
Telephone
interurban

3201

CLASHES BETWEEN CRIMINALS AND POLICE MEN

"Here is a summary of the results of our investigations in MINERVINO MURGE: at eight o'clock on the 25th of June elements with previous penal record, most of them stragglers and deserters, under pretest of the arrest of three communists, suspected with robbing and presently released, assaulted the police barracks asking for the release of three other persons with previous penal record, self-convicted of robbing and assaults against trains at MINERVINO, GRAVINA, SPINEZZOLO and PALAZZO SAN GERVASIO. Afterwards while the arrested were being taken offm policemen were fired at without being hurt.

I confirm what's notified in my previous phonograms about sending reinforcements over here and about the impossibility of intervening in force in order to avoid a bloody struggle.

Having been assured by the local political authorities of the reestablishment of public order and according to the orders received by this Ministry I withdrew the superfluous reinforcements and left there only the contingent of that station and 75 soldiers for other services under the commander of the Carabinieri Company in BARLETTA and of the local chief of the police

During the clash one civilian was killed and another civilian and one carabinieri were wounded.

Two rifles with ammunition have been seized; the reinforcements have been all sent from MINERVINO to ANDRIA.

In ANDRIA at 18:30 the Carabinieri soldier TOTARO Antonio was assulted by unknown people with hand-grenades and died

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 78806

Date of communication: 28 June 1945

Type mail: Telephone interurban

3201

CLASHES BETWEEN CRIMINALS AND POLICE MEN

"Here is a summary of the results of our investigations in MINERVINO MURGE: at eight o'clock on the 25th of June elements with previous penal record, most of them stragglers and deserters, under pretest of the arrest of three communists, suspected with robbing and presently released, assaulted the police barracks asking for the release of three other persons with previous penal record, self-convicted of robbing and assaults against trains at MINERVINO, GRAVINA, SPINAZZOLO and PALAZZO SAN GERVASIO. Afterwards while the arrested were being taken offm policemen were fired at without being hurt.

I confirm what's notified in my previous phonograms about sending reinforcements over here and about the impossibility of intervening in force in order to avoid a bloody struggle.

Having been assured by the local political authorities of the reestablishment of public order and according to the orders received by this Ministry I withdrew the superfluous reinforcements and left there only the contingent of that station and 75 soldiers for other services under the commander of the Carabinieri Company in BARLETTA and of the local chief of the police

During the clash one civilian was killed and another civilian and one carabinieri were wounded.

Two rifles with ammunition have been seized; the reinforcements have been all sent from MINERVINO to ANDRIA.

In ANDRIA at 18:30 the Carabinieri soldier TOTARO Antonio was assaulted by unknown people with hand-grenades, and died at the Hospital. A lorry coming back from MINERVINO was fired at: three or four Carabinieri were wounded. Inquiries have been ordered immediately to find out the responsible parties. Will send you further particulars."

EXAMINER Italian Censor REVIEWER A.S. EXAMINATION DATE 27 June 1945

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

Caller: No.
Callee: They you can denounce them without arresting them.
Caller: Very well.
Callee: But H.E. the undersecretary SPATARO is of the opinion to wait until tomorrow, because we hope the parties will intervene.
Caller: Oh, really?
Callee: Yes.
Caller: So we denounce them without arresting them.
Callee: That's it.
Caller: It would be a good thing though, if the parties would intervene, especially the Communist party, otherwise this fire my spread to the whole MURGE Region.
Callee: You should see DI DONATO and talk to him.
Caller: Yes, but he's at ANDRIA now; I shall send for him.
Callee: Have him come back urgently.
Caller: I certainly will, but it would be a good thing to let him have that same message from TOGLIATTI.
Callee: All right.

3200

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

Callee: That's it.
Caller: It would be a good thing though, if the parties would intervene, especially the Communist party, otherwise this fire my spread to the whole MURGE Region.
Callee: You should see DI DONATO and talk to him.
Caller: Yes, but he's at ANDRIA now; I shall send for him.
Callee: Have him come back urgently.
Caller: I certainly will, but it would be a good thing to let him have that same message from TOGLIATTI.
Callee: All right.

3200

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

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

CONFIDENTIAL

PS&E (CMS. please keep VP main asm. file)

FX 14947
JUNE 292021B

30 GIU. 1945

Z/7362
JUNE 2907005
PRIORITY

AFHQ SIGNED SACMED CITE FWOOT

ABCOM INFO DISTRIBEE

HEADQUARTERS
30 JUN 1945

37A

CONFIDENTIAL

1. Following reports received this Hq on civil disorders in ANDRIA and MINERVINO.

A. On 25 June group of 35 well armed communists, attacked Carabinieri barracks in MINERVINO, disarmed and interned 30 Carabinieri in barracks, and released 7 prisoners. 500 Carabinieri sent to rescue on 26 June resulted in battle in which one civilian killed and several wounded. Interned Carabinieri released following agreement that 500 Carabinieri withdrew from area. Communists arms not confiscated.

B. 27 June communists seized ANDRIA and released 46 prisoners, including 4 Allied prisoners. All transportation and communications facilities seized and road blocks established. Fighting in ANDRIA resulted in 4 or 5 killed several wounded. On 28 June communists attacked homes of known fascists in ANDRIA, and armed conflict resulted in 3 killed 1 wounded.

3139

2. Request you ascertain urgently from Italian Govt. and inform this Hq, what steps have been taken to:

A. Restore and maintain order.

B. Confiscate communist firearms.

C. Prevent similar outbreaks in other towns.

D. Recapture released prisoners.

8995

CONFIDENTIAL

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

CONFIDENTIAL

Dist

Action - P Safety SC
Info - Chief Commissioner
Exec Comm
CA Sec
File 2
Float

CONFIDENTIAL

36 A

Translation R. C.

12602/10 pc

Urgent Phonogram - (handed in).

On account of the disorders which ~~have~~ Lane taken ~~place~~ taken place at Bari since the 19th of last June. D Lane sent 300 carabineri of the Legione Roma & 60 the Bari Legion to that region. And changes are effectuated from one commune to another in the sphere of said Legion. Follow. suggestions R. R. I. A. Bari needs almost urgency to assign Bari Legion 6000 rations travelling supply. Beg Allied Commission to look into matter with R. No. 3198a. Rome for very urgent authorization said supplies.

TO	INIT.	
DIRECTOR		
DEPUTY DIRE	GB	3/7
EXEC. OF		
POLICE		
LIC. A		
POST		
AD		
SECURITY		
CHIEF CLERK		

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

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

Trentalle

Comando Generale dell'Arma dei Carabinieri Reali

DIREZIONE DI 3ª AMMINISTRAZIONE

N. 3/1303/93 di prot. Roma, I° luglio 1945

Risposta al *del* *n.* *Allegati n.*

OGGETTO: TELEGRAMMA A MANO URGENTISSIMO.=

AL MINISTERO DELLA GUERRA - Direz.ne Gen.le dei Serv.zi di Comm.to ed Amm.vi ROMA

e per conoscenza:

ALLA COMMISSIONE ALLEATA - Sottocommissione di P.S. ROMA

^^^^^^^^^^^^^^

3137

Per ragioni di ordine pubblico nella nota zona in cui si sono verificati disordini, fin dal 29 giugno us° ho disposto lo spostamento di 300 carabinieri da Legione Roma et 60 da quella di Bari et ulteriori spostamenti vengono effettuati da comune a comune nell'ambito di detta Legione al seguito suggerimento M.M.I.A. Bari occorre assegnare massima urgenza al Legione Bari 6000 razioni scorta viveri viaggio alt Prego codesto Ministero volersi interessare presso M.M.I.A. Roma perché autorizzi tutta urgenza predetta assegnazione alt Preciso che resta salvo et impregiudicato quantitativo globale razioni assegnate arma poiché contro 6000 razioni viaggio altrettante non saranno consumate nelle sedi ordinarie dei carabinieri oggetto di spostamento alt Generale BRUNETTI

P.....C.....C.
IL COLONNELLO DIRETTORE
-Giovanni Cottola-

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

35 A

U R G E N T

TRANSLATION A.C.

GENERAL COMMAND OF CC.RR.

N. 499/17 Rome, June the 29th 1945

SUBJECT : Desorder in Puglie

To : A.C. Public Safety S.C.

Transciption of the following fonogram n.78/37 R.P. arrivedto this Command CC.RR.- Bari - 1200 h. to-day:

"Corato Police Station (Bari) invaded last night by exalted crowd after the killing of two communists by an ex-Fascist. Six militaries have been disarmed.

The wife, brother and a thirteen year-old son of said Fascist killed at Andria.

One carabiniere, slightly wounded at Corato. Situation remains serious at Andria. Town controlled by rebels.

Police blocked in station by rioters in which are kept in arrest twenty ex-Fascist."

TO	UNIT	DATE
DIRECTOR		
DEPUTY DIRECTOR		
EXEC. OFF		
POLICE		
C.		
ADM. OFFICER		
SECURITY		
CHIEF CLERK		

for The General Commander a.p.s.

The Vice-Commander

- General Leonetto Taddei -

3136

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

RISERVATO PERSONALE

Comando Generale dell'Arma dei Carabinieri Reali

UFFICIO SERVIZIO - SITUAZIONE E COLLEGAMENTI

N. 497/17 di prot. Roma, li 29 giugno 1945

Risposta al del n. Allegati n.

OGGETTO: Bari - Discordini.

ALLA COMMISSIONE ALLEATA

- Sottocommissione per la Pubblica Sicurezza -

R O M A

****

Trascrivo il seguente fonogramma n.78/37 R.P. pervenuto dal comando della Legione CC.RR. di Bari alle ore 12 di oggi:

"Caserma Corato (Bari) invasa stamane da folla eccitata per nota uccisione due carabinieri ed opera ex fascisti. Disarmati dai militari Arma.

Uccisi in Andria fratello, padre et figlio travicone predetto ex fascista.

Ferito gravemente un carabiniere di Corato.

Situazione molto grave.

Città controllata rivoltosi.

Militari bloccati caserma in cui trovansi anche vertici formati ex fascisti."***

3135

P. IL COMANDANTE GENERALE e.p.c.
IL VICE COMANDANTE
- Generale Leonetto Tadini -

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

TRANSLATION A.C. ROMA 29/6/45

GENERAL COMMAND-CARABINIERI REALI

N.499/14 prot. R.P.

Object : Puglie - Disorders.

To : Allied Commission (A.C. Public Safety S.C.)

Transcription of the following fonogram received from OC;RR. Legione of Bari:

N.78/32 R.P. del 28/6/I945 - 2400 hours.

From fragmentary news received we learn:

This afternoon a group of communists, between Andria and Corato, proceeded to the arrest of a town guard who is a probable ex-fascist.

Consequent shooting conflict with two communists killed.

Fallowed serious disorders at Adria and outskirts against fascists.

Situation at Andria appears again serious with shooting & victims.

From Corato is reported rioting with firearms, one carabinieri is said to be slighyly wounded.

Different roads north of Bari province are reported to be controlled by civillian armed forces. Urgent reinforcements are needed by any means.

""" N.78/33 R.P. del 29/6/I945 3h.

Followed phone 78/32 R.P. - 29th at 2.30 h.

Corato station occupied by rioters, militaries disarmed of whom one one wounded.

The uncontrolled situation at Andria is getting very serious.Urgent reinforsements are badly needed. Urgent is also the call for superior ~~ufficiali~~ and inferior officers to be assigned to the different sectors.

An application for a Div. of police-force has been requested by the Prefetto and a most urgent call for a meccanized police-force at once.

To-morrow shall arrive Min. Scoccimarro

Min. Barbareschi remains at Bari. """

""" N.78/30-2 R.P. del 29/6/ 1945 - 3 h.

At 20,30 h. of the 27th inst. at Andria, armed communists have burned

./.

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

the local Wood Keeper's Office; others have looted and devasta'ed the Industrial Worker' Office and Police Station.

At 2330 H. another group of rioters destroyed Night Guards's Office.

On 28th 0200 h. armed rioters invaded the Prefecture taking away edidences of crimes and documents.

On morning 28th a hand granade, or something like that, exploded in Communist Office wounding six communists of whom two injured seriously, while Min. Barbareschi was in visit to Andria.

Population in panic on account of grave situation. """

For Commander General a.p.s.
The Vice Commander
-- General Leonetto Taddei --

TO		
DIRECTOR		
DEPUTY DIRECTOR	[illegible]	[illegible]
EXEC. OFFICER		
POLICE		
LIC. BOARD		
PERSONS		
ADM. OFFICER		
SECURITY		
CHIEF CLERK		

[illegible]33

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

Comando Generale dell'Arma dei Carabinieri Reali

UFFICIO SERVIZIO - SITUAZIONE E COLLEGAMENTI

N. 499/14 di prot. R.P. Roma, li 29 giugno 1945

Risposta al del n. Allegati n.

OGGETTO: Puglie - Disordini.

ALLA COMMISSIONE ALLEATA - Sottocommissione di P.S.-

R O M A

****

Trascrivo i seguenti fonogrammi pervenuti dal comando della legione CC.RR.di Bari:

"""N.78/32 R.P.del 28/6/1945 ore 24.

Da notizie frammentarie si apprende: pomeriggio oggi gruppo comunisti proceduto fermo agro fra Andria e Corato guardia giurata probabile ex fascista. Conseguitone conflitto fuoco con due morti comunisti. Determinatosi gravissimo fermento conflitto in Andria e centri vicini contro elementi fascisti. Situazione Andria risulterebbe nuovamente grave con sparatorie e morti. In Corato segnalati torbidi con presenza armati. Un militare Arma Carabinieri risulterebbe ferito lievemente. Varie strade zona settentrionale provincia Bari risulterebbero controllate da elementi armati. Prefetto ha chiesto ingenti rinforzi. Rinforzi stessi urgono con mezzi motorizzati e meccanizzati""".

313

./...

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

""""N.78/33 R.P.del 29/6/1945 - ore 3.

Seguito fono 78/32 R.P. - Ore 2.30 giorno 29 caserma Corato (Bari) sarebbe stata occupata et militari Arma disarmati, uno ferito. Situazione Andria molto grave et incontrollabile. Urgono forti rinforzi e sopratutto meccanizzati data gravità situazione. Necessitano anche vari ufficiali superiori et inferiori per assegnazione settori. Prefetto habet pure fatto richiesta una divisione di sicurezza oltre ingentissime forze polizia meccanizzate. Domani giungerà Ministro Scoccimarro. Rimane Bari Ministro Barbareschi""".

""""N.78/30-2 R.P.del 29/6/1945 - ore 3.

Ore 20.30 del 27 corrente Andria gruppo comunisti armati incendiato ufficio guardie campestri distruggendolo. Altro gruppo armati saccheggiato ufficio lavoratori industria et P.S. devastandoli. Ore 23.30 altro gruppo distrutto ufficio guardie notturne. Ore 2 giorno 28 cento armati invasa Regia Pretura asportando corpi di reato et alcuni fascicoli. Mattino 28 corrente scoppiato casualmente sede partito comunista bomba a mano o altro ordigno ferendo sei comunisti di cui due gravemente mentre Ministro Barbareschi trovavasi Andria. Circolano molti armati nonostante incitamenti Ministro predetto versamento armi et pacificazione. Popolazione atterrita per alterna situazione aggravatasi""".

p.IL COMANDANTE GENERALE a.p.s.
IL VICE COMANDANTE
- Generale Leonetto Taddei -

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

33A

TRANSLATION C.C. 28/6/45

FROM : GENERAL COMMAND CC.RR.

N.499/10 prot: R. P.

Object : Disorders at Minervino Murge (Bari).

To : Allied Commission (A.C. Public Safety S.C.).

12602/10

Follows sheet n.499/5 27th June.

Transcription of following phonogram arrived on 27th from legione CC.RR. (Bari).

""" N.78/27 R.P. - Situation at Andria, Minermino Murge and out=skirts improved following arrival of Min. BARBARESCHI and On. MOLINELLA. To-morrow Minister will be at Andria and Minervino Murge to realize about the situation ,to speack to the people and directors of all political movements with the object to a pacification and possibly to obtain the remittance of arms.

The Government has sent phonogram to prefetto for resolutions achieved to arrive at a pacification.

Acting from informations received from Cabinet of said Minister, the Prefetto has concerned Ministero Interno to withhold reinforce=ments already prepared at ROME.

with dispositions from Prefetto reinforcements from Andria are taking way back to Bari without disturbances.

To-morrow 1600 h. at Bari, funerals will take place of two carab=inieri killed while on duty with the intervention of the Sottosegretario Minister, comitato Liberazione, authorities, population etc.etc. """

3101

TO	INIT.	
DIRECTOR		
DEPUTY DIRECTOR		
EXEC. OFFICER		
POLICE		
LIC.		
PR		
AD		
SECURITY		
CHIEF CLERK		

For the General Commander a.p.s.

Il Vice Commander

- Generale Leonetto Taddei -

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

Comando Generale dell'Arma dei Carabinieri Reali

UFFICIO SERVIZIO - SITUAZIONE E COLLEGAMENTI

N. 499/10 di prot. R.F. Roma, li 28 giugno 1945

Risposta al del n. Allegati n.

OGGETTO: Minervino Murge (Bari) - Disordini.

ALLA COMMISSIONE ALLEATA - Sottocommissione per la P.S. -

R O M A

****

Fa seguito al foglio n.499/5 R.F. in data 27 giugno.

Trascrivo il seguente fonogramma pervenuto in data 27 andante dalla legione CC.RR.di Bari:

"N.78/27 R.P. - Situazione Andria,Minervino Murge et dintorni migliorata seguito arrivo Ministro BARBARESCHI et Gn.MOLINELLA. Domani Ministro sarà Andria et Minervino Murge rendersi conto situazione et parlare at popoli et dirigenti onde ottenere pacificazione et possibilmente consegna armi. Governo habet stamera inviato Prefetto fenogramma per risoluzione fatti raggiungendo pacificazione. Prefetto habet pertanto interessato Ministero Interno trattenere fino nuova comunicazione rinforzi già approntati Roma seconde informazioni ricevute da Capo Gabinetto detto Ministero. Rinforzi Andria con disposizione Prefetto vanno sganciandosi rientrando Bari senza conseguense. Domani ore 16 funerali Bari due carabinieri vittime dovere con l'intervento predetto Mi-

3190

./...

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

nistro, comitato liberazione, autorità, popolazione"".

p.IL COMANDANTE GENERALE e.p.c.
IL VICE COMANDANTE
- Generale Leonetto Taddei -

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

1460/10 324

AFHQ SACMED CITE FRDOT

999 2 JULY 1945 PRIORITY

CONFIDENTIAL

ITALIAN CHIEF POLICE REPORTS ORDER RESTORED THREE AND JUNE SOURCES OF ARMS BEING INVESTIGATED AND RAIDS PLANNED TO SEIZE ARMS NOW SUGGESTED BY VICE CHIEF AND MINISTER SCOCCIMARRO ARRIVED BARI THREE ZERO JUNE AND THREE ZERO ZERO CARABINIERI ONE THREE FIVE FS AGENTS WITH FOUR OFFICERS ARRIVED FROM ROME FD FIVE ZERO ZERO ADDITIONAL FS AGENTS FROM NAPLES AND OTHER PROVINCES ON WAY TO BARI AND SURROUNDING AREA FD

PARER TO AFHQ SACMED CITE FROCT FROM ALCON CITE ACCAS PARER

EFFORTS TO RECAPTURE RELEASED PRISONERS WILL FOLLOW WHERE 3139
SITUATION SUFFICIENTLY STABLE TO PERMIT USE OF LIMITED PERSONNEL NOW CONCENTRATING ON MAINTAINING ORDER AND COLLECTION OF ARMS FD

Civil Affairs Section

479709

NICHOLAS PIOMBINO
CWO, USA
Asst Adjutant

G.R.UTJUHN,Lt.Z.

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

314

VERY URGENT

MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR - General Directorate of Public Security

N. 442/8904 Div.A.G.R. Sez.II Rome, June the 30th, 1945.

SUBJECT : Incidents in the Province of Bari.

TO : The A.C. - Publi Safety S.C. - Rome -

With reference to our letters No. 442/8886 of the 28th inst and No. 555 of the 29th inst., and to to-day's telephone conversation, we report the following new incidents which took place in the Province of Bari.

On the 27th inst, at 0800 p.m. the Riff-raff penetrated suddenly into the Office of Vigili Campestri and set fire to the furniture; at 0900 h.p.m. they rushed into the Office of P.S. and destroyed some dossiers of the same Office and a part of those belonging to the Office of the Lavoratori of Industria (which is situated in the same building); at 1130 h. p.m. they set fire to the whole furniture and archive of the Guardie Notturne Office. The fire was got under control by the VV.F of Barletta.

During the same night - and exactly at 0200 a.m. of the 28th inst. - more than 100 armed men invaded the Prefecture carrying away evidences of crimes and some deeds. On the 28th, in the morning, a bomb (or something of the kind) exploded in the residence of the Communist Party: some Communists were wounded and two of them seriously.

According to the last reports no other serious incident took place afterwards. They only inform that at Andria, on the 29th inst., the Communists that had abandoned the control of CC.RR. Barrack, remained still in its neighbourhood and continued to go up and down the town in armed groups. They had however suspended armed control at the streets leading into the inhabited centre.

This morning at 0830 h., Minister Scoccimarro and the Vice-Head of the Police have arrived at Bari.

./.

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

For restoring public order in the Province of Bari 300 Carabinieri, 135 Agents of P.S.and 4 Officers arrived to the place of the desorders - by special train - from Rome; 100 Agents have been sent from Naples and more than 400 from other localities.

Moreover, as already we have said, the Vice-Head of the Police is on the place.

As soon as possible we shall report again on the matter.

Tor the Minister
Ferrari

3137

Mod 872

B.

URGENTISSIMO

Ministero dell'Interno

DIREZIONE GENERALE
DELLA PUBBLICA SICUREZZA

Roma 30 Giugno 19 45

ON.LE COMMISSIONE ALLEATA
Sottocommissione per la P.S.
R O M A

Divisione A.G.R. *Sez.* II^
Prot. N. 442/8904 *Allegati*

Risposta al Foglio del
Div. *Sez.* *N.°*

OGGETTO Provincia di Bari - Incidenti.-

3186

A complemento di quanto comunicato con le precedenti lettere n.442/8886 e n.555 rispettivamente in data 28 e 29 corrente, ed in relazione alla richiesta telefonica odierna, si dà notizia dei seguenti altri episodi che risultano essersi verificati in provincia di Bari:

Alle ore 20 del 27 andante, in Andria, gruppi di facinorosi penetrarono improvvisamente nell'Ufficio dei Vigili Campestri e ne incendiarono il mobilio; alle ore 21 entrarono nei locali dell'Ufficio di P.S.lacerando dei fascicoli ed inoltre distrussero parte del carteggio dell'Ufficio dei Lavoratori dell'Industria situato nello stesso stabile dove è ubicato il Commissariato di P.S.; alle ore 23,30 incendiarono i mobili ed il carteggio dell'Ufficio delle Guardie Notturne. L'incendio che ne derivò fu domato dai Vigili del Fuoco di Barletta.

Sempre durante la stessa notte - e precisamente alle ore 2 del 28 - oltre cento armati invasero la Pretura asportando corpi di reato ed alcuni fascicoli processuali. La mattina del 28 scoppiò nell'interno della sede del Partito Comunista una bomba, oppure altro ordigno, ferendo dei comunisti di cui due gravemente.

Le ultime notizie pervenute, mentre non segnalano altri gravi incidenti, informano, però, che in Andria il 29 corrente i comunisti stazionava-

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

Ministero dell'Interno
DIREZIONE GENERALE
DELLA PUBBLICA SICUREZZA

Sottocommissione per la P.S.
ROMA

Divisione A.G.R. Sez. II^
Prot. N. 442/8904 Allegati

Risposta al Foglio del
Div. Sez. N.°

OGGETTO Provincia di Bari - Incidenti.-

3186

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Le ultime notizie pervenute, mentre non segnalano altri gravi incidenti, informano, però, che in Andria il 29 corrente i comunisti stazionavano nelle adiacenze della caserma dei CC.RR. pur avendone abbandonato il controllo e continuavano a percorrere in gruppi armati le vie cittadine. Peraltro avevano doppeao i posti di guardia alle strade di accesso dell'abitato.

./.

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

Alle ore 8 di stamane 30 sono giunti a Bari il Ministro Scoccimarro ed il Vice Capo della Polizia.

Per il ristabilimento dell'ordine pubblico in provincia di Bari, sono stati fatti affluire da Roma a mezzo di treno speciale n.300 carabinieri e n.135 Agenti di P.S. più 4 ufficiali. Altri cento Agenti sono stati inviati da Napoli, mentre più di altri 400 carabinieri sono stati fatti affluire nei luoghi dei disordini da altre località.

Infine, come già detto, è stato inviato sul posto per l'attuazione di tutte le misure necessarie, il Vice Capo della Polizia e si fa pertanto riserva di ulteriori comunicazioni appena possibile.

PEL MINISTRO

Scelba

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

HQ ALLIED COMMISSION

CONFIDENTIAL
CIVIL CENSORSHIP GROUP

STATION ROME/T/16439
RECORD No. ITA 10130-45

From:
PREFETTURA
Bari, Italy
Caller: the "Capo Gabinetto"

To:
MINISTERO INTERNO
Rome, Italy
Callee: His Excellency BERUTTI

Give place of Postmark where there is no address

Date of communication or postmark if letter is un-dated	Type mail	Ref No.	Language	Previously censored by	Enclosures
26 June 1945	Telephone Interurban	---	Italian	---	---

Previous relevant record	Station Allocation	C. C. G. Allocation	Disposal of original communication
		G-2 (CC) AFHQ AC Hq FILE Lir.Int.AAF Wash IRB London	Held Excised Photographed Sent with comment: to: Passed Condemned Return to sender

COMMENT

SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES AT MINERVINO MURGE

Caller: .....At MINERVINO the Captain of the Carabinieri who had gone there personally, was taken as hostage. Later he was released, because he agreed to transmit to the authorities the cathegoric request made by those deserters, criminals, stragglers, that the few persons who had been arrested a few days ago, under suspicion of robbing, be released. Should they not be released, arms would be resorted to once more, and God knows what they would do. You will certainly understand how embarassing this request is because, if we release them, we will give the impression of being weak; they thus would be denounced but not arrested. If we don't release them we would have to send reinforcements and make a show of strength, which we can't do because we have no armored cars to enter MINERVINO, and, besides, we have heard that there is ferment also at CANOSA and SPINAZZOLA, where people are awaiting further developments. I told you already about the Carabinieri business that happened at ANDRIA.....Now I should like to hear your opinion.

Callee: My dear fellow.....

Caller: We haven't sufficient means to take the energetic steps required. If the Allied Commission could intervene, they have already.....

Callee: No, no, no.

Caller: [illegible]

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 783046

Interception

Previous relevant record	Station allocation	C. C. G. Allocation	Disposal of original communication
Dispatch	Jul 11	G-2 (CC) AFHQ	Held / Excised / Photographed / Sent with comment to: Dir.Int,AGF Wash IRB London
Report	1/2	AC HQ	Passed / Condemned / Return to sender
Cable	2-7	MILE	

COMMENT

SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES AT MINERVINO MURGE

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Callee: My dear fellow.....

Caller: We haven't sufficient means to take the energetic steps required. If the Allied Commission could intervene, they have already.....

Callee: No, no, no.

Caller: It's impossible?

Callee: I think so.

Caller: They don't want to be bothered? They have the means to intervene with the necessary energy. Here with me are also the Carabinieri Colonel, the Chief of Police.....

Callee: Wait a moment....have these people been arrested for common crime?

Caller: Yes, but there is a suspicion of robbery.

Callee: No warrant of arrest has been issued so far?

./.

EXAMINER Italian Censor REVIEWER T.E.M. EXAMINATION DATE 26 June 1945

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

Caller: No.
Callee: Then you can denounce them without arresting them.
Caller: Very well.
Callee: But H.E. the undersecretary SPATARO is of the opinion to wait until tomorrow, because we hope the parties will intervene.
Caller: Oh, really?
Callee: Yes.
Caller: So we denounce them without arresting them.
Callee: That's it.
Caller: It would be a good thing though, if the parties would intervene, especially the Communist party, otherwise this fire may spread to the whole MURGE region.
Callee: You should see DI DONATO and talk to him.
Caller: Yes, but he's at ANDRIA now; I shall send for him.
Callee: Have him come back urgently.
Caller: I certainly will, but it would be a good thing to let him have that same message from TOGLIATTI.
Callee: All right.

3135

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

HQ ALLIED COMMISSION

CONFIDENTIA
CIVIL CENSORSHIP GROUP

STATION ROME/T/18501
RECORD No. TA 10129-45

29 A

From:
Bari
Prefettura
(Caller: Dr. DI CAPRIO)

To:
Rome
Ministero Interni
(Callee: DELFINO)

Give place of Postmark where there is no address

Date of communication or postmark if letter is un-dated	Type mail	Reg No	Language	Previously censored by	Enclosures
26 June 1945	Telephone Interurban	-	Italian	-	-

Previous relevant record

TO	Station allocation
DIRECTOR	Just 1/1
DEPUTY DIRECTOR	
A	DK 2-7
B	
C	
D	
E	
F	
G	
H	

C. C. G. Allocation

G-2 (CC) AFHQ
AC HQ
FILES
IRB LONDON
DIR INT ASF WASH

Disposal of original communication

Held
Excised
Photographed
Sent with comment to:

Passed P
Condemned
Return to sender

COMMENT

CLASHES BETWEEN CRIMINALS AND POLICE MEN

3183

"Here is a summary of the results of our investigations in MINERVINO MURGE: at eight o'clock on the 25th of June elements with previous penal record, most of them stragglers and deserters, under pretest of the arrest of three communists, suspected with robbing and presently released, assaulted the police-barracks asking for the release of three other persons with previous penal record, self-convicted of robbing and assaults against trains at MINERVINO, GRAVINA, SPINEZZOLO and PALAZZO SAN GERVASIO. Afterwards while the arrested were being taken off, policemen were fired at without being hurt.

I confirm what's notified in my previous phonograms about sending reinforcements over here and about the impossibility of intervening in force in order to avoid a bloody struggle.

Having been assured by the local political authorities of the reestablishment of public order and according to the orders received by this Ministry I withdrew the superfluous reinforcements and left there only the contingent of that station and 75 soldiers for other services under the commander of the Carabinieri Company in BARLETTA and of the local chief of the Police.

During the clash one civilian was killed and another civilian and one carabiniere were wounded.

Two rifles with ammunition have been seized; the reinforcements have been all sent from MINERVINO to ANDRIA.

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

26 June 1945	Interurban -	Italian -	-

Previous relevant record	Station allocation	C. C. O. Allocation	Disposal of original communication
[illegible]	[illegible]	G-2 (CC) AFHQ AC HQ FILES IRB LONDON DIR INT ASF WASH	Held Excised Photographed Sent with comment to: Passed P Condemned Return to sender

COMMENT

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During the clash one civilian was killed and another civilian and one carabiniere were wounded.

Two rifles with ammunition have been seized; the reinforcements have been all sent from MINERVINO to ANDRIA.

In ANDRIA at 18:30 the Carabinieri soldier TOTARO Antonio was assaulted by unknown people with hand-grenades, and died at the Hospital. A lorry coming back from MINERVINO was fired at: three or four Carabinieri were wounded. Inquiries have been ordered immediately to find out the responsible parties. Will send you further particulars."

EXAMINER Italian Censor REVIEWER A.S. EXAMINATION DATE 27 June 1945

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

Public Safety 28A

SMA/1c

ALLIED COMMISSION
LIAISON OFFICE
BARI

Tel. 14452

Ref : LB/65.

28th June, 1945

SUBJECT : Report of Civil Disturbances at MINERVINO and ANDRIA - 24th-27th June, 1945.

TO : Executive Commissioner,
H.Q., ALLIED COMMISSION, C.M.F.

CONFIDENTIAL

Some ten days ago the Questore of BARI verbally reported the continual misbehaviour of a number of armed civilians in the area of MINERVINO, ANDRIA and GRAVINA. I telephoned Col. SIBSON (U.S.A. Provost Marshal) and the D/A.P.M., 5th Area and asked them if, in the circumstances, this area could be more frequently patrolled by Allied Military Police. Subsequently the following events took place:-

1. 24th June, 1945.

The CC.RR. arrested some 12 men in MINERVINO (4 were communists) and removed them to TRANI gaol.

2. 25th June, 1945.

(a) Armed communists took possession of the town of MINERVINO, confined the CC.RR. to barracks, established road blocks, and opened fire on relieving police.

(b) To deal with the situation approximately 150 CC.RR. reinforcements left BARI for MINERVINO at 1700 hrs. Owing to rifle and machine gun fire and road blocks these reinforcements could not reach MINERVINO.

(c) At 2205 hrs., at a conference with the Prefect of BARI, the Questore and the Comdt of the CC.RR., the former stated he had reported to RMSM and asked for Allied intervention.

I explained that in the circumstances this request could not be met, but the Prefect urged that representation should be made to Brigadier CLARK, Comdr 5th Area. This was done on the telephone and the Area Comdr said he could not consider it as Allied interests were NOT involved.

3. Night 25th-26th June, 1945.

3182

Desultory firing took place both at MINERVINO and ANDRIA.

4. 26th June, 1945.

(a) Early in the morning the Prefect of BARI was informed the communists at MINERVINO were prepared to negotiate, and he sent as envoy Avv. Di DONATO, a communist leader of BARI, who later telephoned that order could be restored if the following conditions were accepted:-

(i) CC.RR. reinforcements to be withdrawn.

(ii) The communists not to give up their arms.

(iii) Two known fascists in the town should be arrested.

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

Some ten days ago the Questore of BARI verbally reported the continual misbehaviour of a number of armed civilians in the area of MINERVINO, ANDRIA and GRAVINA. I telephoned Col. SIDNOR (U.S.A. Provost Marshal) and the D/A.P.M., 5th Area and asked them if, in the circumstances, this area could be more frequently patrolled by Allied Military Police. Subsequently the following events took place:-

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3. Night 25th-26th June, 1945.

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4. 26th June, 1945.

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(i) CC.RR. reinforcements to be withdrawn.

(ii) The communists not to give up their arms.

(iii) That known fascists in the town should be arrested.

(b) These conditions were accepted by the Prefect. (It was not then known the envoy had sequestered a lorry and sent it round the area to collect more men in MINERVINO.)

5. NIGHT 26th-27th June, 1945.

Quiet in MINERVINO but the trouble was transferred to ANDRIA where, a good deal of shooting took place in and around the town.

6. 27th June, 1945.

At 0830 hrs. the Prefect reported the situation quiet, but as this was based on scanty information I thought it best to go to ANDRIA to see for myself.

(9050)

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 788016

Para. 6 cont'd.

It was anything b quiet as the following shows:-

(a) The CC.RR. were practically confined to their barracks by a large crowd, the prison had been entered and 47 prisoners released, and the Municipio, Post Office and Telephone Exchange were occupied by the communists.

(b) The latter had demanded the release from TRANI gaol of the arrested men referred to in para. 1 above. This demand was acceded to.

(c) An ultimatum had been delivered to Lt.Col. SCHIAVONI (Comdt of the CC.RR. at ANDRIA) stating that unless ALL reinforcements left the town that night an attack would be made on the barracks and the police would be disarmed.
Lt.Col. SCHIAVONI told me he could not comply owing to lack of transport, and that if he marched out, he knew the roads were picketed and his police would be shot at on the way.

(d) There were two dead and four wounded police in the barracks and the Comdt estimated there were some 4,000 to 5,000 armed men in the vicinity of ANDRIA. (From my observations I thought the numbers were exaggerated).

7. The Prefect of BARI had meanwhile asked again for ALLIED intervention, and at 1500 hrs. the Comdr 54 Area (making it clear that no British Officer or soldier should take part unless or until Allied Interests were involved) placed at the disposal of the Italian General BOGNAJI, some three Coys of Italian Pioneers with 1,000 hand grenades, and sufficient transport to take them into the affected area. Another Coy. would be placed at his disposal from 0600 hrs. next day. Though ready to move at 0600 hrs., these Pioneers were not called upon by the Prefect and stood down during the night, and to-day (the 28th) are back at their usual work in the Docks.

8. 28th June, 1945.

(a) The Prefect reported the area quiet, though certain public buildings in ANDRIA were burnt during the night 27th-28th June, and the Pretura was looted and exhibits and evidences destroyed.

(b) The Minister of Labor, Sig. Gaetano BARBARESCHI spoke at ANDRIA to-day and urged the communists to disarm and to lead an orderly life.

9. NEWSPAPER REPORTS. 918

It will be seen from the attached cuttings that the local press stated Allied armed vehicles took part in the action at MINERVINO. (See 'A').
Both this Office and HQ, 54 Area wrote at once to the Editor denying this, and asking for a correction to be made in the next issue of their paper.
This was done. (See 'B').

10. CONCLUSIONS.

I do not know if conclusions are required from me, but this civil disturbance has shown:-

(a) An abnormal number of armed men are in the area concerned. (With rifles, pistols and machine guns).

(b) The CC.RR. are numerically unable to cope with such disturbances.

(c) The absence of transport in the CC.RR. is a serious handicap to the

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

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(b) The CC.RR. are numerically unable to cope with such disturbances.

(c) The absence of transport in the CC.RR. is a serious handicap to their mobility. (It took some 7 hours for reinforcements to be moved from BARI to the vicinity of MINERVINO).

TO		
DIRECTOR		
DEPUTY DIRECTOR		
EXEC. OFFICER		
POLICE		
L.C. & R.G.		
PRISONS		
[illegible]		
SECURITY		
CHIEF [illegible]		

S. W. MILLER, Colonel,
Liaison Officer, A.C.,
BARI.

Copy to : Comdr 5th Area.

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

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

271

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
Public Safety Sub-Commission
APO 394

Tel : 478709

30 June 1945

AC/14602/10/PS

SUBJECT : Minervino - Andria Incidents

TO : Director P.S.,
Ministry of Interior

1. Confirming our phone conversation of hrs to-day.

2. We expect report on above mentioned situation, outlined as follows :-

What steps have been taken to -

(a) Restore and maintain order
(b) Confiscate all communist firearms
(c) Prevent similar outbreaks in other areas
(d) Recapture released prisoners.

3150

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

FTH/G

0784

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

INCOMING MESSAGE

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

P. Safety 240

Originator's Reference: FX 14947

Date/Time of Origin: JUNE 2920Z1B

FROM: AFHQ SIGNED SACMED CITE FHQCT

TO : AICOM INFO DISTREE

Message Centre No: E/7362

Date Time Rec'd: JUNE 2907CT

Precedence: PRIORITY

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

1. Following reports received this Hq on civil disorders in ANDRIA and MINERVINO.

A. On 25 June group of 35 well armed communists, attacked Carabinieri barracks in MINERVINO, disarmed and interned 80 Carabinieri in barracks, and released 7 prisoners. 500 Carabinieri sent to rescue on 26 June resulted in battle in which one civilian killed and several wounded. Interned Carabinieri released following agreement that 500 Carabinieri withdraw from area. Communists arms not confiscated.

B. 27 June communists seized ANDRIA and released 46 prisoners, including 4 Allied prisoners. All transportation and communications facilities seized and road blocks established. Fighting in ANDRIA resulted in 4 or 5 killed several wounded. On 28 June communists attacked homes of known fascists in ANDRIA, and armed conflict resulted in 3 killed 1 wounded.

2. Request you ascertain urgently from Italian Govt, and inform this Hq, what steps have been taken to:

A. Restore and maintain order.

B. Confiscate communist firearms.

C. Prevent similar outbreaks in other towns.

D. Recapture released prisoners.

- Dist over

CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS 30 JUN 1945 A.I.C.

SEAL

0783

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

Dist

Action - P Safety SC
Info - Chief Commissioner
Exec Commr
CA Sec
File 2
Float

0786

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

Translation No 6.

0

25A

Situation in Southern Italy

14/6/43 pl

The situation at Andria, as was communicated to the Allied Commission, seemed to have reached normality, but news just received from the Prefect of Bari and the C.C. R.R Commands, says that it has suddenly grown worse.

We have just learned that yesterday afternoon, 28th inst. a party of communists marched to a country-place, between Andria & Corato and tried to arrest a warden keeper suppoted to be an ex-Fascist. This gave rise to shooting which caused the death of two communists & also rendered the situation more difficult against Fascist elements in the neighbouring towns. At Andria the situation appears to be quiet through shooting & casualties

The police barracks at Corato has been assaulted and the roads towards north, in the province of Bari, are controlled by armed men.

A special train has left carrying re-inforcements

Chief of the police

— — —

TO	REF.	DATE
DIRECTOR	file	30/6
DEPUTY DIRECTOR		
EXEC. OFFICER		
POLICE		30/6
PUBLIC SAFETY		
PRISONS		
ARMY LIAISON		
SECURITY		
CHIEF CLERK		

Mod.839

Ministero dell'Interno

Direzione Generale della Pubblica Sicurezza

n.555/ Roma, lì 29 Giugno 1945

On.le COMMISSIONE ALLEATA
Sottocommissione per la P.S.

= ROMA =

La situazione ad Andria che, secondo quanto è stato già comunicato a codesta On.le Sottocommissione, sembrava avviarsi verso la normalizzazione, giusta notizie frammentarie finora giunte da parte del Prefetto di Bari e di quei comandi dei CC.RR., è improvvisamente peggiorata. Si apprende, infatti, che nel pomeriggio di ieri, 28 corrente, un gruppo di comunisti procedette in campagna, tra Andria e Corato, al fermo di un guardiano giurato ritenuto ex fascista. Ne nacque un conflitto in seguito al quale rimasero uccisi due comunisti. Ciò ha determinato un gravissimo fermento in Andria e nei centri vicini contro elementi fascisti.

In Andria la situazione risulterebbe caotica, con scambi di colpi di fuoco e vittime.

Risulterebbe altresì che la caserma dei Carabinieri di Corato è stata assalita e che varie strade della zona settentrionale nella provincia di Bari sarebbero controllate da armati.

E' stato disposto per l'invio di rinforzi, già partiti con treno speciale.-

IL CAPO DELLA POLIZIA

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

n.555/ Roma, lì 29 Giugno 1945

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IL CAPO DELLA POLIZIA

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

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

TRANSLATION
C.C.

MINISTRY OF INTERIOR

DIV.A.G.R. SEC.2°
N.442/8886

Subject : incidents at minervino Murge and Andria.
Copy to : Allied Commission Public Safety S.C.
Enclosure : 2.

For the news, one resumes here the following items reached us up to now in regards to riots occurred at Minervino Murge and Andria:

At 8 a.m. of the 25th inst.,prejudiced elements in prevalence desertors, taking the pretext from the release of three communists found to be in order by the Police, started a riot against the Ca= rabinieri station at Minervino Murge (Bari) asking for the release of three others in detention, and charged for having stolen goods from trains due to Minervino Gravina, Spinazzola, and Palazzo S. Ger= vasio.

At the taking into custody of the three mentioned elements, the Carabinieri were mobbed and shot upon.

At noon of the same day, police reinforcement was sent to free all those blocked in the police station at Minervino, but on their arrival at the outshirts of the town were met with a regular firing squad shooting from rifles of different dimentions.

on the advise of the communist segretary of Bari who, in the meantime, had several ex-fascists arrested and to avoid further blood= shed, the police reinforsement was ordered to withdraw.

During the shooting operations one civilian was kil ed, one civil= ian and one carabiniere were wounded, while two military rifles with relative ammunition and hand granades were seized.

The following night shooting continued between the carabinieri at Minervino and the mob in town.

The reinforcements withdrawn from Minervino were concentrated at Andria where serious incidents were also reported.

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

In fact, in the afternoon of the 26th, a patrol of carabinieri was assaulted in the woods with hand granades and one of them got killed and other three wounded.

Afterwards a motor-lorry louded with carbbinieri, returning from Minervino, was assaulted at a cross-road to Andria and while shooting took place three or four carabinieri were wounded.

Another load sent to the place to join the others was attacked with automatic guns that caused the loss of one carab.while other three or four got wounded.The remaining carabinieri were taken to the commun= ist section at Andria and were only releaved after the interwention of the director of that section.

Meanwhile the captain of the carabinieri had arrived at Minervino Murge to persuade the communists what to do,but was kept in hostage, and released only after promising his support to the au orities for the release of other eleven arrested the day before for robbery.

for opportunity reasons the 11 arrested were released, but in the meantime the situation at Andria, since the 27th,the situation is get= ting worse.

After the arrest of dangerous squadrists agreed upon between the local Comitato di Liberazione and the communist's party segretary a crowd of communists, composed of men and women, preceeded to the arrest of about 100 people notorious for being good-minded. Soon afterwards thouaands of armed communists went to the jail, seizing the custodian and liberating 46 prisoners of which 36 in penal espiation,4 at the dis= position of the Allied Authoritties and 6 awaiting judgement of whom one to be tryed for murder. Moreover they requisitioned all sorts of motor= cars besides those belonging to the police and were all sent, armed

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31.5

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

with light and heavy guns to Andria and to other communists centres.

News to-day from Adria and Minervina states that the situation is calm, and yesterday funerals were held without disturbances for the civilians killed at Minervino.

In Adria, following the pledge taken by the chief of the communists that all violence would cease at once, Vincenzo Basile has been appointed Commissario Prefettizio del Comune, to which provision is due perhaps the present state of calmness.

At Bari yesterday, Min. Barbareschi and ON. Molinella met with the chief exponents of the parties belonging to the Comitato di Liberazione and persuading them to use all their power for the peace of the population.

Minister Barbareschi went also to Minervino Murge and to Andria and appealed favourably to the people, for which gratitude was shown to the Prime Minister for having sent his representative in that province.

This afternoon funerals will take place at Bari of the two carabinieri at the presence of the said Minister.

TO		
DIRECTOR		30/6
DEPUTY DIRECTOR		3174
EXEC. OFFICER		30/6
POLICE		
LIC. & REG.		
VISAS		
ADMIN. OFFICER		
SECURITY		
CHIEF CLERK		

S. URGENTE Roma, 28 Giugno 19 45

Ministero dell'Interno
DIREZIONE GENERALE
DELLA PUBBLICA SICUREZZA

All'ON.COMMISSIONE
ALLEATA
SOTTOCOMMISSIONE PER LA P.S.
ROMA

Divisione A.G.R. Sez. 2°
Prot. N.° 442/8886 Allegati

Risposta al Foglio del
Div. Sez. N.°

OGGETTO Minervino Murge ed Andria - Incidenti.

Per notizia, si riassumono qui di seguito le notizie finora pervenute sui fatti avvenuti a Minervino Murge e Andria:

Verso le ore 8 del 25 corrente elementi pregiudicati, in prevalenza sbandati disertori, cogliendo il pretesto del fermo di tre comunisti indiziati di rapina, e rilasciati poco dopo a seguito di accertamenti negativi, si abbandonarono ad atti di ostilità contro la caserma dei carabinieri di Minervino Murge (Bari) chiedendo il rilascio anche di altri tre pregiudicati rei confessi di rapine e di svaligiamento di treni commessi a Minervino Gravina, Spinazzola e Palazzo S.Gervasio.

Durante la traduzione di tali arrestati i carabinieri furono fatti segno a colpi di arma da fuoco andati a vuoto.

Nel pomeriggio dello stesso giorno 25 furono fatti partire rinforzi di carabinieri ed agenti di P.S. per sbloccare i militari della stazione di Minervino, ma tali rinforzi, giunti alla periferia dell'abitato, furono accolti dal fuoco di fucileria e di armi automatiche leggere e pesanti poste su zone favorevoli e dominanti.

Per evitare un cruento conflitto con grave spargimento di sangue - su parere anche del segretario della federazione comunista di Bari, il quale però richiese l'arresto di ex fascisti da sottoporre al confino - i rinforzi furono fatti ripiegare. Durante l'avvenuto scambio di fucileria rimase ucciso un civile e ferito un civile e un carabiniere, mentre furono segue-

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

Ministero dell'Interno
DIREZIONE GENERALE
DELLA PUBBLICA SICUREZZA

All'ON. COMMISSIONE
ALLEATA
SOTTOCOMMISSIONE PER LA P.S.
ROMA

Divisione A.G.R. Sez. 2°
Prot. N. 442/8886 Allegati

Risposta al Foglio del
Div. Sez. N.°

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Durante la notte proseguì la sparatoria fra i carabinieri della caserma di Minervino ed i facinorosi.

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785076

I rinforzi ripiegati da Minervino Murge furono concentrati ad Andria dove anche lì ebbero a verificarsi degli incidenti luttuosi.

Infatti nel pomeriggio del 26 fu aggredito in una boscaglia un pattuglione di carabinieri con bombe a mano e rimase ucciso un militare mentre altri tre riportarono ferite.

Successivamente un autocarro trasportante i carabinieri reduci da Minervino, al bivio per Andria fu fatto segno a colpi di arma da fuoco: tre o quattro carabinieri rimasero feriti.

Altro autocarro inviato in soccorso fu attaccato con armi automatiche che cagionarono la morte di un altro carabiniere ed il ferimento di tre o quattro.

Gli altri militi furono condotti alla sezione comunista di Andria e successivamente rilasciati per l'intervento del dirigente quella sezione comunista.

Intanto un capitano dell'Arma che aveva raggiunto Minervino Murge, per fare opera di persuasione, fu trattenuto in ostaggio e poscia liberato a condizione che si rendesse interprete presso le Autorità della volontà dei comunisti di ottenere il rilascio di 11 persone arrestate giorni prima quali autori di rapine.

Per ragioni di opportunità i detti arrestati furono rilasciati.

Il 27 corrente intanto la situazione in Andria andò peggiorando.

Dopo il fermo degli squadristi pericolosi prescelti d'accordo con il Comitato di Liberazione locale e con il segretario del Partito Comunista, una massa di comunisti, composta di uomini e donne, procedette al fermo di oltre un centinaio di cittadini non noti come elementi pericolosi. Subito dopo migliaia di comunisti armati recatisi alle carceri sequestrarono il custode e liberarono 46 detenuti di cui 36 in espiazione di pena, 4 a disposizione delle Autorità Alleate e 6 in attesa di giudizio di cui uno imputato di omicidio. Inoltre requisirono tutte le specie di automezzi, compresi quelli con i quali erano stati inviati i rinforzi di polizia e li utilizzarono per concentrare ad Andria i comunisti di comuni viciniori, i quali, do-

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 783016

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fare opera di persuasione,fu trattenuto in ostaggio e poscia liberato a
condizione che si rendesse interprete presso le Autorità della volontà dei
comunisti di ottenere il rilascio di 11 persone arrestate giorni prima qua_
li autori di rapine.

Per ragioni di opportunità i detti arrestati furono rilasciati.

Il 27 corrente intanto la situazione in Andria andò peggiorando.

Dopo il fermo degli squadristi pericolosi prescelti d'accordo con il
Comitato di Liberazione locale e con il segretario del Partito Comunista,
una massa di comunisti,composta di uomini e donne,procedette al fermo di
oltre un centinaio di cittadini non noti come elementi pericolosi.Subito
dopo migliaia di comunisti armati recatisi alle carceri sequestrarono il
custode e liberarono 46 detenuti di cui 36 in espiazione di pena,4 a dispo_
sizione delle Autorità Alleate e 6 in attesa di giudizio di cui uno impu_
tato di omicidio.Inoltre requisirono tutte le specie di automezzi,compresi
quelli con i quali erano stati inviati i rinforzi di polizia e li utilizza_
rono per concentrare ad Andria i comunisti di comuni viciniori,i quali,do_
po essere stati dotati di armamenti anche pesanti,vennero inviati a presi_
diare l'accesso all'abitato.

Da notizie pervenute oggi,la situazione a Minervino e ad Andria sembra

./.

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

Mod. 872

Roma 19

Ministero dell'Interno

DIREZIONE GENERALE
DELLA PUBBLICA SICUREZZA

Al

Divisione Sez.
Prot. N.° Allegati

Risposta al Foglio del
Div. Sez. N.°

OGGETTO

però mi sia calmata e nessuna altra violenza risulta commessa.

Ieri si sono svolti i funerali del civile morto a Minervino senza incidenti.

In Andria, a seguito anche dell'impegno preso dal capo dei comunisti che sarebbe cessata ogni violenza è stato nominato Commissario Prefettizio del Comune il Sig. Vincenzo Basile. Tale provvedimento è valso a far ritornare la calma.

Nessun altro incidente si è verificato nè ieri nè durante ladecorsa notte; le caserme sono state sbloccate e sono stati eliminati i posti di guardia sulle vie di accesso nella città.

Ieri è giunto a Bari il Ministro Barbareschi con l'On. Molinella che ha riuniti i maggiori esponenti dei partiti del Comitato di Liberazione esortandoli alla concordia e ad influire sulle popolazioni affinchè non abbiano a verificarsi ulteriori incidenti, secondo le direttive del Presidente del Consiglio. Il Ministro si è pure recato stamane, per continuare la sua opera pacificatrice, a Minervino Murge e ad Andria.

La popolazione ha appreso con sollievo la venuta del Ministro e si è mostrata grata al Presidente del Consiglio per il pronto intervento e per l'invio del suo rappresentante in quella provincia.

Nel pomeriggio di oggi avranno luogo a Bari, con l'intervento del predetto Ministro, i funerali dei due carabinieri.

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

DIREZIONE GENERALE
DELLA PUBBLICA SICUREZZA

Divisione ____ Sez. ____
Prot. N.° ____ Allegati ____

Risposta al Foglio del ____
Div. ____ Sez. ____ N.° ____

OGGETTO ____

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PEL MINISTRO

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785246

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

1562/10

23A

Telephone message from Colonel Miller at Bari,
1000 hours, 28 June.

(See telephone message of 1815 hours, 27 June)

Italian Pioneer reinforcements sent to ANDRIA, 1600 hours, on 27 June.

June 28:

Communists have withdrawn their patrols. The Prefect of Bari, in accordance with the Communist request, has temporarily appointed a communist member to the Municipio of ANDRIA. The Italian Minister of Labor is in Bari and intends to make a speech this afternoon at ANDRIA. Providing the situation remains quiet, the Italian Pioneer reinforcements will be withdrawn.

MINERVINO Prefect reports situation quiet.

26

3172

Copy to:- Chief Commissioner
Executive Commissioner
Public Safety
P.B.O.

Appx 28/6
Appx 28/6
Appx 30/6

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

TO	INITIAL	DATE
DIRECTOR		
[illegible]		
[illegible]		
[illegible]		
[illegible]		
SECURITY		
CHIEF CEE		

Public Safety

27th June 1945.

Telephone Message received from Colonel MILLER, from BARI at 1845 hours, 27th June 1945.

This morning the Prefect from BARI reported to Colonel MILLER that all was quiet at MINERVINA and ANDRIA. Colonel MILLER visited ANDRIA today and reports following facts:

1. Communists broke into prison this morning and released 47 prisoners.

2. Communists demanded from CO.,RR the release of 11 arrested men at the prison at TRANI. (they were arrested on 5 June). The CO.,RR released the 11 prisoners.

3. Communists are occupying the Municipio, Post Office and have control of the Telephone Exchange.

4. Communists sent an ultimatum to the CO.,RR reserves (about 200 strong) additional to the 46 normally on duty), that unless these reserves were withdrawn tonight from ANDRIA the Communists will disarm them.

3170

5. 34 Area Comd has placed 3 companies, each about 160 strong, of Italian pioneers under General BOSELLI to proceed to ANDRIA at 1800 hours. One additional company is to leave for ANDRIA at 0600 hours tomorrow, 28 June. 34 Area Comd is providing transport for these men and has given them 1000 hand grenades and 750 rounds of ammunition for each rifle.

Col MILLER's office telephone number is BARI 14152 and Mint No. BARI #12350.

Note: During sporadic shooting in and about ANDRIA last night, two CO.,RR were killed and 6 wounded. Telephone line is cut between BARI and ANDRIA. The Communists are said to be 2000 strong with machine guns and hand grenades. Col MILLER said he met with no opposition from them and that they appeared friendly to him.

Office of Ex. Commissioner.

Rowell
VCA.

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

14602 pc

21A

Telephone Report by Lieut. Col. MILLER, Liaison Officer, BARI, 26 June 1945.

Following the arrest by Carabinieri of twelve armed men at MINERVINO, BARI Province, other armed men attacked Carabinieri Barracks, blocked all roads and opened fire on the relieving police.

Reports are confusing and casualties uncertain up to 1700 hours, 25 June. 125 reinforcements were sent 25 June and at 2205 hours same date the Prefect asked the Liaison Officer for Allied intervention, which was refused.

Shooting took place during last night. Today the ring-leaders made a request for negotiations. L.O. reports that the situation is now in hand and all is quiet. He is proceeding today to the scene of the disturbance to obtain firsthand information.

Office of the Executive Commissioner,
26 June 1945.

Major.

Copy to: Executive Commissioner
C.A.C. Sec
Public Safety S/C
Pol Adv (A)
Pol Adv (B)

TO	INITIAL	DATE
DIRECTOR		
DEPUTY DIRECTOR		
EXEC. OFFICER		
POLICE		
LIC. & PERS.		
PRISONS		
ADM. OFFICE		
SECURITY		
CHIEF CLERK		

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

Translation.

MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR 20 April, 1945.

N. 442/4469

Subject : MINERVINO MURGE - Incidents.

In continuation to previous correspondence and with ref. to letter n. 442/3142 dated 27 March 1945, it is communicated that from the investigations made in consequence of the Minervino Murge disturbances, it has appeared as follows:

"" On the 18th March 1945, at about 18,30 hrs., a great number of communists returning from Spinazzola, after a ceremony, which had there taken place, joined together with other communists, who had remained in the village, went to Piazza Bovio and gathered in front of the party quarters. There, while Mr. Gugliotti Domenico Antonio hold a speech to crowd, fire-arms shot coming from different parts were heard; these shots were followed by mitra shots and produced panic among the crowd.

While a group broke into the premises of the Social Club situated below, firing fire-arm and mitra shots against the door of the third room, where several members had taken refuge, yet hurting nobody, an unknown person, breaking into the coffee-house of Iurilli Pasquale, fired a pistol shot, which wounded the latter in the regions of the thigh. Another group broke into the studio of Limini Carmine, searching those present and removing an umbrella.

Among the members who had remained in the club, 5 suffered slight injuries, consequence of blows, others ~~xxxxxxx~~ suffered injuries at their legs, because they had jumped through a back-window and 1 suffered abdominal injuries caused by a projectile .

At the Communist Party quarters all shots ~~fired~~ appear to be fired upwards, exception made for one rectilinear at the anterior front on the right shutter of the balcony, in this case it has been possible to establish its point of departure, and a second in a straight line on the wall below the window of the room which gives onto the kitchen. In the club all shots come from outside with the exception of one on the door post fired from inside, the projectile not being found. All the shots appear to have been of 42 calibre and 31,7 cartrige cases have been found in the club of 42 calibre American type.

It has been impossible to identify the persons who broke into the club, none of the members have been able to recognise those who beat them and no witness-evidence could be collected.

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

On the same day, at about 2000 hr following telephonical request of the Mayor, the CC.RR. maresciallo together with CC.RR. and part of the British unit stationed at Minervino with two officers, went to Piazza De Feo, stopping the passers-by and searching them. Warning two unknown persons to halt, these escaped along via Labirinto, followed by carabinieri. At once rifle shots and screams for help were heard and the CC.RR. Bottero Guerrino was found dying. Following close and accurate investigations made by an official of the local Questura assisted by the local CC.RR. Force, those responsible have been identified, they are: Barbangelo Vincenzo son of Michele, born at Minervino on the 27/1/1904, guilty having confessed the crime and who has been arrested and Sciascia Carmine son of the late Michelangelo born at Minervino on the 3/7/1904, there resident, vico 1st S.Arcangelo,who cannot be found. The latter according to Barbangelo was the first to fire pistol shots against the CC.RR. Bottero.

Sciascia is actively searched.
The conditions of public order appear to be normal.""

For the Minister

Ferrari

rv.

TO	IN	OUT
DIRECTOR		
DEPUTY DIRECTOR		
EXEC. OFFICER		
POLICE		
LIC. & REG.		
PERSONS		
ADM. OFFICER		
SECURITY		
CIVIL DEF.		

3157

1.

B.

Mod. 57

Ministero dell'Interno
DIREZIONE GENERALE
DELLA PUBBLICA SICUREZZA

Roma, 20 aprile 1945

ON.LE COMMISSIONE ALLEATA
Sottocommissione per la P.S.
ROMA

Divisione A.G.R. Sez. II
Prot. N. 442/4469 Allegati

Risposta al Foglio del
Div. Sez. N.

OGGETTO MINERVINO MURGE - Incidenti.-

Di seguito a precedente corrispondenza e sciogliendo la riserva di cui alla nota in data 27 marzo u.s. n.442/3142, si comunica che dalle indagini esperite in ordine agli incidenti di Minervino Murge è risultato quanto segue:

"La sera del 18 marzo u.s. verso le ore 18,30, un folto gruppo di comunisti ritornati da Spinazzola per la cerimonia ivi svoltesi, si uni ad altri rimasti in paese, convenendo in Piazza Bovio ed ammassandosi sotto la sede del partito. Quivi, mentre il sig. Guglielmi Domenico Antonio teneva alla folla un discorso, si udirono colpi di arma da fuoco provenienti da diverse parti, a cui seguirono scariche di mitra producendo il panico tra la folla.

Mentre un gruppo invadeva i locali del Circolo Socialista costante, sparando colpi di arma da fuoco e di mitra contro la porta della terza stanza entro cui si erano rifugiati alcuni soci, senza peraltro produrre danni alle persone, uno sconosciuto, penetrato nel caffè di Iurilli Pasquale, esplodeva un colpo di pistola che feriva costui di striscio alla regione lombare. Altro gruppo penetrava nello studio di Liuni Carmine, perquisendo gli astanti ed asportando un ombrello.

Tra i soci che si trattenevano nel circolo cinque riportarono le-

3136

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

Ministero dell'Interno

DIREZIONE GENERALE
DELLA PUBBLICA SICUREZZA

ROMA

Divisione A.G.R. Sez. II
Prot. N. 442/4469 Allegati

Risposta al Foglio del
Div. Sez. N.

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Mentre un gruppo invadeva i locali del Circolo Socialista sovrastante, sparando colpi di arma da fuoco e di mitra contro la porta della terza stanza entro cui si erano rifugiati alcuni soci, senza peraltro produrre danni alle persone, uno sconosciuto, penetrato nel caffè di Iurilli Pasquale, esplodeva un colpo di pistola che feriva costui di striscio alla regione lombare. Altro gruppo penetrava nello studio di Liuni Carmine, perquisendo gli armadi ed asportando un ombrello.

Tra i soci che si trattenevano nel circolo cinque riportarono lesioni lievi per percosse, tre distorsioni e fratture agli arti inferiori per essersi gettati da una finestra retrostante, ed uno escoriazione addominale dipendente da urto di proiettile incastrato nell'orologio che costui recava addosso, nonchè lesioni per persone.

Alla sezione del partito comunista tutti i colpi riscontrati risul-

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8168

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

tano esplosi dal basso, ad eccezione di uno rettilineo alla facciata anteriore sul battente destro del balcone di cui è stato possibile precisare la provenienza, ed un secondo di striscio sulla facciata posteriore e precisamente sotto la finestra della stanza che immette nella cucina. Nel circolo tutti i colpi provengono dall'esterno ad eccezione di uno sulla bussola della porta sparato dall'interno senza ritenzione di proiettile. Tutti i colpi risultano di calibro 42 e nel circolo sono stati rinvenuti 24 bossoli di cartucce di calibro 42 di marca americana.

Non è stato possibile identificare le persone che invasero il Circolo poichè nessuno dei soci ha riconosciuto quelli che li percossero e nessuna prova testimoniale è stata possibile raccogliere.

Verso le ore 20 di quello stesso giorno, su invito telefonico del Sindaco, il maresciallo dei CC.RR. con militari dell'Arma ed aliquote del reparto inglese di stanza a Minervino con due ufficiali, scesero in Piazza De Deo fermando i passanti e perquisendoli. Intimato il fermo a due sconosciuti, questi si davano alla fuga per via Labirinto, inseguiti da militari dell'Arma. Ad un tratto si intesero colpi di arma da fuoco e grida di soccorso e si rinvenne agonizzante il carabiniere Sottero Guerrino. In seguito a meticolose ed accurate indagini eseguite da un funzionario della locale Questura con l'ausilio dell'Arma del luogo, si sono identificati i colpevoli nei pregiudicati: Barbangelo Vincenzo di Michele, nato a Minervino il 27-I-1904, reo confesso, che è stato arrestato e, su indicazione di quest'ultimo, si è identificato il correo Sciascia-Carmine fu Michelangelo, nato a Minervino il 3-7-1904, ivi residente, vico 1° S.Arcangelo, resosi irreperibile. Costui, a dire del Barbangelo, fu il primo ad esplodere colpi di pistola contro il carabiniere Sottero.

Lo Sciascia è attivamente ricercato.

Le condizioni dell'ordine pubblico sembrano normalizzate"".

PEL MINISTRO

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

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Lo Scisscia è attivamente ricercato.

Le condizioni dell'ordine pubblico sembrano normalizzate"".

PEL MINISTRO

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

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

19A

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
Civil Affairs Section
APO 394

Tel : 473706

AC/14602/13/PS

1 April 1945

SUBJECT : Vinervino Murge, Bari Province

TO : AMMG, G-5

1. Reference is made to our letter of even number dated 10th April 1945, relative to a disturbance at Vinervino Murge.

2. Attached hereto for your information is a translation of a comprehensive report received from the Officer-Commanding, CC.RR. External Group, Bari, concerning this matter.

3. Since the submission of the report by the CC.RR., it has been learned that one BENEDETTO Vincenzo, age 41 years, a farmer of Vinervino Murge, has been apprehended and is now awaiting trial in connection with the death of the Carabiniere. A second man has been identified and his arrest is now sought for complicity in the crime.

3135

For the Chief Commissioner :

G.R. UPJOHN, Brig.
VI CA Sec

GRD/WG

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

TRANSMITTED, ec.

14602/10 18A

CARABINIERI HEADQUARTERS COMIANO

No. 276/18 R.P. Rome, 13th April, 1945.

SUBJECT : Killing of Carabiniere ROTERO Guerino - identification of person responsible.

TO : A.C. P.S. S/C. Rome.

In continuation to letter No. 276 R.P. of the 21st March last.

The Force in collaboration with the P.S., has identified the persons responsible for the murder of Carabiniere ROTERO Guerino in the ex-convicts BARBARESCO Vincenzo and SCITOSCIA Cosmino, both of Minervino Murge (Bari).

The first has confessed to the crime and had been arrested, the second has gone into hiding.

FOR THE GENERAL COMMANDING
- Brunetto Brunetti -
DIVISIONAL GENERAL
-Alfredo Ferrari -

3104

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

RISERVATO PERSONALE

Comando Generale dell'Arma dei Carabinieri Reali

UFFICIO SERVIZIO - SITUAZIONE E COLLEGAMENTI

N. 276/18 di prot. R.P. Roma, li 13 aprile 1945

Risposta al del n. Allegati n.

OGGETTO: Uccisione del Carabiniere BOTTERO Guerino - identificazione responsabili.-

ALLA COMMISSIONE ALLEATA -
- Sottocommissione per la P.S. -
R O M A

Fa seguito al foglio n°276/2 R.P. del 21 marzo u.s.-

L'Arma,in collaborazione con la P.S.,ha identificato gli autori dell'omicidio del carabiniere BOTTERO Guerino nei pregiudicati BARBANELLO Vincenzo e SCIOSCIA Carmine, entrambi da Minervino Murge (Bari).

3163

Il primo, reo confesso, é stato arrestato; il secondo si é reso irreperibile.-

p. IL GENERALE COMANDANTE
-Brunetto Brunetti-
- Il Gen. di Div. Alfredo Ferrari -

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

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
NAPLES COMMUNE
APO 394
PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION

117A

14602/10.

Ref: PS/9.5

date 14 April 1945

SUBJECT: Public Order - Minervino Murge, Bari Province.

TO : Headquarters, Allied Commission
(attention of the Director,
Public Safety Sub-Commission).

127

1. Further reference HQ Southern Region, Allied Commission, correspondence No. PS/4 of 24 Mar 45 relative to a disturbance at Minervino Murge, Province of Bari, during which a member of the CC.RR. lost his life.

117B

2. Attached hereto for your information is a copy translation of a comprehensive report received at this HQ from the Officer Commanding, CC.RR External Group, Bari, concerning this matter.

3. Since the submission of that report by the CC.RR., it has been learned that one Barbangelo Vincenzo, age 41 years, a farmer, of Minervino Murge, has been apprehended and is now awaiting trial in connection with the death of the Carabiniere. A second man has been identified and his arrest is now sought for complicity in the crime.

3162

For the Commissioner:

G. RICHARDSON
Major,
S.C.A.P.C.

GR/tp.

TO		
DIRECTOR		
DEPUTY DIRECTOR		
EXEC. OFFICER		
PERSONNEL		
LIC. & REG.		
PRISONS		
ADM. OFFICER		
SECURITY		
CHIEF CLERK		

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

COPY TRANSLATION

176

TERRITORIAL LEGION OF THE ROYAL CARABINIERI OF BARI
EXTERNAL GROUP OF BARI

File n. 397/6 3rd Div. Bari, 20 March 1945

SUBJECT: Public Order - Minervino Murge, Bari Province.

After our signal n. 58/21 dated 20.3.45 the following is communicated:

At about 18.30 hrs on 18.3.45 in Minervino Murge (Bari) a group of Communists headed by the Secretary of the 'Camera del Lavoro' GUGLIOTTI Domenico, formed a procession, when returning from the noted ceremony of Spinazzola. They were joined by a number of their companions who were loitering in the square. All went in the direction of the office of the Communist Party were GUGLIOTTI began to speak from the central baloony.

Suddenly, according to the version of the a/m, two shots were fired by unknown people from a window just below the Communist office, were there is a club to which some ex-fascists belong. Those shots were followed by many others fired from the crowd who immediately dispersed.

Following this the Commissario Prefettizio of the Commune (Socialist Party) contacted the CC.RR. Commander of the Station who organised a patrol service with Maresciallo GRAVANESE and 9 dependents. Two British Officers and 3 or 4 dependents joined them.

At about 20.00 hrs during the patrol, the CC.RR. stopped and started searching two suspicious looking individuals. One of them had a long knife which was immediately taken from him by the Maresciallo. At the same time, not far away three persons were seen and the Maresciallo ordered his dependents to stop them. Three CC.RR. among whom was BOTTERO Guerino, ordered these men to stop, but they started running firing some shots in the air. 316

BOTTERO went ahead of the other two CC.RR. and followed the fugitives in an alley answering to their firing with two musket shots. The men, evidently seeing the Carabiniere so near started to shoot towards him at close range. Nevertheless the Carabiniere continued to follow the fugitives, and never looked back, until he fell to the ground hit by ten shots, in his chest, stomach and legs.

...../2

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

His companions reached the place and helped him, but he soon died - near the victim was found a large automatic pistol and a hat.

This incident created much indignation among the population, therefore during the night and next day 100 CC.RR. and 20 P.S.Agents were sent as reinforcement. Also the Questore and P.S. functionary went to the spot.

Reaching Andria, the Commissary of the Communist Party Mr. DE GAETANO Vincenzo, offered to go with the undersigned on the spot to try and calm the people and examine the situation. As the Questore agreed to this collaboration to prevent possible incidents, they went immediately to Minervino Murge accompanied also by an N.C.O. of the British Security Service sent by his superiors as an observer.

In Minervino the square was full of suspicious looking people. Contacting immediately the local chief of the Communist Party the writer saw how deplorable the episode was and already in agreement with the heads of the other Parties, it was disposed all honour was to be given to the body of Carabiniere BOTTERO. Having been informed that other CC.RR. and P.S. Agents were to arrive as reinforcements, he declared that they would be accepted with joy, thus when the men arrived they were claimed with shouts of 'Viva l'ordine' (Hurray for order). These facts ascertained on the spot, show how the killing of Carabiniere BOTTERO is to be attributed to an episode of common dalinquency.

On the 20 March 1945 at 1000 hours was held the funeral of BOTTERO, whose family is in north Italy, he fought in Balcania with the Patriots beside Tito's Army. The funeral was very imposing. The Prefect, all the local authorities, the members of the Liberation Committee, all the church, all the political and Carabinieri Associations, the civilian organisations with the banners and many civilians were present. Many women. A large number of wreaths. The body passed through two throngs of crying people. The Sindaco and political representatives gave the last salute to the body and stated the devotion of the people in Minervino Murgo to the CC.RR.

On the 20 March 1945 at about 1000 hrs. Mr. GUGLIOTTI denounced probably to justify the shooting on the 18th and to complete what he had already said, that on said evening he was the cause of several shots, which unknown persons fired towards him as he was speaking from the balcony of the Communist Section.

...../3

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

He showed the bullet marks on the window pane and shutter presumably musket shots, fired from below. The trace of another shot is seen on the wall of the building, and investigations are being made. Probably they were shots fired by the crowd on the 18th.

Investigations for the identification of the murderers are being made and completed.

IL CAPITANO COMANDANTE ff

(sgd) Calogero Lo Presti

P.C.C.

IL TENCOLONNELLO ADDETTO
Cesare Leonardi (sgd)

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

16 A
Sec 19th

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
Civil Affairs Section
APO 394

AC/16602/10/PS

10 April 1945

SUBJECT : Public Order - Minervino Murge - Bari Province

TO : AFHQ G-5

16 A

1. Reference is made to this HQ signal N.4152 dated 24 March 45.

2. The following reports condensed from various ~~reports~~ reports received from the Italian Police Agencies concerned, is forwarded for your information.

3. On the 18th March 1945, at Spinazzola, the bodies of some twenty Italians, murdered by the Germans in Sept. 1943, were exhumed and re-interred with suitable ceremony by people from the surrounding communes, amongst whom were a considerable number from Minervino Murge.

4. On returning to their commune, the people of Minervino Murge, staged a demonstration, ostensibly to protest at the escape of General Nosetti, and at the inadequacy of the present dependent's allowance paid to families of soldiers. However, the opinions of the opposing political parties were voiced and the crowd became disorderly, shots being fired by the communistic elements present. Whereupon the crowd was dispersed by the local Italian police.

5. Later that evening, Carabinieri, together with two British Captains and several other Ranks from No. 2 Commando Training Wing,(the reason for the presence of the British personnel could not be ascertained) searched suspects in effort to trace the firearms used during the demonstration. During this search whilst trying to effect an arrest, one Carabinieri was killed and three wounded. There were no British casualties.

3139

6. Italian police re-inforcements were immediately drafted to the Minervino area, and order was restored. No fresh incidents have been reported to date.

For the Chief Commissioner,

G.R. UPCOTT, Brig.
VP CA Sec

GRU/lb

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

10

15A.

Translation.

CC.RR. Gen. Hq.

3rd April, 1945.
N. 276/12 R.P.

Subject : Minervino Murge (Bari) - Disturbances. cc.

To : A.C. Public Safety Sub-Commission - Rome.

The Commander of the CC.RR. Legion of Bari from whom details have been requested in regard to the intervention of Allied Officers and NCOs in the disturbances occurred at Minervino Murge on the 18th March, 1945, (this Gen.Hq.'s letter n.276/2 dated 21st March, 1945) has sent the following cable:

"" There intervened after the first incidents and when nothing had yet happened to the carabiniere BOTTERO two Captains and several men belonging to the second Training Wing Brigade, who are billetted in premises close to the barracks and who together with the Station Commander and military of the Corps searched the village. Subsequently they supplied the auto-vehicle for the transport of the dying CC.RR. Bottero to the barracks and sent to Barletta with another auto-vehicles the first reports of the incident. No further specific activity.""

The above is reported following the P.S. Sub-Commission's verbal request.

Commanding General
^Brunetto Brunetti-

rv.

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

3153

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

RISERVATO PERSONALE

Comando Generale dell'Arma dei Carabinieri Reali

UFFICIO SERVIZIO - SITUAZIONE E COLLEGAMENTI

N. 276/12 di prot. R.P. Roma, li 3 aprile 1945

Risposta al del n. Allegati n.

OGGETTO: Minervino Murge (Bari) - Disordini.

ALLA COMMISSIONE ALLEATA -
Sottocommissione per la P.S. -
R O M A

Il comandante la Legione dei CC.RR. di Bari al quale sono state chieste precisazioni in merito all'intervento di ufficiali e sottufficiali alleati nei fatti avvenuti a Minervino Murge il 18 marzo u/s. (foglio di questo Comando Generale n.276/2 in data 21 marzo 1945) così telegrafa:

""Intervennero dopo primi incidenti et quando ancora nulla era accaduto at carabiniere BOTTERO due capitani e alcuni uomini appartenenti seconda brigata Training Wing stanza Minervino Murge alloggiati in locali attigui caserma che assieme comandante stazione et militari Arma perlustrarono abitato. Fornirono successivamente automezzo trasporto in caserma carabiniere Bottero moribondo e recapitarono Barletta con altro automezzo prime notizie incidente. Nessuna altra specifica azione."

3137

Ciò si comunica in esito a richiesta verbale di codesta Sottocommissione per la P.S.

IL GENERALE COMANDANTE
-Brunetto Brunetti-

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

Translation.

TO	INIT.	DATE
DIRECTOR		
DEPUTY DIRECTOR		
EXEC. OFFICER		
POLICE		
LIC. & REG.		
PRISONS		
ADJ. OFFICER		
SECURITY		
CHIEF [illegible]		

CC.RR. Gen. Hq.

31st March, 1945.
N. 276/9

Subject : Minervino Murge (Bari) - Disturbances.

To : A.C. Public Safety Sub-Commission - Rome.

Letter n. 276/2 R.F. dated 21st instant refers.

At Minervino Murge (Bari) there is great excitement among the population caused by the attitude taken by the secretary of the Chamber of Labour GUGLIOTTA Domenico.

The latter, according to rumours, is making instigating propaganda among the peasants.

Many say that he is assisted in this action by GUGLIELMI Giuseppe, secretary of the local communist section, RENNA Francesco of the late Giuseppe, communist, Commandant of the country guards, BALDINI Pasquale of the late Maurantonio and VECCIA Redmondo, members of the Socialist Party.

On the 8th instant, Gugliotti hold a public meeting during which he incited the present persons to consider themselves mobilized to replace the government, in case the latter should not punish those responsible for the escape of the General ROATTA, making the hearers believe that the time to pass over to action has arrived.

Besides which , he suggested to suppress the big land-properties and to divide the land among the poors and to make summary justice of the responsible Fascists and of those who still nestle themselves in the various Administrations.

A soldier in uniform (recruit of the class 1925) who was present at the meeting was threatened with the wrenching of his stars. The soldier, eventhough of Communist faith, opposed himself energeticelly, reproaching his companions that they were those who invited the young men to answer the call-up.

Furthermore it is rumoured that following the initiative of GUGLIOTTI, his sister and other 6 or 7 Communists, are going from home to home spreading the false news that a provision is being taken to the effect that no longer subsidies will be paid to the families of called-up soldiers or POW. Therefore they would advise those concerned to make a demonstration protesting also against the local Authorities who are accused to disinterest themselves.

All these facts and threats have brought about excitement especially among the ex Fascists, who in their turn would be taking measures to re-act against any violence whatsoever. In agreement with the political Authorities, measures are being taken to prevent disturbances.

rv.

Commanding General

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

RISERVATO PERSONALE

Comando Generale dell'Arma dei Carabinieri Reali

UFFICIO SERVIZIO - SITUAZIONE E COLLEGAMENTI

N. 276/9 di prot. R.P. Roma, li 31 marzo 1945

Risposta al del n. Allegati n.

OGGETTO: Minervino Murge (Bari) - Disordini.

ALLA COMMISSIONE ALLEATA
Sottocommissione per la P.S. -
R O M A

Fa seguito al foglio n.276/2 R.P. del 21 corrente.

In Minervino Murge (Bari) esiste viva agitazione fra la popolazione per l'atteggiamento assunto dal segretario di quella Camera del Lavoro GUGLIOTTA Domenico.

Egli, a quanto si afferma, svolge opera sobillatrice fra la massa dei contadini.

Molti soggiungono che, in quest'azione, viene affiancato da GUGLIELMI Giuseppe, segretario della locale Sezione comunista, RENNA Francesco fu Giuseppe, comunista, comandante delle guardie campestri, BALDINI Pasquale fu Maurantonio e VEGLIA Boemondo, iscritti al Partito socialista.

L'8 corrente, il GUGLIOTTA tenne un pubblico comizio, durante il quale incitò i presenti a considerarsi mobilitati per sostituirsi al Governo qualora questi non avesse fatto giustizia sui responsabili della fuga del Generale ROATTA, ingenerando fra gli ascoltatori la sensazione che ormai

./..

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

fosse giunta l'ora di passare all'azione.

Egli, inoltre, parlò di sopprimere i feudatari per dividere i loro beni ai poveri e di fare giustizia sommaria dei fascisti responsabili e di quelli che ancora si annidano nelle varie amministrazioni.

Durante il comizio - inoltre - ad un soldato in divisa (recluta della classe 1925) che vi assisteva, si fece la minaccia di strappargli le stellette. Il soldato, per quanto di fede comunista, si oppose nel modo più energico, rinfacciando ai suoi compagni che erano stati proprio essi ad invitare i giovani a presentarsi alle armi.

Si dice poi che per iniziativa del GUGLIOTTI, la sorella di lui ed altre sei o sette comuniste, girando di casa in casa, vadano propulando la tendenziosa notizia che sia in studio un provvedimento per togliere il sussidio ai congiunti dei militari alle armi o prigionieri. Esse inviterebbero - perciò - le interessate a scendere in piazza per attuare dimostrazioni di protesta anche contro le autorità locali che vengono accusate di disinteressamento.

Tutti questi fatti e minacce hanno prodotto un certo fermento, specie fra ex fascisti, che a loro volta si starebbero preparando per reagire a qualsiasi violenza.

D'intesa con l'autorità politica, si stanno concretando misure per prevenire disordini.

IL GENERALE COMANDANTE
-Brunetto Brunetti-

TRANSLATION. ea.

1602/10. 10A

MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR.
General Directorate of Public Security.

Rome, 27th March, 1945.

A.G.P. 2.
No. 442/3142.

SUBJECT : Minervino Murge (Bari) - incidents.

TO : A.C. P.S. S/C.

The Prefect of Bari has so far sent the phonograms and the telegram of which copies are transmitted herewith with regard to the incidents at Minervino Murge (Bari) during which the Carabinieri Bottaro Guerrino was killed.

A detailed report has already been requested of the Prefect and a telegram of even date is being sent to solicit this.

As soon as more information is received a further communication will be addressed to the Commission.

FOR THE MINISTER
- Petrucci

TO	INIT	DATE
DIRECTOR		
DEPUTY DIRECTOR		
EXEC. OFFICER		
POLICE		
LIC. & REG.		
PRISONS		
ADMINISTRATION		
SECURITY		
CHEMICAL		

COPY.
TELEGRAM FROM BARI 21.3.45.

Internal Cabinet D.P.S.

No. 01511. With reference to the phonogram of even number dated 19th instant, I report that yesterday the Director of the Minervino Murge Labour Chamber, GUGLIOTTI Domenico declared that on the evening of the incidents which took place there he has made the target of some shots which unknown persons aimed at him while he was speaking from a balcony to a section of Communists who had returned from the ceremony at Spinazzola. In proof of this statement he showed in the glass of a window and on a shutter

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

SUBJECT : Minervino Murge (Bari) - Incidents.

TO : A.C. P.B. S/S.

The Prefect of Bari has so far sent the phonograms and the telegram of which copies are transmitted herewith with regard to the incidents at Minervino Murge (Bari), during which the Carabinieri Pastore Guerrino was killed.

A detailed report has already been requested of the Prefect and a telegram of even date is being sent to solicit this.

As soon as more information is received a further communication will be addressed to the Commission.

FOR THE [illegible]

- Ferreri

TO	INIT.	DATE
DIRECTOR	[illegible]	[illegible]
DEPUTY DIRECTOR	[illegible]	[illegible]
EXEC. OFFICER	[illegible]	[illegible]
POLICY	[illegible]	315
LIC. & REG.	[illegible]	[illegible]
PROGRAMS		
ADMINISTRATION		
SECURITY		
CHIEF, [illegible]		

COPY.

TELEGRAM FROM BARI 21.3.45.

Internal Cabinet E.C.O.

No. 01511. With reference to the phonogram of even number dated 18th instant, I report that yesterday the Director of the Minervino Murge Labour Chamber, GUGLIOTTI Domenico declared that on the evening of the incidents which took place there he was made the target of some shots which unknown persons aimed at him while he was speaking from a balcony to a section of Communists who had returned from the ceremony at Spinazzola. In proof of this statement he showed in the glass of a window and on a shutter evident traces of shots presumably from a musket fired in an upward direction. Other traces of shots are to be seen on the coping round the top of the building in a horizontal direction, the authenticity and nature of which are being ascertained. The traces of shot which were only noticed on the above-mentioned date may be from those fired by the maddened crowd on the 18th. According to Guglietti the Communists fired after two shots had been released from the balcony below that of the Communist Hqs. where the civil club has its premises and to which belong some individuals inscribed in the suppressed fascist Party and that by reason of their direction they cannot have been fired at the time to which he refers. Investigation is being made into the delay in denunciation. The funeral

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

of the Carabinieri Bottero which took place yesterday in all solemnity at Minervino was attended by the entire population.

(Signed) ANTONUCCI.

Phonogram from Prefecture, Bari to Ministry of the Interior, General Directorate of P.S.

No. 01511. 19.3.45.

News is received from Minervino Murge, delayed on account of the lack of telephonic communication, that yesterday evening following an improvised manifestation organised by Communists, in which the Mayor and the CC.RR Force intervened to persuade the procession to disperse, a conflict broke out in which one Carabinieri was killed and three other persons injured. Given the state of tension I sent to the spot the Questore and a Carabinieri Lieut. Col. with 130 men between Carabinieri and Arents. Detailed report will be sent as soon as possible.

(Signed) ANTONUCCI.

3133

Phonogram from Prefecture, Bari, to the Ministry of the Interior, Directorate General of Public Security.

No. 01511. 19.3.45.

Following phonogram of to-day's date it is reported that the Questore returned from Minervino Murge states that at 18.30 yesterday a group of persons returning from the ceremony at Spinazzola improvised a procession during which some demonstrators fired shots without consequences. Subsequently, when the demonstration was over the CC.RR proceeded to arrest an individual of suspicious aspect. While they were searching him (he was found to be in possession of a dagger) three other persons approached who threatened with arrest ran away firing pistol shots

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

General Directorate of P.S.

No. 01511. 19.3.45.

News is received from Minervino Murge, delayed on account of the lack of telephonic communication, that yesterday evening following an improvised manifestation organised by Communists, in which the Mayor and the CC.RR Force intervened to persuade the procession to disperse. A conflict broke out in which one Carabinieri was killed and three other persons injured. Given the state of tension I sent to the spot the Questore and a Carabinieri Lieut. Col. with 130 men between Carabinieri and agents. Detailed report will be sent as soon as possible.

(Signed) ANTONUCCI.

3153

Phonogram from Prefecture, Bari, to the Ministry of the Interior, Directorate General of Public Security.

19.3.45.

No. 01511.

Following phonogram of to-day's date it is reported that the Questore returned from Minervino Murge states that at 16.30 yesterday a group of persons returning from the ceremony at Spinazzola improvised a procession during which some demonstrators fired shots without consequences. Subsequently, when the demonstration was over the CC.RR proceeded to arrest an individual of suspicious aspect. While they were searching him (he was found to be in possession of a dagger) three other persons approached who threatened with arrest ran away firing pistol shots. CC.RR followed and on reaching a side street they fired at Carabinieri Bettero Guerrino, 11 revolver shots reached him and mortally wounded him. According to investigations so far made the crime must be considered as one of ordinary delinquency. Reinforcements of Agents and Carabinieri received by the citizens with spontaneous manifestations of welcome and with the cry "Long Live Order".

Public Order is returning to normal. The National Liberation Committee has deeply deplored the mournful incident. Enquiries to ascertain the responsible parties are proceeding actively. The victim's funeral will take place to-morrow and it is expected that the entire population will attend. Further report will follow.

PREFECT ANTONUCCI.

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

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

Ministero dell'Interno
DIREZIONE GENERALE DELLA PUBBLICA SICUREZZA

Roma 27 marzo 1945

Div. A.G.R. Sez. 2
P.S. A 442/3142 Allegati

All'ON. COMMISSIONE ALLEATA
Sottocommissione per la Pubblica Sicurezza
ROMA

Oggetto: Minervino Murge (Bari) incidenti.

Per gli incidenti di Minervino Murge (Bari), durante i quali fu ucciso il carabiniere Bottero Guerrino, il Prefetto di Bari ha fatto finora pervenire i fonogrammi ed il telegramma che si trasmettono in copia.

E' stato già richiesto al detto Prefetto un particolareggiato rapporto ed in pari data si va a sollecitarlo telegraficamente.

Appena in grado si farà seguito alla presente.

PEL MINISTRO

3157

COPIA

TELEGRAMMA DA BARI 21.3.45

INTERNO GABINETTO E P.S.

n.01511. In relazione fonogramma pari numero 19 corrente comunico che ieri dirigente Camera Lavoro Minervino Murge Gugliotti Domenico denunziò che la sera dei noti incidenti ivi verificatisi sarebbe stato oggetto di alcuni colpi arma da fuoco che ignoti gli avrebbero diretto mentre parlava dal balcone della sezione comunista ai cittadini reduci dalle cerimonie di Spinazzola. At prova dello asserto ha fatto constatare su di un vetro della finestra et su di una persiana tracce evidenti di colpi (presumibilmente moschetto) con direzione dal basso in alto. Traccia di altro colpo si vedrebbe sotto cornicione del prospetto del fabbricato in direzione orizzontale cui autenticità et natura si sta accertando. I colpi che sarebbero stati rilevati soltanto alla data suddetta potrebbero anche essere quelli esplosi all'impazzata il 18 dalla folla. Secondo il Gugliotti i comunisti avrebbero fatto la nota sparatoria in seguito alla detonazione di due colpi d'arma che sarebbero partiti dal balcone sottostante alla sede comunista ove si trovava il circolo dei civili del quale fanno parte alcuni iscritti al soppresso partito fascista et che per la loro direzione non possono essere assolutamente quelli cui ora si accenna. Sono in corso accertamenti anche sulla tardiva denuncia. Ai funerali del carabiniere Bottero svoltisi ieri in forma solenne at Minervino ha partecipato intera popolazione.

315

F.to ANTONUOSI

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

COPIA

19.3.

FONOGRAMMA IN ARRIVO DALLA PREFETTURA DI BARI
AL MINISTERO DELL'INTERNO (GABINETTO) e DIREZ. GEN. P.S.

n.01511

Giunge notizia da Minervino Murge ritardata per mancanza comunicazioni telefoniche che ieri sera at seguito improvvisa manifestazione organizzata da comunisti et intervento Sindaco et Arma per opera persuasiva scioglimento corteo vi sia stato conflitto in cui veniva ucciso carabiniere e ferite altre tre persone. Data tensione animi ho inviato sul posto Questore et Tenente Colonnello Carabinieri con 130 uomini fra carabinieri et agenti. Riservomi di riferire più dettagliatamente non appena in grado

F.TO ANTONUCCI

3150

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

COPIA

19.3.1945 ore 23

FONOGRAMMA IN ARRIVO DALLA R. PREFETTURA DI B A R I

AL MINISTERO DELL'INTERNO (GABINETTO) e DIREZ. GEN. P.S.

n.01511

Seguito fonogramma odierno p.n. informasi che Questore rientrato da Minervino Murge chiarisce che ore 18,30 di ieri un gruppo di persone reduci da cerimonia svoltasi at Spinazzola improvvisava corteo durante il quale alcuni dimostranti esplodevano vari colpi di arma da fuoco senza conseguenze. Successivamente et quando dimostrazione erasi sciolta militari arma procedettero fermo individuo in atteggiamento sospetto. Mentre eseguivano perquisizione fermato trovato possesso pugnale si avvicinavano altre tre persone che at intimazione fermo davansi fuga esplodendo colpi pistola. Inseguiti da militari arma et raggiunti prossimo vicolo da carabiniere Bottero Guerrino sparavano contro stesso vari colpi di rivoltella di cui 10 lo raggiungevano ferendolo mortalmente. Delitto devesi secondo indagini finora praticate ritenersi episodio comune delinquenza. Rinforzi agenti et carabinieri accolti cittadinanza con spontanea manifestazione di simpatia et con grida "W l'ordine".

3149

L'ordine pubblico va normalizzandosi dopo la commutazione in Municipio dal Comitato di Liberazione che ha vivamente deplorato luttuoso episodio. Indagini per identificazione responsabili proseguono attivamente. Funerali vittima dovere seguiranno domani et si prevede che prenderà parte tutta popolazione. Riservomi ulteriori notizie.

PREFETTO ANTONUCCI

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

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

HEADQUARTERS
SOUTHERN REGION, ALLIED COMMISSION
PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION

URGENT 124

Ref: PS/ 4

Date 24 March 1945

SUBJECT: Public Order - Minervino Murge, Bari Province.

TO : Headquarters, Allied Commission
(attention of the Director,
Public Safety Sub-Commission).

1. Reference this HQ signals 11476 of 20 and 22 Mar 45 concerning public order at Minervino Murge, Bari Province.

2. Attached hereto is a copy translation of a report received from the CC.RR., 3rd Division, Naples, and same is forwarded for your information as the contents give a general picture of the background of the incident under review.

3. In respect of this particular matter constant contact is being maintained with the CC.RR. and Allied Military Authorities and any further information or developments will be forwarded to you by signal or report as the occasion demands.

For the Regional Commissioner:

G. RICHARDSON 3143
Major,
Regional Public
Safety Officer.

GR/tp.

TO	INIT	DATE
DIRECTOR		
DEPUTY		
[illegible]		
[illegible]		
[illegible]		
[illegible]		
SECURITY		
CHIEF CLERK		

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

12B

COMANDO DELLA 3^ DIVISIONE CARABINIERI REALI

Letter File No. 91/7-1 Naples, 22nd March 1945

SUBJECT: MINERVINO MURGE (Bari) Disorders.

For your information, we transcribe a letter from the Gruppo Esterno of Bari n. 64/19 dated 16th March 1945.

"It is reported that in the Commune of MINERVINO MURGE (Bari) there is great agitation among the population for the instigating action carried out by GUGLIOTTI Domenico, secretary of the "Camera del Lavoro" of that locality.

The a/m is the major exponent of the Communist Party and notwithstanding numerous public warnings also by the Allied Authorities and the assurance made by him that his propaganda would be maintained within the limits of the law, and follow the orders of the Government, he still continues to instigate the mass of ignorant farmers who are easy to be convinced.

In his work, which is contrary to the Government, he is helped by the following communists: GUGLIELMI Giuseppe di Michele, secretary to the local communist section, RENNA Francesco fu Giuseppe, communist commander of the "Guardie Campestri" (compelled by GUGLIOTTI), BALDINI Pasquale fu Mauro Antonio and VEGLIA Boemondo inscribed to the socialist party but faithfull followers of communism.

On 8th March 1945 GUGLIOTTI held a public meeting during which he induced those present to consider themselves mobilised so as to over turn the Government if justice was not rendered to the responsible for the escape of Generale ROATTA. He also caused the sensation that the moment of action had arrived.

Besides, he spoke of suppressing feudality and divide their goods among the poor and give justice to the responsible fascists and those that still nest in the various administrations.

On this occasion he did not hesitate to imply that in MINERVINO MURGE, the revolutionary movement of 1898 must be repeated.

...../2

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

During the a/m meeting, a soldier in uniform was threatened to have his little stars (stellette) ripped off. The soldier even though of Communist faith, objected energetically, reproaching his companions by saying that they had spread propaganda for the call to arms of men born in 1925.

It is said that through the initiative of GUGLIOTTI, his sister, with other six or seven communist women, go from house to house spreading the false information that measures are being taken to take away help which is granted to the families of men in military service and P.Ws. Therefore they suggested that a public demonstration be made, against the local authorities, who are accused of taking no interest in this matter.

All these facts and threats have provoked nervous tension especially among the ex-fascists who in turn are preparing to retaliate with every means.

It has been ascertained that many people belonging to the various parties are in possession of arms. A list of people presumably armed is being made in accord with the Prefect, so that at the right moment a search can be made.

In the meantime the station has been re-inforced to 13 military.

IL TENENTE COLONNELLO ADDETTA
Cesare Leonardi

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

HEADQUARTERS
SOUTHE..N REGION, ALLIED COMMISSION
PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION

IIA
URGENT

Ref: PS/4

Date 24 March 1945

SUBJECT: Public Order - Minervino Murge, Bari Province.

TO : Headquarters, Allied Commission
(attention of the Director,
Public Safety Sub-Commission).

1. Reference this HQ signals 11476 of 20 and 22 Mar 45 concerning public order at Minervino Murge, Bari Province.

2. Attached hereto for your information is a copy translation of telegrams received by the CC.RR., 3rd Division, Naples, from the Officer Commanding, CC.RR., External Group, Bari, relative to the incident on 18 Mar 45.

For the Regional Commissioner:

G. RICHARDSON
Major,
Regional Public Safety Officer.

GR/tp.

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

31 46

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

TRANSLATION.

11B

COMANDAO DELLA 3^ DIVISIONE DEI CARABINIERI REALI.

Letter File No. 91/11 Naples, 22 March 1945.

SUBJECT: MINERVINO MURGE (Bari) - Disorders.

For your information the following telegrams are transcribed, regarding disorders mentioned in subject:-

"64/24 regarding telegramn.58/21 dated 20th March 45 signed Lt. Col. SCHIAVONI, communication is given that yesterday 20th March 45 at 10 hrs Mr. GUGLIOTTI, manager of the MINERVINO MURGE "Camera del Lavoro" declared that on the evening of 18th March 45 while speaking from the balcony of the Communist Section, to citizens returning from the Spinazzola ceremony, some shots were fired at him. To prove the a/m statement he showed the marks thereof on the pane of the window and shutters, obviously done by a musket shot. Another trace of shots can be seen under the roof of the building opposite. The authentity thereof however must still be ascertained. The explanation of these shots could be given as fired anywhere by the crowd on 18th March 45.

However the a/m GUGLIOTTI states that on the previous day shots were fired from the balcony just below the Communist Section where there is a civilian Club, to which some Fascists belong. Owing to their direction, the shots cannot be connected with those fired on 18th March 45. 3145

Ascertainments are also being made regarding the delaid denouncement. Complete signal signed Capt. LO PRESTI".

"172/8 Following message 172/1 regarding incidents in MINERVINO MURGE, Bari Province, that require the prolonged permanence of re-enforcement. The disorders are due to common delinquency. Investigations are being made for the arrest of the authors and suspected persons. Legion Commander Lt. Col. Tuccari".

IL TENENTE COLONNELLO ADDETTO
Cesare Leonardi.

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

10P

AMG 9-3

4130 24 March 1945 SECRET

CONFIDENTIAL FD

OPSUM FD SUPERSEDES INSTRUCT FD

TAKE FD AMG 9-5 PROC ALOG SIG AMAR PARIS FD

PARA ONE FD ENEMY RESISTANCE ON ZONE HAS BEEN VERY LIGHT OR NO

ONE NAMED RESISTED SURRENDERED INSTRUCT FD

PARA TWO FD IF IS CONTEMPLATED THAT NO ARMED FORCES WILL REMAIN

ZONE HAS ESTABLISHED BY DISPOSITION OF ITALIAN FORCE OR OTHER

MEANS FD NO FURTHER DETERMINATION TO BE MADE AS TO MORAL AND NO

FURTHER ACTION IS REQUIRED FD

PARA FOUR FD A WRITTEN REPORT IS NOT REQUIRED AND WILL BE FORWARDED

IN THE FUTURE FD

3144

Civil Affairs Section
(s) SHUKTEKTOR
S.E. Upjohn, Brig.

NICHOLAS PISECKY
Col., USA
Adjt., Adjutant

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

INCOMING MESSAGE

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

Originator's Reference: LB12
Date Time of Origin: MAR 23NFT
Message Centre No: D/5887
Date Time Rec'd: MAR 231015A
Precedence: ROUTINE

FROM: AC BARI

TO : AC ROME PUBLIC SAFETY SUBCOMMISSION INFO AC SOUTHERN REGION PUBLIC SAFETY

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED.

Reference MINVERINO incident on March 18th. During a religious procession disturbances necessited intervention of CC RR. Whilst restoring order 1 CC RR was shot dead. Later on the same evening shots were fired on officers of local British unit. No Army personnel hurt. CC RRs reinforcements from BARLETTA and BARI arrived during 18th night. Order reestablished by 19th. No further disturbances. Local 54 Sub Area satisfied that all is returned to normal. No further action needed.

TO	INIT	DATE
DIRECTOR		
DEPUTY DIRECTOR		
EXEC. OFFICER		
POLICE	CWS	
PS & REG.		
PERSONNEL		
ADM. OFFICER		
SECURITY		
CHIEF CLERK		

ACTION

DIST

ACTION: P.Safety S/C
INFO: A/President
Chief Commissioner
Executive Commissioner
CA Sec
File & Float 3

3143

RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS 24 MAR 1945 A. C.

TRANSLATION. ea.

14602/10 8A

CC.RR HQS. COMMAND

No. 276/2 R.P. Rome, 21 March, 1945.

SUBJECT : Minervino Murge (Bari) - disturbances.

TO : A.C. P.S. S/C.

Here under transcribed are telegraphic reports received from the CC.RR Company of Barletta No. 375/1, dated 19th instant, and CC.RR. Legion Command Bari No. 127/8 of the 20th:-

Barletta Company.

" At 1830 hours on the 18th instant at Minervino Murge (Bari) a group of Communists returning from Spinazzola (Bari) improvised a procession along the streets of the village which ended with intense and prolongued firing. At 1930 hours the Commander of the Station, adhering to the request of the Mayor, intervened together with 9 CC.RR. Allied officers and soldiers following. While the Commander and some of the CC.RR were searching an armed individual a group of three armed men arrived with menacing attitude, but when threatened with arrest they ran away firing. Some CC.RR gave chase led by CC.RR Dottero Guerrino, who after entering a side street and answering with two shots reached the agressors. However, he was repeatedly wounded in the stomach and fell. Rescued, he died immediately afterwards."

BARI LEGION.

3147

"The Minervino Murge episode in the province of Bari having occurred in an excited locality demands the lengthy permanence of reinforcements in order to repress delinquency. Investigations are being carried out in order to gather up and arrest responsible parties and suspects."

THE GENERAL COMMANDING.
(Brunetto Brunetti).

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

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

RISERVATO PERSONALE

Comando Generale dell'Arma dei Carabinieri Reali

UFFICIO SERVIZIO - SITUAZIONE E COLLEGAMENTI

N. 276/2 di prot. R.P. Roma, li 21 marzo 1945

Risposta al del n. Allegati n.

OGGETTO: Minervino Murge (Bari) - Disordini.

ALLA COMMISSIONE ALLEATA - Sottocommissione di P.S. -

R O M A

^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^

Trascrivo le seguenti segnalazioni telegrafiche della Compagnia CC.RR. di Barletta n.375/1 in data 19 corrente e del Comando Legione CC.RR. Bari n.127/8 del 20 successivo:

Compagnia Barletta

"""Ore 18,30 del 18 corrente Minervino Murge (Bari) gruppo comunisti reduci Spinazzola (Bari) improvvisavano corteo lungo vie abitato che terminava con intensa prolungata, speratoria. Ore 19,30 comandante stazione aderendo richiesta sindaco interveniva assieme nove carabinieri seguiti ufficiali et militari alleati. Mentre comandante et alcuni carabinieri perquisivano individuo armato sopraggiungeva con atteggiamento minaccioso gruppo tre armati che intimazione fermo fuggivano sparando. Alcuni carabinieri davansi inseguimento preceduti carabiniere BOTTERO Guerrino che avventurandosi in un vicolo et rispondendo con due colpi moschetto raggiungeva aggressori venendo con essi colluttazione.

./.

314

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

Senonchè ferito ripetutamente bruciapelo ventre cadeva. Soccorso subito decedeva tragitto."""

Legione Bari

"""Episodio Minervino Murge provincia Bari avvenuto in ambiente acceso richiedente lunga permanenza rinforzi et circoscrivibile comune delinquenza. Indagini in forze per rastrellamento arresto autori et elementi sospetti."""

IL GENERALE COMANDANTE
(Brunetto Brunetti)

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

INCOMING MESSAGE

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

Originator's Reference: SR/1080
Date Time of Origin: MAR 22/1536A

Message Centre No: D/5769
Date Time Rec'd: MAR 23/0700
Precedence: ROUTINE

FROM: ALCOM SOUTHERN REGION
TO : HQ ALCOM FOR ACPSF

14602/10

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL.

Reference incident reported vide this Hq signal number 11476 of 20 March 45.

Information now received from carabinieri command that on 18 March at 1830 at MINERVINO MURGE (BARI) civilians leaving ceremony formed procession and some demonstrators fired shots. 9 Allied Military intervened. Armed civilian was searched and 3 others also armed came to assistance but were interrupted by carabinieri who gave chase. Running fight ensued during which 1 carabiniere (not 3 previously reported) was mortally wounded. No arrest to date in connection with death. Carabinieri consider position not yet normal.

ACTION

DIST

ACTION P SAFETY S/C 2
INFO A/PRESIDENT
CHIEF COMMISSIONER
EX COMM
CA SEC
FILE 2
FLOAT

3140

TO	INIT	DATE
DIRECTOR	Stol	23/3.
DEPUTY DIRECTOR		
EXEC. OFFICER		
POLICE		
I. C. & REG.		
PRISONS		
ADM. OFFICER		
SECURITY		
CHIEF CLERK		

HEADQUARTERS 23 MAR 45 A.C.

CONFIDENTIAL

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

6A

DPS's instructions were and to CMSec for authentication in lieu of Minute 1. Cable dispatched by Public Safety on 21/3/45 (1200hrs) after being signed by Lt Col White CMSec.

AFHQ G-5

3973 21 March 1945 PRIORITY

CONFIDENTIAL FD
SUBJECT IS WINEVINO INCIDENT FD
PARIM TO AFHQ G 5 FROM ALCON SITE ACCAS PAREN FD
PARA ONE FD REFERENCE GEORGE OBOE NINE FIVE THREE OF ONE NINE MARCH FROM DICTATEES TO AFHQ REGARDING INCIDENT AT WINEVINO MYOBE BARI FD
PARA TWO FD THE FOLLOWING PRELIMINARY INFORMATION HAS BEEN OBTAINED FROM ITALIAN SOURCES FD CONFIRMATION AND FURTHER DETAILS ARE AWAITED FD
PARA THREE FD ON ONE EIGHT MARCH AT MINAZZOLA A CEREMONY WAS HELD TO COMMEMORATE THE MASSACRE OF ITALIAN SOLDIERS BY GERMANS IN ONE NINE FOUR THREE FD WHEN WINEVINO CONTINGENT ON RETURNING TO THEIR OWN VILLAGE FIRED SHOTS INTO THE AIR APPARENTLY FROM EXCESS OF ENTHUSIASM FD IN DISPERSING THE CROWD ONE CARABINIERE WAS KILLED AND THREE OTHERS WOUNDED
PARA FOUR FD BRITISH SOLDIERS OF NUMBER TWO COMMANDO TRAINING CENTRE WERE PRESENT BUT SUFFERED NO CASUALTIES FD
PARA FIVE FD ON THE MORNING OF ONE NINE MARCH REINFORCEMENTS OF SEVEN ZERO CARABINIERI AND TWO ZERO QUESTURA AGENTS WERE SENT BY TRUCK FROM BARI TO WINEVINO FD IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT NO FURTHER INCIDENTS HAVE OCCURRED FD

3159

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

PARA SIX FD AN ALLIED COMMISSION OFFICER VISITED SARZANA TO DAY FD
HIS REPORT WILL FOLLOW FD

3138

Civil Affairs Section

NICHOLAS FIORENTINO
CWO, USA
Asst, Adjutant

G.B. Upjohn, Brig.

Signed by Lt Col White CA Sec.
BK 21/3.

5A

TRANSLATION. ea.

MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR
General Directorate of Public Security.

No. 555/ Rome, 20th March, 1945.

SUBJECT : Incident at Spinazzola.

TO : AC. P.S. S/C.

With regard to the incidents which occured on the 18th instant at Minervino Murge (Bari) I add, further to my report of this morning, the following particulars:-

At Spinazzola, on the 18th instant, there took place the ceremony of the exhumation of the bodies of about 70 Italian soldiers murdered by the Germans in September, 1943, in order to give them a final and suitable burial.

Many people from surrounding communes took part in the ceremony, and among them people from Minervino Murge.

At the end of the ceremony those taking part improvised a procession through the streets of Spinazzola, without any particular programme.

Then, the people returned to where they had come from. Those of Minervino Murge - for the most part communists - on arrival in their own village broke up into groups and went through the streets, all at once some of them shot into the air crazily, repeated shots.

3137

This raised alarm in the village and the Station CC.RR Maresciallo intervened with the assistance of 8 or 9 of his dependents, on the request of the Mayor, who is a Socialist.

While the CC.RR were proceeding to search a suspected individual (who was found to be armed with a dagger) three other men came to his assistance, but being unable to overcome the CC.RR they ran away, followed by some of the CC.RR. One of the latter, Bottero Guerrino, had nearly overtaken them, when, as has been said, he was made the target of several shots on account of which he died shortly afterwards.

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

TO : AO. P.S. S/G.

With regard to the incidents which occured on the 18th instant at Minervino Murge (Bari) I add, further to my report of this morning, the following particulars:-

At Spinazzola, on the 18th instant, there took place the ceremony of the exhumation of the bodies of about 20 Italian soldiers murdered by the Germans in September, 1943. in order to give them a final and suitable burial.

Many people from surrounding communes took part in the ceremony, and among them people from Minervino Murge.

At the end of the ceremony those taking part improvised a procession through the streets of Spinazzola, without any particular programme.

Then, the people returned to where they had come from. Those of Minervino Murge - for the most part communists - on arrival in their own village broke up into groups and went through the streets, all at once some of them shot into the air orasily, repeated shots.

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The CC.RR had been accompanied by two or three Allied soldiers, who, however, took no action. There were no officers among them nor were violence or protests used against the Allied soldiers.

As has already been reported, reinforcements have been sent to the spot who were warmly received by the citizens.

FOR THE HEAD OF THE POLICE.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 783046

Mod 839

Ministero dell'Interno

DIREZIONE GENERALE DELLA PUBBLICA SICUREZZA

---==oOo==---

N.555/ Roma, 20 marzo 1945

ONOREVOLE COMMISSIONE ALLEATA
Sottocommissioneper la Pubblica Sicurezza

R O M A

Circa i fatti accaduti il 18 corrente a Minervino Murge (Bari) aggiungo, di seguito alla mia segnalazione di stamane, i seguenti particolari:

Il 18 corrente ebbe luogo in Spinazzola la cerimonia della esumazione delle salme di circa 20 militari Italiani trucidati dai tedeschi nel settembre 1943, per dare ad esse defintiva e conveniante sepoltura.

Intervennero alla cerimonia molti abitanti dei comuni contermini, fra cui quelli del comune di Minervino Murge.

Finita la cerimonia, gli intervenuti improvvisarono un corteo per le vie di Spinazzola, senza un particolare programma. 3136

I convenuti ritornarono, poi, ai luoghi di provenienza. Quelli di Minervino Murge - in gran parte comunisti - giunti nel proprio paese si misero a scorrazzare in gruppo per l'abitato ed alcuni di essi, ad un certo momento, spararono in aria, all'impazzata, molti colpi di arma da fuoco.

Questo suscitò allarme nel paese sì che il maresciallo dei Carabinieri Reali di quella Stazione intervenne coadiuvato da otto o nove dipendenti, a richiesta del Sindaco che é Socialista.

Mentre i Carabinieri procedevano alla perquisizione di un individuo sospetto (il quale venne trovato armato di pugnale) a

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 783046

DIREZIONE GENERALE DELLA PUBBLICA SICUREZZA

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Sottocommissioneper la Pubblica Sicurezza

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Questo suscitò allarme nel paese sì che il maresciallo dei Carabinieri Reali di quella Stazione intervenne coadiuvato da otto o nove dipendenti, a richiesta del Sindaco che é Socialista.

Mentre i Carabinieri procedevano alla perquisizione di un individuo sospetto (il quale venne trovato armato di pugnale) a spalleggiare quest'ultimo sopraggiunsero altre tre uomini che, però, non potendo sopraffare i Carabinieri si dettero alla fuga inse-

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

guiti da alcuni fra i Carabinieri stessi. Uno di costoro, Bottero Guerrino, aveva quasi raggiunto i fuggitivi, anzi aveva impegnato una colluttazione con essi quando, come si é già detto, venne fatto segno a parecchi colpi di arma da fuoco per cui moriva poco dopo.

Ai Carabinieri si erano accompagnati due o tre militari Alleati i quali, però, non spiegarono alcuna azione. Non vi erano ufficiali fra di essi né vennero - contro i militari Alleati usate violenze o inscenate proteste.

Come si é già informato, sul posto sono stati inviati rinforzi accolti dalla cittadinanza con dimostrazioni di simpatia.

IL CAPO DELLA POLIZIA

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

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

4A

MEMORANDUM

On the 21st March, 1945, I obtained the following information by telephone from the Allied Commission Office in Bari.

On the evening of the 18th March (Sunday) 54 Sub-Area reported that some British soldiers of No.2 Commando Training Wing were fired on by unknown civilians. The reason is unknown. CC.RR from Barletta were called to Minervino and more shots were exchanged. As a result one CC.RR was mortally wounded and three others injured. There were no casualties to British troops.

Colonel Tuccari, commanding the CC.RR Legion of Bari, was notified. At 10 a.m. on the 19th, 70 CC.RR and 20 Questura Agents were sent by truck from Bari to Minervino. A Lt. Col. of CC.RR was in charge. No reports have yet been received. Lt. Col. Turner Coles, Allied Commission, Bari, went to Minervino on the morning of 21st March. A message has been left for him to signal the facts to A.C. on his return to Bari.

A.F. WILCOX, Lt. Col.
Public Safety
Sub-Commission.

21 March, 1945.

AWF/G.

3135

3A

MEMORANDUM.

Incident at Minervino, near Bari.

On the 29th March, 1945, I telephoned to the CC.RR Headquarters regarding the incident at Minervino, where it was alleged that shots had been fired at British Officers and that three CC.RR had been killed.

The CC.RR stated that they had received information that on the 18th and 19th March demonstrations had occurred at Minervino, Cerignola and San Severo. No details had been given about what had happened at Minervino, but the Legion Commander at Bari had sent his second in command with strong re-enforcements of CC.RR to the town and reports were expected soon.

At Cerignola and San Severo, crowds of women had demonstrated in the streets. It is believed that they were dissatisfied with the allowances they were receiving from the Government on account of their absent menfolk who have been called up for military service. No casualties had been caused at these two places.

CC.RR HQs. will inform this Sub-Commission as soon as any further details are known.

A.P. WILCOX

20th March, 1945.

A.P. WILCOX, Lt. Col.
Public Safety Sub-Commission.

3134

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

24

TRANSLATION. ec.

MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR.

GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF PUBLIC SECURITY.

Rome, 20th March, 1945.

No. 555/

SUBJECT : Death of CC.RR in execution of duty in Bari Province.

TO : A.C., P.S. S/C.

With a telegram which arrived this night, the Prefect of Bari Province reports that at 1030 hours on the 18th instant, a group of persons returning from the ceremony which took place at Spinazzola, on arriving at Minervino Murge staged a procession during which some demonstrators fired pistol shots without consequence.

Subsequently when the demonstration was ended the CC.RR proceded to arrest an individual of suspicious aspect. While they were searching the arrested man, who was found to be in possession of a dagger, three other people approached, who, threatened with arrest, ran away, firing pistol shots. They were followed by CC.RR one of whom overtook them, but he was hit and mortally wounded by several pistol shots fired by those he was trying to catch.

Active investigations are being carried out and from the facts so far ascertained it must be held that the affair was an episode of common delinquency.

3133

Reinforcements of CC.RR and P.S. Guards have been sent to the place and they were received by the citizens with manifestations of pleasure and the cry "Long live Order".

The Committee of Liberation has deeply deplored the mournful incident.

To-day the funeral of the Carabinieri, who died as a result of his wounds, will take place.

Further information will be sent when received.

FOR THE HEAD OF THE POLICE.

(Signed)

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

To : A.C.. P.S. S/C.

With a telegram which arrived this night, the Prefect of Bari Province reports that at 1830 hours on the 18th instant, a group of persons returning from the ceremony which took place at Spinazzola, on arriving at Minervino Murge staged a procession during which some demonstrators fired pistol shots without consequence.

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Further information will be sent when received.

FOR THE HEAD OF THE POLICE.

(Signed) --

TO	INIT	DATE
DIRECTOR		
DEPUTY DIRECTOR		
EXEC. OFFICER		
POLICE	[illegible]	20/1
LIC. & REG.		
PRISONS		
ADM. OFFICER		
SECURITY		
CHIEF CLERK		

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

Mod.839

Ministero dell'Interno

DIREZIONE GENERALE DELLA PUBBLICA SICUREZZA

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N.555/ Roma, 20 marzo 1945

ONOREVOLE COMMISSIONE ALLEATA
Sottocommissione per la Pubblica Sicurezza
ROMA

Il Prefetto della Provincia di Bari, con fonogramma giunto questa notte, informa che alle ore 18,30 del 18 corrente un gruppo di persone reduci da cerimonia svoltasi a Spinazzola, giunte a Minervino Murge improvvisava un corteo durante il quale alcuni dimostranti esplodevano vari colpi di arma da fuoco senza conseguenze.

Successivamente e quando la dimostrazione era già 3132
terminata, i CC.RR. procedettero al fermo di un individuo dall'atteggiamento sospetto. Mentre perquisivano il fermato che venne trovato in possesso di un pugnale, si avvicinavano altre tre persone che, all'intimazione di fermo, si davano alla fuga esplodendo colpi di pistola. Furono inseguiti dai Carabinieri uno dei quali li raggiunse, ma detto militare venne colpito e ferito mortalmente da vari colpi di rivoltella sparati dagli inseguiti.

Si svolgono attive indagini e dagli elementi finora emersi si deve ritenere che l'accaduto sia un episodio di delinquenza comune.

Sono stati denunciati sul posto due militari di Carabinieri

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

—==oOo==—

N.555/ Roma, 20 marzo 1945

ONOREVOLE COMMISSIONE ALLEATA
Sottocommissione per la Pubblica Sicurezza
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Si svolgono attive indagini e dagli elementi finora emersi si deve ritenere che l'accaduto sia un episodio di delinquenza comune.

Sono stati inviati sul posto rinforzi di Carabinieri e di Guardie di P.S. che sono stati accolti dalla cittadinanza con manifestazioni di simpatia e con grida ""Viva l'ordine"".

./.

3132

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

Il Comitato di Liberazione ha vivamente deplorato il luttuoso incidente.

Oggi avranno luogo i funerali del Carabiniere deceduto in seguito alle ferite riportate.

Si fa riserva di inviare ulteriori notizie.-

p. IL CAPO DELLA POLIZIA

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 783046

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