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ACC 10000 1143/2163 280/02 PARTISANS POLICE

JUNE 1945

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
A.P.O. 394
PUBLIC SAFETY SUB COMMISSION
SECURITY DIVISION

REF : SD/280.02 -

12 June 1945

(Also see 610.05)

SUBJECT : Partisan Police

TO : Director, Public Safety Sub Commission

1. In certain districts of Northern Italy Military Commanders have authorized the functioning of "Partisan Police" as an aid to maintaining public order and safety. This as a temporary measure may have been justified, but the retention of these bodies being superimposed on the regular Police services must be very carefully watched for fear that, in the long run, it does not have the reverse effect from which was intended.
2. The problem is surrounded with difficulties, and its solution affects the whole structure of public safety in Italy. There can be no doubt from an impartial point of view that the introduction of Partisan Police is bad, except for military necessity. The qualifications for Police service should be of an exceptionally high standard, and a degree of honesty, impartiality and courage for things which are right must be insisted upon. The assumption of authority in the hands of persons not used to it, especially authority involving arrest and detention, is apt to be dangerous, especially when the persons concerned have themselves been subjected to repressive measures.
3. The greatest evil of Partisan Police is that they may become "political". Already I have evidence of the formation of a "counter political police", and it is not difficult to foresee each political party with its own police force, weapons secreted instead of being surrendered, clashes occurring on political matters, and fighting and bloodshed occurring. It all leads, in the absence of a competent and disciplined regular Police Force, to violence and anarchy.
4. The essence of political police is anti-democratic, and this

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4. The essence of political police is anti-democratic, and the effect upon a country reared in the Fascist theory is to form a second CVRA. If this is so then justice, as we know it, will not be known in Italy. There will be vengeance upon former Fascists, revenge by the former Fascists who have lost relatives and friends in the purge upon so called partisans, and a complete disregard for law and order.

5. The answer to the disbandment of the Partisan Police is not easy. It involves all the problems which face this wretched country at the moment. How can the good be sorted from the bad? How will they be employed? Can they be merged into regular Police services? Would they accept merger into the CC.RR. which, by its title, supports the House of Savoy. Can their title be changed, to make it acceptable, before the fall of the House of Savoy? Would the influx of partisans into the "Agenti" be a practical proposition?

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6. I think the latter is the only solution - that the best and most reliable of the partisans police should be offered positions with the Agenti di Pubblica Sicurezza, after very careful screening. This in itself would eliminate many of the undesirables, who would not be willing to accept a disciplined life. The CC.MR. are slowly winning their way forward against great criticism, but the whole Police structure is too unwieldy ever to function satisfactorily. Unfortunately the time is probably premature to envisage radical changes, but the old maxim that a community gets the Police force it deserves, is, and will be something painful for Italians for some time to come.

7. Although the spate of violence in the North is now abating, I foresee a return either of violence or severe repressive measures and, this may come in spite of what we can do prevent it. Before the departure of the very experienced (both in civil life and in Military Government) R.P.S.O.'s I would suggest that a meeting be called in the North to get their views on the partisan police, and the future of public safety generally.

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