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650/03

SICILIAN PUBLIC OPINION

OCT. - NOV. 1943

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PUBLIC OPINION
SICILIAL

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SECURITY BRANCH 10000 / 43 / 2431

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SECURITY INTELLIGENCE

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0963

F-E-S-T-R-I-C-T-E-D

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
SECURITY INTELLIGENCE

29 November 1943.

SUBJECT : Sicilian Public Opinion.

TO : Chief of Staff, G. and I.
Copies to Chief Political Officer, A.C.C.,
Brindisi.

1. There are indications that Public Opinion in Sicily is tending to find expression through the various Political Groups which exist. These views are in general moderate in character and should give no cause for Allied anxiety. The main parties have already issued manifestos calling upon the people to remain calm and to assist the Allied war effort.
2. The Separationists are a party of special significance since they are anxious for an independent Sicily largely for the gratification of their personal interests. There are definite signs however that this party has already lost the support of its rank and file.
3. At the present time Sicilian public opinion is very much concerned with the possibility of the handing over of the administration of this island to the Italian Government. This is viewed with some concern by the Sicilians and it is anticipated that no individual Italian Commissioner could be found who would command anything approaching a substantial degree of loyalty from the Sicilians. It is however considered desirable that such a Commissioner should not be Sicilian since he would be even more unpopular.
4. The King of Italy and Marshall Badoglio command no respect in Sicily and beyond doubt the handing over of the island to their representatives will create a situation which might have very serious consequences unless it is very firmly reinforced by Allied support.
5. It is important that the Sicilians should appreciate that the handing over of Sicily does not mean that the Allied Administration is no longer concerned with their interests.
6. One persistent rumor which is firmly entrenched in public opinion is that the British Empire will extend its post war control over Sicily as the "Key to the Mediterranean". Such a suggestion is generally vigorously opposed, but at the same time a minority is strongly in favor, particularly on account of the consequent separation from Italy.

F-E-S-T-R-I-C-T-E-D

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Sicilian Public Opinion (Cont.)

The general effect of this imagination has been to weaken the regard for Great Britain and for British personnel.

7. There is no doubt that the critical period immediately consequent upon the handing over of Sicily will be one which will need the closest attention and firmness.

A. E. YOUNG,
Colonel,
Security Intelligence.

5838

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
SECURITY INTELLIGENCE

(2)

29 November 1943.

SUBJECT : Resolution of the Communal Giunta regarding
food distribution.

(The Comunal Council)

Taking into account: The system put into effect
by the Comunal Administration which was to avoid fraud and
embezzlement in the distribution of flour to the bakeries
and bread to the people, has failed to provide the people
regularly because:

1. Since the 1st of November when the Comune took over
the distribution, only about 1,000 quintals of domestic
flour, that is less than a 2 days requirement, in 25 days
was supplied.
2. The Allied-furnished flour, which alone made the
small ration to the people possible, was delivered with
delay by the intermediary offices and in such a manner as
to compromise the good functioning of the service.
3. No explanation about these delays and no information,
as to even the limited supply of Sicilian grain, was given
by said organization. Therefore - the result was:

- (a) The Communal Administration could not warn 5937
the people of distribution delays or give advice
to ease the sacrifice.

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Food Dist. (Cont-)

(b). The published regulations concerning days of distribution and amount of ration could not be enforced.

(c). The facts observed by the people have appeared in ridiculous contrast to the regulations published by the press.

The foregoing has caused a well founded discontent and a misunderstanding of the sacrifices which the necessities of the situation have imposed on them.

Likewise in the distribution of other products, regulations contradictory to those of this Communal Administration, where issued, making a normal food distribution difficult and sometimes impossible.

The facts then complained of above demonstrate the inadvisability of the co-existence of several offices to each of which is assigned in-part the provision and distribution to the consumers of food products.

RESOLVES

That there be taken under consideration the urgent necessity for abolishing the provincial offices to which at the present time the provision of food products is entrusted.

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C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

Resoluto 25-11-43

La Giunta Comunale constatando:

Che il sistema di distribuzione della farina ai forni e del pane ai cittadini ideato ed attuato dall'Amministrazione Comunale si è rivelato il solo idoneo ad evitare le frodi e le dispersioni, ma che di fatto non si è potuta raggiungere la regolarità del servizio e tanto meno il regolare approvvigionamento della popolazione per i seguenti motivi:

1) perchè dal 1° novembre, cioè dal momento in cui il servizio di distribuzione è stato devoluto al Comune, non sono stati forniti, in 25 giorni, che 1000 Quintali circa di farina nostrale, cioè meno del fabbisogno di due soli giorni.

2) Perchè gli stessi quantitativi di farina forniti dagli Alleati, cioè i soli che hanno permesso di distribuire una scarsa razione di pane ai Cittadini, sono stati consegnati dagli Uffici intermedi quasi sempre con ritardo e in modo tale da compromettere il buon andamento del servizio, determinando, fra l'altro, gravi ritardi nella panificazione e quindi nella distribuzione del pane.

3) Perchè in conseguenza dei su lamentati inconvenienti e del fatto che gli stessi Organi non hanno nemmeno curato di dare all'Amministrazione Comunale alcuna fondata informazione circa la possibilità di approvvigionamento della Città, sia pure limitatamente al grano siciliano, nè sui previsti ritardi nella consegna delle farine fornite dagli Alleati, è avvenuto:

a) che l'Amministrazione Comunale non ha potuto tempestivamente avvertire la Cittadinanza dei ritardi di distribuzione, nè di disposizioni che comportavano per questa sacrifici e disagi;

b) che non è stato possibile far rispettare le disposizioni pubblicate in precedenza circa i giorni di distribuzione del pane e l'ammontare della razione;

c) che i fatti constatati dalla Cittadinanza sono risultati spesso in doloroso contrasto con le disposizioni in precedenza emanate e pubblicate dalla Stampa.

Constatando che tutto ciò ha determinato nella popolazione di questa Cit-

ta un malcontento ben fondato e l'incomprensione, talvolta, dei sacrifici che le necessità contingenti ne hanno imposto.

Constatando altresì che anche nel servizio di distribuzione di altre derrate sono stati emessi talvolta provvedimenti contrastanti con quelli di questa Amministrazione Comunale e tali da rendere difficile e talvolta impossibile il normale servizio annonario.

Considerando, infine, che i fatti sopra lamentati costituiscono una dimostrazione della inopportunità della coesistenza di più uffici fra i quali è ripartito l'approvvigionamento e la distribuzione ai consumatori delle derrate alimentari.

F A V O T I

venga

Perchè considerata l'urgente opportunità di abolire gli Uffici Provinciali ai quali è in atto devoluto l'approvvigionamento delle derrate alimentari.

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R-E-S-T-R-I-C-T-E-D

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AMG/SI/311.5/550.3HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
SECURITY INTELLIGENCE

Enc. 9. 4b

SUBJECT : Sicilian Public Opinion.

TO : Chief of Staff, G. and L.

1. There are indications that Public Opinion in Sicily is tending to find expression through the various Political Groups which now exist. These views are in general, moderate in character and need give no cause for anxiety. The main parties have already issued manifestos calling upon the people to remain calm and to assist the Allied war effort.

2. The Separationists are a party of special significance since they are anxious for an independent Sicily largely for the gratification of their personal interests. There are definite signs however that this party has already lost popular support.

3. At the present time Sicilian public opinion is very much concerned with the possibility of the handing over of the administration of this island to the Italian Government. This is viewed with some concern by the Sicilians and it is anticipated that no individual Italian as Sicilian Commissioner could be found who would command a substantial degree of loyalty from the Sicilians.

4. The King of Italy and Marshall Badoglio are shown little respect in Sicily and beyond doubt the handing over of the island to their representatives will create a situation which might have very serious consequences unless it is very firmly reinforced by Allied support.

5. It is important that the Sicilians should appreciate that the handing over of Sicily means neither that the Allied Administration is no longer concerned with their interests nor that they are being left entirely to their own resources. 555?

R-E-S-T-R-I-C-T-E-D

R-R-S-T-R-I-C-T-E-D

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Sicilian Public Opinion (Cont-)

6. One persistent rumor which is entrenched in public opinion is that the British Empire will extend its post war control over Sicily as the "Key to the Mediterranean". Such a suggestion is generally vigorously opposed by Sicilians, but at the same time a minority is strongly in favor, particularly on account of the personal advantages to themselves consequent upon such separation from Italy.

7. There is no doubt that the critical period immediately consequent upon the handing over of Sicily will be one which will need the closest attention and firmness.

A. B. TOURC,
Colonel,
Security Intelligence.

0881

R-R-S-T-R-I-C-T-E-D

Sicilian Committee for
the formation of a
company of volunteers.
Via Stabile N.169.
Palermo.

19/10/43.

To General Baron Rennel of Rodd, Palermo.

While the Italian Army fights against the common enemy, I beg you in the name of all Sicilians who do not wish to remain aloof from the fight, to assist us through your courtesy to organise a company of volunteers, independent of any political creed, to fight for the expulsion of the Germans from our country.

We beg to inform you that youth, offers itself enthusiastically not only to fight on the field of battle but also in the psychological preparations so necessary to provide the people with a clear understanding of the tragic hour we live in and of the duty of every Italian to make every sacrifice towards the redemption of the fatherland.

We are certain that such an active propaganda would produce in Sicily a voluntary contribution of fresh energies highly superior to what could be obtained from a simple call-up of classes.

For the Committee

The Secretary

(Dott. Giacomo D'Alessandro).

63011

COMITATO SICILIANO
PER LA FORMAZIONE DI UN
CORPO DI VOLONTARI
VIA STABILE N. 169
PALERMO

Public Opinion
(1)

11. 19/10/43

Al Generale Barone
RENNELL OF. MOOD

Palermo

Mentre le truppe italiane combattono contro il comune nemico, La preghiamo a nome di tutti i siciliani che non intendono estraniarsi dalla lotta, di voler insistere presso chi di ragione per un cortese riscontro alla nostra offerta di organizzare un corpo di volontari che, indipendentemente da ogni ideologia di partito, combattessero per la sacralità del tesoro della nostra Patria.

Si permettiamo di far notare che i giovani, entusiasticamente offertisi, sono impazienti di agire non solo sui campi di battaglia ma anche nella preparazione psicologica, tanto necessaria per dare al popolo una chiara visione della tragica ora che si attraversa e del dovere d'ogni italiano di compiere qualsiasi sacrificio per contribuire alla redenzione del proprio Paese.

Siamo certi che un'attiva propaganda in tal senso darebbe in Sicilia un volontario con tributo di fresche energie sicuramente superiore a quello che potrebbe essere apportato da un semplice richiamo di classi.

per il Comitato
IL SEGRETARIO
(Dott. Giacomo D'Alessandro)

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