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155

LIBERAL PARTY

SEPT. 1943 - MAY 1946

SECRET

FILE
MINUTE SHEET

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1	15 Sept			Advocates of "liberal front"
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HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED COMMISSION
PUBLIC SAFETY LIAISON OFFICE
NAPLES

File
155

Ref: PS/9.8

11th May 1946
Tel: 20444

SUBJECT: Political meeting.

TO : Headquarters, Allied Commission, APO 394
(Public Safety Sub-Commission).

I enclose a translation of a Questura report
respecting the meeting held at San Carlo Opera House, Naples,
on 8th May 1946. The speaker was Minister COBBINO, of the
Liberal Party.

For the Chief Liaison Officer:

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Security Branch
Ref. No. 1715
Book No. 276
File No. 155
Action

H. S. HARRIS
Major,
P.S. Liaison Officer
Naples.

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TRANSLATION

8 May 1946

Today at 1500 hrs the Minister of the Treasury CORBINO spoke at the San Opera House. The theatre was crowded.

The audience was composed mostly of middle class people, the low class was absent.

The stage was decorated with a large Italian flag, bearing the Sabauda emblem.

Minister CORBINO was received with long and loud applause.

He started his political-economical speech remembering the names of CROCE, NITTI and PORZIO, dear to the Neapolitans, who belong to the Unione Democratica Nazionale (Democratic National Union), and he said that NITTI during his recent speech mentioned that he was prepared to leave Italy again rather than submit himself to a new dictatorship.

He then mentioned the institutional question, saying that each candidate to the government must state if he is monarchic or republican, and due to the fact that in his party there are different ideas, he wants to let everybody know he is monarchic. He believes that the monarchy is the only form of government which may assure the liberty and prevent in Italy the repetition of the events which occurred in Spain. Only the monarchy can give to the Italian population the political, juridical and social conditions which are deemed better.

Today we have no more chiefs, because for thirty years the liberalism has not existed. The Communism is spreading in the world and is ruining us. CORBINO stated that some say that the Liberal Party is conservative, others say that it is progressive, he believes that it is both conservative and progressive. Conservative, because the Party keeps what is good, and progressive, because it favours the private initiative aiming towards progress. He stated that the Communism in Russia in 1917 is different from the one of today, because it tries to imitate the liberalism, meanwhile the Italian communists do nothing but imitate the communism of 1917.

Speaking about the Christian Democracy, CORBINO stated, that that Party falls into contradiction because it is under the influence of various currents, without excluding the Communist and Socialist ones. Said Party takes advantage of religion, but religion is not exclusively of this Party, because also the Liberal Party is formed of Catholics. He recommended the audience to be very careful in voting, otherwise we will find ourselves in the same position as other countries, such as Belgium, France etc., where the governments lasted a few days and could not be static.

There must be no hesitation in voting for the Liberal

Party, whose program is the following:

- 1) Agricultural reform. Mentioning the division of the land wished by some labour parties, he stated that in Italy the land is not

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There must be no hesitation in voting for the Liberal

Party, whose program is the following:

- 1) Agricultural reform. Mentioning the division of the land wished by some labour parties, he stated that in Italy the land is not proportioned to the number of labourers, and if said division should take place only a few acres would be assigned to each man.
- 2) Nationalization. Concerning said subject, CORBINO said, that liberalism has been nationalized since 1904, that is only the larger banks and railways were absorbed by the State. Nothing more will be taken over now, because during the war the State has nationalized more than what was due.

During his speech CORBINO mentioned LA GUARDIA and his request to close down the exclusive restaurants and to arrest the black marketeers, but in doing this food could not be found any more, and the food question would not be solved.

He also stated that some parties say that workers are far more important than the capitalists, but it is not so, there must be a more equal division of the profit for the advantage of everybody, and thus the government can be paid higher taxes.

CORBINO mentioned also the disastrous situation of our finance in December 1945, which for the moment has been overcome, but if the government will not be formed by capable men, after the 2nd June the situation might become serious again. During this period we have taught other nations how the money value can be safeguarded. In the circumstance he showed himself the defender of the small savers. He mentioned the serious financial situation caused by the payment of the occupation troops. As it is known the United States have accepted to pay our currency in dollars, but England has refused so much so that it has encouraged other nations to make requests for the payment of war debts. CORBINO also stated that the Polish troops have been very brave during the war in Italy, but now the war is over and why are they still in Italy, thus increasing our war debts? Only the industrial firms have been left to us, many of which are damaged or destroyed. If they ask us to pay the war debts and try to take away the machinery of our factories, it will not be the industrialists to rebel but the workers.

If we have asked for help, it has not been for charity, but a loan which we will pay.

He concluded saying that he was going to start the electoral campaign with his flag hoisted ready for any fight for liberty, the defence of the country and the safety of our future.

God save Italy.

POLITICAL

PWS - Napoli - 31

LIBERAL OPINION 9th December 1944

In an interview with two members of PWB, Professor ERICO ALTAVILLA, chief of the Naples Provincial administration and one of the most representative leaders of the Liberal Party in Naples, declared that "like all good Italians" he could not but disapprove of Mr. Eden's speech concerning Count Sforza, above all for his repeated stress on the "war to the Conqueror;" theme which was taken to express Eden's deeprooted rancour towards Italy as a whole. But he showed little regret for Eden's so-called veto on Sforza. He explained that, on arriving in Italy, Sforza had spoken side by side with Croce at Liberal Party meetings but had then started making anti-fascist propaganda and "abetting the Badoglio Government." At this time he became spiritual if not actual head of the Party of Action, the "noisiest" party in the Liberation Committee.

Prof. Altavilla then spoke of Mr. Churchill's speech with much favour. It seems, in fact that the British premier's even stricter but more clear-cut words have helped to clarify the general situation in the minds of Neapolitans.

Referring to the new government as "sickly from birth" ("nato malato"), Prof. Altavilla said he had little trust in its being able to act very energetically. He was dissident of the Communists' participation in the government. Were they doing so by agreement with the government, were they doing so by agreement with the Socialists so as to be able to work from without and within or had they really split from the Socialists? The Professor seemed to favour the former theory. The Communists' new pose as a party of stability and order could not possibly be genuine. The professor here remarked that, on the one hand, thefiguration campaign had tried - and failed - to reach Badoglio, and on the other the police had to fire on turbulent crowds. In times of such uncertainty and turmoil, the professor concluded, with added stress, the Liberal Party would always stand for established law and order.

The professor went on to pronounce himself no less firmly on the fundamental issue of the Liberation Committee. In his opinion, as the North was liberated, the duties and importance of the Liberation Committee should naturally devolve on the established administrative authorities. Already in the South they were useless, particularly now that the Socialists and Party of Action were in opposition to the other parties within the Committee. Indeed, in his opinion, the moment the first Italian Government had been formed out of the National Liberation Committee, the Committee thus automatically handed over its functions. By the act of approving the new government, the Lieutenant of the Realm was constituting the only legal authority and so naturally the Committee of Liberation would be weakened.

On being asked about the Liberal Party's relations with the Democristian Party, Prof. Altavilla declared that the Labour pact sealed in Rome with the Socialists and Communists had caused a slight rift between Liberal and Democristians, but that from his last talks with De Gasperi and Modino, he felt sure that the two parties would now be drawing closer together again.

After repeatedly saying that the Liberal Party had not yet committed

to express Eden's deeprooted hatred for the Party. He explained that, on his little regret for Eden's so-called veto on Sforza. He explained that, on his side with Croce at Liberal Party meeting in Italy, Sforza had spoken side by side with Croce and "conducting" anti-fascist propaganda and "conducting" anti-fascist propaganda and "conducting" anti-fascist propaganda. At this time he became spiritual if not actual head of the Party of Action, the "nationalist" party in the Liberation Committee.

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between the Liberal Party and Communists had caused a slight rift between Liberal
and Demo-Christians, but that from his last talks with De Gasperi and Rodino
he felt sure that the two parties would now be drawing closer together again.

After repeatedly saying that the Liberal Party had not yet committed itself on the "Institutional" issue, Prof. Altavilla, at the insistence of the F.B. officer, finally admitted that in the South of Italy a majority in the Liberal Party was Monarchist, especially since the submission of other Monarchist groups (Demo-liberals) into the party. Apulia, he asserted, was very strongly Monarchist. As for his personal opinion, the professor referred to an article he had written in the "Riformamento" entitled "The King and the Army"

and added that the army which was playing such an important part in helping towards Italy's rebirth, should be held sacred and not be maltreated as it was up near the front just because of its association with the Monarchy.

In the course of the interview, Professor Altavilla complained that the Allies were allowing more copies to the Socialist paper of Naples "La Voce" than to the liberal organ "il Giornale", though the latter was really the Allies' best friend. The question of the liberal newspaper's sales were, however, discussed.

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
SECURITY INTELLIGENCE

by Galli
File
Re 2

SUBJECT: Political Parties.

THE "FRONTE UNICO PER LA LIBERTA'"

The "Compact Front For Liberty"

constituted by those parties which under the Fascist terror never ceased to act against the common enemy, contributing as much as possible to the downfall of the Mussolinian tyranny,

Considering that the difficulties met with by the Allied Governments civil Administration in Sicily are well aware, either relative to the cleaning out of the residuals of Fascism or relative to the reorganization of the more indispensable civil services,

Noticing on the other hand that the Sicilian population, which welcomed with faith the Allied Armies, expecting from them the solution of the most pressing problems and the food supplies in particular, could today because of the aggravation of certain difficulties assume a behavior of uneasiness easily exploitable by the enemies of Liberty who, even now attempt to, especially after the recent events, by provoking sad situations,

Considering moreover that the actual war-situation has even more bound the relations of solidarity between the Allied Forces and the Italian people who fight in the city-streets of Italy against the common enemies,

Resolves to offer its full collaboration for the resolution of the most administrative and economic problems and for the struggle against Fascism, in its methods and its exponents which are still at their posts of command.

And for such an end invokes:

1. That in all posts that imply public responsibilities, the Fascist elements be eliminated

Subject: Political Parties (The "Compact Front For Liberty")

2. That the right of the people for bread, labor and the minimum indispensable of public services/utilities be assured, compatibly with military exigencies,
3. That a more accurate control through immediate transfers and gradual cleaning out (elimination) of the police (Pubblica Sicurezza and Royal Carabinieri) which for the greater part has been made unfit by despotism which lasted for 20 years and in many districts continues to act with the old Fascist mentality, be put into effect,
4. That any influence of unexpert or improvised interpreters and of equivocal (that cause misunderstanding) friends be put into effect and in lieu a board of few (prominent) expert people be constituted who never have been compromised with Fascism, who could function as a consultant organization for all nominations (appointments) made or to be made and for all those measures to enact,
5. That as soon as feasible, the promises already made by General Alexander concerning freedom of the press, of association and of speech (word), always within the compatible limits with the Military necessities of the Allies be put into effect (be actuated)

The "Fronte Unito della Liberta'" thus expresses its firm conviction that in such a way the most serious and urgent problems may be straightened or led toward their best solution for by acting otherwise they may aggravate and flow out in unbearable situations.

Palermo, Sept. 15, 1943.

Il Fronte Unico per la Libertà, costituito da quei partiti che sotto il terrore fascista non cessarono mai di agire contro il comune nemico, contribuendo per quanto possibile alla caduta della tirannide mussoliniana;

Considerando che sono ben comprensibili le difficoltà cui va incontro in Sicilia, l'amministrazione civile dei governi alleati, sia per quanto riguarda l'epurazione dei residuati del fascismo, sia per quanto riguarda la riorganizzazione dei servizi civili più indispensabili ;

Constatando d'altra parte che la popolazione siciliana la quale ha accolto con fiducia le armate alleate attendendo da esse la risoluzione dei problemi più urgenti ed in particolare quello alimentare, potrebbe oggi, a causa dell'aggravamento di talune difficoltà, assumere un atteggiamento di malcontento facilmente sfruttabile dai nemici della Libertà che cercano tuttavia, specie dopo i recenti avvenimenti, di provocare situazioni incresciose;

Considerando che, pur non essendo consentita alcuna attività politica, per altro tanto necessaria per educare all'uso della libertà le masse inebetite ed avvilitte dal ventennale servaggio, il Fronte sente ugualmente il dovere di prospettare alle Autorità Alleate la realtà della situazione ed i pericoli che essa comporta;

Considerando altresì che l'attuale situazione bellica ha sempre più stretto i rapporti di solidarietà fra le forze alleate ed il popolo italiano che combatte per le vie delle città d'Italia contro il comune nemico;

Delibera di offrire la sua piena collaborazione per la risoluzione dei più urgenti problemi amministrativi ed economici e per la lotta contro il fascismo, non ancora completamente debellato nelle sue istituzioni, nei suoi metodi e nei suoi esponenti ancora ai loro

2.

posti di comando.

Ed invoca all'uopo che:

- 1°) In tutti i posti che implicino pubbliche responsabilità siano eliminati gli elementi fascisti;
- 2°) Sia assicurato, compatibilmente con le esigenze militari, il diritto del popolo al pane, al lavoro ed al minimo indispensabili dei pubblici servizi;
- 3°) Sia effettuato un più vigilante controllo con immediati trasferimenti e graduale epurazione della polizia (P.S. e R.R.CC.) che è stata in gran parte inquinata dal ventennale dispotismo e che in molte zone continua ad agire con la vecchia mentalità fascista;
- 4°) Sia eliminata ogni influenza di improvvisati interpreti e di equivoci amici e sia costituita invece una commissione di poche personalità, mai compromesse col fascismo, che potrebbe funzionare da organo consultore per tutte le nomine fatte e da farsi e per tutti i provvedimenti da emanare;
- 5°) Siano attuate al più presto possibile le promesse già fatte dal Generale Alexander circa la libertà di stampa, di associazione e di parola, sempre nei limiti compatibili con le esigenze militari degli Alleati.

Il Fronte Unico della Libertà esprime pertanto la sua ferma convinzione che in tal modo possano essere avviati alla loro migliore soluzione i più gravi ed urgenti problemi i quali, agendosi altrimenti, potrebbero aggravarsi e sboccare in situazioni insostenibili.

Palermo 15 settembre 1943

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