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

ACC 10000/143/2635 156/A

SEPARATIONISTS
1943 - 1944

SECURITY INTELLIGENCE

FILE

MINUTE SHEET

No. of sheet	Date	File no. of Ans'd Ltr.	From whom	Subject
1	28 July 43		Report	- Separationists committee views.
2	10 July. 44		Reg. III —	movement for the Independence of Sicily.
3	- -	-	- -	Separatist movement - SICILY-

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APPENDIX "A" 4

SEPARATIST MOVEMENT

TEXT OF THE ORDER OF THE DAY

The National Committee met in plenary session on the 15th. January with the representatives of all the Provinces of the Island. They took into consideration the situation created on the island by the Italian Government by making regulations which did not correspond with public necessity and which acted against the interests of the people causing outbursts of indignation which can only please the enemies of Liberty. It considered -

- that the Bonomi Government shows itself more clearly every day to be more violently anti-democratic and reactionary than any Government which has come to power in Italy, and which has determined to deny to the Independence Movement - which identifies itself with the Sicilian people - every liberty in spite of repeated warnings of the Chiefs of the Allied Governments concerning the granting of fundamental liberties to the people.

- that the Italian Government is determined to support the interests of the Monarchy in war and in peace, the Monarchy which has covered itself with shame.

- that the so-called Committee of Liberation, which is without any following in Sicily, supports and encourages the authorities on the island in their liberty-destroying conduct, and is striving to maintain their own illegitimate position of dominance.

- that the High Commissioner, instead of looking after the well-being of the people, occupies himself in gaining support for his political parties and does not try to carry out the work in accordance with the views of the people, with serious prejudice to collective needs.

- that persecution of the adherents of the Movement has been intensified with decidedly Fascist methods and that the independent Mayors nominated by the Allied Command from among the most worthy elements on the spot have been substituted and that all employees registered with the movement have been dismissed.

- that in Sicily the Italian Police have adopted the most abominable and most inhuman methods of the past regime and have shown the complete incapacity of the Italian Government seriously to help Sicily and to maintain public order, and have done nothing but harm to the Sicilian people who are desirous of being governed by their own men liberally chosen.

- that for the island to remain under the inept Italian Government, loathed and despised by the Sicilian people, either at the head of ?. or in local Government constituted a grave danger for Sicily.

- that the pretended promise of autonomy is a new and ignoble swindle of the Italian Government, which the Sicilian people have already rejected, considering that the Italian Government has given and is giving with its incapacity a daily demonstration that Italian unity cannot be maintained and has itself dug a ditch between Sicily and Italy.

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new sovereign independent state of

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- that the Bonomi Government shows itself more clearly every day to be [illegible] violently anti-democratic and reactionary than any Government which has come to power in Italy, and which has determined to deny to the Independence Movement - which identifies itself with the Sicilian people - every liberty in spite of repeated warnings of the Chiefs of the Allied Governments concerning the granting of fundamental liberties to the people.

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- that for the island to remain under the inept Italian Government, loathed and despised by the Sicilian people, either at the head of ?. or in local Government constituted a grave danger for Sicily.

- that the pretended promise of autonomy is a new and ignoble swindle of the Italian Government, which the Sicilian people have already rejected, considering that the Italian Government has given and is giving with its incapacity a daily demonstration that Italian unity cannot be maintained and has itself dug a ditch between Sicily and Italy.

- that the people is firmly decided to create a new sovereign independent state of Sicily and to confederate eventually with the state or states which will rise in Italy and that this supreme aim will be achieved at the opportune moment at whatever cost.

The National Committee decided -

1. To send heartfelt greetings to the victims of the hatred of the Italian Government and to come to the aid of their families.

2. To appeal to the Allies because of the existence in Sicily of an absolutely intolerable state of affairs, which if allowed to continue, could give rise to a general insurrection.

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3. To demand from the Allies the cessior of the Government to the National Committee, the only and true representative of the Sicilian people, or failing that the re-occupation of the island on the part of the Allies.

4. To charge the executive committee to take all necessary steps to carry out the deliberations of the present committee and above all to bring about independence for the Sicilian people, their temporal and spiritual right.

APPENDIX "B"
,Translation

EMPLOYEES, WORKMEN, LABOURERS OF THE INVADED COUNTRY

The black-market, helped and maintained by the Italo-Anglo-American authorities, threatens to strangle us. Crime is growing; corruption spreads; violence, robbery and theft are the order of the day. This is the liberty of the drunken exterminators of innocent people, who to-day walk arrogantly among the ruins of our towns.

Do you know the terms of the infamous armistice ? Here are some of them: (1) Italy without colonies, without Sicily, without some of her provinces, without the Aegean. (2) Grain will be supplied by the Allies. (It will be sufficient, thus, to starve entire populations by not sending a few ships.) (3) Italian labourers deported to the wilds of Africa and to the mines of America and Russia. (4) Total suppression of Italian industries.

Do you remember the honeyed promises through the microphones of the London radio ? "We are not at war with Italy, we will free her from fascist tyranny." This is the liberty of curfew, delinquency, hunger and misery, syphilis and crime. In Naples, 4,000 children of under 15 years old are suffering from syphilis. In Rome, one literally dies of hunger. At Palermo, the soldiers in the service of the enemy did not hesitate to fire on poor, innocent people, who only asked for bread and work. But do not fear. The sacrifice of the martyrs will not be in vain.

ITALIANS OF INVADED COUNTRY, united in suffering and misfortune, have the courage to say to yourselves, that things cannot continue thus, that this is slow death, it is a testimonial to the youthful forces of our race.

Arise ! Commit sabotage ! Boycott ! Our brothers are fighting to the slogan of "Rome and Death". We also have a uniform and the prophetic cry will ring out disastrously for the traitors:

AWAY WITH THE BARBARIANS, LONG LIVE ITALY.

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C O P Y

(3)

EXTRACT FROM FILE 621.03 - 3 District Security Intelligence Summary n.13

Separatist Movement, SICILY. Foolowing the disturbances in SYRACUSE, the leaders of the movement have on the whole been keeping quiet, possibly through fear of police action. There are again rumours of division within the movement. The Separatist Nazional Committee decided to issue an ultimat demanding either (a) the handing over of power (in Sicily) to the Separatist Movement, or(b) military re-occupation of the island on the part of the Allies, and to this end an order of the day was distributed in Palermo. Text is given at Appendix "A". There is still no tangible evidence that the Separatists intend to use force in the immediate future.

A tentative estimate (source: Joint Intelligence Collecting Agency) escribes the following capabilities to the Separatist Movement.

a) - Should a plebiscite be granted to Sicily, the Separatists would probably win the election and would be satisfied.

b) - Should the plebiscite be refused, the Separatists state that they will start a civil war as soon as hostilities have ended. (Source adds the comment that he believes they would).

c) - On the other hand, the Separatists openly state that 1945 will see the realisation of their dreams. However, the leaders don't want bloodshed, at least for the time being, and armed insurrection sponsored by the movement would only take place if the younger agitators rejected the leadership of the Finocchiaro - Tasca group. This opinion is backed by the attitude of neutrality adopted by the movement towards the most recent anti-call-up riots in Sicily.

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CONFIDENTIAL

6935 Security Branch

HEADQUARTERS
REGION 3, ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394, U. S. Army

156

10 July 1944

Ref: S3/ACC/60(28)

SUBJECT: Correspondence,
Movement for the Independence of Sicily.

TO : Security Branch, HQ, A.C.C.
(Attention: Major MC KAY)

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1. Attached correspondence, together with translation in English, is forwarded for any action deemed necessary.

For the Regional Commissioner:

Arthur Watts

A. WATTS,
Major, R. Signals,
Regional Security Officer.

Incls.
Correspondence
with translation in
English.

AW/fl

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CONFIDENTIAL

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Movimento per l'Indipendenza della Sicilia

COMITATO NAZIONALE

PALERMO, 26 giugno 1944

HQ. ... ON 3 ACC.
2 LUG 1944
AM

Security

Ill.mo Sig. Comandante Alleata di Caserma

Napoli

Mi onoro di portare a conoscenza del:

l'Ecc. Commissione una lettera da me di-

retta al Presidente del Consiglio dei Ministri d'I-

talia e di richiamare su di essa la partico-

lare attenzione della Commissione stessa.

Con osservanza

Dinamarca

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TRANSLATION

Movement for the Independence of Sicily,
National Committee.

Palermo, 26 June 1944.

Hon. Allied Control Commission,
NAPLES.

I am honored to bring to the notice of the Commission, a letter sent by me to the President of the Consigli dei Ministri d'Italia, and to ask the particular attention of the Commission itself to this letter.

Signature illegible.

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HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
SECURITY BRANCH
APO 394

SJH/mdp

Ref : SB/I56

I4th July I944

SUBJECT : Movement for the Independence of Sicily.

TO : Regional Commissioner, Region I, A.C.C.

I. The attached correspondence which relates to a movement for the Independence of Sicily, is forwarded for your information or any action you may deem nnecessaryy.

FOR THE DIRECTOR :

S.J.HARVEY
Major
Security Branch

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TRANSLATION

Movement for the independence of Sicily.
National Committee.

Palermo, 26 June 1944

Dear Ivanoe:

I want to call your attention to the abnormal situation in Palermo. We live in the most complete chaos. Sig. MASCITT was nominated high Commissioner, a gentlemen, but absolutely unequal to the situation . He never does anything, and that which he does do, produces some damage. Our Prefect at Palermo is a poor sort of a lawyer, who would never have thought of rising to the post which he occupies. Politically he is as changeable as a chameleon, and he has also confessed, also a "Separatista". The trouble is that he is a drunkard, and in his presumption, he assumes ridiculous attitudes towards Capt. BALANDRANO and believes that everything is permissible.

Now he wants to quarrel with me. Yesterday, he prohibited a harmless meeting at BAGHERIA where I, in conformity with the mission which I have assumed and which is the scope of my life, would have explained, as is usual, the reasons that urge the ardent aspirations of the Sicilians to independence. The prohibition has made a bad impression, also among my adversaries and I had to intervene so as to prevent unpleasant incidents. Today, he sent Police Agents to all the printing shops to caution them against stamping anything regarding the movement for independence. But several days previously, also in private re-unions, calumnious talk was spread that I in one of my discourses at CATANIA, had made propaganda that the farmers should not consign grain to the granaio. I have always criticised the measure of the BADOGLIO Government that stablized the price of grain at Lire 10 and I am convinced that this is a stupidity; but I have never advised that the grain should not be consigned, which would have been criminal, bring famine to the people and disturbance to public order; the only ones who would profit would be the Comunists. Neither I, nor others, can be responsible for the non-consignment that will certainly be the consequence of that measure, if you, as I do not doubt, will opportunely revise it.

But you understand that if the stupid, hostile and provoking attitude of the Prefect D'ANTONI continues. I cannot respond for the reactions of my friends which might become dangerous, so much so that their ingignation is profond for the facts of BEGALBUTO in which Monarchists and Comunists together, protected by the Prefect of ENNA, Sig. BRUNO, organized an attempt against the lives of BRUNO RINDONE of BELMONTE, LA ROSA and mine. We do not see the authorities lamenting the insane act; but we know instead, the High Commissioner and the Regional Council, pointed out as a martyr (!!), a violent ringleader of the expedition, who died from syncope after having shot a farmer in the nape of the neck.

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It is my duty to inform you of this and I have the right to ask you that my liberty and that of my friends be protected and that we will not be subjected to retalation and violence by the government officials. We wish the freedom of the press and the right to hold re-unions, because we are, today, at Palermo, in the same condition as in the times of the Fascists, or perhaps worse. We rest in the orbit of the law and do not intend to violate it. We are subject to the continual insults from the newspapers of our adversaries without being able to respond with a paper of our own, since the movement for independence has never published its journal, not even clandestinely, the "separatists" journals not being of our publication as we do not have the same ideas and we have declined every responsibility. The Allies gave their consent to the publication of a journal by us, but the Badoglio Government denied it. We want to defend and spread the ideas of whose sanctity and justice we are profoundly convinced and eventually must triumph. Do not believe in the various, insincere and false information which some may give you.

I have, as you know, a great esteem for you and believe that your wise and enlightened work could be useful to Italy. I have openly defended you here, where you have been attacked especially by the Communists, who also share the responsibility of the government, and I have also defended you when the nomination was not made of at least one Sicilian Minister that put you against all of my fellow townsmen, strongly reinforcing the movement for independence. My defence is not guided by any interest, outside of a personal friendly relationship with you, I have nothing in common with your government as with any other Italian Government that we consider,- notwithstanding verbal declaration to the contrary that also you would make and that will have no hold on your mind,- not a friend of Sicily, as all the preceding government were not friends, slaves of the industrial oppressor of the North. Only if you will consider the eventuality of a federation, Sicily and Italy will very well be able to understand each other. Otherwise, each one must proceed on his own way. I have already placed the problem on an international basis.

I ask only of your political honesty, for my friends and myself, that liberty to which we have an inviolable right and which it would be shameful and unworthy of you to continue to deny us.

I salute you cordially.

Unsigned.

TO:

S.E. HON. BONOMI,
President - Del Consiglio dei Ministri
SALERNO

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Movimento per l'Indipendenza della Sicilia

COMITATO NAZIONALE

PALERMO, 26 Giugno 1944

Caro Jvanoe,

Desidero di richiamare la tua attenzione sull'anormalissima situazione palermitana. Noi viviamo nel caos più completo. Fu nominato Alto Commissario Musotto, un galantuomo, ma assolutamente impari alla bisogna. Non fa nulla e quel che fa produce sempre dei danni. A prefetto di Palermo abbiamo un avvocatuccio di poco conto, al quale non sarebbe mai passato per la testa di salire al posto che occupa. Politicamente ha atteggiamenti camaleontici e si è confessato, talvolta, anche separatista. Il guaio è che si è ubbriacato e, nella sua presunzione, ha assunto ridicoli atteggiamenti da capitano Balandrano e crede che tutto gli sia lecito.

Ora vuol prendersela con me. Ieri ha proibito un innocuo comizio a Bagheria dov'io, conformemente alla missione che mi sono assunta e che è lo scopo della mia vita, avrei spiegato, come al solito, le ragioni che suffragano l'ardente aspirazione del popolo siciliano all'indipendenza. La proibizione ha fatto una pessima impressione, anche fra i miei avversari, e sono dovuto intervenire energicamente perchè si evitassero spiacevoli incidenti. Oggi ha mandato aggenti di P.S. in tutte le tipografie per diffidarne gli esercenti a non stampare alcunchè si riferisca al movimento per l'indipendenza. Ma già nei giorni precedenti si era messo a blaterare calunniosamente, anche in private riunioni ch'io, in un mio discorso a Catania, avessi fatto propaganda perchè gli agricoltori non consegnino grani agli ammassi. Basta leggere il discorso per accorgersi che si tratta di una spudorata menzogna. Io, come tu potrai constatare, ho criticato il provvedimento del governo Badoglio che stabilì il prezzo del grano in L.10 e sono convinto che questa sia stata una stoltezza; ma non ho mai consigliato di non conferire il grano, cosa che sarebbe stata delittuosa, portando all'affamamento del popolo e a turbamenti dell'ordine pubblico, profittevoli solo per i comunisti. Nè io, però, nè altri possiamo essere responsabili delle mancate consegne che saranno unicamente conseguenza di quel provvedimento, se tu, come non dubito, non lo correggerai opportunamente.

Ma tu comprendi che, continuando l'atteggiamento sciocamente ostile e provocatore del prefetto D'Antoni, io non possa rispondere delle reazioni dei miei amici che potrebbero essere pericolose, tanto più che è, tuttavia, profonda la loro indignazione per i fatti di Regalbuto nei quali monarchici e comunisti in combutta, auspice il prefetto di Enna, Bruno, avevano [illegible]

A S.E.
l'On.BONOMI

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A S.E.
l'On.BONOMI
PRESIDENTE DEL CONSIGLIO DEI MINISTRI
S A L E R N O

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un'attentato alla vita degli onorevoli Rindone, Bruno di Belmonte, La Rosa e mia. Noi non vedemmo dalle autorità deplorato l'atto insano; ma sapemmo, invece, dall'Alto Commissario e dalla Consulta Regionale, additato come un martire (!) un violento caporione della spedizione, morto per sincope, dopo avere ucciso con un colpo di pistola alla nuca un contadino.

Io ho il dovere d'informarti di ciò e ho il diritto di chiederti che la libertà dei miei amici e mia sia tutelata e che noi non siamo sottoposti alle rappresaglie ed alle violenze dei funzionari governativi. Noi vogliamo la nostra libertà di stampa e di riunione, perchè oggi stiamo, a Palermo, come al tempo fascista e forse anche peggio. Noi restiamo nell'orbita della legge e non intendiamo affatto di violarla. Siamo soggetti alle continue ingiurie dei giornali avversari senza potere rispondere con un giornale nostro, dappoichè il movimento per l'indipendenza non ha mai pubblicato un suo foglio, nemmeno alla macchia, non essendo gli apparsi fogli separatisti sua emanazione, non essendone da noi condivisi tutti i punti di vista e declinandone noi ogni responsabilità. La pubblicazione di un giornale autorizzato ci era stata consentita dagli alleati, ma ci fu negata da Badoglio. Noi vogliamo difendere e diffondere un'idea della cui santità e giustizia siamo profondamente convinto e che fatalmente ed ineluttabilmente trionferà. Non credere alle diverse, insincere ed ingannevoli informazioni che taluno ti darà.

Io ho, tu lo sai, una grande stima di te e credo che l'opera tua saggia ed illuminata potrà essere utile all'Italia. Ed io ti ho apertamente difeso qui, dove sei stato attaccato specie dai comunisti, che pur condividono la responsabilità del potere, e ti ho difeso ancora quando la mancata nomina di almeno un ministro siciliano ti mise contro tutti i miei conterranei, potentemente rafforzando il movimento per l'indipendenza. La mia difesa non è stata guidata da alcun interesse perchè - al di fuori di un rapporto personalmente amichevole con te, che mi è caro - nulla di comune io posso avere col tuo governo come con qualsiasi altro governo italiano che noi consideriamo - nonostante le verbali dichiarazioni in senso contrario che anche tu farai e che non avranno alcuna presa nell'animo nostro - non amico della Sicilia, come non amici furono sempre tutti i precedenti governi, schiavi dell'industrialismo oppressore del Nord. Solo se vorrai considerare l'eventualità di una federazione, Sicilia e Italia potranno intendersi da pari a pari. Altrimenti

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della spedizione; morto per [illegible]
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Alla tua onestà politica io chiedo soltanto, per i miei amici e per me, quella libertà cui abbiamo sacrosanto diritto e che sarebbe vergognoso e non degno di te continuare a negarci.

Ti saluto cordialmente.

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

(1)

Per Sulla
Sale Separatiste

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
SECURITY INTELLIGENCE

(1)

SUBJECT: Political Parties.

THE COMMITTEE FOR THE INDEPENDENCE OF SICILY

assembled at its last meeting, representing the whole people of the Island, of whom it is sure to interpret its thought and sentiment,

reminding that the House of Savoy had for the first time the royal title in Victor Amedeo the Second by the treaty of Utrecht, in 1713 and that once the Bourbons were ousted, the Sicilian Parliment offered the Crown of Sicily to Prince Ferdinand, the brother of King Victor Emanuele II,

reminding that the Monarchy failed to claim, as its duty called for, the solemn promises assumed in 1860, toward Sicily, that they be respected (adhered to) both towards autonomy as well as those for incrementing civil and economic life,

reminding that, forgetful of its first duty, the Sabauda Dynasty was unable during Sicily's union with the Italian Kingdom not even to recall the governments' attention towards the needs of the Sicilian people so that they might have been, as necessary, satisfied, while instead(the monarchy) it assisted knowingly to the complete abandonment in which Sicily was left, thus suffering immense moral and economic damages,

considering that this has profoundly offended the Sicilian People which has never ceased to deplore it, just as it has deplored the Monarch that became servile to Fascism and its Chief, and who disdained all the sane political forces of the country and has betrayed, only in order to save the wavering crown, the sworn faith to the Statute and to the free institutions,

considering that once the Facist party shamefully fell, the King has illusioned himself to bridge-up its ruining position, by constituting in the Island a government composed of people who for many years had been at the services fo Fascism, deprived of authority and prestige, a government which is a derision for all, destined to a pitiful un-success,

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considering that the Sicilian people are ripe for the new and worthier destinies and longs for its Liberty and independence,

by acclamation deliberates:

THE SICILIAN PEOPLE ASKS THE ALLIED GOVERNMENT TO CONSENT THE CONSTITUTION OF A SICILIAN PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT WITH THE END IN VIEW OF DISPOSING AND ACTUATING A PLEBISCITE THROUGH WHICH THE SABAUDA MONARCHY IN THE PERSON OF VICTOR EMANUELE III AND HIS SUCCESSORS BE DECLARED AS FALLEN AND SICILY BE ERECTED AS A SOVEREIGN INDEPENDENT STATE ON THE BASIS OF A REPUBLICAN REGIME.

PALERMO, JULY 28 - 1943.

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