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ACC 10000/143/2747 645/05

SECURITY REPORTS

JUNE 1944

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Security File

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
SECURITY BRANCH (Adv. Bq.)
APO 394

SECURITY REPORT - 30 June 1944

GENERAL

1. Upon setting up Advanced Headquarters ACC, control was immediately established with the other security organisations then operating in Rome under Lt. Col. J.W. FISCHER, G-2 Rome Area Command. These are:

CIC	Major SNOWDEN	
FSS	Capt. HARRIS	97 FSS
	Capt. HARTER	276 FSS
SCI (b)	Major HOOTON	
GSS (A)	Major HIRSH	

2. A meeting was called when all these officers were present, and steps were taken to obtain uniformity of procedure. The most important of these was that all physical arrests and deliveries to prison were to be made by CIC. This would eliminate much confusion in not knowing by which agency various people had been arrested.

Male Security prisoners to be delivered to Via Tusco and Regina Coeli, Block 3, and Regina Coeli women's prison for female detainees. It was not intended to place upon CIC the onus of preparing the evidence in each case but they would do the actual physical arrest upon presentation to them of the facts warranting the apprehension. In urgent cases any agency can arrest and report to CIC.

3. Those people urgently arrested by "B" Force and detained in Regina Coeli were held pending instructions from AAI or "B" Force as to their disposition, and any recommended for internment were evacuated through P. 7, Channels to 371 P.O. W. Camp. All other persons detained were also to be investigated by CIC and recommendation as to their disposition.

M.V.S.R.

4. Seventeen persons had been arrested by order of Brig. Gen. Huse in compliance with a directive from this HQ (313/106/CA) dated 2 June 1944. This nominated certain classes of individuals and indicated how they should be treated e.g. arrested and retained for disposal by the Italian Government; dealt with a P.O.W. etc.

5. Most of the persons already arrested had been taken from a list of names of M.V.S.R. Personalities 1942 and no details concerning each man had been obtained. In some cases obvious injustices were apparent, and it was decided to withhold further arrests, whilst those already in custody were dealt with as in para 3 above.

A revised order dated 3rd. July 1944 has clarified the position.

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FASCIST REPUBLICAN ARMY

6. Instructions were received from AII that these persons were to be dealt with as P.O.W. and passed through normal P.O.W. channels. Major DOTTI (S.I.W.) has a list of some 1,000 names and assistance was provided by the Questura and Carabinieri to apprehend. By 30 June 137 arrests of this nature were effected.

GERMAN MILITARY PERSONNEL

7. Certain items of information respecting the above have been received and passed on to G-2, Rome Area Command for apprehension. In addition CIC have arrested about 20 such individuals incidental to their enquiries.

GERMAN AND ALIEN CIVILIAN PERSONNEL

8. All aliens were called upon to register at the Questura in the early days of the occupation. A directive in the course of preparation by A.A.I. set out a policy of arresting Germans and Japanese as potential dangers to security, unless they produce evidence which makes this course unnecessary, e.g. domicile out of Germany since 1933, actual hardship or persecution at the hands of the Nazis. Austrians will not be interned unless there is evidence of their hostility. Extracted figures of interest are:

Germans	412	Austrians	297
Japanese	11	Rumanians	102
Hungarians	270		

SCREENING OF INDIVIDUALS AND COMPANIES

9. Machinery has been established under Capt. Harris 97 PFS for individuals and companies to be screened as to their suitability for contacts with the Allies. A circular has been sent to all Sub-Commissions inviting them to use Security Branch for obtaining this information especially before contacts are placed with firms who might have a bad Fascist background. Already many hundreds of persons have been screened but to avoid overloading the machinery it is necessary to give priority to:

- (1) distinct military or civil security threats
- (2) high Government Officials, Prefects, etc.
- (3) Other parastatal positions clerks, typists etc. cannot be screened unless there is some definite reason for suspecting their loyalty.

BUILDING SECURITY MEASURES

10. Plans are in hand by Capt. Keerin HQ Commandant's office. A scheme has been worked out between this Branch and Capt. Keerin for permanent and temporary passes, and is working satisfactorily

SECURITY ARRESTS

11. The 395 arrests on security grounds have been disposed of as under

in Regina Coeli	206
sent to P.O.W. Camps after interrogation	91
interned by order of AAI	13
released after interrogation	85

DEFASCTISATION

12. In Rome region a scheme has been put into operation by the regional Commissioner for the removal from office of Fascist personnel and many thousand scheda personale have been issued in this connection.

INDIVIDUAL ENQUIRIES

13. A great deal of information is received daily at this office concerning suspects, and enquiries are instituted on facts noted according to the degree of urgency of the information. Very close liaison is maintained with the other security organisations in this respect to avoid overlapping. This Branch can only deal with a limited number of important cases owing to the shortage of personnel.

COLONEL ROCK

14. This man, a former officer in the Irish Guards, and a broadcaster from Italy before and after the war, was located in Perugia where he "welcomed" the Allies. On his return to Rome he was arrested and is at present detained pending completion of enquiries into the case. Directions will be sought as to his disposal.

SABOTAGE AND ENEMY AGENTS

15. A sabotage organisation has been revealed by CIC acting under Major Snowden. 14 men have been arrested and 3/4 ton of sabotage material has been recovered. Two additional arrested and the recovery of sabotage material buried some distance from Rome, have also been effected by this organisation before orders had been received by the suspects as to the tasks they were to perform. 15 men who are alleged to be enemy agents left behind by the Germans have also been apprehended and await trial or internment.

CIVILIAN SECURITY

16. The primary phase was one of over zealous activity by patriots and partisans, which was replaced by a period of expectancy. Undoubtedly the bulk of the people await annihilation of the Fascists and disappointment is expressed that the work has not proceeded quickly enough.

17. One of the main Security problems from a civil point of view is the number of more or less distinguished personalities who were to be seen at receptions in the company of high German Officers and now similarly carry favours with Allied Officers in similar circumstances. This causes the public disillusionment as to whether anything will be done towards clearing out this pernicious influence, with its inevitable aftermath of requests for favours in one form or another.

18. The Black market's increased activity has caused a certain amount of criticism, especially as regards the excessive prices of essential commodities. The difficulties are appreciated but the constant cry is for a larger supply of basic rations and material to cut away the root of the trouble.

19. The undisciplined behaviour and drunkenness on the part of some Allied troops has caused widespread disapproval, and marred the good impression which it was as important that the Allies made in Rome.

J. H. Hawley *Mj*
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Colonel
Director of Security

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