

785016

ACC 10000/143/2752 645/11 SECURITY SITUATION ROME
NOV. -DEC 1944

785016

10000/143/2752

THIS FOLDER

CONTAINS PAPERS

FROM Nov - Dec 44

TO

CAT. NO. 118

To V.P.

1.
 Draft reply is folio 1 submitted. You will no doubt want
 to refer this matter to C.O.S. (see his file) Security staff
 from RAAC also submitted.

9 Dec 44.

2.

Ally.

PS.

Will you please ~~send~~ ^{see} an interim reply to BA
 Your draft reply is retained and is being worked on. Your
 will see from BA that it is hoped to send the full reply shortly
 the draft of what is proposed will be sent to you for comment

CAS
 1 DEC 1944

W. H. K. L.
 for C.O.S.

V.P.

Seen and noted!

15.12.44

J. H. M. May
 for Director P. Safety.

785016

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

Ref SD/601

64501

14 Dec 44

SUBJECT : Security Situation - Rome.

TO : AFHQ G-5.

It is regretted that it has not yet been possible to send you a full reply to your G-5 000.1 of 16 Nov. The reply is now in draft and it is hoped to send it to you in the next few days.

FOR THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER

G.S. PARKINSON Brig,
A/VP CA Section
A/DCOS.

00014

United States ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
(Equals British CONFIDENTIAL)

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
LAZIO UMBRIA REGION
APO 394
Regional Security Officer
=====

Ref./S/1228

4 December 1944

SUBJECT: Security Situation in Rome

TO : Public Safety Sub-Commission - Security Division A.C.HQ.
Thro' Regional Commissioner Lazio Umbria Region

1. Reference is made to SD/645, dated 29 November 1944 and enclosure GBI/SEC/3000 dated 17 November 1944, both of which are returned herewith.

2. This memorandum is confined more to the political than the Security situation in Rome and refers to the period from the end of October to the beginning of November.

It is thought that coordinated reports on the Security situation should be sought from G 2.

3. However, with regard to suggestions that the Police will be unable to cope with a situation which might arise, your atten-

1. Reference is made to SD/645, dated 29 November 1944 and enclosure GBI/SEC/3000 dated 17 November 1944, both of which are returned herewith.

2. This memorandum is confined more to the political than the Security situation in Rome and refers to the period from the end of October to the beginning of November.

It is thought that coordinated reports on the Security situation should be sought from G 2.

3. However, with regard to suggestions that the Police will be unable to cope with a situation which might arise, your attention is drawn to the following reports submitted to A.C. HQ. by chief of Public Safety Division through the Regional Commissioner:-

- a - Crime: Report dated 13 November 1944
- b- Prisons: Report dated 24 November 1944
- c - Meetings: Report dated 13 November 1944
(Communist-Socialist meeting on the Palatinate hill)
- d - Firearms: Report dated 18 August 1944 and 18 Sept. 1944 (Quadraro District)
and report dated 25 November 1944 (S.Spi-rito Hospital)

00013



United States **CONFIDENTIAL**
(Equals British CONFIDENTIAL)

United States **CONFIDENTIAL**
(Equals British CONFIDENTIAL)

-2-

4. Regarding the three active organisations which are claimed to be more extremist (see para 4) than even the Russians may desire, it is pointed out that the Communist Youth Group, a section of the Italian Communist Party, is unlikely to resort to violence in line with the general communist attitude not to precipitate matters at this stage.

The "Movimento Comunista Italiano" is not considered to be a potential danger since it has had its teeth drawn by the suppression of its news-paper "Unione Proletaria" and more particularly since it is in direct opposition to the Italian Communist Party proper.

The "Movimento Partigiano" has comparatively few members and, although there are undoubtedly communist members, it is only moderately reactionary toward the Government and undoubtedly limits itself to the welfare of ex members of the clandestine front.

5. In so far as possibilities of an outbreak of disorders are concerned, much will depend upon the solution of the present Government crisis and particularly in the attitude of both left wing parties - should they be excluded from the new Government now being formed.

It is perhaps worth bearing in mind that the local press recently reported that an "hunger march" would be organized by the "Lega dei Poveri" (League of poors) on 16 December 1944 if food rations will not be increased.

...tion of its news-paper "Unione Proletaria" and more particularly since it is in direct opposition to the Italian Communist Party proper.

The "Movimento Partigiano" has comparatively few members and, although there are undoubtedly communist members, it is only moderately reactionary toward the Government and undoubtedly limits itself to the welfare of ex members of the clandestine front.

5. In so far as possibilities of an outbreak of disorders are concerned, much will depend upon the solution of the present Government crisis and particularly in the attitude of both left wing parties - should they be excluded from the new Government now being formed.

It is perhaps worth bearing in mind that the local press recently reported that an "hunger march" would be organized by the "Lega dei Poveri" (League of Povers) on 16 December 1944 if food rations will not be increased.

00012

A. E. Heath

A. E. HEATH
Major I.C.
Regional Security and
Intelligence Officer

United States **CONFIDENTIAL**
(Equals British **CONFIDENTIAL**)

785016

SH/nb

CONFIDENTIAL

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

4A

REF : SD/645

29 November 1944

SUBJECT : Security Situation in Rome

TO : Regional Commissioner, Lazio - Umbria Region

1. The attached letter from AFHQ is a general comment on the Security situation in Rome.

2. I have been asked to draft a reply, and Brig. UPJOHN has directed me to coordinate this with your comments.

3. Your observations would be greatly appreciated.

J. W. Chapman
JOHN W. CHAPMAN,
Colonel J.A.G.D.,
Director Public Safety,
Sub Commission.

Tel:- 489081
Ext:- 367

00011

CONFIDENTIAL

COPY

CONFIDENTIAL

GBI/SEC/3000

17 November 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR: A.C. of S., G-3.

SUBJECT: Security Situation in Rome.

1. It is believed that the security situation in Rome is serious enough to be brought to the attention of the proper authorities so that corrective measures may be taken.

2. It should be understood that any activities detrimental to the military efforts are not caused by anti-Allied sentiments. The underlying causes are lack of food, clothing and heat. These are aggravated by a weak government and a venal police force. They are furthered by a lack of political and social unity in the population as a whole. Inaccurate and biased newspapers only add fuel to the flames of discontent.

3. It is considered that there may be incidents in Rome of an even more serious nature than that of Palermo. It is believed that public utilities employees will strike and that crowds will demonstrate and riot. It is doubtful that the police will be able to handle the situation as they form an ineffective force due to poor pay, lack of ability, discontent, epuration and other causes.

4. There are three active organizations which, although communist inspired, are much more extremist than even the Russian may desire. They constitute a potential danger. They are (1) Communist Youth Group, (2) Movimento Comunista d'Italia, and (3) Movimento Partigiano. These groups vary in size but each is believed to be around 4000 or possibly more. They are well armed with weapons, ammunition and sabotage material secured either from the Allies prior to the fall of Rome, from the Anzio area, or from German stocks. The members are well trained, very active and believe strongly in the theory of "The Dictatorship of the Proletariat". So far they have not advocated violence but are leaning that way.

0001

CONFIDENTIAL

5. Leftist propaganda is becoming more and more outspoken in its criticism of the Allies and the Bonomi Government. Conditions in Italy are contracted to those in Bulgaria and Roumania, to Russia's benefit.

6. Peasants are being urged openly to seize the land of large landowners. To some extent this is tacitly approved by the Government.

7. There are cases of armed robbery of individuals. "hi-jacking" of Allies military trucks, and thefts from Allied supply dumps. These acts are committed by bands of Allied deserters, both American and British, by Italian deserters, and by civilians.

8. Civilian morale is spiralling downward at an increasing rate. This is due to the lack of essentials for the coming winter and the extremely high cost of goods on the Black Market. There is some decrease in pro-Allied sentiments. This is caused by communist propaganda, Mr. Eden's latest speech regarding Italian colonies, and the Allies' failure to fulfill PWB promises of adequate food.

9. It is not within the province of this Section to make recommendations for corrective action but it is believed that the situation is serious enough to be brought to the attention of G-3, G-4, G-5, and PWB for the purpose of considering precautionary steps and plans.

s/ T.S.A.
t/ T.S. AIRBY
Major General, G-3.
A.C. of S., G-2

Copies to: G-4
G-5
POLAD
P.W.B.

000.9

CONFIDENTIAL

CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

3A

MINUTE SHEET

File :

SUBJECT : Security Situation in Rome.

No Date To

25-11-44 Public Safety S/O ✓ 1

Please consult Region Lario and draft a reply for my signature.

2 A great deal of what is said in G-2's letter is of course known to us and I think we should concentrate on the statements made in para 4; and if possible amplify or refute the statements therein contained.

3 Your draft reply should be coordinated with Economic Section for their comments (see esp paras 2 and 3) before submission.

R. R. Cuffe cr.
G.L. JOYCE HRS,
VP CA Section
DODS.

00005

490

785016

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
LAZIO-UMBRIA REGION
APO 394

100
2A

R/3144

4 November 1944

SUBJECT : Security situation in Rome

TO : Headquarters Allied Commission
Economic Section
Att.: Mr. Cleveland

Ref.: Your ES/100, dated 30 November 1944

1. Attached hereto is report from Major Horn, Chief of our Economic and Security Division, Lazio-Umbria Region, which has been written in respect to paragraph 2 and paragraph 8 of the security report referred to in your letter reference above.

John D. Ames
JOHN D. AMES
Lt Colonel

Acting Regional Commissioner

00007

1. Encl.
As state above

*Please return to
Major R. H. H. H.
Econ. Sect.*

SECRET7 Dec
24

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
LAZIO UMBRIA REGION
APO 394

ES/1354

Rome, 4 December 1944

Subject : Security situation in Rome.
To : Regional Commissioner Lazio-Umbria Region

Ref. paragraphs 2 and 8 of Memorandum GBI/
SEC/3000 of 17th November 1944.

1. The food situation in Rome is in certain respects satisfactory and in others not so good. There are two requirements for food. The first that it must afford nourishment and the second that it should be the kind of food that the people want.

2. The amount of food available for consumption in Rome has not shown a decrease in the past weeks. There has not been a single day when the bread ration was not available nor has there been a day when it has been difficult to find fruits and vegetables. One has only to walk along the streets to see that the green markets are well stocked.

3. There is however a great dearth of foodstuffs that are needed to make a tasty meal. Practically no sugar has been made available for distribution; salt is scarce, oil and other cooking ^{oil} in very short supply, pepper almost unobtainable and meats only to be bought at very high prices which are quite beyond the reach of the honest workman.

4. It is recommended that the food situation be resurveyed by A.C. and that their findings be based only on the foods which they know are procurable, then whether the situation be good or bad the people through the press and radio be taken into the confidence of the authorities and told the real facts as to what they can expect. At the same time reasons could be given for shortages which will be apparent.

5. It might even be a good idea to make a short film and show it in all the Picture Houses, as has been done on the light situation.

6. It is better for the people to have one big disappointment and get it over with than for them to continue to receive a number of disappointments as time goes on. The Italians have expected too much. A part of this is our fault. Today we circulate through the City, Military Currency which bears on its face the four freedoms. One says "Freedom from Want" this sounds good and looks good but when you cannot take this money and buy with it the freedom from want which it proclaims, it is apt to leave a sour taste.

7. Let us tell the people what they can expect and then see to it that they get it. Those of us who have been in the Army know how important properly prepared food is to morale. Take away sugar, salt, pepper and cooking fats from the mess and the grumblings of the Italians could not be heard for the protestations of the soldiers. It is not suggested that the Italians are entitled to the same treatment as our troops but we only seek to make the point that perhaps by providing a little seasoning we could keep down complaints.

8. The fuel situation is hopeless so far as heating private homes is concerned. It will be a cold winter for Rome and there is no help for it. Fortunately the winters are not too severe and though there will be discomfort there should be no real suffering on this account. To provide fuel for the hospitals and bakeries tax the transport that is available. Let us tell the people this too.

9. In the opinion of this Division light is a most important matter in its relations to morale. To go to a home which contains little food is bad, to go to a home which contains little food and no heat is worse and to go to a home which contains little food, no heat and no light is just hell. Discontent will breed in these dark houses during the long, cold nights ahead. When there is light other things do not seem so bad. It should be remembered also that without light there is no radio to amuse and instruct.

10. Comparisons are natural. Rome has not suffered as have other cities during the war. During the German occupation although there were many evil conditions,

offensive to all right thinking people at the same time the essentials of food, clothing and light were not too bad. We know of course that the reason there are no lights now is because the Germans blew up the power plants. But to the ordinary man sitting in a dark house at 7 P.M. of a cold evening the thought is apt to creep into his mind that before our arrival there was light. That the conditions which exist are not of our doing does not help matters unless these facts are appreciated by the public.

11. The newspapers should either be controlled or cultivated. Their help ~~is~~ needed. Their influence upon the public cannot be denied. A friendly press would of course do much to improve feelings. It is very easy to convince people that they are being mistreated. It is easy for the press to call for things that are not obtainable. On the other hand cannot the press be so approached and so handled that they will be inclined to be fair? Are they given sufficient facts to enable them to make reasonable forecasts?

12. Gas heat for cooking is inadequate and other fuels expensive if and when available: cold M. & V. is hardly Xmass cheer.

13. Plenty has always been a stranger to Italy and the war has laid a heavy hand upon the country. Life here in the next few months will not be an easy one. Life here in the next year may be worse. The Italians have had many dissillusionments, let us not further dissillusion them by making promises until we are absolutely sure that they can be fulfilled. Above all else this country needs honesty and an honest approach to its problems. If the food, fuel, and lighting situations have no hope of improvement let them know it now. If it can be improved with their help let them know in what respects, so far as we are able.

R.E. Horn
R.E. HORN, Major BR. 00004
Regional Supply Officer
Lazio Umbria Region

645 Security Br. 3682
ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 512 1A

G-5: 000.1

18 November 1944

SUBJECT: Security Situation in Rome.

TO : Headquarters, Allied Commission
Attention Chief Commissioner
APO 394.

Attached is a copy of GBI/SEC/3000 of
17 November from G-2 this HQ., upon which your
comments are requested.

Charles M. Spofford
CHARLES M. SPOFFORD
Brigadier General, G.S.C.
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-5.

Incl:
as above.

Security
Division
Rec'd 21/11
Book No 3045
File No 645
ACTION



000.5

4900

COPY

GBI/SEC/3000

17 November 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR: A.C. of S., G-3.

SUBJECT : Security Situation in Rome.

1. It is believed that the security situation in Rome is serious enough to be brought to the attention of the proper authorities so that corrective measures may be taken.

2. It should be understood that any activities detrimental to the military efforts are not caused by anti-Allied sentiments. The underlying causes are lack of food, clothing and heat. These are aggravated by a weak government and a venal police force. They are furthered by a lack of political and social unity in the population as a whole, Inaccurate and biased newspapers only add fuel to the flames of discontent.

3. It is considered that there may be incidents in Rome of an even more serious nature than that of Palermo. It is believed that public utilities employees will strike and that crowds will demonstrate and riot. It is doubtful that the police will be able to handle the situation as they form an ineffective force due to poor pay, lack of ability, discontent, epuration and other causes.

4. There are three active organizations which, although communist inspired, are much more extremist than even the Russians may desire. They constitute a potential danger. They are (1) Communist Youth Group, (2) Movimento Comunista d'Italia, and (3) Movimento Partigiano. These groups vary in size but each is believed to be around 4000 or possibly more. They are well armed with weapons, ammunition and sabotage material secured either from the Allies prior to the fall of Rome, from the Anzio area, or from German stocks. The members are well trained, very active and believe strongly in the theory of "The Dictatorship of the Proletariat". So far they have not advocated violence but are leaning that way.

5. Leftist propaganda is becoming more and more outspoken in its criticism of the Allies and the Bonami Government. Conditions in Italy are contrasted to those in Bulgaria and Roumania, to Russia's benefit.

6. Peasants are being urged openly to seize the land of large landowners. To some extent this is tacitly approved by the Government.

7. There are cases of armed robbery of individuals, "hi-jacking" of Allied military trucks, and thefts from Allied supply dumps. These acts are committed by bands of Allied deserters, both American and British, by Italian deserters, and by civilians.

8. Civilian morale is spiralling downward at an increasing rate. This is due to the lack of essentials for the coming winter and the extremely high cost of goods on the Black Market. There is some decrease in pro-Allied sentiments. This is caused by communist propaganda, Mr. Eden's latest speech regarding Italian colonies, and the Allies' failure to fulfill PWB promises of adequate food.

9. It is not within the province of this Section to make recommendations for corrective action but it is believed that the situation is serious enough to be brought to the attention of G-3, G-4, G-5 and PWB for the purpose of considering precautionary steps and plans.

/s/ T.S.A.
/t/ T.S. AIREY
Major General, G.S.,
A.C. of S., G-2

Copies to: G-4
G-5
POLAD.
P.W.B.

1054