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SICILY, PALERMO, SCHOOLS & EXAMINATIONS
SEPT. 1945

Memorandum of conversation with Major Hancock (Palermo Province) on telephone

24 Sept 44

Exelli

1. He rang up about Prof. ~~Amaldi~~ and would I send him to him. I undertook to do so.
2. He told me that they (Palermo Province) had filled the office of Provveditore for the Province. I said that they had evidently anticipated our action vide letter from C.S.O. to S.C.A.O.s. on filling Higher Educational Appointments. I asked him to let me have details for my records. (I was careful to make no suggestion that we would overturn this appointment, but I felt he did not like having to send us details).
3. He mentioned that I should be having a visit from the Director of the Liceo Belle Arti tomorrow. He said they stated they dealt directly with a ministry in Rome.
4. He said he understood that there were some doubts about Prof. Leotta. I said that we were satisfied that he would have to be removed and a letter was coming out from the C.S.O. now.
5. He raised the question of the Provincial Committees. I told him that he had been sent a directive on how they should be constituted, which might mean some slight modification of their arrangements, but it was in principle what they had already stated.
6. He raised the question of the texts. I told him that his committee would report as instructed in the directive and the Italian Committee being established would, with this H.Q., decide on what steps to take. Meanwhile I pointed out that we would get out from here some improved texts to meet the immediate problem of opening schools, and the more leisurely thought out plan would be put into later texts of a more permanent character.
6. Major Hancock suggested that this was duplicating labour as he was prepared to put out the texts through his committee. I pointed out that we could not allow each province to do that as it was a wasteful method and in any case would vitiate a policy. He then said that they were not thinking of producing for Palermo alone, but they were going to produce them for all Sicily. I pointed out that one provincial educational committee ought not to impose its views on other provinces.
7. He was inclined to argue and ended by saying that the less he had to do with education the better.
8. I thanked him for all he had done and hoped that we would continue to have his co-operation.

C. R. CAYRE,
Major A.E.C.

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6. Major Harpock suggested that this was duplicating labour as he was prepared to put out the texts through his committee. I pointed out that we could not allow each province to do that as it was a wasteful method and in any case would vitiate a policy. He then said that they were not thinking of producing for Palermo alone, but they were going to produce them for all Sicily. I pointed out that one provincial educational committee might not be able to impose its views on other provinces.

7. He was inclined to argue and ended by saying that the less he had to do with education the better.

8. I thanked him for all he had done and hoped that we would continue to have his co-operation.

G. R. GAYNE,
Major A.E.C.
Educational Adviser.

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