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NAPLES ZONE, MONTHLY REPORTS, GENERAL
NOV. 1944

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The school situation in this Zone is becoming stabilized to meet existing war and occupancy conditions even though this state is far from what might be called "normal". Everyone associated with schools is resigned to that which is beyond immediate control; all look forward to a better day. This resignation does not carry over into the field of fatalism nor does it mean any laxity in seeking every opportunity to improve one's position; rather, one meets the problems of the day but keeps a weather eye out for any shift in wind or tide that would improve his situation. Progress is being made steadily and quietly along these channels and all but the obnoxiously impatient seem to be reasonably satisfied with the present trend in school affairs.

Conditions in the three provinces comprising this Zone remain much as they were outlined in the previous report, namely, rural provincial schools operating and attended with almost complete normality; urban provincial schools, usually located in towns with large troop concentrations, operating under difficulties. There has not been time for the Provveditori Naples and Avellino to gather their statistics since schools opened on 6 November, because of transportation and communication difficulties. Benevento Commune schools will not open until 4 December.

The major problem is buildings. The hue and cry has died down since schools opened where it was found possible to operate even if peacetime quarters were not available. On the whole, the teachers and directors, the sindaci and prefects, the provveditori and their staffs, have displayed an earnestness of purpose and devotion to their work that have overcome many of their difficulties. This office has maintained a steadfast adherence to the principle that it will help but it will not do the work of any Italian official. Whenever a request for de-requisitioning is received, it is checked against the records held by the Provveditorato concerned and by the military. If there is an overwhelming military occupation, every possible assistance is given and proper intercession is made. If, however, there is a preponderance of Italian civilian occupancy of school buildings, no attempt is made to move a soldier until it is seen that steps are taken to evacuate or re-locate the inhabitants of the schools. This position has been clearly understood and accepted by all with whom the office deals and it seems to be a stand that the Italian people respect and appreciate.

In this connection, a step has been taken here in Naples that has cleared the way for effective action. On the suggestion of Lt. Col. Harry Hershenson, City Commissioner, the Questura and the Provveditorato each appointed a member of a two-man committee

-2-

to solve many of the problems of mutual interest. To this two-man board, this office gave a list of all the civilian occupied schools in Naples Commune and the use of a car. In four mornings, they had visited over forty buildings, turned in a school by school, room by room, report down to the last desk or infant, and gave everyone concerned specific facts on which to work.

This information was given to the Sindaco and, through him, to proper authority which is now freeing the buildings as rapidly as new quarters can be obtained for the displaced. In some instances, news of the visitation got around and occupants beat a hasty retreat. "Retreats" of various kinds were discovered sustained only by the usual "front" which can cover a multitude of misrepresentations.

Another fact of interest is the return to complete Italian control in Naples. This holds for the rest of the Zone as well of all matters pertaining to repairs and restorations of buildings. Many requests had been received by this office for intercession with the military authorities for repairs to school buildings or for glass and lumber. Now, the Genio Civile wields the local responsibility and final authority is vested in the Ministry of Public Works at Rome;

Transportation still continues to be a vexing problem. It is a limited commodity at its best but with the return of petrol, oil and lubricants to Italian control, and a subsequent cut in issue, reduced bus and truck operations have handicapped both teachers and students. Naples had a large commuting population, with school personnel from both sides of the desk going in or out of the city each day. Many teachers traveled long distances to and from their posts. There is an Italian law which states that teachers must live within 30 kilometers of their work. This office has reminded several of that obligation. Breaks in generators occasionally cut service on electric lines, and washouts wreak havoc with the one or two trains per day on the long trips. Again, this office points out its primary interest is getting the schools open and that requests for transportation must be made a matter of concern for the Italian authorities. A reasonable attempt on the part of teachers to live near their work is made a matter of immediate necessity.

Reports have reached the Naples school officials of the inability of teachers to make arrangements for living quarters in rural areas. This office has asked for specific cases and

arrangements will be made for prosecution if and when evidence of surcharges is received. On the whole, the letters to the Prefects and, through them, to the sindaco, reminding them of existing laws on rental charges, seem to have had their effect.

The officer for liaison with the Italian military forces, Col. Francesco Del Monte, has been of great assistance in helping teachers to secure transportation on local Italian WD vehicles, and on civilian trucks, to and from rural areas, as well as smoothing the way between civilian school authorities and personnel and Italian troops or military units occupying the buildings. There is an old national custom that makes the school number 1 on the list of buildings to be used for billeting troops for overnight or longer periods of time. This seems to be such an accepted fact that while this office has let it be known it acknowledges its existence, its silence does not necessarily mean approval of the custom. It is somewhat heartening to know that education is number 1 in the national mind in at least one respect!

As a matter of prudence, it has been decided that the consistent silence on the subject of books and teaching materials will not be broken by this office. There are no books yet and how the schools can function without them may yet become one of the brightest chapters in Allied occupation history. Its effect on Italian education may well serve as fruitful material for some future student in quest of a high academic degree. Somehow, with consummate skill, and a patience that contradicts all conception of the Italian character, school work goes on, teachers conduct classes and youngsters can be seen going to and from with their satchels and packages of books.

The report of the officer in charge of the printing of elementary textbooks will undoubtedly cover his visit to Naples and the subsequent events in that field. This office has served as the middleman between Capt. Beard and Prof. Albin in Naples. On 10 November, 25 tons of the indented paper for elementary books reached this city and the officer in charge of the storage warehouse notified this headquarters of its arrival. As no notice of the arrival of the ink has been received, it is assumed it is still on the way. Similarly, although Capt. Beard has kept this office informed of the movements of the paper, the local warehouse is still silent. As there is an agreement between the officer in charge and this office for an immediate report of arrivals, as well as a monthly stock report, it is assumed the paper, glue, etc. are still a matter of anticipation.

-4-

Not until this officer attended the conference in Rome, 10-11 November, did he know that a certain number of elementary texts had been printed some time in the past and were awaiting binding. No specific information has been received since that time but it is a well established fact that no elementary textbooks are on sale in this Zone.

Of the 50,000 quaderni held by the Montanini firm in Naples, Capt. Beard made arrangements to ship 25,000 to Sardinia. For the remainder, a special dispensation has been received by the Provveditorato to sell them in the local schools. Whatever is decided at Headquarters as best for the local schools will find support here, but this opportunity should not be allowed to pass without voicing the opinion that this Zone is anxious to hold on to any and all materials that will add to the effectiveness of the schools of Naples, Benevento and Avellino. We appreciate the predicament of Sardinia and Sicily but alleviating the situation there does little for Naples and southern Italy which are our immediate concern.

Vigorous representations by letter and during the conference brought forth the Headquarters letter of 24 November extending "carte blanche" to this office to settle the impasse on printing both secondary and university texts. Letters were sent out the day the letter was received from Rome requesting the university, secondary and consorzio chairman to call and make plans for easing the restrictions. The request for information on the amounts of paper needed locally will also be determined through the same men. It is hoped this distressing situation will be reasonably well settled before the next report is rendered.

It is sufficient to say that at the present moment, the only books available for use in secondary schools and universities are those which survived the past year by careful husbanding or were tucked away in anticipation of a greater demand this year. To date, no information has reached this office of any surcharges on books. The number available are few and that schools move on is a tribute to the ingenuity of the teachers and the zeal of their students.

All "richieste" for secondary school textbooks and for university texts have been approved, whenever that action was recommended by the committees. They have been returned to the authors with a covering letter emphasizing the fact the return did not carry with it the granting of paper. That must await

-5-

flater day. Some mentors, tired of waiting for permission, have had some printing done but this office has not had the personnel or machinery to make a verification check of this allegation in the Via Roma bookstores.

Visits were made to Naples by the Rev. V.K.C. Logan, Assistant International Commissioner of the Boy Scout Association-British- in the interests of the local youth movements. The Naples Zone Commissioner, Lt. Col. H.B. Simson, has long been interested in this work because of its long-range moral and ethical effects on the youth of Italy. He estimates there are about 5000 boys enrolled in what may be loosely described as a Boy Scout movement, in Naples Province. Mr. Logan has only a limited time to give this work in any specific locality because of the extent of his area - the Mediterranean basin. Consequently, his comings and goings are like a brief flash of light in the twilight that may be the coming of night, or, more hopefully, the dawn of a new day.

But visits without length are like flowers without roots. At the suggestion of the Zone Commissioner, this officer gave Mr. Logan a letter on the eve of one of his returns to Rome, proposing a conference of scout leaders in Naples in which the leaders from Rome would state specifically what they planned to do in the future and what the immediate program might be. It was proposed, after local consultations, that the week of 3-9 December would be ideal. On Mr. Logan's recent visit he expressed his usual optimistic views and mentioning a number of splendid plans for publicizing the scout movement, but no commitments were given on the meeting.

The people here are practical men and their approach to scouting is realistic. They wish to make their work a counterpart of the national movement. They hesitate to proceed until they know what the Italian program is to be. They made they offer to higher authority and now they wait. This office serves Mr. Logan in every possible way on his visits and will do his bidding and more. But the guidance support of this movement lies in Italian action and it is the sentiment of this Zone that until concerted action is taken by those at the head in Rome it would be most unwise to advance along lines that might by mere isolation, show diversion from the basic program.

Approximately 300 elementary school teachers and directors of Naples Province await an opportunity to present requests for reconsideration of their suspensions before an epuration

5721

-6-

committee. The local Provveditore has had more abuse showered on his head than any one man deserves. No matter what this office may say, there is still the feeling among the teachers that he is to blame for their ostracization. All await the new Royal Decree with hope and anticipation.

Progress is being made, slowly but effectively, in reopening all the schools of the Zone, in returning to Italian hands the control of all that pertains to education and what is more important, establishing a sense of confidence in their work, a high sense of responsibility and an appreciation of their effort as it applies to the normal functioning of schools, that two decades of fascism strove vainly to extract from the national character.

Joseph M. Murphy
JOSEPH M. MURPHY
Major, A.C.
Zone Education Officer

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POINTS FOR MONTHLY REPORTUNIVERSITY OF NAPLES

Early in February 1944 the Education Subcommittee had appointed three of the eleven deans of the University of Naples because no election could take place, as many of the Professors of the Faculties involved were in Rome.

In January 1945 the Rector informed the Education Subcommittee that the Professors concerned were back from Rome. The election took place on January 17 and the three deans appointed by Education Subcommittee were confirmed.

NAVAL INSTITUTE.

The election for the Director was held on January 27, 1945. The Director appointed by Education Subcommittee early in February of last year was confirmed.

ORIENTAL INSTITUTE.

The election for the Director which took place on the 20 November 1944 was declared void because it had been discovered that the newly elected Director had voted for himself, which is against article 89 of the Italian scholastic law.

I went to Naples to investigate the situation of the Oriental Institute and I submitted a report to the Minister of Public Instruction for action. It was suggested to establish a Faculty for occidental languages in addition to the one for oriental languages. It was further suggested to increase the number of titular professors. They are seven in all, with more than 4,000 students. This increase will not be an economic burden for the Italian Government, as the professors are paid from the Institute funds, which are known to be conspicuous.

The appointment of a new professor of English will be welcomed by the students; the present teacher does not speak English well and his knowledge of English literature is rather poor.

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MONTHLY REPORT ON UNIVERSITY

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Most of the premises have been derequisitioned and, because of the efforts made by this Sub-Commission, the entire university buildings will be freed in a few days.

We ~~are~~ have reorganized the administrative Council and, with the economies made a students' relief fund was founded consisting in fifty fellowships for destituted students. It is hoped to reach the number of two-hundred by the end of the year.

Some teachers who have been dismissed for racial reasons have been reinstated and those who could not be promoted as they were not members of the Fascist Party obtained their promotion.

That strike by the teachers of the Veterinary Medicine which followed the decision taken by the Senatus Academicus of shifting the faculty of Veterinary Medicine from Naples to Portice was settled satisfactorily by this Sub-Commission and the teachers went back to work.

No disturbances took place in the University as a result of the order given to the students to seat for examination.

ORIENTAL INSTITUTE

We have set up an administrative Council, have modified the statute, and the curriculum of studies and reorganized the whole staff. Four members of the administration have been suspended having presented false documents.

NAVAL INSTITUTE

We obtained from the Italian Government the funds due to the Institute for the previous year and assured the good functioning of the administration of the Institute.

R. CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC

We have continued in examining the competence of the personnel and some cases were brought before the Council of Higher Education for decision.

2

We are reviewing the classical program of the Conservatory. With the cooperation of the "Genio Civile" some repairing works of the premises of the Conservatory have been undertaken.

ROYAL ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS

We are examining the competence of the personnel. Some members got promoted.

Help was given to the President to recover the belongings of the Academy scattered in different places.

COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION

There was a second meeting and cases of teachers who said that they had been denied a job at the University for political reasons were examined.

All teachers concerned have been proved to be Fascists and the Council rejected their applications.

The Italian Minister of Education has asked this Sub-Commission to submit to same Council set up by us questions concerning his territory. Permission was gladly granted.

5717

R. UNIVERSITA' DI NAPOLI

Liberazione dei locali da parte delle Autorità Militari (Policlinico)

Fondazione di 50 borse di studio per studenti.

Reintegrazione di alcuni insegnanti esclusi per motivi razziali.

Vertenza creatasi tra la Facoltà di Medicina Veterinaria e il Senato Accademico che culminò nelle dimissioni di 9 professori i quali ritornarono al loro posto dietro intervento di questa Sottocommissione e la vertenza portata innanzi al Consiglio Superiore.

L'ordine di dare gli esami scritti non provocò alcun disturbo tra gli studenti.

Consiglio di Amministrazione regolarizzato.

Avanzamento del personale che non potette essere promosso perchè non membri del P.N.F.

Istituto Universitario Orientale.

Consiglio d'Amministrazione modificato in parte il programma.

Istituto Navale.

Ottenute dal Governo Italiano fondi ad esso spettanti per gli anni passati ed assicurata la vita finanziaria dell'Istituto.

R. Conservatorio di Musica.

L'esame della situazione del personale continua ad essere esaminata e alcune questioni furono sottoposte al Consiglio Superiore con l'acclusione di alcuni membri competenti.

Sono stati ordinati lavori di restauro e di adattamento delle aule che risultarono inadeguate dopo due sopralluoghi fatti nell'Istituto.

In via di esame il programma di studi attuale che si ritiene non adeguato.

Accademia Belle Arti.

E' stato preso in esame lo stato del personale e provveduto alla promozione di esso che non potè essere promosso date le condizioni belliche.

Consiglio Superiore.

Ha tenuto la sua seconda seduta ed esaminato casi di insegnanti che dicevano di essere stati esclusi dai posti per ragioni politiche. Dall'esame dei libri che la Sottocommissione per l'Educazione ha sottoposto al Consiglio è risultato che detti insegnanti oltre ad esporre idee fasciste nei loro libri avevano anche avute l'appoggio del partito. Quindi le loro domande sono state nominativamente rigettate.

Il Ministro dell'Educazione Italiano riconosciuta l'efficienza di questo Consiglio creato di iniziativa della Sottocommissione ha chiesto se ad esso poteva sottoporre anche questioni riguardanti professori e Università passati sotto la giurisdizione del Governo Italiano.

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