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REPORTS, LOMBARDIA REGION
MAY 1945

Minute

TOOP (a section):

The attached Sitrep from Maj. Vanebo will interest you & indicates that things are perhaps better in his grasp than he gave you to believe. The situation looks confused enough. I'll report more fully on my return.

25 May, 45

A good report.
WRH

29 May.

4746

RD/7.01

Subject: Education - Weekly Report

To: Regional Commissioner

Copy to HQ, Allied Commission (Att.: Education S/C)

A/S 770

1. HQ Organization

The R.E.O. and the Dep.R.E.O. arrived in Milan with the main body of Regional HQ on the evening of 10th May. All provinces have now been visited, some two or three times. ~~Some~~ Certain organizational difficulties have interfered with ~~proper~~ ^{proper} working, such as lack of transport, uncertain communications, and as yet inadequate office-facilities. These difficulties were naturally particularly acute during the Regions enforced stay in Mantova. There should now be no further difficulty about communications, but office-facilities are still not fully adequate, and as to transport, the Education Division is still entirely without it. Matters will be much eased when at least one car can be provided.

2. Schoolsa) General

Normal procedure with schools is to close them down until such time as a fairly thorough preliminary defascism of Heads has been completed, and only then to reopen them. In the present circumstances, which are completely unlike previous situations confronted by us, this procedure was not fully possible. In some cases schools continued functioning almost without a break; and in all cases C.I.N.s had already taken certain steps of their own towards defascism and reorganization before AMG ever appeared. General circumstances were superficially so much nearer to normal that PCs did not wish schools to remain closed for more than a few days, particularly as the school-session was so near an end. They were mostly preoccupied with the necessity of keeping children off the streets, and felt that the steps taken by the C.I.N.s were adequate as a purely preliminary measure. The R.E.O., not wishing to cause confusion, consented in principle, leaving open schools which he found already reopened, and only making sure that, where schools were still closed, they remained closed long enough for a proper and uniform procedure of defascism and reorganization to be initiated. The result is that in all provinces (except Milan) schools are now functioning again. In Milan, where the problem is of course much larger than elsewhere, they will reopen on Tuesday next (22nd May). In all cases except one (Sondrio) the Acting Provveditori,

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2. Schools

a) General

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2 b) Relations with C.L.N.s.

By far the greatest difficulty presented has been the serious lack of uniformity as between one Province and another - a legacy apparently from the Republican Fascist period, and one which the presence of a large number of uncoordinated local C.L.N.s has aggravated. Lack of

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uniformity sometimes extends downwards even to the communal level. This is particularly important in the matter of personnel, as different C.L.Ns have followed different criteria for defascism. Some have wished to suspend all Heads who took the Republican Fascist oath - which is strictly according to the dispositions of G.O. 35, but would leave us almost without any of the old Heads, who in all cases were compelled to take the oath. In one Province, Varese, all teachers were also compelled, and only seven stood out. Other C.L.Ns have taken a rather more lenient view, and in one case (Sondrio) have even left in a Provveditore who took the oath. It has been decided to regulate the situation by generally confirming for the time being all suspensions made by the C.L.Ns, by removing the Provveditore of Sondrio (this has not yet been done, in view of the necessity for an efficient substitute), and at the same time by asking the whole question of the Republican Fascist oath under review, so that one norm may be determined: when this norm has been arrived at, it may be necessary to reinstate certain persons suspended by the C.L.Ns, but this will not be done until after the end of the school-session. Advice of all Allied Authorities concerned in the matter will be taken before acting.

The most serious hindrance to working with the C.L.Ns is the fact that they tend to quarrel even with one another, that having put forward a man for a post they then expect him to work perpetually under their orders, not as a free and responsible official, and that they still continue to issue orders and make appointments, not being willing to recognize that their executive functions have now been completely superseded by AMG. Several of their appointments have not even a semblance of legality, as they do not hesitate to invent new posts whenever they think fit. Thus at Pavia a Vice-Provveditore was appointed - a non-existent office - and at Como a Political Commissar was appointed to take charge of the schools. In both cases the matter has been put right, but the position will have to be watched very carefully. In Pavia the C.L.Ns appear to be particularly intractable. Even the Communal ones are running riot, with apparently no control from the Provincial ones. Teachers have been put in and pulled out with no reference to anybody at all. The situation is such that the Prefect has asked if the schools of Pavia can be closed again as soon as possible for things to quieten down. The date tentatively fixed is June 7th. It is clear that in this Province it might

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2 c) Condition of schools

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On the whole the condition of schools is much better than in many places in the south. Damage has not been inordinately great, and the requisitioning-factor is not overwhelming. Further details will be supplied when available.

3. Universities and Higher Institutes

All Heads of Universities and Higher Institutes had already been removed by the CLNs on the arrival of AMG, with one exception, the Rector of the Catholic University. The Catholic University is in a separate category, coming directly under the Vatican, to whom the matter is being referred through the regular channels. New nominees have been put forward for the posts of Acting Heads of the various institutions, and these have all been interviewed and given instructions. University-courses have all been closed, and it is not intended to reopen them until the next session. Examinations will however be held in July. Faculties of Political Sciences are being abolished, and non-Fascist Professors and courses from this Faculty incorporated elsewhere. The first steps for defascistizing Universities and Higher Institutes have been taken. A meeting of all provisional Heads will take place in this office on Monday 21 May at 14.30 hours.

4. Commissario Regionale per le scuole di Lombardia

An official with the above title had been appointed by the Regional CLN as the RHO's counterpart. He is Professor Apollonio Mario, of the Catholic University, a Christian Democrat. His services have proved valuable, and he is being retained by this office in an advisory capacity, with, of course, no executive functions. There is no fear that he will try to overstep his powers, as his personal influence over the various CLNs is in fact small. No CLN appears to pay much attention to any CLN officials except its own.

5. Confirmation of Appointments

No official confirmation of appointments of Provveditori or Pro-Rectors has yet been made. It is proposed to start satisfying appointments immediately, after completing the necessary investigations in each case. Meanwhile the various functionaries are provisionally carrying on in all relevant posts. No post is empty.

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