

HEAD QUARTERS
ITALIAN FRONTIER CONTROL DETACHMENT
COUNTER-INTELLIGENCE CORPS
ALLIED FORCE HEAD QUARTERS
APO 512 U.S. ARMY

12 July 1945

SUBJECT: Weekly Intelligence Summary Report
TO : Col. Strachan, GSI(b), 2 District

During the past week 5 July 1945 - 12 July 1945, no problems involving security presented themselves. This detachment on the night of 4-5 July executed a raid on contrabandists which resulted in the arrest of 29 people in the Sondrio area.

1. . CONTRABAND

In the past six weeks the contraband trade has changed its aspect. From being a localized and individual adventure in illegal transportation of goods across the border, it has become a big business dealing not in Kilograms of foodstuffs but in tons of critical raw materials and in millions of lire worth of industrial equipment. The ring, which is being investigated at present, is run from Milan and consists of buyers and squads of professional smugglers who carry the contraband across established routes. The complicity and participation of partisans has been proved. At 0200 hours, 5 July 1945 a force of 30 CCRR, 20 Civil Police, 15 RGF not counting Allied and Italian officers executed several raids in the Tirano region under the direction of this office. The results were :

- a. The arrest of 29 persons including 4 members of the Guardia di Finanza.
- b. Confiscation of over 10 million lire worth tin metal (soldering metal), tires, american rations, cheeses, currency and optical instruments.

At present the investigation is continuing and it is expected that more arrests will be made.

The local population received this raid on the part of the Allied as a sincere effort to set up honest government in Northern Italy.

Growing resentment of the population against contrabandists was due to :

- a) The subtraction of a seizable part of available foodstuffs for contraband purposes.
- b) The quick enrichment of contrabandists seemingly carrying on their illegal traffic with impunity.

It is felt that as a result of the raid Allied prestige has been increased, and a spirit of cooperation from the population in the region has been observed.

2. REPATRIATION

From 29 June 1945 to 12 July 1945 about 15,000 Italian partisans, interned soldiers, interned RGF and CCRR, and civilian refugees have been repatriated to their homeland. At present about 1200 refugees are brought in daily (none on Sundays and Mondays) through Ponte Chiasso and about 500 are brought in through the Simplon tunnel to Domodossola. It is anticipated that by the end of the month all of the Italian nationals at present in Switzerland will have been repatriated. All screening is being handled by SIM agents under CIC supervision. Up to the present there have been no cases involving enemy agents. Those cases of a political nature have been all turned over to the Italian Government for disposition.

3. WITHDRAWAL OF FRENCH FROM ITALIAN SOIL.

In the past week, the French have completed their withdrawal from Italian soil and are now on their side of the 1939 Italo-French frontier. On 9 July 1945, the last French forces left the Bordighera region.

4. RECRUITING IN ITALY OF ITALIAN NATIONALS FOR LABOR IN FRANCE.

In the Aosta valley, the French authorities under Commandant MICHELET, BSM, have been recruiting Italian nationals who are supposed to be taken to France as herdsmen. This is the first year that this has been done in the region. Although AFHC has authorized the passage of this laborgoing, this Detachment is holding up the movement till after 19 July 1945 (French Bastille Day) in view of rumors that the French were planning demonstrations in France and were attempting to have a sizeable Italian delegation demonstrate in favour of French rule in the Aosta valley.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICE :

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