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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Italy

DATE: 25X1X6

SUBJECT Blackmail of Italian Industrialists
by "Partisans" in North Italy: Possible
Armed Uprisings in North Italy

INFO. [REDACTED]

DIST. 29 January 1947

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SUPPLEMENT

EVALUATION OF SOURCE

EVALUATION OF CONTENT



SOURCE

1. It is reported that Alberto Zorli a minor Milan industrialist, who works closely with the textile "king" Treccani, was called in to report to a certain Marozin, the well known "partisan" leader in Milan. Zorli was informed by Marozin that his partisans had taken a dissident position from that of A.N.P.I. (Associazione Nazionale Partigiani Italiani) since the latter has fallen into the hands of the Communist Party. Marozin stated that he had contacted various North Italian industrialists who had already backed his program to retire to the mountains and declare war against the Communist partisan groups. He therefore requested that Zorli furnish him with 2,000 to 3,000 uniforms with which to equip his men.
2. In the face of this implied blackmail, Zorli told Marozin that he lacked the materials necessary for the uniforms and handed over 10,000 lire in order to be able to leave the headquarters.
3. Zorli was informed by Marozin that the famous industrialist Riva (owner of the Unione Manifatture) had supplied him and his men with great quantities of money. He also stated that he had no need of arms since the Americans had supplied the arms in their general clandestine program of arming action squads to destroy Communism in Italy.
4. Marozin has his headquarters at Via Monte Napoleone 12 (?) Milan, in a luxurious suite of 12 offices. He showed some of his supplies to Zorli which included 700 to 800 picks and shovels for the digging of trenches. Other sources state that arms are hidden in the same building.

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(Comment: The above report is of particular interest since it indicates a general trend in Italy to place the blame on the

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the Americans for the arming of action squads to combat Communism. This is particularly grave in view of direct evidence that the British have in one or more instances tended to believe such statements and have requested information of such American activity from various Italians. Furthermore in this case, Marozin is a notorious "gangster" element who has had a varied career as a member of the Black Brigade and the partisan movement. It is known that he was imprisoned in San Vittore prison in Milan following the German surrender and, in spite of being implicated in a prison riot was subsequently released. It is generally believed that his "gang" methods have intimidated the local police officials. In addition, this convincing talk that he has the support of the Americans (and by implication the British), has served as a means whereby he can "sell protection" to the industrialists of North Italy on grounds that their interests are identical.

It is interesting to note that Marozin has cloaked his activity in an air of legitimacy. He attempts to point out that he alone of all partisans is observing the law, - that he could quite easily have millions at his disposal merely by entering one of the large Milan banks with his men and taking the necessary funds.)

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