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 letter of 18 October 1978 from the
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 625

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP
INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Austria/Tyrol

DATE: 25X1A

SUBJECT Reactions in Innsbruck to the South Tyrolean
 Autonomy Question.

INFO. [REDACTED]

DIST. 27 March 1947

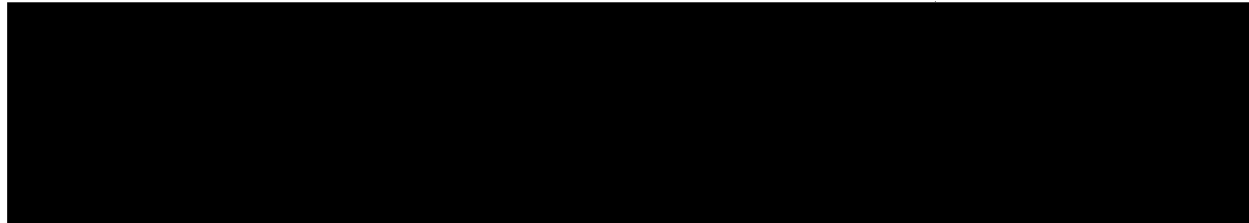
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PAGES 2

ORIGIN [REDACTED]

SUPPLEMENT

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- "Tyrolean territorial unity is our first political consideration. It will not be possible to reach an understanding, with anyone who does not accept this idea or who does not regard the temporary solutions as a mere step towards the achievement of our ultimate goal. We consider as a temporary solution the special position established for the South Tyrol in Paris (provisions affecting the German-speaking population of the Province of Bolzano and the bi-lingual population of the Province of Trentino). We shall devote all our energies to seeing this special position upheld; now is the time to redouble our efforts in this direction. By this we mean an increasingly energetic stand by the South Tyrol for the establishment of a true autonomy and an energetic bid for the recognition of its claims by public opinion abroad. At a certain moment, about six months after the conclusion of the Paris Agreement, South Tyrol should make a direct official appeal, not only to Austria, but also to the 22 states which will sign the Italian peace treaty. At this time, it should be pointed out that the Italian promises have not been fulfilled in any way; that no efforts are being made in the South Tyrol to satisfy the various South Tyrolean claims, even on the basis of a temporary solution.
- In meetings and announcements, protests should be voiced against this disregard of solemn obligations. No consideration must be given to legal sophistry such as, for instance, the claim that the Paris Agreement is not yet valid; in our opinion, Italy's obligations toward the South Tyroleans must be viewed in the light of natural and democratic considerations, quite independently of formal agreement. The South Tyrolean Agreement is a gentlemen's agreement, whereby Italy made certain promises to Austria and the Allies. This agreement should have been carried out, not only honestly and without reservations, but also without delay.
- The negotiations with the Trentiners, concerning which we are not very well informed, could possibly have doubtful results. It is certain that they are disturbing the development which we desire in order to achieve our highest goal, namely that first consideration be given the simple claim for the autonomy of South Tyrol between Bolzano and Salerno. What we have learned so far of the negotiations would indicate that the South Tyrolean themselves do not know whether they will be allowed to set up a political program for themselves, and whether there is any serious basis or hope for an ultimate Tyrolean unity. Furthermore, any future indefinite and obscure negotiations by the Italian Government will give Italy the possibility to postpone the final establishment of autonomy indefinitely. Should the claims of the Trentiner not be specifically opposed, there is the danger that the Government in Rome might succeed in obscuring the fact that the problem of the South Tyrol is peculiar unto itself and

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- 2 -

incorporate it in the general provisions for regional autonomies. In this regard, we repeat that we fail to understand fully why the Chamber of Commerce of Bolzano and that of Trento approached De Gasperi jointly, and why this was stressed as a step in the common interest of the two Provinces. Despite our request, we have so far received no explanation of this action. However, even if this step was relatively harmless, such action can help to confuse the issue abroad and give the Roman Government and the Trentiner a valuable weapon for sabotaging the South Tyrolean autonomy.

4. We would therefore like to stress the following point: The South Tyrolean policy must follow a clear-cut line. In view of the Italian constitutional and administrative methods, the Tyrolean program as outlined by us will probably be unavoidably modified in certain points. The South Tyroleans must oppose such modifications of their program and make a serious issue of each question. In the experience of old Austria with the policies of the Trentino and Trieste we have an excellent example of tactics which proved to be very effective. All we need to do is to follow this example and always demand more from the opposite side than we really expect to obtain.
5. We wish to add that the Tyrolean question, even in the form of the autonomous program, is an international issue that is also the concern of the Austrian Government. South Tyrol's position would be much weakened if this were to be forgotten and if Austrian opinion and tactics failed to be constantly observed.
6. In Vienna it is felt that what we don't strive for, does not happen, and that we need to proceed with more energy. We are planning the foundation of a Society of the Friends of Tyrol in order to have an unofficial instrument available."

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