

7/7-008

The attached is [REDACTED] report.
Mr. Earman said that the attached should go "back
in the files" -- I don't know whether it should stay
here or go to ER -- thought you might like to file
it here under [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]


(b)(3)

Approved for Release
Date OCT 1999

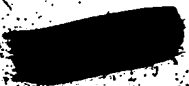
004530

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Record

A copy of the attached was forwarded to

 on 11 March 1960.

(S)(3)



(DATE)

SOUTH TYROL

(b)(3)

In a conversation which I had a few days ago with

[REDACTED]

he expressed his deep concern regarding the political situation in South Tyrol which he felt was rapidly deteriorating due to the absence of any constructive action on the part of the Italian government.

[REDACTED] stated that during the past months he has been trying his best to keep the situation under control by exerting a moderating influence on the South Tyrolean leaders and their friends in North Tyrol but he was not certain that he could much longer continue to do so successfully.

The population of South Tyrol was becoming increasingly irritated by police measures on the part of the local Italian authorities. Also, the fact that independence movement in Cyprus and lately in the African Congo had been successful was having a strong influence on the mentality of the South Tyrolean radicals, who felt that what was good enough for Cyprus and Africa should not be withheld from them. Up to now the South Tyrolean People's Party (Suedtiroler Volkspartei), the only political party amongst

(L)(3)

the German-speaking people of South Tyrol, had been exerting a moderating influence and had asked for no more than an autonomy status for the Province of Bolzano remaining under the sovereignty of the Italian Republic, similar to the autonomy granted to Sicily. But unless a satisfactory solution was soon arrived at, there was considerable danger that even this moderate political party would ask for more i. e., for a union of South Tyrol with North Tyrol (Austria).

[REDACTED] is particularly concerned lest the radicals in South Tyrol might start guerrilla warfare and lest former Nazi elements of Southern Germany and particularly Bavaria might support such an operation with men and money. He strongly feels that in order to avoid a "little Cyprus" in the heart of Europe, the Italian government should make some reasonable concessions now thus avoiding a very nasty situation later on, and he would consider it wise if the American government could exert its influence with the Italians in this respect.

From another [REDACTED] I have been told that guerrilla forces in the South Tyrol were already being organized for the particular purpose of sabotaging the very important Italian power dams and electric transmission lines

located in South Tyrol and supplying a considerable part of the electric power used by the City of Milano and other industrial centers in the Po Valley. Also bridges are to be blown up.

The name of this organization is FLS (Freiheits Legion Suedtyrol) and the name of its leader is to be KASSIAN ORTLER (an assumed name, Kassian being a typical South Tyrolean name and Ortler being the name of the highest mountain in South Tyrol). Quite a few people in South Tyrol as well as in North Tyrol seem to think that such recourse to force is necessary to attract world attention and to induce the Italian government to make concessions.

March 5, 1960