

EXTERNAL SURVEY DETACHMENT
INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Italy

DATE:

SUBJECT GENERAL: *o Vatican*
X "Too Many Germans Around the Pope"

INFO. 5-6 August 1947

DIST. 14 August 1947

SPECIFIC: Sister PASQUALINA, Father Robert LEIBNER,
Father BEA

PAGES 2

ORIGIN []

SUPPLEMENT PIRA-940, Para.2

EVALUATION OF SOURCE

EVALUATION OF CONTENT

A	B	C	D	E	F X
COMPLETELY RELIABLE	USUALLY RELIABLE	FAIRLY RELIABLE	NOT USUALLY RELIABLE	NOT RELIABLE	CANNOT BE JUDGED

1	2	3	4	5	6 X
CONFIRMED OTHER SOUR.	PROBABLY TRUE	POSSIBLY TRUE	DOUBTFUL	PROBABLY FALSE	CANNOT BE JUDGED

SOURCE Milano Sera Newspaper

1. Following is an article published in the Milan Sera Newspaper on 5-6 August 1947, written by Marco CESARINI.
2. "Three Germans, two men and one woman, two priests and a nun, are the persons who live in the closest daily contact with the Pope. Within the pontifical apartment in the Vatican only German is spoken—a language in which the Pope is exceedingly well versed, as he has had long residence in Germany as Apostolic Nunzio to the Bavarian Government and as "legate" to the Berlin Government. The Pope lives on German cuisine.
3. "The woman in closest association with the Pope is the famous Sister PASQUALINA, PIUS XII's 'housekeeper', superioress of an order of nuns formed exclusively of Germans or Swiss from Germanic cantons. Sister PASQUALINA is a good woman, no longer young, full of charitable spirit and also of ingenuity. She is very fond of the Pope, whom she has been caring for in a truly laudable way for many years. It is she, unfortunately, it is said in the Vatican, who, through excessive zeal, every once in a while starts circulating rumors about the Pope's health and physical resistance—rumors that seldom correspond to fact. But Sister PASQUALINA is like a too-loving and impressionable mother. The other Vatican dignitaries and prelates willingly pardon her for her indiscreet and exaggerated chatter, in view of the fact that her work with the Pope would be irreplaceable.
4. Sister PASQUALINA plays a very important role in the intrigues surrounding the recommendations and appointments which come before the Pope every day. She is the only person who sees the Pope more than once a day, and it seems that her advice is always taken.
5. The next most important German of PIUS XII's intimate entourage is his private secretary, a husky Bavarian at least 50 years old, typical Teuton in facial features and manner, punctual, exact, pedantic, and heavy. He is a Jesuit, friend and collaborator of His Holiness from the time when the then Cardinal PACELLI was Pontifical Nunzio and was following the Vatican diplomatic career. His name is Father Robert LEIBNER S.J. and he was originally a history professor. Because of this qualification he receives two salaries: one as private secretary to the Pope and one as professor of history at Gregoriana University. He is often seen about Rome in his car, from which he alights alone to stop at one of the typical German beer parlors scattered here and there through the center of Rome and frequented by clients of all types, from SS war criminals

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who hide under assumed names to big international blackmarketeers.

6. Father LEIBNER is an anti-Nazi. His influence on the Pope is not great.
7. The third of the series is Father ~~BEA~~^X, also a Jesuit and a German, native of a small town near Munich, "~~father confessor~~" to the Pope. He is, as it is easy to imagine, a man of great wealth and culture. In physical appearance he is what popular fancy conceives of as the "gray eminence": pale, emaciated, with lively eyes and ironic smile. He lives in the Pontifical Bible Institute annexed to Gregoriana University and goes to the Vatican only when PIUS XII expressly calls for him. He is well over sixty but is perhaps the most intelligent and alive man in the Vatican today.
8. These three Germans exert great influence on the Pope. They are all Germans of the old school who always have up their sleeve the best cards to play in the game with the Western Allies about Germany's future. They are typical representatives of German heavy industry and great agricultural estates, which were respectable under WILLIAM II, the Weimar Republic, and HITLER. As such, these old school Germans, representatives of the class which has ruled Germany for many centuries, are the only Germans at present who can make their voices heard by English and American capitalists and agrarians.
9. It is plain that the new myth, to which even the Vatican subscribes, of the "poor German" who is paying the penalty for others' guilt and who has the right to assistance from the whole world has arisen solely from this particular atmosphere which so tightly surrounds the Head of the Church.
10. Comment: Following traces are held:
 - a) BEA, Father Agostina - See PIRA-1283.
 - b) LEIBNER or ~~LEIBER~~^X, Father Roberto - See PIR-43, 51, 55, 56, 1233, 1234; PIRA-428, 940.
 - c) PASQUALINA, Sister - See PIRA-438.