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COUNTER INTELLIGENCE CORPS
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6 August 1946

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION.-

SUBJECT: Pro-USSR and Anti-Allied propaganda.

The daily political paper "L'Unita" (14 July 1946), published the following article: "Which is entitled to the control of the Danube River?", by Spectator. This article is typically pro-USSR and anti-Allied, and it discusses at length a situation with which Italy is not concerned in any direct way.

" Who is entitled to the control of the Danube River? The "

" peoples of the Danube basin or an International organization?"

" This is the main problem which is being discussed by England,"

" the United States and the Soviet Union, in regard to the future"

" development of one of the greatest waterways in Europe. Foreign"

" Minister Molotov recently stated that the problem of the navi-"

" gation on the Danube concerns exclusively the Danubian States "

" It is not right that some danubian States try to force their "

" own political views on these Danubian States and to give them"

" a political regime that is not wanted and that damages their "

" interests. These states are Jugoslavia and Czecho-Slovakia. "

" Bevin answered to these statements during a session of the "

" British Parliament. After having pointed out the sufferings of"

" the peoples of Europe and the danger of starvation that threa-"

" tens them, he went on saying that the Soviet refusal to establish"

" an International Commission for the Danube River has paralyzed all"

" traffic on one of the main internal communication systems of "

" Europe, and between Central Europe and South-Eastern Europe. "

" Actually, this traffic has not been paralyzed by the Soviet "

" Military Supervision, but by another obvious fact. The whole "

" merchant fleet of the Danube is in the hands of the Americans "

" and they refuse to turn it over to the interested parties "

" If only these ships were released, the navigation on the Danu-"

" be would start immediately. But Bevin did not say a single "

" word to illustrate this situation. This makes us suspect that "

" his main worry is not exactly the suffering and the danger "

" of starvation that threatrns Europe. At the same time foreign "

" Minister Byrnes made the following proposal:-The navigation "

" of the Danube River ought to be open to all States and Ships "

" in conditions of absolute equality. On the other hand, Bevin "

" requested a Danubian Conference to settle this problem at "

" some future date to be established. On this occasion he made "

" the following statement:- We do not want to dictate our will "

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" to the Danubian States and we are not going to forget their "

" interests. We simply want to restore our pre-war rights.- "

" What are these rights and these interests that make Bevin so "

" anxious? It is obvious that he is referring to the two Inter- "

" national Commissions that had almost absolute power on the "

" traffic of the Danube during the pre-war years. And we should "

" not forget that Russia had been thrown out of both Commissions "

" by the unequivocal wish of Great Britain. The first one was "

" called -European Commission-. It was formed in 1856 after the "

" Crimean War and it controlled the lower Danube from BRAILA, in "

" Rumania, to the sea. In 1914 this commission was formed by the "

" following nations: England, France, Germany, Italy, Austria "

" Turkey, Russia and Rumania. It was a very strange Danubian Com- "

" mission indeed, as not all these nations were even bordering "

" with the regions of the Danube River. Its composition, however "

" can be explained as a move of the occidental powers to watch "

" the military activities of Russia. On this point all historians "

" agree. Germany, Austria and Turkey were expelled from this "

" Commission in 1918, at the end of the First World War. Soviet "

" Russia was left out at Versailles, after deliberation by the "

" great powers. At the same time France and England gave their "

" full support to Rumania for the annexation of Bessarabia; in "

" such a way the Soviet Nation was completely excluded from the "

" Danube Basin. It is interesting to note that in 1939 England "

" and France fully agreed to re-admit Germany to this Commission "

" of control, according to a proposal made by Rumania. It is "

" therefore evident that the British participation to this com- "

" mission does not have much to do with the economical interests "

" of England. On the contrary, it seems to us that this shows ve- "

" rily clearly the hostile attitude of the British against the "

" Soviet Regime. The second Commission was called -International "

" Commission- and was created at Versailles in 1920. It controlled "

" the Danube from Ulm in Germany as far as Braila, Rumania, and it "

" had been formed with representatives of every nation touched "

" by the Danube. The representatives of the winning nations were "

" also represented. It goes without saying that the Soviet Union "

" was not even invited to participate to this commission, although "

" its interest in the problem was far more important than those "

" of Great Britain, as it can be easily noticed from any map of "

" Europe. In any event, the British Government felt very much "

" satisfied for having created such a tense situation. In Septem- "

" ber 1940 Hitler tried to create a new, centralized system of "

" control of the Danube, after having conquered central and south- "

" eastern Europe, excluding once again Russia. The Soviet Govern- "

" ment protested immediately, and an agreement was eventually "

" reached in the month of October of the same year. The two old "

" Commissions were dissolved, and a new Commission was created "

" with functions of control of all Danubian waters.

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" Representative of the States touched by the river and Italy, were"
" the only one included. This time it was the turn of the British "
" Government to protest, and, with incredible effrontery, the note "
" of protest was sent to the Soviet Union, the very same country "
" England had always excluded from the Danubian question for so many "
" years. It was only natural, therefore, that the Soviet Government "
" answered as follows:- The constitution of the Danubian Commission "
" composed exclusively of Danubian States or States directly inte- "
" rested in the Danubian question, was nothing but an act of justi- "
" ce, the same justice biolated by the Treaty of Verasailles and "
" other treaties, which, through the intervention of Great Britain "
" had completely excluded the Soviet Union from the International "
" and from the European Commissions.- Attlee and Bevin had formulat- "
" ed the note of protest. We do not have to add that they never "
" opposed the admission of Russia to the Danubian Control Commission "
" It is therefore evident that Bevin's worry is not the hunger that "
" is now threatening many European countries, but the loss of some "
" key points used by England to dominate South-Eastern Europe. "
" It is absurd to speak of British interests in the Danube, as many "
" statistics can easily prove. Geographically, England has as much "
" right to controlt the Danube as Argentina or China. The United "
" States have even less right to claim any interest in the Danubian "
" Basin. If the Americans are so insistent, however, there is at "
" least a material basis to their claims, as it was Arthur Morgan, "
" former President of that splendid organization called "Tennessee "
" Valley Authority" (that netted so many fat profits for its orga- "
" nizers), who stated that a "Tennessee Valley Authority" was ne- "
" cessary for the Danube River. Sumner Wells, former Secretary of "
" the Amerucan Foreign Office, prophesized the birth of a new "
" industrial civilization if this ever took place. This would "
" undoubtedly be a great develpment. But American businessmen want "
" a Danubian Commission under their control. It is therefore quite "
" evident that this organization would never bring appreciable "
" advantages to those nations that live and work on the Danube. "

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