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COUNTER INTELLIGENCE CORPS
MILAN DETACHMENT ZONE 3
APO 512 c/o GSI(b) 2 District, CMF

15 January 1946

SUBJECT: Demonstration at the Municipal Building

TO : GSI(b), No. 2 District

1. On 11 January 1946, at 1100 hours a group of about 350 "reduci" (repatriated ex-prisoners of war and ex-slave laborers) proceeded to Via Adua and Via Rastelli where they formed a human cordon and blocked off the municipal building refusing entry to the general public and forcing the clerks at the information windows to cease their work..

2. The "reduci" demanded that all feminine employees of the "Municipio" quit their jobs and allow men who have been recently returned from Axis prison camps, and who are suffering great hardships because of unemployment, take over their positions.

3. At this point, Questura agents and the municipal police intervened and "broke up" the demonstration without any serious incidents or damage to persons or property.

4. Soon after the vice prefect informed the "reduci" that a plan was to be soon put into operation whereas each company in Milan and the suburbs was to hire a "reduce" in order to absorb the returning repatriates and alleviate their sufferings. At the same time the "Sindaco" promised that he would intervene and discuss the problem of feminine employees with the various industrialists.

5. As a result a communal commission has been organized to examine and to attempt to solve the problems of the "reduci". At present this commission is comprised of a representative of the "reduci", a representative of the "comune", and a representative of the industrialists of Milan.

6. Up to the present time the various companies have not complied with the first decree of the prefecture to absorb these "reduci" in their establishments. Those who refuse to comply with the decree will be haled into court for refusing to obey the law.

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7. These manifestations and protests are of course a result of the difficult situation that the "reduci" find themselves in at present. There is no doubt that the demonstration was planned, but at present there has been no indication that it was engineered by any particular political faction. The "Comitate Reduci" sanctioned the demonstration but it is doubtful that its objective was political. The organizers seem to have acted spontaneously so that the plight of the "reduci" be brought to public light.

8. It must be kept in mind however that certain political parties profit by these public disorders and are always ready to assist if not to organize demonstrations of the character.

9. This office will keep you informed of any future developments.

Nicholas G. Matsis
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Major, MI
Supervising Agent

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