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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

OFFICE OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

April 17, 1947

A-H/R - Mr. Warren

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SE:WBSale

A-C/R, Adviser on Refugees
and Displaced Persons
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

NEW WAR DEPARTMENT BUILDING

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP
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WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

21 January 1947

COUNTRY:

SUBJECT: Vatican-Sponsored International Emigration Organization

DATE OF REPORT: November 1946

EVALUATION:

instances indicating the intended smuggling out of Italy of high-ranking Fascists or other politically compromised persons under Church protection, have recently assumed a more concrete form.

2. BACKGROUND: In about August, 1945, the existance was noted of a church organization known as the O.N.A.R.M.O. (OPERA NAZIONALE ASSISTENZA RELIGIOSA MORALE OPERAI - National Organization for the Religious and Moral Assistance to Workmen) whose aim was that of placing chaplains in all large factories to counteract the influence and propaganda of similarly placed Communist Party personnel. Thus, while the organization's aims were primarily religious, they had a certain underlying political bent, in view of their anti-Communism.

This organization was headed by a priest named Don TORRAZZA in Genoa, a very close associate of the Auxiliary Bishop of Genoa, Monsignor SIRI. It was financially backed by a group of men of considerable business influence, notably Rocco PIAGGIO, Conte Anselmo TORONI LO FARO, of the Lo Faro Soap Factory, and Marchese Giannetto De CAVI. It was learned that Monsignor SIRI was contemplating founding an anti-Communist organization, to be fused eventually with the Monarchist "TRICOLORE" movement, already existing in Genoa and Turin, should this movement prove reliable.

3. DEVELOPMENT

A) International Emigration Organization:

Nothing was heard of this organization nor of its protagonists until just recently when their names reappeared

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as associated with a movement in Italy aiming to create, or to fuse with, an international organization whose purpose is to arrange for the emigration of anti-Communist Europeans to South America, more especially ARGENTINA, BRAZIL, PARAGUAY and PERU. [redacted] reportedly went to Rome this summer to confer with Holy See personalities in connection with the creation of such an organization which was to provide an outlet into the undeveloped areas of South America for excess or destitute European populations, [redacted] An agreement has reportedly been reached with the Argentine Government in this connection. This general classification of anti-Communists would obviously cover all persons politically compromised with the Communists, namely Fascists and Ustaschi and other similar groups.

It was learned that a mission was to be sent to South America sponsored by the Holy See and administered by the Pontifical Missions, to explore the suitable areas for the development of small communities, and whose natural resources could be exploited through economic enterprise. This Mission

[redacted]

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4. LATEST INFORMATION

A) O.N.A.R.M.O. Becomes O.I.A.R.M.O. (OPERA INTERNAZIONALE ASSISTENZA RELIGIOSA MORALE OPERAI).

The foregoing paragraphs constitute the background and development of this project, on which the following is now received in a report dated 5 November.

It is notable that the organization has now changed its name, stressing its present international character.

It is now stated that the head of this Vatican-sponsored project is Cardinal BANDELLI, not TORRAZZA as had been thought. The laymen directors are given as the following:

Conte Anselmo FORONI LO FARO
COSTA (no further details yet available)
CERNI (no further details yet available)

It has also been ascertained that [redacted] this Vatican Mission, left Rome in September for BRAZIL, [redacted] to prepare the way for the immigration to South America of about a million immigrants coming from all European countries.

B) Formation of the Firm, A.T.R.I.V.I.

A commercial firm to be called the A.T.R.I.V.I. (meaning not yet known) is to be formed to handle the intricate details of transportation involved, and will be the executive agency acting under the O.I.A.R.M.O. The Vatican has assumed responsibility of arranging this and is reportedly already making contacts with Italian and foreign shipowners. There is also talk of the Vatican running a small fleet of ships under its own flag for the transportation of the emigrants. The expenses are to be derived as far as possible by the emigrants themselves, supplemented by subscriptions received by the Vatican from international sources.

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5. KNOWN BIOGRAPHICAL DATA ON PERSONALITIES MENTIONED

H.E. Rev.ma Monsignor Giuseppe SIRI: Auxiliary Bishop of of Genoa. Titular Bishop of Liviade.

Monsignore Aurelio TORRAZZA: A close collaborator of Monsignor SIRI. Strongly anti-Communist.

[redacted]

Count Anselmo FORONI LO FARO: Born Genoa 8 June, 1911. Address: 8 Corso Paganini, Genoa.

Count FORONI inherited both the LO FARO title and the LO FARO Soap Works from his uncle and aunt, whose adopted daughter he married.

He is described as a man who leads a quiet life, not carrying on any political activity during the German occupation. He is now a member of the Demo-Christian Party.

[redacted]

COSTA: May possibly be identical with Angelo COSTA, an olive oil industrialist in Liguria who supported right wing partisans against an anticipated Communist coup d'etat in August, 1945.

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