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NO. PIR-56

EXTERNAL SURVEY DETACHMENT
INTELLIGENCE REPORT
Rome

COUNTRY Italy

DATE: 24 October 1946

SUBJECT Conferences Between AIS Representatives and
Vatican Officials (Father Robert LEIBER,
Magr. TARDINI, Acting Secretary of State
for the Holy See)

INFO. 9 October 1946

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ORIGIN (copy)

SUPPLEMENT

EVALUATION OF SOURCE 3						EVALUATION OF CONTENT 2					
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COMPLETELY RELIABLE	USUALLY RELIABLE	FAIRLY RELIABLE	NOT USUALLY RELIABLE	NOT RELIABLE	CANNOT BE JUDGED	CONFIRMED OTHER SOUR.	PROBABLY TRUE	POSSIBLY TRUE	DOUBTFUL	PROBABLY FALSE	CANNOT BE JUDGED

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1. Padre LEIBER was invited to attend a conference which was held on 16 September 1946 by Mr. LEWIS and the undersigned. LEIBER agreed on basic principles of "collaboration" with the U.S. Intelligence Service. These are:

- a) Friendly relations between the United States and the Vatican.
- b) Identity of interests concerning Communism.
- c) Not anti-Russian but anti-Bolshevik attitude.

2. Based on the opinion of Mr. LEWIS, LEIBER suggested that the undersigned contact Magr. TARDINI, acting Secretary of State, since on an important question such as this, it was advisable to consult the highest level and speak frankly.

3. On LEIBER's previous introduction, TARDINI received the undersigned on 8 October 1946. TARDINI's statement in brief is as follows:

The Holy See has no Intelligence Service and does not need one. In spite of this, the Vatican is very rich in all types of news because it receives much information from both its friends and enemies. From time to time TARDINI is given news of common interest to the representative of the President of the U.S.A., and knows how important this is to justify the Representative's presence in Rome, agrees that there are common interests against Communism. The Holy See regrets very much that the Allies did not follow its suggestion after the liberation of Rome. There was another opportunity given at that time to make a sharp cut between Communist forces and the people of good will; but it was the Allies who forced the Communist Party upon Italy. Since TARDINI and the Holy See cannot have official contact with any intelligence service, TARDINI, as acting Secretary of State, agrees completely to the U.S. Service receiving information from MUEWICH in Germany, who receives all the news from the Vatican. Nevertheless, TARDINI says he will discuss the problem with Father LEIBER again, and he told Source he would be welcomed any time he should return.

4. After the meeting of 9 October, Source had another meeting with Father LEIBER at the Papal Residency of Castel Gandolfo. LEIBER's statement follows:

What TARDINI said is the most that could be expected from him. It must be kept in mind that TARDINI, as the highest authority, cannot make open agreement

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without endangering the Vatican's position. Everything that affects Msgr. MUDENCH affects other officials also. In Rome, LEIBER will be the main contact man and he is willing to give as much information as possible. He is fully aware that he is running as great a risk again as he ran when involved on behalf of the Church in the conspiracy lead by Admiral CANARIS. On special questions Father HERMAN S.J. rector of the Oriental Institute, will aid if needed. It is up to us to be ready to give safe names in Poland, East Prussia, Russian zone of Germany, and Hungary. During the first meeting, LEIBER mentioned that he was prepared to answer more and deeper questions from Mr. LEWIS. However, later he recognized that this was a formal visit for general purposes.

Thus, contact continues with LEIBER; Father ZEIGER (S.J., Assistant to Msgr. MUDENCH in Germany and Professor of Gregoriana); Father HOESCH, head of the German Jesuits, Munich; Father MAS, Russian-Polish-Uranian expert of the Oriental Institute; and Father HERMAN.

Signed: KILKENNY

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