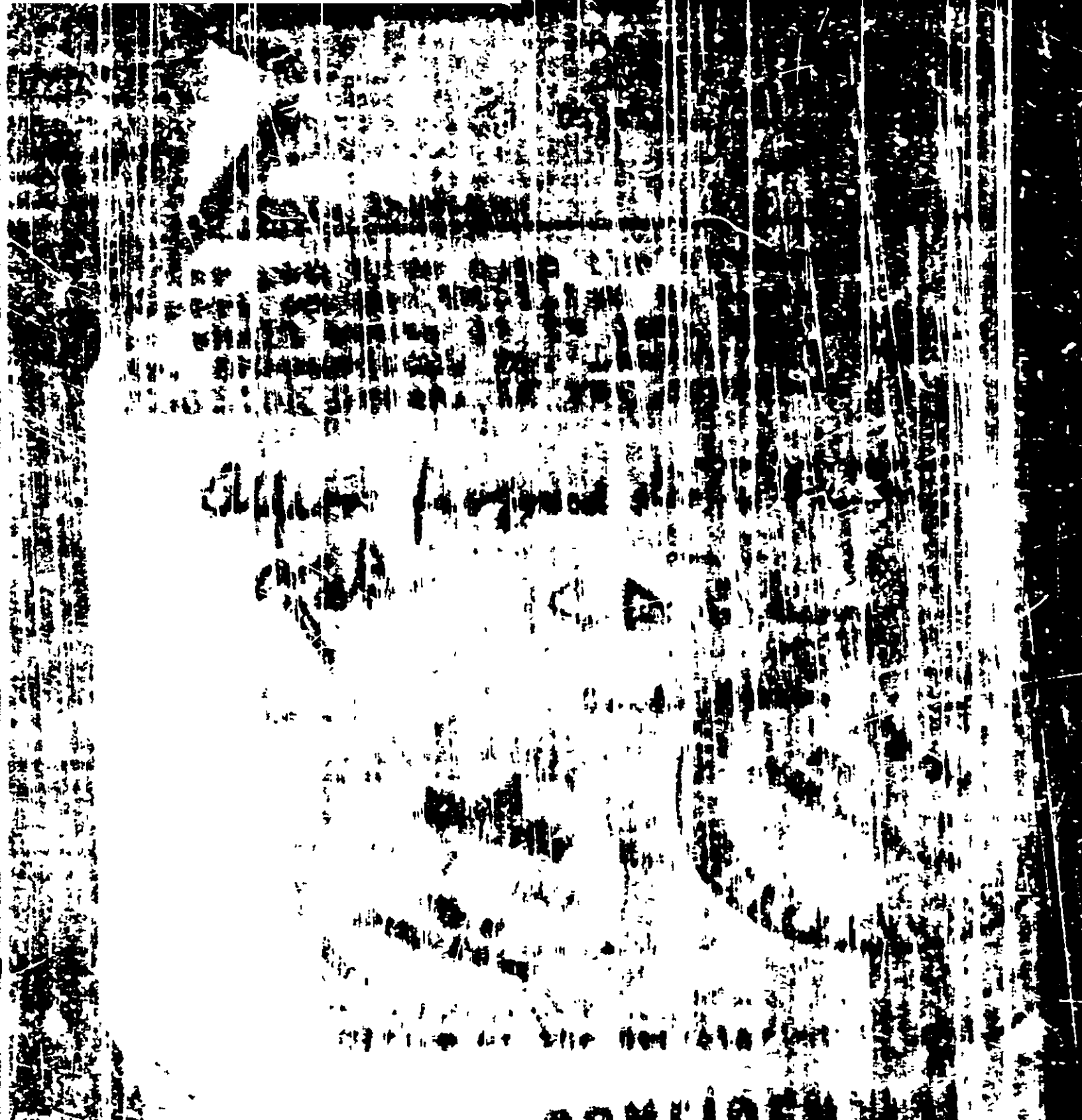


Declassified and Approved For Release 2014/09/16 :
CIA-RDP13X00001R000100160001-6



Declassified and Approved For Release 2014/09/16 :
CIA-RDP13X00001R000100160001-6

INFORMATION

CONFIDENTIAL

GOUVERNEUR

Date: 23 JAN 1954
Source: [illegible]
Data No: [illegible]

SUBJECT: Political Situation in Sicily

| No. | Dist. No. | Date | Initials | Indicate action desired |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|------|----------|-------------------------|
| Gen. Magruder | 121 Central | 2/1 | 2/15 | [initials] |
| Planning Group | Central | 2/15 | 3/1 | [initials] |
| Mr. Sheperdson | 225 | | | |
| Mr. [illegible] | | | | |
| Dr. [illegible] | War AB- Ext. [illegible] | | | |
| Mrs. O'Donnell | Admins- [illegible] | | | |
| Central Info Div. | War AB- Ext. [illegible] | | | |

WAR AB-
EXT. [illegible]



CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. The Mayor

Attn: Mr. J. V. [unclear]

Date: 2 February 1954

SUBJECT: Political situation in Sicily

I. CHARACTERISTICS OF SICILIAN POLITICS. The poverty and misery of the large majority of the population together with centuries of irresponsible misgovernment has given to Sicilian politics certain peculiar characteristics.

A. Opportunism and nepotism. Most Sicilian politicians are completely opportunistic and will change program and principles on a few days notice if they think the political wind is veering. Nepotism and favoritism are so normal that even what is rightly due a citizen is sought through personal and familial rather than normal government channels. Political parties do not exist in the sense in which that term is understood elsewhere in western Europe. They tend to be cliques held together by personal and familial ties and the hope of office. Many of the top level politicians deal in the black market and have connections with the criminal elements of the Mafia.

B. Impatience for positive action. The population is generally quite unable to organize itself for positive action, even when the need is desperate. The population will put up considerable passive resistance to an unpopular government but regards the state, as distinct from itself, as responsible for all positive measures.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

... of political activity...
 ... and political activity...
 ... of laborers and especially peasants...
 ... and organized conflicts with the problem of existence...
 ... of the peasants can within reach...
 ... area is the belt of coastal towns which stretch...
 ... through Palermo and Messina to Catania. This area has the...
 ... density of population, in the most advanced economic life...
 ... in the center of habitation for the latifondisti as well as the...
 ... wealthy bourgeois elements, and is the only area where small hold-
 ings predominate.

II. BASIC POLITICAL FORCES. In view of these peculiarities Sicilian poli-
 tics must be understood in terms of certain basic social groupings
 and their political interests.

- A. The latifondisti (landed aristocracy). The large land-owners, to-
 gether with their administrative dependents, are the dominant group.
 They have been in the saddle since the twelfth century and a pres-
 ent habit most of the important political offices, control the supply
 of grain (the basic commodity in Sicilian economy), and are strongly
 represented in the universities and in banking. They are extremely
 conservative and have a pre-French-revolution outlook. As a group
 they welcomed the advent of Fascism, regarding it as a means of pre-
 serving their position, but gradually turned against that regime
 when it began to impose burdensome taxes and to talk of assaulting
 the latifondisti. They are now strongly conscious and indeed fearful
 of the weakness of their position in face of the social reform pro-
 gram of the majority of political parties.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

The political system in the Republic of China is a single party system. The political system will probably become a two party system in the future. It is to be noted that when a two party system is established, the interests of the people will be better protected. The party is organized only locally.

The power of the government is based on the principle of the separation of powers and is exercised by the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches. The government is organized on the basis of the principle of the separation of powers. The government is organized on the basis of the principle of the separation of powers. The government is organized on the basis of the principle of the separation of powers. The government is organized on the basis of the principle of the separation of powers.

The government is organized on the basis of the principle of the separation of powers. The government is organized on the basis of the principle of the separation of powers. The government is organized on the basis of the principle of the separation of powers. The government is organized on the basis of the principle of the separation of powers. The government is organized on the basis of the principle of the separation of powers.

The government is organized on the basis of the principle of the separation of powers. The government is organized on the basis of the principle of the separation of powers. The government is organized on the basis of the principle of the separation of powers. The government is organized on the basis of the principle of the separation of powers. The government is organized on the basis of the principle of the separation of powers.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

The situation in the economy, prices of the lire, have
 essentially fixed. This problem was perhaps insoluble
 of currency, and the measures taken by the Allied authorities
 have the situation each worse. 1) The exchange rate of lire for
 dollar was fixed at a ratio which in effect more than halved the
 purchasing power of the lire in the local market and so gave
 prices a tremendous boost. 2) AMG fixed the official price of
 grain at five lire the kilo, a price which, in view of rising
 labor costs, meant that producers who sold to the official market
 sold at a loss. Wheat is somewhere above 40 lire the kilo on the
 black market. 3) There was no serious effort made to control the
 volume of currency Allied military personnel put into circula-
 tion. 4) For enforcing the regulations against black marketear-
 ing AMG has had to depend on the Carabinieri and the Pubblica
 Sicurezza, the latter body being the Fascist secret police. The
 loyalty of both groups to the Allied regime is dubious and their
 salaries, while augmented, are not sufficient to allow them to
 earn a living by legal means. Members of both organizations are
 in fact taking part in black market activities instead of attempt-
 ing to suppress them. Thus instead of a difficult but passable
 food situation the situation is characterized by a tremendous
 inflationary movement of prices which has made the black market
 virtually the only market and by an ominous increase in crime
 and traffic in weapons. Wheat has had to be imported to prevent
 the outbreak of serious disorders.

D. Failures of AMG: the problem of delinquenza. The present wave of
 burglary and violence (there are several instances of serious
 riots) is the direct result of passing the lower classes, particu-

CONFIDENTIAL

SECRET

CONFIDENTIAL

The first part of the report deals with the general situation in the country. It is noted that the government has been unable to carry out its program of economic development and that the country is in a state of economic stagnation. The report also mentions that the government has been unable to carry out its program of social development and that the country is in a state of social stagnation.

The second part of the report deals with the political situation in the country. It is noted that the government has been unable to carry out its program of political development and that the country is in a state of political stagnation. The report also mentions that the government has been unable to carry out its program of political development and that the country is in a state of political stagnation.

The third part of the report deals with the military situation in the country. It is noted that the government has been unable to carry out its program of military development and that the country is in a state of military stagnation. The report also mentions that the government has been unable to carry out its program of military development and that the country is in a state of military stagnation.

The fourth part of the report deals with the foreign relations of the country. It is noted that the government has been unable to carry out its program of foreign relations and that the country is in a state of foreign relations stagnation. The report also mentions that the government has been unable to carry out its program of foreign relations and that the country is in a state of foreign relations stagnation.

The fifth part of the report deals with the internal security of the country. It is noted that the government has been unable to carry out its program of internal security and that the country is in a state of internal security stagnation. The report also mentions that the government has been unable to carry out its program of internal security and that the country is in a state of internal security stagnation.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

-30-

CONFIDENTIAL

which now stand to be popularly identified with democratic prin-
ciples, are long continued. The Sicilians are very sure with relief to
a new despotic and reactionary regime.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. General [Name]
[Address]
[City, State, Zip]

My dear General [Name]:

I appreciate very much the message you sent
to me through Stanley Levell.

I am glad we have of some service, and I hope
you will continue to make use of us.

Sincerely,

William J. Donovan
Director

- (1) [Illegible text]
- (2) [Illegible text]
- (3) [Illegible text]
- (4) [Illegible text]
- (5) [Illegible text]
- (6) [Illegible text]
- (7) [Illegible text]
- (8) [Illegible text]
- (9) [Illegible text]
- (10) [Illegible text]
- (11) [Illegible text]
- (12) [Illegible text]
- (13) [Illegible text]
- (14) [Illegible text]
- (15) [Illegible text]
- (16) [Illegible text]
- (17) [Illegible text]
- (18) [Illegible text]
- (19) [Illegible text]
- (20) [Illegible text]
- (21) [Illegible text]
- (22) [Illegible text]
- (23) [Illegible text]
- (24) [Illegible text]
- (25) [Illegible text]
- (26) [Illegible text]
- (27) [Illegible text]
- (28) [Illegible text]
- (29) [Illegible text]
- (30) [Illegible text]
- (31) [Illegible text]
- (32) [Illegible text]
- (33) [Illegible text]
- (34) [Illegible text]
- (35) [Illegible text]
- (36) [Illegible text]
- (37) [Illegible text]
- (38) [Illegible text]
- (39) [Illegible text]
- (40) [Illegible text]
- (41) [Illegible text]
- (42) [Illegible text]
- (43) [Illegible text]
- (44) [Illegible text]
- (45) [Illegible text]
- (46) [Illegible text]
- (47) [Illegible text]
- (48) [Illegible text]
- (49) [Illegible text]
- (50) [Illegible text]
- (51) [Illegible text]
- (52) [Illegible text]
- (53) [Illegible text]
- (54) [Illegible text]
- (55) [Illegible text]
- (56) [Illegible text]
- (57) [Illegible text]
- (58) [Illegible text]
- (59) [Illegible text]
- (60) [Illegible text]
- (61) [Illegible text]
- (62) [Illegible text]
- (63) [Illegible text]
- (64) [Illegible text]
- (65) [Illegible text]
- (66) [Illegible text]
- (67) [Illegible text]
- (68) [Illegible text]
- (69) [Illegible text]
- (70) [Illegible text]
- (71) [Illegible text]
- (72) [Illegible text]
- (73) [Illegible text]
- (74) [Illegible text]
- (75) [Illegible text]
- (76) [Illegible text]
- (77) [Illegible text]
- (78) [Illegible text]
- (79) [Illegible text]
- (80) [Illegible text]
- (81) [Illegible text]
- (82) [Illegible text]
- (83) [Illegible text]
- (84) [Illegible text]
- (85) [Illegible text]
- (86) [Illegible text]
- (87) [Illegible text]
- (88) [Illegible text]
- (89) [Illegible text]
- (90) [Illegible text]
- (91) [Illegible text]
- (92) [Illegible text]
- (93) [Illegible text]
- (94) [Illegible text]
- (95) [Illegible text]
- (96) [Illegible text]
- (97) [Illegible text]
- (98) [Illegible text]
- (99) [Illegible text]
- (100) [Illegible text]

May 3, 1960

Mr. Central Intelligence
Washington, D. C.

I failed to get you by phone but I hope you
were at a conference and would be

I have just heard from Boby that they
want you to start to investigate in the
area of the... the... of...
... they will... that...
... you requested.

Will keep you advised.

Sincerely,

William J. Donovan
Director

5/12
To [unclear]
15/12
The [unclear] 147