

DECLASSIFIED
by MMO 867125
VR NARA Date 8/7

Rec'd: November 3, 1943

04

It appears the Moscow Conference deliberations have brought about radical change in policy of AMGOT. Italian opposition cannot but attribute to the Russian delegation this important victory of the democratic spirit over the military and regret that the ~~democratic~~ democratic states failed to adopt earlier a policy which common sense rendered inevitable. But perhaps it is the role of the democrats in our era always to be ~~xxx~~ towed.

You are quite familiar with trend the workers movement is taking in Italy. The democratic current is very strong in the factories, in the regional committees and in the unions, but during these last weeks the bolshevist current has succeeded in getting hold of the central set-up of the workers movement and for the first time I am beginning to fear that the idea of liberty among the Italian workers is running the risk of being weakened for the benefit of dictatorial illusions. Without going to the extreme of some of my friends who expect a soviet revolution in Italy shortly, I believe that the democratic ideal is at present in grave danger in my country. All the reports I have received during the last weeks confirm this. (Naturally I use the word danger from the point of view of a liberal socialist and not in the capitalist sense). The use of terror by the Germans, hunger, the existence of partisan bands, the uncertainty of the future, the weakness of the Allies, all are factors of radicalisation.

Advantage must be taken of the fact that the liberation of Italy is proceeding slowly from south to north to give the democratic parties sufficient force to win over the Italian population. This is our task, but as I have explained to you, most of our political friends from the southern regions are living abroad, mostly in America. It would be very wise to permit, immediately, 10, 15 or 20 Italian social-democrats living in the USA to return to Italy to develop political influence favorable for the publication of papers, organization of conferences, etc. Antonini and Montana could indicate to the ~~State~~ State Dept. persons most qualified for this task. Persons living in South American should also be included.