

ALLEGATO N. 1

**FOTOCOPIA DEL RAPPORTO NESTER PUBBLICATO SUL
« BORGHESE » N. 23 DEL 4 GIUGNO 1972 A PAGINA 327**

LEGISLATURA VI — DISEGNI DI LEGGE E RELAZIONI - DOCUMENTI

NO. 682

NOV 8 1944

AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL

Palermo, Italy - November 21, 1944.

1944 NOV 21 14 10:35

Subject: Meeting of Maffia Leaders with General Giuseppe Castellano and formation of group favoring autonomy.

SECRET**THE HONORABLE****THE SECRETARY OF STATE,**

WASHINGTON

S:R:

I have the honor to report that on November 18, 1944 General Giuseppe Castellano, together with Maffia leaders including Calogero Vizzini conferred with Virgilio Nasi, head of the well-known Nasi family in Trapani and asked him to take over the leadership of a Maffia-backed movement for Sicilian autonomy which will have the cooperation of the FDOS and the Legge Agricoltura.

This movement has not yet matured to the point where a full report can be made and the following information is based on such data as have come to hand, but it is reliable.

General Castellano, who is a Sicilian, took command of the re-activated Aosta Division in the beginning of October and since that time has been very active in studying the Sicilian problem and looking for a solution. He has developed close contacts with the Maffia leaders and has met them on frequent occasions.

As reported in my despatch No. 375 dated November 18, 1944, prominent members of the Maffia met in Palermo and one of the results of this conference was the decision to ask Virgilio Nasi of Trapani to head up this movement with the ultimate intention of his becoming Chief Commissioner. The Nasi family have been well known in the Province of Trapani for at least two generations and are highly respected by all classes. It is understood that Nasi is a Labor Democrat but he has played little part in the political upheavals on the island throughout the past year.

During the next few weeks an active campaign will get underway to gain more adherents to the movement. The FDOS, which as already reported is very strong, will, of course, cooperate and I believe it quite likely that many of the followers of Finocchiaro-Aprile, who is losing popularity and the confidence of the people, will join with the Nasi followers. Their platform has not

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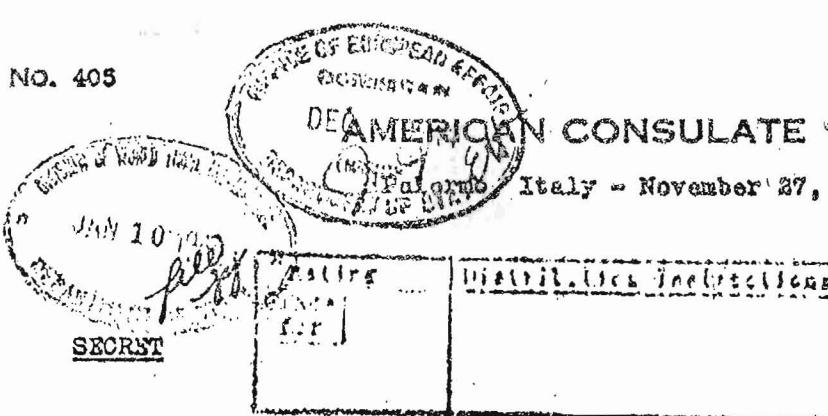
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LEGISLATURA VI — DISEGNI DI LEGGE E RELAZIONI - DOCUMENTI

NO. 405



SECRET

SUBJECT: Formation of Group favoring Autonomy
under direction of Maffia. 18E

THE HONORABLE
THE SECRETARY OF STATE,
WASHINGTON.

SIR:

I have the honor to refer to my despatch No. 382, dated November 21, 1944, entitled "Meeting of Maffia Leaders with General Giuseppe Castellano and formation of group favoring autonomy."

There is quoted below an O.S.S. report on the same subject which gives a few additional details regarding the formation of this movement.

"After a series of secret meetings with exponents of the Maffia in Palermo for three days, General Giuseppe Castellano, Commanding the Aosta Division in Sicily, has struck a tentative agreement on selection and support of a candidate for high commissioner to replace incumbent Salvatore Aldisio, of the Democratic-Christian party.

"The move is in the immature stage as yet, but is expected to develop quickly, probably this coming week. The candidate is a dark horse, a famous Sicilian, Virgilio Nasi, "boss" of Trapani province, who was approached by General Castellano after broaching his plan to high Maffia leaders during the week.

"The meeting between General Castellano and Nasi came on Saturday in an out-of-the-way seashore villa at Castellamare del Golfo. Present were two of Nasi's lieutenants, General Castellano's former aid in North Africa and Rome, the former Captain Vito Guerrasi, and Atty. Vito Fodera.

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