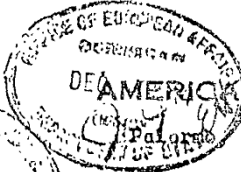


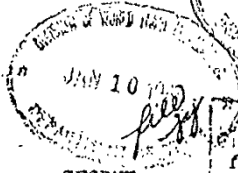
LEGISLATURA VI — DISEGNI DI LEGGE E RELAZIONI - DOCUMENTI

No. 405



AMERICAN CONSULATE

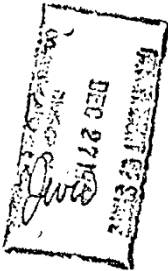
Palermo Italy - November 27, 1944



Routing	Distribution Instructions
for	

SECRET

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



THE HONORABLE
THE SECRETARY OF STATE,
WASHINGTON.

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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."

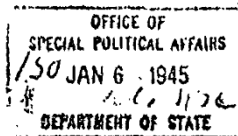
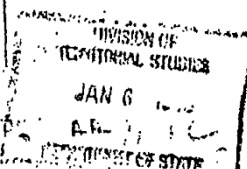
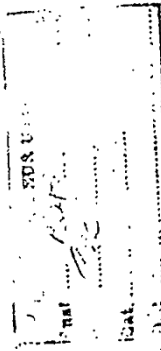
There is quoted below an O.S.S. report on the same subject which gives a few additional details regarding the formation of this movement.

"After a series of secret meetings with exponents of the Maffia, in Palermo for three days, General Giuseppe Castellana, 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 Castellana after broaching his plan to high Maffia leaders during the week.

"The meeting between General Castellana 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 Castellana's former aid in North Africa and Rome, the former Captain Vito Guarrasi, and Atty. Vito Federa.

"Together



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