

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No.

785015

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No.

785015

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PUBLIC HEALTH, RELIEF  
AUG. - OCT. 1943

30p.

U.S. RESTRICTED -  
EQU. 3 BRITISH RESTRICTED

1140/2  
PH  
ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS  
Military Government Section

9A  
DW/jw

15 October 1943

SUBJECT: Civilian Relief.

TO : AMG (P)  
H.Q., A.C. ✓

7885 Attached copy of this HQ cable, reference number dated 15 October 1943, originated after receipt of a request from the War Department, Washington, D. C., is forwarded for your information.

*[Signature]*  
D. S. JACKLING  
Lt. Colonel

1 Incl.  
as above.

U. S. RESTRICTED  
EQU. 3 BRITISH RESTRICTED

CRI

16/10/43/2162

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CALL

CIRCUIT No. \_\_\_\_\_

PRIORITY

TRANSMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

NR

SPACES WITHIN HEAVY LINES FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY

FROM

ORIGINATOR

DATE-TIME OF ORIGIN

(A)

## FREEDOM

OCTOBER 15, 2004

## FOR ACTION

TO

IRS

(W) FOR INFORMATION (INFO)

15 ARMY GROUP

### MESSAGE INSTRUCTIONS

GR

(Ref. No.)

(CLASSIFICATION)

RESTRICTED

|              |      |
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| THI or TOR   | Opr. |
| TIME CLEARED | 5153 |

## DISTRIBUTION

## PRECEDENCE

ROUTINE

THI OR TOR

Orig.

SCE

ORIGINATING

SECTION MILITARY GOVERNMENT SECTION

DTC  
CIVIL AFFAIRS

CONTENT AND CLASSIFICATION AUTHENTICATED

G-4

BY:

NAME TYPED MAJOR T. B. JACKMAN

AD RECORDS

TEL No

498

RND CROSS (AMER)

REF AGEAR CABLE 51 TAM 43

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ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS  
Military Government Section

DM/Jm

MCS-308-1

14 October 1943

SUBJECT: Programme of the Italian Red Cross in Sicily  
and Procedures for Dealing with the Organization.

TO : A.M.G. (P) (1 copy)  
H.Q., A.C. (1 copy) —

Copy of A.M.G. H.Q. Special Administrative Instruction,  
Public Health No. 7, on the above subject, is forwarded for your  
information.

J. C. HOLMES  
Brigadier General, G.S.C.  
Chief, Military Government Section

Copy to: Civil Affairs Division, War Dept., Wash., D.C. (1 copy)  
Director of Civil Affairs, War Office, Whitehall,  
S.W. 1 (1 copy)  
American Minister (2 copies)  
British Minister (2 copies)  
P.W.B. (1 copy)  
P.R.O. (1 copy)  
Red Cross (American) (1 copy)

CRI

15/10/43  
B.

5152

8 B

SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTION - PUBLIC HEALTH NO. 7

Program of the Italian Red Cross in Sicily and  
Procedures for dealing with the Organization.

1. Functions.

Attention is called to the instructions issued by this Headquarters on 10 September 1943 with respect to the reorganization of the Italian Red Cross in Sicily. The Red Cross in Sicily will function as an Island-wide organization. Agreement has been reached as to the program which this Organization will undertake in Sicily. The essential activities will be:

- (a) Continued operation of Italian Red Cross Hospitals where their services are deemed necessary.
- (b) Continuation of malaria control and treatment program in co-operation with Provincial Health Officers. The latter will coordinate their activities in this field within the province.
- (c) Operation of first aid stations where needed. These stations are a part of the air raid precautions organization. If air raids occur, it may be necessary to re-open some of them.
- (d) Continuation of free and pay ambulance services. The organization operates ambulances in those centers where hospitals are maintained and these are used to transport patients.
- (e) Continuation of the P.O.W. Information Exchange. Inquiries with respect to P.O.W. and other Sicilian Civilians may be forwarded to Red Cross Hq., Palermo, for action. Service in the case of P.O.W. information is necessarily limited until a clear system is established with the authorities in charge of P.O.W. Inquiries regarding other persons is limited by the extent of regular mail coverage of the Island.
- (f) Re-establishment of a disaster relief service to provide full care, medical, food, clothing and other necessities for the victims of disasters. This new responsibility will be developed as soon as conditions permit. In some areas Red Cross operates rest centers for bombed persons who have been rendered homeless.
- (g) Cooperation with existing agencies in health education.
- (i) Establishment of visiting nurses service for sick patients in their own home for those unable to pay for such care. This new responsibility will be developed in cooperation with Provincial Health Officers as circumstances permit and will be coordinated by them.

2. Finance.

As pointed out in the instructions issued on 10 September 1943, the Red Cross in Sicily is being financed by AIGOT on an Island-wide basis, and no funds should be paid to this Organization by Provincial or other officials.

In order to maintain executive control on expenditures, provincial officials of Red Cross will confer with the provincial representatives of the Public Health and Finance Divisions in preparation of quarterly budgets. Such budgets will be presented to the representatives of the Public Health and Finance Divisions of-

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There are certain fund balances in banks throughout the Island credited to the Italian Red Cross. It is expected by Finance Division that a General Order will be issued in the near future removing all restrictions on withdrawals of deposits from banks. These funds will, therefore, be available to the Italian Red Cross at that time. Provincial Finance Officers should, as soon as possible, advise Headquarters, Public Health Division, as to the amount of these balances, so that these funds may be taken into account by Headquarters when financial assistance is arranged for the Island-wide organization.

3. Administration.  
The Italian Red Cross officials at Hq in Palermo will be responsible for the effective operation of the program. It will be the duty of Provincial AMGOT Public Health Division Officers to maintain general supervision of the local activities of

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U.S. RESTRICTED -  
EQU 5 BRITISH RESTRICTED

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS  
Military Government Section

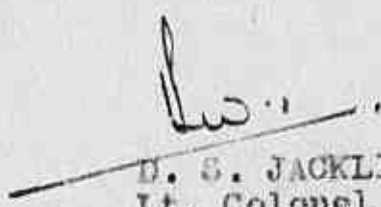
9A  
DW/JW

15 October 1943

SUBJECT: Civilian Relief.

TO : AMG (P)  
H.Q., A.C. ✓

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D. S. JACKLING  
Lt. Colonel

1 Incl.  
as above.

U. S. RESTRICTED  
Equal: BRITISH RESTRICTED

CRI

16/0ct/2162

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## AFFHQ MESSAGE FORM

D/M/Gr

7B

CALL

CIRCUIT No.

PRIORITY

TRANSMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

NR

SPACES WITHIN HEAVY LINES FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY

FROM

ORIGINATOR

DATE-TIME OF ORIGIN

(A)

FREEDOM

OCTOBER 151200A

FOR ACTION

TO

IDS

(W) FOR INFORMATION (INFO)

MESSAGE INSTRUCTIONS

GR

15 ARMY GROUP

(REF No.)

7885

(CLASSIFICATION)

RESTRICTED

LATEST INFORMATION IS REQUESTED BY AGHAR ON NEED FOR CIVILIAN RELIEF CLOTHING IN SICILY AND ITALY X PAREN TO IDS FOR SEARS FOR AMG REPEATED TO FIFTEEN ARMY GROUP FOR AMG FOR RENNELL SIGN D EISENHOWER CITY PHOTOS ~~REFERENCE AGHAR CABLE 51 TAM 43 10 OCT 43~~ ONE ~~ONE~~ OCT 43 PAREN X WILL THE NEED FOR CLOTHING BECOME ACUTE DURING THE WINTER MONTHS X ARE SIGNIFICANT QUANTITIES OF CLOTHING PRODUCED LOCALLY X HAVE ANY TENTATIVE REQUIREMENTS LISTS BEEN PREPARED X PARAGRAPH X OPTRO HAS CERTAIN QUANTITIES OF CLOTHING WHICH CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE WAR DEPARTMENT FOR SHIPMENT TO THIS THEATER CMA IF NECESSARY X PARAGRAPH X ITEMS INCLUDE CIV USED CLOTHING FOR MEN CMA WOMEN AND CHILDREN CMA MACHINERY CMA WOOL TROUSERS CMA POLO SHIRTS CMA MEN'S SOCKS CMA MEN'S BELTS CMA HOSIERY AND GLOVES CMA SWEATERS CMA MENS CMA BOYS CMA CHILDREN'S AND INFANTS SWEATERS CMA MENS CMA WOMENS CMA CHILDREN'S AND INFANTS UNDERWEAR CMA MENS CMA WOMENS CMA BOYS ~~AND~~ SLEEVES CMA COTTON BLANKETS CMA PIECE GOODS CMA DIAPERS AND DIAPER CLOTH CMA AND COTTON FILLED COMFORTERS ~~AND~~ X PARAGRAPH X NECESSARY TO FURNISH TO THIS HQ FULL INFORMATION CONCERNING DEGREE OF NEED CIVILIAN RELIEF CLOTHING

DISTRIBUTION

SCS  
DTC  
CIVIL AFFAIRS  
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AG RECORDS  
HQS  
RED CROSS (AMER)

PRECEDENCE: ROUTINE

ORIGINATING  
SECTION MILITARY GOVERNMENT SECTION  
CONTENT AND CLASSIFICATION AUTHENTICATED  
BY:  
NAME TYPED MAJOR T. B. JACKMAN  
TEL No. 498

THI or TOR

Opr.

TIME CLEARED

5153

785015

AC  
1140/3 PS  
0 8 A

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS  
Military Government Section

DS/jm

AGS-808-1

14 October 1943

SUBJECT: Programme of the Italian Red Cross in Sicily  
and Procedures for Dealing with the Organization.

TO : A.M.G. (P) (1 copy)  
H.Q., A.C. (1 copy) —

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Public Health No. 7, on the above subject, is forwarded for your  
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J. C. HOLMES  
Brigadier General, G.S.C.  
Chief, Military Government Section

Copy to: Civil Affairs Division, War Dept., Wash., D.C. (1 copy)  
Director of Civil Affairs, War Office, Whitehall,  
S.W. 1 (1 copy)  
American Minister (2 copies)  
British Minister (2 copies)  
P.W.B. (1 copy)  
P.R.O. (1 copy)  
Red Cross (American) (1 copy)

CR/

15/10/43  
B. 2137

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8 B

SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTION - PUBLIC HEALTH NO. 7

Program of the Italian Red Cross in Sicily and  
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-2-

the organization and to coordinate them with AMGOT activities in related fields. It is intended, however, that the actual administrative responsibility shall lodge in headquarters officers of the Italian Red Cross who will visit their personnel in the field from time to time. If, in the opinion of AMGOT provincial personnel, changes are required at the local level, i.e., changes of personnel, improvements in services, changes in wages, disciplinary action, change in hospital status, etc., such recommendations should be forwarded to AMGOT HQ., Public Health Division, and if approved, the matter will be dealt with between HQ. and Italian Red Cross Headquarters. S.C.A.O.'s will be advised regarding action taken on their recommendations.

#### 4. Red Cross Hospitals.

S.C.A.O.'s are requested to consider, in consultation with their S.A.P.H.O.'s the question of the closing wholly or partially of the Red Cross Hospitals in their Provinces. The following points will guide them in reaching a decision:

1. Extent of damage to civil hospitals and time required to effect repairs.
2. Availability of bed accommodation in civil hospitals.
3. Possibility of future air raids on certain towns with consequent advisability of retaining extra beds to deal with such an emergency.

S.C.A.O.'s recommendations as to the disposal of Red Cross Hospitals will be forwarded to this HQ. where careful consideration will be given to the hospital position on the Island as a whole. Disposal arrangements will then be worked out with the Red Cross HQ. for action, with a copy to the S.C.A.O. for information.

When authority has been given for the partial or complete closure of a hospital, the HQ. office of the Italian Red Cross will issue the necessary instructions for the transfer of equipment records etc., to HQ stores or to other Red Cross Hospitals in need of such equipment or stores. In exceptional circumstances such stores may be transferred to civil hospitals as ordered by AMGOT HQ., the necessary financial adjustments being effected between the Province concerned and the HQ. Italian Red Cross. Similarly circumstances may arise when the whole of a Red Cross Hospital and its equipment and stores will be taken over by a local or Provincial hospital or Government. The authority for this must come from AMGOT HQ. and here again, financial adjustments will be made by the parties concerned, after approval by AMGOT HQ. Such a change in responsibility may involve transfer of personnel as necessary to provincial or other employments.

To meet the new responsibilities of dealing with the various activities of Red Cross, a distribution of duties within the Public Health Division has been made on the following lines:

- (a) Red Cross Hospitals, personnel, nursing instruction, operation of first aid stations, ambulance services, visiting nursing services and other medical activities are the concern of the officer in charge of hospital organization of the Public Health Division.
- (b) Malaria control and treatment, health education are the concern of the officer in charge of Public Health organization of the Public Health Division.
- (c) All the other activities in the public welfare field enumerated in 1 (e) and (f) are the concern of the officer in charge of Welfare Organization of the Public Health Division.

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- (b) Malaria control and treatment, health education are the concern of the officer in charge of Public Health organization of the Public Health Division.
- (c) All the other activities in the public welfare field enumerated in 1 (e) and (f) are the concern of the officer in charge of Welfare Organization of the Public Health Division.
- (d) Budgets are considered by these three officers jointly with the Executive Officer, Public Health Division. This group will recommend action to the Director of Public Health.

Activities listed in (a) will be the concern of the S.A.P.H.O. of each province. Those in (b) will be the concern of the S.A.P.H.O. and the S.A.P.S.O., serving under him. Other activities (c) will be under the S.A.P.W.O. Provincial Red Cross budgets will be considered by these officers jointly before recommendations are made to the S.C.A.O. It is the duty of the S.A.P.H.O. of each province to coordinate all dealings of other members of the Provincial AMCOT Public Health staff with the Provincial Red Cross authorities and their program.

By Direction of Chief Staff Officer.

8 OCT 1943

D. GORDON CHENE

Colonel

Director of Public Health.

785015

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS  
Military Government Section

7P  
DW/cag

13th October, 1943

M65 080-1

SUBJECT: American and British  
Red Cross Organizations.

TO : AMG (P) (1 copy)  
H.Q. A.C. (4 copies) ✓  
D.M.S. (1 copy)  
Red Cross (American) (1 copy)

Attached copy(ies) of AMG H.Q. letter  
AMCOT/3068/PB dated 6th October, 1943, are forwarded  
for your information.

*J. G. Walker*  
for D. S. JACKLING,  
Lt. Colonel.

Copy To: Lt. Col Parkman - with  
one copy of AMG H.Q.  
letter referred to.

CR/ 14 Oct / 2116  
A

AC  
1140/3

3 copies in Standard  
14-10-43

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SUBJECT: American and British Red Cross Organizations.

AMGOT/0068/EH

AMGOT HQ SICILY

TO : All S.C.A.C.'s.

6 Oct. 1943.

1. Following a recent conference at AMGOT HQ. when the subject of utilizing immediately in Sicily the services of the American and British Red Cross Societies personnel was discussed, an invitation was extended to these Societies to send representatives.

2. The first of these representatives has arrived. This gentleman, Mr. Magamar, is attached to the Public Health Division as liaison officer. Other representatives are expected at a very early date and will be posted as liaison officers to the larger of the provinces in the office of S.A.P.H.O. Every province will be covered in this way and all will later be informed which liaison officer will be responsible for each of the provinces.

3. The sphere of activities of these Red Cross Societies has been defined as including the following. The general scheme will be to confine these activities to those consistent with Red Cross policies and the whole of Red Cross activities, American, British and Italian will be coordinated at AMGOT HQ. The Red Cross will bring in such supplies as may be possible for the population requiring public care and stockpiles will be established at Palermo for use throughout the Island and on the mainland when this is possible as required by AMGOT. This activity will be coordinated with representatives of Civil Supply to obviate re-duplication.

4. Assistance is further possible in directions such as the following:

- (a) In working with the Italian Red Cross in getting the P.O.W. clearance center functioning more adequately. (Particularly in connection with foreign countries).
- (b) In providing supplies (clothing, food, medical).
- (c) In helping to register, re-locate, re-house and repatriate refugees.
- (d) In helping operate camps for the temporary care of homeless Sicilians, released political and other prisoners, Allied nationals, etc.
- (e) In assisting in the handling of pension claims of foreign residents and civilian communications abroad.
- (f) Community organization of Welfare services.
- (g) General assistance in other welfare activities.
- (h) To assist in the development of local voluntary effort.

By order of Chief Staff Officer.

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- (h) To assist in the development of local voluntary effort.

By order of Chief Staff Officer.

*D. Gordon Caline*

D. GORDON CALINE  
Colonel,  
Director of Public Health.

Copy to Director Economics and Supply Div.

# REGULAR DISTRIBUTION

|               |    |                  |    |
|---------------|----|------------------|----|
| Agrigento     | 6  | AMGOT 3th Army   | 10 |
| Calatanzetta  | 6  | Region 2         |    |
| Catania       | 6  | AMGOT 5th Army   | 10 |
| Enna          | 4  | Region 3         | 1  |
| Palermo       | 35 | File             | 1  |
| Siracusa      | 10 | Plant            | 12 |
| Ragusa        | 6  | M.A.S., A.F.H.Q. | 13 |
| Messina       | 8  | Division         | 10 |
| AMGOT Liaison | 1  | Stores           |    |
| Trapani       | 6  |                  |    |

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62

MEMORANDUM: American and British Red Cross Organizations.

AMCOT/3068/TH

AMCOT

AMCOT HQ SICILY

6 August 1943  
Covering letter from HQ.

TO : A.M.H.Q. M.C.S.

27 Sep. 1943.

A conference was held at this HQ. on Sept. 20 with representatives of the American and British Red Cross Organization of North Africa. As a result, certain proposals were put forward to the C.O.A.C. These proposals are as follows:-

- (1) The desirability of having representatives of the American and British Red Cross Organizations at AMCOT HQ and Regional HQ was stressed. These might be designated liaison officers American or British Red Cross Societies and would work in close relationship with officers of the Public Health Division.
- (2) Representatives of the Organizations should also be available at provincial HQ.
- (3) It was considered that all Red Cross personnel should be functionally under the control of AMCOT officers. It was agreed that only under such circumstances could operations be carried on economically, effectively and without friction or duplicating activities. Red Cross personnel will participate only in those functions consistent with Red Cross policies, and proceed.

It was further considered that Red Cross should bring in such supplies as it could, for use of the population in the public camp. That stockpiles would be established at Palermo for use throughout the island as required by AMCOT, and on the mainland when this becomes possible. This to be coordinated with Civil Supply Division to obviate re-duplication.

Red Cross personnel should be brought into Sicily as available to gain experience in their use in Italy.

The Red Cross might be prepared to give assistance in some or all of the following:

- (a) In working with the Italian Red Cross in setting up E.O.C. clearance center functioning more adequately (particularly in connection with foreign countries).
- (b) In providing supplies (clothing, food, medical).
- (c) In helping to register, relocate, detain and register refugees.
- (d) In holding separate camps for the temporary care of these.

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- (2) Representatives of the Organization should also be available at provincial level.
- (3) It was considered that all Red Cross personnel should be functionally under the control of AUSA officers. It was agreed that only under such circumstances could operations be carried on economically, effectively and without friction or duplicating activities. Red Cross personnel will participate only in those functions consistent with Red Cross policies, and procedures.
- It was further considered that Red Cross should bring in such supplies as it could. For use of the population in making public care. That stockpiles would be established at various points throughout the Island as required by AUSA, and on the mainland when this becomes possible. This to be coordinated with Civil Supply Division to obviate re-duplication.
- Red Cross personnel should be brought into Italy as available to gain experience in their use in Italy.
- The Red Cross might be prepared to give assistance in some or all of the following:
- (a) In working with the Italian Red Cross in getting the S.O.S. clearance center functioning more adequately (particularly in connection with foreign countries).
  - (b) In providing supplies (clothing, food, medical).
  - (c) In helping to register, relocate, recruit and resettle refugees.
  - (d) In helping operate camps for the temporary care of Italian prisoners, released prisoners and other prisoners, Allied nationals, etc.
  - (e) In assisting in the handling of pension claims of foreign residents and civilian communications abroad.
  - (f) Community organization of welfare services.
  - (g) General assistance in other welfare activities.
  - (h) To assist in the development of local voluntary effort.

These proposals have been approved by the I.C., and the action of Red Cross Organizations would be welcomed.

5148

Signed: *James J. McHenry*  
 Brig. *James J. McHenry*  
 Deputy

785015

JACS. # 1140/3 8 5A  
Allied Military Government Sicily

## Public Assistance Report

For Month of \_\_\_\_\_

1) Commune of \_\_\_\_\_

Province of \_\_\_\_\_

2) Name of Agency or Agencies \_\_\_\_\_

3) Current daily maximums for cash grants:

For Head of family \_\_\_\_\_ Man L. \_\_\_\_\_ Woman L. \_\_\_\_\_

Adults other than head of family L. \_\_\_\_\_

Children L. \_\_\_\_\_

Other (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

4) No. of families given aid during month \_\_\_\_\_

» » individuals » » » » \_\_\_\_\_

(Est. if necessary)

5) Estimated Population of Commune for previous month \_\_\_\_\_

6) Total amount of cash grants for the previous month L. \_\_\_\_\_

Note: Because of heavy AMOOT expenditures for Public assistance it is imperative that this report be submitted in duplicate to Province Hq. by not later than the 10th of each month. Province will forward one copy to AMOOT Hq.

Date Forwarded \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

5147

Title \_\_\_\_\_

T. Spare

CR/404/128.

## Governo Militare Alleato per la Sicilia

Comune di ..... Provincia di .....

### Rapporto della Pubblica Assistenza

Mese di .....

- 1) Nome dell'ufficio che dà la beneficenza: .....
- 2) Misura massima del quotidiano sussidio.....
  - a) Per il capo di famiglia L. ....
  - b) Per la moglie facente da capo famiglia L. ....
  - c) Per figli maggiori facenti da capo famiglia L. ....
  - d) Per altri figli L. ....
  - e) Per altre persone conviventi L. ....
- 3) Numero di famiglie che hanno ricevuto il sussidio durante il mese: .....
- 4) Numero delle persone beneficate: .....
- 5) Popolazione del comune nel mese precedente: .....
- 6) Sussidi pagati nel mese precedente L. ....

*Osservazioni:* Per i necessari controlli, il presente rapporto deve essere inviato in doppia copia alla sede centrale della Provincia entro il dieci di ogni mese. Una copia sarà, dalla sede centrale della Provincia, mandata all'A. M. O. T.

Data d'invio .....

Firma .....

Qualifica .....

JACS  
AMGOT/3033/PH.

AMGOT HQ. Sicily

22 Sept. 1943

C O P Y

MEMO: - On conference between Major A. Knight, Representative of the British Red Cross in North Africa, Mr. Wm. Giblin, Representative of the American Red Cross in North Africa, Majors Sheele and Witte, of Amgot Hq.

#### Administration

It was agreed that the Red Cross should have one or two representatives at Hq. Amgot to work with Amgot-Public Health and Welfare.

It was agreed that Red Cross would have one or more representatives in each Province working with Public Health and Welfare representatives.

It was agreed that Red Cross personnel would be functionally under the control of Amgot officers. It was agreed that only under such circumstances could operations be carried on economically, effectively and without friction or duplicating activities. Red Cross personnel will participate in only those functions consistent with Red Cross policies and procedures.

It was agreed that Red Cross would bring in such supplies as it could for use of the population needing public care. That stock piles would be established at Palermo for use throughout the Island as required by Amgot and on the mainland when this becomes possible.

That Red Cross personnel be brought into Sicily as available for experience with the objective of using them in Italy as this becomes desirable and possible.

It was agreed that the Red Cross could give assistance in some or all of the following:

- a) - In working with the Italian Red Cross in getting the P.O.W. clearance center functioning more adequately (Particularly in connection with foreign countries).
- b) - In providing supplies (clothing, food, medical)
- c) - In helping to register, relocate, rehouse and repatriate refugees.
- d) - In helping operate camps for the temporary care of homeless Sicilians, released political and other prisoners, Allied Nationals, etc.

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It was agreed that Red Cross would bring in such supplies as it could for use of the population needing public care. That stock piles would be established at Palermo for use throughout the Island as required by Angot and on the mainland when this becomes possible.

That Red Cross personnel be brought into Sicily as available for experience with the objective of using them in Italy as this becomes desirable and possible.

It was agreed that the Red Cross could give assistance in some or all of the following:

- a) - In working with the Italian Red Cross in getting the F.O.W. clearance center functioning more adequately (Particularly in connection with foreign countries).
- b) - In providing supplies (clothing, food, medical)
- c) - In helping to register, relocate, rehouse and repatriate refugees.
- d) - In helping operate camps for the temporary care of homeless Sicilians, released political and other prisoners, Allied Nationals, etc.
- e) - In assisting in the handling of pensions claims of foreign residents and Civilian Communications abroad.
- f) - In helping in the operation of clinics for children where this seems advisable.
- g) - In helping to establish sewing centers.
- h) - Community organization of Welfare services.
- i) - General assistance in other welfare activities.

ERNEST F. WITTE, Major

For: D. Gordon Cheyne  
Colonel  
Director of Public Health.

5148

CR/104.

785015

SUBJECT: Welfare ReliefAMGOT/5034/PHAMGOT HQ. SICILYTO : All S.C.A.O.'s.20 Sept. 1945.

The attached form is suggested for use in every Comune for the record of all persons applying for public assistance (relief or other grants to persons in need) and shall be kept on file in the Office of the Agency or Agencies administering the program and will be made available for audit as required.

Copies of this form may be ordered from Headquarters (Public Welfare Section) as required. Whether this form is used or not the following information must be recorded in permanent form for all assistance granted: Name, address, amount of aid granted, period covered by grant, number of dependents in household, and verification of need.

Encl.

CHARLES M. SPOTFORD  
Colonel, G.S.C.  
Chief Staff Officer

SOGGETTO: Provvidenza SocialeAMGOT/5034/PHAMGOT HQ. SICILYINDIRIZZATO A: Tutti S.C.A.O.'s.20 Sept. 1945.

La scheda qui unita servirà di modello a tutti i Comuni per il registrazione di tutte le persone richiedenti l'assistenza pubblica ( sussidio, e altre concessioni a persone bisognose) essa sarà tenuta classificata negli uffici, o agenzie incaricate, e saranno tenute a disposizione in caso di domanda.

Altro scheda potranno essere domandate alla Sede Generale della Provvidenza Sociale ( Sezione Pubblica Assistenza). Anche se non si dovesse servirsi di questa scheda, bisognerà sempre tenere le informazioni alla maniera seguente e per ogni assistenza concessa: Nome, indirizzo, sesso o aiuto concesso, periodo che è durato il sussidio, numero delle persone bisognose componenti la famiglia, e verificazioni dei richiedenti.

JACS

2A

Encl.

SOGGETTO: Provvidenza Sociale

AMGOT/303A/PH

INDIRIZZATO A: Tutti S.C.A.O.'s

AMGOT HQ. SICILIA

20 Sept. 1945.

In schema qui unita servirà di modello a tutti i Comuni per il registramento di tutte le persone richiedenti l'assistenza pubblica ( sussidio, e altre concessioni a persone bisognose) essa sarà tenuta classificata negli uffici, o agenzie incaricate, e saranno tenute a disposizione in caso di domanda.

Altre schede potranno essere domandate alla Sede Generale della Provvidenza Sociale ( Sezione Pubblica Assistenza). Anche se non si dovesse servirsi di questa scheda, bisognerà sempre avere le informazioni nella maniera seguente e per ogni assistenza concessa: Nome, indirizzo, somma o aiuto concesso, periodo che è durato il sussidio, numero delle persone bisognose componenti la famiglia, e verificazione dei richiedenti.

NOTE: English translation given above.

CHARLES M. SPOTFORD  
Colonnello G.S.O.  
Ufficiale Capo.

5145

774

PH to dryness of 2nd

45/140/3

Numero .....

Provincia di ..... Comune di .....

Cognome ..... Indirizzo ..... Data di applicazione .....

| NOME                  | DATA di nascita     | LUOGO di nascita                                    | Maritati celibi o vedovi | Occupazione o scuola | Paga settimanale o grado nella scuola | Tempo che ha abitato in comune |
|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Padre                 |                     |                                                     |                          |                      |                                       |                                |
| Madre                 |                     |                                                     |                          |                      |                                       |                                |
| Figli:                |                     |                                                     |                          |                      |                                       |                                |
| 1.                    |                     |                                                     |                          |                      |                                       |                                |
| 2.                    |                     |                                                     |                          |                      |                                       |                                |
| 3.                    |                     |                                                     |                          |                      |                                       |                                |
| 4.                    |                     |                                                     |                          |                      |                                       |                                |
| 5.                    |                     |                                                     |                          |                      |                                       |                                |
| 6.                    |                     |                                                     |                          |                      |                                       |                                |
| 7.                    |                     |                                                     |                          |                      |                                       |                                |
| 8.                    |                     |                                                     |                          |                      |                                       |                                |
| 9.                    |                     |                                                     |                          |                      |                                       |                                |
| 10.                   |                     |                                                     |                          |                      |                                       |                                |
| 11.                   |                     |                                                     |                          |                      |                                       |                                |
| 12.                   |                     |                                                     |                          |                      |                                       |                                |
| Data di matrimonio    | Luogo di matrimonio | Qualche membro della famiglia prigioniero di guerra |                          |                      |                                       |                                |
|                       |                     |                                                     |                          |                      |                                       |                                |
| Condizioni della casa | Numero di stanze    | Affitto o padrone                                   | Affitto al mese          |                      |                                       |                                |
|                       |                     |                                                     | 51,17                    |                      |                                       |                                |
| Nome di altre persone |                     |                                                     |                          |                      |                                       |                                |

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|-----|--|--|--|--|--|
| 1.  |  |  |  |  |  |
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|    |                                                      |                     |                                                     |                          |
|----|------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
|    | Data di matrimonio                                   | Luogo di matrimonio | Qualche membro della famiglia prigioniero di guerra |                          |
|    |                                                      |                     |                                                     |                          |
|    | Condizioni della casa                                | Numero di stanze    | Affitto o padrone                                   | Affitto al mese<br>51,77 |
|    |                                                      |                     |                                                     |                          |
|    | Nome di altre persone<br>che abitano con la famiglia | Parentela           | Chi contribuisce alle spese ogni settimana          |                          |
|    |                                                      |                     |                                                     |                          |
| 1. |                                                      |                     |                                                     |                          |
| 2. |                                                      |                     |                                                     |                          |
| 3. |                                                      |                     |                                                     |                          |
| 4. |                                                      |                     |                                                     |                          |
| 5. |                                                      |                     |                                                     |                          |
| 6. |                                                      |                     |                                                     |                          |
| 7. |                                                      |                     |                                                     |                          |

# FINANZE DELLA FAMIGLIA

[illegible]

**SOCORSO DATO**

[illegible]



785015

SECRET/2025/1

SECRET H.Q. SICILY

26 August 1943

Planner only  
JH

My dear Julius,

I enclose three copies of two Special reports on public assistance in Palermo, as an example of what my officers are doing not only in this town but in other parts of Sicily. I cannot undertake to send material in such detail as this, but it may be of some interest in this one instance for you and London and Washington to have an idea of what these problems are and how they are dealt with in the field.

Yr. sincere  
Jennell

Brigadier General J. Rolles,  
Military Government Section,  
A.F.H.Q.

ACA

not for  
1150/6  
Riley

5143

Organization of Relief 23  
in Palermo

(Letter <sup>Capt</sup> A.S. Alexander,  
Provence, Lt. Col.  
AO Palermo ^  
Charles Follette, S.C.A.O.  
7d Army \*)

Had - A 3 a The following  
A 3 b - B 9 ✓

\*ACC Files, 10000/100/  
411

785015

AMCOT/4005/L

16 August 1943

Subject: Relief in Commune of Palermo

TO : Chief Staff Officer

1. Attached are copies of two reports on relief in Palermo, one covering the emergency organization during the first week, 4-10 August, 1943, inclusive, and the other covering the plan for and inauguration of the new organization which began on 12 August and is now in effect.
2. The originals of the reports were submitted to the S.C.A.O. Palermo province, under whom the undersigned worked. The annexes to the reports have not yet been copied, as they are fairly voluminous and not all of general interest.
3. Copies of the reports have also been given to Maj. Haley, C.A.C. for the Commune of Palermo, and to Capt. Nolan, who succeeded the undersigned as A.M.G. officer in charge of relief for the Commune. It may be that copies would also be of use for officers now undergoing instruction at A.M.G. schools, as an illustration of the problems which arise (which are for the most part administrative).
4. The following general conclusions may be drawn from the Palermo experience:
  - (a) An A.M.G. officer should be available in each large city or district which may be expected to have suffered much destruction or privation, at the earliest possible moment. The greater the delay in beginning relief, the more difficult the problem will be to solve.
  - (b) The officer selected should be given time to consult available intelligence reports for his region, and to become familiar with general relief policies as determined by H. In particular, the rate of relief should be set beforehand, if possible, with special reference to the rate in surrounding regions; and a decision made as to whether payments will be in cash, or in kind, or mixed.
  - (c) If relief is to be paid in cash, the officer must have available large amounts and small denominations.
  - (d) He should have means of transportation at his own disposal and also an interpreter, if he does not speak Italian.
  - (e) It is essential that the levels to be set for relief be arrived at in correlation with the levels to set for wages and for prices of staple foods and commodities.

785015

officer in charge of relief for the Comune. It may be that copies would also be of use for officers now undergoing instruction at A.M.G. schools, as an illustration of the problems which arise (which are for the most part administrative).

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- (a) An A.M.G. officer should be available in each large city or district which may be expected to have suffered much destruction or privation, at the earliest possible moment. The greater the delay in beginning relief, the more difficult the problem will be to solve.
- (b) The officer selected should be given time to consult available intelligence reports for his region, and to become familiar with general relief policies as determined by Hq. In particular, the rate of relief should be set beforehand, if possible, with special reference to the rate in surrounding regions; and a decision made as to whether payments will be in cash, or in kind, or mixed.
- (c) If relief is to be paid in cash, the officer must have available large amounts and small denominations.
- (d) He should have means of transportation at his own disposal and also an interpreter, if he does not speak Italian.
- (e) It is essential that the levels to be set for relief be arrived at in correlation with the levels to set for wages and for prices of staple foods and commodities.
- (f) Every effort should be made to impress upon the C.D. or S.C.A.O. to whom the relief officer is responsible that provision for relief is of the utmost urgency, since delay will greatly aggravate the problem and may entail serious risk of starvation and ill health, and perhaps rioting and looting, on the part of the civilian population, with consequent increased responsibilities and dangers for the Allied military forces.

/S/ A. S. Alexander  
A. S. ALEXANDER  
Captain, M.I.

ALGOT III  
15 Army Group

785015

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT  
Palermo Province

AMSOI/4005/L

17 August 1943

SUBJECT: Relief in City of Palermo under present revised system

TO: Lt. Colonel CHARLES POLETTI, S.C.A.O.

1. The organization and operations for relief in the Commune of Palermo as set up for the first week are described in a previous report, "Relief in City of Palermo, 1-10 August 1943" dated 13 August, 1943.

2. This first week's relief was from the beginning considered only a make-shift, designed to make available to the needy, with a minimum delay, a supply of cash with which to purchase the necessities of life. It was hoped that enough of the pressure of those in urgent need would be lifted, before a week was up, to permit reorganization of the relief system on a sounder basis. As it turned out, the pressure of applicants increased each of the first three or four days and then remained fairly constant, due to the spreading of the news that relief was again available, after many weeks of interruption, and to the return to the city of many who had fled to the country during or prior to the American occupation.

3. It was therefore necessary to survey the possibilities for the future and to make concrete plans while at the same time much energy had still to be devoted to operations of the emergency system.

4. As the Teatro Massimo relief centre had attracted crowds of three thousand or more, though no more than about half of this number could be cared for in a single day, there had been considerable discomfort caused to applicants, who had to wait several hours in line in the hot sun, and the size and disorderliness of the lines had presented a constant threat of serious disturbances, which fortunately never quite materialized. It was therefore obvious that decentralization should be effected.

5. The Teatro Massimo being closed on Sunday, 8 August, that day was devoted entirely to examining places where new district offices could be opened and to discussion of questions of policy with Colonel Poletti, S.C.A.O., and others. During this and the next three or four days Lt. F. F. Sillett was assigned to devote most of his time to help in organizing the new set-up, and his assistance was invaluable.

6. On 9 August a conference was held with various Italians concerned. A list of those attending is annexed as Table G. This meeting was too large

785015

to permit reorganization of the relief system on a sounder basis. As it turned out, the pressure of applicants increased each of the first three or four days and then remained fairly constant, due to the spreading of the news that relief was again available. After many weeks of interruption, and to the return to the city of many who had fled to the country during or prior to the American occupation.

5. It was therefore necessary to survey the possibilities for <sup>51</sup>relief and to make concrete plans while at the same time much energy had still to be devoted to operations of the emergency system.

4. As the Teatro Massimo relief centre had attracted crowds of three thousand or more, though no more than about half of this number could be cared for in a single day, there had been considerable discomfort caused to applicants, who had to wait several hours in line in the hot sun, and the size and disorderliness of the lines had presented a constant threat of serious disturbances, which fortunately never quite materialized. It was therefore obvious that decentralization should be effected.

5. The Teatro Massimo being closed on Sunday, 3 August, that day was devoted entirely to examining places where new district offices could be opened and to discussion of questions of policy with Colonel Poletti, S.C.A.C., and others. During this and the next three or four days Lt. F. F. Sillett was assigned to devote most of his time to help in organizing the new set-up, and his assistance was invaluable.

6. On 9 August a conference was held with various Italians concerned. A list of those attending is annexed as Table G. This meeting was too large and was only useful in enabling us to obtain a clearer picture of the whole former welfare set-up in the city and of the present inactivity of any organization, except the Communes, to take care of more than a small fraction of the needs. In this connection, reference is made to Table F, which is a report of a private charity, S. Vincenzo dei Paoli. The meeting was soon closed, with out thanks for attendance and a statement of the general intentions of the A.M.G.

7. After discussion with Lo Mano, Castagnetta and Santanuoro, the three officials most directly concerned, the Tentative Plan, a copy of which is annexed as Table A, was formulated. It was submitted to Colonel Poletti, who approved it except for directing that 100 welfare workers be employed at the district offices instead of the 70 currently available.

8. It was decided to drop the maximum daily payment to heads of family to 20 lire instead of 25, because the rate in the rest of Palermo Province was 15 lire, and because a man with a large family would obtain nearly if not quite as much cash on relief as when employed at 50 lire per day as a common laborer, with resultant encouraging of idleness.

785015

9. On Tuesday, 10 August the Carabinieri and police were directed to inform applicants that the Teatro Massimo would close that day.

10. Further talks occurred with Lo Naro and Castagnetta who, with other officials, had submitted recommendations for the new organization, which are annexed as Table B. (Consideration had also been given to the location, capacity and general condition of existing E.C.A. branch offices, as set forth, with other facts, in Table D and E. Consideration was also given to the Memorandum of Caroma, a private citizen of means reputed to be thoroughly anti-Fascist, and interested in welfare. This memorandum is attached as Table C. ).

The Tentative Plan (Table A) was read to Lo Naro and Castagnetta, who were told that it had now received Colonel Poletti's approval and was to be put into effect forthwith by them, subject to our supervision and with our help when necessary. They agreed to act as chief and first assistant, respectively, and they prepared a notice to the public containing particulars as to assignment of families, by the alphabet, to nine district offices selected with a view to dispersal throughout the city. After important changes in the text made by Colonel Poletti in order to make certain points clear to the public, the announcement was taken to the newspaper "Sicilia Liberata" and to the printer. It was published in the morning paper of 12 August, the day of the opening of the new offices, and 500 copies were made by the printer and posted throughout the city in the later afternoon of 11 August and the early morning of 12 August. We also made certain that a copy was posted both inside and outside each district office, for the guidance of such applicants as could read and of the Carabinieri or police assigned to the offices. A copy of the printed notice is annexed as Table A.

11. In addition to existing E.C.A. branches, it had been decided to use space in the Ingenio Militare building, which appeared to be vacant and which was requisitioned by us in the name of A.L.G. together with appropriate office furniture found therein. Through Major Sordani, Public Safety section, the Carabinieri and police chiefs were advised that after conferring with subordinate Italian officers concerned we had concluded that at least six of their men would be required at each office, except that at least twelve would be needed at the Ingenio Militare office where six letters of the alphabet were concentrated. Their duties were to guard the offices and their cash to instruct, and preserve order in, the queues of applicants. In addition, it was requested that a police guard be assigned to the truck which was to distribute cash to the offices in the morning and bring balances back to the head office of E.C.A. in the evening, and that two guards be assigned to the head office for 24 hours duty until a good safe could be found. Four police remained to instruct people coming to the Teatro Massimo.

785015

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11. In addition to existing E.C.A. branches, it had been decided to use space in the Ingenio Militare building, which appeared to be vacant and which was requisitioned by us in the name of A.M.G. together with appropriate office furniture found therein. Through Major Seales, Public Safety section, the Carabinieri and police chiefs were advised that after conferring with subordinate Italian officers concerned we had concluded that at least six of their men would be required at each office, except that at least twelve would be needed at the Ingenio Militare office where six letters of the alphabet were concentrated. Their duties were to guard the offices and their cash to instruct, and preserve order in, the queues of applicants. In addition, it was requested that a police guard be assigned to the truck which was to distribute cash to the offices in the morning and bring balances back to the head office of E.C.A. in the evening, and that two guards be assigned to the head office for 24 hours duty until a good safe could be found. Four police remained to instruct people coming to the Teatro Massimo.

12. On the basis of the experience of the first week of relief operations it was concluded that at least 3,000,000 lire would be needed for the first 15-day period. It was again necessary for me to attend to each phase of the process of getting the cash to the E.C.A., first obtaining a mandate of the Comune, having it signed and cashed, and then changed into small denominations (an automobile-full) and transported to E.C.A. I also undertook to see to its distribution early enough the next morning so as to permit payments to begin when the offices opened at 0830.

13. At 1230 on 11 August a meeting was held, at our suggestion, of all employees to be used at the district offices (24 in number on the first day). Procedures to be followed were carefully explained, heads of offices were chosen and everyone was warned forcefully that unjustified mistakes or failure to work hard would result in dismissal. It was also explained that relief recipients should be told that henceforth no bakeries would be specially set aside for them, since reasonable supplies should be available throughout the city, and that ration books, obtainable at the reopened ration board office would be required of every purchaser.

14. It was also ordered that the twenty or more police allotted to investigate cases begin work on 13 August, checking applications made on 12 August, so that before payments for the second 15-day period (beginning about 27 August) were due, all cases to be paid should have been investigated.

785015

Lack of motorcycles and bicycles was offered as an excuse for delay, but the investigators were told to begin at once on foot and the head of the police was directed, through Major Searles, to obtain at least the bicycles for his men.

We requested prompt advise in case more investigators were needed because of increased case loads, in order that all applicants applying for relief for the second or later 15-day periods be investigated in time for prompt payment or refusal.

15. On the opening morning, 12 August, I inspected all district offices between 0830 and 1100 o'clock with the captain of Carabinieri in charge and Lo Neno. In most places things were working well, but certain obvious things were corrected at my direction, like changing the placing of queues in the sun instead of the shade. Two offices appeared likely to cause trouble, one because the Carabinieri had not kept separate files of two for men and women, and had a mixed-up crowd, out of any regular order, to deal with, and the other (at the Ingenio Militare) because though office space was adequate for six letters of the alphabet, there was only one entrance and the crowd of about 500 was hard to separate by letters and to control. We straightened out these situations and also left specific instructions, which we explained to the crowd as well as to the police, that those not received when the offices closed at 1600 o'clock would be given slips, by the police, showing their place in line and entitling them to the same place at the head of the line the next day, if they reported promptly.

In the afternoon I revisited the four offices which had been most crowded in the morning and found good progress had been made in disposing of cases. In three of them, however, the queues were not in proper order, and I explained to the applicants how many had been already cared for, how many remained in line (in each case less than those disposed of), and the system for readmission in line the next day. The appearance of an Allied officer invariably had a good effect on order and there was obvious appreciation of the efforts being made by the A.M.C. to expedite and control relief.

16. The lines on 12 August varied from 95 to 500 per separate office (for 1 or 2 letters of the alphabet) except that at the Ingenio Militare there were about 600 people during the day, due to there being six letters of the alphabet there.

17. The number of applicants handled on the first two days, and amounts paid out, were as follows:

| Letter | No. Paid | Line Paid | No. Refused Relief (30%) |
|--------|----------|-----------|--------------------------|
| A & B  | 125      | 12 August | 38                       |
| C      | 133      | 49,925    | 40                       |
|        |          | 49,690    |                          |

785015

was hard to separate by letters and to control. We straightened out these situations and also left specific instructions, which we explained to the crowd as well as to the police, that those not received when the offices closed at 1500 o'clock would be given slips, by the police, showing their place in line and entitling them to the same place at the head of the line the next day, if they reported promptly.

In the afternoon I revisited the four offices which had been most crowded in the morning and found good progress had been made in disposing of cases. In three of them, however, the queues were not in proper control, and I explained to the applicants how many had been already cared for, how many remained in line (in each case less than those disposed of), and the system for readmission in line the next day. The appearance of an Allied officer invariably had a good effect on order and there was obvious appreciation of the efforts being made by the A.M.C. to expedite and control relief.

16. The lines on 12 August varied from 95 to 300 per separate office (for 1 or 2 letters of the alphabet) except that at the Ingenio Militare there were about 600 people during the day, due to there being six letters of the alphabet there.

17. The number of applicants handled on the first two days, and amounts paid out, were as follows:

| Letter           | No. Paid | Lire Paid<br>12 August | No. Refused Relief (30%) |
|------------------|----------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| A & B            | 125      | 49,925                 | 38                       |
| C                | 133      | 49,690                 | 40                       |
| D & E            | 118      | 46,290                 | 35                       |
| F & G            | 87       | 33,525                 | 26                       |
| I & L            | 144      | 49,870                 | 42                       |
| M                | 86       | 30,555                 | 26                       |
| O & F } at       | 18       | 6,600                  | 5                        |
| P & Q } one      | 106      | 37,575                 | 31                       |
| R & S } building | 123      | 43,260                 | 37                       |
| Above 6 letters  | 247      | 87,435                 | 103                      |
| T & U            | 71       | 26,100                 | 21                       |
| V & Z            | 98       | 13,875                 | 29                       |
| (Plus any other) | 1,109    | 387,265                | 333 circa                |

785015

13 August

|                        |      |         |    |
|------------------------|------|---------|----|
| A & B                  | 198  | 78,750  | 5  |
| C                      | 149  | 57,095  | 30 |
| D & E                  | 128  | 48,450  | 6  |
| F & G                  | 135  | 53,100  | ?  |
| I & L                  | 213  | 83,175  | ?  |
| M                      | 104  | 38,450  | 20 |
| O & N                  | 153  | 20,550  | }  |
| P & Q                  | 112  | 37,650  |    |
| R & S                  | 144  | 55,500  |    |
| Above 6 letters        | 409  | 113,700 | ?  |
| T & U                  | 108  | 41,675  | ?  |
| V & Z (Plus any other) | 125  | 48,225  | ?  |
| TOTALS                 | 1569 | 562,520 | ?  |

From the foregoing figures it will be seen that after the uncertainties naturally to be expected in the first day's operations under new methods, the second day's operations were fairly satisfactory from the point of view of number of applicants receiving relief. The various offices with large crowds of people in line disposed of a reasonable number, except for "H". The total of 1569 was considerably above the largest number handled on any one day of centralized operation at the Teatro Mascino, 1286. And certainly the discomfort to applicants was less, and should become still less as the second and later 15-day periods are reached.

On the first day there were less than ten appeals from decisions of districts offices that no relief should be given. This may be due to insufficient awareness of right to appeal, though this was published in the notice (Table H); or due to the fact that relief was being given to virtually all needy applicants.

13. The following important matters remain to be attended to:

- A decision should be made, presumably at A.H.C. H.Q., determining with reference to each other what are the proper levels to be fixed by law for
  - (1) Wages
  - (2) Relief payments, and
  - (3) Prices for staple foods and commodities.
 needed by the poor, whether or not on relief.

It seems obvious that each one of these levels, if fixed without close correlation with the others, will be wrong. Relief payments so high as to approximate wages for common labor will induce idleness; relief payments so low as not to permit purchases of the necessities of life are no solution of the relief problem.

785015

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On the first day there were less than ten appeals from decisions of 179 districts offices that no relief should be given. This may be due to the sufficient awareness of right to appeal, though this was published in the notice (Table H.); or due to the fact that relief was being given to virtually all needy applicants.

18. The following important matters remain to be attended to:

- a. A decision should be made, presumably at A.M.G. H.Q., determining with reference to each other what are the proper levels to be fixed by law for
  - (1) Wages
  - (2) Relief payments, and
  - (3) Prices for staple foods and commodities.
 needed by the poor, whether or not on relief.

It seems obvious that each one of these levels, if fixed without close correlation with the others, will be wrong. Relief payments so high as to approximate wages for common labor will induce idleness; relief payments so low as not to permit purchases of the necessities of life are no solution of the relief problem.

- b. The "Community Welfare Committee" referred to in Table I (Order setting up new welfare organization) should be appointed as soon as possible.
- c. Closer co-ordination should be established with the private charities, hospitals, and other agencies helping to provide or supplement relief, as well as with the Labor Registration Office and other agencies which would help in eliminating the giving of relief to those working or able, but refusing, to work.
- d. Close supervision will be required for a while over police charged with duty at relief offices.
- e. Periodic surprise spot audits of relief payments, etc. by qualified A.M.G. personnel would be advisable.
- f. Every effort must be made to speed up and improve case investigation.
- g. As soon as possible, presumably, after the first 15-day

period of payments which began on 12 August, it would be desirable to have all applicants then approved for further relief come to the district office nearest their residence, for future payments, instead of sending them by alphabet. Thus much needless travelling would be avoided for the needy, and investigation could operate in more compact districts. New applicants might be sent to the two main offices.

/s/ A. S. Alexander  
A. S. ALEXANDER,  
Captain, M.I.

5137

785015

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT  
Palermo Province

ASA/mr

13 August 1943

SUBJECT: Relief in City of Palermo, 1-10 August 1943.

TO: Lt. Colonel CHARLES POLETTI - S.C.A.O.

1. On 1 August 1943, you directed me to survey the City relief situation, to report on it to you and meanwhile to take any action or make any changes which I might deem necessary.

2. That day being Sunday, all but one of the heads of the various reliefs organisations were absent from the city and unavailable. In consequence on the first day only the following could be done:

- a. I conferred with Major Haley, C.A.O. for the city, and Captain McKay, his deputy. They offered me their cooperation and gave me a free hand.
- b. I talked to Dott. Alessi, Secretary to the city council, and obtained a general picture of the needs and the organisations which had been responsible for relief before our occupation. At my request Alessi then called a meeting of all city and relief officials concerned, to be held the next morning early.
- c. I talked to Dott. Lo Naro, Civil Commissioner for Welfare for the city (and as such chief of the Ente Comunale d'Assistenza, hereinafter referred to as E.C.A.), who was also one of the highest officials of Palermo Province. He said that his organisation's office had been twice bombed out, and that the third office occupied by it had been thoroughly looted by vandals just prior to our entry into the city, with the result that few files and no equipment were left.
- d. I visited the Teatro Massimo, where the Ufficio di Beneficenza the principal city relief entity in operation, was temporarily located. Because of its central location, its immediate availability, the size of its rooms and the ample space in its approaches and the square where it is situated, I concluded that for the immediate emergency this would be the best place to handle relief, if it were to be done at one place only.
- e. It was reported that virtually no bread or pasta, the staple articles of Sicilian diet, had been obtainable for several weeks.

785015

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- e. It was reported that virtually no bread or pasta, the staple articles of Sicilian diet, had been obtainable for several weeks, even on the black market. In consequence, those who had not hoarded had had only fruit and vegetables, at best, for many days.
- f. There were lines outside some bakeries, even though it was Sunday. No bread was available, and members of the crowds to whom I spoke seemed in many cases desperately hungry.
- g. I spoke to two local residents, reputed to be anti-fascists before our occupation, in order to obtain their views. They confirmed the extreme urgency of the situation due to long-continued relief breakdown and food shortage. We discussed those now running the city's relief. It was their conclusion that nobody presently connected with relief in the city was capable of directing the whole program, and they suggested that Dott. Caronna would be suited to such a position, as he was of indisputable integrity, rich enough to be able to afford to be independent, anti-fascist in beliefs and affiliation, also, with questions of food supplies and distribution.
3. a. Early on 2 August, I held a conference at the Municipio with the heads and assistants of the relief organization and the heads of city and province bureaus concerned (except for certain of them

785015

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who had fled before our occupation and in whose places subordinates came). The following were the principal personalities present:

Dott. Coschiero, Segretario Generale of the city.  
Dott. Santamano, Ragioniere Generale of the city.  
Dott. Castagnetta, Chief of the Ufficio di Beneficenza.  
Ing. Valguarnero, Ragioniere, assistant to Castagnetta.  
Sig. Realuto, welfare bureau employee.  
Prof. Lo Moro, Chief of E.C.A. and vice-prefect of the Province.

- b. At the outset, I told them that I was directed by Colonel POLITTI to survey the situation and report to him, with such recommendations as I might deem proper, in order that he might make necessary changes in the former set-up. To this end I asked those present to report on what the former set-up was (the written reports, which were submitted to me next day, are annexed, with translations, as Tab. A). I then told them that though we expected to exercise supervisory and control powers, with special reference to preventing discrimination for political or racial reasons, and though for the moment we were prepared to lend money to the city for use in starting the relief machinery, the primary responsibility for administration would remain with Italian officials. I then requested their verbal opinions as to the immediate relief needs.
- c. Their collective opinion was that about 10,000 families were in immediate urgent need in the city alone. They stated that with the division by families customary in Palermo, the average family consisted of the head of the family and two dependents. On this basis, there were therefore 30,000 individuals in urgent need of relief in the city. (This turned out to be over-optimistic.)
- d. I told them that Colonel POLITTI had decided that immediate relief, to cover present emergency, was to be given on a uniform basis, regardless of status, i.e., old-age, repatriate, unemployed, pensions, family of member of Italian armed forces, bombardment victim, etc., and only in case of immediate want and lack of resources. Former special payments, e.g. "Military Assistance", to families of members of the Italian armed forces were to be discontinued, and no payments made unless actual need was established.
- e. In view of this uniform scale, of the destruction of the head office and several branches of E.C.A., and of the fact that 33 post offices, where "military assistance" had formerly been paid bi-monthly, were closed, I suggested that for the emergency period all persons needing assistance be directed to and handled at the Teatro Massimo, where the combined staffs and files of all

785015

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- e. In view of this uniform scale, of the destruction of the head office and several branches of E.C.A., and of the fact that 33 post offices, where "military assistance" had formerly been paid bi-monthly, were closed, I suggested that for the emergency period all persons needing assistance be directed to and handled at the Teatro Massimo, where the combined staffs and files of all organisations would be concentrated. This suggestion was agreed to as an emergency measure, and the C.A.P.O. for A.M.G. Palermo was at once requested to instruct all Carabinieri and police that thereafter the needy be directed to apply at Teatro Massimo beginning at 08.30 on 4 August 1943, which was about 44 hours later. I felt that this was the earliest time at which it would be possible for the new emergency organisation to function with any efficiency. The Italian officials threw up their hands at the idea of such speed. I told them we would help when possible but would hold them to the schedule fixed.
- f. Their two principal difficulties were, they said, money and transportation for files. When I offered trucks for the files, it turned out that they were all either destroyed or already there. I agreed to see to it that cash was physically present for the opening of the office.
- g. I went to the Teatro Massimo, where a crowd of over 1,000 people was assembled in considerable confusion, some inside the building and some outside. Since there was no money and no food available, nothing could be done by the Ufficio di Beneficenza. With Castagnetta I therefore ordered that people be advised that nothing could be done for them until Wednesday, since the organisation had to be set up, but that they should return at 0830 on that day when as many as possible would be provided for. Carabinieri, police and

785015

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welfare employees, combined, finally succeeded in ejecting all needy from the building, without use of violence, and thereafter persons coming to the outside were told when to return. As it seemed to be helpful to order and understanding among the crowd, I spent most of two hours standing behind those responsible for handling the crowd, both to see to humane treatment and to show that AMG supported the action being taken.

- h. I reported briefly to Colonel POLINTEI, who approved the action already taken and who fixed maximum relief payments at 25 lire per day for the head of the family, plus 5 lire per day per dependent. He agreed that for the moment, in the interest of simplicity and speed, all payments should come from the city, regardless of their former source. He added that ample funds had already been advanced to the city treasury and that the F.O., Colonel HAYES, would see that cash was made available in necessary amounts and denominations.

- i. We also discussed the scale of the payments, and I expressed the view that they would be quite adequate, provided food were available at reasonable prices. Colonel POLINTEI said that this was not my concern but that of Civil Supply Section, which would see to it that supplies were available and that the legal maximum price was observed.

4. a. On 3 August, I spent some hours at the Teatro Massimo working with the relief officials on the precise methods to be used the next day in handling applicants. Separate lines were to be formed by Carabinieri and police, one for men and one for women. They were to be admitted in reasonable numbers, not over fifty to be present in the room where the workers received them at windows and checked their papers, the existing files and the need. There were fifteen such windows, originally arranged alphabetically. This had to be changed later when it was found most Sicilian names apparently began with M or S. Those failing to satisfy the means test or lacking papers to prove residence and number of family were to be sent out. Those entitled to relief, after a recording of name, date and amount were to be sent to the opposite side of the building where cash was to be paid by four officers, who would obtain receipts.

- b. It was agreed with Colonel POLINTEI that the contemplated emergency payments were to be for seven days, in the hope that thus the immediate pressure would be lifted, after initial payments, for long enough so that a better organization would be devised for the subsequent relief needs. Accordingly I spoke to Colonel HAYES, who said that as the city had the necessary funds

785015

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4. a. <sup>513</sup>  
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- b. It was agreed with Colonel POLETTI that the contemplated emergency payments were to be for seven days, in the hope that thus the immediate pressure would be lifted, after initial payments, for long enough so that a better organization would be devised for the subsequent relief needs. Accordingly I spoke to Colonel HAYES, who said that as the city had the necessary credit from A.M.G., I need merely request Alessi, a city official, to get the required cash to the Teatro Massimo the next day.
- c. However, on conferring with Alessi I found that money could only be withdrawn by Santamauro, on signature of amandata, and that as the banks were closed it could in any case only be obtained in the form of A.M. Lire. It being afternoon, the banks working for A.M.F.A. in handling A.M. lire were closed until 0830. The next day, the time already chosen for beginning relief payments, as Santamauro was at Alto Fonte, about 10 kilometers away, and there was no assurance whether he would come in early the next day, and since Alessi had no car, I felt it necessary to go out at once to get the mandata. I consulted Maj. Haley, who agreed and went out with me to find Santamauro.
- d. After some difficulty we found him and he agreed to sign a mandata for 1,575,000 lire, the amount estimated as necessary to pay seven days' relief to 10,000 families of three members each. He had some hesitation, since the city's budget made no provision for the payment, most of the relief funds having formerly been provided by the State or the Province. He agreed in the end on the basis that only city relief was contemplated, that the expense be considered emergency, and that Major Haley sign in place of the Podesta', who had fled before our occupation.

785015

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- a. We left him after 1900 o'clock, when he had obtained the necessary additional signatures of city officials to the mandata. He had assured us that he would see to it that the necessary cash was available to and brought by Castagnetta, named as a payee in the mandata.
- f. Major Holen of A.M.G. Hq. Civilian Supply section told me that he had selected 5 bakers, located in different quarters of the city so as to be convenient for the maximum number, where bread would be sold, beginning the next day, to all who had been paid cash relief. The bakers were to be inspected to see that the maximum price fixed, which he advised me was 2.50 lire per kg., was not exceeded. He said that supplies would be ample to take care of the 30,000 estimated needy. He proposed that those who received relief be required to establish identity by a card to be issued when the cash was paid to them, but Colonel POLINI directed that, in order not to interfere with the existing ration system, no paper be required of the relief recipients and that the 5 selected bakers should sell to all comers. I so informed Major Holen.
- g. I reported to Major Searles, A.M.G. Public Safety Chief for the province, of the plans for the morrow at the Teatro Massimo and at the bakers, and requested that the necessary Carabinieri and police be assigned for the preservation of order.
5. a. On August 4, I went to the Teatro Massimo at 0745. The crowd already consisted of about 750 persons and was rapidly growing. Its temper was friendly and it was pleased to see an Allied uniform, presumably evidence that something would be done for it. Most of the people looked genuinely needy.
- b. After inspecting arrangements within, I directed that the first members of the line be admitted. Immediately there was manifested the disorderly and unreasonable characteristic of the Sicilian in such cases. Those not admitted at once began to shout and press forward, paying no attention to the explanation of the Carabinieri that all could not be taken care of at the same time. The other police, instead of trying to hold the rest of the lines in place, were overcome by curiosity about the uproar, so that the whole fabric of order tottered. Three M.P. from the Seventh Army were of great help in re-establishing the lines, and I walked along both of them answering such questions as were asked in a reasonable manner about the system being inaugurated.
- c. By 0945 Castagnetta had not returned with the money and there was no sign of Santamuro. About thirty needy had already had their

785015

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- c. By 0915 Castagnetta had not returned with the money and there was no sign of Santanuoro. About thirty needy had already had their applications approved and were waiting to be paid. I went to the Cassa di Risparmio where the mandata was to be cashed and found that Castagnetta had received cash there at about 0845 but in notes of large denominations. Nobody knew of any bank where small denominations were available! On the chance I went to the A.M.F.A. Agency at the Banca di Sicilia and found Castagnetta had succeeded in obtaining part of an estimated day's needs, except that 5 lire notes were unavailable. I told him to take 2s and pay an extra lire in cases requiring 5 lire notes, and rushed him back to the Teatro Massimo. By 1005 cash payments were begun, and in an hour the crowd at this side was reduced to the normal dozen awaiting accommodation. But in a few more minutes there might have been serious difficulties due to the delay, as the hundred odd persons in line could not understand why they were not promptly paid, after having lined up, satisfied the means test and been told they would receive the sum indicated.
- d. Meanwhile the crowd in line at the entrance had grown so large that Castagnetta felt it impossible even to handle those already there, during the balance of the day. I therefore instructed the Carabinieri to bring those already in line inside the iron fence which surrounds the building, and which leaves ample space for a

785015

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line of several thousand, off the street but outside the building; and to tell subsequent applicants to return the next day at 0830. This was done at 1015, and signs were posted stating the same thing. As soon as nobody was watching, members of the crowd outside took down the signs and tore them up; but none of them were taken into line that day.

e. At a little after 1300 hours I noticed some of the welfare employees and cashiers getting up and apparently making ready to leave. I inquired why, as I had already told Castagnetta, at 1145, to have half the employees get lunch at around 1200 and the balance about an hour later. I was told that their working hours and those of most civil servants were from 0800 to 1330, with no time out for lunch. I said that all the needy who had been admitted to the line would have to be disposed of before any employee left. This was done, though it was necessary to make some show of force in the case of some of the cashiers.

f. When the day was over, at about 1735, and the entire line had been disposed of, I thanked all concerned on behalf of the city and the needy, and said that though I regretted having had to be peremptory at times, I intended to see that work continued at maximum pressure until the existing relief emergency was over. Most of the employees seemed to understand the gravity of the situation and to be ready to cooperate. The others had to cooperate.

The following figures cover the week's operation:

| DATE     | NO. INDIV PAID | TOTAL LIRE PAID | ESTIMATED NO. REFUSED AID |
|----------|----------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| 4 August | 946            | 192,925         | 250                       |
| 5 "      | 956            | 211,290         | 300                       |
| 6 "      | 1191           | 265,115         | 400                       |
| 7 "      | 1187           | 259,490         | 400                       |
| 8 "      | 1286           | 281,035         | 500                       |
| 9 "      | 1284           | 286,155         | 600                       |
| Totals   | 6850           | 1,496,010       | 1450                      |

a. From this it will be seen that payments to separate families averaged 218.4 lire for the week covered by the payments, or 31.2 lire per day, as some payees had already received pension payments or were not entitled to the maximum cash relief. The best estimate of the size of the average family on relief in Palermo is between four and five. On the basis of 4.5, 6850 payments should therefore have provided 30,825 persons with the cash needed to keep decently alive. It is estimated that the situation during the week rose from 225,000 to over

785015

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| 5 "      | 956            | 241,290         | 300                       |
| 6 "      | 1194           | 265,115         | 400                       |
| 7 "      | 1187           | 259,490         | 400                       |
| 8 "      | 1286           | 281,035         | 500                       |
| 9 "      | 1284           | 286,155         | 600                       |
| Totals   | 6850           | 1,496,010       | 1450                      |

a. From this it will be seen that payments to separate families averaged 218.4 lire for the week covered by the payments, or 31.2 lire per day, as some payees had already received pension payments or were not entitled to the maximum cash relief. The best estimate of the size of the average family on relief in Palermo is between four and five. On the basis of 4.5, 6850 payments should therefore have provided 30,825 persons with the cash needed to keep decently alive. It is estimated that the city's population during the week rose from 225,000 to over 300,000.

7. During the period 4 - 7 August, inclusive, the following further problems, which appear typical of those to be met in similar situations, arose:

a. It seems clear that with the scarcity of food and the prevalence of black market prices, cash relief payments at any given scale may be insufficient either (1) to prevent extreme want or (2) to prevent the possibility of serious trouble with crowds and to create confidence in the A.M.G., since food must be available in adequate quantity and at fair prices to the poor receiving cash.

b. Colonel POLIZZI agreed with this statement in principle and advised me that provision of supplies was not my concern. On 3 August, Civilian Supply told me that ample bread would be available at the 5 bakeries chosen for the poor, and advised telling relief recipients that they could purchase bread at the legal prices (2.50 lire per kg., maximum) at those points. In fact, bread was not available on the second and third days of cash payments except in limited quantities at one bakery. In addition, police coverage did not exist at all necessary times.

785015

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- c. In consequence many of the poor felt that they had been misled and let down, with resulting unfavorable psychological and propaganda effect; and some of them, in real distress for lack of food, bought on the black market and exhausted their funds before they were entitled to more relief.
- d. I therefore believe that before the relief situation can be solved, it will be necessary:
- (1) to provide sufficient supplies of staple foods where the poor can actually get them;
  - (2) to police stores very vigorously, as to rations and prices;
  - (3) to suppress the black market.
- e. I realize that at present these problems are receiving attention and that they are hard to solve; but perhaps until they are solved it would be advisable to give one basic food to the needy in kind and the balance in cash.
- f. The carabinieri and police functioned badly at the Teatro Massimo on the first two or three days of relief. They were unable to execute simple directions, such as the one that after the line was closed for the day, all gates and holes in the fence must be guarded. For two days I had to inspect all posts myself and found many persons sneaking into line by side gates, etc.
- g. By August 7, under instructions from Major Searle, Colonel MICHELE, Captain Wallace and myself, the lines, though larger, were orderly, and most police functions were well carried out.
- h. Nobody had thought of the sanitation problem involved in having crowds of several thousand in line for many hours, and in addition the limited facilities inside the building, for the use of the relief workers, were not functioning. At my direction the city sanitary service was requested to attend daily to the removal of excreta outside the building. The toilets inside are not yet functioning, and I shall call in A.M.G. public health officers if the situation continues.
- i. Certain officers from A.M.G. Hq. made very helpful suggestions as to police and supply matters. On the other hand some of these officers gave orders which were contrary to policies adopted for relief, with resulting confusion until the conflict was resolved. The coordination between province and city A.M.G. officers concerned was almost uniformly good. It appears to be unsound practice for Hq. officers to give orders, without

785015

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5. In view of the necessity of using indirect control technique rather than the personal operation employed by the British in East Africa, all questions as to whether applicants satisfied the means test were decided by Italian welfare workers or officials, with certain principles laid down in accordance with Colonel POLETTI's directives, or my decision in cases not covered by such directives. These principles which governed the Italians' decisions were as follows:

- (1) Residence in Palermo city (excluding suburbs with relief organisations currently working) was a prerequisite to the granting of any relief, except that in case a person could make a satisfactory showing of inability to get home, e.g. illness, occupation by the enemy, he was considered to have qualified as to residence, for the emergency period. Such cases were not many. Italian citizenship was not required.

It is believed that reciprocity should be ordered throughout Sicily in this respect.

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- (2) Nobody received relief who was not in present need. All former special categories, like "military assistance", were entitled to help only if the means test were satisfied.
- (3) The maximum of relief to be granted, regardless of the former or present category of the applicant, was 25 lire per day for the head of the family and 5 lire per day for each dependent, for the first 7-day period.
- (4) For the emergency period of seven days anyhow, all relief was paid in cash, and in a lump sum.
- (5) During that period at least, since Palermo residence was required, all funds disbursed were debited to that city, though its budget had not provided for more than a fraction thereof. The province and the state, the latter in larger amounts, had formerly provided a great part of the funds. Obviously the funds could not presently be obtained from the state.
- (6) I would recommend that whatever adjustments be made in the future for the emergency sum of 1,575,000 lire delivered by the city for the 7-day period, i.e. whether or not part of that sum be ultimately paid to the city by state or province, all payments in the future for city relief should pass through the city budget, even though provided to the city, in part, by the state or province. Thus alone would it be possible to obtain easily a picture of city relief expenditures, and to assure central control.
- (6) It is necessary to make very sure, if cash relief is to be paid, that cash is actually physically present in plenty of time, where it is to be disbursed, and in the necessary denominations. Former banking channels and practices are apt to be disrupted and small denominations virtually unobtainable.
- (7) Provisions for safe-keeping of cash was necessary, as banks close prior to the closing hour of the relief office. Nobody, at first, was able to produce a safe and I had to undertake charge of the cash overnight for several days.
- (8) Separate queues were necessary for men and women in this country and in addition pregnant women, cripples and those wounded in the 1914-18 war were considered by the people entitled to, and were given, positions at the head of the queues.
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- (8) Separate queues were necessary for men and women in this country and in addition pregnant women, cripples and those wounded in the 1914-18 war were considered by the people entitled to, and were given, positions at the head of the queues.
- (9) The crowd was often far more unruly, undisciplined and vociferous than any I have encountered in any other country. The women were particularly rude and hard to handle. Most of the crowd had little sense of fair play and would try and ruse to put one over on the rest of the crowd, on the relief workers and police, or on us.
- (10) The average intelligence of applicants was incredibly low. It is necessary to instruct them repeatedly what to do and to make a very great effort to see that they understood what bakers to go to and the fact that they were paid relief for a 7-day period, as well as the reasons why, in case they were negligible, they were refused relief. Many could not read.
- (11) H.Q. Public Safety officers ordered the arrest of applicants who came in the evening to get places in the next day's line, and were waiting, not on the sidewalk, but inside the grill at the Teatro Massimo. The officers did not consult me or any city A.M.G. officer, and did not make any provision for putting those arrested at the head of the relief line the next day. Though a technical violation of the curfew order may have been involved, the applicants were not on the street or sidewalk and no breach of peace was involved.

785015

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- (12) An unfortunate practice developed whereby both officers and enlisted men at both A.M.G. and Palermo Provincial Headquarters sent persons who had asked for relief at these places to the relief office at the Teatro Massimo with notes addressed to me personally stating that the individual in question was a deserving case entitled to preferential treatment, i.e., a place at the head of the queue. The rules for preferential treatment were established and enforced strictly in accordance with Para. 6) above, and all persons having such notes to me were treated exactly like others, much to their unrighteous indignation.

Others attempted to obtain immediate consideration of claims by reasons of relatives in the United States, college education or the use of a comely daughter as bait, etc. They all seemed surprised at our insistence upon equal treatment for all; evidently the fascists reserved equal treatment for a small, unlucky minority.

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Among those requesting favourable treatment for family or friends were relief workers and their chiefs. Some of the latter first offered me small personal favours, and I was glad afterwards that I had refused them.

- (13) During the first few days when bread was very scarce and the relief workers were required to lengthen their hours of work from 5½ to 8½ hours per day, they found it impossible to obtain bread, due to the length of bread-lines and the fact that the bakers did not have supplies for all. For a few days it was arranged, through the Civilian Supply section, for the rations for the relief workers and their families to be set aside, at a nearby bakery and picked up in the late afternoon.

This practice was misunderstood by some of the crowds in the queue at the bakery, who thought some sort of unwarranted preference was being given, and who were told by a policeman that the bread was for American Officers. The practice was discontinued after a few days, both for psychological reasons and because bread supplies and their availability increased.

- (14) The relief workers on the third day of operation asked whether they would not be entitled to overtime pay in view of the unprecedented hours which they had been working. It was ascertained that prior to disruption of city services

785015

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- (13) During the first few days when bread was very scarce and the relief workers were required to lengthen their hours of work from  $5\frac{1}{2}$  to 8 $\frac{1}{2}$  hours per day, they found it impossible to obtain bread, due to the length of bread-lines and the fact that the bakers did not have supplies for all. For a few days it was arranged, through the Civilian Supply section, for the rations for the relief workers and their families to be set aside, at a nearby bakery and picked up in the late afternoon.

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- (14) The relief workers on the third day of operation asked whether they would not be entitled to overtime pay in view of the unprecedented hours which they had been working. It was ascertained that prior to disruption of city services resulting from the 9 May aerial bombardment, salaries had been paid on the basis of graduated monthly stipends, plus overtime pay for work over  $5\frac{1}{2}$  hours per day as follows:

|                                  |                     |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Group A (chief and a few others) | 4 lire per hour     |
| " B (the bulk of clerks, etc.)   | 3.75 lire per hour  |
| " C (relatively unskilled)       | 3.50 lire per hour. |

Approval of Captain Morse, Labor Relations officer, was obtained to the continuation of this method of payment until further notice, and a request for its immediate restoration was directed by Major Haley. The employees were advised.

- (15) Unpaid salary arrears amounted in some cases to several months; others had been paid in advance, in accordance with the usual fascist practice of inequality. I told the employees that for the moment nothing would be done by A.M.G. authorities about past arrears, but that I would request the city officials to end the practice of paying some people prompt or early, and others several months late. I obtained a list of those who were not paid at the end of July (about 25%) and asked Major Haley to direct prompt payment by the city official concerned.

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- (16) An annoying difficulty encountered was the frequency with which applicants had no identity of other personal papers whatsoever, alleging destruction by bombing, e.g., or in case of released political prisoners, the taking of all their papers at the time of arrest and release without any paper at all. A list of such prisoners released by our office was obtained from A.M.G. legal officers, and any of them requesting relief was not required to have papers. But in the case of others lacking papers, I found that several local Italian authorities charged with the duty of issuing or replacing such papers were either not functioning at all or closing at noon without satisfying all those who had presented themselves. These local authorities were required to improve their service and relief workers were instructed, in cases of urgent need, to refer them to me. About ten a day were so referred, and with two exceptions relief was paid to the applicants. The two cases were those of fakers, one of whom I ordered arrested when he became insolent.
- (17) In general the policy followed was to require Italian officials and relief workers to assume as much responsibility as possible, after the rules and general principles had been explained to them. Their tendency was to try to get A.M.G. to do as much as possible, e.g., they constantly asked for U.S.M.I. personnel, though after the first day none was available; and they asked for supplies, money, etc., which they had means of obtaining themselves. I backed them up in almost every case in which they had taken action, though all decisions of any sort were appealable as of right to me. But I found it necessary to prod them constantly to make them do what they had agreed to do, and in some instances, as in obtaining the required cash, I had to do the job myself in order to prevent a complete and dangerous breakdown in the whole system; and they assured me that they had an interpreter who spoke fluent English, but he never succeeded in speaking even one sentence in English, and a serious impasse was avoided only because one employee spoke good French, the language which I had to use thereafter in all relief matters.
- (18) Arrangements were made for prompt and regular exchange of information between the labour registration center, the U.S. authorities employing labour, those releasing prisoners, and others, in order to try to avoid payment of relief to undeserving cases. Co-ordination with private charities was planned but not achieved, with the same end in view.

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#### SUMMARY.

1. In 7 days over 30,000 individuals were provided with cash relief, about 10% of the population. It is recognised that some persons undoubtedly were not entitled to help, because time did not permit adequate case investigation. This risk was assumed deliberately in order to achieve speedy help for those who needed it and had been without it for weeks.
2. In spite of the almost complete lack of relief organization at the start, it was possible to begin operating in a makeshift way within three days of undertaking it, using nothing but local Italian personnel (about 80) except for one A.M.G. officer in control.
3. Though there would have been improvement in the handling of the crowds, in spite of the difficult Sicilian temperament there were no outbreaks and no injuries to the public.
4. This report was delayed, insofar as it covers the former relief set-up by the fact that it became necessary to take action, first, to get started anew the distribution of relief. Experience in Palermo indicates the necessity of having A.M.G. personnel available for and assigned to relief at the earliest possible moment after Allied occupation, as delay greatly aggravates the problems found.

(Sgd) A.S. ALEXANDER  
Capt. M.I. Civil Affairs Officer

