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CIVILIAN REQUIREMENTS & ESTIMATES, CIVILIAN SUPPLY, CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS SEPT., OCT. 1943

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Hererence: (AC, \_14)/4.

12 Oct. 43.

Minutes of Conference held at Hollywood (Room 4) 12 Oct. 43 at 1130 hr

Subject:

Procurement of Structural timber.

Present

Col. D.S. Adams E.F. Directorate

PW & U. Lt. Col. Jenny Major Hartman Agric.

Lieut. Macdonald Agric. (Forestry)

After discussing general requirements and possible sources, Italy, U.S., Australia, West Africa and other; Agreed that Lt. Col. Jenny (PW&U) will furnish to Agriculture an estimate of kind and types of heavy timbers and other, required for immediate emergency needs. That Agriculture will explore various sources of supply, having in mind scarcity of shipping and necessity of using local sources and also substitutes adequate for temporary structures, and prepare a report as soon as practicable so that requisitions can be prepared.

That Agriculture will furnish information to Ind-Our as to the availability of saw mill machinery, including "log carriers" that will be required for use in Italy including possibility of securing "Lumber Co's" (Army) Royal Eng's or U.S. Eng's. Procurement of machinery and equipment will be by I-C-C- Sub. Com.

That Agriculture will have the responsibility for saw mill operations. That Agriculture will set up liaison promptly with the Forest Products Research Lab. at Princes Risborough and U.S. Forest Products Lab. at Madison Wis. to secure information as to substitutes such as built up and laminated structural timber.

That Agriculture will also set up liaison with N.A.E.B. through proper channels.

Colonel,

E.F. Directorate.

Distribution:

++++ E-F

PW & U Sub-Com.

Agric.

Ind-Com.

File 1074

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785015 Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND 1 HQ Allied Commission. Chief of Public Works and Utilities - Sub-Commission. Construction Materials and electrical equipment required from U.A. REFERENCE: AC/1148/4. S October 1948.

While on my return from Sicily I discussed with General J.D. HOLMES the question of lack of construction materials and electrical equipment in Italy and the need of precuring these from the United States. During normal times construction materials come from Yugoslavia or Austria. He advised me to prepare an estimate of anticipated early requirements so that a requisition may be sent to the United States. The requisition covers piles and timbers to be used for quickly rebuilding the most essential highway and railroad bridges and dooks which have not been rebuilt by the army. Timber is not as searce in the U.S. as is steel, and timber structure can be built very quickly. It is the plan to build such structures directly alongside of the destroyed structures so as to permit the Italian Government to reguild its structures later on. Many of these are works of art and require considerable time to rebuild. That is not our function, but we are concerned with the quick reopening of escential railroad and highway arteries.

There is also a great need for small electric power plants capable of driving motors requiring from 5 to 1000 horsepower, preferably the portable type. While in Sicily I learned that some small flour mills, or other similarly highly essential plants, could not be operated because of lack of electric power. If such small power units had been available these plants could have operated, if necessary for restricted periods and the power plant moved to the next plant needing power. It is fully realised that the question of availability of such plants either in the U.S. or U.K. will be the determing factor. However, as the situation in Italy will be far more serious than in Sicily, every effort should be made to sent as many of these small plants as possible.

It is requested that early action be taken to procure these materisls and equipment. When these materials are shipped they should be clearly earmarked for the use of the Allied Commission

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Lt. Col. Engrs. A.U.S.

LAJ/pjm

TO:

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DATE:

SUBJECT:

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TO :

M.G.S., A.F. H.Q.

FROM :

Joint Asst Chiefs of Staff, A.C.

SUBJECT :

Civilian Supply, Construction Materials

REFERENCE :

AC/1145/4.

DATE :

4 OCTOBER 1943.

This list of materials was made by Lt.Col. Jenny, C.E. after a visit to Sicily and is fer emergency needs fer Itahy.

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Recommended for approval.

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R.H. RATHBONE

Colonel.

J.J. ALBRIGHT Joint Assistant Chiefs of Staff, Allied Commission.

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