

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

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MINUTES OF CONFERENCE HELD AT HQ, AAI, 1944
JULY 1944

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
R.C. & M.G. Section
APO 394

Ref 784/2 /Ch.

20 July 1944.

MINUTES OF CONFERENCE HELD AT HQ. AAI
19 July 1944.

Twenty Seven Officers were present including :

- 2 from each Section - R.C. & M.G., Admin.
Economic, & Political.
- 3 from Fifth & Eighth Armies (each).
- 1 from Regions IV, V, VIII (2) & IX.
and reps from - Establishment Branch
Civil Affairs Branch } R.C. &
Refugee Branch } M.C. Sec.
Patriots Branch }
Displaced Persons S/C. }
and Liaison Officer at HQ. AAI.

ACTION

1. Supply Officers.

Armies and Regions were asked to accept the present ceiling of officers with the possible addition of 200 further British Officers. This was discussed and it was stated that there were no difficulties generally with the exception of Supply Officers. It was thought that there might be a surplus in other Sub-Commissions, (possibly Public Safety?). It was suggested that Establishment Branch take up with Adm. and Econ. Sections to find 20 - 30 officers and then run a short course of about two weeks for their instruction.

Est. Br.
Adm. Sec.
Econ. Sec.

2. Organization of Region IX.

With the military operational organization it might be necessary to follow suit in Region IX by splitting it into two. The right flank on the Adriatic coast would consist of individual Provinces with POLCORPS but could, if necessary, be temporarily looked after by Region V, from a Headquarters point of view.

R.C. & M.G.
Section

3. Regions North of the Apennines.

Region IV stated they wanted a strong team of Economic experts at Regional Headquarters in the early stages. Armies felt the same need but to a slightly lesser extent. This was likely to be felt more keenly the nearer we got to the Industrial Regions in the north. After discussion it was thought better to send Italian civilians up as soon as possible in order to make a survey of vital

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Econ. Sec.

4. Political Section.

They asked for every support to be shown by GAO's in forward areas and Provinces to the present Italian Government. Need was felt for bigger and stronger teams of Italian officials. After discussion it was thought that certain suitable Italians might be found in the towns when they were captured who could be employed and that therefore it would be more suitable to have a pool of officials rather than a team. Admin Section listed the officials required, and would take action.

Adm. Sec.

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ACTION

-2-

5. Patriots.

(a) Col. McCarthy handed out copies of the new memorandum giving a general directive on Patriots and the terms of reference of the Patriots Branch. He explained briefly this document to Armies and Regions, who had no comments. 2,000 of the new Patriot Certificates were also distributed to each Army. This would be enough for immediate needs and further supplies were being printed.

(b) Policy. The policy is laid down in the memorandum which had been agreed by all concerned and was quite clear except for the rehabilitation of those young Patriots who wished to continue fighting as Patriots and not join the Italian Army. The Executive Commissioner said that there was only one Italian Army. The Patriots must be absorbed into civilian life. (It might however be possible to train some of those young men for mine clearance duties, see later para.6 (c)).

(c) Regions and Armies were asked if they wanted more Patriot Representatives. The ones initially sent up had all arrived and though it was early to say how satisfactory their work was it appeared to be going well. Patriot Reps were not to engage in local government or political activities. Widespread publicity should be given to the AGC organisation for Patriots and the duties of all concerned therein.

(d) Military re-employment. Recruiting by MIA has generally not begun. All agreed that recruiting agents must be right forward. Many Patriots are reluctant to put on uniform and be sent to rear areas to drill on a barracks square, but if they wanted to fight this would be essential. The Executive Commissioner would take this up with General Browning.

(e) Patriot Committee for POWs. Col. Poletti is starting a Committee for POWs. Names must be given to R.C. & M.G. Section and Political Section to approve before the Committee is finally set up.

(f) It was emphasised at the end of this discussion by the Executive Commissioner that AGC's main job with Patriots was civil rehabilitation.

6. (a) Displaced Persons. Col. Findlay asked if there would be any quid pro quo for Italians who held our P.W. in the shape of the release of their relatives in P.W. Camps in England.

(b) Refugee Branch. Col. Hulls stated briefly the general policy. This was that there would be no evacuation further than was necessary and in any case none South of the line ROME - CHIANI. He was planning for up to 50,000 refugees. P.O. Refugee Branch

P.R.O.

R.C. & M.G.
Sec.

C.A.Br.

R.C. & M.G.
Sec.

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(d) Military re-employment. Recruiting by MMA has generally not begun. All agreed that recruiting agents must be right forward. Many Patriots are reluctant to put on uniform and be sent to rear areas to drill on a barracks square, but if they wanted to fight this would be essential. The Executive Commissioner would take this up with General Browning.

(e) Patriot Committee for Rome. Col. Poletti is starting a Committee for Rome. Names must be given to R.C. & M.G. Section and Political. Section to approve before the Committee is finally set up.

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(b) Refugee Branch. Col. Hulls stated briefly the general policy. This was that there would be no evacuation further than was necessary and in any case none South of the line ROME - CHIVITTI. He was planning for up to 50,000 refugees. John Refugee Branch and Displaced Persons Sub-Commission praised the work and organisation of the American and British Red Cross Units and Friends Ambulance Units. This was heartily endorsed by Armies.

(c) Mine Clearance. The Allied Armies will not accept the responsibility for mine clearance in any areas except for operational requirements in the forward areas. This is roughly a 20 ft. strip each side of main roads. This is now becoming a major problem in the liberated areas of Regions IV, V and VIII. It is getting worse and not better. Many Italians are killed every day and it retards development. Some organisation is required to be set up to deal with this problem but it must be composed of Italians.

P.R.O.

R.C. & M.G.
Sec.

C.A.Br.

R.C. & M.G.
Sec.

ACTION

-3-

Measures taken at present consist in the employment of two mine lifting Coys of the Italian Army, one in Region IV and one in Region V. There is none to spare at present for Region VIII. These Coys are training two Italian Army Inf Coys who will eventually replace them. It was suggested that a school to train young volunteer Partisans in these duties was started. It was hoped that the Army might loan instructors and equipment. Executive Commissioner said he would talk to General Browning on this point.

R.C. & M.G.
Sec.

7. Admin. Section.

(a) Col. Upjohn took up Political Section's point of having a pool of Italian officials ready for the early phases of the occupation of Italian towns.

(b) He mentioned the general policy of defascistization and stressed the importance of clearing out the leading Fascists at the earliest opportunity possible. He warned Armies and Regions against being side-tracked by the pushing forward of the smaller fry as a sacrifice.

Adm. Sec.

(c) The general question of Carabinieri was discussed. The unanimous feeling was that the ceiling was too low, even if the peacetime ceiling of 60,000 was granted. Conditions in Provinces and Regions were generally bad and other police agencies such as the PAI have been disbanded, leaving the Carabinieri with extra work. Regions and Armies were requested to give their views to Admin. Section.

8. Supplies and Transport.

These two questions are inextricably bound up together. The supply question is for the moment much better on the whole, partly due to the new harvest becoming available and partly to the fact that fairly large stocks have been captured. The transport situation is bad.

Econ. Sec.

(a) Transport. 548 GI Coy will not be available to AMG Fifth Army after the 23rd July. Col. Toscani will then have no transport to distribute from stockpiles forward. Food Sub-Commission lose the use on the 20th July of the GI Coy placed at their disposal, and will only get a 50% replacement of civilian vehicles. This will be reflected in slower building up of the stockpiles from Rail-head or Port.

Economic Section have no vehicles which can be produced to remedy the situation. They asked AAI for 2,000 vehicles. General Harbelen ("Q" AAI) says that AMG Fifth Army must become the responsibility of Fifth Army. Fifth Army denied this. General Harbelen has now called to SOS MATOUSEA. However no vehicles are in

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Economic Section have no vehicles which can be produced to remedy the situation. They asked AAJ for 2,000 vehicles. General Hamblen ("Q" AAJ) says that AMG Fifth Army must become the responsibility of Fifth Army. Fifth Army denied this. General Hamblen has now cabled to SOS NATOUSA. However no vehicles are in sight for Fifth Army AMG for distribution after July 23rd.

(b) FLORENCE. AMG Eighth Army have managed to build up 10 days supplies for FLORENCE and AREZZO Province in SIENA. There is also another 1,300 tons at Railhead if transport for distribution is available. The new harvest will not help since the transport problem remains the same owing to the bringing up of POL for milling instead of the flour.

(c) ANCONA. Here POL is the problem. There is not enough transport in this Province. Col. French of Region V asked whether schooners could be made available. POL is chiefly required for the collection of the harvest. No. 2 District are prepared to help over this and supply all requirements of Region V in POL if AAJ approved. Col. French to take up with Col. Adams in ROME.

Econ. Sec.
Col. French

ACTION

(d) Misc. Supplies. The need for these was stressed. They were actually required at present more urgently than flour. A fair quantity had arrived at PIOMBINO but there was no transportation for distribution. Food Sub-Commission stated that these supplies were still all arriving at MARLES and had to be re-shipped or railed up to forward areas.

(e) Eighth Army Bread Price. Lt.Col. Spencer, Supply Officer of Eighth Army, said that he had first put up this problem to Economic Section two or three months ago, and finally three weeks ago asked for an urgent decision which was promised in a few days. He still had no answer and had to use his own discretion in fixing the price of "new-grain bread".

The main point he wants to know is what is the proportion of the subsidy. Lt.Col. Spencer is willing to fix a price on his own if he gets no instructions, but it will be uncorrelated to other prices.

9. Establishment Officer.

(a) Warned Armies and Regions that they might not be filled up to Establishment until the harvest was over in Regions I, II and V. After this there would be some officers combed out and sent forward.

Est.Br.

(b) Col. Albright suggested a Rest Home for overworked ACC officers.

10. Next Meeting.

It was agreed that subject to confirmation in a weeks time the next meeting would be held at HQ. AAI (wherever it might be) at 1100 hrs 2nd August.

DISTRIBUTION:

Executive Commissioner.

Admin. Section (1)
Econ. Section (2)
Political Section (4)
AMS Fifth Army (2)
AMS Eighth Army (2)
Region IV (2)

G.W.I. SHIFF,
Lieut.Col.

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It was agreed that subject to confirmation in a weeks time the next meeting would be held at HQ. AAJ (wherever it might be) at 1100 hrs 2nd August.

Handwritten signature

G.W.I. SHIPP,
Lieut.Col.

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Executive Commissioner.	(1)
Admin. Section	(2)
Econ. Section	(4)
Political Section	(2)
AMG Fifth Army	(2)
AMG Eighth Army	(2)
Region IV	(2)
" V	(2)
" VIII	(2)
" IX	(2)
Rome Region	(2)
Estab. Branch	(1)
Refugee Branch	(1)
Patriots Branch	(1)
Displaced Persons S/C.	(1)
L.O. HQ. AAJ	(1)

Est.Br.

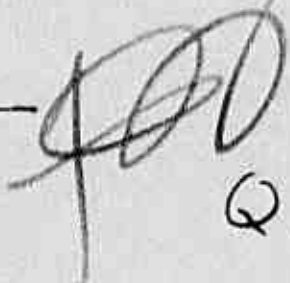
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Acting Chief Commissioner.

CSO

Minutes of meeting held at AAI, submitted.

18/2/7


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