

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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MONTHLY RETURNS, SICILY REGION
AUG. 1944 - MAR. 1945

SECRET

9 April 1945

ABBREVED CLOSING REPORT

MARCH 1945

(NOTE. Regional Headquarters closed with effect from 1700 hours, 26 March. Some special divisions had closed their offices previous to that date. No reports from special divisions or monthly statistics were available as a basis for this report.)

GENERAL.

Allied Commission Regional Headquarters and the Provincial Headquarters Eastern SICILY ceased to operate with effect from 1700 hours, 26 March, and on 27 March the majority of the Allied Commission staff left the Island for the mainland.

AN Allied Commission Liaison Officer was left at PALERMO for Western SICILY and at CATANIA for Eastern SICILY.

The following Specialist Officers also had instructions to remain at PALERMO:

- One Mining Officer
- One Property Control Officer } Until 1 May.
- One Transportation Officer (Rlys) } Pending transfer of
- One Transportation Officer (I.N.F.) } I.N.F. to the Italian Government.

No change was made as regards the Islands of PANTHERIA and LAMPEDUSA which remain under AMG and on each of which Islands the existing staff of one C.A.O. remained.

A. POLITICAL SITUATION AND PUBLIC OPINION.

There was genuine regret among the official classes at the withdrawal of the Allied Commission Regional Headquarters and staff from the Island, and it is felt that in general the population as a whole shared in this regret.

Public opinion remained apathetic and little interest in the progress of the war was displayed, the majority of the population being mainly concerned with their own industrial and personal affairs.

There was little political activity and no political meetings of importance took place. The Separatists were quiet.

Public morale remained comparatively good due mainly to the continuance of regular issues of rationed bread and pasta, and to the demands for wage increases being met even though such increases killed any attempts to

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Public morale remained comparatively good due mainly to the continuance of regular issues of rationed bread and pasta, and to the demands for wage increases being met even though such increases killed any attempts to stabilize prices of essential commodities. Much discontent arises from the increasing lack of clothing and shoes for the workers.

B. LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

There were no signs of improvement in the effectiveness of the local administration which remained at a low level. Even open abuse of the simple laws and rules such as those regulating the control of motor vehicles and the attendance of children at school, fails to stir local authorities into any kind of action.

The Regional Consulta to the High Commissioner was holding its second meeting and had been in session for four days. It is understood that one of the main problems discussed was that of the amassing of the grain harvest.

C. ECONOMICS AND SUPPLY.

Grain ships were arriving regularly thus enabling a steady distribution of the full 300 gram ration of bread and pasta throughout the Island, but there were no indications of any reserve stock being built up which it is felt the situation should have permitted to a limited degree.

The increase in the prices of bread and pasta consequent on the cancellation of the State subsidy had not caused any unfavourable repercussions. Efforts to improve the quality of the bread and pasta had had good results. The black market prices of those essentials, which fell considerably when grain imports resulted in the general issue of the full ration, were rising steadily to their former level consequent on wage increases.

Inter-regional and export trade generally was hampered by continued lack of means of transport.

Production of sulphur from the mines continued at an abnormally low level.

D. AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES.

Agriculture was seriously hampered by shortage of fertilisers, insecurity caused by armed banditry and lack of labour and machinery.

The olive oil amassing can be considered as almost a complete failure.

As regards the amassing of the next wheat harvest no amassing decree has yet been issued, which causes a serious situation having regard to the very early harvest in some parts of the Island. The area under seed is less than that of last year. After a winter which was at times abnormally wet there is a serious need for rain. There may be a poor harvest. The problem of the amassing of next seasons harvest is considered by the authorities as presenting most serious difficulties.

E. LABOUR.

The labour situation remained quiet and there were no disturbances or strikes of importance.

G. PUBLIC SAFETY.

Crime remained at a high level. In this connection it is to be noted that a very large number of criminals remain undetected and that many of those who openly break the laws are not brought to justice either because of the supineness of the local administration or because of the impossibility of dealing with the large number of offenders involved. 84

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The situation as regards banditry in the country districts appears to have improved slightly. Co-ordinated action was taken in certain areas in the interior of the Island and a large number of suspects arrested.

It is understood that a scheme is being worked out under which the Italian Military Commander in the Island would be responsible for the suppression of banditry, thus enabling a co-ordinated plan to cover the whole Island.

There were/.....

There were signs of improvement in the morale of the forces of law and order as the result of the measures taken both as regards training and equipment by the authorities concerned. Lack of spare parts and tyres for motor vehicles present a serious problem.

II. PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE.

The health of the population generally remained very good and there were no serious epidemics.

1. COMMUNICATIONS.

There was a considerable improvement in the railway box-car situation and a steady flow into the Island was taking place.

A temporary serious coal shortage which necessitated curtailment of the passenger services was being adjusted by the receipt of coal exports, but the present coal allocation to the Island does not meet the needs of the agriculturists and merchants who have commodities available for export.

The regular steamship services both for passengers and freight between the important ports of the Island and CIVITAVECCHIA on the mainland was expected to commence operation very shortly and should prove most beneficial to the Island.

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S E C R E T

**ALLIED COMMISSION
SICILIA REGION HEADQUARTERS
APO 394**

MONTHLY REPORT - FEBRUARY 1945 **20 MAR. 1945**

PART I

GENERAL

T	Init	Date
VP CA Sec	<i>3/1</i>	<i>3/13</i>
Public Safety	<i>3/1</i>	<i>3/13</i>
Public Health	<i>3/1</i>	<i>3/13</i>
Legal	<i>3/1</i>	<i>3/13</i>
Local Govt	<i>3/1</i>	<i>3/13</i>
Patriots	<i>3/1</i>	<i>3/13</i>
Disper	<i>3/1</i>	<i>3/13</i>
Education	<i>3/1</i>	<i>3/13</i>
MFA & A	<i>3/1</i>	<i>3/13</i>
Ca. Sec	<i>3/1</i>	<i>3/13</i>

PLEASE PASS QUI KLY *Handwritten initials*

There have been no public disorders during the month and the military call-up on a reduced scale has proceeded without incident. There is again a slight increase in crime as a whole and armed bands continue to operate, although there have been no further hold-ups of trains. While lesser crimes still increase the absence of mass disorders and the fairly constant position so far as more serious crimes are concerned has made this month a comparatively quiet one from the Public Safety point of view. The civil police have, if anything, shown slightly more zeal and activity but are still badly handicapped chiefly by shortage of transport, arms and personnel. The steady rise in delinquency which has now persisted over many months is the result of many contributing factors but is undoubtedly chiefly caused by the present economic conditions.

The principal problem of the month has again been food and the soaring prices of nearly all commodities. The further wage increases announced will do little to ease the lot of the worker and the only immediate effect was a further increase in black market prices. Essential commodities, such as bread, immediately showed a tendency to rise. At present the disparity between wages and prices is as great as ever.

The bread situation has remained good with the arrival of 5 ships bringing over 20,000 tons of wheat and barley and 1200 tons of flour. The 200 grams ration of bread and pasta has been regular. Other foodstuffs are available in fair quantities but are quite beyond the pocket of all except the minority of wealthy persons and black market operators.

There has been little political activity during the month and the people show no signs of increased interest in political matters. The outstanding event in Italian official circles has been the inauguration of the new Consulta, which has been given a very restrained welcome and little enthusiasm or interest has been shown by the man in the street. Indeed the Sicilian distrust of the central Government is longstanding, deep-rooted and not without some justification so that any measure proposed, however good, is immediately suspect. The people now are apathetic and without confidence in their own administrative officials many of whom they knew to be inefficient and corrupt. To date the Consulta has held two long meetings. It appears that these meetings were regarded as the forum for presentation of political

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Poverty is still widespread, particularly in the larger towns, and there is much discontent below the surface. The lot of the destitute is not improved by the absence of any effective and adequate system of relief or assistance and the same can be said of the widows or other State pensioners whose number at present continues to increase. The health of the people however continues, in the circumstances, to be remarkably good and the cases of typhoid fever have shown a marked decrease. The health and medical treatment of the prisons still leaves

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much to be desired. The better weather throughout the month has done much to alleviate suffering and improve the morale of the people. There have been no strikes or serious labor troubles.

The Provincial and Communal administrations show no sign of increased efficiency.

All trade and particularly interregional trade has been gravely handicapped by lack of road, rail and sea transport. Mixed cargoes have however been shipped to Malta and there have been shipments of citrus fruit and salt to the mainland. The transport situation is continually deteriorating as irreplaceable tires and parts wear out, apart from the increasing shortage of coal and F.C.L.

In the rural districts conditions are somewhat better than in the towns and there is no real shortage of food. Clothing however is extremely short and the living conditions of the people, which depend entirely upon agriculture, is if anything deteriorating although the living standard has never been high. Agriculturalists are at present facing many difficulties and are not optimistic as to the future. Artificial manures and seed potatoes continued to be distributed during the month, the health of livestock is good and the crops are thriving despite an abnormal season.

During the month 1946 quintals of grain were amassed bringing the total to date to 1,324,100 quintals. The amassing of olive oil was again very small.

PART II

4. POLITICAL REACTIONS AND PUBLIC OPINION

There has been comparatively little political activity during the month and no political meetings of any importance. A great majority of the population continues to take little or no interest in political matters--they have other more pressing matters to worry about.

There are at present, so far as is known, approximately 18 political parties in Sicily, many of them with quite minute memberships. The parties with the largest followings are still the Communist, Christian Democrats and Labor Parties. The Separatist movement claims to have a large following.

Sicilian representatives attended the inter-regional congress of Socialists at Reggio Calabria on 17-18 February. Their speeches advanced no new or novel views and have provoked little comment. As usual the opposition to Separatism for Sicily was stressed.

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The Separatists have not been heard so frequently as in former months but it is understood that their underground propaganda goes on unabated. The suggestion and feeling that the Separatists were at least in part responsible for encouraging the recent disorders has not strengthened their position so far as the bulk of the people is concerned. Indeed, there are signs that this party is not increasing to the same extent as in the past. There is general distrust of the ultimate intentions of a party backed by all the wealthy industrialists as the people realize that this small class is partly responsible for their present poor economic condition.

Public opinion has been restrained on most matters and in fact the only matter which really interests the masses is the question of food, clothing and work.

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The improved war situation and the much improved weather have combined to cheer up public opinion during the month and the opinion is held by many that the war will end in two or three months. While a few less informed people believe this would mean an immediate improvement in conditions in Sicily there is a growing feeling that the end of the war will bring a post-war crisis with grave disorders.

Some sections of public opinion have welcomed the increased powers given to the High Commissioner. The opinion is, however, freely expressed that it is a matter of form only and that in effect there is no greater degree of self-government.

The further increase of wages announced is welcomed by all but the opinion is freely expressed that these increases are no remedy for soaring prices and that it is price control that is needed. Considerable dissatisfaction is expressed that the government takes no active steps to enforce price control.

B. LOCAL GOVERNMENT

There has been no improvement in local administration either at the provincial or communal level. Corruption is widespread and there is no determined effort to administer properly or to enforce governmental or provincial ordinances. The lack of co-operation between departments is particularly noteworthy. Departments endeavour to operate in watertight compartments which results in great inefficiency.

On February 25th the Regional Consulta to the H.C. for Sicily was duly inaugurated, present the Cardinal of Palermo and all civil and military authorities of the Island. The H.C. was the principal speaker and in a long speech surveyed the Sicilian situation and the part that the Consulta must play in this historic moment of Regional Government to alleviate and solve many problems of the Island. A message from Loroni was read and there was disappointment on the Prime Minister's failure to come to the inauguration as had been announced a week earlier. The Consulta is composed of 36 members selected and proposed by the High Commissioner and nominated by Rome. Of these 14 are from Palermo, 7 from Catania, 2 from Messina, 3 from Siracusa, 3 from Agrigento, 3 from Trapani, 2 from Caltanissetta, 1 from Ragusa and 1 from Enna. Politically they are 6 Democrats, 4 Communists, 1 Party of Action, 6 Democrats of Labor, 4 Socialists, 3 Liberals, 2 ex-service men and 5 members of non-recognized parties (Separatists). Professionally they are 20 lawyers, 3 doctors, 3 engineers, 3 professors, 1 accountant, 1 shipbuilder, 1 farmer, 1 laborer and 1 landowner.

The meetings were held in the following two days when they adjourned to reconvene in March better prepared to face the hard tasks which will be before them, according to Alidico.

There are signs that the increased powers accorded to the H.C. may give some impetus to administration at the top level. At the moment there is much talk but the success of these measures will depend on the tangible results forthcoming.

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There are signs that the increased powers accorded to the H.C. may give some impetus to administration at the top level. At the moment there is much talk but the success of the new measure can only be judged on the tangible results forthcoming. The greatest difficulty which the H.C. and his Consults have to overcome is the appalling lack of interest, corruption and inefficiency of administrative officials right down to the lowest levels. Without an alteration in this respect no measures for Sicily, however good, can hope to achieve more than a very limited success.

S E C R E T

C. ECONOMICS, RESOURCES AND SUPPLY

Five ships arrived during the month at either Palermo or Catania carrying a total of 16469 metric tons of wheat, 5719 tons of barley and 1224 tons of flour. Four ships also arrived during the month or at the end of January, carrying a total of 7002 tons of rock phosphate for agricultural purposes. Three of these ships unloaded at Catania and one at Porto Empedocle. There were no other Allied imports.

The normal bread and pasta ration of 300 grammes per person has been regularly continued, in contrast to the period October to January when the issue of the pasta ration was most irregular.

Inter-regional trade has not been on a large scale due chiefly to transportation difficulties. The position with regard to railway transportation has been particularly difficult due to the loss of large numbers of box cars used to send Army supplies northward which until recently have not been returned or replaced.

The improvement in weather conditions and the revised basis for calculating freight charges has tended to speed up the movements of schooners but this benefit has been offset by a new difficulty, namely, the shortage of nafta. The allotment of nafta for February was reduced to 29 tons as compared with 170 tons in September 1944.

The principal trade to the mainland has been citrus fruit. There were four shipments on the 5th, 4th, 9th and 23rd February for a total of 1608 tons representing 47012 cases.

The acceptance of imported coal and its distribution has now been completely handed over to the Italian authorities.

The principal exports to the U.K. have been three shipments of lemons and bitter oranges on the 11th, 24th and 28th February totalling 164226 boxes of lemons and 80354 boxes of bitter oranges. Other shipments were 500 tons of cement and a sulphur retort.

The shipments of fruit were some 11,000 boxes less than anticipated due to the failure of the Palermo piermaster group to carry out their contract and due in a lesser degree to the rejection of boxes not in accordance with contract and to loading difficulties.

Shipments of mixed cargo were also made to Malta, chief items being lemons, baskets, wine, cottonseed, nuts, plastic clay and olives.

There have been meetings of producers of fruit juices and essential oils to discuss prices. The price of these citrus by-products is high and considerably above London's computed price. This is due chiefly to the high price of lemons and to the buying operations of one particular firm.

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There was a continued reduction in the amount of sulphur produced during February. The mines were, however, notably free from labor troubles. There is a great shortage of carbide for the mines which will exhaust present stocks early in March. Some steel pipe and other necessary mining equipment has been received from the mainland but there is still a shortage of necessary equipment despite improvisations made with odd items of equipment found in the Region.

D. AGRICULTURE, FORESTS AND FISHERIES

Grain amassing during the month amounted to 1946 quintals, bringing the total to date to 1,324,100 quintals of wheat and 107,701 quintals of barley. Oil amassing was again negligible, only 1687 quintals being amassed during the month, bringing a total to date of 7673 quintals.

S E C R E T

Further seed potatoes arrived from Reggio which brings the total imported this season up to 950 tons. Approximately 75% of these have been distributed to the potato growing area of Catania, the remainder being distributed amongst Syracuse, Messina and Palermo.

The manufacture of super-phosphate continues and a further factory now producing sulphuric acid will begin super-phosphate production early in March. The production for February was 5616 tons and to date from all factories the total produced is 20,945 tons. In addition, two shipments of rock phosphate were received amounting to 4155 tons. Super-phosphate distributed to the provinces amounted to 5141 tons and there are 12,804 remaining in the factories.

The health of live stock continues to be good.

Seeding is well forward in most districts and the grain crops are looking well despite the abnormally wet season and the shortage of fertilizers.

The shortage of transport is more acute than ever. This is a serious handicap to agriculture and forestry officials who are practically without road transport and therefore quite unable to carry out their duties with anything approaching efficiency. Strong recommendations have been made to the High Commissioner so far without result. The same position exists with regard to rail transportation and has seriously affected the distribution of fertilizers which are likely to arrive at the farms too late to be really effective so far as this season's crops are concerned.

The possibility of copper sulphate production has been investigated and it is found that 200 tons per annum could be produced locally if copper were available.

An extensive tour of the provinces of Palermo, Caltanissetta, Catania and Messina was made during the month when the Director of the Agriculture Sub-Commission was present and also the High Commissioner for some part of the time. Meetings were held and close contact made with the farmers. The letter on the whole takes a gloomy view with regard to the future of agriculture in the Region and not without some justification as they are at present beset with many real difficulties such as lack of transportation, depredations by armed robbers, shortage of laborers and wage troubles, stealing of trees for firewood, shortage of fertilizers and agricultural machinery, blight and shortage of insecticides and above all what they consider to be a quite inadequate price for their grain up to now.

S. LARON

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E. LABOR

The labor situation during the month has been quiet. There have been no serious strikes or disturbances. There is still considerable discontent below the surface caused by the high cost of living and lack of clothing. It is felt that this discontent may result in labor troubles in the future. The threatened strike by state employees was averted after an issue of pasta had been raised. The position is not, however, settled and these employees are now awaiting developments before deciding on their course of action.

During the month the Region was visited by the Under-Secretary of State for Labor who discussed labor problems.

A scheme is being organized for the inauguration of evening classes in technical subjects and it is hoped that these classes will commence in the near future.

S E C I N E

F. PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES

The greatly improved weather has resulted in an increase of outside work and the recent measures passed by the Italian Government for housing roofless persons has tended to encourage private building enterprises. The Italian authorities are fully conversant with the scope and effect of the new measures, local committees are being formed and much will now depend on the energy of the Sicilians, which judging on results so far achieved is likely to be very limited. In any event the big handicap as ever is not the lack of transportation and building material, particularly timber and steel.

Work on military highways has continued but is slow due to the difficulty in getting material to the sites. The condition of other highways remains unaltered and they are generally speaking in a very bad condition.

The electricity supply has remained satisfactory throughout the month. Coal used for this purpose for the month ending 25 February was 2762 tons imported coal and 7556 tons Sardinian coal. There has been an increase in the unit consumption of coal due to its bad quality. Normal repair work has proceeded at the stations and on one of the watercourses and it has been possible to obtain materials for repair of boilers from the U.S. Naval authorities.

Gas works are not working due to the absence of coal for this purpose.

The water situation following the abnormally wet winter is very satisfactory.

The overriding consideration during the month has been the continued extreme shortage of transport facilities of all kinds, which affects practically all public works and utilities and will bring projects to a standstill unless the position improves.

G. PUBLIC SAFETY AND THE COURTS

There has been a slight increase in crime which remains at a high level. Of the more serious crimes, the most common is still robbery, there having been 192 cases during the month. Armed robbery and the operations of armed bands in the more remote districts continued to present a serious problem.

Vehicles and persons are not being systematically searched by the police for arms and this systematic method with some success. The presence of arms is, however, a grave problem in Sicily where almost everyone has a weapon of some kind or another and where there are still large supplies of abandoned enemy weapons scattered about.

There have been no serious public disorders during the month.

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There have been no serious public disorders during the month.

As a result of the increasingly difficult economic condition, clandestine prostitution is increasing.

There has been one isolated instance of publication of Fascist propaganda and in this connection three arrests have been made.

There are still many forged and altered Allied military notes in circulation and the Police have not yet traced the further counterfeiting plant known to be operating. 160 forged notes of three different values were recovered from circulation during the month.

SECRET

The civil police are showing increased confidence and there is a slight improvement in morale. They are, however, still seriously handicapped by lack of clothing and boots. Their efficiency is also greatly impaired by their lack of mobility. Apart from the shortage of transportation, such transportation as is available is largely immobilized by lack of tires, batteries and other spare parts. At the present time the CC.FF. alone have 75 motor vehicles and 103 motorcycles off the road for lack of spare parts.

There have been no sabotage of other serious cases affecting Allied interests in the Region. The only crime affecting Allied interests continues to be that of theft of Allied property which is widespread.

During the month the Italian civil courts tried 349 persons in cases affecting Allied interests. The two Italian Military Courts tried a further 68 such cases.

The Italian courts continue to function throughout the Island but there are very large arrears of criminal cases, particularly in all the larger cities. The Court of Appeal at Catania is much handicapped by reason of its being unable to find accommodation for the Procura whose building was destroyed during the civil disturbances in December last.

There have been no Allied Courts in the Region and there are no cases pending for such courts at the present time. Many applications continue to be received for pardon and grace but these almost invariably show no merit.

The prisons continue to be very crowded and there is a high proportion of sickness amongst the prisoners. It is noticeable that at least 40% of the petitions for pardon in Allied cases are on the grounds of ill health.

There are now 296 persons serving sentences imposed by Allied Courts, mostly during the period of occupation. Italian Military Courts continue to work in Palermo and Catania. These Courts are efficient and are trying many civil cases, thus relieving the burden on the civil courts to a small extent. The sentences of these courts also appear to be severe in nearly all cases.

H. PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE

The health of the civilian population remained very good and there have been no serious epidemics during the month. Infectious diseases reported totalled 1023 which included 252 cases of scabies and 325 cases of typhoid fever. Typhoid fever is abating slowly and the above figure represents a decrease of 100 as compared with the cases reported last month. One case of typhus was reported, the patient being a soldier recently returned home from Greece via Taranto. There have been no further cases of smallpox. In the last 6 months of 1944 more than 1,300,000 vaccinations were carried out in Sicily.

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It has been found out that the prenatal packs of Allied origin which were sold to expectant mothers were finding their way with great rapidity on to the Black Market where the packs or articles contained therein were being sold at 150% up to ten times the original price paid. An effort is being made to curtail these re-sales and the High Commissioner has issued a decree prohibiting such sales. The packs are now supplied to expectant mothers on a hire basis and, apart from expendable items, have to be returned at the end of 12 months.

The campaign against clandestine prostitution is being vigorously pursued.

Malaria has been at its lowest ebb and only five fresh cases were reported. Plans for the coming malarial season are well advanced, a consignment of Paris Green from the central Government in Rome being expected in Sicily in April.

SECRET

With existing stocks it will be possible to commence the larva-killing campaign early in the season but difficulty is anticipated in obtaining the necessary workers on account of the very low wages offered.

I. EDUCATION

All schools have been working regularly during the month of February. The problems remain the same, namely, lack of shoes, glass, schoolrooms, books and notebooks. School attendance has been more regular which is no doubt due to the improvement in weather conditions. No classes have been dismissed on account of severe cold weather. There has been an increase in the speed of printing and distribution of text books. The editors promise that 299,000 text books will be printed and distributed in Sicily and Calabria by the 15th of March. Some of the editors are now working on a 24-hour shift.

There is a great shortage of text books for higher schools and Universities which has resulted in very high prices being asked. In an endeavour to improve this situation, 13 tons of paper have been provided for the publishing of text books previously approved by the Ministry and by the Rectors of the Universities.

Seven tons of elementary paper have been made into notebooks which are clearly marked with a tag showing the purpose for which they are intended. So far 140,000 of these notebooks have been distributed in the 9 provinces, chiefly Palermo, Catania and Messina. The provincial authority pays L. 2.40 for each notebook and these are then sold to the more needy students at L. 3 each. This distribution has resulted in a most noticeable decrease in the retail prices asked for notebooks in the shops. Notebooks previously displayed at L. 40 - 60 each are now being offered for sale at L. 15-20 each.

The survey for glass required in the schools is not yet completed but requirements are coming in and it is clear that a very large amount of glass will ultimately be required. For example, Agrigento Province with 41 communes and 400,000 population asks for 122,260 square meters of glass for 16 of its communes. It appears that the requirements are probably exaggerated and do not in any way represent the minimum requirements.

The provision of lunches for school children is still under consideration. A request for such lunches has been received from one province for approximately 2,000 pupils. This province, however, makes it perfectly clear that the lunches are not required if there is to be any cost to the province or the consumers.

Considerable numbers of school buildings are still occupied by refugees and Allied and Italian troops. Very few of these have been released during the month. In the Province of Messina 2 elementary schools have been leased by the commune to the local newspaper as a storage depot.

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Professor Barbato, Ispettore Centrale per le Scuole Medie, has made an inspection trip, lasting ten days, of the schools in the Province of Messina. He points out that there has been a very sharp decrease in the membership of elementary schools. For example, Messina City has only 6,000 pupils attending classes out of a total of 21,000 duly enrolled pupils. It is felt that this may be largely due to the non-realisation and distribution of the school lunches mentioned above.

S E C R E T

J. FINANCE AND PROPERTY CONTROL

The index cost of living based on prices during the month of January continued to increase and reached the figure of 165.71 as compared with 155.95 for December. Prices continue to increase.

The revenue realised for January was L. 173,029,279.

Advances were made to communes in the 9 provinces of Sicily amounting to a total figure of L. 204,479,194.

The sale of Treasury and Postal Savings Bonds continues to be satisfactory.

AFA closed its offices in Palermo on the 28th of February and the RRC will in future deal with any matters which require attention and which were previously dealt with by AFA.

The situation with respect to property in custody or under control is as follows:

Taken under control to January:	<u>Owners</u>	<u>Properties</u>
Taken under control to February:	655	864
	<u>4</u>	<u>8</u>
	659	872
Releases to Jan.:	<u>Owners</u>	<u>Properties</u>
Releases to Feb.:	188	257
	<u>48</u>	<u>62</u>
Remaining under control.....	423	559

The various banks report that only 44 of the 126 Allied controlled accounts which were ordered to be de-blocked under provisions of the CFI Instruction No. 9 have, in fact, been de-blocked. Pressure is being maintained on the banks to get the remaining accounts de-blocked.

The Bank of Sicily has again been approached with reference to the question of value for insurance purposes so as to ensure that adequate cover is provided.

K. REFUGEES

The High Commissioner for Refugees has given permission for the return of Prosinone and Littoria refugees and small parties of those persons have been returning to their homes. Otherwise there has been no change in the last month.

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L. COMMUNICATIONS

The position with regard to box cars for railway transportation shows slight improvement as during the week prior to this report 154 box cars were received as against 196 going out of the Region. There has however been an acute shortage of goods vehicles throughout February.

Rail services were further hampered by shortage of materials for repairs but as usual the predominating difficulty has been shortage of coal which made necessary a temporary curtailment of the long distance passenger service towards the end of the month. There is evidence that the use of Military and A.C. train warrants has been abused.

5478

SECRET

Road communications have been restricted by shortage of transportation, but
IRT have continued to operate as in previous months.

Telephone and telegraphic services continued to be fairly satisfactory.
Cable communication has now been established with the islands of Lampedusa and
Pantelleria for State Services and A.C. only. The former are requesting that
the service should be extended to all civilians.

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- 1 EC
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Est & Liaison

M. Carter
 M. CARTER
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 Regional Commissioner

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TO	INIT	Date
Public Safety		
Public Health		
Interior		
Legal	W	27/3
Education	W	27/3
MONUMENTS	W	11/5
DPR Comm.	W	11/3
Pat.	OFFICE	3/3
Admin Sec.	GRY	

PLEASE PASS QUICKLY

Handwritten signature

19 FEB. 1945

Hy. AC

COA Section

SECRET

18 FEB. 1945

ALLIED COMMISSION
SICILIA REGION HEADQUARTERS
APO 394

18 FEB 1945

MONTHLY REPORT - JANUARY 1945

PART I

GENERAL

The principal problems of this month, as in the previous month, have been Public Safety and Alimentation.

Serious disorders, centered chiefly in the province of RAOUA and resulting from a continued protest against the military call-up, again caused a breakdown of law and order. The Police and the Carabinieri were unable to control the situation and troops were employed. Comparatively minor disorders occurred also in the Provinces of AGRIGENTO and PALERMO.

Following these disorders the situation during the latter part of the month appeared outwardly calm. Reports indicate that the results of the call-up have decidedly improved.

The immediate cause of the disorders was unquestionably the protest against the call-up. Certain rumours have been circulated to the effect that the trouble was started as an organized attempt on the part of the Separatists to take control of the Government; it has also been said that the fascists had participated and still other rumours attributed the trouble to direct enemy activity. None of these rumours appear to have any support of fact.

The background and characteristics of the Sicilians, their failure to conform to any form of Government and the more difficult conditions of daily life as the consequences of the war create an unrest and a resistance against the present Government. Some of the more progressive of the representatives of various groups seek the opportunity to express their sentiments and naturally the most effective form of expression from the Sicilian point of view is the public demonstration of disorder which, when started, is further exploited by criminal and racial elements.

The situation was improved by further shipments of grain. The bread ration of 300 grams per person was maintained but the distribution of the pasta ration was erratic. Two ships arrived with a total cargo of 12755 tons. It is not possible to ever secure from the Italian Government an accurate estimate of the grain supplies on hand. Based on the fact that grain shipments have been received and further shipments promised, it now appears that both the ration of bread and pasta can be main-

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There has not been any serious shortage of other foods. But there continues to be an unequal distribution. Prices at a level beyond the ability of the masses to buy and consequently to increase. Wages do not keep pace with the increasing prices thus the disparity becomes greater. The prices of other necessities such as clothing likewise continue to increase. The

Ex Enix Dist
1- ESC, E.C., CC
1- C. Albert
1- Jean Scott
1- Photo sent to Phil + Victor Scott
1- Capt. H. H. ...

S E C R E T

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S E C R E T

lack of control of prices and the scarcity of goods appear to be the causes.

An important factor in the problem of recovery is that of transportation. While in Sicily there has been, under the existing conditions, adequate road transportation it is now deteriorating at such a rapid rate as to cause alarm. Railway transportation has also been affected by the removal of box cars from the island. If not improved, the lack of transportation will soon seriously affect the distribution of essential foodstuffs.

The political situation has not changed materially. The masses continue to be apolitical and interested primarily in the personal necessities of life. There was no particular activity on the part of the recognized parties and in general there seems to be no confidence in the party leaders. The so-called National Committee of the Separatist Movement held a Congress in Palermo on the 16th and 17th. Shortly thereafter leaflets published under the name of Pinochiaro Aprile and Antonino Varvaro, known Separatist leaders, appeared on two of the principal streets in Palermo. These leaflets, reported to be the result of the Congress, contained an affirmation that no Italian government would be supported, proposed a Sicilian state which might later federate itself with other states in Italy and appealed to the Allies either for recognition or a return to Military Government. As to actual plans for an uprising, as have at times been reported, there is no definite information. But the general situation indicates that leaders may attempt to profit from any outbreak of discontent.

Persistent rumours of a general strike of the state workers were heard. The low rates of pay and the high cost of living are reported to be the matters against which protest will be made. As yet no such strike has materialized but if it does it may cause further disorders.

The weather and the lack of materials have retarded further construction of essential services. The roads are in poor condition and the situation becomes worse. The coal supply has not been entirely adequate. The water supply is now adequate.

Inter-regional trade and exports to other countries were retarded by the weather but were not completely stopped. Total shipments of about 3800 tons of wine and fruit were sent to the Rome area. Exports included 280,000 cases of lemons to Great Britain; 6195 tons of sulphur to North Africa; 3530 tons of sulphur to Southern France; and small shipments of wine, fruit

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The general efficiency of the Italian Government has not noticeably improved. It lacks the confidence of the people. Some of the Government representatives themselves do not show confidence in the Government and have the impression of uncertainty in their positions. The low pay in relation to high prices presents the constant threat of corruption.

S E C R E T

PART II

A. POLITICAL REACTIONS AND PUBLIC OPINION.

The masses in general have shown no increased interest in politics. The opinion of many is that the political parties do not have a clearly defined line of action and that the political propaganda is based on personal interest of the leaders rather than the collective interest of the masses.

There has been some increase of propaganda on the part of the Christian Democrats and the Labour Democrats in the Province of Caltanissetta. A regional congress of the Communist Party was held early in the month at Palermo. The attendance was about 300, including party representatives from all provinces and a representation of the Socialist Party.

The Separatists have continued their propaganda published and distributed clandestinely. A meeting of the so-called National Committee was held at Palermo on the 16th and 17th of January. It has been reported that consideration was given to an organized uprising to take control of the Government. This was not confirmed. But following the meeting, leaflets published in the name of Innocentio Aprile and Antonio Varvaro, recognized Separatist leaders, appeared on walls in two principal squares in Palermo. The material, supposed to be the results of the meeting, reaffirmed opposition to the Italian Government, proposed Sicily as a state that might later be federated with other states in Italy, and appealed to the Allies for recognition and the re-imposition of Allied military Government. The meeting and the leaflets have been subjects of separate reports.

The lack of confidence in the government continues. In fact, as the discontent and dissatisfaction of the population increases, the blame is attributed to the government. No action of the government is supported by the people; but, inversely, all action continues to be criticized.

Discontent has increased, the principal cause being the economic situation, to which is added the protest against the military call-up. Within this month disorders broke out, primarily in the Province of Ragusa, and there were comparative-ly minor disorders in the provinces of Agrigento and Palermo.

The scarcity and unequal distribution of food and the increasing prices of food and clothing, are the principal causes of continued discontent.

There has been some increase of propaganda on the part of the Christian Democrats and the Labor Democrats in the Province of Calabria. A regional congress of the Communist Party was held early in the month at Palermo. The attendance was about 500, including party representatives from all provinces and a representation of the Socialist party.

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Discontent has increased, the principal cause being the economic situation, to which is added the unrest against the military call-up. Again this month disorders broke out, primarily in the Province of Reggio, and there were comparatively minor disorders in the provinces of Agrigento and Palermo.

The severe and unequal distribution of food and the increasing prices of food and clothing are the principal causes of continued discontent.

B. LOCAL GOVERNMENT

In general there has been no noticeable improvement in the efficiency of local government. The disorders resulting from the protest to the call-up produced another test of the strength of the government. Troops were employed to establish order and investigations and arrests quickly followed. Several hundred persons have been arrested in the provinces of Reggio and Agrigento, some of whom have been sent to the island prison of Ustica.

SECRET

The Sicilian problems have commanded the attention of the central government. The High Commissioner spent about 10 days in Rome discussing problems of Sicily.

C. ECONOMICS, RESOURCES AND SUPPLY

The arrival of additional grain ships made it possible to continue the bread ration of 300 grams but the issue of pasta has been erratic, due to shortage of grain and delay in manufacture. Grain shipments received totalled 12,755 tons. The "Clyde A. Dunning" arrived at Catania on 30 JAN with 4000 tons of wheat and the "Join Quick" arrived 30 JAN at Palermo with 3755 tons of wheat.

A ration of 100 grams of sugar per person was issued.

Supplies received, in addition to the grain, included 15,268 tons of phosphate, 58 tons of explosives, 16,626 tons of coal and 250 tons of coke.

Weather seriously affected inter-regional trade, particularly fruit which could not be picked during the rainy weather. Three ships with total cargo of 1481 tons of wine, citrus fruits and milk sailed from Syracuse; two ships with a total cargo of 1322 tons of wine and fruit sailed from Catania; one ship with a cargo of 873 tons of citrus fruits and a small shipment of 10 tons of dried fish left Palermo; all shipments went to Rome.

A rail shipment of 11,755 tons of denatured alcohol was made to Ponsoveta on request of ARIS and the loading of a shipment of 5430 liters of pure alcohol for Naples was started.

The high prices and the lack of transportation affect the distribution of foodstuffs. Prices continued to rise and the transportation problem became more acute. The drain of box cars to the mainland has become a major problem. The weather and the system of charges according to tonnage and days at sea rendered seacoast traffic difficult. But an improvement is expected as the result of the new system which bases the charges on tonnage and distance.

There is a shortage of Sardinian coal. None was received due to a coal curfew in Sardinia.

Exports have been retarded by the weather, lack of rail-transportation and the failure of the Italian government to pay outstanding debts to exporters.

The exports for the month were 280,635 cases lemons; 630 cases oranges; 3185 cases lemons.

structure. Grain shipments received totalled 12,755 tons. The "Glyde A. Dunning" arrived at Catania on 30 JAN with 4000 tons of wheat and the "John Quicker" arrived 30 JAN at Palermo with 8755 tons of wheat.

A ration of 100 grams of sugar per person was issued.

Supplies received, in addition to the grain, included 16,868 tons of phosphate, 58 tons of explosives, 16,626 tons of coal and 250 tons of coke.

Weather seriously affected inter-regional trade, particularly fruit which could not be picked during the rainy weather. Three ships with total cargo of 1481 tons of wine, citrus fruits and milk sailed from Syracuse; two ships with a total cargo of 1322 tons of wine and fruit sailed from Catania; one ship with a cargo of 673 tons of citrus fruits and a small shipment of 10 tons of dried fish left Palermo; all shipments went to Rome.

A rail shipment of 11,755 tons of denatured alcohol was made to Portsmouth on request of AFIC and the loading of a shipment of 6420 liters of pure alcohol for Naples was started.

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There is a shortage of Sardinian coal. None was received due to a coal strike in Sardinia.

Exports have been retarded by the weather, lack of railway transportation and the failure of the Italian government to pay outstanding debts to exporters.

The exports for the month were 280,633 cases lemons; 630 tons of wine; 175 tons of wine to Great Britain; 3195 tons of sulphur to North Africa; 5580 tons of sulphur to South France; and small shipments of wine, fruit and salt totaling in all approximately 400 tons to Italy. A program for the near future is set up for the shipment of 250,000 boxes of lemons and oranges, subject to capacity and dates of arrival of ships.

With respect to the export of other products, contracts were signed for 20,000 boxes of bitter oranges; instructions were received for the shipment of 30 tons of citric acid and there is another 50 tons of this product ready for shipment.

S E C R E T

The situation respecting fruit juices and essential oils has not changed due to the lack of packing materials and shipping instructions. Perfunctoryness of the Italian Government in paying the lemon exporters has caused considerable distress among them and a reluctance to enter into new contracts.

The acute shortage of box cars has made difficult the transport of lemons from packing houses to ports. As the result of a constant drain, approximately an average of 110 box cars per week over a period of time used for the shipment of fruit and mules to the Army on the Mainland, no further transport is available.

D. AGRICULTURE, FORESTS AND FISHERIES

The grain amassed during the month was 29,509 quintals bringing the total amassed to date to 1,414,685 quintals (wheat 1,305,623; barley 107,062). Oil amassing was practically at a standstill, a total of 5129 quintals having been received. Of 1500 tons of seed potatoes promised, the total received to date is 521 tons, which have been distributed to growers under contract for a proportionate supply of ammonium nitrate, super phosphate and copper sulphate.

Production of super phosphate increased; it has now reached the monthly production of nearly 8,000 tons. 18,630 tons of rock phosphate were imported. A serious problem of transportation exists due to the lack of coal. Approximately 400 tons of coal are required for the railways for the transportation of imported rock phosphate and the super phosphate which is produced here.

Seeding is well forward in spite of severe weather conditions. But there are indications that mountain crops of citrus fruits will remain on the trees because of lack of transport.

The live stock situation was satisfactory and there were no diseases reported.

Fishing boats are still subject to regulations established by the Navy. A total of 2330 tons were loaded.

E. LABOR

The labor situation was quite satisfactory. There

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E. LABOR

In general the situation was quite satisfactory. There were no disturbances but at times there were persistent rumours of a strike of state employees. The staff of the Palermo Provincial Labor Office stopped work on 16 JAN but returned at 5:47 PM. An interview with the Labor Minister, Gronchi. Investigation of the cause revealed the political influence particularly on the part of the Communist Party which is openly hostile to the Labor Office. As the result of the strike of coal storehouses at Catania two ships were diverted to other ports. This strike was a protest against the low rates and resulted in a proposed increase which was submitted for approval.

S E C R E T

The wage adjustment agreement between the employees and manager of the S.A. Autobus was approved.

Reports indicated that the newly established Social Insurance scheme for employees of the Allied Forces was working well.

A series of night classes was inaugurated by the Regional Labor Office in conjunction with N.O.B. It was successful, similar facilities will be offered in other provinces.

The reduction of personnel in Labor Offices, being effected by Dr. Purpora for the Ministry of Labor, was completed. The total reductions were 28 employees from the Regional and Provincial Offices and about 70 from the Offices of Collocamento.

E. PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES

Works in progress have been retarded by wet and stormy weather and rains have caused damage in harbors and ports.

A decision was reached on the question of work on bridges started on request of the Army and Navy. The lack of fuel had brought this work to a standstill but it is now provided that supplementary petrol will be issued. Arrangements have been made to treat work in ports and harbors in the same manner as highway roads.

With respect to highways designated as military, new sections of work on bridges on highway 113 amounting to approximately 11,500,000 lire were approved. In general other roads are in a bad state of repair.

As the result of increased rains estimated hydraulic electrical production for February has increased. The consumption of coal from 20 NOV to 28 JAN was 7340 tons (3880 Sardinian) and the stock on hand was 8335 tons (6087 tons Sar-dinian). The estimated consumption for the months of February, March and April is 23,400 tons. An increase of unit consumption has been caused by the poor quality of coal received and the size, which is not suitable for the furnace bars. Nafta supplies were received at Porto Empedocle and Catania. Receipts of container tubes at Catania were completed. The station at Porto Empedocle which was not in operation from the 1st to 20th was re-opened after temporary repairs were made.

No coal has been allotted for gas works at Palermo, Catania and Messina. The water supply, previously limited, is now adequate as the result of the recent rains. The desalination plant at Palermo now makes possible

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A decision was reached on the question of work on bridges started on request of the Army and later abandoned. The lack of petrol had brought this work to a standstill but it is now provided that Supplementary Petrol will be issued. Arrangements have been made to treat work in ports and harbors in the same manner as elsewhere.

Work subject to highways designated as military, now estimates of work on bridges on highway 143 amounting to approximately 11,000,000 lire were approved. In general other roads are in a bad state of repair.

As consequence of increased rains estimated hydraulic consumption for February has increased. The consumption of coal from 20 NOV to 25 JAN was 7340 tons (3880 Sardegnian, and the stock on hand was 8335 tons (6067 tons Sardegnian). The estimated consumption for the months of February, March and April is 25,400 tons. An increase of unit consumption has been caused by the poor quality of coal received and of size, which is not suitable for the furnace bars. Nails supplies were received at Porto Empedocle and Catania. Re-pairs of container tubes at Catania were completed. The station at Port Empedocle which was not in operation from the 15th to 25th was repaired after temporary repairs were made.

The coal has been allotted for gas works at Palermo, Catania and Trapani. The water supply, previously limited, is now adequate as the result of the recent rains. The dereliction of a Municipal depot in Palermo now makes possible repairs and maintenance of trams and buses.

The general situation with respect to construction is: Projects with higher priority: 5 authorized; 17 in hand; 3 completed; projects other than military: 25 during the approval of Allied Commission: 1 initiated; 88 in hand; 1 completed; projects handled independently by the Italian Government: 23 initiated; 24 in hand; 18 completed.

S E C R E T
G. PUBLIC SAFETY AND THE COURTS

Serious disorders occurred in the Provinces of RAGUSA, AGRIGENTO, CALTANISSETTA and PALERMO during the early part of the month. The disorders in the Province of Ragusa, centered chiefly in Ragusa, Vittoria, Modica and Comiso, caused such a complete breakdown of law and order that the police and Carabinieri were unable to cope with the situation. Troops were employed to re-establish order. The rioters offered resistance to the troops in several places particularly in COMISO where they were in control of the town for approximately 5 days. During the various conflicts 1 officer and 3 soldiers, 1 finance guard and 1 Carabinieri were killed and 15 soldiers were wounded; 5 civilians were killed and 8 wounded. Following the disorders investigations were conducted and several hundred persons arrested. Some of the persons arrested are reported to have been sent to the Island of Ustica.

During the latter part of the month no serious disorders were reported.

The immediate cause of the disorders was the resistance to the military call-up but this, as in the case of previous disorders, appears to have been the means of expressing general dissatisfaction over economical conditions and a strong resentment against the Government. Reports have circulated that the disorders were organized and planned either by the Socialists or the Fascists and it was even suggested that they were the direct result of enemy activity. But these reports appear to be without foundation.

Reports on the call-up indicate that considerable progress has been made. Of the 20 thousand expected from the call-up of the classes 18-24, 9,617 have been accepted. While the resistance to the call-up seems to have lessened, discontent exists because of the disparity between wages and the high prices of essential goods. Rumours of a strike of state and parastatal employees have been persistent. If such a strike occurs with the present state of discontent there is a strong possibility of further disorders.

The Police are still handicapped by the lack of communications and serviceable transportation. The organization of mobile battalions in the Carabinieri has not been completed. A battalion of troops sent to Sicily designated as reinforcement of the Carabinieri has not yet passed to Carabinieri command. The equipment received for the organization of these

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There have been large scale thieving from the gas line in Palermo. Three additional traplines were located and several arrests have been made. An increase in Fascist activity was reported in Caltanissetta and Enna. An allied vehicle in which a British Sergeant and an officer of the Carabinieri were passengers was held up and the passengers robbed. In another case

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a British soldier escorting mules for the Army was assaulted and wounded. Cases of forged notes continue, a total of 156 notes were recovered. Investigation of this crime has continued and seems likely to bring some results soon.

Prisons are still crowded. A great number of prisoners are awaiting trial before the Italian Courts. There are 304 persons serving sentences imposed by AMG Courts since the Allied Occupation, including those sentenced after responsibility was turned over to the Italian Government. Reports to the Augusta Prison and the old prison at Catania are proceeding. The work at Favignana was completed and 200 prisoners are now accommodated there.

The administration of the Italian Courts has not changed. A general complaint is that they have been seriously handicapped by the great difficulty in obtaining any reply from the Ministry of Grace and Justice. There have been no AMG Courts but two applications are pending. The spy, Borroni, was executed at Catania on 17 Jan. The applications for pardon and grace from Allied sentences continue to arrive but only three cases were submitted for decision; other cases were disposed of within the Region, no appeals having been granted.

The Italian Courts tried only 3 cases as compared with 40 for the previous month. The big decrease was due to the inactivity of the Catania Court, which was occupied with cases transferred to it from the civilian courts.

The arrears of cases in the Italian civilian courts continue to be large and the situation cannot be considered satisfactory. The Palermo Court of Appeals has been held up by the new decree for the composition of Sections of the Court and by the fact that AMG appointees have not been included. Thus it is difficult to operate some of the sections at all. The Court was also hindered by a strike of lawyers which lasted about one week. The strike was a protest because applications for a Section of the Court of Cassation at Palermo had been ignored. The Catania Court of Appeals is without preliminary because the appeals to the former premises have not begun and property held by the military authorities has not been released. The trial of some Italian officials of the Ustica colony has been disposed of without substantiating any charges which confirms the decision of the Allied Commission known as the Ustica War Crimes Commission.

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With respect to action by the Italian Courts on cases affecting Allied interests an increase was noted. During the four-week period ending 20 JAN, 201 persons were tried as compared with 146 during a similar period in December, 157 having been found guilty and 55 sent to prison. The number awaiting trial was 300 as compared with 930 in December. The trials of these cases will move slowly.

Many matters of a general legal nature continue to be referred to the Legal Officer. Most of these matters involve claims against AMG and almost invariably it is found that no AMG records exist.

Following the disorders extensive investigations have been

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conducted and a great many people arrested, some of whom are reported to have been sent to the Island of Ustica. Further information will be secured with respect to the charges and the legal measures employed.

II. PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE

The condition of health in Sicily was particularly good, with the exception of widespread typhoid fever, in spite of the unusually cold weather. The number of infectious diseases increased to 1057. The typhoid epidemic in Perreale was found to be due to water pollution and snags have been taken to bring it under control. The total number of cases of smallpox reported since the outbreak is 43, 3 cases having been reported during the month. This outbreak of smallpox can now be considered as being completely stamped out. The number of cases of primary malaria fell to 25 as compared to 142 in December and 672 in November.

With respect to venereal diseases, 320 women were taken in charge for examination, of which 1160 were found to be infected; 10 were sent for trial, 29 returned to communes; 55 clandestine houses of prostitution were discovered and 41 prostitutes arrested.

I. EDUCATION

High Sicilian schools reopened after the Holidays a full year of teaching and study under the new regime was celebrated. The conditions in the schools were generally unsatisfactory due to the cold weather, the lack of heat and, in most of the schools, the lack of window panes.

The supply of teachers is still greater than the demand. A general feeling of dissatisfaction in the teaching bodies is due to the new instructions from the Ministry of Public Instruction respecting the compilation of a curriculum. In the province of Piana the provéditeur, an one appointed considered to be one of the most efficient, was substituted by an incompetent provéditeur. In the Universities the students have taken an active part in the protests against the call-up. Demonstrations of the students at Palermo University at the opening of the academic year caused a postponement of the ceremony. The dissatisfaction there is said to be based on the unsatisfactory conditions with respect to students of Social Anthropology, the slow compilation of professors and their general dishonesty. The reason is accused of being weak and of executing all professorial duties with carelessness. Fascist sentiments are also reported to

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A total of 130,000 elementary textbooks has been distributed and arrangements completed for the printing of the essential needs. Other school supplies are badly needed. ^{8/27/43} The execution of two provinces, Trani and Siracusa, school funds have not been made.

The Youth Movement in Sicily (Boy Scouts) is well organized and an intensive drive is planned by the Scout Commission.

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Comitati pro-Scholar are being organized in all provinces to help the poorer children secure books and supplies and for the general protection of school interests.

I. FINANCE AND PROPERTY CONTROL

The index cost of living based on prices during the month of December continued to increase and reached the figure of 153.95. Prices are reported to have continued to increase during the month of January. Increase is said to be due to the same causes - the Black Market prices of bread and pasta.

The total of reserve notes was increased by the transfer of 1,240,000,000 to Sicily of which L.161,545,000 went to the Banca di Napoli and L.49,984,000 to the Bank of Italy. The flow of currency from the Bank of Italy Palermo continues.

The revenue realized for December was L.210,928,855. The sale of Treasury and Postal Savings Bonds continued satisfactorily.

The total amount advanced to all provinces was L.194,682,272.

The banks continued to function as normally as could be expected under the present conditions. News of the forthcoming reopening of the Stock Exchange at Palermo was received with great satisfaction in the financial circles throughout the island. It is considered that this will have a beneficial effect on the operations in dealing with Government Bonds and industrial shares.

The situation with respect to property in custody or under control is as follows:-

	<u>OWNERS</u>	<u>PROPERTIES</u>
Taken under control to Dec.	682	860
" " " " Jan.	3	4
<u>OWNERS PROPERTIES</u>		
Released to Dec.	655	864
Released to Jan.	188	257
Remains under control	467	607

Instructions were given to banks to release 126 accounts.

Prices are reported to have continued to increase during the month of January. Increase is said to be due to the same causes - the Black Market prices of bread and pasta.

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The Revenue realized for December was L.216,928,853. The sale of Treasury and Postal Savings Bonds continued satisfactorily.

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The situation with respect to property in custody of UNRRA is as follows:-

	<u>Others</u>	<u>Property</u>
Taken under Control to Dec.	682	860
" " " " Jan.	3	4
<u>Releases to Dec.</u>	<u>655</u>	<u>854</u>
<u>Releases to Jan.</u>	<u>188</u>	<u>257</u>
Remaining under Control	467	607

Instructions were given to banks to release 126 accounts.

II. REMARKS

There has been no change in the situation during the past month.

I. COMMUNICATIONS

The poor condition of roads and the lack of tyres and spare parts for maintenance continue to restrict road transportation. The I.N.T. organization continued to operate as under the previous organization although instructions respecting its transfer to the Italian government were expected. The equipment is in

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such a state that appreciation is accelerating rapidly. A daily average of 400 to 455 vehicles was maintained, 50% of which was employed for the alimentation services.

The acute shortage of box cars has seriously affected the operations of the railways. Many cars leaving the Island with shipments of goods have not been returned. Already the movement of exports and essential foodstuffs has been handicapped by the loss of transportation.

Telephones and telegraphic service continued to operate without any particular change. Repairs of cable to the Islands of Panbelloria and Lamodusa were continued and it is expected that the cable will be functioning in the near future.

Raymond A. Sturrock
C. RR
Brigadier
Regional Commissioner

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Ray R. Shunk
R. R. SHUNK
BRIGADIER
REGIONAL COMMISSIONER

SECRET

ALLIED COMMISSION
SICILIA RESICHA HEADQUARTERS
APO 394

MC/EGG

MONTHLY REPORT - DECEMBER 1944

PART I

GENERAL

TO	INIT	Date
Public Safety	[initials]	12/24/44
Public Health	[initials]	24/11
Interior	[initials]	[initials]
Legal	[initials]	[initials]
Education	[initials]	[initials]
War Materials	[initials]	[initials]
Propaganda	[initials]	[initials]
Admin Sec.	[initials]	[initials]

PLEASE PASS QUICKLY

21. Since the general conditions in Sicily in December were very unsettled, lack of confidence in the Government, the general economic situation, disparity of prices and wages, and the general food shortage, the situation was very unfavorable from an early and severe winter was caused by the lack of adequate production. The military set-up provided a situation, in some places leading to disorders and violence.

The matter of public confidence is political, but discontent was widespread. The lack of confidence in the Government was widespread. The lack of confidence in the Government was widespread. The lack of confidence in the Government was widespread.

The situation in Sicily is very serious. The situation in Sicily is very serious. The situation in Sicily is very serious. The situation in Sicily is very serious.

Public officials in general have continued to show an uncertainty of their position and lack of confidence. Public officials in general have continued to show an uncertainty of their position and lack of confidence.

The price in the food situation was affected by the arrival of grain shipments. The price in the food situation was affected by the arrival of grain shipments.

In total there were 4,000 tons of grain. In total there were 4,000 tons of grain. In total there were 4,000 tons of grain.

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21. The model could be used in Italy in December were very unrealistic. Lack of confidence in the Government, the general economic situation, disparity of prices and wages, were the main causes. The government from an early end before winter were caused the loss of immediate protest which was expressed in a widespread series of demonstrations, it was times leading to disorders and violence.

If masses of people were very political, but discontent was widespread. The hope of the political parties attempted to arouse interest in the war effort, but without results. The government was created in the middle of the war but primarily the responsibility of the war effort was not clear.

The government had no political initiative, with the exception of one large movement in the middle of the war. The government was contained clamping down on the government. The leaders of the movement attempted to clear themselves of any connection with disorder or violence.

Increased signs of Fascist certainties have been noted. The developments of a strong, efficient, administrative, efficient attitude toward the Allies has been reported. Some developments were observed at the time of the end after the offensives on the west and Italy fronts.

Public officials in general have continued to show an uncertainty of their position and lack of confidence. General administrative inefficiency has continued. The U.S. has shown some additional authority as the result of the proposed grant of increased money to the local administration. After an incident at Catania the Central Government quickly replaced the prefect and transferred the business. There have been some other changes in local officials directed towards placing career men in office.

The crisis in the food situation was averted by the arrival of grain shipments totaling 15,000 tons wheat and 6,000 tons barley. The lack of grain caused in-creased slightly as the result of provisions by the U.S. to collect one-half of the local war effort retention. Prices of foodstuffs are very high and the poor classes in the town suffer considerably on this account.

In local areas there has been a continuous upward trend of prices. Exports from the islands amounted to a range of 4,000 tons of wheat, citrus fruits and salted fish some in the context of 155,000 tons of lemons and 150 tons of apples sent to England.

The work of recovery in the islands was very little progress due primarily to the lack of supplies. The government provided the material of electrical power. Railroads operated at a very low level. The air restricted by the government could allotment and the land in additional areas. The transportation deteriorated because of the scarcity of cars and trucks. The price services were about 50% complete. The services were almost complete. The services continued to operate satisfactorily.

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The discontent broke out in a series of widespread demonstrations against the military and again against. In some places there was a breakdown of law and order and serious damage was done to public property. The normal forces of law and order were inadequate in the face of this situation and military forces were called to restore order.

The health of the people has been generally good but the early and severe winter combined with the lack of clothing and shelter has caused considerable suffering. The rate of infectious diseases has decreased.

Schools in the two Sicilian provinces were reopened, after a delay caused by a threatened Spanish epidemic. A few school buildings were released, but many are still occupied by the Allies and Italian military and Governmental agencies.

The number of refugees in Sicily is 2,721. Their standard of health is low and there is considerable suffering among them for lack of clothing. The number of displaced persons from Sicily is 10,500, 6,721 of whom are ready to return. Although about 50% are of military age, most of these persons are in satisfactory quarters.

PART II

ANALYSIS OF THE SITUATION IN SICILY

The morale of the people has been in general excellent, the actual membership of the party has increased a small part of the total population. The party leaders have attempted to persuade the people to support the war actively and maintain their loyalty. Their efforts have been ineffective. The strength of the party is not strong. In order of membership the predominant parties are: Communist, Christian Democrat, Labor Democrat and Socialist.

A congress of the Christian Democrat party was held during the month and its importance increased by the attendance of the High Commissioner for Sicily.

The party of the people has been apparently inactive, excepting a large meeting in Palermo, but as reported to have continued its propaganda clandestinely. The party has made attempts to absorb themselves of any other political groups, but there are some indications that they have tacitly abandoned the party. One of the most serious disorders occurred at Catania and many, many more occurred in other parts.

The situation has shown a complete lack of faith in the Italian government. The people has been largely since the formation of the new cabinet. The party has not interfered in supporting political parties or the government; but they have shown an interest in the war to support the war effort. The party has shown an interest in the war effort. The party has shown an interest in the war effort. The party has shown an interest in the war effort.

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restricted railway epidemic. A few school buildings were released, but many are
still occupied by the Allies and Italian military and governmental agencies.

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some in Campania. A few school buildings were released, but many are
still occupied by the Allies and Italian military and governmental agencies.

PART II

THE SITUATION IN THE PROVINCE OF TRAPANI.

The masses of people who have an general apathy, the actual membership of
political parties representative a small part of the total population. While party
leaders have attempted to persuade the people to support the war actively and maintain
internal tranquility, their efforts have been ineffectual. The structure of the
party is not clear. In order of membership the predominating parties are: Com-
munist, Christian Democrat, Labor Democrat and Socialist.

A congress of the Christian Democrat party was held during the month and its
importance emphasized by the attendance of the High Commissioner for Sicily.

The party congress movement has been apparently inactive, excepting a large meeting
held in December 5, but is reported to have continued its propaganda clandestinely.
The organized masses of the movement have made attempts to abate themselves of any
participation in recent disorders, but there are some indications that they have tacit-
ly approved the disorder. One of the most serious disorders occurred at Catania and
Messina, which was recognized as a war center.

These activities are shown in a complete lack of faith in the Italian govern-
ment. While feeling has not changed since the formation of the war cabinet. The
vacuum power has not entered an supporting political parties on the government;
while the masses are in a state of indifference as to the war they show no desire to support the war ef-
fectly, and their prime interests are personal--born on the part of the poor classes,
and on the part of the Government officials and employees and upper classes, profit
and personal economy.

The masses of people who have a general apathy reflected a general discontent which

is being caused by the Government's and disorders were the opposition to
the cause and the absence of additional grain. The groups immediately responsible
for the disorder are those affected by the call-up and the people affected by
the Government's provision for massing an additional quantity of grain. But
the Government's policy has become so general that the cause and the persons
responsible could not be definitely identified. A feeling that the attitude toward the
allies are becoming unfriendly has been quite widespread. The following circumstan-
ces may have caused the reaction:

1. The further offensive in Sicily and Italian fronts. This was felt quite
deeply by the people and even by Government officials.
2. Dropping of 2 points by the cause in Sicily (all in custody),

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c. The fallout. The demands made in connection with the proposals included such items as the following:

- (1) As Italy has not been declared an ally and was presumably regarded as a conquered people, for what was she fighting?
- (2) Why were the Armistice terms not published?
- (3) What were the conditions of service, equipment, etc., (one rumor stated that recruits were to be sent to fight Japan)?
- (4) Why serve while others and other relatives were still overseas in U.S. camps?
- (5) Why should those with Separatist or Republic sentiments fight in the Italian way?

d. Uncertainty of the economy, particularly the food situation.

Concurrently with the report of change of attitude there were reports of Fascist activities. The staff Commissioner also reported that the ex-Fascists were becoming active. There appears to have been some increase in the number of wall writings and leaflets of a Fascist nature. Two accidents occurred in theaters, one in Palermo and one in Pescara, during the showing of "The Great Dictator".

4. DEMONSTRATIONS

The lack of confidence in government, the uncertainty and weakness of government policies has not changed. The staff Commissioner showed greater confidence and the exercise of greater power. This was the result of the proposals made by the central government to grant a measure of autonomy to Sicily.

Immediately following the October incidents the Italian Government moved swiftly and replaced Prefect ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ with Dr. Vitelli and the Questore, Dr. Bluffini with Dr. Muscardi.

Another ally present returned when DiAntonio, Tripani Province's AM appointee and later Prefect of Palermo retired for reasons of health. The story is well known in the vicinity being vague between the AM Commissioner and the Prefect. The Prefect came to the conclusion that it was best to retire which he could still do so with his son. Over 1000 men were 100% with the possibility of the H.C. we must admit that DiAntonio's weakness was too apparent.

The following chart shows the situation as to Prefects, Sindaci etc.

TRAPANI CO.	COM- MUNE	Sindaci & Commissari Prefecturali	Deputazioni Provinciali	Giunte Comunali
600 MEMBERS	41	25 Sindaci 16 Com. Prof.	7 members 2 supplenti	18 complete 1 meeting
CALTAGIOTTA	32	10 Sindaci 2 Com. Prof.	7 members 2 supplenti no meetings	16 complete 16 complete
MARALTA	51	27 Sindaci 24 Com. Prof.	7 members	19 complete

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concurrently with the report of change of attitude there were reports of Fascist activity. The latter commission also reported that the ex-Fascists were becoming active. There appears to have been some increase in the number of wall writings and incidents of a poster nature. Two incidents occurred in theaters, one in Palermo and one in Messina, during the showing of "The Great Dictator".

2. LOCAL CONDITIONS

Due lack of confidence in Government, the uncertainty and weakness of Government officials are not cleared. The local Commissioner showed greater confidence and the exercise of greater powers. This was the result of the proposals made by the central government to grant a measure of autonomy to Sicily.

Immediately following the Messina incidents the Italian Government moved swiftly and replaced Prefect Manacchini with Dr. Vitelli and the Questore, Dr. Gluffre, with Dr. Ruscemi.

Another AMG prefect retired when D. Martini, Trapani Province's AMG appointee and later Prefect of Palermo retired for reasons of health. The story is well known in the locality being traced between the local Commissioner and the Prefect. The Prefect gave 2/3 his resignation but in the last to retire while he could still do so with some honor. Even if he could serve 100% with the policies of the R.C. we must admit that D. Martini's weaknesses were too apparent.

The following chart plots the situations to Prefects, Sindaci etc.

PROVINCE	Occurrence	Sindaci & Questori	Deputazioni Provinciali	Giunte	Comments
AGROPOLI	Dr. RUSCMI 24-3-44	25 Sindaci 16 Quest. Prof.	7 members 2 supplenti	Giunta Prov. Sindaci	18 complete 1 meeting
CALTANISSETTA	Dr. DOMENIC 19-9-44	19 Sindaci 3 Quest. Prof.	7 members 2 supplenti no meetings	Complete 1 meeting	16 complete 16 complete
MESSINA	Dr. VITELLI 1 October '44	20 Sindaci 2 Quest. Prof.	7 members	Complete	19 complete
TRAPANI	Dr. MANACCHINI 23-11-43	9 Sindaci 11 Quest. Prof.	6 members 2 supplenti 8 meetings	Complete 1 meeting	9 complete 5470
SYRACUSE	Dr. VITELLI October '44	25 Sindaci 22 Quest. Prof.	7 members 2 supplenti 1 meeting	Complete	40 complete

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S E C R E T

PROVINCE	Com- munes	Com- munes	Com- munes	Com- munes	Com- munes	Com- munes	Com- munes	Com- munes	Com- munes
PALERMO	76	Dr. BATTISTO December '44	66 Sirdaci 10 Com.Pref.	10 members 4 supplenti 4 meetings	Complete 7 meetings	Giunte Prov. Ammis.	Giunte Comunali	46 complete	
RAGUSA	12	Dr. MATTEO 24-9-44	3 Sirdaci 9 Com.Pref.	7 members 3 meetings	Complete 2 meetings			3 complete	
SIRACUSA	19	Dr. COZZI August '44	13 Sirdaci 6 Com.Pref.	To be non- irated	1 member missing			10 complete	
TRAPANI	20	Dr. GILBERTO August '44	15 Sirdaci 5 Com.Pref.	To be non- irated	Complete			13 complete	

*127 appointees

C. RESOURCES AND SUPPLY.

A crisis in the food situation was averted by grain shipments totalling 6,000 tons of barley and 12,000 tons of wheat. The "Tonian" and "San Tweed" arrived at Catania with 6,000 tons of barley and 6,000 tons of wheat respectively, and the "Beau-sejour" arrived at Palermo with 4,000 tons of wheat. While these shipments and verbal reports were indications of the policy with respect to importing grain to Sicily, no positive indication as to future policy has been received.

Other supplies received were: phosphates, 5,537 tons; soap, 120 tons, and cloths, 7 tons. The supplies shipped were 51 tons of sugar from Catania and 34,754 liters of alcohol from Marsala leaving balances of these items: 300 tons sugar against ration issue and 5,426 liters of alcohol awaiting shipment to Public Health Sub-Commission, Naples.

The stocks of imported cloth on hand have been turned over to the High Commissioner, and the preparation of plans for distribution is under consideration by the Italian authorities.

The responsibility for the allocation and distribution of F.O.I. has been turned over to the High Commissioner, the Chamber of Commerce and the C.I.P.

Coal imports were 10,243 tons foreign and 7,450 tons Sardinian, making a total of 17,693 tons. The coal from Sardinia, previously blocked by a half-sunken wreck, was cleared. The railroad across was responsible for the distribution of coal and needed equipment is being made, although they exceeded their allotment by 600 tons because of its insufficiency for essential needs.

Inter-regional trade included a shipment of a mixed cargo of 4,300 tons consisting of wine, citrus fruits and preserved fish on the "Catan" which had arrived with

9 Com. Pref. 3 meetings 2 meetings

SIRACUSA	19	Dr. COZZI August '44	13 Sindaci 6 Com.Pref.	To be non-irated	1 member missing	10 complete
TRAPANI	20	Dr. GALATI August '44	15 Sindaci 5 Com.Pref.	To be non-irated	Complete	13 complete

*AG appointed

C. ECONOMICS, RESOURCES AND SUPPLY.

A crisis in the food situation was averted by grain shipments totalling 6,000 tons of barley and 10,000 tons of wheat. The "Tonieri" and "Sam Tweed" arrived at Catania with 6,000 tons of barley and 6,000 tons of wheat respectively, and the "Beaufort" arrived at Palermo with 4000 tons of wheat. While these shipments and verbal reports were indications of the policy with respect to importing grain to Sicily, no positive information as to future policy has been received.

Other supplies received were: phosphates, 5,537 tons; soap, 120 tons, and clothing, 7 tons. The supplies shipped were 81 tons of sugar from Catania and 34,754 liters of alcohol from Marsala leaving balances of these items: 300 tons sugar against ration issue and 5,420 liters of alcohol awaiting shipment to Public Health Sub-Commission, Naples.

The stocks of imported cloth on hand have been turned over to the High Commissioner, and the preparation of plans for distribution is under consideration by the Italian authorities.

The responsibility for the allocation and distribution of E.O.I. has been turned over to the High Commissioner, the Chamber of Commerce and the C.I.F.

Coal imports were 10,243 tons foreign and 7,450 tons Sardinian, making a total below average. The coal barge at Palermo, previously blocked by a half-sunken wreck, was cleared. The railroad assumed more responsibility for the distribution of coal and stored improvement in this year, although they exceeded their allotment by 600 tons because of its insufficiency for essential needs.

Inter-regional trade included a shipment of a mixed cargo of 4,000 tons consisting of wine, citrus fruits and preserved fish on the "Casta" which had arrived with a cargo of rock phosphate; also 180 tons of raw cotton for spinning and return for weaving at Palermo.

The situation of the wine industry would be greatly relieved if transport could be made available for the export of 2,500 tons of vermouth and Marsala from Trapani.

The decrease in the prices of fish and meat reported last month proved to be only temporary and prices on all commodities continue to rise.

122 bids for schooner space are in the hands of the Transportation Sub-Commission. All allocations have been made up to December 31st and 33 schooners have arrived thus far.

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An association of Sicilian sulphur producers called "L'Associazione Esportanti Minerale di Zolfo della Sicilia" was instituted and drew up recommendations for functioning of SRS which are being submitted to Rome by the High Commissioner.

Production reports for November showed the following: Mines producing 41, in preparation 26, ceased production 2, working and not reported 20; total workers (71 mines): 4,481.

The first shipment of dynamite arrived about December 29.

The principal export was citrus fruits. The totals shipped were 165,800 cases of lemons. On a contract for 650,000 cases of lemons, 329,000 have been shipped and 100,000 were in the course of being loaded. Negotiations for new contracts were started.

The principal difficulty in shipping lemons is the procurement of timber which would be used for the containers. A volume of 2,330 tons is now awaiting movement to Sicily. The export which has been held up until now, failed completely and only 50% of the timber has been loaded. The balance is estimated.

120 tons of argyle are also shipped. Of other exports, 10 to 12 tons of citric acid are ready for shipment and negotiations are awaited with respect to fruit juices, essential oils and nutmeg seed.

1. AGRICULTURE, MINING AND FISHERIES.

The raising of grain showed some increase, the total now assessed being: wheat 1,021,001 quintals; barley 100,000 quintals.

The increase due to the wheat appears to have been due to the collection by the Commission of the acreage of one-half of the amount per person legally retained, or 200 kg. This increase is not with widespread opposition. With respect to further increases there does not appear to be any prospect of any material amount being collected.

The total amount of olive oil assessed to date is 4,236 cts. The amount has been insufficient to meet the local market and the quantity assessed is being reserved for hospitals. A large quantity of oil is reaching the illegitimate market at 200 lire per quintal.

All products are found on the market at very high prices. Wheat, for example, to consumers has been selling at 3,000-3,500 lire per quintal.

With respect to coffee, sugar, and potatoes, although promised from the continent, has not been received. Transportation has been the obstacle and special arrangements for transport from the continent have now been made.

The fertilizer problem is a serious one, because of the quantity on hand and not distributed to users. A total of 1,705 tons of superphosphate is on hand in the

The principal export was citrus fruits. The totals shipped were 165,800 cases of lemons. On a contract for 650,000 cases of lemons, 227,000 have been shipped and 100,000 were in the course of being loaded. Negotiations for new contracts were started.

The principal difficulty in shipping lemons is the procurement of timber which allows for the container. There are 2,930 tons is now awaiting movement to Sicily. The contract for the timber failed completely and only 50% of the timber has been estimated.

100 tons of oranges were also shipped. Of other exports, 10 to 12 tons of citric acid are being prepared. Negotiations are awaited with respect to fruit juices, citrus oils and a brand name.

II. AGRICULTURE, MINING AND FISHERIES.

The earnings of grain showed some increase, the total now amassed being: wheat 4,271,521 quintals; barley 1,000,000 quintals.

The increase in the price of wheat appears to have been due to the collection by the Government of 20% of the amount per person legally retained, or 20%. This may also be due to widespread opposition. With respect to further increases in price, it appears to be any prospect of any material amount being collected.

The total amount of olive oil assessed to date is 4,296 cils. The amount has been insufficient to meet the regular ration and the quantity assessed is being reserved for hospitals. A large quantity of oil is reaching the illegitimate market at 200 liras per quintal.

All products are being marketed at very high prices. Wheat, for example, to consumers has been selling at 2,000-23,000 liras per quintal.

With respect to sugar, beet, and potatoes, although promised from the continent, have not been received. An objection has been the obstacle and special arrangements for transport from the continent have now been made.

The fertilizer problem has become serious, because of the quantity on hand not distributed to users. There are 705 tons of superphosphate is on hand in the country. This quantity has been due to an embargo placed on distribution by Government authorities and has created the danger that the fertilizer may not reach the users in time for spring sowing due to lack of road transportation.

Two factories have been in operation: Tomasso Matala and Campolongo; the third, the one of Palermo, is expected to be in operation by January 15th, the fourth, Palermo, by the end of January.

Stock phosphate delivered to factories to date is 14,967 tons.

A small factory for the manufacture of farm machinery was found suitable for production and rotation to such equipment and materials was commenced.

Further conditions for winter have been good and considerable progress was made.

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No serious outbreaks of disease among livestock have been reported.

E. LABOR.

No disorders or strikes occurred. A threatened strike of port workers as the result of friction between stevedores and the Compagnie Portuale at Palermo was averted, but the situation remained delicate.

An increase of work in the labor offices was caused by the cost of living decree. A labor official inspected the labor staffs with the view of reducing personnel.

Increase of wages was recommended for autobus employees.

The decree authorizing social benefits for civilian employees of the Allied Forces was received.

F. PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES.

Heavy rains fell during the latter part of the month, which, while unsatisfactory for construction, were badly needed for the hydro-electric reservoirs.

93 new projects were initiated during the month, and 39 were completed.

Military highways are carrying little traffic but their condition is becoming poorer. The work of contractors is retarded by lack of petrol allotment from AFHQ. The project amounting to 3,500,000 liras was approved for the Aicacio-Galatofini road.

The condition of other roads is bad and would require a vast program. Such a program was prepared for and submitted to the High Commissioner eight months ago.

Work resumed in port areas by the Royal and U.S. Navies and now delayed by the procedure necessary for approval of contracts, as in a recent case which occurred at Messina, six months were required for the preliminaries before work could be begun.

A shortage of electrical energy existed early in the month because of lack of rain. Although the situation improved as the rains came toward the end of the month, production has been erratic.

The request to let the contract for construction, more cement is available as a result of the bridge construction program which is being completed.

G. PUBLIC SAFETY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT.

Conditions were very unsettled during almost the entire month. A series of demonstrations and disorders occurred which were primarily due to protests against the military take-up and grain hoarding. While these were the immediate causes which seem to have aroused the people, the disturbances apparently expressed a general discontent over cost of living and opposition to the administration.

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Increase of wages was recommended for autoibus employees.

The decrees authorizing social benefits for civilian employees of the Allied Forces was received.

E. PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES.

Heavy rains fell during the latter part of the month, which, while unsatisfactory for construction, were badly needed for the hydro-electric reservoirs.

102 new projects were initiated during the month, and 39 were completed.

Military highways are carrying little traffic but their condition is becoming worse. The work of contractors is retarded by lack of petrol allotment from AFHQ. A project amounting to 2,500,000 liras was approved for the Alessano-Gelatafina road.

The completion of other roads is held and would require a vast program. Such a program was approved and submitted to the High Commissioner eight months ago.

Work required in part areas by the Royal and U.S. Navies are now delayed by the procedure necessary for approval of contracts, as in a recent case which occurred at Messina, two months were required for the preliminaries before work could be begun.

A shortage of electrical energy existed early in the month because of lack of rain. Although the situation improved as the rains came toward the end of the month, production has been erratic.

With respect to completion of construction, more cement is available as a result of the bridge construction program which is being completed.

F. PUBLIC ORDER AND THE COURTS.

Disturbances were very unsettled during almost the entire month. A series of riotous and disorders occurred which were primarily due to protests against the military call-up and grain hoarding. While these were the immediate causes which seem to have aroused the people, the disturbances apparently expressed a general discontent over cost of living and opposition to the administration.

- A total of 40 demonstrations are divided as follows:
- 1. Demonstrations without incidents 62
- 2. Demonstrations with call-up 13
- 3. Demonstrations with grain hoarding 2
- 4. Demonstrations with conflict 9
- 5. Demonstrations with charges and conflict 9
- 6. Demonstrations with call-up 2
- 7. Demonstrations with grain hoarding 2

The manner in which the situation was confronted by the Italian authorities represented a failure to maintain law and order without resort to the military. In Catania, Alcamo, Palma Montechiaro, Gestel di Giudice, Vizzini and Mezzarino, the police and GUMI were unable to establish order and it was necessary to call the troops. In all of these places, particularly Catania and Alcamo, both of which were reported separately, serious damage was done to public property.

An increase of serious crimes was noted. Some armed bands are still in operation.

Thus, the general state of public order, the arms in the hands of the civil population, the economic conditions and the danger of food shortages, resistance to the pull-up, the increase in crime and the uncertainty of the forces of public order constitute a coherent threat of further serious disorders.

The military forces including the COMAR were increased by the transfer of approximately 100 paratroopers from the continent and the Montegranaro Battalion, approximately 600. The total strength of the Carabinieri is now about 9,700, Corps of Public Security Groups 2,200, and the Carabinieri 2,900.

The lack of transport, communications and arms reduces effectiveness of the forces. The police are exhausted, while their work has in some instances been effective, due to a lack of morale and confidence. This matter was reported on separately and will be the subject of further reports.

The political situation showed no definite connection with public security although it is reported that the Fascist and leftist propaganda influences certain elements against the government and law and order.

Some of the activities of the Allied Forces have included counterintelligence and the threat of sabotage, both in the Palermo area. Three paratroopers dropped by enemy planes are in custody.

The civil court set at Catania and tried two cases, one of which resulted in a conviction for espionage and the other in the conviction of four persons for illegal armaments, all of whom received sentences varying from two years to six months. Applications for suspended sentences, many applications for pardon and grace are being received, practically all of which were refused.

Military courts at Palermo and Catania functioned well. During a four-week period 46 accused have been tried.

The courts continue to be a large number of penal and civil cases in the civil courts and they will be augmented by the present increase in crime. Some cases pending for periods of more than 12 months have come to light. Accumulation difficulties still exist at Palermo and Catania. The public buildings at Catania having been damaged by fire in the incidents of December 14th.

Some improvement is being shown in the trial of cases affecting Allied interests, and the number pending was 260. Some of these cases are of a minor nature, all being over half of Allied property.

With respect to the grain economy, special statistics after November 30 are not available. But in a review of a 5-month period it may be said that the courts did not do well. The outstanding features of the grain economy are:

...a constant threat of further serious disorders.

The military forces including the OCHR were increased by the transfer of approximately 300 carabinieri from the continent and the Montegrano Battalion, approximately 400. The total strength of the Carabinieri is now about 9,700, Corps of Police Security Guards 2,300, Military Guards 2,900.

The lack of transport, communications and arms reduces effectiveness of the forces. The police are overburdened, while their work has in some instances been ineffective, due to a lack of morale and confidence. This matter was reported on separately and will be the subject of further reports.

The political situation showed no definite connection with public security although it is reported that the fascist and leftist propaganda influences certain elements react to government and law and order.

During the stay effective the Allied Forces have included counterfeiting and use of threat of resistance, both in the Palermo area. Three paratroopers dropped by enemy plane are in custody.

An Allied court met at Catania and tried two cases, one of which resulted in a conviction for espionage and the other sentence, and the other in the conviction of four persons for illegal armament, all of whom received sentences varying from six months to six years, with three suspended sentences. Many applications for pardon and appeals are being received, practically all of which were refused.

Military courts at Palermo and Catania functioned well. During a four-week period 40 appeals have been tried.

There continues to be a large number of penal and civil cases in the civil courts and they will be augmented by the present increase in crime. Some cases pending for periods of more than 18 months have come to light. Accommodation difficulties still exist at Palermo and Catania, the public buildings at Catania having been damaged by fire in the incident of 1000-11-11-44.

How improvement in the trial of cases affecting Allied interests, and the number pending are 150. Most of these cases are of a minor nature, all being for lack of Allied property.

With respect to the main campaign special statistics after November 30 are not available. But in review of a 5-month period it may be said that the courts did reasonably well. The outstanding features of the campaign were:

- a. The great number of actions against persons of lower class as compared with the small number involving the wealthy.
- b. The lack of attention to subject of the court actions.
- c. The lack of evidence presented by the public, which caused many dismissals.

The general view of the courts is that they are failing to keep pace with their own lack of personnel and accommodations and, as a result of this, their failure to

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Prisons are still overcrowded due to slowness of the courts, the arrests in the grain campaign and the increase in crime.

H. PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE.

The number of cases of infectious diseases continued to decrease, the total being 1,250. The position is satisfactory with the exceptions of typhoid and paratyphoid, the numbers of which in all provinces are high. One small epidemic of typhoid was traced to drinking water.

The outbreak of smallpox continued; 12 new cases raised the total to 41. No deaths have occurred. Of the total 19 had not been vaccinated, twenty had been vaccinated more than 4 years ago and two had been recently vaccinated, one 12 months previously and the other one month previously.

A decrease in malaria from 672 in the previous month to 242 this month was noted.

The rate of venereal disease showed a decrease. The number of women taken into custody by the police was 396, and 154 were found to be infected.

The standard of health among the refugees is below that of the local population. The death rate among refugee children is reported to be exceptionally high. The weather has been exceptionally severe and may be expected to affect the sick rate.

Ed

I. EDUCATION.

Schools in all provinces were open; Palermo and Trapani, having been delayed on account of smallpox, opened on 5 December. Christmas holidays began on 23 December. Disruptions in Sicily and Calabria caused suspension of classes on 18 December.

Most school buildings were still occupied by Allied and Italian armies and civil institutions, but some refugees were affected.

There are many complaints about the provveditori. There are more teachers available than can be employed.

A sharp increase in school attendance, particularly in elementary schools, in 1945 is believed to be due to organization of committees to collect funds to buy books and school materials for the needy and the promise of school lunches.

The work of the provveditori in Ragusa in collecting clothing, food and money for refugees was satisfactory.

Press business was not yet given because of financial difficulties.

Paper for textbooks arrived but a great part is of a quality which can not be used. A total of 70,000 books is needed in addition to 60,000 already printed.

The outbreak of smallpox continued; 12 new cases raised the total to 41. No deaths have occurred. Of the total 19 had not been vaccinated, twenty had been vaccinated more than 4 years ago and two had been recently vaccinated, one 12 months previously and the other one month previously.

A decrease in malaria from 672 in the previous month to 142 this month was noted.

The rate of venereal disease showed a decrease. The number of women taken into custody by the police was 386, and 154 were found to be infected.

The standard of health among the refugees is below that of the local population. The death rate among refugee children is reported to be exceptionally high. The weather has been exceptionally severe and may be expected to affect the sick rate.

Ed

I. EDUCATION.

Schools in all provinces were open: Palermo and Trapani, having been delayed on account of smallpox, opened on 2 December. Christmas holidays began on 23 December. Activities in the provinces and towns caused suspension of classes on 18 December.

Part school buildings are still occupied by Allied and Italian armies and civil institutions, but some releases were effected.

There are many complaints about the provveditori. There are more teachers available than can be employed.

A sharp increase in school attendance, particularly in elementary schools, in 1945 is believed to be due to organization of committees to collect funds to buy books and school materials for the needy and the promise of school lunches.

The work of the provveditori in Regusa in collecting clothing, food and money for refugees was noteworthy.

Bread lunches are not yet given because of financial difficulties.

Paper for textbooks arrived but a great part is of a quality which can not be used. A total of 70,000 books is needed in addition to 60,000 already printed.

A. LIVING AND PROPERTY CONTROL.

The index cost of living has continued a gradual increase and for the month of November reached the figure 141.66. The increase is due primarily to increase of Black Market prices of bread and pasta.

The sale of Treasury bonds for the period 21 November to December 20 was satisfactory. The sale of Postal Savings Bonds continued to show an improvement.

Advances to companies totalled 270,459,211 liras. The revenue collected for November was 134,113,755 liras.

The state of property for December was as follows:

S U R E P

Owners

Taken under control to November
Taken under control to December

648
4

455
5

Properties

Releases to November
Releases to December

185

254

Remainder under control: 467

650

A. RESOURCES.

The number from the mainland in Sicily is 372. During the last 3 months 795 displaced persons with visas in North Africa arrived with returning Sicilians in the guise of refugees. They are destitute and poorly clothed.

The sick rate among refugees is high. An acute shortage of clothing and blankets exists. Salvaged Army clothing was received, the bulk of which was absolutely unusable. A shipment of shoes was received which was supposed to be 350 pairs; it turned out that 200 of them had been made for the right foot. A fund of 720,000 liras was raised by the C.R.I. to buy shoes, but due to the exorbitant black market prices, the results were not appreciable. Of 15,800 displaced persons from North Africa, 6.7% are ready to return.

B. TRANSPORTATION.

The conditions of road transportation showed no marked change. Approximately 1,824 registered vehicles were in operation in addition to 550 trucks of the A.O. controlled I.N.F. transportation organization. About 70 to 80% of the I.N.F. transportator was consigned to the Government. About 15% was used for commercial purposes as common carriers. The shortage of repair parts and tires for all transportation continues. Assignment of 700 tires and 300 tubes received by I.N.F. was inadequate for current needs. The control of fuel and lubrication was turned over to the Italian Government on 15 December. The allotment for the month of December was 4,457 bbls., kerosene 4,344 bbls., lubricating oils and greases 340 bbls. (1 barrel equals 42 U.S. gallons).

Allotment in January was increased and the amounts are: petrol 5,142 bbls., kerosene 3,360 bbls., lubricating oils and greases 390 bbls.

The lack of police control of vehicles and traffic in general continues.

Railroad transportation was restricted by the lack of cars and the inadequate coal allotment. The coal consumption was 600 tons more than the allotment. The railroad operations were:

1,274 passenger trains	88,754 km
90 freight trains	7,809 km
100 mixed trains	8,304 km

B. PERSONS.

The number from the island in Sicily is 3721. During the last 3 months 796 displaced persons with visas for North Africa arrived with returning Sicilians in the robes of refugees. They are destitute and poorly clothed.

The size was among refugees is high. An acute shortage of clothing and blankets exists. Delivered any clothing was received, the bulk of which was absolutely unusable. A shipment of shoes was received which was supposed to be 350 pairs; it turned out that all of them had been made for the right foot. A fund of 720,000 lire was raised by the C.R.I. to buy shoes, but due to the exorbitant black market prices, the requisites were not approachable. Of 16,800 displaced persons from North Africa, 6,000 are ready to return.

1. UMBRIA PROVINCE.

The conditions of road transportation showed no marked change. Approximately 1,000 registered vehicles were in operation in addition to 550 trucks of the A.C. controlled I.N.T. transport organization. About 70 to 80% of the I.N.T. transportator was consigned to transport and about 15% was used for commercial purposes as cargo carriers. The majority of repair parts and tires for all transportation continues. A consignment of 700 tires and 300 tubes received by I.N.T. was inadequate for current needs. The amount of fuel and lubrication was turned over to the Italian Government at a rate of 100% of the total. The allotment for the month of December was 4,457 bbls. of fuel and 4,344 bbls. of kerosene (4,344 bbls., lubrication oil and grease 200 bbls.). A barrel equals 42 U.S. gallons).

Allotted for January, 1947, and the amounts are: petrol 5,142 bbls., kerosene 7,520 bbls., lubricating oils and greases 390 bbls.

The lack of police control of vehicles and traffic in general continues.

Railroad transportation was restricted by the lack of cars and the inadequate coal allotments. The coal consumption was 600 tons more than the allotment. The railroad operations were:

1,234 passenger trains	89,754 km
93 freight trains	7,079 km
120 mixed trains	3,304 km

Telephone communications operating under S.E.I. and C.T.T. were about 50% of normal. Telegraphic services were almost complete. The lack of equipment has delayed the reconstruction of communications to Pantelleria and other islands and has been completed.

The Italian mail service was in operation to the authorized posts of Italy to other countries. A large amount of packages arrived from the United States, 5,467 to

M. G. G. G.
H. G. G.
Regional Commissioner

19 DIC. 1944

C. A. Lester

ALPHABETICALLY

ALLIED COMMISSION
SICILIA REGION HEADQUARTERS
APC 394

20 DEC. 1944

20 DIC. 1944

MONTHLY REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 1944

PART I

In general the situation remained unchanged as, although the food position deteriorated, the month on the whole was quieter with few strikes and little agitation. There had been no improvement in the effectiveness of local administration. While the economic difficulties of the situation are apparent no one attempts to take a stand against the prevailing spirit of laissez-faire. Corruption among all classes is probably one of the main reasons for this. There are still a large number of Commissari Prefettini in office throughout the Island.

To the list of laws or decrees which have been enforced only partially or not at all and which include the grain amassing decrees, laws regarding the circulation of vehicles, and a recent local decree aimed at producing a grain reserve on loan must be added the olive oil amassing decree. Indications are that the amassing of olive oil will be a complete failure.

It is to be hoped that the decrees regarding the calling up of certain classes for the armed forces will not be added to the above list but that there will be rigid enforcement.

The month generally was quiet. This may be due to some reaction after the serious incident at Palermo on 19 October. The increase in wages also had a good effect. It is hoped that this effect may be more than temporary but the continuing rise in prices coupled with diminishing stocks of grain and the advent of the cold weather in factors which may lead to a deterioration in the situation.

Among the masses food and its price dominates the situation and the bread protests were the cause of great concern to the administrations in the large towns. The position as known to the local administration during the month was that, while there was only sufficient grain in the island to feed the population to the end of the year, no grain imports were to be expected. For all practical purposes the amassing of grain ceased. A seasonal falling off in the small amounts being amassed was to be expected but the prospects of the island having no grain in its Granai del Popolo during the first 6 months of the coming year and the increasing profits to be made in the black market had the natural result of nullifying any efforts to revive amassing. There was also considerable opposition to the movement of grain from grain-producing provinces to non-producing provinces normally supplied by them. A most complete situation developed. If no grain were imported the principal sufferers must be the towns. Many of them in allied employ, in the large towns and their families.

As the island not suffer would be those responsible for the failure of the island to produce a sufficient quantity of grain at least to have fed it throughout the winter. For instance, the land owners, particularly the large ones, mainly Separatists, and the local town administrators, higher administration who had allowed the pay of the town employees to fall seriously in arrears, political wranglers and black market operators. All such, if grain is imported, would continue to have the advantage of

...the whole was quiet with few strikes and little agitation. There had been no improvement in the effectiveness of local administration. While the economic difficulties of the situation are apparent no one attempts to take a stand against the prevailing spirit of laissez-faire. Corruption among all classes is probably one of the main reasons for this. There are still a large number of Commissari Prefettizi in office throughout the Island.

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The month generally was quiet. This may be due to some reaction after the serious accident at Palermo on 10 October. The increase in wages also had a good effect. It is hoped that this effect may be more than temporary but the continuing rise in prices coupled with diminishing stocks of grain and the advent of the cold weather are factors which may lead to a deterioration in the situation.

Among the masses food and its price dominates the situation and the bread problem was the cause of grave concern to the administrations in the large towns. The position is known to the local administration during the month was that, while there was only sufficient grain in the Island to feed the population to the end of the year, no grain imports were to be expected. For all practical purposes the amassing of grain ceased. A seasonal falling off in the small amounts being amassed was to be expected but the prospects of the Island having no grain in its Granai del Popolo during the first 6 months of the coming year and the increasing profits to be made on the Black Market had the natural result of nullifying any efforts to revive amassing. There was also considerable opposition to the movement of grain from grain-producing provinces to non-producing provinces normally supplied by them. A most colorful situation developed. If no grain were imported the principal sufferers must be the workers. Many of them in Allied employ, in the large towns and their families, would not suffer would be those responsible for the failure of the Island to amass a sufficient quantity of grain at least to have fed it throughout the winter. For instance, the land owners, particularly the large ones, mainly Separatists, the public local administrators, higher administration who had allowed the pay of the workers to fall seriously in arrears, political wranglers and black market operators. All such, if grain is imported, would continue to have the advantage of buying bread both at the nation and at the black market prices.

There was no outstanding political activity during the month. Unrest remained at about the same level. It continued to be satisfactory. A small outbreak of smallpox occurred in Palermo. It is hoped that the prompt resolute action taken will prevent any spread of the epidemic.

The road transportation situation has improved somewhat due to a supply of tires for civilian trucks becoming available, but the road movement is limited by the amount of petrol available.

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Due to the small allotment of coal and to decreases in rolling stock, particularly box cars, the railway transportation problem is becoming very serious. A large surplus of wine and lemons, two of the Island's principal export commodities, cannot be moved owing to lack of transport facilities.

The schools opened on 10 November in 7 of the Provinces. The opening in Trepani and Palermo provinces was postponed owing to the smallpox outbreak. Education is still hampered by a shortage of books and accommodation due to war damage and continued occupation by the Services.

PART II

A. POLITICAL REACTIONS AND PUBLIC OPINION.

There has been little or no change in public opinion. The prices of food and shortage of bread and pasta continue to dominate the situation and the diminishing stocks of grain on the Island take the position hence. The masses, particularly in the urban districts, have little faith in the local administration chiefly owing to the feeling that nothing is done to control prices. The possibility of violence and disorder is always present mainly due to the critical bread situation and the shortage of clothing, shoes and fuel in the face of cold weather. No thought appears to be given to the prosecution of the war.

The political activities of the north have indicated little change. There was little or no reaction to the ministerial crisis at Rome. The only noticeable repercussions were among the local officials of the government and then mainly because they were not sure of their own personal status.

The Italian Republican Party has opened a Headquarters in Palermo and are endeavoring to enroll members. Their aim is to collect all the Republican groups together to form a section in Sicily with direct contacts in Rome where they are said to have good press connections. They have applied for permission to publish a newspaper.

Sicily is somewhat quiet period following on the incident in Palermo on 19 October in agreement to which the Republican Headquarters in Palermo was closed and placed under guard. Separatist activities have become normal again. The headquarters was returned to them during the month.

B. LOCAL GOVERNMENT

There has been little change and the local administration remains as inefficient as ever. Corruption is still a little or no attempt is made to enforce the laws.

PART II

A. POLITICAL REACTIONS AND PUBLIC OPINION.

There has been little or no change in public opinion. The prices of food and shortage of bread and pasta continue to dominate the situation and the diminishing stocks of grain on the island make the position tense. The masses, particularly in the urban districts, have little faith in the local administration chiefly owing to the feeling that nothing is done to control prices. The possibility of violence and disorder is always present mainly due to the critical bread situation and the shortage of clothing, shoes and fuel in the face of cold weather. No thought appears to be given to the prosecution of the war.

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After a somewhat quiet period following on the incident in Palermo on 19 October consequent to which the Government headquarters in Palermo was closed and placed under guard, Separatist activities have become normal again. The headquarters was reopened to them during the month.

B. LOCAL GOVERNMENT

There has been little change and the local administration remains as inefficient as ever. Corruption is rife and little or no attempt is made to enforce the laws. There is a complete absence of teamwork and cooperation among the various branches of the administration.

The Prefect of Palermo revoked the decree regarding public assemblies which was promulgated as the result of the incident of 19 October at Palermo. No detailed findings resulted from the inquiries held to investigate this incident have yet been published officially.

A commission has been constituted to carry out the distribution of unutilized fuel to peasants in the Province of Palermo. After considerable disagreement between the Prefect and the National Committee of Liberation a new Sindaco has been installed in his place of the Commissario Prefettorio.

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The following chart shows the situation of local government in regard to Prefect-
Sindaci, Deputazioni Provinciali and Giunte Comunali.

PROVINCE	Com- munes	PREFECT	Sindaci & Deputazioni Commissari Provinciali Ammis. Prefettizi	Giunte Prov. Giunte Comunali
AGRIGENTO	41	Dr. MOCCI 24/8/44	28 Sindaci 13 Com. Pref. irated.	To be non-Complete 15 complete
CAATANIS- SIRTA	22	Dr. DOMDU 17/9/44	19 Sindaci 3 Com. Pref. 7 members Complete 2 supplenti 1 no meetings meeting	16 complete
ENNA	51	Avv. GRAM- MICHELE Oct/44	19 Sindaci 33 Com. Pref.	7 members Complete 19 complete
MESSINA	20	Avv. ZUCCO PERROCCO 23/12/43	12 Sindaci 8 Com. Pref. 6 members Complete 2 supplenti no meetings	11 complete
MILANO	27	Avv. BELLA Oct/44	55 Sindaci 32 Com. Pref.	7 members Complete 2 supplenti 1 meeting 48 complete
MONZA	76	Avv. D'ANTONI* 16/4/44	65 Sindaci 11 Com. Pref. 10 members Complete 4 supplenti 7 4 meetings meetings	45 complete
PARMA	12	Dr. M. IDONE 24/8/44	3 Sindaci 9 Com.	7 members Complete 3 meetings 2 meetings 3 complete
PERUGINA	19	Dr. COZZA Aug/44	13 Sindaci 5 Com. Pref.	To be non-1 member irated missing 10 complete
PIACENZA	20	Dr. GIOFFA Aug/44	15 Sindaci 5 Com. Pref.	To be non-Complete irated 13 complete

* AMO appointees.

C. ECONOMICS, RESOURCES AND SUPPLY

The food situation continued to be most critical with market prices continually
in the increase. Several stocks of grain were only sufficient to provide bread for
the population on the existing ration scale to the end of December. The amount of
grain imported was negligible. The official policy that no grain would be imported

28 Sindaci 13 Com.Pref. 24/5/44	To be non-irated.	Complete	15 complete
19 Sindaci 3 Com. Pref. 17/9/44	7 members 2 supplenti no meetings	Complete 1 meeting	16 complete
19 Sindaci 33 Com. Pref. 17/9/44	7 members	Complete	19 complete
12 Sindaci 8 Com. Pref. 23/11/45	6 members 2 supplenti no meetings	Complete	11 complete
55 Sindaci 32 Com. Pref. 16/4/44	7 members 2 supplenti 1 meeting	Complete	40 complete
65 Sindaci 12 Com. Pref. 16/4/44	10 members 4 supplenti 4 meetings	Complete 7 meetings	45 complete
3 Sindaci 9 Com. 24/5/44	7 members 3 meetings	Complete 2 meetings	3 complete
13 Sindaci 5 Com. Pref. Aug/44	To be non-irated	1 member missing	10 complete
15 Sindaci 5 Com. Pref. Aug/44	To be non-irated	Complete	13 complete

* MC appointees.

C. ECONOMICS, RESOURCES AND SUPPLY

The food situation continued to be most critical with market prices continually on the increase. Island stocks of grain were only sufficient to provide bread for the population on the existing ration scale to the end of December. The amount of grain processed was negligible. The official policy that no grain would be imported to the island prior to the next harvest was modified to the extent of one grain being earmarked for the island, to arrive mid-December, which, it was estimated, would provide bread for the population on a decreased ration until approximately 15 January. The calculations made by the local authorities as regards bread for the population are based on the full ration. The urban population has, however, not been taking its full ration for some considerable time. In the case of the city of Palermo the water ration has only been issued up to the end of September. The situation has been difficult and unsatisfactory. If no grain is imported the source of bread will be the workers' bread which will eventually be 3465. The market price of bread is 120 lire as compared with the official price of 5 lire. On the other hand if grain is imported to maintain the

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present bread ration, additional bread will also be available in the black market to those who can afford to buy it, produced from non-rassed grain in the hands of speculators. Moreover, there are probably a considerable number of bread ration cards in the hands of those not entitled to them.

Due to the high price of fresh fish a decree was issued by the High Commissioner prohibiting the salting of fish. There was an immediate reaction in the price of fresh fish, resulting in a fall in prices. The immediate effect on the price of salted fish has been to double the price. It is anticipated that the High Commissioner will prohibit the export of salted fish. The present high prices of salted fish are no doubt due to speculators from the mainland who have been purchasing in Sicily over a long period with a view to a rise in price. It is difficult to estimate how much of the stock in Sicily belongs to mainland speculators and how much to Sicily. Some of the difficulties lie in the lack of confidence in the present monetary system and the tendency to hold on to goods rather than to sell for paper money.

There is still a large surplus of wine. Some coasters are expected for movement of wine but the difficulty of getting the wine to the ports still remains due to lack of iron transport.

The recording and supervision of schooner movements is proceeding smoothly. A more efficient observation of the regular and equitable allocation of schooners is now possible. Many applications for movement of wine by schooner have been refused owing to the existing ban on the use of this form of transport. In some cases these requests have been submitted by individuals authorized by Service Messes and AC officers or the mainland to come to Sicily to buy wine. Evidently these are not familiar with the AFM prohibition.

Great difficulty has arisen in turning over imported clothing to the Italian Government because of improperly marked cases. In a great many instances the package marking does not conform to the contents in description, quality or quantity. This leads to technical difficulties requiring the opening of boxes and sales with an examination and measurement of the contents. It has the further danger of being conceivably interpreted as an indication of bad faith, and is embarrassing to Allied officers who are handling the turnover on the spot.

Allied Commission is now responsible for all coal imports in Sicily and will be responsible for British and American Military and Naval requirements, using the State Railways as agents. Coal is urgently needed by British and American Forces and by the Ministry of War Transport as well as certain essential users, such as the State Railways. The majority of foreign coal (12,000 tons) is used by the electric power plants and the State Railways.

The volume of citrus fruits which can be dispatched will be limited by the quantity of packing cases available. Receipts of timber for manufacture of cases are in short supply. The citrus situation as to the number of ready cases available is not satisfactory, due partly to the lack of electric current in some sawmills and because the mills themselves have been making unnecessary difficulties as to the quality of the timber. It is to be remarked that the railway car situation in Sicily and Calab-

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There is still a large surplus of wire. Some coasters are expected for movement of wire but the difficulty of getting the wire to the ports still remains due to lack of land transport.

The packing and supervision of schooner movements is proceeding smoothly. A more efficient observation of the regular and equitable allocation of schooners is now possible. Many applications for movement of wire by schooner have been refused owing to the existing ban on the use of this form of transport. In some cases these movements have been submitted by individuals authorized by Service Messes and AC officers on the mainland to come to Sicily to buy wire. Evidently these are not forbidden under the AFRA prohibition.

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The volume of citrus fruits which can be dispatched will be limited by the quantity of packing cases available. Receipts of timber for manufacture of cases are in arrears. The actual situation as to the number of ready cases available is not satisfactory due partly to the lack of electric current in some sawmills and because the merchants themselves have been making unnecessary difficulties as to the quality of saw timber. It is to be regretted that the railway car situation in Sicily and Calabria is so serious as to hamper the timber haulage to the ports. The haulage bills submitted by I.N.I. are so high as to cause trouble with the Calabrian merchants.

Three ships of citrus fruits have been loaded, one each at Catania, Siracusa and Messina. However difficulty is being experienced in finding adequate warehousing, although this is being slowly alleviated.

WHEAT, BARLEY, WHEAT AND WHEATFLOUR.

The average daily quantity of grain amassed during the month was 1020 quintals. Total wheat amassed to date is 1,243,376 quintals, and total barley is 105,936 quintals. Amount of wheat reported to be on hand in Consorzio Agrario warehouses on 27 November was 317,875 cts. and barley 10,354 cts.

HAZARD

Total amount of olive oil assessed is 1000 quintals with every indication that the oil amassing will prove a complete failure

As regards fertilizers, 55,000 quintals of superphosphate had been distributed to the Provinces by 30 November. A total of 50,000 quintals of Ammonium Nitrate has also been distributed.

Only 1000 tons of seed potatoes may be expected according to latest information. This small quantity has been allotted to the eastern part of the Island.

The livestock situation continues normal, with no outbreaks of disease.

B. LABOR

Labor relations during the month have shown a marked improvement over October and no serious strikes have occurred. This is due mainly to the cost of living indemnity and increase in family allowances granted to all employees by the Government. Disparity between wages and cost of living has been temporarily reduced, but with the cost of essential commodities rising daily and the short supply of food and consumer goods, it is apparent that the inequality between the two factors will soon be even more evident than in the past.

These wage increases have been favorably received by employees and generally speaking employers are complying with the terms of the Royal decree. However it has been reported that in a few instances employees have been discharged by employers as a result of their refusal to pay the increase and one case of violence has occurred in Catania as a result of this action. The matter is being investigated and a report will be rendered.

A strike was threatened by the employees of the National Bank of Italy for payment of a daily subsistence allowance similar to that which is alleged to be paid in Rome. The local Director is at present in Rome for discussion of the matter.

The revised daily wage scale for employees of the Allied Forces is in effect, retroactive to 1 October 1944.

AFLM has authorized certain increases for employees of the Armed Forces, effective 10 November 1944, in order to place these employees in a preferred position, following the announcement of the Italian Government concerning the "Carovita" indemnity and increases in family allowances.

It has become necessary to review the Stvedores' Contract as applicable to Sicily. Revised contracts have been prepared in conjunction with MIT showing an upward revision of the tonnage rates. These have been forwarded to AFLM (It.) S. for consideration.

Social insurance continues to be a topic for discussion among employees of the U.S.N. and the U.S.M., with a general feeling among the workers that nothing is being done for their welfare.

RECONSTRUCTION AND BUSINESS

Work of reconstruction continues. The needs declared by the workers remain

E. LABOR

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ROADS AND UTILITIES

Work of reconstruction continues. The roads declared Military Highways remain the same as set up in June. Work ordered are proceeding slowly because of the lack of coal and petrol to transport road making materials. Therefore the condition of roads will become steadily worse. Bridge repairs and reconstruction are proceeding slowly to a close.

Water supply presents no difficulty. Coal is not available for gas production. We are unable to operate at Palermo, Catania, and Trapani.

Government is now evaluating for industries and a small proportion for private uses. The responsibility for the reconstruction has been handed over to the Supplies Official of the Italian Government.

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It is understood that a first allotment of 400 million lire has been made to cover war damage in Sicily of which 100 million is to be used for repairing private houses. A commission of which the Provveditore alle Opere Pubbliche is to be President, will arrange the allocation of these funds on a provincial basis.

C. PUBLIC SAFETY AND THE CRISIS.

The month of November has shown no noticeable change, but conditions in general have appeared on the surface somewhat more calm than the previous month. Serious crime remains at about the same level. Some very good work has been done by the police against the bands operating in the country. The activities of the principal parties, and a number of other organizations, have continued but the masses are not as yet interested or active in politics. The uncertainty as to the food situation is the cause of concern as to what may develop. No particular reaction to the government crisis has been observed. The general situation is now so unsettled that a forecast cannot be made.

Demonstrations during the month have been almost negligible. The principal incident was a bomb explosion in a theater in Palermo during the showing of "The Great Dictator", which appears to have been a protest against the showing of the picture. It is whether it was a deliberate act of groups or individuals has not yet been determined. The bomb, believed to have been ignited by a fuse, was placed in a toilet. The explosion injured two people.

The serious problems are the bands of delinquents. They are vicious and difficult to deal. The people become terrorized and neither report the crimes nor give information to the police. If not actively combated these bands establish themselves. An instrument particularly effective against this possibility is the interprovincial offices established under the law and not recognized by the Italian Government. The interprovincial organization of Sicily arrested the members of two gangs and killed three members of another.

In the matter of enforced grain collection the only indication of organized police effort was a recommendation made to the High Commissioner on request, for the setting up of a special provincial police organization to deal with food in each province.

Perisicci has been requested by the High Commissioner to lift the black-out regulations in the interest of public safety. He was informed that APHC would shortly announce the over-all plan revising the restrictions, and he must await that announcement.

A plan has been prepared for the guidance of Police Agencies in checking upon the circulation of motor vehicles. This is being presented to the High Commissioner with a strong recommendation that every possible effort must be made to effect a closer control over the use of motor vehicles of all classes in the interests of economy of fuel and other essential materials. As has been previously pointed out one of the difficulties of enforcement has been the late arrival of necessary forms, permits etc. At least three weeks are required for their distribution in the island.

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Perisoleo has been requested by the High Commissioner to lift the black-out restrictions in the interest of public safety. He was informed that APRA would shortly announce an over-all plan revising the restrictions, and he must await that announcement.

A plan has been prepared for the guidance of Police Agencies in checking upon the circulation of motor vehicles. This is being presented to the High Commissioner with a strong recommendation that every possible effort must be made to effect a closer control over the use of motor vehicles of all classes in the interests of economy of fuel and other essential materials. As has been previously pointed out one of the difficulties of enforcement has been the late arrival of necessary forms, permits etc. At least three weeks are required for their distribution in the island.

Police and F.S.S. have been informed of reports that certain individuals have made or may make attempts at clandestine expatriation to America. There are no further reports of illegal travel to North Africa, however the thousands of refugees from North Africa now in Sicily present a constant problem in this respect. The shortage of patrol vessels makes control difficult. The Military refugees improperly entering Sicily, as reported last month, have been detained at Agrigento and have been interrogated by U.S.S. and arrangements are in hand to return them to North Africa.

Provincial Commissions for Fascistisation are not yet functioning because the County High Commissioner for the Formation of Fascism in Rome has not yet appointed the representatives in the Commission of the nine Sicilian provinces.

The number of forged A.M. notes recovered from circulation has increased during

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the month, but of the 140 recovered 34 are of the series which was reproduced in a plant at Catania recently raided. 37 notes are believed to be produced by a plant in the Palermo area. It is hoped that an arrest made recently will disclose the location of this plant.

Military Security is generally satisfactory. Pilferage of Army stores and wires cutting still continue. Fourteen persons were arrested at Syracuse for stealing 126 percussion fuses from cases of mortar illuminating bombs. This reduced the bombs useless and could easily have led to serious consequences had front line troops been dependent upon such a case of defective ammunition. For this reason charges of sabotage were preferred in all cases and authority has been given for their trial in Allied Military Court.

Lack of confidence in their Government is evident among Italian officials. That there is some justification is manifested by the delays and lack of action. This is especially true among public safety agencies. They can and will now work if there is closer support by the central government. The system is too highly centralized to be efficient. Unless closer support is given a collapse in morale may be expected and this, combined with the lack of means, personnel and organizational, will render the police system inefficient and ineffective.

Prisons are still seriously overcrowded. 308 persons are now serving sentences imposed by AMG courts as compared with 391 on 31 October 1944.

Two cases for trial by Allied Military Courts are pending: one is for espionage involving one accused; the other is for seizure of Allied ammunition involving 24 more. The trial of these two cases is set for 9 December 1944.

Italian Military Courts continue to work well in Palermo and Catania. No the morning of November 22 crimes have been tried for offenses affecting Allied interests, as compared with 35 for October.

In the Italian Civil Courts the shortage of personnel remains as reported last month. The smooth working of the judicial administration is rather hampered by the constant transfers and removals of judicial officials, although this is perhaps understandable. There has also been considerable unrest and dissatisfaction among the higher officials due to the transfers and rumors of further transfers of AMG appointees in circumstances which appear to indicate a down-grading to their pre-War grade. So far as is known there has been no transfers or removals of officials without AMG consent where this is required. The courts appear to be working fairly well but slowly as usual.

4. PUBLIC HEALTH (MORBID)

During the month there was a rapid drop in the number of cases of infectious diseases notified. In October there were 3360, for November only 1408.

In November a small outbreak of smallpox occurred in Palermo. The total number of cases for the month was 29. Prompt restrictive action was taken including closing of schools, enforced vaccination for the entire population, segregation of contacts etc.

General disease shows an increase over the preceding month.

... authority has been given for their trial in Allied Military Court.

Lack of confidence in their Government is evident among Italian officials. That there are some justifications is manifested by the delays and lack of action. This is especially true among public safety agencies. They can and will now work if there is closer support by the central government. The system is too highly centralized to be efficient. Unless closer support is given a collapse in morale may be expected and this, combined with the lack of means, personnel and organizational, will render the police system inefficient and ineffective.

Prisons are still seriously overcrowded. 308 persons are now serving sentences imposed by AMG courts as compared with 392 on 31 October 1944.

Two cases for trial by Allied Military Courts are pending: one is for espionage involving one accused; the other is for sabotage of Allied ammunition involving 14 accused. The trial of these two cases is set for 9 December 1944.

Italian Military Courts continue to work well in Palermo and Catania. To the end of the month of November 42 cases have been tried for offenses affecting Allied interests, as compared with 12 for the October.

In the Italian Civil Courts the shortage of personnel remains as reported last month. The appointment of the judicial administration is rather hampered by the delays in transfers and removals of judicial officials, although this is perhaps understandable due to the transfers and removals of further transfers of AMG appointees. The circumstances which appear to indicate a downward trend to their pre-AMG grade. So far as is known there has been no transfers or removals of officials without AC consent where this is required. The courts appear to be working fairly well but slowly as usual.

7. PUBLIC HEALTH - MILITARY

During the month there was a rapid drop in the number of cases of infectious diseases notified. In October there were 2562, for November only 1405.

In November a small outbreak of smallpox occurred in Palermo. The total number of cases for the month was 19. Prompt restrictive action was taken including closing of schools, enforced vaccination for the entire population, segregation of contacts etc.

Veneral disease shows an increase over the preceding month.

The "Economic Kitchens" started operations during the month with 14 open in addition feeding 3500 destitute per day. In Palermo some 14000 hot meals are being served daily and it is expected that this will soon rise to 20000. Of the 20000, 14000 will be free and the remainder sold at a nominal cost. The soup served is rich and tasty, providing a great deal of sustenance.

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1. EDUCATION

On 16 November in 7 provinces school children took to their benches and went to the classrooms. The opening in Inland and Palermo provinces was postponed until 1 December and later to an indefinite date due to the smallpox epidemic. Thousands of school children have been vaccinated and no one will be allowed to enter the classroom without a certificate of vaccination.

The textbook situation remains critical. About 60% of the minimum requirement has been printed but printing is now being held up for the lack of binding rope from Naples.

The occupation of school buildings by military and the destruction caused by the war still hampers education generally all over the island especially in the city of Catania, where 3 schools are occupied by allied and 7 by Italian Military and 3 by refugees for a total of 15 school buildings which is a crippling blow to any city educational system. Every effort is being made to improve the situation.

Mr. Pelumbo took over his duties as the new R. Provveditore agli Studi of Catania.

2. FINANCE AND PROGRESS CONTROL

Considering the index figure for January of this year as 100 the trend of price cycle is as follows:

MONTH	AVERAGE INDEX FIGURE
July	115.50
August	108.13
September	106.34
October	117.73

During the month of November the cost of essential commodities continued to increase.

Commodity continues to slip out of the Bank of Italy, Palermo. Not only was the bank unable to repay in full the 100,000,000 advance due on 15 November but an additional 100,000,000 was brought to the island from Naples by Italian cruiser. The bank here seems to buy hard and to be being liable to meet the constant drain on their cash resources, transferring responsibility in the matter to Rome.

For the month of November the Bank of Sicily forwarded about 20,000 receipts to printing banks in the U.S. and U.K. This is a great improvement over any previous month, and compares with 10,000 in October. The Bank of Sicily will make every effort to maintain and improve this rate.

The sale of Treasury Bonds during the month has been highly satisfactory.

Income accounts are still being released at a general entry rate, only about 10 percent being released now, whereas under AMG/ACC/1/6 the figure was from 50 to 60.

The occupation of school buildings by military and the destruction caused by the war still hampers education generally all over the island but especially in the city of Catania, where 3 schools are occupied by Allied and 7 by Italian Military and 3 by Germans for a total of 15 school buildings which is an appalling blow to any city educational system. Every effort is being made to improve the situation.

Dr. Belucio took over his duties as the new R. Provveditore agli Studi of Catania.

FINANCE AND PROPERTY CONTROL

Considering the index figure for January of this year as 100 the trend of price levels is as follows:

MONTH	AV. INDEX (1939 INDEX)
July	115.50
August	106.13
September	106.34
October	114.73

During the month of November the cost of essential commodities continued to increase.

Currency continues to flow out of the Bank of Italy, Palermo. Not only was the Bank unable to repay any of the 100,000,000 advances due on 15 November but an additional 100,000,000 was brought to the Island from Naples by Italian cruiser. The Bank has agreed to have done and to be doing little to meet the constant drain on their cash resources, relieving responsibility in the matter to Italy.

For the month of November the Bank of Italy forwarded about 20,000 receipts to clearing banks in the U.S. and U.K. This is a great improvement over any previous month and compares with 10,000 in October. For next month every effort is maintained and improve this rate.

The sale of Treasury Bonds during the month has been highly satisfactory.

Locked accounts are not being released at a satisfactory rate, only about 10 and being released now, whereas under AMC/ACC/AC the figure was from 50 to 60.

Postal Savings deposits continue to exceed withdrawals, and the sale of Postal Bonds shows an improvement.

The American Consul is now attending to relief payments to American Nationals, and this office continues to care for British Nationals. It is expected, however, that the Bank of Sicily will effect these payments in the near future, and negotiations are in progress and now in course with the British Consul at Naples.

There has been little change in Property Control affairs. During the month our files have now been forwarded clarifying the position as regards requisitioned property, particularly in Palermo and Messina. It has been found that the taxes for such property are below those paid prior to the occupation. Discussion is in progress with a view to increased rentals.

Properties in custody and under control stand as follows:

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

Total properties taken under control	855
Total properties returned	248
Remaining under control	<u>607</u>

K. REFUGEES

The refugee situation has eased considerably after the departure of 2300 for the mainland. Improvement is being effected in the accommodation of the remaining 4502 (this number does not include 15,044 refugees from North Africa awaiting repatriation).

A small stock of clothing for distribution in the Island has arrived and arrangements have been made for the Church to distribute these articles to the most needy of the refugees. A fund of L. 722,000 raised by the Italian Red Cross is being largely spent on the purchase of shoes for the refugees. About 400 blankets have been acquired also for the use of refugees while they are on the Island. Half of these are returnable.

With the aid of the Pontifical Commission all refugees from the Provinces of Rome and Naples have been repatriated and a project is now under way to repatriate some 15,000 additional refugees to other provinces.

L. CURRENT ECONOMIC

Military highways continue to be maintained in reasonably good condition. Trucks operated by I.R.I. during the first half of the month total 6793, a daily average of 145. The second half of the month is expected to be about the same. A supply of some 150 three and 100 three-ton trucks has been allotted for purchase by I.R.I. for trucks in Italy. The supply is most welcome.

Requests have been approved for the transfer of twelve standard licensed trucks to leave Sicily for the mainland. They were nearly all large trucks, privately owned, carrying heavy-duty loads to home provinces.

Progress regarding implementation of the EMAC scheme is slow. The registration scheme in 5 of the 9 provinces gives the following results: of the 2022 trucks registered under the old Italian regulations, 1699 have registered under the EMAC decree.

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 M. C. G. G.
 Registrar
 Regional Commission

Handwritten notes:
 C of S D Distributa
 1-7 Feb 1954 esp, e/s, etc

A small stock of clothing for distribution on the island has arrived and arrangements have been made for the church to distribute these articles to the most needy of the refugees. A fund of \$1,722,000 raised by the Helms Red Cross is being largely spent on the purchase of shoes for the refugees. About 2400 blankets have been acquired also for the use of refugees while they are on the island. Half of these are returnable.

With the aid of the Provincial Commission all refugees from the provinces of Sao Paulo, Bahia, Pernambuco, Maranhao, Piaui, Ceara, Rio Grande do Norte, Paraiba, Rio de Janeiro, Alagoas, Sergipe, Minas Gerais, Mato Grosso do Sul, Mato Grosso, Goias, Tocantins, Roraima, Amapa, Acre, Rondonia, and Roraima have been repatriated and a project is now under way to repatriate them in several consignments to other provinces.

1. COMMUNICATIONS

Military highways continue to be maintained in reasonably good condition. Trucks operated by U.S.A. During the first half of the month total 6793, a daily average of 558. The record half of the month is expected to be about the same. A supply of some 150 trucks and 300 spare tires has been allotted for purchase by U.S.A. for trucks in Italy. This supply is most welcome.

Requests have been approved for the transfer of twelve mainland licensed trucks to leave Italy for the mainland. They were nearly all large trucks, privately owned, extremely near-full loads to home provinces.

Progress regarding implementation of the LMAC scheme is slow. The registration scheme in 5 of the 9 provinces gives the following results: of the 2022 trucks registered under the old legislation, 1699 have been registered under the LMAC decree.

- C of S D distribute
- 1-7 Feb Copy copy, etc
- 1- EA Sect
- 1- Economic Sector
- 1- PR to circulate to
- 1- Pol & Estab Sector
- 1- Capt [unclear]

[Handwritten signature]
L. Dall
Brigadier
Regional Commissioner

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17456
18 NOV 1944

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ALLIED COMMISSION
SICILIA REGION HEADQUARTERS
AF0 394

MC/EIC/gds

20 NOV 1944

MONTHLY REPORT FOR OCTOBER 1944

PART I

The tide of unrest caused during the early part of the month by shortage of food, the rising prices of essential commodities, unfulfilled expectations as to increases in pay and the general inability of the local administration to control the situation culminated in a very serious incident at Palermo on 19 October, when troops opened fire on and used grenades against a crowd gathered in a confined area outside the Prefecture and the Office of the High Commissioner. Serious casualties occurred.

Many misrepresentations of the incident appeared both in the press and elsewhere where the impression was sometimes given that a serious battle between strikers and the Armed Forces had occurred or that an attempt had been made by the Separatists to initiate violent action. The matter is still under investigation by the Italian authorities. It seems clear that the causes of the trouble were in the main economic and that though the situation at the time was tense it was mishandled by those immediately concerned and that had the forces of law and order, even though troops were involved, been properly employed, bloodshed could have been avoided or at least only a few casualties caused.

Though excitement subsequently ran high in the city of Palermo for some days and strong repressing of the streets was necessary, the situation by the end of the month was outwardly calm and normal.

Throughout the rest of the Island the situation was not abnormal though there was continuous agitation against the low rate of wages and the high cost of living.

Food and its price continue to dominate everything while the approach of winter makes the lack of clothing material and of shoes most serious. Workers would prefer a stabilization of prices at a reasonable level rather than a rise in wages which may tend to drive prices still higher. Efforts are being made by the local administration to bring prices down and to exercise some rigid form of control over them but the shortage of commodities, the operations of those interested in keeping Black Market prices high, non-observance of laws and regulations and the inefficiency of the lower administration make the problem most difficult.

Grain availability, which has a most disturbing influence on the whole situation, is most serious as present stocks will, in general, be exhausted by the end of the year and no plan as yet has been made to meet this situation. Black market prices of bread and pasta are rising steadily.

The health of the population remains satisfactory. While the lot of the Sicilian may, judged in certain lights, be very hard, he frequently fails to take into account that life in Sicily has great advantages over that in the battle zone and in the devastated areas on the mainland.

In view of the general instability of the local administration to control the situation culminated in a very serious incident at Palermo on 19 October, when troops opened fire on and used grenades against a crowd gathered in a confined area outside the Prefecture and the Office of the High Commissioner. Serious casualties occurred.

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1. The Copy. C.S.O. C.O.S. C.C.
CA Sec ✓
Econ
Capt. Jordan
P. R. B

M. C. R. B. Ryan
M. CAHER
Prigadier
Regional Commissioner
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PART II

A. Political Reactions and Public Opinion.

The political situation during the month showed little change, the masses still remaining somewhat aloof. With respect to the recognized parties the Communists have been most active through the press and political meetings. The unfortunate incident at Palermo on 19 October, when 26 persons were killed and 156 injured by fire and grenades discharged by troops called out to maintain public order caused a most tense situation and feelings ran high particularly against the troops who were Sardinians. The basic cause of the disturbance appears to have been mainly economic though in some quarters attempts were made to lay the blame on the Separatists.

The possibility of violence and disorder remains. Apart from a natural tendency to lawlessness the critical food situation, with only sufficient grain available on the island to feed the population until the end of the year, and the high cost of living coupled with the serious shortage of clothing and footwear in the face of winter create a delicate situation. The population, however, gives little thought to the war and its prosecution. Feelings are insular and frequently fail to take into account how much greater are the sufferings of their fellow countrymen in the battle zone and devastated areas.

During the month the Separatists held a Congress at Taormina. The meeting was orderly but it appears that the movement is gaining strength. The Congress was attended by some 250 individuals mainly from Catania, Messina and Palermo. Although the delegates were of different political views there was complete unanimity over the fundamental aims of the movement -- Sicily's independence from Italy and a republican form of government under the presidency of Alcamo. Fantastic claims were made particularly as regards representation of Sicily at the peace conference, and the collective aspirations of the people for a Republic. It was stated that the movement was now leaving the preparatory and entering the executive stage. A considerable number of rumors followed this Congress that the Separatists were making actual preparations for a revolt but it appears that the present activities of the party will continue to be confined to the enrolment of supporters, the collection of money and the organization of action squads.

B. Local Government.

During October two other AIG prefects were replaced by career prefects in accordance with the High Commissioner's wishes. Those replaced are Dott. Starcanelli of Messina (by Avv. Stella) and Dott. Razio of Catania (by Avv. Grammichele). The following chart shows the situation of local government in regard to prefects, sindaco, deputazioni provinciali and giunte comunali.

PROVINCE	Com- missari Prefettizi	Com- missari Provinciali	Sindaci & Giunte Prov. Administrative	Giunte Comunali	Complete	28 complete
AGRIGENTO	41	Dr. MOCCI	32 Sindaci	7 members	Complete	28 complete
		24-8-44	9 Com. Pref.			

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 ...though in some quarters attempts were made to lay the blame on the Separatists.

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PROVINCE	COM- MUNES	PREFECT	Sindaci & Commissari Provinciali Prefettizi	Giunte Prov. Administrative Comunali	
AGRIGENTO	41	Dr. MOCCI 24-8-44	32 Sindaci 9 Com.Pref.	7 members Complete	28 complete
CALANASSETTA	22	Dr. DOMANI 17-9-44	8 Sindaci 4 Com.Pref.	7 members Complete	11 complete
CATANIA	51	Avv. MARIUCCI 15-10-44	19 Sindaci 39 Com.Pref.	7 members Complete	19 complete
TAORMINA	20	Avv. BRUNO FERRICIONI* 23/11/43	13 Sindaci 7 Com.Pref.	7 members Complete	13 complete

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cont'd PROVINCE	Com- munes	PREFECT	SINDACI & Commissari Prefettizi	Deputazioni Provinciali	Ciunte Prov. Administra- tive	Ciunte Comunali
RAGUSA	12	Dott. MONTANA 24-9-44	6 Sindaci 6 Com.Pref.	7 members complete	complete	3 complete
PALESTRO	76	Avv. DIAMANTI* 16-4-44	64 Sindaci 12 Com.Pref.	7 members 1 supplente 1 supplente to be non- inated.	complete	64 complete
SIRACUSA	19	Dr. GOGUZZA Aug. 44	13 Sindaci 6 Com.Pref.		1 member missing	13 complete
TRAPANI	20	Dr. GIULOTTA	15 Sindaci 5 Com.Pref.	Not yet formed.	complete	11 complete

* Appointed by AMG

C. Economics, Resources and Supply.

The food situation is very critical especially as regards grain supplies for procuring bread for the population. Due to the inefficiency of the amassing organization and to a mixture of petty, politics and opposition, the grain and barley amassed will, if the existing ration scale is to be maintained, be exhausted by the end of the year.

It appears that much of the grain which might have been amassed some few months ago has now either been broken into small units and dissipated over the Island or has been consumed or smuggled out of the Island and that the use of such forces as are available to unearth hidden grain will make little difference to the situation. Continuous pressure was exerted during the month on the civil authorities with a view to the further assessment of such grain as might be available.

In accordance with the policy laid down, the local Administration was informed that no grain would be imported into Sicily and that the Island must feed itself on local resources until the next harvest. Discussions with a view to some modification of this policy are taking place.

The needs of the normal necessities of life in the markets continue to remain very high. The high price of fresh meat and fish makes it almost impossible for the more lowly paid elements of the population to purchase such items. The matter of fixing maximum prices for essential commodities has been under constant discussion with the civil authorities. A series of committees of experts to discuss this vexed question has been at work, but few, if any, practical results have been obtained so far.

Restrictions have been placed on the preservation of fish, of which large stocks are believed to be held with a view to bringing more fresh fish on to the open market.

There are very large quantities of wine available for export. Owing to the lack of shipping and to the prevailing prohibition of shipment of alcohol, it seems probable that large stocks available will be moved. This

irated.

SEACUSA	19	Dr. COCCHIA Aug. 44	13 Sindaci 6 Com.Pref.	1 member missing	13 complete
TRAPANI	20	Dr. GULORFI	15 Sindaci 5 Com.Pref. formed.	complete	11 complete

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There are very large quantities of wine available for export. Owing to the lack of shipping and to the prevailing prohibition of alcohol by seaowner, it seems probable that only small quantities of the large stock available will be moved. This gives rise to serious complications because, not only does the wine industry form a large part of the industry of the Island, but storage space is required for this season's vintage.

There is also a very large exportable surplus of citrus fruits, even though an extensive export program to the U.K. is in hand.

Stocks of clothing material which had been held in Allied Commission warehouses were released during the month to the local Italian authorities for distribution among the civilian population on a ration scheme to be determined.

The scheme under which the import and distribution of coal is now handled by the state railways under the supervision of the Allied Commission worked satisfactorily during the month. The total amount imported was 26,786 tons.

5460

SACREI

There is a serious shortage of soap which normally is only obtainable in the Black Market at very high prices. The local factories have not yet been able to commence production due to lack of sulphur oil. Due to lack of tanning material the tanning industry remains at a standstill and no leather is being produced locally for boots and shoes which are a very serious and crying need, especially in view of the coming winter.

Resumption of activity in the sulphur mines continues slowly as materials are received. Other smaller mining industries are attempting to resume work but are finding it difficult on account of lack of materials which under 40 arrangements cover import only for the sulphur and asphalt mines. Italian deposits, rock salt mines, bituminous shales, lignite mines and various small research projects are the most pressing of those demanding assistance. Assuming that explosives will be available during the coming months, the two greatest needs in the mining industry in the near future will be shoes for workers and steel cables for mine shafts.

9. Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

The average quantity of grain amassed daily during the month amounted to approximately 2,000 quintals; the total wheat assessment by the end of the month was 1,214,922 quintals. The amount held in the Genovese warehouses on 26 October was 466,377 quintals which represented sufficient grain to feed the estimated number of 3,717,146 non-producers on the basis of the constant 300 gram ration until 1 January 1945. It is stated that at least 1 million quintals of grain have been amassed but the problem of collecting this quantity, now that the bulk of it has left the warehouse and passed into the hands of speculators, is insuperable. Most of it will still be available to feed those who can afford to pay for it, but it will not be obtainable to winter in the standard ration for the working classes at the fixed price of L. 5 per kilogram.

The local administration was constantly pressed during the month to use every possible means to enforce further grain assessment. Activity in this respect, however, was seriously hampered by the disturbance at Palermo on 19 October and by the unsettled conditions which preceded it which necessitated concentration of all available forces on maintaining public order as opposed to enforcement of the assessing laws. It would appear that throughout the assessing season no effort was ever made to control the big producers.

As far as circumstances permitted, an investigation was made into the working of UPEA. This investigation confirmed the complete inefficiency of this organization and that a thorough readjustment is necessary if it is to function properly.

The olive oil season has commenced and Messina has started out no details as to assessing results have yet been received. Several oil companies complain that the price of L. 6,000 per quintal is too low as compared with the prices which have to be paid for all other commodities. A second grievance is that the retention allowance of 10 kilograms is too small and that this will seriously affect the prospect of a successful campaign. The High Commissioner for Sicily was consulted in the matter and he is endeavoring to obtain permission for the price to be increased to L. 7,500 or

Resumption of activity in the sulphur mines continues slowly as materials are received. Other smaller mining industries are attempting to resume work but are finding it difficult on account of lack of materials which under I/O arrangements cover import only for the sulphur and apatite mines. Lignite deposits, rock salt mines, bituminous shale, lignite mines and various mineral research projects are the most pressing of those demanding assistance. Assuming that explosives will be available during the coming months, the two greatest needs in the mining industry in the near future will be shoes for workers and steel cables for mine shafts.

9. Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

The average quantity of grain amassed daily during the month amounted to approximately 2,000 quintals; the total wheat amassment by the end of the month was 1,214,922 quintals. The amount held in the Consorzio warehouses on 26 October was 486,177 quintals which represented sufficient grain to feed the estimated number of 3,217,146 non-producers on the basis of the existing 300 gram ration until 1 January 1945. It is estimated that at least 1 million quintals of grain have been amassed but the problem of collecting this quantity, now that the bulk of it has left the producers and passed into the hands of speculators, is insuperable. Most of it will still be available to feed things which do not allow us to profit, but it will not be obtainable to permit in the ordinary manner for the working classes at the fixed price of L. 5 per Milogram.

The local administration was constantly pressed during the month to use every possible means to enforce further grain amassment. Activity in this respect, however, was seriously hampered by the disturbance at Palermo on 19 October and by the unsettled conditions which preceded it which necessitated concentration of all available forces on maintaining public order as opposed to enforcement of the amassing laws. It would appear that throughout the amassing season no effort was ever made to control the big producers.

As far as circumstances permitted, an investigation was made into the working of IZSSEA. This investigation confirmed the complete ineffectiveness of this organization and that a thorough readjustment is necessary in order to function properly.

The olive oil season has commenced and purchasing has started but no details as to amassment results have yet been received. Producers all complain that the price of L. 6,000 per quintal is too low as compared with the prices which have to be paid for all other commodities. A second grievance is that the retention allowance of 10 kilograms is too small and that this will seriously affect the prospect of a successful amassing. The High Commissioner for Sicily was consulted in the matter and he is endeavoring to obtain permission for the price to be increased to L. 7,500 or L. 8,000 per quintal; he considers, however, that the retention allowance is fair and suitable.

In regard to fertilizers, two of the Montecassini factories are now in full operation. Phosphate rock imports in September and October amounted to 4,627 tons and a further 500 tons not yet unloaded. Production of super-phosphate by the end of the month amounted to 4,400 tons. With further expected shipments of rock phosphate it is hoped that the Milazzo and Nicosa factories will be able to recommence operation.

Allotments of fertilizer have been made to all provinces proportionate to the amount of grain amassed. The producer will apply to the IZSSEA official in his capacity for his allotment which will be made, if necessary, through the communal committee in proportion to the quantity of grain amassed by the producer. It is hoped by this procedure to encourage the further amassment of grain.

The live stock situation remains normal and no serious outbreaks of disease have been reported.

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E. Labor.

Labor relations during the month have been much more difficult than in the past. Press releases with reference to a proposed indemnity for the high cost of living and to increases in family allowances have caused prices of essential foodstuffs to rise. This has resulted in discontent among workers and only with the greatest difficulty was serious labor unrest avoided. State employees have been granted a L. 1000 advance in anticipation while parastatal and public institutions were authorized to pay a similar amount if they so desired. No such concession was granted to private firms. However, it is understood that the decree authorizing payment of the increases will be promulgated soon.

On the day of the Palermo riot, 19 October, several business houses and public services were drawn into the proceedings by the mob. These disturbances did not constitute a strike and normal work was resumed on the following day.

During the month Labor Division prepared a revised schedule of wages for the employees of the Allied Forces in Sicily which were accepted by the Labor and Wages Control Committee and the new rates will come into effect from November first.

Social Insurance and benefits for employees of the Allied Forces have again been the subject of unrest at RM and USN establishments. It is understood that the decree authorizing the payment of these benefits will be published soon.

The Russian Labor Delegates arrived in Sicily on 24 October and visited Messina, Catania, Agrigento and Palermo. Meetings were held with the Camera del Lavoro and the party left Sicily for Saragat on 28 October.

F. Public Works and Utilities.

Work of reconstruction in the cities and on the roads continues. Nothing spectacular is being done but steady progress is being maintained.

Generally roads in Sicily are deteriorating somewhat due to lack of coal for transportation. This means that asphalt and asphalt products cannot be transported from Ragusa thence because the railways are generally rationed for coal. Steam rolling cannot be done because contractors cannot obtain coal for rollers. Bridge reconstruction proceeds and it is expected that many more bridges will be in use before the rainy season which makes some of the diversions impassable at times.

Serious difficulties are being caused by the lack of many materials included in the list forwarded to AC W at various times and finally in May 1944.

With the commencement of the rainy season no difficulty presents itself with regard to the water supply.

No gas is being made because of the coal shortage.

G. Public Safety and the Courts.

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The month has shown symptoms of the serious problems which exist. Although crime has not increased it has continued to be a serious threat. In the field of politics it has been definitely shown that certain groups stand ready to profit by and exploit social and economic conditions even to the extent of threatened violence. The disparity in prices has been the cause of unrest, and the existing Italian Government does not appear to be sufficiently strong to confront these problems.

The demonstration at Palermo on 19 October may be the symptom of existing conditions or the result of agitation or planning by a few. Following a 3-day strike for more pay by the public employees, on the morning of the 19th one private employee was reported to have started a strike. Stores and banks in one of the principal streets were entered by the strikers who demanded that the workers there join the strike. A demonstration was thus started and its influence spread rapidly with the result that the crowd grew, augmented, it is reported, by elements of the low class.

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A number of youths and excited boys were in the crowd. The demonstration continued during the morning without violence. As a crowd gathered in front of the Prefettura the Italian troops were called by the Capo del Gabinetto of the Questura. The troops, 36 men commanded by one officer, arrived in trucks at the Prefettura and stopped. It is reported that a bomb was then thrown from the crowd, wounding some soldiers. The soldiers immediately replied with 7 hand grenades and about 40 rounds of rifle fire. The casualties reported as a result numbered 26 dead and 156 wounded.

The strike seems to have been originally a protest against low wages and high prices and the situation was exploited, but the violence and casualty rate appear to have been due to the improper method of employment of Italian troops.

Conditions in the city for two or three days were somewhat tense and there were a few demonstrations. A wave of resentment directed against the troops spread through the city.

The Separatists in congress at Taormina gave considerable attention to the event and exploited it by distributing separatist leaflets which resulted in the arrest of 2 distributors and a raid on the Separatist headquarters where the literature was confiscated.

It was feared that the situation in Palermo would be followed by other incidents elsewhere, but only one at Fertinico, a strike of public workers without incident, can as yet be connected with it.

The local Italian administration is conducting an official inquiry.

The actual number of serious crimes, murder, robbery, extortion, have not increased over the previous month. The approximate figures for the month were: murders 20, attempted murders 24, robberies 170, extortion 23, attempted extortion 22, aggravated theft 839, simple theft 349. These are not complete statistics and must be considered only as a guide. The number of crimes not reported to the police cannot be determined. Large unincubated areas and the fear of reprisals lead to the belief that many crimes are not reported. When a criminal gang develops, fear spreads and its activities are not reported; to the contrary it is aided by the people.

The police, though still lacking in means have done good work. The average of crimes cleared is less than 50%. This month the leader of the strong Russo band was captured after months of work by the police. The number of crimes committed by this band is as yet undetermined but it included numerous robberies and extortions.

In the police organization many undesirable elements are still on duty and contribute to the prevailing influence. All personnel is underpaid, personal and organizational equipment are needed. Much valuable service has been lost because of the lack of shoes, arms and transport. This has been emphasized in the efforts to break up the armed bands. In comparison with the Italian troops the police agencies, including the Carabinieri, do not appear to have received the same material benefits—this despite the fact that they have remained constantly on duty and that an efficient police force would conserve combat troops.

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There has been some improvement during the month in the support given by the local civil administration and the material provisions made.

PRISONS

The public works representative has impressed upon the Italian authorities the urgent necessity for completing the additional accommodations now being prepared, as quickly as possible, in order to relieve overcrowding and it is hoped that part of this will soon be made available.

The issue of the new permits is now being completed, the number to be granted in each Province having been agreed upon with the Allied Commission. The Regional Commission has discussed with the High Commissioner the need for much stricter supervision over the circulation of traffic. This continues to be a subject for discussion with the police agencies. It is felt, however, that the subject cannot be adequately dealt with until the Corps of Roads Service Police has been organized to replace the

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former Milizia Stredale.

Despite efforts by Questore and AC through the pass system and MIA to control the movement of civilians, it is known that unauthorized travel is taking place, particularly between the mainland of Italy and Africa, in both directions, with Sicily being used as a stepping stone. The Guardie di Finanza are hampered by lack of boats. It is believed that there are now some 14,000 Tripolitanian refugees in Sicily, the majority of whom are desperately anxious to return to Africa.

The number of forged notes has increased, but of the 126 recovered 64 are of the A045 series which were produced in a plant at Catania recently raided.

Courts continue to function with a fair degree of efficiency. During the month 1745 cases were tried of which 1469 were sentenced and 276 found not guilty.

Of cases involving Allied interests 257 were tried, 41 were found not guilty, and the balance convicted. All of these cases involved theft and possession of Allied property.

H. Public Health and Welfare.

Health of the population continues satisfactory. Typhoid fever is still on the increase; however 1944 has on an average been the best year of the past three. Venereal disease shows a progressive diminution. The number of primary malaria cases decreased by approximately 500 during the month.

Communal soup kitchens are being set up in all the larger towns. Within the next few days soup kitchens will be functioning in Palermo sufficient to feed fifteen thousand poor people.

The American Navy in conjunction with a local committee of ladies has been supplying daily hot thick soup to between 2000 and 2500 poor children from off the streets. Four centers have been selected in Institutions and the soup is made from left-overs from messes. Soup is being provided by the American Navy and towels and medical surveillance by the Medical Officer of Health.

The shortage of clothing is acute, even though the best possible use is being made of damaged sacks and other cast-off materials. Many tons of damaged uniforms were dumped at Catania but most of it is unfit for anything but rags.

The promised 750 pairs of shoes for salaried workers (250 in August, 250 in September, 250 in October) have not yet been delivered. Shoes for refugees are unobtainable. Many sandals were made but are not satisfactory for cold weather.

The shortage of blankets is serious. The result of the scarcity is that several people huddle together under one or two blankets and as no change of clothing is possible they get lousy and run consequent risk of contagious and infectious diseases.

I. Education.

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Preparations are being made for the reopening of the schools on 4 November. Outstanding problems to be faced in the near future are the lack of paper for exercise books and the printing of textbooks and the need of much other school equipment. Many school buildings are still occupied by the military, either Allied or Italian, and many others are still uninhabitable due to war damage. Certain buildings are still occupied by refugees and the utmost is being done to return these to the schools.

20 tons of paper have been allotted to the Education Officer by P.M.P. Sicily to relieve the critical situation and permit the printing of a certain amount of elementary textbooks. This paper was sub-divided so as to give 7 tons to the universities and 'scuole medie' and 23 tons to the printing of elementary textbooks. Schools still need about 25 tons of paper. The 'siliborio' is still unprinted due mostly to lack of colored inks. To avoid further delay it has been decided to print it in black.

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The high schools and colleges held their fall examinations during the month. Many an accusation of bribery has been received touching professors and rectors as well. These are being investigated by the Director of the scuola media.

The local Comitato di Liberazione are still meddling with the school and every political group demands or tries to dictate a different policy. There seems to be no way to keep the school out of local petty politics.

An alleged statement by Dott. Grillo Cepo Gebretto of the Ministry of Education has the various Provveditori agli Studi concerned about the safety of their appointments since they are all AMG appointees. It is said that the Ministry intends to qualify them as "reggenti". According to the AMG decree, they were nominated as full Provveditori.

Civic and political leaders and school authorities daily enquired about the hot midday meal which has been notified in the newspapers. This announcement caused a large increase in the number of entrants for the elementary schools but there is no prospect of this hot meal being implemented in the near future.

The lack of clothing, shoes, transportation to and from school both for teachers and pupils, disinfectants and other proper school equipment, the absence in the school buildings of windows to shut out the winter cold all point to a probable decrease in attendance for the coming school year.

Finance and Property Control.

With the index figure for January of this year as 100 the trend of price levels has fallen slightly being estimated to be 108.13 in August and 106.34 in September. The cost of essential commodities has increased during the month of October and this increase will in all probability continue as the winter season approaches. Workers would prefer a rigid control of prices, if this were possible, rather than an increase of salary.

Deposits in the postal savings accounts have been considerably in excess of withdrawals which is a satisfactory indication.

During the month 400 tons of raw tobacco arrived from the Mainland. It is estimated that this supply will be sufficient for about 4 months. Personal ration cards were distributed during the month to the population in accordance with a scheme which it is hoped will commence on 9 November. The tobacco monopoly officials hope to distribute 5 cigarettes per day to each authorized smoker.

There have been no outstanding developments in Property Control

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Efforts are being made to move those in the mountain communes to more sheltered places. The situation regarding clothing and blankets still remains difficult.

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Repatriation from Sicily to the Mainland, and vice versa, continues. Those to be repatriated to North Africa constitute the major problem since their number increases and there is no possibility at present of repatriation.

L. Communications.

Military highways continue to be maintained in reasonably good condition. All broad gauge railroad lines throughout the Island are in operation but services have had to be curtailed owing to a reduction in the allocation of coal. The Consorzio continues to use 70% of IMI trucks. Though the leasing is completed for all practical purposes there is still a heavy demand for trucks. There is evidence of inefficient utilization and general lack of care regarding preventive maintenance and steps have been taken to eliminate these factors as far as possible. Telephone services continue to operate satisfactorily as can be expected as does the postal service. Telegraphic service is almost entirely restored throughout the Island.

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ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
SICILY REGION HEADQUARTERS
AFPC 394

MC/gds

1 OCT 1944

MONTHLY REPORT - SEPTEMBER 1944

PART I

GENERAL

The situation appears to be as satisfactory as can be expected and, generally, the political atmosphere remains unchanged. The health of the population is satisfactory. Everything is dominated by the food situation and prices of foodstuffs in the markets. Food is short and prices of many normal necessities are very high and this must be borne in mind when judging the state of affairs in Sicily.

The situation as regards law and order is mainly governed by the food position. The Black Market and corruption flourish.

From a superficial view of the large towns and of the country districts, it is difficult to appreciate that the Island is one where, in general, all, if questioned, complain that wages are insufficient, that there is a grave lack of shoes and clothing, that food supplies are inadequate and that there is extensive unemployment. Undoubtedly, the lot of the poorer classes, particularly in the towns, is very hard and difficult.

Except for those who may have interests in the fighting zone or in unliberated Italy, there appears to be no thinking towards any effort to assist in the prosecution of the war.

There is a widespread spirit of laissez-faire and the administration generally makes little or no effort to improve the situation or enforce the law. Political and personal feelings carry too much weight, and officials appear to be afraid to take steps which are required for the common good or in the interests of the war effort. Many changes have taken place recently in higher grade appointments and it is to be hoped that this may lead to improved results. Subordinate local administration generally is ineffective, a fact which became most obvious in connection with the Granai del Popolo.

Road transportation continues to be a serious problem due almost entirely to lack of tires and spare parts. It is quite obvious, however, that vehicles are frequently used for unessential purposes and large numbers of vehicles bearing no proper registration marks can be seen on the roads. The Police take no action and a state of affairs is allowed to exist which would not be tolerated in any law-abiding country.

The internal security situation is delicate. Crime, however, remains stationary but the operations of armed bands are increasing. At the same time, public security and police forces are suffering from reduction in numbers and no improvement in armament or equipment. Their morale among a well-armed population cannot

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The internal security situation is delicate. Crime, however, remains stationary but the operations of armed bands are increasing. At the same time, public security and police forces are suffering from reduction in numbers and no improvement in armament or equipment. Their morale among a well-armed population cannot be high. Much volunteer work is, however, carried out in many of the country districts particularly in dealing with acts of banditry.

The Granai del Popolo has been a failure. The target figure of just over 3 million quintals which, it was estimated, would have fed Sicily up to the next harvest is generally admitted to have been too high, but 50% of this total has not been reached. Voluntary bringing in of grain has, to all intents and purposes, practically ceased, and the only place where grain is coming in is where it has been possible to concentrate a small special force for the purpose of compulsion, but quantities are not large. It is hoped to extend this system, but the small forces available make this extremely problematical and every day that passes makes their future task more difficult as more grain goes into hiding. It is to be remarked, however, that even these special forces are not above suspicion.

Due to the lack of organization and procedure within UFSM it is next to impossible

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to find out where un-amassed grain should be found. The work of the local UPSEA has, however, suffered severely from lack of direction from above, the failure of higher authority to ensure regular payment of salaries and expenses, and from non-provision by local authorities of transport for officials.

The popular opinion that the price for grain is quite unremunerative still holds and, in existing circumstances, farmers prefer grain to money. The commission has not been helped by announcements in the press of the amounts of grain which the Allies have available for feeding starving countries and of the aid to be given to Italy in particular.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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PART II

A. POLITICAL REACTIONS AND POPULAR OPINION

General. Possible violence and disorder are closely related to the food situation in Sicily. At the present time grain is in hand and being collected, and the general political situation is not abnormal. If a time should come when food supplies are short, discontented, lawless and violent elements in the population may well create serious disturbances and disorder.

Separatism. This movement has shown an increase in strength and activity during the month of September. Certain discussions are understood to have occurred on a recent visit to Sicily by Orlando, with Finocchiaro Aprile, at Palermo. The Separatists claim the support of about 500,000 members, although only about 30,000 appear to be actually enrolled, according to estimates. Clashes have occurred in the island between Separatists and the Communists, the most serious of which was at Villalba, when shots were fired and hand grenades used, and some 14 persons were injured. The Separatists continue to follow the policy of attempting to hold unauthorized meetings and of defying police authority.

Democrazia del Lavoro is reported to have been the forum for a struggle for leadership in the party, by Guarino Amella and Enrico La Loggia with the advantage resting with Amella.

A police tabulation of the estimated strength of the various political parties by provinces follows. . . . These estimates are to be regarded only as approximations.

POLITICAL PARTIES	CALABRIA- SIBERIA	PALERMO	ACRI- GENTO	TRIA- FANEL	TINIA	MERS- SIVA	CATA- NIA	SIRA-		TOTALS
								CUSA	SA	
Liberale	290	750		466	165	100	1058	50		2879
Azione	1960	1370	320	466		300	2030	60	100	5706
Democretico- Cristiano	8400	4150	3692	2282	2925	3000	9426	1000	2612	37469
Comunista	6148	2000	12887	1355	1185	4000	7682	3350	3810	43217
Socialista	1518	890	1112	1464	4885	1000	6469	2000	3197	22535
Unions		300			330					660
Foga Italica		1950								1870
Democretico Sociale		90	1318	2500	21					3919
Repubblicano- Federale		50				100	300			450

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Repubblicano-Federalista		50			100	300				450
Repubblicano-Socialista		40								40
Democrazia del Lavoro		1200	1443	3136	703	5348	1216	20		13416
										5456
Separatisti:	8000		450	30	1210	8000	3000	300		29985

(Estimates of membership in the various political parties made by Carabinieri sources. It is also estimated that the following numbers can be considered as enrolled support of the Separatist Movement:

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P. Local Government

It is difficult to assess the efficiency or effectiveness of the local government owing to the many changes in personnel during the past few years. It is noted that, in general, all the representatives in the provinces from whom current information can be obtained. It must be noted, however, that political feeling and favoritism still exist strongly against efficiency.

The High Commissioner has toured parts of the island and has made speeches on the island of Popolo and on general problems of the population. He is engaged in the difficult task of convincing the local government to accept the High Commissioner's proposals for the formation of a new government, but once some matters are not met since, and is, therefore, for all practical purposes, non-existent. It is understood that the formation of a new government is under consideration and that the local government has such a proposal that it should be composed of about 35 members which would include one of all large cities and an equal number of representatives from each political party. The High Commissioner is opposed to such a proposal.

The provinces have been protected but the majority of these officials are now corrupt. The charges have been discussed in detail to the implementation of the policy of the local government in detail. (CAGAYAN, ILOILO and IBA) have received their former protection at the hands of the local government. The protection of the province of CAGAYAN and ILOILO. The protection of IBA is not the reason the only province whose protection is an ongoing matter.

Decided provisions to not available of the state of formation of provincial and county offices. Full attention is being maintained, so far as is known, the situation at present appears to be generally as follows. The provinces have been protected, these organizations do not exist except in two cases or the lack of cooperation on the part of the local government. (CAGAYAN, ILOILO and IBA) are particularly noted for their lack of cooperation. (CAGAYAN, ILOILO and IBA) are particularly noted for their lack of cooperation.

Local generally have displayed a considerable degree of ineffectiveness, especially in connection with the local government. In many cases prefects have had to dissolve the giunta comunale and to appoint commissari provinciali. Notable case of such action was that which occurred at Iloilo when a strong action became necessary owing to political and popular feeling.

It is estimated that 5% of the communes have failed to carry out their duties in operation, but the effectiveness in many instances is doubtful owing to political reasons and to the corruption of the various officials.

Local Government

Local, the local government remains unchanged. There is a lack of very normal representation and order of such things as most of which are very high. A good supply of food and necessities has been available for purchase but prices also are high. The government has failed to carry out its duties in the towns and in isolated cases, owing to corruption being very high in collecting their taxes, the local government

... 12, the day, for all practical purposes, no dissent. It is understood that the formation of a committee is under consideration and that the Italian Government has agreed to propose that it should be composed of about 35 members which would include a number of large cities and an equal number of representatives from the political party. The High Commissioner is opposed to such a large committee.

The provinces have no projects but the majority of these officials are now away. The changes have been discussed after the implementation of the policy of the central projects in Sicily. CALABRITTO, S. MARINO and TRAPANI received their order projects at the end of August. Dott. DEBEDI and other taken over the province of CALABRITTO. The project of MESSINA and C. will be in the next few days. It is at the moment in only province whose project is in the end of October.

Detailed particulars are not available of the state of formation of provincial and regional bodies. Full information is being obtained, so far as is known, the situation at present project to be primarily as follows.

In the provinces of Agrigento, Caltanissetta, Enna, Gela, Siracusa, Trapani, and Palermo, these organizations do not exist except in two or three provinces. Their non-existence appears to be due to political reasons or to lack of cooperation on the part of the local political organizations. In some cases, the local political organizations are unwilling to cooperate with the project of the central government.

Orders generally have displayed a considerable degree of ineffectiveness, especially in connection with the "Riforma del Comune". In many cases projects have failed to dissolve the "Comitato Comunitario" and to "volontà" committees. Notable cases of such action was that which occurred in Palermo where a strong action became necessary owing to political and popular feelings.

It is estimated that 25% of the countries have failed in operation, but their effectiveness in other instances is doubtful owing to political reasons and to non-cooperation of the various parties.

THE SITUATION IN SICILY

The food situation remains unchanged. There is a lack of very normal necessities and prices of such items as meat and fish are very high. Good supply of fruit and vegetables has been available for many years but prices also are high. The potato and melon harvest in the towns are too small. In isolated cases, owing to weather being very dry in collecting their grain, the full potato ration has not been available to ration card holders. Over 12 million quintals of grain have been collected and the quantity on hand should be sufficient to feed the island throughout the year providing the necessary inter-provincial transfers are made. Grain removal is slowing, except that grain collection has not been completed. It is felt that the food situation can be regarded as satisfactory in the light of present circumstances.

The stocks of 1960 turned goods have been handed over to Italian agencies as from 20 September 1944, except the contents of one warehouse and some 4000 tons of foodstuffs destined for the military. The remaining 100 warehouses will be turned over to the Italians by 5 October. The distribution of these months' ration of goods was completed early in September.

SECRET

Exports. Shipments made during September:

1,013.5	Cls. wire to U.S.A.
751.11	Cls. carbon bisulphite to North Africa
408.287	Cls. bergamot oil to U.S.A.
351.3252	Cls. lemon oil to U.S.A.
1,022.82	Cls. Argols to U.S.A.

102 tons of wine for export to U.A. is awaiting shipping.

Such effort is being expended to export a substantial quantity of lemons principally to U.A. This has entailed sending officers to Calabria to arrange for the shipment of lumber for packing cases to Sicily. 50 railway carloads of lumber have been received at Palermo and 800 tons at Catania. The first shipment of lemons will take place about 5 November.

Soap. Arrangements are proceeding for the manufacture of soap, but production has not yet started.

Clothing. Arrangements have been made with the firm Gull' of Palermo for the dispatch of raw cotton to the M.O.M. to be returned spun for the manufacture of cotton goods and cloth. The finished product will be placed at the disposal of the High Commissioner in accordance with instructions received.

P.O.L. The following amounts of P.O.L. have been distributed:

Petrol	5551 bbls
Diesel Oil	11261 bbls.
Kerosene	4105 bbls.
Lubricants	5596 bbls.
Grease	8005 lbs.

Coal. The following amounts of coal were received during the month:

Eastern Sicily	Steam Coal	7775 tons
Western Sicily	Sardinian Coal	8000 tons

Arrangements have been completed that the responsibility for unloading of all imported coal will be delegated to the State Railways, as was the situation prior to our occupation. The railways will discharge the coal, make payment through the Italian Government, and issue the cargoes in accordance with directions of ACC. Records will be kept by the railways and reports made weekly to ACC.

Finance. Negotiations are still proceeding with the Park of Sicily to liquidate, on behalf of the Italian Government, the debts due from the Provincial Consorzi.

D. LANCIGIARDI, PAVONI AND PIZZICANI

U. Craxi del Porolo. As in August the grain campaign has occupied much of the attention of this headquarters as well as of Regional, Provincial and local Italian officials.

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D. L. ACCORDS, NEGOTIATIONS AND AGREEMENTS

Comitati del Popolo. As in August the grain campaign has occupied much of the attention of this headquarters as well as of Regional, Provincial and local Italian officials.

The comparative reports of the situation on 31 August 1944 and 30 September 1944 are set out:

5455

SECRET

PROVINCE	DURUM WHEAT	SOFT WHEAT	COMMON BARLEY WITH HULL	31 August 1944 NUDE BARLEY
Agrigento	109,352.55	5,998.14	7,141.53	23.00
Caltanissetta	213,739.00	260.00	19,570.00	
Catania	120,340.00	5,805.00	10,197.00	16.00
Enna	102,955.00	2,330.00	2,371.00	
Messina	3,864.65	2,311.95	206.75	
Palermo	60,163.40	480.10	1,297.50	48.55
Ragusa	62,241.69		13,294.11	10.22
Siracusa	64,281.00	3,086.00	8,849.00	24.00
Trapani	42,957.19	15.27	2,601.24	
TOTALS:	<u>GRAND 801,203.93</u>	<u>BARLEY 65,639.90</u>	<u>TOTAL: 866,843.83 quintals</u>	

PROVINCE	DURUM WHEAT	SOFT WHEAT	COMMON BARLEY WITH HULL	30 September 1944 NUDE BARLEY
Agrigento	154,678.64	6,792.09	15,265.35	23.00
Caltanissetta	281,100.00	413.00	29,712.00	
Catania	159,864.00	6,966.00	16,822.00	16.00
Enna	174,211.85	4,127.45	6,750.49	15.00
Messina	7,663.69	6,428.73	357.42	
Palermo	148,574.48	998.38	2,343.95	
Ragusa	66,587.00	558.00	13,804.00	36.00
Siracusa	79,750.00	3,356.00	10,710.00	29.00
Trapani	52,762.75	15.27	3,076.97	
TOTALS:	<u>GRAND 1,154,952.33</u>	<u>BARLEY 98,961.18</u>	<u>TOTAL: 1,253,913.51</u>	

Since the middle of September the return of grain has fallen off alarmingly. Frequent conferences have been held, efforts have been made to stimulate officials directly concerned with the marketing. Squads of Carabinieri are at work in one

Palermo	60,163.40	480.10	1,297.50	48.55
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Since the middle of September the return of grain has fallen off alarmingly. Frequent conferences have been held, efforts have been made to stimulate officials directly concerned with the harvesting. Squads of Carabinieri are at work in one province. But it appears likely that coercion will produce only limited results.

Law enforcement, in connection with the violations of the grain laws, has received a big priority. 2322 defendants were tried, resulting in 2512 convictions, of which 1257 were sent to prison. Approximately three-fourths of the sentences were for periods under 6 months. It is believed that the courts have been able to keep abreast of this particular volume, although it is estimated that about 3000 such cases remain undisposed of.

Olive Oil. Arrangements are in hand for the harvesting campaign. Crop prospects are good, and well above the average in Messina, Palermo and Agrigento. It is estimated that the yield should be a minimum of 195,000 quintals.

Live Stock. An inspection of the Stazione Sperimentale Zootechnica showed

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marked improvement over previous inspections. Cattle, sheep, pigs and poultry were increasing in numbers and improving in quality. Prices of live stock are very high, a few examples being set out:

Draught bulls, a good pair, 140,000 Liras
 Cows from 40,000 Liras to 100,000 Liras
 Young male, 50,000 Liras
 Sheep from 3000 to 4000 Liras
 Meat from 60 Liras per kg for beef & mutton
 Wool 200 Liras per kg.
 Cheese from 150 to 160 Liras

Fertilizers. 1545 tons of ammonium nitrate have arrived for distribution. 3700 tons of rock phosphate have been delivered to Montecatini and 3000 tons of superphosphate manufactured.

Crop Reports.

Olive Oil 195,000 quintals
 Citrus fruits Slightly lower than average.
 Carobs Moderate production.
 Almonds Below average.
 Legumes Good production

B. LABOR

A strike occurred at the British owned asphalt mines at Bagusa. It lasted three days. Relations were satisfactorily adjusted and work was resumed.

Various proposals have appeared in the press relative to an additional indemnity to Italian workers. These proposals have been made the basis for agitation and dissatisfaction with present wage scales. These proposals contribute to the difficulties of maintaining industrial peace.

The delegation of British and American labor representatives spent five days in Sicily, were given access to information of interest to them and met Italian officials and labor leaders at various cities in the island.

C. PUBLIC WORKS AND PRISONS

The public works program is proceeding without serious difficulties. About 12,000 workmen are being employed in public works in Messina Province at a cost of about 20,000,000 Liras per month. If these men were taken from their work and put on relief, the cost would be about 14,400,000 Liras per month. Hence 3/4 of the sum spent might have to be paid as relief without any resulting gain to the community. Relief expenditures for the current month in Messina Province were 2,000,000 Liras. These facts represent the view of the Prefect of Messina.

The work on prisons is completed in the following percentages:

- a. Augusta 40%
- b. Favignana 25%
- c. Caltanissetta 70%

Electricity. 151.5 tons of ammonium nitrate have expired for distribution. 2700 tons of rock phosphate have been delivered to Licetecchini and 3000 tons of superphosphate manufactured.

Crop Reports.

Olive Oil	195,000 quintals
Citrus fruits	Slightly lower than average.
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The approximate production of electricity will be for the next three months as set out:

October	Hydraulic	Thermal	Total
November	6,800,000	3,500,000	10,300,000
December	6,450,000	4,200,000	10,650,000
	9,250,000	8,500,000	17,750,000
			5454

Gas plants in Palermo, Catania and Trapani have been allotted a supply of coal and the plants are expected to be able to function about 15 October 1944.

G. PUBLIC SAFETY AND THE COURTS

While the crime situation is generally unsatisfactory, there has been, according

S I C I L I E

to incomplete statistics, a slight decrease in serious crime. Several criminal bands are operating in Sicily, but at least two of these have been broken up by police activity.

Some concern is felt because of the withdrawal of 500 Carabinieri to the mainland and a larger and further number alerted for movement. It is appreciated that sacrifices must be made in order to police new territory taken over, but it is regarded as important that adequate numbers of Italian troops and police remain, to be able to deal with any contingency which might arise. Some of these contingencies are set out:

- a. Food situation -- the possible shortage of food.
- b. The growing strength of the Separatist movement.
- c. Increasing strength and organization of criminal elements and armed bands.
- d. Such withdrawal of police and military forces as to jeopardize the public safety situation in the Island.

Trucks are now issued by the Questure in each province, with a close control being maintained by this headquarters on vehicles leaving for the mainland.

Relations with military and Naval officials are satisfactory. 70 Sub-Area has now replaced 56 Area, as the authority responsible for military security.

Courts are functioning throughout the Island, with a fair degree of efficiency. The higher officials are co-operative but are confronted with the shortage of transportation and communication as well as a shortage of officials.

154 cases were tried in which Allied interest appeared; 120 of these were found guilty and 60 sent to prison. There are reported to be about 1730 such cases still awaiting trial.

Italian Military Courts have been operating at Palermo and Catania. 42 persons were tried for offenses involving Allied interest.

There have been no AMG cases tried during September. 391 persons are still serving sentences imposed under AMG.

Prisons are overcrowded, but some relief will come when the building and repair work, now under way, is completed. In the worst case, that of Catania, it is hoped that early release by the military authorities of a civil prison in the area used as a detention barracks, will solve the problem at an early date.

H. PUBLIC HEALTH AND CARE.

The health of the population is generally satisfactory. Malaria, typhoid fever, paratyphoid fever and anterior poliomyelitis are showing a marked increase for the month. Under consideration is a project for opening a special hospital for segregation of those suffering from poliomyelitis.

Vigorous action still continues to control V.D. 520 women were examined and of these 248 were found to be infected by V.D. and were detained for treatment.

I. EDUCATION

- a. Food situation -- the possible shortage of food.
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I. EDUCATION

Schools in Sicily are scheduled to open on 4 November 1944. The printing of text books is held up on account of failure to receive the paper. There also will be a shortage of paper for copybooks for secondary schools. The lack of window glass constitutes a major problem.

J. REFUGEES

The mortality rate among the refugees, particularly young children, is high, due to the conditions under which these people live. These conditions have been brought to the attention of the Italian authorities.

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Plans have been prepared for the repatriation of the refugees to the mainland when it becomes possible.

Self-repatriation of some refugees has given much concern to the authorities at Messina, who are required to house and feed these people, but notwithstanding the positive orders to the sindaco of the communes, the flow still continues.

Efforts are being made by the authorities in Sicily to provide blankets and better housing for the refugees as winter weather approaches.

K. COMMUNICATIONS

Military highways are in reasonable condition, but work on bridges has moved slowly. The rail line from Mersala to Castelvetrano was opened to traffic early in September, thus completing the broad gauge rail lines for traffic throughout the Island.

Telephonic service has shown improvement, although thefts of wire have continued. Telegram service has been restored 100% in the western part of Sicily and about 75% in eastern Sicily. It is expected that during the month of October cable service will be re-instituted between Sicily and Pantelleria and Lampedusa.

The postal system is functioning reasonably well under Italian control.

L. PROPERTY CONTROL

This division has given general supervision of the properties under control or in custody. The final disposition of many properties, is still awaiting the time when correspondence with owners in America is possible.

M. Carr

M. CARR
Brigadier
Regional Commissioner

C of S Distribution
1 - File Copy. cso. C of S A/c

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M. CARR

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Brigadier
Regional Commissioner

- C. of S. Distribution
- 1 - File Copy, Cso. C of S A/c
- 1 - C.A. Section
- 1 - Economic Section
- 1 - Capt. Korden
- 1 - P.R. R.

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2/13/41/CP's
VP
Copy for CH Sec

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
SICILY REGION HEADQUARTERS
APC 394

3 October 1944

RPH/720

SUBJECT : Monthly Report September 1944, Public Health Division, Region I

150
1000/1944

TO : Public Health Sub-Commission, ACC., HQ.

THROUGH : Regional Commissioner

1. GENERAL

During the month the number of cases of typhoid fever has increased rapidly. Many of these cases are due to the eating of unwashed, uncooked vegetables because many market gardeners use crude sewage for watering their gardens. In other instances the source of infection has been traced to water supplies, particularly in communities depending on wells for their supply.

Malaria too is on the increase but the numbers of new cases notified compare favourably with former years.

The outbreak of Anterior Poliomyelitis is giving concern. Nine cases have been reported and eight out of the nine provinces are involved. The question of opening a special hospital for segregation of as many as possible is being considered.

2. INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following cases were notified during the month :

Measles.....	8
Varicella	42
Diphtheria and Croup	46
Whooping cough	29
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis.....	5
Typhoid Fever.....	665
Paratyphoid	109
Undulant fever	62
T.B. of Lungs.....	148
Malaria	1780
Scabies	182
Leishmaniasis	17
Mumps	11
Anterior Poliomyelitis	90
Bacillary Dysentery	14
Suspected rabies	34
Enteric Fever.....	4

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Suspected rabies	34
Puerperal Fever.....	4
Tetanus	3
Brill.....	2

3. MEDICAL SUPPLIES

A small amount of medical supplies was received during the month. It is understood that large supplies have arrived in Italy and it is expected that stocks will be replenished in Sicily at an early date.

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 229
 A. C. F.

The failure in the supply of insulin is causing a great deal of misery. All the insulin required both in Sicily and in the mainland could be produced in Palermo, if only the supplies of powder repeatedly asked for were forthcoming.

Penicillin bought on the Black Market in Naples is being re-tailed in Palermo at 10,000 lire per vial.

4. VENEREAL DISEASE

During the month 520 women were picked up and placed in Sale Celice. Of these, 248 were found to be suffering from Venereal Disease and were detained for treatment. The remainder were detained for three days for examination.

In Catania, Messina and Palermo 49, 241 and 106 respectively were picked up and 12, 126 and 43 found to be suffering from Venereal Disease.

These figures go to show that the Civil Authorities are playing their part in the campaign against clandestine prostitution.

5. REFUGEES

The mortality rate among young children is high. This is due to several causes, the main one being the conditions under which these people are compelled to live. Many refugees are housed in buildings without windows and there is a shortage of blankets and clothing. Sanitation is primitive and in some cases insufficient. The bare minimum of food is allowed.

All these matters have been brought to the notice of the Civil Authorities both by direct contact with Sindaci and through the High Commissioner.

6. WELFARE

(Report to follow).



D.C. MACDONALD

Lt. Colonel,
Regional Public Health Officer

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Lt. Colonel,
Regional Public Health Officer

5401

Seen by all Streams.
19/10/44

ALLIED COMINT COMMISSION
SICILY REGION HEADQUARTERS
APO 394

CONFIDENTIAL

8 SEP 1944

HEADQUARTERS
17 SEP 1944

SECRET

MONTHLY REPORT
AUGUST 1944

4761 JES

PART I

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The collection of grain has occupied the attention of this Headquarters during the month of August. At the beginning of the month a sullen indifference everywhere confronted grain collecting officials, and everywhere a defeatist attitude, on the part of Italian officials, was present.

Dissatisfaction with the price, the natural disinclination of the Sicilian to part with his wheat, the appeal to his cupidity, which successful Black Market operations would make, all joined together to make "Granai del Popolo" a difficult assignment. There is, moreover, an extensive lack of vehicles for officials responsible for grain collection which is seriously hampering the campaign. Every possible step is being taken to get the local Italian administration to rectify this.

Varying degrees of cooperation, some inspired and tireless leadership among certain Italian officials, and such assistance as the limited Allied personnel now remaining in SICILY has been able to give, have produced some results.

There is no place for complacency. It will be extremely difficult to amass enough grain to insure the full ration for SICILY until next crop season. But results do appear better than was at one time anticipated.

Excellent assistance has been given by Police officials. A publicity campaign through the press, the radio, the cinema and posters has been continued. The grain campaign will be carried on to its conclusion.

With the removal of A.C.C. officers from this region, it has become more necessary to train and rely upon civilian Italian employees. A greater responsibility has been thrown upon Italian officials and agencies. Progress has been noted. Much more progress is desired.

Transportation will be a serious problem for this island for a long time to come. Trucks and automobiles are wearing out. Tire replacements are impossible. Severe limitations are imposed upon the importation of benzine, nafta and coal. The number of motor vehicles has been drastically reduced. Many responsible Italian officials are

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Transportation will be a serious problem for this island for a long time to come. Trucks and automobiles are wearing out. Tire replacements are impossible. Severe limitations are imposed upon the importation of benzine, naphtha and coal. The number of motor vehicles has been drastically reduced. Many responsible Italian officials are unable to function to the full extent of their capabilities because of transportation difficulties.

The railroad outlook has greatly improved with the reopening of the standard gauge railroad lines over the island. The necessary movement of grain and food can now be insured, subject to available amounts of coal. 5450

Too great dependence upon Allied effort is everywhere present in Sicily. The war has been over for a year for the population. In general, the people are not conscious of the difficulties confronting the Allies in a world-wide war on many fronts, though some allowance must be made for the fact that they have experienced 20 years of repressive rule.

Part II is a detailed report and is made a part hereof by this

Admin Sec.

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M. Carr
Brigadier

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Brigadier
Regional Commissioner

reference.

PART II

A. Political reactions and popular opinion.

1. Separatism. Some activity of the Separatists has continued, with occasional meetings, but no violence.
2. Political Parties. These continue to be active. It is believed that the Christian Democrats will benefit by the fact that one of their members, Aldisio, has become the High Commissioner for Sicily.

3. Popular Opinion.

- a. In SICILY popular opinion revolves around and depends upon food. Some discontent has existed during most of August over the ration. It was not possible to increase the ration until about 18 August because of the slowness of the amassing of grain. The date of the full ration was first announced for 12 August. These changes marked the administration as weak and indecisive and, to some extent, undermined confidence and gave some encouragement to the Black Market.
- b. In general, the transition from the administration of Musotto to Aldisio has been effected, without difficulty.

B. Local Government.

During the month three new prefects have reported and are now at work in their new posts.

Francesco Mucci	-	Agrigento
Giuseppe Cocuzza	-	Siracusa
Eduardo Gulotta	-	Trapani

C. Economics and Supply.

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C. Economics and Supply.

1. The Grain Campaign.

a. The grain campaign has occupied much of the attention of this Headquarters, the office of the High Commissioner, and his Provincial and local officials, the Carabinieri and Agricultural, Public Safety, Legal and Transportation Divisions, as well as the Economics and Supply Division.

b. On 31 JULY 1944 the situation was as follows:

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"GRANAI DEL POPOLO"

PROVINCE	DURUM WHEAT	SOFT WHEAT	COMMON BARLEY WITH HULL	NUDE BARLEY
AGRIGENTO	48,70.35	3,384.84	2,559.67	23.00
CALTANISSETTA	54,172.00	73.00	3,145.00	
CATANIA	40,034.20	0.20	1,798.16	0.20
ENNA	27,444.00	330.00	288.00	
MESSINA	361.92	11.15	1.83	
PALERMO	4,682.77	31.45	5.35	
RAGUSA	14,416.64		1,672.62	10.22
SIRACUSA	19,336.00	1,120.00	2,150.00	
TRAPANI	20,235.33	8.48	1,158.85	
TOTALS	229,192.21	4,959.17	12,753.50	33.42

Total grain 254,251.38
Total barley 12,792.92

c. On the 31 August 1944 the situation was as follows:

GRANAI DEL POPOLO

PROVINCE	DURUM WHEAT	SOFT WHEAT	COMMON BARLEY WITH HULL	NUDE BARLEY
AGRIGENTO	109,352.55	5,998.14	7,141.53	23.00
CALTANISSETTA	213,739.00	260.00	19,570.00	
CATANIA	130,340.00	5,808.00	10,197.00	16.00
ENNA	102,955.00	2,330.00	2,371.00	
MESSINA	3,864.65	2,311.95	276.75	
PALERMO	60,163.20	480.10	1,297.50	
RAGUSA	62,241.69		13,294.11	10.22
SIRACUSA	64,281.00	3,086.00	8,849.00	24.00
TRAPANI	42,957.16	15.27	2,601.24	
TOTALS	780,804.47	20,399.46	65,516.13	73.22

Total grain 801,203.93
Total barley 65,591.35

d. Personnel. Additional officers have been provided through
M.C. A.C.C. as follows: Lt J. Walker, Major
J.W. Clark, Lt R. Sheridan, Lt J. D.J.
Symington, Lt T.A. O'Connell. The last three being with

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e. Enforcement.

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(1) Total confiscations to date (in quintals).

Grain	Barley	Flour	Pasta	Other cereals
13845	1199.12	445.63	91.92	1098.58
6540.96	388.10	480.67	123.68	498.62
453.54	0.91	180.67	42.05	39.28
5729.27	99.86	52.71	31.74	78.97
TOTALS	26547.77	1139.63	289.20	2605.45

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(2) Total individuals denounced and arrested to date.

	Illegal detention	Illegal transp.	Illegal purchase	Illegal sale	Stolen
Carabinieri	978	3951	334	198	11
Agenti P.S.	458	2626	941	475	17
Railway Police	3	146	2	-	-
Guardia Finanza	117	173	125	52	3
Totals	1555	6896	1302	725	31

(3) Legal Activity in the Grain Campaign.

Province	Tribunali	Persons awaiting TRIAL
Palermo	Palermo	26
	Termini	unknown
Agrigento	Agrigento	unknown
	Sciacca	unknown
Trapani	Trapani	unknown
Catania	Catania	436
	Caltagirone	299
Messina	Messina	62
	Patti	139
Siracusa	Siracusa	187
Ragusa	Ragusa	46
	Modica	46
Caltanissetta	Caltanissetta	160
Enna	Enna	351
	Nicosia	unknown

1772

From 1 July 1944 to 26 August 1944 a total of 1219 persons have been tried for the violation of the crass-ing laws.

For violations of the R.D. Law of 1944 the courts are acting with severity. Many persons have been sentenced to sentences of over 3 years' imprisonment, together with appropriate fines. Several maximum sentences of 6 years have been rendered. Very few influential persons have been charged but one Baron has been sentenced to 3½ years in prison.

Railway Polico	2	17
Guardia Finanza	117	5
Totals	1555	31

(5) Legal Activity in the Grain Campaign.

<u>Province</u>	<u>Tribunali</u>	<u>Persons awaiting trial</u>
Palermo	Palermo	26
Agrigento	Termini	unknown
Trapani	Agrigento	unknown
Catania	Solofeo	unknown
Messina	Trapani	unknown
Siracusa	Catania	456
Ragusa	Caltagirone	299
Caltanissetta	Messina	62
Enna	Patti	139
	Siracusa	187
	Ragusa	46
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Food Rations.

- a. Ration scale. The new ration scale has been authorized and put into effect for the whole island. It provides 200 grams of bread per day and 550 grams of pasta per week, per person, or the equivalent.
- b. Tinned goods. Several warehouses of milk, soup, and M.V. remain to be turned over to the Italian authorities. In the meantime, instructions have been received that certain of these materials were needed on the main land. Accordingly, the hand-over to Italian authorities has been stopped pending clarification.

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- c. Sugar. 2708.51 metric tons of sugar was received during August and a 3 Month's ration will be distributed early in September, remainder to be kept on hand.
- d. Finances. 400,000,000 lire are still outstanding as the debt of the Provincial Consorzi. Stops have been taken to recover this amount at the earliest possible moment.
- e. Soap. Sufficient sulphuric oil and caustic soda are on hand for a 2 months' ration of soap, but additional sulphuric oil is necessary to maintain this soap ration.

f. POL. During August the following amounts of POL were distributed to civilian needs.

Benzina	5895	barrels
Nafta	10338	"
Kerosene	5617	"
Lubricating oil	563	"
Grease	6920	pounds

Much of this was used for the collection of grain and bus service has had to be skeletonized and curtailed.

g. Coal. 7045 tons of steam coal and 7000 tons of Sardinia coal were received.

h. Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

1. The principal activity during August of this division has been the grain campaign, acreage reported upon.

2. Potatoes. 17987 quintals of potatoes have been amassed.

3. Mules. Certain military requirements of mules are being met by requisitioning.

E. Labor.

Labor unrest has been at a minimum during the period of this report.

1. A strike occurred early in August at the Inora Group of sulphur mines, near Caltanissetta. The miners were impatient because of the delay in approving the wage agreement. After a short consultation with Italian labor officials and Region Labor Officer, work was resumed.

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2. A strike, lasting about two hours, was called by employees of the General Electric Co. When the issues were discussed, the strikers returned to work.

3. The wage agreements, in respect to sulphur workers, have ^{been kept} approved by the Italian Government, in conjunction with the Labor Commission, A.C.C. H.Q.

F. Public Works and Utilities.

4. The departure from Sicily of Number 1 District and Mobile Works military requirements have decreased, but the Allied Navies still continue. Palermo is a most important Naval Base for the American Navy and Messina and Augusta for the British Navy.

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2. Expense. A table of expenses for months of MAY, JUNE and JULY 1944 is submitted herewith.

TYPE OF WORK	EXPENSES FOR THE MONTHS OF		
	MAY 1944	JUNE 1944	JULY 1944
Bridges, Road	44,618.993	40,074.204	31,878.651
Reurif. Road	1,702.335	1,105.375	1,228.894
Maintenance.	1,815.709	1,388.954	1,395.080
Acqueducts and	4,454.176	946.929	714.525
Water Supply	6,993.225	4,923.297	5,571.375
Malaria Control	2,865.296	3,700.671	1,921.914
BOATERS	1,705.396	2,451.464	1,841.499
Dredgation and	843.500	372.728	787.932
Removal of Debris	15,819.289	7,154.513	5,228.484
Schools	997.379	469.011	139.085
Hospitals	351.273	328.227	299.651
Prisons & Courts	2,080.222	1,010.978	1,411.407
Buildings occupied by	5,132.181	8,548.218	6,705.498
Aliens	350.000	350.000	50.000
Maritime & Light	1,100.000	1,200.000	1,100.000
Houses	90,828.974	74,002.567	60,274.195
Arts & Monuments			
State Owned Houses			
Gas Plant Palermo			
Electric Company			
Total			

3. Utilities. The electric power situation for the island is improved, due to the completion of the Port Tipodocle plant.

c. Public Safety and Courts.

1. Rate of Crime Reported.

	July 1944	August 1944
Murder	26	34
Attempted murder	14	22
Robberies	108	193
Abductions	6	11
Swindles	11	20
Damages	22	19
Aggravated thefts	862	920
Simple thefts	450	405

Acqueducts and Water Supply	1,702,335	1,105,375	1,228,894
Malaria Control BOMBS	1,815,709	1,388,954	1,395,080
	4,454,176	946,929	714,525
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Hospitals	1,705,396	2,451,464	1,841,499
Prisons & Courts	843,500	372,728	787,932
Buildings	15,819,289	7,154,513	5,228,484
Buildings occupied by Italians	997,379	469,011	139,085
Maritime & Light Houses	351,275	328,227	299,651
Arts & Monuments	2,080,222	1,010,978	1,411,407
State Owned Houses	5,132,181	8,548,218	3,705,498
Gas Plant Palermo	350,000	350,000	50,000
Electric Company	1,100,000	1,200,000	1,100,000
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2. Prisons.

Plans to relieve the crowded condition of the prisons are under way. Because of the vigorous Grain law enforcement campaign, all available new prison facilities will be needed.

3. Registration and licensing of cars.

The total number of cars registered is now 5962.

4. Passes.

Control of travel passes has been turned over to Italian authorities on the basis of regulations issued from M.G. I.C.C. In collaboration with 50 Area, passes for automobiles to cross the Straits of Messina are issued only in exceptional cases.

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5. The Italian Government has retained the provisional Regional Organization for Public Safety agencies, substantially as originally instituted before 10 February 1944 by A.M.C.

6. Because of the large effort put forth by police agencies in grain collection, it is not surprising that there is some increase in serious crime. It can be expected to increase as long as large numbers of police officials are required to devote their full time to the collection of grain and the prosecution of offenders against the grain laws.

7. A.M.C. Courts.

a. No cases tried. The death penalty imposed at Catania in June 1944 has been commuted to life imprisonment.

b. General review of certain categories of A.M.C. cases has resulted in some suspensions of sentences, in accordance with directions from the Legal Sub-Commission.

8. Italian Courts. Italian Courts have functioned in a fairly satisfactory manner and during August have devoted much time to the trial of violations of the grain laws. Their dockets of normal cases show some increase for, in many places, judges have been taken from civil trials to help with the accumulation of criminal cases.

9. Public Health and Public Welfare.

1. Public Health.

a. The health of the island population continues to be well above the average.

b. There is some increase in infectious diseases and a rapid increase in typhoid and malaria, but malarial dysentery shows a decrease.

c. Vigorous action is being continued against V.D. by treating those found with this disease.

I. Education.

1. Seasonal school work has occupied the attention of the various provveditori for the month of August, including consideration of the examinations given in July, preparation of transfer lists for elementary school teachers, and planning for and arranging the new school year.

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- 2. Many school buildings are still unavailable for use because of damage caused by the war and the continued occupation by military authorities.
- 3. Text books are being reprinted and paper has been made available.

J. Refugees.

All Communes with refugees from the Mainland have been visited during the month. In general, the refugees are being well cared for with limited exceptions. Attempts were made to correct the bad conditions, on the spot. Refugee Camps at Siracusa and Termini have been closed and the staffs cut to the minimum. Both camps can be

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re-opened on short notice, when repatriation begins, and will be used as staging camps.

K. Communications.

1. Highways.

- a. Military highways and other highways are in fair condition, considering the traffic and the shortage of materials.
- b. Sufficient materials are on hand to carry out the present program of work.
- c. The bridge construction program will be completed before the rainy season commences.

2. Rail.

- a. During the month of August the gaps in the railroad lines between Palermo and Messina, between Messina and Catania and the Sinito Bridge between Catania and Palermo have been completed and on 28 August 1944 these lines were opened for traffic.
- b. Special Diesel took a party of Italian Railway Officials and C.C. Officials over the newly opened lines from Palermo to Messina to Catania and back to Palermo.

c. During the first days of September the line from Marsala to Castelvetrano will be opened to traffic, this being the last section of standard gauge railroad in Sicily to be put in condition for traffic.

d. Passenger and freight service will depend upon the amount of coal to be allotted.

3. Tele-communications. No particular difficulties have been encountered during the month in telephone and telegraph service, which is functioning throughout the island.

4. Posts. The postal system is functioning throughout the island, inter-service generally improving.

5. Property Control.

The property control division has rendered general supervision of properties in custody or under control and some progress has been made, looking towards final liquidation of the custodianship of this

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