

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

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

MONTHLY REPORTS, AMG LIAISON OFFICER, PALERMO
APR. 1945 - MAR. 1946

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SICILY LIAISON GROUP, A.S.

APO 394

V.P. 7th 12/4

6 April, 45

FILE: AG/2/A 35.

SUBJECT:- Monthly Report - March 1946.

TO: Headquarters Allied Commission, APO 394.

2/13.14/CA ✓

1. GENERAL CONDITIONS.

Situation generally, if anything, shows improvement. Demonstrations in Messina and Palermo, short-lived and control quickly restored. Elections have been quiet and orderly.

2. POLITICAL ACTIVITY.

Elections as observed by SIO and as reported by press have proceeded smoothly. Only a single incident of disorder reported at Bissi. This was handled effectively by local authorities and responsible parties jailed.

3. SECURITY, LAW & ORDER.

On the whole greatly improved. Organized band activity has practically ceased due to amnesty arrangements for Separatists and activity of GCH and the army. Two separate incidents of ambushing of GCH personnel have occurred early in the month. Demonstration incidents at Palermo and Messina, reported on soon after event, were purely local and not part of any island wide program.

4. ECONOMICS, SUPPLY & FOOD.

The grain shortage is still serious. Perishable foods in considerable quantity available in the markets with prices on the whole remaining stable. No greater than prices observed in Italy during a recent visit to Rome. Stocks of commodity goods seem to be improving with prices generally going down.

5. LABOR.

Unemployment situation still serious and little effort apparent to provide work thru public works. No organized agitation in evidence. People on the whole patient.

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Please Initial Back
S.C.P.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 7850166. HEALTH.

General picture satisfactory still.

JOHN LUND, Major, A.U.S.,
A.C. Chief Liaison Officer, Sicily.

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

File: AG/3/4 39

6 March 1946.

Subject: Monthly Report - February 1946.

To: Headquarters, Allied Commission, APO 394,

1. GENERAL COMMENTS.

No important change in general conditions. Tension on part of population in Palermo and Trapani Provinces has eased materially as center of bandit activity has shifted from these Provinces to Catania and Caltanissetta.

2. PHYSICAL ACTIVITY.

Reports have been received from several reliable sources of special activity on the part of alleged representatives of the Communist Party. It is reported that they are systematically canvassing women in many of the smaller Communes, taking names and addresses, getting "orders" for articles desired from the U.S.A., promising packages "soon after election" from Communist sympathizers in the U.S.A., in return for support in the coming elections.

Although it is generally known that the Communist Party has lost prestige in the overall picture in the Island, it is clear that they are still well organized and active.

3. SECURITY, LAW & ORDER.

The situation in the Palermo-Trapani area has eased materially during February. Bands are now comparatively safe as compared with December and January, due to a notable lessening of holdups of cars, trucks and buses.

This change is due to activities of troops, especially the Alpini, brought in during the month.

The scene shifts to Catania and Caltanissetta where there have been several clashes between bands, troops and police. Band attempts have been made, some leaders have been apprehended it is claimed, and many other arrests have

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Although it is generally known that the Communist Party has lost prestige in the overall picture in the Island, it is clear that they are still well organized and active.

3. SECURITY, LAW & ORDER.

The situation in the Palermo-Tremeni area has been materially changing February. Bands are now comparatively safe as compared with December and January, due to a notable lessening of holdups of buses, trams and taxis.

This change is due to activities of troops, especially the Alpini, brought in during the month.

The scene shifts to Catania and Caltanissetta where there have been several clashes between bands, troops and police. Some arrests have been made, some leaders have been apprehended it is said, and many other arrests have been released. The drive does seem to be on however as the Government and the police concentrate now on these two provinces.

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4. ACCOMMODATION, SUPPLY, FOOD.

The general trend of commodity prices, particularly textiles, is downward, due to influx of goods from the North.

Food prices, however, seem to be going up. Oil prices have definitely been upped.

Increased activity of U.S.A.A. should help the general food picture.



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All that has been said in previous reports re food, grain shortages, still stands.

During March your CIO plans an extensive tour of the Island with the Regional representative of U.N.I.E.A.

5. LABOR.

Isolated agitation and strikes of small groups continue. There is no Island-wide, organized agitation however.

6. HEALTH.

General picture satisfactory.

7. AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS.

Favorable, but weather of March and April will tell the story - too early to make any forecasts.

JOHN LUNT, Major, A.U.S.
A.C. Chief Liaison Officer Sicily.

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R.G. SICILY LIAISON GROUP, A.C.
APG 394

File: 40/5/A 35

11 February 1946.

Subject: Monthly Report - January 1946.

To: Headquarters, Allied Commission, APC 394.

1. This report for January 1946 must of necessity be very brief and general.

2. I took over on 10 January 46 and have spent most of my time in orientation and internal administrative re-organization. The civilian staff has been reduced 50 per cent. I shall, therefore, make no attempt at this time to deal with many of the specific areas included in previous reports.

3. Pasta and Bandits are the topics which are sure-fire ones for valuable and heated discussion.

The non-agricultural coastal towns apparently have no "hidden" food reserves to carry them through in the absence of pasta rations. The poor man normally fills his belly with bread and pasta and the black market, for him, offers no substitute. The Director of Alimentation describes the situation as critical. As this is written word comes through that another grain ship will not arrive (due February 8). The next is due February 21.

My first strong impression, therefore, is that the food situation in Sicily is worthy of serious and immediate consideration. Food and work at subsistence levels are necessary if public order is to be maintained.

Banditry in Sicily is apparently of two kinds:

- (1) Gangster robberies and extortionist practices by loosely and sporadically organized groups for whatever they can get.
- (2) Activities of organized, well disciplined bands whose program is apparently one of harassing constituted police authorities, particularly the CC.RR.

Details of incidents have been well publicized and need not be repeated here. The activities of these organized bands are not so clear.

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Details of incidents have been well publicized and need not be repeated here. The motives of these organized bands are not so clear. Responsible opinion here (Allied and civilian) sees in all of this, grave possibilities of wide-spread civil strife. At present it has all the earmarks of a "phony war" for stakes which are considerably obscured. To date Italian military units have not distinguished themselves in strategy or in action.

4. C.A.O.'s have returned from Lampedusa and Pantelleria and their records are being organized and prepared for archives. This office will stand by for further instructions concerning these Islands pending the inspection now being carried out by representatives of three Sub-Commissions concerned.

5. Coal for movement and processing of road building materials is the bottle neck holding up this type of public work. The allocation of surplus coal to be left by U.S. Naval Detachment to the High Commissioner for local

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disposition would be very helpful (February 9 - word received that this coal will be made available to A.C. for distribution). Request for instructions will be forwarded.

JOHN LUND, Major, A.U.S.
A.C. Chief Liaison Officer Sicily.

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2/13.14/CA

18 DEC 1945

ALLIED COMMISSION LIAISON OFFICERS

TICILY

Monthly Report-----November 1945

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PART I.

This report contains little that is new. November was very quiet. There has been speculation over Orlando's possible appointment to prime minister and much discussion about the repatriation of Italians from Tunisia. The general opinion is that these repatriates have been very badly treated, that the central government has not done much to help them and that Sicily is having to bear the burden of looking after them. The population is beginning to worry about the "freedom of the elections."

A glass factory with a capacity of 15000 to 20000 square meters a month has been opened in Palermo.

Rains have begun to ease the water situation and will soon ensure adequate power.

The public safety situation appears the same as in the past few months.

Public health is good and the officials concerned appear very efficient. Trichinosis cases occurred near Palermo but was stamped out at once.

Transportation is still bad. The two islands are still cut off from the mainland except for occasional fishing schooners. Telegraphic communication to Lampedusa is now interrupted.

The financial situation in Pantelleria has been cleared up. Some improvements are noted in Lampedusa, such as arrival of school-teachers, a surgeon, a silent cinema.

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PART II1. POLITICAL

There was some excitement over the possible choice of Orlando for prime minister. Influx of the Italians expelled from Tunisia caused some rumblings among the people but some well-informed persons state that only those who were ardent fascists and/or worked with the Germans are being sent out. The Sindaco of Pantelleria and Comm. Bruschi, senior finance official in Sicily, both stated this when the subject was brought up at a conference on Pantelleria. The feeling among these people is that the French are simply doing a sort of spuration, although the average person, if he thinks at all, feels very annoyed at the French for driving his relatives and countrymen away from property and professions belonging to them. The people are beginning to think more seriously of "how free the elections will be" considering the ministerial appointments and the hidden areas controlled by adherents of the left parties. I am told that the electoral lists in Sicily are sufficiently advanced now to enable the administrative elections to be held in another month.

2. LOCAL GOVERNMENT

It is rumored that the high commissioner is about to resign and there is great speculation concerning his successor. The Sindaco of Lampedusa has resigned due to apparent lack of desire on the part of Italy to aid the island and also due to his own ill-health. A council-serio prefettorio will probably be necessary on this island. Electoral lists have been completed on Pantelleria and Lampedusa and sent to the commission in the respective provincial capitals. They have not yet been returned to the communes.

3. ECONOMICS AND SUPPLY

The food situation remains the same - plenty of food on the black market at high prices. The High Commissioner's order to fish canners to give 20% of their production of preserved fish to Sicily at 280 - 300 lire per kilo is being applied on Lampedusa. This will put a large quantity of fish at the disposal of the high commissioner for sale to institutions and fixed salary employees, etc.

A glass factory was officially opened on 5 Nov. in Palermo by the high commissioner. The A.C. I.C. was in attendance. The quality

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A glass factory was officially opened on 2 Nov. in Palermo by the high commissioner. The A.C. I.C. was in attendance. The quality of glass is good and the capacity is 1500 - 2000 eqs. per month.

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4. LABOUR AND UNEMPLOYMENT

There were no strikes after the first few days of the month but towards the end of the month again several minor breaks out. All were settled quietly.

5. PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES

(a) Electric power is still rationed but with the almost constant rains we are having now the situation should be improved soon.

(b) Water is available for longer periods now each day.

Page 1.

(c) Gas situation remains the same.

(d) Railways and Road transport remain as in last report.

(e) Roads are difficult where bridges are down and it is necessary to go through the swollen rivers. There were two of these places on the Messina-Palermo road during the month.

Several landslides at the first of the month necessitated the trains running from Catania to Palermo by way of Messina.

6. LEGAL

There seems to be a break down somewhere in the administration as numerous letters come to us direct from the prison directors for release of prisoners. We always refer these to the Procuratore Generale and have asked that the directors be told the proper procedure. The directors still seem to think that all prisoners sentenced by AMO will have to be released by AMO or AGO. *Revised*

7. PUBLIC SAFETY

Public safety is normal (for Sicily in these days) although at the beginning of the month the different strikes tended to cause unrest and annoyance. There was one case of a shooting fray in the main square of Palermo on the second last day of the printers' strike when someone tried to sell 10000 Quattrone and other imported papers. No one was hurt and the questore says it was only a demonstration, the bullets being fired into the air.

8. PUBLIC HEALTH

This has been very good for the month. No serious outbreaks have occurred and the administration is working smoothly. UNASA have been in close contact with the public health authorities and are very pleased with their work. Cases of Trichinosis with several fatalities occurred in Montebaggione Belmonte and the cause was found. Immediate action by the authorities stopped further cases in the North where a shipment of the sausages (the cause of the disease) had been sent. There are no cases of Bubonic plague, nor have there been any.

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9. REFUGEES

Great concern was felt over the large number of Italians to be repatriated from Tunisia by the French. They were allowed only 200 francs and 10 kg. of baggage when leaving (according to the statements of several who came to this office). Many were sent to their families in Sicily and the remainder were kept in billets until sent to reception camps near Ag. 6280 To-date only a few hundred have been sent there. Those who have families in Pantelleria went to go back. There will be about 1200 of these and the island population is 10000. The CAO is at present in hospital but on his return to the island he will study the situation with a view to having as many possible absorbed by their own families.

Many of these refugees feel that the Sore government is doing nothing about them and, disregard for very long. In the meantime the High Commissioner's office is studying the case. An attempt is being made to have the French government hold the remainder of the families in Tunis during the winter and repatriate them in the Spring.

10. TRANSPORTATION

The communications between Pantelleria, Lampedusa and Sicily are hopeless. The ministry of the Italian government promises aid but in fact does nothing. The situation is a farce. Promises and more promises -- but unfortunately they will not transport passengers, mail, rations for the GIs, etc. from Sicily to the islands. The U.S. "Reliance" is being repaired -- according to the Italian Government -- but in fact nothing has been done up to it yet. In the meantime the U.S. "Lampedusa" is being kept off its run for other purposes and the islanders are becoming more and more annoyed.

11. THE ISLANDERS

(a) Pantelleria -- We were greatly concerned about the financial administration of this island but it has been set right by a visit of Comm. Bruschi, senior finance official of Sicily, to the commune. He gave thorough instructions to the communal officials who were hopelessly incapable. Fortunately a change of secretaries has taken place and it is expected that no further troubles will be found. The Sindaco is very clever and capable individual who has the good of the commune before him but it is thought that he does not forget his own interests as well. He is not popular among the people but is probably the best man for the position at the moment.

(b) Lampedusa -- Finances here were in a very bad shape because the C.A.D. during August, September, October and November was there only about 10 days in all. He went back on the 29th of the month and has been able to clear up nearly all the difficulties. Communications are worse here than between Pantelleria and the mainland. The cable between Lampedusa and Pantelleria is broken and it is impossible to send messages now. An attempt is being made to get them sent to Malta for subsequent transmission to Sicily. The appointment of an official tax collector for the island by the Italian Government has not been looked upon with pleasure by the population.

Two school-teachers have arrived on the island and are trying to organize the schools. Two more are promised. The island has long needed a surgeon and we have finally obtained one for them. A silent cinema has been opened.

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(c) Lampedusa - Vincenzo here were in a very bad shape because the CAP during August, September, October and November was there only about 10 days in all. He went back on the 20th of the month and has been able to clear up nearly all the difficulties. Communications are worse here than between Pantelleria and the mainland. The cable between Lampedusa and Pantelleria is broken and it is impossible to send messages now. An attempt is being made to get them sent to Malta for subsequent transmission to Sicily. The appointment of an official tax collector for the island by the Italian Government has not been looked upon with pleasure by the population.

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W. J. MacCallum
W. J. MacCallum, ED, Lt. Col.
A.C. Liaison Officer, SICILY.

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2/13-14/CA ✓

14 JAN 1945

ALLIED COMMISSION LIAISON OFFICER
SICILY

Monthly Report ----- December 1945

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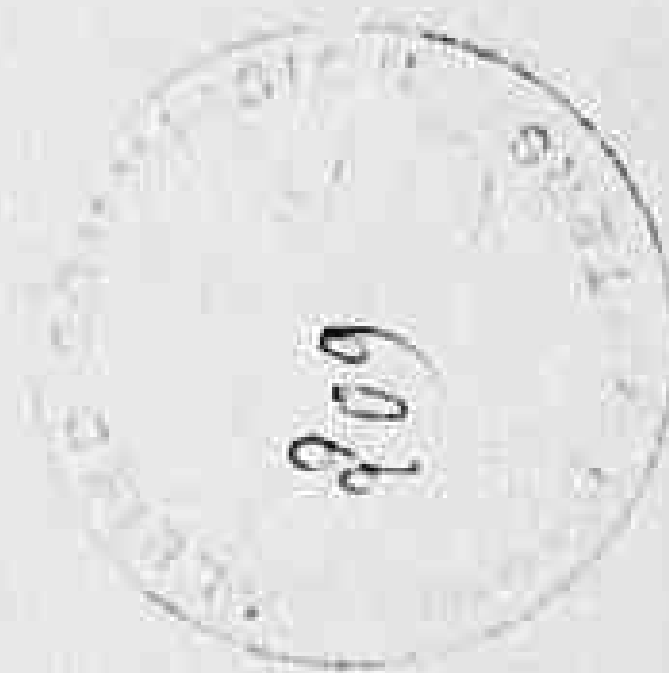
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VP CA Sec	MC	11/11
Public Safety	MC	11/11
Public Health	MC	11/11
Legal	MC	11/11
Local Govt	MC	11/11
Disper	MC	11/11
Education	MC	11/11
WFA & A	MC	11/11
CA Sec	MC	11/11

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PART I

GENERAL.

The news of the handover of all the A.M.O. area to the Italian Government was received with mixed feelings in Sicily, Pantelleria and Lampedusa.

Lampedusa and Pantelleria have completed the work on the electoral lists.

Transportation of food is bad due to the lack of closed trucks and much food imported as well as fruit for export is ruined due to the bad weather.

Public works program is being pushed forward.

Crimes are less except for the organized gangs which are becoming more courageous and are attacking Carabinieri of the CC. RR. almost every night. CC. RR. are doing well but are not effective enough.

The s.s. "Lampedusa" is not yet on its proper route but is expected to go on 8 January 46. 950 tyres have finally arrived for Sicily to relieve the bad transport situation. Refugees are being looked after properly but Jews are coming to Sicily from Bari area and leaving illicitly for Palestine from Syracuse.

A.M.O. Islands have been handed over but the Officers have not been able to leave due to bad weather. C.B.A. representative has been to Pantelleria and has solved the problem of captured enemy materials.

C.B.A. representative has visited Pantelleria.

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A.M.C. Islands have been handed over but the Officers have not been able to leave due to bad weather. C.B.A. representative has been to Pantellaria and has solved the problem of captured enemy materials.

U.M.B.A.A. representative has visited Pantellaria.

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PART II1. POLITICAL ACTIVITY & POPULAR OPINION

a. The news of the handover of Lampedusa and Pantelleria to Italy on 31 Dec. 45 came as a surprise among the people. The Sicilians were happy but the islanders looked upon it as a mixed blessing. They are not quite satisfied that they will get a fair deal under the Italian government. Much depends on the immediate action taken by Rome and Palermo to help them with their difficulties. (A marked speeding up in granting requests to these islands has been noted in this office since the announcement of the handover but it may be only the culmination of some months of effort).

b. (1) U.S.-U. came to Palermo with instructions to have the Italian Army requisition civilian cars for their use. The A.C. I.O. advised against it but the Army went ahead. In all, four cars were taken but have not been given back. This is mentioned here only because of the change that was noted in the attitude of the people. Many were worried about their cars and resentful that the Allies should again be requisitioning. One man who had a Fiat coupé, which someone told him was to be taken, is reported to have burned it rather than give it to the Allies. It was pointed out that these requisitions were NOT made by the Allies.

c. The left parties in the Consulta voted against autonomy for Sicily claiming that it is a matter for the Continent to decide but the question was carried nevertheless 17 to 12. There seems to be a continual decline in the popularity of the left parties especially the communists who have lost ground in areas such as Agrigento which ran at one time solidly left.

d. The Station master at Trapani, the leader of the local communist group, has been punished by the state railways for insolence to Allied Commission officers. Allied Commission employees on a special errand, refusal to recognize 40 railway tickets and refusal to transport material from Trapani to Palermo, sent by Gen. Forto to Admiral Cunningham. That attitude is typical of his group in the Trapani area.

2. LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The handover from USG to Italian government took place in both islands without difficulty, although unfortunately on Lampedusa it was accompanied by a change of mindsets; the new one is not too good but the former is not able to carry on longer due to ill-health.

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4. The Station master at Trapani, the leader of the local communist group, has been punished by the state railways for insolence to Allied Commission officers, Allied Commission employees on a special errand, refusal to recognize AL railway tickets and refusal to transport material from Trapani to Palermo, sent by Road. Note to Admiral Cunningham. That attitude is typical of his group in the Trapani area.

2. LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The handover from AG to Italian government took place in both islands without difficulty, although unfortunately on Lampedusa it was accompanied by a change of airbase; the new one is not too good but the former is not able to carry on longer due to ill-health.

Electoral lists have finally been returned to Pantelleria and posted at the municipio. Lampedusa lists have been approved and sent back to the Comune but due to bad communications were not received, as hoped, by the time of handover.

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3. FOODSITUATION & SUPPLY

Food situation remains the same with plenty of food on the black market.

There is sufficient grain (other than that held back by the people illegally) to last till 26 Jan.

Much grain is being wasted by being left on the pier uncovered during the rains. The same is true of lemons being loaded for England,

the dock workers being unorganized, undisciplined thoughtless and careless. The grain is transported in open trucks and again exposed to rain. Passengers are allowed to travel on top of the train during the whole trip, probably one way in which the grain reaches the black market. The island of Lampedusa, due to Italian authorities disregarding our advice, was practically without food for Christmas. Drastic action by the prefect of Agrigento and at the same time by Capt. Moore, the CMO on Lampedusa, saved the situation over the holiday but stormy weather has caused great hardship here since the food reserves did not arrive last fall.

Allotments of business to different firms handling citrus fruit by the government appointed organizations in Rome have caused much worry in Sicily, the firms who have been allotted writing numerous letters to the high commissioner for explanations. The British shipyard, especially, are concerned here. I have been asked by the High Commissioner's representative and the shippers who are responsible for granting these contracts. The answer was, of course, that it was entirely an Italian allocation by ICB and then suballocation by Chambers of Commerce.

Clothing and shoes are appearing in the shops in much greater quantities now and at lower prices, price of clothing being 30 %, or less, of the prices some months ago.

4. LABOR AND UNEMPLOYMENT

Evidence is finally seen, in Palermo especially, of the expansion in public works program, employing more people. Roads needing repair for months are finally being worked on. Unemployment at the middle of December was about 10,000.

The RCB Palermo handed over the shipbuilding yards to the Italian on 14 Dec. 45, and laid off about 1000 workmen, most of whom will be absorbed by the company operating the shipyards. Unfortunately for the new operators the RCB still holds several buildings important to the functioning of the port, such as workers' restaurant, barracks, hospital, etc., but these are absolutely necessary to the RCB which cannot give up any more space.

The RCB is trying to get authorization to pay the Christmas bonus to the workers who have been very faithful for 2 years or more and were made ineligible for it by being laid off 6 days early.

5. PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES

Public works and utilities - Palermo being

allocation by ICA and then suballocation by Chambers of Commerce. Clothing and shoes are appearing in the shops in much greater quantities now and at lower prices, price of clothing being 50 %, or less, of the prices some months ago.

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The FUB is trying to get authorization to pay the Christmas bonus to the workmen who have been very faithful for 3 years or more and were made ineligible for it by being laid off 6 days early.

5. PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES

Roads are in bad condition - the coast road between Palermo being blocked by broken bridges and swollen streams, requiring a difficult detour of 60 km. extra.

Plenty of rain is helping the water and electric power situation. I was called to Catania to arbitrate between D.C. British troops and the electric power company, the latter wanting to include all British installations, regardless of importance, in a part-time schedule to make the civilians happier. They stated that the Americans in Palermo were in agreement to have it applied to them and felt that the British should cooperate too. I pointed out that the Americans could do so as they had their own generators and the company's representatives grudgingly agreed I was right. The matter was settled to the satisfaction of all by giving one section for the important British installations and having assistance by the military to transport the workmen to turn off necessary switches, etc.

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND

No. 785016

Due to lack of coal several loaded trains are standing in the dockyards but a coal boat is expected daily and the position will then be improved.

6. MAURITIAN REPORT

Generally crime by individuals is less than formerly, but the organized gangs are becoming more courageous. Two CC.MR. members were attacked, CC.MR. were wounded and overpowered, arms and munitions taken and records burned. One was at Belinblaye and one at Montelepre. The CC.MR. in these instances conducted themselves well but 50 or 60 against 3 wounded several armed constitutes great odds. In another case at Poggio near Morreal, 3 CC.MR. held off 100 robbers for more than 2 hours till reinforcements arrived. One CC.MR. and one robber wounded. About time the S. Mauro battle took place. Muscare, and some of the press, put stress on the separatist angle of it but well-informed circles state that the only way in which separation is involved is that members of EVIS were in the band and possibly most of them belong to EVIS. These members of the band are mostly young boys (students and hooligans) who are now scared and want to go home. A separate report gives further information on this, including the reasons for the battle of S. Mauro and reasons for the statements made here.

7. REFUGEES

There is nothing new on the problem of the expatriates from Tunisia. The clandestine departure of Jews from Sicily to Palestine has been investigated. Six camps of less than 50 each were known to be located about Gela but are now practically empty. The refugees who disappeared from camps near Bari were aided all the way until they reached these camps. From there they got ships at Syracuse and other southern ports. They must have received help from organizations either Italian, Jewish or Allied because there seems to be no trace of any of them experiencing trouble en route.

8. REPRESENTATION

S.S. Le-pedone had been reported ready to start its proper trips to Castelloria and Lampedusa on 16 Dec., if we could get coal. He did this and then found the vessel could not sail till 2 Jan., on which date we found another 6 days delay necessary. S.S. Union will be ready (according to their estimates) on 1 Feb. 46.

2436

785016

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8. TRANSPORTATION

S.S. Laipeduna had been reported ready to start its proper trips to Lampedusa and Lampedusa on 26 Dec., if we could get coal. We did this and then found the vessel could not sail till 1 Jan., on which date we found another 6 days delay necessary. S.S. Dacia will be ready (according to their estimates) on 1 Feb. 46.

A shipment of 800 tyres arrived finally for Sicily and road transport begins to look better. The railways, however, have not enough closed trucks for carrying grain, fruit and other perishables.

9. AND ISLANDS

a. General - Both were headed over on 31 Dec. 45. Financial budgets for both of them for Jan - Mar 1946 have been sent in and are in the hands of the prefects - the first time that they have been done on time. The top AGO officers are waiting for good weather in 6274 to leave the islands.

The LOR 4 for both islands for Oct. - Dec. 1945 have been given to Gen. Bruschi for onward transmission to the treasury departments of the respective provinces.

All debts to AGO by the communes will be paid before the officers leave the islands unless bad communications stop it. The islands have

Page 5.

had absolutely no communications now for days due to these breaks and bad weather.

b. Taitalia

The big problem at the time of the handover was the relatively large amount of captured enemy material and allied materials on the island. A representative of U.S.A. was sent down and spent 10 days on the island with one officer each from Italian Army, Navy and Airforce. The report has been sent in separately.

Dr. MacDonald of U.S.A. spent a day on the island at the same time as the U.S.A. representative and was able to make a survey for the purpose of initiating relief.

c. Lampedusa

The new administration is starting under very adverse conditions but the food situation will shortly be better because the U.S.A. Lampedusa will carry food stuffs direct from Palermo for building up the reserve.

The new surgeon is doing well (he has been surgeon in a Tunis hospital) but will probably not stay longer than spring. The present arrangement of paying the fishermen for fish delivered to Malta out of the funds is now impossible since there will be no officer on Lampedusa. Malta has been advised of this and told to study another plan. The fishermen of the island (every man on it except the priest, priest, doctor and possibly 20 others) will be badly hit if this means of livelihood ceases.

William W. Callahan
W.W. Callahan, JR., Lt. Col.
A.S. 1.0.0. Sicily.

but the food situation will shortly be better because the new hospital will carry food stuffs direct from Palermo for building up the reserve.

The new quarantine is doing well (he was head surgeon in a Tunis hospital) but will probably not stay longer than spring. The present arrangement of paying the fishermen for fish delivered to Malta out of AID funds is now impossible since there will be no officer on landings. Malta has been advised of this and told to study another plan. The fishermen of the island (every man on it except the students, priest, doctor and possibly 20 others) will be badly hit if this means of livelihood ceases.

William McGowan
W.J. McGowan, Jr., M.D.
A.S. I.S., SICILY.

6273

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

Ref : 2/13.17/CA

3 JAN 1945

SUBJECT : Release of Prisoners

TO : AG Liaison Officer - Sicily

- 1 In para 6 of your monthly report for November 1945 you state:
There seems to be a break down somewhere in the administration as numerous letters come to us direct from prison directors for release of prisoners. We always refer these to the Procuratore Generale and have asked that the directors be told the proper procedure. The directors still seem to think that all prisoners sentenced by AMG will have to be released by AMG or ACC.
- 2 The above is not understoof. At the expiration of the term for which a prisoner has been sentenced by an AMG Court, the prisoner is discharged by the Italian Prison Authorities. The order of confinement directs that such procedure be followed.
- 3 In all cases in which the term of imprisonment has not expired, no prisoner under sentence of an AMG Court may be released without authority of the Allied Commission. In cases where clemency is granted, the Allied Commission notifies the Minister of Grace and Justice, who in turn issues an order to the appropriate penal institution in conformity therewith.
- 4 Petitions for clemency are usually filed by the prisoner with the prison authorities for ultimate transmittal to the Legal Sub-Commission. A Liaison Officer may also receive such petitions and forward them with recommendations as he may elect. Such recommendations are carefully considered when made on behalf of an applicant.

BY ORDER OF THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER

M. CARR, BRIG,
VP CA Section.

- 2 The above is not understood. At the expiration of the term for which a prisoner has been sentenced by an AMG Court, the prisoner is discharged by the Italian Prison Authorities. The order of confinement directs that such procedure be followed.
- 3 In all cases in which the term of imprisonment has not expired, no prisoner under sentence of an AMG Court may be released without authority of the Allied Commission. In cases where clemency is granted, the Allied Commission notifies the Minister of Grace and Justice, who in turn issues an order to the appropriate penal institution in conformity therewith.
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BY COMMAND OF THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER

M. CAHR, Brig,
VP CA Section.

Copy to :

C.L.O. NABLES	C.L.O. LIGURIA
L.O. PARI	C.L.O. PIEMONTE
C.L.O. LIVORNO	C.L.O. LONGHARDIA
C.L.O. BOLOGNA	C.L.O. BOLZANO
L.O. ANCONA	C.L.O. VENEZIA

0272

CONFIDENTIAL

2/13.26/48

ALLIED COMMISSION LIAISON OFFICER

SICILY

Monthly Report ——— October 1945

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15 NOV 1945

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PART I

Sicily is quiet politically although the exorbitant demands of the strikers are considered due to communist sponsored trusts from the Camera del Lavoro. The population is becoming tired of the strikes and outrageous demands.

There is still much to be done on the electrical lines but the High Commissioner is putting pressure on his prefects.

Coal during October was enough to maintain the low standard in existence but why should Sicily get over 1/3 of the Sardinian production and other areas get all imported coal?

Fear is felt for the harvesting of the citrus crop due to poor transport.

Much unemployment but no coal or power for the industries, hence no materials for large public works programs.

Police still need increase in automatic weapons.

Public Health situation very good.

Patriots have applied for help in getting Allied Surplus materials to aid them in finding employment for their comrades.

Communications on the island are not too good now and are getting worse.

The steamship "Lampedusa" is not yet making its normal trips but the ministry hopes to have it running from Trapani to the islands after 20 November.

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PART II1. POLITICAL REACTION AND PUBLIC OPINION

Two leaders of the Separatist Movement were arrested at the first of October but there has been no unrest or trouble caused by it to date. Many people think it was a mistake to arrest them as they were doing no harm and the movement might get sympathizers because of their "martyrdom". Others feel, that if arrests were to be made, they should have been made months ago. Many feel that all the talk about separatists exists chiefly with Rome papers, which, they consider, attribute every act of crime in Sicily to Separatism.

A strike whereby it is impossible to buy a daily paper makes public opinion difficult to obtain. The lack of newspapers is not, however, without its compensations, as one questioner thinks. The people are becoming tired of strikes sponsored, they are certain, by communists. The demands are silly, for instance, printers want 600 lire per day.

2. LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The high commissioner is handicapped by being tied to his desk and has not the knowledge of his region that he could have had he better men who could be trusted working under him. He and his staff are very cooperative in trying to assist Pantelleria and Lampedusa but many promises have not gone much beyond that stage due a break down when handed to officials further down the scale. The High Commissioner's car is in a deplorable state and he cannot bring himself to deprive another man of his car by requisition as he claims every car on the island in running condition is necessary.

The situation of the electoral lists is not satisfactory although the high commissioner seemed to feel it was until 10 days ago. He has ordered a check-up and after seeing the results has taken steps to speed up the work. Previously, the Ministry of the Interior had dealt directly with the prefects and he was not kept informed.

3. ECON. RESOURCES AND SUPPLY

No change over September situation as regards food but the coal situation seems better as more ships have been unloaded this month than last. The minister has stated the possibility of less coal for a month

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D. ECOM. RESOURCES AND SUPPLY

No change over September situation as regards feed but the coal situation seems better as more ships have been unloaded this month than last. The minister has stated the possibility of less coal for a month because of strikes of miners in U.S.A., and then coal cannot go to any industries. In October 3200 tons extra were given to Sicily but in Nov. Dec. Jan. and Feb. 600 tons will be deducted to make up for the extra. This is very bad because the rains are not here yet and the ground is so dry it will take much longer to fill the lakes and streams. 35 % of the Sardinian production of coal comes to Sicily and none at all to Milan --- so reports the economics expert in the High Commissioner's office. They take a poor view of this.

4. AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

The citrus crop collection is causing much concern since the vehicle and tyre situation is becoming increasingly bad. They claim that military helped them in the past but now there is no military and their own vehicles are in much worse condition. One amusing letter to the High Commissioner and passed on to us asks again for help but, failing that, at least a request to A.C. that they keep the police from asking questions and they

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will supply their own.

5. LABOUR AND INDUSTRY

There have been several "white strikes" and many actual ones, such as: a) The workers and vendors of daily papers in Sicily, -- still in progress; b) The electric light company line workers, -- still in progress. One day for two hours and the following day for four hours all work was stopped about midday, -- shops, power, communications, everything. The demonstration held on Sunday 14th October was very quiet and well conducted but it was noted that the average intelligence of the participants was extremely low. The people needed lethargic.

The increase in public works to be made when materials are available will cut down a lot of unemployment. At the first of the month 94000 people were out of work. Industry is still as before and must remain so until more electric power or more coal is available. The cement works and glass works, making the most needed materials, are operating at very low output due to lack of power.

6. FINANCE

Nothing to report.

7. PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES

(a) Electric power. -- Still not enough rain has fallen to help. There seems to be more coal but the rationing of energy is still needed.

(b) Water is still scarce in the towns.

(c) Gas is still unobtainable, except for 2 hours a day and then only at low pressure.

(d) Railways must have more coal for the distribution of fertilizer at once. Their present maximum is 3 cars a day for fertilizer when at least 20 are needed. A daily steam train is needed from Palermo to Catania. They need 3000 tons more for merchandise and 300 for passengers.

(e) Road transport. -- Something must be done immediately by the central government about the tyres and spare parts for Sicilian vehicles or those in use now will soon be beyond repair; and many vehicles are completely off the road.

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- (e) Road transport. - Something must be done immediately by the central government about the tyres and spare parts for Sicilian vehicles or those in use now will soon be beyond repair; and many vehicles are completely off the road.
- (f) The public works programs are held up by lack of materials, as cement and glass. These will be available when energy becomes available. The roads need much work, even in the cities. A plan for dredging harbours is now being contemplated since the dredge S. Michele is being made available to the Italian authorities.

8. LEGAL

Constant requests are coming in to help in obtaining release of prisoners serving sentence from A.M.G. courts, and they are referred to Italian authorities. Several cases have been investigated where claims were made against Allied holding civilians prisoners without trial or reason, one of them allegedly from the Procuratore generale di Sicilia through H.Q. A.C. In all cases the results have been nil and, in the one mentioned, even though the letter came from his office, the Procuratore

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generale knew nothing about it.

9. PUBLIC SAFETY

Wherever a crime involves more than 4 or 5 people in a pitched battle, rumours and the press try to give a political angle to it. No foundation has been found for any of these reports. There has been the same steady flow of crime as in the past, although there has been a decrease throughout Sicily for October. The police MUST be increased in number, automatic arms and mobility, especially the second one. Can Sten guns not be obtained?

10. PUBLIC HEALTH

Health situation in Sicily is very good. There is no typhus, smallpox or plague. Reports in outside papers about bubonic plague here were entirely false. There is a small number of cases of typhoid and malaria cases are, of course, becoming fewer during the winter months.

11. EDUCATION

Nothing to report.

12. REFUGEES

Apparently there are being handled efficiently by the authorities. There are 4500 refugees in camps and 13000 others in different private homes living on sussidio. If a camp at Trapani is repaired double the amount could be held but at present they have their maximum. UNHRA had to deal with only 19 foreign refugees and 4 requests for public Health assistance in October. Otherwise the situation remains as last month.

13. PATRIOTS

One group wrote asking for assistance in purchasing quantities of war materials as, although they had large stocks from the Fascist and German dumps, they felt they needed more. The letter was given to the Questura, and a suitable reply sent to the Patriots. They replied that their A.M.P.I. have told them to get equipment such as R.S. stores and

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14. TRANSPORTATION

- (a) Road - much has already been said in the report about this and I need not repeat.
- (b) Rail - (see para 7, d)
- (c) Telecommunications - Telephones are frequently out of order and telegraph personnel are extremely inefficient. Messages are horribly mangled when received.
- (d) Posts - Poor. Letters remain in post office days before being sent out. One from High Commissioner remained 27 days in the post office, and the usual time is 2 or 3 days.

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15. PROPERTY CONTROL

Nil.

16. RESOURCES AND FINA ARPS

Nil.

17. PANTALLERIA

More boats needed as the winter months arrive. A sample will be tried from Ragusa. Island transport failing due to lack of tyres. The steamer Lampedusa will not be available to the islands before 20 November according to the appropriate ministry. An air service is feasible and would be a great assistance to the CAO. The commune is one million lire in debt to AMG at the moment. The CAO complains that something should be done about all the material on the island such as selling it to the commune at a nominal price. Four projects for public buildings are being prepared and one for the hospital has gone to the Genio Civile of Trapani. The harbour entrance is nearly blocked by a Turkish schooner which ran aground, and is not considered worth the cost of salvage.

18. LAMPEDUSA

As there is no CAO at present on this island there is nothing to add to my report of my own personal observations made on the 4th Oct. and sent, in last month, except that the High Commissioner has asked us to authorize his order to fish canners to sell them 20% of production at 250 to 300 lire per Kg. This has been referred to H.Q. with my recommendations.

W. J. MacCallum
W. J. MacCALLUM, ED, Lt-Col.
A.C. Liaison Officer, SICILY.

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W.S. MacCALLUM, ED, Lt.Col.
A.C. Liaison Officer, SICILY.

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CONFIDENTIAL

18 OCT. 1945

ALLIED COMMISSION LIAISON OFFICER

SICILY

Monthly Report — September 1945

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	Init	Date
VP CA SAC	MC	17 OCT. 1945
Public Safety	WV	18 OCT. 1945
Legal	for	26/10
Local Govt	for	26/10
	EARW	27/10
	GF	29/10
	and	29/10
	hard	11 Nov 1945
MFA & A		
IPW		
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PLEASE PASS OUTKEY

17 OCT. 1945

E. C. DIST
1 - CTR Control
1 - CTR
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PART I

Political Activity and Popular Opinion

Remains but not action. Pantelleria and Lampedusa fear annexation by France or Russia; they prefer British but would have Italian rather than the two former.

Government in Sicily

Interference from the minister who often go direct to the prefects is embarrassing the high commissioner. The Consulta has not met since June but at its October meeting it will discuss a greater regional autonomy.

Food Supply

Plenty of food on the island but at high prices and on the "free market" apparently a new name for "black market".

Agriculture and Fisheries

Crops below average yield but fishing season was good. Oil for canning has been the difficulty.

Labour

Nothing to report.

Public Utilities

Water shortage coupled with the low grade coal from Sardinia and small amount of imported coal has caused great hardships since electricity, gas, water are closely rationed. Lack tyres and spare parts will soon cripple the road transport.

Public Safety

Police still fighting a losing battle due to poor equipment.

Refugees

Those arriving here from the North and desirous of going to Tripolitania seem to be the only worry now.

Communications

Mail agent to Lampedusa and Pantelleria. The steamer "Lampedusa" has been

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Police still fighting a losing battle due to poor equipment.

Refugees

Those arriving here from the North and desirous of going to Tripolitania seem to be the only worry now.

Communications

Fair except to Lampedusa and Pantelleria. The steamer "Lampedusa" has been diverted to the Nation run and no attempt is being made to give service to the other two islands. This is having an adverse effect on the loyalty of the islands to Italy. Air service could be started.

Pantelleria and Lampedusa

The ACIO visited these islands and he feels that much more could certainly be done. Many problems were discussed with the CAO and the people. The people are loyal Italians but they feel they would be far better off if AMG stayed there and took over all problems. The present situation is not getting them very far.

PART II1. POLITICAL REACTIONS AND POPULAR OPINIONS

The Separatist Group continues to be the noisy element in Sicily. Rumours of uprisings continue to circulate, but rumours of arrests of the party leaders, heard from the outside, are not heard here. (Actually they were arrested on 1st Oct.). An uprising was rumoured to take place on 25 September but rumours now place the date as after the middle of October. One interesting piece of propaganda being circulated is that U.S.A. is interested in Sicily and that if they break with Italy several very important business men are ready to bring in money and factory material.

Sicily would then become an industrial island and not have to look to Milan, Turin, etc. for machinery. This is wishful thinking due to the almost complete lack of automobile, and machine, parts on the island.

On Pantelleria and Lampedusa the people have no wish for political activity. They fear greatly being placed under Russia or France and would prefer to be under Italy if it is not possible to be British. The reports made by the fishermen, of conditions of plenty on Malta are one cause for their desire to be British.

2. GOVERNMENT IN SICILY

The High Commissioner's office seems to be functioning well as shown by several instances when complaints from Lampedusa about quality of food from Agrigento and three from Pantelleria about food, MGA and public works were immediately attended to when referred to that office. Unfortunately the High Commissioner is by-passed by the ministers many times and the prefects are approached directly. This nullifies his work in many cases. At the next Consulta meeting (to be held in October) this is to be discussed and an attempt made to get actual Regional autonomy for Sicily. The Consulta has not met since June. It is not representative geographically nor administratively, there being no members from Enna province. The parties are happy, but Enna province is not.

3. FOOD SUPPLY

There seems to be plenty of food on the island if one wishes to, or is able to, pay the price. The price list in the August report remains substantially the same today except that the bread price is down to 75 lire and olive oil up to 350 lire. The fruits out of season have gone up, and those in season have gone down, in price. Eggs are 20 lire each now.

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There seems to be plenty of food on the island if one wishes to, or is able to, pay the price. The price list in the August report remains substantially the same today except that the bread price is down to 75 lire and olive oil up to 150 lire. The fruits out of season have gone up, and those in season have gone down, in price. Eggs are 20 lire each now. The so-called "free market" on the island which is condoned by the authorities has brought requests from Lampedusa and Pantelleria to have some extra food allowed through customs offices at Agrigento and Trapani so that there would be a "free market" on those islands also. I have been asked by the CAO's to try to obtain the authority so that the prefects can "legalize" the procedure.

Actually as the high commissioner's representative has come to the AC LO asking for intervention if possible in Rome to get an increase in the grain shipments from outside and the people on Pantelleria and Lampedusa have asked for their share of the extra food which is being sold on the island, it would appear that the Sicilian people are not trying to play fair. There must be a very large amount of unassessed grain on the island and it seems unjust to have to bring grain in from outside to aid people under these conditions.

Page 3.

4. AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

Due to dry season all crops are below standard in yield. The fishing season has been good but prices are still very high. *Laspedusa* has had a very successful season, but oil for canning is difficult to get and pushes the price up far above the cost of fresh fish.

5. LABOUR

There were several strikes during the month but they have all been settled.

6. PUBLIC UTILITIES

(a) Electric power has been badly hit by lack of good quality coal. The Sardinian coal brought here is below average even for that kind of coal. The furnaces have to be cleared more often and as only one station is running on the island, that of Catania, electric energy is never steady nor is it obtainable at all hours. The hydroelectric plants cannot work for some months yet as the reservoirs are completely dry. As winter nights approach, much hardship is foreseen in the island together with a possible increase in crime on lonely unlighted streets.

(b) Water is very scarce and is rationed to a greater or less degree in all parts of the island. No change is seen possible until the end of the year.

(c) Gas is possible in some areas at low pressure for two or three hours.

(d) Railways are functioning as well as possible with the low coal tonnage.

(e) Road transport is very badly handicapped by lack of tyres. The grant of 72 tyres for the whole island of Sicily for September was a joke.

Unless tyres are brought here soon many trucks, now on the road, must be taken off. This is one of the greatest complaints on the island. Reports come in daily of the beautiful vehicles, cheap spare parts and the abundance of new tyres on the mainland, especially up in the north. Sicily seems unable to get any of these. Many vehicles have been reported carrying AMG and AC signs and running "black market" materials. The High Commissioner has ordered that these signs must be removed at once unless authorized. No more cases have been reported, of late, of the abuse of AC signs.

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7. PUBLIC SAFETY AND FUNCTIONING OF COURTS

The police continue to be handicapped by lack of numbers, proper weapons and means of transport. The manufacture, here, as in other parts of Italy have all these things the police lack. It remains to the G.C.R. to stay alert and do their job. Murders and robberies continue to be reported daily but seldom can any witnesses be found who claim they can identify the criminals - probably for fear of retribution as the police cannot guarantee protection.

Only on Pantelleria and Lampedusa is the Public order in good shape and the people there attribute it to the fact that they have no political activity and have plenty of work to do.

I assisted Mr. Lopes of the American Embassy in Rome on security into the activities of COCCA and several persons involved were interviewed.

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8. REFUGEES

The authorities are capable of handling their refugees now, except for the large number of refugees sent here from the North enroute to Tripolitania. I feel that a representative from Displaced Persons might study the situation here with a view to obtaining authority for onward movement before dispatch to Sicily. For example, at Termini, a transit camp for 1400 is now a permanent camp for 700 and, although clean, is not able to cope with permanent boarders.

9. COMMUNICATIONS

Lampedusa and Pantelleria are cut off from the island because of the steady "Lampedusa" being diverted to the Union run. These two islands need regular communication and should not have to depend on the frequent visits of schooners on which passengers have very little if any space or comfort during the 9 or 10 hours journey. I feel that these islands are being slighted and that pressure should be brought to bear on the two Italian companies concerned together with the government. The Pantelleria airport could be used for a weekly airplane service. Although I am not an airman, in my opinion this airport is better than that at Palermo. As the field at Lampedusa is also usable, I feel that a plan could be worked out for a Malta - Lampedusa - Pantelleria - Palermo trip at least once a week.

10. PANTELLERIA

This island has been neglected by the authorities and the town, except for street clearing, has had no reconstruction done yet. The harbour is in bad shape due to sunken ships and no attempt has been made to clear it except one by the Italian Naval authorities at Trapani. Capt. Parker regretted their advisers saying there was no authority for it. There is no evidence in the files to show that any effort was made on the part of AC or AMG to get the authority. There is much valuable cargo under water and the time spent there is not going to improve its condition. The airfield and harbour contain much valuable property of the Italian and German armed forces, as well as much Allied material. It should, and could, be disposed of by sale, but what is the status of property of Italian armed forces on Pantelleria?— Is it the same as in Northern Italy?

Immediate needs on the island are: a new hospital, new school, new church and new municipality. The hospital is entirely inadequate and not sanitary.

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Immediate needs on the island are: a new hospital, new school, new church and new municipality. The hospital is entirely inadequate and not sanitary nor hygienic, through no fault of the authorities. They have plenty of equipment and medicines, but the buildings are terrible. A possible site has been found and steps are being taken to get work started. The church could be built on some of the old walls --- in fact the work on clearing up the debris is started. Unfortunately the island has never been put on the list of "war damaged communes" despite the fact that town itself is about 25% destroyed. The Prefect and Carlo Civile do not seem to have been helping the island at all and this is causing the people to lean more and more away from the Italian government. There is one firm on the island which can do any construction work but the Carlo Civile at Trapani wants to send another one with their own men. Housing and feeding problems and lack of employment on the island make this scheme impractical and are holding up the granting of contracts.

The people want to trade with Malta. This was done a year and a half ago through intervention of Major Petter. The people need clothing material and boots. Glass is urgently needed as the winter months approach. Malta is required in greater amount than that received.

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Everything on the island the lighting, water pumping, water carrying, and all transportation, depend on it.

The workmen on the island do NOT receive the "Cost of Living" bonus, not even the AMG employees.

11. LAMPEDUSA

A busy people without political troubles or crime at least during these days. Dissatisfaction with the government and Sicily are shown due to glowing accounts of life on Malta brought back by the fishermen. They feel they are being neglected by the Italian authorities.

Problems are - (1) Housing, (2) coal and wood, (3) extra food, (4) a church and nuns to care for the young children, and (5) a small hospital and medicines of which there are none on the island, (6) communications with Sicily.

Steps are being taken to see that the proper authorities are advised of the island's needs, although many requests have already gone in.

There are four salvageable vessels in the harbour and much military material, car parts, tyres, etc. which should be sold at once. Sicily could use much of this material. At present there is no officer on Lampedusa but I shall be able to brief the new one before he goes down since my visit to the island.

The brigadier of the CC.M. stated that there were no political parties, no partisans, much work and hence no trouble.

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OFFICE OF A.C. LIAISON OFFICE

c/o M. C. B.

NAVY 157

- 8 AUG 1945

31 July 1945

FILE: Rep/8

SUBJECT: Report of Liaison Officer for July

TO : Chief Commissioner
Allied Commission
APC 394

1. GENERAL

The new location of the Liaison Officer in Villa Rutelli has proved to be quite satisfactory. The villa is not too far from the central part of the city to be reached readily by persons having legitimate business, but at the same time is sufficiently remote to have the effect of discouraging calls from persons requesting special favors and asking the Liaison Officer's intervention in affairs in which he has no proper concern.

2. PERSONNEL

The gradual reduction in civilian personnel, begun several months ago, continues. The four warehouse employees have been discharged and the two women employed by Captain Irvine-Lynch for the Ferrovie Statali have been removed from the Liaison Officer's payroll.

3. WAREHOUSING AND SUPPLY

During the current month the Arenella Warehouse has been de-requisitioned and the last of the checkers and guards have been discharged. The Liaison Officer's duties in connection with supply are now almost negligible. Occasionally shipments destined for the sulphur mines arrive in Palermo addressed to "A.C. Mining Division". This office simply turns these shipments over to Ente Zolfi Siciliani through Istituto Commercio Estero. Receiving reports, signed by I.C.E., are forwarded to Rome for the Chief Accountant. During the month the assistance of the Liaison Officer has been requested in supply matters involving the navy. These include supplying coke to steel shafting to Trapanella mine by

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4. TRANSPORT

No special difficulties regarding either road or rail transport have arisen during July. Dr. SALINI, Director General of I.N.T., and Dr. TUCCIO, Capo Compartimentale of I.S.R. for Sicily, have assumed full charge of their respective activities. When their problems involve Allied forces or agencies there is consultation with this office. In all other matters these officials assume complete responsibility except as limited by instructions from the mainland.

5. A.M.G. ISLANDS

a. Lampedusa

Local administration has proceeded normally on Lampedusa.

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duas. Many difficulties concerning prices have arisen between fishermen and the industrialists who buy the fish. At present it is required that all fish shall be sold publicly at auction. This matter has been made the subject of separate correspondence with the Economic Sub-Commission.

Crime has not constituted a serious problem on Lampedusa; and public health, in spite of lack of adequate medical care and medical supplies, is satisfactory. Clothing is very scarce. Local representatives of U.N.R.R.A. have been consulted about Lampedusa, and it is hoped that some assistance with regard to medical supplies may be given.

Captain MOORE, the C.A.O. at Lampedusa reports that popular dissatisfaction on the island of Linosa (a Frazione of Lampedusa Comune) has necessitated a reorganization of the local government of Linosa. The Sindaco delegato has been replaced by his secretary; and, with the consent of his Bishop at Agrigento, the local parish priest was given the post of secretary. Due to lack of other competent literate persons Captain MOORE believes that this novel selection was necessary.

b. Pantelleria

Captain PARKER has continued to serve as Civil Affairs Officer for this commune during the entire month. Progress is being made in clearing rubble from the streets of Pantelleria town and in improving sanitary conditions. Removal of ammunition from the island's caves by labor supervised by AFHQ but paid by Allied Commission has now been completed.

6. PUBLIC SAFETY

No new problems or difficulties have appeared during July. There have been no serious breaches of the peace, but on the other hand there is no reason to believe that improvements have been made in law enforcement. Persons accused of crime continue to languish in jail for months awaiting preliminary examinations and sometimes without proper charges having been served on them. Sicilian drivers continue to beat and otherwise mistreat decrepit horses and donkeys that seem to be doing their best to serve their masters. Whips sometimes attain the size and weight of baseball bats, used in much the same manner. Short sticks, apparently broken off by normal switching, are used to prod between the ribs or in other and more sensitive places. Ill-fed

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7. PUBLIC HEALTH

In spite of heat, dirt, and flies, general health conditions in Sicily are good. A case of suspected small-pox has been reported at Perla in Syracuse Province. Late in the month the report of an isolated case of typhus came from the commune of Lentini in the same province. This is now believed to be the only typhus case on the island, and there is reason to believe that the rather alert medico provinciale at Syracuse will deal with the situation properly. Following a first shipment of Penicillin (250 vials) in April, U.N.R.R.A. has ^{also} brought a second shipment, of 200 vials, to Palermo. 20,000 sq. ft. of window screening to combat the fly nuisance in operating rooms and other public medical establishments, have also been received. In anticipation of the availability of the first quarter's supply of general medical and clinical supplies U.N.R.R.A. has organized committees in every province, and they have been instructed how to obtain and issue their quotas of these items.

8. LABOR AND INDUSTRY

With the settlement of the Sulphur mine strike in Galtanissetta Province on 9 July (by the employers' acceptance of a 90 lire wage increase retroactive to 16 February) industrial peace seems again to have settled on Sicilian industry. No other important industrial disputes have been brought to the Liaison Officer's attention.

9. AGRICULTURE

It is now clear that the quantity of Sicilian grain that will reach the People's Granaries in 1945 will be much smaller than the figure for 1944, which was slightly over one million quintals. Indeed the High Commissioner has estimated that the 1945 figure will not exceed 300,000 quintals. The reasons given by the High Commissioner for such an extremely poor crop include the drought, the troubles between landowners and tenants described in the Liaison Officer's report for June, and the non-arrival of the cloth promised to producers in return for delivery of grain to the granaries. There is no doubt that less grain will be collected this year than during the last harvest season. However, the High Commissioner's figure of 300,000 seems ridiculously low. Perhaps his pessimism is based in part on a desire to convince the Allies that large grain shipments to Sicily are still needed.

10. THE FOOD SITUATION

Ever since April an excellent quality of bread, rather light in color, at prices ranging from about 45 lire to 90 lire has been available in Sicily. The flour presumably comes from supplies successfully kept out of the hands of the "Granai del Popolo". The excellence of this bread is due to the fact that it is made of good flour and baked by regular bakeries rather than under the usual unsanitary black market conditions. The idea of this relatively white "Black Market" in Palermo seems to have been proposed by the bakers organization "Lega Provinciale dell'Arte Bianca". In view of the bakers' promise to supply good bread at progressively decreased prices, it seems that government officials decided to interpose no objection to the scheme being given a trial. The result was a decided drop in bread prices, as first indicated in the Liaison's report for May. Bread prices as low as 35 to 40 lire were reported in a few localities as black marketers were compelled to lower their prices in order to compete with the "legal" dealers.

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Late in June the situation was that there were two types of bread in Sicily: the "black" rationed bread selling for 18 lire and this excellent light bread selling for two or three times the ration price. In some sections of the press the criticism appeared that there was one kind of bread for the worker and another for the "bourgeoisie". At any rate, this press campaign gave publicity to the government's ingenuous policy of ignoring the fact that this was really a black market transaction. Accordingly on 28 June, in Palermo, instructions were given by the Prefect that the practice, in spite of whatever good effect it was producing on living costs, had to stop. At the end of June the bread price jumped to 85 or 90 lire. In spite of the fact that no vigorous efforts have since been made to enforce the order of 28 June, prices have remained relatively unchanged throughout the month of July. Indeed, in general the price of consumer goods has remained rather steady during July; although, due to the quantity of fresh fruits and vegetables now in season, it may

probably be said that the cost of feeding a Sicilian family has declined slightly.

11. THE POLITICAL SITUATION

The Action Party is one of the less numerous parties in Sicily, but a regional congress at Syracuse is now being planned. Apparently Action leaders in Sicily are desirous of seeing this party join the "Pact of Unity" already existing between the Socialist and Communist parties. The purpose is believed to be two-fold; to neutralize the predominant position in Sicily now occupied by the Christian-Democratic party, and to give to the combined parties of the left sufficient strength to offset any demands for restoration of the monarchy. The Actionists seem to fear that the Christian-Democrats may eventually support the Monarchy.

There has been during the month an interesting change in the status of FINOCCHIARO APRILE as leader of the Separatist movement. With the decline of the influence of the Separatists there has been a corresponding decline in Finocchiaro's own position within the movement. For a full year or more following the Allied landings in Sicily Finocchiaro was the undisputed leader of the movement, but criticism of his foreign policy became quite strong early this year. The weakness of the movement, as shown by the events of 21 April (described in the L.O.'s report for April), is partly blamed on him. His outstanding political mistake was the sending of his telegram of congratulations to the Lieutenant General of the Realm. The result of all this has been the creation of a committee to supervise his actions. Although Finocchiaro is nominally the leader of the movement, he has now been deprived of power to initiate political activity without approval by this five-man committee. (A rather extensive review of Separatism, setting forth the reasons for the existence of the movement, is included as an annex to the report).

12. THE VISIT OF PRIME MINISTER PARRI

On Sunday, 22 July, Prime Minister Parri visited Palermo. In the morning he met leaders of the political parties, Separatists excepted; he talked briefly with representatives of the various administrations including the Electrical Society and Ente Zolfi.

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Smulter 6256
EDWARD MORTON
Lt.Col., C.E.
LIAISON OFFICER

OFFICE OF A.C. LIAISON OFFICE

c/o M. O. E.

NAVY 157

ANNEX TO A.C.L.O.'s
REPORT FOR JULY, 1945.

THE SEPARATIST MOVEMENT IN SICILY

The desire for separatism here in Sicily is an interesting phenomenon. If there was a chance for Sicily to come under the United States or British flag, probably a great majority of Sicilians would wish it. Indeed our troops were warmly welcomed here at the time of the invasion partly because there was a sort of hope that once here, we might be induced to stay forever. The withdrawal of our troops and the return of Sicily to the control of the mainland government left many a disappointed Sicilian. People still ask me occasionally when our troops will return to the island to save the Sicilians.

The reasons for Sicilian dislike of Italian rule are varied. Perhaps the most popular argument for separatism is this:

(a) Italians of the mainland, especially industrialists of the North, whose businesses seem to flourish under war conditions, continually drag the nation into war; first in Ethiopia, then in Spain, and finally into war with the Anglo-Americans; (b) war may benefit industrialists but it does nothing but injure a section with an agricultural economy like Sicily's; therefore (c) Sicily should throw off its bonds with Italy and have a peace-loving Sicily from continued war.

Another argument for separatism runs as follows: (a) Italian industry in the north is not fully self-supporting, and Italian taxes go to its support in the form of subsidies. (b) Sicilians pay their share of these taxes; thus they aid the north but get no similar benefit in return.

A third argument is also an economic one: statistics published by the Bank of Sicily seem to show that Sicilian exports exceeds imports. From this it would seem to follow that Sicily is more than able to support herself, and therefore that her prosperity is being drained off for the mainland's benefit. There is probably a fallacy in these figures (perhaps because imports by

control of the mainland government left many a disappointed Sicilian. People still ask me occasionally when our troops will return to the island to save the Sicilians.

The reasons for Sicilian dislike of Italian rule are varied. Perhaps the most popular argument for separatism is this: (a) Italians of the mainland, especially industrialists of the North, whose businesses seem to flourish under war conditions, continually drag the nation into war; first in Ethiopia, then in Spain, and finally into war with the Anglo-Americans; (b) war may benefit industrialists but it does nothing but injure a nation with an agricultural economy like Sicily's; therefore (c) Sicily should throw off its bonds with Italy and save a peace-loving Sicily from continued war.

Another argument for separatism runs as follows: (a) Italian industry in the north is not fully self-supporting, and Italian taxes go to its support in the form of subsidies. (b) Sicilians pay their share of these taxes; thus they aid the north but get no similar benefit in return.

A third argument is also an economic one: statistics published by the Bank of Sicily seem to show that Sicilian exports exceed imports. From this it would seem to follow that Sicily is more than able to support herself, and therefore that her prosperity is being drained off for the mainland's benefit. There is probably a fallacy in these figures (perhaps because imports by post are ignored), yet the continued publicity given such statistics probably influences some Sicilians to feel that union with the mainland is a handicap to them.

A fourth argument for separatism is not unrelated to the first one, although it is not certain that many Sicilians are influenced by it. It deals with fascism itself. Fascism was not born in Sicily. It was something imposed on the Sicilians by the mainland. Since the Government at Rome gave Sicily the disease of fascism, Sicily should isolate itself from the source of this infection. Persons actually opposing fascism on philosophical grounds might be influenced by this argument; but the number of philosophers in Sicily is not believed to be great.

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No doubt a fear exists among Sicilians in conservative quarters that the Rome government may go too far to the left. If this be true a separate government might "save them from the Reds". It is not unlikely that wealthy landowners may be moved by this argument, but not many of them proclaim it in public.

There are in Sicily many families with titles of nobility. Although there are individual exceptions, princes, counts, and barons would be expected to feel a fondness for a system of monarchy. There is therefore a sixth argument for separatism, especially for a separatism that would lead to a place for Sicily under the British crown, that might be expected to appeal to titled Sicilians. Even under a monarchy of the British type, titles and the privileged that have accompanied them in Sicily might be more secure than under an Italian government controlled by parties of the left.

A seventh argument - really an argument for regional autonomy rather than separatism - nevertheless gives some strength to the separatist position. This argument is simply that it is inefficient to have to refer every local problem to Rome for decision, that there should be sufficient self-government to permit purely Sicilian problems to be settled locally.

An eighth argument is based on the fact that Sicilians believe they have never had a government worthy of their respect and allegiance. Whether or not this belief is sound is not now in point; but with the birth of the separatist idea three years or so ago some of them began to think that perhaps a government all their own, subject to Sicilian control, might be worthy of their trust.

The preceding paragraphs probably set forth the chief arguments for separatism. That Sicily has had much trouble during recent years is obvious. The tendency of people is to blame their troubles on somebody else. It is natural therefore that the Sicilians tend to put the blame on the government at Rome. Indeed, there have been cases where Rome did treat Sicily badly. At any rate, to some Sicilians separatism seems to offer an escape from their difficulties. However, in spite of such validity as any of the foregoing arguments may happen to have, it should be obvious to all but the most ardent of separatists that the

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The movement is strongest in Palermo, Messina, and ⁸²⁵⁴ where active groups of relatively young separatists continue their intrigues. At present separatism constitutes no threat to the

stability of the Government. It certainly cannot be stated that Separatism is dead, but it is safe to say that it is now being kept alive artificially on a day-to-day basis. Any new encouragement from misguided American or British sources, however, would spur it on to new activities. A greatly revived Separatism might, of course, endanger the existing government.

Edward Morton

EDWARD MORTON
Lt. Col., C.B.
LIAISON OFFICER

Ex Command Dist

Ex Command

C.A. Smith

Team Sect

Photo sent to ESTAD

For MARE

Wendy G. Gage

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Public Safety		
Public Health		
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Local Govt		
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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

Ex Comm Dist

Ex Comm
C.A. Smith
To our Sect
Photo sent to ESTAS
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2/13/17/10A OFFICE OF A.C. LIAISON OFFICER
C/O N.O.B. NAVY 157

FILE: Ref/7

30 June 1945

SUBJECT: Report of Liaison Officer for June.

TO : Chief Commissioner
Allied Commission
APO 394

1. GENERAL

The Liaison Office has now been moved from its downtown location in Piazza Pretoria to a more quiet one in Villa Rutelli, at the corner of Via della Libertà and Via La Marmora. This more remote location should have the effect of making the presence of Allied Commission less conspicuous in Palermo. Sicilians will thus have less tendency to bring to the Liaison Officer problems that should be taken directly to the Italian authorities. The new office is closer to the Naval Base, and also in other ways reduces the distance to be travelled by ALCON motor vehicles.

2. PERSONNEL

a. Military

With the exception of the two British captains, Parker and Moore (at Pantelleria and Lampedusa respectively), L/Cpl Birley is the Liaison Officer's only military assistant; Captain Irvine-Lynch having departed for Venezia Region about the middle of the month.

b. UNRRA

Miss Margaret McEwan continues her service for UNRRA with station here in Palermo. It is understood that Mr ROLAND J. ARTIGUES, now on a trip about the island in connection with UNRRA's work, is to be established here also for

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c. Civilian Employees.

During the month the following have been removed from the list of persons paid by the Liaison Officer: 5 warehouse employees, 3 cleaners, the telephone operator, the messenger, and the civilian employee who has been classified as manager of I.N.T.. These reductions were effected partly as a result of the move to the smaller and more economical offices. The only employment to be continued by this office after 30 June is as follows: 6 office employees, 3 cleaners, 3 drivers, 4 warehouse employees, and one general utility man classified as an electrician. Two of the six office employees are the women who are serving in the office of Mr CANNISTRACI at Ferrovie Statali. The seeming irregularity of ALCOM paying these persons (in that Mr CANNISTRACI is really employed by the railroad) is now the subject of separate correspondence

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directly with Transportation Sub-Commission. The pay roll for all the above listed employees will total approximately 85,000 lire for the month of July.

3. ROAD TRANSPORT

Major Moyle and Captain Hanwell were in Palermo for several days at the close of the month, and the transfer of I.M.T. property to the Italian Government has presumably been effected.

4. RAIL TRANSPORT

The departure of Captain Irvine-Lynch has left the State Railways in Sicily under Dr. TUCCIO's control. I have indicated to the latter my willingness to aid him in any situation where intervention of an Allied officer seems required, but have made it clear that he must assume entire responsibility for directing the Railway's affairs. Mr Cannistraci, Captain Irvine-Lynch's civilian assistant left behind with the railways, seems a man of good judgment; but, in the absence of instructions from Rome in the matter, I have taken the precaution of informing him that he remains simply to assist Dr. Tuccio and not to give him instructions. I have conferred with Dr. Tuccio in order to assure that there be no confusion as to responsibility for the proper functioning of the railways.

5. WAREHOUSING AND SUPPLY

The situation in regard to the Arenella Warehouse has not changed materially during the month. Working under Cpl Birley's general supervision, four employees (2 checkers and 2 guards) now constitute the complete warehouse staff. The 85,000 flour sacks still remain; the schooner expected to take them to Naples has not yet put in appearance. The 150,000 sacks reported to be at Syracuse have not reached Palermo. At such time as the business regarding both groups of sacks be wound up, it would seem desirable to de-requisition the warehouse.

6. A.M.C. ISLANDS

a. Pantelleria

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6. A.M.G. ISLANDS

a. Pantelleria

The AMG Headquarters have now been removed from Scauri to Pantelleria and efforts have been made to fit up the office in a suitable style. A.F.M.Q. representatives have been busy during the month removing ammunition long stored in caves to ships for transportation from the island. ALCCM has contributed its facilities to assist in this task. Labor has been paid from AMG funds. As to the immediate future, AMG's chief concern is to obtain Genio Civile funds for debris removal and a proper cleaning of the streets of Pantelleria town. Two or three million lire have been allotted; Captain Parker believes that twelve million are needed. The Liaison Officer is now making efforts to have a suitable sum ~~provided~~ ^{provided}.

b. Lampedusa

Lampedusa is a small island, and its problems

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are simple. Indeed in some ways the chief problem is reaching the island. Accordingly, considerable attention has been given by the Liaison Officer to improving transportation. Efforts have been made to secure a sort of ferry service by means of a small Royal Naval craft to be based at Malta; although it now appears that the Italian Steamer "Lampedusa" may soon resume her peace-time run. If this becomes an actuality the problem of communications between Sicily and both AMG islands will presumably be solved. Through the courtesy of the Commandant and officers of N.O.B., Palermo, the Liaison Officer has been able to obtain various supplies, stores, and services for the convenience and efficiency of the AMG office at Lampedusa as well as the offices at Pantelleria and Palermo. The convenience of this source of supply is enormous. During the current month, the US Navy has been particularly helpful in great variety of ways. I take this opportunity of writing this fact into the record.

7. PUBLIC SAFETY

In general, law enforcement continues in much the same ineffectual state as described in para. 5 of my report of last month, although there has been no recurrence of the bomb activities that took place in May in Palermo. On 17 June, however, several members of "E.V.I.S." ("Esercito Volontario per la Indipendenza Siciliana", the name now used by a few armed Separatist bands which are believed to have been recruited from the bands originally formed in Eastern Sicily last January in opposition to the call to Italian military service) came into conflict with the CC.RR in Catania Province. Caratini had raided a Separatist arms cache near Messina several weeks before. Perhaps to avenge this, six E.V.I.S. members attacked the CC.RR. at Randazzo, Catania, on the 17th. The explosion of one of their own hand-grenades killed three of the six. Fortunately only two CC.RR. were wounded, presumably only slightly. Subsequent to 17 June the Prefect of Catania took action looking forward putting an end to this form of armed violence. Since then no further E.V.I.S. trouble has been reported.

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Fewer allegations of trouble said to be caused by Partisans have reached the ears of the Liaison Officer than a month ago. No new charges of armed extortion have been heard. Although the crowded condition of the reception center at the Messina ferry dock would seem to make the effective disarming of persons reaching Sicily difficult, reports of trouble charged against armed Patriots are now but few; and, as stated in my letter of 27 June to the Executive Commissioner, competent observers are of opinion that the quantity of arms brought to this island by Patriots is insignificant in comparison to those already cached in many places about the island by the Mafia and other criminal elements of Sicily's population.

8. PUBLIC HEALTH

It is believed that the general statement as
public health contained in the report for May continues to be valid. General health in Sicily probably continues rather good. There is good reason to believe that the typhus situation

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has now been brought fully under control. Only three new cases have appeared and all three of them have been traced to a single carrier from an infected area in Palermo. Dusting is now in the hands of Italian civilian public health employees. D.D.T. supplied by U.N.R.R.A. is being used; and the entire anti-typhus program seems to be going satisfactorily. The only important amendment to the typhus figures given last month is with respect to Palermo Province. There have now been a total of 25 cases, of which three were fatal.

U.N.R.R.A. representatives have been organizing provincial and communal committees for the establishment of free feeding of infants and expectant mothers among the poor. To the extent to which this program provides food for the undernourished, it should benefit the general health.

9. LABOR AND INDUSTRY

Strikes have occupied part of the Liaison Officer's attention during June. A brief one, involving a protest by Palermo's street cleaners on the ground that they had not participated in a distribution of wearing apparel, lasted only two days. At Termini Imerese there was a minor strike involving workers in an olive pressing plant. The only strike of importance is that of the workers in the sulphur mines of Trabonella and other owners, chiefly in the Province of Caltanissetta. Labor Sub-Commission has been kept fully informed of developments. As the month closed the workers continued unwilling to accept the 90 lire wage increase offered them effective June 1st. The workers demand that it be made retroactive to February.

10. AGRICULTURE

During the month a certain amount of unrest has been observed in relations between farm tenants and the land owners, growing out of the "GULLO DECREE", under which only 40% or less of the grain produced is allotted to the owner of the land. Owners, who contended that the GULLO decree was not in effect in Sicily, claimed a half share of the grain. About 20 June, however, after lengthy discussion, a compromise was reached at Palermo by an agreement signed on behalf of the

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11. THE ECONOMIC SITUATION

There has been at least a temporary reversal in the downward trend of bread prices. The sale of unrationed bread by regular bakers, reported last month, was stopped at the end of June in Palermo province by the Prefect's orders; and the price of extra-ration bread, now being sold in the black market, has jumped in Palermo from 50 lire to about 90 lire a kilo. In general, however, food prices may be regarded as declining slightly; although it would seem obvious that a continuation of the process of increasing wages at a rate faster than the quantity of goods is increased will be bound to bring a new increase in the price level.

12. THE POLITICAL SITUATION

In general the remarks made in last month's report hold good to-day. Among Sicilians who display political interest, Christian Democrats and Communists are approximately equal in number, but the former party continues to be the most influential one in Sicily.

Despite many sharp turns to win public support Separatist leaders, torn between monarchist and republican factions, are trying frantically to keep their movement alive. During the month these efforts seem to have ranged from circulating rumors that the San Francisco conference has recommended Sicilian independence to stirring up trouble between landlords and tenants and boycotting the grain collection campaign, as described in para. 10 of this report.

The Socialist party, about fourth in size among Sicilian parties, held a meeting in Palermo on 24 June to elect delegates to a future party congress. What the group lacked in numbers it made up in anti-capitalist and anti-monarchical zeal. Collaboration with the Communists for conquest of power by force was urged in case "reactionaries" attempted to interfere with popular will as shown by a plebiscite or a Constituent Assembly. Although the meeting purported to advance the rights of the working masses, the absence of peasants and workers was conspicuous - a fact admitted in some of the speeches themselves.

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Ty	Int	Date
VP CA/S&O	<i>Adm</i>	19/7
Public Safety	<i>Adm</i>	23/7
Public Health	<i>Adm</i>	23/7
Legal	<i>Adm</i>	23/7
Local Govt	<i>Adm</i>	23/7
Parish	<i>Adm</i>	23/7
Disper	<i>Adm</i>	25/7
Education	<i>Adm</i>	29/7
MFA & A	<i>Adm</i>	
CA Sec	<i>Adm</i>	

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Edward Norton
EDWARD MORTON
Lt. Col. CE
Liaison Officer.

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OFFICE OF A.C. LIAISON OFFICER

C.O. N.C.B.

2/13.4/CA ✓

FILE: Rep/5

31 May 1945

SUBJECT: Report of Liaison Officer for May.

TO : Chief Commissioner
Allied Commission
APO 394

1. General

The Liaison Officer continues at the same address in Palermo (Palazzo Bordonaro in Piazza Pretoria) but actually occupies five rooms on the second floor of the building. His only Allied assistant is L/Cpl Birley; although Capt. Irvine-Lynch is stationed in Palermo to supervise the state railways, and Miss Margaret Norman is still here for UNRRA. Lt Com. Pollard spent about two weeks here in connection with the work of the sulphur mines.

2. Road Transport

Some difficulties have arisen in I.N.T. since the departure of Major Downer. The Sicilian employee left behind to close the office has been purporting to supervise I.N.T.'s work. Major Boyle has now reached Palermo to adjust matters. It would seem that unless an Allied commissioned officer can supervise I.N.T., the property should be transferred to the Italian Government and affairs left entirely in the hands of its own Director General.

3. Warehousing and Supply

The Arenella warehouse is still operating under the general supervision of this office. Cpl. Birley visits it daily, but its activities are declining. The milk and the soap referred to last month have now been delivered as directed, and the only item in the warehouse is empty flour sacks. The schooner expected to pick them up has not yet arrived. It is estimated that there are 85,000 of these sacks. The 250,000 sacks referred to last month as expected from Siracusa have

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4. A.M.G. Islands

a. Pantelleria

Captain Parker has returned to Pantelleria; and on the departure of Major Stoner, who is leaving the island at this moment, Captain Parker will resume supervision of the Government of Pantelleria.

b. Lampedusa

Captain Moore, who has now replaced Major Watts, seems already to have things well in hand. Problems include the removal of explosives and the obtaining of a more reliable schooner for transportation of food and supplies from Sicily.

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The Liaison Officer has referred both problems to appropriate higher authority. The general problem raised by the present inadequate communication with both islands has been presented by the Liaison Officer separately to the Allied Commission with his recommendation for its solution.

5. Liaison Officer's Appraisal in regard to Public Safety

Law enforcement is in a sorry state in Sicily. In the rural areas there are robbers and thieves who prey upon the citizens, taking especially cattle and grain; and in the cities the control of behaviour seems to go little beyond the regulation of vehicular traffic at important street intersections. The list of disorders begins at the bottom with children snarling utterly without control two or three deep on the sides and ends of moving street cars, blocking the streets and endangering themselves and everyone else nearby. At the top we have events like those in Palermo early in morning of May 2nd: two improvised bombs were fired, one at the headquarters of the Finance Guard in Via Villarmosa; the other near a building in Via Trieste used as the local Anti-Fascist center and as Partisan headquarters. Presumably these acts of violence were intended as Fascist protests against Mussolini's arrest and execution. Fortunately the only physical result of the explosions was some slight damage to property.

The following night there was an attempt to destroy the Fiat Garage, now used as a garage by the U.S. Navy. A bomb improvised from a shell failed to explode.

Patriots from the north have been arriving in Sicily since about the middle of May. There are reports that by the show of weapons they have been making extortions. There exists a fear that failure of ex-partisans to find employment may lead to violence against persons with alleged Fascist leanings. Attempts to disarm the patriots have been completed, have been rather successful.

There is almost complete disregard of laws in fiscal matters, such as those calling for affixing stamps in business transactions. The philosophy seems to be that since the state no longer provides for their safety, the people no longer have any duty to pay taxes.

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5. Estimate of Public Health Situation

Due to the fact that Sicilians in general do not report their diseases to physicians and rarely go to hospitals, it is difficult to appraise the health situation accurately. There is, however, no reason to believe that general health conditions are bad; although there can be little doubt that among the poor there is some under-nourishment and therefore a decreased resistance to the encroachment of disease. Probably the typhus situation is now being brought under control. Although public health dehousing services do not ordinarily exist here, UNRRA has put a team to work in Caltanissetta (Province of Messina) where ten of the thirty eight cases of typhus resulted in death. From Caltanissetta the team will go to RACACA (Catania Province), where none of the fourteen typhus cases has proved fatal. The team will then come to Palermo, where two persons of the dozen or so who had the disease died.

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There have been too cases of small pox in Palermo. No other cases have reached the attention of the Liaison Officer.

Traditionally Sicilians have avoided hospitals. The idea was that a hospital was a place to go and die. There is, however, a noticeable change in this attitude in one respect: maternity hospitals. In spite of very poor equipment, are beginning to win the confidence of the people.

7. The Economic Situation in Sicily

Prices continue high. American-made cigarettes that got into the black market continue to bring about 300 lire a pack. Sugar sells for 10 dollars a kilo; and Italian prices (in the neighborhood of one thousand dollars) are paid for automobile tires. Bread, however, is going down. Now that regular bakers can sell unrationed bread, the black market in bread is weakening. This effect is most evident in eastern Sicily. In Taormina, for example, there are reports of good bread being sold for 30 lire per kilo - about half its price of a month ago. Another fact, may be worthy of note is that shopkeepers who have non-perishables show a determination to hold on to their own wares unless they can get back the high prices they paid; yet are not reluctant to make new purchases at the present high price level. Perhaps, therefore, prices will soon show general signs of breaking.

8. The Political Situation

It is rather clear that separatist strength is on the wane in Sicily. Observers who have about the island report more talk about socialism than separatism, and if fresh point on walls is a true indication communists also have many adherents. Perhaps the failure of the separatists to strike back in consequence of the anti-separatist action on 21 April by students and others is the clearest proof of separatist weakness. It is probably perfectly clear now to even the most hopeful separatist that Britain and the United States have no interest in the independence of Sicily. Furthermore the victory in North Italy has given new strength to the desire for a united Italy, as Sicilian interest in the problem of Trieste clearly shows. Interest in keeping North Italy intact is hardly consistent with a government to break off part of Italy in the south. It is at rather low ebb.

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Probably not too much political interest should be expected here. The normal political state of Sicily is lethargic. A few of the aristocrats favor the monarchy. Some other people may enthuse over separatism, socialism, or Communism. Another few, especially those influenced by the church, may be interested in Christian Democracy, but in general Sicilian interest in politics - except at election time - is slight. Feeling for (or against) the High Commissioner is likewise only lukewarm. As for the Consulta, the feeling is more divided. One skilled observer describes it as "compliant and docile". That Sicily wanted was a legislative body; what it got was merely an advisory body to a High Commissioner who is himself regarded as a sort of advisor to the government at Rome.

Of course Sicilian lawyers are interested in the restoration of the Supreme Court for Sicily. Lawyers naturally do not want legal business going to Rome if they can help it.

62:45

(4)

Edward M. Smith

ATTN: COL. GEORGE B. BROWN

EE C DIST- 8 JUNE 1955

Ex 200142

Enfermedad

EE on SAT

PK is toxic to ESTNA

Paul

T	Int	Date
Asst CA Sec	<i>[Signature]</i>	9/21
Public Safety	<i>[Signature]</i>	12/6
Public Health	<i>[Signature]</i>	12/1
Engg	<i>[Signature]</i>	12/1
Local Govt	<i>[Signature]</i>	12/1
Police		
Fire		
Sanitation		
Ca Sec		

PLEASE PASS QUICKLY

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

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CA Sect
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T	Int	Date
SP CA SWS	GRV	10/6
Public Safety	GRV	12/6
Public Health	GRV	12/6
Univ	GRV	12/6
Local Govt	GRV	12/6
Business		
Ca Sec		

PLEASE PASS QUICKLY

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

2/13-4/CA ✓

TO	Init	Date
VP CA Sec	<i>[Signature]</i>	
Public Safety	<i>[Signature]</i>	11/8
Public Health	<i>[Signature]</i>	15/12
Legal	<i>[Signature]</i>	1/15
Local Govt	<i>[Signature]</i>	16/15
Patriots	<i>[Signature]</i>	17/15
Disper	<i>[Signature]</i>	5/1
Education	<i>[Signature]</i>	19/15
MFA & A	<i>[Signature]</i>	19/15
Ca Sec		

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785016

OFFICE OF A.C. LIAISON OFFICER
PALERMO BRIGADIER
APO 394

FILE: Rep/4

1 May 1945

SUBJECT: Report of Liaison Officer, Palermo, for April.

11 MAY 1945

TO : Executive Commissioner
Allied Commission
APO 394

1. The Liaison Officer Palermo has continued to occupy the headquarters used by Brigadier Carr in Piazza Pretoria. Office space is also being provided for the local Resources Officer. Reduced office space would, however, suffice; and upon receiving instructions for the disposition of a considerable quantity of office furniture purchased by the Region, the Liaison Officer will withdraw completely to one floor of the building, or he may take a small suite of offices in another location.

2. Major Withers (RFO), Capt. Hayward (Exports), Capt. Warner (Transportation and Requisitions), Capt. Calvarese (Road Transport), and Lt. Pollard (Mining) have left for the Mainland during April. The winding up of the unfinished business of Sicilia Region continues. Many varied problems have arisen for the handling of which no appropriate Alcom specialist has been available, but it is hoped that each of these problems has been dealt with satisfactorily. Effort is being continued to bring all outstanding matters to a satisfactory conclusion. As of this date the situation appears to be as follows:

a. Officer Personnel now at Palermo

The Liaison Officer

Capt. Irvine Lynch

CWO G.J. Leone (under orders to leave 5 May 45)

For UNRRA there are: Dr. Layton and

Miss MacEwan

b. Present situation as to duties

(1) Railway Transportation

Capt. Irvine Lynch continues in charge of Railway Transportation in Sicily. It is hoped that he may continue to remain in Palermo for this duty.

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(1) Railway Transportation

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(2) Property Control

Capt. Board has terminated his work here and is proceeding to Headquarters Allied Commission. One of his employees will be retained for a few days to handle inquiries or other unfinished business and to ship files to the mainland.

(3) Road Transport

Istituto Nazionale Trasporti continues to operate under Alcom, although no A.C. officer is now serving here. Upon the recall of Capt. Calvanese to Rome, Major H.W. Downer was sent to Palermo to wind up Alcom control of the Istituto. Presumably, the plan is to transfer IWT control to the Italian Government, but details have not been indicated to the Liaison Officer. Evidently transfer has not yet been completed. Major Downer, who has himself been recalled to Rome, has reported that he or another officer will return to effectuate the transfer.

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- 2 -

(4) Warehousing and Supply

The Arsenal warehouse (Dump No. 30) continues to operate under the supervision of Sgt. Cappadona. Not only is there a considerable number of items in the warehouse but new instructions continue to arrive, calling for additional collections and shipments. During the month nearly 3500 cases of evaporated milk have been delivered to Federazione del Concorzi. The de-hydrated soup remaining in the warehouse, slightly less than half a ton, has likewise been turned over to the Federazione. 85,000 flour bags now in the warehouse are being held pending shipment to Naples. Nearly 100,000 ration cards (supplementary Type A) were delivered to IGZ in accordance with instructions from Food Sub-Commission. At the close of the month approximately 15 tons of cloth scrap from unserviceable Italian Army uniforms were being bagged for shipment to Naples. A reported shipment of 250,000 flour bags now presumably at Siracusa is said to be destined for Palermo for delivery to the Federazione.

3. A.M.C. Islandsa. Pantelleria

Major Stoner, who has been designated as a replacement for Capt. G. Parker, arrived at Palermo on 23 April and reached Pantelleria by schooner two days later. Lt. Col. Battensby, E.O. Naples, accompanied Major Stoner to the island for a brief visit.

b. Lampedusa

Presumably Major A. Watts has been disturbed by the possibility of certain unnamed objects being brought to the surface by fishing boats trawling in the vicinity of the island; and considerable correspondence by cable has been exchanged between Major Watts, the Naval Command at Malta, and Agriculture Sub-Commission at Rome. Due to lack of "secret" communication between the island and Palermo the Liaison Officer has not been informed as to the security considerations that have disturbed Major Watts. Apparently his attempt to forbid fishing has not been upheld by Rome. Major Watts replacement, Captain C.A. Moore, reached Palermo on 25 April. He is about to take schooner for Lampedusa.

4. Political Situation.

The outstanding event of the month in the realm of political activity was the student demonstration on 21 April and its attack on the Separatist Headquarters. Perhaps the date itself is significant, for 21 April was the day long celebrated by the Fascists as the day of the birth of ancient Rome. The students marched through the streets carrying placards bearing slogans calling for the retention of Trieste. Student speakers also spoke for keeping Trieste in Italian hands. On the morning of that day, small posters against Separatism appeared on walls in Palermo. The connection between the two seems to be that the Separatist movement is a part of Italy would also object

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E. C. Dist
Ex Comm
EC Sect
EC Comm Sect
Photo given to Lt. S.
Pwb
Work of copy

EDWARD MORTON
Lt. Col., CE
A.C. Liaison Officer Palermo.

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