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MONTHLY REPORTS, C.L.O. VENEZIA
JAN. - JUNE 1946

(5)

2/10/46

ALLIED COMMISSION
OFFICE OF UNITED NATIONS OFFICER
VENICE

9 APR 1946

MONTHLY REPORT
FOR
MARCH 1946

E. C. DIST - 9 apr.
1 - E.C.

411

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MONTHLY REPORT

FOR

MARCH 1946

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ALLIED COMMISSION
1431

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ALLIED COMMISSION
OFFICE OF CHIEF LIAISON OFFICER
VENETIA

1. POLITICAL

All of the recent elections throughout the Region were conducted in an orderly manner and in accordance with regulations. No incidents or disorders were observed or reported. It is estimated that from 80 to 90% (and in some communes even higher) of the registered voters participated in the elections. The Communist and Christian Democratic parties put forward straight lists in the larger communes but combined with other parties in many of the smaller communes. Throughout the Region the Christian Democrats polled the higher vote of any single party (an estimated 40%) but a survey of all votes cast by all parties would indicate a trend to the left by a majority of the voters.
Throughout the past month outstanding representatives of all parties have visited various cities within the Region making campaign speeches. These meetings were conducted in an orderly manner and usually drew a large attendance. On the whole it can be said that both the pre-election campaigning as well as the elections created a great deal of interest throughout the Region and much sober thought and serious consideration was given by the entire population. A reasonable spirit of good will predominated at all times.
Local Government officials appear to be functioning reasonably well. The matter of fixed salaries for Government employees still presents a grave problem in view of the present high prices. Within the past two or three months all provinces within the Region have changed their G.L.N. selected Prefects for career men appointed from Rome. With very few exceptions the present career Prefects are extremely capable, unassuming and high calibered men who are conscientiously attempting to do a good job and it is noticeable that they are gaining the support and respect of the Public.

2. PUBLIC SAFETY

Crime in general is on the decrease throughout the Region. The morale of the police continues to improve. The general public and the press are commencing to support and respect police activities. Some unemployed and political demonstrations have occurred but always in orderly manner. A complete copy of the Public Safety Officers report to the Public Safety Sub Commission is attached herewith.

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3. ECONOMIC

(a) FOOD - Although there have been at no time during the month any critical shortages, the situation can at best be described as fair. UNRRA reports that all deliveries of cereals into the Region will be completed by Mid-May with no visible reserves available for the months of June and July, or until the harvest. The balance of 6000 tons. of A.C. Food stored in port warehouses in Venice for the past two months has now been released to the Italian alimentariono officials and is in process of being moved into the provinces.

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The Chief Commissario dell'Alimentazione from Rome held a meeting in Venice on 28 March with all of the Prefects and alimentazione officials of the Region at which meeting plans were discussed for intensifying efforts to induce the farmers to bring into the Consorzio's every available bit of grain. With the return of P.O.W's and "reduci" food requirements are increasing monthly.
Fats have taken the place of oil, and with the termination of the butchering season the only remaining available source will be UNRRA. Most of the sugar is being imported through the port of Leghorn but due to road and rail transportation difficulties only the consignments for Trento and Verona have been shipped. Venice and Vicenza have distributed a portion of their monthly sugar ration. Arrangements are being made for the production of jam, using 40% sugar and 18% grape concentrate.
The local markets have an abundance of fruits and vegetables. Food prices remain unchanged with the exceptions of fats, oil and butter which have shown a marked increase during the month. The price of butter after having gone to L.550 a kilo is now L.600 a kilo. Other than foods, prices generally have commenced to decline, particularly locally manufactured goods.

(b) AGRICULTURE - Seeding has been good throughout the Region and if weather conditions are favorable a normal crop production can be expected. Sugar beet planting is normal. The general feeling is that farm prices are too low and it is for this reason that farmers are reluctant about bringing their crops to the ammasso.
Insecticide is needed throughout the area and this deficiency may seriously affect the grape crop this year. There has also been a serious shortage of fertilizer. Most Provinces reporting that they have had but 15% of their normal requirements. There are no fertilizer factories in the Region, the usual source being Montecatini. After a lapse of three years Verona held its famous annual fair and agricultural exhibition Mar 10 to 16. More than 6000 horses were brought from all Regions of Italy of which 4500 were sold at a total estimated lire of 500.000.000.
The agricultural implements in demonstration proved most interesting, such as pumps, tractors, wagons, plows, cultivators etc, most of which appeared to be new. The majority of the implements came from Milan and both Fiat and Pirelli had booths. It was observed that many of the vehicles were equipped not only with Pirelli but also Dunlop and Goodyear tires.

(c) INDUSTRIES - There still remains an acute shortage of coal for industrial purposes.
Allocations for March were less than in February. Delivery of February allotments is still in progress and March allotments have yet to arrive. The following statistics cover coal allotments for five provinces

PROVINCE	FEBRUARY ALLOCATION	MARCH ALLOCATION

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PROVINCE	FEBRUARY ALLOCATION	MARCH ALLOCATION
BELLUNO	170 tons	120 tons.
PADOVA	4913 "	3604 "
ROVIGO	905 "	832 "
TREVISO	-	1800 "
VENEZIA	-	26857 "

The coal deficiency is probably felt most directly in the manufacture of building materials and metallurgical products such as cement brick tile and glass. Several such plants are now in condition to commence operation but stand idle due to lack of coal. The sugar beet factories in Padua and Rovigo are now in shape to handle all of this years crop providing coal is available.

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During March considerable work stoppages were encountered in the silk and textile mills in Vicenza-province due to wage disputes arising out of decrees issued by the Unione Industriali Milano but most of those plants are again in operation.
Venice reports a continuation in the slowly increasing reconstruction and reactivation of industries. The average production now being about 40% of capacity, additional increases now being limited to coal and raw materials.

(d) UNEMPLOYMENT is slowly corresponding to decrease in this region, but it continues to present a grave problem as shown by the following figures : -

PROVINCE	UNEMPLOYED IN MARCH
BELLUNO	12.000
PADOVA	30.000
ROVIGO	12.000
TRENTO	5.000
TREVISO	22.000
VENEZIA	34.000
VICENZA	31.000
VERONA	16.000

Belluno expects to absorb 4000 of the above in building projects by June. The sugar refineries in Rovigo and Padova will absorb 10.000 but not until late summer.

4. PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES -

(a) - The crisis in thepower shortage due to lack of water has been passed and rationing is no longer necessary. Public services are now able to function as before the crisis and industrial consumption is on the increase.

(b) - Although March saw an increase in the number of projects approved, the work on the two urgent items; namely, reconstruction of war-damaged houses and repair of roads does not appear to have reached the state that be desired.

In the matter of house-repair, a disparity between the prices of building material is prevailing in June 1945 when the program of Government subsidy was initiated and those being asked now is the chief factor for the lag in the program. Whereas projects of L.300.000 and less entitle the owner to up

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PADOVA	10.000
ROVIGO	30.000
TREVISO	12.000
TRIESTE	9.000
UDINE	22.000
VENEZIA	34.000
VICENZA	31.000
VERONA	16.000

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In the matter of house-repair, a disparity between the prices of building materials prevailing in June 1945 when the program of Government subsidy was initiated and those being asked now is the chief factor for the lag in the program. Whereas projects of L.300.000 and less entitle the owner to up to 50% of the costs, on amounts over this figure the June 1945 law allows the proprietor only 1/3 of the official estimate. The result is, that there has been great activity in respect to minor damages and very little work on the houses involving a higher figure. Provincial officials are in communication with Rome and have hopes that an amendment to the original law may eventually come into force.

The repair of roads, which are in a deplorable condition in all five provinces, is greatly reduced due chiefly to a lack of bitumen. The dire need of this material can not be over-emphasized.

Reconstruction of bridges has progressed well. Funds have been requested of Rome for a big project pertinent to Port reconstruction at Marghera, where there are over 90 industrial plants. The importance of this work on Venice's industrial part is self-evident.

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There is some feeling among provincial engineers that approval of projects is being delayed in Rome by top heavy bureaucracy.

(c) Available statistics for projects under construction for month follow : -

	PROJECTS TOTAL	PROJECTS MARCH	VALUE OF MARCH PROJECTS
PADUA	-	-	
VENICE	12	27	L. 150.000.000
ROVIGO	-	85	44.141.117
TREVISO	-	-	287.000.000
VERONA	-	-	40.000.000
			-

5. DISPLACED PERSONS

The principal camp in this Region, Chiesa Nuova near Padova now holds approximately 1200 displaced persons. These are mostly southern Italians or natives of Venezia Giulia. The turn over has been extremely small but with the uncertainty of conditions in Venezia Giulia a sudden increase could occur over night. This is the one and only adequate camp between Udine and Bologna and at the moment UNRRA is much concerned with rumour that it may be taken over by high army authority. The matter has been called to the attention of A.F.H.Q.

6. PUBLIC HEALTH

(a)- The health of the population is good in all the provinces. Malnutrition threatens office employees more than any other class of people but has not as yet gained the upper hand. Infectious diseases are at a normal rate with the exception of influenza which is prevalent but on a scale of less than epidemic proportions. Twelve cases of typhoid were reported in Treviso during March a small outbreak of small-pox was reported in Venice early in March but is now under control due to widespread vaccinations.

7. EMBARKATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

(a) - In the port of Venice considerable progress is being made in the repair of docks, equipment, warehouses and Rail Road facilities.

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7. TRANSPORTATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

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(a) - In the port of Venice considerable progress is being made in the repair of docks, equipment, warehouses and Rail Road facilities. Total civilian tonnage (UNRRA) entering the port during March amounted to 203.000 tons. as against 170.000 tons. in February some of this tonnage was received for shipment to Austria and Zkechoslovakia.

(b) - The new Rail Road bridge across the Po river connecting Venice and Padova with Bologna is expected to be completed early in April. All Main Rail way lines in the Region are now operating although some are still on a limited basis. Construction is proceeding on branch lines, particularly in Belluno province.

(c) - Telephone and telegraph installations continue to increase and the service is rapidly getting back to normal. Wherver possible the military are cooperating in the more rapidly of lines and equipment. As above approximately 750 out of a total of 1.000 telephones have been requisitioned by the military to date.

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Military traffic is still heavy in Venice due to port installations and the location of Headquarters 88Area.

8. LEGAL

There is a crying need for more personnel in the courts. Padova which for one division normally has 9 magistrates and 15 officials now has 1 magistrate and 6 officials. The result is a stock of hundreds of cases pending.
Belluno has neither a President of the Tribunals nor a First Pretore. Under the circumstances it is a wonder that the wheels of justice can turn at all. The gravity of this situation merits every attention on the part of the proper authorities. The courts in all the provinces are laboring under a burden that must eventually jeopardize legal rights of the individual. There follow available statistics on court completed in March with February figures in parentheses.

	PRETURA	TRIBUNALI	CORTE STRAORDINARIA D'ASSISE
BELLUNO	32 (10)	11 (29)	2 (1)
PADOVA	6 (6)	32 (34)	20 (24)
ROVIGO	91 (36)	21 (19)	15 (18)
TREVISO	47 (25)	31 (42)	12 (7)
VENEZIA	-	-	10 (-)

F.C.MAVIS, Lt. Col.
Chief Liaison Officer.

DISTRIBUTION :-

H.Q. Allied Commission - 8
C.L.O. Bolzano - 1
P.C. Udine - 2
AMG Venezia Giulia - 1
C.L.O. Lombardia - 1

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ROVIGO	91 (36)	21 (19)	15 (10)
TREVISO	47 (25)	31 (42)	11 (7)
VERONA	-	-	10 (-)

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C.L.O. Lombardia - 1
C.L.O. Piemonte - 1
C.L.O. Liguria - 1
C.L.O. Emilia - 1
H.Q. 13 Corps - 1
L.O. Ports & Warehouses, Venice - 1
L.O. Telecommunications - 1
L.O. Food - 1
L.O. Vicenza - 1
H.Q. 217 Area - 1

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ANNEXURE "A"

ALLIED COMMISSION
LIBERAL ZONE

V E N E Z I A

14 April 1946

TO : Chief Liaison Officer, VENEZIA

SUBJECT : Public Safety Report for March, 1946

1. During month of March the following information has been obtained from Questori, Carabinieri, civilians and personal observation.

2. POLICE FORCES

Despite the fact that they are still handicapped by lack of sufficient efficient means of transport, the various police forces are improving in efficiency. Tyres, tubes and spare parts are so wired and it would appear that the police are not being given the priority to which they are entitled. The same can be said regarding allocations of petrol, one example being the Questura, ROVIGO Province, where only 300 litres of petrol, for all vehicles, are allowed per month.

Supply of clothing, bedding, arms and ammunition also in short. I understand that the matter has been taken up with the responsible Ministry in ROME and results are awaited.

Morale improves daily this being reflected in the attitude of the public towards the Police. More reliance is being placed by the public and the Press takes a very fair view of the detections, arrests and other work done by the Police.

It is understood that numerous transfers of Police Officers, especially of CC.RR. are to be made in the near future. From a long term point of view this may be for the good, but it is felt that such changes should be spread over a long period.

3. PUBLIC ORDER

Demonstrations have been held by unemployed but all were of a peaceful nature and no disturbances resulted, owing to the effectiveness of

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2. POLICE MORALE

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Supply of clothing, bedding, arms and ammunition also is short. I understand that the matter has been taken up with the responsible Ministry in NGOS and results are awaited.

Moral improves daily this being reflected in the attitude of the public towards the Police. More collaboration is being placed by the public and the Press takes a very fair view of the detections, arrests and other work done by the Police.

It is understood that maximum uniforms of Police officers, especially of CO. SS. are to be made in the near future. From a long term point of view this may be for the good, but it is felt that such changes should be spread over a long period.

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3. PUBLIC ORDER

Demonstrations have been held by unemployed but all were of a peaceful nature and no disturbance resulted. Judging by the aftermaths of such demonstrations, those taking part appear to have been satisfied to be seen, carry flags - especially the red one - sing, whole noise, then go home.

The population who live on "Island" wages show signs of discontent at continuance of "black market" and - in BUTOO - imposition of taxes.

During the four Sundays 10, 17, 24 and 31 March, Administrative elections were held throughout the eight provinces of this Group and all seem to have been conducted in a very orderly manner. One incident was reported in PAKWA Province where armed women endeavoured to prevent other women (ex Fascist) from voting and some quite important use noted out (both sides). The prompt arrival and intervention of the police settled all and votes were registered without further trouble.

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3. CRIME

Nine murders, one attempted murder and numerous thefts -some of large values- have been reported. Armed robberies continue, but crime in general shows a slight decrease as compared with previous months.

Some good arrests, including two persons arrested for murder committed in November 1945, have been made and the general picture is that the police are showing signs of improvement in efficiency and capacity to handle affairs.

U.S.S.R., PAROVI, are at present making inquiries regarding traffic in cocaine and several known "black market" operators are being watched. F.A.A. are interested in political intrigue and said to be involved in this traffic.

4. BLACK MARKET

This continues, but it appears that many people have to and to buy on it, no doubt realizing that unscrupulous buyers result in unscrupulous sellers.

The police, particularly the Economic and traffic police, of ROVIGO Province, have halted large quantities of grain and rice leaving Provinces without authority. These consignments were destined for Tuscany, Romagna and Southern Italy.

5. ARMS, AMMUNITION, etc.

During several small raids and in course of ordinary duty, the police took possession of some arms, ammunition and hand grenades. The largest quantity was in the province of VICENZA where about 30 automatic weapons, 500 rounds of ammunition (various) and some hand grenades were seized. A number of people have been arrested and will be dealt with in due course.

During a search of gipsy caravans for arms, VICENZA agents of U.S. were forced to open fire. Several of the civilians were wounded and 17 arrests were made. As result of finding articles of value, it is felt that these people were responsible for armed robberies which have occurred and inquiries are being conducted on those lines.

6. PRISONS

The night of 30/31 March was marked by the escape from MILANO prison of 64 prisoners - 21 political and 43 common - all of whom had been condemned to prison sentences for political and other crimes, including murder. Of the escapees, 8 have been recaptured and 3 have returned voluntarily.

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4. [illegible]

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During a search of pigeon cotes for arms, VICENZA Questor of P.S. were forced to open fire. Several of the civilians were wounded and 17 arrests were made. As result of finding articles of value, it is felt that these people were responsible for road robberies which have occurred and inquiries are being conducted on these lines.

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The escape was started about midnight when 8 or 9 common prisoners overpowered the internal prison guards, released the boys, forced open a cupboard and stole a dozen rifles, surprised and overpowered the external guard composed of Italian soldiers of the 86 Regiment, FRIULI Division. MILANO prison is fairly modern, is surrounded by a high wall and the escape is the result of carelessness or collusion on the part of the guard. Inquiries are being made by the Questore.

The prisoner population (male) at VENICE (City), is over capacity and, from the health point of view, the Governor of 86 Area is very interested. The whole matter has been discussed with Dott. MILANI, Inspector of Prisons, PADOVA, and he is now in contact with Minister of Grace and Justice and the Procuratore Generale, VENICE, and is taking local steps to alleviate the situation. The information has been passed to 86 Area.

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The other prisoner here are in similar shape, the alcoholism of the Polish Guard being the root of the trouble.

5. [illegible]

The anti Polish propaganda in VENICE towards end of February was corrected by means of prompt action on the full story given. Public reaction appears to have been favourable.

On 7 March a general strike was held in VENICE City, but at no contact with Delt. [illegible] Prefecture, Chief of Gabinetto (Prefecture) [illegible] that all commercial services for Allied Forces were administered. Delt. [illegible] has British blood (his [illegible] other came from Isle of Wight) and he is most cooperative.

On 15 Mar at CAVARZERE RO (VENETA Province) while an inter meeting was being held by Chief Delt. Party, two shots were fired by an unknown person from some distance away. No one injured, the bullets spoiling the architecture at the doorway.

The Minister of War [illegible], and the Ministers [illegible] and [illegible] have spoken at meetings here. Their meetings were well attended and only when the first named spoke at [illegible] on 17 March were there any interruptions. There was, however, no disorder.

On 23 March a general strike was held at [illegible]. Local officials regard this as unusual, the Bolzanese being said to be of a more tranquil temperament. This strike was organised by local C.L.N. and it is understood that an unknown man, said to be from [illegible], was in BOLZANO shortly before the strike and is supposed to have been behind the organising.

Two newspapers "Il popolo Veneto" (Demo.Chris.) and "Gazzetta Veneta" (Liberal) are now being published in PADOVA in place of the "[illegible] Tribune" (Independent).

A clandestine wireless transmitter was being used in [illegible] Province and the Prefect ordered that it cease. Broadcasts continued but a fine was imposed. Application was then made for a license to transmit, on behalf of Associazione Studi Internazionale Regionale (A.S.I.R.), political programmes prior to the Administrative Elections, but this was refused and the whole matter has been reported by the Prefetto to the Minister of Interior before being submitted to the Minister of Communications.

6. GENERAL SECURITY & CONDUCT OF ALLIED TROOPS

Conduct of Allied troops continues to be very good and no disorder have occurred. At the beginning of March a Polish military vehicle was involved in a collision with a civilian motor car at [illegible] VENETO (VENETO Province) resulting in the deaths of three civilian occupants of the car. It is alleged that a Polish Officer, accompanied by Polish troops armed with automatic weapons, arrived almost immediately on the scene and the two vehicles were removed by Polish troops before witnesses or other particulars could be ascertained. The whole circumstances were

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The Minister of War [illegible], and the Minister C.L.N. and P[illegible] have spoken at meetings here. Their meetings were well attended and only when the first named spoke at TREVISO on 17 March were there any interruptions. There was, however, no disorder.

On 25 March a general strike was held at [illegible]. Local officials regard this as unusual, the Bolzanese being said to be of a more tranquil temperament. This strike was organised by Local C.L.N. and it is noteworthy that an unknown man, said to be from MILAN, was in BOLZANO shortly before the strike and is supposed to have been behind the organising.

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Conduct of Allied troops continues to be very good and no clashes have occurred. At the beginning of March a Polish military vehicle was involved in a collision with a civilian motor car at [illegible] VENETO (TRENTO Province) resulting in the deaths of three civilian occupants of the car. It is alleged that a Polish Officer, accompanied by Polish troops armed with automatic weapons, arrived almost immediately on the scene and the two vehicles were removed by Polish troops before measurements or other particulars could be ascertained. The whole circumstances were reported to A.M.G. 86 Area and he is causing inquiries to be made.

Some telephone lines in the area of 6 (Brit) Armd Division were interfered with and inquiries are being conducted by Allied and Italian Police.

Press articles are, on the whole, favourable towards Allied troops, although somewhat the leftish press prints controversial matter. General public opinion also is favourable towards Allied Troops, but landowners have been heard to express the opinion that Allied Troops are occupying billets to the detriment of civilians. The reported "coalition" between Democrazia Cristiana and Liberals may affect this in future, but it is hoped not.

Cooperation between Allied Military Police and Security Services and Italian Police - especially CC.RR. - continues to be very good.

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9. CIVILIAN [illegible]

[illegible] to enter [illegible] PUBLIC take their applications to general and [illegible] subordinate to P.C.S. are sent to HQ / Police Force. This [illegible] very well, but is necessarily slow and [illegible] those people who have honest and urgent reasons for travel. Recently quite a number of people have made approaches for permission to travel to Kermadec, usually for private reasons.

10. [illegible]

On 7 March two Armed of Domestic and Traffic Police together with a civilian who acts as an informer for P.C.S. made a 'joint and [illegible] at [illegible] (BAYA Province) and took possession of a large number of cigarettes. It is alleged that the population took exception to this and attacked the motor car in which were the three men. During the subsequent struggle the battery and spare tyre also the cigarettes were stolen from the car and all, except the cigarettes have been recovered. One of the policemen fired two pistol shots and two people were slightly injured. In [illegible] City, while on [illegible] patrol (armed) Agents of P.C.S. heard calls for help and were in time to prevent a snatch-robbing. During subsequent shooting one criminal was killed, one wounded and the third and last was arrested later.

In [illegible] Province, a civilian was bolted by P.C.S. and C.C.B. The civilian made a suspicious move and was shot dead by the carabiniere.

11. CHANGE OF [illegible] PERSONNEL

[illegible] Intendo has resumed duty as Governor at [illegible]. He was previously a prisoner at [illegible].

Vice Governor [illegible] Nicolo transferred from [illegible] to [illegible].

Comm. Capo [illegible] Raffaele to [illegible] from [illegible].

Vice Comm. [illegible] Tommaso to [illegible] from [illegible].

Three Tenentes-Vice transferred from [illegible] and one to [illegible].

Comm. Capo [illegible] Domenico, [illegible], died 21 March.

A Vice Governor is employed at [illegible] where the Comm. Capo [illegible] is sick.

12. [illegible]

[illegible] Major [illegible] and Captain [illegible]

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(b) Corp. [illegible] of Scotland and Traffic Police together with a civilian who [illegible] an interpreter for P.O.W. [illegible] 'Special Leave' at [illegible] (PALAWAN Province) and took possession of a large number of cigarettes. It is alleged that the population took exception to this and attached the motor car in which were the three men. During the subsequent struggle the battery and spare tyre also the cigarettes were stolen from the car and all, except the cigarettes have been recovered. One of the policemen fired two pistol shots and two people were slightly injured. In PALAWAN City, while on prison guard (external) duties of [illegible] he had cause for help and were in time to prevent a shipwreck. During subsequent shooting one criminal was killed, one wounded and the third and last was arrested later.

In BATANGAS Province, a civilian was halted by [illegible] and C.M.P. The civilian made a suspicious move and was shot dead by the carabiniere.

11. CHANGE OF [illegible] PERSONNEL.

SANTANO Antonio has assumed duty as Questore at [illegible]. He was previously a prisoner at [illegible].

Vice Questore [illegible] transferred from [illegible] to [illegible].

Comm. Capo [illegible] Raffaelo to [illegible] from [illegible].

Vice Comm. [illegible] transferred to [illegible] from [illegible].

Three functionaries transferred from [illegible] and one to [illegible].

Comm. Capo [illegible], [illegible], died 21 March.

A Vice Questore is stationed at [illegible] where the Comm. Capo acts as such.

12. P.O. PERSONNEL

Major T.C. MACKENZIE at Group HQ and Captain [illegible], [illegible] 402
[illegible]. Special Agent [illegible] at Group HQ.

(sign-d) T.C. MACKENZIE, Major.
P.W.I.O.

Copies to

AG (Gen P.W. Sub-Com.)
File.

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TO	Init.	Date
VP CA Sec	MC	10/4
Public Safety		
Public Health	Gut.	16/4
Legal	HL	16/4
Local Gov't		
Patients		
Diaper	C	13/4
Education	KD	
M A & A	AR	15/4
Ca Exc		

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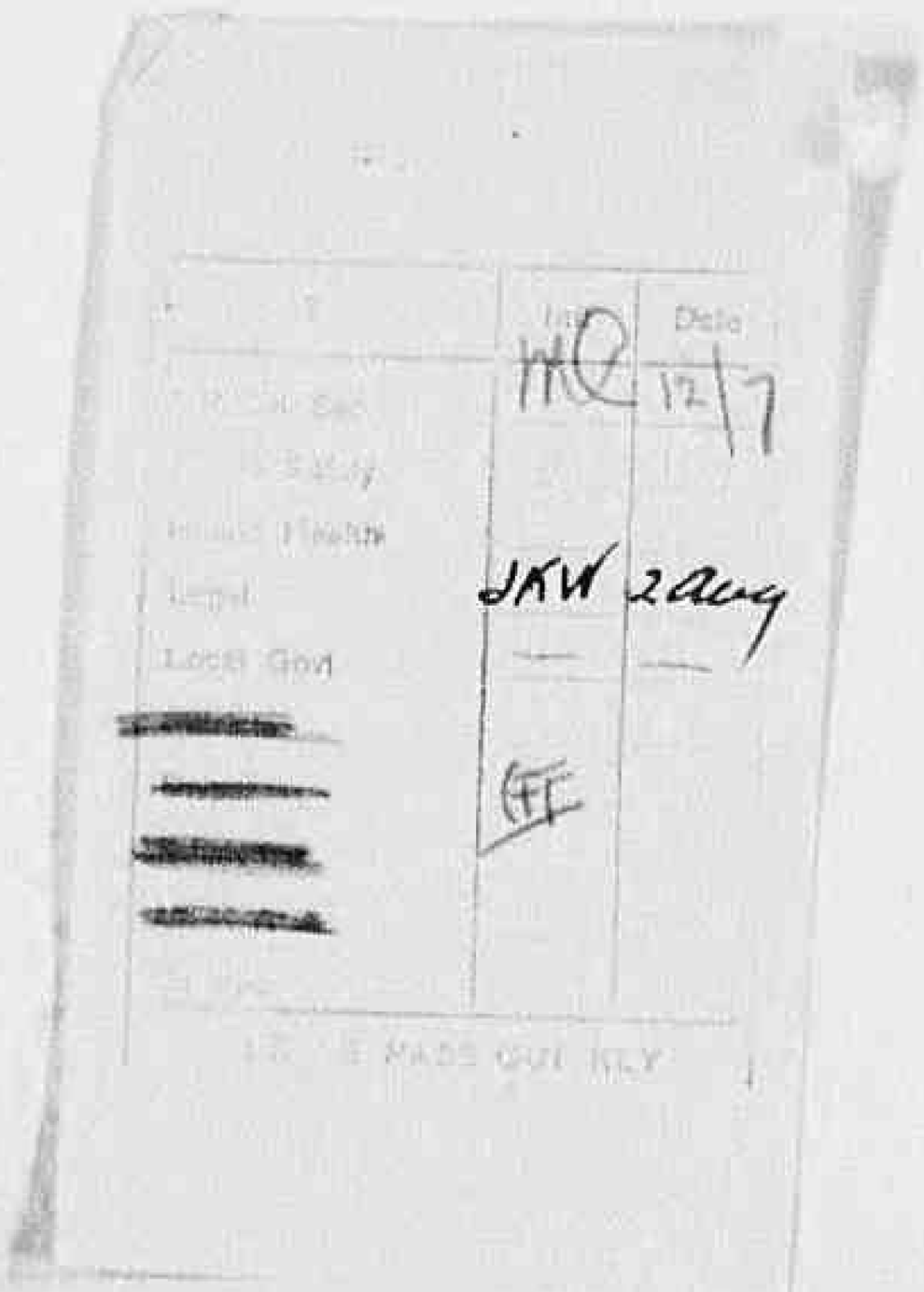

C.A. Sect.

(5)

ALLIED COMMISSION
OFFICE OF CHIEF LIAISON OFFICER
VENEZIA

12 LUG 1946

---------oooOooo---------

2/13.27/2A

MONTHLY REPORT FOR JUNE
1 9 4 6

EC Dist - 11 July

1-DC
1-CA Sec
1-Econ Sec
1-Ch Rec

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2/13.27/ 2

MONTHLY REPORT FOR JUNE

1946

Ec Dist - 11 July

1-EC.
1-CA Ec
1-Econ Ec
1-Ch Eng
1-Fr Eng
1-Pol Off
1-working copy

FON/dnp

UNITED NATIONS
2379
458
HEADQUARTERS

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ALLIED COMMISSION
OFFICE OF CHIEF LIAISON OFFICER
VENEZIE

1. POLITICAL

The elections were carried out in good order throughout the Region and although rumours were circulated relative to irregularities, no outstanding incidents were observed and neither were any direct complaints presented to this Headquarters.

The leaders of all parties as well as the press appear to be watching very carefully the political manoeuverings in Rome and although there is little evidence that either the left or right parties are inclined to cooperate in getting the new Government started on its difficult journey, still no outward incidents have occurred.

It must be admitted that there is a definite anti-Allied feeling predominating throughout this Region at the present time. The news from Paris has done much to inflame this attitude, particularly in the rightist press, among the students in Padova and the ex partisans and reduci, all violently denounce the Allies for having accepted Italy as a co-belligerent and now allegedly placing her on the bargaining counter. Much of this local feeling is fanned by the thousands of unemployed refugees from Venezia Giulia who have permeated into the Region. Another factor contributing to this situation arises from the extensive amount of military requisitions required throughout the area. These requisitions have and are being kept at an absolute minimum consistent with military requirements. However the situation is somewhat more complicated in the Padova, Treviso, Verona areas due to the temporary movement of troops into Venezia Giulia. It is impossible to de-requisition these premises as the military contemplate re-occupying them when the present training manoeuvres are completed, but it is difficult for the public to understand the situation.

Unless the general economic conditions improve and unemployment decreases the present attitude of the public is likely to continue, for the Italian character is easily excitable, grossly uninformed and sadly lacking in strong civil and police administration.

2. PUBLIC SAFETY

The general crime situation remains reasonably good and all civilian police agencies throughout the Region are functioning about as efficiently as anywhere else in Italy. However it must be pointed out that all local Military Authorities in this area are greatly concerned over the inability

[illegible] to cooperate in getting the new Government started on its difficult journey, still no outward incidents have occurred.

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2. PUBLIC SAFETY

The general crime situation remains reasonably good and all civilian police agencies throughout the Region are functioning about as efficiently as anywhere else in Italy. However it must be pointed out that all local Military Authorities in this area are greatly concerned over the inability of the civilian administrative and police officials and agencies to maintain and control public order. For example during the past month there has developed a definite increase in the number of strikes, particularly in the Venice area - yet the police make little effort to intervene when incidents arise during such strikes. In the Padova area there have been several anti Allied incidents yet at no time have the police been able to effectively control the crowd. In view of the fact that extensive Military base installations are situated in this Region and which are dependent to a large degree upon the amount of security and public order maintained by the Italian Governmental agencies - it is urgently requested that this matter be brought to the attention of the proper Italian Officials in Rome with a view to 1) not only strengthening local police agencies in men and equipment but (2) also bringing pressure on local officials for a more energetic and efficient execution of the duties of their respective offices. This is particularly important at this time in view of the decrease in the number of operational Allied Troops in this Region.

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Pursuant to instructions from HQ A.C. the P.S.O. Major MacDonnie is maintaining exceptionally close liaison with HQ 86 Area as well as with local civilian police agencies, particularly in the Venice and Padova areas.

3. BOOKMAKER

The general food situation continues reasonably good although cost of living has not changed. A general index of food prices for the Region is as follows :

Commodity	Published Price	Open Market
Bread	20 Lire per Kg.	80 to 100 lire per Kg
Pasta	26 " " "	100 " 120 " " "
Olive oil	250-260 " " liter	500 " 600 " " liter
Milk	25-30 " " "	30 " 35 " " "
Eggs	- - - -	15 " 20 each
Meat	- - - -	200 " 280 Lire " Kg.
Sugar	150-160 Lire per Kg.	800 " 1000 " " "

The stores continue to be filled with foodstuffs and little effort is being made to control the amount or courses served in Restaurant. The basic bread ration running at 200 gr. and 300 gr. of rice or pasta. Furthermore 100 gr. of imported sugar and 100 gr. of imported lard have been released in most of the provinces together with issues of canned fish and evaporated milk.

The general grain situation throughout the Region indicates about a third increase in both production and ammassing over last year. The following figures were submitted by the Regional Director of Alimentazione for the 8 provinces of the Region.

	Qls
Total wheat Productions in 1945	4,129,000
" " ammass " "	1,480,272
Estimated wheat production " 1946	6,368,000
" " ammass " "	2,264,000
Total wheat ammassed in June 1946	1,264,000

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Cooking oil	250-280	"	"	Liter	500	"	600	"	Liter
Milk	25-30	"	"	"	30	"	35	"	"
Eggs	-	-	-	-	15	"	20 each		
Meat	-	-	-	-	200	"	280 Lira	"	Kg.
Sugar	150-160	Lira per Kg.			800	"	1000	"	"

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The general grain situation throughout the Region indicates about a third increase in both production and armassing over last year. The following figures were submitted by the Regional director of Alimentazione for the 8 provinces of the Region.

	Qtls
Total wheat production in 1945	4,199,000
" " armass " "	1,460,225
Estimated wheat production " 1946	6,366,000
" " armass " "	2,264,000
Total wheat armassed in June 1946	1,264,000

Total unemployment figures decreased for June to 177,698 or a decrease of about 20,000 over the preceding month.

The industrial situation has not changed due principally to the lack coal and raw materials. The one bright spot has been the woollen mills in Vicenza province. 30,000 bales of wool are expected in the near future and this will mean work for about 12 months. The cotton, metal and hemp industries are practically stationary. The production of jams and marmelade have slowed up due to the sugar shortage. The Michelin Tire Co, in Pronto is now employing about 450 persons and is producing 60 qtls of tires a per day for tyre covers. The Cagrond factory at Rivi is now making furniture, window casings etc.

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Strikes in the Venice area have increased, the workers in each instance demanding pay increases, particularly among the motor bus and ferry boat employees. Several demonstrations have been instigated by Rodani (ex-A.C.W.'s) demanding employment. While none of these labour disturbances have resulted in any unusual incidents they are important as indicating a trend towards industrial unrest.

4. PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES

Public works projects throughout the Region are now in full operation and this has had a considerable effect in reducing unemployment. All Prefects and Questori appear to realise the importance of such projects and are making most energetic efforts to push this work on as rapidly as possible.

5. DISPLACED PERSONS

The past month has seen a tremendous increase in the number of Italians from Venezia Giulia and especially Pola making their way into this Region. In fact the communes have become so overburdened with these persons, most of whom are unable to maintain themselves or their families, that the Sindaci are exerting every effort to get them placed in the Post Bellica refugee centres.

Another problem has been the movement by the Italian Government of families from North Africa, these too are gradually finding their way into the refugee camps.

The Displaced Persons and Refugee situation in existing camps throughout the Region stood as follows on 30th June.

Chioggiuova (Padova) Post Bellica

Repatriated from	Venezia Giulia	585
"	" Dalmatia	480
"	" N. Africa	152
"	" Tunisia	496
		1713

This camp could possibly hold and additional 2000 persons.

Verona Post Bellica

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"	" Tunisia	496
		1713

This camp could possibly hold and additional 2000 persons.

Verona Post Bellica
"

Repatriated from	Venezia Giulia	58
"	" Greece	274
"	" Tunisia	71
		413

This Camp is full.

Fossalta (near Verona) handles an average of about 500 ex P.O.W.'s daily with an available capacity of about 2000.

In the Venezia area the Post Bellica are caring for about 1500 persons mostly from Trieste and Dalmatia in six different centres having a total capacity of about 1500.

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In view of the political development affecting Venezia Giulia there is every reason to believe that there will be a continually increasing flow of refugees from that area into Venezia Region. Consequently it is urgently recommended that the Italian Government be approached with a view to (1) withholding the movement of refugees from North Africa into Venezia Region (2) reducing to an absolute minimum the number of persons in the Post Bellum Camps south of the Po River IN THIS REGION AND MOVING THEM (3) arranging for the possible use of the camp at Poscantino in the event of any substantial increase in refugees entering the Region. If the above three suggestions can be accomplished then no great difficulty is anticipated in the handling of refugees from Venezia Giulia. A complete survey of all D.P. and refugee facilities within the Region is being made by this Headquarters.

6. PUBLIC HEALTH

The situation remains good.

7. TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Nothing to report.

8. LEGAL AND EDUCATION

Nothing to report.

F. O. Mavis

F.O. MAVIS, Lt.Col.
Chief Liaison Officer.

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H.Q. 217 Area	-	1
U.N.R.R.A.	-	2
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H.Q. 6 Armoured Div	-	1

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DISPLACED PERSONS AND REPATRIATION SUB COMMISSION
ALLIED COMMISSION

ROUTING SLIP

Date 18/6

FROM	INTERNAL	TO	FROM		TO
	DIRECTOR			E.A.	
	DEPUTY DIRECTOR	2		G II (DP)	
	P.A.		X	CHIEF CLERK	
	C.I/C ADM.	1		CENT. REGISTRY	
	'A' 'Q'				

EXTERNAL TO : Education Sub-Commission

.....Immediate action
.....Necessary action
.....Remarks & Recom.
.....See me about this
.....X.....Information
.....Signature
.....Register & pass to
.....Circulate
.....File

D.P. - Page 4.

Initials.....

Please See Reverse For Remarks

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	Init	Date
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	SWB	13/6
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	HA	17/6
[illegible]		
[illegible]		
[illegible]	CR	15/6
[illegible]		
[illegible]		

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Apr 88
Vol 2 of 2

CA Rec

ALLIED COMMISSION
OFFICE OF CHIEF LIAISON OFFICER
VENEZIE

Villa Taverna
Preganziol
Near Treviso

TO : H.Q. Allied Commission APO 794

SUBJECT : Monthly Report for May 1946
Civil Liaison Group Venezia Region

1. POLITICAL

In the early part of May most newspaper and public attention was focused on the Paris Peace Conference, with particular emphasis on the future disposition of the Italian Fleet. The situation in this area finally climaxed with the demonstration instigated by members of the Italian Royal Navy in St. Mark's square Venice on 9 May 46 during a band ceremony staged by the British Navy in the presence of Lieut Gen Harding, Admiral Kinahan and other Allied Officials. The band ceremonies were admirably executed and completed in perfect order but immediately thereafter the demonstrators closed in on the reviewing party and considerable disorder but no violence occured. Each political party accused the others of being responsible for the demonstration. However it is pretty generally believed that the entire affair was staged by outsiders, for the local Venetians of all classes resented the demonstration. It is the undersigned officers considered opinion that it was rather unwise to hold such a ceremony at the particular time in view of the undercurrent of feeling which was known to exist.

About the middle of May attention was once more focused on the coming elections - buildings were covered with political posters - speakers and leaders of all parties visited the region and addressed meetings, and the newspapers carried on an extensive campaign but throughout it all the atmosphere was unusually orderly and no unusual incidents occured.

The most immediate source of irritation to the civilians has been caused by the Military requisitions in the Venice and [illegible] cooperative in

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The most immediate source of irritation to the civilians has been caused by the Military requisitions in the Venice and Lido areas. The Military have been particularly cooperative in this matter, but military committments for ports, warehouses, -offices and rest areas are such that many normal activities must of necessity be curtailed. This will particularly apply to civilian tourist trade and accommodations on the Lido. This Liaison Group in cooperation with 86 area has spent much time and effort in investigating all civilian requests for derequisition with the result that in several cases partial or total de-requisition was accomplished, and as far as the balance are concerned a better understanding has been arrived at with civilian property owners and officials through a thorough explaination of military requirements.

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Neo-fascist activities in this area appear to be more rumor than actual fact and this applies to many alleged activities of other parties. In view of the calm character of the people, the reasonably good local food situation and the presence of well disciplined Allied Troops in this area it is not anticipated that any trouble will arise in Venezia Region. If there is trouble it will first arise in some other region and then spread to this area.

As the political campaigns have progressed in Italy one is impressed with the amount of information and propaganda contra -to our democratic ideals and principles, which has been supplied directly to the Italian press and public - and at the same time our lack of information to these people on just what we are attempting to do for them.

These people are hungry for such reliable information - not only political but on economic, cultural and social subjects. The British through their B.B.C. coverage are at least getting some information across to these people but there is little evidence that the American Government is making any contact and acquainting the average Italian with the efforts, money, food and assistance which is being made available in his behalf. Money and food alone are not enough. It is surprising the ignorance that is expressed on behalf of the average Italian as to just what Britain and America are doing for Italy, and they are equally ignorant as to the true way of life in these two great democracies.

2. PUBLIC SAFETY

The crime situation throughout the Area appears to be reasonable normal. Questura and CC.RR. have made quite a number of good arrests in connection with armed robberies and the collection of arms, particularly in the Padua, Rovigo and Verona Areas. The majority of arms found at the present time are in very bad condition.

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There have been a considerable decrease in the number of cases of Military telephone lines being cut.

Relations between the civilians and Allied Military have been reasonably good with only a few isolated incidents being reported.

The average civilian, particularly in south Italy continues to be uniformed as to regulations pertaining to civilian movement across national boundaries and into Venezia Giulia. If these regulations could be more generally publicized much inconvenience and confusion would be eliminated.

The prisons are still crowded both with prisoners convicted as well as those awaiting trial. In Verona 771 political prisoners are still being held awaiting trial. The difficulty lies in the courts not having adequate personnel to try the cases.

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The eternal problem of inadequate equipment for all civilian police agencies continues to create a problem. As a result of the demonstration in Venice on 9 May, referred to under 1. Political, 86 Area and 13th Corps have provided 1000 bush shirts dyed green and issued to auxiliary agents of the Public Safety Units in Venice and Padova. Major Mackenzie of this Headquarters at the request of 13th Corps and 86 Area is now making a survey of equipment and facilities of the various police agencies in Venice, with a view to possibly obtaining the most urgent deficiencies through either civilian or Allied Military channels.

The food situation of the carabinieri has been greatly helped by the recent allocation of fresh meat instead of canned meat.

The new career Questore Dott. Massa Oreste arrived in Venice early in May and appears to be doing a reasonably good job.

The Mobile Battalion of Carabinieri stationed in Padova with the detachment of 200 stationed at Treviso are apparently well trained and armed. Recently, after many inquiries, they received ammunition for use in their armoured car weapons. They are under the control of the Legion Commander in Padova, but may not be utilized without orders from Rome.

The fact that that portion of 13th Corps area west of Udine Province and particularly the Venice Area is now Italian Government territory and not under Allied Military Government oftimes creates some confusion in the minds of Allied Military Commanders, particularly in reference to relations with civil Governmental and Police Officials.

3. ECONOMICS

Due to plenty of rain and warm weather all crops throughout the Region are good. The wheat crop is estimated to be near normal and is ripening so rapidly that most of the grain will be cut by the 15th of June. Fruits of all types are in abundance, and growers are making every effort in cooperation with U.N.R.R.A.

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The fact that that portion of 13th Corps area west of Udine Province and particularly the Venice Area in now Italian Government territory and not under Allied Military Government oftimes creates some confusion in the minds of Allied Military Commanders, particularly in reference to relations with civil Governmental and Police Officials.

3. ECONOMICS

Due to plenty of rain and warm weather all crops throughout the Region are good. The wheat crop is estimated to be near normal and is ripening so rapidly that most of the grain will be cut by the 15th of June. Fruits of all types are in abundance, and growers are making every effort in cooperation with U.N.R.R.A. to transport the crop to other sections of Italy and even to Austria and Germany.

The food situation during May was reasonably good throughout the Region with prices remaining approximately the same as sent out in the April report. It is estimated that visible wheat stocks will be exhausted in this Region by the 10th June and U.N.R.R.A. is doubtful whether they can supply any additional grain or flour. It is the opinion of the undersigned officer that there are still sufficient stocks of grain in the 451 s of individual farmers throughout this region, with the possible exceptions of the two mountainous provinces of Trento and Belluno, to meet the present ration requirements until the new harvest is available.

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Should the flour or bread ration be cut for a short period of time no great difficulty is anticipated due to the abundance of fresh vegetables, fruits, fish and meat on the market. Sugar rations have been cut to 100 gr. most of which has come from local sources. An additional shipment of sugar is due in from Leghorn about June 10th. Oil and fat supplies continue scarce and are uncontrolled. The regional inspector of Alimentazione states that no fats will be available for issue to the public during June. Total requirements of fats and oil for this region on the basis of 180 gr. per person would amount to 7000 q.ls per month. However the "black" market will continue to supply oils and fats to those who can pay price of 700 lire per kg.

This region continues to receive its coal allotments, and while the amount is far from sufficient yet there is enough coal on hand to meet allocations for the next thirty to sixty days.

The general labor situation does not improve, 190.000 persons unemployed during April in the eight provinces of this Region as against 195.000 at the close of May. While extensive public works projects have been approved there appears to be considerable delay in getting under way with construction.

There have been some few scattered strikes and demonstrations for higher wages but generally the labor situation has remained quiet.

The silk industry anticipates a considerable increase in production this year due to the good weather and favorable growing conditions.

4. PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES

The Genio Civile of all provinces have been active in submitting projects and a high percentage are being approved in Roma but there continues to be a delay in actual construction, which [illegible] due to lack of materials in many cases. The construct-

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The Genio Civile of all provinces have been active in submitting projects and a high percentage are being approved in Roma but there continues to be a delay in actual construction, which seems to be due to lack of materials in many cases. The construction of "popular houses" is getting well under way in most provinces. The majority of projects consist of road repair, bridges, hydraulic works, repairs to Public building, slum clearance and Port improvements.

5. DISPLACED PERSONS

450

The refugee camp at Porta S.Girogio near Verona now has 468 refugees, mostly from Venezia Giulia, Greece and Tunesia. The number is 47 less than last month.

Generally speaking the D.P. situation is gradually diminishing in this region.

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6. PUBLIC HEALTH

Conditions remain good. The T.B. situation has always presented quite a problem in this area and due to the destruction of many Sanitoriums there is at present a lack of adequate facilities to care for the patients. The U.N.R.R.A. anti-malaria campaign is well under way and no great malarial problem is anticipated.

7. TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

The R.R. Bridge over the Po at Ferrara had been scheduled for completion on May 1st but due to defects in construction it will not be opened for traffic until about the middle of June.

The lack of direct Railway Service between Venice and Bologna seriously handicaps the transportation service of North East Italy.

Military control has now been relinquished over the Verona-Bologna, and the Padova - Piacenza lines.

Total tonnage moved by trucks continues to increase through out the region; Uffici Autotrasporti moved 215.977 tons and Truck Pools moved 6.611 tons. P.O.L. allocation are quite satisfactory.

Inland water transportation moved 23.173 tons for industry and 2.664 tons of foodstuffs.

Tonnages entering the port of Venice showed a considerable descrease for May over the previous months. Coastwise schooners for Bari and Ancona continue to increase their tonnage.

The following commodities and tonnages were received in the port of Venice : -

Wheat	6 229	tons
Coal	4 6 197	"
Phosphates	4 956	"
Petrol	5 7 557	"
Bauxite	4 463	"
Iron	2 611	"
Cotton (Palestine)	217	"

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Phosphates	4 956	"
Petrol	57 557	"
Bauxite	4 463	"
Iron	2 611	"
Cotton (Palestine)	217	"
Cement	1 288	"
Wine	1 300	"
salt, edible & tobacco	9 284	"
various foodstuffs (Army)	8 035	"

A new telegraph line has been completed between Padova and Venice and another between Venice and Ferrara. Telegraph service was reestablished on 22 May between Venice and Trieste. A total of 4 telegraph Offices were reopened. within the region during the months, with 6 additional scheduled for reopening in June. Prior to the war there region and to date there are 380 in operation.

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Seven long distance telephone circuits were added during the month, including three from Verona to Bolzano.

Prior to the war the TELVE Company had 31 telephone exchanges and the TIMO 197 exchanges in operation in this area. Today TELVE is back to normal with 31 exchanges and TIMO has 103 with 9 more to be opened in June.

8. L E G A L

The courts continue to be over burdened with cases and understaffed in personnel, all of which prevents the administration of speedy justice, over crowds the jails and creates a general disrespect for law in the minds of the average citizen.

With the over abundance of lawyers in Italy there need be no lack of adequate qualified court personnel. The fault appears to lie in the antiquated court system which badly needs modernization.

F.O. MAVIS, Lt. Col.
Chief Liaison Officer.

DISTRIBUTION :

H... Allied Commission	8
C.L.O. Bolzano	1
P.O. Udine	2
AMG Venezia Giulia	1
C.L.O. Lombardia	1
C.L.O. Piemonte	1
C.L.O. Liguria	1
C.L.O. Emilia	1

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C.L.O. Piemonte	-	1
C.L.O. Liguria	-	1
C.L.O. Emilia	-	1
H. 13th Corps	-	2
L.O. Port & Warehouse, Venice	-	1
L.O. Telecommunication-Venice	-	1
L.O. Food	-	1
HQ 217 Area	-	1
U.N.R.R.A.	-	2
H. 86 Area	-	1
HQ 6 Armoured Div	-	1

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Letters

MC

(3)

2/13.27/CA

ALLIED COMMISSION

OFFICE OF CHIEF LIAISON OFFICER

VIENNA

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13 MAG 1946

MONTHLY REPORT FOR APRIL

1946

	Ins	Date
VP CA Leg		
Public Safety		24/5
Public Health		
Legal		21/6
Local Govt		
[redacted]		
Disper		24/5.

O.C. DIST - 18 Sept
1 - E.C.
1 - CA Leg
1 - Ec. Leg
1 - P.S. Bz.
1 - [illegible]

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13 MAG 1946

MONTHLY REPORT FOR APRIL

1946

	Init	Date
VP [illegible]		
Public Safety		
Public Health		
Legal		
Local Govt		
[redacted]		
Disper		
Education		
[redacted]		
[illegible]		

PLEASE PASS QUICKLY

E.C. DIST - 13 Mar 46
1 - E.C.
1 - C.A. for
1 - Sec for
1 - P.R.B.
1 - Jr. Rep.
1 - Poland "B"
1 - Working copy

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ALLIED COMMISSION
CIVIL AFFAIRS LIAISON OFFICER
VENEZIA

1. POLITICAL

A very noticeable decrease in political activity throughout Venezia Region was observed during the month of April, due largely to lack of party funds and enthusiasm expended in the general elections.

The press generally is more occupied with the Paris peace conference and the general economic and food situation.

The only group expressing any great concern over the area elections appear to be the supporters of the monarchy. They seriously urge that the vote on the referendum be postponed for at least a minimum of three or four months. This being their first experience in resorting to electoral processes to maintain their existence they seem to be at a loss to organize their strength and conduct an effective campaign.

It has been interesting to observe that the newly elected Communal Council and Giunta are generally attempting to cooperate in handling local problems, irrespective of party affiliations. The one exception being in Venice where the Christian Democrats refused to participate in the selection of a mayor, with the result that a Communist was selected for the position. However Avv. G.B. Cicuzzinto the new mayor of Venice made a very commendable inaugural speech appealing for cooperation from all elements and accepting the position of the Christian Democrats as a constructive and healthy opposition. He outlined a sound and sensible economic and rehabilitation program for the comune and his speech, as well as his subsequent conduct in office has been received to date with evident satisfaction in all political circles, even the extreme right.

The Right, particularly the Christian-Democrats, have been in many instances (e.g. Venice) surprised and disillusioned by defeat. However, this does not seem to have reached the point of apathy, and there is no reason to believe that members of the Christian-Democrat party will abandon their civic duties or renounce their minority rights. Nevertheless, interviews with public officials make it clear that the Italians have little conception of how a minority should function. Their definition of a healthy opposition would appear to embrace solely a rational non-obstructionist attitude characterized by a rather dejected analysis of the disparity in numbers between majority and minority.

The left, on the other hand, does not seem to have been upset at its fate in those localities where it has been victorious.

Where elections have been close, the Socialist Party has usually [illegible] Communists and Christian-

appear to be the supporters of the Government. They seriously urge that the vote on the referendum be postponed for at least a minimum of three or four months. This being their first experience in resorting to electoral processes to ascertain their existence they seem to be at a loss to organize their strength and conduct an effective campaign.

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The Left, on the other hand, does not seem to have been swept off its feet in those localities where it has been victorious.

Where elections have been close, the Socialist Party has usually supplied the compromise candidate acceptable to both Communists and Christian-Democrats.

Generally speaking the left wing parties have adopted conservative tactics in their campaigning as well as in the selection of their candidates. While many of these men lack public administrative experience and therefore do not have the confidence of the conservatives, yet a close check on their background will disclose that many are well educated or have had considerable business experience in the community and are serious, hard working individuals, willing to devote considerable time to the thankless job of solving their local governmental problems.

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2. PUBLIC SAFETY

In general the Public Safety situation throughout the Region declined slightly during April. Particularly due to several instance of highway robberies in the Rovigo area but the entire gang have now been apprehended.

Reduci and unemployed have been responsible for some demonstrations particularly in Padova where 2000 demonstrated on April 16th in front of the Prefecture demanding that the Casino at Abano be permitted to open. The casino is now operating and giving employment to approximately 300. Minor demonstrations by unemployed were also staged in Belluno. All demonstrations have been reasonable orderly.

The prisons throughout the region continue to be overcrowded.

During a "visiting day" at the Rovigo prison early in April, 66 prisoners escaped by mixing with the visitors. To date 63 of the prisoners have been recaptured.

General Military Security has been good and no actual acts of sabotage reported, although telephone lines are occasionally interrupted. Recent troop movements into Venezia Giulia with their display of strength has evidently had deterrent effect upon the public. Statements are constantly being made by the government that arms are being landed along the Adriatic coast - particularly at Chioggia but a very close check has been made by both civil and Military Authorities and no actual cases have been apprehended or reported.

3. ECONOMICS

It is most difficult to obtain an accurate and true picture of the food situation in this Region. Early April there has definitely been no suspension of rationed cereals, and although there has been a shortage of oils and fats as well as sugar, these commodities have been available to mothers, children and the indigent. In all of the restaurants throughout the area it is quite easy to purchase an excellent meal at any time consisting of soup, pasta, bread, meat or sea food, potatoes and wine for from 300 lire on up depending on the type of restaurant. In practically every town pastries of a good quality and variety are on sale in the shops and the groceries appear to be full of all types of foodstuffs.

A rather thorough survey of food prices has been made throughout the region during April and the average results are hereinafter set forth :

Commodity	Published Price	Actual Price in stores

[illegible]

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Commodity	Published Price	Actual Price in stores
Pasta	23 to 25 lire a kg.	100 to 120 lire a kg.
Bread	19 to 21 " " "	50 to 80 " " "
Olive oil	250 " " "	600 to 700 " " "
Sugar	150 to 165 " " "	800 to 1000 " " "
Butter	250 to 350 " " "	650 to 800 " " "
Eggs	13 to 15 " " each	15 to 20 " " each
Beef	250 " " kg.	250 to 400 " " kg.
Milk	25 to 40 " " litre	- - -

The average cost of living for a family of three is generally estimated at 18.000 lire in Venezia and this allows nothing for luxuries. The average office workers salary is from 5 to 10.000 lire and the factory worker's from 5 to 9.000 lire monthly.

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The Italian officials have finally been aroused to the necessity of devising ways and means of encouraging the farmers to bring in more grain to the ammasi but at least 70% of grain requirements are being met by U.N.R.R.A.. Present visible stock supplies of grain are sufficient to meet requirements (ration 200 gr.) in the Region until the 10th of May, with two U.N.R.R.A. ships scheduled to arrive during the month which should be sufficient to meet requirements providing continuous pressure is put on the farmers to make up the balance. The situation from June 1st until harvest is much more serious but if U.N.R.R.A. can continue its present allocations it is believed there is sufficient grain in the area to make up the balance irrespective of what the Italian officials contend.

The agricultural outlook is exceptionally good throughout the Region due to recent rains and it is expected that the grain harvest will be approximately normal. The prospects are extremely good for the fruit and vegetable crops. Verona province alone estimates a crop of 650,000 qtls and U.N.R.R.A. help is being requested to assist in the movement of this crop to other sections of Italy and to central Europe.

Industry is still handicapped by lack of coal, in fact the glass industries of Venice have never been able to operate. The wool, silk and cotton industries in Vicenza are now operating full time due to arrival of raw materials.

Total unemployment throughout the eight provinces of the Region rose from 166.000 in March to 190.000 in April. Belluno province has sent some 500 miners to Belgium and Poland. The public works program should be in full operation in May which may decrease the above figures.

4. PUBLIC WORKS & UTILITIES

At the end of April public works projects in the total value of 313.000.000 lire employing 11.200 men were in progress. Approval has been received from Rome for two sections of the Venice port improvement project totalling 1.200.000.000 lire. Reconstruction of a silo and warehouses will comprise the first goals in this program.

5. DISPLACED PERSONS

There has been little movement within the Region and the situation remains unchanged. The camp at Padova contains approximately 1200 persons and at Verona 500 persons.

6. PUBLIC HEALTH

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6. PUBLIC HEALTH

Continues good. Two cases of cebarol spinal meningitis (one fatal) were reported in Treviso province.

Oil and DDT for use in malaria control are now available in Venice and U.N.R.R.A. is making extensive plans to effectively combat malaria commencing May 1st.

7. TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Telegraph service is practically back to pre-war status. Prior to the war 386 offices were operating throughout this area and at present there are 376.

The situation is much the same with the two telephone companies serving the area. Prior to the war Telve had 31 exchanges and Timo 197. At the end of April Telve had in operation 31 and Timo 95 with 6 more opening in May.

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A total of 192.000 tons of shipping entered the port of Venice during April as against 203.000 tons in March.

Venezia Region Uffici Autotrasporti moved 205.977 tons during April, with 5.148 truck polls operating. The POL allocations appear quite satisfactory.

8. LEGAL AND EDUCATION

The Preture and Tribunali are still sadly lacking in personnel. The Corti Straordinarie d'Assise treating the most urgent and serious cases have borrowed personnel from other courts which has served to make a bad situation worse. There follows a statistical table which should be read bearing in mind that hundreds of minor offences such as violation of traffic regulations and the like are dealt with by the same judges who preside in the lower courts.

	PRETURA		TRIBUNALE		CORTE STRAORDINARIA	
	Decisions	Pending	Decisions	Pending	Decisions	Pending
BELLUNO	36	100	15	50	1	13
PADOVA	15	1500	35	1000	11	500
ROVIGO	13	[illegible]	22	1001	16	142
TREVISO	31	35	27	600	5	282
VENEZIA	12	1586	95	2000	14	100
VICENZA	-	150	18	30	10	500
VERONA	-	220	26	42	5	220
TRENTO	60	45	12	30	2	00

In the field of education bomb and requisitions by Allied Units have to some extent reduced the teaching program but nowhere in the Region is any child being deprived of schooling because of these conditions. In fact a survey of Belluno, Treviso and Venezia Provinces shows that in 1945, 827 Public schools were in operation against 1056 in 1946.

Figures for Public Schools in three other provinces are ;

	Schools	Attendance
VERONA	250	75, 000
VICENZA	180	70, 000
TRENTO	-	48, 300

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	PRETURA		TRIBUNALE		CORTE STRAORDINARIA	
	Decisions	Pending	Decisions	Pending	Decisions	Pending
BELLUNO	38	100	15	50	1	15
PADOVA	15	1500	35	1000	11	500
ROVIGO	13	345	22	1001	16	442
TREVISO	31	35	27	600	5	282
VENEZIA	12	1585	95	2000	44	100
VICENZA	-	150	18	30	10	500
VERONA	-	220	26	42	5	220
TRENTO	60	45	12	20	2	80

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	Schools	Attendance
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VICENZA	180	70, 000
TRENTO	-	48, 300

9. MISCELLANEOUS

The matter of military requisitions, particularly in Venice and the Lido areas is becoming increasingly difficult. Civilians are naturally anxious to reestablish their pre-war business activities but with present military commitments this is of times impossible.

Considerable pressure is being put on Prefects and Sindaci to obtain derequisitions and although 86 Area has been most cooperative where possible, this situation will continue to be a source of irritation as long military occupation continues.

F. O. Mavis 4-4-46

F.O. MAVIS, Lt.Colonel,
Chief Liaison Officer.

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C. 2/13.37/CA

MCG 12/3

ALLIED COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE BRANCH OFFICER
VERONA

Fromenaid (Rovigo)
2 March 1945

12 MAR 1945

A. POLITICAL REACTION

Generally the political atmosphere in which in the Veneto, there appears to be common agreement that the Christian Democrats are the most numerous, except in the large towns.

While there is a keen anticipation and interest amongst the people in the forthcoming administrative elections, which are to be held in the last week of March and the beginning of April, the Party leaders are looking forward with much greater expectations to the political elections. Politically, therefore, this is a period of calm, owing to a realisation that this is no time for quarrelling, and to a sense of frustration caused by the continual deadlock in Rome. It is felt that matters of vital importance are being deliberately reduced to a political game of war-like the same terms opposed. In the eyes of party leaders, the administrative elections will reveal party strength, but only the political elections can define the role of each party in the national life.

There is no reason to believe that the local elections will not be carried out in an orderly and calm manner.

B. LOCAL GOVERNMENT

1. Carabinieri Prefects have now taken up office in four out of eight provinces covered by this report.

These provinces are :-

BELLUNO	Dott.	STROZZI-LATTINI	Dino
ROVIGO	"	GORLINI	Giuseppe
TRENTO	"	CARNEVALI	Torquato
VICENZA	"	MARCHESONDO	Battista

Appointments to the remaining four provinces are as follows :-

PADOVA	Dott.	MAINO	Carlo
TREVISO	"	ORLANDO	Francesco
VENEZIA	"	DE GAETANI	Lo Cardo
VERONA	"	[illegible]	[illegible]

EC distribution
1-EC
1-PRB
1-Econ Sec
1-Friend Rep
1-C A Sec
1-Political G
1-Military Rep

[illegible] experiment in any [illegible] elections. Politically, therefore, this is a period of calm, due to a realization that this is no time for quarreling, and to a sense of prostration caused by the continued deadlock in Rome. It is felt that matters of national importance are being inevitably reduced to a political tug-of-war with the same terms opposed. In the eyes of party leaders, the administrative elections will reveal party strength, but only the political elections can define the role of each party in the national life.

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B. LOCAL GOVERNMENT

1. Career Prefects have now taken up office in four out of eight provinces covered by this report.

These provinces are :-

EC Secretariat

BELLUNO	Dott.	STROPPELLATI	Dino
ROVIGO	"	SORGATO	Giuseppe
TRENTO	"	CARBONARI	Torquato
VICENZA	"	MASTRANTONIO	Battista

1-EC
1-PRB
4-Econ Sec
1-Fiscal Rep
1-CB Sec
1-Cabd G
1-Nationy Cofs

Appointments to the remaining four provinces are as follows :-

PADOVA	Dott.	MARNO	Carlo
TREVISO	"	ORLANDO	Francesco
VENEZIA	"	MOSCHETTI	Gregorio
VERONA	"	[illegible]	Francesco

It is early yet to give reliable reports on the new Prefects, but Dott. STROPPELLATI of BELLUNO gives the impression of being a strong man capable of handling any attempt at interference in his administration by political groups, though he is aware of the delicacy of his position here in the North. His reception has been cordial with every indication of cooperation from the C.L.N. and party leaders.

2. As far as can be judged from reports, all the provinces except TRENTO, are well advanced in their preparations for the elections. In TRENTO, however, out of 127 Communes, only 62 will be voting on the prescribed days. The remaining 65 Communes are all affected by a strong movement for autonomy among many of the fractions of which they are composed. These fractions are said to number approximately 200, which became real centers like larger Communes under the Fascist regime.

According to the Prefect, these claims for communal autonomy cannot be settled until after the political elections, and therefore the administrative elections must be postponed until later.

Please Initial Back. A.Y. CR

ALLIED MISSION HEADQUARTERS 7040

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C. PUBLIC SAFETY

1. Public Order

Several demonstrations have taken place in the Veneto during the month, in protest against taxes, unemployment and the general economic situation, but in the great majority of cases there was no disorder.

Exceptions to this, however, were a demonstration of 200 "Bersagli" at CONEGLIANO (PADOVA Prov.) against the dismissal of a candidate on lists; during the succeeding night some shots were fired which caused injury and other damage. Arrested by 8 Feb 46.

In VERONA city, on 10 Feb 500 men and women on strike and unemployed demonstrated in the Prefecture, parading with the slogans "Down with the Democratics" and "Bread and Work". They were protesting against social insurance payment from workers' pay. A group did force entry to the offices of the Chamber del Lavoro where the Director was held. Police restored order the same day.

On 13 Feb at MIRANDOLA two persons were executed under a sentence of the Extraordinary Court. While the "partigiani" approved of the executions and complained of the lapse of time between sentence and execution, other members of the population thought that too much "Italian blood" of Italians has been shed, and that such sentences and executions did not help towards the return of peaceful and normal conditions.

2. Crime

Agents of Public Security and the CC.RR. continue to work with increasing confidence. The number of crimes compares favourably with last month. Two cases of note were the arrest of a band of temper does and their leader BRUNETTO Romeo on charges of armed robbery and murder in the provinces of VICENZA and PADOVA, and the arrest of three persons charged with the murder of a Marmolillo of CC.RR. in January.

In VERONA two youths aged 15 and 17 years have been arrested in connection with S.A.M. activities. As well as some grenades and a German pistol, they were found in possession of a pamphlet of the S.A.M.

3. Relations with Italian Police Forces

Relations with the Italian Police Forces are satisfactory and close cooperation with Military Police is being maintained.

With a view to establishing uniformity of road traffic signals and to instil confidence in the public, demonstrations by British Military Police are to be given before the various Italian Civil police and CC.RR.

D. PUBLIC HEALTH

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On 13 Feb 46 [illegible] were executed under [illegible] of the Extraordinary Court. While the "partisans" approved of the executions and complained of the lapse of time between sentence and execution, other members of the population thought that too much "brother blood" or Italian had been shed, and that such sentences and executions did not help towards the return of peaceful and normal conditions.

2. Crime

Agents of Public Security and the CC.RR. continue to work with increasing confidence. The number of crimes compares favourably with last month. Two cases of note were the arrest of [illegible] members of desperadoes and their leader [illegible] Rosario on charges of armed robbery and murder in the provinces of VICENZA and PADUA, and the arrest of three persons charged with the murder of a Maresciallo of CC.RR. in Jesolo.

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With a view to establishing uniformity of road security locks and to instil confidence in the public, demonstrations by British Military Police are to be given before the various Italian Civil police and CC.RR.

D. PUBLIC HEALTH

The health of the population is satisfactory. A few cases of smallpox have occurred in VERONA (reported as 8 in error in the press). The conflict has caused a general vaccination. UNRRA is checking the sources of these in order to explain that it may have come in through the port.

E. AGRICULTURE

Crop prospects are excellent, and the recent change to dry and warmer is generally welcomed.

From all sides one hears the comment "If we can reach the 'Solstice' without any unfortunate setbacks, we shall be all right". By 'Solstice' is meant

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the settling of accounts [illegible] and the Grand Sol Popolo.

Foot and mouth disease is prevalent in [illegible] provinces, some stock are affected in [illegible] provinces, but it has reached such an proportions in VENEZIA.

F. [illegible]

There is nothing [illegible] report on Industry, [illegible] of lack of raw [illegible], [illegible] and high production costs.

But the rising tide of [illegible] is causing serious concern. The following [illegible] figures in the provinces most seriously affected. [illegible], the problem in general in the region :-

[illegible]	
VICENZA	50,000
[illegible]	25,000
PADOVA	15,000 - 20,000
TREVISO	10,000 - 12,000
BELLUNO	8,000 - 10,000

To cope with [illegible] there is a widespread desire based on all sides, that facilities should be granted without delay for Italian workers to emigrate to France, and we hope that the question is being given serious consideration by the Central Government.

In BELLUNO, where the figures include an estimated 5000 ex-partisans, the outlook for future public order is not too bright. In the Trieste point out, there are two problems, public order and emigration.

Thirteen million lire have already been granted for the repair of war damaged houses and fifty million more are being urgently requested from Rome.

Emigration, the second trouble is traditional from the province of BELLUNO. Much disappointment has been expressed over the reported obstacles to France-Italian emigration [illegible] plans to send Italians to France. If [illegible] public order in

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[illegible]	[illegible]
VENETO	12,000
[illegible]	25,000
PADOVA	15,000 - 20,000
TRENTO	10,000 - 12,000
[illegible]	8,000 - 10,000

To [illegible] there is a widespread desire [illegible] on all sides, that facilities should be created without delay for [illegible] workers to emigrate to France, and the hope that the question is being given serious consideration by the Italian Government.

In BELLUNO, where the figures include as many as 3000 ex-partisans, the outlook for future public order is not too bright. As the Prefect points out, there are too [illegible], too little work and emigration.

Thirteen million lire have already been granted for the repair of war damaged houses and fifty million more are being currently requested from Rome.

Emigration, the recent remedy in traditional fashion the province of BELLUNO, has disappeared and been surpassed over the reported obstacles to France-Italian negotiations for a plan to send Italians to France. If negotiations come to fruition, the maintenance of public order in BELLUNO may in some degree depend on the allocation of a share quota to this province.

In PALOVA, provinces say would be willing to go to South America but are unable to meet the expenses that such a journey would entail. If the Italian Government could solve the problem of the transport of such emigrants, the Italian Embassy is reported to have stated that the Immigration Authorities in Argentina, would ensure their holding until jobs were found.

There is also considerable interest in emigration to France. In TRENTO province the [illegible] of Labour to France and Germany would absorb about half the unemployed.

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G. FOOD

Reports from the inspectors to Regional Sub-Allotment Boards continue to make gloomy reading.

During the last week of February grain stocks for the bread ration were only sufficient to last to the end of the month. A further 6,000 tons however which had been delayed was expected to have arrived by the 3rd March.

The provision of rice in also causing some increasing anxiety, and they repeat their plea that the Allies should resume supplies of imported rice, and so avoid the serious crisis which will arise in April and the months ahead.

Sugar is just as bad. There are no stocks available for the month of March, but four lakh fifteen in the rolling mill are 4996 tons of sugar, previously allocated to them, for the production of jam using 40% concentration and 60% concentration of must.

The Inspectorate has stopped the monthly issue of "Report of Disorders" for March, and strict instructions have been issued prohibiting the sale of white bread and cakes. Substantial quantities of these have been seized in restaurants in VENICE.

In TRENTO province open market prices of eggs, meat, oil, cheese, vegetables, shoes and clothes show a reduction of from 20 to 40 per cent.

Bread prices show an increase of 2 lire per kilo in BELLUNO and 3 lire in VENICE.

H. P.O.L.

Complaints have been received from the General Commerce of TRENTO that their allocations of P.O.L. for the month of February have been considerably reduced from those of January.

I. DEMONSTRATIONS

Owing to public dissatisfaction at the requisitioning of the Teatro Comunale in TREVISO (the only one in the town), a meeting was arranged by this Liaison Group between the Commander of 86 Area and the Prefect of TREVISO. As a result, the Commander agreed that the Centre should be given the use of the theatre for fifteen days every two and a half months.

J. TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS

Complaints have been appearing in the local press on the number of road accidents occurring particularly on the VENICE - PORTO MARGHERA road. This matter is being taken up with the Military Police.

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[illegible] drunk and [illegible]. Quantities of these have been added to restaurants in VENICE.

In TRENTO province open market prices of eggs, meat, oil, cheese, vegetables, shoes and clothes show a reduction, of from 20 to 40 per cent.

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W.H. [illegible], Major
A/Chief Liaison Officer.

DISTRIBUTION :-

M.G. Allied Commission	- 8
C.L.O. Bologna	- 1
P.C. Milan	- 2
AMG Venezia Giulia	- 1
C.L.O. Lombardia	- 1
C.L.O. Piemonte	- 1
C.L.O. Liguria	- 1
C.L.O. Emilia	- 1
[illegible] 13 Corps	- 1
L.O. Porto & Warehousing, Venice	- 1
L.O. Inland Transport Zone "	- 1
L.O. Zone "	- 1
L.O. Vicenza	- 1
L.O. 217 Area	- 1

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Public Safety		
Public Health		
Legal		
Legal Gen		
Personnel		
Finance		
Education		
MPA & A		
Cabinet		

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ALLIED COMMISSION
OFFICE OF CHIEF LIAISON OFFICER
VENEZIA

Preganziol (Treviso)
3 Feb 46

REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY 1946

PART I

To watch, in North East Italy, the progress of the Italian ship of State, is like witnessing the voyage of an overladen and storm battered craft in a fresh but not tempestuous sea. There is the same hope that if only the fates would be kind, the crew be reasonably competent, all might yet be well. There is the same constant anxiety that the next squall be too much.

Italian observers report the same general feeling of living from day to day. The much dreaded winter of 1945/46 is slipping by, and the situation is still in hand.

January has, certainly, had its disquieting moments. The unemployment problem is real, and there is a spirit of bitterness among many of the reduci. Yet the discontent has not come to a head except for demonstrations, mostly by women, at Bari on 9 Jan, and at some other points.

The state of public security shows little change. There have been no political crimes, but there have been too many hold up by armed and masked men.

There was a danger point when grain stocks were dangerously low, but the timely arrival of the "Robert Howe" saved the situation. The spectacle of shops filled with goods at high prices still continues, but there are clear signs of a decline in price levels, notably in textiles, shoes, firewood and some fruit and vegetables. On the other hand the price of electricity has been raised and there were slight increases in the price of bread and salt.

The serious crisis in industry which is reported from the [illegible] repercussions in the more

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The serious crisis in industry which is reported from the Northwest of Italy, has not the same repercussions in the more agricultural Veneto. Nevertheless it is quite clear that many factories, even the most wealthy are in serious financial difficulties.

Without doubt the fine weather of most of January has been of considerable benefit to the Region. It has reduced the demand of fuel, made electricity rationing more bearable, and has diminished the misery of leaking roofs and leaking shoes.

There is a psychological feeling of relief that the turn of the year has been passed without serious trouble. Spring is ahead with a new harvest and new vegetable crops in sight.

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1-EC
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J.K. DUNLOP, Brigadier
Chief Liaison Officer.

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MILITARY MISSION
OFFICE OF CHIEF LIAISON OFFICER
VENETIA.

Preganziol (Treviso)
5 Feb 1946

REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY 1946

PART II

POLITICAL PARTIES AND PUBLIC OPINION.

The political field is a reflex of the general situation. It is characterised by a waiting policy on the part of most of the parties.

It has been interesting that the parties of the left have not, in general, succumbed to the temptation to provide a rallying point for strong action by the "reduci" and the other complaisant. Both the Communist and the Socialist parties in the Veneto, for the present at least, have definitely set their face against any illegal methods.

An interesting sidelight is provided by the appearance of a Communist button hole badge which carries the usual red flag with hammer and sickle but also carries, below, a thin strip of the red, white and green of the Italian national colours. The wearer on being questioned replied that the presence of the tricolor indicated that they were Italians first and Communist second.

The Partito d'Azione, which today provides the President of the Regional C.L.N., the Rector of the University of Padova and three of the seven Political Prefects is, in current conversation, being written off as finished, by Christian Democrats on one side and the Communists on the other. In fact, during the resistance movement the Partito d'Azione constituted one of the most powerful forces in the Veneto. The future direction of its undoubted power and influence will be of great importance.

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There is ample evidence that the Parties of the right, that is to say to the right of the Christian Democrats, are plucking courage. That can be seen in the rallying of waverers to the Liberals, even after their apparent defeat in the last crisis. The monarchists are talking openly in a manner which would not have been prudent last year. On the other hand it appears doubtful how much weight behind the alleged fascist activities, in view of the arrest of a supposed S..... group at Vicenza.

[illegible]

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There have been gross comments during the month on the situation that some or all of the present political Prefects were to be replaced by career Prefects. No very great political fever seems to be related to the discussion, indeed it is generally felt that several of the present Prefects would be very glad to be relieved of their burden, especially those who wish to stand for election to the 'Costituente'. In fact the only change within the month was the resignation of Dott. Bruno de Angelis, Prefect

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of Bolzano (not now in this Liaison Group).

Some excitement was created at Vicenza by the report that a Dott. Zanza was to be created Questore. This official was considered by the populace to have a bad pro-Fascist record while in Venice. A public demonstration took place on 11 January. The Italian Government thereupon withdrew Zanza's nomination and substituted that of a Conte Rolli Alberto.

Most provinces have announced their intention to hold administrative elections on 26th and 31st March. It is being realised that these elections will, in fact, represent a very real evidence of the respective strength of the parties, and that the result may very likely be sufficient to cause an alteration in the make up of the Government.

3. <u>PUBLIC SAFETY</u>.

In its widest aspect, the position in respect of Public Safety is not unsatisfactory. The hand over of authority to the Italian Government took place in a calm atmosphere. There has been no recrudescence of political violence and no demonstrations of importance which might tend to disturb the public peace.

Carabinieri and Questura agents continue to show increasing enterprise in tackling criminals and effecting arrests and their activities are favourably reported on in the local press.

At Cittadella a Maresciallo of Carabinieri was killed while attempting to arrest armed robbers. His funeral was an impressive public tribute to his work.

On the other side of the picture is the continuance of the plague of armed robberies, usually by masked gangs of from five to ten men. These robberies are completely devoid of political significance. The victims are either small farmers or small shop keepers. One is amazed at the amount of paper money, and valuables such as gold rings, which are reported in connection with these robberies. The peasants' hoarding instinct and his distrust of banks, undoubtedly act as contributing factors to the present outbreak of armed robberies.

It may perhaps be mentioned that, in face of an overwhelming show of force, the victims seldom resist, and shooting very

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4. INDUSTRY

The Veneto is not primarily an industrial Region, and such industries as exist are of a diversified nature, and are well distributed throughout the Region. The crisis which has developed in the large industrial centres of the North and Northwest of Italy, is felt in the Northeast but in a less concentrated form. Industry suffers from lack of raw materials, lack of finance and high production costs. During the month 40,000 tons of coal were imported through Venice. There were still complaints that such raw materials as did arrive were distributed to the detriment of Venice by C.E.A.I.

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Perhaps the most important development has been the realisation, in a mood of despair, that even if the raw material were available, production costs are so high that it is not possible to manufacture at prices which the consumer can pay. Even at the level of the export lire rate of 225 to the dollar, Italian export prices are out of line with world prices. On the other hand purchasing power of the internal market is not large.

It is possible that a false impression has been created by the high prices paid on a relatively narrow black market, based to some extent on stolen Allied stores.

A welcome sign is the appearance of considerable stocks of village industry goods, brushes, baskets, stools, clogs etc., at the local fairs and markets, at quite reasonable price levels.

3. FOOD

The Region has, for practical purposes, exhausted the amassed grain stocks, and as from the month of January, is living on imported wheat. Present stocks and arrivals are sufficient to provide a bread ration till the end of February. The eight Provinces covered by this group require about 20,000 metric tons of wheat monthly to provide the present bread ration.

There has been no distribution of pasta for January but, as partial compensation, there has been a monthly destribution of 500 grammes of rice.

There has been a serious shortage of fats, and it has not been possible to maintain the ration. Sugar has been distributed during the month of January, but stocks are short.

In general the work of the Ispettorato Regionale dell'Alimentazione is carried on in the face of both producers and consumers.

Official prices have not changed much. Bread is sold at prices varying from Lire 17 per kilo in Belluno, Rovigo, and Verona to Lire 20 in Treviso.

Perhaps one of the most depressing features of the whole [illegible] that Allied supplies

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Perhaps one of the most depressing features of the whole position is the blind and unfailing assumption that Allied supplies will continue to roll in. To some extent this is induced by newspaper articles repeating in optimistic tones, statements made by UNRRA and others in Rome, as to the help to be given to Italy.

Factual and realistic statements like those contained in Mr. Harlan Cleveland's speech to the Italian Chamber of Commerce, receive little publicity.

c. GENERAL

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The conduct of troops continues to be excellent and the cordial relations between Allied Military authorities, Allied Commission and Italian Authorities remain friendly. Unfortunately presence of Allied troops in schools and hotels is a result of the military occupation. The school problem is serious at Rectre, Padova and Montebelluna; the hotel problem at Asiago, Abano, Cortina

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Palazzo, Venice and the Lido. The facts of the case are kept before the relative Military Commands, and the situation is indeed slowly improving from the point of view of the civilian needs.

7. U.N.R.R.A.

This Headquarters continues to maintain contact with the local staff of U.N.R.R.A. and to help as far as possible.

J.K. DUNLOP, BRIGADIER
Chief Liaison Officer.

DISTRIBUTION:

H.Q. Allied Commission	- 8
C.L.O. Bolzano	- 1
P.C. Udine	- 2
AMG Venezia Giulia	- 1
C.L.O. Lombardia	- 1
C.L.O. Piemonte	- 1
C.L.O. Liguria	- 1
C.L.O. Emilia	- 1
H.Q. 13 Corps	- 1
" 86 Area	- 1
" No.2 District	- 1
" 6 Armd Division	- 1

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