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MONTHLY REPORTS, L.D. GROUP, PIEMONTE
JAN. - JUNE 1946

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CONFIDENTIAL

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LIAISON GROUP
PIEMONTE REGION

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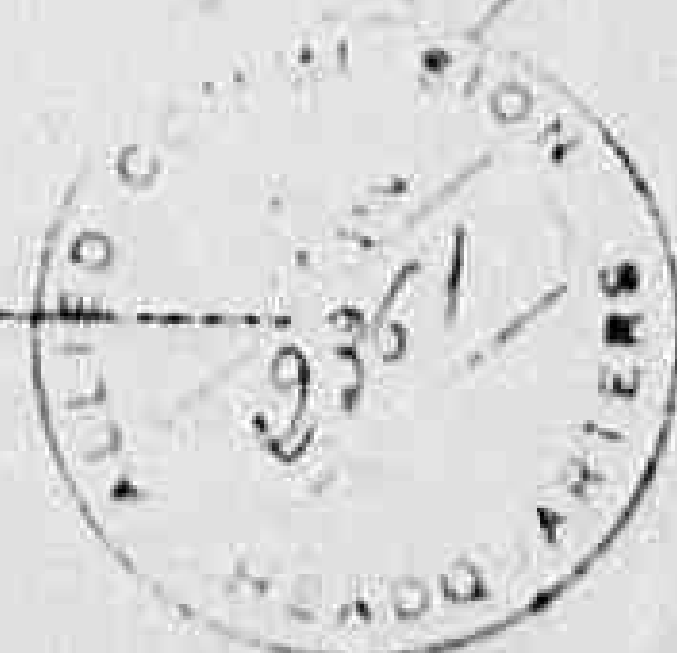
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CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

The political situation after the elections gives the impression of a huge anti-climax. The elections themselves, after the intense and noisy propaganda of the parties, were held in an atmosphere of calm and quasi-religious solemnity. An already reported, it is impossible to speak too highly of the conduct of the elections during the electoral period. No incidents of any kind marred the disciplined behaviour of the people throughout the entire nation and the authorities and the people have every right to congratulate themselves on the demonstration they gave to the world of their political maturity and civic-mindedness.

Following the declaration of the victory of the republic, ceremonies were held in Turin and other Provincial cities to inaugurate the republic. These were well attended by the citizens generally and no untoward incidents occurred. The few days in which the King was apparently undecided as to whether or not he would accept the result of the referendum were the occasion of a certain amount of suspense, particularly in journalistic circles, but his final signature cleared the air.

Political activity has much diminished and the ordinary citizen is now going about his business patiently awaiting the new Heaven and Earth that will be produced by the Republic and the Communist. There seems to exist among some of the more wealthy supporters of the Monarchy and the "right", a feeling of relieved surprise that their properties have not yet been confiscated and this feeling must also extend to some of the less intelligent supporters of the "left" who imagined that a left wing victory would be the signal for an immediate free-for-all to their personal advantage.

The decisions of the Council of Foreign Ministers regarding the fate of Italy, Tunis and Morocco have come as a great blow to the bulk of the population of Piemonte, and more particularly to the pro-Italian occupants of these Countries. The impression left in the minds of the occupants of the two former German colonies during the recent visit of the Allied Commission of Enquiry, was that the Commission generally was in favour of the Italian claims to these territories. The decision of the Ministers has therefore come as a great shock. The immediate reaction is expressed inained surprise that France should have made the comments, followed by an expression of general anti-French sentiments. At a much later date, these sentiments are also expressed against the Allies for

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The decisions of the Council of Foreign Ministers regarding the fate of Briga, Tenda and Luserne have come as a great blow to the bulk of the population of Piemonte, and more particularly to the pro-Italian occupants of these Canavese. The impression left in the minds of the occupants of the two former Canavese following the recent visit of the Allied Commission of Inquiry, was that the Commission generally was in favour of the Italian claims to these territories. The decision of the Ministers has therefore come as a great shock. The immediate reaction is expressed in mixed surprise that France should have made the requests, followed by an expression of general anti-French sentiments. At a much later date, however, sentiments are also expressed against the Allies for agreeing to the French demands.

The inhabitants of these towns have, under the circumstances, so far behaved with great forbearance, continuing activities during these confined to a few cases of wall writing. It is noteworthy that the local police have not given a hint of annoyance in handling this matter, as although they arrested (and subsequently released) five men for writing pro-French slogans at Tenda, no arrests have yet taken place of persons responsible for pro-Italian slogans at Briga, a circumstance which has not failed to arouse comment among the pro-French elements and in the local newspapers. It is said that a number of Italians are preparing to leave the affected areas, fearing French victimization of the pro-Italian population.

as immediate feelings are much less tense, though in sudden, a similar atmosphere exists in the valley. However, manifested in 1946, the present form of any class, there the population there itself remained by the proposed French intervention. A large demonstration of protest was held in the town and spread off in an orderly manner. Some suggestion of a general strike for one hour as a protest against the decision of the Trieste was made in labour circles in Turin but action eventually amounted to a telegram of disapproval being sent to the Government.

There is much more general concern over the attitude of Italy of Trieste, and although no doubt if the town should ultimately be brought under international control, this decision would be accepted as the lesser of two evils; a minority opinion to hand the town over to Tito and the sphere of Russian influence would arouse a storm of indignation and most possibly acts of disorder. Trieste is represented as being an Italian city many Italian towns and undoubtedly there is general apprehension as to its fate.

There has been a considerable improvement in the situation in the Aosta valley, which since the elections has presented an atmosphere of calm. Prior to the elections the Vallois had made a good deal of propaganda, including appeals to the population to spoil their ballot papers by writing "plebiscite" across the form. The appeal received little support, only about 1500 ballot papers being spoiled in this way. The elections in the valley, as elsewhere, were held in peace and calm. It is reported that the movement to annex the valley to France is almost dead and it is noteworthy that the French have made no territorial claims in the valley. It is thought by some that separatists and annexationists may stage demonstrations during the Peace Conference, but in view of the apparent lack of interest across the border this would appear to be unlikely. The President of the Valley, M. MAROL, seems to enjoy much more public confidence than a few months ago and there is no doubt that the population generally are satisfied with the present trend of events in their valley.

The Regional press (with the notable exception of L'Unita) reports fairly objectively on the conduct of affairs in Paris which at the moment is occupying most of the news-space in L'Unita on the other hand is very busy presenting material as being more pro-Italian than the Italians, and the only more reliable publisher of the helpless northern Italian Republic against the voracious, imperialistic, capitalist Anglo-Saxons. It is rather amusing to note the way in which every journalistic who is employed in around any apparent anti-Italian suggestion being attributed to Soviet sources - as mention has appeared, for instance, in L'Unita of the Soviet demand for 100,000,000 dollars to be paid to the U.S.S.R., whilst full publicity is accorded to England's demand for control of the Italian colonies.

There is expressed in all the Regional publications, however, a general feeling of satisfaction at the result of the elections made

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There is expressed in all the Regional publications, however, a lively feeling of betrayal by the Allies at Paris of promises made during the war, of short memory and lack of appreciation of the efforts made by Italy to restore her Fascist past and a general feeling that Italy could not have been treated much worse if she had refrained from co-belligerency.

There have been no signs of neo-fascist activities in this Region and one cannot detect the feeling that such alarms as have been raised during the past few months in this region were merely pro-election propaganda. Organized fascists in this Region in as much as the Dode, although he had a peace treaty signed in 1947, in economic conditions may do much to foster conditions of law and order and a corruption.

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- 5 -

MILANO SA 837

The situation with regard to Public Order remains excellent. No political crimes have been reported and there have been no demonstrations or disorders involving violence. The fact that the elections were able to be held in peaceful conditions despite widespread apprehension on this point is not only a compliment to the good sense of the Italian people but also largely to be placed to the credit of the Prefects and the law enforcing agencies who concerted measures to protect the polling stations etc, etc, and at the same time to preserve the peace. The measure of their success is the result obtained, i.e., not one was reported which necessitated police interference to preserve order.

There appears to have been a slight increase of highway robberies, but nothing of an alarming nature, and there has been also a slight increase in homicides and persons found dead, apparently murdered. Crime generally, however, is on the decrease, and in the most serious crimes reported the perpetrators have been arrested. Police have made many excellent arrests and particularly so in regard to serious crimes committed immediately after the liberation.

The Carabinieri Regali, with their long association with the Royal House have been rather shocked at the republican victory and at first there was much loose talk of resignations on the part of some officers. This, however, mellowed all things, and after the passing of only a few days it has become apparent to all ranks that even a republican administration needs a sound Police Force and that an oath to a King is an oath to the head of the country as representing the nation, whether a monarchy or a republic. In other words, the Carabinieri Regali will continue to perform their traditional duty of preserving the Peace. This is all to the good, as despite a temporary set-back in public confidence during the partisan period, the CAR are fast regaining the esteem in which they were previously held in Italy and it is largely due to this esteem and the confidence which it engenders that so much information is passing from the public to the Carabinieri and enabling them to perform some really first class police work in the detection of long-standing crimes.

During the month, Colonel Diabrovi has arrived in Turin to take command of the Public Safety Division of the Piemonte Region. This heralds the placing of the Public Safety Agents on a quasi-military basis, grouped in Divisions - Brigades - Battalions etc. From the point of view of administrative control, supplies and discipline this is probably not a bad move, particularly as it will bring all auxiliary police, partisan police battalions etc. under a centralized command under the Ministry of the Interior, and (providing the needed cut process is firm enough) will provide the opportunity for the removal of undesirable elements etc, etc.

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The CARA do not have the responsibility of the Agenti with equanimity, as they formed the responsibility of the Corps of the Carabinieri being gradually absorbed into the Agenti organization with the loss of their particular traditions and their privileges.

Much as one, with a British police background, would like to establish a unified Police force in Italy, it is felt that the establishment of such a force should be on a civilian rather than a military basis - but perhaps it is too early to do this in Italy - and the present move may after all prove to be an initial step to a Police Force as we understand it.

No change has occurred in the status of the Italian Police during the month, but it is pleasing to be able to report some very good police work by this despised body. Quite a number of black market cases have been brought to light by their efforts and a lot of useful material sequestered from racketeers.

By order from the Minister of the Interior all casinos unofficially operating have been closed down (or transformed into dancing clubs) by the Questore. This was a long over-due operation, as the number of these gambling houses was becoming a national scandal, with people in high places said to be engaged in protecting them.

III

INFLATION

The cost of living remains about the same with a tendency to increase. Flour and soup ingredients are amongst the articles which have risen in price, whilst butter, dried fruits, oil, milk and wine tend to decrease. The price of frozen fruit, much of which has been damaged this year by rains, remains very high. The scarcity of flour has given rise this month to many small demonstrations, complaining of the scarcity, or the quality, of bread issued on ration. In some cases, owing to shortage of flour, it was found necessary to issue maize flour in substitution for the bread ration. The quality of bread throughout the Region has led to much open grumbling which eventually caused the Association of Bakers to issue a statement to the press saying that the fault was not theirs but was due to the poor quality of adulterated flour issued to them for baking. They added hopefully that they thought that matters would be improved in a few days with the arrival of new grain. (I am informed that since then the quality has improved slightly, but my informant is not too sanguine that this will be maintained). The usual paradox must be reported that in one corner it is still

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III

WHEAT

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Harvesting of rice this year has been retarded and in many instances has been ruined by the torrential rains which have prevailed in the Region. The harvest of maize, however, and also that of rice and grain-turnip products to be excellent. Rice cultivation has been put back by industrial disputes in the rice-fields but these now appear to have been settled and the work of rice-planting is proceeding satisfactorily.

The high cost of wages to agricultural workers has resulted in the employment of the lowest number of labourers possible but this has been offset to a certain extent by a recent assignment of carterants to agriculturalists which has made the use of machines easier. Chemicals, particularly phosphates, are very scarce, but anti-parasitics are more abundant.

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Health of cattle etc., is reported good but with a certain amount of disease amongst poultry. A large increase in milk production is reported.

Hail storms have caused some damage to crops, particularly in the Lunco - Saluzzo area which seems to suffer from these visitations.

Unemployment remains fairly constant throughout the Region although in the Biella (wool and cloth) district factories are working full time and are taking on extra hands.

Coal is still the great need of the factories. Fiat's for instance state that they have all the steel etc. which they need to allow them to go into full production but their great deficiency is coal. At present this firm, which is really the heart of Turin, is running out 40% of its pre-war production. This, considering the damage which has been done to their machinery and their installation generally and which is all in the course of repair, is really a first-class effort, but the Directors stress that the solution for all their difficulties is coal. Much hope is centred in the recent negotiations with Belgium for the importation of Belgian coal and the absorption of unemployed Italian workers into the Belgian coal mines.

There have been a number of short-lived strikes, particularly in Valsesia (cloth goods) and at Ivrea (Olivetti typewriters). The latter dispute was settled in a few days by intervention of Turin, but not a small item in persuading the workers to return to work was a statement by a Director of the firm that he would be quite happy if the strike lasted a year as the firm had too many manufactured machines in stock and he would be happy not to have to pay further wages until some of these goods were disposed of.

There have been demonstrations in the last few days by school, ex-servicemen and ex-partisans in most towns in the Region, protesting against the alleged failure of various enterprises, steel, armament and private firms to assume into industry the quota of this class of person that is required by law. These demonstrations have been held in an orderly manner and their demands are being considered by the various Prefects in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce etc.

A citizens' committee formed some time ago for the purpose of reconstruction work in Turin, and backed by such concerns as Fiat, the Chamber of Commerce etc. has found itself up against obstacles in the shape of needed ministerial approvals for this and that. With important reconstruction work waiting and with the allied fact of labour needing employment, this alleged bureaucratic obstruction is causing much comment in Turin itself.

Manufacturers complain that business is stationary, and that no orders for goods are forthcoming. They have been assuring themselves that things would be better "after the Constituent" - they are now looking forward to "after the Peace Treaty" and it is to be hoped

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IV PUBLIC WORKS & UTILITIES

Bad weather and insufficient supplies of cement have contributed to a slowing up of public works. Roads, however, are showing a local improvement and moving throughout the Region one is struck by the improvement that has been effected in the last few months.

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In June 1945, work on the road tunnel to Turin appears to be proceeding very slowly and one has the impression that the political situation is producing an atmosphere of apathy. Strangely enough, roadwork and bridge building in the Valle Aosta itself is proceeding slowly, three bridges having been completed in the last two weeks.

It is thought that the Gnie Givolo is speeding up all work authorized by AGO, including 159 buildings, 127 jobs on runways and bridges and 33 jobs connected with hydraulic power.

Abundant supplies of water due to heavy rains and melting snow have removed all difficulties in connection with the supply of electric power but large users of electricity are still asked to conserve current as much as possible. The probability of the French control of the power supplies at Ivrea/Torino and at Moncalvo is naturally a nightmare to the industrialists who are sceptical as to how long the proposed clause in the peace treaty (to compel France to continue supplies of current to Italy) will be honored. In the event of war between the two countries it is obvious that France would be able to cripple the industries of Northern Italy overnight.

V

DISPLACED PERSONS

Camp 17 I. I. Turin is functioning well under a new camp director and no further troubles have been reported there.

A committee at Rivoli near Turin has been requisitioned on behalf of UNRRA and is expected to function shortly with accommodation for 11,000 persons.

The removal of a number of Belgian refugees to Belgium by arrangement with their own government has eased the displaced persons problem at Novara.

VI

FOOD & MEDICINE

No serious epidemics reported during the month; a large number of cases of tuberculosis continue to be diagnosed; in the Province of Turin 132 cases. Figures are not available from other provinces but are probably not so high, as the majority of cases reported, as one would expect, in Turin city itself. Malaria and dysentery have been prevalent but not to a serious extent.

VII

TRANSPORT & COMMUNICATIONS

Nothing unusual to report.

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VII

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VIII

LABOR

The recent amnesty announced by the Italian Government has been received with mixed feelings. In some quarters considerable anxiety has been expressed at the release of certain types of prisoners (e.g., a number of men were released from Turin prison who were responsible for "terrorization" of Verucchi during the republican period. At Verucchi this news has been received with much disappointment. Though no incidents of men released from jail being attacked by the populace have been reported in this region, the killing of an ex-republican by a man in another region was reported in the press - apparently with some satisfaction - and this danger cannot be overlooked.

.....

The amnesty, however, is having a good effect in reducing the prison population and the Procurators General state that so far the population has been diminished by about 25%.

More attention is being given to the question of prisoners held without trial and the numbers of these are also being gradually reduced.

I have requested a survey of all prisons in the Region to see whether by any mischance any untried prisoners are still held at the disposition of JAG; so far the result has been negative and the Procurators agree with me that it is extremely unlikely that any will be found in Pinar del Rio. Should such cases be found, however, appropriate action will be taken.

H. C. ...
P. G. ...
Lt. Colonel, CM,
Chief Liaison Officer,
Pinar del Rio.

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

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A.C. GREEN,
Lt. Colonel, G.,
Chief Liaison Officer,
PERS. CTS.

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TO	Init	Date
VP CA Sec	<i>[Signature]</i>	11/15
Public Safety	<i>[Signature]</i>	12/16
Public Health	<i>[Signature]</i>	12/16
Legal	<i>[Signature]</i>	12/16
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Parole	<i>[Signature]</i>	12/16
Dispar	<i>[Signature]</i>	12/16
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ALLIED COMMISSION
LIAISON GROUP
PIEMONTE REGION

- 7 JUN 1946

2 June 1946

FILE : PR/CLO/MR
SUBJECT : Monthly Report - Piemonte Region Liaison Group - April 1946
TO : Chief Commissioner, Allied Commission, APO 794, U.S. Army.

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POLITICAL

1. The national elections, in this region, as in the rest of Italy, are spurring the politically minded to fervent activity. Meetings of all parties have been held during the month and in most cases the speakers have been heard with patience, if not always with enthusiasm. There has, however, been a continuing refusal to afford "free speech" to "Uomo Qualunque" and the clever left wing device of identifying, in the public mind, this movement with Fascism, has so far prevented the movement from making much propaganda. Local printers have even refused to print Turin editions of the daily paper "L'Espresso" and the weekly "Uomo Qualunque" which are printed in Rome.

The finish of the month sees the terms of the Region, particularly the capital, Turin, plastered to high heaven, (literally) with political bills of all parties, including, astonishingly enough, when one recalls the situation of three months ago, an enormous quantity of monarchist propaganda.

The abdication of Victor Emmanuel has undoubtedly caused an extraordinary swing towards the monarchy and the ex-Lord has become the personal victim, sacrificed to redress the faults of the House of Savoy. The visit of the King Umberto II to Turin, during the month, made a strong appeal to the sentiments of loyalist Italians who gathered outside the royal palace and discussed the royal presence, in some cases, with tear-laden eyes. There has been, in the past few weeks, an enormous swing in popular opinion towards the monarchy and the last minute proclamation, offering another referendum after the establishment of the Constituent, a very clever stroke, has probably in itself been responsible for attracting many wavering from the republic to the monarchy. It is doubtful, however, whether this transference of votes will be sufficient to effect the result of the referendum and to prevent another flight into Bay of Pigs.

The situation in the border towns of Ticino and Aosta remains stationary, and the inhabitants a little tired of waiting for a decision as to their future status and becoming somewhat cynical; seeing pamphlets used as points in the political negotiations of both France and Italy (not to mention those of the "Rassemblement")

The Aosta valley has been considerably quieter during the month and there has been no repetition of the violence of two months ago. The energetic measures taken by the CO.M. to round up the people responsible evidently had a salutary effect on the Vallaisian trouble makers.

Measures of French origin in Annecy have caused a certain perturbation in the Val de Saas and strong demonstrations of protest have been staged in Saas itself. There has, however, been no disorder and the situation is satisfactorily quiet.

Despite the activity of the politically minded and the fact that the Piemontesi will undoubtedly go to the polls in large numbers, both for the referendum and the Constituent, the mass of the population are much more concerned with the cost of living and the immediate day-to-day problems than they are with politics, and it is by no means unusual to hear the phrase, "Basta in politica; lavoriamo!"

parties, including, astonishingly enough, when the results of the situation of these parties are, an enormous quantity of material has been collected.

The abdication of Victor Emmanuel has undoubtedly caused an extraordinary swing towards the monarchy and the ex-Liaison has become the principal victim, sacrificed to redeem the faults of the House of Savoia. The visit of the King Umberto II to Turin, during the week, made a strong appeal to the sentiments of loyalist Italians who gathered outside the royal palace and displayed the royal presence, in a case, with tear-laden eyes. There has been, in the past few weeks, an enormous swing in popular opinion towards the monarchy and the last minute proclamation, offering another referendum after the establishment of the Constitution, a very clever stroke, has probably in itself been responsible for attracting many wavering from the republic to the monarchy. It is doubtful, however, whether this transference of votes will be sufficient to effect the result of the referendum, and to prevent another flight into Bay of Biscay.

The situation in the border towns of Torino and Aosta remains stationary, with the inhabitants a little tired of waiting for a decision as to their future status and becoming somewhat cynical; seeing themselves used as pawns in the political and negotiations of both France and Italy (not to mention those of the "Pope" Curia).

The Aosta valley has been considerably quieter during the month and there has been no repetition of the violence of two months ago. The energetic measures taken by the O.C.M. to round up the people responsible evidently had a salutary effect on the Vallée d'Aoste trouble makers.

Reports of French claims on unoccupied lands have caused a certain perturbation in the Val d'Aoste and strong demonstrations of protest have been staged in Bugey itself. There have, however, been no disorders and the situation is satisfactorily quiet.

Despite the activity of the politically minded and the fact that the Piedmont will undoubtedly go to the polls in large numbers, both for the referendum and the Constitution, the mass of the population are much more concerned with the cost of living and the fascists day-to-day problems than they are with politics, and it is by no means unusual to hear the phrase, "Resta la politica; lavoriamo!".

Reports from Paris, as to the intentions of the Allies to live up to the Italian Fleet and to help Italy of her colonies, were naturally the cause of deep concern particularly to the journalists; but one gathers the impression that, after twenty years of Fascism and four years of war, the people as a whole, are much more ready to say with Voltaire "il faut que nous cultivions nos jardins" than they are to disturb themselves as to international politics.

There have been no signs of neo-fascist activities. A number of young men of Fascist origin have been arrested during the month but at present it seems very improbable that any definite charge will be forthcoming against them. All parties have pledged themselves to conduct the forthcoming elections with dignity and to respect the rights of free speech and free, independent voting. They have pledged themselves to preserve order in the post electoral period and to accept the verdict of the polls. The indications are that there will be no organized trouble in Piemonte again but, if disorder does arise, it may be expected to come from un-disciplined individuals of the right rather than from the left. Both extremes of the

-2-

political balance express themselves as representative of violence from members of the opposite extreme, but, apart from extremes (nothing new in Italy) there appears to be no grounds to justify such apprehension.

2. Local Government.- The lately elected local municipal officials are settling down to work; many of them for the first time realizing that the responsibilities of office are seen in a different light when in office than when observing on the outside. Nevertheless, they appear to be giving a good account of themselves and they have certainly the confidence and good will of the public that elected them. There have been few criticisms of municipal officials lately and it is obvious that they are working seriously and apparently giving satisfaction.

II PUBLIC SAFETY

1. The situation with regard to public safety continues to improve. It is again pleasing to be able to report the absence of political crime during the month and no disorders or demonstrations involving violence. There has been, lately, a reappearance of highway robberies, but these, are isolated cases and by no means to be compared with the bad situation prevailing a few months back. Police have taken, and are taking energetic measures to deal with these and other crimes and some very excellent and satisfying arrests have been made. Considerable improvement has thereby been obtained in the public confidence in the police generally.

Through A.S.I.A., a considerable improvement has been effected in Carabinieri equipment and O.S.M. are now comparatively well-off for transport and supplies generally. In some districts the distribution of materials has not been so free as in others and some groups are still sadly lacking transport and uniforms. No doubt this will be rectified in time. There is still a serious lack of boots, which in some districts, even for example, are in a pitiful state. It is understood that this boot shortage is not peculiar to the O.S.M. but is true of the whole Italian army. The morale of O.S.M. maintains a steady improvement. It is regretted, however, that such cannot be said of the Agents of Public Security, whose morale is very low. The overall cause is the poor economic conditions under which they are serving. Deprived of their former army rations, poorly paid and badly clothed and housed, it is not surprising that some of these agents are tempted to temptations which come their way - in fact, the surprising thing is that so many remain honest. The recent declaration by the Ministry of the Interior as to settled conditions for the auxiliary police has had a heartening effect on the auxiliaries but both regular and auxiliary police desperately need greatly improved conditions before they can be relied on to perform their duties with enthusiasm.

If the above is true of the Agenti di Pubblica Sicurezza, it is even more true of the local Polizia Municipale. The morale of this body has almost reached rock bottom. Their wages are so low, threats of a strike brought an Inspector pushing us from Rome to report on their conditions and they were assured that their case would be considered by the Council of Ministers which would decide in their future - as to whether they would remain as police under the Ministry of the Interior,

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If the above is true of the Agenti di Pubblica Sicurezza, it is even more true of the *Polizia Provinciale*. The morale of this body has about reached rock bottom. Four months or so ago, threats of a strike brought an Inspector rushing up from Rome to report on their conditions and they were assured that their case would be considered by the Council of Ministers which would decide on their future, as to whether they would remain as police under the Ministry of the Interior, or as railway guards under the Ministry of Transport or Communications. Since then, nothing. It is true that the Railway Police are largely a self constituted body which replaced by force the Fascist Railway Militia. The fact remains that many of those men fought with the partisans and joined the Railway Police from a sense of duty, (and also it must be admitted with an eye to their own future). Their experience as a police body was, however, recognized and they have been, and are being paid from Government funds. Now, after being in existence for one year, they are being ignored and are made to feel they are unwanted outcasts. Is it to be wondered at that they are losing morale? Surely, undoubtedly, distracted and ignored, with no certain hopes for the future; under these circumstances, no man can be expected to give of his best and the "Railway Police" are a much weaker than an asset to public safety. The fault is not theirs, the Council of Ministers, presently waiting to see which way the electoral cat jumps, is to blame.

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III

EXHIBIT

i. The cost of living remains approximately the same with a slight decrease in the price of bread, eggs, flour and vegetables in the more agricultural provinces. The price of fruit remains very high and is the cause of unfavorable comments.

The rationed bread is said to be of a very poor quality but, despite regulations and restrictions, white bread can be freely bought and sold - especially in the small towns.

Recent heavy rains have retarded the harvesting of hay, delayed the ripening of corn and grain and caused considerable damage to fruit. It is anticipated that the harvest will be about a month later than in normal years, this month of May having been the wettest May in memory. Chemical fertilizers have become more plentiful but are said to have arrived two months too late.

Some delay has been caused in rice cultivation - so vital in parts of this Region - by wage disputes among the agriculturists and the rice workers. After prolonged discussions, wage rates have now been settled and it is hoped that the work in the fields can now go ahead.

An agricultural sensation was created by an enterprising journalist who covered a plague of locusts in the Vercelli district. This provided a two days wonder in the local press, but investigation revealed that the grasshoppers were not of the species that has been ravaging Sicily and more, in fact, an indigenous species well known in the locality and in no greater numbers than normally.

There is still an increasing amount of unemployment. Whilst the recent labour agreement to postpone the dismissal of workers has undoubtedly found favour amongst the workers, industrialists complain bitterly regarding this agreement, and the continued demands of the workers for increased wages. The workers, on the other hand, state that increased wages have been more than absorbed by the increased cost of living.

A certain amount of goods are beginning to be exported, notably wine and liquors, plastic utility goods and some oil products. The home market is, however, practically stationary and factories and shops remain full of unsold articles awaiting purchasers. It is possible, however, to discern the beginnings of movement and a stable government which enjoys public confidence should do much to improve the economic situation.

IV

PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES

i. The heavy rains have been responsible for retarding public works throughout the Region, flooded rivers in some parts carrying away bridges and interfering with road movement. Current is now beginning to be more freely available and, although in amounts below requirements, is enabling certain works to be carried out, transport and distribution of cement is one of the principal difficulties.

In the zone of Brianza and S. Milanese, work has commenced on rebuilding of the bridge over the Reda River, which will cost L.12,770,000.

Work on bridges and other projects of a like nature is proceeding slowly and one does not see the arrival of men employed in these projects that one would expect to see. The official response to this is that, in a more mechanized age, one

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In the case of Briga and S. Dolomazio di Tenda, work has commenced on rebuilding of the bridge over the Roja River, which will cost L.10,770,000.

Work on bridges and other projects of a like nature is proceeding slowly and one does not see the arrival of men employed in these projects that one would expect to see. The official response to this is that, in a more mechanised age, one cannot employ unskilled labour on such work which needs skilled artisans and only a few labourers, which is undoubtedly true.

The abundance of water has relieved all anxiety in the hydro-electric installations, which are functioning at full speed. In certain districts, however, current is still being restricted during certain hours, chiefly to the larger industrial firms. As the lack of rain continues, together with other circumstances, is hampering production in these concerns, this restriction of current is not unwelcome.

V

DISARMED PERSONS

1. The crop IT 17 - at Turin - has been taken over for Allied Commission during the month, by UNRRA, and the transfer has not caused any local problems. No reports have been received of any further disturbances at this crop which, while not waiting to full capacity, is still fulfilling a useful purpose.

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PUBLIC HEALTH

1. No serious epidemics have been reported, in the Region, during the month, but some anxiety is expressed by the authorities regarding the increasing incidence of diseases arising from malnutrition, and particularly tuberculosis. This is noticeable amongst returning prisoners from Germany etc.

These diseases, however, are not confined to Rodolci but are manifesting themselves among, for instance, the *Agenti di Pubblica Sicurezza*, who have had to be on duty in all weather undressed and badly clothed. Some anxiety is expressed that the situation will worsen as the goes on and that it will be found that the privations of war made heavy inroads on the disease resistance capacity of a large proportion of the population.

VII

TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

1. There has been considerable grumbling about the refusal of *UNRRA* to accede to the abolition of circulation permits and the unrestricted use of motor vehicles. All papers have, however, published *L. Keany's* statements as to reasons why *UNRRA* proposals can not be accepted and, having no answer, the answers have had to accept in silence. There is obviously still much misuse of petrol etc., and a ready source which is feeding the black market. A visit to the auto-stands on any day when an important football match is scheduled in Turin, is an eye-opener - as literally hundreds of vehicles crowd in and drive off, to the 150 miles return journey to and from the match. Motorists using unlicensed vehicles, when questioned as to how they obtain petrol rations, state, quite frankly, that they don't need rations, they can buy all the petrol they need on the "open" market. It is impossible to resist the conclusion that if no more petrol were to be officially imported into Italy for the next six months, motor cars would still be used for pleasure trips.

Telegraph and telephone services are rapidly improving in the facilities offered - the quickest means of communication with London now being through the "Italcable" service.

VIII

LEGAL

1. No improvement can be yet reported in the pace of legal process in this Region where there are numbers of prisoners in the jails who have been awaiting trial for six months or more. But for the explanation that Italians accept the fact of being imprisoned without trial as a normal phase of modern life, it is impossible to understand the complacency with which such a system is endured. Possibly such complacency is also engendered by reason of the fact that the normal prison resident is from moneyless class and therefore "non-important".

The official answer to this state of things is that owing to circumstances, there is a great shortage of judges and delay is inevitable. A satisfying answer so long as one is on the right side of the bar.

The obvious solution is the appointment of emergency legal commissions to visit each prison and enquire on the spot as to the reasons for the detention of each prisoner, with power to discharge those against whom there is no serious charge and those who have already been detained for a period longer than that which would be awarded as punishment for their offence.

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F.C. GREEN
Lt. Colonel - GL
Chief Liaison Officer,
PILASTY.

c.A.-lee

2/13.28/48

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ALLIED COMMISSION
LIAISON GROUP
PIEMONTE REGION

- 9 MAG 1948

4 May 1948

FILE : FR/CLO/AR

SUBJECT : Monthly Report - Piemonte Liaison Group - April 1948

TO : Chief Commissioner, Allied Commission, APO 784, U.S. Army

DISTRIBUTION:

Hq Allied Commission
Hq. No 2 District
59 Area
O.C. 75 Med Regt. R.A.
C.L.O. Lombardia
C.L.O. Liguria
C.L.O. Emilia
C.L.O. Venezia
U.S. Consul, Turin
L.O. Penda
B.L.U. Turin
File
British Consul

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E.C. DIST. 7 May

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c.A.-lee
B.P.B.

ALLIED COMMISSION
LIAISON GROUP
PIEMONTE REGION

- 9 MAY 1946

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CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

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CONFIDENTIALPOLITICAL

1. Following the local elections the newspapers of this Region took up the subject of the bread rationing and kept the subject in the limelight until it was announced that no cut in the ration would be made as yet. Communist papers have kept up their propaganda against what is termed the Exploitation of Italy by the Allies. That some success is gained by these articles is evidenced by the trend of conversations heard in the streets and other public places. It looks as though the Left Wing elements have been very busy defacing the posters put up by the Monarchist and Uomo Qualunque groups. The Monarchists' morale seems to be at a low ebb, they complain of the lack of funds provided to carry on their pro-oligarchion propaganda. The Turin Socialists are against union with the Communists and were quick to state that Prof. LUSI's visit to this country was primarily to boost the anti-fusionist trend. The Republican Democratic Movement recently opened local headquarters in Turin. UMBERTO BOSCHIO, Minister of War, appeared in this area on 14 April 1946 and the gist of his speeches was the present political situation and the significance of the Union e Democrazia Nazionale. It seems that C.V.S. (Corpo Volontari Savoia) has inherited from preceding parties, such as Qualunque and SAM, the blame for the present discontent. It appears that the Turin Quastore discovered that the perpetrators of some armed robberies were members of C.V.S., the head of the group, his secretary and a member of two, found to be in illegal possession of arms, were arrested. In spite of the left-winger journalists who made capital of the incident, no great importance is attached to the group. Quite a stir was caused by the appearance of a book advertised under the title "UN IN-GLISE DIFENDE MUSSOLINI", the fourth edition was on sale at last account, but examination of the books reveals it to be just a translation of Michael Foot's "TRIAL OF MUSSOLINI". The local book sellers simply designed a title that would be a sales booster, and the project seems to have met with considerable success. Several arrests were made following the demonstration in AOSTA, 26 March 1946 but at the present things seem to be fairly quiet. There is a rumor that the President of Val D'Aosta will endeavor to resign. All along the Italian-French Border everything is rather quiet. However, at LANSLETHUNG, there recently appeared a Colonel of the French Gendarmerie, who during the course of his visit, issued orders that it was absolutely prohibited for Italian citizens to enter France without a complete set of papers visited by the proper French authorities. This suggests that the French may have been alarmed by the disclosure that the people of the areas involved are attempting to settle international questions amongst themselves, and are now taking steps to prevent complete liaison. On or about the 30 April 1946 came a rumor to the effect that an International Group, or Commission, composed of American, British, Russian and French was to meet an Italian delegation in Tenda to look over the situation. The reported stealing of Mussolini's body from its grave gave rise to many newspaper stories of various hues.

The big demonstration on 25 April 1946 was quiet. At least 50,000 people took part in the celebration in Turin City. Other demonstrations have taken place without incidents of a serious nature.

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The big demonstration on 26 April 1946 was quiet. At least 50,000 people took part in the celebration in Turin City. Other demonstrations have taken place without incidents of a serious nature.

2. Local government still carries on in a satisfactory manner. The six prefects of the Region are all career men. (Does not include the President of the Autonomy in Aosta). Career Questori are also being brought in when available. The changes in the offices of the Sindaco are like the ever shifting sands of the sea. (Very likely due, to a large extent, to the fact that theirs is an unpaid and very thankless job; very fertile fields wherein little seeds of greed and graft sprout wax fat and hoisty).

3. The last of the local elections, for the timebeing, were held on 7 April 1946. The Turin local is scheduled to come up during June, according to best information available. There are 1,021 communes in Piemonte, according to our figures, and elections have been held in 803 of them, leaving 213 for the future. While some rumors were heard of attempts to influence voters illegally, as well as cases of persons being illegally denied the right of franchise, not one concrete case was uncovered to the best of our knowledge. Neither did any incidents of a serious nature occur during the actual elections, on the contrary, everything seems to have gone off in good holiday style and spirit. While some observations were made on the use of transportation during the elections little was discovered to denote the wide illegal use of vehicles for that purpose. In all, the elections in the Region were conducted in a manner as to reflect credit on the responsible authorities and the voters. Whether the recent elections have reflected just what may be expected in the future ones is not known, but indications are not such as to indicate that those of the future will be any less animated.

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1. The situation regarding public safety has shown a considerable improvement during this month. There have been no crimes of a political nature and no political disorders or demonstrations involving violence. The police in general and the Carabinieri in particular, continue to improve and have effected some useful arrests. Highway robberies have practically ceased - probably attributable in part to lighter evenings but due also to the fact that the gangs have nearly all been broken up by police action. There are still reported a number of crimes, "in the house", burglaries and shop-breakings, but these also appear to be diminishing.

The morale of CCRR is rising rapidly, with transport now beginning to be made available and also supplies of automatic weapons which have been received and distributed. It is comforting to erstwhile A.M.G. Public Safety Officers to see that, at last, M.M.I.A. have realised the importance of the CCRR and have commenced to make the necessary supplies available to them. Better late than never!

Political activity on the international boundaries is still lively, but there has been no recurrence of disturbances in the Aosta Valley nor any incidents on the border in general.

The prison situation since the redistribution of prison population has quietened considerably, and since the recent troubles in neighbouring Regions the officials generally have apparently decided on a stronger policy in the future. In all a quiet month.

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III

ECONOMICS

1. Prices for rationed commodities showed very little variation from the March figures, but the monthly cost of items obtained in the "free" market showed an upward trend, especially in Asti and Ivrea Provinces. A study of the daily requirements for a family reveals that more than half, about 50%, of the caloric requirements have to come from other than rationed commodities. Stores continue to be well stocked and those with the necessary means have little difficulty in "getting by".

2. Supplies of grain and flour continue to arrive at Genoa and are being distributed throughout the Region, in all cases the grain goes to the mills immediately to be milled into flour. Normal consumers did not get any rationed sugar in April. The much heralded cut in the bread ration did not take place, much to the

satisfaction of all concerned.

3. Unemployment figures, made available to this office, showed that as of 30th April 1946, there were slight increases in all of the Provinces but two, Aosta and Turin. In Aosta the numbers decreased at least one-half from the 20 March 1946 figures, while in Turin there was a forty percent increase, part of which includes the 3,000 Germans shown for Aosta. The latest figures given show the present number of unemployed as being 75,739. No major labor troubles came up during the period of this report. There were, however, the usual individual and collective cases, the latter being settled and a larger proportion of the individual cases adjusted.

4. The prime needs of the manufacturers are well known, coal and raw materials. The large Fiat works are at present employing about 50,000 people, and the numerous smaller firms producing parts elsewhere for Fiat employ an additional like number. This plant is at present producing approximately 20% of its full capacity, namely about 40 trucks and passenger cars per day. Tires have recently been made available and the vehicles are now being turned out equipped with them. A large Industrial Exhibition was opened the first part of April, where everything from coffee grinders to farm tractors are on display. It is stated that this Industrial Exhibition is to be made permanent. A Building Exhibition is being planned for opening in September. And a Spring Fashion Fair is scheduled from 12 to 28 May 1946. Signs of industrial rehabilitation are easy and bright.

5. Heavy rainfall in April was generally very beneficial. Weeding of wheat, preparations for the sowing of corn, hemp, potatoes and oats were begun and the planting of sorghum, vines and fruit trees was completed. Phosphate, gasolized fertilizers and spray materials are still scarce. The superphosphate factory at Novara (capacity 15,000 qts/month) has now started production and another at Poesano can start as soon as phosphate rock from Africa is available. A report has just come in stating that there is a ship at Genoa with 4,000 tons of sodium nitrate for fertilizer. There is a continued shortage of sulphurous products, except that found on the black market at very stiff prices. Corns are planted well but owing to the meager fertilization of the soil for the past five years, its very optimistic to predict a bumper crop. New trees are infested with insect and fungicide treatments. Cattle are reported to be in very good condition, but some cases of hoof and mouth diseases are also reported.

IV

RAILROADS AND UTILITIES

1. The shortage of cement is blamed for retarding the rebuilding of bridges. Repairs to buildings are being done to the limit of supplies and other matters cropping up to hinder the progress. The second melting and snow and the spring rains caused the tunnel at Tenda to be closed for two or three days, and that course retarded the work of rebuilding. The hydroelectric plants are all well supplied with power as the result of the melting of the snow and the spring rains. The situation is, however, before the end of the year, in a very difficult position.

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V

DISSENTING PERSONS

1. The Camp mounted in Turin is not used to full capacity, for obvious reasons and still operating along the lines that made it one of the best in the world a few days. One or two jobs have been taken by some of the local press at the conduct of

the Jewish people in residence there, but the articles marked of the anti propaganda of a well known variety. Those in charge have had the situation in hand and in mind all along. There is nothing of a more serious nature known at the time of this report.

VI

PUBLIC HEALTH

1. The local medical authorities report that the condition of health is good and not far from what has been normally experienced. The y report that there are no epidemics of a serious nature prevalent.

VII

TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

1. During the month the Ministry of Transport abolished the TRIP TICKET formerly required for all transport haulers, and now POL is distributed twice per month according to the load capacity of the truck, etc. Many of the truck owners do not like the new system and claim that they have to go to the black market in order to make daily trips, and complain that owners who are not busy all of the time can take allotted p.o.l. and sell it on the black market. Just how the new system will eventually work out remains to be seen. In spite of the pro and con statements it seems to us that there is ample p.o.l. available. (Any system that does not have any ultimate outlets into the black market will be a novelty, indeed).

2. The projects on reestablishing telegraph and telephone facilities continue to make some progress. At the moment the old question of new equipment seems to be the bugaboo. The shortage of coal is blamed as the reason for some of the rail facilities not being operated to greater capacity.

VIII

LEGAL AND EDUCATION

1. Nothing new to report.

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Colonel, Inf

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Chief Liaison Officer,
PIEDMONTE

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ALLIED COMMISSION
LIAISON GROUP
PIEMONTE REGION

File : IR/CLO/MR
Subject : Monthly report - Piemonte Liaison Group - March 1945
To : Chief Commissioner, Allied Commissioner, APO 394;
U.S. Army.

2 April 1945.

POLITICAL

1. The political situation in Piemonte Region, except for the French-Italian views on parts of two provinces, is not entirely unique. The problems are about equal to those of the remainder of the mainland. On the 26 March there was a demonstration in Aosta clamoring for independence, this fracas was staged by what are thought to have been "hired hands" and was settled before anything very serious developed. However, the presence of newspaper and photographers from France would indicate that prior plans had been made and disseminated, and that the incident could have political significance. Certain elements in the Region enjoy freedom of the press by publishing some subtle and other more pointed articles about Allied occupation, the cost to Italy and the time being taken to form some sort of peace. At worst, these articles are not too hostile towards the Allies. All party activities have been generally quiet and orderly during the period covered by this report.

2. Local Government is functioning very well, according to local standards, and Italian ability seems to be equal to the task. There are constant changes in officials, due to as many causes and reasons. The recent elections have created some local changes, as was expected.

3. Elections have been conducted in an orderly manner and without undue incidents. Considerable interest has been noted, but it is not believed that the local elections have aroused the interest and activities that the provincial and National elections will create. In the larger elections, the communication facilities, especially the radio, and the newspapers, will certainly allow for greater party activity on a much larger scale, thus creating more interest and stirring up more

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II PUBLIC SAFETY

1. The month of March has been exceptionally quiet in this Region from the Public Safety viewpoint. The position with regard to crime has definitely improved and police have made some very praiseworthy arrests for serious crimes which have occurred in recent months. It is possible to report a considerable improvement in Carabinieri morale and performance of duties with a corresponding increase in the esteem of the general public.

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2. Prison conditions at Turin have given the Authorities considerable cause for thought, no less than three large-scale attempts at jail break having occurred during the month. Reports on these cases have already been submitted to Public Safety Sub-Commission. In each case, assistance by Italian troops and the CC.PA., was forthcoming and no escapes actually occurred. The immediate cause of the trouble was the bad physical conditions in a desperately over-crowded jail. Considerable numbers of prisoners have since been transferred to other jail and the position at Turin has been thereby temporarily improved.
3. An ugly demonstration occurred in Aosta Province on the 26th instant, when about 1500 demonstrators assembled outside the Palace of the President of the Council, demanding a plebiscite on the status of the Valley of Aosta. Numbers of the demonstrators assembled outside the palace and handled the President, Dr. Chabod, rather severely. A separate report of this incident has also been sent to Public Safety Sub-Commission. A disturbing feature of the occurrence was that it was undoubtedly organized from across the French frontier and French journalists and photographers had illegally entered Italy the previous evening to witness the demonstration. Apart from this incident, which was rather magnified by the local press, there have been no cases of grave mob disorder. A few demonstrations by women in connection with grievances about the food situation have occurred, in some provinces, but there have been no cases of a serious nature.
4. The municipal elections, so far, held, have all passed off peacefully and have been conducted admirably by all concerned. Considerable police arrangements for surveillance and the maintenance of public order had been made but not a single instance has been reported of police intervention.

III ECONOMICS

1. Cost of living is high, as it is elsewhere throughout the country, but prices seem to be striking a level somewhere between regulated and black-market prices. In places observed, stores seem to be well stocked with more than just bare necessities. A recent rise in the price of milk, butter and cheese, during the past month or so, may be the result of competitive bidding by wholesalers and dealers going to the producers. It is believed that the situation of Spring will have

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2. Food supplies of grain and granoturco on hand, in this Region, at the beginning of March, were low. Fortunately, over three thousand tons of grain arrived through the Genoa

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part during the first week. Shipments of flour and grain from five other provinces to Piemonte, under National Plan No. 2, were fairly normal during month. Reserve stocks are being used to tide the bread ration over until new shipments reach Genoa. There has been talk of reducing the present 200 gram bread ration, this would be unfortunate and it is hoped that the reduction will not have to be made.

3. A nationally organized general strike of all workers except state employees and transport workers took place throughout the region on 14 March, but the demonstration was quiet - no incidents of serious nature. The newspaper employees received a salary raise of from 10 to 35 percent, recently, but no other salary increases came to light. The Italian Labor officials seem to have done very well in handling individual and collective disputes recently. It is estimated that there are about 86,776 unemployed in Piemonte at this time. About 19,245 were added to the list in March.

4. Most agricultural work had to be suspended during the early part of March because of melting snow and heavy rainfall, however, this work has since been resumed and there is a bright outlook for the cereal crops, fruit and vegetables and meadows. The sowing of oats, planting potatoes and the pruning of vines and fruit trees have all been started. The condition of cattle generally is thought to be good. There is a shortage of fertilizers, spray materials, machine fuel and lubricants. The fuel allowances for agricultural purposes has recently been reduced.

IV PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES

1. Public works continue to make progress. One of the big projects is the road tunnel under the Colle di Tenda, Province of Cuneo. It is estimated that another three months will be required to have this open for road traffic.
2. The melting of the snow has refilled the mountain basins supplying hydro-electric generator stations and the daily output can be maintained, or increased somewhat, for three or four months without difficulty.

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V DISPLACED PERSONS

No special problems encountered during period covered.

VI PUBLIC HEALTH

Generally good with nothing special to report.

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VII

TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

1. On 31 March 1946, the Italian Ministry of Transport ordered the abolishment of the trip tickets required for trucks, and new POU will be distributed according to the capacity of the vehicles, rather than by cargo miles as was done previously. This action may make it easier for IOI to find its way to the Black market. (Your reporter has been struck by the lack of private transport seen on the streets and highways up here, as compared to what is seen farther south).

2. Piemonte Region seems to lag in getting its former telegraph offices connected and going. Otherwise, things seem to be gradually improving.

3. Many complaints are heard from those Italians who receive packages of food-stuff, clothing, etc., via Italian mail, that their packages have been opened and trifled by the time they are delivered. This has generally been the case with packages arriving from abroad.

VIII

LEGAL AND EDUCATION

1. The courts are proceeding slowly and the delay in getting cases before the courts is blamed on the lack of proper personnel.

John S. Arnold

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Distribution:

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Distribution:

Hq Allied Commission	(12)
Hq. No. 2 District	(3)
59 Area	(3)
O.C. 75 Mtd. Regt. R.A.	(3)
C.L.O. Lombardia	(3)
C.L.O. Liguria	(3)
C.L.O. Emilia	(3)
C.L.O. Venezia	(3)
U.S. Consul, Turin	(2)
British Consul, Turin	(2)
L.O. Tonda	(1)
B.L.U. Turin	(2)
Pilo	(3)

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

T	Ind	Date
VP CA Sec		11/14
Public Safety		11/14
Public Health		11/14
Legal		11/14
Local Govt		11/14
State		11/14
Disport	11/14	11/14
Education	11/14	11/14
NSA & A	11/14	11/14
Ch. Sec	11/14	11/14

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ALLIED COMMISSION
LIAISON GROUP
PILCHER REGION

11870 1948

- 4 MAR 1948

File : PR/CIC/MR

Subject : Monthly Report - February 1948.

To : HEADQUARTERS, ALLIED COMMISSION

PART I

Progress has been noted, in self-reliance, on the part of Italian Agencies, governmental and otherwise. Considerable political activity is seen, with the party press active in support of its program. Allegations are freely made that left wing groups are purchasing and securing arms, for use at election time, particularly in the city of Torino and the Provinces of Novara and Verceil.

Demonstrations on a large scale are threatened in Asti Province against the substitution of the Prefect by the Vice-Prefect of Turin who is alleged to have had Republican antecedents.

Electoral lists are being completed satisfactorily.

At the moment, the food situation is reasonably good, except for pasta, rice, and fats. But a crisis is anticipated by the middle of March unless imports of grain arrive.

The electrical power shortage still causes concern. Enforcement of the economies has made some progress.

A shortage of live stock exists and wheat amassing is almost at a stand still.

Labor and capital have made some progress toward working together, harmoniously, for the common interest.

Public safety is generally fair, with three poli-

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Labor and capital have made some progress toward working together, harmoniously, for the common interest.

Public Safety is generally fair, with three political murders at Pinerolo, in Torino Province and one at Novara. The Carabinieri do not show much initiative to proceed against radical groups. Espionage among the Carabinieri has affected morale.

C. C. Gentry 4/1/44



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POLITICAL REACTIONS

A.

Italian agencies, governmental and otherwise are making better use of their own normal Italian channels of communication. A tendency in the early days of the transition after the turnover, to consider the Liaison Groups as successors to A.M.G. is disappearing. The result is that local governments are standing on their own feet and doing their job.

There has been much criticism of certain units of the Cremona Division on the part of the left wing Press, for alleged activity against some radical officers and men. The Division itself, stands high as an efficient military unit.

Rumors continue that left wing groups are purchasing and securing arms, to be available at election time. These rumors are particularly present in Torino City and the provinces of Novara and Verucelli.

A considerable agitation exists in Asti Province against the substitution of the Prefect by the Vice-Prefect of Turin who is alleged to have Republican antecedents. Demonstrations are threatened on a large scale.

B. LOCAL GOVERNMENT

In general, the units of local government, the Provinces and Communes are operating reasonably well. It is believed that the officials, themselves, render more optimistic reports, than local interested witnesses would report. The Italian official usually states "everything tranquil," underneath there is a considerable play of politics.

In Novara and Verucelli, left wing elements are active and often prevent the Carabinieri from taking an aggressive stand.

Some changes in Prefects and Questors are in prospect.

Election lists are being completed, without much serious complaint. Elections will begin in March.

The French border is quiet, although some propaganda from French newspapers and sympathizers continues.

C. ECONOMIC RESOURCES

1. Food.

On the basis of 200 grams bread ration, with one day a week substituting polenta, the Provinces are provided for as follows:

Alessandria through 3 March

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Aosta	"	3 "
Asti	"	17 "
Cuneo	"	10 "
Novara	"	9 "
Torino	"	9 "
Verucchi	"	9 "

With expected arrivals of imported grain and flour the situation is satisfactory.

Rats are in short supply or non-existent in every province. No pasta ration has been possible for February during the month because of the failure of the rice supply.

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Unless the SS Benaville, which has been diverted to Loughorn, is replaced by another wheat ship for Piemonte, the Federazione states the bread situation will become serious by the middle of March.

2. Commerce.

It is too early to note an improvement in exports, attendant upon the devaluation of the lira, for export and import purposes. However, a keen interest exists in this area, with its large inventories of manufactured textiles and its industrial capacity. Italy, itself, is an available market but, what amounts to a buyers' strike, is still in effect. Export will not or cannot buy at present prices.

3. Industry.

Fiat is in operation, although handicapped by lack of fuel and power. Inventories of manufactured textiles are high and the problem of marketing what is on hand, without sacrificing profit, is a real one.

The electric power shortage is still a cause of concern. Turin has not applied economy measures as wholeheartedly as some other areas, but progress has been noted. As of February 1, 1948 a 15% decrease over November 1945 was reported. With a better enforcement, the saving of power should show improvement during this month.

D. AGRICULTURE.

Because of favorable weather, this month, farm work has been normal. Due to lack of fodder, many cattle have been slaughtered. The shortage of animals for farm labor and the lack of fuel and lubricants for machinery will probably have an adverse effect on crops for 1948. No cattle have been taken to the slaughtering centers. Wheat amassing has been almost negligible. Fertilizer is in short supply.

E. LABOR.

The basis for a closer association of capital and labor has been oriented by the agreement between the Fiat management and its workers creating a "Consultative Works Council". This will end the C.I.N. factory rife.

The wage contract for Northern Italy has been completed.

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The wage contract for Northern Italy has been completely applied and the minimum wages fixed.

No marked change in price has developed, during this month, although butter and eggs have shown a seasonal drop. Textile prices are about the same, in Turin.

F. FINANCE.

Some embarrassment has arisen in this area, due to unwillingness of business concerns to accept AMG lira in payment. The reason cited for this hesitancy is the prevalence of counterfeit notes, still in circulation. AMG lira can be exchanged at the banks for the Italian notes.

G. PUBLIC WORKS.

Public works projects, instituted by AMG before the turnover, have been carried on and much useful employment has resulted.

H. LEGAL.

No particular change is noted in the court system. There exists a serious shortage of qualified personnel, both in the professional and clerical staffs.

I. PUBLIC SAFETY.

The situation regarding public order remains unchanged. There have been no mass demonstrations of any magnitude and no instances of mob violence. Crime appears to be on the increase in some provinces, whilst abating somewhat in others. Police Agencies generally are having a fair amount of success in dealing with crimes in their areas. Incidents of highway robbery are diminishing but there continue to be numbers of cases of serious robberies from private houses.

There have been two further cases in Pinerolo of "ex-fascists" found murdered and again typewritten notices have appeared on the walls stating that they have been "executed by sentence of a People's court". A further murder at Novara is attributed to political motives, the victim being an ex-republican fascist. These are the only cases reported in the Region during the month and there are no indications that they form part of a widespread movement of political vendetta.

CC.RR. at Pinerolo have been weekly reinforced, but no great efforts appear to have been made to bring the murderers to justice and this and other indications suggest a distinct unwillingness on the part of Police Agencies generally to take action against the parties of the left.

A certain amount of clandestine arms have been recovered by police during the month, but here again it is possible to detect reluctance by the police to offend the "parties" by too vigorous action.

Extermination of Police Forces, particularly the CC.RR., is causing consternation, both by the fact that when it is exercised it is said to be too severe, and also by the fact that proceedings are being apparently unduly delayed, and those concerned, not knowing what is to happen to them in the future, are becoming unsettled as to their future livelihood.

The situation regarding public order remains unchanged. There have been no mass demonstrations of any magnitude and no instances of mob violence. Crime appears to be on the increase in some provinces, whilst abating somewhat in others. Police Agencies generally are having a fair amount of success in dealing with crimes in their areas. Incidents of highway robbery are diminishing but there continue to be numbers of cases of serious robberies from private houses.

There have been two further cases in Pinerolo of "ex-fascists" found murdered and again typewritten notices have appeared on the walls stating that they have been "executed by sentence of a People's court". A further murder at Novara is attributed to political motives, the victim being an ex-republican fascist. These are the only cases reported in the Region during the month and there are no indications that they form part of a widespread movement of political vendetta.

CC.RR. at Pinerolo have been weakly reinforced, but no great efforts appear to have been made to bring the murderers to justice and this and other indications suggest a distinct unwillingness on the part of Police Agencies generally to take action against the parties of the left.

A certain amount of clandestine arms have been recovered by Police during the month, but here again it is possible to detect reluctance by the Police to offend the "parties" by too vigorous action.

Expansion of Police Forces, particularly the CC.RR., is causing consternation, both by the fact that when it is exercised it is said to be too severe, and also by the fact that proceedings are being apparently unduly delayed, and those concerned, not knowing what is to happen to them in the future, are becoming unsettled as to their future livelihood and, in consequence, morale is suffering.

There have been no incidents of any gravity on the international boundaries, but Police are occupied with numbers of persons trying to cross into France to obtain employment etc., and efforts are constantly directed to prevent such clandestine migration.

J.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

Public Health is satisfactory.

K.

EDUCATION.

Schools have functioned normally considering the difficulties of communications, housing and shortage of teachers.

785016

COMMUNICATIONS.

1. Rail.

With the opening of the Genoa - Pisa line a more direct route to Rome is now available.

2. Road.

Highways are in a satisfactory condition except for the lack of bridges on the secondary road system. The important city of Alba, in Cuneo Province is dependant upon a ferry.

3. Telecommunications.

Telephone and telegraph is fairly normal.

4. Posts.

The postal system is satisfactory, in view of the difficulties of communications.

William R. Jordan

WILLIAM R. JORDAN
Colonel - C.A.C.
Chief Liaison Officer, PIEMONTE

Distribution:

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British Consul, Turin	(2)
I.O. Tenda	(1)
S.L.V. Turin	(1)
File	(3)

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File	(3)

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UP On	MC	Date	SPB
Photo Activity	SPB		9/13
Photo Activity	SPB		11/3
Loggs	SPB		8/13
Local Cont	SPB		9/13
Radio			
Dispar	SPB		11/3
Education	SPB		8/13
High R & A	SPB		12/13
On Car	SPB		

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SPB 8/13

ALLIED COMMISSION
LIAISON GROUP
PIEMONTE REGION

File PR/CLO/MR

Subject : Monthly Report - January 1946

To : HEADQUARTERS, ALLIED COMMISSION.

5 February 1946

P A R T I

The first month of control, of this Region, by the Italian Government has brought no disorder, no break down of vital functions, and no revolution. The ease and tranquillity of the transition constitutes a testimonial to the loyalty and good sense of the Italian Officials and the Italian people.

Business and industry are concerned with the difficulties of foreign trade, foreign exchange, lack of coal, raw materials, and the shortage of electric power. Labor is still concerned with the increasing spread between wages and the high cost of living.

The Italian-French border has been the focal point for rumors. At various times, it has been reported that large areas will go to France and the next day that no territory will be ceded. This war of nerves has kept the areas, near the border, in a state of unrest and has seriously affected the ability of the people to make plans for their own future. Actually things are quiet, with no tangible basis for nervousness, except the fact that the treaty discussions are going on in London.

Considerable progress in preparing for the elections, has been made in each Province. Some Provinces are ready for local elections during the last half of March and all indicate that the electoral lists will be completed fairly soon. The political atmosphere seems to be cooperating peacefully.

The food situation is generally good, with small reserves of grain on hand. Eggs, rice, and pasta are lacking. Food prices continue to increase in the free markets.

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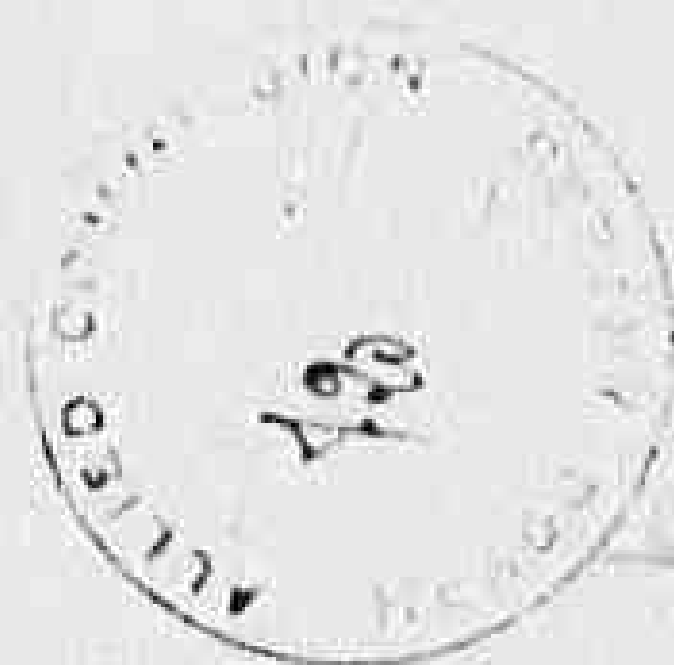
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The food situation is generally good, with small reserves of grain on hand. Fats, rice, and pasta are lacking. Food prices continue to increase in the free markets.

Unemployment has shown a 25% increase, although it has not been accompanied by corresponding unrest.

Public Safety conditions show improved morale, although there will lack equipment, arms and transportation. The general public safety is good.



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PART IIA. POLITICAL REACTIONS

The Economic problem of Italy is fundamental. If the people can be fed, clothed, housed and given an opportunity to work, other problems can be solved in due course.

Labor is fairly quiet. Food has been forth coming and full or partial employment has been kept available. Few strikes have developed. There is much bitterness toward the high cost of living. The sight of full shop windows, with workers unable to buy their needs, is everywhere. Some minor decreases in prices especially in textiles can be found. It is possible that the refusal or inability of people to pay in fantastic prices may contribute to these decreases.

Industrialists recognize that a modification of the valuation of the lira in terms of foreign exchange is necessary. They are, all, greatly concerned with the problem of payments to labor even though not working. Even the largest and strongest concerns cannot long continue these payments. The implications of bankruptcy for industry or depriving thousands of workers of all income, are grave.

The Communist Party has strength in the industrial areas but there is also considerable latent or open support to the Monarchy in Piemonte.

The French - Italian border is quiet. Newspapers and individuals have spread rumors, either Pro-French or Pro-Italian. These rumors have kept the border inhabitants unsettled. The Commune of Tenda has uncut timber. Employment is needed for its people and the timber could readily be sold in Italy. But purchasers hesitate to buy it because of the rumors and possibility that France will take over this territory. A firm decision on the border would be extremely beneficial. As long as a French Liaison Officer is stationed in that area, it will be regarded as disputed territory. Propaganda in favor of annexation to France appears on the French side of the border, from Ventimiglia to Aosta.

The turn over by Allied Military Government to the Italian Government occurred on 31 Dec 1945. The first month of Italian control has brought no disorder, no break down of vital functions and no revolution. The ease and tranquility of the transition is a strong testimonial to the loyalty and good sense of the Italian people.

B. LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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B. LOCAL GOVERNMENT

At the end of the first month of Italian Administration, an all day meeting was held by the Liaison Group, with all the Prefects, the President of the Council of Aosta and all the Questori present. These Officials give the impression of being earnest in their efforts, well advised about their provinces and conscientious in the performance of their duties. They appear to be on top of their jobs.

Some changes in personnel are already in progress but the Provincial and Communal Governments have the stability to permit changes, especially when career Officials will be brought in.

Progress towards the elections is noted in each Province. Several have completed their lists. Other anticipate completion in time for the elections to be held late in March or early in April. The Political Parties have generally cooperated well in this work and have exercised restraint on their people.

C. ECONOMIC RESOURCES

1. Food.

The change over from A.M.S. to Italian Government Administration, with respect to food, has been accomplished without special incident in Piemonte Region. In general, the present official ration has been observed throughout this area. Some minor modifications have been necessary because of road conditions. The ministerial ration has been omitted in almost all provinces because of the failure of Ente Risi to fulfill its allocations. No fats were distributed due to total failure of allocations. All provinces report stocks of grain or flour, sufficient for supply for periods of two to six weeks.

2. Commerce.

Commercial activity, with other nations, awaits a solution of the currency exchange problem and the general approval of foreign commerce. At the rate of exchange (31 Jan 1946) it is almost impossible for other nations to purchase goods in the Italian market. The Bersilino factory at Alessandria has a sufficiency of raw materials, labor, coal etc., and are in a position to make hats that could be used abroad. They need only the green light to commence exportation, and an exchange rate that will permit America and England to buy. The Textile Industry at Biella maintains a large inventory of manufactured textiles. If this quantity of material cannot move, soon, the industry will have to close down, thus throwing many out of work.

3. Industry.

Piact, which employs about 60,000 workers, is now producing more than 1000 trucks and cars per month. This enterprise has been greatly concerned about its coal allotment. If no coal is received, the plant must close, with possible political and economic reverberations. So far, by rigid economy, they have been able to operate. Some help has been obtained through the Italian Ministry of Industry, who are fully conversant with the situation.

The shortage of electrical power, throughout the north, has also complicated the general industrial situation. When the gravity of the shortage is clearly explained, excellent cooperation, looking toward economy, has resulted.

D. AGRICULTURE.

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D. AGRICULTURE.

The heavy snowfall of January resulted in the suspension of most agricultural work. There is a shortage of fodder which is causing the slaughtering of some cattle. A good cereal crop is predicted. Amassing continues but with small returns. This is especially serious in the rice producing areas.

E. LABOR

Unemployment registration shows 25% increase during January. On 20 Dec. 1945, there were 43824 registered. On 20 Jan 1946 there were 52817. During the same period, workers, employed less than 40 hours per week (receiving the "Cassa Integrazione" benefits) increased from 137830 to 142290.

Industrial unrest has definitely tended to decrease as compared to previous months, only three strikes of consequence having been reported.

The cost of food studies show an increase in all provinces but particularly in Torino, Novara and Aosta. Textiles show a slight decrease in cost.

F. FINANCE.

No particular problems in Finance have been brought to the attention of this headquarters.

G. PUBLIC WORKS.

With the close down of A.M.C. and the assumption of responsibility by Italian Agencies, public works leaves a backlog of approved projects. This uncompleted work is filling a useful spot in carrying over those, who otherwise would be unemployed.

H. LEGAL.

In General, judicial activity in this Region is satisfactory. There are delays, inherent in the Italian legal system, aggravated by insufficient transportation and an inadequate number of judges and depleted clerical staffs. For instance, in normal times, the Tribunal of Torino has 65 judges. At present 43 are available. The Public Prosecutor's office normally employs 11, now 8. A similar shortage exists throughout the Region. Yet nevertheless, the number of cases has sharply increased. The Italian Government is aware of the situation and is attempting to find a remedy.

Some judges may soon be released from the extra judicial demands upon their time by the Espionage Courts, for normal duties.

I. PUBLIC SAFETY.

The morale of the public security agencies is good, with continued shortages in arms, equipment and transportation still causing concern.

The crime situation is satisfactory. There are still robberies and thefts but on a decreasing scale. No important political crimes are reported. No disorderly incidents have arisen from political meetings. The President of the Tribunal at Vercelli was forced to transfer a case, to Torino, because of threats and disturbance.

A search, in the Province of Novara, uncovered six truck loads of arms and ammunition, which were confiscated. A raid in

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The number of Railway Police will be sharply curtailed as a result of a visit of a Commissario from the Ministry of Interior.

The conduct of Allied troops has been good.

The overall picture of public security in the Region appears to be good, and the turnover to Italian Authorities has been without incident.

J.

PUBLIC HEALTH

The General health of Piemonte is good, with seasonal incidence of malaria. Milk sanitation is not good. Medical supplies are short.

K.

EDUCATION.

Schools appear to be operating fairly satisfactory.

REFUGEES.

Displaced Persons Sub-Commission still control the Jewish Refugee Camp, U.F.N.R.A. not yet having assumed the responsibility for it.

M.

PATRIOTS.

Nothing to report.

N.

COMMUNICATIONS.

1. Rail.

The main rail lines are in operation, hauling an increasing tonnage.

2. Roads.

Roads and highways are usable throughout Piemonte. However, during January heavy snows ran on many main highways impassable for several days. In general, and in view of the shortage of equipment, a creditable job of clearing the snow was done. Effective work was done in the business areas of Turin.

3. Telecommunications.

Telephone and telegraph lines continue to function up to the standard of Italy.

4. Posts.

The Italian Postal system is operating normally, subject to difficulties of transportation.

WILLIAM R. JORDAN
Colonel - O.A.C.
Chief Liaison Officer
Allied Commission - BIELMONTE

Distribution:

HQ ALLIED COMMISSION (12)
Hq. No. 2 District (3)
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C.C. 75 Med. Regt. H.A. (3)
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