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MONTHLY CONF, CONF, PREFECTS R.V.  
AUG. 1944

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HEAD QUARTERS  
A.L.G. REGION V  
C. M. N. 4/5.2

Adm Sec

MINUTES OF CONFERENCE OF PREFECTS - Headquarters Region V - 20 August 1944

24 AUG 1944

## PRESENT:

## A.L.G. REGION V

Colonel R. P. Marshall, RC  
 Lt Col C. H. A. French, Exec Officer  
 Lt Col H. Middlewood, Reg Agric Officer  
 Lt Col S. Pickering, RPSO  
 Lt Col J. L. Willis, RLO  
 Lt Col H. Marshall, WHO  
 Lt Col H. T. Beard, LFO  
 Major G. E. Monk, RSO  
 Capt B. C. Walsh, Ind. & Comm

## PREFECTS

Ancona - Avv. Oddo Marinelli  
 Ascoli - Dott. Guido Broise  
 Aquila - Dott. Francesco Aria  
 Chieti - Avv. Gaetano Petrella  
 Macerata - Dott. Giorgio Aurelio Ponte  
 Pescara - Dott. Cesare Pace  
 Teramo - Uff. Giovanni Lorenzini

Also Present - Lt Col H. A. M. Dickie, AGC Agricultural Sub-Commission.

Opening the conference, Colonel Marshall explained that it would be a purely informal meeting for the purpose of coming to an agreement on certain procedures. He expressed appreciation of the fact that the prefects had come to the conference at some effort and difficulty, but said that the Allies had also come to Italy at some effort and difficulty. The Allied Military Government, he said, looks for no advantage to the Allies, no profit to its administrators. Its sole objective is to aid in restoring an Italian government which represents the true choice of the Italian people, so that Italy may regain control of her own affairs, her own destiny. This requires the full co-operation of Italians, he pointed out, and it is necessary that all activity at every level must be performed by Italian officials. When this goal has been reached, he concluded, we shall all have a grand celebration and the A.L.G. personnel can go home.

## 1. COLLECTION OF THE HARVEST - Lt Col H. Middlewood

Before the Allies entered Italy, the Regional Agricultural Officer said, they had prepared to make the shipments of wheat necessary to provide a good ration for the Italian people. But because of the faulty co-operation of the Italians and because of the black market, it had been necessary to bring in more food than expected at a time when the shipping was badly needed elsewhere. This had resulted in a reduction of the ration.

The division's first responsibility, he said, was to obtain in Italy materials useful to the Army. Its second is to obtain the largest possible crops to feed the Italian people, the third to ascertain the long-term needs to put the second into effect, and the fourth to give all possible assistance in collections of the 1944 harvest.

In this program, he said, A.L.G. is following the program of the Italian government as outlined in the ministerial decree of 26 April and would hold absolutely to those aims. A great deal of education had been proved necessary before the communal committees (the new Italy's first democratic venture) can function properly. Prefects are asked to use all the influence possible to achieve this goal. It would be necessary for the agricultural inspectors to go around the provinces to see that the committees are working, Lt Col Middlewood said. He recommended that every committee make out a program for grain-collection, with due allowances for war damage or any other cause. He said that it should be possible, over all, to equal or exceed the 1942 harvest and that committees which did match the 1942 totals would be considered as having co-operated fully with A.L.G.



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A much more vigorous policy by all Italian officials from the prefects downward was urged, and a reluctance on the part of all civilian officials, including the carabinieri, to adopt a vigorous policy was noted. It was particularly requested that the prefects use their requisitioning authority to make sure that agricultural inspectors had cars.

Attention of the prefects was called to the evils of the retentions system. Farmers are permitted to keep a year's supply of food before the city population has anything. This means it is sometimes necessary for the Allies to transport wheat and flour for many miles at a time when transportation is at a high premium and when there are tons of wheat and flour in or near the town. It was remarked that it was necessary for the Italians to help themselves more than they have done, particularly since the extension of AIG over ever-wider territories meant considerably fewer officers per province.

On the question of agricultural requirements, Lt. Col. Middlewood said that it was useless for inspectors to send in long lists of requirements without careful thought to the requirements and without justification for each point. These requisitions must be made six months in advance and be kept to an absolute minimum.

The prefects were informed that an exportable surplus of 200,000 tons of wheat is expected from the nine provinces of Region V for feeding the large populations of Rome, Naples and the North.

The Prefect of Chieti, avv. Petrella, raised the question of the lack of oxen in the territories overrun by the Germans and said that he believed some of those driven out of his province were in the provinces of the Marche. The prefect of Teramo, Uff. Lorenzini, asked permission to distribute to the population grain for which no warehouse space is available. Lt Col Middlewood expressed the opinion that a great part of the Teramo problem could be solved by an early transport of the exportable surplus. The Chieti problem was presented as an example of how the prefects of the various provinces might be able to work out some of their own problems by agreement among themselves (with approval of AIG). On other problems, it was suggested that the Prefects make formal written recommendations to the Regional Headquarters, through the Provincial Commissioners. These would be welcomed by the Region and carefully considered.

## 2. REFUGEES - Lt Col H. Marshall.

To facilitate the rehabilitation of refugees from the forward areas and particularly because of the impossibility of sending more refugees to the south, the four forward provinces (Teramo, Ascoli, Macerata and Ancona) will each be called on to absorb between 2500 and 3000 refugees on a temporary basis. Prefects are to instruct their sindaci to prepare lists of the number which can be absorbed in the various communes, at an average rate of ten per cent of the population. A central camp for the distribution of refugees will be set up in each province near the capital and on main communications lines, capable of handling from 300 to 400 refugees at a time. Cooking utensils, blankets and rations must be provided there. Administration of these camps will be under the prefect, the medico provinciale and the Italian Red Cross, with food obtained through the Consorzio Agrario. When persons are transferred from this camp to the receiving communes they will be given rations sufficient for the time until it will be possible for them to obtain a ration card in the commune. Lists of the numbers to be absorbed by each commune are required within a week, the prefects were told. It will be the duty of the sindaci to have places prepared for the refugees on their arrival. The prefects of Ancona and Macerata, avv. Marinelli and Dott. Ponte, expressed a wish to be exempted from this program because of the large number of refugees already in the provinces, but were told that the desirability of keeping the refugees as close as possible to their homes would make necessary further inconvenience to the people of the forward provinces.



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In response to Dott. Ponte's question, Lt Col Marshall said that a definite scheme for the evacuation of refugees who have intact and unoccupied homes in southern Italy is being prepared. Until it is finished, however, none will be permitted to move. At that time it will be put into effect by the use of Regional transportation facilities.

The prefects were also reminded by Lt Col Marshall of the responsibility of the medico provinciale to make a general report and a requisition for medical needs of the following month not later than the 25th of each month and a return of infectious diseases every ten days.

### 3. FINANCE - Lt Col N. T. Beard.

The prefects were reminded that clear lines must be drawn between obligations dated prior to the liberation of the province and those dated after the arrival of the allies. Payments which have been made since liberation on debts existing prior to the date of the allies' coming must be recovered. Final decision on these indebtednesses will be made by an Italian commission, not by allied authority. The prefects were also reminded of the necessity of preparing their budgets immediately, as no payments for institutions included in the budget could be made until the budget had been approved. They were also warned of the necessity for prompt inspection of the communes, because advances had been made by spearhead AMG officers in many cases.

### 4. PUBLIC SAFETY - Lt Col S. Pickering

Prefects were warned of their full responsibility for keeping law and order in their territories. Present policy on political meetings is that all parties represented in the government will receive equal treatment; but that no open meetings will for the present be permitted. A shortage of carabinieri will require drafts from some provinces of the Region to fill the needs of others.

Two representatives are now in each province with the purpose of organizing and recognizing the genuine patriots. They will be given certificates and efforts will be made to find them employment. But cases of armed robbery of Italians by persons calling themselves patriots will be strongly suppressed.

The general behavior of the population of Region V has been good, with the recent exception of threats of attacks upon allied soldiers and welfare workers in a single community. The police officers of the region are experienced officers and have not been harsh, but it would be a mistake if this should be looked upon as a symptom of weakness.

### 5. SUPPLY AND TRANSPORT - Major G. E. Monk.

Establishment of an economic department in the provincial government, even in advance of specific instructions from Rome as to its organization, was urged upon the prefects. Responsibility for economic and supply matters will be in Italian hands. The CIP is not under the prefect but is instead responsible to Rome. This does not, however, relieve the prefects of responsibility over rationing of food, which will be accomplished through the economic department of the provincial government.

In conclusion, Colonel Marshall urged continued co-operation. Time is vital, he said. The war is won and it is perhaps only a matter of weeks before the Italian government must stand alone on its own feet for all of Italy. It is the duty of Italian officials to take over responsibilities at once, leaving AMG officers free to give assistance. Italy is the first country to be freed from Nazi control; therefore its opportunity today is the greatest in its long history. It is the hope of the Allies that Italy may quickly regain its strength and its prestige in the world.

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