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

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NOV., DEC. 1944

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AC, REORGANIZATION OF SICILIA REGION
NOV., DEC. 1944

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

Tel: 608

File
Ref. 4/20.3/CA ✓

10th December, 1944.

SUBJECT: Reorganisation of Sicilia Region.

TO : Chief of Staff.

1. Reference your 560/4/008 dated 5th December, it is agreed with the RC Sicilia Region as regards paras 1 and 2, in particular that while Allied naval or military personnel remain in the island it is necessary to maintain an AC Headquarters. Furthermore, if the islands of Pantelleria and Lampedusa are to remain under AMG it facilitates the administration of these islands if there is a headquarters in Sicily. It is appreciated, however, that such administration could be dependent from Southern Region through its Taranto zone.

2. With regard to para 5, it is considered that as long as it is necessary to maintain an AC Headquarters in Sicily it is essential to maintain a representative of the Public Safety and Legal Sub-Commissions, as although it may well be possible to leave almost entirely to the Italian Administration all the legal and public safety work the presence of any bodies of naval ratings or Allied troops necessitates a certain amount of work and the occasional calling of an AMG Court, in fact one is at present sitting in Catania trying two cases, one of sabotage of ammunition and one of espionage.

3. With regard to the only other Sub-Commission concerned in para 5, i.e. Public Health, it is considered that this officer could well be withdrawn.

4. No Sub-Commission of this Section is concerned in para 6.

R. R. Griffes
R.R. GRIFFES, Col.,
CSO CA Section.

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CSO

I have discussed with ^{our} S/C's mentioned in para 5 of the att'd all agree that their representatives can be withdrawn. PH (S.C.) does not agree with the comment it considers the status of the RDPH as a matter entirely for the Italian Govt. It is not our function to try to influence their decision, there is no legitimate object in leaving an officer behind to await the decision.

None of our S/C's are mentioned in para 6.

With regard to Lampedusa and Pantelleria - the view is that they cause so little work, that they could be left under the senior officer left behind under 6, and could thereafter be administered from Naples Southern Region. There may be political repercussions if we sever the control of these islands from Italy proper and administer them from a separate command CA. NA. who would not be responsible to us and who would have no direct contacts with the Italian Govt. ^{to do so} It would possibly be read as a forecast that the islands are to be severed from Italy. It seems to be much wiser to administer these islands from Italy even though the

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ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

Tel Ext 341

INTER OFFICE MEMO

LWS/el

6 DEC 1944

From: Office of the Chief of Staff

- 6 DEC. 1944

SUBJECT: Re-organization of Sicilia Region

FILE No. 560/4/COS

TO: DCOS, Civil Affairs Section ✓
DCOS, Establishment Section
DCOS, Economic Section

5 December 44 194

1. Your attention is invited to the attached letter.
2. Will you please submit to this office your recommendations on the re-organization of Sicilia Region in the light of the Regional Commissioner's remarks?

J. W. Stearns Maj
Chief Staff Officer
To the Chief of Staff

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ALLIED COMMISSION
SICILIA REGION HEADQUARTERS
APO 394

FILE : RC/320.2
SUBJECT : Reorganization of Sicilia Region
TO : Headquarters, Allied Commission

25 November 1944

With reference to the discussions which have taken place with your Headquarters in regard to the withdrawal of the whole or part of A.C. personnel from Sicily, my views in the light of existing circumstances are as follows.

1. As regards the Civil Affairs side as opposed to specialists I consider that when the decision is taken to withdraw that withdrawal should be complete. I feel that it would be undesirable to leave a liaison officer or liaison officers for the purpose of contact with the H.C. for Sicily. I feel that it would be preferable for the Italian administration here to be entirely independent and for all Civil Affairs matters to be dealt with by your H.Q. through Italian channels.

2. The reasons against withdrawal immediately are as follows:

a. The work connected with the Allied installations on the Island. These are principally the American Naval Base at PALERMO and the British Naval Bases at MESSINA, CATANIA, AUGUSTA and SIRACUSA. Some of these are being or may be reduced in the near future. There is in addition a Military Sub-Area H.Q. on the Island: 204 Sub-Area H.Q. under No. 3 District. Work connected with these installations and H.Q. requires general liaison and coordination.

b. The existing food situation which, with grain stocks only sufficient to carry the Island to the end of the year, make the position most delicate and, should serious trouble arise in the Island, the war effort would be affected.

c. The Islands of PANTELLERIA and LAMPEDUSA which are at present under AMG and controlled by Sicilia Region.

3. The reasons for immediate withdrawal might be as follows:

- a. The need for the employment of personnel elsewhere.
- b. External political influences of which I am not aware.

4. As regards Specialist Officers or representatives of A.C. Subcommissions it would appear essential that some must remain until arrangements are made either for more responsibility to be taken over by the Italian Government or for the replacement of officers by Allied civilian personnel. The question of which specialist officers are required in Sicily would appear to be a matter for your H.Q. rather than ours. For instance, instructions were received by this H.Q. that, subject to my concurrence, my Public Works Officer would be withdrawn on 15 Oct. I whole-heartedly agreed (my RMO/210.3 of 26 Sept 1944) subject to necessary adjustments of the paper machinery, though there was some slight opposition on the part of my Public Works Officer. Shortly after dispatch of my reply a Captain (184) arrived from the Public Works Subcommission of your H.Q. and spent a considerable time in Sicily investigating the matter. As a result the decision to withdraw my Public Works Officer was cancelled. Further, since that date the Public Works Division here was to have been re-inforced by the addition of an American civilian, but this has now been cancelled.

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5. In my opinion the following could be withdrawn when it is decided to disband Regional H.Q. here, subject to certain adjustments as outlined below.

- a. Public Works - 1 officer. Reasons have already been given to your H.Q.
- b. Public Health & Welfare - 1 officer. The status of the Italian Regional Director of Public Health should be decided upon by the Italian Government before the A.C. representative is withdrawn.
- c. Agriculture - 1 officer.
- d. Labor - 1 officer. Should any complicated matters arise in regard to wages or conditions of employment it might be necessary for a representative of the Labor Subcommittee to be located temporarily in the Island.
- e. Rail Transportation - 1 officer. Traffic regulations, A.C. and military priorities, supervision of coal consumption, transfer of locomotives and rolling stock would require to be handed over completely to the Italian officials.
- f. Legal Division - 1 officer. Appeals and applications for grace in cases tried under A.C. would be dealt with by your HQ and any Allied Forces remaining in Sicily would have to deal directly with Italian judicial agencies.
- g. Public Safety Division - 2 officers
- h. Supply Accounts Division - 3 officers. It is presumed that the arrangements being made with the Italian Government for the payment of various commodities would not require the presence of supply accountants in Sicily. Books to be transferred to Southern Region.
- i. Commanding Officer, Co. "A"

6. I consider that the following could not be withdrawn unless or until they should be replaced by other personnel:

- a. Economics and Supply Division - 2 officers. There are at present 4 officers with this Division so that a reduction by two would be effected. So long as the importation of Allied food and other commodities is continued some Allied supervision seems desirable. Moreover, some organization will be necessary to deal with movement of civil food surpluses to the Mainland, and bids for shipping and control of P.O.L.
- b. Export Division - 3 officers. Extensive actual operation and control of exports are carried out by this Division. It controls 11 warehouses used in connection with the exportation of commodities to the UK and the US, and it is stated that under existing circumstances no other warehousing arrangements are possible.
- c. Finance - 1 officer. Would be required to make payments of AC expenditures, deal with the indebtedness due from Italian agencies to AC, make payment to needy Nationals and deal with A.C. finance for Pantelleria and Lampedusa.
- d. Property Control - 1 officer. The administration of property and assets of Allied Nationals and the return of such property to its owners will require the work of some Allied representative, although it is possible that this work could be combined with similar duties in some other Region.
- e. Transportation Division - 1 officer. Some 500 trucks, largely captured enemy material, are operated under AC supervision for the benefit of the civilian economy of the Island. There are considerable AC financial interests involved.
- f. Mining Division - 1 officer. The procurement of supplies for sulphur and asphalt mining, many of them from Allied Military sources, the difficulties of transportation, the importance of such products for the prosecution of the war make the presence of an AC representative essential.
- g. Administrative - 1 officer. It is considered that at least one officer would be required to deal with such matters as accommodation, ~~h&~~ discipline of EM/CRs and messing. His presence would also be necessary if there should be considerable replacement of Allied civilian personnel, as, generally speaking, normal

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accommodation and feeding arrangements in hotels are not possible. Command of AC military personnel would be vested in the ranking British or American officer left in Sicily.

7. The above proposals would make a strength of some 10 Specialist Officers to remain.

8. In my opinion Regional HQ together with Specialist Divisions should remain as at present constituted in Sicily until the end of the year, when the matter could be reviewed in the light of existing circumstances. I consider that, if the personnel are not then required for employment elsewhere, any decision taken should be determined by the needs of the war effort and not by external political influences.

9. In connection with this whole matter it may be mentioned that in existing circumstances the population and local Italian administration are averse to the withdrawal of the support given and influence exercised by the presence of an AC organization on the Island. Similarly, the Allied Service authorities are not in favor of any withdrawal at the moment, in view of the food and labor situation on the Island and the need for contact with the local Italian administration in respect of these and other matters.

/s/ M. Carr Brigadier
/s/ M. CARR
Brigadier
Regional Commissioner

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