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

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

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AC, INFORMATION FROM RC, SICILY REGION
AUG. 1944 - FEB. 1945

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

ALLIED COMMISSION
SICILIA REGION HEADQUARTERS
APC 594

FILE:RC/201

My dear Wyszynski,

24 Feb 1945

24 MAR 1945

I am sending you herewith my D.O. Bulletin No. 5.

GENERAL

Compared with the month of January, there has been a considerable improvement in the situation. The arrival of grain ships and regular issues of the bread and pasta ration have had a good effect. Delinquency and banditry in the country districts remain at a high level and is a serious evil. The lack of clothing and shoes is being increasingly felt. The health of the population generally remains good.

POLITICAL

There has been little political activity of note. The cancellation of the Prime Minister's visit, announced to take place this week end, has created a very bad impression among officials here. It is taken to be a sign of great weakness on the part of the Prime Minister and of the Government. Moreover, it is considered that the visit should never have been announced unless it was intended to see it through.

The first meeting of the "Consulta" is to take place at 11 o'clock on Sunday, 25 February, in the Council Chamber of the Municipio.

The separatists physically have been quiet in the absence of any troubled waters in which they can fish but they have been very active on paper. They have been at great pains to try and prove that, in regard to articles which have appeared recently in the Allied Press, they still have the support of Great Britain and/or America. They have also been propagandizing in regard to elections and have stated that they are only prepared to take part if they are placed on the same footing as the recognized parties. Articles have also been compiled against the "Consulta" which is held not to be representative of the Sicilian people. A body nominated by the Government on the Mainland or by its pro-consul, the High Commissioner.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Crime generally remains at about the same level. The situation as regards delinquency and, in the country districts, banditry, has not shown much improvement although recently there have not been any outstanding cases.

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PUBLIC SAFETY

Crime generally remains at about the same level. The situation as regards delinquency and, in the country districts, banditry, has not shown much improvement although recently there have not been any outstanding occurrences. Some improvement has been effected by sweeps which have taken place in certain areas in the interior of the island and it is reported that more than 100 delinquents have been arrested.

Approximately 500 rioters or demonstrators who were put under preventive detention as the result of serious disturbances in the provinces of RAGUSA and AGRIGENTO last month have been interned in the penal colony at Ustica. It is stated that their cases are now being reviewed at

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RAGUSA and elsewhere but it is felt by this Headquarters that there are probably a number of innocent people among those interned and this point is constantly brought to the attention of the High Commissioner.

General Berardi has taken over command of the Italian troops in SICILY. He has been interviewed by me and my first impression was very favourable. His ideas seem to be sound and he proposes to concentrate on a general improvement in the morale, appearance and training of his troops and Carabinieri. He is issuing available stocks of equipment on the Island on the understanding that they will be replaced when supplies come from the Mainland. He also proposes to make use of horse-transport in order to preserve motor transport for mobile operations if and when required. Animals are available but there is no harness, but this the General hopes to obtain from Gardinia.

Early this week there was a serious fire at the Consorzio warehouse in Palermo city when damage to the extent of 5 million lire was caused. No evidence has been forthcoming to show that the fire was caused by sabotage and it is generally believed that the reason was spontaneous combustion due to bad storage of cotton seed.

There has been no real improvement in the general enforcement of and regard for the law.

FOOD

Regular issues of the bread and pasta ration throughout the Island have had a good effect. There has been some improvement in the quality of the bread and pasta. The prices of pasta on the Black Market has decreased considerably and to a lesser extent that of bread. The fall in the prices of other foodstuffs such as those of meat and fish has only been small.

TRANSPORTATION

Due to delay in the arrival of coal, the railway authorities have found it necessary to suspend many of the regular passenger services. The shortage of coal was to a large extent occasioned by a strike of port workers at CATANIA which caused discharging of a coal ship to cease with the result that the shipping authorities sent the ship over to the Mainland.

PUBLIC UTILITIES

Frequent representations are made about the hardship caused by the lack of gas. It is understood that considera-

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caused by the lack of gas. It is understood that considera-
tion is being given by AFHQ to the matter of a supply of coal
for the gas works at Palermo, Trapani, Messina and Catania.

I have sent copies of this letter to Brigadier Lush
Brigadier McKinley
Brigadier ~~McKinnley~~

For: M. C. Lush
Brigadier
Regional Commissioner

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

SECRET

ALLIED COMMISSION
SICILIA REGION HEADQUARTERS
APO 394

FILE:RC/201

3 Feb 1945

My dear Winston,

I am sending you herewith my D.O. Bulletin No. 4.

PUBLIC SAFETY

As you will be aware, the month of January was noteworthy for the serious disorders which broke out in many towns but particularly in RAGUSA Province and which called for the employment of most of the available Italian military reserves in the Island before the situation was restored. The principal centre of the disorders was COMISO. Having regard to the numbers of armed rioters involved and the strength of the police and military forces employed, the number of casualties was not large. The main cause of the disturbances was opposition to the military call-up but there were the usual underlying reasons such as shortage of food (though RAGUSA Province had had its full bread and pasta ration issued up to date), high prices and separatist activities. Moreover, the town of RAGUSA was the birthplace of Fascism in Sicily and it may be that the recent spasmodic trend towards Fascism played some part in the disorders in the Province of RAGUSA.

The procedure under which the permission of the Allied authorities had to be sought before Italian troops could be used in aid of the civil power broke down completely as anticipated. Since these disorders this procedure has been cancelled. Another lesson learnt was the disastrous effect of existing orders under which troops employed in aid of the civil power must proceed to the scene of all disturbances with their weapons unloaded. The result was that comparatively speaking considerable numbers of soldiers and of the police forces were disarmed when surprised by rioters. Existing orders also lay down that fire can only be opened on the orders of an officer. In one instance it is reported that the officer in command was killed with the first shot fired and the result was that the soldiers, whose weapons were not loaded, were all disarmed. Although not an Allied Commission matter a letter has been sent to your Headquarters strongly recommending a change in such ill-advised rules which were only brought to the notice of this Headquarters after these events.

In RAGUSA Province all the rioters dispersed not only with the arms they brought into the battle but also with those captured. The Prefect issued a decree after order had been restored ordering the handing-in of unauthorised weapons at various points in the area including farms so that there should be no cause for reluctance to hand-in such weapons. The results to date have been most meagre.

In this respect, however, there has been an interesting development recently. Some armoured vehicles have arrived in the Island as reinforcements to the Italian armed forces. Last week there was some slight disorder at the small town of Palazzo Adriano in Palermo Province. Troops were sent as a precaution and with them some armoured vehicles.

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On the 19th of January in the Province of CALTANISSETTA bandits who had organised a road hold-up stopped a jeep containing a British Sergeant. They robbed the Sergeant and other occupants of the car and held them for 4 hours until darkness

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the full pasta ration of 550 grams to be issued throughout the Island during the month of February provided there is no change in the grain importation policy.

WELFARE

A visit has been received from an American Red Cross representative with regard to a considerable supply of American Red Cross clothing which will shortly be arriving in the Island for free distribution. Distribution will be on the general basis of 40% to Palermo and Trapani, 35% to Messina, and 25% to Catania with some distribution to the AMG Island of Pantelleria.

Committees have been set up to organize distribution and it is understood that Red Cross representatives will arrive with the first consignments to supervise distribution.

GENERAL

The health of the population in general remains satisfactory. Except for the increase in banditry, calm prevails at the moment throughout the Island.

I have sent copies of this letter to Brigadier Lush —
Col Denamore —
Brigadier Upjohn —

Yours sincerely
M. Carr

M. CARR
Brigadier
Regional Commissioner

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fell. A strong formal protest has been made to the High Commissioner. Strong forces have been dispatched to round up these bandits but so far without results. One Carabinieri has been killed when trying to arrest suspects. In the same area on the 27th of January a train was held up by 50 armed men and about 80 of the passengers are stated to have been robbed. Full details are awaited. Banditry is undoubtedly on the increase but the reinforcements and armoured vehicles which have arrived and the increase in mobility of the forces of law and order should place the local authorities in a much better position to deal with this menace.

The National Council of the Separatist Movement held a meeting at Palermo on the 15/16 of January. As a result pamphlets appeared in which it was stated that the Council had decided that in view of the intolerable state of affairs in Sicily the Allied authorities should be asked to hand-over the Government of the Island to the National Council or, failing that, that the Allies should re-occupy the Island.

There was a somewhat unseemly incident about the middle of January at the inauguration ceremony at the University of Palermo. I was present together with other Allied representatives and while waiting in the hall for the proceedings to begin crowds of students broke into the front part of the hall and the situation got completely out of control. The students were all good-humoured but in order to avoid any incident the Allied representatives withdrew. Later, when an endeavour was made to conduct the inauguration ceremony this was found to be impossible and the proceedings were suspended. As a result of this the High Commissioner on the request of the Council of the University issued a decree postponing the next examinations from February to June.

A deputation of students has since been to my office to apologise for the incident and to beg that the High Commissioner should be requested to modify his decree. I have discussed the matter with the High Commissioner and he is reconsidering the situation.

There has been no improvement in enforcement of and regard for the law. So-called "liberty" is interpreted in this Island, as presumably in the rest of liberated Italy, to mean that the general public need not pay any regard to the laws which regulate the normal conduct of life. The proposed holding of elections under such conditions fills one with horror.

FOOD

The Island is still living on a grain-ship to mouth basis so far as the bread and pasta ration is concerned. There does not seem to be any prospect of building up any reserve at the moment and even if the calculations of the local authorities show occasionally that this might be possible when the time arrives the plea is always produced that grain has lasted a shorter time than expected and the forward date to which the Island was expected to exist has to be pulled back. As close a check as possible is being kept on the figures and calculations of the local authorities in so far as the quantities of imported grain and feeding of the local population are concerned.

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CONFIDENTIAL

ALLIED COMMISSION
SICILIA REGION HEADQUARTERS
APO 594

FILE:RC/201

6 Jan 1945

My dear Mr. John

I am sending you my D.O. Bulletin No. 3.

The sending of many reports to your Headquarters during the past month, including the monthly report sent about the middle of December and several special reports on the recent disorders, make it somewhat difficult to determine what to include in this Bulletin. Also the current monthly report is now in process of compilation.

The month of December was, as is already common knowledge, marked by a chain of serious disorders. These disorders, which took place in about 70 different localities mainly in the eastern part of the island, were caused primarily by opposition to the call-up. Serious underlying causes were, however, the separatist movement, whose creed induces opposition to any orders issuing from Rome, the general shortage of food and clothing and high prices. Serious damage was done to public buildings in many places and at least 7 municipalities were destroyed or very badly damaged. Total casualties amounted to 4 dead and 51 injured. Information has just come to hand that there was a further demonstration at RAGUSA on 4 JAN when demonstrators opposed to being called-up attempted to disarm troops who opened fire with the result that one demonstrator was killed and 2 seriously wounded. Generally speaking, however, the situation throughout the island is now calm. Disciplinary action has been taken in a number of cases of those failing to answer the call-up which, it is understood, is now proceeding more successfully.

Separatist activities continue. The last big meeting of this movement took place on 3 DEC at AGOSTO which was the scene of one of the more serious of the recent disturbances on 18 DEC. The separatist meeting on 3 DEC was theoretically a private meeting based on invitations but apparently if one was without an invitation it could be had upon application at the door. The meeting was held in a cinema and is reported to have been attended by about 1,000 persons amid considerable enthusiasm. Orators' speeches contained such statements as that the Amistice must be revoked - the separatists had a clear position against any Government that might follow Badoglio or Bonomi - the Government must understand that we Sicilians do not joke - a great shock could occur tomorrow - there was no intention of creating trouble for the Allies. At a small private meeting held more recently it is understood that the youthful hot-head members pressed for taking immediate control of SICILY but the older and wiser members won the day saying that the time was not yet ripe and

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The grain and bread situation continues to be serious and the Island is living on a hand-to-mouth basis. The "bad hoc" arrival of ships containing about 19,000 tons of wheat/barley at the end of December relieved the immediate situation considerably. But it is difficult to act in an advisory capacity when the policy was - and still is official-ly - that the working classes of the Island were to be with-

out rationed bread at all for approximately 5 months till the next harvest and when at the same time a situation bordering on a state of panic arises among the civilian authorities and the Allied Naval Bases if there is a prospect of a city being without rationed bread for even one day. In this connection it is hoped that a definite official policy will shortly be forthcoming. It is also to be hoped that the decreases and directives in connection with the amassing of the next grain harvest will be issued in the near future especially in view of the very early harvest which occurs in certain parts of this island and of the lack of mobility among U.P.S.E.A. officials. An early start and good prior-organisation is essential. The Regional Agriculture Officer has been directed to raise this important subject at a conference being held at your Headquarters shortly.

The continuous stream of merchants from Rome bearing Allied Commission visas continues to cause considerable embarrassment here and all efforts with your Headquarters to regularise the situation have failed. The main representations come from the High Commissioner who rightly protests against Sicilian exporters being cut out of this trade. The matter is being taken up further with your Headquarters.

All the cloth and material from Allied sources which has been in store in Allied Commission warehouses for some very considerable time has now been transferred to the Italian authorities and the High Commissioner is engaged in the difficult task of devising some plan for a rationed disposal, for getting the material to where it is really needed and for preventing its absorption by the Black Market. Control is comparatively easy if initial disposal is made to state, parastatal and similar workers but it is doubtful whether they should have first call on these materials.

Around New Years Eve two unidentified planes flew very low over PALERMO and other parts of the island. At least one parachutist was dropped and it is understood that he has been captured between PALERMO and MESSINA complete with radio equipment.

On Christmas morning an alleged time bomb on the steps of a church close by Regional Headquarters barred the normal way except for the footpath to Regional Headquarters. Midnight Mass at which Allied troops were present had taken place in this church on Christmas Eve. The bomb was exploded successfully by a bomb-disposal squad during the course of Christmas morning.

Over Christmas and the New Year there have been a large number of visitors to the island. Under a system under which all visitors whether on business or on pleasure are notified as arriving on temporary duty on Allied Commission activities it is difficult for the Regional Commissioner and his staff to know whether such visitors will be reporting to Headquarters or whether they should be contacted. The difficulty of any other procedure is appreciated. Under

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Cold weather and snow is being experienced and roads in the centre of the Island have been blocked. Local experts say that some of the snow features are exceptional. There have been several deaths from exposure in PALERMO and probably in other parts of the Island mainly among beggars.

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

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I have sent copies of this letter to Brigadier Lush -
Col Denmore -
~~Brigadier Upjohn~~

Yours sincerely
M. Carr

M. CARR
Brigadier
Regional Commissioner

1 encl-copy of special orders No. 319 para 2.

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

785016

C O P

16 December 1944

SPECIAL ORDERS)
NUMBER 319)

2. The fol named O and OR, Lombardia Reg, now at this
Hq, WP Catania, Sicily, without delay on temp dy for a
period of approximately seven(7) days in connection w AMG
activities and upon completion thereof will ret to proper
sta. Travel by govt MT is atzd and will be furn by Lombardia
Reg.

Capt. G.W.E. COULT P/279385 GL (B)
Tpr J.H. Thompson 6473407 RECCE (B)

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SECRET

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CA SEC

ALLIED COMMISSION
SICILIA REGION HEADQUARTERS
APO 384

FILE:RC/000.5

23 DEC 1944

HEADQUARTERS

SUBJECT: Unrest in SICILY

TO : Headquarters Allied Commission
ROME

1. In continuation of my RC/000.5 of 20 DEC I am forwarding copy of a FSS report regarding the disorders at ALCAMO (TRAPANI Province) where it is to be noted that the damage to public buildings was as serious as if not worse than at CATANIA.

The report is made by a Sgt. King of the FSS who was not present during the disorders but was sent there to investigate. His principal sources of information are stated to have been the Carabinieri and the Head of the Pubblica Sicurezza.

2. It would appear that the primary cause of the disorders was the grain and bread situation. The closing down of certain mills was an experiment by the High Commissioner's Office in order to reduce consumption of flour in producing districts and to assist in amassing more grain in view of the serious shortage with which the Island is faced. The consequences were serious, a large number of public buildings being damaged.

3. It is significant that it was at ALCAMO that the Separatists held their last meeting which took place on December 3rd. The meeting was held in a Cinema and was not a public meeting but from reports received about 1000 persons attended and it appears that there was considerable enthusiasm generally in the town on account of it.

From reports (P.M.E.) received statements on the following lines were made by Separatist leaders in their speeches:-- the Armistice must be revoked - the Separatist Movement has taken a clear position against the Badoglio and Bonomi Ministries and will maintain it against any government that may follow in Italy - the Government must understand that we Sicilians do not joke - a great shock could occur tomorrow - there was no intention of creating trouble for the Allies.

4. AVV. CASSARA of the Separatist Youth Movement who, according to the enclosed report inflamed the mob, has been arrested. Leading Separatists have already interviewed the High Commissioner requesting Cassara's release on the grounds that he is innocent. I advised the High Commissioner separately against any release until the matter has been fully investigated to determine whether there is a case for prosecution.

8008

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The report is made by a Sgt. King of the PSS who was not present during the disorders but was sent there to investigate. His principal sources of information are stated to have been the Carabinieri and the Head of the Pubblica Sicurezza.

2. It would appear that the primary cause of the disorders was the grain and bread situation. The closing down of certain mills was an experiment by the High Commissioner's office in order to reduce consumption of flour in producing districts and to assist in amassing more grain in view of the serious shortage with which the Island is faced. The consequences were serious, a large number of public buildings being damaged.

3. It is significant that it was at ALCAMO that the SEPARATISTS held their last meeting which took place on December 3rd. The meeting was held in a Cinema and was not a public meeting but from reports received about 1000 persons attended and it appears that there was considerable enthusiasm generally in the town on account of it.

From reports (P.W.B.) received statements on the following lines were made by Separatist leaders in their speeches: - the Armistice must be revoked - the Separatist Movement has taken a clear position against the Badoglio and Bonomi Ministries and will maintain it against any government that may follow in Italy - the Government must understand that we Sicilians do not joke - a great shock could occur tomorrow - there was no intention of creating trouble for the Allies.

4. AVV. CASSARA of the Separatist Youth Movement who, according to the enclosed report inflamed the mob, has been arrested. Leading Separatists have already interviewed the High Commissioner requesting Cassara's release on the grounds that he is innocent. I advised the High Commissioner seriously against any release until the matter has been fully investigated to determine whether there is a case for prosecution.

5. I would again draw attention to the lack of offensive action by the Carabinieri and Public Safety agencies. I consider it a matter of great urgency that some directive should be issued by the Italian Government which would give these forces proper liberty of action and would counteract the effects produced by the CC.RR circular of 25 OCT referred to in my report on the CATANIA disturbances RC/000.5 of 20 DEC.

Copies TO: V.P. C.A. Section
Public Safety
Sub-Commission

M. Cassara
M. Cassara
Brigadier
Regional Commissioner

COPY

SI REF.

To: Capt. Oliver, 51 F.S.S.,

From: A/Sgt. King W.J.H.

Subject: Riot at ALCAMO, Trapani Province 18/12/1944.

A certain amount of discontent and unrest was occasioned at

ALCAMO, Trapani Province, by the closing of certain flour mills, bakeries and bakers' shops. These essential services were closed down by order of the Alto Commissario via the Prefect for two reasons, firstly to render more difficult the activities of speculators and secondly to facilitate the accumulation of a store of grain against the threatened shortage of supplies as the season advances. This order was put into execution on 2nd December last and on that day two of the three flour mills were closed down and on the 6th December ninety bakers' shops out of a total of 120 were likewise closed. Eight bakeries were unaffected by the order and continued to bake bread as usual.

Apparently the order played into the hands of the speculators rather than against them for the price of bread per kilo rose almost at once from approx. one hundred liras a kilo to almost two hundred liras a kilo.

The very poor, who rely on their official bread ration plus a certain quantity which they buy on the black market, were very hard hit and although there were grumbles there was no demonstration.

Public opinion was in this rather unstable state of affairs when the official "call-up" for the Italian Army was announced.

Accordingly on Sunday 17th December, 1944 at about 12.40 hrs. students staged an anti-"call-up" demonstration in the Piazza Ciullo, Alcamo. Demonstrators carried banners bearing slogans: "Down with War!", "Down with the Monarchy!" and "Down with the Army." Crowd including students and spectators was addressed by twenty-year-old separatist-agitator, student MILAZZO.

MILAZZO cried: "We won't go to war until we know why we are going. The concentration camps of England, America, Germany and Russia are full of our prisoners-of-war and we are sick of the war. Therefore we won't present ourselves for military service." He then started to talk about the bread situation and the closing of the mills.

Whereupon crowd cried back: "We want bread! Reopen the mills!"

Commissario of the Public Safety, DRAGO, tried to calm the mob and shouted that he would see the Prefect and the Commissario Prefettizio (a sort of acting Sindaco) and see about the re-opening of the mills.

Shouted back MILAZZO: "O.K. we will all meet here again tomorrow,

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Shouted back MILAZZO: "O.K. we will all meet here again tomorrow, Monday the 18th December, at 12 o'clock."

And the crowd began to disperse. Commissario DRAGO approached MILAZZO and said: "You know I can't possibly get a reply by that time."

On the evening of that day (17th December) Captain of Carabinieri, MIRACOLA, sent panic message by phonograph to H.Q. Trapani asking for reinforcements if the mills were not immediately re-opened as there was grave danger of violent public disorders.

SECRET.

Subject: Riot at ALGAMO, Trapani Province 18/12/1944.

On the morning of the 18th December Commissario DRAGO and the Commissario Prefettizio GALATA set off by car for Trapani to confer with the Prefect. It was now 7 o'clock.

But by 09.00 hrs. a crowd of five or six thousand thronged the Piazza Ciullo. Captain of Carabinieri MIRAGLIA went about the crowd trying to quieten it and pleading with individuals to await the Prefect's reply.

At 10.30 hrs (approx.) a phonogram arrived from Trapani saying that the Prefect agreed to the unconditional re-opening of the mills.

But it was too late. From balcony of RISTORANTE STRELLA, twenty-seven (approx.) year old Avv. CASSARA, Chief Representative of separatist youth, started to harangue the mob about "the taxes."

This might have been a signal for the crowd almost at once started to shout "Burn down the tax offices!" And they did.

Captain of Carabinieri MIRAGLIA says that he appealed to Avv. CASSARA to stop the riot. Avv. CASSARA seems to have been frightened by the forces he set in motion and tried but no one would listen and rioters proceeded to the following places which they sacked and burned. A bonfire of papers and furniture was made in the Piazza Ciullo.

- (1) Ufficio Dazio (Municipal taxes on wine &c.);
- (2) Reattoria Comunale (Taxes on land, factories &c.);
- (3) Ufficio Distrettuale Delle Imposte (Stamps &c.);
- (4) Pretura (Magistrates' Offices);
- (5) U.C.S.E.A. (Ufficio Comunale Statistici, Economico Agricoltura) (Grain statistic &c.);
- (6) Municipio (Town Hall);
- (7) Ufficio di Pubblica Sicurezza (Police Offices);
- (8) The residence of Commissario DRAGO (which is attached to the Public Safety Offices);
- (9) Circolo dei civili (Club premises of rich landowners and people popularly supposed to be connected with the black market).

In addition to burning all the records, furniture and other moveable objects at the above stated offices and doing enormous damage, the rioters looted the following two places:-

- (1) Magazzini Granai del Popolo, where seventy-five quintals of grain, a quantity of chemical fertilisers and a quantity of American tinned foodstuff were pillaged.
- (2) Consorzio Agrario Succursale where the mob pillaged a considerable quantity of American tinned foodstuffs and burnt out the premises.

In addition to all the foregoing the mob attempted to burn down the Ufficio Interprovinciale di Polizia but were foiled by the Carabinieri and Pubblica Sicurezza agents. Shots were exchanged with the crowd and one man was wounded in the leg, he remains, however, unidentified.

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At the Municipio Captain of Carabinieri MIRAGLIA tried to reason with the mob but the only answer was the throwing of a number of handgrenades, one of which slightly wounded five of the carabinieri and another of which landed at the feet of MIRAGLIA but fortunately failed to explode. The time was now about 12.00 hrs and elements of the crowd began to shout: "To the Carabinieri Station! Burn it down!" Captain of Carabinieri MIRAGLIA immediately made his way with his men to the station and arrived just in time to pre-

~~SECRET~~

Subject: Riot at Alcamo, Trapani Province, 18/12/1944.

Went the crowd from destroying the building.

The time was now between 13.00 and 14.00 hrs and the crowd began to disperse.

At about 14.00 hrs. Commissario of Public Safety DRAGO returned from Trapani bringing with him twenty carabinieri and ten Public Safety Agents as reinforcements.

At about 15.00 hrs. the Prefect, the Questore and Commandant of the Carabinieri of Trapani Province arrived on the scene.

At about 18.00 hrs. 100 soldiers of the Compagnia di Formazioni 5 Reg. Fanteria S.I. arrived from Palermo.

Soldiers, carabinieri and Public Safety Agents patrolled the streets all night and interrogated citizens. No curfew was imposed. Numerous arrests were made.

E.S.P. made a personal inspection of the damage done, which was considerable. The whole of the interior of the Municipio is burned out and parts of it were still smouldering and the fire brigade was still playing a hose on the embers at 14.00 hrs. 19th December. In the other offices everything of value has been either removed or burned, burnt papers littered the streets and idlers stood about in groups watching.

There are few slogans painted on the walls of the town and most of them of an ordinary character, such as "W STALIN" and "M STALIN."

The arrests made up to 14.00 hrs. 19th December, totalled forty but it is emphasised that there will probably be more and at least some of these are thought to be innocent. Up to 15.00 hrs the interrogations had not been carried out and the responsibility remains a matter of conjecture. The Commissario of Public Safety, DRAGO, suspects the Separatist Movement of being at the bottom of the riot and to lend support to this it is noted that neither AVV. CASSARA nor Student MILANO have been arrested and a search made of their homes elicits the information that they have fled.

A list of the arrests to date is attached hereto.

In the field,
19th December, 1944

AgSet. 7673874

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L E O R N E

ALLIED COMMISSION
SICILIA REGION HEADQUARTERS
APO 394

22 DEC 1944

25 DEC 1944

20 Dec 1944

4/15.3/04
FILE:RC/000.5

SUBJECT: Unrest in SICILY

TO : Headquarters Allied Commission
R O M E

1. I am sending herewith a general report on the present unrest in SICILY and on its causes and effects.

I would point out that this region has (except for ALCA Islands) provincial officers only in CATANIA province and that therefore in general has no sources of information of its own. Moreover, with the existing small staff it is not possible adequately to sift and collate all the information including voluminous P.M.B. reports which are transmitted to this office.

At this stage, therefore, the following views must be taken more as personal opinions rather than those based on weighed evidence.

2. Widespread demonstrations and disturbances have occurred throughout the island during the period from approximately 10 DEC to date. So far demonstrations with or without damage and conflict have been reported at approximately 55 places. Damage to public buildings at CATANIA was serious. There have been various other reports about damage to property but, although this may be comparatively considerable, approximate details are not available. Casualties so far have not been serious and to date might be estimated as 4 dead and 31 injured, mainly civilians.

At CATANIA Police action was completely ineffective. In MARSUSA Province it is reported to have been good. I have not sufficient information to express an opinion on Police conduct generally. Italian troops have been moved to various centres of disturbance but I have not had any reports of their being actively engaged in quelling disorders. There has been a tendency on the part of the local administration to apply to an Allied Headquarters, if one is nearby, for intervention or assistance e.g. with transport. By far the greater part of the demonstrations have taken place in the eastern part of the island.

3. The demonstrations have been directed mainly against the present call-up of military classes. In a few cases the question of grain and bread may have been the sole or a partial cause, and I feel that the difficult economic conditions are an underlying contributory cause to

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3. The demonstrations have been directed mainly against the present call-up of military classes. In a few cases the question of grain and bread may have been the sole or a partial cause, and I feel that the difficult economic conditions are an underlying contributory cause to all these disorders.

In my opinion the primary reason for the resistance to the call-up is that the Sicilian does not want to fight. Secondary reasons are that the terms of the Armistice have not been made known, that the Sicilian does not want to fight to free the Mainland of the Germans, he does not wish leaving his family on a small allowance when food is scarce and prices prohibitive, he does not wish to fight for the existing Italian Government and so forth.

(6424)

Some of the slogans and manifestoes which have appeared are:-
 "Why should we fight in Italy while our families are left to starve?"
 "We will not fight against our brothers in Italy."
 "We want nothing to do with the Italian Government."
 "Why should we be cannon fodder?"
 "Why should we fight when we do not know what we are fighting for?"

A copy of a printed manifesto which was distributed at CATANIA is attached as Annexure A. In addition there were manifestoes crying down the call-up and enjoining all affected not to present themselves.

4. No evidence has been produced to me that the separatist leaders are directly responsible for organising the disturbances. It will be quite obvious, however, that the object of the separatist movement must have a very considerable bearing on the situation not to mention in particular their normal virulent propaganda against the Italian Government and the local administration and their continual misrepresentations. One of the lines of separatist propaganda has been that in the event of an independent Sicily there would be no conscript service in the Italian Army or that in any case Sicilians ought to fight under their own flag or banner. The separatists weighed in early with a letter to the High Commissioner copy of which was sent to me. A copy is enclosed as Annexure B.

5. Demonstrations have not always been confined to those directly affected by the call-up nor have these individuals always been the perpetrators of the damage. This was most evident at CATANIA where criminal and disruptive elements, many of whom were boys who having been delighted spectators during the morning, when the students and others affected against the call-up, decided to take a hand in the proceedings in the afternoon when lamentable consequences as regards damage to public buildings resulted. The lack of effective action on the part of the police forces at CATANIA leads one to feel that they may have some sympathy with the demonstrators. It is reported, but it is not known whether any reliance can be placed on the report, that at CATANIA the head officials at the Questura had given instructions not to interfere. I have not heard any reports as to the Army sympathising in any way with the demonstrators. Although there have been the usual unconfirmed reports, I have no concrete evidence of any anti-Allyed feeling.

6. As regards future developments this seems to depend on two factors, the extent to which the call-up is going to be enforced, and the bread situation. It is reported that the response to the call-up has been very meagre. It is said that some of those affected may have retired into the country and that they have arms. If following on this present unrest, no grain was imported into the island with the result that bread and pasta would comparatively soon only be available in the towns to those who could afford to buy them in the black mar-

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As regards the forces of law and order, I feel that those at present on the Island, if properly employed, might be sufficient to maintain order if there is no deterioration in the situation as it stands at the moment. But this depends very much on the methods, if any, to be employed in the arrest of those who fail to present themselves and on whether or not grain is to be imported to maintain the present ration. I have, however, always been of the opinion that the forces of law and order here have been reduced to a dangerous level and I am therefore supporting

47179

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

785016

the High Commissioner in his request for some reinforcement. Moreover my present instructions from your Headquarters are that force is to be used to collect grain which policy in existing circumstances is quite impossible. The High Commissioner considers it imperative that reinforcements should be sent at an early date.

McLann Brigadier

M. CANN
Brigadier
Regional Commissioner

Encle-

Copies To: Vice President Civil Affairs Section —
Public Safety sub-commission

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ANNEXURE A

GIOVANI SICILIANI.

Ancora una volta dopo lunghi anni di guerra, di sciagure e di miseria, ci si chiede contro la volontà di un popolo; di spargere il nostro sangue.

Come ieri il vile monarca ci impose di morire per la conquista di altri imperi, oggi con la stessa viltà, ci impone di conservargli col nostro sacrificio quella corona che non ha il diritto di tenere, per il suo alto tradimento al popolo tutto.

A noi giovani si uniscano le nostre madri ed i nostri padri. Il popolo tutto formi un blocco compatto per difendere questa gioventù vanamente destinata al macello.

Noi non impugneremo le armi.

GIOVANI DI SICILIA,
siate tutti solidali nell'esprimere la vostra volontà non presentandovi. Pace Pane e Lavoro: Ecco quello vogliamo!

ANNUNZIO B

MOVIMENTO PER L'INDIPENDENZA DELLA SICILIA
COMITATO NAZIONALE

Palermo 13 Dicembre 1944

A S.E. L'ALTO COMMISSARIO PER LA SICILIA

- PALERMO -

e per conoscenza:

AL GENERALE M. GARR Capo della Commis-
sione allenta- PALERMO -

A.S.E. IL PREFETTO DI

- PALERMO -

"More solito" gli avversari di questo Movimento diffondono in mala fede, la voce che i movimenti giovanili contro il richiamo alle armi verificatisi in questi giorni siano da attribuire, in tutto o in parte, al Movimento per l'indipendenza della Sicilia.

A scanso dei soliti equivoci, dichiaro nella forma piu' esplicita ed ufficiale che questo Movimento e' perfettamente estraneo alle dimostrazioni di questi giorni, non avendo alcun interesse che il richiamo alle armi sia coronato da successo o da insuccesso.

Questo Movimento per l'indipendenza della Sicilia prosegue nella sua propaganda legalitaria con la osservanza delle leggi e la protezione della liberta'; ma non intende subire deviazioni dell'opinione pubblica intese a metterlo in cattiva luce o a farlo oggetto di persecuzione.

Occorrendo chiedo che l'Ecc. V. indagli con scrupolo e severita'.

con ossequi.

IL SEGRETARIO GENERALE
/t/ (Antonino Varvaro)

/s/ A. Varvaro

0945

785016

CONFIDENTIAL

ALLIED SUBMISSION
SICILIA REGION HEADQUARTERS
APO 894

30 NOV 1944

27 NOV 1944

FILE:RG/201

My dear Mr. Upjohn,

1. I am sending you herewith my D.O. Bulletin No. 2.

The whole situation in SICILY continues to revolve around food supplies and particularly flour at this moment. Grain stocks on the island are slowly running out, very little grain is being amassed and provinces and communes which have grain reserves are naturally very opposed to them being moved to provinces and communes which have not.

It is stated that some improvement in the sowing may occur after sowing-time is over but it is doubtful whether this will be in any quantity that will really affect the present shortage. There is enough grain on the island to feed the population until the end of December. The situation is tense particularly among the officials of the local administrations. Until it is known whether the existing policy of importing no grain into SICILY is going to be modified no information can be given to the local administration as to prospective importation.

After all that has appeared in the press about the large quantities of grain to be imported into ITALY and due to the fact that there has been no reduction in the bread ration it is felt that the population in general are not over-concerned about the matter and are relying on some steps being taken by the Allies to maintain the present ration. As a result of the present shortage of grain pasta availability has been very spasmodic and in the city of PALERMO is two months in arrears.

The trend of prices for essential foodstuffs is still upwards.

In order to drive fresh fish supplies onto the markets the High Commissioner very wisely took the step of issuing a decree prohibiting the salting of fish which was using up a high proportion of the catches and building up reserves of salted fish for export and speculation.

The immediate effect was that there was a considerable and very satisfactory fall in the price of fresh fish for a few days but it is understood that the price has now swung upwards again. This is probably due to the Black Market having evolved its own steps to bring the price of fish back to its former profitable level. The High Commissioner will be pressed to investigate this.

In an endeavour to lower food prices the High Commissioner has urged those concerned to support cooperative stores. As always, politics must come into these matters and it is understood that one cooperative food store has been opened in PALERMO but that it is only available to members of one political party.

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Olive oil marketing has got off to a very poor start. The High Commissioner is strongly in favor of raising the official price to L.8000 for SICILY. He appears to be pre-

pared to act on his own responsibility as he can get no unanimous directions from his government as to whether or not they approve of any increase. He is pondering, as he has been informed by me that the Allied Commission are opposed to any special price for SICILY.

The political situation remains normal. It is reported by what must be considered a reliable source, the Quarters of PALERMO, that at a separatist meeting held on 17 NOV at which about 100 supporters were present, PINOCCHIARO APRILE stated that, after an exchange of correspondence with Mr. Churchill and President ROOSEVELT, it had been granted that Sicilian troops attached to the Allies, wherever they were, would be permitted to have their own flag of the colours of yellow and red and with the Sicilian Trinacria in the centre as a symbol of Sicilian independence! The separatists have been given back their Headquarters in PALERMO which was raided and closed down for a time after the incident in Palermo on Oct. 19th. In general the events surrounding the incident of Oct. 19th appear to have caused a separatist set-back.

A time-bomb placed in a cloak room exploded in a Palermo cinema a few days ago at which the film "The Dictator", featuring Charlie Chaplin, was being shown. There were very few casualties but one Major of the Carabinieri who was on leave was seriously injured. Fortunately there was no serious panic in the cinema. Investigations are proceeding and it is presumed that the outrage was committed by some Axis hot-head as a protest against the film.

There is an outbreak of small pox in Palermo, 26 cases having been reported to date. The Italian authorities are showing efficiency in the matter and are taking full and active measures. There have been a very large number of vaccinations.

The drain on railway rolling stock, particularly box wagons, caused by no wagons being received in return from mainland traffic will eventually cause a breakdown in the railway transportation here unless some steps are taken to remedy matters.

Having regard to war conditions the situation generally is as satisfactory as can be expected, the main difficulties being the ineffectiveness of local administration and the serious grain position.

I have sent copies of this letter to Brigadier Lush

Mr. Antolini
~~Brigadier Lush~~

Yours sincerely

M. Carr

M. CARR
Brigadier
Regional Commissioner

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

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McLarr

M. CALR
Brigadier
Regional Commissioner

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13 NOV 1944

ALLIED COMMISSION
SICILIA REGION HEADQUARTERS
APO 594

FILE:RC/433

13 NOV 1944

SUBJECT: Grain Situation in SICILY

TO : Headquarters Allied Commission
ROME

with VP. 100.

1. With reference to your 4506/21/008 of 13 OCT and my discussions with your Headquarters during the week ending 4 NOV, the object of this letter is to put on record the results of these discussions and to report the present grain situation in SICILY.

2. I presume it has been agreed that even on a completely successful campaign, that is 45% of an estimated harvest of 7 million quintals, SICILY could not feed itself till the next harvest on the present ration of 500 grammes and with the present number of ration card holders, which entail a monthly rate of consumption of 280,000 quintals as agreed by your Headquarters.

It is admitted that the local administration has failed in its duty in that assessment has fallen far short of the target figure set by your Headquarters of 2 million quintals, thus causing at this stage a most critical situation as regards the feeding of the population.

As regards grain which should have been assessed a proportion has been consumed or smuggled out of the island and is therefore unobtainable. If far the greater proportion had passed into the hands of speculators and recovery under normal conditions is, in general, impossible. The local administration is to be pressed to make the greatest possible effort to continue assessment and to recover hidden grain.

It is difficult to reconcile the self-evident fact that, if the existing ration scale is maintained, SICILY could not feed itself until the next harvest under the best possible assessment, still less so on the target figure set by your Headquarters, with the official policy recently notified that no grain will, under any circumstances, be imported into SICILY.

Non-importation of grain, but only up to a point when the island could reasonably be expected to have fed itself which, based on a 2 million quintal assessment, would be approximately the middle of March, might be a feasible

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ROME

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2. I presume it has been agreed that even on a completely successful assessment, that is 43% of an estimated harvest of 7 million quintals, SICILY could not feed itself till the next harvest on the present ration of 339 grammes and with the present number of ration card holders, which entail a monthly rate of consumption of 230,000 quintals as agreed by your Headquarters.

It is admitted that the local administration has failed in its duty in that assessment has fallen far short of the target figure set by your Headquarters of 2 million quintals, thus causing at this stage a most critical situation as regards the feeding of the population.

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Non-importation of grain, but only up to a point when the island could reasonably be expected to have fed itself which, based on a 2 million quintal assessment, would be approximately the middle of March, might be a feasible policy in itself. Civilian interests only were concerned and if the political and public safety consequences could be disregarded.

In existing circumstances, however, any such policy must have very serious effect on the Allied installations on the island, principally naval bases, and on industries working for the war effort such as the sulphur mines, etc., and on the transportation services.

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It is understood that for political reasons grain collecting officers, even though available, are not to be sent to the Island. This is most regrettable as it is felt that their activities might have assisted the war effort by diminishing the need for the use of Allied shipping for importation of grain. The time for their useful employment is rapidly passing.

It is regretted also that it has not been found possible so far (attention was drawn to this matter in my RG/455 of 28 SEP) to send any forces to strengthen the police or grain collecting agencies and that a valuable sin waste has passed. The difficulties of this aspect are fully appreciated.

3. The present situation is as follows. The Island has approximately sufficient grain to feed itself until the end of December. As pointed out at your Headquarters to make existing grain resources last until the end of February 1945 would entail the reduction of the existing ration of 300 grammes to 106 grammes with effect from 15 NOV 1944 and proportionately to cover any lesser or greater period. The rate of grain consumption has increased slightly recently and for the 7 days ending 9 NOV amounted to 14,000 quintals or an average of 2,000 quintals per day. The present total assessed is 1,534,000 quintals and it will be appreciated that to reach the target of 2 million quintals grain assessment would be necessary at the rate of approximately 10,000 quintals per day for the next two months, a figure impossible of attainment in existing circumstances.

I saw the High Commissioner for Sicily on 11 NOV, the earliest possible day after my return from Rome, and discussed the whole matter with him. I informed him that the policy of no grain being exported into Sicily as recently notified still held good but that the whole question had been raised again with the Supreme Allied Commander. I pointed out that the situation was most critical especially as regards the winter months and that it was essential that maximum effort be continued to secure grain.

When the question of a local reduction in the standard bread ration was raised, I advised the High Commissioner, as agreed with your Headquarters, that no reduction should be made at this stage. From this the High Commissioner must deduce that some modification of existing policy in regard to the importation of grain is under consideration but beyond that I gave him no indication as to whether or when grain for import might be available.

It will be appreciated, therefore, that except for bringing pressure to bear on the local administration to increase assessment, no other steps to implement the policy laid down in your letter under reference and to meet the critical bread situation facing the Island have been taken here.

4. I shall be glad to be kept informed as early as possible as and when any further developments in this matter take place. I shall continually bear in mind that any grain available for importation must in the first instance be considered as a reserve and that every effort must be made to feed the population as long as possible on grain obtained from resources

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McDon Brydier

M. J. J. R.
Bridgwater
Regional Commissioner

COPIES TO: D.C.O.S. Economic Section
D.C.O.S. Administrative Section —

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2 Oct 1954

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I find that in the province of E.L. AUTO BUS, in general, is two months in arrears.

In the Province of Calcutta, while 1,500,000 was received during the month of August, this sum only enabled salaries and expenses to be paid up to the 31st July. Pay etc. was, therefore, now two months in arrears and both the Prefect and the Head of the Provincial U.P.C.C., reported that, owing to this, U.P.C.C. had ceased to be an efficient operating organisation in the Province for the time being. In the Province of Calcutta the affairs of a similar nature had existed but a temporary advance of funds had been made by the Prefect to adjust matters.

time and difficulties of communication have not permitted a check on the position in other provinces of the Island, but it is possible that a similar state of affairs to that outlined above exists.

While the situation is serious enough, it is not actually as stated in para 7 of my letter unless reference which I request should be modified accordingly.

2. collection of grain continues at a very low level. As you will be aware, under 50% of the target figure of quintals 3,100,000 set for the Island has been amassed to date. All provincial authorities hold, in extenuation of the comparatively small amounts of grain collected, that the target figures laid down for Provinces are, in general, not in accordance with production and I am now engaged in an investigation in an endeavour to determine what the true position is. The High Commissioner is also reviewing the whole situation and will be sending a copy of his report to me, I hope, at a very early date.

For

0022 TO: Vice President Economic Section
Vice President Administrative Section
Agriculture Sub-Commission

1. With reference to my letter of 29 May, I find that paragraph 7 of that letter relating to arrears of pay of U.S.A. staff was based on incorrect information, although I was assured at the time by the responsible authorities that the pay of this staff was three months in arrears throughout the island.

The state of affairs appeared to be so serious that I started a personal investigation.

I find that in the Province of Palawan, in general, in two months in arrears.

In the Province of Cebu, while L.200,000 was received during the month of August, this had only enabled salaries and expenses to be paid up to the 31st July. Pay etc. was, therefore, now two months in arrears and both the Prefect and the Head of the Provincial U.S.A. reported that, owing to this, U.S.A. had ceased to be an efficient operating organisation in the Province for the time being. In the Province of Cebu, arrears of a similar nature had existed but a temporary advance of funds had been made by the Prefect to adjust matters.

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Regional Commissioner

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

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EXTRACT FROM MONTHLY REPORT AUGUST 1944

PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION, REGION I.

5- REFUGEES - All Communes with refugees from the mainland have been visited during the month. In general they are being well taken care of, but there are one or two black spots where complaints of food shortage and of poor accommodation were made. All sindaci have been interviewed on the spot and enjoined to make the necessary improvements in the comfort of the refugees.

The two Camps - Syracuse and Termini - have been closed and the staffs reduced to a minimum. All Army equipment has been returned to store - as it is no longer necessary -. Both camps will be reopened at short notice when repatriation begins and will be used as staging camps. As rail-communication between Palermo and Messina and between Syracuse and Messina is now established many of the difficulties in moving large bodies of refugees have disappeared.

D.C. MACDONALD

Lt. Colonel,

Regional Public Health Officer.

Personal &
Confidential

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
MILITARY DIVISION HEADQUARTERS
PO 394

WLB:RC/201

30 Sept 1944

My dear U.S. Gen,

1. I am sending you herewith my D.O. Bulletin No. 1.

In accordance with my usual practice, these bulletins are for information only; any action which may appear to be necessary will be taken through the normal official channels.

As regards these bulletins, I am afraid I shall not be able to give the same service as I did from GARDINIA, where I had about 18 to 20 officers to cover 3 provinces and a population of about 1 million. It is a different matter in SICILY with at present about 27 officers to cover 9 provinces and a population of approximately 4 million. One of the difficulties I find here is that of obtaining information through A.C.C. sources on which to base opinions. Furthermore, when information does come in from a variety of sources, it is difficult to sort and collate it with a vanishing staff.

2. The Regional Headquarters office set-up here is, in my opinion, most unsatisfactory. The special division offices are spread over the city of PALERMO. In some cases they are actually working among their ITALIAN counterparts and, apart from a natural tendency to become involved in a mass of detail, this does not seem to be best directed towards teaching ITALIAN officials to stand on their own feet. Moreover, there is another aspect of which there is a good instance at the present moment. I am now considering, as a matter of urgency, the prices to be paid for the 1944 oil crop at the request of your Headquarters. My Agricultural Officer has his offices right in the middle of the Italian Agricultural organization and, I understand, the A.C.C. staff to some extent handles Italian correspondence - this, I was led to believe, had the support of your Headquarters but this has yet to be confirmed. The Italian Agricultural officials are, in my opinion, making fantastic suggestions as regards the price to be paid for olive oil. Such a situation must militate very strongly against my Regional Agricultural Officer giving me detached advice in such a matter. It is difficult to comprehend under whose guiding hand such an inefficient set-up evolved out of what was once the cradle of A.C.C. and later a resting place for A.C.C. the present Headquarters building cannot possibly house the whole staff, but I am hoping to effect more concentration despite opposition. All former Allied office buildings of any size have now been released and are otherwise in use and, in addition, there is the difficulty of determining how far it is desirable and feasible to make changes, having

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3. The Granai del Popolo is making very slow progress. I have constant discussions with the High Commissioner on this important matter and he has undertaken to make an intensive drive this week on this subject. The figure at the time of writing is 1,100,430 quintals against a target

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figure of 3,100,000 animals. Amongst the civilians there is almost unanimous agreement that the target figures set for each province are too high, and there is a general tendency for one province to say that its figure is too high while that of another province is not high enough. I may not yet have the opportunity of considering the details on which these target figures were based. I feel, however, that we should concentrate here on obtaining all the grain which should be available under the existing decrees, rather than paying too much attention to target figures.

I found, on taking over, that there was a lamentable lack of care for arresting officials, to the extent that it was quite impossible for the majority of them to carry out their duties. (The same applies to cases for malaria control officials not one of whom yet has a car). I have taken urgent action in this matter with the High Commissioner and I am hoping that there will be some early results.

As regards legal proceedings in connection with criminal and popular offences, a large number of communications are still occurring and my Legal Officer informs me that the courts are approximately holding their own in disposing of these cases. Convictions, however, appear to be mainly against the small man-what I feel is wanted is action against the big man in any case where he is an offender but this, as is usual in this country, presents difficulties.

4. The implementation of the vehicle registration scheme here appears to me to be farcical. Large numbers of trucks and cars can be seen on the roads either without any registration form or with an irregular registration form on the windshield. Undoubtedly, a number of these vehicles may be licensed but not carry their license affixed in the proper place. I feel, however, that there are large numbers of unlicensed vehicles running on petrol irregularly obtained. As regards the Black Market, experience often shows, however, that the worst operations are carried out by properly licensed vehicles. I am taking active steps in this matter with the High Commissioner, particularly as it affects the provision of vehicles for officials and others who really need them for essential duties.

5. Law and order remain reasonably satisfactory though there are signs of the danger of the kind of political activities with the forces of delinquency. One has the feeling that the situation cannot be reassuring when the population is more numerous and probably better armed (not always intentionally so, but sometimes due to war souvenirs, scrap metal, etc.) than the forces of law and order. The Black Market flourishes unabated. The food situation on the surface appears as satisfactory as can be expected, though undoubtedly the working classes in the cities suffer severely from high and black market prices.

I have personally inspected the most crowded prison on the island - that of C.M.I.I. It is stated to have a capacity of about 450 men, at the time of my visit about 5 weeks ago, was holding approximately 1150 prisoners, but it is a large prison and conditions there did not reveal a public scandal such as I met in one case in my last region. The Director was with me the day of my visit. (I made a point of carrying out such visits unannounced) but the prison appeared to be well-run. The

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parts of the Island. If available statistics can be taken as reliable, the prison accommodation situation outside C.A.M.H. is not unsatisfactory, but I shall take an opportunity of checking this if and when opportunity arises.

6. From reports I receive, the care and maintenance of refugees is not at all satisfactory. The Regional Public Health Officer, who is the sole officer in that Division, does all the A.C.C. work in connection with refugees, and this puts a very heavy burden on his shoulders, though very valuable work in this respect is being carried out by the Friends Ambulance Unit personnel. It is the attitude of the local officials and population which is the cause of the main difficulties. Strict orders are in force against any movement of refugees, but various devices to evade the regulations are often used.

7. I am constantly pressing my staff to keep in front of them the necessity of handing-over responsibility to the Italian authorities to the maximum extent. There is now some hold-up here in regard to the handing-over of A.C.C. warehouses, because instructions have been received from Food Sub-commission that a considerable quantity of Allied food stuffs is to be kept under A.C.C. control.

8. The normal siesta habit militates effectively here against real progress being made by Italian officials in general towards putting the Sicilian house in order.

9. I have sent copies of this letter to Brigadier Lush
Brig. General O'Dwyer
~~Colonel Upjohn~~

Yours sincerely
Mcarr

M. CARR
Brigadier
Regional Commissioner

