

1880

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

785016

ACC

10000/105/416

AC
AC

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

10000/105/416

ACC, REGIONAL CONFERENCE, REGION III
AUG. 1944

1882

785016

Handwritten: 1st Lt. Upjohn
2nd Lt. Adams

-8 AUG. 1944

Minutes of conference held at Region 3 Headquarters on 4 August 1944 at 1435

- Present were: Brigadier LUSH, Executive Commissioner, ACC.
 Col. Upjohn, Regional Administrative Section, ACC.
 Col. Adams, Transportation Sub-Com, ACC.
 Col. Temperley, Provincial Commissioner, Foggia Prov.
 Col. Legg, Food Sub-Com, ACC.
 Col. Channon, Regional Commissioner, Region 3.
 Col. Zellers, Regional Commissioner, Region 2.
 Col. Evans, Commerce Sub-Com, ACC.
 Col. Densmore, Chief Staff Officer.
 Col. Albright, Establishments Officer, ACC.
 Lt. Col. Jenney, Public Works and Utilities Sub-Com, ACC.
 Lt. Col. Harman, Agriculture Sub-Com, ACC.
 Lt. Col. White, Executive Officer, Region 3.
 Lt. Col. Peasey, Regional Commissioner, Region 7.
 Major Stewart, M.A. to Executive Commissioner, ACC.
 Major Knight, Reg. Supply Officer, Region 2.
 Major White, Agriculture Officer, Region 3.
 Major Washer, Economic Section, ACC.
 Lt. Col. Schlee, Camp Control Officer, Region 3.
 Mr. Antolini, Ex. Director, Economic Section, ACC.
 Mr. Caccia, Political Section, ACC.
 Mr. Shott, Political Section, ACC.

Brigadier Lush opened the meeting and told the assembly that he called this meeting in order to discuss the possibility of consolidating Regions 2 and 7 with Region 3. The Ex. Comm. pointed out that it is felt by the Actg. Chief Commissioner, that large parts of the southern parts of Italy should be turned over to the Italians entirely and it should be decided in the meeting if this would be possible and practicable. He said that the decision will not cause any inconvenience. It is planned to have a Regional Headquarters in Naples and not more than 6 Provincial Teams. It will be necessary to retain Allied Officers in areas where there are Allied Teams. Another reason for retaining ACC Officers in these areas is an administrative one. The third one is a political one. This step would be an intermediate one, and later on the entire southern part of Italy would be turned over to the Italians. The Brigadier stressed the fact that these teams would have to be mobile and would look after areas, wherever needed. There Allied Forces are stationed there should be an officer of ACC. This would mean that large areas will not be covered by ACC officers at all and in these parts it will be up to the Italian Local Governments to make decisions alone. Sooner or later, the Brigadier pointed out, it must be up to the Italians to stand on their own feet. The longer we remain resident and the longer we remain in a position of personal control and supervision, the more difficult it will be to go away. Another point is the drastic reduction in personnel, which has to be made in order to supply the north with experienced officers. The main factor however is to give the Italians a chance to see what they can do in areas which are not under our supervision.

1223

The main reasons for the consolidation are administrative, political and economical. The criterion will always be the Allied Troops and installations. As long as we can get over the economical and food problems, this will work out very well.

Col. UPJOHN pointed out that it is better to make a start at some time, now, and give the Italians a fair chance of a start. Mr. CACCIA, Political Section (D) stressed the same facts. We should build this new government up. The present Italian Government is a very weak one. It is a coalition government, having 6 parties competing with each other. The Allied policy will be to back them up, if they fall down. From the political point of view, we are interested how far they are able to go. We certainly will help them administratively too.

Mr. ANTOLINI, Ec. Director, ACC, pointed out that we have built up an "Industrial Production Program". This will reflect on industry and public works. The main work is carried with the Italian Ministry of Industry, which shows the will and intelligence to cooperate. Mr. Antolini revealed that we have some stocks of materials, which will be distributed. New factories will start production very soon. He also stated that a program on the agricultural side is set up by the end of the month. This pertains to Public Works as well. The consolidation on the economic side will be handled from Reg. Hq. We have some 50 Italian Engineers and we will find out what they can do. Let us find out what the Italians can do and give them a start. Mr. Antolini stressed the fact that the following priorities exist for transportation of goods: 1: Grain, 2: Fruits and vegetables, 3: Olive Oil, 4: Wine.

Brigadier LUSH asked the Reg. Commissioners for their opinion in regards to this new consolidation.

The Provincial Commissioner of Foggia Province, Col. TEMPERLEY, suggested that the new Regional Headquarters should be in Rome, since the Eternal City is the seat of the Italian Government. It would take too long time to get in touch with them through Naples.

Lt. Col. PEASE, Regional Commissioner, Region 7, pointed out, that there are no troops in Calabria and that the presence of Police Officers will be essential. Besides that there are some Allied Deserters there. Brig. LUSH asked the Regional Commissioner what would happen, if there would be no officers at all in the Region and the answer was: Riots and disorder. There have to be Allied officers in the Region, in order to back the Italians up.

Col. ZELLARS, Regional Commissioner, Region 2, pointed out that the Army must know what is going on. The Italians must know that the Allied back them up and this is up to ACC. They are very fearful. Then we must give them some means. The motor transportation problem is very serious. He agreed with Naples as Reg. Hq.

Col. CHAPMAN, Regional Commissioner, Region 3 pointed out, that the only way to master this situation is, to have teams of a very mobile character. He said, that he can centralize, but it is long way from being mobile. The Colonel said that he can see the necessity for the Administrative change, but now is not the time. From the political point of view, Naples is the center of political activities and not Rome. Here in Naples is the greatest concentration of organized labor. All movements have their Hq here in Naples. The Italian Government is in Rome and they have left officials here in Naples. They have never announced a program. Everything is in a state of chaos. From the economical point of view: The Army has got the factories which are left. Every factory in Region 3 is not in our hands. The agricultural situation is bad. After we turned over the Province to the Italians, 24 hours later the HEMP industry went out of control. We had enough in Naples province to export. Question: There is no cooperation from the Italian officials. The Italian officials are advising farmers not to bring the grain to granaries. We will have only one half of it. The complaint is that price is too low but he was not prepared to agree with this entirely. Then the farmers have no confidence in the money. The Italian farmer would rather have his grain than money.

Brig. LUSH asked, if this is due to lack of officers. Commander SHINE, Leap Controller points out the need of control. Another problem Col CHAPMAN brought up is the lack of transportation. In coming through this country, we have stripped it of all transportation. How are the officers going to operate without motor transport. Asked by Brig. LUSH, if our presence is necessary, the Colonel answered: The Italian is scared if we do not stay. We have broken one promise. We have taken grain from Salerno and never returned it, even though we have promised to do so. To come back to transportation, the Colonel pointed out that 90% of our transportation consists of requisitioned cars. He asked the Brigadier about this problem. Brig. LUSH did not give any promises of getting the cars, but promised to do his best to supply the Region after this new set up goes into effect.

Brig. LUSH said that in his opinion it does not matter if there are riots among the Italians, as long as they do not affect Allied interests, the Allied War effort, or government. Brig. LUSH pointed out that we must let rural areas be governed by the Italians. Col CHAPMAN pointed out that the new Reg. Hq. should be in Naples, rather in Rome, because of the port and all the other reasons, mentioned before. From food standpoint, Col LEGG pointed out that it will be necessary to have some distribution points all over the new region, with a central administration in Rome.

In closing Brig. LUSH announced the new Provincial teams with Hq. in Reggio, Taranto-Brindisi, Catanzaro, Naples and Salerno. He pointed out that the new change will be more an administrative than an establishment change. Leave the Italians alone, as long as Allied interests are not concerned. The Brigadier announced that the new consolidation would probably go into effect on 31 August 1944. After a discussion regarding the number of officers to be assigned to the new set-up the meeting adjourned at 1750 hours.

1224

