

0987

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

785016

ACC

10000/105/453

0988

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

10000/105/453

DEVASTATED AREAS, MEETINGS
SEPT. - DEC. 1944

0989

Dev Cross
217

DERIVY CHIEF OF STAFF'S MEETING
OF
HEADS OF SUB-COMMISSIONS OF CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

NO. 69

Meeting opened at 1602 hrs on Tuesday 26 Dec 44.

The VP said he hoped that everyone had enjoyed their Christmas.

1 Points from last meeting.

(a) Signings of Documents by Command of the Chief Commissioner. (1(a))
Civil Affairs Office Instructions to stand.

(b) Prison Regions. (2(b)) No decision has yet been given by the Chief Commissioner. The VP stated that he would bring the matter again before the Chief Commissioner at his next meeting for a decision.

Col. Cripps said he thought there was some misunderstanding with regard to the regions. The position was that the regions were to be decreased by 150 grams in Rome and increased throughout the rest of the country to bring the overall region to 300 grams for all prisons.

(c) Naval Deserters. (3(c)) Col. Bohrens stated that the Navy claim that according to their law, naval deserters were to be members of the navy and therefore can be tried by AM Courts. He said he was attending a conference on Priority as stated in para 3 (c) of last week's minutes.

(d) Riot in Catania. The VP felt that Public Safety should take the matter up with the Italian Government, pointing out the lack of initiative foresight and inability of the CC.RR. Col. Young enquired whether the VP wanted it taken up with Gen. Orlando of the Government. The VP suggested that Col. Young should draft a letter for the Chief Commissioner to write to the Prime Minister and also take it up with the Commanding General, CC.RR.

(e) Casualties from Allied Drivers in Rome. (3(h)) Action has been taken on this matter. **2308**

(f) Communications in Italian. (5) This matter was discussed at the SOS Meeting and the ruling is that when a communication is being sent to 5th or 8th Army area it should be covered and if it raises any matter on which the SCAO might wish to exercise any discretion a translation should be enclosed. If no such question arose and the communication was purely formal a translation need not be enclosed and the covering letter would state that the letter was purely formal.

In cases referred to Regional control translations need not be enclosed.

Where Sub-Commissions were already in the habit of always sending translations and a covering letter with comments, they should continue to do so, if the administrative burden was not too great.

Points from the Chief of Staff's Meeting

Meeting opened at 1602 hrs on Tuesday 26 Dec 44.

The VP said he hoped that everyone had enjoyed their Christmas.

1 Points from last meeting.

(a) Classified Documents by Command of the Chief Commissioner. (1(a))
Civil Affairs Office Instructions to stand.

(b) Prison Nations. (2(b)) No decision has yet been given by the Chief Commissioner. The VP stated that he would bring the matter again before the Chief Commissioner at his next meeting for a decision.

Col. Cripps said he thought there was some misunderstanding with regard to the regions. The position was that the rate was to be decreased by 150 grams in Home and increased throughout the rest of the country to bring the overall ration to 300 grams for all prisoners.

(c) Naval Deserters. (3(c)) Col. Ebbens stated that the Navy claim that according to their law, naval deserters came to be members of the navy and therefore can be tried by AIB Courts. He said he was attending a conference on Friday as stated in para 3 (c) of last week's minutes.

(d) Riot in Catania. The VP felt that Public Safety should take the matter up with the Italian Government, pointing out the lack of initiative foresight and inability of the CC.RR. Col. Young enquired whether the VP wanted it taken up with Gen. Orlando or the Government. The VP suggested that Col. Young should draft a letter for the Chief Commissioner to write to the Prime Minister and also take it up with the Commanding General, CC.RR.

(e) Casualties from Allied Drivers in Rome. (3(h)) Action has been taken on this matter.

(f) Communications in Italian.

(5) This matter was discussed at the COS Meeting and the ruling is that when a communication is being sent to 5th or 8th Army area it should be screened and if it raises any matter on which the COS might wish to exercise any discretion a translation should be enclosed. If no such question arose and the communication was purely formal a translation need not be enclosed and the covering letter would state that the letter was purely formal.

In cases referred to Regional control translations need not be enclosed.

Where Sub-Commissions were already in the habit of always sending translations and a covering letter with comments, they should continue to do so, if the administrative burden was not too great.

2 Points from the Chief of Staff's Meeting.

(a) Study of the Italian language. The COS felt that too many officers, particularly those in the field are not familiar with the Italian language and the question of Italian Classes is under consideration.

The VP said that arising out of this he would like to add that some officers at Hq held conversations with their opposite number in the Italian Government without an interpreter. He would like to ask all

0991

D.A. 16

DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF'S REPORT
OF
HEARS OF SUB-COMMISSIONS OF THE CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

NO. 67

Meeting opened at 1610 hrs on Tuesday, 19 Dec 44.

The J/VP, Brig. Anderson, was in the Chair.

1. Points from last meeting, held Friday, 15 Dec 44.

(a) Lt. Col. White said he would like to point out that having read the Memorandum on Elections he has changed his mind and strongly opposed elections. He said that the matter of primary importance was to find out who and what the Italian Government wished to elect and what powers these people could exercise. Col. Spicer said that he wished to remain neutral and that the Memorandum was written as an open paper. He would like to point out that there were Councils at present in existence. They are:

- Giunta Comunale
- Deputazioni Provinciali
- Giunta Provinciale Amministrativa

These councils at the present time are advisory but they have certain Executive powers in minor matters. The real question at point, Lt. Col. White said, is whether members of these various councils should be elected by popular vote or by the high level pro-Fascist set-up of 1915. Col. Behrens stated that Italy was a country with 2,000 years of civilization behind it and it seemed rather inappropriate to hold experimental elections if we wished the Italians to cooperate and regain their sense of proportion.

The J/VP said that he wished to get the feeling of the meeting but this matter had to be carefully considered and the regions had been circulated for their views.

2. Points from the Chief of Staff's Meeting.

(a) Press. The J/VP felt that the press criticisms seemed out of proportion in Italy. Laventil's heading today - "Hands off Greece" seemed unnecessary. He said that Public Relations had pointed out that the bad press was probably due to two things:

- (i) Italian Press not known much about AC - i.e., the changeover from AMI to ACC and then to AC and the different powers following these changes.
- (ii) Part of the Press was the opposition of the Government.

It was suggested at the JCS meeting that interviews might be given to the Italian Press with Heads of Sections and of Sub-Commission. **2207** was felt that the position of AM should be clarified on it, MacMillan's return and that Public Relations should draw up a Memorandum on the question and submit it to the Chief Commissioner for release to the Italian Press.

(b) Requisitioning. All requisitioning of Government buildings is to come through AC. The question in point was Palazzo Venezia. The Rome Press demanded to know whether it was for "necessity" or "convenience".

(c) Military Aid to the Civil Power. Clarification is needed and Col.

0992

1 Points from last meeting, held Friday, 15 Dec 44.

(a) Lt. Col. White said he would like to point out that having read the Memorandum on Elections he had changed his mind and strongly opposed elections. He said that the matter of primary importance was to find out who and what the Italian Government wished to elect and what powers these people could exercise. Col. Spicer said that he wished to remain neutral and that the Memorandum was written as an open paper. He would like to point out that there were Councils at present in existence. They are:

- Giunte Comunale
- Deputazioni Provinciali
- Giunte Provinciali Administrative

These councils at the present time are advisory but they have certain Executive powers in minor matters. The real question at point, Lt. Col. White said, is whether members of these various councils should be elected by popular vote or by the high level Pro-Fascist set-up of 1915. Col. Behrens stated that Italy was a country with 2,000 years of civilization behind it and it seemed rather imprudent to hold experimental elections if we wished the Italians to cooperate and regain their sense of proportion.

The A/VP said that he wished to see the forking of the meeting but this matter had to be carefully considered and the Regions had been circulated for their views.

2 Points from the Chief of Staff's Meeting.

- (a) Press The A/VP felt that the press criticisms seemed out of proportion in Italy. L'Avanti! heading today - "Hands off Greece" seemed unnecessary. He said that Public Relations had pointed out that the bad press was probably due to two things:
 - (i) Italian Press not knowing much about AC - i.e. the changeover from AE to AC and then to AC and the different powers following these changes.
 - (ii) Part of the Press was the opposition of the Government.

It was suggested at the CDS meeting that interviews might be given to the Italian Press with Heads of Sections and of Sub-Commissions. ²³⁰⁷ He felt that the position of VP should be clarified on Mr. Meddison's return and that Public Relations should draw up a Memorandum on the question and submit it to the Chief Commissioner for release to the Italian Press.

- (b) Requisitioning All requisitioning of Government buildings is to come through AC. The question in point was Palazzo Venezia. The Rome Press demanded to know whether it was for "necessity" or "convenience".
- (c) Military Aid to the Civil Power. Clarification is needed and Col. Chapman, Public Safety, is preparing a Memorandum on the matter and taking it up with No. 3 District.

(d) Signing of documents by Command of the Chief Commissioner. The Chief Commissioner felt that some check should be made on documents leaving his Headquarters signed by the Head of the Chief Commissioner. He felt that the delegation of power to sign in that manner should be left to CDSs, DCSs. Heads of Sections and Heads of Independent Sub-Commissions. As all letters going to senior formations are signed in that way the principle might be difficult to follow. Col. Shipp is amending Office Memorandum No. 17.

Col. Ship's suggestions were that all "Category 13" in the last Staff Duties Memorandum will emit "By Demand of the Chief Commissioner" for the letter to be signed by the Senior Officer of the Section. Col. Spicer is also to clarify layout of letters and communications with the Italian Government. No immediate action to be taken.

(a) Threats to "work more than leaving the Allies Employment. This was brought up at the last meeting. It is exceptionally difficult to get any evidence and each case should be taken on its merits.

(c) Christmas Holidays. Christmas Day is to be treated like a Sunday. Brig. Parkinson asked Heads of Sub-Commissions how they arranged the day for all - Sunday - with one duty officer on duty. CA Section should await the VP's return. The J/WP felt personally that it was best to leave it to the Heads of Sub-Commissions to decide.

Col. Spicer said that Local Government and Patriots have one fixed day for all - Sunday - with one duty officer on duty.

Col. Churchill said that Licensed Officers choose their own day off.

Col. Petherall said that Licensed Parsons stopger their days off. It was left to the officer to choose his day.

Mr. Washburn said that Sunday was a wasted day if they come in. His Officers had Sundays off.

Mr. Col. De Wolf said that in Memoranda and Fine Arts the Officers choose their day off.

Col. Brennan stated that Local Officers choose their day off. In a sense of opinion of the meeting was that it was best to leave it to Sub-Commissions to choose which policy they adopted.

With regard to Christmas Day it was decided to have one duty officer on duty all day for CA Section. Brig. Parkinson volunteering for the afternoon. The question of clerks will be decided later - whether there should be one clerk for the Section or one clerk per Sub-Commission.

Mr. Beck's inquired whether the same was to apply for New Year's Day.

(g) Statement by Henri in London Press. Local Government is checking and making a report on Henri's statement that of the 57 Prefects appointed only 3 have been approved by AG. Col. Spicer stated that he wished to make it quite clear that no inquiries were made or records kept as to the politics of Prefects.

(h) Complaint from G-5. G-5 complained that four or five different approaches were being made to them on return of Prisoners of War. They are prepared to accept correspondence on that subject through 2 channels - Prisoners of War and Disputed Parsons Sub-Commissions.

(i) Security in 8th Army. Complaints have been received that the Italian Government were sending documents in Italian to Prefects through Public Safety without translations.

Mr. Col. White to investigate this matter.

Col. Spicer said that communications from the Italian Government to Prefects, etc., in Italian were sent through his Sub-Commission to the Regional Commission for whatever action they thought fit to take.

(Total letters are not covered or translated.) It was suggested that it should be taken up at the next COS meeting whether this correspondence should be allowed to continue.

(f) Christmas Holidays. Christmas Day is to be treated like a Sunday. Brig. Parkinson asked Heads of Sub-Commissions how they arranged the one day a week off. He felt that before any changes were made, C/Section should await the HQ's return. The J/VP felt personally that it was best to leave it to the Heads of Sub-Commissions to decide.

Col. Spicer said that Local Government and Patriotic boys were fixed for all - Sunday - with an duty officer on duty.

Col. Chapman said Public Safety Officers choose their day off. Col. Forthright said that Displaced Persons staff for their day's off. It was left to the officer to choose his day.

Maj. Westburn said that Sunday was a rested day if they came in. His Officers had Sundays off.

Lt. Col. De Wald said that in Memoranda and Nine Arts the Officers choose their day off.

Col. H. Hrens stated that Local Officers choose their day off. The concept of a union of the meeting was that it was best to leave it to Sub-Commissions to choose which policy they adopted.

With regard to Christmas Day it was decided to have the duty officer on duty all day for C/Section. Brig. Parkinson volunteering for the afternoon. The question of drinks will be decided later - whether there should be one clerk for the Section or one clerk per Sub-Commission.

Maj. Racke enquired whether the same was to apply for New Year's Day.

(g) Statements by Mondt in London Press. Local Government is checking and making a report on Mondt's statement that of the 57 reports appointed only 3 have been approved by AC. Col. Spicer stated that he wished to make it quite clear that no inquiries were made or records kept as to the policies of Prefects.

(h) Complaint from 3-5. 3-5 complained that four or five different approaches were being made to them on return of prisoners of war. They are prepared to accept correspondence on that subject through 2 channels - Prisoners of War and Displaced Persons Sub-Commissions.

(i) Security in 8th Army. Complaints have been received that the Italian Government were sending documents in Italian to Prefects through Public Safety without translations.

Lt. Col. White to investigate this matter. Col. Spicer said that communications from the Italian Government to Prefects, etc., in Italian were sent through his Sub-Commission to the Regional Commission for better action they thought fit to take. (These letters are not censored or translated.) It was suggested that it should be taken up at the next HQ meeting whether this correspondence should be allowed to continue.

(j) Distribution of letters and Memorandums. Col. Wiska said that he thought that this had been carried to an excess. The J/VP stated that he thought it was difficult to lay down any hard and fast rule.

(k) Promotions of American Officers. Everything possible was being done in AC and it was felt that the difficulties are with WPAUSA.

2 Col. Craig reported that AC had been refused for the manufacture of glass in the Communist area. Another interesting point was that although this building was Italian Government property it came under RAC and their

Dev Cross
217

DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF'S MEMORANDUM
OF
HEARS OF SUB-COMMISSIONS OF CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

NO. 69

Meeting opened at 1602 hrs on Tuesday 26 Dec 44.

The VP said he hoped that everyone had enjoyed their Christmas.

1 Points from last meeting.

(a) Scrutin of Documents By Command of the Chief Commissioner", (1(a))
Civil Affairs Office instructions to stand.

(b) Prison Regions. (2(b)) No decision has yet been given by the Chief Commissioner. The VP stated that he would bring the matter up before the Chief Commissioner at his next meeting for a decision.

Col. Cripps said he thought there was some misunderstanding with regard to the regions. The position was that the regions were to be increased by 150 grams in Rome and increased throughout the rest of the country to bring the overall ration to 300 grams for all prisons.

(c) Naval Deserters. (3(c)) Col. Ebbrows stated that the Navy claim that according to their law, naval deserters could be members of the navy and therefore can be tried by Military Courts. He said he was attending a conference on Friday as stated in para 3 (c) of last week's minutes.

(d) Riot in Catania. The VP felt that Public Safety should take the matter up with the Italian Government, pointing out the lack of initiative foresight and inability of the CC.FR. Col. Young enquired whether the VP wanted it taken up with Gen. Orlando or the Government. The VP suggested that Col. Young should draft a letter for the Chief Commissioner to write to the Prime Minister and also take it up with the Commanding General, CC.FR.

(e) Casualties from Allied Drivers in Rome. (3(h)) Action has been taken on this matter. **2308**

(f) Communications in Italy. (5) This matter was discussed at the COS Meeting and the ruling is that when a communication is being sent to 5th or 8th Army staff it should be corrected and if it raises any matter on which the SC/0 might wish to exercise any discretion a translation should be enclosed. If no such question arose and the communication was purely formal a translation need not be enclosed and the covering letter would state that the letter was purely formal.

In areas referred to Regional control translations need not be enclosed.

"Where Sub-Commissions were already in the habit of always sending translations and a covering letter with comments, they should continue to do so, if the administrative burden was not too great.

Points from the Chief of Staff's Meeting.

Meeting opened at 1602 hrs on Tuesday 26 Dec 44.

The VP said he hoped that everyone had enjoyed their Christmas.

1 Points from last meeting.

(a) Examine of Documents by Command of the Chief Commissioner, (1(a))
Civil Affairs Office instructions to attend.

(b) Prison Rations, (2(b)) No decision has yet been given by the Chief Commissioner. The VP stated that he would bring the matter again before the Chief Commissioner at his next meeting for a decision.

Col. Cripps said he thought there was some misunderstanding with regard to the rations. The position was that the rations were to be increased by 150 grams in Rome and increased throughout the rest of the country to bring the overall ration to 300 grams for all prisoners.

(c) Naval Deserters, (3(c)) Col. Roberts stated that the Navy claim that according to their law, naval deserters cannot be members of the navy and therefore can be tried by AMG Courts. He said he was attending a conference on Friday as stated in para 3 (c) of last week's minutes.

(d) Riot in Catania. The VP felt that Public Safety should take the matter up with the Italian Government, pointing out the lack of initiative foresight and inability of the CC.FF. Col. Young enquired whether the VP wanted it taken up with Gen. Orlando or the Government. The VP suggested that Col. Young should draft a letter for the Chief Commissioner to write to the Prime Minister and also take it up with the Commanding General, CC.FF.

(e) Casualties from Allied Drivers in Rome, (3(b)) Action has been taken on this matter.

2308

(f) Communications in Italian. (5) This matter was discussed at the COS Meeting and the ruling is that when a communication is being sent to 5th or 8th Army area it should be censored and if it raises any matter on which the SOLO might wish to exercise any discretion, translation should be enclosed. If no such question arose and the communication was purely formal a translation need not be enclosed and the covering letter would state that the latter was purely formal.

In cases referred to Regional control translations need not be enclosed.

When Sub-Commissions were already in the habit of always sending translations and a covering letter with comments, they should continue to do so, if the administrative burden was not too great.

2 Points from the Chief of Staff's Meeting.

(e) Study of the Italian Language. The COS felt that too many officers, particularly those in the field are not familiar with the Italian language and the question of Italian Classes is under consideration.

The VP said that arising out of this he would like to add that some officers at HQ hold conversations with their opposite number in the Italian Government without an interpreter. He would like to ask all

- 2 -

officers to use an interpreter for all professional conversations. This should not affect those who were really bi-lingual (mainly Allied nationals of Italian origin).

(b) Public Relations Officer had not yet issued a directive with regard to press conferences.

3 Points arising from the VP's visit to London.

(a) The VP had seen the Permanent Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs who felt that communications with Britons, Tripolitans, and all other former Italian colonies (which it was uncertain whether they would be returned to Italy) should not be allowed. Even informal communications were dangerous. The VP, stated that CA Section should continue their policy of not permitting any communications with Italian colonies.

(b) British indices worried to Italians, in some cases several years ago, wanted to know whether they could get back their British nationality. It appears that an Act of Parliament of 1930 states that they can do so under certain circumstances. The VP had seen the Legal Adviser to the Home Office on the point.

(c) Lt. Col. Hammar, now Displaced Persons Section of CA Directorate of War Office, will support the view of AS that large numbers of Italians should not be absorbed back to this country during hostilities, or at any rate until UNRRA is organized in such a way that they could cope with repatriation on a large scale.

4 Points from Officers.

(a) Col. Cripps asked if it would be possible for security reasons for Italian Consul Officers to be employed by the Political Section that they must not talk openly of the date, time and place of sailing for England. Col. Cripps and Col. Young to discuss the question.

(b) Col. Spicer said the Patriot position was - 1,300 with 5th Army and 35 with 8th Army. A labour camp has now been set up at Liverpool for 2,000 patriots. An Allied officer is in charge of the camp.

(c) Maj. Washburne stated he wished to put on record the inefficiency of the motor pool over Christmas.

Lt. Col. De Wald said he had not been assigned a car. Col. Cripps is taking the matter up.

Col. Spicer said that the half-hour limit for taxis was most inconvenient, especially for his Sub-Commission who had to do with the Italian Ministry. The VP said he thought there was a lot to be said for an hour's limit and he would raise the point at the next CSS Meeting.

Lt. Col. De Wald asked if any sort of instructions were given to Italian drivers, telling them what to do in case of an attack by Italians or deserters on the road. Col. Cripps to take the matter up with Col. Robertson.

(d) Col. Behrens asked if there were any instructions with regard to the qualifications necessary for Legat Officers to be employed by SHAEP. The question arose, Col. Behrens said, as Lt. Col. had sent an officer from disbanded 4th Army and with only

(a) The VP had seen the document Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs who felt that communications with Britons, Tripolitans, and all other former Italian colonies (which it was uncertain whether they would be returned to Italy) should not be allowed. Even informal communications were dangerous. The VP stated that CA Section should continue their policy of not permitting any communications with Italian colonies.

(b) British ladies married to Italians. In some cases several years ago, wanted to know whether they could get back their British nationality. It appears that an Act of Parliament of 1980 states that they can do so under certain circumstances. The VP had seen the Legal Advisor to the Home Office on the point.

(c) Lt. Col. Hamner, for Displacement Persons Section of CA Directorate at War Office, will support the view of AG that large numbers of Italians should not be absorbed back to this country during hostilities, or at any rate until UNRRA is organized in such a way that they could cope with repatriation on a large scale.

4 Points from Officers.

(a) Col. Cripps asked if it would be possible for security reasons for Italian Consular Officers to be informed by the Political Section that they must not talk openly of the date, time and place of sailing for England. Col. Cripps and Col. Young to discuss the question.

(b) Col. Spicer said the Patriot position was 1,200 with 5th Army and 35 with 8th Army. A labour camp has now been set up at Idvorno for 2,000 patriots. An Allied officer is in charge of the camp.

(c) Maj. Webbburn stated he wished to put on record the inefficiency of the motor pool over Christmas.

Lt. Col. De Wald said he had not been reassigned a car. Col. Cripps is taking the matter up.

Col. Spicer said that the half-hour limit for taxis was most inconvenient, especially for his Sub-Commission who meet mostly with the Italian Ministry. The VP said he thought there was a lot to be said for an hour's limit and he would raise the point at the next COS Meeting.

Lt. Col. De Wald asked if any sort of instructions were given to Italian drivers, telling them what to do in case of an attack by bootleggers or deserters on the road. Col. Cripps to take the matter up with Col. Robertson.

(d) Col. Behrens asked if there were any instructions with regard to the qualifications necessary for Legal Officers to be employed by SHARP. The question arose, Col. Behrens said, as JMG had sent an officer from a disbanded Lt. Regt. and with no legal qualifications to see him with the idea of his being employed by SHARP.

Amendment to Minutes No. 67. Col. Spicer asked for the word "appointed" in the second line of para 2 (b) to be replaced by the word "submitted" in the minutes of the meeting held on Friday, the 15 Dec 44.

Meeting closed at 1643 hrs.

DISTRIBUTION : As No. 68.

Southaven
J.C. HARVEY, J/cdr.,
PA to VP CA Section.

DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF'S OFFICE

MEETINGS OF SUB-COMMISSIONS OF THE CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

NO. 67

Meeting opened at 1610 hrs on Tuesday, 19 Dec 44.

The A/W, Brig. Wilkinson, was in the Chair.

Points from last meeting, held Friday, 15 Dec 44.

(a) Lt. Col. White said he would like to point out that having read the Memorandum on Elections he had changed his mind and strongly opposed elections. He said that the matter of primary importance was to find out who and what the Italian Government wished to elect and what powers these people could exercise. Col. Spicer said that he wished to remain neutral and that the Memorandum was written as an open paper. He would like to point out that there were Councils at present in existence. They are:

- Giunta Comunale
- Deputazioni Provinciali
- Giunta Provinciale Amministrativa

These councils at the present time are advisory but they have certain executive powers in minor matters. The real question at point, Lt. Col. White said, is whether members of these various councils should be elected by popular vote or by the high bred Pro-Fascist set-up of 1915. Col. Spicars stated that Italy was a country with 2,000 years of civilization behind it and it seems rather inappropriate to hold experimental elections if we wished the Italians to cooperate and regain their sense of proportion.

The A/W said that he wished to set the feeling of the meeting but this matter had to be carefully considered and the regions had been circulated for their views.

Points from the Chief of Staff's Meeting.

(c) Press The A/W said that the press criticisms seemed out of proportion in Italy. L'Aventi's heading today - "Hands off Greece" seemed unnecessary. He said that Public Relations had pointed out that the best press was probably due to two things:

- (i) Italian Press that know much about AG - i.e. the changeover from AM to ACC and then to AC and the different powers following these changes.
- (ii) Part of the Press was the opposition of the Government.

It was suggested at the CAS meeting that interviews might be given to the Italian Press with Heads of Sections and of Sub-Commissions. It was felt that the position of AC should be clarified on Mr. MacMillan's return and that Public Relations should draw up a Memorandum on the question and submit it to the Chief Commissioner for release to the Italian Press.

(b) Requisitioning All requisitioning of Government buildings is to come through AC. The question in point was Palazzo Venezia. The Rome Press demanded to know whether it was for "necessity" or "convenience".

(c) Military Aid to the Civil Power. Classification is needed and Col. Spicars said that the Civil Power was not yet defined.

D.A. 16

Points from last meeting, 14th Feb, 15 Dec 44.

(a) Lt. Col. White said he would like to point out that having read the Memorandum on Elections he had changed his mind and strongly opposed elections. He said that the matter of primary importance was to find out who and what the Italian Government wished to elect and what powers these people could exercise. Col. Spier said that he wished to remain neutral and that the Memorandum was written as an open paper. He would like to point out that there were Councils at present in existence. They are:

- Giunta Comunale
- Deputazioni Provinciali
- Giunta Provinciale Amministrativa

These councils at the present time are advisory but they have certain executive powers in minor matters. The real question at point, Lt. Col. White said, is whether members of these various councils should be elected by popular vote or by the high brass. Macleod set-up of 1915. Col. Beavens stated that Italy was a country with 2,000 years of civilisation behind it and it seemed rather inappropriate to hold experimental elections if we wished the Italians to cooperate and regain their sense of proportion.

The A/VP said that he wished to set the feeling of the meeting but this matter had to be carefully considered and the legions had been circulated for their views.

Points from the Chief of Staff's Meeting.

(a) Press. The A/VP said that the press criticisms seemed out of proportion in Italy. L'Avanti's heading today - "Hands off Greece" seemed unnecessary. He said that Public Relations had pointed out that the Italian press was probably due to two things:

- (i) Italian Press not knowing much about AC - i.e. the changeover from AB to AC and then to AC and the different powers following these changes.
- (ii) Part of the Press was the opposition of the Government.

It was suggested at the CDS meeting that interviews might be given to the Italian Press with Heads of Sections and of Sub-Commissions. It was felt that the position of AC should be clarified at Mr. MacMillan's return and that Public Relations should issue an Memorandum on the question and submit it to the Chief Commissioner for release to the Italian Press.

(b) Requisitioning. All requisitioning of Government buildings is to come through AC. The question in point was Palazzo Venezia. The Home Press demanded to know whether it was for "necessity" or "convenience".

(c) Military Aid to the Civil Power. Classification is needed and Col. Chapter H. Public Safety is receiving a Memorandum on the matter and taking it up with No. 3 District.

(d) Signing of documents "by Command of the Chief Commissioner". The Chief Commissioner felt that some check should be made on documents leaving his Headquarters signed "By Command of the Chief Commissioner". He felt that the delegation of power to sign in that manner should be left to CDS, DCSs, Heads of Sections and Heads of Independent Sub-Commissions. All letters going to senior formations are signed in that way the principle might be difficult to follow. Col. Shipp is amending Office Memorandum No. 17.

Col. Shipman's suggestions were that all "Category 10" in the first Staff Duty's major items would still be Command of the Chief Commissioners and the letter would be signed by the Senior Officer of the Section. Col. Shion 1 also to clarify layout of letters and communications with the Italian Government. No immediate action to be taken.

(a) Threats to "Workers when leaving the Alliance Employment. This was brought up at the last meeting. It is exceptionally difficult to get any evidence and such cases should be taken on its merits.

(2) Christmas Holidays. Christmas Day is to be treated like a Sunday. Eric Parkinson talked Heads of Sub-Commissions how they arranged the day off. He felt that before any change was made, C/Section should await the VP's return. The A/WP felt personally that it was best to leave it to the Heads of Sub-Commissions to deal.

Col. Spicer said that Local Government and Districts have one fixed day for all - Sunday - with one day officer on duty.

Col. Cherven said Public Duty Officers choose their day off. Col. Fothergill said that displaced Parsons etc get their days off. It was left to the officer to choose his day.

Mr. Washburn said that Sunday was a wasted day if they came in. His Officers had Sundays off. Lt. Col. De Will said that in Monuments and Fine Arts the Officers choose their day off.

Col. Burrens stated that Legal Officers choose their day off. The census of a minute of the meeting was that it was best to leave it to Sub-Commissions to choose which policy they adopted.

With regard to Christmas Day it was decided to have one duty officer on duty all day for C/Section. Mr. Parkinson volunteered for the afternoon. The question of clerks will be decided later - whether there should be one clerk for the Section or the clerks per Sub-Commission.

Mr. Backus enquired whether the same was to apply for New Year's Day.

(g) Statement by Manni in London Press. Local Government is checking and making a report on Manni's statement that of the 57 Prefects appointed only 3 have been approved by AG. Col. Spicer stated that he wished to have it quite clear that no inquiries were made or records kept as to the politics of Prefects.

(h) Complaint from G-7. G-7 complained that four or five different approaches were being made to them or return of Prefects of war. They are prepared to accept correspondence on that subject through 2 channels - Prisoners of War and displaced Parsons Sub-Commissions.

(i) Security in 8th Army. Complaints have been received that the Italian Government were sending documents in Italian to Prefects through Public Safety without translations.

Lt. Col. White to investigate this matter. Col. Spicer said that communications from the Italian Government to Prefects, etc., in Italian were sent through his Sub-Commission to the Regional Commissions for better action they thought fit to take. (These letters are not censored or translated.) It was suggested that it should be taken up at the next AG meeting whether this correspondence should be allowed to continue.

1002

(f) Christmas Holidays. Christmas Day is to be treated like a Sunday. Brig. Parkinson asked Heads of Sub-Commissions how they arranged the day off. He felt that before any change was made, G Section should await the VP's return. The L/W felt personally that it was best to leave it to the Heads of Sub-Commissions to decide.

Col. Spicor said that Local Government and Patriotic have six days off - Sunday - with one duty officer on duty. Col. McMahon said Public Safety Officers choose their day off. Col. Pothangial said that Field and Parsons get their days off. It was left to the officer to choose his day. Mr. Waskburn said that Sunday was a tired day if they came in. The Officers had Sundays off. Lt. Col. De Wild said that in Monuments and Fine Arts the Officers choose their day off.

Col. Parsons stated that Local Officers choose their day off. The concept of opinion of the meeting was that it was best to leave it to Sub-Commissions to choose which policy they adopted.

With regard to Christmas Day it was decided to have one duty officer on duty all day for G Section, Eric Parkinson volunteering for the afternoon. The question of who will be assigned later - whether there should be one clerk for the Section or one clerk per Sub-Commission.

Mr. Harkes enquired whether the same was to apply for New Year's Day.

(g) Statement by Meani in London Press. Local Government is checking and making report on Meani's statement that of the 57 effects appointed only 2 have been explored by AC. Col. Spicor stated that he wished to know if quit or that no inquiries were made or records kept as to the activities of Prefects.

(h) Complaint from G-5. G-5 complained that four or five different approaches were being made to them on return of Prisoners of War. They are prepared to accept correspondence on that subject through 2 channels - Prisoners of War and Field and Parsons Sub-Commissions.

(i) Security in 8th Army. Complaints have been received that the Italian Government was sending documents in Italian to Prefects through Public Safety without translations. Lt. Col. Wild is investigating this matter.

Col. Spicor said that communications from the Italian Government to Prefects, etc., in Italian were sent through his Sub-Commission to the Regional Commission for whatever action they thought fit to take. (Those letters are not censored or translated.) It was suggested that it should be taken up at the next HQ meeting - whether this correspondence should be allowed to continue.

(j) Distribution of Letters and Memoranda. Col. Wick said that he thought that this had been carried to an excess. The L/W stated that he thought it was difficult to lay down any hard and fast rule.

(k) Exemptions of American Officers. Everything possible was being done in AD/PW to ensure that the difficulties are with M/USA.

2 Col. Spicor reported that Col. Wick has been reviewed for the manufacture of glass in the devastated areas. Another interesting point was that although this building was Italian Government property it came under R/C and their

4

1003

16A

authority must be obtained before the glass could be removed from all offices in AG. The Prime Minister's consent has already been given but that is not enough.

The G.P. Company had not arrived in Aquila but was expected any time. The food was eaten in satisfactorily.

4 Col. Spicer said that Capt. P. M. had been called to the Ministry on Saturday at 1200 hrs. He had rung for a taxi which he had to wait twenty minutes for. In arrival at the Ministry he had dismissed the taxi as instructed and could not get another one.

Col. Spicer also asked to know whether any particular use was obtained from the Censorship Reports by Marco of Dib-Commissions, inasmuch as it was forbidden to make any practicable use of the information received, which was always old.

The Patriot position was not so acute as last week.

5 Monuments, Piro Lato and Archives. - Lt. Col. De Wold wished to report on a return from his tour that he had had most difficulty in arranging accommodation for his Italian Army Div. R.

On three occasions he had had to pay 200 lire a night after looking for a long time for accommodation. Several other officers agreed with this view and felt that some provision should be made immediately for Italian drivers so that when they arrived at their destination they could go straight to their billets.

The A/WO asked Col. Orions to take this matter up.

6 Movement Order. Maj. Rocker said that V Army had complained that a Military Order, approved by V Army and issued by us to a civilian from Rome to Pisa had resulted in the civilian being put up by V Army for the night at Florence. Maj. Rocker is making further inquiries.

Meeting closed at 1710 hrs.

Len Murray

J.C. HARVEY, J/COR.,
26 to 28 of Section.

DISTRIBUTION: All Sub-Commissions, G Section,
Public Relations Branch,
up (2)
Officers (4)
File.

2306

Dev Cross 15

DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF'S MEETING
OF
HEADS OF SUB-COMMISSIONS OF THE CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

17. 66

Meeting opened at 1605 hrs on Friday, 15 Dec 66.

L/V, Brig. Parkinson was in the Chair.

The L/V outlined points raised at this morning's Chief of Staff's meeting:

(a) Status of Italian POWs & MIA It has been recommended that Italian Prisoners of War Sub-Commission be transferred to Law Forces Sub-Commission. The transfer of the War Materials Disposal half of the Sub-Commission is still under consideration. The CC said that he was opposed to attaching War Materials Disposal to the Economic Section and that it should remain independent.

This question is being looked into.

(b) UNRWA are being asked to sign the usual agreement with the Italian Government before they start to operate.

(c) Prison Ration. This question was again brought up. The CC felt strongly that before a cut was made in the Rome ration a full report should be put in.

The question was also discussed as to whether the ration should be cut at once or gradually.

Col. Chapman and Lt. Col. White expressed the opinion that the ration should be brought down to 350 grams in one cut and not gradually. It was better to get any disturbance there may be over once and for all than having a disturbance at every cut.

L Jan 15 was mentioned as being the probable date for cutting the ration, but the L/V pointed out that the actual order had not yet been given.

(d) Monuments and Fine Arts. The CC was going to sign a letter on the subject of AFHQ's Administrative Memorandum No. 54.

(e) Security in Rome. This question was also discussed. Lt. Col. White reported that a letter to AFHQ was already in draft and would be forwarded to Public Safety that day.

Col. Spicer stated that several reports had been forwarded, 2305 of which, including the Five Ambrosi Brothers and others alleged ex-Patrioti, who had been terrorising Rome. He had forwarded these reports direct to Quastori, Rome. He asked Col. Chapman whether these reports should be forwarded direct or through his Sub-Commission. Col. Chapman said that he would prefer them to go through his Sub-Commission.

(f) Repatriation of Italians from Britain. L/V reported that the matter has now gone further in that the Italian Government is to make a request that the Italians be transferred to Italy, but not to be

Meeting opened at 1605 hrs on Friday, 15 Dec 44.

A/Am, Brig, Parkinson was in the Chair.

The A/Am outlined points raised at this morning's Chief of Staff's meeting:

- (a) Status of Italian POWs & MIA. It has been recommended that Italian Prisoners of War Sub-Commission be transferred to Land Forces Sub-Commission. The transfer of the War Materials Disposal half of the Sub-Commission is still under consideration. The CC said that he was opposed to attaching War Materials Disposal to the Economic Section and that it should remain independent.
This question is being looked into.
- (b) UNRA. We are being asked to sign the usual agreement with the Italian Government before they start to operate.
- (c) Prison Ration. This question was again brought up. The CC felt strongly that before a cut was made in the Rome ration a full report should be put in.
The question was also discussed as to whether the ration should be cut at once or gradually.
Col. Chapman and Lt. Col. White expressed the opinion that the ration should be brought down to 550 grams in one cut and not gradually. It was better to get any disturbance there may be over once and for all than having a disturbance at every cut.
1 Jan 45 was mentioned as being the probable date for cutting the ration, but the A/Am pointed out that the actual order had not yet been given.
- (d) Memoranda and Fine Arts. The CC was going to sign a letter on the subject of ITQ's Administrative Memorandum No. 5.
- (e) Security in Rome. This question was also discussed. Lt. Col. White reported that a letter to AFQ was already in draft and would be forwarded to Public Safety that day.
Col. Spicer stated that several reports had been forwarded **2305** of gangs, including the Five Ambroni Brothers and others allowed these ex-Patrioti, who had been terrorising Rome. He had forwarded these reports direct to Questori, Rome. He asked Col. Chapman whether these reports should be forwarded direct or through his Sub-Commission. Col. Chapman said that he would prefer them to go through his Sub-Commission.
- (f) Repatriation of Italians from Britain. A/Am reported that this matter has now gone a step further in that the Italian Government is to make a request that the Italians be transferred to Italy, but nothing will happen for the next 5 or 6 months.
- (g) Municipal Election. A report is now in the hands of the Political Section. After discussion it appeared that the opinion of the majority of members was that elections should be held, although several members had not seen the Memorandum of Local Government Sub-Commission. Col. Spicer agreed to circulate copies of the Memorandum.
- (h) UNRA. A/Am reported that UNRA is applying for shipping from the Pool although there is to be a 10% cut in the Pool. To provide the 300 gross tonnage throughout the country needs 8 ships per month.

(i) Personnel J/V reported that an experiment is being tried out by replacing non-technical officers by others. Col. Gowers has been replaced by Col. Page (a Public Health Officer) as R.P.H.O.

(j) AMC The Chief of Staff suggested that in any application for assistance, a pool of reserves must be made out, then it would be less likely to be cut about by G.S. AMC are always ready to help if a good case is made. Reserves will be examined in future.

(k) Press An article in "L'Avanti" hitting out at the Prime Minister was discussed. It was pointed out that there is no political censorship of the press, and that it would be difficult to do so. The question of interference with the military situation was also raised.

The J/V pointed out that if this condition was allowed to go on it would set out actions. The question was asked whether the Italian Government should be asked to take action. Lt. Col. White suggested that freedom of the press at the present time meant "Freedom of the Press to the Left, and Freedom to the Right". The question of suppressing "Avanti" for a time was discussed. Lt. Col. White stated that he had referred to this matter in his report on Security in Rome.

(l) Newspaper The J/V reported that there was now a surplus of 400 tons of wheat, and he pointed out that they are better off here than at home. Before cutting import of newspaper from J/V asked Education Sub-Commission if they had sufficient supplies and Mr. Teshburne replied that they had plenty.

(m) Professional Artists in Allied Commission The C/S stated there would be no objection to artists giving performances for Italians provided that:

- (i) they received no remuneration,
- (ii) cases be referred to Art. Section, and
- (iii) it did not interfere with work.

1 Disturbance in Catania Col. Chapman stated that he had received information from Gen. Orlando, General of the Carabinieri, on the disturbances at Catania. 500 men were involved who protested against recruitment. They were dispersed, but formed up again in small groups and raided various public buildings. Brig. Carr had considered this.

2 Trepano The question of taxis was raised by Col. Chapman. He stated that one of his officers, walking back from lunch, had been 12 taxis filled with civilians. This matter should be gone into as it was impossible for his officers to get taxis. In his opinion, Peeling was bad. Since the commencement of the Pool, Col. Robertson had reported that many tyres, mirrors, wheels, etc., had been stolen. At that rate he shouldn't have 50% of the cars left within 30 days.

Col. Spicar suggested that there should be one car, one driver, to one Sub-Commission.

His remarks civilians travelling in cars it was suggested that it might be Black Market by drivers picking up small change. It was suggested that officers should carry civilians and check on them.

to be cut about by 3-5. FBI are always ready to help if a good case is made. Letters will be so framed in future.

(k) Press. An article in "L'Unita" hitting out at the Prime Minister was discussed. It was pointed out that there is no political censorship of the press, and that it would be difficult to do so. The question of interference with the military situation was also raised.

The J/W pointed out that if this condition was allowed to go on it would get out of hand. The question was asked whether the Italian Government should be asked to take action. Lt. Col. White suggested that freedom of the press at the present time meant "freedom to Lie, freedom to distort, and freedom to exaggerate". The question of suppressing "venti" for a time was discussed. Lt. Col. White stated that he had referred to this matter in his report on Security in Rome.

(l) Newspaper. The J/W reported that there was now a surplus of 100 tons of paper, and he pointed out that they are better off here than at home. Before cutting import of newspaper down, J/W asked Education Sub-Commissioner if they had sufficient supplies and Maj. Washburne replied that they had plenty.

(m) Professional artists in Allied Commission. The COS stated there would be no objection to artists giving performances for Italians provided that:

- (i) they received no remuneration,
- (ii) cases be referred to Nat. Section, and
- (iii) it did not interfere with work.

1 Disturbances in Catania. Col. Chapman stated that he had received information from Gen. Orlando, General of the Carabinieri, on the disturbances at Catania. 100 men were involved who protested against recruitment. They were dispersed, but forced up again in small groups and raided various public buildings. Brig. Carr had confirmed this.

2 Transport. The question of taxis was raised by Col. Chapman. He stated that one of his officers, walking back from lunch, had been 12 taxis filled with civilians. This matter should be gone into as it was impossible for his officers to get taxis. In his opinion, Pooling was bad. Since the commencement of the war, Col. Robertson had reported that many tyres, mirrors, wheels, etc., had been stolen. At that rate he shouldn't have 50% of the cars left within 30 days.

Col. Spicar suggested that there should be one car, one driver, to one Sub-Commissioner.

It was suggested that there should be one car, one driver, to one Sub-Commissioner.

It was agreed that the matter be taken up with Col. Robertson.

3 Auturo Policy for Restored Italy. Col. Spicar reported that from an interview he had had with the Prime Minister he gained the impression that the Italian Government wanted to take over Local Government. The J/W pointed out that this was one of the matters Mr. McCallen is putting before London and Washington.

5A

- 4. De Riots. Col. Spicer reported that a High Commissioner for ~~Public Relations~~ ~~Public Relations~~ Comitato Liberto Nazionale is now under consideration vice
- 5. Promotions. After a question by Col. Spicer, Col. Chapman outlined the system of promotions in the American Army.
- 6. Duty Officers. Lt. Col. White reported that in the CO's section there are only one Duty Officer and a skeleton staff on Sundays. The question was raised whether the same arrangements could be put into effect in C. Section and Col. Griggs thought that it would be done by Sub-Commissions but suggested that a decision be left until Brig. Wyden's return.
- 7. Recruitment of Buildings. Lt. Col. White reported that he had received no letters from Sub-Commissions on this subject. All Sub-Commissions let Lt. Col. White have any facts they wish brought to notice.
- 8. Communications with Florence. Maj. Westburne reported that communications with Florence were taking a long time and something should be done. Upon enquiry it appeared that communications took between 4 and 9 days.
- 9. Civilian Employees. Col. Williams reported that several civilians employed in his Section are being threatened that they will be paroled when the Allies Desert, for aiding the Allies, and he wanted to know if this was general. Several examples were given (they mostly concerned drivers of cars).
- 10. Col. Bohrens reported that he had received a letter from Southern Region which that a permanent Court be established in Bari for prosecuting prostitutes. Checking prostitution was not the duty of the Legal Section, but before he said "yes" he would like to know the position from the Public Health and Public Safety point of view. Lt. Col. Brinkley stated that although he could not give figures for Bari, prostitution was decreasing in Southern Italy.
- 11. Col. Bohrens also received a question on a letter he had received from R.L.O., Leticia-Urbic Region on the judicial situation but the J/W asked that it be put in writing.

The meeting closed at 1734 hours.

DISTRIBUTION: All Sub-Commissions, C. Section,
 Public Relations Branch
 W (2)
 Officers (4)
 Files.

1005

14
D

DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF'S MEETING

HEADS OF SUB-COMMISSIONS OF THE CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

NO. 65

Meeting convened at 1600 hrs on Tuesday, 12 Dec 44.

The A/VP, Brig. Parkinson, was in the chair.

1 Points from last meeting, held 9 Dec 44.

Errata: Para 4, line 5. Delete from "this" to end of para and insert:

"This situation might encourage recruits to volunteer for Carabinieri service, but it is responsible for many desertions from the classes called up for army service".

Para 20 (a) line 1. Delete: "was" and insert "was". After "Military" insert "Police".

Para 20 (b) line 1. Delete: "Inevol".

The A/VP outlined points raised at this morning's CAC meeting:

(a) Requisitioned buildings. This question is to be taken up. Many buildings have been needlessly requisitioned and glaring examples are to be cleared up through G 5. Several buildings were discussed including schools on which a report is being prepared.

Col. Spicer mentioned that many museums, etc., of the Ministry of Interior which have records, etc., stored therein have been requisitioned. Application for the Ministry of Interior to take over these buildings again has met with no success and the only answer received is to the effect that they are required for military purposes and that the Ministry of Interior should collect their records, etc.

Col. Cripps will ask Lt. Col. White to circulate to Sub-Commissions a request for any matters arising on this point.

(b) Registration of Italians from Eritrea. There are 10,000 Italians in Eritrea and of these, employment can only be found for 10,000. There are 5,600 on relief. It is considered by the DM that the 20,000 surplus should be transferred to the mainland. This question affects all Civil Affairs Sub-Commissions. It has been suggested that requests for their transfer should come either from the Italian Government or the British Government.

Eritrea seems anxious to get rid of those surplus Italians and lists have been prepared giving names, addresses, occupations, etc., which have been left with the Commission so that when the time comes and Italian Government asks, priorities can be selected.

It was pointed out that if these people know the food situation they might not want to move.

There might be undesirable amongst them - Eritrea has been out of the war for a long time and there might be Fascists whom the Commission might not want back. Also there must be some place for them to go. They would aggravate the food problem.

Another point is that it might raise the question from the Italian Government that they have prisoners and people from other quarters to

2303

1 Prints from last meeting, held 9 Dec 44.

Errata: Para 4, line 5. Delete from "this" to end of para and insert:
"This situation might encourage recruits to volunteer for
Cerebinidri service, but it is responsible for many desertions
from the classes called up for army service".

Para 20 (a) line 1. Delete: "my" and insert "my". After
"military" insert "Police".

Para 20 (c) line 1. Delete: "Travel".

The A/WP outlined points raised at this morning's COS meeting:

- (a) Requisitioned Buildings. This question is to be taken up. Many buildings have been needlessly requisitioned and glazing examples are to be cleared up through G 5.
Several buildings were discussed including schools on which a report is being prepared.
Col. Spicer mentioned that many museums, etc., of the Ministry of Interior which have records, etc., stored therein have been requisitioned. Application for the Ministry of Interior to take over these buildings again has met with no success and the only answer received is to the effect that they are required for military purposes and that the Ministry of Interior should collect their records, etc.
Col. Cripps will ask Lt. Col. White to circulate to Sub-Commissions a request for any matters arising on this point.

- (b) Repatriation of Italians from Eritrea. There are 10,000 Italians in Eritrea and of these, employment can only be found for 10,000. There are 5,600 on relief. It is considered by the DM that the 30,000 surplus should be transferred to the mainland. This question affects all Civil Affairs Sub-Commissions. It has been agreed that requests for their transfer should come either from the Italian Government or the British Government.
Eritrea seems anxious to get rid of these surplus Italians and lists have been prepared giving names, addresses, occupations, etc., which have been left with the Commission so that when the time comes and the Italian Government asks, priorities can be selected.
It was pointed out that if these people knew the food situation they might not want to move.
There might be undesirable amongst them - Eritrea has been out of the war for a long time and there might be Fascists whom the Commission might not want back. Also there must be some place for them to go. They would aggravate the food problem.

2303

Another point is that it might raise the question from the Italian Government that they have prisoners and people from other quarters to be returned.
It was stated that there are large numbers of industrial workers from N. Italy in Eritrea. Also, 1,200 were motor drivers who might prove useful.

- (c) Radio Telephone The A/WP stated that this means of communication was coming into use for transmitting messages across the Atlantic but there are so many restrictions as to its use that it hardly applies to anyone. At present it appears that only the COS and VP's can use it.

2 Military Assistance to C.C.R. Col. Chapman reported that 5,000 troops had now reported for duty with CC.R.R. and are stationed at Legion Headquarters.

3 Light in Police Stations. Col. Chapman reported that enquiry had been made of Electricity Control Board for light and they had promised that light will be given as fast as possible.

4 Paper by Political Section - Municipal Elections. Col. Spicer reported on the progress of this paper which was nearing completion and subject to the A/V's approval, he intended sending it to Mr. Hopkinson for comments before circulating to Local and Public Safety. The A/V's agreed to this course.

5 Transport. Col. Spicer raised the question of the taxi service. He stated that 5 a.m. was the usual time for appointments and intentions to be fixed by the various Italian Ministers. At that time the cars were being used to take the family staff home and it was impossible for either he or his officers to get transport and he had only one car to serve 2 Sub-Commissions. Col. Gripps said that he would take the matter up with the Commandant.

6 Southern Regional Commission. The report of S.R.C. is now to hand and there are several matters requiring the attention of Sub-Commissions. All Commissioners please note.

7 Use of Troops to Aid Civil Powers. This question was discussed but it transpired that a new order is in existence which has not been seen by Col. Chapman. The matter was left in abeyance.

The meeting closed at 1612 hrs.

DISTRIBUTION: All Sub-Commissions, CA Section, Public Relations Branch, VP (2) Officers (1) File.

13

DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF'S MEETING
of
Heads of Sub-Commissions of the Civil Affairs Section
No. 57

Meeting opened 1605 hrs on 7 Nov 44.

- 1 The V.P. reported that the Acting Chief Commissioner has been unable at the moment to make any further precise detailed proposals for civilianisation of AC and had stated to ACHQ that 20 civilians have arrived at AC, making 25 American Officers available for re-assignment. The V.P. then read his letter on the subject to the A/CC.
- 2 Lt Colonel Bonham Carter had undertaken his duties as co-ordinating Officer for Devasted Areas. Lt Col Bonham Carter stated that he has a Warrant Officer coming as his clerk.
- 3 With regard to the Article in the "Unita" by Togliatti, referred to at the last meeting, the Political Section have seen the Foreign Minister who agreed that the behaviour was improper and he is raising the matter at the Council of Ministers.
- 4 The V.P. reported that Colonel Perkin is completing a report on vehicles in which he states that the position with regard to maintenance and care of vehicles is far from satisfactory. The V.P. stated that all Heads of Sub-Commissions should warn their officers to take great care of any cars which may be at their disposal. Devastation Sub-Commission lost a car on the 6 Nov 44.
- 5 General Alexander has sent a very charming telegram on the Anniversary of AC.
- 6 The disaster at Grosseto on 2 Nov 44; the river burst its banks caused 11 deaths and 400 people homeless.
- 7 Four Provincial Teams from the north are returning to home and it is suggested that they should assist in military police duties. Lt Colonel Bonham Carter, after considering whether he requires more personnel, is to submit a memorandum to that effect.
- 8 Colonel Chapman stated that certain American Officers in Economic Section have been promoted lately. Colonel Cripps to ascertain whether Colonel Chapman is on the American Promotion Board or not.
- 9 Capt. Temple enquired to what extent the Local Government should interest itself with the consideration of Election Lists. The V.P. felt that it was entirely a matter for the Italian Government subject to seeing a translation of the decree.

2302

1013

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

785016

- 10. Capt Temple also enquired what the position was with regard to the Russian "observers". Major de Wald said that he had been informed by the Russian Secretary that they were coming to see him from the 9th to 16th. Colonel Cripps to see Colonel Brown Liaison Officer, and ask him to channelise their applications through G. Sec and not approach Sub-Comms individually.
- 11. Colonel Chapman reported that the position with regard to unsurrendered firearms in Rome was serious. Trouble has recently occurred in Terni. It is understood that the Communists are training an army.
- 12. Colonel Chapman also reported that AMHQ has said that no troops can be held in the CC RH after the 31 Dec 44. In that case, he said, it would not be worth while taking them at all; he is writing a memorandum suggesting the withdrawal of the CC RH from the North for the South.
- 13. Overcoats, boots and trousers have been delivered to the CC RH school at Florence.
- 14. Major Lillard enquired how it was possible for civilians to get permits to be in possession of firearms.
- 15. Colonel Finley reported that King Peter has issued an order that all fugitives have to join the F. Missing or go into a Collection Camp. He is reporting further to the V.P.
- 16. Major de Wald reported that Monuments and Fine Arts had not been asked to supply a plan for the team for Austria.

Meeting closed 1640 hrs.

Ext : 525

J.C. HARVEY Jr Cdr,
PA to VP CA Section

DISTRIBUTION - All CAG Commissions, & Section
Public Relations Branch,
V.P. (2)
Officers (4)
File

Lt. Col. Craig
Des. Areas

12

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

DATE: 20/11/51

FROM: Lt. Col. Craig

1 page

1. The proposed ...
on Wednesday, 20/11/51.

2. The ...
... ..
... ..

3. The ...
... ..

4. The ...
... ..

5. The ...
... ..

6. The ...
... ..

7. The ...
... ..

8. The ...
... ..

9. The ...
... ..

10. The ...
... ..

11. The ...
... ..

12. The ...
... ..

13. The ...
... ..

14. The ...
... ..

15. The ...
... ..

16. The ...
... ..

17. The ...
... ..

18. The ...
... ..

19. The ...
... ..

20. The ...
... ..

21. The ...
... ..

22. The ...
... ..

23. The ...
... ..

24. The ...
... ..

25. The ...
... ..

26. The ...
... ..

27. The ...
... ..

28. The ...
... ..

29. The ...
... ..

30. The ...
... ..

2301

31. The ...
... ..

32. The ...
... ..

33. The ...
... ..

34. The ...
... ..

35. The ...
... ..

1016

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

785016

DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF'S MEETING
OF
HEADS OF SUB-COMMISSIONS OF THE CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION
NO. 64

Meeting opened at 1610 hrs on 28 Nov 44.
Col. Cripps was in the Chair owing to the VP's absence.

- 1 Col. Cripps reported that Lord Halifax has sent a telegram suggesting that steps might be taken to compete against the poor press received by AC/AM. It has been suggested that part of Maj. Fielden's History of AC should be employed for this purpose.
- 2 Brig. Lush has ordered Col. Cripps to send a telegram to England asking for an expert to come out to AC to advise on the policy and work for Devastated Areas.
- 3 The situation with regard to UNRRA is still under review. Col. Cripps will circulate their second Memorandum which deals with the Italian Government.
- 4 The matter of removing the officers from Chiancino is still under consideration. It appears it is required by the Army as a rest camp for the troops.
- 5 All vehicles have to be given in to a transport pool created by order of AFHQ. A few vehicles are to be assigned to Sub-Commissions and individuals. All transport will be controlled by HQ transport office under the direction of Col. Robertson. A Memorandum will be admin. very shortly which will be circulated, giving full instructions with regard to the workings of the transport pool. This is to start operating on 1 Dec 44, and be in full operation by 7 Dec 44.
- 6 Maj. Westburne reported that, as recently stated, an officer in Education Sub-Commission lost a car which he has found and ten thieves have been put into jail. Col. Roberts stated that he wished to have the facts of the case before he could consider their trial by military court. Lt. Col. White to get this information from Col. Perkin.
- 7 Col. Pothergill reported that 1,500 Yugoslav agriculturalists have left for Yugoslav islands and 1,500 more have been asked for. The Yugoslav National Committee of Liberation have now asked permission to move all their Yugoslavs held in Displaced Persons Camps to Yugoslavia, with perhaps the exception of orphans. AFHQ have agreed to this in principle.

2300

5103

- 2 -

3802

8. Capt. Temple stated that the female civilian clerks in Local Government had to leave by 1700 hrs for transport home; this was very inconvenient. Also that during the hours of 5 - 6 when Local Government worked with the Italian Government, taxis are not available.

9. Lt. Col. White asked Heads of Sub-Commissions to check when drafting telegram as the GCS Section have complained several times lately of telegrams either being sent to people who cannot be reached by cable or mentioning the Sub-Commission by name in the address.

If a region cannot be reached by telegram, information should be sent by HES. The names of Sub-Commissions, if it was essential to give that information, should be given in the body of the telegram.

Meeting closed at 1700 hrs.

J. C. Harvey

J. C. HARVEY, J/Cdr.
PA to VP G/ Section.

Ext: 525.

DISTRIBUTION: All Sub-Commissions, G/ Section.
Public Relations Branch.
VP (2).
Officers, (1).
File.

10

SUMMARY REPORT ON THE MEETING
OF 28 NOVEMBER 1944

AGENDA

- 1 - Communications and Transport
- 2 - Repair of roads
- 3 - Schools
- 4 - Reconstruction of buildings
- 5 - Situation of the Provinces of Pisa, Pistoia and Pescara.

The Chairman of the meeting, HE Carnevari, opened the meeting with the statement that in spite of the present crisis in the government he expected the Committee to function regularly and without any delay.

TRANSPORT

In last week's meeting Col. Boham-Carter had promised to report on the question of transport, but since he was not present at today's meeting HE Carnevari hoped that he would make it at a later one.

It was pointed out that while an increase in transport facilities had been expected, what has actually happened is that five tram lines have been discontinued; electric power has been cut by 50%.

Of particular importance is the reactivation of the Rome-Accilia tram line which is used by hundreds of citizens who have to commute daily in order to go to their place of employment; at present they are meeting tremendous difficulties because of this line is operating.

For a more detailed sketch of this question see enclosure. ^{10c}

SCHOOLS

The situation of schools is most grave, as most of the school buildings are occupied by many agencies, military and otherwise, both Italian and Allied. Among others the Saffi school was taken over by the Allies, and orders were given by an English officer to vacate the premises within two hours; the order was later changed and more time was given in which to clear the building. The Carducci, Corradini, Ceccori and other schools are among those that are occupied and which should be vacated in order that scholastic activities may be resumed.

Seventy-nine school buildings are undergoing repairs.

HE Cavallera, Director of the Maternity Institute made a proposal to the effect that a place should be found in which to shelter all the vagrant children of Rome. He asked the chairman if the Allies could be contacted in order to furnish the appropriate building. The chairman replied that the Italian Government will look into the matter.

RECONSTR.
BUILDINGS

There is a great desire and demand for reconstruction. This question is tied up with that of coal, of which there is a critical shortage.

The chairman suggested that steps be taken to have coal from Sardinia released and transported.

10A

HE Molinella advised instead the use of lignite which the Allies had promised to transport from Spoleto to the S. Paolo station in Rome.

Cement is another critical material. The speakers referred to two cement factories: the one of Segni and of Bomarzo

It is hoped that the factory in Segni will soon resume production. The one in Bomarzo is handicapped by the fact that the railway line to Orte is completely destroyed.

It was suggested that in the meantime all the bricks of damaged houses be used.

HE Carrevari said that Pescara has a cement factory of considerable productive capacity and could be used to repair the homes in the city itself. However, lignite and coal are lacking and there are no transport facilities to supply these materials from the nearby cities.

HE Molinella pointed out that no electric power has been obtained in Pescara yet and consequently the cement factory depends on the other cities for coal or lignite.

A special point was made of the Glass Factories. It was pointed out that the manufacture of glass will always be deficient because of the great shortage of caustic soda which is used for making glass.

Factories: Vietri
Colle Valdenna
Poggi Borzi

It was said that the factory in Poggi Borzi has a normal productive capacity of 500 window panes per day. However, the owner of the factory asked for a loan of 2,000,000 lire in order to start production.

SITUATION

- PISA
- PISTOIA
- PESCARA

The chairman read a detailed report and promised to send a copy to the Commission. The salient points in the report were:

Pisa- Practically raised to the ground.
Most of its plants are destroyed
Food-stuffs scarce
Sanitary conditions fair.

Pistoia Of its normal population of 45,000 only 7,000 have returned in the city.
No lights
Plants not working, which include the Metallurgic Works
Tanning factories
Furniture "

Roads must be repaired
Sanitary conditions fair
Some shops are open
only 100 grams per day of bread
Many items are lacking
Serious transport situation
Many bridges are washed away.
Lights only a few hours.

785016

10B

In the Chieti-Sangro area what is more serious than the housing problem is the fact that the farmers have not returned to the fields because of the mines. In Orsogna alone there have been 80 deaths from mines. Of particular interest is that Allied mines are more difficult to detect and so there is great need for equipment, especially magnetic detectors. A-1 priority was given to this question. The War Ministry was contacted and they communicated that they lack equipment, and detectors in particular.

Meeting was brought to a close.

Pfc. V. Bonanni
 Translators Pool
 C. A. Section

1021

100

COMUNICAZIONI E TRASPORTI

- 1° - Esame delle condizioni attuali delle reti ferroviarie e tranviarie che interessano la provincia.
- 2° - Riattivare le ferrovie: Roma- Ostia; Roma -Nettunia; Roma-Segni; Roma-Arsoli; Roma-Poggio Mirteto; Roma-Bracciano; Roma-Civitavecchia.
- 3° - Riattivare le tranvie dei Castelli.
- 4° - Riattivare le ferrovie vicinali Roma - Fuggi.
- 5° - Ripristinare i servizi delle autocorriere postali da e per vari comuni.
- 6° - Disponibilità di automezzi - benzina - copertoni - pezzi di ricambio.
- 7° - Trasporti fluviali.-

1022

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

785016

MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR

Rome, November 25/1944

General Direction - Civil Administration

Doc. III
File No. 25235.C.S. - Encl. 1

TO: the Allied Commission

ROME

The Permanent Committee for assistance to people of Provinces devastated by War. will hold the next meeting Tuesday 28 p.v. 10,00 h. on the same hall of the last meeting (Ministry of the Interior - II Floor - Cabinet).

We enclose the list of the subjects to be dealt with at the meeting.

9A

FOR THE MINISTER

2295

en.

502
CP

4213
24

1023

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

9A

MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR

General Direction Civil Administration -

Questions to be submitted to the examination of the Allied Commission,
in the meeting of 18th November 1944, regarding the situation of the Provinces
devasted by War :

- 1) Communications and transportations - x B - C
- 2) Roads repairs
- 3) Schools - Locals Derequisitions
- 4) Reconstruction of buildings
- 5) Situation of the Provinces of Pisa, Siena, Pistoia and Pescara.

2294

5012

4219

1024

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



Ministero dell'Interno

DIR. GEN. AMM/NE CIVILE

Divisione III^a
Rel. 1.25285.C.S. Allegato 1

Local Govt. Office
Roma 25 Novembre 1944
2 NOV 1944

ALL. CH. LE COMMISSIONE
ALBATA ==
R O M A

Proprietario del
Dir. - Dir. - 3^a

OGGETTO:

Il Comitato permanente per i soccorsi alle popolazioni delle Provincie danneggiate dalla guerra terrà la sua prossima riunione martedì 28 p.v. alle ore 10 nella sala dell'ultima adunanza - (Ministero Interno - II° Piano - Gabinetto) - *gc*

Si allega un elenco degli argomenti da trattare nella seduta.

PEL MINISTRO

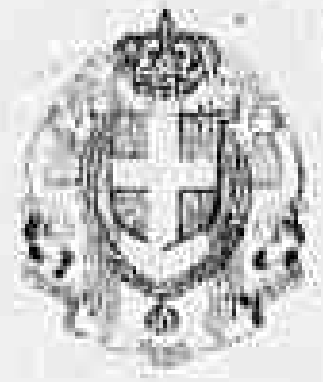
[Signature]
2293

5012

4219

1025

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



Mod. 110
98

Ministero dell'Interno

DIVISIONE GENERALE AMMINISTRAZIONE CIVILE

Argomenti da sottoporre all'esame della
Commissione interalleata riguardanti la situa-
zione delle Province danneggiate dalla guerra
nella seduta del 25 novembre 1944:

- 1) Comunicazioni e trasporti -
- 2) Riparazioni delle strade -
- 3) Scuole - Derequisizioni locali -
- 4) Ricostruzioni edilizie -
- 5) Situazione delle Province di Siena, di
Pistoia, e Pescara. -

2292

5012

4219

1026

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

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
Office of the Chief Commissioner
APO 394

14 November 1944

TO: Economic Section
Civil Affairs Section
Brig. Parkinson
Chief of Staff

15 NOV 1944

8A-K

Attached is a translation of the minutes of a meeting held 24 October at the Ministry of Interior. Copies were furnished this office by Hon. Myron C. Taylor of American Relief for Italy, Inc.

J.A. Quayle

J. A. QUAYLE
Major, R. A.
Staff Officer to CC

1 Incl.

cc: 'A' Files

2291

4283

MINUTES OF MEETING
(Translated from Italian)

On October 24, 1944 at 10 a.m. in the Vidinale Palace a meeting took place at which were present the following persons:

- R. L. Canevari - Undersecretary of State for the Interior.
- R. L. Manes - Undersecretary of State for the Treasury.
- R. L. Spataro - Undersecretary of State for the Press.
- R. L. Bruno - Under Secretary of State for Public Works.
- R. L. Bassano - Undersecretary of State for Justice.
- R. L. Solimena - General Director of Public Health.
- R. L. Vicedomini - General Director of Civil Administration.
- R. L. Maretta - Director of the Superior Institute of Health.
- Lt. General Crivaro - General Director of the Engineer Corps.
- General Callarola - General Director of Military Health.
- Ing. Costa Michale - Representative of the Department of Communications.

Avv. Zanotti-Bianco - President of the Italian Red Cross.
 Marquis Theodoli - Representative of the National Committee for Distribution of Relief in Italy (ENDSI).

Prof. Jaconia - Representative of the High Commission for Refugees.
 Dr. Mastrorino - Representative of the General Direction of Alimentation.

The Prefects of: Chieti, Pescara, Aquila, Teramo, Riieti and Viterbo.
 Ambassador Taylor, who was unable to attend the meeting was represented by Mr. Barr.

There were also present numerous Allied Officers, representing the various Sub-Commissions of the Allied Control Commission, headed by Col. Cripps.

Secretary: Dr. Vezzoso, of the General Direction of Public Health.

The meeting was presided over by R. L. Canevari, who stated that at a meeting which took place at the Allied Commission October 12, the Officers of the Allied Government, regional supervisors of the Abruzzi-Marche area, had reported that the populations of these regions live under very serious conditions for lack of lodgings, food, medicines and clothing supplies. 2290

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

- H. E. Spataro - Undersecretary of State for the Press.
- H. E. Bruno - Under Secretary of State for Public Works.
- H. A. Bassano - Undersecretary of State for Justice.
- H. E. Solimena - General Director of Public Health.
- H. E. Vicedomini - General Director of Civil Administration.
- H. L. Marotta - Director of the Superior Institute of Health.
- Lt. General Crivaro - General Director of the Engineer Corps.
- General Cellarola - General Director of Military Health.
- Ing. Costa Michele - Representative of the Department of Communications.

Avv. Zanotti-Bianco - President of the Italian Red Cross.

Marquis Theodoli - Representative of the National Committee for Distribution of Aid in Italy (ENDSI).

Prof. Jaccaria - Representative of the High Commission for Refugees.

Dr. Mastromarino - Representative of the General Direction of Alimentation.

The Prefects of: Chieti, Pescara, Aquila, Teramo, Rieti and Viterbo.

Ambassador Taylor, who was unable to attend the meeting was represented by Mr. Barr.

There were also present numerous Allied Officers, representing the various Sub-Commissions of the Allied Control Commission, headed by Col. Cripps.

Secretary: Dr. Vezzoso, of the General Direction of Public Health.

The meeting was presided over by L. E. Canevari, who stated that at a meeting which took place at the Allied Commission **2290** October 12, the Officers of the Allied Government, regional supervisors of the Abruzzi-Marche area, had reported that the populations of these regions live under very serious conditions for lack of lodgings, food, medicines and clothing supplies. A great part of these persons are homeless. Therefore the question must be examined as to whether these persons should not be transferred to some other regions in which they could settle. Movement in this area is very difficult because of mines; casualties occur daily.

The Italian Government must therefore immediately provide for:

6927

1029

9B

- mine clearing (War Department)
- lodgings (Public Work Ministry)
- eventual evacuation of the population (High Commissioner for Refugees).
- clothing, food and medical supplies (Agriculture Ministry, Italian Red Cross, ENDSI, General Direction of Public Health, Gen. Direction of Military Health, Gen. Direction of Civil Administration).
- transportation (Communication Department).

Having organized the assistance supplies, a system must be planned for the distribution, to be done through the various S.C.s., and the Committees constituted in the chief towns or in single Communes.

M. S. Canevari, having received instructions from M. S. the President of the Council of Ministers, has assembled the representatives of some Ministries, the Prefects of the Provinces in question, in order to examine the actual situation, and to find out the relief needed in this present moment.

He then opened the meeting, expressing the hope that this meeting would bring concrete results.

M. S. Canevari asked the Prefects to take the floor.

Chieti's Prefect told of the painful situation in which his province has fallen, nine months after the end of the war in that area. The homeless persons total 107,000, and of them 74,000 are practically without clothes.

Food consists of a daily ration of 200 gr. of bread. To be sure of this quantity it remains necessary to bring an additional 80,000 quintals of flour of the 140,000 which is the total need. This presents enormous transportation difficulties, because there is a complete absence of normal transport, the roads are in very bad condition, and, what is much more serious, hundreds of bridges are destroyed. Military steel bridges, in good condition, have been removed by allied forces for military purposes. The coming winter with its extreme climate makes the situation much more serious in the mountain country. This area will be isolated by snow and bad weather.

In this province there are 21 communes completely destroyed, and the population is starving.

The sanitary condition of this province is very bad, because of the lack of houses, the need of clothes, the serious food shortage, the lack of fuel and the means to cook. At Chieti gas production is nearly ended because of the lack of coal. **2289**

Tuberculosis in children is increasing. Scabies has reached large proportions because there is no soap and too many people live together. Typhus, whooping cough and malaria too have very much increased.

To further aggravate the situation in which the population lives it must be noted that there is scarce hospital assistance. The few hospitals of the Province (Ortona, Lanciano, etc.) are

Direction of Civil Administration).
- transportation (Communication Department).

Having organized the assistance supplies, a system must be planned for the distribution, to be done through the various S.C.A., and the Committees constituted in the chief towns or in single Communes.

H. S. Canevari, having received instructions from H. S. the President of the Council of Ministers, has assembled the representatives of some Ministries, the Prefects of the Provinces in question, in order to examine the actual situation, and to find out the relief needed in this present moment.

He then opened the meeting expressing the hope that this meeting would bring concrete results.

H. S. Canevari asked the Prefects to take the floor.

Chieti's Prefect told of the painful situation in which his province has fallen, nine months after the end of the war in that area. The homeless persons total 197,000, and of them 74,000 are practically without clothes.

Food consists of a daily ration of 200 gr. of bread. To be sure of this quantity it remains necessary to bring an additional 80,000 quintals of flour of the 140,000 which is the total need. This presents enormous transportation difficulties, because there is a complete absence of normal transport, the roads are in very bad condition, and, what is much more serious, hundreds of bridges are destroyed. Military steel bridges, in good condition, have been removed by Allied Forces for military purposes. The coming winter with its extreme climate makes the situation much more serious in the mountain country. This area will be isolated by snow and bad weather.

In this province there are 21 communes completely destroyed, and the population is starving.

The sanitary condition of this province is very bad, because of the lack of houses, the need of clothes, the serious food shortage, the lack of fuel and the means to cook. At Chieti gas production is nearly ended because of the lack of coal. **2289**

Tuberculosis in children is increasing. Scabies has reached large proportions because there is no soap and too many people live together. Typhus, whooping cough and malaria too have very much increased.

To further aggravate the situation in which the population lives it must be noted that there is scarce hospital assistance. The few hospitals of the province (Ortona, Lanciano, etc.) are destroyed, and the one in Chieti is not sufficient for the area.

Another very serious question is that of the mines and unexploded shells. The prefect told how he escaped by mere chance the explosion of a mine which caused the death of three persons, wounding several, during an inspection of the province. To bed the wounded and sick they are obliged to use chopped-straw on the bare ground.

Gasoline for the few remaining cars is very scarce. There is an urgent need of materials to repair roofs, especially of some of the half-destroyed hospitals.

Chieti's Prefect finished by expressing the hope that the tremendous situation in his province will be examined by the Commission with the greatest attention, in order to help this population that has suffered so much by this war. This also to avoid any popular rebellion which would upset the public order.

Pescara's Prefect began to speak. He recalled the recent visit in the province of the Undersecretary of the Interior, who personally saw the terrible conditions of the population. He stated that two-thirds of the town of Pescara is a second Pompei. The few buildings in which one could live are without window panes. With the arrival of winter there are no clothing supplies. In Pescara city there are 30,000 homeless persons who, for the most part, are obliged to sleep on the bare ground. The luckiest are those who sleep in stables, with the animals, without thought of the danger of contagious diseases. He drew the attention of the Commission to the existence at Lecce of a large quantity of window glass, which, with the coming winter, could be very useful.

The food conditions of the province, the Prefect stated, are upsetting the calm of the population. Hunger is a "black and preoccupying" reality. It is impossible to live with only 200 gr. of bread. Very often these persons do not have a portion of soup to supplement the bread ration.

In this regard the Prefect stated that it is not right to say that during the German occupation the population was satisfied with 150 gr. of bread. At that time each family obtained one quintal of corn as an extra assignment, beyond the normal bread ration.

The food situation regarding fats is much more difficult because for seven months the population has not had a drop of oil.

The physical degeneration of the population has broken their self control and presents in this way a danger of a rebellion. This is possible also because 1,500 railway men, that represent families totalling 7,000 persons, have not been paid for two months. The sanitary conditions of the province are very serious especially for the lack of medicines and for the great difficulty of distributing the little at their disposal.

Pescara's Prefect finished by drawing the attention of the Government to the Patriot's impatience.

288

M. E. Canavari spoke in regard to the report presented by the Prefects of Pescara and Chieti, and drew the attention of the Allied Commission to the existence in the Pescara area of an undamaged cement factory. This factory could produce 600-700 quintals of cement a day. This factory cannot work for the lack of coal. He suggested that coal be sent from Sardinia, so that this most essential factory could resume work.

The Prefect of Chieti stated that at Borba, near Chieti,

1031

1032

Population that has suffered so much by this war. This also to avoid any popular rebellion which would upset the public order.

Pescara's Prefect began to speak. He recalled the recent visit in the province of the Undersecretary of the Interior, who personally saw the terrible conditions of the population. He stated that two-thirds of the town of Pescara is a second Pompeii. The few buildings in which one could live are without window panes. With the arrival of winter there are no clothing supplies. In Pescara city there are 30,000 homeless persons who, for the most part, are obliged to sleep on the bare ground. The luckiest are those who sleep in stables, with the animals, without thought of the danger of contagious diseases. He drew the attention of the Commission to the existence at Lecce of a large quantity of window glass, which, with the coming winter, could be very useful.

The food conditions of the province, the Prefect stated, are upsetting the calm of the population. Hunger is a "black and preoccupying" reality. It is impossible to live with only 200 gr. of bread. Very often these persons do not have a portion of soup to supplement the bread ration.

In this regard the Prefect stated that it is not right to say that during the German occupation the population was satisfied with 150 gr. of bread. At that time each family obtained one quintal of corn as an extra assignment, beyond the normal bread ration.

The food situation regarding fats is much more difficult because for seven months the population has not had a drop of oil.

The physical degeneration of the population has broken their self control and presents in this way a danger of a rebellion. This is possible also because 1,500 railway men, that represent families totalling 7,000 persons, have not been paid for two months. The sanitary conditions of the province are very serious especially for the lack of medicines and for the great difficulty of distributing the little at their disposal.

Pescara's Prefect finished by drawing the attention of the Government to the Patriot's impatience.

288
E. E. Canevari spoke in regard to the report presented by the Prefects of Pescara and Chieti, and drew the attention of the Allied Commission to the existence in the Pescara area of an undamaged cement factory. This factory could produce 600-700 quintals of cement a day. This factory cannot work for the lack of coal. He suggested that coal be sent from Sardinia, so that this most essential factory could resume work.

The Prefect of Chieti stated that at Bomba, near Chieti, there is another cement factory which, having enough coal, could furnish about 2,000 quintals of cement.

The Prefect of Aquila then took the floor. He said that 26 of the 108 communes of his province are practically destroyed. (Avezzano, Castel di Sangro, Carsoli, etc. are leveled).

The problem of unexploded mines is very serious also in this province. There are mines near the houses and many in the fields.

1033

In regard to the food condition, it is necessary to act very quickly in order to keep the population alive.

The Prefect says that on August 14, he made strong representation to the Agriculture Ministry for assistance to his population. Some improvements were, in reality, obtained. It is necessary, however, to obtain the immediate transportation of 200,000 quintals of grain, which represents the total need, before the winter.

The problem of homeless persons is one of the most serious and urgent, especially because it has not been possible to begin to build barracks. This project would cost 150,000,000 lire. The Allied Authorities have not given their permission to begin this work. For this reason many refugees are coming from the countryside to the biggest centers. Refugees from Roccaraso and Castelviscardo arrive daily in devastated Sulmona. The Prefect asks therefore at least a sufficient allocation of window glass for the buildings which are partially habitable.

M. L. Canvari stated that for this purpose some glass substitute called "Vetroleir" should be sent from America.

The Prefect of Teramo began his report by observing that the situation in this province, which has been untouched by the war, is very different from that of the other provinces, and not so dramatic. In effect the most serious destructions are those of the bridges, 150 in all the province. This requires a great difficulty for transportation. For this purpose some proposals have been made but have not been yet accepted by the Allied Authorities.

In regard to the food situation the province of Teramo is sufficient in itself and can also export something. By order of the Allied Command, 82,000 quintals of grain can be exported to Chieti and 88,000 to aquila.

As to shelter, Teramo has not been touched and is sheltering 21,000 refugees. These persons need clothing, supplies and blankets very urgently. The few remaining cars are without tires and therefore insufficient to the Province's need. There is a great lack of coal for cooking and winter heating. The Prefect suggests that Aieti Province could furnish the necessary coal, if the Agriculture Ministry would approve this project. 11,000 q. of the existing 150,000 would be sufficient for the whole Teramo Province.

The Prefect of Rieti stated that this coal, especially that of the south-western Sabina, is taken by private firms to the City of Rome, and in smaller quantity to the city of Naples. For this reason in Rieti the price of coal has become very high. **2287**

The Prefect of Pescara said that the Agriculture Ministry should control the distribution of coal, as Pescara also is experiencing a grave lack of coal.

The Prefect of Chieti, as the other Prefects, expressed the hope that the Government would remove some of the difficulties

is necessary, however, to obtain the immediate transportation of 200,000 quintals of grain, which represents the total need, before the winter.

The problem of homeless persons is one of the most serious and urgent, especially because it has not been possible to begin to build barracks. This project would cost 150,000,000 lire. The Allied authorities have not given their permission to begin this work. For this reason many refugees are coming from the countryside to the biggest centers. Refugees from Accoraso and Castellisanaro arrive daily in devastated Sulmona. The Prefect asks therefore at least a sufficient allocation of window glass for the buildings which are partially habitable.

M. J. Canaveri stated that for this purpose some glass substitute called "Vetroleim" should be sent from America.

The Prefect of Teramo began his report by observing that the situation in this province, which has been untouched by the war, is very different from that of the other provinces, and not so dramatic. In effect the most serious destructions are those of the bridges, 150 in all the province. This represents a great difficulty for transportation. For this purpose some proposals have been made but have not been yet accepted by the Allied authorities.

In regard to the food situation the province of Teramo is sufficient in itself and can also export something. By order of the Allied Command, 82,000 quintals of grain can be exported to Chieti and 83,000 to Aquila.

As to shelter, Teramo has not been touched and is sheltering 21,000 refugees. These persons need clothing, supplies and blankets very urgently. The few remaining cars are without tires and therefore insufficient to the Province's need. There is a great lack of coal for cooking and winter heating. The Prefect suggests that Rieti Province could furnish the necessary coal, if the Agriculture Ministry would approve this project. 11,000 q. of the existing 150,000 would be sufficient for the whole Teramo Province.

The Prefect of Rieti stated that this coal, especially that of the south-western Sabina, is taken by private firms to the City of Rome, and in smaller quantity to the city of Naples. For this reason in Rieti the price of coal has become very high. **2287**

The Prefect of Pescara said that the Agriculture Ministry, should control the distribution of coal, as Pescara also is experiencing a grave lack of coal.

The Prefect of Chieti, as the other Prefects, expressed the hope that the Government would remove some of the difficulties in local production.

The Prefect of Teramo continued his relation, saying that in his province he has set up some popular kitchens, which distribute to workers who are out of work about 3,000 soup meals a day. To help the population he has also established a special taxation to the persons who enriched themselves during the war.

1035

Some financial help from the Government would be very useful.

The danger presented by mines and unexploded shells is very serious in this province. Some special soldiers are clearing the area, which can be again cultivated.

As the other Prefects, the Prefect of Teramo thinks that 200 gr. of bread is insufficient. For seven months the population has received little fats, beyond very rare distributions. A few days ago a rebellion arose and he was obliged, in order to calm the population, to distribute 4 kg. of bread to each person.

E. L. Manes, remarked that, with the new oil production, this problem will be over.

The Prefect of Teramo said that the need of work in the province is very great, especially as to the workers of cement and bricks, as the factories are closed for lack of supply and transportation. Those who work are paid very little. The situation for the employees is the same. For this reason he had proposed to the allied representative increases in wages. This was not accepted.

In regard to clothing, shoes are especially needed for agriculture workers.

The Prefect of Viterbo reported that the general situation in his province is better than in the other ones. He said that the war operations, especially those of last May, have damaged 25 of the 52 communes of his province. Two-fifths of the houses in Viterbo are destroyed, so that the lodging problem is the most urgent one. For this reason a special commission is listing the houses which can be used. For the houses which need to be repaired, the owners will be helped by special contributions and loans. If they will not agree with these dispositions the houses will be requisitioned. As for public buildings, window panes are very urgently needed especially for hospitals and schools. The few classes that are to be found on the local market are sold at very high prices.

Transportation doesn't allow coal supplies for cooking and heating.

In regard to mines and unexploded shells, the War Department has been told to clear the area and bring away the grenades, which cannot be kept by the local carabinieri and would represent a danger because of local unrest.

Another serious problem is that of the overcrowding, due to the presence of refugees who also need clothing, supplies and blankets.

The Prefect of Viterbo finished by speaking of the insufficient wages. **2286**

E. B. the Undersecretary of State for the Treasury observes that this is a general and not a local problem

As the other Prefects, the Prefect of Teramo thinks that 200 gr. of bread is insufficient. For seven months the population has received little fats, beyond very rare distributions. A few days ago a rebellion arose and he was obliged, in order to calm the population, to distribute 4 kg. of bread to each person.

M. D. Manes, remarked that, with the new oil production, this problem will be over.

The Prefect of Teramo said that the need of work in the province is very great, especially as to the workers of cement and bricks, as the factories are closed for lack of supply and transportation. Those who work are paid very little. The situation for the employees is the same. For this reason he had proposed to the allied Representative increases in wages. This was not accepted.

In regard to clothing, shoes are especially needed for agriculture workers.

The Prefect of Viterbo reported that the general situation in his province is better than in the other ones. He said that the war operations, especially those of last May, have damaged 25 of the 52 communes of his province. Two-fifths of the houses in Viterbo are destroyed, so that the lodging problem is the most urgent one. For this reason a special commission is listing the houses which can be used. For the houses which need to be repaired, the owners will be helped by special contributions and loans. In they will not agree with these dispositions the houses will be requisitioned. As for public buildings, window panes are very urgently needed especially for hospitals and schools. The few classes that are to be found on the local market are sold at very high prices.

Transportation doesn't allow coal supplies for cooking and heating.

In regard to mines and unexploded shells, the War Department has been told to clear the area and bring away the grenades, which cannot be kept by the local carabinieri and would represent a danger because of local unrest.

Another serious problem is that of the overcrowding, due to the presence of refugees who also need clothing, supplies and blankets.

The Prefect of Viterbo finished by speaking of the insufficient wages. **2286**

M. D. the Undersecretary of State for the Treasury observes that this is a general and not a local problem.

The Prefect of Rieti said that without presenting a tragic story as in the other provinces, his area suffered by the war, especially the German robberies and destructions. About 150,000 are homeless. These people live in unhealthy surroundings. Their living conditions will be worse with the coming winter. Therefore, clothing, blankets, shoes and windowpanes are very

8F
necessary. To aggravate the situation in the province and in the town of Rieti itself, there is a lack of coal, although coal is a local production. This is due to lack of transportation and tires. The destruction of 165 bridges in the province creates extreme transportation difficulty.

The food situation is bad because the population has no oil, and in a short time the population will also be without grain. In fact, the province produces 80,000 quintals and 110,000 quintals is its need. The difficulty of oil supplies is due to the fact that all the oil produced in Sabina is sent to Rome.

In regard to the lodging situation, the Prefect referred to the fact that the local population has helped the refugees. The lack of coal, especially for cement and brick manufacturing, hinders the beginning of reconstruction. He hoped that railways would resume so that the province can obtain some coal from Terni and other supplies for the industrial establishments of the province which are undamaged.

The health conditions of the population are good.

The Prefect of Chieti drew the attention of the Commission to the great number of lodgings requisitioned by the Allied Forces (in Ortona, where there are 19,000 refugees, there are 1,000 requisitioned rooms). If these rooms could be free, the lodging problem for many refugees would be solved. For such purpose some requests have been made to the Allied authorities but, until now, with no result.

On this subject also the Prefect of Pescara referred to the fact that he has personally requested the Allied Authorities to leave some villas, which could lodge nearly all the refugees. This was not obtained it seems because Pescara is considered a closed town.

H. E. Canavari, after having remarked that most of the problems presented are general ones, asked the Representative of Military Center to inform the Commission of the means used to clear the areas from mines and shells.

General Crivaro of the War Department said that this problem is actually one of the most serious ones. The General Direction of the Genio has for a long time pointed out the difficulties that it had to face. The War Office has tried to have at its disposition some Italian specialist soldiers of the Genio, but the Allied Authorities have replied that the soldiers were necessary for war purposes and not for local purposes, such as these.

He pointed out the serious danger to which the persons who clear the mines are exposed, because in German mine fields there are many booby traps.

Through the interest of the Allied Authorities two of the six companies who have been requested, and two other companies formed by non-specialized soldiers, who have been recalled to now the wheat, are working now. Actually one company clears the Frosinone area and the other one the Pescara area. The

2285

oil, and in a short time the population will also be without grain. In fact, the province produces 80,000 quintals and 110,000 quintals is its need. The difficulty of oil supplies is due to the fact that all the oil produced in Sabina is sent to Rome.

In regard to the lodging situation, the Prefect referred to the fact that the local population has helped the refugees. The lack of coal, especially for cement and brick manufacturing, hinders the beginning of reconstruction. He hoped that railways would resume so that the province can obtain some coal from Terni and other supplies for the industrial establishments of the province which are undamaged.

The health conditions of the population are good.

The Prefect of Chieti drew the attention of the Commission to the great number of lodgings requisitioned by the Allied Forces (in Ortona, where there are 13,000 refugees, there are 1,000 requisitioned rooms). If these rooms could be free, the lodging problem for many refugees would be solved. For such purpose some requests have been made to the Allied authorities but, until now, with no result.

On this subject also the Prefect of Pescara referred to the fact that he has personally requested the Allied authorities to leave some villas, which could lodge nearly all the refugees. This has not obtained it seems because Pescara is considered a closed town.

H. E. Canevari, after having remarked that most of the problems presented are general ones, asked the representative of Military Center to inform the Commission of the means used to clear the areas from mines and shells.

General Crivaro of the War Department said that this problem is actually one of the most serious ones. The General Direction of the Genio has for a long time pointed out the difficulties that it had to face. The War Office has tried to have at its disposition some Italian specialist soldiers of the Genio, but the Allied authorities have replied that the soldiers were necessary for war purposes and not for local purposes, such as these.

He pointed out the serious danger to which the persons who clear the mines are exposed, because in German mine fields there are many booby traps.

2285

Through the interest of the Allied authorities two of the six companies who have been requested, and two other companies formed by non-specialized soldiers, who have been recalled to now the front, are working now. Actually one company clears the Frosinone area and the other one the Pescara area. The problem of mine clearing is serious and important. The allies have tried to find a solution by entrusting the work to civilian enterprises. The War Department has been opposed to this entrusting to civilian enterprises, for the great expense which it would cause. To avoid speculation and interference the State organization is being created. The civilian enterprises would always try to hire the specialized workers who

come from the military training centers. For this work technical training is absolutely necessary and food will be provided for the persons who risk their lives.

Gen. Crivaro considers the mine-clearing worker as a soldier, sometimes more exposed to danger than the front line soldier, because he is exposed to an invisible enemy who always lies in wait. It is not to be considered that untrained workers could be employed for such work. This is to avoid frequent and serious accidents, which could provoke total desertion from the work.

In regard to the expense, he says that according to his information, for the clearing of the ground around Rome (4th Region), civilian enterprises have asked the Allied Authorities for 400 million lire.

It has therefore been decided with the Allied Authorities to establish 5 training centers (at Pisa, Spoleto, Viterbo, Capua and Chieti), which will train workers, who once were soldiers demolition experts, who have been dismissed by the manufacturing companies and are now without work, and voluntary patriots. He hopes to have in the first fortnight of November a first company of such workers. To reach this aim the Treasury has been requested to pay good salaries to the workers. These salaries have already been proposed by General Crivaro, to compensate for the sacrifice of the workers, who always risk their lives. These salaries are about 300 lire a day for the head workers and 250 for the common workers, including a sick indemnity of 80 lire.

There is under discussion a proposal to pay these workers on a basis of the number of mines they find. He remarked that the clearing of a ground fit to sow and a vineyard is a different thing. In order to have the workers accept more willingly the work of clearing the ground he also has proposed to give them, beyond the special indemnity of 80 lire a day, 5-10-15 lire for each discovered or destroyed mine, according to the different clearing grounds. These could be divided in three categories: of easy clearing, of middle difficulty clearing and of difficult clearing. General Crivaro is still awaiting an answer from the Treasury. He had to insist in order to have this project accepted, because he found out that in the General State accounts there was a project to reduce the risk indemnity from 80 to 60 lire a day, according to the increases which have been established in these days to the workers.

He spoke also of an accident insurance for the workers for whom it is necessary to calculate a great percentage of dead, wounded and ill. Some workers have to be dismissed because, by working under continuous nervous tension, along with the fear of the exploding of some mines, they develop nervous ailments.

General Crivaro says also that the workers have to obtain in addition to their salary a good pension in case of accident. He stressed the fact that insurance cost is a heavy burden.

2284

1039

1040

soldier, because he is exposed to an invisible enemy who always lies in wait. It is not to be considered that untrained workers could be employed for such work. This is to avoid frequent and serious accidents, which could provoke total desertion from the work.

In regard to the expense, he says that according to his information, for the clearing of the ground around Rome (4th Region), civilian enterprises have asked the Allied Authorities for 400 million lire.

It has therefore been decided with the Allied Authorities to establish 5 training centers (at Pisa, Spoleto, Viterbo, Capua and Chieti), which will train workers, who once were soldier demolition experts, who have been dismissed by the manufacturer and are now without work, and voluntary patriots. He hopes to have in the first fortnight of November a first company of such workers. To reach this aim the Treasury has been requested to pay good salaries to the workers. These salaries have already been proposed by General Crivaro, to compensate for the sacrifice of the workers, who always risk their lives. These salaries are about 300 lire a day for the head workers and 250 for the common workers, including a sick indemnity of 80 lire.

There is under discussion a proposal to pay these workers on a basis of the number of mines they find. He remarked that the clearing of a ground fit to sow and a vineyard is a different thing. In order to have the workers accept more willingly the work of clearing, the ground he also has proposed to give them, beyond the special indemnity of 30 lire a day, 5-10-15 lire for each discovered or destroyed mine, according to the different clearing grounds. These could be divided in three categories: of easy clearing, or middle difficulty clearing and of difficult clearing. General Crivaro is still awaiting an answer from the Treasury. He had to insist in order to have this project accepted, because he found out that in the General State accounts there was a project to reduce the risk indemnity from 80 to 60 lire a day, according to the increases which have been established in these days to the workers.

He spoke also of an accident insurance for the workers for whom it is necessary to calculate a great percentage of dead, wounded and ill. Some workers have to be dismissed because, by working under continuous nervous tension, along with the fear of the exploding of some mines, they develop nervous ailments.

General Crivaro says also that the workers have to obtain in addition to their salary a good pension in case of accident. He referred to the fact that insurance cost is a heavy burden, which, according to information obtained by a civilian enterprise, has been calculated by the Istituto Nazionale delle Assicurazioni at 45 percent of the daily salary. This to insure the injured, who are unable to work, a monthly pension of about 1500 lire, this would cost 175 lire on a salary of 300 lire a day.

Then he addressed himself to the Undersecretary of the Treasury to obtain his help for the accepting of the proposals on salaries.

He said that by giving a good salary to the workers it is possible to have them work with all their attention, so that the solution of this very serious problem would become easy. After an experimental period there can be no objection to the establishment of cooperative system among the workers and technicians, who are occupied in the clearing operations, so that all the benefit could be divided among those who do this work.

With regard to window panes it was observed that the Allies should meet the most urgent difficulties by sending the glass substitute, which is very useful. Besides the difficulty of coal for the glass manufacturing, it is necessary to think of the difficulty of transport means from the production place to the needy area, and also the difficulty of good packing, so as to avoid having glass arrive in fragments.

In regard to the requisitions, he put in evidence the number of apartments and houses requisitioned by the Allies. (At Naples the Allied Forces have issued about 11,000 requisition orders). The necessities that are presented continually by the Allies are many and he asked that they reduce them to the minimum, in light of the difficulties in which the populations live. For Rome it has been asked that some hotels should be left free, but the requests have obtained no answer.

To answer all that had been said up till then, Col. Cripps, senior officer among those present for the different Sub-commissions, began to speak. He said that he had listened with great attention to all that had been said, and that he will refer everything to his superiors, because he has no authority to decide by himself. In any case he thought that the problem had to be examined with three points of view:

- (1) to help as soon as possible the populations, who are threatened by the coming winter;
- (2) to increase the rations;
- (3) to re-establish communications by restoring the bridges and railways.

For these problems Col. Cripps asked if a committee exists, to which each province could apply from time to time, referring to their specific necessities. If it does not exist, he proposes its constitution with the participation of Allied Officers. In regard to the requisitions, he stated that this is a problem for Allied Military Forces. He agrees and several Generals think as he does that it will be necessary to limit requisitions to the minimum.

H. E. Canevari declared that what the Allied Office said was too general and could not solve the problem. He then asked the Undersecretary of Public Works to give some information about this to the Commission.

easy. After an experimental period there can be no objection to the establishment of cooperative system among the workers and technicians, who are occupied in the clearing operations, so that all the benefit could be divided among those who do this work.

With regard to window panes it was observed that the Allies should meet the most urgent difficulties by sending the glass substitute, which is very useful. Besides the difficulty of coal for the glass manufacturing, it is necessary to think of the difficulty of transport means from the production place to the needy area, and also the difficulty of good packing, so as to avoid having glass arrive in fragments.

In regard to the requisitions, he put in evidence the number of apartments and houses requisitioned by the Allies. (At Naples the Allied Forces have issued about 11,000 requisition orders). The necessities that are presented continually by the Allies are many and he asked that they reduce them to the minimum, in light of the difficulties in which the populations live. For Rome it has been asked that some hotels should be left free, but the requests have obtained no answer.

To answer all that had been said up till then, Col. Cripps, senior officer among those present for the different Sub-commissions, began to speak. He said that he had listened with great attention to all that had been said, and that he will refer everything to his superiors, because he has no authority to decide by himself. In any case he thought that the problem had to be examined with three points of view:

- (1) to help as soon as possible the populations, who are threatened by the coming winter;
- (2) to increase the rations;
- (3) to re-establish communications by restoring the bridges and railways.

For these problems Col. Cripps asked if a committee exists, to which each province could apply from time to time, referring to their specific necessities. If it does not exist, he proposes its constitution with the participation of Allied Officers. In regard to the requisitions, he stated that this is a problem for Allied Military Forces. He agrees and several Generals think as he does that it will be necessary to limit requisitions to the minimum.

H. E. Canevari declared that what the Allied Office **2283** said was too general and could not solve the problem. He then asked the Undersecretary of Public Works to give some information about this to the Commission.

H. J. Bruno explained the program which is already in action by his Board, for the resolution of the problem. In effect, while at first it has been attempted to procure for the homeless persons all the immediately disposable rooms, the Civilian Genio has been charged with the inventory of all habitable apartments, repairing those partially damaged, and then requisitioning and assigning them. In the meantime it

has been thought to proceed to the building of emergency houses, which for the completely destroyed areas (as Valmontone) could be perfectly apt to this purpose. The difficulties therefore are enormous, especially for transportation, because there are no means of transport, and for the lack of cement and bricks which are blocked, while the cement factories cannot work for lack of coal.

In regard to the production of glass, he says that the long-flame coal, which is necessary to this industry, doesn't exist in Italy.

M. M. Bruno considered then the problem of the homeless persons, and he proposed as a temporary solution the utilization of several buildings at the disposition of the War Department. He remembers that the town of Cosenza which gives shelter to 20,000 refugees uses barracks, which could be utilized elsewhere while waiting for the beginning of the construction of the "rapid houses", for which he asks the Allies permission to have the cement in Southern Italy.

General Crivaro suggests barracks should be used for refugees.

M. M. Bruno declares that his Board has no intention of creating any "Modern Shanghai", which could very soon be full of bugs.

In regard to reconstruction and arrangement of bridges, this problem is very difficult and can't be resolved immediately.

He also said that requests for mine clearing arrive in his Ministry, although this doesn't concern his Board.

In regard to the proceedings of reconstruction surveys, he said that without the Allied O.K. he is permitted to proceed with surveys of projects up to 500,000 lire. To use blocked material Allied authorization is always necessary. Actually 500,000 lire are very easily reached and the use of blocked material is inevitable. He therefore asks the Allied Authorities to let the proceedings be easier, according to the actual need.

The Representative of Allied Public Work Subcommittee remarked that perhaps it is true that there is too much control, but thinks that with 1,000,000 lire (this is the sum now for which there is no need of authorization) it is always possible to do something, especially if many surveys are put in execution together.

In each Region there is a Sub-Commission engineer who should be consulted more often. His opinion is that ~~2283~~ reconstruction works are local problems. He remembers that the sindaco of Avezzano area, together with the local engineer did "miracles". In any case the Italian Government should not by itself think of all the reconstruction problems, because this is a too big matter for its possibilities. He therefore thinks that the best thing to do is to leave the initiative to the

In regard to the production of glass, he says that the long-flame coal, which is necessary to this industry, doesn't exist in Italy.

H. E. Bruno considered then the problem of the homeless persons, and he proposed as a temporary solution the utilization of several buildings at the disposition of the War Department. He remembers that the town of Cesenza which gives shelter to 30,000 refugees uses barracks, which could be utilized elsewhere while waiting for the beginning of the construction of the "rapid houses", for which he asks the Allies permission to have the cement in Southern Italy.

General Crivaro suggests barracks should be used for refugees.

H. E. Bruno declares that his Board has no intention of creating any "Modern Shanghai", which could very soon be full of bugs.

In regard to reconstruction and arrangement of bridges, this problem is very difficult and can't be resolved immediately.

He also said that requests for mine clearing arrive in his ministry, although this doesn't concern his Board.

In regard to the proceedings of reconstruction surveys, he said that without the Allied C.K. he is permitted to proceed with surveys of projects up to 500,000 lire. To use blocked material Allied authorization is always necessary. Actually 500,000 lire are very easily reached and the use of blocked material is inevitable. He therefore asks the Allied Authorities to let the proceedings be easier, according to the actual need.

The Representative of Allied Public Work Subcommittee remarked that perhaps it is true that there is too much control, but thinks that with 1,000,000 lire (this is the sum now for which there is no need of authorization) it is always possible to do something, especially if many surveys are put in execution together.

In each Region there is a Sub-Commission engineer who should be consulted more often. His opinion is that ~~2282~~ ²²⁸³ reconstruction works are local problems. He remembers that the ~~gndac~~ of Avizzano area, together with the local engineer did "miracles". In any case the Italian Government should not by itself think of all the reconstruction problems, because this is a too big matter for its possibilities. He therefore thinks that the best thing to do is to leave the initiative to the local authorities, while the Government should only issue laws on the reconstruction. It would be useful to start with the quickest and most useful works and finish with those which require a longer work.

In regard to bridges he refers to the fact that military needs have to have absolute precedence and that therefore the

87
first bridges to be fixed up will be those which are important for military operations. The Italian Authorities could forward the requests for the bridges necessary for civilian purposes.

He finished by asking what are the proposals of the Government and suggested that the Prefects and the Sindaci should always work together with the Allied regional officer and engineer in these inspections, so as to be constantly in contact.

In regard to the delay in approving the reconstruction proposals he thinks that this is a fault of the Italian authorities.

K. S. Canevari agreed to the proposal suggested by the Allies for the constitution of a permanent Committee, presided over by himself and whose members should be the Undersecretaries of Agriculture, Treasury, Press, Public Works, Communications and Commerce. In this Committee should also be the General Directors of Public Health Service and of the Civilian Administration, the President of the Italian Red Cross, the Representatives of the C.R.A., and the Representatives of the High Committee for Refugees. The Representatives of the different Allied Subcommittees should also be present.

The Committee will have to examine, after having heard the Prefect of the different Provinces, all the most urgent problems, as: assistance, public health, food situation, lodging for refugees. The task will be to simplify these problems and control the distribution of relief supplies. The Committee should meet every week to examine all the proposals and resolve them in short time.

Col. Cripps, promised that he would refer these proposals to his superiors and would give an answer.

The Allied Officer of the Food Subcommittee said that according to the requests of the Prefects and Sindaci, concerning the ration increase, the question has been brought up in London and Washington. It is impossible to establish the new ration proposed to be distributed north of the Naples-Campobasso line as shipping is needed for military purposes. It is considered that in devastated areas the local production can't be sufficient to feed the population.

The reasons for the Italian pasta ration are the same.

He insisted that Italy feed its population thinking only of its resources, because imports are only done for devastated areas where harvests have been destroyed.

2281

From census which have been taken it appears that in some districts where the grain production is very high, very little of it has been delivered for public use. This problem, which is a national one, is now being examined by the Allied Authorities. The Officer continued deploring the special issue of 4 Kg. of bread in Teramo, saying that a very important national problem had been forgotten for a local one.

should always work together with the Allied regional officer and engineer in these inspections, so as to be constantly in contact.

In regard to the delay in approving the reconstruction proposals he thinks that this is a fault of the Italian authorities.

H. E. Canevari agreed to the proposal suggested by the Allies for the constitution of a permanent Committee, presided over by himself and whose members should be the Undersecretaries of Agriculture, Treasury, Press, Public Works, Communications and Commerce. In this Committee should also be the General Directors of Public Health Service and of the Civilian Administration, the President of the Italian Red Cross, the Representatives of the C.R.A., and the Representative of the High Committee for Refugees. The Representatives of the different Allied Subcommissions should also be present.

The Committee will have to examine, after having heard the Prefect of the different Provinces, all the most urgent problems, as: assistance, public health, food situation, lodging for refugees. The task will be to simplify these problems and control the distribution of relief supplies. The Committee should meet every week to examine all the proposals and resolve them in short time.

Col. Cripps, promised that he would refer these proposals to his superiors and would give an answer.

The Allied Officer of the Food Subcommission said that according to the requests of the Prefects and Sindaci, concerning the ration increase, the question has been brought up in London and Washington. It is impossible to establish the new ration proposed to be distributed north of the Naples-Campobasso line as shipping is needed for military purposes. It is considered that in devastated areas the local production can't be sufficient to feed the population.

The reasons for the Italian pasta ration are the same.

He insisted that Italy feed its population thinking only of its resources, because imports are only done for devastated areas where harvests have been destroyed.

2281

From census which have been taken it appears that in some districts where the grain production is very high, very little of it has been delivered for public use. This problem, which is a national one, is now being examined by the Allied Authorities. The Officer continued deploring the special issue of 4 Kg. of bread in Teramo, saying that a very important national problem had been forgotten for a local one.

Regarding olive oil, the Allied Officer remembered that the last crop was bad, due to the war operations. This is the reason for the scarce rations. This year in some regions the crop is supposed to be good, and in some other scarce, so that there is foreseen a pro capita ration of 400 grams. Moreover the Allied Commission can supply limited transport. The

importations from now on will be very scarce, therefore it will be necessary to exploit to the highest degree the local sources. In regard to this he says that, together with I. S. Vullc, he hopes to put on the market a great quantity of food, because he thinks that the basis of the alimentation are bread and oil. In regard to means of transport for food distribution, the Allied Officer said that it is absolutely necessary for the Italian Government to see that the trucks, which the Allies could put at its disposition, would carry only food and not other less useful things.

I. S. Canevari told of his satisfaction with the help which the Allies promise in food distribution. In regard to the efficiency of the public food centers, this is almost true, but still in many Provinces (Litteria, Frosinone, etc.) the grain could not be harvested because the fields were full of mines. Many considerations must be therefore given to this problem.

In regard to the special bread distribution made by the Prefect of Teramo, I. S. Canevari said that he has to examine the question in relation to the special circumstances in which things happened.

He concluded remembering what has been done by the Allies for the liberty of Italy and of the world, but asked them to leave greater initiative to the Italian Government. He emphasized that this is the only way to improve the conditions of the population, notwithstanding the great distractions and the great difficulties.

He finished by again expressing Italian gratefulness to the Allies and thanking the authorities present for their attention.

The meeting was over at 1:30.

2280

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

785016

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
 C.M.F.
 Civil Affairs Section.

file

7

Ref:- 4/31.A/AS.

27 Oct '44

TO:- Regional Commissioner, Region Abruzzi-Marche.

Dear French,

7A-C

Attached is a copy of the notes that I made on a recent meeting at the Ministry of Interior which I attended on Tuesday, 24 Oct. These have been put before the COS and the A/OC, and I understand that he is going to set up an officer here to be responsible entirely for the immediate problem in devastated areas, and will probably assign a provincial team to both Regions IV and V to assist in the matter.

Yours sincerely,

ERC/ymb

Col. C.F. French, M.C.,
 Regional Commissioner, Abruzzi-Marche.

2279

NOTES ON MEETING HELD IN THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR 24 Oct '44.

7A

PRESENT:- H. E. Canavari, Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Interior (Chairman).

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p><u>ITALIAN</u></p> <p>H. E. Sollimans, Director of Public Health
 Marquis Theodile (I. E. C.)
 Under-Secretary of State, Finance.
 Chief Medical Officer Ministry of Interior
 Representatives of Ministry of War
 Representatives of Ministry of Public Works
 Prefects of Chieti, Pescara, Aquila, Teramo,
 Viterbo, Rieti.</p> | <p><u>ALLIED</u></p> <p>Representative Admin. Sec.
 Food sub-commission (2)
 Public Health " (3)
 Medical supplies, hospital, welfare.
 Public Works sub-commission
 Regions IV & V
 Italian Refugees & displaced persons
 sub-commission.
 Mr. Barr (A. R. C)
 Mr. Crowley (A. R. C)</p> |
|--|---|

1. The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming the representatives from the Allied Control Commission, and stated that he proposed to call upon the various Prefects present to explain the situation in their various Provinces. He proposed to examine the whole matter at this meeting with a view to deciding what action should be taken. The Prefects then proceeded to describe conditions in their various Provinces. This speech was not translated, but the following remarks were translated in short by the Marquis Thodile.

2. The Prefect of CHIERI made an impassioned speech impressing the gravity and size of the problem in his province. He is extremely short of every type of material for re-housing, and in particular glass and cement. He asked for the bread ration to be raised from 200 to 300 grams. There existed a high proportion of communicable disease. Public Safety was satisfactory but he felt that it might not remain so.

3. The Prefect of PESCARA gave a somewhat similar picture to that of the previous speaker. He also demanded higher ration scales and mentioned the urgent need for soup and fats and enquired whether it was possible to transport glass from Lecce where he understood there exists considerable quantities. He asked that more attention be paid to the opening of industrial works, particularly those making cement. The Chairman intervened and stated that he had recently visited this region and that he had seen women collecting grass to eat for which they had no fats. He felt there was a crying need to open the cement works at Bomba, which is apparently idle through lack of coal. He appealed to the Allies to assist in this matter and suggested that we might bring coal from Saravina for this purpose.

4. The Prefect of ACQUILA stated that the destruction in his Province was extremely great. He stated that the position of food, and the destruction of communications particularly bridges was similar to that described by his colleagues who had spoken previously. He found that the inhabitants would not leave their land and were living under deplorable conditions, in fact some were living underground. Landmines are causing considerable casualties. This region is very mountainous and he expected snow within the next two weeks. A bridges plan for homeless persons had been commenced but it had been stopped; he was not clear of the reasons but believed it was financial. He also stressed the need for windows, glass & cement.

5. The Prefect of TERAMO said that the position in his Province was not as bad as those previously described. His big problem was the rebuilding of bridges. A plan for this had been submitted but had not yet been approved by the Ministry of Public Works. His main difficulty with transportation was lack of tyres and petrol. There was also a lack of fuel, particularly charcoal, and he asked that supplies now frozen in Chieti be unfrozen. On mine clearance a special squad had been working and very satisfactory progress had been made. He did not consider the 200 gram ration sufficient, there was also at the present moment an insufficiency of olive oil,

Representatives of Ministry of Public Works
Prefects of Chieti, Pescara, Aquila, Teramo,
Viterbo, Rieti.

Regions IV & V
Italian Refugees & displaced persons
sub-commission.
Mr. Dair (A.R.C.)
Mr. Oxwley (A.R.C.)

1. The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming the representatives from the Allied Control Commission, and stated that he proposed to call upon the various Prefects present to explain the situation in their various Provinces. He proposed to examine the whole matter at this meeting with a view to deciding what action should be taken. The Prefects then proceeded to describe conditions in their various Provinces. This speech was not translated, but the following remarks were translated in short by the Marquis Thodile.

2. The Prefect of CHIETI made an impassioned speech impressing the gravity and size of the problem in his province. He is extremely short of every type of material for re-housing, and in particular glass and cement. He asked for the bread ration to be raised from 200 to 300 grams. There existed a high proportion of communicable disease. Public Safety was satisfactory but he felt that it might not remain so.

3. The Prefect of PESCARA gave a somewhat similar picture to that of the previous speaker. He also demanded higher ration scales and mentioned the urgent need for soup and fats and enquired whether it was possible to transport glass from Lecce where he understood there exists considerable quantities. He asked that more attention be paid to the opening of industrial works, particularly those making cement. The Chairman intervened and stated that he had recently visited this region and that he had seen women collecting grass to eat for which they had no fats. He felt there was a crying need to open the cement works at Bomba which is apparently idle through lack of coal. He appealed to the Allies to assist in this matter and suggested that we might bring coal from Sardinia for this purpose.

4. The Prefect of AQUILA stated that the destruction in his Province was extremely great. He stated that the position of food, and the destruction of communications particularly bridges was similar to that described by his colleagues who had spoken previously. He found that the inhabitants would not leave their land and were living under deplorable conditions, in fact some were living underground. Landmines are causing considerable casualties. This region is very mountainous and he expected snow within the next two weeks. A housing plan for homeless persons had been commenced but it had been stopped; he was not clear of the reasons but believed it was financial. He also stressed the need for windows, glass & cement.

5. The Prefect of TERAMO said that the position in his Province was not as bad as those previously described. His big problem was the rebuilding of bridges. A plan for this had been submitted but had not yet been approved by the Ministry of Public Works. His main difficulty with transportation was lack of tyres and petrol. There was also a lack of fuel, particularly charcoal, and he asked that supplies now frozen in Chieti be unfrozen. On mine clearance a special squad had been working and very satisfactory progress had been made. He did not consider the 250 gram ration was sufficient, there was also at the present moment an insufficiency of olive oil, but he considered that this would be remedied to some degree when the new crop is harvested, his Province being a good olive-oil producing area. He anticipated difficulties with this, however,

am many the crushing mills had been irremediably destroyed by the Germans; furthermore his peasant population were extremely short of clothing and in dire need of shoes.

6. The Prefect of VITERBO stated his Province was not as bad as any of the others previously described. 28 towns out of 58 in his Province were badly damaged and he had a housing scheme under consideration. There was great shortage of glass and he inquired whether it would be possible to requisition this material from Florence where he understood there existed large quantities. He inquired about the possibility of returning refugees to their homes, particularly to the area of Civitavecchia whence many of them had come originally. (The Chairman interposed had he seen Civitavecchia, whereupon a great outburst of talking took place which it was quite impossible to follow).
7. The Prefect of RIETI gave quite a reasonable picture of his Province which appeared to be in very much better condition than any of the others. He stated that rebuilding was proceeding and that he only had a 1,000 homeless families. He considered that if the railway through his Province could be opened it would solve many of his problems. Refugees were being returned.
8. The Prefect of CHIETI again spoke and stated that he had a very large number of homeless in Chieti town itself, 19,000 was the figure mentioned. He stated that there were 1,000 rooms at present requisitioned by the military, but not occupied, could the Allies cerequisition.
9. Representatives of the Ministry of War spoke at length on the question of mine clearance describing the work done since the original landings in Calabria, giving an outline of their plans for the future, discoursing at length on the rates of pay and insurance schemes which they stated was at present under consideration by the Ministry of Finance. They pointed out the necessity for Prefects to be placed at the disposal of local mineclearance squads in order that they may be of the same rates of pay as the men working in his service. They then made the point that in view of the difficulty of transportation of glass the Allied authorities should consider the importation of a substitute of glass which could be more easily packed or rolled (they presumably some referring to what is known in England as blitz glass). They further considered that the matter of cerequisitioning buildings not in use by the Allied authorities should be given immediate consideration and asked whether there was no possibility of transport being imported for the civilian population.
10. Co. F. B. CRIPS pointed out that the requests upon the Allies were numerous and would require a good deal of investigation in many cases. Various Ministries of the Italian Government were aware of the situation in connection with food, transportation, re-building and fuel. He considered that the matters being discussed this morning divided themselves into two parts:
 - a) The immediate problem of dealing with the population at CHIETI in the really badly devastated areas of Chieti, Pescara and Aquila.
 - b) The more long-term rehabilitation of the whole of the war devastated areas.He suggested that a very much smaller committee be formed, (if that had already been done by the Italian Government) it could deal with (a) above and Allied Control Commission would be prepared to be represented.
11. The Italian representative of the Ministry of Public Works then spoke. He stated that they were tackling the problem in two parts:
 - a) that of dealing with repairable houses, and
 - b) the building of new small houses.His main difficulty was the lack of cement of which large quantities, together

of returning refugees to their homes, particularly to the area of Civitavecchia whence many of them had come originally. (The Chairman interposed had he seen Civitavecchia, whereupon a great outburst of talking took place which it was quite impossible to follow).

7. The Prefect of Rieti gave quite a reasonable picture of his Province which appeared to be in very much better condition than any of the others. He stated that rebuilding was proceeding and that he only had a 1,000 homeless families. He considered that if the railway through his Province could be opened it would solve many of his problems. Refugees were being returned.

8. The Prefect of Chieti again spoke and stated that he had a very large number of homeless in Chieti town itself, 19,000 was the figure mentioned. He stated that there were 1,000 rooms at present requisitioned by the military, but not occupied, could the Allies derquisition.

9. Representatives of the Ministry of War spoke at length on the question of mine clearance describing the work done since the original landings in Calabria, giving an outline of their plans for the future, discoursing at length on the rates of pay and insurance scheme which they stated was at present under consideration by the Ministry of Finance. They pointed out the necessity for Prefects to be placed at the disposal of local mineclearance squads in order that they may be of the same rates of pay as the men working in his service. They then made the point that in view of the difficulty of transportation of glass the Allied authorities should consider the importation of a substitute of glass which could be more easily packed or rolled (they presumably some referring to what is known in England as blitz glass). They further considered that the matter of derquisitioning buildings not in use by the Allied authorities should be given immediate consideration and asked whether there was no possibility of transport being imported for the civilian population.

10. Co. R.R. CRIPIS pointed out that the requests upon the Allies were numerous and would require a good deal of investigation in many cases. Various Ministries of the Italian Government were aware of the situation in connection with food, transportation, re-building and fuel. He considered that the matters being discussed this morning divided themselves into two parts:-

a) the immediate problem of dealing with the population at ~~227~~²²⁷ in the really badly devastated areas of Chieti, Pescara and Aquila.

b) The more long-term rehabilitation of the whole of the war devastated areas. He suggested that a very much smaller committee be formed, (if that had already been done by the Italian Government) it could deal with (a) above and Allied Control Commission would be prepared to be represented.

11. The Italian representative of the Ministry of Public Works then spoke. He stated that they were tackling the problem in two parts:-

a) that of dealing with repairable houses, and

b) the building of new small houses.

His main difficulty was the lack of cement of which large quantities, together with other building materials were at present frozen by the Allies. He suggested that the large quantities of cement at present in the south might be freed as he felt that now the theatre of operations was no far in the North the problem of their transportation might preclude their use by the Army. He felt that there was some red which caused delays in small building projects due to the fact that those costing over 5 million lire, or requiring the use of certain war material, needed to be authorized by the Allied military authorities before they could be proceeded with.

7C

12. Col. Thomasi stated that he did not agree with the last speaker in that projects up to 5 million lire could be sanctioned by the Genial Civili and that Allied Military Government regional engineers were authorized to sanction projects up to 1 million lire. There was no restriction on the number of projects costing up to this amount that can be carried out in a province. That all engineering officers had been instructed to give their assistance in the matter of housing and bridge building, furthermore their bridge building programme was not entirely being confined to military highways, and he stressed the case of Highway 78 on which 25 bridges were at present under construction, this highway not being of military importance. He considered that very much more could be done locally both by Sindaci and Prefetti. The housing decree of the devasted areas was still under consideration by the Italian Government and was not held up in Allied Control Commission Headquarters.

13. The Chairman then announced that he proposed a committee to be formed on the Ministry of Interior with representatives from Finance, Public Works, Ministry of War, others whose names are unknown at present. He asked that 100 be represented in the Public Works, Transportation, Relief, Finance and Food.

14. Col. Cripps replied that he agreed with the formation of the Committee and would inform H.E. of the exact representation of the Commission by Thursday.

15. Food sub-commission then gave an outline of the whole feeding position in Italy and stressed the importance of the Italian Govt. realising that we have a shipping problem and that local resources must be used to the utmost. The rest of the remarks were made in Italian and not translated.

16. H.E. Casarari concluded by thanking Allied Officers for attending the meeting and he stated that he realised from what they had said during the morning that the ACC was sympathetic to the needs of the devasted areas.

R.R. CRIPPS Col.,
GSO CA Sec.

2276

785016

1053

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

785016

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Civil Affairs Section
APO 324

A/OC 734
25/10/44

*Recd Copy
returned by
file*

Ref:- 4/31.4/CA

25 Oct '44

SUBJECT:- Devastated Areas.

TO:-

A/OC ✓
Copy to CCS
VP Econ. Sec.
VP Pol. Sec.

6A-C

1. I attach hereto notes of a meeting held on 24 Oct at the Ministry of the Interior and presided over by the Under-Secretary of the Interior, to consider the situation in the devastated areas and action to be taken thereon. You will observe that the Prefects of Frosinone and Littoria did not speak, but Col. Cripps informs me that they may have been present as there were a very large number of Italian representatives present.

I agree

2. The meeting came to no decision except to appoint a Committee of exaggerated size to consider the action to be taken. You will observe that ACC are invited to send 5 representatives and I presume that you will accept such an invitation and will send representatives. Col. Cripps suggests that it would be better to send 2 officers only, one from the Civil Affairs Section and one from the Economic Section, and I agree with him.

3. I propose as a matter of policy to raise at the VP's meeting tomorrow the question as to how far ACC should interest itself in this matter of the devastated areas. There appear to be two alternative:-

- a) ACC can be satisfied with representation on the committee supplemented by such work in the field as is possible by the Regional staffs of Regions IV & V., or
- b) In view of the great importance of this matter you may consider it possible in the present circumstances and very desirable, to withdraw say 2 provincial teams from Northern Regions and put them under one officer who will be responsible for assisting the Italian Government in work in the field and to supplement the work of sub-commissions in providing glass, cement and other materials.

*Agreed ✓
at VP's mtg
9*

4. No doubt you will desire that Region IV **2275** be consulted before any plan is worked out in detail, but it seems essential that a decision on policy should first be made. ACC have expressed an interest in our treatment of Devastated Areas by reason

1055

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

785016

- 2 -

of the fact that an indent for a large number of tents was put in by Region IV and they are willing to assist us as far as possible in the provision of materials. The appointment of a senior officer to control provincial teams is suggested in para 2(b) above will no doubt facilitate also the coordination of indents on AFHQ.

G. R. Hopton

G. R. HOPTON, Brig.
VP CA Sec.
Dep. C.o.S.

GM/yhb.

4782

2782

1035

GA

NEWS CONFERENCE HELD IN THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR 24 Oct '44.

Present: H.L. Casavari, Under-secretary of State Ministry of Interior (Chair).

ATTEND

- E.E. Sollimans, Director of Public Health
- Marguis Theodilo (I.R.C.)
- Under-secretary of State Finance.
- Chief Medical Officer Ministry of Interior.
- Representatives of Ministry of War.
- Representatives of Ministry of Public Works.
- Prefects of Chieti, Pescara, Aquila, Teramo, Viterbo, Rieti.

ATTEND

- Representative Admin. Sec.
- Food sub-commission (2)
- Public Health " (5)
- Medical supplies, hospital, welfare.
- Public Works sub-commission
- Region 5
- Region 4
- Italian Refugees & Displaced Persons sub-commission.
- Mr. Barr (I.R.C.)
- Mr. Crawley (A.R.C.)

1. The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming the representatives from the Allied Control Commission, and stated that he proposed to call upon the various Prefects present to explain the situation in their various Provinces. He proposed to examine the whole matter at this meeting with a view to deciding what action should be taken. The Prefects then proceeded to describe conditions in their various Provinces. This speech was not translated, but the following remarks were translated in short by the Marguis Theodilo.
 2. The Prefect of CHIETI made an impassioned speech impressing the gravity and size of the problem in his Province. He is extremely short of every type of material for rehousing, and in particular glass and cement. He asked for the bread ration to be raised from 200 to 300 grams. There existed a high proportion of communicable disease. Public Safety was satisfactory but he felt that it might not remain so.
 3. The Prefect of PERSCARA gave a somewhat similar picture to that of the previous speaker. He also demanded higher ration scales and mentioned the urgent need for soap and fats and enquired whether it was possible to transport glass from local where he understood there exist considerable quantities. He asked that more attention be paid to the opening of industrial works, particularly those making cement. The Chairman intervened and stated that he had recently visited this region and that he had seen women collecting grass to eat for which they had no fats. He felt there was a crying need to open the cement works at Dolina which is apparently idle through lack of coal. He appealed to the Allies to assist in this matter and suggested that we might bring coal from Sardinia for this purpose.
 4. The Prefect of AQUILA stated that the destruction in his Province was extremely great. He stated that the position of food, and the destruction of communications particularly bridges was similar to that described by his colleagues who had spoken previously. He found that the inhabitants would not leave their land and were living under deplorable conditions, in fact some were living underground. Landmines are causing considerable casualties. This region is very mountainous and he expects snow within the next two weeks. A hitting plan for homeless persons had been commenced but it had been stopped; he was not clear of the reasons but believed it was financial. He also stressed the need for window-glass and cement.

2274

SECRET

1057

Medical supplies, hospital, Welfare.
 Public Works sub-commission
 Region 5
 Region 4
 Italian Refugees & Displaced Persons sub-commission.
 Mr. Barr (A.R.C.)
 Mr. Crawley (A.R.C.).

Minister of Interior.
 Representatives of Ministry of War.
 Representatives of Ministry of Public Works.
 Prefects of Chieti, Pescara, Ancona, Pescara, Viterbo, Biella.

1. The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming the representatives from the Allied Control Commission, and stated that he proposed to call upon the various Prefects present to explain the situation in their various Provinces. He proposed to examine the whole matter at this meeting with a view to deciding what action should be taken. The Prefects then proceeded to describe conditions in their various Provinces. This speech was not translated, but the following remarks were translated in short by the Margate Theophile.

2. The Prefect of CHIETI made an impassioned speech impressing the gravity and size of the problem in his Province. He is extremely short of every type of material for rebuilding, and in particular glass and cement. He asked for the bread ration to be raised from 200 to 300 grams. There existed a high proportion of communicable disease. Public Safety was satisfactory but he felt that it might not remain so.

3. The Prefect of PESCARA gave a somewhat similar picture to that of the previous speaker. He also demanded higher ration scales and mentioned the urgent need for soup and fats and enquired whether it was possible to transport glass from Lecce where he understood there existed considerable quantities. He asked that more attention be paid to the opening of industrial works, particularly those making cement. The Chairman intervened and stated that he had recently visited this region and that he had seen women collecting grass to eat for which they had no fats. He felt there was a crying need to open the cement works at Rome which is apparently idle through lack of coal. He appealed to the Allies to assist in this matter and suggested that we might bring coal from Sardinia for this purpose.

2274

4. The Prefect of ANCONA stated that the destruction in his Province was extremely great. He stated that the position of food, and the destruction of communications particularly bridges was similar to that described by his colleagues who had spoken previously. He found that the inhabitants would not leave their land and were living under deplorable conditions, in fact some were living underground. Landmines are causing considerable casualties. This region is very mountainous and he expects snow within the next two weeks. A cutting plan for homeless persons had been commenced but it had been stopped; he was not clear of the reasons but believed it was essential. He also stressed the need for window-glass and cement.

5. The Prefect of TERAMO said that the position in his Province was not as bad as those previously described. His big problem was the rebuilding of bridges. A plan for this had been submitted but had not yet been approved by the Ministry of Public Works. His main difficulty with transportation was lack of tyres and petrol. There was also a lack of fuel, particularly charcoal, and he asked that supplies now frozen in Chieti be unfrozen. On antireclearance, a special squad had been working and very satisfactory progress had been made. He did not consider the 200 gram ration was sufficient, there was also at the present moment an insufficiency of olive oil, but he considered that this would be remedied to some degree when the new crop is harvested, his Province being a good olive oil producing area. He anticipated difficulties with this, however,

6B

as many of the existing mills had been irretrievably destroyed by the Germans; furthermore his peasant population were extremely short of clothing and in dire need of shoes.

- 6. The Prefect of VITERBO stated his Province was not as bad as any of the others previously described. 28 towns out of 58 in his Province were badly damaged and he had a housing scheme under consideration. There was great shortage of glass and he inquired whether it would be possible to requisition this material from Florence where he understood there existed large quantities. He inquired about the possibility of returning refugees to their homes, particularly to the area of Civitavecchia since many of them had come originally. (The Chairman interposed "had he seen Civitavecchia," whereupon a great outburst of talking took place which it was quite impossible to follow).
- 7. The Prefect of CHITI gave quite a reasonable picture of his Province which appeared to be in very much better condition than any of the others. He stated that rebuilding was proceeding and that he only had a 1,000 homeless families. He considered that if the railway through his Province could be opened it would solve many of his problems. Refugees were being refused.
- 8. The Prefect of CHIETI again spoke and stated that he had a very large number of homeless in Chieti town itself, 12,000 was the figure mentioned. He stated that there were 1,000 rooms at present requisitioned by the military, but not occupied, could the Allies derequisition?
- 9. Representatives of the Ministry of War spoke at length on the question of mine clearance describing the work done since the original landings in Calabria, giving an outline of their plans for the future, discussing at length on the rates of pay and insurance scheme which they stated was at present under consideration by the Ministry of Finance. They pointed out the necessity for Prefects to be placed at the disposal of local mineclearance squads in order that they may be on the same rates of pay as the men working in his service. They then made the point that in view of the difficulty of transportation of glass the Allied authorities should consider the importation of a substitute of glass which could be more easily packed or rolled (they presumably were referring to what is known in England as blits glass). They further considered that the matter of derequisitioning buildings not in use by the Allied authorities should be given immediate consideration and asked whether there was no possibility of transport being imported for the civilian population.
- 10. Col. D. E. Gryns pointed out that the requests upon the Allies were numerous and would require a good deal of investigation in many cases. Various difficulties of the Italian Government were aware of the situation in connection with food, transportation, re-building and fuel. He considered that the matter being discussed this morning divided themselves into two parts:- **2273**
 - a) The immediate problem of dealing with the population at present in the really badly devastated areas of Chieti, Pescara and Aquila.
 - b) The more long-term rehabilitation of the whole of the very devastated areas. He suggested that a very much smaller committee be formed, (if that had already been done by the Italian Government) it could deal with ~~the matter~~ and Allied Control Commission would be prepared to be represented.
- a. aka
- 11. The Italian representative of the Ministry of Public Works then spoke. He stated that they were tackling the problem in two parts:-
 - a) that of dealing with repairable houses, and
 - b) the building of new small houses.

the possibility of returning refugees to their homes, particularly in the area of Civitatecchia where many of them had come originally. (The Chairman interposed) but he seen Civitatecchia, however upon a great outburst of talking took place which it was quite impossible to follow).

7. The Prefect of Chieti gave quite a reasonable picture of his Province which appeared to be in very much better condition than any of the others. He stated that rebuilding was proceeding and that he only had a 1,000 homeless families. He considered that if the railway through his Province could be opened it would solve many of his problems. Refugees were being returned.

8. The Prefect of Chieti again spoke and stated that he had a very large number of homeless in Chieti town itself, 29,000 was the figure mentioned. He stated that there were 1,000 rooms at present requisitioned by the military, but now occupied, could the Allies de-requisition?

9. Representatives of the Ministry of War spoke at length on the question of mine clearance describing the work done since the original landings in Calabria, giving an outline of their plans for the future, discussing at length on the rates of pay and insurance scheme which they stated was at present under consideration by the Ministry of Finance. They pointed out the necessity for Prefects to be placed at the disposal of local mine-clearance squads in order that they may be on the same rates of pay as the men working in his service. They then made the point that in view of the difficulty of transportation of glass the Allied authorities should consider the importation of a substitute of glass which could be more easily packed or rolled (the possibility was referring to what is known in England as Britis glass). They further considered that the matter of demobilizing buildings not in use by the Allied authorities should be given immediate consideration and asked whether there was no possibility of transport being imparted for the civilian population.

10. Col. E. D. Cripps pointed out that the requests upon the Allies were numerous and would require a good deal of investigation in many cases. Various difficulties of the Italian Government were aware of the situation in connection with food, transportation, re-building and fuel. He considered that the 2273 being discussed this morning divided themselves into two parts:-

- a) The immediate problem of dealing with the population at present in the really badly devastated areas of Chieti, Pescara and Aquila.
- b) The more long-term rehabilitation of the whole of the "very devastated" areas. He suggested that a very much smaller committee be formed, (if that had already been done by the Italian Government) it could deal with the matter and Allied Control Commission would be prepared to be represented.

11. The Italian representative of the Ministry of Public Works then spoke. He stated that they were tackling the problem in two parts:-

- a) that of dealing with repairable houses, and
 - b) the building of new small houses.
- His main difficulty was the lack of cement of which large quantities, together with other building materials were at present frozen by the Allies. He suggested that the quantities of cement at present in the south might be freed as he felt that now the theatre of operations was so far in the North the problem of their transportation might preclude their use by the Army. He felt that there was some and more which caused delays in small building projects due to the fact that those costing over 5 million lire, or requiring the use of certain war material, needed to be authorized by the Allied military authorities before they could be proceeded with.

1060

66

- 12. Col. Thompson stated that he did not agree with the last speaker in that projects up to 5 million lire could be sanctioned by the Genoa Circle and that Allied Military Government regional engineers were authorized to sanction projects up to 1 million lire. There was no restriction on the number of projects costing up to this amount that can be carried out in a province. That all engineering officers had been instructed to give their assistance in the matter of housing and bridge building, furthermore their bridge building programs was not entirely being confined to military highways, and he stressed the case of Highway 76 on which 25 bridges were at present under construction, this highway not being of military importance. He considered that very much more could be done locally both by Sindace and Prefetti. The housing decree of the devastated areas was still under consideration by the Italian Government and was not held up in Allied Control Commission Headquarters.
- 13. The Chairman then announced that he proposed a committee to be formed of the Ministry of Interior with representatives from Finance, Public Works, Ministry of War, others whose names are unknown at present. He asked that Allied Control Commission be represented in the Public Works, Transportation, Relief, Finance and Food.
- 14. Col. Crippes replied that he agreed with the formation of the Committee and would inform M.E. of the exact representation of the Commission by Thursday.
- 15. Food sub-commission gave an outline of the whole feeding position in Italy and stressed the importance of the Italian Government realizing they have a shipping problem and that local resources must be used to the utmost. The rest of the remarks were made in Italian and not translated.
- 16. H.E. Casavari concluded by thanking Allied officers for attending the meeting, and he stated that he realized from what they had said during the morning that the ACG was sympathetic to the needs of the devastated areas.

2272

H.E. CRIPES, Col.
CSO CA Sec.

2272

bridge building, furthermore their bridge building programme was not entirely being confined to military highways, and he stressed the case of Highway 78 on which 25 bridges were at present under construction, this highway not being of military importance. He considered that very much more could be done locally both by Sindona and Prefetti. The housing decree of the devastated areas was still under consideration by the Italian Government and was not held up in Allied Control Commission Headquarters.

13. The Chairman then announced that he proposed a committee to be formed of the Ministry of Interior with representatives from Finance, Public Works, Ministry of War, others whose names are unknown at present. He asked that Allied Control Commission be represented in the Public Works, Transportation, Relief, Finance and Food.

14. Col. Cripps replied that he agreed with the formation of the Committee and would inform H.E. of the exact representation of the Commission by Thursday.

15. Food sub-commission gave an outline of the whole feeding position in Italy and stressed the importance of the Italian Government realising that we have a shipping problem and that local resources must be used to the utmost. The rest of the remarks were made in Italian and not translated.

16. H.E. Canavari concluded by thanking Allied officers for attending the meeting, and he stated that he realized from what they had said during the morning that the ACC was sympathetic to the needs of the devastated areas.

2272

R.R. CRIPPS. Col.
CSO Ch. Sec.

2272

25.10.44.

RRC/ymb.

1062

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

785016

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION
APO 394

File 5

TO:- Economic Section.
SUBJECT:- Devasted Areas.
Ref:- 4/31A/CA. ✓

22 Oct '44

A meeting to be provided over by H.E. Bonomi in connection with the scheme for winter relief in these areas is to be held at 1000 hrs. in His-Excellency's office at the Ministry of Interior on Tuesday, 24th Oct. Will you please arrange for representatives of Public Works sub-commission and Food sub-commission to be present as agreed at a recent Chief of Staff's meeting.

R.R.C.

R.R. CRIPPS, Col.
For VP CA Sec.
Dep. C. of S.

2271

HRC/ysh.

1063

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

785016

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394
Public Health Sub-Commission

Handwritten notes and a circled number '4'

ACC/3012/4/PH

16 October 1944

Handwritten date: 18 OCT 1944

SUBJECT: Food for Devastated Areas.

TO : Director, Food Sub-Commission, Hq ACC.

1. Below is reproduced a paragraph from the September Monthly Report of the Regional Public Health Officer, Lazio-Umbria Region.

"In this report, I feel a special plea should be made for the devastated provinces of Littoria and Frosinone as regards food. With winter coming, the ravages of malaria and no housing provision, I feel some extra food ration or provision should be made. I feel the whole area should be put in the same category of cities over 50,000 population, laid down by Economics and Supply."

2. As the people living in the devastated areas, which include the provinces of Aquila, Pescara, Chieti and Campobasso in the Abruzzi e Molise Region, are anticipated to experience very difficult conditions during the coming winter it is felt that this should be adopted if it is at all possible.

For Brigadier G. S. PARKINSON:

G. M. Frizelle
G. M. FRIZELLE,
Lt. Colonel,
Chief, Public Health Branch.

PH/GMF/cjd.

Copy to:

- VP, CA Section. ✓
- RC, Lazio-Umbria Region. Attn: RPHO.
- RC, Abruzzi-Molise Region. Attn: RPHO.

Rec by VP. 15 Oct. 44
GRE

22702674

1064

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

785016

MINUTES of Conference on Devastated Areas of ABRUZZI-MARCHE Region
Held at Hq, A.C.C. on 12 October 1944.

3A

PRESENT:

- Brigadier G.S. Parkinson, Director, Public Health Sub-Commission, HQ, A.C.C.
- Col. Martin E. Griffin, Chief, Medical Supply Branch.
- Lt. Col. G. M. Frizelle, Chief, Public Health Branch.
- Lt. Col. G. K. Marshall, Regional Public Health Officer, ABRUZZI-MARCHE Region.
- Lt. Col. Adams, Sanitary Officer, Abruzzi-Marche Region.
- Capt. Edward E. Silveira, Chief, Welfare Branch.
- H.E. Dr. Giuseppe Solimena, Director General, Public Health Department,
Ministry of the Interior, Italian Government.
- Dr. Bartolomeo Vezzoso, Chief Medical Officer, Public Health Department,
Ministry of the Interior, Italian Government.
- Marchese Ugo Theodoli, Secretary General, Italian Red Cross.
- Mr. Mason H. Dobson, Ass't Director Civilian War Relief, American Red Cross.
- Mr. Sidney Crowley, Civilian War Relief, American Red Cross.

The meeting opened at 1005 hrs with Brig. G.S. Parkinson in the chair. The Brigadier opened the meeting by thanking the members for attending, especially H.E. Solimena whose time was very valuable and he reminded the meeting in addition that the areas under discussion would shortly be handed over to the control of the Italian Government.

Brig. Parkinson stated that the meeting was called as the result of an original communication from Lt. Col. Marshall concerning conditions in the devastated areas. The question of importance was the disposal of the civil population during the coming months. Many difficulties were foreseen in the spheres of transport, shelter, food, clothing and medical supplies. Col. Marshall's proposal was for a commission to be formed, this commission being composed of representatives of the Italian Government. Capt. Silveira's proposal on the other hand which was originally put forward by Col. Griffin, was for the formation of a committee composed of representatives from A.C.C., the Italian Government, the Allied and Italian Red Cross and the Vatican. Brigadier Parkinson suggested that the Italian Government should accept as much responsibility as possible.

The problem is a big one involving approximately 300,000 people and embracing the area Pescara, Vasto, Avezzano, Isernia, Venafro, Cassino and Frosinone. The area in which Abruzzi-Marche Region is chiefly interested is Pescara, Vasto, Chieti, Campobasso, Rieti and Aquila. The housing of the population will probably be the greatest problem of all.

Lt. Col. Marshall stated that a survey had been made in Abruzzi-Marche Region. This showed that there are no houses at all available ²²⁶⁹ that the people in the devastated areas are living under appalling conditions in hovels. Communications are very difficult and in mountainous areas are only to be kept open by pack-mule. In addition, movement is greatly hindered on account of the numerous mines in the area and fatalities occur daily.

At present stock piles of food are being brought into the area and medical supplies are being built up. Scarcity of transport makes it difficult for doctors to get around the area. With the approach of winter various regions will be cut off by snow and early action is necessary. The Abruzzi-Marche Welfare Officer is inspecting the area and is of the opinion that the population is not very anxious to be moved. An additional embarrassment is caused by the fact that many people are returning to this area.

In Col. Marshall's opinion the most urgent requirement is for a mine-clearing squad and the next is for food. This is to be brought in as quickly as possible while medical supplies have been de-centralized to Chieti and Pescara, and the Italian Government is responsible for their distribution. He was informed by this HQ that three medical officers are available for Chieti, Pescara and Rieti (these Doctors are ready to move as soon as they can be supplied with transport). He suggested that two of these medical officers be attached to the Medico Provinciale of Chieti and the third to the Medico Provinciale of Aquila, living in Sulmona. Each Doctor should be given a stock of drugs for which he would be responsible to distribute to the population. Attached to each Doctor should be a staff of Italian Red Cross workers for the purpose of visiting and reporting on the outbreaks of diseases. He did not anticipate that any housing scheme could possibly be brought into being this winter. There is as well a scarcity of fuel in the district. He stated that 25 to 30 tons of Red Cross clothing had already been distributed but that this was not sufficient for the coming winter.

Marchese Theodoli said that the chief attention of the Myron Taylor Committee would be given primarily to the mountainous areas. He asked for a copy of Col. Marshall's report in order to put it before the Taylor Committee and he said in addition that he would like to put the committee into personal touch with Col. Marshall.

H.E. Solimena stated that the Government would find the task a very difficult one on account of lack of means but that he would do everything possible to take action. He would also consult other Ministries on ancillary problems, for instance the Ministry of War regarding mine lifting.

Brig. Parkinson asked H.E. Solimena if he could produce a committee which would put forward concrete proposals.

H.E. Solimena replied that the Italian Government alone cannot tackle this problem and needed the assistance of other agencies.

Col. Marshall suggested the formation of provincial and communal committees on which should be the Medici Provinciali, the Communal Doctors and representatives of the Red Cross.

Brig. Parkinson stated that there was an excellent working arrangement in Florence where there had been formed a central Italian committee composed of representatives of the Church, local dignitaries and political parties. This committee concerned itself with caring for the destitute local population.

Col. Marshall suggested that the Prefect of each Province should establish committees to look after the welfare of the people.

Brigadier Parkinson asked H.E. Solimena if such a committee could be formed in every province.

H.E. Solimena replied that it could.

Marchese Theodoli stated that the Taylor Committee is Italian but has an American Red Cross official to act as a liaison officer with the Allies. This organization is forming committees similar to those already suggested and it would appear as if one would have two organizations devoted to the same type of work.

Mr. Dobson, A.R.C., stated that he approved of the principle of the Italian Government accepting responsibility for the scheme.

H.E. Solimena stated that he accepted responsibility on behalf of the Italian Government but wished to have as much help and advice as possible.

Mr. Dobson assured H.E. Solimena that he would be afforded every possible assistance.

Brig. Parkinson stated that A.C.C. would shortly afford further assistance to this Region in the shape of additional personnel.

Capt. Silveira said that when he made his original proposal of a mixed committee the Taylor Committee was not then in existence. He considered that any committee of Italians should have a liaison officer between itself and A.C.C. Such a committee would also have to concern itself with the provision of money and the welfare of children.

Marchese Theodoli stated that the Taylor Committee is in a position only to distribute such supplies as it receives.

Brig. Parkinson asked if it was possible to enlarge the scope and activities of the Taylor Committee.

Marchese Theodoli replied that he did not know what Mr. Myron Taylor's reaction would be to such a proposal.

H.E. Solimena stated that the problem had many facets and that the question of mines and shelter concerned the Ministries of War and Public Works. As far as supplies are concerned, different committees could be formed centrally, but the same agencies would ultimately be used at the periphery.

Mr. Dobson said that responsibility must be accepted either by A.C.C. or by the Italian Government. As the areas concerned were shortly to be handed back to the Italian Government he considered that the responsibility was the latter's, but he emphasized that all other relief agencies would give every assistance in their power.

1067

30

Lt. Col. Adams asked if partial evacuation was possible.

Lt. Col. Marshall replied that if the highest areas were evacuated it would be a great help.

H.E.Solimena said that evacuation was difficult, first on account of the unwillingness of the population to leave and secondly on account of transport difficulties.

Lt. Col. Marshall stated that he could accommodate several thousands in Aquila and also in Foggia, while in Chieti and Ortona there were small camps capable of accommodating 2/300 people.

H.E.Solimena said that accommodating 2/3000 people was only scratching the surface of the problem.

Lt. Col. Marshall said that he would perhaps move only those people who it was anticipated would be out off by snow. He said it would be very difficult to obtain large quantities of tents for housing == and that a tented city was difficult to manage.

H.E.Solimena said that he would immediately speak to the Minister of the Interior, arrange meetings with the Ministries of War and Public Works, have consultations with Welfare and Army organizations and would in addition call in the Prefects of the affected Provinces.

Brig. Parkinson urged that concrete proposals should be made as quickly as possible.

H.E.Solimena stated that he would arrange for Monday 16th October 1944 a meeting of the Prefects of Chieti, Pescara, Aquila, Campobasso, Frosinone and Littoria. He invited Lt. Col. Marshall and Capt. Silveira to attend this meeting and stated as well that he would be glad if a representative of the Italian Red Cross, the Taylor Committee and the American Red Cross would be present. He said that he would notify all these agencies of the hour of the meeting and hoped to be in a position to put forward definite proposals in a very short space of time.

The meeting ended at 1130 hours.

2266

2265

SPAREDF 3

MINUTES of Conference on Devastated Areas of ABRUZZI-MARCHE Region
Held at HQ, A.C.C. on 12 October 1944.

LA

PRESENT:

- Brigadier G.S. Parkinson, Director, Public Health Sub-Commission, HQ, A.C.C.
- Col. Martin E. Griffin, Chief, Medical Supply Branch.
- Lt. Col. G. M. Friselle, Chief, Public Health Branch.
- Lt. Col. G. K. Marshall, Regional Public Health Officer, ABRUZZI-MARCHE Region.
- Lt. Col. Adams, Sanitary Officer, Abruzzi-Marche Region.
- Capt. Edward E. Silveira, Chief, Welfare Branch.
- H.N. Dr. Giuseppe Solimena, Director General, Public Health Department,
Ministry of the Interior, Italian Government.
- Dr. Bartolomeo Vessoso, Chief Medical Officer, Public Health Department,
Ministry of the Interior, Italian Government.
- Marchese Ugo Theodoli, Secretary General, Italian Red Cross.
- Mr. Mason H. Robson, Ass't Director Civilian War Relief, American Red Cross.
- Mr. Sidney Crawley, Civilian War Relief, American Red Cross.

The meeting opened at 1005 hrs with Brig. G.S. Parkinson in the chair. The Brigadier opened the meeting by thanking the members for attending, especially H.N. Solimena whose time was very valuable and he reminded the meeting in addition that the areas under discussion would shortly be handed over to the control of the Italian Government.

Brig. Parkinson stated that the meeting was called as the result of an original communication from Lt. Col. Marshall concerning conditions in the devastated areas. The question of importance was the disposal of the civil population during the coming months. Many difficulties were foreseen in the spheres of transport, shelter, food, clothing and medical supplies. Col. Marshall's proposal was for a commission to be formed, this commission being composed of representatives of the Italian Government. Capt. Silveira's proposal on the other hand which was originally put forward by Col. Griffin, was for the formation of a committee composed of representatives from A.C.C., the Italian Government, the Allied and Italian Red Cross and the Vatican. Brigadier Parkinson suggested that the Italian Government should accept as much responsibility as possible.

The problem is a big one involving approximately 300,000 people and embracing the area Pescara, Vasto, Avezzano, Isernia, Venafro, Cassino and Frosinone. The area in which Abruzzi-Marche Region is chiefly interested is Pescara, Vasto, Chieti, Campobasso, Rieti and Aquila. The housing of the population will probably be the greatest problem of all.

Lt. Col. Marshall stated that a survey had been made in Abruzzi-Marche Region. This showed that there are no houses at all available and that the people in the devastated areas are living under appalling conditions in hovels. Communications are very difficult and in mountainous areas are only to be kept open by pack-trails. In addition, movement is greatly hindered on account of the numerous mines in the area and fatalities occur daily.

2265
2576

1069

At present stock piles of food are being brought into the area and medical supplies are being built up. Scarcity of transport makes it difficult for doctors to get around the area. With the approach of winter various regions will be cut off by snow and early action is necessary. The Abuzzi-Marche Welfare Officer is inspecting the area and is of the opinion that the population is not very anxious to be moved. An additional embarrassment is caused by the fact that many people are returning to this area.

In Col. Marshall's opinion the most urgent requirement is for a mine-clearing squad and the next is for food. This is to be brought in as quickly as possible while medical supplies have been de-centralized to Chieti and Pescara, and the Italian Government is responsible for their distribution. He was informed by this HQ that three medical officers are available for Chieti, Pescara and Rieti (these Doctors are ready to move as soon as they can be supplied with transport). He suggested that two of these medical officers be attached to the Medico Provinciale of Chieti and the third to the Medico Provinciale of Aquila, living in Sulmona. Each Doctor should be given a stock of drugs for which he would be responsible to distribute to the population. Attached to each Doctor should be a staff of Italian Red Cross workers for the purpose of visiting and reporting on the outbreaks of diseases. He did not anticipate that any housing scheme could possibly be brought into being this winter. There is as well a scarcity of fuel in the district. He stated that 25 to 30 tons of Red Cross clothing had already been distributed but that this was not sufficient for the coming winter.

Marchese Theodoli said that the chief attention of the Myron Taylor Committee would be given primarily to the mountainous areas. He asked for a copy of Col. Marshall's report in order to put it before the Taylor Committee and he said in addition that he would like to put the committee into personal touch with Col. Marshall.

H.E. Solimena stated that the Government would find the task a very difficult one on account of lack of means but that he would do everything possible to take action. He would also consult other Ministries on ancillary problems, for instance the Ministry of War regarding mine lifting.

Brig. Parkinson asked H.E. Solimena if he could produce a committee which would put forward concrete proposals.

H.E. Solimena replied that the Italian Government alone cannot tackle this problem and needed the assistance of other agencies.

Col. Marshall suggested the formation of provincial and communal committees on which should be the Medici Provinciali, the Communal Doctors and representatives of the Red Cross.

Brig. Parkinson stated that there was an excellent working arrangement in Florence where there had been formed a central Italian committee composed of representatives of the Church, local dignitaries and political parties. This committee concerned itself with caring for the destitute local population.

Col. Marshall suggested that the Prefect of each Province should establish committees to look after the welfare of the people.

Brigadier Parkinson asked H.E. Solimena if such a committee could be formed in every province.

H.E. Solimena replied that it could.

Marchese Theodoli stated that the Taylor Committee is Italian but has an American Red Cross official to act as a liaison officer with the Allies. This organization is forming committees similar to those already suggested and it would appear as if one would have two organizations devoted to the same type of work.

Mr. Dobson, A.R.C., stated that he approved of the principle of the Italian Government accepting responsibility for the scheme.

H.E. Solimena stated that he accepted responsibility on behalf of the Italian Government but wished to have as much help and advice as possible.

Mr. Dobson assured H.E. Solimena that he would be afforded every possible assistance.

Brig. Parkinson stated that A.C.C. would shortly afford further assistance to this Region in the shape of additional personnel.

Capt. Silveira said that when he made his original proposal of a mixed committee the Taylor Committee was not then in existence. He considered that any committee of Italians should have a liaison officer between itself and A.C.C. Such a committee would also have to concern itself with the provision of money and the welfare of children.

Marchese Theodoli stated that the Taylor Committee is in a position only to distribute such supplies as it receives.

Brig. Parkinson asked if it was possible to enlarge the scope and activities of the Taylor Committee.

Marchese Theodoli replied that he did not know what Mr. Myron Taylor's reaction would be to such a proposal.

H.E. Solimena stated that the problem had many facets and that the question of mines and shelter concerned the Ministries of War and Public Works. As far as supplies are concerned, different committees could be formed centrally, but the same agencies would ultimately be used at the periphery.

Mr. Dobson said that responsibility must be accepted either by A.C.C. or by the Italian Government. As the areas concerned were shortly to be handed back to the Italian Government he considered that the responsibility was the latter's, but he emphasized that all other relief agencies would give every assistance in their power.

2263

Lt. Col. Adams asked if partial evacuation was possible.

Lt. Col. Marshall replied that if the highest areas were evacuated it would be a great help.

H.E. Solimena said that evacuation was difficult, first on account of the unwillingness of the population to leave and secondly on account of transport difficulties.

Lt. Col. Marshall stated that he could accommodate several thousands in Aquila and also in Foggia, while in Chieti and Ortona there were small camps capable of accommodating 2/300 people.

H.E. Solimena said that accommodating 2/3000 people was only scratching the surface of the problem.

Lt. Col. Marshall said that he would perhaps move only those people who it was anticipated would be cut off by snow. He said it would be very difficult to obtain large quantities of tents for housing and that a tented city was difficult to manage.

H.E. Solimena said that he would immediately speak to the Minister of the Interior, arrange meetings with the Ministries of War and Public Works, have consultations with Welfare and Army organizations and would in addition call in the Prefects of the affected Provinces.

Brig. Parkinson urged that concrete proposals should be made as quickly as possible.

9 H.E. Solimena stated that he would arrange for Monday 16th October 1944 a meeting of the Prefects of Chieti, Pescara, Aquila, Campobasso, Prosinone and Littoria. He invited Lt. Col. Marshall and Capt. Silveira to attend this meeting and stated as well that he would be glad if a representative of the Italian Red Cross, the Taylor Committee and the American Red Cross would be present. He said that he would notify all these agencies of the hour of the meeting and hoped to be in a position to put forward definite proposals in a very short space of time.

The meeting ended at 1130 hours.

W. Barr.

2262

2261

To Cos

Copy

2

① The attached reports (4 copies) ^{2A-E} received from P.H.

Subcommittee are forwarded; in view of the fact

that Judge Marchionni is returning very soon to

the U.S. you may wish to take up with him Sec. forthwith.

② Ref: Recommendation No. 2 page 3.

P. Sapiro has always been and still are of

the opinion that restrictions should be removed, but A.A.I.

has insisted on the retention thereof.

Movement of refugees also becomes unrestricted

without some restriction.

Enquiries will be made in the proposal at No. 3.

③ ~~Enquiries will be made in the proposal at No. 3.~~ **2261**

an. The White Paper Scheme would appear to

be an step to be taken.

1073

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

October 4, 1944

2A.

MEMORANDUM TO MR. TAYLOR

The memorandum of Mr. Barr under even date regarding the conditions in the area surrounding the former battlezone between the Gustave and the Hitler Lines has been read by me and expresses accurately the situation there prevailing.

Supplementing it, I submit to your attention the fact that the Chief of Staff of the Economic Section of the Allied Commission has informed me that there are 3,000,000 quintals of wheat in Foggia and the four surrounding provinces. Despite this fact, there is no grain supply available in the territory above-described even though trains from the areas which are sources of supply are shuttling through the devastated areas empty. It is interesting to note also that requests to the Allied Commission to procure grain from the nearby cities of Viterbo and Perugia have been repeatedly made by the local AC officers without result.

In addition I have been informed by both civil and ecclesiastical authorities in the neighboring town of Frascati that there has been no milk (either powdered or canned) for infants since June, 1944, this despite several requests to the appropriate authority whose seat is in Rome.

Camps in which Italian refugees are centered in and about Rome indicate that the condition of women and children will be critical as the cold weather approaches in the sense that there is no heat, no light, few clothes and little bedclothing or furniture.

The situations described in Mr. Barr's report and here are similar to conditions prevailing in the zones where fighting occurred in other parts of Italy.

The opportunities of the populace to supplement rationed food exist in those metropolitan areas provided the people can meet the black market prices. The following is a survey of such prices in the city of Rome as of September 25 and 26, 1944:

Fresh meat	- Lire	350	per kilogram
Butter	-	380	" "
Sugar	-	400	" "
Salt	-	300	" "
Coffee	-	1000	" "
Fresh fruit	-	40	" "
Dried fruit	-	150	" "
Soap	-	300	" "
Fresh fish	-	150	" "
Salt fish	-	600	" "
Rice	-	180	" "
Ham	-	450	" "
Bread	-	100	" "
Macaroni	-	150	" "
Wheat	-	150	" "
Oil	-	500	Per quart
Eggs	-	20 to 35	apiece

2260

1074

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

785016

- 2 -

2B

Legend:

The average pay of an employee or laborer is approximately 50 to 70 lire per day.

A Kilo is approximately 2-1/5 pounds.

Regarding the efforts made to adjust at least to some small degree the question of transportation, your attention is drawn to the fact that Lt. Col. Martini advised that in February, 1944, he requested with ample documentation tires and batteries to activate some 4,000 Italian trucks. Nothing has resulted.

There is in Italy 55,000 tons of shipping consisting of vessels under 300 tons of which but 20,000 tons have been and are presently being used for military purposes. These ships are diesel-engined and have sails. They are available for the transportation of materials but several requests made to MEDBO by the Italian Shipping interests have resulted in no action. It might be added parenthetically that the use of these ships would employ some 100,000 persons between crew, chandlers, laborers, stevedores, etc.

Of interest may be the following. Originally the city of Rome normally used about 120,000 kw. At present there are terminals (on basis of coal produced energy - there being little or no coal in Italy) of only 30,000 kw. which originally were the emergency reserves for those motivated by water. As to this amount, much of the electricity is consumed by the Allies and therefore normal illumination is had but once in five days and for only a few hours. In order to produce sufficient electrical energy it would be necessary to have only five or six turbine-alternators or turbine-dynamos on a hydraulic basis of a capacity of approximately 8,000 kw. apiece. In addition there would be needed approximately 100 miles of copper or aluminum wire.

Thought should be given to the fact that it appears to be against the policy of both the American and English Governments to permit the free distribution of foodstuffs particularly flour and that relief, other than clothing and medicine, must be limited to special aid to the children and to the aged.

Also that the decision of AFHQ that materials for Italy can come only on Allied ships has resulted in three relief cargoes destined for Vatican City being detained in Spain, one since January 8, 1944.

2258

1075

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

COPY

October 4, 1944

20

TO: Mr. Taylor

FROM: Mr. Barr

Reference in this memo confines itself to the area in Italy released by the military to the Italian Government and does not refer to the combat zone or zone of communication.

As a result of observation of conditions in the area surrounding the former battle zone between the Gustav and Hitler lines, the following basic conditions seem to prevail:

- A. stock piles of basic necessary food supplies in the area are non-existent.
- B/ daily importations of grain or flour, oil, meat, vegetables and milk are not at present adequate or have been adequate to meet the daily need of the area.
- C. There is a complete absence of trade or movement on the part of the Italian merchants to areas of surplus.

Although the Allied Control Commission states that a grain ration of 160 grams or a bread ration of 200 grams, is being made to the population of the devastated area, the facts do not bear out this claim. During the month of September in the area covered of the province of Frosinone the average grain ration per person for the month was less than 40 grams. It is true that the Allied Control Commission issued a daily bread or grain ration of from 150 to 200 grams but only made the issue ten days out of the thirty.

In the area controlled by the Commissioner of the devastated area, including the communities of Pontecorvo, Ceperano, San Germano, Santa Lucia, Cassino and other communes and fractions, no bread or grain had been delivered or sold in the area for the seven-day period preceding August 29. In the month of September in this area one ration of meat, amounting to 200 grams, has been issued to the population. Less than a litre of oil per person has been issued during the month of September, and there was no supply of farina or food concentrate. This area, the scene of complete distraction for months, has absolutely no resource for food as all fruit trees, farms and fields and live stock are completely destroyed. Likewise, the fields are strewn with thousands of mines, preventing

2258

1076

785016

20

even the use of grass and herbs. A program of removal is under-
way but will take time. In addition to these factors, a portion
of the devastated area is now completely isolated because of an
absence of bridges and roads. Two A.C.C. officers of Frosinone
provinces in answer to direct questions gave the following:

1. To the question: "Will there be starvation this winter
in Frosinone province?", one officer answered as follows: "wide-
spread".

2. To the question: "Will there be death by starvation in
Frosinone province this winter?", he answered, "I believe there
will".

3. "Do you have any stock piles in the province to meet
this?" -- His answer: "No".

4. "Do you believe that if you hauled food at your present
rate, you could build stock piles in time for this winter?" He
stated that not only could he not build stock piles, his present
rate of import permitted him a little more than 1/3 of the daily
basic rationed food requirement.

5. When the A.C.C. officers were asked as to the solution,
they stated that there was grain in Foggia, Perugia and Viterbo
in surplus, but they have been unable to break the log jam to
bring it to this devastated area. Both officers pointed out
that empty trains passed almost daily through Viterbo-Perugia re-
gion and subsequently through the Frosinone area, and they have
found no way to have these empty trains carry wheat between the
two places. Both officers stated that although they have some
truck transports, if all the trucks hauled continuously, they
could not meet much more than the daily requirements, and at the
present they cannot break the log jam to even use this transporta-
tion available to them. When asked what the situation would be and
if they anticipated its improvement, they frankly stated that the
situation would be hopeless unless there were drastic changes in
the next two weeks. This observer stated that he had seen truck
convoys going from the front past this area empty, and this obser-
ver wondered why these empty trucks could not be funnelled through
Perugia and Viterbo to pick up grain on their way to the rear area
for combat supplies. Both officers agreed that this was an obvious
solution and that also the use of the empty trains was an obvious
solution. Further conferences were held with the sindaco of
Pocessacca and the Commissioner of the devastated area. Both
these men said the situation was desperate, and they could see no
solution unless the military met its obligations to the area.
The Italian commandant with the problem in the area offered an
additional solution--that the system of permits and passes be

22257

1077

2E

dispensed with, permitting trade to resume its normal course. Italians presently are prevented from going into the areas of surplus and returning with this surplus on the basis that it will go into the black market. It is the view of this observer that a large proportion of this food will go into the black market; however, if trade is resumed and encouraged, increasing supplies will come into the area, and, as the material becomes less scarce, prices will find a more intelligent level. All Italians state that the only well-organized, well-run and reasonable adequately supplied market is the black market. It is far more dependable, according to these sources, than is the market as operated by the Allied Control Commission. It is the view of this observer that if all permits and passes were dispensed with and trade -- in a manner historically familiar to Italy -- would be permitted to resume, with the competition afforded this market by the obligations of the Allied Authorities being met, the situation in this area can be saved. This observer has been told that the middle class and the people of small and large savings have exhausted every resource and have sold all personal possessions and are completely without funds or employment. The only solution to this problem is:

1. That the stock piles in Foggia, Viterbo and Perugia be moved in sufficient quantities to the ready warehouses in the province, to the mills in existence in the province, which have been repaired and are not being used;
2. That permits and passes be dispensed with and free trade permitted;
3. That bedding and clothing be expedited to the area where more than 10,000 people are living in open fields without reasonable clothing and practically no bedding;
4. That tents be erected for the winter, the present number consisting of 30 tents being hardly sufficient for these thousands of people; according to reports additional tents are coming but will be insufficient;
5. That inasmuch as this is a mined area and an area of possible epidemic, at least one ambulance should be available in the province; at the present time there is no regular means of moving the ill or injured to the two Red Cross Hospitals.

Room 33
MS/isb /

16-9-44

Progress Report

Decree on Regional Building Bodies.

Memo to Executive Director.

1. Memorandum and Draft Decree passed to us for appropriate action by A/CC on 21 Aug.
2. Passed to P.W. & U., Commerce, and Finance S/O's for their comments.
3. Comments from all of above S/O's received, shown to Executive Director and consolidated in our letter of 31 Aug to Admin. Section.
4. Returned by Admin. Section 1 Sept. See minute sheet for their comments.
5. Forwarded to P.W. & U. on 2 Sept. for an amendment providing for overall control.
6. Decree re-typed with amendments and re-submitted to Comdr. Lawler, who stated he would like Col. Stephan to see it.
7. Col. Stephan received this on 6 Sept. and rang up to say he did not like Decree at all.
8. Suggested meeting with Exec. Director.
9. Meeting held at 1000 hours, Thursday, 7 September 1944 - Minutes attached.
10. Discussion of Draft Counter-Proposal submitted by Col. Stephan at meetings on Saturday, 9 September 1944. Minutes attached.
11. Meeting scheduled for 1400 hours, Monday 11 September 1944 to prepare final Counter-Proposal.
12. Meeting held at 1400 hrs on Monday 11 September 1944: Legal Cola Jenny and Stephan will advise on requirements - cover letter with 2255 prepared by Col. Densmore.
13. Meeting in Col. Densmore's office on Friday, 15 September 1944 at 1700 hours. On recommendation of Acting Chief Commissioner, a full analysis was made of the original proposed decree in an endeavor to make it acceptable. Present: Col. Densmore, Lt. Col. Jenny, Lt. Col. Stephan, Comdr. Lawler and Major Sullivan. A rough draft of a reply was dictated, and forwarded to the Sub-Commissions concerned (1900hrs).
14. Meeting in Col. Densmore's office, Saturday, 16 September 1944 to pass on final draft prepared and sent to the Acting Chief Commissioner.

1. Memorandum and Draft Decree passed to us for appropriate action by A/CC on 21 Aug.
2. Passed to P.W. & U., Commerce, and Finance S/C's for their comments.
3. Comments from all of above S/C's received, shown to Executive Director and consolidated in our letter of 31 Aug to Admin. Section.
4. Returned by Admin. Section 1 Sept. See Minute sheet for their comments.
5. Forwarded to P.W. & U. on 2 Sept. for an amendment providing for overall control.
6. Decree re-typed with amendments and re-submitted to Comdr. Lawler, who stated he would like Col. Stephan to see it.
7. Col. Stephan received this on 6 Sept. and rang up to say he did not like Decree at all.
8. Suggested meeting with Exec. Director.
9. Meeting held at 1000 hours, Thursday, 7 September 1944 - Minutes attached.
10. Discussion of Draft Counter-Proposal submitted by Col. Stephan at meeting on Saturday, 9 September 1944. Minutes attached.
11. Meeting scheduled for 1400 hours, Monday 11 September 1944 to prepare final Counter-Proposal.
12. Meeting held at 1400 hrs on Monday 11 September 1944: Legal requested to draft provisions for submission to Italian Government. Col. Jenny and Stephens will advise on requirements - cover letter will be prepared by Col. Denamore. **2255**
13. Meeting in Col. Denamore's office on Friday, 15 September 1944 at 1700 hours. On recommendation of Acting Chief Commissioner, a full analysis was made of the original proposed decree in an endeavor to make it acceptable. Present: Col. Denamore, Lt. Col. Jenny, Lt. Col. Stephan, Comdr. Lawler and Major Sullivan. A rough draft of a reply was dictated, and forwarded to the Sub-Commissions concerned (1900hrs).
14. Meeting in Col. Denamore's office, Saturday, 16 September 1944 to pass on final draft prepared and sent to the Acting Chief Commissioner.
15. Letter of Acting Chief Commissioner forwarded to Prime Minister Bonomi. **16-9-44**

ACTION COMPLETED

