

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

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INDUSTRY & COMMERCE, SUPPRESSION OF BLACK
MARKET
MAR. 1944

HEADQUARTERS,
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION,
APO 394

SECRET.

15 MAR 1944

Regional Control and Military Government Section.

Ref: 311/18/GA.

12
13th March 1944.

Subject: Black Market.

To : Regional Commissioners,
Regions I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VIII, IX.
S.C.A.O., 4th, 5 Army.
S.C.A.O., 6th, 8 Army.

1. The black market continues to flourish and criticisms, mostly unfounded, are levelled against the A.C.C. both in the United States and in the United Kingdom and in the Press of this country, for its continuance.
2. Much has been done by Regional staffs to check this practice. The collusion of members of Allied troops in the black market adds to administrative difficulties. Enclosed is a copy of a letter addressed to H. S., A.C.C.P. on this subject.
3. The Chief Commissioner wishes Regional Commissioners to increase their efforts to check the black market. In his opinion one of the best ways to do this is to secure conviction of one of the main leaders in any Region. Probably the only method of doing this is to insinuate agents into the black market organization. No expense should be spared in a concentrated effort to secure conviction of leading black marketers in the near future. Regional Commissioners with their Public Safety staffs should turn their attention to this matter without delay.

10316/JG.

M.B. L
Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

Copy to: Admin Section.
Economic Section.

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HEADQUARTERS,
ARMED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394

SECRET.

Regional Control and Military Government Section.

Ref: 311/7/CA.

13th March 1944.

Subject: Black Market Operations.

To : Headquarters, A.C.C.P.

1. It is well known that the black market flourishes in Italy and constant references are made to its evils in the United States, the United Kingdom and in the Press of this country. Very naturally, those responsible for civil administration bear the brunt of the criticism in connection with this evil.
2. Steps have been taken to combat this black market since the occupation. They have been intensified recently. The objective is to discover some of the principal actors in this theatre and see that they are rigorously punished.
3. Although the prime movers are civilians there is not the slightest doubt that troops play a very heavy part in the operations of the black market. In one day no less than 14 military lorries, some British, some American, were stopped on the roads emanating from Foggia and were found to contain civilian foodstuffs. These were being taken from Foggia and the neighbourhood in the direction of Naples and other towns. The fee is 25,000 lire and as often as not a woman is thrown in.
4. If the transportation of black market produce by military transport could be stopped a very large percentage of the black market would drop away. The temptation to the troops is immense and the malpractice, which is very common, could, it would appear, only be stopped by drastic steps on the part of the military police and rigorous punishment of offenders when caught.
5. The Chief Commissioner would be grateful if action could be taken on these lines and if unit commanders could be told of the evil effects, not only on the civil population but on the troops themselves, of these practices and if they could be instructed to impose very heavy sentences on offenders.

WEL/JG.

H. S. Link
Rig. dist.
Executive Commissioner.

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