

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

785017

ACC

10000/109/77

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

785017

DO SITREPS, SICILIA REGION
NOV. 1944 - MAY 1946

10000/109/77

4885

36.

V.P. C.A.S.

Info 30 for info.

G. McArthur & Grand HOS.

37.

E.C.

Notes. File returned. Please, may

31 may do.

41.

E.C.

See Please see to be at 40 from

AC one history

1/3/4

42.

Ex Court machine Mrs 36

43.

E.C.

See. Page 40 seen by P.O. Any further action please.

1/4/6

44.

(1) E.C. & name should be: (2) Continued

1/5/46

46.

68
In Please see to be at 40 from
AC the history
P. 3/4

42
Ex Come meeting MS/36

4785

43.

L.C.
Sin. Page no seen by P.R.O. Any further
action please.

44.
P. 4/6

(1) E can share should see (2) Call and identify

MS/416

46

86
Sin. Action taken on (1) of your minutes 44. P. 7/6.

785017

Ex Comr

ESD

23

See Brig Carris D.O. report 21-22.
The only paras of interest are those referring
to postponement of P.M.'s visit to Sicily &
arrival of a news O.C. Italian troops.

Shi.

1 Mar 45 The fall in price, in Black
Market, of bread & pork
is interesting

24

Has P.R.D. seen? 18/1/45

24/3

25

4784

PRC At sec 22 for information

24/3

26

noted

DB

Marked as breaching part.
is interesting

24 2/23
Has PR been seen? 11/2/41

25 4786

PR PR sec 22 for information
24/3

26 noted PRB
29

C.S.O. He seems to have the date of his proposed
visit wrong. 11/2/8

C.S.O. 34
Page 10 x 11 of 51 to Econ. Affairs
C.A.S. page these letters 11/2/41
See P. 34-35

TO. G.S.O.

1. TO letter from Brig. Carr opposite is in the nature of a report of recent events. Most of that which appears under the heading 'Public Safety' we already know from other files. Reference, however, to the portion I have marked 'A', the R.C. again draws attention to the standing orders laid down by AFHQ effecting the use of firearms by troops proceeding to the area of the disturbance. From file 2606/GOS herewith, I note that CCS disagrees with the views expressed by Land Forces S/C. I suggest this is a matter which could be discussed at the meeting on Friday, 9 Feb, at which the R.C., Land Forces S/C and Public Safety S/C will be present.

2. Note also portion marked 'B'. The R.C. is apparently pleased with the effect of the arrival of armoured vehicles.

3. Portion marked 'C'. The R.C. is apparently filled with horror at the thought of holding local elections under present conditions.

4. Portion marked 'D'. It is reported that the Island has enough grain with that now being discharged at the ports to provide the full ration of bread and pasta until the end of the month.

8 Feb 45.

28/2

19

Thatcher
Captain

4783

1. Brig Carr's views with which I concur should be brought to the notice of AFHQ - on the Italian Army approaching scene & R.D.s concerned
2. Thanks to Land Force S.C. - their idea.
3. Nevertheless they must be held after the time comes blood letting in a constructive manner now down much
4. I should like this to be brought to attention of AFHQ

the thought of holding local elections under present conditions.

4. Portion marked 'D'. It is reported that the Island has enough grain with that now being discharged at the ports to provide the full ration of bread and pasta until the end of the month.

8 Feb 45.

278/2.

Sharden
Captain

19

4783

1. Big Cans view with which I concur. should be brought to the aid of AFRA. - on the idea Army approaching scene of R.D.s concerned
2. Thanks to Louis for Sub Com. - this idea.
3. Nevertheless they must be held when the time comes. blood letting is a constructive even now does much harm
4. I should like this to be brought to attention of AFRA who however are doing this but to help Brix. Cans should see that telegram

See photo 5.20

178/2

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

785017

Major Rively.13

Please see my 12 on Brig Carr's 11 - also COS comment on my 12.
Also his comment on page 8. Will you take action as required.

17 Jan 45.

E. TALBOT,
Major.

^{15.}
Ref Minute 13 action taken on file 36/cos Admin Study see
Folder 14.
Shannon

25 Jan 45.

4782

3
 COS: See serial 2. Brig Carr has
 been informed of the change in
 import policy and advised of the
 imminent (about 20 Dec) arrival of a
 grain ship. sent 4/12 seen by COS sent 4/12

5
 RA to COS: Copies of Joliet as P 4 should
 go to Brig Hopton & Mr Antolini. Both
 received copy of original as P 2. If you
 agree per note appended & return to Brig Carr sent 4/12

Agreed by Col. 4/12 P/A 5/12 4/12

12

- COS
1. M See Brig Carr; latest D.O. bulletin.
 2. I will take up the question of Rome Mechanisms (p 10 para 2) 4/12/81 with Stan Sect. in the

received copy of original on p. 2. If you agree pls note improvement & route to my Cent

Agreed by Col. J. S. 4/12
P/A 5/12 8/12

12

LOS 1. M See Bay Camp: latest D.O.

bulletin.

2. I will take up the question of
Rome Mechanisms (p. 10 para 2) 4781
with Sen. Sect.

3. Shall I suppose into the
facts of the travel notes
mentioned in penultimate
para of p. 10.

4. Obviously, things had changed,
these things had been
done already known.

5. 16/11.

pages 1-10
D. 10-11

785017

ALLIED COMMISSION
Biolly Liaison
Group

To: Executive Commissioner, E.C. AC
Subject: Third DG letter
Date: 31 May 1946

JUN 11 1946

1. I have today completed visits to Agrigento and Caltanissetta Provinces, where I interviewed the prefects and police chiefs.
2. In both these provinces the food situation though bad is not desperate as ^{disorder or} ~~the harvest~~ harvesting of soft grain has begun; the prefects believe that even without further imports they can tide over the danger period; they stress once more, however, that the present ration of bread is not sufficient for manual labour, especially in the sulphur mines, and that this is the real cause of much crime and separatism; crime there is too much, especially in the area of Favara in Agrigento Province.
3. In both provinces minor incidents are anticipated on the declaration of the election and referendum results, but no general disorder unless something big starts at Palermo; apparently in these two provinces disorders at Palermo produce immediate and similar disorders.
4. Election prospects remain as in my second DG letter - calm during the days of elections, some excitement on the declaration of results which may become serious if badly handled, a big monarchist majority, separatists doing well as a party and the left down the field.

L. Montague
11.6.46

L. MONTAGUE,
Lt. Col., G.D.,
C.D.

4780

SR. 1246
(RC)
J. McMill
12/6

Seen by AC
J. 12/6
Seen by P.R.O.

11.6.46

Ref: 171/45/EC.

6 June 1946.

SUBJECT: Reports - SICILY.

TO : Vice President,
Economic Section,
Director,
UNRRA.

Attached for your information is copy of a report
received from the Allied Commission Liaison Officer in SICILY
on his recent tour of that Island.

For the Chief Commissioner:

(Sgt) *[Signature]*
Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

4779

see M46

[Signature]
2

Confidential

ALLIED COMMISSION
Sicily Liaison
Group

To: Executive Commissioner
Subject: Second DO letter
Date: 31 May 1946

1. I have just returned from a tour of Messina, Catania, and Siracusa Provinces, where I interviewed the chief provincial authorities and also listened to many private citizens conversations as I walked about the streets. I have not yet been able to go to Trapani, but have a fair amount of what seems reliable information about conditions. Tomorrow I propose going to Agrigento and Caltanissetta so that I shall then have an idea of what is going on in all the main districts; a further DO letter will be sent to you by air on Tuesday, 4 June 1946.

2. My general impression of Eastern Sicily is that the public authorities are far more efficient and cool than those of Palermo. They have put down banditry firmly and ordinary crime also is well in hand. Political feeling does not run so high. But the people are very hungry and if the bread ration fails for a single day anarchy will ensue.

3. Messina is the poorest province in the island and is desperately short of food. There is enough flour to guarantee the bread ration only until 4 June, and the black market is without bread as the province produces little wheat and that is already eaten long ago; my crew of three railwaymen on the special train could not find anything to eat.

4. The Prefect is a Sicilian who has had 25 years experience in administration in Prescia, Bergamo and he impressed me favourably. He said he was optimistic about the situation in and after the elections, and in this he was supported by his Questore and the CORA Legion commander of Messina. He envisaged small incidents occurring, as a result of the disappointment of either republicans or monarchists, but was certain there was no general disorder on political grounds would start in his province. He was however extremely anxious about the food situation and said that if the bread ration failed for one day neither he nor the ~~army~~ ^{army} nor the army would be able to restore order. He was ~~not~~ ^{not} insistent that Rome must realise that the bulk of the Sicilians live on bread and ~~meat~~ ^{pasta} alone and that a flat ration of 200 gr for all Italy condemns the Sicilians to semistarvation; that in order to do manual labour they must have more and therefore must buy in the black market, which itself

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5. The prefect of Messina was not at all satisfied with the compartmental offices, which seem to him to be much too narrow-minded. He complained too of the refusal to allow him to work the big Messina soap factory which could supply all Italy; he was told that grass must not be used for this purpose but only for alimentation, but the same grass oddily enough were not distributed as a ration. (Incidentally the Sicilians generally are in sore need of a good wash.) He said much of the lemon crop had

See M 41-44

9
(2)

39

PAGE TWO

been spoiled through lack of suitable storage space prior to being treated in the factories.

6. There are still a few small groups of bandits in the hills.

7. Catania also has a prefect who satisfied me and who is also an optimist as regards the political situation. He is a Genoese and with experience of both North and South is in complete agreement with the Prefect of Messina as regards bread and the Sicilian. In his province there is still a little blackmarket bread available at 140 lire the kilo. He has flour for the bread ration only upto 10 June. There is no banditry in his province, but illegal

emigration is taking place owing to the Questore not having police motor boats to deal with ships and motor boats which heave to a couple of kilometres out at night and load for Malta, Africa, and Palestine.

8. Siracusa is already in a desperate state for food and during my visit there on 29 May I saw a food riot during which a mob of women broke windows in the via Roma and would have burned the prefettura, prefect and all, had they not been held off by the CCRR and Agenti di PS. The police comported themselves well and dispersed the mob peacefully after an hour or so. The cause of the riot was the fact that bread on the blackmarket had risen 5 lire a kilo a day recently until it stood at the new high of 290 lire a kilo, a price which the poor simply cannot pay. I noticed very clearly here the difference between rich and poor in physical appearance.

The poor were obviously suffering from hunger as none does in North and Central Italy, and my railwayman simply did not eat for the 35 hours I was there; they could not foot the bill. Even the price of fish, of which there is a fair supply, has rocketed sky high as the fishermen naturally wish to have money to buy bread. Flour for rationed bread is available only until 10 June, and both the Prefect, not a particularly strong character, the Questore and the CCRR Major are very worried men indeed; they anticipate further food riots, and I agree with them. The CCRR Major pointed out that during the riot communist agitators known to the police were egging the mob on and trying to turn what was obviously a food riot into political profit and a demonstration against the monarchy and De Gasperi.

9. The day that I was at Siracusa the king was at Catania and

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9. The day that I was at Siracusa the king was at Catania and Messina, and word went round Siracusa that he was there with the result that two women came to my hotel and demanded to see me, saying that I was the king in incognito! It took two hours to convince them that I was not.

10. A remarkable sidelight on life in the province comes from Pachino, a great wine centre; here last year they made so much money from wine that there are reputed to be over two hundred persons in the town who made over twenty million lire apiece. Yet these millionaires travel to Catania once a week with their valigia to buy food in the black market for at Pachino there is no food apart from 200 gr of bread ration.

11. It is not anticipated that there will be any big purely political disorder in the province, but local trouble is expected at Lentini and Avola, where the CCR have had to be doubled; Avola has always been noted for delinquenza and now is noted for Communists; the result is that all or almost all the local leading communists are on the police books as wellknown and habitual burglars, thieves, etc and make periodic trips to gaol.

PAGE THREE

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12. The visit of the King to Palermo, Trapani, Catania, and Messina this week was greeted with enormous enthusiasm; for example he was carried at shoulder high at the airport and in the streets of Palermo. There were no unfortunate reactions from the republicans. However yesterday the republican socialist sindaco of Palermo (there have been no municipal elections) was held up by unknown men on the border of Trapani province, made to kiss the ground and relieved of his purse; all Palermo laughed and the story runs that this was the revenge of monarchists for his refusal to meet the King during the royal visit to Palermo.

13. Final processions of republicans and monarchists took place last night in Palermo and in spite of all the police's efforts to keep them separate they finally clashed and in the subsequent brawl three persons were injured, one seriously. There appear to have been faults on both sides. All Allied personnel, military and civilian, were advised in advance to stay at home and so were not involved.

14. Conditions in Trapani Province appear to be similar to those in Palermo province except that there is more crime and more banditry.

15. Final election prospects are a big majority for the monarchy and a big majority for the centre and right, with the Separatists doing better every day. Minor disorders on the announcement of the result are certain, and the danger spot is Palermo, where if the situation is not handled calmly disaster might ensue. Allied personnel are being restricted to barracks on 2 and 3 June but not on the day of the result; I have been to see OC Troops at Catania and warned him that the real danger is not the election days but the day of the result and will keep him warned of any disturbances so that he may keep military personnel well away. Any such tour as the Local Govt Sub-Commission appears to expect to be made on election day is absolutely impossible here for one officer with one train - not working that day - one unreliable motor car and a country 400 kilometres long. With all the good will in the world this island is too big.

Paraguay

4776

L. MONTAGUE,
Lt. Col., G.S.,
C/O.

Keep them separate they finally clashed and in the subsequent brawl these persons were injured, one seriously. There appear to have been faults on both sides. All Allied personnel, military and civilian, were advised in advance to stay at home and so were not involved.

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(Signature)

4776

L. MONTAGUE,
Lt. Col., G.L.,
CIC.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

A P O 794

Office of the Executive Commissioner

(35)

Ref: 171/35/EG.

30 May 1946.

SUBJECT: Wheat.
TO : Economic Section.
UNRRA.

CONFIDENTIAL

(31)

The following extract of a report received from the Allied Commission Liaison Officer, SICILY, is passed to you for information.

"The food situation is serious and will remain so for about twenty days before the effect of the new harvest is felt. The arrival of a ship at PALERMO two days ago with 8,000 tons of wheat probably averted complete collapse of the bread ration in the main cities followed by riots on the eve of the elections. The High Commissioner is still very anxious about the position, but is most grateful to the work of Mr. Moses and his UNRRA staff, with whom I am in close contact. I expect to treat of this subject more fully in my report to arrive in HQS by air on 1 June 1946, the eve of the elections. (Present report dated 20 May 46). Crops everywhere promise well.

The amassing of wheat will be a farce according to the OCHA and a failure according to the High Commissioner. The price is not high enough to satisfy the producers, the police have too much on their hands with elections, politics and bandits, and the Sicilians beat even my old friend the Foggiano into a cocked hat when it comes to finding ways of dodging the law."

4775

By Command of Rear Admiral STONE:

jd.
Chief Staff Officer,
To the Executive Commissioner.

Copy to 2802/EC

736-37

PA 3

SECRET

SELECTED COMMISSION
Sicily Liaison
Group

To: Executive Commissioner, R. 12

Subject: DO Letter

Date: 27 May 1946

MAY 25 1946

1. Further to my DO letter of today's date.
2. I have just had a long talk with the Prefect of Palermo. He reports that he dare not leave and indeed has not left the comune of Palermo to visit his province because he knows that the bandits intend to kidnap him and hold him up for a ransom of several million lire; his public activities are somewhat curtailed thereby and his example does not seem to be a good one.
3. He was most gloomy about election prospects; says that a monarchist victory will certainly produce strikes and similar singular activities and that a republican victory will certainly produce anarchical disorders on a scale which may easily become very serious indeed. However like everybody else he cannot or will not produce proofs.
4. He appears to be a not unintelligent but weak man, and he is certainly a monarchist.

[Signature]
L. J. HARRIS
Lt. Col., G.I.
C.I.O.

4774

ALLIED COMMISSIONS

SICILY LIAISON GROUP

MAY 28 1946

To: Executive Commissioner, HQ AC

Subject: DO report

Date: 27 May 1946

1. I arrived here on 24 May 1946 and have contacted the Chief Allied and Italian authorities in Palermo, before setting out tomorrow on a tour of Messina, Catania, Siracusa, and Trapani. I intend to be in or about Palermo during the critical period of 2 - 6 June 1946 and then to make a final tour, details depending on how the situation develops, before closing this office and reporting back to HQ AC on 15 June 1946.

2. The Political Situation is most interesting and as far as a newcomer can judge is of outstanding importance.

3. All authorities including the High Commissioner and the Carabinieri and Quasura chiefs are agreed that there will be a big monarchist and democratic-Christian majority in the island, particularly the former; the Separatists, the Mafia, and even the well-known bandit Giuliano have declared themselves for the monarchy; the Carabinieri officers fail to hide their monarchist feelings; and the republicans are sure that the army is also monarchist. *They appear to be so much by now I believe.*

4. The Quasura of Palermo feels strongly that if the republic wins there is grave danger of an attempt at a coup d'etat by the monarchists, including the armed forces.

5. The High Commissioner, who is new to office but is himself a Sicilian, has no evidence to support a monarchist conspiracy, but did not completely exclude the possibility of a coup. He believes that the monarchist chiefs are men of intelligence who realize that a civil war would be the end of what little is left, and that apart from local disturbances there will only be general disorder if their hands are forced by their motto-capt. *4773*

6. Colonel, acting General of Brigade, Calabro, commander of the Sicilian CCRB Brigade, was a little taken aback when I asked him for his views on the situation if a republic is approved; he said it would be a very delicate here situation of King Umberto. He admitted that

and Italian authorities in Palermo, before setting out tomorrow on a tour of Messina, Catania, Siracusa, and Trapani. I intend to be in or about Palermo during the critical period of 2 - 6 June 1946 and then to make a final tour, details depending on how the situation develops, before closing this office and reporting back to HQ AG on 15 June 1946.

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3. All authorities including the High Commissioner and the Carabinieri and Guardia chiefs are agreed that there will be a big monarchist and democratic-Christian majority in the island, particularly the former; the Separatists, the Mafia, and even the well-known bandit Giuliano have declared themselves for the monarchy; the Carabinieri officers fail to hide their monarchist feelings; the republicans are sure that the army is also monarchist. *The upper left is showing such a picture sketch.*

4. The Quotidian of Palermo feels strongly that if the republic wins there is grave danger of an attempt at a coup d'état by the monarchists, including the armed forces.

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6. Colonel, acting General of Brigades, Calabro, commander of the Sicilian CCRB Brigade, was a little taken aback when I asked him for his views on the situation if a republic is approved; he said it would be most delicate here and that much would depend on the reaction of King Umberto. He admitted that the King had said he would accept the verdict of the people and that the duty of the CCRB was to accept the verdict and make others accept it, but I was left with the impression that he and many others in the armed forces would respond gladly if the King decided not to accept the verdict or acceded to an unwise invitation to be King of Sicily.

7. The Palermo Legion CCRB Commander, lately commander of the Bari Legion and known to me for the last two and a half years as a strong monarchist, thought that in the event of a republican majority some trouble here in Sicily was certain; he was much distressed over the republicans of Poggia and delighted with the monarchist prospects in Brindisi, Lecce, Veneto, Aosta, and Sicily.

8. My Italian secretary saying about Palermo has heard nothing but pro-monarchist talk (himself being a republican) and such expectation of a violent reaction to a republic; he is a Piontesso with no one to grind here.

9. To sum up I have been unable to secure any proofs in these three days of plans for a coup.

Page Two

but expect there to be at least minor disturbances in the event of a republican majority, which would almost certainly become very serious if the King made any rash utterances. In the event of a serious attempt at a coup I should not have much confidence in the armed forces. At unanimous request of the High Commissioner, the CG PR commanders, and the Questore of Palermo I have agreed to be in Palermo during the critical days, though they have been made fully aware that I have no responsibility for keeping order; the mere presence of an Allied officer still seems to give them great comfort.

10. The Food Situation is serious and will remain so for about twenty days before the effect of the new harvest is felt. The arrival of a ship at Palermo two days ago with 8,000 tons of wheat probably averted complete collapse of the bread ration in the main cities followed by riots on the eve of the elections. The High Commissioner is still very anxious about the position, but is most grateful to the work of Mr. Moses and his UNRRA staff, with whom I am in close contact. I expect to treat of this subject more fully in my report to arrive in Rome by air on 1 June 1945, the eve of the elections. Crops everywhere promise well.

11. The smearing of wheat will be a farce according to the CGPR and a failure according to the High Commissioner. The price is not high enough to satisfy the producers, the police have too much on their hands with elections, politics and bandits, and the Sicilian beats even my old friend the Fascist into a coked hat when it comes to finding ways of dodging the law.

12. The Mafia are behaving very well on the whole; their few victims have all been persons badly wanted by the police and they have expressed public disapproval of banditry and bandits such as Giuliano, still at large.

13. Communications have improved again after the end of bad winter weather but the American soft coal strike will probably have the effect of hampering the railways in the end for almost every important line is a coalburner.

14. Public Order at present is not unduly worrying apart from Giuliano, and provided bread and pasta are available to all and there are no political disturbances no one has fears for this.

15. Closure of this office does not represent any difficulties.

[Signature]

4772

L. MONTAGUE,
Lt. Col., G.I.

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L. Montague

6772

L. MONTAGUE,
Lt. Col., G.C.,
C.I.O.

785017

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Ref: 171/30/BC.

14 March 1946.

SUBJECT: Visits to Rome.

TO : Allied Commission
Chief Liaison Officer,
PALERMO, SICILY.

28

1. The Executive Commissioner has directed me to acknowledge your letter ref: AG/3/A 11 of 11 March 46. You mention March 1 in your last paragraph but presumably you mean this to be April 1.

2. The Executive Commissioner does not wish you to come in from such a distance on any specific date but if you anticipate that you will be coming in about April 1 to get pay, will you please make a point of seeing the Executive Commissioner on that occasion.

1/4 N. W. HIND SMITH
MAJ

Chief Staff Officer,
To the Executive Commissioner.

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1948

U.S. SICILY LIAISON GROUP, A.C.

APO 394

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

28

File: 12/3/A 11

11 March 1946.

Dear Brigadier Lusk

I have your letter Ref. 171/EC dated 2 March 1946.

Please be assured that I have not been deliberately negligent in the matter of calling on you in Rome, or in not replying to your letters.

On each of my last three visits to Rome I made a point of trying to see you and each time my efforts were unsuccessful. My disappointment was especially keen because I had deferred a reply to your letters in the hope that we could have a chat first, since we have never met.

There is really little to be said about the general situation here in Sicily that has not been said in the two brief reports I have filed to date, or in previous reports. Incidentally, in my January report, I gave a direct answer to the one specific question raised in your first letter, namely, the net effect of the elimination of the pasta ration. Since you must have that at hand, I will not repeat it here.

I do have one or two questions which I would much prefer to talk with you about, personally. Perhaps you will want to call on me in around March 1st, the time I should normally come to get paid. I believe now I am not permitted to leave my area without orders from A.C. Headquarters. I have anticipated meeting you with great pleasure and I trust that the next time I come to Rome there will be no disappointment. With all good wishes and with high regard,

*Sincerely,
John Lusk*

Brigadier M.S. Lusk, CB, CBE, MC
Executive Commissioner,
U.S. Allied Commission.

*See in 29
f. 3.*

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL.

(27)

Ref: ✓

2 March 1946.

I understand that you were in ROME the other day and visited various officers of the Allied Commission. I am most anxious to see all Chief Liaison Officers when they are in ROME in order that I can obtain first hand information about themselves and their work.

Will you, therefore always make a point of seeing me when you visit this Headquarters and may I remind you that I have asked for letters from you giving the gist of the general situation.

M. S. LUSH

Major J. Lund,
All Chief Liaison Officer,
PALERMO, SICILY.

MSL/JG.

See 28

4770

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

785017

www.pc/2021

my dear Luch,

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

MAR 1 - 1942

1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 2679, 26

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

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

The Conservatives obviously have been quiet in the absence of any troublemakers in which they can find out they have been very active on paper. They have been so afraid to try and prove that, in regard to articles which have appeared recently in the Allied Press, they still have the support of Great Britain and/or America. They have also been propagating in regard to elections and have stated that they are only prepared to take part if they are placed on the same footing as the recognized parties. Articles have also been compiled against the "Communists" which is held not to be representative of the British people but a body nominated by the Government and too influenced by its pro-consul, the High Commissioner.

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Political

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

The first meeting of the Council is to take place at 11 o'clock on Sunday, as previously, in the Council Chamber of the Municipality.

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

Public Safety

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

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

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A. T. T. (Sgt)

SECRET

plasma and elements but it is felt by the manufacturers that there are probably a number of innocent people who know those interned and this point is considerably brought to the attention of the High Commissioner.

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

Early this week there was a serious fire at the Government warehouse in Palermo city which caused the loss of 2 million lire worth of goods. No evidence has been forthcoming to show that the fire was caused by sabotage and it is generally believed that the reason was spontaneous combustion due to bad storage of cotton seed.

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

FOOD

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

TRANSPORTATION

Due to delay in the arrival of coal, the railway authorities have found it necessary to suspend many of the regular passenger services. The shortage of coal has to a large extent caused the suspension of a strike of port workers at Catania which caused the suspension of a coal ship to come with the result that the daily over to the island.

also mentioned in relation to the extent of the damage to the extent of 8 million lire was caused. No evidence was seen forthcoming to show that the fire was caused by sabotage and it is currently believed that the reason was spontaneous combustion due to old storage of cotton seed.

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FOOD

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TRANS-PORTATION

Due to delay in the arrival of coal, the railway authorities have found it necessary to suspend many of the regular passenger services. The shortage of coal has to a large extent been offset by a supply of port coals from Gambia which caused a shortage of a coal rails to develop with the result that the railway authorities have had to give over to the main line.

RELIGIOUS MATTERS

Present representations are made about the hardship caused by the lack of rain. It is understood that consideration is being given by the Government to the matter of a supply of coal for the use of the railways, especially, Messina and Catania.

I have sent copies of this letter to

Two copies only
M. G. L.

Religious Commissioner

Religious Commissioner

(20)

Ref: IT/1008.

9 February 1945.

Subject: Sicilian Disturbances.

To: Local Forces Sub-Commission (LSCA)
(Attention: Lt. Col. Ingles).

1. As agreed at the conference today, will you please prepare a draft letter to AFHQ asking them to consider amending their order No. 370.6/005 1943-0 of 6 January on the subject of Local Defense Plans, with particular reference to para. 7 regarding the handling of areas when quelling civil disturbances.

2. Will you please coordinate with Civil Affairs Section on this matter.

Major H. L. Lister

Colonel,
Chief Staff Officer.

Copies to: Civil Affairs Section.

*Copies on files 3618/cos
2606/cos.*

See 2606 for

further correspondence

4767

PA [signature] 2

STL:RC/291

3 Feb 1945

FEB 7 1945

My dear Lusk,

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

PUBLIC SAFETY

As you will be aware, the month of January was noteworthy for the serious disorders which broke out in many towns but particularly in RAGUSA Province and which called for the employment of most of the available Italian military reserves in the island before the situation was restored. The principal cause of the disorders was COMISO.

Having regard to the numbers of armed rioters involved and the strength of the police and military forces employed, the number of casualties was not large.

The main cause of the disturbances was opposition to the military call-up but there were the usual underlying reasons such as shortage of food (though RAGUSA Province had and its full bread and pasta ration issued up to date), high prices and separatist activities. Moreover, the town of Ragusa was the birthplace of Fascism in Sicily and it may be that the recent spasmodic trend towards Fascism played some part in the disorders in the Province of RAGUSA.

The procedure under which the permission of the Allied authorities had to be sought before Italian troops could be used in aid of the civil power broke down completely as anticipated. Since these disorders this procedure has been cancelled.

Another lesson learnt was the disastrous effect of existing orders under which troops employed in aid of the civil power must proceed to the scene of all disturbances with their weapons unloaded. The result was that comparatively few soldiers and of the police forces were disarmed when surprised by rioters. Existing orders are so laid down that fire can only be opened on the orders of an officer. In one instance it is reported that the officer in command was killed with the first shot fired and the result was that the soldiers, whose weapons were not loaded, were all disarmed. Although not an Allied Commission after a letter has been sent to your Headquarters strongly recommending a change in such ill-advised rules which were only brought to the notice of this Headquarters after these events.

In RAGUSA Province all the rioters dispersed not only with the arms they brought into the battle but also with those captured. The Prefect issued a decree after order had been restored ordering the handing-in of unauthorized weapons at

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

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

In this respect, however, there has been an interesting development recently. Some armoured vehicles have arrived in the island as reinforcements to the Italian armed forces. Last week there was some slight disorder at the small town of Palomares in Palermo Province. Troops were sent as a precaution and with them some armoured vehicles. The presence of these armoured vehicles had a most marked effect and resulted in the collection of approximately 8 machine guns, 50 sub-machine guns and 100 rifles from the civil population in this comparatively small area.

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

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cell. A strong tactical protest was seen to the High Commissioner. Strong forces have been dispatched to round up these rallies but so far without results. One Carabinieri was killed when trying to arrest subjects. In the same area on the 27th of January a train was held up by 30 armed men and about 80 of the passengers are stated to have been robbed. Full details are awaited. Militia is undoubtedly on the increase but the reinforcements and armoured vehicles which have arrived and the increase in mobility of the forces of law and order should place the local authorities in a much better position to deal with this menace.

The National Council of the Separatist Movement held a meeting at Palermo on the 12/13 of January. As a result pamphlets appeared in which it was stated that the Council had decided that in view of the intolerable state of affairs in Sicily the Allied authorities should be asked to hand-over the Government of the Island to the National Council or, failing that, that the Allied should re-occupy the Island.

There was a somewhat unusual incident about the middle of January at the inauguration ceremony at the University of Palermo. I was present together with other Allied representatives and while waiting in the hall for the proceedings to begin crowds of students broke into the front part of the hall and the situation got completely out of control. The students were all hood-namured but in order to avoid any incident the Allied representatives withdrew. Later, when an endeavour was made to conduct the inauguration ceremony this was found to be impossible and the proceedings were suspended. As a result of this the High Commissioner on the request of the Council of the University, issued a decree postponing the next examinations from February to June. A delegation of students has since been to my office to apologise for the incident and to beg that the High Commissioner should be requested to modify his decree. I have discussed the matter with the High Commissioner and he is reconsidering the situation.

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

FOOD

The Island is still living on a grain-only to mouth basis and much ration is concerned. There does not seem to be any improvement in the situation.

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There was a student unrest incident about the middle of January at the inauguration ceremony at the University of Palermo. I was present together with other allied representatives and while waiting in the hall for the proceedings to begin, a crowd of students broke into the front part of the hall and the situation got out of control. The students were all (over-manned) but in order to avoid any incident the allied representatives withdrew. Later, when an endorsement was made to conduct the inauguration ceremony, this was found to be impossible and the proceedings were suspended. As a result of this the High Commissioner on the request of the Council of the University, issued a decree postponing the next examinations from February to June. A delegation of students has since been to my office to apologize for the incident and to beg that the High Commissioner should be requested to modify his decree. I have already agreed to the matter with the High Commissioner and he is reconsidering the situation.

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GOOD

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The island is still living on a grain-slip to some basis so far as the bread and pasta ration is concerned. There does not seem to be any prospect of pulling up any reserve at the moment and even if the calculations of the local authorities show occasionally that this might be possible when the time arrives the plan is always produced that grain has lasted a shorter time than expected and the forward date to which the island was expected to exist has to be pulled back. As close a check as possible is being kept on the figures and calculations of the local authorities in so far as the quantities of imported grain and feeding of the local population is concerned. The High Commissioner has also been advised that accurate calculation and strict control is necessary. Grain ships are now discharging in ports and it is estimated that the island has in sight approximately enough to provide the full ration of bread and pasta until the end of the month.

Pasta rations were reduced about the middle of January in the city of Palermo which had only had its pasta ration issued up till the end of September. The ration was, however, on a reduced basis of 300 grams instead of 500 grams per week. Arrangements have now been made with the High Commissioner for

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the full pasta ration of 530 grams to be issued throughout the Island during the month of February provided there is no change in the grain importation policy.

WELFARE

A visit has been received from an American Red Cross representative with regard to a considerable supply of American Red Cross clothing which will shortly be arriving in the Island for free distribution. Distribution will be on the general basis of 40% to Palermo and Trapani, 35% to Messina, and 25% to Catania with some distribution to the 133 Island of Pantelleria.

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

GENERAL

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

I have sent copies of this letter to ~~Brigadier Bush~~
Col Benson
Brigadier Upjohn

Yours sincerely
M. Carr

M. CARR
Brigadier
Regional Commissioner

4764

CONFIDENTIAL
18 Jan 65

Ref: 56/12/00

Subject: Merchants from India.

To: : East-side Section.

1. Your attention is drawn to the following extract from a report by the Regional Commissioner of India:

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

2. Though this is a matter which concerns Civil Affairs Section principally and Public Safety sub-commission in particular, it has bearing on activities of some of the sub-commissions within your Section and you are directed to call this matter to their attention for appropriate action and vigilance.

cc. C.A. Sec. - attn. P.S. if
cc 172/005

By 22/11/64
cc 172/005

Chief Staff Officer,
To the Chief of Staff.

4763

CONFIDENTIAL

171
ALLIED COMMISSION
SICILIA REGION HEADQUARTERS
AFC 394

FILE:RC/201

6 Jan 1945

JAN 15 1945

My dear Lush,

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

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

The month of December was, as is already common knowledge, marked by a chain of serious disorders. These disorders, which took place in about 70 different localities mainly in the eastern part of the Island, were caused primarily by opposition to the call-up. Serious underlying causes were, however, the Separatist movement, whose creed induces opposition to any orders issuing from ROME, the general shortage of food and clothing and high prices. Serious damage was done to public buildings in many places and at least 7 municipalities were destroyed or very badly damaged. Total casualties amounted to 4 dead and 31 injured. Information has just come to hand that there was a further demonstration at RAGUSA on 4 JAN when demonstrators opposed to being called-up attempted to disarm troops who opened fire with the result that one demonstrator was killed and 2 seriously wounded. Generally speaking, however, the situation throughout the Island is now calm. Disciplinary action has been taken in a number of cases of those failing to answer the call-up which, it is understood, is now proceeding more successfully.

Separatist activities continue. The last big meeting of this movement took place on 3 DEC at ALICAMO which was the scene of one of the more serious of the recent disturbances on IS DEC. The Separatist meeting on 3 DEC was theoretically a private meeting based on invitations but apparently it was without an invitation it could be had upon application at the door. The meeting was held in a cinema and is reported to have been attended by about 1,000 persons amid considerable enthusiasm. Orators' speeches contained such statements as that the

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

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

see *Article 12913*

out rationed bread at all for approximately 3 months till the next harvest and when at the same time a situation bordering on a state of panic arises among the civilian authorities and the Allied Naval Bases if there is a prospect of a city being without rationed bread for even one day. In this connection it is hoped that a definite official policy will shortly be forthcoming. It is also to be hoped that the decrees and directives in connection with the amassing of the next grain harvest will be issued in the near future especially in view of the very early harvest which occurs in certain parts of this island and of the lack of mobility among U.P.S.M.A. officials. An early start and good prior-organisation is essential. The Regional Agriculture Officer has been directed to raise this important subject at a conference being held at your Headquarters shortly.

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

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

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

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

4761

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Over Christmas and the New Year there have been a large number of visitors to the Island. Under a system under which all visitors whether on business or on pleasure are notified as arriving on temporary duty on Allied Commission activities it is difficult for the Regional Commissioner and his staff to know whether such visitors will be reporting to Headquarters or whether they should be contacted. The difficulty of any other procedure is appreciated. Under one H.A.A.C. order a party was sent to CATANIA on "AMC activities" (copy of order enclosed for sake of reference). So far there have been no repercussions.

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

1947

785017

I have sent copies of this letter to ~~Brigadier Upjohn~~
~~Col. Penmore~~
Brigadier Upjohn -

Yours sincerely
M. Carr

M. Carr
Brigadier
Regional Commissioner

1 encl-copy of Special Orders No. 319 para 2.

4760

785017

COPIES

16 December 1944

SPECIAL ORDERS)
NUMBER 319)

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

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

Col Hancock
Lt Col Giler



4/ On whose order?
2) or what functions

Mc/16/ 4759

Note:
Estat Sect (Montant) is checking on these orders for us
Major Byles had requested orders.

17/1

7824

Sierra Region

7804

7 Dec

PRIORITY

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (6)

REFERENCE YOUR REC THREE FIVE THREE OF SEVEN MESSAGE. ED

PARIN TO AID M SIGILLA REGION FOR CASE FIVE B. AID M FROM LASH PAPER

WATER ISN BEING DISCUSSION HERE WITH ALDINO. ED

YOU WILL BE IMPROVED EARLIER

8526
4758

Chief of Staff

7804

7 Dec

STANDARD

CONFIDENTIAL

EXPERIENCE YOUR OWN THINGS FIVE THINGS IF SEVEN THINGS 12

PARISH TO ALP M SIGMUND STOUTER FOR CASE FROM ALP M FROM JAMES KATHEN

MATTERS NOT UNDER DISCUSSION HERE WITH ALP MIO 12

YOU WILL BE INFORMED EARLY

.....

4758

Chief of Staff

300

Copy to ...

MICHAEL W. DRACHMAN
MAJOR, AGED,
ADVISOR.

SECRET

CITE NEO 353
ENC 0716FT

6
C/3114
ENC 071400A
PRIORITY

From: ALCOM SICILY REGION (CARR)
To: H. ALCOM PERSONAL FOR LUSH

CONFIDENTIAL

4
SECRET.

1. Your 171/A/COS of 2 December.
2. Drastic cut should be made immediately in ration scale.
3. Scale A workers affected.
4. Request policy your Headquarters urgent.

HEADQUARTERS
7-DEC-1946
A. S. C.

LIST

ACTION: C.O.S. 4
INFO: Chief Commissioner
File

Action copy on H-206

see 7
4757

SECRET

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

785017

Ref: 171/4/JDS.2 December 1944.

Thank you for your letter 30/204 of 27 November.

The present situation with regard to imports of food into Sicily is as follows. One food ship of 7000 tons is now being routed for Sicily. This, we understand, should get you through up to 15 January. A very strong case was made at SALCEDO's Political Meeting on 30 November for further imports as included in our total requisition for Italy amounting to 25,000 tons per month. The matter was fully discussed and I regret to say that the Deputy SALCEDO ruled that no further food should be imported into the Island and that the Italian Government should be informed of this.

The Chief Commissioner is awaiting receipt of the minutes and instructions before taking action with the Italian Government.

The Deputy SALCEDO did leave a loophole. He directed that in order to avoid starvation in the cities and towns the Italian authorities should set up soup-kitchens throughout the Island and that application for food to supply these soup-kitchens could be considered. This subject is now being examined by the Economic Section who, I understand, will probably send a representative to Sicily to discuss this matter ad hoc with you.

The Chief Commissioner and all of us realise the gravity of the situation and you may be quite certain that we shall do our utmost to help you and to seek some alternative to the very flat directions which we have at the moment. I do want you, however, to turn your mind at once to the organisation of the soup-kitchens, communal restaurants, and the like, in order that a proper alternative may be examined in order to meet the directions. I know at the same time you will impress on the High Commissioner or his representative the absolute necessity of raising in every single grain of wheat possible.

M. B. LUSH

Brigadier H. Carr, CBE, MC,
Regional Commissioner,
Allied Commission,
SICILIA REGION.

Copy to: File 400/001.
DCOS, Econ. Sec
DCOS, CA Sec

4756
M. B. LUSH
11/12

171

CONFIDENTIAL

ALLIED COMMISSION
SICILIA REGION HEADQUARTERS
APO 394

FILE:RC/201

27 Nov 1944

My dear Luck

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

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

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

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

The trend of prices for essential foodstuffs is still upwards.

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

The immediate effect was that there was a considerable and very satisfactory fall in the price of fresh fish for a few days but it is understood that the price has now swung upwards again. This is probably due to the Black Market

over 1/12

4855

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

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

see 394

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

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

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

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

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

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

I have sent copies of this letter to Brigadier Rush
Mr. Antolini
Brigadier Upjohn

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Mr. Antolini
Brigadier Upjohn

Yours sincerely
McLan

M. CARR
Brigadier
Regional Commissioner

0 4 1 7