

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

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DO SITREPS, ABRUZZI - MARCHE REGION
OCT. 1944

DCOS Econ Sec. - go as
DCOS CAS. gain.

An interesting letter from Sir Brenda concerning
the idea of de-control for pulses, potatoes etc & pressing
for reorganization of CARR. Will you bring this up at
next COS meeting?
MS/19/12

To C.O.S

This was fully discussed at this meeting
briefly. Mr. Antolini outlined his plans for decontrol
of all except 3 or 4 essential commodities except with
a programme of Governmental buying in the open market.

Mr. Biny brought briefly outlined the steps taken to
reorganise the CARR & pointed out that they were
well paid. X

It would have helped if someone had drafted
anfly. dictated MS/21/2 4793
S. grates MS/21/2

Do not reply to issue. MS/23/2 (- See page 7)

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HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
CAF

Office of the Chief of Staff

17/7/54

23rd October 1944

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Thank you for your letter DC/1 of the 17th October 44.
There is something in what you have written and there are serious
pros and cons in all this matter of decentral. The D.C.C.C.
Economic Section has in draft his plans for decentral and I should like
you to await reception of this before you or I commit ourselves further.
In the meantime your letter has of course been laid before the Economic
Section.

(Sgd) M. S. LUSH

Lieut. Colonel C.H.A. French, M.C.
Regional Commissioner,
Abruzzo-Marche Region.

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MSW
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Headquarters,
Abruzzi - Marche Region,
Allied Control Commission.

DG/1.

17th October 1944.

18 OCT Recd

My dear

Briganti

1. You will remember asking me during a discussion at the last Siena conference if I wanted de-control, to which I answered, the question was "rather a quick one".
2. The ensuing discussion disclosed to my mind a good deal of loose, amateurish and dangerous thinking. I am sure, therefore, you won't mind me putting my views before you.
3. The Poletti Party say they require de-control because control has failed. The opposing argument is that AMG must do its best for the poor and without some control this is impossible.
4. I will try to deal with these views through the potato position, as this was one of the main complaints made by Colonel Poletti.
5. The present price to the farmer is six lire per kilo for eating and 7.20 lire for seed potatoes (all potatoes will now be seed potatoes, obviously.)
6. The price of six lire is at least 200% over the cost of production and gives the farmer a very fine profit. Despite this, he refuses to mass because black market merchants will pay up to 20 lire per kilo.

If we loosen our control, prices would obviously sky-rocket, and all potatoes would go for eating. Few would be left for seed, with the result that there would be a very small potato crop for next year. Alternatively, if the farmer bought seed potatoes at the black market figure, next year's crop would be even dearer than this year's.

7. Such prices, if allowed under de-control, would put potatoes quite out of the reach of the farmer by whose labour the potato is produced, and the consequence (quite justifiably) would be serious rioting. In order to enable the poorer man to buy potatoes at all, the price of his labour would have to go up, with the usual results of inflation.

8. The proper answer is the entire reconstruction of the CO.ER.

We all know this, and I for one have never ceased to speak my mind on the matter, but for some reason we do not put our ideas on this most vital question for the future of Italy strongly enough to the Italian Government, to get them to take any action.

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see file 07

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9. No nation which lacks a police force capable of enforcing the laws of the country can out out graft, and I am convinced that the proper action for us to take to safeguard the food of the people and to see it is properly distributed, is through the reform of the CC.RR. They should be much better paid, better officered, and the whole force from top to bottom put on an entirely new basis.

10. To de-control during such times as these is too wicked in my mind to contemplate, and it is quite certainly asking for rioting etc. by the poorer classes, because their wages will not enable them to buy food at the enhanced prices, which would be the result of de-control.

Yours

*Sincerely,
Charles Lush*

Brigadier M.S. LUSH, CBE, MC,
Chief of Staff,
ACC.

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