

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

ACC

10000/109/82

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

785017

10000/109/82

DO REPORTS, LOMBARDIA
JAN. - JUNE 1946

23

Chief Commissioner

Approval
Attached is submitted for your signature
information

22

We have had no information (a) of closure of 2 Detroit
in Milan (6) of the 3 Detroit Plans.

EL
ML

WUD

MS (2/5)

26

E.C.

See the from Big. Dunlop to 25.

27

2 3/4

Please let me reply Mr. C. H.

28

Ed. has seen Big. Dunlop for 2 3/4

29

Send him the address

Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y.

6865

Utah
Yucca House

MS (2/6)

7/2/2

New York

Clifford & paras marked on page 2 to Br Embassy

(Comm. Counsellor) See below.

I will read the letter to the Ex Comm meeting

178/12/12

5.

~~CONF~~ P.A.

Para 2 to Civil Affairs

See below

See below 7

both

Para 3 - 5 to Econ Sec & Br Embassy

~~See below~~

Para 5 - 10 to Comm Counsellor Br Embassy under

Comm letter.

178/12/12

178/12/12

Ex. Com

See. Please see

below

for info

178/12/12

1884

178/12/12

*

5

PA

Para 2 to Civil Affairs See folio 6
Para 3 - 5 to Econ Sec & ^{box} ~~Embassy~~ See folio 7
Paras 8-10 to Comm Counella Br Embassy ~~See folio 8~~ under

Covering letter.

-778/12/2

12.12

Ex. Com.

See. Please see folios ~~12-13~~ of info 12/2 4884

778/12/2

12-

PRO form - 6.1 for Ex. Com. meeting

12/12/12

EC

18

Mark you from 20/4

30

Ref: 177/XO/EO.

8 June 1946.

Many thanks for your letter Lomb/Clo/ of
5th June 1946.

The address of Tom Bergin is:

Cornell University,
Ithaca,
NEW YORK.

M. S. LUSH

Brigadier H. K. Dunlop, OBE, MC, TD,
Allied Commission,
Chief Liaison Officer,
LOMBARDIA.

30.

4563

la. 1/2
9

177 51
26
HEADQUARTERS
LOMBARDIA REGION LIAISON GROUP
ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 794

Office of the Chief Liaison Officer

Lomb/Cle/

5 June 1946

JUN 6 1946

To: Brigadier Maurice Lush, C.B., C.B.E., M.C.,
Executive Commissioner
Allied Commission
Rome

My dear Maurice

Just a note to tell you how delighted I was to see, in the latest Bulletin, that Colonel E.O. Howell had the O.B.E., and Tessauro the M.B.E. These are well deserved awards, for two very good, hard working, and loyal friends. I have written to both. I should like to write to Tom Bergin if your people would be good enough to let me have his address.

Yours ever
[Signature]

John K. Dunlop
Brig. General
Chief Liaison Officer

Lamb/Clo/

5 June 1946

JUN 6 1946

To: Brigadier Maurice Lush, C.B., C.B.E., M.C.,
Executive Commissioner
Allied Commission
Rome

My dear Maurice

Just a note to tell you how delighted I was to see, in the latest Bulletin, that Colonel R.O. Howell had the O.B.E., and Tesaro the M.B.E. These are well deserved awards, for two very good, hard working, and loyal friends. I have written to both. I should like to write to Tom Bergin if your people would be good enough to let me have his address.

Yours ever

John K. Dunlop
Brig. General
Chief Liaison Officer

*See by 17.29
4.30*

4862

AF
(EC)

HEADQUARTERS
LOMBARDIA REGION LIAISON GROUP
ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394

Office of the Chief Liaison Officer

Ref. Lomb/Clo/5

2 May 1946

MAY 6 1946

My dear Francis.

1. The first of May passed very peaceably in Milan. About last week-end posters signed by the Camera del Lavoro appeared in the streets giving particulars of the arrangements for Labour Day. This envisaged a very thorough stoppage of all public services, including the trams and the closing of Restaurants, Cafes, Theatres etc.

2. About Monday of this week small and not very conspicuous posters appeared on the streets calling: All to the Piazza del Duomo at 10 o'clock on May the 1st. Infact less than 1% of Milan's 1.250.000 population obeyed this summons. In spite of perfect weather the demonstration in the Piazza del Duomo was a very mild affair. As seen from the Cathedral steps the Piazza was far less filled than on the occasion of the Partigiani parade on the morning of 25th April last and, infact, less well filled than at the normal "ora della passeggiata" at noon on Sunday. About one quarter of the Piazza was fairly well filled though not closely packed. In the remainder of the Square a mildly interested public was strolling about or listening to the loud speakers.

3. I estimated the audience to be from 6.000 to 8.000 strong. I counted a hundred banners ranged in front of the rostrum. Among them were eleven standards of the Christian Democratic Party white with the shield and the cross in red outlined in the centre of the flag when were not in them.

61

Office of the Chief Liaison Officer

Ref. Lomb/Clo/5

2 May 1946

My dear Francis

MAY 6 1946

1. The first of May passed very peaceably in Milan. About last week-end posters signed by the Camera del Lavoro appeared in the streets giving particulars of the arrangements for Labour Day. This envisaged a very thorough stoppage of all public services, including the trams and the closing of Restaurants, Cafes, Theatres etc.

2. About Monday of this week small and not very conspicuous posters appeared on the streets calling: All to the Piazza del Duomo at 10 o'clock on May the 1st. In fact less than 1% of Milan's 1,250,000 population obeyed this summons. In spite of perfect weather the demonstration in the Piazza del Duomo was a very mild affair. As seen from the Cathedral steps the Piazza was far less filled than on the occasion of the Partigiani parade on the morning of 25th April last and, in fact, less well filled than at the normal "ora della passeggiata" at noon on Sunday. About one quarter of the Piazza was fairly well filled though not closely packed. In the remainder of the Square a mildly interested public was strolling about or listening to the loud speakers.

3. I estimated the audience to be from 6,000 to 8,000 strong. I counted a hundred banners ranged in front of the rostrum. Among them were eleven standards of the Christian Democratic Party white with the shield and the cross in red outlined in the centre of the flag. They were not in themselves very large flags and irresistibly they reminded me of a group of respectable young ladies vaguely wondering what they were doing in such company. In the mass of red flags Communists outnumbered Socialists by about three to two.

4. The proceedings started 15 minutes late and commenced with the playing of appropriate Labour Day tunes and the

See May 27-28

*3/18
11/11*

2) 24

raising and lowering of the banners. The speeches up to the time I left were long expected lines. There was a fair amount of strong anti-monarchical expressions. The audience was good tempered but silent. There was little applause or cheering. A youngster climbed to the top of the cocked hat of the large equestrian statue of Vittorio Emanuele the 2nd. to wave a Communist flag. This quite athletic feat aroused mild interest but nothing more. I saw very few people give the Communist salute. Altogether a placid and orderly morning.

5. A stroll through Milan between 5 and 6 o'clock found the streets filled with people strolling around with little to do. The only cafes open were a few small ones, presumably run by the proprietor and his family. Some of the cinemas were opened but not all. The few public parks in Milan were filled with people strolling and sitting around. In short one would say that Labour Day for the average Milanese was placid to the extent of boredom.

6. One would say that the Camera del Lavoro has overcome the stoppage of work, particularly in respect of the stoppage of tram service, and has not made it so popular with the average Milanese.

7. May the 1st has closely followed April 25th and it will in turn be followed by May the 8th. One may reasonably hope that by the time June the 2nd arrives the population will be thoroughly weary of holiday processions and speeches.

Yours are
[Signature]

BRIG. MAURICE LUSH
C.B.E., M.C., T.D.
Executive Commissioner
Allied Commission Hq.
ROME

4560

raising and lowering of the banners. The speeches up to the time I left were long expected lines. There was a fair amount of strong anti monarchical expressions. The audience was good tempered but silent. There was little applause or cheering. A youngster climbed to the top of the cocked hat of the large equestrian statue of Vittorio Emanuele the 2nd. He waved a Communist flag. This quite athletic feat aroused mild interest but nothing more. I saw very few people give the Communist salute. Altogether a placid and orderly morning.

5. A stroll through Milan between 5 and 6 oclock found the streets filled with people strolling around with little to do. The only cafes open were a few small ones, presumably run by the proprietor and his family. Some of the cinemas were opened but not all. The few public parks in Milan were filled with people strolling and sitting around. In short one would say that Labour Day for the average Milanese was plaid to the extent of boredom.

6. One would say that the Camera del Lavoro has overdone the stoppage of work, particularly in respect of the stoppage of tram service, and has not made it so popular with the average Milanese.

7. May the 1st has closely followed April 25th and it will in turn be followed by May the 8th. One may reasonably hope that by the time June the 2nd arrives the population will be thoroughly weary of holiday processions and speeches.

Brig. MAURICE LUSH
C.B.E., M.C., T.D.
Executive Commissioner
Allied Commission Hq.
ROME

Yours are
[Signature]

660

HEADQUARTERS
LOMBARDIA REGION LIAISON GROUP
ALLIED COMMISSION
400 594

Office of the Chief Liaison Officer.

1000/01/13

30 April, 1946.

MAY 2 1946

My dear Hamie.

21

This letter is in reply to the 2nd paragraph of your 177/32 of the 27th April. It is possible that what I am now going to tell you is information which you have already. However, I will take the risk.

No. 2 District finally closes two rows, although I believe that General Lydena has suggested that he should remain on the spot until later in the week in order to cover the period of "Miorista del lavoro".

No. 3 District has worked out a most comprehensive plan for the rationalization of British organizations in Italy. The basis of this plan was that all British installations and commands should be concentrated along the single axis Bari, Naples, Rome, Poligno, Fabriano, Jesi, Rimini, Padova, Mestre and thence Milan-Austria or Milan-Frieste. This plan would have involved the rapid reduction of British headquarters in Turin, Milan and Bologna and by the summer of this year, there would have been, in general terms, no British troops away from the axis route. You will see that the proposed move of 17th to Milan cuts right across the No. 3 District basic plan.

Looking at the situation from the Milanese point of view, it looks as if we should be faced with the fact that the removal of District and closing of MEDLOC (I believe that the last MEDLOC train leaves on May 5th) will set free a great deal of accommodations which could be returned to civil use were it not for the threat of the arrival of AFK. I believe that a long continued retention of empty premises would be exceedingly vulnerable to public comment. I want to an Italian review the other day, at which almost the entire weight of comment at the expense of the Allies was concerned with this one question of requisitioning. I am lining with Brig. Matthews and

4859

at least one of the main points on Saturday next when I expect to get further news.

1000/000/13

30 April, 1946.

MAY 2 1946

My dear Samia.

21

This letter is in reply to the 2nd paragraph of your 177/23 of the 27th April. It is possible that I am now going to tell you is information which you have already. However, I will take the risk.

No. 2 District finally closes tomorrow, although I believe that General Eyden has suggested that it should remain on the spot until later in the week in order to cover the period of "Operata del Lavoro".

No. 3 District has worked out a most comprehensive plan for the rationalization of British organizations in Italy. The basis of this plan was that all British installations and compounds should be concentrated along the single axis Bari, Naples, Rome, Poligno, Fabriano, Jesi, Rimini, Padova, Mestre and thence Uliveto, Austria or Uliveto-Friente. This plan would have involved the rapid reduction of British headquarters in Turin, Milan and Bologna and by the summer of this year, there would have been, in general terms, no British troops away from the axis route. You will see that the proposed move of AFHQ to Milan cuts right across the No. 3 District basic plan.

Looking at the situation from the Milan point of view, it looks as if we should be faced with the fact that the removal of District and closing of AFHQ (I believe that the last AFHQ train leaves on May 5th) will set free a great deal of accommodation which could be returned to civil use were it not for the threat of the arrival of AFHQ. I believe that a long continued retention of empty premises would be exceedingly vulnerable to public comment. I want to an Italian review the other day, at which almost the entire weight of comment at the expense of the Allies was concerned with this one question of requisitioning. I am dining with Brig. Matthews and Major General Flowers on Saturday next when I expect to get further news.

559

11/1/50
see N23

Yours ever

Brig. Maurice Lush, C.B.E., M.C., T.D.,
Executive Commissioner,
Allied Commission HQ,
Rome.

(23)

21

lf m/ee

27 April 1946.

20

Thank you for your letter of 23rd April. The outbreak at Milan prison seems to have been a serious matter and judging from the telegram from No.2 District today, it does not seem to be so well in hand as the press have reported. I am glad your Public Safety officers have been handling it tactfully.

It seems odd that we should not have been told definitely about the closing of No.2 District but I agree with you that the odds are that the District will go and that Area will remain. As regards the move, they are still awaiting a ruling from the War Office on the elimination or retention of GIC which, of course, was the fons et origo of the whole move. I appreciate, however, the trouble there may be about the requisitioning.

Sir Quintin Hill who has been appointed Economic Advisor to the British Embassy has been here recently and is after Hancock for his staff. He will be seeing him in London but I doubt whether the transfer will take place before Hancock comes back from LIAP. Should, however, he be required to take up his duties at the Embassy while still on our strength, would you be prepared to carry on at Milan. In the meantime I do not know what our G-1(B) would say about this but I should like your personal feelings before I take it up officially.

M. S. DUSH

Brigadier J.K. Dunlop, CBE, MC, TD,
AC Chief Liaison Officer,
LOMBARDIA.

4558

REL/JO.

29/4

PA 29/4

My dear Indonesia.

Mila
20 April 1946

I have been in town all day, returning after the closing of the office. Here this is letter which I shall send down by hand by tomorrow's air courier. On my instructions our Public Safety people telephoned this morning to the P.S. Sub Commission a report on the latest fact in surrenders. Knowing that it would be reported in the New papers I thought that you would wish to have a direct account. Major Jackson and Captain Foster and Hedges have been out there during this period of some crisis. They have kept me constantly informed of the situation, they have maintained excellent contact with Area District and they have not, in the slightest degree interfered with the Italian running of the business. As I write they are not getting the situation. The latest news was that the Italian Military Command was taking over the situation at 1800 hours today and that stronger measures would be used. I have exercised considerable responsibility and have gone nowhere near the press, guessing that such would come as will you wish. On another subject, I gather that G.O.C. 2 District has heard that we have here of A.F.W.C. is likely to be at least to

months. What the effect of this has will
be one the direct take of the closing down of
2 District and Area I do not know, but will
find out as soon as possible. I have the
opinion that District will probably close as
planned on May 1st but that Area will remain
in being until a definite decision is taken on
the new A.F.H.Q. As a result, we may
occupy a difficult position when accommodation,
set off by the closing down of District H.Q. and
the Italian Red Cross units, is not related to
Italian use because it may be required for A.F.H.Q.

I think you know by theory that the best
place to find out what a people are thinking is
at their music halls, or similar places of entertain-
ment. Last Saturday I went to the first night
of a new revue at the Alhambra Theatre here. What
all the 'cracks' at Allied expense were based
on requisitioning, buses, hotels etc. I shall
dictate an official letter covering these
various points so that it may go in your
official files. I have, this evening, your
letter of the 18th Sept which has by way of
deserving attention.

Yours ever
Bazilio Brown
C.O. 1st Bn.

John Brown

177 16
HEADQUARTERS
LOMBARDIA REGION LIAISON GROUP
ALLIED COMMISSION
ALO 394

Office of the Chief Liaison Officer

LOMB/CLO/13

15 April 1946.

APR 15 1946

SUBJECT: LOMBARDIA REGION

TO : Acting Chief Commissioner, Allied Commission, A.P.O. 394

Palm Sunday in Milan saw fine weather, crowded services in the Duomo and other churches, and a notable absence of any form of political meeting.

The reports of the conference of the Socialist Party at Florence were followed in Milan with special interest because it was felt that the definite stand taken by Saragat on the subject of an independent appeal to the electorate, represented a triumph for the Milan point of view. As you will have heard, the Socialist Party, in the Milan Administrative Elections, refused the Communist alliance and went before the electorate with an independent programme of their own. The result was a very definite Socialist victory, that party securing 225,000 votes against 167,000 for the Christian Democrats and 155,000 for the Communists.

The mass of political posters which have covered almost every wall in Milan is slowly disappearing, at least on the larger buildings, under the efforts of men with brushes and pails of water.

There is one interesting feature in connection with these posters which may not have been brought to your attention. A coalition of right wing parties, including the liberals, formed a local group which styled itself "La Madonnina". The symbol was a statue of the Madonna, standing before the Italian flag. It was a matter of general comment that the statue exactly covered the place where the arms of Savoy might or might not have been on the flag. It is interesting to see that in Milan at least even the right wing is not prepared to take a stand on the monarchical question.

A point of view which I found prevalent here even among those who might be expected to be monarchists by so timent is as follows:

Office of the Chief Liaison Officer

LAH/CLG/13

15 April 1946.

APR 15 1946

SUBJECT: LOMBARDIA REGION

TO : Acting Chief Commissioner, Allied Commission, A.E.O. 394

Palm Sunday in Milan saw fine weather, crowded services in the Duomo and other churches, and a notable absence of any form of political meeting.

The reports of the conference of the Socialist Party at Florence were followed in Milan with special interest because it was felt that the definite stand taken by Saragat on the subject of an independent appeal to the electorate, represented a triumph for the Milan point of view. As you will have heard, the Socialist Party, in the Milan Administrative Elections, refused the Communist alliance and went before the electorate with an independent programme of their own. The result was a very definite Socialist victory, that party securing 225,000 votes against 167,000 for the Christian Democrats and 155,000 for the Communists.

The mass of political posters which have covered almost every wall in Milan is slowly disappearing, at least on the larger buildings, under the efforts of men with brushes and pails of water.

There is one interesting feature in connection with these posters which may not have been brought to your attention. A coalition of right wing parties, including the Liberals, formed a local group which styled itself "La Madonna". The symbol was a statue of the Madonna, standing before the Italian flag. It was a matter of general comment that the statue exactly covered the place where the arms of Savoy might or might not have been on the flag. It is interesting to see that in Milan at least even the right wing is not prepared to take a stand on the monarchical question.

A point of view which I found prevalent here even among those who might be expected to be monarchists by sentiment is as follows:

A victory for the Monarchy at the referendum could, at best, be only by a very narrow margin and would leave the Country in a dangerous divided condition. It is therefore probably better for the center and right center parties to support the idea of a Republic in order to secure that such a Republic shall be stable and orderly and not at the mercy of extremist elements.

Copy to: CHA Section
See 4.17.18

PA 155

(EC)

- 2 -

The harvest prospects are excellent. I have visited today the Prefecture of Bergamo and Brescia. At neither places did I find any extreme alarm over the food situation, and this point of view is confirmed by Lt. Col. Horn. Within three months these Provinces should be able to eat this year's grain. I believe that, with the hidden reserves which exist and the fruit and vegetable coming on the market, Lombardia could get on to the next harvest without undue hardship except in the case of the poorer elements in the large cities who cannot afford to buy on the black market.

A more worrying problem is that of unemployment in the factories, especially in the large group of factories around Bergamo, previously devoted to the armament industry. I shall be visiting these next week and will let you have a further report.



John K. Dunlop
Brigadier
Chief Liaison Officer

4854

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

785017

PERSONAL & SECRET.

Ref: 177/EG.

27 March 1946.

A line to thank you for your hospitality in Milan. I have made notes of the main points that arose at your meeting and will take up the queries which you raised personally. I understand that both Mr. Rembrandt and Mr. White, being PEA employees, have to leave the country by 31st March, so their particular question may solve itself in ambulando.

We had a good run to Bolzano and found the airplane waiting for us at Bergamo on the Saturday afternoon, whence we made Rome in 1 hour 20 minutes - but what an uncomfortable 80 minutes. Those Baltimores swing and sway. However, I must say that the other 4 passengers, none of whom were male, bore the journey with great complacency.

I am now coping with this new directive from the Combined Chiefs of Staff which emasculates the Allied Commission to such an extent as to make it almost unworkable. It plays with Liaison Groups and leaves it to the discretion of AFHQ as to whether they should remain. We are discussing the matter with G-5 tomorrow and I hope very much that the Admiral may get to Washington to try and make them produce something more reconcilable with reality. In the meantime carry on and know that we will keep you informed of developments.

I shall send McLeary to take your place while you go on LIAP next week, unless you have any other suggestion to make.

(Signed) A. S. Hancock

Colonel A.S. Hancock, CBE,
Allied Commission
Chief Liaison Officer,
LOMBARDIA.

4553

MIL/JG.

PA 213

SECRET & PERSONAL.

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

AFG 524

Office of the Executive Commissioner

17 February 1946.

I have to thank most of you for some interesting letters in reply to my DG letter of 31st January. I hope that those of you that have written will repeat the performance regularly and those who have not will reply to this letter.

Since I wrote we have received approval (subject to War Office concurrence) on the new British War Establishment which has been divided into four parts, i.e., HQ, Liaison Groups, UDINE AMG and VENEZIA GIULIA AMG. The figures in British officers work out as follows:

HQ.....	69
Liaison Groups.....	43
UDINE AMG.....	17
VENEZIA GIULIA AMG.....	63

This, of course, is all subject to any drastic changes that may be made at governmental level and on this subject we are still awaiting reply to a telegram which was despatched to the Combined Chiefs of Staff before Christmas. It is difficult to say what the reply will be but I do not think you need worry about security of tenure for several months.

I am very concerned about the food situation. The truth is that we are living from hand to mouth on wheat and flour and that reserve stocks are down to about a week's supply for the country. This, mind you, on a ration of 200 grams with 500 grams of pasta monthly. For your own information, and not for publication, HQ, UDINE in Washington are extremely gloomy about the March loadings for which they have not even obtained any assurances whatever, and in future arrivals after that. I hope there won't have to be a further cut in the ration but I very much doubt if UDINE will be able to provide pasta at all after 1st March. They describe the March situation as catastrophic.

I want you all to realize that on the British side transport is extremely short. Our WE figures have been cut drastically and we shall get no new vehicles. In fact I doubt if we shall get any

4852

been divided into four parts, i.e., HQ, Liaison Groups, UDINE AMG and VEREZIA GIULLA AMG. The figures in British officers work out as follows:

HQs.....	69
Liaison Groups.....	43
UDINE AMG.....	17
VEREZIA GIULLA AMG.....	63

This, of course, is all subject to any drastic changes that may be made at governmental level and on this subject we are still awaiting reply to a telegram which was despatched to the Combined Chiefs of Staff before Christmas. It is difficult to say what the reply will be but I do not think you need worry about security of tenure for several months.

I am very concerned about the food situation. The truth is that we are living from hand to mouth on wheat and flour and that reserve stocks are down to about a week's supply for the country. This, mind you, on a ration of 200 grams with 500 grams of pasta monthly. For your own information, and not for publication, HQ, USMRA in Washington are extremely gloomy about the March loadings for which they have not even obtained any assurance whatever, and in future arrivals after that. I hope there won't have to be a further cut in the ration but I very much doubt if USMRA will be able to provide pasta at all after 1st March. They describe the March situation as catastrophic.

I want you all to realize that on the British side transport is extremely short. Our WR figures have been cut drastically and we shall get no new vehicles. In fact I doubt if we shall get any replacements at all. So it does behave you, firstly to accept the allocation which I have just approved and which will be coming to you shortly; secondly, to ensure that British cars, and for that matter American cars, are maintained in the best possible manner.

Admiral Stone who has been in London all this week returns today. Colonel Monfort is also visiting Rome, I believe, in connection with the Cardinals. We shall all be glad to see him.

(Sgd) M. S. Lush

To: Ann ACES

4552

Pa 14

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

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
ECONOMIC SECTION

HC/nd

16 February 1946

Tel: 550
Ref: ES/3.11
Ref: HC/

SUBJECT: Extract from DC Report

TO : Dr. E. W. Lambert

1. The second and third paragraphs of the attached report of the A. C. Chief Liaison Officer in Lombardy is both interesting and discouraging.

2. It indicates that we badly need an allocation system which discriminates between "lame ducks" that are doomed to disappear and manufacturers of luxury goods on the one hand, and manufacturers engaged in essential production on the other.

3. You might use this as a text in convincing anybody that needs to be convinced that our system for following through the use of industrial materials is long overdue.

Harlan Cleveland

HARLAN CLEVELAND
Acting Vice President

Incl: 1
Per para. 1
Ltr. 16/2-46
Ref: 177/7/EC

cc: Executive Commissioner
Col. C. W. Walton
Fuel Division
Mr. S. M. Keeny, USRA

See p. 12

PA 551
24
5

(183 #)

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

1779
COPY

Ref: 177/7/EC

14 February 1946

SUBJECT: Extract from DO Report.

TO : US Embassy
BR Embassy
Economic Section.

I am directed by the Acting Chief Commissioner to forward for your information the following extract from a DO report he has received from the Allied Commission Chief Liaison Officer LOBHARDIA :-

"The food situation is probably better in Lombardy generally than in some Regions. It can be said with safety that there is no shortage in 1200 rural communes and in the remaining 193, only towns of 20,000 population and upwards maybe feeling the pinch in certain commodities. By tradition, the people of this area have an infinite capacity to fend for themselves, so aptly described in the vernacular as "arrangiarai" and, even though poor, they do not starve. The removal of the pasta ration in the larger towns is, nevertheless, a hardship and the recommendations of the Food SCLO in this connection are worthy of support.

With the exception of the cotton industry which, by some fortuitous combination of circumstances, is particularly favoured just now, other industries, and commerce, are in the doldrums. They have been putting on a bold face for some time, probably out of reluctance to face the hard economic facts. Now the show down is fast approaching and the alarm signals are most persistent. A number of firms are being forced to close down for want of ready cash, after having exploited all the usual channels for credit. In my view this process is bound to continue, for so many industries were kept alive either by autarchy, prestige, or dreams of Empire. This will swell the flood of unemployment which is already rising as a potential threat to social order.

Neither the government nor any other body seems capable or inclined to frame an industrial programme to utilize, on a strictly economical and priority basis, the present and future imports of raw materials. So far, the lame ducks that are doomed to disappear and manufacturers of luxury goods have received a proportionate share of coal and maybe other precious raw materials, which could be used to better purpose. In our ultimate interests, the best aid we can afford this country is to assist people to help themselves whenever and wherever they fall short or fail. In my view the few precious imported raw materials should be concentrated on only sound industries

6

which can produce the country's prime needs. Having established that programme, a study as to the best utilization or eventual elimination of remaining industries would provide a more solid foundation for the future".

JG.

J/Ward,
PA to Acting Chief Commissioner.

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

PERSONAL AND
CONFIDENTIAL

(8)

Ref: 177/EC.

11 February 1946.

Thank you for your most useful letter of 9th February. I have sent extracts to the various authorities and particularly have called the attention of the British Embassy to the second page. That is a matter which I think for the sake of British interests we must prosecute.

I am very glad to hear that the preparations for the elections are going ahead very well. We have put in for an extra 10,000 CC.RR. but I rather doubt whether we shall get the approval therefor in time.

M. S. LUSH

Colonel A.M. Hancock, CBE,
Allied Commission
Chief Liaison Officer,
LOMBARDIA.

MSL/JG.

9549

055
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017

(7)

Ref: 177/7/EC.

16 February 1946.

SUBJECT: Extract from DG Report.

TO : US Embassy.
BR Embassy.
Economic Section.

I am directed by the Acting Chief Commissioner to forward for your information the following extract from a DG report he has received from the Allied Commission Chief Liaison Officer RASHBARDIA:-

"The food situation is probably better in Lombardy generally than in some Regions. It can be said with safety that there is no shortage in 1200 rural communes and in the remaining 193, only towns of 20,000 population and upwards may be feeling the pinch in certain commodities. By tradition, the people of this area have an infinite capacity to fend for themselves, so aptly described in the vernacular as "arrangiarsi" and, even though poor, they do not starve. The removal of the pasta ration in the larger towns is, nevertheless, a hardship and the recommendations of the Food BCO in this connection are worthy of support.

With the exception of the cotton industry which, by some fortuitous combination of circumstances, is particularly favoured just now, other industries, and commerce, are in the doldrums. They have been putting on a bold face for some time, probably out of reluctance to face the hard economic facts. Now the show down is fast approaching and the alarm signals are most persistent. A number of firms are being forced to close down for want of ready cash, after having exploited all the usual channels for credit. In my view this process is bound to continue, for so many industries were kept alive either by autarchy, prestige, or dreams of empire. This will swell the flood of unemployment which is already rising as a potential threat to social order.

Neither the government nor any other body seems capable or inclined to frame an industrial programme to utilize, on a strictly economical and priority basis, the present and future imports of raw materials. So far, the lace makers that are doomed to disappear and manufacturers of luxury goods have received a proportionate share of coal and maybe other precious raw materials, which could be used to better purpose. In our ultimate interests, the best aid we can afford this country is to assist its people to help themselves whenever and wherever they fall short or fail. In my view the few precious imported raw materials should be concentrated on only sound industries

6

Ref: 177/6/20.

14 February 1946.

SUBJECT: Elections.

TO : CA Section.

I am directed by the Acting Chief Commissioner to forward for your information the following extract from a DO report he has received from the AG CLO LOMBARDIA:

"There is at long last a spurt in administrative election activity and the required 45 days notice has been posted by most Prefects so that voting will commence in a number of the smaller communes of the Region on the second Sunday in March and continue in others on subsequent Sundays as fast as the electoral lists are completed and approved. Precautionary measures to ensure public order are to be provided, but no disturbances are anticipated. Some Prefects are apprehensive that the police are inadequate. It is reported that the Communist Party is employing electioning agents ("propagandisti") at fees ranging from Lire 30,000 to 60,000 per month according to the size and importance of the district. They are also supplied with a secret fund for which they are not required to give any account."

JL.

J. H. H. H.
J/Comm,
PA to Acting Chief
Commissioner.

4347

3
CONFIDENTIAL

Headquarters,
Lombardia Region Liaison Group,
Allied Commission,
APO 394.

8 February 1946

Dear Maurice, ①

In response to your D.O. letter of 11st January, liaison work during its first month has proceeded in a singularly calm and quiet atmosphere. Wintry conditions, accompanied by two heavy snowfalls, may have caused not only physical cold feet, for the usual political frenzies have cooled off, and the Camera del Lavoro seems to have lost its voice. Robbery, theft and gangsterism have continued, however, undaunted.

2 There is at long last a spurt in administrative election activity and the required 45 days notice has been posted by most Prefects so that voting will commence in a number of the smaller communes of the Region on the second Sunday in March and continue in others on subsequent Sundays as fast as the electoral lists are completed and approved. Precautionary measures to ensure public order are to be provided, but no disturbances are anticipated. Some Prefects are apprehensive that the police are inadequate. It is reported that the Communist Party is employing election agents ("propagandisti") at fees ranging from lire 30,000 to 60,000 per month according to the size and importance of the district. They are also supplied with a secret fund for which they are not required to give any account.

3 The food situation is probably better in Lombardy generally than in some Regions. It can be said with safety that there is no shortage in 1200 rural communes and in the remaining 193, only towns of 20,000 population and upwards may be feeling the pinch in certain commodities. By tradition, the people of this area have an infinite capacity to fend for themselves, so aptly described in the vernacular as "arrangiarsi" and, even though poor, they do not starve. The removal of the pasta ration in the larger towns is, nevertheless, a hardship and the recommendations of the Food Office in this connection are worthy of support.

4 With the exception of the cotton industry which, by some fortuitous combination of circumstances, is particularly favoured just now, other industries, and commerce, are in the doldrums. They have been putting on a bold face for some time, probably out of reluctance to face the hard economic facts. Now the show down is fast approaching and the alarm signals are more persistent. A number of firms are being forced to close down for want of ready cash, after having exploited all the usual channels for credit. In my view this process is bound to continue, for as many industries were kept alive either by autarky, prestige, or dreams of Empire. This will swell the flood of unemployment which is already rising as a potential threat to social order.

5 Neither the government nor any other body seems capable or inclined to frame an industrial programme to utilize, on a strictly economical and priority basis, the present and future imports of raw materials. So far, the less ducks that are doomed

9 February 1946

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

1
In response to your D.C. letter of 31st January, liaison work during its first month has proceeded in a singularly calm and quiet atmosphere. Wintry conditions, accompanied by two heavy snowfalls, may have caused not only physical cold feet, for the usual political frenzies have cooled off, and the Camera del Lavoro seems to have lost its voice. Robbery, theft and gangsterism have continued, however, undaunted.

2 There is at long last a spurt in administrative election activity and the required 45 days notice has been posted by most prefects so that voting will commence in a number of the smaller communes of the Region on the second Sunday in March and continue in others on subsequent Sundays as fast as the electoral lists are completed and approved. Precautionary measures to ensure public order are to be provided, but no disturbances are anticipated. Some prefects are apprehensive that the police are inadequate. It is reported that the Communist Party is employing electioneering agents ("propagandisti") at fees ranging from Lire 10,000 to 60,000 per month according to the size and importance of the district. They are also supplied with a secret fund for which they are not required to give any account -

3 The food situation is probably better in Lombardy generally than in some Regions. It can be said with safety that there is no shortage in 1200 rural communes and in the remaining 193, only towns of 20,000 population and upwards may be feeling the pinch in certain commodities. By tradition, the people of this area have an infinite capacity to fend for themselves, so aptly described in the vernacular as "arrangiarsi" and, even though poor, they do not starve. The removal of the pasta ration in the larger towns is, nevertheless, a hardship and the recommendations of the Food SMC in this connection are worthy of support.

4 With the exception of the cotton industry which, by some fortuitous combination of circumstances, is particularly favoured just now, other industries, and commerce, are in the doldrums. They have been putting on a bold face for some time, probably out of reluctance to face the hard economic facts. Now the snow down is fast approaching and the alarm signals are more persistent. A number of firms are being forced to close down for want of ready cash, after having exploited all the usual channels for credit. In my view this process is bound to continue, for so many industries were kept alive either by autarchy, prestige, or dread of Empire. This will swell the flood of unemployment which is already rising as a potential threat to social order.

5 Neither the government nor any other body seems capable or inclined to frame an industrial programme to utilize, on a strictly economical and priority basis, the present and future imports of raw materials. So far, the lease docks that are doomed to disappear and manufacturers of luxury goods have received a proportionate share of coal and maybe other precious raw materials, which could be used to better purpose. In our own ultimate interests, the best aid we can afford this country is to assist its people to help themselves whenever and wherever they fall short or fail. In my view the few precious imported raw materials should be concentrated on only sound industries which can produce the country's prime needs. Having established that programme, a study as to the best utilization or eventual elimination of remaining industries would provide a more solid foundation for the future.

See item 45
Index 7

2.....

- 2 -

2

Furthermore if a control or supervision of imported raw materials is to be exercised, it can only be achieved through a concentrated distribution, and not under the present system of a bit for everybody, which makes supervision a practical impossibility.

(3) The electric power situation whilst still a source of anxiety is now under better control and the technicians hope to scrape through until the early April thaw brings the much needed relief.

Relations with 2 District and 59 Area are cordial and cooperative.

Brig. M.S. LUSH CB, CBE, MC,
Executive Commissioner,
Headquarters,
Allied Commission,
APO 394.

Yours sincerely,
C. W. Hancock Col

9045

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

APO 394

Office of the Executive Commissioner

SONAL AND
CONFIDENTIAL.

31 January 1946.

To: All AGO's.

Those of you who have been Regional Commissioners know that I have always been glad to receive DO letters from you from time to time on matters of general and particular interest. The monthly report is generally too late for anything but historical interest, while on the other hand it is difficult perhaps to put down in official reports some of the things which we should like to have here at Headquarters.

I would therefore ask you to let me have a rather gossipy letter two or three times a month, particularly at the outset of your liaison work, telling me how things are working out and some of your official or personal views on the general situation.

I for my part will try to keep you unofficially informed on all matters of general interest with regard to the Commission.

I have just returned from a short visit to England but I could glean little news about the future of the Commission with the exception that both the War Office and the Foreign Office have the idea that a split between the functions of the Allied Commission and the Chief Civil Affairs Officer at this time was desirable. I tried to point out to them that such a split would involve redundancy in work and extravagance in officers. We still have no news from the Combined Chiefs of Staff on the general lay-out. At Headquarters, the turnover in the Economic Section from the Allied Commission to UNRRA and the Embassy is progressing smoothly. I am not quite so happy about the turnover of Displaced Persons for in this respect UNRRA does not seem to be ready to run the camps or to tackle the hundred-and-one problems of Displaced Persons. In these turnovers, we are, of course, losing a number of officers to UNRRA.

We are all very concerned about the food situation for it looks as if we shall be nearly 100,000 tons a month short from the February arrivals. I do not think we can lay it at anybody's door for it is due to the general world shortage but the fact remains that Italy is now the worst fed country in Europe (on paper at any rate). I should be interested to learn from you whether the removal of the pasta ration has had any serious local effect because my own impression

6844

I would therefore ask you to let me have a rather gossipy letter two or three times a month, particularly at the outset of your liaison work, telling me how things are working out and some of your official or personal views on the general situation.

I for my part will try to keep you unofficially informed on all matters of general interest with regard to the Commission.

I have just returned from a short visit to England but I could glean little news about the future of the Commission with the exception that both the War Office and the Foreign Office have the idea that a split between the functions of the Allied Commission and the Chief Civil Affairs Officer at this time was desirable. I tried to point out to them that such a split would involve redundancy in work and extravagance in officers. We still have no news from the Combined Chiefs of Staff on the general lay-out. At Headquarters, the turnover in the Economic Section from the Allied Commission to UNRRA and the Embassy is progressing smoothly. I am not quite so happy about the turnover of Displaced Persons for in this respect UNRRA does not seem to be ready to run the camps or to tackle the hundred-and-one problems of Displaced Persons. In these turnovers, we are, of course, losing a number of officers to UNRRA.

We are all very concerned about the food situation for it looks as if we shall be nearly 100,000 tons a month short from the February arrivals. I do not think we can lay it at anybody's door for it is due to the general world shortage but the fact remains that Italy is now the worst fed country in Europe (on paper at any rate). I should be interested to learn from you whether the removal of the pasta ration has had any serious local effect because my own impression is that "hidden" food reserves will see them through, even amongst the poor in the cities.

Admiral Stone hopes to go to London on February 9th, amongst other things to receive his K.B.E. We have lost Colonel Denmore this week, a real loss to the Commission in which he was a tremendous standby.

I am sending a copy of this letter to all Chief Liaison Officers.

(Sgd) A.S.IUS.

0 5 5 7