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(VOL. III)

MONTHLY
DEC. 194

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785017

10000/109/962
(VOL. III)

MONTHLY REPORT, LABOR S/COMM.
DEC. 1945 - FEB. 1946

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Ex Comm.

SSO. Files 1-3 for info.

204

14. 2811 R

Staff
28/1/46

47.

See by

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209

SSO Please see f201-203 for info.

14. 2612 Staff
25/2/46

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205: 210

E. (Cost of Food) should be included in

A.C. report in F.O. - either as an expenditure

or in the body. 178/2872

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Free 21/2

SSO. Please see f.211 for info. SR. 21/3.

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

APO 394

LABOUR SUB-COMMISSION

MAR 20 1946

Ref: LSC/606

19th March, 1946.

SUBJECT: Report of Labour Sub-Commission,
Allied Commission, Italy, for the
month of February, 1946.

TO: Economic Section.

OUTLINE.

- A. INTRODUCTION
- B. WAGES, HOURS AND WORKING CONDITIONS
- C. SOCIAL INSURANCE
- D. INDUSTRIAL UNREST
- E. COST OF FOOD
- F. MISCELLANEOUS LABOUR MATTERS.

A. INTRODUCTION.

1. Activities of Labour Sub-Commission during February have centered round preparations for anticipated closure on 1st March and on revision of the Armed Forces Wage Scale.

2. The Sub-Committee appointed by the Labour and Wages Committee on the 28th December, 1945, to consider simplification of the wage system for Allied Force employees, following a request made by the Deputy Director of Labour, G.H.Q., C.M.F., formulated wage scales in collaboration with representatives of the Italian Government and Italian Labour.

These proposals, which set out basic wage rates for five categories of daily paid workers and an appropriate variable cost of living bonus, were accepted by the Labour and Wages Committee for submission to A.F.H.Q. Similar proposals are under preparation in respect of administrative, office, clerical, hotel, mess, club and marine workers.

3. Little industrial unrest occurred during the month; only two strikes of importance were reported, one affecting electrical workers in Naples and one affecting clerks in Turin.

4. Discussions between the Italian Government and Fiat representatives on the question of Works Management Committees have resulted in the establishment of a General Consultative Council and an Arbitration Board within the Fiat concerns on which the workers will have representation.

B. WAGES, HOURS AND WORKING CONDITIONS.

1. Wage Rates of Allied Force Civilian Employees.

(1) The Sub-Committee of the Labour and Wage Committee appointed on 28th December, 1945, to explore possibilities of simplifying the system of calculating payment of wages and bonuses to

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OUTLINE

- A. INTRODUCTION
- B. WAGES, HOURS AND WORKING CONDITIONS
- C. SOCIAL INSURANCE
- D. INDUSTRIAL UNREST
- E. COST OF FOOD
- F. MISCELLANEOUS LABOUR MATTERS.

A. INTRODUCTION.

1. Activities of Labour Sub-Commission during February have centered round preparations for anticipated closure on 1st March and on revision of the Armed Forces wage Scale.
2. The Sub-Committee appointed by the Labour and Wages Committee on the 28th December, 1945, to consider simplification of the wage system for Allied Force employees, following a request made by the Deputy Director of Labour, G.H.Q., C.M.F., formulated wage scales in collaboration with representatives of the Italian Government and Italian Labour.

These proposals, which set out basic wage rates for five categories of daily paid workers and an appropriate variable cost of living bonus, were accepted by the Labour and Wages Committee for submission to A.F.H.Q. Similar proposals are under preparation in respect of administrative, office, clerical, hotel, mess, club and marine workers.

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B. WAGES, HOURS AND WORKING CONDITIONS.

1. Wage Rates of Allied Force Civilian Employees.

(1) The Sub-Committee of the Labour and Wages Committee appointed on 28th December, 1945, to explore possibilities of simplifying the system of calculating payment of wages and bonuses to civilian employees of the Armed Forces has had further meetings during the month, viz. on 15th February, when Allied representatives met in the morning and resumed in the afternoon with the attendance of the Italian representatives, and on the 19th February, when both Allied and Italian representatives were present.

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On the basis of proposals submitted by Labour Sub-Commission consideration was given to:-

- (a) Existing occupational classification of Armed Force employees with a view to consolidating the classifications into a relatively few general categories, and establishing appropriate basic rates;
- (b) Existing local variations in the cost of living bonuses paid by the Armed Forces with a view to establishing a uniform variable scale.
- (ii) The Sub-Committee found that the proposals submitted conformed to the Italian industrial agreement of 6th December, 1945, which established basic principles of wage calculation and bonus payment in respect of specified categories, and that the revised scales could be applied without any major disturbance of existing Allied Force wage levels.

They accordingly agreed to recommend:-

- (a) The division of industrial daily paid workers into five categories, viz: specialised, qualified, apprentices, semi-skilled and unskilled;
- (b) That a distinction be drawn in future as regards workers who are heads of families and those who are not heads of families. (This important distinction is an innovation in Allied Force employment but can be readily introduced because heads of families can produce suitable evidence, and the distinction as regards new engagements should in due course effect a saving in expenditure).
- (c) Acceptance of the revised basic wage rates which had been calculated having regard to the minimum basic wages established by the above-mentioned Italian industrial agreement in respect of zone 2, and relating to the mechanical, iron, building and wood-working industries, that is to say, those trades which appeared to be most closely related to the types of employment and conditions of labour of the civilian workers employed by the Allied Forces.
- (d) Acceptance of the schedule of revised cost-of-living bonus rates which had also been prepared on the basis of the Italian agreement. The schedule provided a bonus for workers not heads of families, which was identical for the various categories of workers; and a bonus for heads of families which included the equivalent amount of Family Allowance for a notional family of wife and two children, as well as an additional element superior to that received by a worker not head of family. This second element was calculated in accordance with Italian industrial practice for heads of families.

- (iii) Representatives of the Italian Government and a representative of the Italian General Confederation of Labour, after having considered the proposals for revised basic rates and cost-of-living bonus, expressed the agreement in principle of the Italian Government with the Sub-Committee's recommendations, recognising and accepting the necessity for compounding family allowances as for a notional family of wife and two children.

(ii) The Sub-Committee found that the proposals submitted conformed to the Italian industrial agreement of 6th December, 1945, which established basic principles of wage calculation and bonus payment in respect of specified categories, and that the revised scales could be applied without any major disturbance of existing Allied Force wage levels.

They accordingly agreed to recommend:-

- (a) The division of industrial daily paid workers into five categories, viz: specialised, qualified, apprentices, semi-skilled and unskilled;
- (b) That a distinction be drawn in future as regards workers who are heads of families and those who are not heads of families. (This important distinction is an innovation in Allied Force employment but can be readily introduced because heads of families can produce suitable evidence, and the distinction as regards new engagements should in due course effect a saving in expenditure).
- (c) Acceptance of the revised basic wage rates which had been calculated having regard to the minimum basic wages established by the above-mentioned Italian industrial agreement in respect of zone 2, and relating to the mechanical, iron, building and wood-working industries, that is to say, those trades which appeared to be most closely related to the types of employment and conditions of labour of the civilian workers employed by the Allied Forces.
- (d) Acceptance of the schedule of revised cost-of-living bonus rates which had also been prepared on the basis of the Italian agreement. The schedule provided a bonus for workers not heads of families, which was identical for the various categories of workers; and a bonus for heads of families which included the equivalent amount of Family Allowance for a notional family of wife and two children, as well as an additional element superior to that received by a worker not head of family. This second element was calculated in accordance with Italian industrial practice for heads of families.

(iii) Representatives of the Italian Government and a representative of the Italian General Confederation of Labour, after having considered the proposals for revised basic rates and cost-of-living bonus, expressed the agreement in principle of the Italian Government with the Sub-Committee's recommendations, recognising and accepting the necessity for compounding family allowance as for a notional family of wife and two children for heads of families, and welcoming the proposal to differentiate between such workers and those who are not heads of families. They also recognised the necessity of stipulating the minimum and maximum of the basic scale; and agreed that a variable cost-of-living bonus should be added.

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(iv) With regard to the application of the revised wage rates, the Italian Government representatives made firm proposals for a variable cost-of-living bonus for various zones. They selected three scales of cost-of-living bonus payments, recommending that scale "O" should apply to the largest centres such as Rome, Naples, Milan, Turin and Genoa, all industrial centres with the highest cost-of-living, that scale "B" apply to centres with an average cost-of-living or of a mixed industrial and agricultural nature, and scale "A" to zones predominantly agricultural or with the lowest cost-of-living.

They also agreed that the cost-of-living bonus scales should vary quarterly according to variations in the cost-of-living, that the Central Institute of Statistics should obtain the necessary data and should produce the appropriate indices for calculating variations in the bonus scale.

The Sub-Committee agreed with these proposals and recommendations of the Italian representatives.

(v) The Sub-Committee finally decided to recommend to the Labour and Wage Committee the adoption, for submission to higher authority, of the revised wage scale and cost-of-living bonus schedules, and to proceed with categorisation on similar lines of all other Allied Force employees.

2. Private Italian Industry.

(i) The Building and Printing trade workers in Rome concluded negotiations for substantial wage increases during the month.

The Building trade manual workers received a 45 per cent. increase on their basic rates and clerical workers a percentage varying from 30 per cent. to 38 per cent. Both categories received in addition a special indemnity of 50 lire a day. As a result a specialised building trade worker in Rome now received a daily rate of 461 lire and a building trade labourer 414 lire.

The Printing trade workers have been granted a new higher basic rate which brings the daily wage of a specialised worker to 397 lire and that of a labourer to 343 lire.

(ii) The Committee established to determine the cost of living figures in the North and to fix the variation in the Contingency Indemnity at three monthly intervals is now operating, and an alteration in the Contingency Indemnity as from 1.1.46 was agreed. Information is not yet available as to the effect of the change.

(iii) In the South preparations are being made for negotiations between the Italian Government, Confederation of Industrialists, C.G.I.L. and other interested bodies to arrive at a general wage agreement to cover all industries on the lines of the agreement covering the North.

C. SOCIAL INSURANCE.

No changes during the month.

D. INDUSTRIAL UNREST.

(1) Clerks and maintenance personnel of the S.M.E. Electrical concern struck during the last week in February.

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C. SOCIAL INSURANCE.

No changes during the month.

D. INDUSTRIAL UNREST.

(i) Clerks and maintenance personnel of the S.M.E. Electrical concern struck during the last week in February in the Naples area against the terms of a new negotiated wage agreement. The Naples delegate refused to sign the agreement and carried some 2,000 to 2,500 workers with him. Settlement was obtained after 6 days of negotiations, the men accepting the main clauses of the new agreement with modifications in the classification of employees and certain other conditions. Stoppage of the supply of electrical power was avoided.

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4. (ii) Strikes also occurred in Naples amongst chemical workers and bakers for pay increases. The first has been settled, but negotiations are still proceeding in the latter case.

(iii) On 21st February a strike of clerical workers occurred in Turin. The clerks requested the general application of a wage agreement reached in the Fiat works, which provided for eight grades of clerical workers, and also the application of a two yearly promotion rule. The strike threatened to extend to the whole of Lombardia and Piemonte.

(iv) Employees of the Italian Labour Offices are threatening to strike over the failure of the Government to pay them the wage increase granted by decree to State employees last October.

The decree provided that the wages of employees in Labour Offices would be considered separately.

The question is complicated by the fact that the legal position of the Labour Offices is still undefined.

3. COST OF FOOD.

The monthly food expenditure in Rome in January of a family of five persons on a standard food budget with a calorific value of 2,200 calories per consuming unit was 12,559 lire. Comparative figures for previous months were as follows:-

January 1946	14,707 lire	October 1945	12,069 lire
December 1945	13,677 "	September 1945	11,614 "
November 1945	14,198 "	August 1945	10,730 "
		July 1945	9,928 "

Figures for principal cities outside Rome for January 1946 were as follows:-

Milan	14,490 Lire
Turin	14,972 "
Alexandria	14,496 "
Genoa	14,006 "
Venezia	15,235 "
Naples	13,792 "
Florence	13,597 "
Taranto	13,687 "

F. MISCELLANEOUS LABOUR MATTERS.

1. Works Committees.

Negotiations between representatives of the Fiat Works and the Italian Government have resulted in the transformation of the Works Management Committee in the Fiat establishments into a General Consultative Committee. The Consultative Committee will meet periodically to consider such questions as improvement of workers' living conditions, labour saving and economy in the cost of production, increasing means of production and organising production programmes. An Arbitration Board has also been established, composed equally of representatives of workers and management.

2. Italian General Confederation of Labour.

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2. Italian General Confederation of Labour.

The C.G.I.L. have pressed for revision of current legislation for the payment of insurance contributions in industry. As a result of war conditions insurance contributions have been met entirely by the employer for more than a year, and recent legislation requiring compliance with the normal rule by which workers pay their share is alleged

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alleged to have caused hardship and discontent. The matter was discussed between Ministers and workers' representatives on 28th February but the result is not yet known.

3. Coal.

Output of coal from the Sardinian mines fell slightly during the beginning of the month. The total number of men engaged underground in the mines on 9.2.1946 was 5,657, an increase of over 100 on the January figure. Output for the same week was 15,845 tons of washed coal.

4. Unemployment.

At the end of January, 1946, statistics collected by the Italian Government show 1,428,101 persons registered as unemployed at local employment exchanges. This is an increase of 103,438 over the December figure.

The figures do not include unemployed who are not registered or workers surplus to requirements of industrial undertakings but retained on the pay roll.

W.H. BRAINE.

Director
Labour Sub-Commission.

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
LABOUR SUB-COMMISSION

REF. : ISC/606

15 February 1946

SUMMARY: Report of Labour Sub-Commission,
Allied Commission Italy for the
month of January 1946.

FEB 20 1946

TO : Economic Section.

OUTLINE

- A. INTRODUCTION
- B. WAGES, HOURS AND WORKING CONDITIONS
- C. SOCIAL INSURANCE
- D. INDUSTRIAL UNREST
- E. COST OF FOOD
- F. MISCELLANEOUS LABOUR MATTERS
- G. REPORTS RECEIVED FROM XIII CORPS
AND LIAISON OFFICERS.

REC'D 157-20 Feb

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6-PRB.

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1-7. Rep

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A. INTRODUCTION

1. During January 1946 Labour Sub-Commission has been concerned with the transference of Labour Offices and activities to the Italian government on the transfer of territory from AMG; and with consideration of the adjustment of the Allied Force Wage Scale. Action has been continued to review basic wage rates and to standardize the Cost of Living bonuses, at present granted by district Sub-Committees, into variable scales for application in cities, small towns, and country districts. A formula for consideration by representatives of the Italian government, Italian private industry, and the Allied Force Labour & Wage Committee, has been prepared and will be presented for consideration early in February.

2. The percentage of "reduci" which firms in Italian industry must employ in relation to their pre-war personnel

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FEB 20 1946

Report of Labour Sub-Commission,
Allied Commission Italy for the
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2. The percentage of "reduci" which firms in Italian industry must employ in relation to their total payroll has been fixed by a decree of the Council of Ministers. Pending publication of this decree the prefects have received instructions to give immediate effect to its provisions.

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3. A further decree fixing the rate of health contributions payable under the Italian Social Insurance Scheme and increasing rates of benefit for accident to agricultural workers is awaiting approval of the Council of Ministers. The decree will entitle agricultural workers to receive the same benefits as industrial workers.

4. Discussions are still in progress in Rome concerning the emigration of Italian workers to France and Belgium, and a mission to promote emigration of Italian workers to South America left Italy during the month.

B. WAGES, HOURS AND WORKING CONDITIONS.

1. Wage rates of Allied Force civilian employees.

The possibility of adjusting the Allied Force basic wage scale and cost of living bonuses to conform with the current wage structure of Italian industry, as evidenced by the recent Rome Agreement for Northern Italy, has been further examined during the month.

It has been found possible to divide all daily paid industrial workers into the five categories specified in the Italian agreement viz. specialized, qualified, apprentices, semi-skilled and unskilled and to fix revised basic rates for each of these categories which are comparable with the enhanced basic rates in private industry. A revised cost of living bonus scale based on the Italian system has also been designed by Labour Sub-Commission, which, used in conjunction with the revised basic rates, would permit the new scheme being introduced with a minimum disturbance of the existing wage levels of Allied Force employees.

The Sub-Committee of the Labour and Wages Committee, in conjunction with Italian Government representatives, and representatives of Italian Labour, are now considering these proposals.

2. Private Italian Industry

(i) Negotiations are in progress in the building industry in Rome for a 45% increase in basic pay for all building trade workers. Progress of negotiations is being followed closely by workers in other industries in Rome, and it is anticipated that the increase will be granted in the building industry and will be followed by similar requests from other industrial interests.

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(ii) The Bar, Café and Restaurant workers in Rome have negotiated an agreement which provides for increases as from 1st of January ranging from 850 lire a month to juveniles employed in "letterie" to 3,000 lire a month to adult heads of families employed in restaurants.

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(iii) In the North, implementation of the wage agreement negotiated in Rome is proceeding, and there have been no major changes in the prevailing rates of wages. There was no variation in the Contingency Indemnity as at 1.1.46 as the Committee appointed to determine the Cost of Living, had not fixed its working basis.

C. SOCIAL INSURANCE.

1. All Prefects have been instructed to give immediate application to a decree (the publication of which is pending) concerning the percentage of "riduci" firms are required to employ in relation to their total payroll. The decree provides that before 28th Feb every firm must engage "riduci" to the extent of 5% of the total number of workers employed as at 1st February. Before 20th Feb firms are required to forward a list to the Provincial Ufficio del Lavoro showing their quota and the workers nominated for engagement. The Directors of the Uffici del Lavoro will preside over a Committee formed of representatives of workers, employers, partisans, and war wounded which will deal with controversies and disputes.

2. Proposals are before the Council of Ministers to fix the health contributions under Social Insurance schemes at 5% and 3% respectively of the total salary of manual workers and clerks, instead of 5% and 3% of the basic pay as hitherto. It is also proposed that benefits for accidents to agricultural workers be increased so that agricultural workers will have the same rights as industrial workers.

D. INDUSTRIAL UNREST.

1. A token strike of state employees took place for one hour on 17th January as a protest against the decision of the Council of Ministers to grant state employees an end-of-year bonus which was less than the Christmas bonus of one month's pay granted to industrial workers. In Naples state employees announced that whilst dissatisfied with the award they would not take part in the strike action which they considered to be ineffective.

The Italian government is pursuing its proposal to furnish shoes, clothing, and other necessities, to its workers at low prices in lieu of increased salary or bonus payments, and an Inter-Ministerial Committee with representatives of the Italian General Confederation of Labour has been appointed to arrange a suitable purchasing and distributing organisation.

2. At Naples on 10th January there was a demonstration by repatriated Italian prisoners of war and workers return-

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2. At Naples on 10th January there was a demonstration by repatriated Italian prisoners of war and workers returned from labour in Germany who complained of lack of effort by the local authorities to provide employment and other necessities of life.

3. In Florence there was a demonstration early in January, in which some 15,000 persons were involved, over proposals to discontinue the ban on dismissal of surplus workers. There was some damage to property.

4. The National Union of indirect Tax Collectors organized a strike on 6th Jan in Milan and other Northern cities on wage issues, but did not obtain the support of the C.G.I.L.

5. In Rome, a strike of printers occurred during the week ended 31st January over a request for a wage increase, but printing for the Allied Forces was guaranteed during the period of the strike.

6. On 31st January workers in restaurants, cafes, and bars in Rome proclaimed a general strike for the purpose of obtaining a wage increase which was subsequently granted.

E. COST OF FOOD.

The monthly food expenditure in Rome in January of a family of five persons on a standard food budget with a caloric value of 2,200 calories per consuming unit was 14,767 lire. Of this total 1,109 lire was spent on food purchased by Food Card, and 13,658 lire on food purchased on the free market.

This figure has been calculated on a revised basis instituted by the Central Institute of Statistics. Hitherto the standard budget was fixed on a national basis, but the quantity of each item purchased was changed month by month and area by area according to the availability and distribution of rationed food, only the number of calories remaining constant. On the revised basis a standard budget has been fixed for each of the four main geographical divisions of Italy, North, Centre, South and the Islands, and the quantity of each item purchased will remain constant.

The January figure cannot in consequence be compared with figures quoted in previous reports, but for comparative purposes the cost of food for previous months in Rome calculated on the new basis is as follows: -

DECEMBER	1945	13,677 lire	SEPTEMBER	1945	11,614 lire
NOVEMBER	1945	14,198 "	AUGUST	1945	10,730 "
OCTOBER	1945	12,069 "	JULY	1945	9,928 "

In 1938, cost of food in Rome on the same basis was 416 lire.

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The January figure cannot in consequence be compared with figures quoted in previous reports, but for comparative purposes the cost of food for previous months in Rome calculated on the new basis is as follows: -

DECEMBER	1945	13,677 lire	SEPTEMBER	1945	11,614 lire
NOVEMBER	1945	14,198 "	AUGUST	1945	10,730 "
OCTOBER	1945	12,069 "	JULY	1945	9,928 "

In 1938, Cost of food in Rome on the same basis was 416 lire.

Figures for other principal cities in Italy, calculated on the new basis are as follows: -

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	JULY 1945	AUGUST 45	SEPT. 1945	OCT. 1945	NOV. 1945	DEC. 45
BOLOGNA	9,672	11,006	11,307	12,877	13,827	13,350
FIRENZE	8,670	9,647	11,267	11,961	12,660	12,512
GENOVA	11,339	12,559	11,820	13,267	13,628	13,733
MILANO	11,181	11,832	12,604	12,980	14,726	14,003
NAPOLI	9,211	9,539	10,070	13,179	13,704	12,948
PALERMO	6,684	8,059	8,548	9,781	10,763	10,891
TORINO	10,854	11,361	11,846	13,209	13,328	14,151

F. MISCELLANEOUS LABOUR MATTERS.

1. Sardinian Coal.

For week ended 26.1.1946 the production of coal from Sardinia coal mines was 16,162 tons of washed coal, an average of 2694 tons per day or 0.486 tons per man underground. Some 5,544 men were employed underground on 26th Jan compared with 5,083 on 22th Dec.

2. Emigration of Italian workers.

(i) TO FRANCE - The French delegation has discussed with the Italian Government proposals to recruit Italian workers for France. It is understood that the French have agreed to respect conditions of social insurance stipulated in Agreement of 1919 and 1925 and to give Italian workers the same treatment as local workers.

(ii) TO SOUTH AMERICA - The Commission of the Associazione Nazionale Combattenti has left for South America at the head of a mission under the auspices of the Ministero dell'Assistenza Post-bellica, to promote agreements on emigration of Italians.

3. Relief Schemes.

Proposals are before the Council of Ministers to approve expenditure of 1½ milliard lire for repair of war damage in the port of Naples; of 4½ milliard lire for repair of war damage and for extraordinary public works in Naples city and Province; and of 200 million lire for urgent restoration of productive capacity of Torre Annunziata.

4. Allied Force Employment.

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NAPOLI	9,211	9,539	10,070	13,179	13,704	12,948
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4. Allied Force Employment.

In January 1946 the number of civilians employed by the Allied Forces was 182,766 including 94,70 skilled and 88,066 unskilled workers. These figures represent a decrease of 16,632 on Dec. 1945.

G. REPORTS FROM XIII CORPS & LIAISON OFFICERS.1. XIII Corps Area

There has been little change in the unemployment position in the area during January, the slight recorded increase being due to the re-registration of persons who obtained temporary work at Christmas. An order, in the process of publication, which blocks dismissals and suspensions from 1st Jan 1946 to 31 March 1936 should prevent any appreciable increase in the figures in the near future.

Prolonged and difficult negotiations for a General Wage Agreement took place during January, in which the Labour Office played a leading part, and were concluded on 31st of the month. It was agreed that the base pay for industrial workers should be the same as that fixed in Milan, but that the contingency for an adult head of family with 4 dependents should be 170 lire, on a mobile scale to change every 3 months.

The new rates of benefit for unemployed workers during the 3 months ended 31st March are 80 lire per day for adult males with allowances for dependents, and lesser amounts for women and juveniles.

2. Livorno Liaison Officer.

There is considerable unemployment throughout Toscana and the prefects have initiated public works to provide employment. In Livorno the Port area is being reconverted for civilian use.

Allied Forces employees in the area have complained that they are paid less than similar workers in Italian private industry or employed by the Italian government. The complaint is being investigated.

3. Naples Liaison Officer.

Unemployment is increasing in Naples and the prefect and other representatives have successfully appealed to the Italian Government for money for public works to relieve the position.

In the provinces, which are largely agricultural, unemployment is less acute.

The grain shortage which has caused a stoppage in pasta making will affect the employment position, as Naples exports pasta and about 6,000 persons find employment in the mills.

Three small stoppages of work occurred during the month.

4. Piemonte Liaison Officer.

Increases in unemployment, greatest in Torino and Novara,

appear to be mainly due to returning prisoners of war and internees.

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4. Piemonte Liaison Officer.

Increases in unemployment, greatest in Torino and Novara, appear to be mainly due to returning prisoners of war and internees. The number of surplus workers has also increased in all districts except Novara.

W.H. BRAINE
Director
Labour Sub-Commission

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
AFC 394
LABOUR SUB-COMMISSION

REF. : ISC/686

20 January 1946

SUBJECT : Report of Labour Sub-Commission
Allied Commission Italy for
month of December 1945.

JAN 23 1946

TO : Economic Section

OUTLINE

- A. INTRODUCTION
- B. WAGES, HOURS AND WORKING CONDITIONS
- C. SOCIAL INSURANCE
- D. INDUSTRIAL UNREST
- E. COST OF FOOD
- F. MISCELLANEOUS LABOUR MATTERS
- G. REPORTS RECEIVED FROM REGIONS

EC DIST - 23 Jan

1-EC

6-PR Br

1-Mil Attache
An Ent.

1-Fr Rep

A. INTRODUCTION

1. Principal events this month have been the termination of the functions of AMF Labour Officers consequent upon the handing back of Northern territories to the Italian Government, and arranging for the closure of Labour Sub-Commission early in the New Year. Negotiations between industrialists and representatives of Labour in Northern Italy were in progress in connection with the extension of the agreement, due to expire on 31 December, regarding surplus labour.

2. The practice of Italian industry in giving a Christmas bonus to employees was followed by the Allied Forces this year. In view of the large budget deficiency the Italian Government has refused to grant its employees a bonus as extensive as that given in private industry and there is considerable discontent amongst Civil Servants as a result.

3. A trade union Delegation from Great Britain visited Northern Italy as guests of the C.G.I.L. during the month.

4. The revision and consolidation of the Armed Forces Wage Scale to bring it more into line with the new wage agreement for Northern Italy negotiated by Italian industry and labour has been commenced.

B. WAGES, HOURS AND WORKING CONDITIONS

i) Allied Forces Employees

(a) Wages.

Following completion of the new wage agreement for Italian private industry in Northern Italy, representations have been received that the Allied Forces Wage Scale should be brought into line with the new industrial basic rates.

At a meeting held on 28th December the Allied Force Labour and Wages Committee agreed that a simplified wage structure was desirable, and appointed a Sub-Committee to examine the problem in detail and to prepare a revised Scale.

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OUTLINE

- A. INTRODUCTION
- B. WAGES, HOURS AND WORKING CONDITIONS
- C. SOCIAL INSURANCE
- D. INDUSTRIAL UNREST
- E. COST OF FOOD
- F. MISCELLANEOUS LABOUR MATTERS
- G. REPORTS RECEIVED FROM REGIONS

EC DIST - 23 Jan
1-EC
6-PRB
1-Not attached
as Ent.
1-For Rep.

A. INTRODUCTION

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At a meeting held on 28th December the Allied Force Labour and Wages Committee agreed that a simplified wage structure was desirable, and appointed a Sub-Committee to examine the problem in detail and to prepare a revised scale.

The Sub-Committee will attempt to group existing occupations of Armed Forces employees within the four broad categories specified in Italian private wage agreements, viz. specialized, skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled, and to establish a range of rates for these categories, which will be in keeping both with rates paid in Italian industry and rates at present paid to Allied Forces employees in individual occupations. The Cost of Living bonus will remain as a variable component of the gross pay.

Once these basic groupings are established and rates fixed, any increase in

the Cost of Living, as shown by change in the official Italian Cost of Living Index, can be automatically reflected in the Allied Force wage packet under the same procedure as that provided for in Italian Industrial wage agreements.

(b) Travelling allowances.

The Committee received complaints that travel allowances authorized for Italian civilian employees were inadequate to meet present costs of living, and referred this question also to the Sub-Committee appointed to consider revision of the Armed Forces Wage Scale.

(c) The authority for the payment of Christmas Bonus to Armed Force employees as recommended by the above Wages Committee, enabled payment to be made before Christmas.

ii) Christmas bonus to State Employees.

The Italian Council of Ministers decided to grant a special Christmas bonus to State employees, consisting of 3,000 lire in large cities, and 2,500 lire in small towns, an amount less than the bonus paid in private industry. (See also under Industrial Unrest).

iii) Ban on dismissals in Italian Industry in Northern Italy.

The agreement reached in November, continuing the ban on dismissal of surplus labour in industry in Northern Italy, and making consequent arrangements for payment of supplementary allowances, was due to expire on 31 Dec. Negotiations have been in progress during the month for its extension in a modified form, the employees seeking to recover the right to discharge and the workers demanding the continued application of the agreement until 31 March.

C. SOCIAL INSURANCE

A request was received from the Italian Government that Decrees n. 692, 697 and 718 of 1st August 1945 which were published in the Official Gazette in November, should be excluded from implementation in Northern territories, as the Italian Government were preparing a draft decree which would make the decrees effective on the first pay-day following the date of their publication in the Gazette, instead of having retroactive effect as from May 1945. The decrees had, however, already been implemented in the North, but as they provided for application in Northern territories upon turn-over, it was not considered advisable to issue an order revoking implementation. It was suggested instead that the Italian Government should take immediate action to put into force the draft decree which would alter the retroactive nature of the originals.

D. INDUSTRIAL UNREST

A strike of State Employees is threatened for early January over the Christmas Bonus. Hitherto there had been no provision for payment of Christmas bonus to state employees, but on representations from the C.G.I.L. the Council of Ministers agreed a bonus of 3,000 lire per head for employees in towns of more than 50,000 inhabitants, and 2,500 lire for towns of less than 50,000 inhabitants. This is less than the bonus paid by private industry and demands for the payment of a full month's salary have been repeated.

reported

A summary of incidents of industrial unrest is attached as appendix I.

E. COST OF FOOD

The monthly food expenditure in Rome in December of a family of five persons on a standard food budget with a standard income of 1,000,000 lire was 1,000,000 lire.

ii) Christmas bonus to State Employees.

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E. COST OF FOOD

The monthly food expenditure in Rome in December of a family of five persons on a standard food budget with a caloric value of 2,200 calories daily per consuming unit was 12,718 lire which represents a slight increase on the food expenditure for November.

Comparative figures for previous months were:

Nov.	1945	-	12,534 lire;
Sept.	1945	-	10,863 "
June	1945	-	9865 "
May	1945	-	11,607 "
March	1945	-	12,456 "
Jan.	1945	-	10,324 "
Sept.	1943	-	2,392 "
Sept.	1942	-	1,148

Figures for Northern districts in so far as they are available are:

PIEMONTE (Based on 2,400 calories)

	1945	Dec.	Nov.	Oct.	Sept.
Alessandria	12,751	12,867	10,048	12,315	9,119
Asti	11,536	12,018	10,206	8,047	9,824
Novara	10,248	12,213	12,059	11,122	13,369
Vercelli	10,560	12,273	12,821	12,977	11,197
Torino	14,741	12,085	12,977	11,197	10,434
Aosta	13,761	13,046	11,437		
Cuneo	13,149	12,760			

LOMBARDIA (Based on 2,200 calories)

	1945	Oct.	Sept.
Milano	11,517	12,123	8,382
Mantova	9,558	12,493	11,602
Bergamo	11,594	11,199	9,748
Brescia	10,936	10,988	11,204
Como	12,547	12,450	
Cremona	10,607		
Favia	10,330		
Sondrio	11,733		
Varese	12,166		

MISCELLANEOUS LABOUR MATTERS

Visit of Trade Union Delegation.

A Delegation of Trade Unionists from Britain consisting of Mr. Will Lawther, President of the National Union of Mine Workers, Mr. Jack Tanner, President of the amalgamated Engineering Union, Mr. H. Bullock, National Union of General and Municipal Workers, and Mr. Messers E.F. Harries and A.E. Carthy of the International Department of the Trade Union Congress, visited Northern Italy on a tour during December. The delegation were greeted enthusiastically in every town visited. The C.G.I.L. representatives brought to the notice of their British colleagues the development of trade union organisation by the C.G.I.L. and emphasised the part played by the partisans and trade unionists in the liberation of the North.

Port Labour, Leghorn

Arrangements have been made for dock labour employed by the Royal Navy at the port of Leghorn to be engaged on a contract basis, all engagements taking place through the "Consorzio Cooperativistico". This organization guarantees the workers consistent employment, and the new method of engagement is in line with the normal

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Port Labour, Larnhorn

Arrangements have been made for dock labour employed by the Royal Navy at the port of Larnhorn to be engaged on a contract basis, all engagements taking place through the "Consorzio Cooperativistico". This organization guarantees the workers constant employment, and the new method of engagement is in line with the normal practice in Italian industry.

Sardinian Coal Mining.

The coal production for the week ending 22nd December 1945 totalled 13,762 tons of washed coal.

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The production for the week averaged 2294 tons per day, which represents an average of 0.451 tons per man underground per day. North Group average was 0.279 tons, South Group average 0.490 tons, Sirdi Group 0.567 tons. Total average number of men actively engaged underground was 5,083

Transfer of Italian Workers

The firm of Benberg S.A. which has its headquarters at Milan and a factory at Cossano in Novara province, employs 1,400 work people in the manufacture of textiles. The firm does not anticipate being able to work at capacity for some months and have inquired as to the possibility of finding employment for some of their workers in the Swiss textile industry. They state they could arrange for 120 of their women workers to be offered employment in Switzerland for a period of 4 to 12 months. The project is under consideration.

The recruitment of coal miners for work in Belgium and of general workers for France continued during the month.

C. REPORTS RECEIVED FROM REGIONS

Liguria Region

There was a slight improvement in the employment position in Liguria towards the end of December, but the continuing influx of persons from other districts has prevented any reduction in the number of registered unemployed. There have been no political demonstrations during the month and only one strike which involved the tax collectors. Cost of living is still increasing.

Piemonte Region

The Regional and Provincial Labour Offices have taken over all duties in the labour field during the month, and have been able to discharge these duties satisfactorily.

The number of registered unemployed in Piemonte has increased by approximately 7,000, the increase being most noticeable in Torino, Alessandria and Novara.

Cost of living shows a slight decrease in all provinces except Asta and Cuneo due to the fact that there was a slightly higher distribution of rationed commodities, and a decrease in the prices on the black market.

W. S. BRAINE
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Labour Sub-Commission

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W. H. BRUCE
Director
Labour Sub-Commission

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

785017

LABOUR SET-COMMISSION
DAILY REPORT ON INDUSTRIAL UNREST, TRADE DISPUTES

DATE,

APPENDIX

N	DATE REPORTED & SOURCE	PLACE	INDUSTRY OR GROUP	PARTIES CONCERNED	REASONS OR CLAIMS	STOPPAGE OF WORK			REMARKS
						THREATEN- ED FOR	STARTED	ENDED	
1	5.12.45 NEWSPAPER "IL LAVORO"	SOUTHERN ITALY	PETROL	1) PETROL WORKERS 2) PETROL WORKERS FEDERATION 3) C.G.I.L. 4) MINISTRY OF LABOUR	REQUEST FOR APPLICATION OF THE AGREEMENT OF 6.11.45		30.11.45	5.12.45	REQUEST GRANTED
2	13.12.45 NEWSPAPER "ITALIA LIBERA"	ROMA	PRINTING	1) PRINTERS 2) COMITATO DELLE COMMISSIONI INTERNE DEI GIORNALI QUOTIDIANI (NEWSPAPER OF INTERNAL COMMISSIONS COMMITTEE)	REQUEST FOR A CHRISTMAS BONUS AND PAYMENT OF A 13TH MONTH	-	-	-	
3	15.12.45 NEWSPAPER "UNITA"	TRIESTE	GENERAL STRIKE	1) ALL WORKERS	AS PROTEST BECAUSE THE ALLIED AUTHORITIES ORDERED DAILY NEWSPAPER WRITTEN IN SLOVENE TO BE SUPPRESSED.		14.12.45	14.12.45	
4	16.12.45 NEWSPAPER "AVANTI"	TURIN	METALLURGICAL	1) METAL WORKERS 2) SYNDICAL ORGANIZATIONS	REQUEST FOR ADJUSTMENT IN WAGES AND PROMPT APPLICATION OF AGREEMENT REACHED IN ROME DURING NOVEMBER 1945.				
5	20.12.45 NEWSPAPER "AVANTI"	ROME	COMMERCE	1) COMMERCIAL WORKERS 2) EMPLOYERS 3) CAMERA DEL LAVORO	REQUEST FOR SOME ECONOMIC IMPROVEMENTS		20.12.45	22.12.45	
6	25.12.45 NEWSPAPER "IL LAVORO"	BARI	COMMUNE EMPLOYEES	1) COMMUNE EMPLOYEES 2) GIUNTA PROV. M.M./V.A.	REQUEST INCREASE IN WAGES TO OFFSET ADDITIONAL WINTER EXPENDITURE	-	-	-	
7	28.12.45 NEWSPAPER "UNITA"	Throughout ITALY	STATE EMPLOYEES	1) STATE EMPLOYEES 2) C.G.I.L. 3) STATE EMPL. SYNDICATES 4) MINISTERS' COUNCIL	REQUEST FOR PAYMENT OF FULL CHRISTMAS BONUS	-	-	-	

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

785017

LABOUR SEE-COMMISSION

APPENDIX I

DAILY REPORT ON INDUSTRIAL UNREST, TRADE DISPUTES

DATE,

INDUSTRY OR GROUP	PARTIES CONCERNED	REASONS OR CLAIMS	STOPPAGE OF WORK			REMARKS
			THREATEN- ED FOR	STARTED	ENDED	
PETROL	1) PETROL WORKERS 2) PETROL WORKERS FEDERATION 3) C.G.I.L. 4) MINISTRY OF LABOUR	REQUEST FOR APPLICATION OF THE AGREEMENT OF 6.11.45		30.11.45	5.12.45	REQUEST GRANTED
PRINTING	1) PRINTERS 2) COMITATO DELLE COMMISSIONI INTERNE DEI GIORNALI QUOTIDIANI (NEWSPAPER OF INTERNAL COMMISSIONS COMMITTEE)	REQUEST FOR A CHRISTMAS BONUS AND PAYMENT OF A 13TH MONTH	-	-	-	
GENERAL STRIKE	1) ALL WORKERS	AS PROTEST BECAUSE THE ALLIED AUTHORITIES ORDERED DAILY NEWSPAPER WRITTEN IN SLOVENE TO BE SUPPRESSED.		14.12.45	14.12.45	
METALLURGICAL	1) METAL WORKERS 2) SYNDICAL ORGANIZATIONS	REQUEST FOR ADJUSTMENT IN WAGES AND PROMPT APPLICATION OF AGREEMENT REACHED IN ROME DURING NOVEMBER 1945.				
COMMERCE	1) COMMERCIAL WORKERS 2) EMPLOYERS 3) CAMERA DEL LAVORO	REQUEST FOR SOME ECONOMIC IMPROVEMENTS		20.12.45	22.12.45	
MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES	1) MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES 2) GIUNTA PROV. ANNAVA	REQUEST INCREASE IN WAGES TO OFFSET ADDITIONAL WINTER EXPENDITURE	-	-	-	
STATE EMPLOYEES	1) STATE EMPLOYEES 2) C.G.I.L. 3) STATE EMP. SYNDICATES 4) MINISTER'S COUNCIL	REQUEST FOR PAYMENT OF FULL CHRISTMAS BONUS	-	-	-	

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