

142

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

ACC

10000/109/1237

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

785017

00/109/1237

PUBLIC RELATIONS POLICY
OCT. 1944 - OCT. 1946

1427

42.

P.R.C.

Please draft a reply to folio 41
for the Chief Commissioner's signature
See 7.43 *Carly 24/9*

44

Cso. de Comm.

Reply to folio 41 at folio 43 for
signature, please. *Carly exp. 3/10 H.S. 3/10*

45.

Chief Commissioner

~~document~~
document is submitted for note of nature
~~inclusion~~

12

6514

Carly
3/10 ALEX. CORR

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

45

Chief Commissioner

in present
Admission is submitted for POWER OF ATTORNEY
inmission

12

Mr. Canby
3/10 ALEX. COMM.

601 1/2

6013

30

Polad (B)

Min 28 & 29 - are you being good enough to take this up with the Foreign office.

Final
8/10

31

We put the proposal to the F.O. and have had no reply. I raised the matter at Exe. Comm's meeting this morning and I understood he was going to write to Gen. Anderson. But we can certainly tell the F.O. if it is so desired.

~~After~~ Oct 9.

33

Ex. Com.

Please see draft letter at 32 for comment.

File 192 12/10.

12/10

34

As amended. 10/12/10.

36

Executive Commissioner.

Reference minute 34, letter at p. 35 is submitted for your signature.

Gen. Anderson.

Re. to P.O. if it is so desired.

~~Att~~ out 9.

33.

Ex. Com.

CFD, please see draft letter ab 32. forwarded.

File PGO 12/10.

12/10.

34

As amended. 12/10.

25.

Executive Commissioner.

Reference minute 34, letter at p. 35 is submitted for your signature.

File
6/11/10
C.S.O.

13 Oct. 45.

7/11/10

38.

Ex. Com.

CFD, Steved at 270. Signature - 37 refers

File 27/10.

39.

P.R.B. We spoke and I understand that you are arranging for P.C. Osine to be informed as to what his functions & duties will be.

File

"

1.2.0.

Please see 9010 report to 728.

7/11 2/6.

2/11/6

19
Extreme

18 for information

8/26/7

7/12/7

25

PA/ 9 will see Ryan Bogen with these letters
(Seen) 11/16/7

27

Ex. Com.

8.26 for info.

11/16/7

8/24/77

785017

25

PA/ I will see Ryan Bogen with these letters
(Soren) 11/16/75

28/ (27)

Ex-Comm.
8.26 for info.
11/16/75
5/10

11/16/75
Bill

28

PRE

Is this being published as a White Paper
in London? Others in view of the time consumed
that it should be 11/16/75

29

Ex Comm

known as the White Paper suggestion.
No word as far as we know on the White Paper suggestion.
Understand Mr. Hopkinson was following up with Foreign Office
11/16/75

1433

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

File ⁴³

Ref. : 9251/43/30

+ October 1946

Dear Sir,

In reply to your letter of September 20th, 1946, my latest information is to the effect that the opening up of the Venezia Giulia area to private commercial news-agencies is not contemplated in the near future nor can any date for such action be forecast at present.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) E. W. Stone

ELDERY W. STONE
Rear Admiral, USNR
Chief Commissioner

Mr. J. Edward Murray,
United Press Associations,
Via della Murocche, 54,
ROME.

See 77-44

6-15

PA 4/10
ER

9251. 81

41

United Press Associations

VIA DELLA MERCEDE 54 - ROMA - TELEF. 64463 - 65747 - 63526 - 65021

DIRETTORE PER L'ITALIA
J. EDWARD MURRAY

TELEGRAMMI: UNIPRESS - ROMA

See Commission
Sept. 20, 1945

Admiral Ellory V. Stone,
Chairman, Allied Commission
Rome

SEP 24 1946

My dear Sir:

United Press Assns. is keenly interested in selling its news report direct to newspapers in the Venezia Giulia area. We know the area is now supplied by Allied Information Service, but Italian language newspapers have recently advised us that the area might soon be opened to private agencies for doing business direct with the newspapers.

If you have, or can get any information on the date when it will be possible for private agencies to do business in Venezia Giulia with newspapers, I would appreciate it very much.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edw. Murray
J. Edw. Murray

See 7-42, 7-43

(L.H.K.)

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
Office of the Executive Commissioner

File

40

Ref.: 9251/EC

7 December 1945

SUBJECT: Allied Publications Board.

TO : Regional Commissioner Liguria Region
" " Lombardia Region
" " Veneto Region
" " Piemonte Region

1. With the transfer of the Northern Provinces to Italian administration the Allied Publications Board will cease to function. Its powers and functions will pass to the competent Italian authorities. A representative of the Presidenza del Consiglio will be sent to Milan to take over from the Secretary of the APB.

2. In the Province of Udine, which still remains under AMG the functions and powers of the Allied Publications Board will be exercised by the Provincial Commissioner.

71721
Brigadier
Executive Commissioner

Copy to: The British Embassy Rome.
The American Embassy Rome.
Colad (A).
Colad (B).
S.M.A.O. AMG REB Corps.
Public Relations Branch.
Allied Publications Board, Milan (6).

6009

PA 1/4 PD

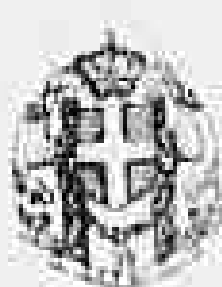
1433

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

**IMMEDIATE
ACTION**

9251

37



Ministero delle Corporazioni

IL SOTTOSEGRETARIO DI STATO

With the transfer of the Northern provinces to Italian administration the Allied Publications Board will cease to function. Its powers and functions will pass to the ~~competent~~ competent Italian authorities. A representative of the Presidenza del Consiglio ~~will be sent~~ will be sent to Milan to take over from the Secretary of the APB.

In the province of Udine, which still remains under AMG the functions and powers of the Allied Publications Board will be exercised by the Provincial Commissioner.

In the case of ~~Italian~~ Italian civilian employees of the Allied Publications Board any accrued leave which is due them will be paid for by AMG.

↓

Does CFA agree? No - I am leaving this out
and suggesting APB bring it up on its own initiative
I assume all will agree and should go and through
CFA office, copy to 700. Please, pass attention and
a memo to APB.
22/11
21/11

OK

21/11

6508

(10/11/11)

1437

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

35

Ref: 9251/35/EC.

16 October 1945.

25

Thank you for your letter of 19 September; I have conveyed your thanks and appreciation of our review to Admiral Stone.

The Embassies here are of the opinion that this review might well be issued as a Government White Paper, and I think that in view of the comment by the "Times" it should be. The British Embassy has already put the proposal to the Foreign Office, and I should be grateful if you could get War Office approval and set the necessary machinery in operation.

Perhaps you could let me know what success you have.

M. S. LUSH

Major General A.V. Anderson, D.C.A.,
The War Office,
Hotel Victoria,
Northumberland Avenue,
London, W.C.2.

PA 14/10
6307

D R A F T

32

My dear

Thank you for your letter of 19 September; I have conveyed your thanks and appreciation of our review to Admiral Stone.

The Embassies here ~~xxx~~ are of the opinion that this review might well be issued as a Government White Paper, and I think that in view of the comment by the "Times" ~~omit~~ it should be. I ~~would be glad to hear your~~ ^{should be prepared to} views on this suggestion. The British Embassy has ~~already signalled~~ the Foreign Office, but ~~received no reply~~, and although ~~they are~~ willing to try again I was wondering whether you could bring pressure to bear on the ~~and other necessary machinery in operation~~ authorities involved, and try and push the matter through.

Perhaps you could let me know what success you have, if you think the idea is worth pursuing.

Yours

ML

Major General A.V. Anderson, D.C.A.,
The War Office
Hut-1 Victoria
Northumberland Avenue
London W.C.2

6300

1440

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

925748
From Major General A.V. Anderson, D.C.M.

The War Office,
Hotel Victoria,
Northumberland Avenue,
London, W.C.2. (26)

17 September, 1945.
OCT - 5 1945

Dear Lush, (24)

Many thanks for your 9251/EC of 12 September and for the complimentary copy of the "Review of Allied Military Government and the Allied Commission". Will you please convey my thanks and appreciation to Admiral Stone.

I have seen Major T. Bergin and we have put him in touch with the proper authorities for his purpose. I think he will be able to achieve what he has set out to do without any difficulty.

Yours Sincerely
Av Anderson

Brigadier Maurice Lush, C.B.,
H.Q. Allied Commission,
A.P.O. 394,
Italy.

(CSO)

Seen by Major [unclear]
✓

See M 27
6.6
120.

24

9251/80.

12 September 1945.

The Chief Commissioner is sending to the United Kingdom and United States Major F. Bergin, Deputy Director of Public Relations, with the mission of "selling" to the Public Relation authorities and, if necessary, the Press the Review of Allied Military Government and the Allied Commission recently completed here, of which the Admiral hopes you will accept a complimentary copy.

Admiral Stone would be most grateful for anything you and your staff can do to put Major Bergin (who is a stranger to the War Office) in touch with the proper authorities both inside and outside the War Office.

It is our intention to arrange a simultaneous release of the Review in Italy, United Kingdom and United States.

You may also wish to distribute a few copies in the War Office and other Ministries in the United Kingdom.

S. LUSH

Major General A. V. Anderson, C.B.,
Director of Civil Affairs,
The War Office,
London, S.W.1.

SEE F26

PA 6301
11/9

23

925A/02.

September 1945.

If you are not already released - as are or soon will be most of my staff, will you be very kind to Major Bergin, our Deputy Director of Public Relations, whose mission I have explained in a letter to General Anderson, copy attached.

I hope you are not too busy. Life here is good but liquidating.

M. S. LUSH

16dr. Stones.

6.00

1443



Ministero delle Corporazioni

IL SOTTOSEGRETARIO DI STATO

22

Seen by
RAC

8 Sept

1100 hrs

Sir:

The perpetual fog over Canada makes it
difficult to know much in detail about
the planned trip to London. However things
have a way of happening all at once I should
be greatly obliged if you could write me
a note to the proper authorities in the
War Office, asking them to give me what
help they can in the distribution of our
books. I have already obtained a similar
note from the Press attached at the Embassy
to the Foreign Office. If and when a note of
departure is set perhaps a signal would
be advisable too. I would let you
know if and when I ever know anything!

J. G. Dargatzis

DDPR 606"

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

9251/30 Major General
My dear General

Anderson CB
Director of C's Affair
War Office 21
London

The Chief Commissioner is
sending ~~to~~ to the U.K. & U.S.
Major T. Burgin, Deputy Director
of Public Relations with the ^{mission} ~~sub~~
of "selling" to the Public
~~arrangement~~ with the Public
Relation authorities and if necessary
the Press the Review of the A.D.G.
& the Allied Commission recently
completed here, of which the Admiral
hopes you will accept a complimentary
copy.

Admiral Stone would be most
grateful for anything you can 6301

Your staff can do to put Nagin
Begin ~~at~~ (who is a stranger
to the War Office) ~~but not to London~~
in touch with the proper authorities
both inside & outside the War Office.

It is our intention to arrange
a simultaneous release of the
Review in ~~the country~~ Italy, UK &
US.

You may also want to distribute
a few copies in the WO & other
~~Defence~~ Ministries in UK.



20

(Dear Pat)

If you are not already
released - as we or soon will
be most of my stuff will you
be very kind to Major Beggs
our DDPB show mission
has explained in a letter to
Gen Anderson, copy attached

I hope you are not too
busy. Life here is good
but liquidation.

ML

1447

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

9254 9251

18

20/PRO

24. July 1945

JUL 25 1945

My dear Mr. Prime Minister,

17

I have given very careful thought to your letter of July 19, Protocol No. 535/45, and have obtained a report from Turin on the situation insofar as regards LA STAMPA.

According to my information the representatives of ANI on July 20 met in Turin with representatives of the C.L.N. and the five Turin newspapers to discuss the situation. It was amicably agreed by all that LA STAMPA should resume publication under the name of LA NUOVA STAMPA. It was further explained that the new paper was not financed either by the present or past owners of LA STAMPA and that eventual disposition of LA STAMPA property would be a responsibility for the Italian Government.

We trust you will share our belief that the matter has been settled in a satisfactory manner by the interested parties in Turin and that no further action is necessary.

Yours very truly,

MILRY W. STONE
Rear Admiral, USNR
Chief Commissioner

Professor Ferruccio Parri,
The President of the Council of Ministers,
Italian Government
R o m e

Info cc: Ex. Commr
Political Advisors - British
American

Copy to 9254/EC Secretary General of Dept.

see 1719
11/27

(50)

1448

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

Translation

The President of the Council of Ministers
n. 535/15

Rome, 19 July 1945

JUL 21 1945

Dear Admiral,

I am most happy to tell you that, in the draft for the publication in the North of some pre-fascist and fascisticized papers, the allied command foresaw the epuration of the editorial and administrative staff, the appointment of Commissioners in the administrations, and the setting aside of the profits made from these papers, and the questions relative to the ownership and definitive arrangements concerning the same papers, till the return of the Northern regions under our jurisdiction. There is no doubt that the allied program was previously approved by the Bonomi Government.

My letter of July 6th didn't question this truth which so clearly appears from the text of the draft sent to President Bonomi together with your letter of March 10th and from the answer of the President. However, as the said draft met with serious local obstacles in Milan, obstacles which had not been foreseen before the liberation, and which were such as to prevent the publication of the 'Corriere della Sera', and as difficulties just as serious seemed likely to occur in Turin, I thought of drawing your attention on the new situations which took place in the North and on the need of re-examining all the problem of the former pre-fascist papers, on a national plan, and based on the real state of things. I think that the allied draft suggested a convenient solution in point 2) para a), which foresaw, as an alternative to the solution which was then adopted, the suppression of all former pre-fascist papers. After the experience we had in Milan and Turin, after giving up the enforcement in Milan of the draft expressed before the liberation, it seems to me that the facts demand a revision of the agreement made with President Bonomi, and that the most advisable revision would consist in enforcing the solution proposed by the Allied Command itself in point 2) para a) of the above mentioned letter.

Having thus cleared up matters, I only have to reassert my well known point of view on this matter. Whatever its pre-fascist past, none of the papers published under the fascist regime, could or know how to save a minimum of dignity and moral authority, which might make their name still bearable in democratic Italy. The owners who wanted to save their dignity had to give up their paper, as Senator Albertini. In any case, the attitude of this press kept in bondage by the fascist regime roused such hatred, and odiousness, that its reappearance under the former titles would be deeply offensive and therefore dangerous.

Admiral Milery W. Stone
Chief Commissioner
Allied Commission
Rome

File - No action
Stampa resumed publication
EHS
cc
11/23/45
Noted

o/o

- 2 -

For these reasons, as I wrote in my letter of July 6th, 1945, it seemed to me that the publication of the said papers was bound to cause reactions wherever it took place, and couldn't therefore be considered as a contribution to the internal pacification which is the first moral and political requirement of the Italians; unfortunately, the incidents which followed the publication of the 'Stampa' proved that this prevision was correct.

I am most grateful, my dear Admiral, for the informations you gave me; but I feel I must ask you to intervene to obtain the withdrawal of the authorization given for the publication of the 'Stampa', and kindly to avoid that other authorizations be given to newspapers in similar conditions.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

S. Ferruccio Patti

e/c

EC List - 21 JULY 45

Action: P.R.B.

INFO: CHIEF COMAR

EXEC COMAR

6255

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

9251A

20/PRB

11 July 45

JUL 11 1945

My dear Mr. Prime Minister:

Your letter of July 6, protocol number 535, has been carefully considered here at the Allied Commission and by the Allied Publications Board which is the body charged with executing decisions of Allied Forces Headquarters with respect to matters dealing with newspapers in territories under the control of Allied Military Government.

It is the feeling both of the Allied Commission and the Allied Publications Board that you have been misinformed as to the actual terms of the plan approved by Allied Forces Headquarters for handling those Italian newspapers which had a national and international reputation prior to the advent of fascism and which during the fascist regime were obliged, generally by forced change of ownership, to subscribe to fascist policies. The provisions of the plan dealing with pre-fascist papers is attached hereto.

The instructions from AFHQ, which had the prior concurrence of the Board government, specifically authorized the reappearance of these famous newspapers on condition 1) that the personnel and administration first be separated, 2) that a commissario be appointed to administer the newly separated newspaper, and 3) that all profits of the newspaper, questions of eventual ownership and control of the newspaper be left to the Italian government to settle when it assumed jurisdiction in the north with the important condition that the properties should not be returned to fascist control.

You can readily see that there was no intention on the part of the Allies to protect the interests of the fascist owners of these properties; quite on the contrary the question of the eventual disposition of these properties was left in suspense for the Italian government to settle. It was our intent, however, to see that those famous and independent pre-fascist newspapers of Italy with a reputation for presenting news and information in an impartial

6.7

1451

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 185017

- 2 -

and non-political manner should be preserved. The fact that the fascist regime took over, by one means or another, these papers and forced them to publish its point of view does not obscure the point that these newspapers are entitled to return to their pre-fascist and democratic status even prior to the settlement of the question of ownership. As you will see from the exact terms of paragraph seven of the instructions dealing with this subject which is attached hereto, the previous Italian government agreed that none of these newspapers would be returned to the control of fascist owners.

I have gone into this in some detail as I am sure you did not understand either the intent of the Allies or the specific provisions of the plan. These provisions exclude, as your letter would seem to suggest to the contrary, that the pre-fascist papers are being revised for the benefit of the owners during fascism. Our intention was quite the contrary. I am sure you will agree that it is only fair that those newspapers which defended democracy prior to fascism until they were forced into the hands of other owners should be permitted to cleanse themselves of this hateful period and resume their glorious tradition under new and democratic owners.

Yours very truly,

ELLERY W. STONE
Rear Admiral, USN
Chief Commissioner

Professor Ferruccio Parri
The President of the Council of Ministers
Italian Government
Rome

Attachment: Para 7 of "Press Plan for Northern Italy"

Copy to: Chief Commissioner
Executive Commissioner
Political Advisors - British and American
Miss Vining, PWB, Rome
PRE Files

629

20 April 1945

PRESS PLAN FOR NORTHERN ITALY

7. Pre-Fascist Papers. Papers with a pre-Fascist history, which had, however, been taken over and run as Fascist periodicals, will be suspended on Allied entry, pending the appointment of a Commissario by the AMG Regional Commissioner. As soon as the Commissario can show that operation is completed, these papers will be allowed to re-appear under their own and historic titles, but as independent non-party information sheets. If the Regional Commissioner considers it necessary or if an appeal to the Regional Commissioner is made by responsible elements of the community, a committee of three will be attached to the Commissario in a consultative capacity. The papers will conform to all economic and other restrictions imposed by wartime conditions on the press as a whole.

Any profits accruing will be frozen by the Commissario who will retain control until the area is returned to Italian administration. Question of ownership and eventual political control will then be settled in accordance with procedure to be laid down by the Italian Government, which has agreed that none of these papers will be returned to the control of Fascist owners.

1453

Translation

9251

The President of the Council of Ministers
535

Rome, 6 July 1945

JUL 7 1945

Dear Admiral,

the complete liberation of the country has enabled us to know concretely the situation of the press in the various towns of the North, and the attitude of public opinion towards it. In practice, the provisions, according to which the agreement of March 24th with President Bonomi was made, didn't prove to correspond with the real state of things in Milan, and as you well know, the publication of the 'Corriere della Sera' met with such difficulties that the Allied Administration deemed it advisable to give it up. The difficulties for the Turin newspapers are in no way smaller, as Undersecretary told you during his visit and in the memorandum of June 30th, while I was away.

The conditions being such, I think the time has come for a definitive solution. According to the informations which are now in our possession, it seems to me that the solution proposed by you in n.2) para a) of the enclosure to your letter of March 10th, 1945, would be the best one from all points of view. More than any other one, this solution is also conform to justice, which would suffer greatly if the publication of ex-fascist newspapers was allowed in the North after having been forbidden in Rome.

The truth is that none of the newspapers which lived under the regime of dictatorship was able to save the minimum of dignity and moral authority which is indispensable for the fulfilment of the press in a democratic regime. The collections of the newspapers are an indisputable proof of this fact, and the series of detailed and often ridiculous orders daily given by the dictator to all the newspapers of the peninsula prove the point of abjection they had reached. It is not possible to condemn the fascist regime and save at the same time its most efficacious collaborator, which for years poisoned the country with lies, exercising daily a corrupting action on the people, and thus participating in the most criminal deeds. Besides, no one would understand why small newspapers are being spared, while the unprejudiced owners of newspapers, which so greatly benefited from dictatorship, are left well alone.

The first of the two solutions you proposed last March, by definitely suppressing this press, will support in the Northern provinces our work for moral rehabilitation, which our country needs as much as bread. Besides,

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

9251

10

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

GSH/maw

2/PRB

31 May 1945

MAY 31 1945

SUBJECT: Italian Press Decree

TO : Allied Publications Board

1. This is in reference to your letter of 7 May on the above subject to the Chief Commissioner, Allied Commission.
2. Attached for your information is the translation of an interim reply from the Prime Minister.

G. STEWART BROWN
Director,
Public Relations Branch

Encl.

Copy for info to: Chief Commissioner
Executive Commissioner
PRB Files

4 P/B-93

See M 11 PA 2/6

108
(Haw)

1456

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

9251

9

Translation

The President of the Council of Ministers

3 6567/2636.2.1.1.30

Rome, 28 May 1945

1945 30 1945

My dear Admiral,

8

A draft of regulation has been prepared in conformity with the statement I made to the National Press Federation, to which you referred in letter n. 9251, of May 16th. This draft is now being discussed with the National Press Federation.

I will send you the text of the regulation as soon as a final agreement will have been reached.

Yours sincerely,

B. I. Bonomi

Admiral Ellery W. Stone
Chief Commissioner
Allied Commission
20 44

H.C. DIST - 29 May 45.

ACTION - P.R. Br. 6-9
INFO - Chief Commr.
INFO - Exec Commr.

h mt

1457

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

9251

(8)

CC 9251

16 May 1945.

MAY 17 1945

My dear Mr. Prime Minister:

I enclose a copy of a letter which I have received from the Allied Publications Board regarding the Italian Press Decree of 5 January. With reference to paragraph 5 of the letter, may this Commission be advised what remedial action is proposed by the Italian Government in implementation of Your Excellency's statement to the National Press Federation.

Yours very truly,

/s/ Henry W. Stone
HENRY W. STONE
Rear Admiral, USN
Chief Commissioner

Via Excellency Ivanoe Bonomi,
President of the Council of Ministers,
Italian Government,
Rome.

DISTRIBUTION:

Allied Publications Board
Public Relations Branch, AC
Executive Commissioner
CC Files

275-623
PA B.U.
[Signature]

1458

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785617

7

C O P Y

Office of the

ALLIED PUBLICATIONS BOARD

65 Via Veneto, Rome

Telephone 489171 Extension No. 178

CONFIDENTIAL

7 May 1945

SUBJECT: Italian Press Decree

TO: Chief Commissioner, Allied Commission

FROM: A.P.B.

1. The Allied Publications Board at its meetings on 3rd April and 7th May considered the resolution passed by the Italian National Press Federation on March 15 protesting against the Decree of 5th January (Gazzetta Ufficiale No 15) which accorded to the Italian Press Commission a consultative capacity.

2. The A.P.B. further took notice of Premier Bonomi's statement to the National Press Federation to the effect that he proposed to take remedial action.

3. The A.P.B. was of the opinion that the decree in question, though consonant with the Italian Press licensing law enacted on January 14, 1944 was contrary to the spirit of that law, to the informal instructions then issued to Prefects, to grant licenses in accordance with the decisions of the A.P.B. and to the previous practice both of A.P.B. and of the Italian Press Commission.

4. The A.P.B. was further of the opinion that the decree in question if not modified by subsequent legislation might constitute a threat to the democratic freedom of the Press.

5. The A.P.B., to which, as constituted by AFHQ Administrative Memorandum No 50, is reserved the right of intervention in cases involving undemocratic practices, feels it necessary to report this matter to the A.C. with the request that these views be forwarded to the Italian Government and that the Board be informed of the remedial action taken by the Italian Government in accordance with the promise made by Premier Bonomi.

100/66-10

/s/ C.A. Raleigh Bedford
CHAIRMAN

/s/ J. Barnes
For: EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

COPY

THE ITALIAN NATIONAL PRESS FEDERATION

Rome

The Directive Council of the Italian National Press Federation, in its meeting of 13th March 1945 examined the problems of greatest interest to the Press and to journalists at this time, and reached the following conclusions:

1. The Federal Directive Council had already passed a motion in its sitting of 24 Nov. 1944 that the Undersecretariat for Press and Information should be gradually suppressed.

During the subsequent ministerial crisis which led to the formation of the second Bonomi Ministry, the Government accepted this motion and the Undersecretariat for Press and Information was transformed into the Undersecretariat for Press, Theatre, and Tourism, with the explicit declaration that the 'General Directorate of the Press' would be speedily liquidated.

Later, on 18 December 1944, the Federal Directive Council was received by the Prime Minister, who confirmed the assurances recorded above.

However, it being ascertained that up to this moment the Government has not put into execution their proposals and promises, the Federal Directive Council renews the motion expressed by it and, in particular, that for the suppression of the General Directorate of the Press, an organ which, in the ambiguity of its character and the uncertainty of its functioning, has revealed itself as not being helpful to a free and democratic Press regime.

2. The Federal Directive Council refers to the motion passed on 24 November 1944, in which was demanded the reconstruction of the National Press Commission. This was presented, together with a memorandum, on 18 December 1944, to the Prime Minister, who declared his agreement with the ideas therein expressed.

The Federal Directive Council records:

that the said memorandum, presented and explained by the presence of the National Press Commission on 20 December 1944 by colleagues Arzuffi and Veronesi, chosen for that duty by the

During the second Bonomi Ministry, the Government accepted and transformed into the Undersecretariat for Press and Information with the explicit declaration that the "General Directorate of the Press" would be speedily liquidated.

Later, on 18 December 1944, the Federal Directive Council was received by the Prime Minister, who confirmed the assurances recorded above.

However, it being ascertained that up to this moment the Government has not put into execution their proposals and promises, the Federal Directive Council renewed the motion expressed by it and, in particular, that for the suppression of the General Directorate of the Press, an organ which, by the ambiguity of its character and the uncertainty of its functioning, has revealed itself as not being helpful to a free and democratic press regime.

2. The Federal Directive Council refers to the motion passed on 24 November 1944, in which was demanded the reconstruction of the National Press Commission. This was presented, together with a memorandum, on 13 December 1944, to the Prime Minister, who declared his agreement with the ideas therein expressed.

The Federal Directive Council records:

that the said memorandum, presented and explained by the presence of the National Press Commission on 20 December 1944 by colleagues Azarits and Vernocchi, chosen for that duty by the Federal Council, was accepted by the Commission;

that on 7 July 1944, the Undersecretariat for Press and Information, in its request to the Press Federation for the appointment of three of its representatives to the National Press Commission, set out a draft decree (of which it sent a copy) in which was foreseen the institution of the said Commission with the powers of granting, suspending and revoking licenses of authorization for publications of a periodical nature;

that the Federation agreed to this request, and that the National Press Commission, right from its outset, has functioned on the basis of the powers above defined, - as is clear both from the minutes of the said Commission, and from the measures deliberated and put into execution by the Prefectural authorities - ;

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that the reduction of control on the part of the Allied authorities over the Italian Press, effective on 1 January 1945, a control which was already exercised by the Italian Commission with the participation of Allied representatives, was by those Allied authorities expressly bound up with the handing-over of that same control to the National Press Commission. (point 3 AFHQ memo. No 50, 25 November 1944) - the full powers remaining for the granting and revocation of licenses of authorizations for publications, the Allies reserving the right to request of the said Press Commission suspension or revocation of licenses for military reasons;

that, in contrast to the resolutions of the Allies and to the constant practice referred to above, on 3 January 1944 a decree was issued by the Prime Minister, published in the Official Gazette of 3 February 1945 No 15, which suddenly, and for the first time, attributes to the National Press Commission a consultative function;

that on the occasion of the measures previously agreed with the Undersecretariat for the Press and deliberated by the National Press Commission on 19 February, 1945, attention was drawn for the first time to the consultative character which the Commission was alleged to have, to explain the non-execution, on the part of the Government, of the measures referred to above;

noting, and calling attention to all these points, the National Press Commission reasserts its original character, with which it was instituted and which was confirmed by the expressed determination of the Allies, - who thus intended to limit governmental influence in press matters, - and declares that it is ready to participate, with its representatives, in a National Press Commission furnished with the powers originally conferred on it and uninterruptedly exercised, - recognizing in it a guarantee of the liberty of the press, notwithstanding the discipline temporarily imposed by the necessities of a time of war, - with its effective reconstruction, according to the criterions of the motion and the memorandum herein recorded earlier on.

3. The Federal Directive Council, referring to the unanimous motion passed on 5 January 1945 for the gradual reinstatement of the liberty of the press, records:

that the authorizations of new daily papers at Rome, Naples and elsewhere, approved unanimously by those present at the meeting of the National Press Commission on 22 January 1945 were granted

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3. The Federal Directive Council, referring to the unanimous motion passed on 5 January 1945 for the gradual reinstatement of the liberty of the press, records:

that the authorizations of new daily papers at Rome, Naples and elsewhere, approved unanimously by those present at the meeting of the National Press Commission on 22 January 1945 were granted by the Federal representatives of the Press Commission in consequence of the knowledge of the following factual data regarding the favourable prospects of the paper situation:

- a) authorization; on the proposal of the Undersecretariat, of a weekly four page number for the dailies;
- b) re-distribution, on the proposal of the Undersecretariat, among the other Rome dailies of the 105 thousand copies extra, following the cessation of the "Corriere di Roma" and the equalization of the circulation of the "Giornale del Mattino", - a re-distribution which should not have been made if the paper prospects were not favorable;
- c) proposal of the Undersecretariat to assign to the new

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dailies a number of copies greater than that of 10,000 shown under experimental heading in the Federation's motion of 5 January 1945;

d) proposal put forward by the National Association of Newspaper Editors to the administrations of the dailies that they could choose between the ordinary and calandered papers, save for the difference in price;

that, on the contrary, the situation of newsprint was then already a matter of preoccupation, as the Federation has since been able to ascertain by enquiries from the competent Allied offices and in consequence of the well-known and deplored inconveniences in the furnishing of newsprint for the Naples papers;

that the Federation, by means of its representatives on the National Press Commission, had time and time again requested to be put in the picture with a written account of the real newsprint situation, without, however, getting satisfaction for this request, which was explicitly renewed in writing in its motion of 24 November 1944 presented to the Prime Minister on 18 December 1944 and subsequently endorsed by the National Press Commission at its meeting of 20 December 1944 and later;

that notwithstanding this motion and the renewed assurances, the Federation has had to reiterate its request for a written account on the paper situation with letters sent 20 February, 1 and 2 March 1945, which have remained without a reply up to this moment, so that even now the Federation is completely in the dark about the real effective paper situation and of the paper allotments made by the Undersecretariat to the periodicals;

that following on the regrettable suspension of publication by the Naples papers, the directors of these, without distinction of party, and in accord with some of the Federal representatives of the National Press Commission (with which the Sicilian Press Association and the National Association of Editors associated themselves later) peremptorily demanded the revocation of the authorizations of the new Rome dailies for the reason that these should not have been authorized on 22 January 1945 in the existence of the grave paper crisis, which was affirmed to have been artfully concealed;

of the real newspaper situation, without, however, getting satisfaction for this request, which was explicitly renewed in writing in its motion of 24 November 1944 presented to the Prime Minister on 18 December 1944 and subsequently endorsed by the National Press Commission at its meeting of 20 December 1944 and later;

that notwithstanding this motion and the renewed assurances, the Federation has had to reiterate its request for a written account on the paper situation with letters sent 20 February, 1 and 2 March 1945, which have remained without a reply up to this moment, so that even now the Federation is completely in the dark about the real effective paper situation and of the paper allotments made by the Undersecretariat to the periodicals;

that following on the regrettable suspension of publication by the Naples papers, the directors of these, without distinction of party, and in accord with some of the Federal representatives of the National Press Commission (with which the Sicilian Press Association and the National Association of Editors associated themselves later) summarily demanded the revocation of the authorizations of the new Rome dailies for the reason that these should not have been authorized on 22 January 1945 in the existence of the grave paper crisis, which was affirmed to have been artfully concealed;

that the Undersecretariat, on its own initiative, had suspended the allotment of paper of two Rome dailies which were about to publish ("Libera Stampa" and "Secolo XIX") and of all the other dailies authorized on 20 January 1945 and not yet publishing;

that the National Press Commission, in agreement with the Undersecretariat, after having opposed and refused the said peremptory request for the revocation of the authorizations of the new dailies, (granted 22 January 1945) voted on 19 February 1945 the measure for the suspension of the paper allotment and publication of the new dailies, forced to take that action by the paper crisis unexpectedly re-

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vealed, which morally invalidated the said authorizations of 22 January 1945;

that the Commission's measures of 19 February 1945 were revoked following the intervention of Admiral Ellery Stone, Chief Commissioner of the A.C., with the Prime Minister, and that it was officially communicated to the Press Commission that the paper crisis had been overcome for the moment;

It results that no responsibility can be attributed to the representatives of the Federation on the National Press Commission for the contradictory measures of the executive bodies, which, with their uncertain and disordered action, have embarrassed the proper functioning of the said Commission.

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PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

PRE/RL7

17 Oct 44

SUBJECT : SUGGESTED FUTURE PLANS

18 OCT Recd

TO : Chief of Staff, A.C.C.

1. I think that the time is opportune for members of this Branch to visit Washington and London. The desirability of such contact has been discussed before and General MacFarlane favoured the idea, as did Sir James Grigg, but nothing has so far come of it.

2. The time is opportune because

(a) the whole drift of Allied-Italian policy is changing and in my view a much closer contact is now needed between this Branch and the Civil Affairs Branches in London and Washington, both of which have now expressed interest in and appreciation of our work;

(b) we are about to put out (on Nov. 8) a more or less official history of the ACC as the net result of the information we have collected over the past year, and it is an excellent opportunity to "sell" this history both to Civil Affairs Branches and to newspapers, which may otherwise, for policy reasons or for lack of space, ignore it, and

(c) the whole future policy in regard to radio, press and cinema which willy-nilly becomes the responsibility of this Branch urgently needs detailed elucidation both from the financial and commercial aspects.

3. I would like to take the opportunity of saying here that a bold policy - such as has never been followed by the ACC - on Public Relations is best calculated to achieve results. The policy of the ACC has in

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(c) the whole future policy in regard to radio, press and cinema which willy-nilly becomes the responsibility of this Branch urgently needs detailed elucidation both from the financial and commercial aspects.

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3. I would like to take the opportunity of saying here that a bold policy - such as has never been followed by the ACC - on Public Relations is best calculated to achieve results. The policy of the ACC has in general been to (a) exclude Public Relations staff from all "secret" matters (which have been legion) and therefore main-
the staff, (b) prevent the quite normal methods of enter-
taining correspondents, thereby making good PR work extreme-
ly difficult, and (c) ~~make it as difficult as possible for~~
~~pro to go on here.~~ Such a policy does not pay. Even the
Indian PR staff, here, in Cairo, and in India, think nothing
of travelling to India, London, Italy, Algiers and Cairo
once in every two months in order to maintain contacts. Such
contacts are now I think an urgent necessity for the ACC. An
enormous amount can, I think, be done at this juncture to
put ACC "on the map" with editors, and to give them an under-
standing (which they have never had) of its scope, difficulties,
and successes. Bad publicity or the lack of it has come in
the past not through correspondents - who in the main have

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been friendly and intelligent, as our Trends of Copy show - but through lack of interest, ingrained hostility (since AMGOT days) or unwillingness to give space, on the part of editors. It is an excellent moment to change this attitude because ACC is after all the only "test" organisation for military government in Europe.

4. Among other points which could be covered by such a visit are :

Political Correspondents

There still is much confusion as to the channels of accreditation. I have had complaints from three sources and London is blaming the ACC for holding things up. I know personally Sir James Grigg and General Anderson at the War Office and Mr. Brebner at the MCI and could get this ironed out. More important still, the question of political correspondents needs discussion in Washington since American newspapers (with the exception of the New York Times) have not so far taken up the idea and may find themselves at a disadvantage very soon.

English books, periodicals and newspapers

There is a constant demand here for these and in spite of repeated requests nothing happens. Sangrez, MacLeesh's Library of Congress representative here, has already done much for the American, ^{side} in the matter of purchasing books, but nothing has been done for the British. It should not be at all difficult to set up a regular service both from UK and US and I think that this is of considerable importance.

Broadcasting

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I have had three requests from the BBC for guidance and information on their broadcasts to Italy. It is a matter almost impossible to deal with in correspondence but I think a good deal could be done by a visit.

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Broadcasting

I have had three requests from the BBC for guidance and information on their broadcasts to Italy. It is a matter almost impossible to deal with in correspondence but I think a good deal could be done by a visit, especially as I know the BBC personnel concerned. The same holds good for American broadcasting services: and it would be well worth getting opinions from both sides of the Atlantic on the future of radio in Italy.

Archives

Sooner or later we have to solve the question as to how we are to handle the ONE set of archives which we hold here. Are they to go to London or Washington? Should they be photostatically duplicated? Who will eventually handle them? Our archives should, I think, be linked up with the work of war historians, and both London and Washington should be consulted.

If Major Bergin and I were allowed to go - say for

a month - I think that the work of this Branch could be carried on by recalling Major Bullock and Lieut. Atkinson temporarily to this HQ.

Lionel Fielden

LIONEL FIELDEN

Major

Public Relations Director

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