

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND

No.

785017

ACC

10000/109/1248

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND

No.

785017

109/1248

NEWS AGENCIES & CORRESPONDENTS
JUNE 1944 - MAR. 1946

87

Note: Ref Minute 86 and folio 71.

Reported to CSO that conference on this
subject taking place AFHQ Monday which
Mr. Brown will attend.

22 June 45.

HA/

White

74

Note: Informed by Miss Wolfe of P.R. B. that AFHQ had no record of receipt of folio 71, only 73. why therefore did not AFHQ on receipt of 73 verify 71? a copy of 71 has now been furnished by P.R. B. to C.S. wire B/O again on 20 June. 1945.

12 June 45

Whitaker

Japer with your survey.

W. Rankin

B/O 20/6 Noted.

12/6.

14 12/6

84.

Ex Com 2

482
I by-passed the 48 in 100.
- 83' - yesterday evening
because CC. looked to
take it to Canada. He has
done so. (3)

84.

Excerpt.

480

I by-passed ~~the~~ in the
- 83' - yesterday evening
because C.C. looked to
take it to Canada. He has
done so. (13)

Good. 8/14/6

86

C.S.O.

Ref. Minute 44 above our file 41. P.R.B. has
still no reply but are going to stick to AT-149 -
the telephone and ~~maintain~~ the current position.
we are to be advised. Have B/O's for 22 June.

20 June 45.

W 10/6
Mrs. [Signature]

66

Ex. Com

To see files 64 & 65 - info only.

3/4 Noted. 2.

[Signature]
2 Apr.

67

Chief Commissioner.

Attached is submitted for your information information.

3/4

CC 1452
APR 3 RECD

2

68

6/4

Noted EWS_{cc}

481

480

- 44 -

Executive Commissioner:

Minutes of Third Meeting filed at 42.
Report for signature by Chief Commissioner enclosed,
file copy filed at 53.

J. L. Henderson

Tel: 429081
Ext: 400

J. L. HENDERSON
Colonel,
Director,
Communications S/C.

23rd February, 1945

54

Encl.

Please see min 44 + attached report for C.C.O. signature.

J. L. Henderson

55

Chief Commissioner:

Attached is submitted for your information/signature approval.

MS 1475

cc 570
FEB 24 1945

56

Note: Folio 53 signed by chief Commissioner and
dispatched direct from his office to ARHQ at 11.30 hrs

25 Feb. 45

26 Feb 45.

J. L. Henderson

Chief Confidentiality

Attached is submitted for your information/signature/initial.

MS 1475

CC 570
FEB 24 1960

56

Note: Folio 53 signed by chief Commissioner ¹⁷⁸ and
dispatched direct from his office to AFHQ at 11.30 hrs

25 Feb. 45

26 Feb 45.

[Signature]
26 Feb 45

53

Exec Commr:

To see folio 52.

[Signature]
16/March

See by EC & CC. ^{10/3.}

37

JLH/epc

To: Executive Commissioner:

1. In order to complete this file, a copy of minutes of the First Meeting of the Technical Sub-Committee has been inserted at 22 A.
 2. To obtain approval of this Sub-Committee to the report to A.F.H.Q., it is proposed to convene a Third Meeting with agenda stated at ~~35.36~~.
- Can the C.C.'s approval please be obtained.

J. L. Henderson

Tel: 439081
Ext: 400

17th February, 1945

J. L. HENDERSON
Colonel,
Director,
Communications Sub-Commission

38

Exec. Com.

To see min ³⁷~~34~~ in response to C.C.'s min 32. *JLH* 17 Feb.

JLH 17/2

39

Dis. Comm. Sub-Com.

Must we have a committee meeting to cope

JLH 18/2

With the report?

40

17th February, 1945

Director,
Communications Sub-Commission

38

Exec. Com.

To see min ³⁷ in response to C's min 32. Feb 17 Feb.

MS/1712

§639.

Dis. Council Sub-Com.

Must we have a committee meeting to cope

MS/1812

with the report?

§740.

→ Dis. Comm?

A report from a Committee should surely have the
approval of the Committee? Yes

Yes but just as simple to circulate MS/1812

41

NOTE: Folios 34 to 36 admitted by Executive Council
to Chief Council on 19 Feb for approval. Attached
and returned by Chief Council direct to Council Sec. on
21 Feb 45 for issue.

[Signature]
21 Feb 45

22 Feb 45.

LA

COS
You should see JL and JRT.

(SEN) E TALENT MAT 2/10

(SEN) MIL. 2/10

C50
above copied from file 2/10/10

10+15 P. R. O. ~ CC have copies

Si 28/12. 18/30/11

22

COS

To see 21. 17/11 p
Si 9/11

30

COS

To see folios 26-28 - Mins of Commemorative S/c's
meeting re. press distribution by Clinton Gov't.
Routine only, no great problems. 12th Feb.

COS

30

To see folios 26-28 - Minis of Communications Sec's
meeting re. press distribution by Clinton Gov't.
Routine only, no great problems. per 12th Feb.

CC 402

FEB 13 1960

31.

Chief Commissioner.

Attached is submitted for your information/ ~~information~~.

32.

7/5/61

COS No have intermediate reports prepared
12 for AFHQ, as previously requested 205 cc

33

Communications Sec

Re CC's min 32. Appropriate action phase. per 15 Feb.

9261

C. COMMISSIONER

(93)

TRANSLATION

ITALIAN INFORMATION SERVICE.

Rome, 14 March, 1946.

No. 1660

To: - Admiral Ellery W. Stone,
Chief Commissioner
Allied Commission
Rome.

We would be grateful if you would give Dott. O. FELICE,
who is a collaborator of the Journalistic Agency, (Agenzia Giornalistica),
S.I.D.I., an interview, as he is desirous of getting your impressions on
the elections in Italy, and on the affirmation of the democratic spirit in
our Country.

Dott. Felice does not speak English.

Awaiting a reply,

Yours truly,

For L'AMMINISTRATORE UNICO

(MB)

(Rag. Realini Carboni)

(a) Carboni.

E.C. DIST. 14.3.46.

ACTION - C. COMM.

INFO - E COMM.

PRO.

(C.S.P.)

Felice
15/3.

9261
RESTRICTED

Ex. Comm (92)

PR/794
JULY 16/1300B

2/9924
JULY 16/2040P
PRIORITY

FROM: ROME AREA

10 : ACTION: ALLIED COMMISSION PRO IV CORPS PRO FIVE ARMY PRO INFO: EIGHTH
ARMY DAIRP FREEDOM FOR DEFO

JUL 17 1945

RESTRICTED.

From Chief of INC. *(91)*

further to PR/792 subject lifting ban on movement political correspondents
in ITALY. following additional proviso should be included.

italian correspondents should be subject to same restrictions in
regard to movement into italian-french border zone as other civilians.
Zone extends eastward of pre-war international boundary for 25 miles from
junction of SWISS border to MEDITERRANEAN

DIST

ACTION : PR PR

INFO : CHIEF COMMISSION *476*
EX COMMISSIONER *(2)*
CA SEC
PUBLIC SAFETY
COMMUNICATIONS
FILE (2)
FLOAT

HEADQUARTERS
17 JUL 1945
A. INC.

RESTRICTED

(CSO)

18/7

RESTRICTED

PR/792

JULY

16 JUL 1945

E/9863

JULY 160935

PRIORITY

JUL 17 1945

From: ROME AREA

To: ALLIED COMMISSION INFO, IV CORPS INFO, 5 ARMY INFO, 8 ARMY INFO PR INFO FREEDOM FOR
INFO**RESTRICTED.**

From Chief of IMC. Existing ban on movement of Political correspondents anywhere in Northern ITALY is now relaxed subject to following provisions.

1. Army INFO's will not be responsible for feeding, accommodating and transporting.
2. Sole Army responsibility will be temporary provision of communication facilities. Such facilities will be subject to precedences below those accorded to accredited War Correspondents and will cease as soon as commercial communications are reestablished.
3. All copy will continue to be subject to normal military censorship regulations as now in force.
4. Only Italian correspondents permitted entry into Allied Zone of VENEZIA-GIULIA will be one representative each of three Agencies, via ANSA, ORSIS and SBDI.
5. In all cases in the VENEZIA-GIULIA area previous notice for entry of both Allied and Italian correspondents must be given and acceptance obtained through Army PR and/or AC PR channels.
6. Political and Italian correspondents will remain under control of AC and will only be allowed to operate if in possession of correct permits issued by AC PR.
7. Ban may be reimposed if purely military considerations should at any future time necessitate.

DIST
ACTION PR PR
INFO CHIEF COMMISSIONER, DEAC COMMISSIONER
C A SEC, PUB SAFETY,
FILE 2, FLOAT

Communications SG

SEE F 92

RESTRICTED

(680)

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

9261
COPY

~~87th~~
A

E.C. 90

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
Supreme Allied Commander's Secretariat

21 June 1945

22 JUN 1945

SUBJECT: Cessation of PWB Activities in ITALY

TO : Chief Commissioner
Allied Commission
ROME

88
89

The attached correspondence, originated in compliance with the decision taken at SAC (F) (45) 15th Meeting, Minute 10 (a), is forwarded for your information and any necessary action.

(sgd for)
J. E. BASTION, JR.
Colonel, GSC
Secretary to Supreme Allied Commander

1 Incl
Ltr dtd 19 June 45

[Handwritten signature]
27
6
474

Copy to: PWB
w/incls.

EC LIST - 22 JUNE 45

ACTION: COMMUNICATIONS SC
INFO: CHIEF COMM
EXEC COMM
P. R. B.

(CSO)

C O P Y

311.4/6/6 1st Ind
AFHQ, OCSigO, APO 512, US Army, 20 June 1945

RAD/WDE/jj

TO: Secretary to Supreme Allied Commander, AFHQ

1. The frequencies 288.23 kcs, 1556 kcs, 6285 kcs and 6485 kcs are still in use by PW3 for the Italian News File, but as soon as arrangements can be completed, these frequencies will be re-allocated to Headquarters Allied Commission for ITALCABLE. From the standpoint of frequency allocation, communications for Italian news transmissions can continue without interruption.

For the Chief Signal Officer:

/sgd/ Preston W. Simms,
PRESTON W. SIMMS
Lt Colonel, Signal Corps

4473

C O P Y

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
Supreme Allied Commander's Secretariat

19 June 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief Signal Officer

SUBJECT : Allotment of Frequencies to ITALCABLE

1. At the 15th Meeting of the Supreme Allied Commander's Political Conference on 15 June 1945, the Supreme Allied Commander directed that an investigation should be made into the allotment of three frequencies to ITALCABLE for transmission from ROME to news agencies in North ITALY.

2. It is desired that you examine urgently the possibility of allotting these frequencies to ITALCABLE. It is understood that they are at present reserved for the use of FWB, but the Director, FWB, states that he has made arrangements to loan FWB's transmitters in ROME to ITALCABLE so that FWB will have no further use for these frequencies after such time as you indicate that the allotment to ITALCABLE can be made.

/sgd/ J. E. Bastion, Jr.
J. E. BASTION, JR.
Colonel, GSC

Secretary to Supreme Allied Commander.

472

sub 51-90

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

GSB/new

9/PRB

16 June 1945
JUN 17 1945

SUBJECT: News Distribution in Northern Italy

TO : Chief Commissioner

1. A meeting was held today with the Italian and American news agencies to seek their views on the date on which they could begin distribution of news in northern Italy, thus permitting P.W.B. to cease its distribution.

2. The agencies were unanimous in their belief that for administrative reasons they could not be prepared to take over news distribution in northern Italy before July 15. It was their recommendation that AFHQ set the date for July 15 rather than July 1.

3. In view of the wordage requirements of the eight agencies, it was decided that Col. Souder's Technical Sub-Committee should, in collaboration with the Italian Ministry of Communications and Italian Press Ministry, work out a system of rationing of the wordage of all agencies, especially at peak periods.

G. STEWART BROWN
Director,
Public Relations Branch

Distribution:

Executive Commissioner
Civil Affairs Section
Communications S/C
Political Advisors - American and British
P.W.B. - Mr. J. Linen, Rome
 Mr. G. Edman, Milan
 Mr. R. Barnes, Naples
 Mr. Radford, Rome
Maj. Floyd Weidman, G-5, AFHQ
Col. Hobson, Info. & Censorship, AFHQ
PRB Files

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

9261 + 92678

53

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

Office of the Chief Commissioner

APO 394

PRB/9

13 June 1945

SUBJECT: Cessation of P.W.B. Activities in Northern Italy

TO : Chief of Staff
AFHQ

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1. On 29 May the Supreme Allied Commander's Conference (Political) directed the Allied Commission to set up a Technical Sub-Committee to recommend a date for the transfer of responsibility for the collection and dissemination of news from P.W.B. to private news agencies, Allied and Italian.

2. The report of this Sub-Committee is attached herewith as "Tab A". It should be noted that communications facilities will be available to private news agencies on July 1. If this is the date on which AFHQ desires that P.W.B. shall cease its distribution of news in northern Italy and to turn over the responsibility to private agencies, the approval by AFHQ should be forthcoming at an early date in order to allow the private news agencies sufficient time to make their plans.

3. There is also attached as "Tab B" the proposal recommended by the Allied Publications Board for the control of press and radio in AMG territory after the dissolution of P.W.B. as directed under II 2 of SAC(P)28. This proposal is submitted for approval by AFHQ.

4. There is also attached as "Tab C" the directive under which the press officers would operate. This is also submitted for AFHQ approval.

151

P/A

ELLERY W. STONE
Rear Admiral, USNR
Chief Commissioner

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Encl. Tab A
Tab B
Tab C

DISTRIBUTION:

Executive Commissioner (2)
Civil Affairs Section
Communications S/C
Political Advisors - American and British
P.W.B. - Mr. J. Linen
Mr. G. Edman
Mr. R. Barnes
Mr. Redford

Maj. F. Weidman, G-5 Sec.
PRB Files
Information & Censorship
Section: att: Col. Hobson

(Signed and Tabled by C.C. to Censorship - 14 June 45)

Tab A

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
Communications Sub-Commission

HHS/epc

G.253. .CS

13th June, 1945

SUBJECT: Distribution of News by Private News Agencies
in North Italy (excluding Venezia Giulia)

TO : Chief Commissioner, Allied Commission

1. The Technical Sub-Committee appointed by you to study communication facilities available to private news agencies for distribution of news in North Italy is satisfied that as of July 1st, 1945 facilities will be available to permit adequate coverage of North Italy by private news agencies provided that:

a. radio frequencies now used by P.W.B. for news distribution be allocated to the Italian Government for use by Italcable. Request for such allocation is being made to A.P.H.Q.

/S/

H.H. SCUDDER
Lt. Colonel, Sig. C.
Director.

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COPIES

Tab B

OFFICE OF THE
ALLIED PUBLICATIONS BOARD
62 Via Veneto, Rome
Telephone 48917; Extension 178

CONFIDENTIAL

12th June, 1945

TO : Chief Commissioner, Allied Commission,
Copies to Director, PWB ARHQ

FROM : Chairman, Allied Publications Board.

SUBJECT : Direction and Control of Italian Press and Radio.

1. A detailed scheme for the control of Italian Press and Radio in North Italy after the cessation of PWB activities is submitted herewith. The scheme provides for direction and control through press officers and a directive to govern the work of these officers is annexed thereto.
2. The scheme and directive have been adopted by APB, in accordance with recommendation 2 of the annexure to SAC(I) (45) 28, after discussion with representatives of the AMG Regional Commissioners in North Italy and of OWI and MOI.
3. The scheme does not apply to Venezia Giulia or to that part of Italian territory lying east of the security control line.
4. The scheme does not provide for the control of Southern Italian transmitters, such as Rome II, which are audible in North Italy. This question was fully considered both in consultation with representatives of the Regional Commissioners in Milan and by APB. Although, from the point of view of AMG, the desirability of such control was fully appreciated, APB considers that any attempt to impose political censorship over stations such as Rome II and that I would be out of place at the present time, when the tendency is towards a relaxation rather than a tightening of Allied control. It was further of the opinion that the reimposition of such control would require a use of Allied personnel and would arouse Italian opposition out of all proportion to the advantages to be gained. In reaching this conclusion APB was influenced by the consideration that such control to be effective would have to be extended to

468

468

2. The scheme and directives have been adopted by APB, in accordance with recommendation 2 of the annexure to SAC(E) (45) 28, after discussion with representatives of the AMG Regional Commissioners in North Italy and of OWI and MOI.
3. The scheme does not apply to Venezia Giulia or to that part of Italian territory lying east of the security control line.
4. The scheme does not provide for the control of Southern Italian transmitters, such as Rome II, which are audible in North Italy. This question was fully considered both in consultation with representatives of the Regional Commissioners in Milan and by APB. However, from the point of view of AMG, the desirability of such control was fully appreciated. APB considers that any attempt to impose political censorship over stations such as Rome II and Rome I would be out of place at the present time, when the tendency is towards a relaxation rather than a tightening of Allied control. It was further of the opinion that the reimposition of such control would require a use of Allied personnel and would arouse Italian opposition out of all proportion to the advantages to be gained. In reaching this conclusion APB was influenced by the consideration that such control to be effective would have to be extended to British and American transmissions in Italian, a measure beyond its terms of reference. APB was therefore of the opinion that all reference to the control of Italian transmitters situated outside the area under AMG should be deleted from the scheme and recommended that no control, other than military censorship, should be exercised over these radio stations.
5. The annexed scheme calls for the amendment of the AFHQ Administrative Memorandum defining the powers of constitution of APB. A draft of the required amendments is attached.

003

2. 6. AFB invites the AC to forward the attached scheme and directive to the Chief of Staff, AFHQ, for submission to the Supreme Allied Commander's Conference (Political) and to forward the draft amendments for issue as an AFHQ Administrative Memorandum subject to the Conference's approval of the scheme.

/s/ GEORGE W. EDMAN

Chairman,
Allied Publications Board

CONFIDENTIAL

12th June, 1945.

ALLIED PUBLICATIONS BOARD

PROPOSAL FOR THE DIRECTION AND CONTROL OF
ITALIAN PRESS AND RADIO ON CESSATION OF
PWB ACTIVITIES IN NORTHERN ITALY.

1. Italian Press and Radio in North Italy will be free to use any news and information available from official sources and private agencies subject to the requirements of military censorship.
2. The elimination of material likely to inflame public opinion and the objective presentation of contentious issues to the Italian population resident in areas under Allied Military Government will be secured through Allied Press Officers whose functions and status are defined below:
3. APB, which will continue to meet at Rome, will appoint from among the civilian and military personnel at present employed by PWB, Allied Press Officers. These will be stationed in areas in which there is a Regional Commissioner, with whom they will act in close cooperation.
4. The Press Officers will act in accordance with directives prepared by APB concurred by AC/AMG and approved by the Chief of Staff, AFHQ. In case of emergency when public safety is endangered the Press Officer will act on the instructions of the Regional Commissioner: in the event of these instructions being at variance with the directives of APB, the matter will be referred back to higher authority for decision.
5. The Press Officers will be under the command of the Chief Press Officer, who is directly responsible to the Chairman of APB. The Chief Press Officer will be a member of APB and will act as Deputy to the Chairman as required.
6. The direction and control of the Italian Press and Radio, vested in APB, will be additional to that exercised by military censorship: it will normally be carried out by means of post publication scrutiny. In cases likely to inflame public opinion, and in controversial issues which will be the subject of directives from AFHQ, Press Officers will have the right to demand from the non-political information newspapers, which will be authorised in each region, the pre-publication submission of editorial articles and comment and will be entitled to delete from such articles

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Allied Press Officers. These will be stationed in areas in which there is a Regional Commissioner, with whom they will act in close cooperation.

4. The Press Officers will act in accordance with directives prepared by APB concurred by AC/AMG and approved by the Chief of Staff, AFHQ. In case of emergency when public safety is endangered the Press Officer will act on the instructions of the Regional Commissioner; in the event of these instructions being at variance with the directives of APB, the matter will be referred back to higher authority for decision.

5. The Press Officers will be under the command of the Chief Press Officer, who is directly responsible to the Chairman of APB. The Chief Press Officer will be a member of APB and will act as Deputy to the Chairman as required.

6. The direction and control of the Italian Press and Radio, vested in APB, will be additional to that exercised by military censorship; it will normally be carried out by means of post publication scrutiny. In cases likely to inflame public opinion, and in controversial issues which will be the subject of directives from AFHQ, Press Officers will have the right to demand from the non-political information newspapers, which will be authorized in each region, the pre-publication submission of editorial articles and comment and will be entitled to delete from such articles matter liable to inflame public opinion. Press Officers will also be entitled to require these non-political information papers to publish, in full or in part, official Allied statements and orders.

7. The Press Officer will have the power to exercise similar control over Radio scripts in any circumstances when he may consider this necessary.

8. Licensing of the press, including weekly and monthly magazines,

contd.

- 2 -

and the allotment of circulation to newspapers and posters, will be the responsibility of Regional APBs, whose decisions will be subject to confirmation by the Central APB.

9. Regional APBs will include the following:-

Press Officer	Chairman
Asst. Press Officer	Secretary
Representative of Regional Commissioner	
Representative of Military Censorship	

The Chairman, APB, will be ex officio a member of all regional boards and may delegate the Chief Press Officer to attend as his representative.

10.

The control of Paper Supplies and Production will be the responsibility of AC/AMG.

11.

The Press Officers will, if desired, act as the agents for OWI and MOI for the distribution of American and British publications within their areas, OWI and MOI providing the Italian staff necessary for this purpose.

CONFIDENTIAL

DIRECTIVE FOR A.P.B.

12th June, 1945.

I.

AIMS

1. To secure a fair and objective presentation of world and domestic news to Italian public opinion.
2. To secure the elimination from the Italian Press and Radio of all irresponsible material likely to inflame public opinion, or in any other way hinder the work of the Allied authorities.
3. To assist AC/ANG in the administration and rehabilitation of territory under Military Government.
4. To assist the reconstruction and re-education of the Italian Press in Democratic methods.

II.

DIRECTIVE

1. We encourage the Italian Press and Radio to present a fair and objective picture of contentious issues, and to restrict their comment to a straightforward presentation of their own case, avoiding unnecessary misrepresentation.
2. We encourage Italian writers to avoid violent comments and the reporting of unconfirmed rumours in cases where this is likely to cause public unrest and public disorder.
3. We endeavour, by the supply of long-term material and features not otherwise available to the Italian Press and Radio, to provide them with the means of presenting a balanced picture of world events and of events in other countries.
4. We endeavour, by means of personal influence, to ensure that work necessary for the reconstruction and the efficient administration of the country is given proper publicity over the Italian Press and Radio.
5. We exercise particularly close supervision over the treatment in Press and Radio of the following issues, which are likely to have a disturbing effect on Italian public opinion:

1. All frontier problems affecting Italy.
2. The institutional question.
3. The disposal of the Italian colonies.

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2. We encourage Italian writers to avoid violent comments and the repeating of unconfirmed rumours in cases where this is likely to cause public unrest and public disorder.
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5. We exercise particularly close supervision over the treatment in Press and Radio of the following issues, which are likely to have a disturbing effect on Italian public opinion:
 1. All frontier problems affecting Italy.
 2. The institutional question.
 3. The disposal of the Italian colonies, the Italian fleet and other similar points arising out of the Armistice terms.
 4. Local or general industrial unrest or strikes.
 5. Epuration trials of high ranking Fascists.

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92614

CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

20a/PFB

13 June 1945.

SUBJECT : Entry of Private News Agencies into AMG Controlled Territory in Northern Italy.
JUN 14 1945

TO : P.W.B. (Att: Mr. James Linen
Mr. Griffin Bancroft
Mr. I.N. King)

Associated Press
United Press
International News Service
Reuters
Ansa
SI
Orbis
Sidi
Communications Sub-Commission

1. As you know P.W.B. is anxious to cease its distribution of news in AMG controlled territory in Northern Italy as soon as possible and to turn over further responsibility for news distribution in that territory to private news agencies.
2. You are invited to send a representative to a meeting to discuss this matter at 1100 hours on Saturday, June 16th in the Conference Room of the AG headquarters building on the third floor near the Office of the Chief Commissioner.

Confidential

STEWART BROWN
Director,
Public Relations Branch.
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Copy for info:
Chief Commissioner
Executive Commissioner

Communications Sub-Commission

1. As you know P.W.B. is anxious to cease its distribution of news in AMG controlled territory in northern Italy as soon as possible and to turn over further responsibility for news distribution in that territory to private news agencies.

2. You are invited to send a representative to a meeting to discuss this matter at 1100 hours on Saturday, June 16th in the Conference Room of the AC headquarters building on the third floor near the Office of the Chief Commissioner.

Copy for info:

Chief Commissioner
Executive Commissioner/
Civil Affairs Section
Political Advisors
Major Anderson, American Embassy
Maj. F. Weidman, G-5 Section, ACHQ
Mr. Geo. Edman, F.W.E., Milan
Mr. Radford, P.T.D., Rome
Miss Vining, P.W.B., Rome.

Stewart Brown

STEWART BROWN

Director,
Public Relations Branch.

465

St

9261
HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

Office of the Chief Commissioner

APO 394

76
HHS/eps

G. 253. 7968

JUN 7 1945

SUBJECT: Distribution of News to Private Agencies

TO: Col. A.C.W. Hobson, I.S.C., A.F.H.Q., ADV. Rome.
Mr. Stewart Brown, P.R.O., A.C.
Lt. Col. L.F. Reeves, Signal Officer, R.A.A.C., Rome.
Lt. Col. H.H. Scudder, Communications Sub-Commission, A.C.
Mr. J. King, P.R.O., Rome.

1. By order of the Supreme Allied Commander, A.F.H.Q., a technical Sub-Committee will meet to investigate at what juncture and by what means the distribution of news to newspapers and radio stations by private news agencies, both foreign and Italian, should be extended throughout liberated Italy, except Venezia Giulia.

2. The above named representatives have been appointed members of the committee and are requested to be present at the first meeting 11.00 hours Friday June 8th in Room 34, 4th Floor, A.C. Headquarters.

3. Lt. Col. H.H. Scudder will be chairman of the Committee.

10/ LT. JOHN LANNIN, USNR.

70
ELMER E. STONE
Rear Admiral, USNR
Chief Commissioner

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[Signature]

(Lt. Col. Scudder)

9261

CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

APO 394

PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

20a/PRB

7 June 1944

SUBJECT : Entry of Private News Agencies into the Provinces of
Leghorn, Pisa, Florence and Pistoia.

TO : Associated Press
United Press
International News Service
Reuters
Ansa
SI
Orbis
Sidi

JUN 7 1945

1. Reference is to our 20/PRB of 4 June on the above subject.

2. Subsequent to this notice AFHQ altered the turn-over date to 0001 hours, June 19th. You are therefor advised that the date your agency can begin distributing news in the provinces of Leghorn, Pisa, Florence and Pistoia is June 19th instead of June 18th.

G. Stewart Brown

G. STEWART BROWN,
Director,
Public Relations Branch.

Copy for info:

Chief Commissioner
Executive Commissioner
Civil Affairs Section
Communications Sub-Commission
Political Advisors - British and American
Major Anderson, American Embassy
Mr. M. Stewart, British Embassy
Major F. Weidman, G-5 Section, AFHQ
Mr. George Edman, P.W.B., Milan
Mr. Radford, P.W.B., Rome
Mr. G. Bancroft, P.W.B. Rome
Miss Vining, P.W.B. Rome.

463

CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

APO 394

PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

GSE/cb

20e/PRB

4 June 45 5 JUN 1945

SUBJECT : Entry of Private News Agencies into the Provinces of Leghorn, Pisa, Florence and Pistoia.

TO : Associated Press
United Press
International News Service
Reuters
Ansa
SI
Orbis
Sidi

1. On May 25 a meeting was held with the above listed agencies and PWB to discuss the date on which P.W.B. would cease the distribution of news in the provinces of Leghorn, Pisa, Florence and Pistoia and the private news agencies, Allied and Italian, would begin distribution of news in these provinces.
2. At that time the date for the return of these provinces to the jurisdiction of the Italian Government had not been definitely set. The date for the transfer has now been established for 0001 hours, June 18th. In accordance with our agreement June 18 will be the date on which P.W.B. will turn over to private agencies the responsibility for future distribution of news in these provinces. Private agencies can therefore begin servicing papers in these provinces as of the above date. In order to prevent any confusion or interruption in the service P.W.B. has agreed to continue its service for two days after the transfer or until June 20th.
3. This is to be considered an official notification that your agency can start distributing news in the above provinces on June 18th. The information contained in this letter must be considered confidential until it is announced by the Allied Commission.

that
652

agencies and PWS to discuss the date on which P.W.B. would cease the distribution of news in the provinces of Leghorn, Pisa, Florence and Pistoia and the private news agencies, Allied and Italian, would begin distribution of news in these provinces.

2. At that time the date for the return of these provinces to the jurisdiction of the Italian Government had not been definitely set. The date for the transfer has now been established for 0001 hours, June 18th. In accordance with our agreement June 18 will be the date on which P.W.B. will turn over to private agencies the responsibility for future distribution of news in these provinces. Private agencies can therefore begin servicing papers in these provinces as of the above date. In order to prevent any confusion or interruption in the service P.W.B. has agreed to continue its service for two days after the transfer or until June 20th.

3. This is to be considered an official notification that your agency can start distributing news in the above provinces on June 18th. The information contained in this letter must be considered confidential until it is announced by the Allied Commission.

Robert Brown

G. STEWART BROWN,
Director,

Public Relations Branch.

Copy for info:

Chief Commissioner

Executive Commissioner

Civil Affairs Section

Communications Sub-Commission

Political Advisors - British and American

Major Anderson, American Embassy

Mr. M. Stewart, British Embassy

Major F. Weidman, G-5 Section, AFHQ

Mr. George Edman, P.W.B., Milan

Mr. Radford, P.W.B. Rome

Mr. G. Bancroft, P.W.B. Rome

Miss Vining, P.W.B. Rome.

(Rel. to [unclear])

g. p. h.
[Signature]

Ref: 9264/73/50.

1 June 1945.

SUBJECT: Allied War and Political Correspondence.

TO : AFHQ
Attention G-5 section.

A reply to letter 98/PAB dated 17 May 1945 from Public Relations Branch is requested.

For the Chief Commissioner:

E. Tabor
Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

Copy to: Col. H. Astley,
PRO, AFHQ
Maj. F. Weidman,
PRO, G-5.
Ex. Commissioner Files (2)
PAB Files (1)

BU 461
8/6/45
J. H. S. J.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND

No.

785017

E. T. 11/10/64

Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

Copy to: Col. R. A. Astley,

PRO, AFHQ

Maj. F. Weidman,

PRO, G-5.

Ex. Commissioner Files (2)

PAB Files (1)

461

BU 8/6/64

4

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

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

G3B/cb

98/PRB

15 May, 1945

SUBJECT : Allied War and Political Correspondents.

TO : Colonel P.R. Astley, PRO, AFHQ.

1. Reference Lt.Col. Helder 2/PR3/70 of May 4th attaching a proposed bulletin to be posted in the Hotel de la Ville.

2. This question was discussed at the Executive Commissioner's staff meeting and it was felt that the Allied Commission should not take on the responsibility of providing accommodations for those War Correspondents who elect to remain in Rome after PRO.AFHQ closes down in Rome.

3. It was felt that the correspondents should be given ample time in which to provide their own accommodations, either directly or through arrangements with the Italian government and their own national embassies.

4. It was further felt that the A.C. mess for political correspondents should be closed at the same time that the Hotel de la Ville ceases to function as a correspondents' hotel.

5. A memo, copy attached, has been sent to AFHQ, G-5, seeking their views.

G. STEWART BROWN,
Director,
Public Relations Branch.

Copy to:
Executive Commissioner
Major Weidman, PRO.AFHQ.

(HAT STEWARTS)

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

9261
 HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
 APO 394
 PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

98/PMB

17 May 1945

SUBJECT: Allied War and Political Correspondents

TO : AFHQ
Attention G-5 Section

1. PRO, AFHQ has directed our attention to the possibility that the Rome branch AFHQ Public Relations may move shortly.
2. PRO, AFHQ would like to warn those Allied war correspondents who may wish to remain in Rome after the move that he can no longer accommodate the correspondents in the PRO hotel and that they should look to the Allied Commission for accommodation.
3. The Public Relations Branch, Allied Commission is currently accommodating 6 Allied political correspondents in a small villa. This villa will only sleep a maximum of 9 persons and feed 16.
4. It is anticipated that a large proportion of the Allied war correspondents will elect to remain in Rome as regular civilian correspondents for their newspapers and agencies.
5. The Allied Commission does not feel that it is its responsibility to provide food and lodging for these correspondents. Some consideration however should be given to the correspondents to give them time to provide for themselves.
6. It is recommended that PRO, AFHQ not abruptly terminate the facilities it is extending to war correspondents but give them a period, say three months, in which to provide for themselves. The Allied Commission would give the same notice to the political correspondents so that on the same date both political and war correspondents would return to civilian status.

453

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see 73

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 (over)

Noted
 17/5

- 2 -

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7. Your decision on this matter is requested.

For the Chief Commissioner.

M. S. LUSH

Brigadier
Executive Commissioner.

Copy to: Col. P. R. Astley,
PRO. AMHQ
Maj. F. Weidman,
PRO. G-5.
Ex. Commissioner Files (2)
PMB Files (1)

458

File 926/EC

APR 4 1945

Extract of Minutes of Executive Commissioner's Meeting held on 3 April 1945.

PEB - AFHQ.

PEB reported that PEB - AFHQ had stated their Adv HQ would move out fairly soon which raised the problem of the civilian correspondents they would leave behind. A/Ex C said this brought up the whole question of AC and the various agencies that had been looked after for the sake of convenience. The eventual goal would be the establishment of these agencies on a civilian basis. He directed Est Sec to take up with RAAC and possibly with the Ambassies with a view to working out a scheme as to supply.

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9267
ALLIED ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ COMMISSION
INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Attached memorandum
TO : Chief Commissioner
(Through Deputy Executive Commissioner)

FILE No. 20/PRB
2 April 1945

The attached letter is routed to you for your information.

JB
G. STUART BROWN
D.F.B.

P.S. I have communicated the contents
to Reuters, A.P., U.P., I.N.S.

453
17/4

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ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
INFORMATION AND CENSORSHIP SECTION
PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE BRANCH
ITALIAN THEATRE HEADQUARTERS
P.W.B. UNIT No. 12 U.S.A.P.O. 512

31 March 1945

Mr. G. Stewart Brown
Director
Public Relations Branch
Headquarters Allied Commission
APO 394
U.S. Army

Dear Stewart:

I understand that you have had queries regarding the servicing of local newspapers by PWB.

In order to keep the records straight I would appreciate it, if you feel it advisable, that you inform the news agencies of the following facts:

1. In accordance with military directives PWB ceased supplying any news to Italian newspapers and news agencies as well as to Allied newspapers and news agencies in Rome on January 15 last. The service papers, however, were given a five day extension since they had not made arrangements to procure their world news from other sources. On January 20, our files were withheld from them also. The only exception to this was news from Allied sources in Italy, since the Italian press was not equipped to cover this itself.

2. Service papers and radio stations protested and were told that this suspension was a result of strict military orders and could not be violated.

3. These papers and stations appealed directly to the Chief of Staff, who in turn ordered PWB to make its full service available to Stars and Stripes, Union Jack, Maple Leaf (until it suspended publication here), AES and BES.

In view of these military orders, copies of which are in my possession, PWB has no choice but to make its files available to these outlets.

Sincerely,

Luffing Bancroft
Luffing Bancroft
Chief, News Division

455

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
Communications Sub-Commission

HHS/epc

G.253.44.CS

14th March, 1945

SUBJECT: Private News Agency Telegraph Traffic

TO: Executive Commissioner.

1. The Chief Commissioner has requested that he be informed of telegraph traffic filed by private news agencies since withdrawal of P.W.B. from the press field in Italian Government Territory on March 5th, 1945.

2. Such traffic has been as follows:

Date	Number of Messages	Number of Words	Destination
March 5	1	419	Naples
" 6	1	457	Naples
" 7	2	425	Naples
" 8	1	410	Naples
" 9	1	421	Naples
" 10	1	467	Naples
" 11	0	0	
* " 12	17	4851	Naples
	16	4467	Palermo
	16	4402	Bari

* O.W.I. started sending approximately 1000 words a day to Naples, Palermo, and Bari.

3. Sender of daily message from 5-10 March was United Press. Some traffic has been cleared by telephone.

4. A.N.S.A. has set up offices in Naples, Bari and Palermo and is reported to be receiving news by radio. A.N.S.A. has complained to the Under-Secretary for P.T. that the rate of 10 centesimi per word for press telegrams is beyond the means of Italian newspapers.

5. It is of interest to note that Italcable's total revenue from this traffic (to be divided among four offices) amounts for the period under review to \$ 163.19.

J. L. HENDERSON
Colonel, 2nd Col
Director.

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

Ref: 9261/61/EC.

9th March 1945.

SUBJECT: PNB Activities in Liberated Italy.

TO : Public Relations Branch.

Herewith for your information a further extract from the Minutes of SAGMED's Political Conference of 2nd March 1945 at which this subject was discussed.

/JG.

Chief Staff Officer,
to the Executive Commissioner.

453
/m

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EXTRACT

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS, APO 512

SAC (P) (45) 2nd Meeting
2 March 1945

R 2

SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER'S CONFERENCE, POLITICAL

2. PWB ACTIVITIES IN LIBERATED ITALY

(Previous reference SAC (P) (45) 1st Meeting, Minute 2)

LIEUTENANT GENERAL HARDING reported that PWB had been authorized to hand over the distribution of news within liberated ITALY to private press agencies as from 4 March. A draft telegram to the Combined Chiefs of Staff setting out previous PWB responsibilities in liberated ITALY, enumerating those activities which had already been handed back to the Italians and stating plans for the future turnover of other functions, would be circulated for consideration at a future meeting.

MR. BARNES reported that a measure of agreement had been reached between AG, the US and British Embassies and PWB in respect of which further functions should be returned to Italian control and that the details of this agreement would be submitted to the Supreme Allied Commander for approval, through the Psychological Warfare Sub-Committee.

THE SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER:

Took note of the above.

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

AFC 394

MAR 1 - 1945

1st March, 1945

Minutes of the Fourth Meeting held in the Allied Commission on Wednesday February 22nd, 1945 to discuss final arrangements for news distribution by private agencies.

Present:

Mr. Stewart Brown Public Relation Officer, A.C.

Lt. Col. J. L. Hayden I.M.C.

Lt. Col. H. E. Souder, Communications Sub-Commission A.C.

Major J. G. Gordon, R.A.A.C.

Mr. George Egan, F.W.D.

Representatives of:

Associated Press

United Press

International News

Exchange Telegraph

Reuters

AUSA

Orbis

S.I.

R.A.I.

Italeale

Azienda di Stato

Mr. Stewart Brown presided and opened the meeting by reading the A.C. communication authorising an of March 1st, 1945 distribution of news in Italian Government by private news agencies. **451**

From the discussion which ensued it was established that complete withdrawal of P.W.D. present service on March 1st was somewhat precipitate. It was therefore agreed:

HKS/enc

Mr. George Edman, F.W.B.

Representatives of:

Associated Press
United Press
International News
Exchange Telegraph
Reuters
APSA
CPUSA
S.I.
R.S.I.
Italcable
Azienda di Stato

Mr. Stewart Brown presided and opened the meeting by reading the F.W.B. communication authorizing us of March 1st, 1945 distribution of news in Italian Government territory by private news agencies. **453**

From the discussion which ensued it was established that complete withdrawal of F.W.B. present service on March 1st was somewhat precipitate. It was therefore agreed:

a. that F.W.B. would continue its present service until midnight March 4th, 1945. Mr Brown will make a written request to F.W.B. to this effect

b. Communication facilities for news distribution will be available from March 1st and any news agency wishing to use such facilities may do so without awaiting F.W.B. withdrawal of its service.

H.A. SCUDDER

Lt. Colonel,

Secretary.

[Handwritten signature]

CONFIDENTIAL.

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
Office of the Executive Commissioner
+++++

Ref: 9261/58/30.

27 February 1945.

SUBJECT: Future of PWB.

TO : Public Relations Branch.

1. Further to my letters 9261/18/COS of 4 January 1945 and 9261/20/COS of 6 January 1945.

2. Herewith for your information extract from the Minutes of SACRED's Political Meeting held on 20 February at which this matter was again discussed.

/JG.

[Signature]
Chief Staff Officer,
to the Executive Commissioner.

Copy to: File 9267/30.

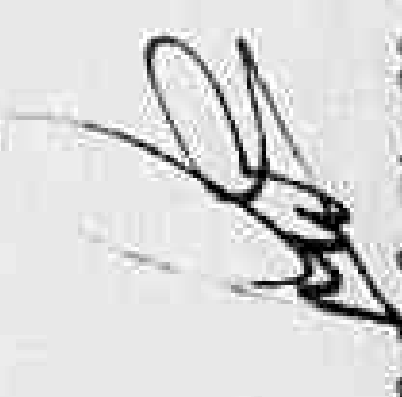
450

See 60

1. Further to my letters 9261/18/COS of 4 January 1945 and 9261/20/COS of 6 January 1945.

2. Herewith for your information extract from the Minutes of SACMEND's Political Meeting held on 20 February at which this matter was again discussed.

/JC.


Chief Staff Officer,
to the Executive Commissioner.

Copy to: File 9267/EO.

450

See

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EXTRACT

~~TOP SECRET~~

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS

K 77

SAC (P) (45) 1st Meeting
20th February, 1945

SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER'S CONFERENCE
(POLITICAL)

* * *

2. FUTURE OF PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE BRANCH

(Previous reference: SAC (P) (44) 37th Meeting - Conclusion 5(b))

MAJOR GENERAL LEMNITZER explained that, in accordance with conclusion 5(b) of SAC (P) (44) 37th Meeting, a directive describing the organization of IWB and laying down its functions for the future and the procedure by which these would be controlled had been prepared and issued.* A copy of this directive, which was drawn in general terms, had been sent to WASHINGTON.

MR. MACMILLAN added that a detailed scheme for transferring PWB functions in liberated ITALY was being worked out.

MR. BARNES reported that private press agencies were now operating in ROME.

REAR ADMIRAL STONE reported that the Technical Sub-Committee previously set up, of which he was Chairman, had now completed its work and it was proposed to hand over to private agencies as from 1st March IWB's responsibility for the dissemination of news in liberated ITALY other than ROME.

THE SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER:

Took note of the above reports.

* * *

* AFHQ Staff Memorandum #13 (1945)

~~TOP SECRET~~

File 9267/EC,

Page 35

Copy to: File 9267/EC.
PRC - see P/58

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

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G.253.32.08

24 February, 1945

SUBJECT: Distribution of Press by Private News Agencies.
TO: A.M.S.Q.
Att: Colonel J.R. LASCOMBES, J.B. and P.B.

1. Reference the Minutes of the 37th Meeting of the Supreme Allied Commander's Conference (Political), the following report is submitted by the Technical Sub-Committee convened under para. 4.

2. This Sub-Committee is satisfied that:

- a. distribution of Press by private news agencies can commence 1st March, 1945
- b. transmission by land telegraph to Naples, Bari, Catania and Palermo from Rome will be speedy and reliable. Italcable are operating the circuits to Naples, Catania and Palermo from the outset and will be operating the circuit to Bari shortly.
- c. the transmission by land telegraph to minor towns in Southern Italy, Sicily and Sardinia will be adequate but not so fast or reliable. The transmission to places other than those in 2 b will be carried out by the Posts and Telegraphs Department.
- d. land telephone facilities from Rome to Naples, Bari, Catania and Palermo will only be available for Press agencies between the hours of 10 P.M. and 8.30 A.M. during which time they will be adequate.
- e. terms and conditions of the telegraph and telephone services available for the purpose have been agreed by the Under-Secretary of Press and the News Agencies and are fair and reasonable and designed to prevent any monopoly by any particular agency. The details of the conditions are attached to the Minutes of the Second Meeting; the tariff at present will be 10 words for 1 line (subject to revision only with a general revision of the telegraph tariff) which is a very low charge; monopoly is prevented by messages being limited to 500 words and the order of transmission being the order of presentation except that a second telegram of one agency will be

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[Handwritten signature]

G.253.32.C3

52

February, 1945 Continued.

transmitted after the first telegram of any other agency handed in within 15 minutes of the time of acceptance of the first telegram.

- f. satisfactory arrangements have been made for the supply of news from news agencies to R.A.I. for radio broadcasting. From 1st March, R.A.I. will buy news from any private press agency that wishes to sell, and will also be supplied free with news items by O.W.I. and M.O.I. which do not overlap with agency news items. The terms of agreements between R.A.I. and the agencies are stated to be satisfactory to all interested parties.
- g. satisfactory arrangements to deal with the censoring of the Press traffic at a proper speed by the Field Press Censorship have been guaranteed by I.N.C., A.P.H.Q.

3. The substitution of the existing P.W.B. radio morse newscasts has not yet been arranged. It is doubtful if this service is required by the private news agencies, and there are technical difficulties owing to the Italian authorities not having a suitable transmitter. The matter is being pursued further but is of comparatively little importance and will not prevent the P.W.B. news service being discontinued.

4. A copy of the minutes of the three meetings of this Sub-Committee is attached. The difficulties referred to in para. 2 of the Second Meeting have since been resolved.

/s/ Ellery W. Stone

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ELLERY W. STONE
Rear Admiral, U.S.N.R.
Chairman.

Incl: Copy of 1st, 2nd, and 3rd
Minutes of Meetings.

cc. cc files

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
A.C. 394

Minutes of the THIRD MEETING held in the Allied Commission on
Thursday 23rd February, 1945, to discuss the arrangements to
be made to provide communication facilities for news agencies

Present: Rear Admiral Ellery W. Stone, U.S.N.B.
Chief Commissioner, Allied Commission

Colonel J. L. Henderson,	Communications Sub-Commission, A.C.
Lt. G. Stuart Brown,	Public Relation Officer, A.C.
Lt. A. Edman,	P.W.S., Italy
Colonel A. G. W. Hobson,	I.M.C., A.F.H.Q.
Lt. Col. L. E. Reeves,	H.A.A.C., Signal Officer

Admiral Stone presided:

1. Admiral Stone first drew the attention of the Committee to the replacement of Major Fielden by Lt. Stuart Brown as Public Relations Officer of the Allied Commission.

He then asked for comments on the draft report to A.F.H.Q. which had been circulated to all members.

2. The report as drafted was agreed by all members.

3. Admiral Stone then asked if a report he had from Mr. King of P.W.S. to the effect that transfer of executive operation of Italian facilities would begin 15th March affected the interests of this Committee. Lt. Edman and Lt. Col. Reeves confirmed that it did not affect the transfer of Press distribution due on 1st March.

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4. Admiral Stone then directed that the report as drafted and approved be made out for his signature as Chief Commissioner, Allied Commission and Chairman of the Technical Sub-Committee convened under orders of SACIED for rendition to Colonel J. H. LASCELLES I.S. and P.S., A.F.H.Q.

5. It was agreed that no further meeting was required.

Lt. H. Scudder
H. H. SCUDDER, Lt. Colonel,
Secretary.

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

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10th February, 1945.

Minutes of the meeting held in the Allied Commission on 10th February, 1945 to discuss the arrangements to be made to provide communication facilities for Rome, Ancona.

Present:	Colonel J. L. WINTERSON	Communications sub-Commission
	Col. H. F. WINTERSON	Allied Commission
	Major Lionel FLEMING	Public Relations Officer
	Colonel (Rtd) J. L. WINTERSON	Allied Commission
	Col. H. F. WINTERSON	I.R.C., A.F.S.C.
	Mr. H. F. WINTERSON	Signal Officer, C.A.A.C.
	Mr. G. WINTERSON	Italian Government
		Italians

Colonel J. L. WINTERSON presided.

1. Colonel WINTERSON stated that the meeting had been called to bring matters up-to-date with developments to date and to solve any remaining difficulties in the take over of Rome distribution by the Italian Government.
 - a. He said that the following were the chief developments:-
 - b. The Italian Government had agreed that the facilities now at their disposal through enemy, were adequate for them to carry on the service.
 - c. The Italian Government had arranged for the transmission of Rome traffic by the combined use of the facilities of Italradio and the Department of Posts and Telegraphs.
 - d. The tariffs and conditions of service had been established.
 - e. The I.R.C. had notified the Commission that they wished to transfer the responsibility at the end of February.

We asked for any difficulties that would prevent opening of service.

2. Mr. WINTERSON said he had three problems, space, transport and personnel.

- 2 -

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1. Mr. King, after discussion, it was agreed that Mr. King should secure that adequate space was designated for the purpose.
2. Mr. King, it was decided that the requirement of facilities to serve certain stores and personnel in Catania would have to be met by the use of existing civil facilities and that the Allied authorities could not assist. Mr. King and Mr. Martindale agreed that this difficulty would be solved.
3. Mr. Martindale, Mr. Martindale said that he needed certain mechanics at present used by P.M.S., about 2 of the 12 so employed. Mr. King said that this could probably be arranged. It was decided that Mr. Martindale should again see Mr. King of P.M.S., and if there were still difficulties over release of these men that he should refer the matter to Mr. King who would take it up with P.M.S.
4. Mr. King raised the question of ownership.
5. Mr. King stated that the necessity for immediate ownership of these facilities was appreciated and that his office would be responsible for suitable arrangements.
6. Mr. King raised the question of distribution of Press by radio. He pointed out that P.M.S. had facilities for news items both by ordinary radio broadcasting from P.M.S. (Radio Rome) and by radio news transmissions. He stated that the supply of news to P.M.S. by Press agencies, there remained however the replacement of the P.M.S. radio news service.
7. Mr. Martindale stated that Mr. King had no suitable transmitter; the present service was carried out on P.M.S. equipment.
8. Mr. King stated that if necessary it might be possible to come to some arrangement under which the P.M.S. transmitter was lent for this use.
9. After discussion it was agreed that it was firstly necessary to find out whether an appreciable number of papers were using this service and would be prepared to pay for its continuance.
10. Mr. Martindale undertook to investigate how many papers in Italian Government territory were using the service.
11. Mr. King suggested that agencies might wish to continue the service even if newspapers were not willing to pay for it.
12. Mr. King undertook to request the Under Secretary of State for Press to ascertain the views of the Press agencies, with the idea of their making a collective payment for the service.
13. Mr. Martindale then said that apart from the radio news service, which was relatively unimportant and presented some difficulties, there appeared to be no serious difficulty in the way of opening services. This was agreed and the meeting closed.

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A copy of the conditions of the Press Distribution service is attached.

REGULATIONS CONCERNING PRESS TELEGRAMS

48

General

Press Agencies to start activity forming subject of the following rules must obtain from the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications a regular concession for the establishment and use of receiving radiotelegraphic apparatus in connection with press services.

The following rules concern exclusively Press messages sent by the Head Offices of the agencies in question, which messages contain news to appear in the newspapers.

All other messages addressed to the agencies by their own correspondents are subject to regular Press rules.

1. REQUIREMENTS FOR AGENCY

The Under Secretary to Press Information and Touring will issue a written authorization to all Press Agencies. The Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications on presentation of the aforesaid written authorization, will deliver one or more identification cards to the manager of each Press Agency. This latter card will enable the Agency to hand in its Press messages without payment of the relative telegraph charges.

The Government of Italian offices which accept the telegrams in question will arrange for the collection of a certain sum as a deposit for the telegrams accepted in our own account, according to the disposal of Art. 50 of the "Instructions on the Telegraph Service".

2. REQUIREMENTS FOR TRANSMISSION

Messages shall be handed in at the Italian window in the Italian office served by the company's offices, and at the Telegraph Government Offices in the other cities.

Senders are bound to show to the accepting clerk the card issued by the Telegraph Administration mentioned at para 1), as well as any other personal identification card. The accepting clerk will note at foot of the form both the number of the card issued by the Administration and the particulars of the sender's identification card.

Messages are accepted during all day long.

When the accepting offices are closed, messages shall be handed in at the transmission room, which will follow the same accepting rules as stated above.

At present, no telegrams acceptance is admitted; acceptance by teletype will be admitted if and when the agencies will connect themselves with the Telegraph Offices.

443

A receipt showing the time of filing and the acceptance number of the telegram will be given to the sender by the accepting clerk.

The numbering and charging of the cards will be made afterwards by the accepting office before the transmission of the message.

- 2 -

Text shall not exceed 500 words for each message.

3. TRANSMISSION

The order of transmission is subject to the order of presentation of the telegrams at the telegraph center.

If an agency sends in more messages simultaneously, such messages shall be numbered as follows: first, second, third, etc.

In case of congestion of traffic, the second telegram of the first agency will be transmitted after the first telegram headed by any other agency within 15 minutes from the time of acceptance of the first telegram, and so on.

4. DELIVERY

Every telegram will be delivered by messenger as early as possible, or withdrawn by the addressee who, if and when possible, will be informed by telephone that there are telegrams in response for them.

5. REDUCTION OF RATE

The tariff is established in one half of the regular rates. This reduction is extended until 6 months after the end of the war.

The settlement of the accounts will be carried out in accordance with the ruling disbursements covering messages filed in current account.

6. REFUND OF COST

The acceptance and transmission of telegrams is made at sender's risk. However, cost of any message will be refunded to the sender, provided the delay exceeds 3 hours from the time of filing, and is such not to prevent the use of the news contained in the message.

JLR/epc

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394

10th January, 1945

Minutes of the First Meeting held in the Allied Commission
on Tuesday 9th January, 1945 to discuss the arrangements to
be made to provide communication facilities for news agencies.

Present:

Rear Admiral Ellery W. Stone, U.S.N.R.
Chief Commissioner, Allied Commission
Colonel. J.L. Henderson, Communications Sub-Commission
Allied Commission
Major Lionel Fieldon Public Relations Officer
Allied Commission
Mr. G. Egan P.W.B., Italy
Lieut. Colonel J.L. Hayden-I.N.C., A.F.H.Q. Adv.
Lt. Colonel L.P. Reeves Signal Officer, R.A.A.C.
Lt. Colonel H.H. Soudier Secretary
Rear Admiral E.W. Stone presided.

1. Admiral Stone read the directive given at the Supreme Allied Commander's Conference on 30th December, 1944 under which this Committee had been convened. It was:

"THE SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER"

- (a) Directed that private news agencies be permitted to sell news direct to the newspapers of ROME on and after 15th January, 1945, and that the Chief Commissioner, Allied Commission, so inform the private news agencies.
- (b) Appointed a technical sub-committee consisting of,
Chief Commissioner, Allied Commission
Chairman
Director, P.W.B.
Chief, INC.
Chief Signals Officer, A.F.H.Q.

441

- 2 -

45

or their representatives, to investigate at what juncture and by what means the distribution of news to newspapers and radio stations by private news agencies, both foreign and Italian, should be extended throughout the remainder of liberated ITALY, and to report their recommendations to A.F.H.Q.

- (c) Directed that the technical sub-Committee appointed under (b) above, in carrying out their investigation, have particular regard to the safeguards required to prevent the establishment of a monopolistic indigenous news agency in ITALY.

He pointed out that although certain agencies had agreed to deal with a co-operative agency known as ANSA, other agencies were not prepared to do so. It was a particular duty of this Committee to ensure that no monopoly was established by this co-operative agency so far as communications facilities were concerned.

2. From statements by Mr. Edman, Lt. Col. Reeves and Colonel Henderson it appeared that the present facilities utilised by F.W.B. fall into two categories:

- (a) line telegraph facilities - provided through the allied military teleprinter network, by F.W.B. having positions on the military teleprinter switchboards and using the Allied junction circuits at times when military traffic permitted.
- (b) radio broadcast facilities - provided partly by the use by F.W.B. of requisitioned and rehabilitated Italcable equipment, and partly by C.W.I. equipment. Some radio receivers were on loan by F.W.B. to provincial newspapers for the reception of these broadcasts, many others possessed their own receiving equipment.

3. On line telegraph facilities

Lt. Col. Reeves stated that the relinquishment by F.W.B. of a few hours use of some military channels would not enable any full circuits to be released from military use; the pressure of military traffic would immediately absorb any freed time.

- 3 -

Col. Henderson stated that although Italian Government circuits were very scanty the situation was slowly improving. There was a possibility that circuits could be made available; possibly it would be preferable to restore the Italcable domestic service in part, with this press service as one object.

Admiral Stann said that it was obviously impossible, with the very limited facilities, to make line time available to all agencies and that therefore the best method of preventing any monopoly would be to have a common carrier; this might be the Department of Posts and Telegraphs or Italcable. The latter would give the advantages of better and more experienced service, and would be less liable to influence.

It was agreed that:

- A. private news agencies should not make use of Allied military facilities; if for any reasons such use were permitted the question of rates would have to be settled, as free service to private agencies could not be given.
- B. a common carrier, preferably commercial (Italcable) open to all agencies, would be the best means of providing the facilities.

4. On radio facilities.

Mr. Edman stated that P.W.B. were using Morse transmissions on short and medium waves and dictation-speed broadcasts. Most of the radio equipment was requisitioned from Italcable, rehabilitated partly by C.W.I. items, partly by items requisitioned from other Italian sources. He was prepared to release the requisitioned equipment used by P.W.B. on the news services for the territory administered by the Italian Government, and would assist in transferring the C.W.I. items that had been put in to rehabilitate this equipment probably on a sale basis.

Lt. Col. Reeves stated that all Italcable radio equipment and accommodations in Rome Area was requisitioned by the Allied military authorities and under his control. The equipment was turned over to operation by the military, by P.W.B. R.C.A.C., etc. as required. When released from Allied use, equipment and accommodation etc. would be restored to Italcable and placed under supervision of the Allied Commission; until that time no civilian operation could be permitted. It was stated that ANSA had some personnel in the Italcable stations, apparently introduced by P.W.B. and Lt. Col. Reeves took exception to this.

Mr. Edman said that he had no knowledge of this would rectify the position.

4-3

- 4 -

Admiral Stone said that instructions had been issued by the C.S.O., A.F.H.Q. for the return to Italcable of such equipment etc. as could be released by P.W.B. on the change of system of distribution of news. He asked what progress was being made.

Colonel Henderson stated that his Sub-Commission was assisting at the transfer and that the first meeting with the representatives of R.A.A.C. Signals, P.W.B., Italcables and the Italian Government was being held tomorrow (10 Jan.) Following this, it would be possible to state what facilities would become available.

Admiral Stone said that it would be necessary to ensure that the rates charged by Italcable were not excessive, particularly if they were an exclusive carrier. This would be a matter of Italian Government regulations.

Piracy of News

Mr. Egan pointed out the danger of piracy of news, and in particular of P.W.B. news broadcasts for use in Regional Military Government territory. He was in favour of the Italian Government taking measures to prevent news piracy, and suggested curtailment of the paper supply of offenders.

Admiral Stone said that corresponding action would be taken in Regional Military Government territory in respect of piracy of the news distributed by private agencies in Italian Government territory.

5. Admiral Stone stated that Colonel Henderson would preside at the next meeting.

Colonel Henderson said that it appeared that the next move was to hold a meeting with the Signal Officer R.A.A.C. and the Italian Government authorities, which Italcables might be invited to attend, to determine what facilities could be made available and to recommend by what organization they should be operated.

This was agreed

Major Fielden said that it was necessary to move fast owing to the time limit placed on the transfer.

Admiral Stone said that the time limit only referred to the distribution of news in Rome, not to the further extension throughout Italian Government territory. However, the matter was urgent. 438

The meeting was then closed.

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
AFC 394

Minutes of the THIRD MEETING held in the Allied Commission on
Thursday 21st February, 1945, to discuss the arrangements to
be made to provide communication facilities for news agencies.

Present: Rear Admiral Ellery W. Stone, U.S.N.R.,
Chief Commissioner, Allied Commission
Colonel J.L. Henderson, Communications Sub-Committee, A.C.
Mr. G. Stuart Brown, Public Relations Officer, A.C.
Mr. G. Egan, P.W.D., Italy
Colonel A.G.W. Watson, I.M.C., A.F.H.Q.
Lt. Col. L.P. Reeves, R.A.A.C., Signal Officer

Admiral Stone presided:

1. Admiral Stone first drew the attention of the Committee to the replacement of Major Fielden by Mr. Stuart Brown as Public Relations Officer of the Allied Commission.

He then asked for comments on the draft report to A.F.H.Q. which had been circulated to all members.

2. The report as drafted was agreed by all members.

3. Admiral Stone then asked for a report he had from Mr. King of P.W.D. to the effect that transfer of executive operations of Italian facilities would begin 15th March affected the interests of this Committee. Mr. Egan and Lt. Col. Reeves confirmed that it did not affect the transfer of Press distribution due on 1st March.

4. Admiral Stone then directed that the report as drafted and approved be made out for his signature as Chief Commissioner, Allied Commission and Chairman of the Technical Sub-Committee convened under orders of SACIB for rendition to Colonel J.H. LASCELLES I.S. and P. 3437 A.F.H.Q.

5. It was agreed that no further meeting was required.

Lt. Col. L.P. Reeves
R.H. SCUDDER, Lt. Colonel.
Secretary.

G. 253.32.03

JLH/cc

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SUBJECT: Distribution of Press

TO: Chief Commissioner, ALCOM.
Mr. G. Edman, P.W.B., Italy
Col. Hobson, I.N.C. A.F.H.Q.
Mr. Brown, P.R.O. Alcom.
Lt. Col. Reeves, Signal Officer R.A.A.C.
Col. Henderson, Communications Sub-Commission, Alcom.

1. A report is required to be made to A.F.H.Q. on progress.
2. A draft report is attached for consideration by the Committee.
3. Meeting will be held in the Chief Commissioner's Office at 10.0 hours on 22 February, 1945 to consider this draft.

H. H. SCUDDER
Lt. Colonel,
Secretary.

DRAFT REPORT(37)
358

SUBJECT: Distribution of Press by Private News Agencies

TO: Chief Commissioner, Allied Commission

1. Reference Minutes of the 37th Meeting of the Supreme Allied Commander's Conference (Political), para. 4, the following report is submitted for transmission to A.F.H.Q.

2. This Sub-Committee is satisfied that:

- Ann (A)*
- a. distribution of press by private news agencies can commence 1st March, 1945
 - b. transmission by land telegraph to Naples, Bari, Catania and Palermo from Rome will be speedy and reliable — *Stable cable?*
 - c. the transmission by land telegraph to minor towns in Southern Italy, Sicily and Sardinia will be adequate but not so fast or reliable. *Stable?*
 - d. land telephone facilities from Rome to Naples, Bari, Catania and Palermo will only be available for Press agencies between the hours of 10 P.M. and 8.30 A.M., during which time they will be adequate.
 - e. terms and conditions of the telegraph and telephone services available for the purpose have been agreed by the Under-Secretary of Press and the News Agencies and are fair and reasonable and *435* *What are they?* *How?* *designed to prevent any monopoly by any particular agency.*
- Ann (C)*

0 - 2 - What are they? (34)

Sub D.
Sub E.

- f. satisfactory arrangements have been made for the supply of news from news agencies to R.A.I. for radio broadcasting
- g. satisfactory arrangements are ready for censorship.

What are they?

3. The substitution of the existing P.W.B. radio morse newscasts has not yet been arranged. It is doubtful if this service is required by the private news agencies, and there are technical difficulties owing to the Italian authorities not having a suitable transmitter. The matter is being pursued further, but is of comparatively little importance and will not prevent the P.W.B. news service being discontinued.

4. A copy of the minutes of the two meetings ^{of} this Sub-Committee is attached. The difficulties referred to in para. 2 of the Second Meeting have since been resolved.

22^a 24^a 28

Incl: Copy of 1st and 2nd Meeting.

9261
[Signature]
JLH/rm

(29)

MEMORANDUM TO:

(28)
Executive Commissioner.

FEB 11 1945

Attached minutes for information of Chief Commissioner.

[Signature]

Ext: 400.

10th February 1945.

J.L.HENDERSON,
Colonel,
Director,
Communications Sub-Commission.

ML

433

see M. 30

JLH/rm

(28)

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394

10th February 1945.

Minutes of the SECOND MEETING, held in the Allied Commission on Friday 9th February, 1945, to discuss the arrangements to be made to provide communication facilities for news agencies.

Present:

Colonel J.L.HENDERSON	Communications Sub-Commission Allied Commission
Lt.Colonel.H.H.SCUDDER	Communications Sub-Commission Allied Commission.
Major Lionel FIELDEN	Public Relations Officer, Allied Commission.
Colonel HOBSON	I.N.C., A.F.H.Q.
Lt.Colonel L.P.REEVES	Signal Officer, R.A.A.C.
Dr. M. FANO	Italian Government.
Dr. MARTINATO	Italcables.

Colonel J.L.Henderson presided.

- Colonel Henderson stated that the meeting had been called to bring members up to-date with developments to date and to solve any remaining difficulties in the take over of Press distribution by the Italian Government. He said that the following were the chief developments:
- (a) the Italian Government had agreed that the facilities now at their disposal, though scanty, were adequate for them to carry out the service.
 - (b) the Italian Government had arranged for the transmission of Press traffic by the combined use of the facilities of Italcables and the Department of Posts and Telegraphs.
 - (c) the tariffs and conditions of service had been established.
 - (d) the P.W.E. had notified the Commission that they wished to transfer the responsibility at the end of February.

He asked for any difficulties that would prevent opening of service.

-2-

(27)

2. Dr. Martinato said he had three problems, space, transport and personnel.

- a. On space, after discussion, it was agreed that Lt.-Col. Reeves should ensure that adequate space was derequisitioned for the purpose.
- b. On transport, it was decided that the requirement of Italcable to move certain stores and personnel to Catania would have to be met by the use of existing civil facilities and that the Allied authorities could not assist. Dr. Fano and Dr. Martinato agreed that this difficulty could be solved.
- c. On personnel, Dr. Martinato said that he needed certain mechanics at present used by P.W.B., about 2 of the 12 so employed. Mr. Edman said that this could probably be arranged. It was decided that Dr. Martinato should again see Mr. King of P.W.B., and if there were still difficulties over release of these men that he should refer the matter to Lt.-Col. Scudder who would take it up with P.W.B.

3. Dr. Fano raised the question of censorship. Col. Hobson stated that the necessity for immediate censorship of Press traffic was appreciated and that his office would be responsible for suitable arrangements.

4. Lt.-Col. Scudder raised the question of distribution of Press by radio. He pointed out that P.W.B. had facilities for newscasts both by ordinary radio broadcasting from R.A.I. (Radio Roma) and by radio morse transmissions. Agreement had been reached for the supply of news to RAI by Press agencies; there remained however the replacement of the P.W.B. radio morse service.

Dr. Martinato stated that Italcable had no suitable transmitter; the present service was carried out on OWI equipment.

Mr. Edman stated that if necessary it might be possible to come to some arrangement under which the OWI transmitter was lent for this use.

After discussion it was agreed that it was firstly necessary to find out whether an appreciable number of papers were using this service and would be prepared to pay for its continuance.

Dr. Martinato undertook to investigate how many papers in Italian Government territory were using the service. 431

Mr. Edman suggested that agencies might wish to continue the service even if newspapers were not willing to pay for it.

Dr. Fano undertook to request the Under Secretary of State for Press to ascertain the views of the Press agencies, with the idea of their making a collective payment for the service.

- 3 -

(26)

5. Colonel Henderson then said that apart from the radio morse newscasts, which were relatively unimportant and presented some difficulties, there appeared to be no serious difficulty in the way of opening service. This was agreed and the meeting closed.

(25)

A copy of the conditions of the Press distribution service is attached.

430

HANDLING OF PRESS TRAFFIC

PREFACE --

Press Agencies to start activity forming subject of the following rules, must obtain from the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications a regular concession for the establishment and use of receiving radioelectric apparatus in connection with press services.

The following rules concern exclusively press messages sent by the Head Offices of the Agencies in question, which messages contain news to appear in the newspapers.

All other messages addressed to the Agencies by their own correspondents are subject to regular press rates.

1) ADMISSION TO THE SERVICE --

The Under-Secretary to Press Information and Touring will issue a written authorization to all Press Agencies. The Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications, on presentation of the aforesaid written authorization, will deliver one or more identification cards to the Manager of each Press Agency. This latter card will enable the Agency to hand in its press messages without prepayment of the relative telegraph charges.

The Government of Italcable Offices which accept the telegrams in question will arrange for the collection of a certain sum as a deposit for the telegrams accepted in current account, according to the disposals of Art. 50 of the "Instructions on the telegraph service".

2) ACCEPTANCE OF TELEGRAMS --

Messages shall be handed in at the Italcable windows in the Italian cities served by the Company's Offices, and at the Telegraph Government Offices in the other cities.

Senders are bound to show to the accepting clerk the card issued by the Telegraph Administration mentioned at para. 1), as well as any other personal identification card. The accepting clerk will note at foot of the form both the number of the card issued by the Administration and the particulars of the sender's identification card.

Messages are accepted during all day long.

423

When the accepting Offices are closed, messages shall be handed in at the transmission room, which will follow the same accepting rules as stated above.

At present, no telephone acceptance is admitted; acceptance by teletype will be admitted if and when the Agencies will connect themselves with the Telegraph Offices.

10 Feb 45

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A receipt showing the time of filing and the acceptance number of the telegram will be given to the sender by the accepting clerk.

The accounting and charging of the words will be made afterwards by the accepting Office before the transmission of the message.

Text shall not exceed 500 words for each message.

3) TRANSMISSION -

The order of transmission is subject to the order of presentation of the telegrams at the telegraph counter.

If an Agency hands in more messages simultaneously, such messages shall be numbered as follows: first, second, third, etc.

In case of congestion of traffic, the second telegram of the first Agency will be transmitted after the first telegram handed by any other Agency within 15 minutes from the time of acceptance of the first telegram, and so on.

4) DELIVERY -

Every telegram will be delivered by messenger as early as possible, or withdrawn by the addressee who, if and when possible, will be informed by telephone that there are telegrams in abeyance for them.

5) RATES AND ACCOUNTING -

The tariff is established in one half of the regular press rate. This reduction is granted until 6 months after the end of the war.

The settlement of the accounts will be carried out in accordance with the ruling disposals covering messages filed in current account.

6) DELAYS AND REFUNDS -

The acceptance and transmission of telegrams is made at sender's risk. Anyhow, cost of any message will be refunded to the sender, provided the delay exceed 8 hours from the time of filing and is such as not to consent the use of the news contained in the message. 428

9261

File (23)

Extract of Minutes of Chief of Staff's Meeting held on 16 January 1945.

~~CONFIDENTIAL - SECURITY INFORMATION~~

JAN 19 1945

Successor to Basic News. Col. See asked if it would be possible for PRO to continue something on the lines of Basic News. Although Room and P-1 Secs agreed with Col. See that the presentation of Italian news would be most useful, PRO was against the proposal. COS said that most of the military news was covered by the Army newspapers and other points were to be seen in PRO's "Daily Digest." There was some discussion on the subject. COS stated that CC was holding a meeting this afternoon and the matter would be discussed then. A possible solution was for News Agencies to issue special Summaries of News.

Major General Edgar J. ...
Chief Commission, Allied Commission

Colonel J. J. ...
Communications Division
Allied Commission

Major General ...
Public Relations Officer,
Allied Commission

Dr. ...
R. ... Italy

Colonel ...
... ..

Colonel ...
Signal Officer, ...

Colonel ...
Secretary

Major ...
... ..

Initial Plans mean the attractive given at the ...
... ..
this committee has been convened. It was:

... ..

428

(a) directed that private ...
... ..
... ..

(b) requested a ...
... ..

Chief Commission, Allied Commission -
... ..

Director, ...
Chief, ...
Chief Signal Officer, ...

or their representatives. To investigate at what juncture and by what means the distribution of news to newspapers and radio stations by private news agencies, both foreign and Italian, should be extended throughout the remainder of liberated Italy, and to report their recommendations to AFHQ.

- (c) Directed that the Technical sub-committee appointed under (b) above, in carrying out their investigation, have particular regard to the safeguards required to prevent the establishment of a journalistic intelligence news agency in Italy.

He pointed out that although certain agencies had agreed to deal with a co-operative agency known as Asia, other agencies were not prepared to do so. It was a particular duty of this Committee to ensure that no secretly and established by this co-operative agency so far as communications facilities were concerned.

From statements by Lt. General, Lt. Col. Hayes and Colonel Sanderson, it appeared that the present facilities utilized by I.I.B. fall into two categories:

- a. line telephone facilities - provided through the Allied military telephone network, by I.I.B. having positions on the military telephone switchboards and using the lines junction circuiting at times when military traffic permitted.
- b. radio broadcast facilities - provided partly by the use by I.I.B. of regulated and regulated 425
ated Italian equipment, and partly by I.I.B. equipment. Some radio receivers were on loan by I.I.B. to provincial newspapers for the reception of these broadcasts, and others possessed their own receiving equipment.

c. line telephone facilities.

Lt. Col. Hayes stated that the relinquishment by I.I.B. of a few hours use of some military equipment would not enable any full circuits to be released from military use; the equipment

These statements by Dr. Edgson, Dr. Col. Leese and Colonel Henderson is reported that the present facilities utilized by F. B. I. fall into two categories:

- a. Line telegraph facilities - provided in such the
military teleprinter network, by I. B. H.
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- b. Radio broadcast facilities - provided partly by
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Sodium silicomolybdate catalyst.

April, 1944 stated that the participants by 2.00. of a very short list of some military animals would be capable of full obedience to be released from military use; the presence of military animals would immediately absorb any wooded areas.

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Col. Henderson stated that although Italian Government circuits were very noisy the situation was slowly improving. There was a possibility that circuits could be made available; possibly it would be preferable to restore the Italian domestic service in part, with this press service as one object.

Admiral Fraser said that it was obviously impossible, with the very limited facilities, to make line time available to all agencies, and that therefore the best method of preventing any monopoly would be to have a common carrier; this might be the department of code and telegraphs or italscable. The latter would give the advantages of better and more experienced service, and would be less liable to influence.

It was agreed that

- a. private news agencies should not make use of allied military facilities; if for any reason such use were permitted the question of rates would have to be settled, as free service to private agencies could not be given.
- b. a common carrier, preferably commercial (Italscable), open to all agencies, would be the best means of providing the facilities.

on radio facilities.

Mr. Egan stated that F. A. B. were using some transmitters on short and medium waves and dictation-speed procedures. Most of the radio equipment was requisitioned from Italscable, rehabilitated partly by C. I. items, partly by items requisitioned from other Italian sources. He was prepared to release the requisitioned equipment used by F. A. B. on the basis served for the territory administered by the Italian Government, and would assist in transferring the C. I. items that had been put in to rehabilitate this equipment, probably on a sale basis.

Mr. Egan stated that all Italscable radio equipment and accommodations in Rome and elsewhere were requisitioned by the allied military authorities and under his control. The equipment was turned over to operation by the military, by F. A. B. C. I. items, etc. as required. When released from allied use, equipment and accommodation etc. would be restored to Italscable and placed under supervision of the Allied Commission; until that time no civilian operation could be permitted. It was stated that

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 rehabilitate this equipment, probably on a sale basis.

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 accommodations in Rome & was regulated by the Allied
 military authorities and under his control. The equipment was
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 accommodations etc. would be restored to I. I. I. and placed
 under supervision of the Allied Commission; until that time
 no civilian operation could be permitted. It was stated that
 Mr. Johnson had some personnel in the Italian stations, apparently
 introduced by I. I. I., and Mr. Johnson took exception to this.
 Mr. Johnson said that he had no knowledge of this and would rectify
 the position.

Dr. Adams pointed out the danger of direct of news, and in particular of R.F.M. news broadcast for use in regional military government territory. He was in favour of the Italian Government taking measures to prevent news piracy, and suggested curtailment of the paper supply of offenders.

Admiral Stone said that corresponding action would be taken in regional military government territory in respect of piracy of the news distributed by private agencies in Italian Government territory.

Admiral Stone stated that Colonel Wunderman would preside at the next meeting.

Colonel Wunderman said that it appeared that the 423 have been to hold a meeting with the Signal Officer R.A.C. and the Italian Government authorities, which Italian side might be invited to attend, to determine what facilities could be made available and to recommend by what organization they should be operated. This was agreed.

Major Fielden said that it was necessary to move fast owing to the time limit placed on the transfer.

Admiral Stone said that the time limit only referred to the distribution of news in Rome, not to the further extension throughout Italian Government territory. However, the matter was urgent.

The meeting then closed.

CC 9253

8 January 1945

JAN - 9 1945

TO: Colonel J. L. Henderson, Communications Sub-Commission, A.C.
Major Lionel Fielden, P.R.O., A.C.
Mr. G. Edman, P.R.O., Italy, Rome
Colonel A. G. W. Hobson, I.R.C., A.F.H.Q. Adv., Rome
Lt. Col. L. P. Reeves, Signal Officer, A.C., Rome

1. By order of the Supreme Allied Commander, A.F.H.Q., a technical Sub-Committee will meet to investigate at what juncture and by what means the distribution of news to newspapers and radio stations by private news agencies, both foreign and Italian, should be extended throughout liberated Italy.

2. The above named representatives have been appointed members of the committee and are requested to be present at the first meeting, which will be held at 1600 hours Tuesday 9th January, in the Chief Commissioner's Office, Allied Commission.

3. Rear Admiral Ellery W. Stone will be chairman at the first meeting. Colonel Henderson will be Deputy Chairman; he will arrange for a Secretary for the committee.

ELLERY W. STONE
Rear Admiral, USNE
Chief Commissioner

423

SEE FILED (57)

see Minute 22

[Handwritten signature]
10/1

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

CONFIDENTIAL.

20

Ref: 9261/20/COS.

5th January 1945.

SUBJECT: Private Press Agencies in ITALY.

TO : Public Relations Branch.

Further to our letter 9261/18/COS of 4th January, extract from the Minutes of SACRED's Conference (Political) of 30th December, 1944, relating to this subject, is forwarded for your information.

Major E. Talbot

Chief Staff Officer,
To the Chief of Staff.

/sg.

422

Extract from Minutes of the Supreme Allied Commander's Conference (Political) held on Saturday, 30 December, 1944.

Ref: SAC (P) (44) 37th Meeting - 30th December, 1944 (Original in File 217/COS).

MINUTE No. 4.

4. PRIVATE PRESS AGENCIES IN ITALY.

(Paper No. SAC (P) (44) 157).

THE CONFERENCE had before them a paper by the Chief of Staff reporting the conclusions of the Sub-Committee on News Agencies appointed under conclusion 5 of SAC (P) (44) 36th Meeting and recommending that private news agencies be permitted to operate in ROME and that a technical sub-committee be appointed to study the further extension of their operation in liberated ITALY.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL HARDING stated that at the meeting of the Sub-Committee there had been some disagreement between the viewpoints of the Allied Commission and the Psychological Warfare Branch and the admission of private news agencies to ROME had been agreed as a compromise. He felt that, although this might involve some security risk, it should be accepted. Further extension of the activities of the news agencies would be studied by the technical sub-committee, which he recommended should be under the chairmanship of the Chief Commissioner, Allied Commission, who should reports its recommendations, with his views, to AFHQ.

THE SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER:

(a) Directed that private news agencies be permitted to sell news direct to the newspapers of ROME on and after 15 January 1945, and that the Chief Commissioner, Allied Commission, should inform the private news agencies.

(b) Appointed a technical sub-committee consisting of,

Chief Commissioner, Allied Commission - Chairman.

Director, PWE

Chief, INC

Chief Signals Officer, AFHQ

or their representatives, to investigate at what juncture and by what means the distribution of news to newspapers and radio stations by private news agencies, both foreign and Italian, should be extended throughout the remainder of liberated ITALY, and to report their recommendations to AFHQ.

(c) Directed that the technical sub-committee appointed under (b) above, in carrying out their investigation, have particular regard to the

Allied Commission, who should reports its recommendations, with his views, to AFHQ.

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- Chief, INC
- Chief Signals Officer, AFHQ

or their representatives, to investigate at what juncture and by what means the distribution of news to newspapers and radio stations by **421** private news agencies, both foriegn and Italian, should be extended throughout the remainder of liberated ITALY, and to report their recommendations to AFHQ.

(c) Directed that the technical sub-committee appointed under (b) above, in carrying out their investigation, have particular regard to the safeguards required to prevent the establishment of a monopolistic indigenous news agency in ITALY.

(d) Directed that no measures other than normal censorship be adopted to prevent the publication of material liable to cause disorder or unrest, unless in the opinion of the competent military authorities the precipitation of a situation prejudicial to military security should be imminent.

.....End of Extract.

Copy to P.R.O. *Ja. 6/11*

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Tel: 289

4 January 1945.

Ref: 9261/18/COS

SUBJECT: News Agencies in ITALY.

TO : Public Relations Branch.

The following papers, subject as above, being references to Supreme Allied Commander's Political Conferences, re passed for information and in order to complete your file :

1. Paper FC(44) 127 dated 25 Oct 44.
2. Extract para 5, Minutes of 32nd Meeting held 15 Nov 44.
3. Paper SAC(P)(44) 153 dated 16 Dec 44. — 3
4. Extract para 5, Minutes 36th Meeting held 19 Dec 44. — 5.
5. Paper SAC(P)(44) 157 dated 27 Dec 44. — 17

Major E. Talbot

Chief Staff Officer,
To the Chief of Staff.

Incl:
as above

423A

COPY.

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS.

K-569

SAC(P)(44) 157.
27th December 1944.

CONFIDENTIAL.

SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER'S CONFERENCE (POLITICAL)

PRIVATE PRESS AGENCIES IN ITALY

Note by the Chief of Staff.

1. The Sub-Committee on News Agencies appointed by the Supreme Allied Commander (SAC (P) (44) 36th Meeting, Minute 5) met on 26th December 1944 to consider the questions referred to it by the Supreme Allied Commander.

2. The Sub-Committee also had before it a proposal by the Chief Commissioner, Allied Commission, to permit private news agencies to sell news to newspapers of the city of ROME only.

3. The Sub-Committee recommends to the Supreme Allied Commander as follows:-

(a) Reference question (i), as to the juncture at which the PWB screen on news should be removed and the operation of private news agencies permitted:-

(1) That private news agencies be permitted to sell news direct to the newspapers of ROME on and after 15 January 1945.

(2) That a technical sub-committee consisting of representatives of the Allied Commission, PWB, INC and the Chief Signals Officer, AFHQ, be appointed to investigate the time and the methods by which the distribution of news to newspapers through the remainder of liberated ITALY by private news agencies will be feasible.

(b) Reference question (ii), as to the safeguards which should be established to ensure against the development in ITALY of a monopolistic indigenous news agency:

That for the time being no Italian news agency be permitted to distribute news in ITALY outside ROME. That the time when ARTI, or any other Italian news agency, is to be permitted to enter the field of news distribution be investigated by the technical sub-committee.

(c) Reference question (iii), as to what measures should be taken to avoid publication of material likely to lead to disorder and unrest:

on news should be removed and the operation of private news agencies permitted:-

- (1) That private news agencies be permitted to sell news direct to the newspapers of ROME on and after 15 January 1944.
- (2) That a technical sub-committee consisting of representatives of the Allied Commission, PWB, INC and the Chief Signals Officer, AFHQ, be appointed to investigate the time and the methods by which the distribution of news to newspapers through the remainder of liberated ITALY by private news agencies will be feasible.

- (b) Reference question (ii), as to the safeguards which should be established to ensure against the development in ITALY of a non-political indigenous news agency:

That for the time being no Italian news agency be permitted to distribute news in ITALY outside ROME. That the time when ARTI, or any other Italian news agency, is to be permitted to enter the field of news distribution be investigated by the technical sub-committee. 413

- (c) Reference question (iii), as to what measures should be taken to avoid publication of material likely to lead to disorder and unrest:

That nothing other than normal censorship should be undertaken, unless a serious situation from the military point of view seems likely to arise. The security risk admittedly existing as a result of the admission of private news agencies to ROME is outweighed by the advantage in respect of freedom of the press, particularly in view of the power of the Supreme Allied Commander under the Armistice terms to impose necessary measures of censorship to meet particular situations which may arise.

(Initd) J.H.

Dist by COS:

Copy No.31 - Chief Commissioner
" No.32 - Chief of Staff
" No.33 - Political Section

SEE FLOW 10

Copy to: P.R. (4 Jan 44)

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COS
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NAAC (111) 1st Meeting
26th December 1944

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS

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COPY NO 23

NEWS AGENCY SUB COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE NEWS AGENCY
SUB COMMITTEE HELD IN THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE
OFFICER'S CONFERENCE ROOM AT 1600 HOURS ON TUESDAY
26TH DECEMBER 1944

PRESENT :-

Lieutenant General Sir John Harding,
Chief of Staff to Supreme Allied Commander

Captain H.T. Derling, representing
Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean

Mr. C. Offie, representing
U.S. Political Advisor

Lieutenant Colonel G.S. Baker, representing
Chief Administrative Officer, AFHQ

Colonel S.S. Hill-Dillon, representing
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, AFHQ

Lieutenant Colonel R.E. Schukraft, representing
Chief Signals Officer, AFHQ

Mr. Russell Barnes,
Director, FIB

Rear Admiral Ellery V. Stone,
Chief Commissioner, Allied Commission

Colonel A.C.M. Hobson, representing
Chief, INC

THE FOLLOWING WERE ALSO PRESENT :-

Colonel T.R. Horn,
G-5 Section, AFHQ

Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean

Mr. C. Offis, representing
U.S. Political Advisor

Lieutenant Colonel G.G. Baker, representing
Chief Administrative Officer, AFHQ

Colonel S.S. Hill-Dillon, representing
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, AFHQ

Lieutenant Colonel R.E. Schukraft, representing
Chief Signals Officer, AFHQ

Mr. Russell Barnes,
Director, P/E

Rear Admiral Ellery W. Stone,
Chief Commissioner, Allied Commission

Colonel A.C.M. Hobson, representing
Chief, ING

THE FOLLOWING WERE ALSO PRESENT :-

Colonel T.R. Henn,
G-5 Section, AFHQ

Lieutenant Colonel R.A. Mears,
Signals Section, AFHQ

Major I.A. Gleason,
Signals Section, AFHQ

Captain L.R. Engler,
Signals Section, AFHQ

SECRETARY

Major R.A. Bannister

- 1 -

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516.51 - 2-11 - 1100 - 250000

28 DEC 1944

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No.

785017

ADMISSION OF PRIVATE NEWS AGENCIES TO OPERATION IN ITALY

(Paper No. MASC (44) 1)

THE SUB-COMMITTEE had before it the three questions referred to it by the Supreme Allied Commander at the 36th meeting of the Supreme Allied Commander's Conference (Political) (Minute 5).

MR. ADRIAL STONE, referring to the first question, as to the juncture at which the P.B. screen on news should be removed and the operation of private news agencies permitted, said that after the 36th meeting of the Supreme Allied Commander's Conference (Political) he had conferred with representatives of the news agencies, together with several Allied Public Relations officers, and that he at the time explained to them the necessity of awaiting investigation and report by the sub-committee appointed by the Supreme Allied Commander. Reuters news agency proposed that the agencies be admitted to sell news in the ROME area alone and the other news agencies and the officers then present supported this recommendation. Admiral Stone urged the sub-committee to endorse this proposal because (1) it would partially put into practice the already-professed principle of promoting freedom of the press, (2) the plan involved no communication difficulties affecting distribution, and (3) it would provide a good trial period for the private news agencies which would help solve the future problem of extension of their services to the rest of liberated ITALY. He advocated that technical meetings be held later on in ROME between representatives of P.B., A.C., I.N.C., Signals and the Italian Government to determine when and how the extension of the services of private agencies could be made.

MR. BARNES stated that he had no desire to oppose the entry of private news agencies. He felt that discussion of security and communications difficulties could be better made by the sections concerned than by himself. He felt, however, that he must insist, because of the directives under which P.B. operates, upon the necessity of preventing monopoly in the Italian press, such as existed formerly under the old Italian Government agency. If P.B. could be shown how news could be distributed in ITALY on a generally competitive basis he would withdraw all objections. He saw some difficulty arising from the fact that if the news agencies were permitted to sell to newspapers in ROME only there would be in ITALY two classes of papers - those served by the private news agencies and those in the remainder of liberated ITALY served by P.B. the news files being different in the two cases. He furthermore thought it would be necessary, as a result of the entry of private news agencies into ROME, to turn over radio news in ROME to the private agencies also.

MR. ADRIAL STONE observed that a period of operation of the private news agencies in ROME, along with the continuance of P.B. radio news broadcasts, would show whether P.B. screening operated to keep from the Italian people news that they were interested in getting. In reply to a question by Mr. Barnes, he

principle of promoting freedom of the press, (2) the plan involved no communication difficulties affecting distribution, and (3) it would provide a good trial period for the private news agencies which would help solve the future problem of extension of their services to the rest of liberated ITALY. He advocated that technical meetings be held later on in ROME between representatives of P.B., AG, INC, Signals and the Italian Government to determine when and how the extension of the services of private agencies could be made.

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MR. ADRIAL STONE observed that a period of operation of the private news agencies in ROME, along with the continuance of P.B. radio news broadcasts, would show whether P.B. screening operated to keep from the Italian people news that they were interested in getting. In reply to a question by Mr. Barnes, he agreed that the private agencies should not be allowed to sell to some single Italian agency, and that their sales of news to Italian agencies as distinguished from individual newspapers should not take place until there was actual competition between Italian news agencies.

MR. BARNES, referring to the second question put to the sub-committee by the SAC, as to measures for the prevention of monopoly, asserted that the Italian Government must be prevented from setting up any telegraphic agency for the distribution of government decrees and announcements to various points in ITALY.

MR. ADRIAL STONE expressed the view that this would not be objectionable if there were at the time competing news agencies, and pointed out that in the United States the government sends telegrams to various parts of the country for delivery at those points to newspapers.

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MR. BARNES stated that the presence of competing news agencies would not prevent such a government agency from becoming a monopoly in its field because the government would always get its announcements to the papers before the news agencies.

THE CHIEF OF STAFF stated that whether the Italian Government should be permitted to set up a telegraphic agency was a proper matter for the Chief Commissioner, Allied Commission, and the Director, PAB, together with the proposed technical committee, to investigate and agree upon.

COLONEL HOBSON felt it undesirable to separate ROME and the rest of ITALY in respect of news and stated that uniformity in liberated ITALY would be better. He remarked that if the agencies were operating in ROME their news would in some manner get out into the rest of ITALY.

REAR ADMIRAL STONE pointed out that this HQ had agreed to letting agencies in all over ITALY if certain conditions could be met, and that therefore to the extent that such news got out into the rest of ITALY, the problem would be solving itself and this would be a desirable result.

COLONEL HOBSON enquired as to what hurry there was for the admission of the private news agencies.

THE CHIEF OF STAFF stated that the need for some speed arose from the fact that the Supreme Allied Commander, in view of the long time the Allies had been in ITALY without any progress towards freedom of the press, which the operation of private news agencies would promote, desired that early progress in this direction should be made.

MR. COFFE said that undoubtedly there were security risks involved in adopting Rear Admiral Stone's proposal but that in his opinion the advantage of being able to announce to the world that private agencies were now being enabled to operate in ITALY would considerably outweigh the disadvantages.

MR. BARNES questioned how PAB should obtain news files from the news agencies after the agencies started selling to newspapers in ROME, as the news was now obtained free from them by PAB. He further remarked that if the agencies were to be admitted to ROME it would probably be better for PAB to get out of the newspaper and radio news field in liberated ITALY entirely, so that news diffused through these means would be on the same basis everywhere.

THE CHIEF OF STAFF observed that the time and extent of PAB's withdrawal would be a further step to be considered at a later time.

MR. COFFE stated that PAB should be able to offer advice respecting the

418

the private news agencies.

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THE CHIEF OF STAFF observed that the time and extent of PEB's withdrawal would be a further step to be considered at a later time.

MR. OFFICE stated that PEB should be able to offer advice respecting the operation of the Italian press during the time private news agencies were operating in ROME.

REAR ADMIRAL STONE suggested that the question of terms upon which news could be furnished to PEB should be worked out between PEB and the news agencies.

COLONEL HILL-DILLON said that INC ought not to be expected to perform political censorship. Unfiltered news might have inflammatory effects inside ITALY and give results such as those being experienced in GREECE, and therefore the present PEB filtering should be maintained.

REAR ADMIRAL STONE stated that on the other hand he had found it disturbing to Italians to hear on the foreign radio, for example, that YUGOSLAVIA wanted certain Italian provinces, and not at the same time to be able to read about it in the Italian newspapers.

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/THE CHIEF OF STAFF

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THE CHIEF OF STAFF suggested that if critical conditions should arise the news agencies could probably be persuaded to adopt necessary voluntary censorship with reference to news intended for ITALY, and also that influential Allied statesmen could at the same time be prevailed upon to make statements which would have a steady effect upon the Italian people.

COLONEL HILL-DILLON said that an example of what he had in mind would be criticism in Allied countries of any use of force by the Allied governments which might become necessary in ITALY. Such criticism would give encouragement to those making trouble.

REAR ADMIRAL STONE stated that if necessary, in conformity with the Armistice terms, it would be possible for the Supreme Allied Commander to impose censorship upon the area effected by a disturbance.

MR. OFFICER agreed, but pointed out that the least thing the United States Government would wish to do would be to participate in any political censorship.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL BAKER pointed out that divergence between the news published by the "Stars and Stripes", "The Union Jack" and any papers for the Italian Army, from the local civilian press, might prove irritating.

THE CHIEF OF STAFF was of the opinion that the fact that most troops were located in the Army areas, and not where news from the private news agencies would be published, would diminish the risk from this source to the point where it would not be serious.

THE CHIEF OF STAFF :

Directed that the following recommendations be reported to the Supreme Allied Commander in Conference :-

(a) Reference question (i), as to the juncture at which the P.S. screen on news should be removed and the operation of private news agencies permitted :-

(1) That private news agencies be permitted to sell news direct to the newspapers of ROME on and after 15 January 1945.

(2) That a technical sub-committee consisting of representatives of the Allied Commission, FIB, INC and the Chief Signals Officer, AFH., be appointed to investigate the time and the methods by which the distribution of news to newspapers throughout the remainder of liberated ITALY by private news agencies will be feasible.

(b) Reference question (ii), as to the safeguards which should be established to ensure against the development in ITALY of a monopolistic indigenous news agency :

located in the Army areas, and not where news from the press would be published, would diminish the risk from this source to the point where it would not be serious.

THE CHIEF OF STAFF :

Directed that the following recommendations be reported to the Supreme Allied Commander in Conference :-

(a) Reference question (i), as to the juncture at which the PMS screen on news should be removed and the operation of private news agencies permitted :-

(1) That private news agencies be permitted to sell news direct to the newspapers of ROME on and after 15 January 1945.

(2) That a technical sub-committee consisting of representatives of the Allied Commission, FMB, INC and the Chief Signals Officer, AFH, be appointed to investigate the time and the methods by which the distribution of news to newspapers throughout the remainder of liberated ITALY by private news agencies will be feasible.

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(b) Reference question (ii), as to the safeguards which should be established to ensure against the development in ITALY of a monopolistic indigenous news agency :

That for the time being no Italian news agency be permitted to distribute news in ITALY outside ROME. That the time when AFH, or any other Italian news agency, is to be permitted to enter the field of news distribution be investigated by the technical sub-committee.

(c) Reference question (iii), as to what measures should be taken to avoid publication of material likely to lead to disorder and unrest :

That nothing other than normal censorship should be undertaken, unless a serious situation from the military point of view seems likely to arise. The security risk admittedly existing as a result of the admission of private news agencies to ROME is outweighed by the advantage in respect of freedom of the press, particularly in view of the power of the Supreme Allied Commander under the Armistice terms to impose necessary measures of censorship to meet particular situations which may arise.

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British Resident Minister
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Director, FBI
Chief Commissioner, Allied Commission
Chief, INC
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21st December 1944

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COPY NO 24

DEC 27 1944

NEWS AGENCY SUB COMMITTEE

ADMISSION OF PRIVATE NEWS AGENCIES TO
OPERATION IN ITALY

Note by Secretary

1. The present method of providing news for the Italian Press may be summarised as follows:-

(a) News from outside liberated ITALY. PWB, in Rome, by cable, radio and mail from such private agencies as Reuters, Associated Press, United Press and Tass, and through monitoring miscellaneous broadcasts, obtains the original reports which in turn PWB's "Italian Desk" processes into a news file in Italian. The news is so screened as to eliminate duplication and also to eliminate those items of news from abroad which would have a particularly inflammatory effect upon the Italian public. After submission to INC for censorship, the resulting news file is then transmitted to Italian newspapers, free of charge, by several methods: by mimeograph in Rome itself; by radio on exclusive PWB wire circuits to FARI, NAPLES, PALERMO and CATANIA; by military censor user teletype circuits to NAPLES, PARI and PALERMO; by short wave Morse radio broadcasts from the PWB-operated station in Rome; and in printed form for the provincial press. In the cities to which wireless circuits run PWB personnel send the news files to local newspapers.

(b) Internal Italian News. This is collected by Italian reports in the employ of PWB, aided by PWB's Italian Desk, passed to INC for censorship, and transmitted from Rome to Italian papers in the same manner as for news from abroad.

2. At the 36th meeting of the Supreme Allied Commander's Political Conference the SAC endorsed the principle of promoting freedom of the Italian press and admission of private news agencies at the earliest moment consistent with military security, and appointed this sub-Committee to examine and report on three necessarily connected topics. It is suggested that the following will be the principal questions appropriate for discussion at the first meeting of the sub-Committee:-

(a) Reference question (i) put by the SAC to the sub-Committee as to when the PWB screen on news for the Italian press can be removed and private news agencies admitted:

(1) When would the private agencies be ready to commence operations?
(They had indicated they would be ready by 15 January, but have also requested as much as 30 days notice, which could now place the

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ROME itself; by voice or exclusive PWB wire circuits to RARI, NAPLES, PALERMO and CATANIA; by military common user teletype circuits to NAPLES, RARI and PALERMO; by short wave Morse radio broadcasts from the PWB-operated station in ROME; and in printed form for the provincial press. In the cities to which wireless circuits run PWB personnel hand the news files to local newspapers.

(b) Internal Italian News. This is collected by Italian reporters in the employ of PWB, aided by PWB's Italian Desk, passed to INC for censorship, and transmitted from ROME to Italian papers in the same manner as for news from abroad.

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(a) Reference question (1) put by the SAC to the sub-committee as to when the PWB screen on news for the Italian press can be removed and private news agencies admitted:

(1) When would the private agencies be ready to commence operations? (They had indicated they would be ready by 15 January, but have also requested as much as 30 days notice, which would now place the earliest possible date after 15 January).

(2) What Italian news agencies are available to operate? (Presumably the only one which could enter the field is API (Agenzia Radiotelegrafica Italiana), a national Italian press association organized with the assistance of PWB, which includes all of the newspapers of the principal cities in liberated ITALY, except one of the NAPLES papers, but it is not yet in operation. The Italian staff of editors and reporters are working for PWB, however, could be turned over to it intact if PWB ceases to supply news to Italian papers. The membership of API includes papers with all shades of opinion. Therefore, so long as such continues to be the case, its policies can be expected to be impartial. API would have few, if any, foreign correspondents, and would have to depend upon the foreign private news agencies for foreign news. On the other hand, the foreign agencies would have little or no local Italian news to sell. API can be ready to function on 30 days notice).

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(3)

Are sufficient signal communication facilities available to carry traffic which would exist if private agencies are admitted?

(It is estimated that if private news agencies are to sell direct to newspapers, there must be an increase in the volume of news material transmitted from Rome of about two hundred per cent, since there will be much overlap in subject matter between the stories of the various agencies. Assuming that the military communication facilities now available to ANTI will be made available to the foreign private agencies and to ANTI, such an increase in volume cannot be absorbed by the military circuits mentioned. Full information as to Italian government circuits is not at hand at this writing, but it is believed that the necessary increase in traffic could not be accommodated by them).

(4) What would be the effect upon PWB of its withdrawal from the Italian field?
(Allied personnel of PWB would be liberated to some extent for work in connection with Northern ITALY, AUSTRIA and the BALKANS. Radio monitoring of news, and preparation of a news file in English for Allied troops from news received from the news agencies and from monitoring would continue. PWB would also continue voice broadcasts at dictation speed for the clandestine newspapers of Northern ITALY. PWB would expect to cease control of certain city papers which it now exercises, since not to do so could then give rise to charges of interfering with the freedom of the press after no longer being responsible for the news).

(5) Do any private news agencies at present furnish news direct to Italian papers?
(TASS, the official Soviet news agency, files in some material for the communist papers).

(6) Does development of a free press for ITALY require the admission of foreign private agencies at an early date?
(The strengthening of ANTI and its preparation for the day when Allied influences are removed does not necessitate that it be placed forthwith in competition with private agencies, since it will not in any case during the war seriously compete with them in respect of foreign news. It has been suggested by the Italians themselves that the handling of internal Italian news for the Italian papers should forthwith be turned over to ANTI operating as such, while the present system continues as to foreign news. This would have the advantage of building up a free national news agency to a position of some strength before the time of PWB's ultimate withdrawals, and would lessen the likelihood of any transition taking over by a government agency at that juncture).

(7) Would it be feasible as an intermediate step to admit foreign

newspapers of Northern Italy. The latter express control of certain city papers which it now exercises, since not to do so could then give rise to charges of interfering with the freedom of the press after no longer being responsible for the news).

- (5) Do any private news agencies at present furnish news direct to Italian papers?
(TASS, the official Soviet news agency, files in some material for the communist papers).
- (6) Does development of a free press for ITALY require the admission of foreign private agencies at an early date?
(The strengthening of APTI and its preparation for the day when Allied influences are removed does not necessitate that it be placed forthwith in competition with private agencies, since it will not in any case during the war seriously compete with them in respect of foreign news. It has been suggested by the Italians themselves that the handling of internal Italian news for the Italian papers should forthwith be turned over to APTI operating as such, while the present system continues as to foreign news. This would have the advantage of building up a free national news agency to a position of some strength before the time of RWB's ultimate withdrawals, and would lessen the likelihood of any immediate taking over by a government agency at that juncture).

- (7) Would it be feasible as an intermediate step to admit foreign private agencies as of 15 January to sell news to the ROME papers only?

(This is urged by some of the private agencies, and by the Chief Commissioner, AC, in a recent letter, at Annex 'A'. Such a plan would avoid the communication difficulties, but would not avoid the friction that would come from the necessary censorship by IWC of politically inflammatory material).

- (b) Reference question (ii) put by the SAC, as to what should be the safeguards against a monopolistic indigenous news agency:

- (1) To whom are the foreign private news agencies to sell their news?

(There are two alternatives:

- (a) to APTI, which would in turn sell to the individual news-papers, or
- (b) direct to the newspapers themselves.

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The former alternative would permit API to act in effect as a screening agency and give it a monopoly within ITALY. Freedom of the Italian press would then depend upon the continued independence and impartiality of one Italian agency - not safe or desirable for the long-run future. A free press thus demands that the private agencies sell direct to the newspapers, but to this there are major communication obstacles (see 2 (a)(3) above).

(2) What precautions would have to be taken against any efforts of the Italian Government to dominate the furnishing of news?

(A move of the government to institute a telegraphic agency for the dissemination of government news has heretofore been headed off, and would need still to be watched for. This would resemble too closely the establishment of a governmental news agency).

(c) Reference question (iii) put by the SAC as to measures to prevent the publication of material likely to lead to civil disorder:

(1) At what points would censorship be imposed?

(If the private agencies were to operate, they would be required to submit their material to a representative of INC - either one located in the office of each news agency in ROME or at the central INC office there - before sending it out. Censorship of the newspapers themselves would continue as at present, by issuance of directives, requiring submission of doubtful material before publication, and by sampling after publication. The same opportunity would exist as at present for papers to publish the results of their own radio monitoring which, however, they do not in fact use the facilities to perform).

(2) Would INC censorship be an adequate substitute for FBI screening, with regard to politically inflammatory matters?

(The private agencies would undoubtedly be irritated and raise protests in the U.S. and the United Kingdom against "political" censorship which is what INC would have to impose, to some extent, to keep out inflammatory material, such as speeches in the Parliament or the Congress criticizing ITALY).

W. A. BANNISTER,
ALICE, PA,
SECRETARY.

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- (2) Would IVO censorship be an adequate substitute for FWA screening, with regard to politically inflammatory matters?
(The private agencies would undoubtedly be irritated and raise protests in the U.S. and the United Kingdom against "political" censorship which is what IVO would have to impose, to some extent, to keep out inflammatory material, such as speeches in the Parliament or the Congress criticizing Italy).

W. A. HAMMISTER,
MEMO, FA,
SECRETARY.

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ANNEX A

BU 9253

22 December, 1944

SUBJECT: Resumption of Services by Allied News Agencies.

TO : Lieutenant General Sir A.F. Harding, KCB, CBE, DSO, MC
Chief of Staff, Allied Forces Headquarters, APO 112

1. As a result of the decisions reached at the Supreme Allied Commander's Conference on Tuesday, December 19th, I informed the representatives of Allied News Agencies in RME (Associated Press, United Press, Reuters, Exchange-Telegraph, and International News Service) that the resumption of their services, tentatively set for January 15, would have to be postponed pending agreement on a detailed plan for the technical handling and distribution of news.

2. The Agency representatives, while fully appreciating the desirability of such a plan, made a strong plea that, since they had already started negotiations (and representatives of UP and Reuters had come from the Middle East and UK for that purpose), they be permitted to open their services to the RME newspapers only on January 15. They pointed out with some justification that such a service would not involve any technical problems of transmission or distribution, since it would be brought in by the existing commercial services and distributed in RME by the agencies themselves.

3. There appears to me to be no valid objection to this proposal, and I am inclined to think that a refusal might be interpreted by the agencies as a raw and unreasonable obstacle to their plans. It is also worth remembering that distribution in RME by the agencies would provide us with data on the work and working of the various agencies which would be extremely useful in working out the technical plan for distribution in ITALY generally.

4. Since the Conference was in general agreement on the desirability of allowing the agencies to come in, and this plan offers an opportunity of avoiding complete postponement, I strongly urge its approval and should be grateful if it could be considered at the Supreme Allied Commander's Conference (Political) on December 26th.

WILEY W. STONE
Rear Admiral, USNR
Chief Commissioner

403

such a service would not involve any technical problems of transmission or distribution, since it would be brought in by the existing commercial services and distributed in ROME by the agencies themselves.

3. There appears to me to be no valid objection to this proposal, and I am inclined to think that a refusal might be interpreted by the agencies as a new and undesirable contact to their plans. It is also worth remembering that distribution in ROME by the agencies would provide us with data on the wordage and working of the various agencies which would be extremely useful in working out the technical plan for distribution in ITALY generally.

4. Since the Conference was in general agreement on the desirability of allowing the agencies to come in, and this plan offers an opportunity of avoiding complete postponement, I strongly urge its approval and should be grateful if it could be considered at the Supreme Allied Commander's Conference (Political) on December 26th.

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ELLEN W. STONE
Rear Admiral, USNR
Chief Commissioner

cc: U.S. Political Advisor
British Resident Minister
American Ambassador
British Ambassador

CONFIDENTIAL

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CCS

JAW/dfe

(6B)

CC 9253

22 December 1944

Subject: Resumption of Services by Allied News Agencies

To: G-5 Section, Allied Force Headquarters, APO 512.

23 DEC 1944

(6C)

The Chief Commissioner, Allied Commission, wishes the contents of the attached letter to be brought/urgently to the attention of the Inter-Secretarial and Political Secretariat for inclusion in the Agenda of Supreme Allied Commander's Conference (Political) of Tuesday, 26 December.

J. A. Quayle

J. A. QUAYLE
Major, R. A.
Staff Officer to CC

1 Incl.

see Minute X 6A

408

JA

EWB/af

EC 9253

22 December 1944

Subject: Resumption of Services by Allied News Agencies

To: Lieutenant General Sir A. F. Baring, KCB, CBE, DSO, MC
Chief of Staff, Allied Force Headquarters, AFHQ 512

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2. The Agency representatives, while fully appreciating the desirability of such a plan, made a strong plea that, since they had already started negotiations (and representatives of UP and Reuters had come from the Middle East and UK for that purpose), they be permitted to open their services to the Rome newspapers only on January 15. They pointed out with some justification that such a service would not involve any technical problems of transmission or distribution, since it would be brought in by the existing commercial services and distributed in Rome by the agencies themselves.

3. There appears to me to be no valid objection to this proposal, and I am inclined to think that a refusal might be interpreted by the agencies as a new and unreasonable obstacle to their plans. It is also worth remembering that distribution in Rome by the agencies would provide us with data on the working and working of the various agencies which would be extremely useful in working out the technical plan for distribution in Italy generally.

4. Since the Conference was in general agreement on the desirability of allowing the agencies to come in, and this plan offers an opportunity of avoiding complete postponement, I strongly urge its approval and should be grateful if it could be considered at the Supreme Allied Commander's Conference (Political) on December 26th.

cc: U.S. Political Adviser
British Resident Minister
American Ambassador
British Ambassador

Political Section
Chief of Staff
cc: [Signature]

ELERY W. STONE
Rear Admiral, USNR
Chief Commissioner

407

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Extract from Minutes of 36th Meeting of the
SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER'S CONFERENCE (POLITICAL)
held on Tuesday, 19th December.

Ref: SAC (P) (44) 36th Meeting, original on File 217/COS.

MINUTE No. 5.

5. PRIVATE PRESS AGENCIES IN ITALY.

(Paper No. SAC (P) (44) 153).

THE CONFERENCE had before them a paper pointing out that it was desirable, in order to give the Italians greater liberty, that private press agencies should soon be permitted to operate in ITALY, but arguing that such action would give rise to certain difficulties if the change were made at the present time.

MR. KIRK said that the aim should be that when the Allies left ITALY they should leave behind them a healthy, free press. However, unless the Italians were given a measure of freedom now, they would not develop the ability to manage their own affairs. He fully realised that there were certain complications in practice in connection with the proposed changes but he thought that the principle was sufficiently important for these difficulties to be accepted. The position of the military in this matter was, he felt, adequately covered by the requirements of military censorship.

MR. BARNES said that FWB was perfectly willing to hand over to the Italians the press facilities which they at present controlled in ITALY. However, he pointed out that this might give rise to three difficulties. In the first place, as all incoming news was now screened by FWB, it might be necessary for military reasons to impose a political censorship by AFHQ, the repercussions of which might on occasion be severe. In the second place it was difficult to see how private agencies could be provided with the means of communication necessary to distribute their news throughout the country unless some assistance could be provided by army signals. In this connection, he pointed out, in reply to a remark by Rear Admiral Stone, that it would not meet the case if the existing FWB communications were handed over to an Italian agency, as such action would automatically place that agency in a position of monopoly. The third difficulty which he foresaw was that the opening up of ITALY to foreign news agencies would lead to a demand by other private business organisations to commence working in the country. He thought it likely that the Motion Picture companies in particular would make such an application.

REAR ADMIRAL STONE did not consider that incoming news handled by private agencies would need to be subject to political censorship. He thought that Italian people should now be permitted to read accounts of current affairs as published in other countries. He pointed out that a procedure had already been set up to deal with the demands of the motion picture companies and he did not

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REAR ADMIRAL STONE did not consider that incoming news handled by private agencies would need to be subject to political censorship. He thought that the Italian people should now be permitted to read accounts of current affairs as published in other countries. He pointed out that a procedure had already been set up to deal with the demands of the motion picture companies and he did not foresee any complications in this respect. He remarked that, even after the proposed admission of private agencies, there would remain a need for PWB activities in AEG territory. He agreed with Mr. Barnes that it was most undesirable for the handover to be effected in any way which would tend to produce a monopoly of news in the country.

THE SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER considered that, as the Allies had now been in ITALY for more than a year, we should be prepared to sacrifice certain advantages in order to give the Italians greater liberty in the management of their internal affairs, provided always that no serious interference with military operations resulted.

MR. BARNES confirmed that this was the aim towards which PWB had been working. The only question for decision was in regard to the timing of the proposed transfer of responsibility. PWB had been endeavouring to build up an Italian non-monopolistic private news agency. However, he did not yet consider that this agency was sufficiently developed to stand on its own feet.

SEE FILE 15
17

-2-

REAR ADMIRAL STONE, disagreeing with Mr. Barnes, observed that the Italians themselves thought they were ready to stand on their feet and applications from external private news agencies indicated that they were of this opinion also.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL MCNARNEY observed that, if the proposed Italian agency were weak, the external private agencies would break it. He considered that the purpose for which these agencies were now trying to secure entry into the country, was to establish their post-war position.

COLONEL HITCHENS said that on grounds of military security a change would not be propitious at the present moment.

THE SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER:

(a) Agreed in principle that private news agencies should be allowed to operate freely in ITALY at the earliest moment consistent with the military security.

(b) Appointed the following sub-committee:

Chairman - Chief of Staff

Reps of - Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean
Air Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean
U.S. Political Adviser
British Resident Minister
Chief Administrative Officer
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2
Chief Signals Officer
Director, PWB
Chief Commissioner, Allied Commission
Chief, INC

Secretary- Major W. A. Bannister

to examine and report to him:

(i) At what juncture the removal of the PWB screen on news issued to the Italian press should be effected, and the operation of private news agencies in ITALY permitted.

(ii) What safeguards should be established to ensure that there should be no development in ITALY of a monopolistic indigenous news agency.

(iii) What measures should be taken in regard to the dissemination of news in ITALY to avoid the publication of material likely to lead to disorder and unrest to the prejudice of military operations.

and that the Sub-Committee confine their recommendations to that part

Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2
Chief Signals Officer
Director, FWB
Chief Commissioner, Allied Commission
Chief, INC

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and that the Sub-Committee confine their recommendations to that part of ITALY, responsibility for the administration of which had been returned to the Italian Government.

- See memo 10
19

Copy to: PR Bu (4 Jan 44)

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SAC(P)(44)153.
16 December 1944

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SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER'S CONFERENCE.

POLICY REGARDING PRIVATE NEWS AGENCIES IN ITALY.

Note By Secretary.

1. In a previous paper (number PC(44)127 the Psychological Warfare Subcommittee recommended:

a. That private news agencies should not be allowed to start up in ITALY as long as that country remained a theatre of operations.

b. That PWB should endeavour to prepare the ground for the establishment of an Italian co-operative and non-monopolistic news agency to be ready to function when privately ~~owned~~ owned agencies begin to operate. This co-operative agency would be owned and operated by members newspapers and be in competition with private agencies such as Reuters, Associated Press, etc.

2. This paper was discussed at PC(44)32nd Meeting when the Chief Commissioner, Allied Commission and the British Resident Minister both requested that the foregoing policy should be revised and that in order to give the Italians greater liberty, private agencies should now be permitted. In consequence, the Supreme Allied Commander directed that PWB, G-2, G-5 and the Allied Commission, should endeavour to agree on the action to be taken and report accordingly.

3. The Chairman of the Psychological Warfare Sub-Committee therefore held a meeting in ROME with the Allied Commission and G-5, at which it was agreed that PWB would not interpose any objection to the entrance of private news agencies. It was, however, pointed out that their entrance might:

a. Retard the progress of a non-monopolistic private Italian agency.

b. Possibly impair the political situation through the admission of the news from outside sources which are, at the present time, screened by PWB.

4. It has been determined from consultations with the private news agencies that they will be willing and able to take over as from 15 January.

5. G-2 point out that, although there does not appear to be any direct security risk from the entrance of these private agencies, there is, in view of the disturbed political situation in liberated territory, an indirect risk that unfiltered news might further impair the political situation to such an extent that it might become necessary to withdraw Allied troops from the front for

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6. The ruling of the Supreme Allied Commander in Conference is requested as to whether the political advantage to be obtained by allowing the entrance of private agencies into ITALY justifies the increased military risk involved.

(Sgd, S.G. SWEETMAN, Major,
for J.H. LASCELLES,
COLONEL,
SECRETARY.

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Extract from Minutes of 32nd Meeting of
SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER'S POLITICAL CON-
FERENCE held on Wednesday, 15th NOVEMBER 1944.

Ref: PC(44)32nd Meeting dated 15th Nov 1944

MINUTE No. 5.

5. POLICY REGARDING FREEDOM OF THE PRESS AND PRIVATE NEWS AGENCIES IN ITALY.

(Paper No. PC(44) 127).

THE COMMITTEE had before them a paper:

- (a) Setting out FWB's present policy and seeking its endorsement.
- (b) Recommending that private news agencies should not be allowed to set up in ITALY so long as ITALY remained a theatre of operations and that FWB should prepare the ground for the establishment of an Italian co-operative and non-monopolistic news agency to be ready to function when private news agencies began to operate.

MR. BARNES, amplifying the paper, stressed that FWB wishes to avoid the eventual establishment of a government controlled agency such as Stefani had been. He believed that if private agencies were allowed to start up while ITALY still remained a theatre of operations they might bring in news injurious to military operations or to Allied policy. Thus, for example, there would be no machinery to stop agencies reporting criticism of ITALY in Congress. He added that the problems regarding Italian broadcasting were very similar.

COMMODORE STONE felt that the time had now come to give the Italians greater liberty by allowing private agencies to start up. He observed that no part of the armistice terms empowered the Allies to force a news agency of the kind suggested by FWB on to the Italian Government. Replying to a question by Mr. Macmillan, he stated that, despite the fact that private agencies could at present secure payment only in blocked lire, he understood that Reuters, Associated Press and others were anxious to start up immediately in ITALY with an eye to the future. He added that news from the Tass Agency was being flown into ITALY by Russian aircraft for use by the communist press.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL EYES MONSELL supported the proposal that private news agencies should not be allowed to start up so long as ITALY remained a theatre of operations on grounds of military security.

MR. MACMILLAN queried whether G-2 could not reconsider the security aspect. There seemed little reason for restricting incoming political news. He also

Italian co-operative and non-monopolistic news agency to be ready to function when private news agencies began to operate.

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403
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MR. MACMILLAN queried whether G-2 could not reconsider the security aspect. There seemed little reason for restricting incoming political news. He also pointed out that the U.S. and British taxpayers were at present paying for all Italian news services and that the early introduction of private agencies was therefore desirable on these grounds also.

THE SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER:

Directed that FWB, in conjunction with G-2, G-5 and the Allied Commission, endeavour to agree on the action to be taken on the matters raised in Paper No. PC(44)127 and report to the next meeting of the Committee.

SEE 2.

Copy to: P.R. Br (4 Jan 44)

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ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS.

PC(44) 127.
25th October, 1944.

CONFIDENTIAL.
COPY NO.....

POLITICAL COMMITTEE

POLICY REGARDING FREEDOM OF THE PRESS AND
PRIVATE NEWS AGENCIES IN ITALY.

Note by Secretary.

AFHQ Policy regarding the Press.

1. Briefly, present aims are:-
 - (a) Not to abuse military censorship.
 - (b) To continue without political censorship.
 - (c) To ensure that editors develop, but do not abuse, the limited freedom given them.
 - (d) By allocating suitable priorities, to make newsprint available as widely as possible.
2. Long term policy is to ensure conditions favourable to the eventual establishment of complete freedom of the press in ITALY:
 - (a) By stimulating among both editors and readers understanding of and desire for freedom of the press.
 - (b) By obtaining a satisfactory expression in Italian Law of the provisional nature of present restrictions and of the rights and responsibilities of the press after the war.
 - (c) By providing for all papers in ITALY access to uncensored and unbiased news.

Non-Governmental News Agencies.

3. At present all news distributed in ITALY is brought in and disseminated by PWB. Private news agencies, such as Reuters, however, have been exerting considerable pressure to obtain the right to start up business in ITALY.
4. The Psychological Warfare Sub Committee feel that it would cause considerable embarrassment in censorship and possibly elsewhere if private agencies were allowed to bring in and disseminate news while fighting continues in ITALY.

Recommendations.

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- 4. The Psychological Warfare Sub Committee feel that it would cause considerable embarrassment in censorship and possibly elsewhere if private agencies were allowed to bring in and disseminate news while fighting continues in ITALY.

Recommendations.

- 5. FWB desire endorsement of the policy outlined above and the Psychological Warfare Sub Committee accordingly recommend that:-

- (a) Private news agencies should not be allowed to start up in ITALY so long as ITALY remains a theatre of operations.
- (b) FWB should endeavour to promote the long term policy at 2 above by preparing the ground for the establishment of an Italian co-operative and non-monopolistic news agency to be ready to function when privately owned agencies begin to operate. This co-operative agency would be owned and operated by members papers and be in competition with private agencies such as Reuters, Associated Press, etc.

(Sgd) WITHAM, Major,
for, J.H.LASCELLES,
COLONEL,
SECRETARY.

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Copy to: P.R. Bn (4 Jan 44)

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Col.

You should see ~~D~~ and E. The cc. should have
an answer tomorrow.

MS/xx.

8/24/11

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
Office of the Chief Commissioner
APO 394

JAQ/afe

20 November 1944

20 NOV Recd

MEMORANDUM FOR: Commodore Stone

Colonel Jackman of G-5, AFHQ, phoned to say that ^athe Conference had been held on Saturday the 18th at Caserta on the subject of "civilian news agency". All parties were represented with the exception of AC. At the meeting G-2 and PWB agreed that they must insist on their attitude but decided that they had possibly not put forward sufficiently strong arguments. They have formulated their ideas and will present them to Commodore Stone when he goes to Caserta tomorrow, Tuesday.

Should the matter come up at SACMED's Conference, the Secretary has been notified that AC have not yet been able to state their views and that the matter will have to wait until the next political conference for an agreed plan between the two conflicting points of view.

J. A. Quayle.

J. A. QUAYLE
Major, R. A.
Staff Officer to CC

cc: PRO
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'A' Files

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11/22/44

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ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
Inter Service and Political Secretariat

1st November 1944

MEMORANDUM TO: Acting Chief Commissioner, Allied Commission

COPIES TO: U.S. Political Adviser
British Resident Minister
AC of S G-2
AC of S G-5
Chief, INC
Director, PWB

SUBJECT: Policy regarding Italian News, Films and Broadcasting.

In accordance with the wishes of Brigadier General McChrystal, Chairman, Psychological Warfare Branch Sub-Committee, it is proposed to deal as follows with your letter of 23rd October to AC of S G-5:-

News Agencies and Films. Papers No. PC (44) 127 and 128 will be placed on the agenda for the next Political Committee meeting. It is noted that there is no major divergence of opinion on these subjects and it is thought that Commodore Stone will be able to raise any relevant points at the meeting.

Broadcasting. It is understood that PWB propose to submit the Allied Commission's views, together with their own comments, to a forthcoming meeting of the Psychological Warfare Sub-Committee.

/s/ ? ?
for J.H. BASCELLES,
COLONEL.

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cc-P.R.O.
Pol. Sec.
C.O.S.
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Cuf S Section 5

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A/CU 000.7-1

23 October 1944
24 OCT Recd

MEMORANDUM TO: G-5 Section, Allied Force Headquarters, AFHQ 312.

1. The question has recently arisen of what the attitude of the AFHQ should be to various proposals which are being put forward on the Italian side as well as by FSB for the re-establishment of independent Italian agencies to operate a news agency or agencies, a system of broadcasting, and the film industry.

2. The scope of the Allied Control Commission is laid down in Article 37 of the Armistice in which it is "charged with regulating and executing the present instrument" (i.e. the Armistice) "under the orders and general directions of the Allied Commander-in-Chief". Directly pertinent articles of the Armistice are Articles 16 and 30 which read as follows:-

"XIX: No radio or telecommunication installations or other forms of intercommunication ashore or afloat under Italian control, whether belonging to Italy or any nation other than the United Nations, will transmit until directions for the control of these installations have been prescribed by the Allied Commander-in-Chief. The Italian authorities will conform to such measures for control and censorship of press and of other publications, of theatrical and cinematograph performances, of broadcasting, and also of all forms of intercommunication as the Allied Commander-in-Chief may direct. The Allied Commander-in-Chief may, at his discretion, take over radio, cable and other communication stations."

"XX: All Fascist organizations, including all branches of the Fascist Militia (MVSA), the Secret Police (OVRA) and Fascist Youth Organizations will, in so far as this is not already accomplished, be disbanded in accordance with the directions of the Allied Commander-in-Chief. The Italian Government will comply with all such further directions as the United Nations may give for abolition of Fascist institutions, the dismissal and internment of Fascist personnel, the control of Fascist funds, the suppression of Fascist ideology and teaching."

3. In applying these Articles to a news agency or agencies, a system of broadcasting, or the film industry, it is convenient to divide the problem into two parts:-

a. The control of output, whether of news, broadcast programs or films, to conform with the general propaganda requirements of the Allied

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A/CO 000.7-2, 23 Oct 44, to G-3, AFHQ (continued):

Commander-in-Chief. FMB and censorship have under Article 16 dealt with this and other aspects and will no doubt continue to do so, as long as permitted by the Allied Commander-in-Chief.

b. The other side of the question is the structure of the machine by which news or programs or films are put over. At the moment, the actual position is that FMB runs a monopolistic news service called the United Nations News Service; that they have taken over the RAI Italian Broadcasting System but have come to an agreement with EIAI in June last to leave administration (excluding programs) in the hands of that Italian Corporation; that the Italian Film Industry is at present at a standstill as regards production and that all films shown are either approved old stock, importations from Allied sources, or films produced locally under FMB supervision.

4. The principal question that arises for the future is whether the Italians should be entirely free to set up or continue whatever types of institutions they desire for news agencies, a broadcasting system, or a film industry. Before taking each in turn, the legal opinion of the Allied Control Commission is that, aside from matters affecting the military, our rights under the Armistice in intervention are restricted to Article 31, that is, the abolition of Fascist institutions. Provided that this is done we are advised by the Chief Legal Adviser that the Armistice does not of itself give us the right to require the establishment of any particular structure.

5. News Agencies. In this case, the only existing news agency being the Allied United Nations News Service, the application of Article 31 does not apply. The Italians are, therefore, free so far as the Armistice is concerned to set up any form of news agency or agencies that they think fit provided that they do not create a "Fascist institution." In view of the composition of the present Government, this can presumably be ruled out and there is nothing in the Armistice to prevent the Italian Government from authorizing the establishment of Italian news agencies nor from deciding as they wish the question of how much, if any, of the mechanism or personnel of the United Nations News Service should be taken over as released by FMB. Irrespective of any Armistice right, the Allied Control Commission feel strongly that the Allies should resist any attempt to establish exclusive contracts by whatever agency is set up by the Italians or others. This applies not only to the gathering and dissemination of local news for local consumption but also to the gathering of local news for foreign consumption and dissemination of foreign news within Italy.

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6. Broadcasting System. As the charter of RAI was granted by the Fascist Government in November 1927 the question of the applicability of Article 31 does arise. The personnel should not only be defascistized

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in accordance with the Government decree for defascistization, but also the question arises whether the Corporation is a "Fascist Institution" within the meaning of Article 20, and, if so, what shall be done. As to that, RIA is itself a subsidiary of the Government controlled holding company, IRI, for both of which the Italian Government have already appointed commissari. The existence of one broadcasting organization controlled by the Government does not of itself make the organization a Fascist institution. It is rather the matter of its legal format and the manner in which it is conducted. It is the view of AFHQ that their role in this matter should be a negative one, i.e. to prevent the Italians from continuing or reestablishing a Fascist Institution. We understand this obligation in the following sense: If on examination the documents creation RIA or IRI or regulating the activities or functions of these two organizations are found to contain politically undemocratic restrictions, such restrictions should be removed; and likewise the documents, if not sufficiently broad, should be amended to give the greatest freedom from control by any particular party. Apart from this obligation it is not up to us to force any particular structure of broadcasting system upon the Italian authorities. We doubt they may seek, or PWS may offer, recommendations on what the structure should be, but these would be recommendations and not instructions.

7. Film. Then the same arguments apply to the future structure of the film industry since a large part of the film industry is run by various subsidiaries of governmentally controlled business. In the opinion of the Control Commission our attitude should be the same as in the case of the broadcasting system, with the same protection against commercial monopolistic practices as was recommended in para 5 above.

8. I shall be grateful for instructions.

Walter T. Paul

WALTER T. PAUL
Commodore, USNS
Acting Chief Commissioner.

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cc: British Resident Minister, AFHQ
U.S. Political Advisor, AFHQ
U.S. Representative, AFHQ
British High Commissioner
PWS - Attention Mr. J. Warner

(by hand Mr. Cassia)

Political Section - ACC
Chief of Staff Section
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