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ACC

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(VOL. I)

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

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. I)

AMG, VENEZIA GIULIA, WEEKLY PRESS CONFERENCES
NOV. 1945 – NOV. 1946

61.

Ex. Comm.

VG Press Conference Report held on 20 Aug 46 for info. Nothing of outstanding interest.

J. McM. 26/8

MC 27/8

63.

~~Co~~ Ex Comm

VG Press Conference Report held on 17 Sept. at folio 62 for info.

J. McM. 24/9 W.J.C. MC 27/9

65.

~~Co~~ Ex Comm.

VG Press Conference Report held on 12 November at folios 63-64 for info.

J. McM. 25/11 A.J. 25/11 MC 27/11

1380

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Ex Comm. 40. (41)

Letter apposite for signature please - m 39 refers.

G. McM 30/4 H.S. 30/4

Ex Comm. 45.

Report of weekly press conference V.G. 26 April at 42-44

G. McM 3/5. H.S. 3/5

Ex Comm. 47.

memo at 46 is reply from Mr. Brayne on the subject of Internal Committees V.G. Cmt folio 46 refers.

G. McM. 7/5. H.S. 9/5. Seen by 1573 9/5

Ex Comm. 51.

VG Press Conference report is at 48-50.

G. McM. 22/5 H.S. 23/5

Ex Comm. 55.

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~~bbb~~. memo at 46 is reply from Mr. Brame on the subject of Internal Committees V.G. See folio 46 refers.

G. McM. 7/5. H.S. 9/5. EC.

Seen by PM 9/5 Feb. 1573

~~bbb~~ Ex Comm. 51.
VG Press Conference report is at 48-50.

MV 24/5 G. McM. 22/5 H.S. 23/5

~~bbb~~. Ex Comm. 55.
VG Press Conference report is at 52-54

MV 26/6 G. McM. 25/6. H.S. 25/6.

PS.

~~bbb~~. Ex Comm. 58.
Folios 56-57 is VG press conference report held 30 July 46 for info.

G. McM. 16/8 H.S. 16/8.

MV 16/8

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Fwd lom.
C.S.O. Folio 30 for information
31
G.M.C.M. 26/3.
Fwd 27/3
32 27/3

34.

A/C.C.
C.S.O.
31-33 for info. This conference seems to have been of a more serious nature and statements in the press as at 1 should leave no doubt in the minds of those concerned as to the firm policy of AMG

H.S. 9/4

G.M.C.M. 8/4.

H 9/4

1378

38.

A/C.C.
C.S.O.
35-37 for info. Passages of interest have been marked. The loss of the order for the liner is gone into quite fully.

1377

G.M.C.M. 26/4. H.S. 26/4

39.

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38.

A/C.C.

~~bbb~~ 35-37 for info. Passages of interest have been marked. The loss of the order for the liner is gone into quite fully.

1377

G. McM. 26/4. MS. 2614

39.

~~G.S.O.~~ A/C Inf.

I am not very happy about their industrial Committee in p. 378 screen. Send copy to Mr. Brains at Br Embassy and ask for his comments & advice.

MS 2714.

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14.

Please see 7-13. I don't know that Ex. Com. wishes to see these any more, as the meetings are shortly going to be abolished.

B. 14/2.

17.

15-16 for info. of no great interest to us.

B. 4/1.

20

18.19 for info. I agree with minute 17

21.

Ex Comm.

p's 18 & 19 for info. The greater part of this Press Conference seems to be taken up by a series of complaints (many of them of a trivial nature) being fired at AMG. H.S. 5/2

Seen by H.S. 8/2 A.C. 8/2

24.

Ex. Commissioner.

1370

Sir,

Please see Brigadier Airey's reply to you DO letter at 22.

S.G. 13/2.

TTS/21/2.

28.

Ex Comm.

At 25-27 are the minutes of the weekly press conference at AMG 13 Corps. Does the G.C. want [illegible]

p's 18 & 19 for info. The general [illegible] Press Conference seems to be taken up by a series of complaints (many of them of a trivial nature) being fired at AMG. H.S. 5/2

by H.S. E.C. 8/2

24.

1370

Ex. Commissioner.

Sir,

Please see Brigadier Airey's reply to you DC letter at 22.

S.G.

TTS/21/2.

28.

Ex Comm:

At 25-27 are the minutes of the weekly press conference at AMG 13 Corps. ~~Does the G.C. want his suggestion~~ ~~as is implemented, as although the previous~~ ~~SCAO has gone, the meetings still continue?~~

H.S. 25/2

See 22 & 23. H.S. 25/2

TTS/26/2.

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4.

Ex. Com.

Please see 1-3 for info. interesting

Fwd 22/11 B. 20/11.

DPR 23/x.

DPR

These conferences seem to me most unhelpful. I dislike SCAO being made a butt for Journalists of doubtful origin every week. Would you draft a suggestion to XIII Corps that they be discouraged in the procedure modified.

DPR 23/xi

6

10:5

To E.C.

Sir:

subject to further instruction from your office I showed rather let this matter rest until SCAO comes to Rome. (& understand he is soon to pass through here.) Col Bullock tells me that these conferences are very well thought of and XIII Corps is very pleased with them.

yours, DPR

29 nov

7-

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

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the procedure modified. DPR/23/XI

6

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29 Nov

7.

DPR.

SCAO is not coming to Rome. Please discuss

DPR/30/XI

(10)

DPR

We so far decided to do nothing under present regime in VG but when new SCAO is appointed persuade the GOC and to ask his SCAO to preside but his PRO. MY/7/XI

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9280 48

NOV 26 1946 64

PUBLIC RELATIONS VENEZIA GIULIA
c/o HEADQUARTERS ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
VENEZIA GIULIA

No. 20
Report of Proceedings at Senior Civil Affairs Officer's
Weekly Press Conference, 12 November 1946

by an AIS Correspondent

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## COL. BOWMAN ANNOUNCES POSSIBLE PAYMENT OF WINTER BONUS.

TRIESTE, November 13 (UNN) - Possibility of the payment of a "Winter Bonus" to persons who would have been entitled to the Premio della Repubblica; Modification of proclamation by more stringent enforcement; and a system for reviewing prison sentences, were the more important questions discussed at a press conference held by Senior Civil Affairs officer Col. Alfred C. Bowman at AMG Headquarters yesterday afternoon.

In reply to the question of whether AMG would authorize the payment of the Premio della Repubblica, granted some months ago by the Italian Government, Col. Bowman said there was no intention of paying a bonus in those terms. He added however, that economic developments since the last press conference "have been such that we have been considering the payment of a winter bonus in substantially the same amount to the same persons."

He said that an announcement on the subject will be made in a few days after details have been worked out.

Replying to a comment that AMG Proclamation No 1 is out of date because wartime conditions no longer exist, Col. Bowman replied:

"This is recognized to be true and we have considered asking the Supreme Allied Commander to modify the proclamation. On the whole, however, in view of the fact that it is our basic charter and that a great deal of correspondence with headquarters would be involved, we have decided to modify it by endorsement instead of modifying the proclamation.

"Anyone who has taken the trouble to read the document will realize that in its more stringent provisions it has not always been fully enforced." Lieut. Col. D.A.M. Street, Commanding Officer, Allied Information Services, volunteered the information that the article referring to the introduction of printed matter into the area had been specifically waived by higher authorities.

1375

[illegible] concerning sentences passed on persons the "Il Lavoro-

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Complaints concerning sentences passed on persons the "Il Lavoratore" reporter described as "anti-Fascists" brought this reply from Col. Bowman.

"I am trying to introduce a system whereby even without an appeal, sentences will be reviewed periodically taking into consideration the conduct of the prisoner after the sentence. The method of doing this will be informal and will be handled by the legal officers of AMG.

"There will be no hard and fast rules that will give rise to claims of absolute rights on the part of prisoners. I hope it will be a step toward the eventual installation of a system of paroles and pardons similar to those in other democratic places."

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Another reporter wanted to know whether the summonses sworn out against the 11 leaders of the illegal strike early the past July would be lifted in response to the intervention of the recent world Trade Union Conference.

Col.Bowman replied " I have read with considerable interest, news reports concerning the world Trade Union Conference, and I noticed particularly that a letter had been addressed to AMG.

"I have been waiting for that comunication, but it has never arrived."

On the insistence of one of the reporters that a check be made with Caserta to learn whether the letter had been forwarded there, Col. Bowman said he would made informal inquiries if the opportunity arises.

"But we would like to know whether the 11 leaders will be released," the Lavoratore reporter said.

"The letter may contain some convincing reason for a change," Col. Bowman replied, "but no such change is now contemplated."

Replying to criticism concerning the designation of November 11 instead of November 4 as a day of commemoration Col. Bowman said:

"I would be glad to say why I consider the 11th of November as a more appropriate day for celebration than the 4th.

"The Italian Nation was an ally of Great Britain and the United States in World War 1, and with these nations, won the war, which was commonly considered by all the rest of the Allies to have ended on November 11. This date has now been accepted in my country as a permanent day of remembrance.

"I think that the celebration of the 4th May be regarded in some quarters as implying that the war ended for everyone on the 4th, which is not so. The war ended for all the Western Allies on the 11th. The 4th was an indication of events other than the Austrian defeat, events which, if celebrated, might be regard as provocative.

"Bearing all these factors in mind, I think that the change from the 4th to the 11th was a desirable one, and it at least places Italy on the same basis with its Allies of World War 1.

Asked whether AMG was making any plans for winding up its activities when the peace treaty is signed, Col.Bowman said: "We are making only the normal preparations which any Government or organisation in our position might make after reading the daily press and watching the trend of world affairs. Nothing is, of course, settled until the peace treaty has

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END

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1 Col. Stanley GROGAN, PRO USFA
2 HQ 1st Armd.Div.
2 AC of S, G-2, 88th Division, Gorizia
1 Gene CAPRIO, Press Attaché, American Embassy, Rome

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9280. Ex. comm. HQ Allcom

Round

62

HEAD QUARTERS
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
ZONE OF OPERATIONS
Public Relations Section

No. 19
Report of Proceedings at Senior Civil Affairs Officer's
Weekly Press Conference, 17 September 1946

by an AMG Correspondent

SEP 24 1946

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AMG WONT WITHDRAW SUMMONSES AGAINST LEADERS OF ILLEGAL
STRIKE, COL. BOWMAN DECLARES AT PRESS CONFERENCE

TRIESTE, September 17 (UPI) -
Summonses issued against 11 leaders of the illegal strike early in July will not be withdrawn "at any time," Senior Civil Affairs Officer Col. Alfred C. Bowman declared at a press conference yesterday afternoon, adding that this policy is supported by the governments of Great Britain and the United States.

Recalling that the newspaper "Il Lavoratore," pro-Yugoslav Communist organ, and many petitions had insistent ly asked what AMG's intention is regarding the leaders of the illegal strike, Col. Bowman said:

"At a press conference about a month ago, I stated it was not our intention to revoke the warrants yet. So that the matter may be regarded as closed, it is not now our intention to withdraw the warrants at any time.

"I was authorized by my military superiors to say that this policy has the full support of the governments of both Britain and the United States.

"I again invite the strike leaders, if they really wish to test this matter, to surrender themselves for trial and I promise that they will be tried at a very early date if they do so."

(On July 5, the strike which had started three days earlier, was declared illegal by AMG, and the strike committee and its individual members were ordered to take all necessary steps to call it off. Then by July 5, the deadline set in the order, the strike had not been called off, summonses were issued against its leaders, only one of whom could be found. They have continued to evade service of the summonses to date).

In discussing the problem of rising prices, Col. Bowman announced that a price control program is in preparation which will cover a larger number of commodities than those covered by the program in effect at the

1372

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

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(On July 3, the strike which had started three days earlier, was declared illegal by AMG, and the strike committee and its individual members were ordered to take all necessary steps to call it off. Then by July 5, the deadline set in the order, the strike had not been called off, summonses were issued against its leaders, only one of whom could be found. They have continued to evade service of the summonses to date).

1372

In discussing the problem of rising prices, Col.Bowman announced that a price control program is in preparation which will cover a larger number of commodities than those covered by the program in effect at the present time.

"This control of prices is much deplored by some portions of the population and clamored for by others," Col.Bowman said. "I prefer to see prices go down as a result of natural causes and I suggest that those who are opposed to price control that the best way to prevent it here is to allow these natural forces to bear on prices which will begin to go down without control."

The effect on prices was given as the reason why Sindacati Unici is opposed to a granting of the "Premio della Repubblica" here, Col.Bowman said in reporting that he had asked for the opinions of two labour unions and three employers groups on whether or not the premio should be granted. Camera del Lavoro was in favour of granting the premio, while the three employers groups have not as yet answered the query.

Col.Bowman said he felt there was no reason for payment of the premio here except the reason for which it was paid in Italy.

"Since it is my position that there is no economic reason for the payment of the bonus, it probably will not be paid at the present time, although I have not been informed of the view of the employers' associations, which may have some effect on my decision."

(See Mar)

See M-63



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A correspondent asked whether, in view of the Paris conference, anything has been done to prepare a statute, and whether AMG thinks it will be the provisional government.

"No statute is being prepared here, nor is it assured that AMG will be the provisional government," Col. Bowman replied. "We are trying to do the best job we can from day to day and at the same time to plan for any changes which may occur."

In a very brief statement at the beginning of the conference, Col. Bowman announced that "For some time in the future, we will be able to eat white bread. The ration of bread may have to be slightly reduced, however, in order to produce the white bread."

Another announcement concerned a new educational order affecting war veterans, Jewish students and refugees. Order No. 187, signed on September 9, provides for extraordinary and short courses which will qualify these persons for examinations or degrees in a shorter time than other students. Article five of the order exempts persons falling within these categories of all fees and assessments.

Asked to comment on frequent press reports that some of Gen. Anders' troops are members of the Military Police, Col. Bowman said:

"I can categorically deny that accusation. The Military Police are obviously all American or British."

He also pointed out that the last two classes of the Civil Police have been recruited entirely from persons who have resided in Zone "A" for at least seven years.

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2 HQ 1st Armd Div.
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1 Lt.Col. [illegible], ADTA, ETA
1 Col. Stanley CROGAN, MTO, USFA
2 HQ 1st Armd Div.
2 AC of S, G-2, 88th Division, Gorizia
1 Cmdr [illegible], Press Attache, American Embassy, Rome



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Ex. comments. HQ-ALCOM Rome 60
9280 (1)

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
XIII CORPS
Public Relations Section

AUG 26

No. 19
Report of Proceedings at Senior Civil Affairs Officer's
Weekly Press Conference, 20 August 1946

by an AIS Correspondent

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TRIESTE, August 20 ( UNI ) - Use of food as a political tool, criticism of the Allied Information Service for alleged failure to publish a story concerning a recent confiscation of arms at Monfalcone, construction of a new engineering school for the University of Trieste, travel and package services between here and Austria, and other local questions were under discussion at a press conference held by Senior Civil Affairs Officer, Col.Alfred C.Bowman, this afternoon at AMG headquarters. Over 30 local and foreign newsmen were present.

Col.Bowman himself introduced the food question by saying that AMG critics had complained that use of food as a political tool was allowed by one political faction, but not by another.

" I do not intend at this time to engage in a general campaign of imprisoning everyone or attempting to apprehend everyone who may sell, or offer for sale, contraband food products," Col. Bowman said, " I should be grateful to be advised by anyone as to the location of any considerable deposits of contraband basic food, no matter in whose hands it may be, or for whatever use it may be intended."

Replying to a question of a foreign correspondent as to what is meant by " use of food as a political weapon ", Col.Bowman said:

" The world is faced by a great food shortage. There is just enough food to keep everybody alive if it is distributed equally among those who need it. For this reason a person or group of persons who obtain food for the distribution to persons who can obtain food from normal ration points, for the purpose of inducing political action, is not only committing an illegal but a completely immoral act.

My previous remarks on this subjects have been directed at food which was being hoarded by the persons who promoted and organised the illegal strike. But it applies equally to any person who hoards basic food for the purpose of inducing political action. I have pointed out that if AMG wished, not only to influence, but to control political action, to relieve itself of its critics and produce a condition of complete law-abidance, it could have been done simply by withdrawing food cards or refusing to

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1371

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And it has been frequently suggested by prominent people that we should use this tool. We have consistently refused to do this, feeling that it would be immoral. We are therefore asking of our critics only what we have willingly done ourselves.

All of us must have first enough to eat - beyond that, we can use whatever legitimate tool we have in order to advance our political ideas or aspirations."

A foreign correspondent wanted to know whether AMG had ever been accused of using food politically. Col. Bowman replied:



See M-61

PA. 27/8

(f/c Sec)

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" The strikers never thought we would do anything of that kind. They hold a poor opinion of us in some ways but I don't think they blame us for that."

Referring again to the leaders of the 12-day strike which began on July 1, a local reporter asked whether the summonses against those persons - described by Col. Bowman in a previous press conference as " fugitives from justice " - would be lifted. The S.C.A.O. replied: " So far I have not regarded it advisable."

A local reporter remarked that it was "strange that the official radio and newspapers " made no mention of the finding of arms recently at several places in Monfalcone. Requested by Col. Bowman to answer the question Lt. Col. D.A.L. Street, Chief of Allied Information Services, replied that the item did appear briefly and vaguely in the Monfalcone edition of the Giornale Alleato. " The reason that it has not been covered more fully," he continued, " is that we were not fully in possession of the details. The Giornale Alleato tries never to publish anything unless it is completely sure of the truth of every fact. We are now gathering all the facts and when they are known we will publish the correct version of the story."

Concerning the question of the completion of an engineering school for the University of Trieste, on which work had been interrupted by the war, Col. Bowman pointed out work has already been started on improvements for which 160 million lire have been appropriated. He remarked that a temporary interim government does not usually occupy itself with long term projects, but that AMG had decided to take a liberal attitude on the question. An additional 27 million lire has been appropriated to equip the school.

" Col. Bowman added that although Villa Irene had been placed at the disposal of the University for the engineering faculty, repairs on the Villa were not carried out as quickly as they should have been because the University authorities failed to procure the requisitioning of the building through the civil authorities, making it impossible for the Civil Engineering section to make the repairs.

The present situation in regard to travel and package service to Austria was explained by Lt. Col. C.J.A. Stephens, of the AMG Commerce Division, who said that there are no facilities for personal or private travel to Austria.

Those who wish to travel to Austria for business reasons must apply to the Italian Ministry of Foreign Trade for an approval of the business they intend to transact. The Austrian authorities, he said, would not agree to handle local cases locally and that the reason for this is that such transaction come within the framework of the Italo-Austrian trade agreement.

Approval has already been given, Col Stephens said, for sending packages from this area to Austria. Firms interested in sending such packages must get specific approval from the Austrian Government. AMG here would aid such firms in making the necessary contacts.

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term projects, but that AMG had decided to take a liberal attitude on the question. An additional 27 million lire has been appropriated to repair the school.

" Col. Bowman added that although Villa Irene had been placed at the disposal of the University for the engineering faculty, repairs on the Villa were not carried out as quickly as they should have been because the University authorities failed to procure the requisitioning of the building through the civil authorities, making it impossible for the Civil Engineering section to make the repairs.

The present situation in regard to travel and package service to Austria was explained by Lt. Col. C.A.J. Stephens, of the AMG Commerce Division, who said that there are no facilities for personal or private travel to Austria.

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END



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HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
XIII CORPS
Public Relations Section

No. 17
Report of Proceedings at Senior Civil Affairs Officer's
Weekly Press Conference, 30 July 1946

AUG 13 1946

by an AIS Correspondent

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MONFALCONE AND SAN MARCO SHIPYARDS TO REOPEN UNDER NORMAL MANAGEMENT

TOMORROW-COL.BOWMAN ANNOUNCES AT PRESS CONFERENCE

LARGE UNRRA THEFTS IN TRIESTE DENIED

Trieste, July 30 (UNN)

The Monfalcone and San Marco Shipyards will return to normal management tomorrow, Senior Civil Affairs Officer Col. Alfred C.Bowman announced at a press conference this afternoon at Casa del Popolo, which was attended by a number of local and foreign press representatives.

In reply to a statement reported to have been made by Fiorello H.La Guardia, UNRRA General Director, concerning thefts of UNRRA goods in Trieste, Col.Bowman said: "If Mr. La Guardia said that substantial quantities of goods are being stolen in Trieste, I think he has been misinformed.".

The conference covered most of the criticism levelled at AMG in recent weeks and treated with the shipyard question, requisitioning of cultural centres, confiscation of foodstuffs by AMG, delay in trials of persons arrested in demonstrations, alleged closing of Slovene schools, alleged favorable attitude of AMG toward Fascists, etc.

The conference took place in the presence of Mrs.Valeria Sacher and Armando Stamic, representatives of a group of persons who last Thursday presented AMG with a number of petitions containing questions and demands around which today's press conference centered.

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Col.Bowman said the questions contained in the petitions represent a cross section of the questions, demands and comment called to his attention in the past month and he hoped to prevent unnecessary repetitions of these questions by answering them publicly.

Speaking of the first group of these questions, which concerned assumption of AMG of control of the shipyards, Col.Bowman said, "I don't think I need to expound at any great length on why this was done since it

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Announcing that the shipyards would revert to normal management tomorrow, Col.Bowman said: "The conditions in the Shipyards for the past ten days have been satisfactory and peaceful. I have talked at great length with the management and the Union leaders, and I have urged upon all the necessity of maintaining the present conditions. I think I will have their cooperation.

"An Allied officer will, for the time being, remain each yard as an observer, and active management will be in the hands of the proprietors.

"I urge upon the press, as I have upon management and the unions,



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that they likewise [illegible]perate in maintaining peaceful [illegible]nditions in the yards.

The principal purpose of AMG's action was to open them and establish peaceful conditions. These things have been accomplished and with goodwill and a bit of tolerance, I hope they may be maintained."

Concerning the requisitioning of the Circolo Rinaldi and another Slovene Cultural centre, Col.Bowman said, "It is implied that premises of the nature were requisitioned because of the character they bore. Such, of course, is not the case. I think these two places are the only ones having a Slovene character as against literally hundreds of those of others having other views.

The standard upon which I have tried to insist in requisitioning is that of military suitability. In the case of the U.A.I.S. premises, the selection was made by a military unit without knowledge of the character of the building. AMG did not intervene with the military in previous cases, and could not intervene in this."

Col.Bowman pointed out that the Circolo Rinaldi building is ideally suited for a police station and billet in an area in which such a station is necessary. "That it is ideally suited, is admitted by those who would like to have it returned and it was shown by the fact that when they were asked to propose other places, they were unable to do so." He explained that there had already been many conversations with four of the directors of the club and the results of these conversations have been referred to the membership.

On the question of confiscation by AMG of basic foodstuffs, from places where they were held for distribution to participants in the illegal strike, Col.Bowman stated that this had also been discussed not only with himself but with the Area Commissioner, and that the situation was clearly outlined in those conversations.

"Mere possession of these goods," the AMG had declared, " is a violation not only of the rationing laws but in some cases, of laws governing imports into this Zone.

"I prefer to base our position, he declared, "not only on law but also on morality. There has perhaps been no time in the past quarter of a century when the world was so near starvation as it is at present. Although the people in this area were told this many times, we have the impression they do not appreciate their good fortune. Scanty as the ration here may seem, it is two or three times more than is received by millions in other parts of the world.

"The nations of the world,-or at least those who feel an obligation toward other nations - have planned and deprived themselves for the prevention of starvation. They have deprived themselves to an extent not here realized, of the basic foodstuffs, Much of this is coming into this and adjoining areas.

"Under such conditions, for people to hoard and use food for political purposes, is the height of immorality."

He declared that AMG would continue to sequester such food wherever it is found"and if the amount is sufficiently great we will ask that shipments of relief food be cut down in this area proportionately so that extra food may go to other places where it is needed."

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A local reporter objected that the food confiscated came from donations by farmers, to which Bowman replied, "I don't think the source of the food enters into it. If the rations are surplus, the same principle applies." He remarked that he didn't think a substantial amount of the food referred to by the reporter represented a personal sacrifice by local farmers.

Speaking of the acquittal of Cocceani (ex-prefect of Trieste) in a recent trial in the Special Court of Assize, Col.Bowman stated that when the Court for the trial of collaborators was being established "we made every effort to get members from every section of the population. The persons who have been most critical refused to furnish any members to this Court. If it has not conducted itself in such fashion as to please these people, they have themselves to blame. I have not reviewed the record in these cases (Cocceani, Pagnini and Vidusso etc.) but I would not intervene



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In any case because I consider this a people's Court. AMG has always adhered to this position."

Col.Bowman answered the question of the delay in trials by stating that all persons not tried by the end of this week will be released, but that a small number of these may be detained by Security Officer beyond that period. For these latter, the AMG Chief said he could not intervene.

About the alleged rule against demonstrations, Col.Bowman repeated substantially what he said at last week's conference, pointing to the fact that an authorized demonstration was held in Gorizia yesterday. "It is possible that further demonstrations will be authorized here when the people of Trieste are capable of maintaining peace on such occasions." His remark at last week's conference was that demonstrations are not prohibited but that authorization to hold them during the past weeks had not been granted.

No Slovene school has been closed by AMG in this Area with the exception of one or two schools which presented exceptional problems, said Bowman in referring to complaints on this score. The AMG Educational Division has declared certain schools unauthorized, he added, but those were not maintaining the standards required by the Division.

He pointed out that there are no unauthorized secondary schools and no unauthorized Great schools in the territory. There are a total of 89 authorized elementary schools as against 70 unauthorized. He asserted that the standards followed by AMG in education would be exercised and insisted upon by any government and "I do not think we have been excessive."

Speaking of a complaint concerning the arrest of a certain Fumis, sentenced to a year in jail for causing farmers not to turn in their grain to the pools, Bowman said he refused to modify the sentence yesterday on learning that Fumis had misrepresented the conditions of his arrest.

"There can be no doubt," he added, " that the action of this person resulted in substantial losses of basic foods, than which there can be no greater crime at present.

On the question of AMG's allegedly favorable attitude toward Fascists, Bowman remarked that the question of what a Fascist is, is one of the most unsettled questions in the administration. "We receive letters from both sides, each calling the other Fascist," he added. "We have refused to accept the thesis that all Italians are Fascist and we cannot think that Fascist acts are confined only to these groups."

He reminded that many AMG officers have spent on an average of five years fighting against Fascism wherever it was found and none of them would tolerate, much less have a favorable attitude toward Fascism.

Alluding to the petitions, Col.Bowman remarked that "if the people who write polemics would work to maintain the peace then there would be no need for regretting deplorable incidents while the future of the zone is being decided.

He concluded: "The effect of some of these letters is lessened by the fact that large numbers of the signatures were written by the same person."

Questioned as to why trials of local collaborationists are not conducted in the same manner as similar trials "in Holland, Belgium and other countries

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Questioned as to why trials of local collaborationists are not conducted in the same manner as similar trials "in Holland, Belgium and other countries," Col.Bowman pointed out that newspaper reports of such trials refer to war crimes trials which are conducted differently from trials of collaborationists in civil tribunals. War crimes trials are conducted by Allied Courts against persons who committed crimes during wartime against Allied forces.

To Mrs Sacher's objection that AMG had not paid any attention to the hunger strike by prisoners awaiting trial, Bowman said he could not see that a hunger strike imposed any greater moral obligation on AMG. The government is required to give a person an early trial and this obligation is neither increased nor decreased by the fact that he refuses to eat.

END



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HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
XIII CORPS
Public Relations Section

No. 16
Report of Proceedings at Senior Civil Affairs Officer's Weekly Press Conference, 11 June 1946

by an AIS Correspondent

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V.G. POLICE TO HAVE STATIONS AT OPICINA AND SERVOLA

LITTLE LIKELIHOOD OF EARLY DEREQUISITIONING OF BUILDINGS IN AREA BY ANGLO-AMERICAN AUTHORITIES

COLONEL BOWMAN ANSWERS QUESTIONS AT PRESS CONFERENCE

Trieste, June 11 (UNN) -

Venezia Giulia Police Stations will be established at Opicina and Servola. There is little likelihood of early derequisitioning of premises by military authorities in Zone A. Allied Military Government does not propose to alter epuration procedure with regard to the passing of verdicts. High School Graduation examinations will go on as planned, despite an appeal to have the marks of students taken into consideration instead.

These, in short, were among the answers given at a Press Conference held today by Colonel Alfred C. Bowman, Senior Civil Affairs Officer, Allied Military Government, Venezia Giulia. Many of the questions which were lengthy were summarised by Colonel Bowman, before he replied to them.

The first question asked that detachments of Venezia Giulia Civil Police be established at Opicina, Servola and Muggia. Colonel Bowman's reply was that a police detachment had already been established at Muggia, and detachments would be established at the other places when suitable buildings became available.

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DEREQUISITIONING OF BUILDINGS

Two questions concerned the derequisitioning of buildings by military authorities. The first question concerned hotels, and referred to the hardship imposed upon the owners who had to meet the expenses of other accommodation.

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Colonel Bowman pointed out that this matter was strictly within the jurisdiction of the 56th (London) Division, and the Town Major of Trieste, who represented the Military authorities. The Town Major could not be present at the Conference, but he had asked Colonel Bowman to say that the question of rental indemnity for the hotels under military occupation, was under consideration, and early authority to make some payments was hoped for.

The Colonel added that, based on his own knowledge on the demand for accommodation for military needs, he thought that early derequisitioning of any of the hotels was extremely unlikely.

The second question on derequisitioning was an appeal that the premises at Via Nizza 8, occupied by Allied Information Services, should be given up to the Association of Artisans, which formerly occupied the building. Here Colonel Bowman was able to suggest the possibility of



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alternative accommodation for the Association. He said there was no immediate prospect of a termination of the services operated by A.I.S. and, therefore, there was no possibility of A.I.S. vacating the premises at an early date. The Town Major, however, had suggested that another building which had been derequisitioned might provide suitable alternative accommodation for the Association of Artisans.

"I don't want," added Colonel Bowman, "to start a scramble on a grand scale for this building, so I will not give the address, but if the Association of Artisans visits the Economics Division of A.M.G. the possibility of securing this building can be explored."

## SHARING ACCOMMODATION

There were seven points in a question relating to the compulsory sharing of living accommodation, and Colonel Bowman answered the questions without repeating them.

He said that in the present circumstances it was not possible to abolish the system of the rationing and allotment of housing space in the area. It was also not possible to permit people to chose the persons with whom they had to share accommodation, but he was sure that voluntary arrangements towards this end were encouraged by the Ufficio Alloggi, which controls the rationing of accommodation, and if not, he would be glad to give instructions that such voluntary arrangements be facilitated within reason.

Three of the points raised by the question affected the methods of selection of apartments and houses and urged that large apartments and villas should be selected before the premises of professional men and artisans used for work were requisitioned.

"These points," said Colonel Bowman, "I cannot answer in detail, because I have not at hand all the necessary information. I hope the owners of large villas and apartments are bearing their share of the burden of the housing shortage. If they are not, they should be required to do so, and I shall be glad to receive reports of what might be considered to be aggravated cases of excessive space used by individuals. I think there probably are some such cases, and as the housing situation if likely to become worse and not better, with the added influx of the wives and families of Allied officers and men, we as an Allied Military Government do not wish to overlook the possibility of securing additional space for the general area.

## A.M.G. TAKES THE BLAME

When a question condemned A.C.S.G.A.T. for imposing retroactive rates for water and electricity, Colonel Bowman said it had been suggested in the Press that the retroactive rates were the fault of A.C.S.G.A.T. and that they were rescinded A.M.G. had discovered that a mistake had been made.

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"For an organisation subject to as much criticism as A.M.G. is, there is always a temptation to allow an assumption of this sort to go unchallenged. However, I must admit that the responsibility was the responsibility of A.M.G. and when we rescinded the retroactive rates, we merely rescinded our own mistake."

Another question asked: If a sample exhibition was organised in Trieste, could this initiative rely on the moral help of Allied Military Government?

Replying, Colonel Bowman said he was not sure what kind of an exhibition was intended. Whether an exhibition would receive the support of A.M.G. would depend to a great degree on the extent to which the event involved travel to and from the area, but they would certainly view with great sympathy any means that would help towards creating and maintaining a normal commercial situation in Venezia Giulia.



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REOPENING OF THE MARKET-EXCHANGE

Re-opening of the market exchange in Trieste - premises which are being used for military purposes, - was urged by a question which, in support, added that the market exchange could be useful as a means of controlling and fixing prices.

In reply it was stated that the premises could not at present be made available to the market exchange. Control of prices was at present carried out by the Price Fixing Commission. Regarding a suggestion that merchants should have a place where they could meet and talk over business, that seemed to be desirable and useful, it was suggested by Lieut. Colonel C.A.V. Stephens that it would be relatively simple to make arrangements for an institution for this purpose, under the auspices of the Chamber of Commerce.

EPURATION - NO CHANGE

A.M.G. does not feel that the situation demands alteration of the existing practice with regard to the passing of verdicts. This was the reply to the following question:-

"In epurative practice the decrees issued by the Commission of First Resort become immediately effective even when the interested party makes an appeal. In many many cases the appeals annul the decree of the First Resort which had - in the intervening period - already gone into effect: in this way a citizen will have suffered the practical consequences of a sanction even though having been definitely recognised as absolved of any crime.

"Does not Allied Military Government believe it should delay the execution of the decrees until the final judgment of the Commission of Appeal, suspending in the meantime the decree of the First Resort?"

It was explained that the procedure on epuration was that a proposed order of suspension was first issued against which the person affected might lodge an objection. If the objection was over-ruled, a final order was made, which was effective from the date of the order. Against this order the person affected might appeal.

"Little Danger of Injustice"

"If the present law is applied correctly by commissions of epuration," read a reply by A.M.G. Legal Division, "there is little danger of injustice."

Another question on epuration followed. It read:

"Always in the field of epuration it is asked if a trial which ends with the absolution of the defendant can be later reopened owing to a denunciation presented after the issue of the sentence itself."

The answer was: "A new Order is in the course of preparation dealing with this point."

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The next question caused laughter because of Colonel Bowman's suggestion that it might have been organised by students. The question referred to the fact that notice had been given that examinations for high school graduation would start on July 8, in Zone A, and went on to argue that in view of the "particular conditions of this Zone" the provision that made marks effective for high school graduation, should remain in force instead of the institution of examinations.

Colonel Bowman remarked that students, at all times, liked to avoid examinations if possible. "I appreciate their sentiments, and remember when I would have agreed most heartily with them. However, these examinations were announced long ago by A.M.G. Education Division and carefully planned, and they are an integral part of our education operation. It is not felt that the abnormal conditions which have prevailed here during the last school year afford justification for not holding the examinations."

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NOISES IN THE NIGHT

A protest was made by a question against noises on the streets of Trieste - particularly in the San Giacomo area - during the night. The question asked for police intervention in such cases.

Colonel Bowman replied that the Venezia Giulia police would enforce all the normal laws and ordinances in this respect to the best of its ability. He suggested that the people whose sleep was disturbed should notify the police, as they would in the case of any other disturbance.

"But it is possible," remarked the Colonel with a smile, "that the bawling (noises) might be described by some people as singing, and might seem as pleasant to some people as it was unpleasant to others. That may be noises to some, and singing to others, represent, to my mind, one of the least harmful ways of letting off steam, and expressing the sentiments of people who indulge in them. Personally, in this matter, I recommend the greatest possible degree of tolerance."

ONE YEAR OF A.M.G.

At the end of the Conference Colonel Bowman said that tomorrow (Wednesday June 12) marked the first anniversary of Allied Military Government in Zone A of Venezia Giulia. Some of his officers had suggested that the date should be recognised in some way, but he had ruled that the day should be observed by working as usual.

"I am sure," added the Colonel, "that the date will not be accepted by all elements of the population as an occasion for jubilation (laughter). Allied Military Government and the population of Zone A have lived together for a year under extremely difficult conditions. It is certain that nothing A.M.G. has done has pleased everybody; and it is equally certain that many of the things done, have pleased nobody. It has been very difficult for officers and men coming from far away places, to grasp and understand the complicated situation here. I shall be satisfied if most of the people feel that, despite our unavoidable shortcomings in the matter of experience and background, we have tried to do the best we could do in the circumstances. Whatever has been said about Allied Military Government, I am inclined to feel that, in the retrospective years to come, this period of Anglo-American occupation may not be the unhappiest in the history of Trieste and Venezia Giulia."

END

SEPRAL IS TO BE RE-ORGANISED

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT FOOD OFFICER ANSWERS CRITICISMS OF INSTITUTION

Trieste, June 11 (UNN)

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## SEPRAL IS TO BE RE-ORGANISED

## ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT FOOD OFFICER ANSWERS CRITICISMS OF INSTITUTION

Trieste, June 11 (UNN)

An announcement that Sepral is to be strengthened and re-organised was made today by Major H.F.J. Myatt, Allied Military Government chief Food Officer.

Major Myatt was answering criticisms of Sepral made at an Allied Military Government Press Conference several weeks ago. At todays Press Conference Colonel Alfred C. Bowman, Senior Civil Affairs Officer, suggested that Press representatives meet Major Myatt and pursue their questions further. After the Conference the Pressmen did so.

The Food Officer explained that under the re-organisation of the Food services on a territorial basis in Zone A of Venezia Giulia, area offices would be set up to secure a greater measure of de-centralisation. Up to the present there had been three area Seprals with the control vested in the Trieste Sepral. Under the proposed re-organisation, the offices would have a greater measure of independence, and the regional



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organisation in Trieste would have the benefit of an Advisory Committee drawn from various sections of the population.

The Main Complaints

The Food Officer began by remarking that recently there had been a renewal of criticism concerning SEPRAL. Most of the criticism came under the following headings:

(a) Complaints from the public that they are not getting enough to eat in their rations.

(b) Protests from merchants that they are not getting a square deal.

"The answer to the first complaint," said Major Myatt, "is far from being a matter for SEPRAL, or even Allied Military Government, to decide; the basic rations for Venezia Giulia area are fixed and supplied by the Combined Food Board in Washington and London according to a world programme of distribution. It is SEPRAL's job to distribute these supplies on a ration basis through trade channels, and I have yet to hear of any being refused his entitlement.

"Attacks by merchants are often more mischievous and cannot be disposed of so readily. They are nearly always accompanied by protestations of altruism, the professed desire being to benefit only the consumer. My experience is that the more vociferous merchants are about the consumer's interests, the more intent they are on accumulating money.

"Sense of Proportion"

"When handsome profits are at stake it is not always easy to maintain a sense of proportion, but in the interests of truth merchants should not be completely inconsistent.

"In many of the vague polemics about SEPRAL much use, or misuse, is made of the term 'free enterprise' as a necessary condition for the operation of the law of supply and demand without entering into the merits or otherwise of such generalizations. I should like to point out that with rationing still in force it is paradoxical to talk in terms of a free economy.

"Whereas SEPRAL in Italy merely controls the distribution of foodstuffs through the trade," Major Myatt continued, "SEPRAL here is an agency of Allied Military Government, handling not only supplies received direct from Allied sources but transporting and warehousing those foodstuffs allocated from Italian Government-controlled sources at fixed prices. Traders who like to see in these latter operations a usurping of their trading rights fail to realize that movement of commodities between Governments does not require the intervention of private individuals.

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"Rationing is synonymous with wars and their aftermath. Because it is an unpopular measure it is unreasonable to attack the organisation responsible for the distribution of foodstuffs.

Charges of Malpractice

"On the issue which has arisen from the granting of import licences for coffee and cocoa, I should like to point out that they were issued by Allied Military Government and not SEFRAL. Any specific charges of malpractice amongst employees of SEFRAL should be reported to the proper authority, but let us not confuse such questions with policy.

"When the granting of permits was suspended many of the less enterprising champions of "free enterprise" complained that all the merchants should have been treated as a sort of trust sharing equally in the profits. Coffee is an unrationed item; yet when it comes to essential foodstuffs such as rice, oil, sugar, which must be rationed whether we like it or not, SEFRAL is accused of monopolistic methods hindering a return to the old 'free economy'."



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Answering questions, Major Hyatt, explained that prices of rationed foodstuffs in Zone A were controlled by the Price Fixing Commission, appointed under an A.M.G. Order. On that Commission were represented the Sindacati Unici, Sindacati Giuliani, and representatives of the Chamber of Commerce, Sopral, and producers and consumers.

To a suggestion that a Trust be formed for the importation of unrationed foodstuffs, the Food Officer said his feeling was that the sooner Venezia Giulia returned to a system of free trading, the better it would be for all concerned.

When renewed criticisms were made of the import of coffee by SEPRAL, Major Hyatt said that A.M.G. policy had been a liberal one, designed to encourage the import of as much coffee as possible. The issue of import licenses, however, had to be stopped, because there had been abuses in the acquisition of foreign currency.

When a Press representative began to speak at length of the long-standing reputation of Trieste merchants for honesty in commercial dealings, Major Hyatt replied that such a question did not come within the scope of the Conference.

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HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
XIII CORPS
Public Relations Section

MAY 20 1945

No. 16
Report of Proceedings at Senior Civil Affairs Officer's
Special Press Conference, 15 May 1945

By an AMG Correspondent

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[illegible] "CRITICAL OF LAW [illegible] OF LAWLESSNESS"

[illegible] NO [illegible] POLICE

SENIOR CONVENTION-DELEGATES CONFERS ON SERIOUS

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Trieste, May 15 (U.S.N.)

Colonel Alfred C. Bowman, Senior Civil Affairs Officer, Allied Military Government, Venezia Giulia, stated today that AMG must regard somewhat sceptically reports of alleged cases of lawlessness in which persons allege to be injured, but not make efforts to secure police assistance.

"Crime is particularly vile," emphasized the Colonel, "in the case of charges which are not reported to the authorities, but appear first in the press or on the air in this area, or elsewhere."

Colonel Bowman made this statement at a Press Conference, at which a number of topics discussed were the control and officiency of Allied, the position of people who wish to emigrate and problems concerning operation procedure.

At the outset of the Conference, Colonel Bowman said that he had received some letters and conversations about alleged cases of lawlessness, none of which at the best any effort had been made by persons claimed to have been injured to obtain police assistance. "The methods and systems for making police help quickly available throughout this area," the Colonel said, "have been perfected to a degree equal to that in a metropolitan city in Europe, or elsewhere. We are convinced that in general the police have responded quickly and effectively to all cases of lawlessness, no matter by whom the complaint was made or from whom it originated.

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Trieste, May 15 (U.P.A.).

Colonel Alfred C. Bowman, Senior Civil Affairs Officer, Allied Military Government, Venezia Giulia, stated today that AMG must regard somewhat sceptically reports of alleged cases of lawlessness in which persons claim to be injured, but not made efforts to secure police assistance.

"This is particularly true" emphasized the colonel, "in the case of charges which are not reported to the authorities, but appear first in the press or are put up in this area, or elsewhere."

Colonel Bowman made his statement at a Press Conference, at which he gave certain circumstances of the control and efficiency of General, the position of people who wish to migrate and problems concerning separation procedures.

At the outset of the Conference, Colonel Bowman said that he had received many letters and complaints about alleged cases of lawlessness, none of which at the time of his arrival had been made by persons claimed to have been injured to obtain police assistance. "The methods and systems for making police help quickly available throughout this area," the Colonel said, "have been perfected to a degree equal to that in a metropolitan city in Europe, or elsewhere. We are convinced that in general the police have responded quickly and effectively in all cases of lawlessness, no matter by whom the complaint was made or from whom it originated.

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## Court of Inquiry Set Up

"It is perhaps natural, therefore, that we must regard somewhat sceptically charges which in fact no effort was made to obtain help from the normal law enforcement authority, in this case the Venezia Giulia Civil Police.

"It is perhaps also natural that we should suspect that some of these alleged cases of lawlessness which are not brought to the attention of the authorities until, perhaps a year or so after they are alleged to have occurred, have in fact not occurred at all."

Colonel Bowman also announced that a Court of Inquiry which is to investigate allegations of the excessive use of force by Venezia Giulia Police, had been convened by the Commander of an Allied Officer. The court is hearing its first witness today in Monfalcone. Witnesses and complainants who have allegations to make to the chief public safety officer are to be presented individually by the Public Prosecutor. Colonel Bowman said he presented individually by complainants, and the authorities did not desire to entertain any charges made by anonymous or pseudonymous communications.

(s/COR Mc)

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 185217

## The Duties of Sepral

A question which asked, what were the duties of Sepral, caused long discussion. Firstly, Captain G. Calvanese, of A.M.G. Food Division, explained the matter.

"The functions of SEPRAL in Venezia Giulia," said Captain Calvanese, "are similar to those of the Italian provinces which carry the same name. These are not only functions of distribution, but also the functions of regulating commerce in foodstuffs in order to insure the greatest availability in the Zone, and at the same time prevent their disposal.

"As well, the Venezia Giulia SEPRAL is a trading organization, buying, transporting, and warehousing foodstuffs for the civilian population. The SEPRAL also finances the importation of those foodstuffs allocated from the Italian provinces.

"The SEPRAL, as an agency of AMG," added the Captain, "carries out the specific tasks allocated by the Government, such as receiving premiums on imported foodstuffs and the sale of foodstuffs received gratis in lieu of such premiums, when the value is not easily determinable."

## "Popular control" of the Institution

A Press representative stated that frequent requests had been made for a "Popular control of Sepral", and went on to state that allegations had been made against the honesty of its officials.

Colonel Bowman, with a smile, said that there had been requests for a popular control of Zone "A". He said that at present Zone "B" the present control of Sepral perhaps somewhat more popular. That does not mean, however, that Sepral is not an honest and efficient institution.

Capt. Calvanese asked that accusations against individuals, or groups of people, in Sepral, should be precise and specific. Nothing could be done in the matter unless the accusations were so presented.

After another Press representative had suggested what he termed "a control" of Sepral, by representatives of Trades Unions and consumers, Colonel Bowman said he hoped that any accusations or rumours about dishonesty in Sepral would be brought, as Captain Calvanese had suggested, to the notice of AMG so that it would be possible to determine what the facts really were.

"We do not intend by this," added the Colonel, "to say that we will not take every action we can by ourselves to keep Sepral honest and efficient. We have a responsibility in this matter and we intend to sustain it."

## Advice from a Committee

During further discussion it was suggested by a Press representative, that in fixing costs Sepral should seek the advice of a committee of warehousemen, grocers, and housewives. A Press representative [illegible]

## "Popular control" of the Institution

A Press representative stated that a request response had been made for a "Popular control of Sopral", and went on to state that allegations had been made against the honesty of its officials.

Colonel Bowman, did not think that there had been requests for a popular control of Sopral. Like the people of Zone "A", the present control of Sopral [illegible] considerably popular. But this does not mean, however, that Sopral is not an honest or an efficient institution.

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After another Press representative had suggested what he termed "a control" of Sopral, by representatives of Trades Unions and consumers, Colonel Bowman said he hoped that any accusations or rumours about dishonesty in Sopral would be brought, as Capt. Calvanese only moments ago suggested, to the notice of AMG so that it would be possible to determine what the facts really were.

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## Advice from a Committee

During further discussion it was suggested by a Press representative, that in fixing costs Sopral should seek the advice of a committee of merchants, consumers and trades unions. The Press representative claimed that coffee was bought in Switzerland and Marseilles, at 170 lire a kilo. After their costs had been added the price here should have been 600 lire a kilo, but the price actually charged was 1,000, 1,500, and 1,200 lire a kilo.

Colonel Bowman stated if the crux of the situation was that the local Sopral did not seek advice from persons who could give them such advice in the best interests of all concerned, the reply was that such was the case.

Observing that there seemed no doubt that a measure of control by merchants, consumers and trades unions in Sopral, would make a contribution to the efficiency of Sopral, the Colonel asked Capt. Calvanese to prepare a report on the situation with regard to Sopral generally and how it compared now in relation to Sopras in Italy.

## Emigration from Venezia Giulia

The questions concerning the possibility of residents of Zone "A" of emigrating from Venezia Giulia, were discussed and answered by Colonel Bowman. He pointed out that Allied Military Government was not a sovereign in the sense that Italy or Yugoslavia, or any nation, is. Everyone who lived in this area was a national of some nation, and persons who wish to

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emigrants must make their applications through the normal agents of the Government of their nations.

There were no consuls of other nations in this area, and a citizen of this area who was normally an Italian, and who wished to go overseas must establish contact with the nearest consul or Embassy of the country to which he desires to emigrate, and he must obtain his passport through the Italian Government. It understood that the nearest Italian passport office was at the Questura, Udine. It was not the present intention of A.M.G. to permit consuls of other nations to come here, or to establish offices giving facilities to people who wish to emigrate.

Payment of Pensions

A question submitted by another newspaper stated that the National Association for Unfortunate Civilians due to the war asserted that the payment of pensions due unfortunates could not be made until the Giulian question is settled. There are, however, persons who have urgent need of help. Would it not be possible that some other organisation, for example the National Association for War Invalids, should take care of these unfortunate people.

Replying, Lt. Col. Raymond Kenny, Chief Welfare Officer, AMG, said: "The alleged assertion of the National Association for Unfortunate Civilians due to war that the payment of pensions cannot be made until the Giulian question is settled is inaccurate, if by 'pensions' is meant advances to civilians who suffered as a result of the war.

"Such advances or assistance have been in the past, and are now, made by the Inter Comm. Assistance, Trieste.

"Because of the present ICA organisation for granting pension advances to unfortunate civilians," noted Lt. Col. Kenny, "it is not deemed advisable to complicate the administration of this program further by turning it over to the National Association for War Invalids, because that organisation renders assistance to disabled soldiers and not to disabled civilians."

More about Pensions

Another question concerning pensions stated that although A.M.G. General Order No. 17 establishes increases to some categories of people entitled to disability and old age pensions, with effect from July 1st, 1945, payments have not been regularised with the exception of one payment of eight hundred lire made during November last.

Colonel Bowman: The answer seems to be that the facts are erroneous. I am advised by my Finance Division that all pensions payable under General Order No. 17 have been paid.

A Finance Division officer present suggested that if there were any persons who had not been paid they should report the matter to the Finance Division of A.M.G.

Still on the subject of finance, a further question referred to General Order No. 27 which, in the case of the reconstruction of buildings

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General Order No. 27 which in the case of the reconstruction of buildings
damaged during the war, divides the expense equally between the proprietor
and A.M.G. The question went on to suggest that the present income from
property was so small that it could not cover the interest and reduction
of the debt under a mortgage.

Increase of Rents

Colonel Kenny said A.M.G. considered the best way of approaching
this problem was to allow property owners to increase their rents in order
to be able to meet their expenses. A general order permitting an increase
of rentals has now been issued. Whether it would fully meet the needs
suggested by the question before the conference, would have to be decided
on the basis of experience.

The question had been discussed with the Association of Trieste
Property Owners which had been asked to submit any further plans for
dealing with specific cases of hardship in writing, but this material
had not been received.

A Finance Division officer suggested that the Association of Trieste
Property Owners might submit details of cases where interest on mortgage
were particularly heavy upon property owners.



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Three questions were asked concerning epuration procedure. The first stated that after personal cards had been examined and information gathered, in cases where the Epuration Commissions did not find any reason for taking further action, they advised the interested party accordingly, by letter. The letter stated that further proceedings would not take place unless further accusations were laid against the person concerned. Did not Allied Military Government believe, added the questions, that the present was the moment to establish a time limit to the possibility of presenting further denunciations?

Colonel Bowman: The answer is "No".

Possibility of false evidence

The second question stated that during epuration proceedings it had been brought out that some of the denunciations were falsely signed, and asked if it would not be advisable to make it obligatory for the Epuration Commissions to consider valid only those denunciations of which the authenticity of the signature had been previously ascertained.

Replying, Colonel Bowman said the experience of the Epuration Commission had been that the problem of forged denunciations had been practically non-existent. The Commissions were judicial bodies, and it must be assumed that they had not received false evidence at its face value. Naturally, however, if anyone had specific evidence of false evidence having been placed before the Commissions, the Commissions would be glad to know about it.

The third questions, which concerned orders relating to epuration in private business, Colonel Bowman described as "quite unintelligible to me, and not fully understood by my legal department".

The questioner promised to submit a report on the matter he had in mind.

TRIESTE GAS SUPPLY IS IN DANGER

PEOPLE WHO USE IT DURING NON-PERMITTED HOURS

A warning that if people continued to use gas in Trieste during non-permitted hours, the supply might have to be discontinued, was given today by Lieut. Colonel J. Foden, Chief Industry & Utilities Officer of Allied Military Government.

Lieut. Col. Foden, who was speaking at Colonel Alfred C. Bowman's Press Conference, said that in accordance with a promise to resume the supply of gas as soon as possible, A.M.G. started the supply again on 10 May. Responsibility for the supply had been accepted at a time of acute shortage of coal. He had had reports submitted to him daily from 10 May and they showed very clearly that a very considerable number of people were using the gas during non-permitted hours. (The permitted

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A.C.S.G.A.T. Inspectors had provided him with a number of addresses at which gas taps had been turned on during the non-permitted hours.

"I feel," continued Lieut. Col. Foden, "that we are justified in issuing a friendly but last warning. We shall have to take action against people who break the regulation and cut off their gas supply for an indefinite period."

The Lieut. Colonel went on to explain that at the local gas works they could not afford to use more than eighty tons of coal a day, which provided so much gas. If the consumption of gas, however, was in excess of the amount provided for, the gas works had to consume more coal and manufacture more gas, because they could not allow air to get into the pipes and form an explosive mixture. However, as they could not afford to use more than eighty tons of coal a day, if people would not keep to the permitted hours, it would be necessary to cut off the supply of gas altogether.

It was the wish of A.M.G. to maintain public services as efficiently as possible despite all difficulties, and he appealed to the Press to help



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in the matter by bringing the facts before the public.

Several people had suggested to A.C.A.G.L.T. that the hours of gas supply should be changed to the morning, but unless he had evidence that the number of people who wished this change was considerable, he proposed to leave the hours of supply as they were. Perhaps the Press might test public opinion on the question.

When the price of gas was raised a Press representative suggested that payments by instalment might lessen the hardship to certain consumers and Lieut-Col. Foden agreed to enquire into the matter.

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1 HQ 55 Area



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1 Executive Commissioner, HQ AMCOM, Rome (Brig. LUSH)
1 Lt-Col. MERRILL, HQ PM, Rome
1 DGS 13 Corps (Brig. ARMY)
1 GSI 13 Corps
2 POLAD BRITISH, Mr.SULLIVAN
2 POLAD AMERICAN, Mr.GREENE
8 HQ AMG, Trieste Area
8 HQ AMG, Pola Area
8 HQ AMG, Gorizia Area
7 HQ AIS, Trieste
1 G.Stewart BROWN, USIS, c/o AMERICAN EMBASSY
1 Lt-Col. HAMMER, ADM, DEA
1 Col.Stanley CROGAN, PRO, USFA
2 56 Division Main HQ
2 AC of S, G-2, 88th Division, Gorizia
1 GENE CAPRIO, Press Attache, American Embassy, Rome
1 HQ 56 Area

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9280

46

TELEPHONE:—
ROME 43.951.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
ROME.

6th May, 1946.

Your Ref: 9280/40/EC.

MAY 7 1946

Executive Commissioner,
H.Q. Allied Commission.

Subject: Internal Committees.

1. I hope to be in Trieste this week-end and to discuss with S.C.A.O. and with Major Scicluna the question of Internal Committees.

2. On the report attached to your minute of 2nd May, I should say that it would be better for employers and workers to come to an agreement regarding the functions and composition of Internal Committees than for A.M.G. to make a Decree on the subject. It is possible that Major Scicluna was misreported - I have already given him a lead on this subject, together with documentation.

3. May I discuss further on my return from Trieste?

W.H. BRAINE.

Labour Attaché.

See Mins 47
Letter etc.

PA
1361

(COPY K)

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HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
XIII CORPS
Public Relations Section

No. 15
Report of Proceedings at Senior Civil Affairs Officer's
Weekly Press Conference, 26 April 1946

by an AIS Correspondent

MAY 1 1946

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NO CONCRETE EVIDENCE OF POLICE BRUTALITY PRESENTED OR DISCOVERED

DISTORTION OF CERTAIN SECTIONS OF THE PRESS

DAILY LARGE INCREASE IN EMPLOYMENT IN PUBLIC WORKS

PROLONGATION OF REPATRIATION PERIOD IN ZONE "A"

Trieste, April 26 (U.N.N.)

In returning to the matter of alleged police brutality raised at the last Press Conference, Colonel Alfred C. Bowman, Senior Civil Affairs Officer, Allied Military Government, at his Press Conference today made it quite clear that no evidence was found of police brutality. Colonel Bowman also pointed out that his statement at the last Press Conference was incorrectly reported by certain sections of the local press.

"Those who were present at the last Press Conference," said Col. Bowman, "and who have read the published statements about what I said about police brutality know that in one or two cases the impression conveyed by the newspaper reports was not in accordance with my statement at the Conference. It was very clear to all present, I am sure, that I did not, as reports by one of the local papers 'admit police brutality.' On the contrary, I stated quite clearly that when it came to specific cases, we had not, in spite of general complaints, been able to find any evidence in support of those accusations.

"Since the last Conference I have had opportunity for further inquiry. I find that very through investigations were made shortly after these general charges, including physical examinations of a considerable number of complaining prisoners. In several cases the inve-

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"Since the last Conference I have had opportunity for further inquiry. I find that very through investigations were made shortly after these general charges, including physical examinations of a considerable number of complaining prisoners. In several cases the investigations were carried out in the presence of persons, who would certainly have had no motive in concealing evidence of brutality."

Colonel Bowman then continued:

"As far as I have been able to determine, no proof of brutality has appeared, and there have been no reports directly to me, as invited at the last meeting.

"I did say last week that a certain amount of force is necessarily associated with police work and I said further "this is true not only here, but in the United States and in Britain and in other places." It is the business of a policeman, if necessary, to apply reasonable force, in order to maintain the peace. Reasonable force is not brutality. Force becomes brutality only when it becomes unreasonable or excessive for the purpose of maintaining the peace.

"I stated last week that we intended to use all measures possible to stop the use of unreasonable force. The specific measures which I referred to last week, such as posting of signs in cells inviting

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(CDR M.)

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complaints and frequent visits by the prison officer to invite complaints, and medical inspection have already been put into effect and are currently in force.

The point I particularly want to make clear, even to the extent of re-stating it, is that on the record and after conscientious investigation no evidence of police brutality has been produced."

QUESTIONS VAGUE AND FRIVOLOUS

Passing to the questions submitted at today's Press Conference, Colonel Bowman pointed out that the press seem to have forgotten some of his original requests. Some of the questions submitted were of a very indefinite nature, and seemed to him almost frivolous.

Colonel Bowman again urgently requested that all questions for the Press Conference be prepared carefully and that they be direct and to the point.

The first question, to which Colonel Bowman referred in particular was:

"In the Allied Military Government regime is it admitted that public officials, who are members of the Epuration Commission, should be insulted by certain sections of the press?"

PERSONS ATTACKED ON RACIAL GROUND

The second question, which led on from this, was:

"Bringing up racial motives in order to create a feeling of inferiority in the person criticized, ties up directly with Fascist technique. Is not this contrary to the Orders contained in Article 5, no. 43 of General Order No. 1 against re-establishing the theories characteristic of Fascism and Nazism?"

Replying to Colonel Bowman's complaint about the vagueness of this question as well, the representative of the paper, which submitted the question explained that members of the Commission of Epuration have been attacked on the grounds that as they are Jews they cannot feel national questions in the same way as other people.

Replying, Colonel Bowman said that this was in fact a request for legal opinion. "I do not know, whether this is true," continued Colonel Bowman, "although it may have been implied by some publications. I will say in general terms that the Legal Officer of the Allied Military Government believes that the intentional imputation of racial motives to a person for the purpose stated might consist of a violation of Article 594 or of Article 595 of the Penal Code, depending, of course, on the circumstances of the motive and evidence. However, I believe that the publication that is alleged to have offended is about to be suspended for entirely different reasons."

ADAPTATION WORKS ON ENGINEERING FACULTY BUILDING

Question: "Does the Public Works Office of Allied Military Government know if work has been started for repairing the building situated in 24 Viale Romolo Gessi, to be prepared for the use by the Engineering Faculty of the Trieste University?"

On behalf of the Public Works Division of the Allied

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

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Replying on behalf of the Public Works Division of the Allied
Military Government, Major Edward H. Richardson, Chief Public Works Officer,
said that the same question was asked at a Press Conference about two
months ago. The answer both by Chief Finance Officer and by the Public
Works Division was: "The Area President should requisition the building in
question, whereupon the Genio Civile would repair it at public expense."
Major Richardson then proceeded saying that "a check at the Genio Civile
Office this morning shows that the estimates have been made but there is
no record of the building being requisitioned." Major Richardson suggested
that the University should ask the Area President to requisition the build-
ing, and as soon as this has been done, the Genio Civile has the authority
and will start work immediately.



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## REPATRIATION OF ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR

Question: "In the Middle East, including Cyrenaica, Egypt, Palestine, and Iraq, there are considerable numbers of Italian prisoners of war, who have been waiting for repatriation for a long time.

"Their moral condition is pitiful, even if they manage to get along materially as well as possible. In fact, they are struggling along in an atmosphere of rancour and exasperation, lasting as long as their status of prisoners of war.

"In this connection particular regard should be taken to the position of Italian prisoners of war originating from Venezia Giulia. These have a great need to return to their homeland, where they are near their families during the present events, which are developing.

"To request the Allied Military Government regardless of the division of this region into two zones, to approach organizations dealing with repatriation of prisoners with view of obtaining precedence for soldiers from this region when embarking for Italy. These soldiers at present are living in a state of understandable anxiety due to the abnormal situation, which has been created."

Answering this question, Colonel Bowman said that this matter comes up about every two months. "I am unable," said Colonel Bowman, "to do more than express the sympathy I have expressed in the past. The question of the release of Italian prisoners is one that is handled on a much higher level than Allied Military Government. We have often transmitted to higher authorities the expression of opinion received on this subject. Everything that is said about prisoners of war from Venezia Giulia is equally true of all Italian prisoners of war, and as I have said before, they will not come back as a Venezia Giulia group, but as individuals belonging to Italian military units, which will arrive at certain points in Italy, and from which they will be dispersed.

"I do not think there should be a special treatment for prisoners of war from Venezia Giulia, despite the ingenious suggestion that 'because of the special difficulties here' they should be getting precedence."

## LARGE DAILY INCREASE IN EMPLOYMENT ON PUBLIC WORKS

Question: "In regard to unfortunate dismissals now started at the 'Cantiere Riuniti dell'Adriatico' Allied Military Government declare that they had prepared a work programme to absorb the greatest possible number of workers during the longest possible period.

"Does Allied Military Government believe that it will be able to absorb through such work a large part of the manpower at its disposal as a result of the future dismissals which the C.R.D.A. were authorised to effect?

"Does the Allied Military Government include in these projects also drainage of the Zaule plain, a project Allied Military Government announced over the "Voice of AMG" broadcast by Radio Trieste last November?

"Had there been any particular reason which caused Allied Military Government to delay the commencement of work in this zone?

"Does not Allied Military Government believe the moment has come to ask all economic and financial organisations in the city to cooperate on reconstruction work?"

1359

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"Does not Allied Military Government believe the moment has come to ask all economic and financial organisations in the city to cooperate on reconstruction work?"

Major Howard H. Rich began replying to this question said: "The normal employment on public works in an area similar to Zone A should be about 5000. During the months prior to dismissals we employed in normal numbers some 5000. When dismissals were discussed during March this division was directed to increase public works. At present, reports dated April 5 show that we have 10,981 workers employed. This figure is being increased daily. For example this morning a contract was included for an anti-malarial control project which will employ about 1,200 men for six months.

"The Public Works Division does not contemplate to work in the Zaule plain, which is part of the proposed industrial port. But we are developing the Bonifica of Noghera which is near there. The development of the Port is a long-range project which is being studied on a higher level.

"Consultations have been going on continually as far as projects



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are concerned and we will continue to consult with various organizations and proposed works."

REINSTATEMENT OF DISMISSED ANTI-FASCISTS

"Last autumn, following our interpellation at the Press Conference, we were promised that a general order soon to be issued would have reinstated to their rights or at least given an economic recognition (pensions to anti-Fascists who at the beginning of the regime had lost their places in the state and parastatal offices. It was spoken of again afterwards and our suggestion was received that the order should refer also to employees of private firms. They are persons who have suffered for more than twenty years for the same cause for which the United Nations fought this war, they were persons who had a right to the place in which they already worked and from which they were thrown out for their faith in liberty and democracy. But, while partial measures for the racially persecuted and others have been enforced, the order is still being waited for which was promised so many months ago for the anti-Fascist dismissals. When will it be?"

Colonel Bowman replied to this question, and said that there had been a regrettable delay, which, however, has for the most part occurred elsewhere, and because it has been necessary to consult financial and legal authorities. Colonel Bowman then said that he has been promised that the Order dealing with this matter will be presented to him within the next two weeks.

Referring to the matter of reinstatement of private employees, dismissed under the Fascist regime, Colonel Bowman said: "It appears very unlikely that we will be able to do anything about private employees. The dismissals in private employment, as distinguished from public, were made under an authority which was not mandatory, but permissive. In fact, they were the result of discretion exercised by private individuals. It would, for this reason, obviously be impossible to determine in these cases what the true motive of dismissals was, whereas in the case of public employment it can be assumed that it was in consequence of an outright order against certain categories of persons.

Although the example of the Italian Government is not necessarily controlling, it should be pointed out that that Government has not attempted to deal with private employment in this connection.

PROLONGATION OF EPURATION PERIOD IN ZONE "A"

Question: Does not Allied Military Government believe that the moment has arrived for extending in zone "A" of Venezia Giulia Laws for Epuration which are in force in Italy, so that there will be in force also there the law relative to the time limit in which the epuration itself must be ended, (that is April 30th), or at least that Allied Military Government should establish a new date in which the report to the proper epuration commissions of our zone must be presented?

Colonel Bowman replied also to this question: "While this question is not entirely clear to me, I believe its substance is intended to ask whether we intend to discontinue epuration in the near future. If this

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

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Colonel Bowman replied also to this question: "While this question is not entirely clear to me, I believe its substance is intended to ask whether we intend to discontinue epuration in the near future. If this is the intention of the question, the answer is no.

"Epuration will continue here at least for some reasonable time, and there is no present intention of discontinuing it at a specified date. Epuration started here much later than it did in Italy and there are many many cases, fully prepared but undisposed of. Every effort is, however being made to speed up the work of the Epuration Commission. Epuration obviously is a business which could come to an end, some time. However, that time certainly is not in the immediate future.

"It has been a source of some satisfaction to Allied Military Government to note that most of the protest against the early termination of epuration have come from sources which had previously considered that epuration was ineffective and useless."



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## BONUSES FOR FORMER AUSTRIAN PENSIONERS

"With General Order No 34 dated 31/12/45 Part D, [illegible] II, Section 3/b the ex-career-employees, pensioned under the late Austro-Hungarian regime are deprived of the increase in living bonus, while this increase has been applied only to small employees, servants, etc., widows of the ex-career-employees under the late Austro-Hungarian regime, which fact is inexplicable and absurd, because it results that a widow of an employee of such category receives the living bonus in question while instead her husband would have no right if he were living.

"The Intendenza di Finanza has already presented this error (or oversight) to Rome, but meanwhile the poor pensioners of the ex-Austro-Hungarian regime, not only have not been able to receive the arrears like the local pensioners receive who enjoy the Italian pension, but they run the risk of seeing the diminishing of the present small pension with the result of being debtors for several thousands of lire towards the State due to the lack of the application of the living bonus in question, in partial payment of which they received up to now a small instalment which varied according to the category.

"It is now desired that Allied Military Government should urge Rome to solve this urgent problem with reference to the Decree Laws No. 41, 116, 722 of 1945."

Colonel Bowman again regretted that there has been a certain amount of delay in disposing of a matter, which is of considerable importance to the individuals involved.

"As the question implies, we have intended as far as possible to take action similar to that taken in Italy, and much of the delay has been caused by the Italian Government and I may say that I hope that in two weeks we will be able to issue a definite statement on the entire subject.

"In the meantime, we have allowed advances to be made to ex-Austro-Hungarian pensioners, who are at present excluded from receiving the increased cost of living bonus, at 50 per cent of the figure granted to Italian pensioners. No reimbursement of such advances will be required."

## AMNESTY FOR VICTORY DAY

The above ended all questions submitted in writing and Colonel Bowman invited the journalists present to submit short questions of general interest.

A correspondent asked whether on the occasion of the anniversary of the arrival of Allied Forces in Trieste it is intention of the authorities in the area to declare an amnesty for minor offences.

Colonel Bowman replied:

"The answer is no, as the idea has not occurred to us. As a matter of fact, the idea is almost foreign to the philosophy of the kind of Government to which I am accustomed, although I know it is not an extraordinary question in this part of the world."

1358

## PETITIONS AND REQUESTS TO COL. BOWMAN

Another correspondent mentioned the fact that petitions and requests, addressed personally to Colonel Bowman, frequently never reach him.

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1358

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Another correspondent mentioned the fact that petitions and requests, addressed personally to Colonel Bowman, frequently never reach him.

"What can one do to ensure that letters arrive?" asked the correspondent.

Colonel Bowman replied that it was impossible for him to deal with all matters addressed to him. Sometimes the number of such letters exceeded a hundred a day, each of which had to be translated and studied. Therefore" said Colonel Bowman, "it is absolutely necessary that I delegate to someone on my staff the task of determining whether a letter is particularly important, and comes from a source, which entitles it to my personal attention."

The Colonel then added that he will allow the questioner to bring to him one communication, which he will undertake to read personally.

"I know that this is a serious matter," concluded Colonel Bowman, "and I wish I could read every communication that comes in, but I know I cannot do it, and I do not propose to."

END



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1 BGS 13 Corps (Brig. AIREY)

1 GSI 13 Corps

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8 HQ AMG, Pola Area

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1 Lt-Col. HENNIKER, ADPR, PM

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2 AC of S, G-2, 88th Division, Gorizia

1 GENE CARRO, Press Attache, American Embassy, Rome

1 HQ 55 Area

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1628

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

Ref. : 9280/40/EC

2 May. April 1946.

SUBJECT: Internal Committees.

TO : Mr Braine,
Labour Attache,
British Embassy.

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The attached is an extract of a report of a Press Conference held in Venezia Giulia.

I am not too happy about these "Internal Committees" and would appreciate your advice and comments.

M. S. LUCH

Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

See p 41

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928 / 8 Ex Comme 31

DECLASSIFIED
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
TRIESTE

Public Relations Section

APR 25 1946

No. 14
Report of proceedings at Senior Civil Affairs Officer's
Weekly Press Conference, 16th April 1946

by an AIS Correspondent

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SHIPYARDS MAY HAVE "INTERNAL COMMITTEES"

A.M.G. CONSIDERING MEANS TO ENSURE FREE AND DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS

"I WILL NOT TOLERATE POLICE BRUTALITY" SAYS COLONEL BOWMAN

Trieste, April 16 (U.N.N.)

The first Press Conference held by Colonel Alfred C. Bowman since his return to duty as Senior Civil Affairs Officer, Allied Military Government, Venezia Giulia, was today outstanding for three statements:

1. That A.M.G. is considering the question of the election, by democratic means, of "Internal Committees" in shipyards and other industries to safeguard the interests of workers and employers and bring about closer collaboration between them;
2. That A.M.G. does not wish to subsidise any private industry, but aims at placing all industries on a sound economic foundation; and
3. That Colonel Bowman "does not intend to tolerate police brutality of any kind" and is taking steps to ensure that all prisoners will have facilities to make complaints.

LOSS OF ORDER FOR LINER

The fact that Allied Military Government are considering the question of the election of "Internal Committees" was disclosed in answer to a long question which stated:

"At the last Press Conference, when dealing with a question concerning the loss of an order to Trieste shipyards for a 17,000 ton liner, Major Cooper (of the Economic Division), alluding to discussions which are pending with the competent Syndical Organisations prior to formulating a new legislation on labour relations, said, among other things, that no form of legislation is going to cure the present situation if the good-will and the common sense of the workers and employers will not prevail.

Public opinion has been informed, through Col. Smuts' statement on

his return to Italy as Senior Civil Affairs Officer, Allied Military Government, Venezia Giulia, was today outstanding for three statements:

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Public opinion has been informed, through Col. Smuts' statement on March 1946 of the situation created in the shipyards as a result of political activities operating there, despite internal regulations, with damage to production and damage not only to the welfare of workers but also to the whole city. Therefore Major Cooper's allusion to common sense and good-will seems to be clear. It does not seem clear to us, however, in what way the employers should give proof of good will and common sense for a fair solution of the problem.

## "VIOLENCE WHICH STILL REIGNS"

"Can Allied Military Government express their opinion on the subject?" continued the question.



See Min 38-39

(Above me)

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"Does not Allied Military Government believe the first step towards a fair solution of the problem which has been created in the shipyards should be taken by making free elections of shipyard committees according to a democratic system such as was proposed by Allied Military Government last November?

"Does not Allied Military Government believe the moment has arrived in which, in the interest of a general settlement, the workers of the shipyards should be defended, through timely and strict measures, against the violence which still reigns in the establishments in contrast with the basic principles of democracy?"

## WHAT MAJOR COOPER DID SAY

Replying, Major E.J. SCICLUNA, Chief Officer of Allied Military Government Labour Division, recalled that at the preceding press conference Major Cooper actually said that "no form of legislation will be able to remedy the present situation if the good-will and good sense of workers and employers will not prevail".

"This statement," Major Scicluna went on, "was not intended as a veiled reference to a particular situation, nor as an insinuation that workers, or employers, had not sometimes shown those qualities. Major Cooper did not ask, either directly or indirectly, for "any proof of good sense and good-will" from the workers or employers.

"It is not necessary to say anything more on this argument, seeing that Major Cooper's statement, expressed on general lines, had the purpose of inviting the elements of production to bring about the closest understanding and collaboration, without taking into consideration what has been their relations and attitude in the past.

## BRINGING ABOUT CLOSER COLLABORATION

"As to the question of free elections of the "Internal Committees" of the industries, and more specifically of the shipyards, the Labour Division, although believing that it was not possible, or easy, to arrange these elections earlier, is of the opinion that now is the time that the legitimate representation of the workers should be expressed on the basis of democratic elections with secret and direct ballot.

"In fact," said Major Scicluna, A.M.G. intends working out a project by law, which is already being studied regarding the constitution, function and the way of electing the "Internal Committees", believing that the working out of their relations in a legislative body would be not only of benefit to the workers and employers, but should also bring about closer collaboration between the two interested parties in production, and, as a consequence, greater industrial efficiency."

A Press Representative referred to an agreement which, he understood, was made between Marshal Tito and General Morgan whereby some form of guarantee had been given to the Sindacati Unici that the [illegible]

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workers, or employers, had not sometimes shown those qualities. Major Cooper did not ask, either directly or indirectly, for "any proof of good sense and good-will" from the workers or employers.

"It is not necessary to say anything more on this argument, seeing that Major Cooper's statement, expressed on general lines, had the purpose of inviting the elements of production to bring about the closest understanding and collaboration, without taking into consideration what has been their relations and attitude in the past.

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A Press Representative referred to an agreement which, he understood, was made between Marshal Tito and General Morgan whereby some form of guarantee had been given to the Sindacati Unici that the activities of the Sindacati Unici would not be affected by any A.M.G. actions with regard to shipyards or industries. Would the election of "Internal Committees" affect such an agreement, if such an agreement had, in fact, been made?

Col. Bowman: I am not aware of any such agreement.

Major Scicluna remarked that if such an agreement existed the contemplated Committees, in his opinion, would not in any way operate against it.

Another press representative asked if it were not a fact that in Italy representatives of workers had a closer say in the management of industries that in this territory.

Major Scicluna replied that he was unaware of any ministerial decree or agreement by which such a state of affairs operated in Italy.



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## LOSS OF SHIP ORDER AGAIN

A further question about the position in local shipyards gave rise to a series of extemporaneous questions and answers involving local labour and political considerations.

The first question, which was submitted in writing, was as follows

"Allied Military Government has appropriated several millions for works, the utility of which is rather relative. Why did it not, instead, stimulate the reconstruction of the shipyards with subsidies and payments to secure the repair of war damage? In fact it is only from the shipyards that an effective revival of the economic life of the city can be started."

In reply Major K. Cooper (Economics Division) said that Allied Military Government had tried to appropriate all its money on works which would give the greatest number of people employment for the maximum length of time.

"Every effort possible," he continued, "has been made by Allied Military Government to stimulate the reconversion of the shipyards. But the shipyards cannot furnish employment without contracts to fulfil. As stated at a recent Press Conference, a Norwegian contract for a transatlantic liner of 17,000 tons was lost because of the unsettled labour situation. This headquarters is very interested in the revival of the economic life of this city, and has exercised all influence possible toward rebuilding the shipbuilding industry.

"Allied Military Government is prepared to give the fullest financial assistance to shipbuilders. It is not desired to subsidise any private industry in this territory; instead it is desired to place all industries on a sound economic foundation.

## "EVERY FINANCIAL INDUCEMENT"

"General Orders Nos. 105 and 106 have been published to give better guidance to employers and employees, and to bring about a more sound economic policy for industries seeking to rebuild. If industries are to be able to rebuild then they must be allowed to operate on economic principles, completely divorced from political considerations.

"Public Works Division has been engaged in extensive programmes for reabsorption of the unemployed. Many war damaged houses and villages have been repaired and others are in a state of repair.

"Everything possible to reconstruct industries and war-torn factories and houses, has been, and is being, done.

1355

"Officials of Allied Military Government," concluded Major Cooper, "have contacted all possible clients the world over for ship repairs or ships to be built. Every financial inducement possible to the shipbuilders and clients has been made. Foreign buyers are not interested in the politics of this area. They are interested in receipt of the goods [illegible] ordered. The challenge is to labour and management to work

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## WERE THERE OTHER REASONS

A press representative asked if it was not possible that factors other than labour disputes had something to do with the loss of the order for the seventeen thousand ton liner.

Major Cooper: I have merely repeated the statement made by the company which placed the order and afterwards cancelled it.

The Press representative went on to ask if the shipyard which was to have built the liner would not have to rely on imports of raw material and parts of the ship in order to fulfil the work. Would not Major Cooper consider difficulties of that kind as a handicap which might have contri-



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buted to the loss of the order?

Major Cooper:"No; that does not enter into the picture."

The press representative said he had been informed from reliable sources that one of the reasons why the order was lost was the cause he had just mentioned. There was plenty evidence of labour troubles in America, but that did not seem to cause any lack of orders in that country.

Major Cooper replied that A.M.G. was prepared to secure supplies of all raw materials necessary for the building of the liner.

Colonel Bowman asked if the Economics Division thought it would have been possible to secure all the raw materials and parts necessary.

Major Cooper:"We were prepared to try to secure everything necessary and there was every prospect of A.M.G. being able to secure them."

## POLITICAL, SOCIAL AND LABOUR TROUBLES

The questioner said that the Norwegian firm which was placing the order made reference to the instability of the local political-social position rather than to labour troubles.

Major Scicluna said it was difficult to say where the political-social position ended and labour troubles began. One could very easily exchange one for the other.

Colonel Bowman: "There can be no question but that the instability in this territory must be taken into consideration by firms intending to place orders here. My understanding of the position we are discussing is that the Norwegian firm meant labour troubles."

The questioner then contended that local conditions must have been presented to the Norwegian firm in an exaggerated way. The work previously given to the shipyards had been satisfactorily effected and delivered on time. Steps should be taken to give the facts to parties desirous of placing orders here.

Major Cooper assured the questioner that Lieut.Colonel D.S.Bickerste' Chief Economics Officer, had called on the Norwegian Consul in Rome and impressed upon him that everything possible would be done to ensure that the liner, if built in this area, would be delivered on time.

## ALLEGATIONS OF POLICE BRUTALITY

Observing that although today was only the second day since he had resumed his position as A.M.G. Senior Civil Affairs Officer, Colonel Bowman said that already the fact that complaints alleging ill-treatment of prisoners by the police had been brought to his notice. He had been informed that in almost every case during the recent trials of demonstrators statements had been made that prisoners had been ill-treated. He had also been informed that it had been very difficult to secure details of such alleged ill-treatment -details such as the nature of injuries, the time and place and so on.

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"I do not intend to tolerate brutality of any kind by our police," declared Colonel Bowman, "I hope that all instances of alleged brutality will be reported in the fullest possible detail and I can assure all interested parties that the allegations will be investigated and that, if necessary, appropriate action will be taken. Among other things I intend to direct the Public Safety Division to post notices in prisons inviting complaints, and the notices will specify how such complaints can be brought to the notice of the Chief of Police."

## PRISON OFFICERS WILL INVITE COMPLAINTS

"I intend also," continued Colonel Bowman, "to ask prison officers to tour the prisons and invite complaints. In any case in which these means do not prove effective, I invite application to myself, personally, specifying only that all such complaints should be in sufficient detail for myself and my officers concerned to find out who, if anybody, has been



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responsible for brutality or ill-treatment.

"The use of force by policemen is, unfortunately, in varying degrees, almost universal, and I intend to take all measures here, which can be taken, to ensure that any tendencies on the part of the police to use unnecessary force, will be kept in restraint."

Colonel Bowman made this announcement in reply to a question which stated:

"It has now been ascertained that actually at the police headquarters numerous citizens, arrested during the recent demonstrations, have been ill-treated. The official statement contradicting such ill-treatment must have, therefore, been based on one-sided information and, at the least, incomplete. For coping with new emergencies, what does Allied Military Government plan to provide?"

## RE-EMPLOYMENT OF VETERANS

Another question asked:

"Why does not Allied Military Government extend also to the Trieste Province that clause - published in the Italian Official Gazette dated 22.2.46, - which relates to the obligatory re-instatement of veterans in the jobs they formerly occupied previous to their military service?

Major Scicluna's reply was as follows:

"With the decree DLL of 4 Feb. 1946, No 27, published in the Official Gazette No 45 of 22 Feb. 1946, the Italian Government has issued laws which control the partial reabsorbtion of war veterans. This decree came to Allied Military Government Labour Division only recently and, having to take into account the particular and difficult situation which exists in this territory, the problem has been placed under consideration so as to determine the best way for its eventual application in Venezia Giulia."

In fact the Labour Office had already arranged for a collection of the necessary statistics in order to ascertain the extent of the re-employment of war veterans already partially made, and further to assess the possibilities.

## FINANCIAL SITUATION OF INDUSTRIES

"Anyway," added Major Scicluna, "it must be noticed that with a circular of March 23 the Italian Labour Minister called the attention of the Prefects "to the necessity of keeping in mind the conditions of the business firms so as not to aggravate their economic situation." 1354

"It is generally known that the financial situation of many business firms of this territory (especially the industries), is extremely precarious

"On the other hand, a particular difficulty comes out of this regard as regards the determination of the legitimate qualification of "veteran". Within the limits of what is possible, and the time necessary for making

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"On the other hand, a particular difficulty comes out of this regard as regards the determination of the legitimate qualification of "veteran." Within the limits of what is possible, and the time necessary for making changes which the provision would have to have for its application in this territory, the Labour Division intends to adopt, as far as possible, a course similar to that followed by the Italian Government."

Colonel Bowman remarked that it was almost as difficult to define the description "veteran" as to define the term "partisan".

## APPEAL FOR CHEAPER CONCERTS

Away from the sphere of industry, but not from the realms of finance was a question concerning the provision of cheaper music for the people of Trieste.

"The musical traditions of our city and the spiritual importance which this art assumes to the people of all classes," stated a question, were well understood by the Allied Military Government, which made provision to organize, through its proper offices, an Opera Season as well as a Symphony season.

"Having explained that, does it not seem timely to A.M.G. to present some spectacles at greatly reduced prices so as to allow also the



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who are less wealthy to recreate their spirit and to educate themselves in music?

"That," admitted the question, "would naturally bring a burden of expense. But does not A.M.G. think that the waste of energy and capital in other directions would in the long run be reduced if our Philarmonic Orchestra could count on an established conductor who, living in the City, could look after its welfare with greater care and continuity?"

Colonel Bowman replied that A.M.G. and A.I.S. had tried to encourage, and even to subsidise, various musical enterprises in the area. It was true that the cost of admission to some entertainments and concerts was higher than it had been previously. On the other hand it must be remembered that wages and the general cost of living had also increased, and he did not think that the increase in the cost of admission had been out of proportion to the increase of prices in other directions.

"In spite of the increased cost of admission to these enterprises," the Colonel went on, "the entertainments have operated on a deficit and an accrued liability has grown for any government which takes over here. I feel it would not be appropriate for us to increase these accrued liabilities by providing concerts at a lower cost of admission. Also, I am sure that, in general, the cost of such entertainments here is very much lower than throughout Italy."

To the part of the question suggesting the appointment of a resident conductor, Colonel Bowman suggested that the proposal be presented to him in a formal letter.

Closing the Conference, Colonel Bowman wished the press representatives a Happy Easter - the first Easter of peace.

END

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Executive Commissioner
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HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
XIII CORPS
Public Relations Section

APR 8 1946

No. 13
Report of proceedings at Acting Senior Civil Affairs Officer's Weekly Press Conference, 2nd April 1946

by an AMG Correspondent

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WARNING TO NATIONAL AND POLITICAL ORGANISATIONS

"No Interference Will Be Tolerated" Says Allied Military Government Acting Chief

Trieste, April 2 (U.N.N.)

Warning that Allied Military Government will not tolerate any political or national organisation which issues, or attempts to issue, orders or instructions contrary to Allied Military Government orders and proclamations was given today by Colonel H.P.P.Robertson, Acting Senior Civil Affairs Officer, Allied Military Government, Venezia Giulia.

Colonel Robertson made his statement at a Press Conference.

He said:

"There are in Venezia Giulia, Zone "A", certain organisations or institutions, both Italian and Yugoslav, representing different national groups or political parties. The composition of these organisations are known to us, and they have been permitted to function by the Allied Military Government. On occasions they have offered us advice and at times we have sought their advice and opinion.

"I wish however to make it perfectly clear that no organisation or committee whatever, except committees set up under General Order No 11, have any executive, legislative or other governmental power or authority. We will not tolerate any organisation which issues or attempts to issue orders or instructions which are governmental or administrative in nature, or which are contrary to the Proclamations and Orders of the Allied Military Government.

"It should also be made perfectly clear," concluded Colonel Robertson, that those who issue such instructions or orders, and those who follow them are violating the law, and are subject to prosecution."

Among the Press Representatives whom Col. Robertson welcomed at the Conference were correspondents of the London newspaper "Times" and [illegible] and the periodical "News Review."

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## ORDER FOR 17,000 TONS LINER LOST TO TRIESTE

### Fear of Political Situation in Yards. Press Conference Told of Further Efforts To Secure Work

The loss of an order for a 17,000 tons liner to Trieste shipyards, because of fears of the political situation, was revealed at an Allied Military Government Press Conference here today, when it was also stated that efforts were being made to recapture the contract, if possible.

Other questions answered at the conference concerned the reinstatement of work and rights to persons who had been persecuted for racial reasons and the provision of seeds, fertilisers and forage to the area.



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Loss of the liner order was raised in a question which stated:

"It has come to our notice that our shipyards were on the point of concluding a contract with a Norwegian navigation company for the construction of a transatlantic liner of 17,000 tons, which would have assured the workmen of at least 24 months of work. But recently the Norwegian Company, despite the repeated assurances on the part of the directors of the Shipyards, ended the negotiations, giving the commission to others; that was in consequence of the anxiety felt about the social and political situation which reigns in the shipyards.

"What measures," continued the question, "does the Allied Military Government intend to adopt finally in order to secure confidence on the part of future clients of our shipyards and in that way to obtain work so that workmen may make a living - particularly after the recent statements of Lt.Col. J.C.Smuts in which he strongly urged the necessity of doing away with political agitation in the establishments?

Replying, Major K.Cooper, of the Economic Division, said it was true that the Norwegian contract had been lost. However the C.R.D.A. were actively engaged in seeking to recapture the contract, if possible, with the help of Allied Military Government.

## GOOD WILL ESSENTIAL

"Allied Military Government," Major Cooper went on, "is full aware that the continuous interference of political considerations with economics is bound to have an adverse repercussion on the future economic rehabilitation of this area, particularly in connection with the shipbuilding industry. On several occasions the Chief of Economic Section, and the Heads of Labour Division and Industry have drawn the attention of Labour leaders, in particular, and workers in general, to this danger.

"Every effort possible to sever economics from politics, and re-establish normal labour relations on democratic lines of free bargaining, and acceptable system of free wage agreements has been made.

"The Labour Division is now engaged in discussing the problems of labour relations with representatives of Industry and Labour prior to formulating legislation calculated to give better guidance to employers and employees.

"It is felt however," added Major Cooper, "that the solution of the problem lies largely with the working classes and their leaders. No form of legislation is going to cure the present economic plight unless the good-will and the common sense of the workers and their employers prevails. And the fullest cooperation must be given to Allied Military Government officials in their attempt to find a just solution to all concerned.

"Foreign buyers are not really concerned with politics in this area. The question that does concern them is: will they receive the goods or services they ordered? If there should develop a state of non-cooperation of the workers what certainty of delivery can be offered?

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"Foreign buyers are not really concerned with politics in this area. The question that does concern them is: will they receive the goods or services they ordered? If there should develop a state of non-cooperation of the workers what certainty of delivery can be offered?

"Regarding the financial side of these orders Allied Military Government has been, and is prepared to give the fullest assistance to the shipbuilders."

## RIGHTS OF PERSONS PERSECUTED RACIALLY

A long question about the re-instatement of work and rights to persons persecuted racially stated that an order on the subject provided the post-dating of recognition as from 1st July, 1945.

"Thus understood," continued the question, "the order leaves completely unsatisfied all the persons persecuted for racial reasons who were employed in private firms or public offices: who, directly feeling the effects of laws which were against them, left the day the Germans came in our city. Immediately after the 8th of September, they were compelled to flee and hide themselves. From that moment they have not



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cashed in anything.

"Without taking into account the effective losses, represented by the immediate stopping of their business, when they were not straightway seized by the Germans, the simple recognition of their rights as beginning from July 1945 is small."

The question went on to argue that as provision was being made to ensure that persons concerned in epuration should not suffer until their guilt was proved, Allied Military Government might be more generous to persons to whom the war had brought nothing but suffering and damage. In Italy a provision was being studied with a view to re-instating the rights of racially-persecuted persons with effect from an older post-date.

## REASON FOR THE DATE

Col.Robertson, replying, said the question referred to General Order No 44, in effect as and from 11 February 1946. This Order, which was supplementary to General Order No. 3, dated 3 July 1945, was intended to restore all personal rights adversely affected by the racial laws.

"Article VII of the Order deals with re-employment. Among other things, it provides for re-assumption of grades, promotions, calculation of pension rights, excluding the period between dismissal from service and re-assumption, and other benefits. There are no limitations of time regarding the restoration of these rights and benefits.

"The only limitation of time in this part of the Order is that all financial benefits due to employees dismissed by reason of the racial laws shall accrue as and from 1 July 1945.

"The date, 1 July 1945," explained the Colonel, "has been established on policy and legal grounds as the effective date of practically all legislation of an economic nature. It will be recalled that this is the approximate date of the beginning of the administration of Venezia Giulia by the Allied Forces.

## NEW DECREE BEING CONSIDERED

"I am not aware that the Italian Government is studying the problem with a view of enlarging the benefits conferred by the existing Italian legislation. I will seek information in that regard.

"The provisions of General Order No 44, are in some respects more favourable to those persecuted on racial grounds than existing Italian Legislation.

"My attention, however, has been recently called to a Decree of the Italian Government appearing in the official Gazette of 12 February 1946, after General Order 44 had been prepared, making the financial provisions retroactive to 1 January 1944.

"This new Decree is now under consideration by the Finance Division."

## SEEDS, FERTILISERS AND FODDER

1352

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1645

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SEEDS, FERTILISERS AND FODDER

1352

In spite of the world shortage of seeds, fertilisers and insecticides, Venezia Giulia will receive more than its share.

This was stated by Captain Lester Weil, Agriculture Officer, in reply to a question which stated that farmers "are absolutely without seeds which are so necessary for the coming spring sowing," and were also in need of fodder for cattle and natural manure. Was Allied Military Government conscious of the urgency for provision to be made in this respect?

"The Agriculture Division of Allied Military Government," said Captain Weil "is well aware that seeds, fertilisers and forage are urgently needed in this territory, and a proportionate supply will be coming in from stocks that are being released continuously through the proper military channels.



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"It must be born in mind that UNRRA is not furnishing supplies to Zone "A", as it is to Zone "B" and Yugoslavia. However, seeds, fertilisers, and insecticides have already comein from sources in Italy and are now available through the Consorzi Agrari, and these quantities are increasing every week. Other supplies are coming in from abroad."

## ACCUSATIONS AGAINST POLICE WERE UNJUST

### Col.Robertson Tells of Inquiry
### 13 Men Who Were Never In Force

Official investigations made into accusations against 38 members of the Venezia Giulia Police Force revealed that 13 could not be traced as having ever been in the force and against 14 others there was no evidence to confirm the charges made against them.

This was stated today by Colonel H.P.P.Robertson, Acting Senior Civil Affairs Officer, Allied Military Government at a Press Conference.

The Colonel's announcement was as follows:

"During the month of March many accusations have been made against the Venezia Giulia Police Force.

"At the beginning of the month I received a letter from Mr.Bevk, President of the Regional National Liberation Committee of the Slovene Littoral and Trieste, in which he makes accusations of various kinds against 35 members of the Venezia Giulia Police Force.

"Many of these names, and three others, have also appeared in the "Il Lavoratore" and "Primorski Dnevnik" newspapers. I decided to make a very careful investigation into these accusations. This has naturally taken time and caused both myself and the Allied Police officers concerned a lot of extra work, and in my opinion, unnecessary work. Altogether 38 names are involved.

"I do not propose to mention each man by name as it would take a long time, and it would also be contrary to our custom, but if Mr.Bevk would like to call himself, or send a representative, to the Venezia Giulia Police Force Headquarters he will be given information regarding each name contained in this letter.

"I now propose,"Col.Robertson continued, "to give out the result of this investigation. Out of 38 names, 13 cannot be traced as being or having ever been in the Venezia Giulia Police Force. Five have either resigned or been dismissed som time prior to the receipt of Mr.Bevk's letter. Against 14 others there is no evidence to confirm the accusations made against them.

"In fact in some cases the men concerned are ex-soldiers of the Yugoslav Army, or at one time or other have been employed with the Allied Forces or are ex-members of the Difesa Popolare.

"The remaining six have been under investigation for some time, and it is probable that out of these six, three will be dismissed.

"I do not propose to say anything further on this matter as the

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"The remaining six have been under investigation for some time, and it is probable that out of these six, three will be dismissed.

"I do not propose to say anything further on this matter as the above figures speak for themselves, but I will strongly suggest that persons in responsible positions should make themselves fully acquainted with their facts before making meaningless accusations against men who are doing their duty to the best of their ability and under extremely difficult circumstances."

## PREVENTING POLITICAL INFLUENCE

Col.Robertson statement was made after a reply had been given to a question concerning the Police.

The question was:

"Two national tendencies, two political groups, two different currents about the solution of the Julian problem are now contending in Trieste. Not to mention infiltrations, pro-fascist attitudes and interests on the part of one of the two groups, and certain elements of



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of the Civil Police, we take the liberty to ask y if Allied Military Government is really conscious of the fact that the Civil Police as a whole is favourable to one party and opposes the other one, which is inadmissible in a democratic regime, and is to say the least, deplorable."

Replying, Capt. L.W.Toes, of the Public Safety Division, said:

"The Police do not favour, or oppose, any party, and great pains are taken to prevent any political element influencing the Police."

END

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1 Lt.Col.MEYNELL, HQ PR, Rome
1 BCS 13 Corps (Brig.AIREY)
1 GSI 13 Corps
2 POLAD BRITISH, Mr.SULLIVAN
2 POLAD AMERICAN, Mr.GREENE
6 HQ AMG, Trieste Area
8 HQ AMG, Gorizia Area
8 HQ AMG, Pola Area
7 HQ AMG, Trieste
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1 Lt.Col.HENEKER, ADPR, PTA
1 Col.Stanley GROGAN, IRC, USEA
2 36 Division, Main HQ
2 AC of S, G-2, 88th Division, Gorizia
1 Gene CADRIO, Press Attache, American Embassy, Rome



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1 Lt.Col.MERRELL, HQ IX, Rome
1 BGS 13 Corps (Brig.AIREY)
1 GSI 13 Corps
2 POLAD BRITISH, Mr.SULLIVAN
2 POLAD AMERICAN, Mr.GREENE
8 HQ ANG, Trieste Area
8 HQ ANG, Gorizia Area
8 HQ ANG, Pola Area
7 HQ AIS, Trieste
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HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
XIII CORPS
Public Relations Section

MAR 25 1946

No. 12
Report of proceedings at Acting Senior Civil Affairs Officer's
Weekly Press Conference 20 March 1946

by an AIS Correspondent

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MOVEMENTS ACROSS MORGAN LINE TO BE CONTROLLED.
STARTING ON APRIL 7

Trieste, March 20 (U.N.M.)

Colonel H.P.P. Robertson, Acting Senior Civil Affairs Officer, Allied Military Government, Venezia Giulia, today announced that as from April 7th a control will be imposed on the movement of persons across the Morgan Line.

Colonel Robertson said:

"It is proposed to implement that part of the Duino agreement which refers to the control of the movement of persons across the Morgan Line.

"This control which will be imposed on the 7th April 1946, should have been put into effect some considerable time back, but it was not possible to do so until such time as identity cards had been issued in both Zone "A" and Zone "B".

"The issue of these cards was completed in Zone "A" towards the end of January, and it was our intention to impose the control of movements across the Morgan Line on the 15th February 1946. As, however, the issue of identity cards by the Yugoslav authorities in Zone "B" was not completed by that date, it was decided to postpone the imposition of this control until the date I have just mentioned, that is the 7th April.

"This control will not in any way restrict the movement to and from across the Morgan Line of persons, either of Italian or Slovene origin, who are normally resident either in Zone "A" or Zone "B" of Venezia Giulia, provided they are in possession of the identity card establishing their status as residents.

"All other persons from Zone "A" and "B" who are not in possession of permanent residents' identity cards" concluded Colonel Robertson, "will only be permitted to cross the Morgan Line after approval has been given by both Allied and Yugoslav authorities."

1350

2,000 MEN WILL PLANT TREES NEAR TRIESTE

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### NEW PROJECT ANNOUNCED AT ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT PRESS CONFERENCE

### WARNING THAT GAS SUPPLY MAY BE SUSPENDED

The start of an Allied Military Government project in the Trieste Area to replant trees cut down during the German occupation was announced today by Lieut.Col. D.S.Bickersteth, Chief of Allied Military Government Economics Section, at a Press Conference.

"Several hundred men," said Lieut.Col.Bickersteth, "have already started work on the Boschetto, and it is hoped that before the end of the month some 2,000 men will be engaged."

Replying to a question concerning the gas supply in Trieste, Major J.E.Foden, Chief Industry and Utility Officer, warned that because of the arrival of a supply of coal not suitable for gas production



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at the ILVA plant, the supply of gas might have to be suspended.

Questions affecting seed potatoes, fertilisers, dismissals of people for racial reasons and assistance to needy persons were also answered.

## TREES AN ASSET FOR FUTURE

Making his statement about the re-planting of trees, Lieut.Col. Bickersteth described the project as one which would result "at the present time in absorbing a considerable number of unemployed men, and in laying the foundations of a valuable asset for the future.

"In order to create further employment, Allied Military Government is now examining the possibility of a great increase in public works.

"Immediately Allied Military Government is preparing to replant the woodlands in Trieste Commune cut down during the German occupation."

Lt.Col.Bickersteth added that the limiting factor in the project was the scarcity of young trees.

"At the moment we have secured only 300,000 from the local nursery at Basovizza and about 700,000 are being obtained from nurseries in Italy. The preparation of new nurseries is included in the plan, so that adequate trees will in future be available for the systematic re-planting of the forests."

## GAS SUPPLY DIFFICULTIES

A question appealed, on behalf of women workers in Trieste, for the reinstatement of the former schedule of gas supply - one hour in the morning and the two-hour supply in the afternoon.

Replying, Major Foden pointed out that the question gave no idea of the number of consumers asking for the re-instatement of the original hours of gas supply. Whatever the schedule a restricted supply would cause inconvenience.

"Records taken since the new timing began," he added "show an increase in the consumption during the permitted hours, indicating that it suits the convenience of many users.

"The Gas Dept. of ACEGAT reports having received no complaints and it is considered there is no justification for changing the schedule at present."

Major Foden recalled that he had previously spoken to the Press about difficulties of gas production at the ILVA plant, which could use only certain types of coal. He had just received a warning that the gas supply might have to be suspended because of the arrival yesterday of coal which was unsuitable. Unfortunately the reserve of suitable coal was down to 200 tons, and it might be essential to use that coal to maintain the temperature of the gas ovens. If the ovens were allowed to become cold it would be three weeks before they could be started up again.

## NEED FOR ELECTRICITY ECONOMY

Allied Military Government had no control over the type of coal received. They did not know of its quality until they had it analysed.

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"Our outlook is not entirely dark, however," continued Major Foden, "because we have been able to lift the restrictions on the use of electricity. But we must impress upon consumers the need for continued economy."

Yesterday it had been announced that all restrictions on the use of electricity had been lifted. One restriction, however, must be retained - that was the ban on the use of electricity for shop window and display signs.

Answering Col.Robertson, Major Foden said that as soon as suitable coal arrived the gas supply would be resumed. The one thing they were trying to avoid was a cooling-off of the gas ovens.



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## SCARCITY OF SEED POTATOES

Another question stated:

"Some market-gardeners of Trieste zone have regularly presented a request for seed-potatoes to the Consorzio Agricolo, which is not able to ensure that distribution will be made in time for seeding. Since a quantity of potatoes for seeding arrived in Naples about a month ago, could not Allied Military Government urge that they be sent to our city? Potatoes are an article of wide consumption in our zone and the past harvest was very poor."

Captain Lester Weil, Agriculture Officer, replied that five months ago his division urgently requested 18,000 quintals of seed potatoes, following up this demand by frequent letters, telegrams and phone calls to Rome. Despite this, however, only 3,000 quintals have been allotted, and they had been divided between the areas of Gorizia and Trieste.

"The difficulty" added Capt. Weil, "is a world shortage of seed potatoes and according to the replies given at higher levels, Venezia Giulia has been given preference, and has already received more than a proportionate share from the meagre stocks made available so far.

"Nevertheless, strenuous efforts are still in progress to supplement that we have received by finding local sources in Italy, instead of depending only on the allotments from Holland, England and America. Unfortunately the potatoes raised locally, although splendid for food, are almost worthless for seed, and it is economically unsound to plant them. Some relief has been promised from Allied Commission, but all present boat loads of potatoes have been distributed long since according to plan."

## USE OF FERTILISERS

The next question concerned natural fertilisers "for which certain refuse, even directly, could be used. As the Comune Commune had recently been granted a share of such refuse for fertilising, could not Allied Military Government authorize the distribution to the market-gardeners of the City?"

Capt. Weil's reply was as follows:

"A project for the utilization of city refuse has already been discussed in collaboration with the Division of Public Health, and further developments can be expected. This valuable material presents some problems of chemical treatment, chlorination, etc. which are technical matters still to be worked out, since the possibility of spreading disease - carrying bacteria must be overcome before the plan is put into execution. At the proper time authorization for distribution can be anticipated."



## PERSECUTED FOR RACIAL REASONS

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PERSECUTED FOR RACIAL REASONS

"A group of people dismissed from office and persecuted for racial reasons," stated another question, "wrote to us asking if they could, besides being re-instated in their former jobs, obtain payment of all salaries and arrears not received because of laws differentiating against them. The question went on to point out that such benefits had been granted to fascists and other elements awaiting epuration.

The reply given by Col. Robertson was short and to the point.

"A decree," he said "is in course of publication. It will ante-date reinstatement to the first of July.

FOOD FOR NEEDY PERSONS

Two questions concerned provision to person in need. The first urged reconsideration of the small rations received by people receiving food assistance from E.C.A., and asked if it would be possible to reinstate the rations such people were enjoying up to 10 January 1945.



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Replying, Captain J.A.Kellett, Welfare Officer, said:

"Destitute persons receiving assistance from ECA are entitled to free soup and other meals at the Communal Feeding Centres.

"The provision of these rations depends entirely upon supplies, but it is understood there has always been a sufficiency of food to enable destitute persons to be fed.

The rations granted to the poor by the German authorities may have been better than those provided by Allied Military Government. It is pointed out, however, that circumstances prevailing now have little in common with those prevailing then, and it will be known to the [illegible]er that the population generally of Venezia Giulia enjoy a better ration scale than in many other parts of Europe.

The second question stated:

"A citizen of Trieste writes us asking the reason for the difference of treatment which ECA uses in favour of the refugees from Zone B and Dalmatia, while assistance for the citizens of Trieste is more limited. Could not Allied Military Government, perhaps, place all the subsidy and indemnity concessions on the same level without taking into account the qualification of the person assisted, as many people in this way abuse the assistance, hiding their politically compromising background under that of refugee? Naturally not all do this."

Capt.Kellett replied that assistance given to needy persons in Trieste was according to a scale, but discretion was exercised by E.C.A. in assessing individual need.

"To place all subsidies on the same level, without taking into account individual needs, is not in accordance with public assistance use and practice," added the Welfare Officer.

"Political background has no place in assessing needs of poor people."

## FOOD SUBSIDY FOR SEAMEN

Approval of another subsidy was announced in reply to the following question:

"Some seamen ask us to interest Allied Military Government so that the indemnity of 80 lire daily food-subsidy should be granted to them as it has already been done outside Zone A."

Capt.R.F.Hughes of the Finance Division said the subsidy had [illegible] been agreed to, and the Capitano di Porto had been instructed to [illegible] prepare the necessary documentation. This should be ready in a week at the outside."

END

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1 Lt.Col.HENEKEY, ADPR, BTA
1 Col.Stanley CHOCAN, PRO, UNRRA

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HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
XIII CORPS
Public Relations Section

Ex Comm 21

No. 10
Report of proceedings at Acting Senior Civil Affairs Officer's Weekly Press Conference 18 February 1946

by an AIS Correspondent

MILITARY HELP PEOPLE WHOSE HOUSES ARE REQUISITIONED

Col. Robertson Explains Position at Press Conference

Position of Ex-Partisan Students

Trieste, 18 February 1946 (U.N.N.)

Shortage of houses in Venezia Giulia, and the requisitioning of accomodation in Trieste for the wives and families of British soldiers figured prominently among the questions asked at the Allied Military Government Press Conference held in Trieste today.

In the absence of Colonel Alfred C. Bowman, Senior Civil Affairs Officer, who is on leave, Colonel H.P.P. Robertson, his deputy, conducted the conference. He told the Press representatives that the military authorities regretted the necessity of requisitioning accomodation for the wives and families of British soldiers, reminded the conference that, because of the war, the soldiers had been separated from their families for several years, and explained that the Town Major found alternative accomodation for the people who had been displaced and helped them to move their furniture.

A series of questions about war damaged houses revealed that the questioner was not familiar with all the Allied Military Government regulations on the point, and Colonel Robertson arranged that the questioner should meet the Allied Military Government officers most concerned with the problems raised.

Other questions concerned UNRRA relief, repair of a building for use by the engineering faculty of Trieste University, the position of people who own German Reichsmarks, and examinations for students who had been partisans.

The Housing Situation

1348

The question about the requisitioning of premises to free rooms for the families of English officers, asked if in view of the existing

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The Housing Situation

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The question about the requisitioning of premises to free rooms for the families of English officers, asked if in view of the existing acute shortage of accomodation in Trieste, this was the right moment to impose hardship upon firms who had their offices well equipped. The question also asked if the Allied Military Government did not consider it necessary to stop the influx of "imported elements" into the city in view of the housing shortage.

Col. Robertson asked what exactly was meant by the reference to "imported elements". The questioner replied that it meant Slovene citizens who had fled from Yugoslavia and other people who had entered the city for other reasons.

Hotel Accomodation Not Sufficient

Col. Robertson explained that now hostilities were over, it had been thought advisable to bring to Trieste the wives and children of British personnel, many of whom had been separated from their families for many years. The original plan was to accomodate the families in the hotel



See Min 28

(MIDDLE)

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Excelsior, but it was found that the number of available rooms was not sufficient for the purpose. The alternative to using the hotel Excelsior was either to accomodate families in various houses and flats throughout the city or to use the block of flats which formed part of the hotel building. It was realised that the taking over of the block of flats meant displacing a number of people. This was much regretted, but their removal was considered unavoidable.

Before a civilian moved, the Town Major found alternative accomodation for him, but while every effort was made to provide accomodation of a similar standard, that was not always possible. The Town Major also gave assistance in transporting furniture.

Expressing again his regret at the necessity of removing people from their dwellings and offices, Col. Robertson said that some of the families had had their own houses requisitioned in England and had suffered in other ways as a result of the war.

Turning again to the question of "the influx of civilians into Trieste", the Colonel added: "The position has been noted by A.M.G."

WAR DAMAGED HOUSES

About a quarter of the time of the conference was taken up by a series of questions, counter-questions and answers about war-damaged houses and assistance to necessitous people.

To the first part of the question: "Does Allied Military Government know what condition hundreds of families are now living in because of damage done to their houses during the war?" Major E.H. Richardson, Public Works Officer, replied: "We are aware of the fact that some people are without roofs."

Next part of the question asked: "Is Allied Military Government interested to know, as a result of our inquiries the number of people without a roof, jobs, homes, and so on."

Major Richardson: We will be interested in any information we can get from any source on these subjects, provided it comes through an Allied Military Government Civil Affairs Officer of the district concerned.

Granting of Relief

The questioner said Allied Military Government could not have accurate information about homeless and necessitous people. These people had not received satisfaction from Allied Military Government.

Major Richardson: Are these people whose homes have been damaged or people without work?

The questioner replied that he meant families whose homes were damaged - people with numerous children.

Major Richardson referred to Allied Military Government Orders which made provision for the granting of relief to such persons. In outlying communes, he explained, the people should apply to the Allied Military Government Civil Affairs Officer.

The questioner went on to say that many people who applied to

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The questioner went on to say that many people who applied to Allied Military Government Finance Division were given as much as 10,000 (ten thousand) lire, but that was not sufficient for their essential needs.

Compensation for Loss of Possessions

Intervening, Lt-Col. N. Board, Chief Finance Officer, pointed out that if a house was destroyed AMG order provided for the repair of that house. People who had lost their goods and chattels were re-imbursed up to ten thousand lire.

Captain J.A. Kellet observed that a local relief committee was assisting people in need.

The questioner insisted that a campaign was necessary to help people in need towards a solution of their difficulties.

Col. Robertson ended the discussion on the subject, and also a further question as to whether AMG was willing to help the work of the



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Associazione Dan[illegible]giatti di Guerra, by arranging [illegible] at the questioner, through the Public Relations Officer, should meet AMG officers to have the whole position explained to him.

Villa for Trieste University

Another question affecting repairs to a building stated that Trieste University had rented a villa in Via Romolo Gessi for the faculty of engineering and asked if AMG could take steps to have the villa repaired speedily.

Col. Robertson: "I am asking the Area President to requisition the building so that repairs may be undertaken."

Major Richardson asked if the questioner wished the Genio Civile or the University to pay for the repairs.

Lt. Col. Beard: "Why not follow regulations on the subject and have the building repaired by the normal procedure?"

Col. Robertson: "My advice is that we have the villa requisitioned and treated as a public building."

UNRRA RELIEF TO YUGOSLAVIA

UNRRA relief to Yugoslav subjects in Italy was the subject of another question which stated that UNRRA gave help in Trieste to various non-Italian subjects who received [illegible] through the AMG Displaced Persons Office.

Yugoslav subjects, the question continued, were excluded from these benefits because their position in this area was not clear. Could not AMG discriminate between the people in question, bearing in mind that some of them were forcibly deported to Italy by the occupation forces and the police, and could not return yet because their homes had been destroyed or damaged. By using such discrimination, as in fact the Italian Government does at present, distributing subsidies and UNRRA help to them, AMG would be helping people who have nothing in common with the recently arrived refugees in this area.

May Return Free of Charge

Replying, Capt. J.A. Kellet, Allied Military Government Displaced Persons Officer, said: "Allied Military Government, on behalf of UNRRA, pays out relief payments for certain Allied nationals.

"It is quite easy for Yugoslav subjects to return to their country free of charge, if they desire to go, and their own welfare agencies can look after them if they are in need. If they do not desire to go back to Yugoslavia, we can send them to places in Italy where they will receive food and shelter. In consequence, it was laid down that in Venezia Giulia no UNRRA payments need be made to Yugoslavs, or for that matter to Italians."

1347

VALUE OF GERMAN REICHSMARKS

When will the question of the value of German reichsmarks be

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This was asked by a questioner who said that the Banca d'Italia held German marks handed over by the population after official warning by the authorities. The money was owned by former prisoners of war, internees, workers and emigrants both Slovene and Italian. The reichsmarks represented money received for property sold and savings, and in some cases was the sole remaining resources of the people concerned. But there had been no official notice of the changing of the reichsmark into lire. When the owners asked bank officials they were told that AMG was the competent authority for establishing the exchange rate. Meanwhile many people waited in vain for a pronouncement on the subject or were compelled to sell their last possessions on the black market at ridiculous prices.

CANNOT HOLD OUT MUCH HOPE

Lieut.Col.Beard, in reply, said: "There is a proclamation prohibiting the bringing in of foreign currency to this terrotory. To overcome



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this difficulty it was arranged for the handing over to the Bank of Italy of Reichsmarks brought in by repatriated prisoners etc.

"It must be obvious that no compensation can be paid to the holder of these Reichsmarks until an arrangement is made at Government levels with a German Government.

"I am afraid" added the Chief Finance Officer, "I cannot hold out very much hope as to when this is likely to happen, if at all. The matter will not be lost sight of."

RE-OPENING OF GATEWAY AT BARCOLA

A plea for the re-opening of a gateway leading out of the old port (ex Vittorio Emanuele) in the direction of the cavalcavia di Barcola, thus removing the necessity of workers travelling the length of the port in order to use the other entrance, was made in a question which added that the re-opening of the gateway would necessitate the placing of only two policemen for control purposes.

Replying, Colonel Robertson said: "The gateway into Porto Vittorio Emanuele was closed by the military, for Port security reasons, and because of insufficient personnel to guard all port gateways and entrances. The question of re-opening this gateway has not previously been raised by application to Allied Military Government. Had it been made, Allied Military Government would have taken action in the matter.

"However, the question is now being given full consideration, and it is hoped to publish a decision shortly as to whether the gateway will be re-opened in the near future. Perhaps at the next Press Conference I will be able to give you a better answer, one way or the other."

POSITION OF EX-PARTISAN STUDENTS

Permission was sought in the next question for students who had been deported, or who had fought with the partisans, to be allowed to sit their examinations in the February session. It was emphasised that students who were in the town before liberation enjoyed two or three sessions for examinations during 1945.

Capt.J.P.Simoni, Education Officer, replied that examinations had been held in December 1945, which were specially designed to meet the needs of those students who had taken part in partisan activity. They could not sit for the examinations in February because these did not constitute a second session but were a continuation of those held in December. Some of the ex-partisan students failed in the December session because of insufficient preparation.

A correspondent observed that in his opinion more consideration might have been given to the students in December.

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1 Gene CAPRIO, Press Attache, American Embassy, Rome
3 Venezia Giulia Police Force, Trieste



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APPENDIX TO PRESS CONFERENCE REPORT

18 February 1946

"FACTS ONLY" FOR THE COMMISSION

Statement by Colonel Robertson

"I do not know when the Commission of the delegates of the Allied Foreign Ministers are arriving in Trieste," stated Colonel H.P.P.Robertson, acting Senior Civil Affairs Officer at the Allied Military Government Press Conference in Trieste today.

"At present," the Colonel went on, "Trieste is a city abounding in rumours. I would like the people to remain calm. All sections of the population will be given full opportunity to express their views. In the meantime Allied Military Government will continue to govern impartially as we have done before.

As far as the delegates of the Allied Commission are concerned we will give them facts only."

Colonel Robertson also announced that Colonel Alfred C.Bowman, who was on a well-deserved leave, would return to Trieste towards the end of March, and that in future Press Conference would be held every two weeks, on Tuesdays, instead of weekly as has been the case.

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9280 (A)

23

DC/BGS/47

From: Brigadier T.S. ALLEN

Main Headquarters,
13 Corps,
CMF.
15th February 1946.

My dear Maurice,

Thank you for your letter 9280/22/EC of 8 February.

I had not seen any of the proceedings of the SCAC's recent press conference and it may well be that they have become a little "technically democratic". I have discussed the matter with the Corps Commander in the light of your letter and he has the matter in hand, so I hope it will be all right in the future.

Yours sincerely
Terence Allen

Brigadier M.S. LUSH, CB, CBE, MC,
Headquarters,
Allied Commission,
ROME

See No. 24.

1345

(EC) No. 2372

1671

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22

Ref: 9280/22/EO.

8 February 1946.

I do not know whether you read the report of the proceedings of the SCAO's weekly press conferences in TRIESTE. It may be due to bad reporting by the AIS correspondent but for some time it has occurred to me that these conferences appear to be used as an occasion to make AMG a butt of sometimes relevant, but often irrelevant, citicisms. I question whether this perhaps technically democratic way of dealing with governmental affairs is dignified. On the one hand it gives the press an opportunity to blow off steam but on the other it puts AMG officials in the position of having to be answerable for their actions to an irresponsible and hypercritical lot of people.

I believe the Corps Commander is personally interested in these conferences and, therefore, I write to you rather than to Bowman. For my own part I should like to see the conferences conducted in a different way. But I am not unaware of the US approach to these matters and feel it better to leave it to you who are on the spot and can possibly gauge their value better than we who are at a distance. To us they appear to lack dignity.

M. S. LUSH

Brigadier T.S. Airey, CBE, CBE,
Headquarters,
13 Corps, CMF.

See 23

MSL/JG.

H.I. 8/2.

1344

9280/PO

4 Com 19

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
XIII CORPS
Public Relations Section

No. 8
Report of proceedings at Senior Civil Affairs Officer's
Weekly Press Conference 28 January 1946

FEB 4 1946

by an AIS Correspondent

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DEVELOPMENT OF PORT OF TRIESTE

Col. Bowman Hopes To Make Important Statement Soon

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Trieste, January 28 (U.N.N.)

Within the next week or ten days Colonel Alfred C. Bowman hopes to be able to make an "important announcement" concerning the development of the port of Trieste.

"If present prospects materialise", said the Allied Military Government Senior Civil Affairs Officer at his weekly press conference in Trieste today, "everyone interested should be satisfied."

Questions answered at the conference included the allocation of apartments, payments of pensions, payments to partisans and the preparation of legal measures dealing with the changing of names.

Colonel Bowman made his statement about the future of the port of Trieste after he had expressed pleasure at the increase in the number of letters of a non-political nature he was receiving. These letters concerned the revival of trade and industry, control of prices and matters dealing with public health and education.

WOMEN ON COMMITTEE

In several cases proposals advanced in their letters had helped him in advancing ideas he had previously formulated. For example, he had received a letter from a group of women recommending that the personnel of the Price Control Committee should be augmented by the addition of women. This was an idea he had himself conceived some time ago, but had been unable to "put over." Workers and business representatives on the Committee, although consumers, had additional interests and only the housewife was exclusively a consumer.

The letter concerning women on the Committee he cited as an example of the type of communication he was receiving from people interested not

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The letter concerning women on the Committee he cited as an example of the type of communication he was receiving from people interested not purely in political matters but in the general welfare of the community.

## APARTMENT OF PERSECUTED JEW

Two questions concerning the allocation of apartments were described by Col. Bowman as "far from clear" and drew from him a request that questions submitted to the conference should not be statements of a particular case but questions of a more general character and interest. He asked Capt.R.Buckley, Administrative Officer of the Ufficio Alloggi, to explain the questions.

Capt.Buckley said the first question related to a family who had moved into an apartment belonging to a politically persecuted Jew. When the Jew came back, the family agreed to vacate the apartment and went into another apartment defraying all expenses themselves. The Ufficio Alloggi found, however, that this apartment had already been allocated to other people. The question, added Capt.Buckley, asked if the Allied



See M 2021

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Military Government could not favour persons who had been discriminated against politically, and referred to the family concerned having "a high sense of humanity."

Replying to the question, Capt. Buckley said that his department could not give a general reply to a particular question concerning an individual case.

"If the anonymous person will put his case in detail before the Ufficio Alloggi Department, he will get a full reply. Every particular case is dealt with individually on its merits, and no general rules can be applied because no two cases are even exactly similar. That is one reason why the tribunal of the Comitato Alloggi was formed - so that a second considered judgment could be made on a disputed decision of the Ufficio Alloggi.

"If this question is meant as part of a campaign against the Jewish Office, I can only refer to what I said last week. (At last week's conference, Capt. Buckley said the Jewish Office did not seem to him to be an integral part of A.M.G. or to have any executive power. It was a body working in the Prefettura to advise on Jewish matters and its authority in housing affairs was nil).

"So far as expenses are concerned," continued Capt. Buckley, "the Ufficio Alloggi is responsible for transport in the case of an enforced movement, but if the person who has moved has offended the law, he is responsible for his own expenses."

## THE UFFICIO ALLOGGI STRICTLY IMPARTIAL

"With regard to a 'high sense of humanity' I have given the Ufficio Alloggi orders to remain strictly impartial and even to dispense with personal interviews so as to avoid those personal contacts which have an embarassing way of influencing decisions."

Colonel Bowman interjected to say that the remarks of Capt. Buckley applied also to the second question which concerned accomodation for a physician who had been made a prisoner of war while fighting against the Germans. He was sure that if the person affected gave details of his case to the Ufficio Alloggi, they would deal thoroughly with the matter. If after that the person was not satisfied, he (Col. Bowman) would ask Capt. Buckley to investigate personally.

Captain Buckley added that in conjunction with Dr. Basioli, Chairman of the Housing Committee, he had introduced the principle that decisions of the Committee should always be communicated to interested parties along with the reasons for the decision.

## SWISS OFFER TO SICK CHILDREN

The next question stated that though sick children from Milan, Genoa and Venice had benefited from an offer made by the Swiss authorities to the Italian Red Cross to give treatment to the children, advantage could not be taken of the offer in the case of Trieste children.

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Major C.O.S. Blyth Brocke, Public Health Officer, replying, said:

"An offer was originally made through the Italian Red Cross for the care of a number of sick children from Italy in Swiss Homes.

"The Headquarters of the Italian Red Cross in Rome asked various centres, including Trieste, to prepare lists of suitable children. A number of children proceeded from Piemonte and other northern provinces of Italy, but before any children could be sent from this area information was received that the Swiss authorities had found their resources strained and could offer no further accomodation. I feel it was just a case of bad luck for the children of Trieste.

"It is understood that an attempt is being made by the Italian Red Cross to send some of these children to Spain instead," added Major Brocke, "but I am not sure of the feasibility, or the advisability of so long a journey."



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## PE ONS OF MERCAN LE M'RINE OFFIC

"Pensioned officers of the mercantile marine of Trieste" stated another question, "have not yet received the pension increase which was promised them. Can Allied Military Government intervene on their behalf?"

The reply given by A.M.G. Chief Finance Officer, Lt-Col.Beard, was that these pensioners, and other pensioners in special cases, had not yet received an increase. There was no doubt, however, that they would receive an increase. The matter was under discussion at present and he hoped to be able to make an early statement.

## CHANGING OF NAMES

An Order regarding changes of name has been prepared by the Legal Division of the Allied Military Government and has been submitted to the Allied Commission for its approval. It is expected that the Order will be returned this week.

Such was the reply given by Colonel Bowman to a question urging publication of legal measures on the subject. He called upon Major A.E.G his Chief Legal Officer, to explain the position more fully.

Major Gold said that the previous existing law consisted of different decrees and the Order which A.M.G. had prepared dealt with the change of the family name. Another Order had been prepared dealing with first names. The second order, generally speaking, was intended completely to restore the personal rights affected by racial laws.

## ARE THEY PARTISANS OR SOLDIERS?

A question which was summarised last week by Col.Bowman as "the problem of classifying persons as partisans or soldiers of the Yugoslav Army for purposes of payments (gratifich..)" came up again at today's Conference. During the discussion, Lieut.Col.Beard said it had been agr. to pay partisans.

A newspaper correspondent replied that the Istituto della Providenza Sociale gave no satisfaction in the matter.

After Col.Bowman had suggested that, if it had not already been done, the question should be presented in a manner that would enable acti to be taken on it, and including all the relevant facts on whether the me affected were partisans or regular soldiers, the correspondent said he thought this had been done; in any event he agreed that it was necessary.

The correspondent went on to explain the matter further and Lieut.Col.Beard summarised his complaint as meaning that while partisans who fought with the Italian forces were receiving benefit, partisans who fought with the Yugoslav forces were not receiving benefit.

Lieut.Col.Beard invited the correspondent to call on him at noon next day so that he could give him an answer.

1342

## NEWSPAPERS AND ELECTRICITY RATIONING

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## NEWSPAPERS AND ELECTRICITY RATIONING

Rationing of electricity was said by another questioner to be placing some newspapers at a disadvantage. Could A.M.G. make arrangements so that newspapers could more easily appear punctually?

Replying, Col.Bowman said he assumed that A.I.S. (Allied Information Services) was trying to secure the fullest use of available facilities for newspaper production. If there seemed to be any discrimination, he would take the matter up; but it must be understood the whole matter lay within the discretion of A.I.S., and any complaint should be sent to A.I.S. and a copy to him.

## RADIO TRANSMISSION PROTEST

A correspondent protested at what he described as a repetition of the spirit of the nationalistic demonstration of November third last during a transmission on Sunday from Radio Trieste.

Col.Bowman said he had not heard about the matter. Certainly, the rule against nationalist demonstrations was meant to cut both ways. The correspondent went on to say that in the case of joint broadcasts when



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one group offended there was a danger of both being suppressed. Further details were asked for by Col.Bowman.

POSSESSION OF BUILDINGS

A complaint that the Istituto della Providenza Sociale was forced to have its offices in various parts of the city was made by another correspondent. Other people, he said, occupied their former offices.

Col.Bowman said he thought that the laws in effect provided that persons who owned property, and could substantiate their claim in court, could evict trespassers. There was, of course, an over-riding considerati such as military necessity. The decree of a court could be enforced.

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HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
XIII CORPS
Public Relations Section

No. 5
Report of proceedings at Senior Civil Affairs Officer's
Weekly Press Conference 28 Dec. 1945

by an AIS Correspondent

---

NO POLITICAL DISCRIMINATION IN FIRE BRIGADE

DIFFICULTIES OF EPURATION IN VENEZIA GIULIA

---

Trieste, December 28 U.N.N.

The question of dismissals from the Venezia Giulia Fire Brigade was well to the fore in this afternoon's press conference held at the Headquarters of AMG and presided over by Colonel Alfred C.Bowman.

"What is the attitude of Allied Military Government," it was asked "on the abuse of power by the Fire Brigade against people who are professionally blameless and politically more recommendable because of their anti-Fascist record during the war?"

The trouble, it was stated , concerned dismissals or transfers to the provinces, considered tantamount to punishment. It was affirmed that the "discretionary powers" of the Fire Brigade Chiefs were not sufficient to warrant what was happening.

The Public Safety Officer stated in reply:

"After reduction of staff, it was found that only 25% of the manpower was distributed throughout nine stations and stores whilst 75% of the strength was concentrated at the Central Fire Station.

The unequal distribution necessitated the transfer of 60 men from the overcrowded Central Station.

Transfers of personnel to meet exigencies of the service is a normal fire brigade practice in any country and, under the old Italian National Fire Service Regulations, men could be transferred not merely to local provincial stations but to distant parts of the country.

This is possibly the reason that a few of the staff may not be residents of Zone "A".

The subject was then taken up at greater length by the questioner

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Trieste, December 28 U.N.N.

The question of dismissals from the Venezia Giulia Fire Brigade was well to the fore in this afternoon's press conference held at the Headquarters of AMG and presided over by Colonel Alfred C.Bowman.

"What is the attitude of Allied Military Government," it was asked "on the abuse of power by the Fire Brigade against people who are professionally blameless and politically more recommendable because of their anti-Fascist record during the war?"

The trouble, it was stated , concerned dismissals or transfers to the provinces, considered tantamount to punishment. It was affirmed that the "discretionary powers" of the Fire Brigade Chiefs were not sufficient to warrant what was happening.

The Public Safety Officer stated in reply:

"After reduction of staff, it was found that only 25% of the manpower was distributed throughout nine stations and stores whilst 75% of the strength was concentrated at the Central Fire Station.

The unequal distribution necessitated the transfer of 60 men from the overcrowded Central Station.

Transfers of personnel to meet exigencies of the service is a normal fire brigade practice in any country and, under the old Italian National Fire Service Regulations, men could be transferred not merely to local provincial stations but to distant parts of the country.

This is possibly the reason that a few of the staff may not be residents of Zone "A".

The subject was then taken up at greater length by the questioner in the following terms:

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"Some dismissals and postings of an obvious but unaccountable political character are occurring in the Fire Brigade. We admit the truth of the contention regarding excessive personnel, but we ask how it is that many policemen who had been reported unfit for duty two months ago by the Medical Commission as well as by the technical commission in the force are being retained. Many of them are politically unworthy and collaborated with the Squadrista commander Conighi, now discharged, while many others are not residents of Zone "A". We ask how it is that competent people, who courageously fought Fascism have been dismissed, the alternatives being to accept a posting of a punitive character to the provinces or dismissal."

Again the Public Safety Officer replied as follows:

"We have no knowledge of any Medical or Technical Commission being set up to report on men considered unfit for service.

If any Commission was ever in existence, it must have been before the AMG Fire Officer took charge of the service.



See M.17

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Schede Personali have been completed and forwarded to the Security Section but it has, so far, not been possible to complete investigation.

There is a total of five men who are not residents of Zone "A". They are from Zone "B".

Owing to the decrease in establishment, it was decided, in order to avoid unemployment as much as possible, to offer men the opportunity of alternative employment in the Police Force.

Employment in the Police provided a much higher standard of pay, food and clothing than that offered by the fire service so that, change of employment is not punishment but savoured rather more of an award of better and more lucrative employment.

The six men named as discharged all joined the service during the last years of recruitment, that is, 1942-1944 and were amongst others who were also discharged with these Service groups. A few men were retained in these groups being particularly efficient as drivers, mechanics, etc. and whose discharge would have impaired the efficiency of the Force. The others named happened to be included amongst the 60 who were transferred and in justice to all, this six will not be given "preferential treatment".

COLONEL BOWMAN ON EPURATION

The trial of Pagnini, ex-podesta of Trieste had been subjected to some criticism at previous conferences, and Colonel Bowman had stated his intention of examining the records, for his information only and not as a judicial review. At the opening of this afternoon's session, therefore, he said he desired to make only one statement, and that was, that upon examination he was satisfied that "a court of honest men could on the evidence presented only reach the verdict that this court did."

"I can express no opinion on evidence not presented on the court," he added, however.

The subject of epuration was also raised after question time by a press representative who stated that he had participated in the epuration commission in Milan. He expressed astonishment at the slow process of epuration in the city of Trieste. "The war and the presence of Allied troops in this region were brought about by the culpability of people who are now freely circulating in the streets."

Colonel Bowman thereupon asked him whether the people he referred to had been denounced and subsequently acquitted and the questioner then instanced the case of the conductor Edmondo De Vecchi who had received a suspension of two months only although he was an old member of the Fascist party and an anti-marcia.

Colonel Bowman replied "I am not sure that the Epuration Commission might not have been more severe. The difficulty is that the people who should be most interested in epuration refused to participate in the commission but sit back and criticize. The Commission has not been functioning long enough for a general conclusion to be drawn and any decision is bound to fail to satisfy some people. In Milan there were no national divisions, and this resulted in a unaminity of opinion and action which cannot be reached here, I regret. But if, after a certain time, it appears that the epuration machinery

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A correspondent then remarked that the so-called Slavo-Communists did not refuse to participate in the Commissions of epuration. Until June, he contended, there existed commissions composed of more consistent anti-Fascists than those at present.

EPURATION OF ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL

The subject of epuration was taken up in a slightly different form in the next question.

"Can the Senior Civil Affairs Officer," it was asked, "explain the principle of recruitment for the employees of Allied Military Government, and can he also state whether these employees can, where necessary, be liable to epuration proceedings?"

The competent Officer of Allied Military Government stated in reply:



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Civilian Employment Section operates at this HQ under the control of the Camp Office. Personnel is recruited directly by the Section or on recommendation by the Divisions who have certain personnel (specialists) whom they wish to employ. In all cases the Section is responsible for hiring and dismissing and also all documentation insurance, etc. Unskilled labour and artisans are obtained from the Trieste Labour Office. A long list with particulars of personnel who have been interviewed is kept by the Section and from this list employment is given when possible according to the requirements of Divisions. A weekly return is made to the Labour Office. Specialists are imported from other regions, but in most cases people of Trieste are employed. Wages are paid, starting from a minimum for the first fifteen days, according to regulations for the employment of civil, subject to changes and bonus, etc. in accordance with instructions of the Finance Section.

The Legal Officer then added:

"Employees of the Allied Military Government are not subject to epuration proceeding before the Epuration Commissions which have been established. They are, however, subject to epuration by the Allied Military Government. They are not employed until after they have filed Scheda Personale, which is always followed by a thorough investigation in each individual case by investigative agencies of the Allied Police.

Colonel Bowman then remarked "Many of our personnel have come here with us from other parts, but there are a considerable number of local people in the lower grades and among non-specialist personnel numbering in all about 700. As far as epuration goes," he concluded, "we think we have made a pretty good job of it."

## REEMPLOYMENT OF ANTI FASCISTS

"About two months ago" the next question stated, "we presented a statement regarding the improvement of conditions of State employees who had been dismissed at the beginning of the Fascist era because of their democratic ideas, and who, after ten years and more of suffering are now in a very serious economic plight. Colonel Bowman asked us to make a list of such people and promised to take an interest in the matter so that some provision should be made for them. We have submitted a total of about 35 persons, but the people are waiting still for the expected alleviation of their lot."

Colonel Bowman replied, "I have interviewed about 30 people of this kind recently and have established that they are genuine cases. Some of them, however, who were dismissed twenty years ago are now very old and seek an increase in their pension rather than reemployment. My Legal Officer thinks there are a great number of people of this kind, and wants to prepare a plan making standard provisions for their reemployment. I have instructed him to do this as soon as possible. Meanwhile, the names already submitted to me will be given preferential treatment on an informal basis. If therefore, they apply to this headquarters they will be given temporary reemployment. I must stress, however, that this concerns only those whose names have been already submitted to me and who have been interviewed.

## DIFFICULTIES OF FORWARDING AGENCIES

A question regarding the hardships devolving upon forwarding

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## DIFFICULTIES OF FORWARDING AGENCIES

A question regarding the hardships devolving upon forwarding agencies (Case di Spedizione) were dealt with by the Chief of the Economics Division, who said:

"The situation of the forwarding agencies in Trieste today is very similar to that of their companions in other cities.

Governmental agencies have taken control of the market and the business affairs are actually treated directly between the interested governments, leaving very little for private initiative.

Anyway, it can be considered that in the near future the importance of the AMG imports will be considerably increased.

In such case the opportunity would be presented for employing more firms for the consignment and receiving of this merchandise, and the services of the Shippers Union will certainly be taken into consideration."

END



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HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
XIII CORPS
Public Relations Section

No. 3
Report of proceedings at Senior Civil Affairs Officer's
Weekly Press Conference 3 Dec. 1945

DEC 13 1945

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ELECTRICITY RESTRICTION RENEWED IN TRIESTE

Crimes of violence on the decrease, says
Public Safety Officer
by an AIS Correspondent

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Trieste, December 3 U.N.N.

In each month of October during the war years, Trieste never consumed more than five million kilowatt hours of electricity. In October of this year, however, nine million kilowatt hours were consumed.

This was revealed at today's press conference at Allied Military Government Headquarters by Major J.B.Foden, Chief Industry Officer, in a plea for economy in the city's gas and electricity supplies. Major Foden had been invited by Colonel Alfred C.Bowman to explain the position to the press representatives present.

With regard to electricity Major Foden explained that the rivers in Northern Italy begin to dry up at this period of the year and consequently the output of the hydro-electric power stations is rapidly diminishing. On the other hand, because the electrical system was relatively untouched by the war, many people are now using it for heating, cooking and other purposes. Thus it comes about that there is a rise in consumption accompanied by a fall in output and this must be adjusted.

In order to meet this situation, the Industry Officer continued, the Italian Government west of the area of XIII Corps had imposed heavy restrictions. On every day except Sunday had turned off the electrical supply from 0730 to 1100 hours and from 1230 to 1630 hours. Half of the consumers were being affected in the first part of the week and the remainder in the second part.

Allied Military Government in Venezia Giulia could not immediately fall in step with this and needed time to devise a proper rationing scheme. By agreement with the Italian Government there was to be no restriction from the

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Allied Military Government in Venezia Giulia could not immediately fall in step with this and needed time to devise a proper rationing scheme. By agreement with the Italian Government there was to be no restriction from the Italian side for the next five days. Meanwhile the supply and distributing companies had been consulted with a view to effecting a decrease of 30 per cent in consumption.

Major Foden said he quite realised that some services such as the water supply must be maintained for 24 hours and he did not wish to ration industrial undertakings if this could be avoided. The restrictions, therefore, would fall mainly on domestic and commercial consumers. In this connection he hoped that the new supply of gas could afford some compensation, but the greater the voluntary effort at economy, the lesser would be the restrictions, he emphasized.

Turning to the supply of gas, Major Foden said that a considerable part of the town was now covered, but there was still some extravagance in the use of the gas. If the few hours daily supply was to be maintained, the cooperation of the population in economy measures was vital.

Asked by Colonel Bowman what measures might be taken to restrict the consumption of electricity, Major Foden said that street lighting might be reduced, the tram service interrupted in the middle of the morning and the afternoon and shops closed earlier. Cafes, restaurants and bars might remove one lamp in three and the use of lifts could also be restricted. He pointed out that the military authorities were cooperating in economy measures in their establishments.



See M.14

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## CRIME AND ALLEGATIONS REGARD

One question submitted to the conference concerned a "alarming" crime wave in the city and requested that a military tribunal should be set up "for the repression of robbery".

In reply, Colonel Bowman pointed out that Allied Military Government had in fact set up military tribunals, but normally it was not desirable that these should try cases of common crime which did not affect military operations. He contended that the civil courts were handling such cases "with speed and efficiency". The situation would have to deteriorate greatly, he added, before the military tribunals took over such functions.

When called to comment on the situation, the Public Safety Officer of the Venezia Giulia Police Force denied that there was any increase in crime. "However," he said, "a greater number of cases are being reported owing to the increased confidence the population feels in the police authorities. Actual crimes of violence show a marked decrease."

## PROPERTY REQUISITIONED BY YUGOSLAV ARMY.

The position of owners of civilian vehicles requisitioned by Yugoslav troops when they were in Zone A was brought up by one press representative present. He had raised the question at a previous conference, when, he declared, Colonel Bowman had said that he did not think disappointed owners would be entitled to get their cars back since he assumed that the requisitioning is in conformity with International Law. The questioner reproduced a passage from the text of the Tito-Alexander agreement of June 11, 1945 which ran, "The Yugoslav Government will free all the citizens belonging to this area, arrested or deported by them, excluding those people having Yugoslav citizenship in 1939 and it will return all property confiscated or transferred".

Colonel Bowman pointed out that there was a difference between having a "right" and the power to enforce it. According to the passage reproduced the Yugoslav Government was obviously under an obligation, but there was no obligation on Allied Military Government or any other government to recover the property in question. Steps to this end could only be taken on orders from higher authority. Moreover, from the phraseology of the quotation, the reference seemed to be only to deported persons.

Arising from this matter, another point was brought up regarding four bank cashiers who had been deported by the Yugoslavs because they had in their possession a permit to carry arms, to which they were legally entitled on account of the nature of their duties.

Colonel Bowman said the matter was a delicate one and he realized that the dependants of the people concerned could have recourse only to Allied Military Government. He regretted therefore, that he could give no definite answer. A list of deportees had been forwarded to higher authority and there the matter must rest while negotiations were being carried out, "on a very high level".

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## SPECIAL TREATMENT FOR POLITICAL VICTIMS?

The unfortunate situation of certain political victims whose property had been sequestrated was raised next. The question ran,

"The "Corriere d'Informazioni" in Milan published a provision valid for Lombardia, by which special treatment is granted to veterans and people persecuted for political or racial reasons. According to this provision, such categories of people should enjoy priority in settlement and liquidation of claims for war damage. Could Allied Military Government make a similar provision also in the area under its administration, taking into special consideration those people who were forced to leave their homes and property in order to escape the fascist racial laws, and now, at their return, find their houses occupied by Allied soldiers? Has Allied Military Government considered the fact that amongst the private houses occupied by the Germans there were also homes of the persecuted?"

The issues were raised here, Colonel Bowman said in reply. The first was whether these victims of persecution should have special treatment. This had taken place only in Lombardy and in no other part of Italy. "I am, in general, opposed to special treatment," Colonel Bowman said, "However, persons of the class



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referred to are very worthy of our help. In Italy it was much easier than it is here, because here there is so much dispute as to who are the "persecutors" and who the "persecuted". It is clear that there is a substantial number of cases on which agreement could not be reached. But I should be glad to hear of any general feeling that such people should have preferential treatment, and to consider the matter further."

The second issue involved in the question, Colonel Norman went on, referred to the restitution of the property of political victims now occupied by the army. "The principle is," he said, "that the army only takes what is absolutely necessary and surrenders it as soon as possible. The occupation of property is a matter for GS Area and not the Allied Military Government. I should add that I do not think that any property has been requisitioned merely because it was formerly occupied by the Germans."

A further point in this connection was then raised by another press correspondent who pointed out that certain civilians who had worked for with the Germans had been put in occupation of property belonging to anti-fascists. Colonel Norman said he would get into this matter with his legal officer.

## FOOD PRICES AND WAGES

The way in which wages and salaries were continually chasing a rising cost of living was the next point to be discussed. The position was described in this way:

"News is given on the situation of the food supply for the city which is not very reassuring. For the purpose of increasing the distribution of foodstuffs, without having to continually adjust salaries, which definitely compromise the stability of prices, could not the Allied Military Government urge a greater activity on the part of G.E.P.A.L.A., or else authorize the establishment of a cooperative placed under the control of a citizen's Committee and members of Allied Military Government whose task would be that of increasing the affluxe of foodstuffs in the zone, at the same time fixing the prices? It would be necessary that Allied Military Government appropriate funds for this purpose to cover the difference in price; this measure, however, could avoid within certain limits the present anarchy of prices."

The Chief Supply Officer stated in reply:

A plan which will provide more foodstuffs at much lower prices is now approaching final form.

The operation being planned will be financed by local firms underwritten by Allied Military Government.

It will provide SHAEF with greatly increased purchasing power and with unchanged transport means at a favored rate.

The food purchased in provinces having certain surpluses, will be distributed by means of the bazaars under control of Allied Military Government, and with the advice and assistance of a citizens committee. The prices at which the foodstuffs will be sold will be based on logical economic distribution means; will be strictly controlled, and will therefore act as steadying influence on other prices. At present there is no study being made on the plan of subsidising food.

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## EXCHANGE OF GERMAN MARKS

The problem of people in possession of German marks was raised for a second time at a press conference. The questioner asked:

"In the case of many people returning from Germany we ask, if the Allied Military Government has already made or is making provision concerning the exchange of German currency (marks).

Many people, in fact, who have already delivered the currency to the banks and are unemployed because of the situation, could utilize this exchange to meet their urgent necessities. Could not the Allied Military Government take an interest in this matter, in order to relieve many people from a long and difficult economic situation, who have already suffered from long and hard imprisonment?"

The Financial Officer replied:

A similar question was answered by the new Allied Military Government 13 Corps, two months ago.



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There has been considerable correspondence on the subject but no clear cut policy has emerged.

It is a matter requiring careful consideration, as it involves foreign exchange between countries, whose currencies have devaluated and it is difficult to assess the amount of devaluation, in terms of foreign exchange.

The people involved are receiving some form of assistance at present and if they have declared their holdings of marks in accordance with the Allied Military Government order, they will receive compensation either in part or in full when we receive instructions as to procedure to adopt on the rate of exchange.

It is possible that some mark payment against the marks declared and deposited in the Banks will be made.

## TRIAL OF COLLABORATORS

An offer of cooperation in the task of minesweeping was then transmitted by a press representative to Colonel Bowman. The seamen were ready to man tow-boats and other ships cooperating with Allied Minesweepers.

A representative of the Naval Officer in command expressed his deep regret that the offer could not be accepted. Experienced crews and special equipment, he said, were required in this area. The method used in other parts of Italy was for small draft to tow mines to a place where they could be exploded. This was not possible in the Trieste Area because of the presence of magnetic mines. Dragging other mines across these might very easily explode them. On behalf of the naval officer in command he expressed his gratitude to the volunteers.

## DEREQUISITIONING OF BUS STATION

The question of returning the bus station to public use was again raised. It was claimed that full use was not being made of the space available and an offer was made to the military authorities to demonstrate how the needs of the public and the Allied Forces could both be met. Colonel Bowman replied that this was a question for 5th Area. It was now under consideration and he was hopeful that certain concession could be made.

## TRIAL OF COLLABORATORS

After question time the meeting was thrown open to discussion. A representative then pointed out that during the war the Allied radio had asked the people to make a note of the names of collaborators. Now, however, such collaborators, for instance the ex-podesta of Trieste, Pagnini, had been acquitted.

Colonel Bowman said that these matters were being left to the citizens themselves. He had, however, asked his legal officer for a report on this particular trial and in the meantime he wish to make no comment.

Another representative alleged that in the Fire Brigade the process of epuration was taking place in reverse. On the grounds of a reduction in personnel, anti-fascists with 15 or 16 years of service were being posted to duty outside of the town on invited to join the police. Colonel Bowman noted the question



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The possibility of an amnesty for those convicted of offenses committed in the earlier part of the period of the Allied occupation of Venezia Giulia was then broached. There were about 50 of such people imprisoned, it was claimed serving sentences of up to two years for offenses such as participating in demonstrations. Colonel Bowman said that any modification of the existing law on the subject must come from the Supreme Allied Commander. Even if such a modification is made, sentences already passed would still be legal and operative, but persons had already been granted in some cases and any further individual applications would be considered.

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PLUS STELLA 20
2 Regional Commissioner, Venezia Region, A.M.G.
1 Central Reference Library, HQ, ALCOM, Rome
1 Lt-Col. T. [illegible] GIN, FRB, HQ, ALCOM, Rome
1 Maj. J. LEAC [illegible], FRB, HQ, ALCOM, Rome
1 Executive Commissioner, HQ ALCOM, ROME (Brig. LUSH)
1 Lt-Col. [illegible], HQ FR, Rome
1 BCS 13 Corps (Brig. [illegible])
1 GSI 13 Corps
2 POLAD [illegible], Mr. [illegible]
2 POLAD [illegible], Mr. [illegible]
7 HQ ANC, Caserta Area
8 HQ ANC, Gorizia Area
8 HQ ANC, Pola Area
7 HQ AMIS, Trieste
1 G. Stewart TROWN, USIS, c/o A. [illegible]
1 Maj. [illegible], ADPR, [illegible]
1 Col. Stanley CHURCH, PRO, USA.

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2 FEB 70 ATTACHED MEMO, MR. SPRIGG
TO: MR. ROSTOW
FROM: MR. WALT W. RUSTOW
SUBJECT: CONFIDENTIAL
1 Cbd. 45 [illegible]
2 [illegible] MR. WHITE, USIS, c/o A. SHEPARD BRASSY
3 [illegible] ADPR, MAC
4 [illegible] BY GEORGIA, FRC, USA.
5 [illegible]
6 [illegible]
7 [illegible]
8 [illegible]
9 [illegible]

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HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
XIII CORPS
Public Relations Section

DEC 3 1945

No. 2
Report of proceedings at Senior Civil Affairs Officer's
Weekly Press Conference 26 Nov. 1945

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NO LOTTERIES FOR VENEZIA GIULIA

Col. Bowman Tells Why C.L.N. Application Was
Turned Down

.....

Question of Pensions to Various Workers also
Answered at Press Conference

.....

Trieste Nov. 26 U.N.N.

There will be no lotteries on behalf of any charity or institution in the Anglo-American occupied part of Venezia Giulia, stated Col. Alfred C. Bowman at his weekly press Conference in Trieste today.

The Senior Civil Affairs Officer of Allied Military Government, Venezia Giulia, was referring to the refusal of permission to the C.L.N. of Trieste to run a lottery in aid of orphans, people interned during the war and victims of political persecution. Col. Bowman said that if permission were granted to one organisation to conduct a lottery, Allied Military Government would be deluged with applications from other organisations and the people of the area would be harassed "by lottery callers, professional and otherwise".

Other questions answered at the conference concerned financial relief to ex-soldiers, pensions to women employees formerly belonging to the Todt organisation, and the employment of students of the Nautical Institute of Trieste in allied warships or converted ships.

Col. Bowman, who within the next few days is going to the U.S.A. on leave, bade a temporary farewell to the press representatives, and emphasised again that he was returning and that the commitment in Venezia Giulia remained an Anglo-American one.

"Discrimination and Partiality"

He felt that in certain circumstances the selling of lottery tickets might be used by organisations of a political complexion other than the C.L.N. for exerting political pressure.

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"We would certainly have to turn down some requests and this would result in allegations of discrimination and partiality against the Allied Military Government. If we granted permission to everybody, the people of this area would be harassed by lottery callers, professional and otherwise. It is always difficult to turn down applications for making money for the benefit of homeless and suffering people, and I therefore gave the matter a great deal of personal consideration before coming to a final decision."

"But the decision is final. There will be no lotteries in the area of Venezia Giulia administered by the Allied Military Government."

PLIGHT OF EX-SOLDIERS

The difficulties of ex-soldiers returning from prisoner of war camps was raised in a question which stated:



See Nov. 10.

(M555)

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"On their return from imprisonment in Germany soldiers have found their jobs in concerns or firms already taken. Because of the difficulty of obtaining a quick settlement, they have had to apply to Istituto di Providenza Sociale for assistance to obtain, at least, a temporary subsidy.

"From this Institute came the reply that a subsidy could not be granted because of the lack of Allied Military Government measures on this subject.

"Cannot Allied Military Government, which has already done much to relieve the suffering of these soldiers, take measures in their favour, giving them the possibility of facing the winter, already here, without excessive financial preoccupation?"

Replying, Lieut. James L. Cantilli (U.S. Army), acting Chief Labour Officer said that returned ex-internees, by virtue of having been mobilized, were entitled to re-instatement in their jobs, and thus should not find themselves in difficulties. Should any difficulties arise, the Labour Office would deal with them. The Welfare Division, 13 Corps, had arranged for E.C.A. to have the necessary funds to help ex-internees who had no re-instatement rights. The Labour Division was, however, considering a new order extending benefit to other categories.

## TODT ORGANIZATION EMPLOYEES

Former employees of the Todt organisation may receive unemployment benefit (sussidi speciali per la disoccupazione).

This was stated by Lieut. Cantilli in answering a question about "some regular female employees, formerly belonging to the Todt organisation, who are now in serious economic circumstances". The question gave consideration to "the aspect of their last employment", but also "kept in mind the necessity of such employees making a living during the period of the Nazi occupation".

Could the Allied Military Government take action so that these people could secure unemployment benefit?

Lieut. Cantilli replied that in the new provision, at present being studied by the Divisions concerned, the employees of the Todt organisation would probably also be included and would enjoy unemployment benefit.

## "MISTAKES BY ENGLISH OFFICERS"

Another question stated that there were occasions on which English officers, as a result of speeding up office routine, or in dealing with employees or heads of departments, had committed "great mistakes of procedure". When anyone tried to rectify such mistakes, or asked for an explanation, the answer given was that those who committed the errors "were English officers, and as such could not be criticised, nor could their decisions be revoked". While appreciating the authority of an officer, and the recognition conferred upon him, continued the question, would it not be possible to find a means of re-examining "suspended questions, which because of present procedure, are severely damaging the interest of several people"?

Answering, Col. Rowan pointed out that it was not clear whether the question referred to an officer of the Allied Military Government or an English officer engaged in other duties. He supposed it was not really necessary for him to say that if any officer, English or American, of the Allied Military Government made the statement referred to in the question, that officer was not expressing the policy of the Allied Military Government or the policy of himself.

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"We have made, and will continue to make lots of errors", continued the Colonel, "and I expect my officers to be respectful and attentive to the local people, and I am sure most of them are. I do not consider that being British or American confers any immunity from error, or from obligations of courtesy."

## WORK FOR NAVAL GRADUATES

The possibility of outstanding graduates of the Nautical Institute of Trieste being employed in allied warships or converted ships was raised by a question which pointed out that war conditions had prevented the education of graduates. "We have heard," added the question, "that in other places the young men had been employed by ship-owners." Was it possible to get the same facilities from local shipowners?



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Col. Bowman said that the employment of the graduates by local shipowners was a matter for the individuals concerned. If there appeared to be any tendency on the part of local shipowners to discriminate against local employees in a general way, the Allied Military Government would take steps to rectify matters.

He could not give a definite answer to the part of the question dealing with the British Navy, because of the short time the question had been in his possession. He suggested, however, that if the Nautical Institute would like to make a test case, they should produce the names and details of their outstanding graduates and the matter could then be followed up.

## WAGES AND PENSIONS

Two questions concerned wages and pensions of communal and municipal employees.

The first question stated:

"Personnel of Communes and municipalized concerns have not yet received the increases of wages obtained by other workers. Why were the provisions to which they had a right being held up?"

The answer was given by Captain Ferrimond (British Army) on behalf of the Chief Finance Officer. He said:

"The advance to commercial and para-statal employees is not compulsory; but if the Communes or para-statal ents have funds, they make the advance.

"Communes or para-statal entes have not the necessary funds at present to make advances.

"Allied Military Government have decided to give the Communes and para-statal entes the funds necessary.

"Aziends Municipale" added Captain Ferrimond, "are autonomous bodies, and therefore should be self-supporting. Allied Military Government has already given L.17,000,000 to ACEGAT on the understanding that tariff rates for public services would be increased in order to reach the stage of self support.

"Therefore the Aziends Municipale will make those advances out of their funds."

## POSSIBILITIES OF AN INCREASE?

The other question involving communal employees stated that those who retired before the war were in a much worse position than those who retired today. The former did not receive sufficient for the bare necessities of life. Could not the Allied Military Government and its local administrative authorities remove "these wrong and absurd differences"?

Captain Ferrimond stated that the pension of a Communal employee was in proportion to his wage or salary at the date of retiring. So far only State pensions had been increased.

"Increases of Communal pensions" he explained, "rests with the Commune, providing that it is self-supporting. State funds should not be used for the increase of Communal pensions.

"Allied Military Government are aware of the present position of Communal pensions, and are prepared to examine the possibilities of an increase."

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## PAYMENTS TO BRAHEN'S DEPENDANTS IN ZONE B

Payments to relatives of [illegible]

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## PAYMENTS TO SEAMEN'S DEPENDANTS IN ZONE B

1335

Payments to relatives of seamen captured or detained abroad was the subject of the next question, which stated that such relatives were receiving eighty per cent of their salaries from the Cassa Mutualita' through the Banco di Roma.

"Allied Military Government," the question went on, "recently suspended the payments to families living in Zone B. Such measures are against a right fixed by the terms of the collective work-contract and represent an iniquity which cannot be justified by the reason of preventing export of currency, because the amounts are very small, but are a vital necessity for the families concerned.

"Besides, these amounts would be spent, for the most part, in Zone A with modest purchases of about 500-600 lire monthly. Does not the Allied Military Government believe these payments should be reinstated?"

In reply Captain Farrimond said that the action taken by Allied Mili-



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ary Government was a matter of general policy.

"Individual cases," he continued, "naturally could not be considered when this policy was introduced, but it was realised that there might be exceptional circumstances arising as a result of action taken.

"The question comes in the category of exceptional circumstances, and will be reviewed on its merits. It is known that applications for unblocking accounts must be made in writing through the Bank concerned, but so far this has not been received by this Office, although the matter was discussed with a representative of Cassa Mutualita' Armatori.

"An application in writing" promised Captain Farrimond, "will receive attention if submitted to the Chief Finance Officer, Allied Military Government, 3 Corps."

## SYNOPSIS OF A.M.G. ADMINISTRATION

A local newspaper representative made what Col. Bowman described as "a very good suggestion". The pressman said that because of ignorance of English administrative law, local lawyers did not know to which department of the Allied Military Government to turn in case of difficulty, or when they wished to make an appeal. Could the Allied Military Government prepare a synopsis of the administrative duties of the various departments and the names of the officers concerned in them?

Col. Bowman said the suggestion would be promptly taken up and asked his chief Public Relations Officer to attend to the matter.

In reply to a question relating to the liberty of humorous weekly periodicals to indulge in political satire, Col. Bowman said that this was a question for the Allied Information Service (A.I.S.), which controlled publications. Personally, he enjoyed political satire, even although he was the butt of it.

## COLONEL PRAISES UNIVERSITY CONFERENCE

After question time, Col. Bowman recalled that a few weeks ago he had occasion to speak critically of a meeting of people in Trieste interested in education. A great deal had been made of his remarks, more than he thought was justified at the time.

"Yesterday", the colonel went on, "I attended another meeting of people who educate and those being educated - this time of the University of Trieste. The meeting was in general much better conducted, and I wish to express my appreciation of those who saw to it that such was the case.

"I have a feeling that a definite effort was made to control anything in the way of a demonstration, and the result was that I was happy to be at the meeting and not to be embarrassed in any way. I am grateful to the people responsible."

## LEAVING FOR U.S.A. THIS WEEK

Col. Bowman also announced that within a few days, he was leaving for a visit to the U.S.A. The situation with regard to the Allied Military Government remained unchanged. It still remained a joint Anglo-American Commitment.

During his absence, Col. W.P.D. Robertson, deputy Senior Civil Affairs

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During his absence, Col. H.P.B. Robertson, Deputy Senior Civil Affairs Officer, would act in his stead.

Then Col. Bowman went on to say how glad he was that an interest was being taken by local newspapermen in his weekly conference. There was a time when, because of lack of attendance, it had seemed desirable to cease the conferences, but to his satisfaction the attendances improved and the conferences became lively and interesting. He thought that during the several months during which the conferences had been held that they had resulted in considerable progress towards mutual understanding between the local press and the Allied Military Government.

"One of the things I shall most look forward to on my return," concluded Colonel Bowman, "is talking over the affairs of Venezia Giulia with you on Monday afternoons."

Col. Bowman welcomed the re-appearance of Signor Giorgio Jukcetich, director of "Il Lavoratore" at the conference.



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1 Lt-Col. MITCHELL, HQ FM, Rome
1 POS 13 Corps (Brig. LIRRY)
1 GSI 13 Corps
2 PGLD FRONTIER, Mr. SULLIVAN
2 POLLD AMERICAN, Mr. MESTER
7 HQ AMG WESTERN Area
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6 HQ AMG POLA Area
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1 B. STEWART BROWN, USIS, c/o AMERICAN EMBASSY
1 Lt-Col. MEIERER, ACP, PTL
1 Colonel Stanley SHOLLI, PRO, USFA

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HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
XIII CORPS
Public Relations Section

17 NOV 1945

No. 1
Report of proceedings at Senior Civil Affairs Officer's
Weekly Press Conference 12 Nov. 1945

NOV 20 1945

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CONDUCT OF ALLIED POLICE AT DEMONSTRATION

Colonel Bowman Says Orders Were Identical For Recent Events.

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What Is A Fascist?

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The orders given to the police for the handling of the crowds at the recent nationalist and U...I.S. demonstrations in Trieste were identical, Colonel Alfred C. Bowman, Senior Civil Affairs Officer, Allied Military Government, Venezia Giulia, stated at his Press Conference today.

The Colonel was answering a question which alleged brutality by the military police. If more force was used by the police at one demonstration than at the other, he said, he suspected it was because stronger measures were necessary at one more than the other.

The question was as follows:

"How can the conduct of the Allied Military Police be justified when in the national demonstration of Saturday 3rd November they thrashed with real brutality a counter popular demonstration which was forming, while during the popular manifestation of the next day they used more civil ways against the national counter demonstrators? Even the "Giornale Alleato" did not shine on this occasion with the wanted allied impartiality."

Replying, Colonel Bowman said that the instructions to the police on both the 3rd and 4th of November were identical, and in his opinion the instructions were followed very closely. If there had been any wanton cruelty or brutality he naturally regretted it. The police were advised as to what party or group had been authorised to demonstrate on each day, and to use the minimum of force necessary to deal with people attempting to interfere with the authorised demonstration.

"If more force was used by the police on one day than on another,"

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"If more force was used by the police on one day than on another," added Colonel Bowman, "then I suspect that the course of events made stronger measures necessary."

When he came to define the term "counter popular demonstration", the Colonel looked around the room at the Pressmen of varied political sympathies, and said with a smile: "The counter-demonstration is always the popular demonstration when it is on your side."

MORE POLICE ON NIGHT PATROL.

Two other questions also concerned the police.

"Has the Allied Military Government," asked one question, "authorized the police to act in a more decisive manner against those who wish to oppose police orders with armed resistance?"

Colonel Bowman replied that instructions to the police had not been changed or modified. The police in general had the authority to use what force was



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necessary to deal with resistance. It was his most sincere hope that it would not be necessary for the police to use armed force, and in fairness to the people of this area he saw no reason to believe that the police would meet with armed resistance.

The other question concerning the police read:

With reference to frequent robberies by armed people and to nocturnal aggressions, could not the Allied Military Government intensify the night patrol service in the outskirts of the city?

In his reply Colonel Bowman disclosed that it is intended to increase the police night patrol service in Trieste, which at present is limited largely to the military police.

The reason why more civil police had not been used for night patrol work before was a very simple one - difficulty had been experienced in securing suitable warm clothing for the police on night duty. It was expected that this deficiency would soon be remedied.

## PERMITS TO ARMS

The matter of public safety cropped up several times during the conference. One question asked about the carrying of arms by civilians. It read:

It has been rumoured that the Allied Military Government will permit civilians, who pleaded the necessity for personal safety, to carry arms if they ask for them. If this is true, what circumstances are necessary for a civilian to receive a permit to carry arms?

Colonel Bowman replied that no permits for carrying arms were to be granted unless the circumstances in this area changed greatly. What he had said, however, was a statement of policy, and not a promise, and he could not undertake now to state that persons who were submitted to very real threats would not be allowed to carry arms.

So far not one person had been granted a permit to carry arms for reasons of personal safety alone. About sixty (60) permits had been granted to people who were responsible for guarding money or who needed the means of protection for a similar reason.

## FAMILY ALLOWANCES AND WAGES.

"Does the Allied Military Government know if there will be orders issued to the Institute of Social Contingency for an incidental increase in family allowances?"

Answering this question, Colonel Bowman said that such action, if taken at all, would have to be taken by the Allied Military Government. Nothing had been presented to him yet by his Labour or Finance officers. He understood, however, that a proposed decree was in process of preparation. If this decree was presented to him, and signed by him, it would extend the same benefits as those extended by the Italian decree 367 of 9th November, 1944.

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Another question asked:

"Does the Allied Military Government intend to issue orders for an increase in salaries of employees of hotels, restaurants, etc. who have not had advantage of the last concession of emergency indemnity?"

In reply Colonel Bowman made it clear that it is "not the policy of the Allied Military Government to issue orders under any circumstances for salary increases." All salary increases which had taken place had been based on agreements, and were the result of collective bargaining between workers and employers.

The Colonel then turned to the danger of inflation. Salary increases agreed upon by all parties, he said, would be approved by the Allied Military Government only if responsible officers thought they would not add to the danger of inflation. Salary increases must conform to the remainder of the Allied Military Government programme of price control and other measures designed to prevent inflation.

In the case of the hotels and restaurants, negotiations were in progress between representatives of the employers and the workers.



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## STRANGERS IN OUR MIDST

Statements that many people from outside the area occupied by the Anglo-American forces are coming into Trieste with evil intent were described by Colonel Bowman as "greatly exaggerated".

He was answering a long question which was as follows:

1. Are people living in Venezia Giulia who are today permanently staying in Trieste, and have been either interned or imprisoned or belonged to the Army fighting on the side of the Allies, or if they were hiding from fascist occupation persecutors and came to Trieste after May 1st 1945, entitled to an Identity Card of first Class? If not, what kind of Identity Card will they get, considering the fact that they have no rights of citizenship either in Jugoslavia or in the part of Italy west of the territory now under Allied Military Government control?

2. What kind of Identity Card will be given to these political refugees who had to flee because of the fascist terrorism and who lived in places for a long time, married, had permanency or still have relatives there, and who have now arrived back convinced that they have come into their liberated home region?

3. What personal Identity Card will be given to those who are strangers by birth and who escaped to this region because they have been proclaimed war criminals at home, or elsewhere, and are wanted there now by police?

4. A large number of fascist or nationalist inclined people are arriving in Trieste these last few days. Will the Allied Military Government take action against these elements which have obviously no peacable and human aims and whose appearance is disquieting the local inhabitants, belonging here by origin, who remember similar occurrences in the first years after the last World War and also before the Fascist Government?

Replying, Colonel Bowman answered the first three paragraphs of the question together. The residents identity card, he explained, would be given to persons who were bona-fide residents of Venezia Giulia on May 1, 1945. This did not mean that such persons were in the part of Venezia Giulia occupied by the Allied forces on that date, nor was it necessary for them to have been in the area immediately preceding May 1. A person who had been absent for a long time might be entitled to a resident's identity card if for reasons set forth in the question it was necessary for him to be absent from this area before May 1st, 1945, and if, under all the circumstances it was clear that he had continued to regard the Allied - occupied territory of Venezia Giulia as his home and always intended to return when possible.

Conversely, the fact that a person was here on May 1st, 1945, did not entitle him to a resident's identity card if that person was here for a temporary purpose and never intended to make the area his, or her, home.

Every application for an identity card, continued Colonel Bowman, must be considered on its own merits. There would undoubtedly be many mistakes and injustices because of the necessity of issuing the cards rapidly. Any such mistakes the Allied Military Government would try to rectify as soon as possible. There was less dissatisfaction than he had expected in view of the rapidity of the operation of issuing the cards.

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war criminals at home, or elsewhere, and are wanted there now by police?

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Coming to the last part of the question (the part dealing with strangers in Trieste), Colonel Bowman said the word "Fascist" was well understood. Frankly he did not think that a large number of people had arrived in Trieste during the last few days unless they accepted the definition of "Fascist", so often advanced in these parts, as a person who holds views different from one's own.

The charge that strangers, or "foreigners" were coming into Trieste was being made freely by both sides in the city. He was personally of the opinion that the charges were greatly exaggerated on both sides, and the issue of identity cards tended to support his belief. However, he realised he could not draw final conclusions from this because a person who arrived recently in this area probably would not come forward early for an identity card.

The Colonel smiled as he added:

"The Allied Military Government does not intend to arrest everyone who shouts "Zivio Tito" or "Viva Italia".



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## REQUISITIONED AUTOMOBILES

Cars requisitioned by Yugoslav troops was the subject of a question which asked:

"During the occupation of the city by Yugoslavian troops, several private automobiles were requisitioned. Could the Allied Military Government take an interest through the various Yugoslavian Commissions within the city, or the qualified agent of the Yugoslavian Government, with a view to securing the return of the cars to their owners?"

Answering, Colonel Bowman said that any automobiles taken by the Yugoslav troops while they were occupying this area became, under international law, the property of the Yugoslav Army.

The recourse open to the owners was to claim against the Yugoslav Government, and any payment made might be less satisfactory in some cases than getting a car back.

"However," added the Colonel, "I understand that a number of claims have been submitted by owners of cars, and that progress is being made towards payment and recognition by the Yugoslav Government."

## FREEDOM OF THE PRESS

Colonel Bowman emphasised again today that freedom of the Press is still the policy of the Allied Military Government. He was asked the following question:

"The liberty of the press has been transformed in Trieste into liberty of calumny, defamation and offensiveness. It seems that Allied Military Government is studying new legislation on this subject which ought to be substituted for the insufficient provisions of the fascist codes. When will these new provisions be ready?"

In his reply the Colonel said, that as in the case of demonstrations, and counter-demonstrations one's view depended on one's position and beliefs. The Allied Military Government had had its share of calumny, defamation and offensiveness, and it was often urged upon him that he ought to do something about it.

"But in spite of all that has happened I am still an advocate of a free Press. I believe that calumny, defamation and offensiveness are always found out and defeat their own ends, provided an opposition Press is allowed to exist and point out what is calumny, defamation and offensiveness."

While he did not know what every individual officer of his staff was studying, he was not aware of any proposed legislation affecting the contents of newspapers. He, personally, would oppose any measure that did more than insist that statements of fact were true in fact, and that nothing was said which under the laws of America or Britain constituted criminal libel.

Answering a further question on the subject the Colonel said it was possible that some form of libel law might be necessary at some future date, but the law, if it were passed, would be [illegible]

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Colonel Bowman answered all the questions at the conference because today is a military holiday and he did not wish to call on various officers to attend.

END

## COLONEL BOWMAN IS GOING ON LEAVE

### Coming Back To Trieste After Visit To America

Colonel Alfred Bowman, is going away on leave, but he is returning to Trieste to resume his position as Senior Civil Affairs Officer, Allied Military Government, Venezia Giulia.

The Colonel said so at his Press Conference today, and as is often his habit, he made fun of rumours.



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"I am informed," he said, "that in some quarters rumours are being circulated that I am going to leave Trieste and that I will be replaced by another officer. All hopes along that line are without foundation."

It was true, added Colonel Bowman, that he was going to the United States to see again his wife and family, but he would return. If during his absence a British officer acted as Senior Civil Affairs Officer and Deputy Senior Civil Affairs Officer, it would not represent a change of high policy.

"Occupation of this area," concluded Colonel Bowman, "remains an Anglo-American committment."

END

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