

0698

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

785017

ACC

10000/109/1356

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

785017

10000/109/1356

STRIKE, TOSI WORKERS
APR., JUNE 1944

0698

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785017

TO HOME AREA COMMAND FOR ACC
 PERSONAL FOR BRIG LUSH
 FROM ACC MAIN

66
 +
 359
 Action taken
 on file 359
 Reference 6691

SECRET

PRIORITY

1213

CA Br 2
7

FOLLOWING FROM FOTALI. QUOTE UNOFFICIAL STRIKE INVOLVING 1000 MEN STARTED
 IN DOCKYARD TODAY FOR MORE FOOD OR WAGES.

PARA 2. MINISTRY HAS PROMISED AN INCREASE IN WAGES OF 12 TO 15 PER CENT ON
 1 JULY.

PARA 3. TOSIS YARD ARE ON STRIKE FOR INCREASE OF 30 LIRE A DAY ALL ROUND.

PARA 4. RAMIREX NEW UNDER SECRETARY VICE AIRBAGS COMING DOWN.

PARA 5. IT IS HOPED THAT WORK WILL BE RESUMED TOMORROW 21.

PARA 6. MOST OF THESE MEN ARE RECEIVING CIVILIAN A RATION FOR HEAVY WORKERS.

PARA 7. C IN C MED NAPLES PASS TO ADMIRAL MORGAN.

UNQUOTE LABOR SUB COMMISSION ARE DEALING ENERGETICALLY IN CONSULTATION
 ECONOMIC SECTION AND INSISTING NO INCREASE IN WAGES BE MADE.

251439B

DISTRIBUTION:

(Act) CAB - 2
 (Info) ACC Main - 1
 File - 1
 Fleet - 2

V.P.s conference

MML 26/6

HA

1254

0699

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785017

66
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
INCOMING MESSAGE

D 57

572

CAB 2

TO: CINCINNATI WITL AIR MORGAN SIGNAL MESSAGE CENTER No: _____
 FROM: ACC MAIN FROM TOTAL CLASSIFICATION: SECRET
 REFERENCE No: 5337 PRECEDENCE: IMPORTANT
 DATE AND TIME OF ORIGIN: 211045 OFFICE OF ORIGIN: _____

NO REF REPORT NO REF DATED TWO ZERO ONE EIGHT THREE ONE EIGHT JUNE
 OFFICINE STRIKE STARTED IN DOCK YARD TODAY FOR MORE FOOD AND WAGES
 PD ONE ZERO ZERO ZERO NOT INVOLVED PD AN INCREASE IN WAGES TWELVE
 TO FIFTEEN PER CENT ON FIRST JULY HAS BEEN PROMISED BY MINISTRY PD
 TUBS YARD ARE ON STRIKE FOR INCREASE THIRTY DOLLARS A DAY ALL ROUND PD
 RAILWAY NEW UNDERSECRETARY VICE ALDAR IS COMING DOWN PD WORK IT IS
 NOTED WILL A RECALL TWENTY FIRST JUNE PD CIVILIAN A RECALL A RATIONS
 FOR HEAVY WORKERS BEING RECEIVED BY MOST OF THESE MEN

COPIES TO

CA BR
 LANCER 3/C
 LANCER 5/C
 LANCER 6/C

1203

DATE and Time of RECEIPT _____

Distribution:

0700

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Labour S/C.

Pl. See 9. Request for any further
information to be as follows.

25/4

~~At B~~

~~Attached is a copy of the~~

C.A.B.

Attached is a copy of a statement on the Taranto position which has been issued to-day over Col. Adams signature to all the interested parties (so far as we have been able to identify them).

In the covering letter it is stated that "The concession at para 3 is thought reasonable but no further concessions can be made. New "heavy" worker rations will be announced almost immediately and will be uniformly and firmly applied. There can be no question of a "B" scale being granted and any other differential found to exist will be eliminated"

J.T.R. Bain, Colonel,
Labour Sub Commission,
26th April, 1944.

Lt Col Shipp

Pl. See II above. and para 10.

Ex Comm: You may wish to see 10 & 11. I do not understand it in detail.

No 9.

11/27/4

1232

28/4

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Taranto
17th April, 1944

NOTES ON MEETING HELD AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

PRESENT:

Representatives of the R. Italian Dockyard Workers
Two Italian Admirals,
The Prefect and Staff
Commodore Powell, R.N.
Colonel J. P. H. Bain,
Major Craig
Captain Scialoja
Captain Bottem
Captain Fraser

Having heard the claims of the workers and retired to discuss the matter with Commodore Powell, Colonel Bain stated:

1. THAT there could be no question of striking in any form, stay in, lie down or stay out. Both General Matarlano and Marshal Badoglio intended to take strong lines, and any strike in the Dockyard at this time would be regarded as sabotage.

2. THAT the issue was one of FOOD, not wages. Allied Government was sympathetic, but in face of a world shortage, with only limited supplies available for this sector, all must be treated alike. Special provision could not be made. The oft referred to Black Market was an institution the working classes were best able to combat. Cooperatives could be formed. (Later Commodore Powell said that he hoped to be able to help with transport to enable goods to be brought in from the outlying districts). It would be difficult after so long a period of Fascism, but they must learn to help themselves. It was basic in Democracy that leadership came from below.

3. THAT, however, with a view to assisting them he had decided that he would regard the Dockyard workers as being in the same category as other workers employed directly by the Armed Forces. There would be the same uniformity in hardship.

4. THAT he was the Director of the Labor Sub-Commission and not of the Food Sub-Commission. He promised, however, to see the Food Officer (Colonel Legg) and would recommend that in spite of shortage he should authorize additional food. He could not compromise - the Colonel in his absence, but believed that it could be arranged to let the heavy worker, peasant, have a total of 400 grams of bread, 100 grams of pasta and 30 (additional) grams of soup powder.

5. THAT there could be no question of raising wages until the whole wage structure had been examined. This review was at the moment under consideration by officers of the Labor Sub-Commission. None wanted inflation, and although at the moment things might appear to be harder than necessary, he thought that if we held the line now, it would be for the more lasting good of Italy.

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HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
REGION 2

668 C.A. Br. 803
21 APR Recd
4904

18 April 1944

Ref: L / / / 27

SUBJECT: - Tosi Workers, Sitdown Strike

TO : - Vice President, R.C. & M.G. A.C.C. ✓
Copy to: - Vice President Administrative Section - A.C.C.
: - R.P.O. No 2 Region

The enclosed reports on forwarded in amplification of
the telephonic report on this Sitdown Strike.

For the Regional Commissioner.

E.G. Fricker
E.G. Fricker, Major
Executive Officer
Region II



1290
21/4

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C O P Y

SUBJECT:- Tosi Workers, tdown Strike

CONFIDENTIAL

Regional Commissioner,
HQ..Allied Control Commission,
Region 2, Matera

Allied Control Commission,
Palazzo del Governo,
TARANTO.

T/ACC/45

16 Apr. 44.

1. In accordance with the instructions in your ECA/2069 of 1st April and in amplification of Provincial Police Officer's report I now send you the whole sequence of events.

2. On the morning of 13 April about 2000 workers belonging to the Cantieri Tosi works had a sitdown strike because they were dissatisfied with the results obtained by their Mission to the Ministry at Salerno, and in consequence they now ask for an 80% increase in their wages.

3. The Director of Cantieri Tosi has stated that if this increase was granted it would mean a revision of all contracts to Allied Authorities and naturally a great increase in contract prices.

4. At the moment the apportioning of work is:-

1/3 for Italian Navy.
2/3 for British Navy.

5. The Committee of representatives from the workers talked the matter over with the Prefect and Admiral Fioravanza and said they were prepared to reduce their requests but were unable to decide on the minimum and would negotiate with the Manager of Cantieri Tosi, whereupon the Prefect pointed out that resumption of work must precede negotiations.

5. At 16.00 hrs. on 14 Apr. the workers went back to work.

7. A conference was held on 15 Apr. at 15.30 hrs. Those present were Provincial Commissioner, Provincial Police Officer, Prefect and Admiral Fioravanza. The latter stated that the Committee of representatives had spoken to the Minister of Marines (Admiral DE COURTEN) repeating their demands and the Minister had promised to take their requests - in person - to the Govt. for discussion and decision and he would probably return in a week or ten days, meanwhile he had wired explaining how

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8. Admiral Fioravanza also observed that the Tosi workers demands affected Arsenal workers and that this question was not a political one but purely an economic one and as such should be easy to settle. His proposals are either:-

- (a) An increase in salaries and wages
- (b) An issue of B Scale rations to all workers engaged at the Dockyards
- (c) A partial increase of salaries and wages plus a partial allotment of extra food.

9. The Admiral favours plan (b) for workers. The distribution would be made through military channels.

10. The Prefect agreed with this solution, adding that he on several occasions had ascertained that owing to shortage of food local workers had not the necessary stamina to do their work efficiently.

11. Tosi workers had often been promised an improvement in their position but nothing had been done about it. It was stated that the representatives of the workers and the local leaders of the Communist party.

.../...

- 2 -

wanted the food question settled as soon as possible because they cannot give any assurance about the future maintenance of public order.

12. The Provincial Commissioner then asked Admiral Fioravanza what arrangements he had made to keep law and order and if he had sufficient Troops and was assured by the Admiral he had sufficient and more were available at short notice.

The Provincial Commissioner again reminded Admiral Fioravanza and the Prefect that they were responsible for keeping law and order and that the Allied Authorities would take a poor view of any disturbance which hampered the war effort and that their own actions would be judged in this matter.

13. Provincial Commissioner was assured by Admiral Fioravanza that all workers were getting their normal ration and that heavy and extra heavy workers were getting the extra ration as laid down in the Ration Scales.

14. The Prefect mentioned that some twenty agitators had been dismissed and investigations were still being carried on to find others who might be active Fascists or of Nazi sympathies who had taken advantage of the food situation to cause the sitdown strikes.

15. On 16 Apr. Prefect calls on Provincial Commissioner to tell him he had forwarded the whole matter to his Govt. and he may go to Salerno himself to represent the case and get an answer.

16. Observations.

The Prefect drew my attention to an article in a Naples newspaper dated 11 Apr. which detailed certain privileges to workers in Naples. This may have influenced the workers here to some extent.

My T/ACC/29 of 5 Apr. enclosing a letter from F.O.T.A.L.I. to G.O.C., N° 2 District and with it a letter from Italian Minister of Marine to F.O.T.A.L.I. also has some bearing on the subject.

I have contacted all Naval and Military authorities concerned and made them aware of the situation.

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FC/AM.

Provincial Commissioner

Capt. Frazer, Reg. Labour Director and Capt Bothan have just arrived I am arranging a meeting Between Col. Bain, Capt. Frazer, Capt. Bothan and the Prefect Admiral Fioravanzo, Admiral Coarealle and representatives from Tosi works for 11.00hrs tomorrow (17th) in the Prefect's room.

FROM : Ministry of Marine (Cabinet)

TO : F O I I

Date : 30.3.44

Ref : 212/F.O.

SUBJECT:- FOOD RATIONS FOR MILITARISED WORKERS.

Workers engaged in establishments and shipyards under I.R.N. were "militarised" and became subject to penal and disciplinary measures in June 1940.

On 1st February last, all Military-Naval personnel ashore, even if not living in messes, and the "militarised" personnel were given Type "B" rations supplied by the Allies.

In the computed figures, this Ministry did not include the "militarised" workers, as it considered this concession could not be extended to personnel not militarised as above.

Subsequently it has become known that:-

- a) The "militarised" civil workers in Italian Army and Italian Army and Italian Air Force establishments receive the above food ration;
- b) The Naval-Military Command at Sardinia, in accord with Allied Authorities and in view of the local difficult food situation, on 15th inst. commenced the distribution of the above food ration to workers at the La Maddalena Naval Base.
- c) Workers under Marina Naples are in a state of ferment with the object of obtaining the daily distribution of the food ration on a par with the distribution which is already practiced in that Base in regard to the Italian Army, on orders issued by the Allied Forces Command in Campania (Province).

On the other hand, it is necessary to bear in mind that the Naval-Military Administration has up to now, issued a mid-day plate of thick soup to the workers, the cost of which has been borne in large part by the Administration; but to-day it is extremely difficult to continue doing so, as the ingredients for its preparation are unobtainable.

The difficulty of obtaining food for the civil population causes grave difficulties for the workers to keep their families supplied so that the desire to receive the daily ration is very strong indeed.

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The difficulty of obtaining food for the civil population causes grave difficulties for the workers to keep their families supplied so that the desire to receive the daily ration is very strong indeed.

All this finally reduces itself to a lowering in production (to the detriment of I.R.N. and Allied Navies alike) and to a discontent the outcome of which cannot be foreseen.

For example, at Brindisi, the serious situation of the food market has occasioned a strong movement among the operatives at the Mixed Naval Works, who threaten to abstain from work if this situation is not improved, but the Political Authorities are not in a condition to take the necessary steps because of the small stocks of food and the well-known transport difficulties.

With the object of obviating agitations and abstentions from work, which would have repercussion totally disadvantageous to the establishments of the I.R.N., and to regularise the situation, it is considered an absolute necessity that an urgent concession of "B" rations should be given to all civil "militarised" workers who depend from the Administration of the Military Maritime Authorities.

../..

5

I consider that this provision would not meet with serious difficulties, on the other hand it would cause a reduction in the consumption by the civil population of the localities concerned.

The number of rations involved daily would be the following:-

TARANTO	12.000
NAPLES (including Castellammare)	700
LA MADDALENA (including Cagliari, where distribution already takes place)	1.000
BRINDISI	600
Total	14.300

(Signed) THE MINISTER.

H/DG).

Translator's Note: Postscript in the Minister's handwriting
"I strongly beg you to take this important
problem into the most attentive consideration".

Certified True Copy of the Original.

1206

SUPPLY OF FOOD FOR DOCKYARD WORKERS.

FROM... FLAG OFFICER TARANTO AND ADRIATIC.

DATE... 2nd April, 1944

TO..... GENERAL OFFICER COMMANDING, No 2 DISTRICT

(Copies to: Commander-in-chief, Mediterranean Station.

Commodore Superintendent, Taranto.

Headquarters, 52 Area, Taranto.

Flag Officer, Western Italy, Naples.

Commodore Palmer, Naval Sub-Commission, Salerno

Naval Officer-in-charge, Brindisi.

A.C.C. Liaison Officer, Taranto.)

No. T.A. 1030/20.

With reference to my No T.A. 1030/20 of 3rd March, a worsening of the civilian food supplies can be foreseen in the near future, a state of affairs that is anticipated in the attached letter 312/F.O. of 30th March, from the Minister of Marine.

2. The food situation for the Dockyard workers has been perpetually on the brink of a crisis, and was in fact, the immediate cause of the strike and its attendant riots in February. Hitherto the Italian Authorities have not pressed for help in the matter from Allied sources, but now that they have made an appeal I feel it is the time to put the whole Dockyard question on a firmer footing.

3. The suggestion advanced by the Minister of Marine is that all Dockyard workers (inclusive of the non-manual type) should receive rations from the Allied on scale B. He has mentioned in his letter "the grave difficulties for the workers to keep their families supplied", which is liable to misinterpretation and I have pointed out to him that the rations, if approved, would be for the actual workers, not their families. If issued in bulk, no doubt it will go to augment the larder of the average family, but the real point at issue is that in Taranto alone the local resources would be relieved of the strain of providing for 12,00 men, with the resultant benefit to their families.

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4. The financial aspect of conceding Ration B to the Dockyard workers cannot be considered in its entirety without knowing the monetary value of the ration. Assuming it to be in the nature of £. 24 a day, it is recognised that it is too heavy a sum to deduct from wages which are lower than those authorised by Administrative Instruction No 24. My T.A. 1149/16 of 24th February to Allied Control Commission refers to this, giving a table of comparisons, and is now under consideration by the Labour Sub-Commission. Pending an improvement in wages I am assured by the Italian Authorities that part of the cost of this ration "B" if granted, would be borne by the Navy, sufficient to ensure that the worker's family budget will not be adversely effected.

5. In forwarding this request from the Minister of Marine I wish to stress that I regard this concession as a matter of paramount importance, and one that I trust will be put into practice with the minimum of delay. It is obviously preferable to take immediate steps now than to await the inevitable crisis which will force the issue in any case. Furthermore I am convinced that the results will be a marked improvement in the output of the Dockyard workers and a far better spirit of co-operation will be achieved. If this larger scheme is adopted, the proposal forwarded under cover of my T.A.1030/20 of 3rd March should be considered cancelled.

Signed.

Certified True Copy of the Original.

0712

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PATMA 3402

3

~~19~~

PATMA (CIVIL AFFAIRS BRANCH)

SECRET

PRIORITY

17 APRIL 1944

VAPOUR 165 FIVE

DIRECTOR PROVINCIAL COMMISSIONER TORONTO

ABLE CHARLES CHARLES DASH FIVE TWO APRIL ONE THREE FROM TORONTO
RECEIVED HERE APRIL ONE SEVEN ED PARCH DIRECTOR FOR UNION TWO PROVINCIAL
COMMISSIONER TORONTO ED PARCH PROVINCIAL COMMISSIONER MUST REPORT MUST
REPORT THESE INCIDENTS TO YOU ED INSTRUCT HIM TELEGRAM WILL REPORT TO
YOU REPEATING HERE

1254

L. T. MONTAGNI
2/LR AND
ASSISTANT

SECRET

785017

Re Nachr.

Griffith P. E. Taranto

Acc/s 2 April 13 from Tarcu

from 12/2/68
PAREN DISTRO FOR REGION TWO O RPTD
RTPD PCTARANTO
~~from PAREN~~

received here April 17.

received here.
if Provincial Commissioners must report
must report these incidents to you. ~~Station~~
Instruct him telegraph full report to you
reflecting here.
see 6/93

see ~~6193~~

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6 HAVE ANOTHER ONE U FOR U GSK ONLY KK
GA PLS

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7400

N36/166
Secretary General

DELIVER THIS MJ MSG TO LABOR SUB-COMMISSION RPT LABOR

4/17-0915
SM

MJDT V HJCS V HJSE V HJRM NR 6 P
QCK
FROM ACC TARANTO P P O 14-1500
TO PUBLIC SAFETY SUB COMMISSION ACC SALERNO
REGIONAL POLICE OFFICER HQ ACC MATERA

GR -- DT

ACC/52

APR 13 1944 2000 WORKERS IN TOSI SHIPYARDS WENT ON SITDOWN
STRIKE FOR INCREASE IN WAGES. NEGOTIATIONS BEING CONDUCTED
BY PROPER AUTHORITIES. RUMORED WILL RESUME WORK APR 15 1944
PENDING FINAL DECISIONS. PUBLIC ORDER IS CALM. REPORT FOLLOWS.

BT

CHMS:

TIME SENT NR 6 16/1647.5 JFS AR

RECD NR 6 16/1647 E AAN

AR



Brig. Luch
3 days get further?
Am 17/21

see 69

Acc DIST

INFO - SECY GEN	1
CA BR 1202	2
ECON SEC	3
FILE	1
FLOAT	1

0715