

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

785017

ACC

10000/109/1502

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785017

10000/109/1502

HARVESTING, REGION I
MAY - SEPT. 1944

203/CA

MAJOR BAC

HARYESTING - REGION I

841 915
173

HARVESTING - REGION 7

1773 8241 915

10000/909/1502

THIS FOLDER

CONTAINS PAPERS

FROM MAY - 44

TO SEPT - 44

CATALOGUE -

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

203
HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
ECONOMIC SECTION
APO 394

LDD/es
80X

20 September 1944

SUBJECT: Granai del Popolo

TO : Regional Commissioner
Sicily Region Headquarters

- 18 79
1. This is in reference to your RC/433 on 13 September and RC/433, 18 September, subject above.
 2. It is hoped within a few days we will be able to give you a definite answer in connection with this matter.

For the Acting Section Head:

LDD
L. D. DENSMORE
Colonel, CSC
Economic Section

cc: Civil Affairs Branch ✓
Agricultural S/C
Food S/C

MA

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Economic Section

cc: Civil Affairs Branch ✓
Agricultural S/C
Food S/C

MA

315 -

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
SICILY REGION HEADQUARTERS
APO 394

FILE:RC/433

SUBJECT: Granai del Popolo

TO : H.Q. A.C.C. ROME
R.C. & M.G. Section

COPIES : Agricultural Sub-Commission
Food Sub-Commission

18 Sept 1944

22 SEP Recd

1. With further reference to my RC/433 of 13 SEP 44, I have discussed these matters with the High Commissioner, who returned on 16 SEP from a visit to ROME.

2. The High Commissioner informed me that instructions authorising a special retention allowance of wheat for farm workers and a similar retention of barley, etc. for farm animals had been issued to Provinces in error. The High Commissioner agreed to send instructions to Prefects to suspend action in these two matters pending further advice from me.

3. As stated in my letter under reference, the payment of L.100 per quintal to farmers as a contribution towards transport cost of wheat is already enforced in SICILY.

4. I should be glad to be informed as early as possible whether I am to raise objections on grounds of general policy to the two outstanding matters, i.e.:-

- a. special retention allowance for farm workers of 25 Kg. of wheat per hectare to be cultivated.
- b. special retention allowance of oats, barley etc. for farm animals.

M. Carr
Brigadier
Regional Commissioner

P.S. Your Cable 3351 of 15/9 since received and action being taken accordingly pending further instructions.

Be with
filed
as per
23/9

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
SICILY REGION HEADQUARTERS
APO 394

FILE:RC/433

13 Sept 1944

16 SEP Reed

SUBJECT: Granai del Popolo

TO : H.Q. A.C.C. ROME
R.C. & M.C. Section

COPIES : Agricultural Sub-Commission } *with out enclosure.*
Food Sub-Commission

1. With further reference to my RC/433 of 7 SEP 44, I have explicit instructions from your Headquarters not to approve of or give any support to any proposal which affects general policy unless the necessary approval has been given by your Headquarters.

After my return from the recent Regional Commissioners' Conference and at my first conference with the High Commissioner for Sicily on 2 SEP, the High Commissioner raised with me three matters which, in my opinion, very much affect general policy.

As reported in my letter under reference, these matters were:-

- (a) Payment of L.100 per quintal to farmers as a contribution towards transport cost of wheat. This, in effect, raises the price to be paid for wheat from L.1000 to L.1100 per quintal.
- (b) A special retention allowance of 25 KG of wheat per hectare, for farm workers.
- (c) A special retention of barley, oats etc. for farm animals.

2. I informed the High Commissioner that so far as I was aware all these proposals were contrary to existing policy, though I had myself raised those referred to under (b) and (c) above with Headquarters A.C.C., and that I could not approve of any action being taken in these matters.

As I understood at the time, however, that the High Commissioner had issued instructions to Prefects regarding the L. 100 payment for transportation charges, I informed him that the matter could stand and that I would report it immediately to Headquarters A.C.C.

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As I understood at the time, however, that the High Commissioner had issued instructions to Prefects regarding the L. 100 payment for transportation charges, I informed him that the matter could stand and that I would report it immediately to Headquarters A.C.C.

The information regarding the payment for transport charges appeared in the press the following day, but no mention was made of the other two proposals except to state in general terms that other proposals were under consideration but that they had not been approved by the Allied authorities.

3. Today I received a copy of the enclosed document from the High Commissioner's office. It will be observed that all the Prefects and authorities concerned have been informed that they can put the proposals referred to above into effect. It should be noted that they are given as having been approved by the Council of Ministers.

4. I shall be glad to be informed as to what is my position in these matters and as to what action I should take in future cases of this nature.

It seems to me to be a waste of my time and contrary to accepted procedure if, when policy matters of this nature are raised, the High Commissioner ignores my advice to suspend action until, in accordance with instructions issued by you, I have consulted your Headquarters.

M Carr Brigadier

M. CARR
Brigadier
Regional Commissioner

785017

CONFIDENTIAL

ACC REGION I

ACC HQ

3351

15 SEP 44

CONFIDENTIAL

PRIORITY

Civil Affairs Branch

SUBJECT IS GRANAI DEL POPOLO REFERENCE YOUR LETTER SEVEN SEPTEMBER NUMBER
FOUR THREE THREE PARAGRAPH TWO BAKER TWO CHARLIN TWO DOG PD PAID TO ACC REGION
ONE FROM ACC HQ PAID PD THIS HEADQUARTERS WAS NOT REPEAT NOT ADVISED BY
ITALIAN GOVERNMENT OF ANY TRANSPORTATION SUBSIDY CMA RETENTION OF TWENTY FIVE
KILOS PER CASUAL WORKER NOR BARLEY FOR FORAGE PD EXPLANATION HAS BEEN REQUESTED
FROM ITALIAN GOVERNMENT AND THIS IS NOW AWAITED PD MEANTIME NO BONUS SCHEME
APPROVED BY THIS HQ

EC informed

BU 28/9 8/16/9

Robert
L. T. Montant Jr.

L. T. MONTANT JR
1st Lt, AGD
ADJUTANT

911

Brig Lusk —

Re attached —

1. ~~One~~ ^{No} one in all was in on

this.

2. Attached is copy of letter
to Station Govt. Don't think
they know of it

3. Govt has promised a reply
to-morrow 14 Sept

Deane

13 Sept.

Reg. Co. Deane for particulars, but
no reply - to interim answer given to
Reg I — 75

80 1579 910

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
ECONOMIC SECTION
APO 394

7-10-73
CWA/asm

11 September 1944

ES/108

SUBJECT: Cancellation Minister of Agriculture Telegram

TO : Acting Chief Commissioner

1. Reference your A/CC dated 9 Sep 44 and to the enclosures referred to therein.

2. On receipt of the telegram of 5 Sep from the Southern Region a letter, copy attached, was forwarded to the Minister of Agriculture on the 6 Sep. No reply has been received and the Minister is being reminded of this today.

A. G. ANTOLINI
Executive Director
Economic Section

3 Incls:

- 1 - Telegram, SR/163 dtd 5 Sep 44
- 1 - Captain Stone's Notes
- 1 - Ltr, AGR/50.4 dtd 6 Sep 44

785017

WAE/1a

72

COPY

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~
Agriculture Sub-Commission
APO 394

Tel: 262

AGR/50.4

6 September 1944.

SUBJECT: Relaxation of time and penalties regarding
Wheat Collection Program.

TO : His Excellency the Minister of Agriculture

1. Quoted below is telegram just received from Southern Region, regarding above mentioned subject.

"DIRECTIVE FROM MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE WILL PRESENT ESSENTIAL NEXT STEP IN AMASSING NAMELY LEGAL PROSECUTIONS AND HEAVY SENTENCES WHICH MAY HAVE SERIOUS EFFECT NOT ONLY ON WHEAT BUT ALSO ON FORTHCOMING OLIVE OIL AMASSING. STRONGLY RECOMMEND IMMEDIATE CANCELLATION MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE'S TELEGRAM 179177 DATED 30 AUGUST."

2. The Agricultural Officer in Region I, Sicily, informed this Sub-Commission this morning that the Sicilian Chief High Commissioner published in today's paper, on authority granted him in Conference with you and other High Italian Officials in Rome recently, the following:-

- a) Authority to grant a transportation subsidy to farmers of 100 lire per quintal of wheat.
- b) Authority for farmers to retain 25 kilos of wheat per casual worker.
- c) Authority for farmers to retain an unknown amount of barley for edible purposes, in addition to legal wheat retentions.

3. Since neither this Sub-Commission, nor the Executive Officer or Vice President of the Economic Section had in advance notice of the above referred to action by the Ministry, we are unable to transmit to Allied Officers in the field, any reasonable justification for action taken. The above referred to action, if taken on approval of the Italian Government, places A.C.C. in an embarrassing position, because such action is directly contrary to agreed upon procedures. Furthermore, it is more than probable, in our opinion, that such action will make it necessary to revise plans for importation of food from Allied countries.

4. It is hereby requested that detailed explanation be prepared and submitted to A.C.C. at the earliest possible date.

By Order of Captain STONE (USNR)

DISTRIBUTION:

Economic Section, Food Sub-Commission,
Southern Region

/s/ W. A. Hartman
/t/ W. A. HARTMAN
Lt. Colonel,
Director

305 ✓

Economic Section.

Ref page 69 and 68.

2 b would appear to be a form of bonus. May I know whether (a) Italian Government has approved (b) C.C. has approved.

2 c and d. The same query applies.

May I have your reply today.

M.S.Lush
11.9.44

71

Economic Section

Ref Page 69808

2 b would appear to be a form of bonus. May I know whether (a) Ital. Govt has approved (b) C.C. has approved.

2 c & d. The same query applies

May I hear your reply Today

W/11/9/44

70
900

203-~~88~~ A. B. CONFIDENTIAL 69
 ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
 SICILY REGION HEADQUARTERS
 APO 394

FILE:RC/433

7 Sept 1944

SUBJECT: Granai del Popolo

10 SEP Reed

TO : H.Q. A.C.C.
 R.C. & M.G. Section
 ROME

HEADQUARTERS
 10 SEP 1944
 A.C.C.

1. By the time I had returned to Region I Headquarters after the recent conferences at your Headquarters, the High Commissioner for SICILY was away in ROME where, I understand, he attended a meeting of the Council of Ministers. The High Commissioner returned to SICILY on 1st September and I had a long conference with him on 2nd September on matters relating mainly to the Granai del Popolo.

2. The High Commissioner stated that the following matters had been agreed with or had been proposed by his Government with a view to speeding up the collection of grain in SICILY and ensuring, as far as possible, the success of the Granai del Popolo:-

(a) Definite steps were to be taken to get all denunzie produzioni completed and checked by Sept 15. In cases where local committees were not functioning properly they were to be ignored. If UPSEA officials were not capable of carrying out their duties they were to be replaced. In the meantime, amassing was to continue at maximum.

I agreed in principle with the steps proposed. I had discussed the matter the previous day with my agricultural officer and had formed the opinion that action on these lines was necessary. *me 78*

(b) The High Commissioner stated that his Government had given verbal authority for a payment of lire 100 per quintal to be made to farmers as a contribution towards transport cost of wheat between the threshing floor and the warehouse in all cases.

I stated that this was a matter of high policy, that any such decision might have far-reaching repercussions and that I had received no instructions from higher authority in the matter. The High Commissioner explained that SICILY had problems peculiar to itself in this matter, but it seemed to

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The High Commissioner had already given instructions in the matter to the Prefects and other Italian authorities concerned for the scheme to be put into effect. As this decision runs contrary to the amassing decrees and is one of general policy, you will probably wish to take this matter up with the Italian government and it will be appreciated if this Headquarters could be given further information as to the position. Your Headquarters (Agricultural Sub-Commission) were notified as early as possible by telephone of the situation.

(c) The High Commissioner stated that it was proposed to approve a special retention allowance of 25 Kgs. of wheat per hectare (which was to be put under cultivation) for "lavoratori braccianti". I informed the High Commissioner that as this affected the existing authorized ration scales, I could *sup*

not give any support to this proposal.

I raised this matter when I was Regional Commissioner of Region 6, when I suggested that this category of workers might be deserving of a ration scale above that of the normal consumer. I also understood, when at your Headquarters recently, that this matter was under consideration and I should be glad to be informed as early as possible how this matter stands.

(d) The High Commissioner stated that he had received verbal authority from his Government for arrangements to be made for farmers to retain a certain amount of barley etc. as forage for farm animals.

I informed the High Commissioner that I could not agree to any action being taken in this matter as I had received no instruction from higher authority in regard to it. I raised this question with the Food Sub-Commission during my recent visit to your Headquarters and I should be glad to know whether any decision has yet been taken.

3. The High Commissioner seemed to be in a pessimistic mood about the success of the Granai del Popolo campaign. I indicated to him that there were at times disadvantages in making concessions and giving way to popular clamour. I impressed upon him the necessity of making full use of the resources at his disposal and of getting the existing administration to function as efficiently as possible.

M. Carr / Brigadier

M. CARR
Brigadier
Regional Commissioner

Copies TO: Agricultural Sub-Commission
Food Sub-Commission

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M. CARR
Brigadier
Regional Commissioner

Copies TO: Agricultural Sub-Commission
Food Sub-Commission

504

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
SICILY REGION HEADQUARTERS
APC 394

24 AUG Recd

22nd August 1944.

FILE: RC 433.

SUBJECT: Sicilian Grain Campaign.

TO : Executive Commissioner,
R.G. & M.G. Section,
H.Q. A.C.C.

Reference cable 1982 dated 19th August 1944,
attached are five copies of enclosures forwarded with
our RC/433 dated 4th August 1944.

W. Bentley
W. BENTLEY
Brigadier,
Regional Commissioner.

RE:

Incls:

Spanco Lidd. Capt. De Burt

HEADQUARTERS
24 AUG 1944

*M2 Warr
Send to SC
Capt Burch
who will wire. L*

sent Aug 26

90

785017

RESTRICTED

1982

66

ACC REGION ONE

ACC HQ

1982

19 August 44

RESTRICTED

ROUTINE

Civil Affairs Branch

64

GRATEFUL YOU FORWARDED THIS HQ FIVE COPIES OF THE ENCLOSURES IN YOUR ROGER
CHARLIE SLANT FOUR THREE THREE OF FOUR AUGUST PD PAID TO ACC REGION ONE
SICILIAN
FROM ACC HQ PAFEN SUBJECT/GRAIN CAMPAIGN

RESTRICTED

L. B. MONTANT
1st. Lt. AGC
ADJUTANT.

88
218

5/11
20/8
St.
Noted

785017

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
R.C. & M.C. SECTION
APO 394

65

12th August 1944

TO : Executive Commissioner

Grain Campaign - Region I

1. Col. Hancock has sent in a copy of his instructions to his officers and also of the Carabinieri instructions.

2. These instructions are very comprehensive and provided the local Italian officials and the Carabinieri do their part, I think they are the best that could be done.

3. Economic Section, Public Safety, Agriculture and Food Sub-Commissions have copies. I think the Chief Commissioner might like to see it.

G. W. I. Shipp

G. W. I. SHIPP
Lt. Colonel

785017

203 Civil Affairs
ARMED CONTROL COMMISSION
SICILY REGION HEADQUARTERS
APO 394

FILE:RC/483

4 AUG 1944

SUBJECT: SICILIAN GRAIN CAMPAIGN.

11 AUG Recd

TO : Executive Commissioner (S)
R.C. & M.C. Section
H.Q. A.C.C. ROME

COPIES : Public Safety Sub-Commission
Economic Section (1)
FOR: AGRICULTURE Sub-Commission (1)
FOOD Sub-Commission (1)
PUBLIC RELATIONS (1)

1. I am forwarding herewith a summary of the duties and powers of the Italian Police forces in connection with the SICILIAN GRAIN CAMPAIGN.

2. The attached instructions of Generale BRANCA, Command VI Brigade CC.RR. are considered noteworthy.

3. A copy of my instructions to officers assigned to the campaign are also attached.

1/2 page Copy of report
A. N. Hancock
A.N. HANCOCK
Colonel
Regional Commissioner

CC Shipp to Sec

EXCISE

11/8/44

See 66

900 -

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
SICILY REGION HEADQUARTERS
APO 394

1st August, 1944.

SUBJECT: Police Duties and Powers in the Grain Campaign.

TO : All Officers, Region I.

The following is a summary of the duties and powers of the Italian Police Forces in connection with the Grain Campaign.

1. POLICE FORCES include:

(a) CARABINIERI REALI - Controlled through the following chain of Command:

(i) VI BRIGADE : Commander - General A. BRANCA
at PALERMO

(ii) PALERMO Legion - Commander - Col. CALABRO
MESSINA Legion - Commander - Col. ANDREOLI

(iii) GROUPS - In each Province, commanded generally by a Major with H.Q. at Carabinieri barracks in the Provincial Capital.

(iv) Each Commune has a local CC, RR, Command. According to its importance the commune may have a Captain or Lieutenant and up to 100 Carabinieri, or only 4 to 16 or 20 or 30 under a Brigadiere or Maresciallo.

(b) GUARDIE DI FINANZA - Under two Commands:

(i) PALERMO Legion - Commander Col. BIONDI
(ii) MESSINA Legion - Commander F. Col. MAGLIO (Temp)

GG.FF. are installed in all so-called "industrially" flour-mills with the duty of checking in-coming grain and out-going flour.

(c) AGENTS OF PUBLIC SAFETY - In each province are under the control of the Carabinieri. The Carabinieri are subject

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GG.FF. are installed in all so-called "industrial" flour-mills with the duty of checking in-coming grain and out-going flour.

(c) AGENTS of PUBLIC SAFETY - In each province are under the control of the Questore at the Questura. The Questori are subject to direction of High Commissioner thru the Regional Director of Public Safety - Dott. MODICA.

(d) RAILROAD POLICE - These are posted at the principal railway stations and are under direction of Dott. CASTELLANI at PALERMO.

1.

- 2 -

2. ITALIAN ARMY IN SICILY. - Detachments of the Italian military forces are being placed at the disposal of the CC.RR., in certain communes, to strengthen their numbers and for use in grain duties of checking and searching, and in road-blocks.
3. MAIN AGENCY. - The CC.RR. will be the principal police agency concerned with the collection of grain, and on which the other forces, as above, will mainly depend.
4. POLICE CONTROL. - The Police Forces are at the disposition of each Prefect, but must not be employed in a manner which conflicts with the orders of their respective higher commands.
5. POLICE POWERS:
 - (a) In addition to normal powers under Italian law and the Ministerial decrees, special powers have been conferred in connection with the grain programme.
 - (b) The police have been instructed to give special attention to the supervision of farms, warehouses, granaries and mills and to employ every possible measure to restrict and prevent the illegal transport of grain. The supervision of bakeries and the possession of unauthorised ration cards are also matters which are receiving police attention.
 - (c) The police have authority to inspect and investigate all administrative measures which are being employed in the grain collection plan and to report any irregularities or deficiencies to the proper authorities.
 - (d) The CC.RR. have authority to requisition transport

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- (c) The police have authority to inspect and investigate all administrative measures which are being employed in the grain collection plan and to report any irregularities or deficiencies to the proper authorities.
- (d) The CC.RR. have authority to requisition transport of any kind that they require for the performance of their duties in connection with grain collection.
- (e) The local CC.RR. commander is a member of the communal and provincial committee and is responsible for reporting any procrastination or inefficiency on their part.
- (f) The police have been ordered to report any circumstances in which officials or organizations fail to perform their duties or in any way impede the programme.

- 3 -

- (c) Such reports respecting officials and organizations will be made locally to the Prefect as well as direct to the High Commissioner through the chain of command of the reporting service.

All A.C.C. Officers functioning in the field, will report irregularities which come to their notice locally to communal and provincial authorities, and in addition forward copies of all such reports to the Regional Commissioner with any recommendations for his information and action.

Copies of the recent orders issued by General Brance, Commandante VI Brigade CC.RR., are attached hereto for information.

For the Regional Commissioner.

Russell A. Snook
Russell A. Snook,
Lieut. Colonel,
Regional Public Safety Officer.

Copy to : Public Safety Sub Commission, ACC. HQ.

In addition to the information furnished to the Commission with any recommendations for his information and action,

Copies of the recent orders issued by General Buene, Commandante VI Brigade CC.RR., are attached hereto for information.

For the Regional Commissioner.


Russell A. Snock,
Lieut. Colonel,
Regional Public Safety Officer.

Copy to : Public Safety Sub Commission, ACC. HQ.

+++

82

CONFIDENTIAL

COMMAND OF THE 6th BRIGADE CARABINIERI REALI

Palermo - 30th June, 1944

Information - Allied Control Commission, Civil Police Section.

+++

1. The Allied Authorities, the High Commissioner and Prefects are complaining, on good grounds, against the insufficient action on the part of the CC.PP. in connection with the delivery of grain to the public storehouses.
2. I have personally questioned patrolling Carabinieri and have noticed that although they were ordered on a vigilance service of the transportation of grain, they ignored the conditions governing such transportation, and the action to be taken by the Carabinieri in the country and villages concerning grain with-held from the Amasso.
3. I have personally noticed that the action of the Commanders of the Stations is not energetic, and is affected by the hostility that local authorities and agriculturals feel for the delivery of their grain.
4. Since Italy has been supplied with grain until 4th July, and that after that date the Island shall supply its own people with its own grain, it is obvious that should not the grain be taken into the Amasso it will not be possible to feed the population, therefore serious disorders and disturbances of public order would be unavoidable in which Carabinieri will be involved with serious consequences.
5. THEREFORE, ACCORDING TO WHAT I HAVE ALREADY ORDERED, OFFICERS, NCOs AND CARABINIERI SHALL CONSIDER THEMSELVES MOBILIZED UNTIL FURTHER ORDER FOR THE EXECUTION OF PERTINENT SERVICES, WHICH SHALL HAVE PRIORITY OVER ALL THE OTHER SERVICES AND SHALL BE EXECUTED EVEN BY THE OFFICERS WITHOUT ALLOWING THEMSELVES BUT THE SHORTEST REST.
6. Municipal Commissions shall function, agriculturals shall be induced to deliver their grain, injunctions to be followed by searches and arrests; threshing floors to be watched.
7. Employ informers, send them into the countries in order to discover hiding places chosen by the farmers for their

ce service of the transportation of grain, they ignored the conditions governing such transportation, and the action to be taken by the Carabinieri in the country and villages concerning grain withheld from the Amasso.

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5. THEREFORE, ACCORDING TO WHAT I HAVE ALREADY ORDERED, OFFICERS, NOOS AND CARABINIERI SHALL CONSIDER THEMSELVES MOBILIZED UNTIL FURTHER ORDER FOR THE EXECUTION OF PERTINENT SERVICES, WHICH SHALL HAVE PRIORITY OVER ALL THE OTHER SERVICES AND SHALL BE EXECUTED EVEN BY THE OFFICERS WITHOUT ALLOWING THEMSELVES BUT THE SHORTEST REST.

6. Municipal Commissions shall function, agriculturalists shall be induced to deliver their grain, injunctions to be followed by searches and arrests; threshing floors to be watched.

7. Employ informers, send them into the countries in order to discover hiding places chosen by the farmers for their products.

8. Patrolling service, concealments, places of mobile road blocks (not fixed because farmers knowing that one street has been blocked chose another, and if necessary cross fields or hide their products for transportation at better opportunity) shall be executed by continuance, and I repeat, without granting rest to themselves, because the matter has an essential importance, and should the matter of the amassos fail, we shall, within a short time drift into serious difficulties.

9. The Commander of the Caltanissetta Group shall transfer himself to the coast zone, where the harvest has already taken place, and he shall direct the services. The Commanders of the Groups of Agrigento and Catania shall do the same.

- 2 -

10. The Commander of other Groups shall bear in mind also that they are held personally responsible for the Good functioning of the services, that they personally shall preside and direct without limiting themselves to fleeting and occasional inspections.
11. All the Commanders of Groups are authorized to execute temporary movements of personnel from the zones where the harvest has not yet been started to those where it is taking place, so that it will be possible to concentrate the best effort in the harvest zones.
12. When there is suspicion of stealing, arrests shall be made, and the production confiscated from the same threshing floor.
13. The Commanders of the Groups are authorized to request the cooperation of Army Units (who, through the Command of the 12th Army Corps, shall be dispersed in all the chief places of the Province), of the R. Finance Guards, and of all other police forces, including the groups attached to Regional P.S. sectors.
14. Specially, the Commanders of the Groups of Catania, Agrigento and Caltanissetta (in the territory where a general evasion has already been noticed, assisted by the absence of CC.RR. and by the tacit complicity of local authorities), shall move themselves into action, taking the initiative and placing themselves in a position so as to be able to face any situation, and to modify it according to the interests of the masses.
15. It must be borne in mind that the Provinces of Messina and Palermo shall supply themselves in the next few days, the former from the Province of Catania, and the latter from the Provinces of Agrigento, Enna and Caltanissetta.
16. Point out to me at once those Mayors and local authorities who are not giving to the Carabinieri all their indispensable cooperation required in the matter, point out to me eventual inconveniences, propose transfers of Officers, NCOs, and Carabinieri who are not active and zealous: make proposals for the happy attainment of our purposes, but first of all act taking the initiative to provide for the grain to pour into the stores for the supply needed for feeding of the population.

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17. The Commanders of the Legions shall readily assent to the requests for reinforcement of and the removal of personnel.
18. I deem now that all my dependents and the Commanders of Groups, particularly, must have understood the very serious responsibility incumbent upon them, and that I am steadily decided to adopt any measure should not the grain gathered in from the lands of the Island go towards the purpose marked by the Allied Authorities and the National Government.
19. Orders and Directions will be issued on the matter with a special ordinance.

(Signed) General A. BRANCA.

COMMAND OF VI BRIGADE CARABINIERI REALI

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FILE : 438/50. Palermo July 22, 1944.

SUBJECT: Granai del Popolo.

TO : All the dependent CC.RR. Groups
and for information

Allied Control Commission - Civil Police Section,
PALERMO.

High Commissioner for Sicily,
PALERMO.

Command of Legion CC.RR.,
PALERMO & MESSINA.

At a recent meeting held at Palermo, being present Colonel Hancock, Regional Control Commissioner, Col. Young and other Allied Officers, also the High Commissioner and other personalities concerned in the coordination of duties respecting "Granai del Popolo", it was decided to give to the Commanders of the CC.RR. Stations the following charges :-

1. Checking transportation authorizations issued by U.P.S.E.A. Offices for the transport of grain. Eventual abuses, apart from being communicated in the usual returns, must be reported direct by the Stations to this Brigade which in turn will inform the competent authorities for what action deemed necessary against the Directors of such Offices. Information has been received that there are in circulation authorizations in which the indication of time to transport the grain is made in pencil and not in ink and the quantities of grain to be transported is marked incorrectly. Orders must be given to CC.RR. personnel to immediately seize such quantities in cases where the above irregularities have been ascertained. Moreover in order to avoid one authorization being used for other transportations the CC.RR. must sign, putting date and hour in full in ink or copying pencil on the bills already checked, in such a way that these cannot be used again.

2. Checking the regularity of the distribution of ration

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Moreover in order to avoid one authorization being used for other transportations the CC.RR. must sign, putting date and hour in full in ink or copying pencil on the bills already checked, in such a way that these cannot be used again.
2. Checking the regularity of the distribution of ration cards because information shows that ration cards are being used which were issued to people now dead or removed, etc.
The Commanders of CC.RR. Stations are authorized to go to the Vital Statistics Office in the Comune or to the Ration Card Office to obtain all necessary information to control the issue.
3. Checking the functioning of the Communal Committees :
The Commanders of CC.RR. Stations have the power -
(a) To order the local responsible authorities to constitute Communal Committees wherever this has not been done.

(1).

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(b) To order meetings of such communal committees if they are not held often enough to deal with the number of declarations already forwarded to the competent offices. Consequently the Commanders are authorized:

(c) To examine all declarations forwarded by the producers and take notice of those decisions arrived at by the Communal Committees which they think irregular concerning:

- (i) Issuing of Milling Cards,
- (ii) Grain detained for the use of families or managements,
- (iii) Quantities of cereals to be amassed by every producer.

The Station Commanders must inform the Commanders of Group or this Brigade:

(a) Direct by telegram - if Communal Committees have not been appointed or if meetings are not being held,

(b) by letter - all irregularities as above stated.

4. Officers must continuously check the action taken by the dependent MCOs, and to this end until further order, at least twice monthly they must visit the Communes of their jurisdiction to ascertain whether the Station Commanders are fully aware of their duties, noting unfavorable results in the collection of grain forwarding this information together with their recommendations.

5. The Commanders of Groups, who in their turn are responsible for the happy results of the drive in the respective provinces, must be in a position to know:

(a) The activity of each officer and Station Commander,

(b) The results progressively attained, in such a way as to eliminate those who are proved unfit and report both to Prefects and to this Brigade all deficiencies which must be readily obviated.

In conclusion the CC.R. Officers and Station Commanders have been entrusted with the protection of the interests of the Nation and of the Italian people in connection

(iii) Quantities of cereals to be assessed by every producer.

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In conclusion the CC.RR. Officers and Station Commanders have been entrusted with the protection of the interests of the Nation and of the Italian people in connection with the collection of grain.

I am fully confident in the action of directing, coordinating and controlling taken by the Commanders of Groups.

This directive must be sent by express messenger to all CC.RR. Stations.

THE GENERAL COMMANDING

- Amadeo Branco -

(2).

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
SICILY REGION HEADQUARTERS
APO 394

12 July 1944

Instructions to officers detailed for intensification and
maximization of wheat collection

1. Contact in Communes

- a. At the Municipio: Mayor and Communal Secretary (Mayor is honorary, C.S. is a Civil Servant)
- b. At CC.PP. Station: Station Commander Carabinieri who is a Member of the Communal Agricultural Committee.

c. UPSEA officer may have separate office or be accommodated at the Municipio.

d. Consorzio Agrario representative in charge of granary.

2. UPSEA officer should be requested to

a. Give details of number of farms under his jurisdiction and of the estimated total crop of wheat and barley.

b. Check number of declarations made to date and initiate action through CC.PP. against farmers who have failed to comply with the regulations.
Final notice to be served that legal action will be taken if declaration not completed within 3 days.
Ascertain from UPSEA officer whether all necessary forms are now available for dealing with deliveries of wheat and barley to Consorzio Agrario warehouses.

3. Ascertain from Mayor

- a. How often Communal Agriculture Committee has met to date and how many declarations have been dealt with. When nothing has been done see that a meeting is called making CC.PP. responsible that all members attend.
Insist that meetings continue to be convened at least by-weekly during harvesting and that all declarations are checked so that total quota of wheat and barley to be turned into the granaries can be definitely assessed.
- b. It will be necessary to check declarations against previous declarations to ensure no omissions.

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Insist that meetings continue to be convened at least by-weekly during harvesting and that all declarations are checked so that total quota of wheat and barley to be turned into the granaries can be definitely assessed.
 - b. It will be necessary to check declarations against previous year's figures and for committees to examine deficiencies.
 - c. Committees will have to name dates between which farmers will turn in their quotas.
4. Drouses may be made that declarations have been forwarded to the Provincial Agricultural Committees direct. Even if this is the case, which is open to doubt, it does not exempt the farmer from making a declaration to the Communal Agricultural Committee.
5. Local UPSEA officials are failing in their duty if their records are not complete. They should submit progress reports to their Provincial Offices at frequent intervals with copies to Provincial Agriculture Inspector.

6. Transport check

a. Find out what facilities CC.RR. have of operating road blocks and checking transport of wheat and barley.

b. Submit recommendations when found to be insufficient.

7. Local committees must shoulder their responsibilities and be prepared to request force and the application of the law in all instances of apparent evasion.

A.C.C. officers will initiate any action they consider necessary to achieve this end.

8. The wheat target for Sicily is 3,500,000 quintals to feed the population for a year at the rate of 300 grs per head per day (200 grs bread daily, plus 550 grs. pasta weekly). This commitment requires almost 900 tons (9,000 quintals) of wheat daily. During the harvesting season, which normally ends about 15 Sept, deliveries to the warehouses should total at least 4,000 tons (40,000 quintals) daily.
Find out what should be total quota due in each commune you visit. This is the target figure.

9. Look out for the middleman speculator and bring him to justice without CC. action.

10. Ration Cards

a. It is estimated that in round figures, 3,000,000 non-producer ration cards are issued in Sicily. The issuing authority in each province is the Sezione Provinciale dell'Alimentazione ("SEPRAL") of which the Prefect is the Chairman.

b. Although instructions have been issued by the High Commissioner to Prefects to check the ration card holders in the communes, it is not certain that such a check has in fact been effectively and efficiently carried out.

c. Officers will therefore inspect communal ration card offices and obtain from the Mayor a written declaration of the official number of ration card holders. Each commune has an Ufficio Anagrafe or Registry office which, if up to date, should have an exact figure of local residents. This figure should balance with the number of ration card holders as registered by the communal ration card office plus producer milling cards outstanding.

Can't remember

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Carroll H. Hancock

A.N. HANCOCK
Colonel
Regional Commissioner

HEADQUARTERS
MILITARY CONTROL COMMISSION

2nd August 1944

Subject: Grain collection in Sicily.

L 7 AUG Recd

Some points of interest following recent visit.

Col Shipp

to Sec

7/8/44

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1. The Officials.

(a) Sicilian officials are in many cases energetically doing their best to secure the maximum grain collection. The majority however are not sufficiently interested or aware of their responsibilities. They seem reluctant to display firmness towards Sicilians and appear to regard popularity of greater importance than duty.

(b) The communal agricultural Committees have generally been most disappointing in the work done and in their appreciation of the importance of their function. Procrastination and indecision are both common.

2. The ration.

Much misunderstanding still exists not only in the minds of the public but also in the minds of the officials regarding the stability of the bread and/or pasta ration.

Early in July the ration was temporarily raised to 300 grs. only to be reduced to 200 after a few days. Catania province has been promised a pasta supplement but this has not yet been issued. The local situation in Sicily does not at present justify a supplementary pasta ration although in other regions this is being given. I am of the opinion that if it be possible, a great advantage would be obtained in assuring the public of a minimum ration for a season in advance and making such standard throughout the whole of liberated Italy.

3. The Grain.

To feed Sicily for a year upon the 300 grs. ration, approximately 3,100,000 quintali are needed. Those who are qualified to judge are of the opinion that an amount of grain approximate to this has been grown in the island this year. Up to the 27th July only 196,275 quintali or 6.3% has been collected. Of this total more than half had been received in the preceding eight days. There is no doubt that the curve of the rate of collection is rising steadily but not until the end of July did it exceed that of consumption.

7 Aug
310,000
or 10%

10/8/44

- 2 -

I believe that many Sicilians still are of the opinion that the Allied grain shipments are inexhaustible and will continue indefinitely.

There is a good deal to justify criticism of the price level of 1000 lire per quintal but in my view a higher price would have only ameliorated and not by itself have solved the difficulty of grain collection.

Many farmers still hope for a better price and are holding back either for this or for the opportunity to sell a substantial proportion on the black market. I have been assured that all producers feel morally entitled to sell grain on the black market provided they surrender the substantial part of their crop in the proper way.

It is yet too early to predict results, but by the end of this month I believe it will be much easier to forecast the eventual position.

4. Law enforcement.

To collect the grain entirely by force of law is, of course not possible, the proportion of force to be applied is therefore a matter of great importance. The policy prevailing is one of regarding the situation as having two phases. The first is which the producers must be persuaded by all means possible to surrender their crops and the second to enforce the law against offenders but this to be applied only after persuasion has failed.

At the present time the law enforcement agencies are concentrated upon two principles. One, to scrutinize the workings of the administrative machinery, i.e., the Agricultural Committee, the ~~ASMA~~ and to report any shortcomings to authorities who can see that the job is properly done and the other to prevent grain being transported or transferred to unlawful destinations.

At all times special attention will be paid to the middle-man speculator who will be brought to justice as speedily as possible.

I am more than satisfied with these arrangements and in particular cannot praise the work of the Carabinieri too highly. They are being assisted in their work by detachments of Italian military forces placed at their disposal by the Italian Military commander who has proved extremely co-operative and helpful.

Transport is still a cogent difficulty of law enforcement units but recently the situation has been slightly improved by giving the Carabinieri authority to requisition motor transport.

Courts are dealing with offenders expeditiously and firmly but at present the majority of culprits have not been charged with particularly serious breaches of the law.

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5. General.

I am entirely satisfied with the measures which have already been taken and that the officials have been properly impressed with the priority and importance of their task.

During the month of June however, three events have taken place, all of which have tended to embarrass the success of grain collection.

(a) The ration having been increased to 300 grs. was reduced to 200 after only a few days, creating an impression of uncertainty and instability.

(b) The newspaper in Catania announced that the Italian Police forces were being re-organized and that after the end of August those now serving may not be required for further service. This was related as an official statement from the Minister of the Interior and therefore did much to prejudice the morale of law enforcement agencies.

(c) The replacement of the High Commissioner, Mussotto, which by some is interpreted as dissatisfaction with his handling of the grain situation and by others as a mistake of "changing horses in midstream".

In general, I observed no causes for anxiety either with regard to public order or to unified resistance to grain collection. Such faults as were apparent were in my view indicative of the low standard of Sicilian administration only, and not of any particular desire to sabotage the grain collection scheme. The efficiency of Sicily local government and of Sicilian officials is a limited factor. The sense of public spirit and of disinterestedness is not high. Until these fundamental components are themselves improved, I do not believe there is much more that can be done. The means are limited but undoubtedly they are fully employed.

Al Young

A. E. YOUNG.
COLONEL.

2 AUG 44

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Vice of the Executive
Commissioner.

HQ 400 394
202 Sec'y Gen.
Rec'd 24 July 1970
M.A.

24th July 1970
By _____

- ① Acting Chief Commissioner. *Em*
② Vice President, Economic Sec.

13 Recd

I attach an interesting report from
Colonel Young, Deputy Director of the Public
Safety Sub-Commission, who as you know was sent
to Sicily to assist Colonel Hancock in the collection
of grain. I will see that the four Public Safety
officers are preserved.

→ *MAL*

1/A

A good letter, but I should
not like to see Col. Young
leave until we know where
we stand.

Em

Received 1/8/49
Em 1/8/44

26 Jul
17

21

D. W. Latta

0 Allied Control Commission
Region 1 Headquarters.

19 July 44

Dear Brigadier Latta,

I am now able to give you a general impression of what I have found in Sicily regarding the law enforcement aspect of the collection of grain.

In the first place, all are agreed that our price of 1000 lire per quintal is low. The suggestions for an adequate level vary between 1350 and 2000 lire. Nevertheless the senior Sicilian officials who are responsible for the collection of grain are displaying a good sense of duty about their work and are generally trying hard to accomplish their task.

In particular the Carabinieri have been splendid. They are commanded by General Brance, who is first class, and are devoting most of their energies to getting in the grain. At the present time they have worked hard upon a very large number of cases, most of which have in themselves been somewhat insignificant, but nevertheless in total, the effect has been quite considerable.

The minor officials who are responsible for general administration, seem to me to be, with a few exceptions, rather weak and perhaps not unnaturally oversympathetic with the producers. There is a lack of control in the communes by the committees and by the UPSEA officials upon whom so much depends. It is most difficult to impress upon these people the urgency of their work and the necessity for efficiency and firmness. In almost every instance, this communal work has been disappointing.

Referring to the Sicilian Officials in general, I think it is fair comment to say that they are viewing the progressively decreasing Allied representation in this island as an indication that soon perhaps it will be gone altogether and that then, as they realise, they will be dependent for their position and authority upon Sicilian people and upon Sicilian politics. It is probably for this reason that they are at present reluctant to display any firmness that they consider would be likely to impair their future popularity.

- 2 -

On paper and in principle, they appear to be doing their job but I am by no means satisfied that they are all really putting their backs into it as they could. This aspect is being dealt with.

The Public Safety measures which have already been taken are wholly satisfactory and I believe we have at our disposal all the authority necessary. Transport is still one of the greatest problems but it has now been arranged for the Carabinieri to be given the power of requisition which the Prefects have been so reluctant to exercise.

The policy of law enforcement which is being followed should ensure an attitude of firm persuasion for approximately another month after which time, when the work of the committees has been completed, it will be possible to employ much stronger and more energetic measures against those who do not comply with the law. We are purposely avoiding filling the courts with hundreds of trivial offenders which would merely encourage resentment besides increasing our difficulties, including those of prison accommodation, without really producing the grain. We are instead, concentrating upon the more serious offender first, both at the present time and again later if such stronger measures prove necessary.

I have already visited several Provinces in the south of the island and find that the picture varies from place to place according to local conditions as well as to the views and personality of either the Allied or Sicilian official. The harvest is going well, but it is much too early to forecast what results we are going to achieve. Opinions of Allied officers differ on this point but my own is that there is at present no reason for despondency and that if we pursue the whole programme as vigorously as we can, the chances are that we shall have a satisfactory result. First class work is being done by Lt. Col. Walker who is putting on the pressure just where it is needed by his trips to the grain producing communes.

Even if things go badly at first, there are still several additional measures which could be considered, such as for instance, total requisitioning of all grain from the producers and the issue to them of ration cards in lieu of grain retention. This, from the law enforcement aspect, would considerably simplify collection, since the possession of any grain would constitute an offence and no argument as to the amount which could be properly retained would be necessary.

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- 3 -

This would also relieve the Communal Committees of most of their responsibility, since no quotas would have to be fixed by them since All grain would have to be surrendered.

I realise however that this is rather late in the day to talk of new schemes and that we must do all we can to make the existing one succeed.

Co-operation is good all round. I have seen the heads of all the services concerned and am more than satisfied with their goodwill. I have made suggestions which I believe should count for greater uniformity between one district and another and serve also to fix the responsibility for the efficiency of Sicilian law enforcement upon individuals rather than upon a number of unrelated persons.

As you know, there are but four Public Safety officers in this Region at present and I do hope that it will be possible to leave them all here until the harvest is over. I mention this particularly because at least one, Capt. Noble has already been alerted for a move. These officers have the local knowledge which is so essential and they are doing the sort of job which one has come to expect from the Public Safety officers in Sicily.

Following a conference with Provincial Commissioners tomorrow, I intend to proceed to the northern provinces to see what the situation is in that part of the Region, after which I propose, with Col. Hancock's agreement, to return to Rome. I feel that in about a week's time there will be little left for me to do here which could not just as well be done by the Regional Public Safety Officer, but nevertheless I will remain here as long as I consider my presence is required.

In conclusion, I believe that taking all things into consideration, events are moving reasonably well but that it will be some weeks before we shall be able to get a real indication of the final result. At any rate you can be sure that the efforts being made here will at least deserve success whether or not they will command it.

Sincerely yours,

Arthur Young

I have sent a copy of this letter
to Col. Hoff.

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
R.C. & M.C. Section
APO 394

Phone:
478808

Ref/203/51/CA.

27 July 1944.

SUBJECT: Grain Harvest - SICILY.

TO : R.C. Region I.

1. As a result of a report made by you, G.O.C. No.3 District reported to HQ. AAI that there might be trouble in Sicily over the collection of the harvest.

2. HQ. AAI have written to this Commission and I quote an extract from their letter for your information.

"It has however been necessary for us to inform GOC 3 District that no additional forces can be made available to him, should serious disturbances break out, and it is thought necessary to inform you of this fact. You will readily appreciate that the Commander-in-Chief is not anxious at this juncture in the campaign to detach troops from his operations on the front to deal with economic disturbances in SICILY. "

3. I think it is fair for you to see this letter, but I hope that the situation has improved and that the conditions mentioned in your report, on which General Collier based his letter to HQ. AAI, have considerably improved.

M. S. LUSH,
Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

Copy Att 1

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HEADQUARTERS,
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION,
APO 39.

Regional Control and Military Government Section.

Ref: 152/21/CA.

21 July 1944.

You will be disappointed to recollect news of the appointment of Aldisio as High Commissioner and the Acting Chief Commissioner wants me to tell you that your telegram of 18th July and your letter of 12th July did receive consideration at this Headquarters. Captain Stone was in the process of recommending to the Italian Government that an alternative for Musotto other than Aldisio should be found, but it developed that the alternative candidate would not accept the appointment and plans had proceeded too far with the six parties with regard to Aldisio to make a change.

I know that the appointment of A or B or C as High Commissioner will make no difference to you as a good civil servant in your efforts to get the administration of the Island on a decent basis. We shall always be faced with political considerations on the part of a political Government and others and it will not always be possible to guide the Government into what we consider correct channels.

Your letter regarding plans for the enforcement of the collection scheme is very satisfactory and I hope that the great efforts that you and your staff are making will give the Italian authorities into action and produce successful results.

Let me know how things are going and if we can help you in any way from here either by action with the Italian Government or in any other way.

Colonel A. M. Hancock,
Regional Commissioner,
Allied Control Commission,
RABBITON I.

Copy to: File 203/CA

MEM/JC.

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Ex Comm:

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This letter from Sen Robertson
merely states that no troops will be
forthcoming if there is trouble in
Italy.

It is the result of a letter
written in by N° 3 Dist. after
talking to Col. Hancock, before the
letter came to Naples for a
conference. This letter is on a
file with the A/C.C. which I
cannot get.

The Chief Comm. has not
seen this letter. You might wish
to speak to Sen Robertson before
you do so.

Shawn E.C. not

9 2/7

possible to trace other correspondence
as file with C.C.

9 2/7

785017

Subject :- Economic Conditions - SICILY

203 ~~10~~ ~~10~~ ~~10~~ CAB ✓
20 ¹⁰ Recd. Headquarters,
Allied Armies in Italy,
C.M.F.
46012 5022/GAO.

19 Jul. 44.

Chief Commissioner,
Allied Control Commission.

A report has been received from GOC 3 District, expressing anxiety regarding the possibility of disturbances in SICILY on account of the low price of grain. In this report GOC 3 District states that the price to producers for grain has been fixed at 1,000 lire per quintal, although production cost is believed to be in the neighbourhood of 1,300 lire a quintal.

It is understood that this matter has been carefully considered by you, but that for reasons which are no doubt sound you have decided to adhere to the price given above.

It has however been necessary for us to inform GOC 3 District that no additional forces can be made available to him, should serious disturbances break out, and it is thought necessary to inform you of this fact. You will readily appreciate that the Commander-in-Chief is not anxious at this juncture in the campaign to detach troops from his operations on the front to deal with economic disturbances in SICILY.

BHR/mb

20 JUL 1944

Copy to:

H. 3 District.

Major-General,
Chief Administrative Officer.

See 51

Major-General
Should be
15 2117 217

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

785017

HQ JEC, APO 394
132 Sec'y Gen.
Rec'd 20/7/44 1732
By 24

20th July 1944

48

↓
Acting Chief Commissioner.

146847

I think you should see Colonel Hancock's
letter of 12th July. It shows that action is being
taken and that results are being achieved.

MSL

21 Jul
64

882

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

HQ.A.C.C. ECONOMIC SECTION

21 Jan

(DATE)

From	To
☒ ECONOMIC SECTION	
AGRICULTURE	
FINANCE	
FOOD	
INDUSTRY & COMMERCE	
LABOR	
MINING DIVISION	
PUBLIC WORKS & UTILITIES	
REGULSION DIVISION	
SHIPPING	
TRANSPORTATION	
<i>by broadcast</i>	
FOR:	
SIGNATURE	
REMARKS/RECOMMENDATION	
INFORMATION	
APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL	
APPROPRIATE ACTION	☒
INVESTIGATION & REPORT	
NOTING AND RETURN	
NOTING AND RETENTION	
DISPATCH	

*Please prepare
the letter required
for approval
for photolines etc
and that it
shall be very
firm & convincing
G. L. Long
26 Jan 50*

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

785017

TO: Col. O'Dwyer.

48A

Please have letter prepared to be sent by me to HQ AAI
as comment on Gen. Collier's letter of 12 July.

(Signed) Stone

Rec'd Econ Sec 21 Jul.

882

203 14 JUL Recd

CAB

454407

12 July



ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
SICILY REGION HEADQUARTERS
APO 384

FILE:RG/433

My dear Brigadier,

Immediately on my return to Palermo I convened a meeting of the officers most closely concerned to inform them of the decisions taken at Naples regarding the enforcement of grain collection and the action to be taken.

1. Lt Col Walker and Major Clarke arrived last Saturday and Col Young yesterday. Plans are being formulated rapidly and the first phase of the drive will start at once.

2. The south coast lowlands from the Gela plain westwards thru Agrigento Province to Trapani Province, where the harvest is now finished will be tackled first, followed by the lower uplands by stages to the higher altitudes where harvesting will be in progress until early September. The attached instruction explains how the first phase is to function.

3. Meanwhile, Col Young is consulting with General Mariotti, 12th Army Corps, and General Branca, C.C. Carabinieri, as to concerted action for the enforcement of wheat collection laws and regulations. Col Young will go to Agrigento tomorrow.

4. I was unable to see His Excellency V.E. Orlando until Saturday morning owing to his numerous engagements but had a number of conversations with him before his departure for Naples and Rome at 1500 hrs yesterday. Our first talk provided themes for a powerful speech which he delivered in Palermo on Sunday morning and which I persuaded him to broadcast from Radio Palermo the same evening. The wheat price and problem was very adroitly worked into the speech with all the skill of the master-orator. His brief stay here did not enable him to make any tours and, also he carries his 64 years marvellously well, I doubt whether he could withstand the fatigue of a propaganda tour of the island.

5. The press and radio campaign goes on unabated and some excellent articles have been submitted for publication and broadcast including a translation of Col Bellar's appeal.

6. The courts are alerted to deal expeditiously with offenders to the utmost rigour of the law.

7. I have had several conversations with the High Commissioner, but not yet with the giunta consultiva due to the fact that on his recent visit to Palermo it was decided with General not to convene the giunta until its composition and status are clarified.

2 Action and more action is the order of the day for everyone and this was impressed upon the Prefects at their meeting with the High Commissioner yesterday.

10 Implementation of the other measures indicated in Appendix "A" to 205/28/CA of 8 July 1944 is now awaited.

1 ¹⁰ Total grain collected to date is just over 5000 tons or about 6 day's supply.

Yours sincerely

26 *A. N. Hancock*

A. N. HANCOCK
Colonel

see 51

Brigadier M.S. Ives O.B.E. M.C.
Executive Commissioner
R.C. & M.C. Section
H.Q. A.S.C. Naples

CONFIDENTIAL

577

45

DISPATCH

ADD ADV

16 July 1964

27

CONFIDENTIAL

PRIORITY

Civil Affairs Branch

REFERENCE ONE TWO ZERO THREE SEVEN TWENTY EIGHT DATED SIX JULY TO IMPLEMENT PARA TWO
A PARAGRAPH VII PAGE APPENDIX A PLEASE FORWARD EVIDENCE AGAINST MARTINO AND INTERVIEW RE
PAGE 10 BEARING FOR ADD EVIDENCE ONE FROM ADD ADV PAGE 10 LEGAL ADVISE NO ACTION
POSSIBLE WITHOUT MORE EVIDENCE

940

8/1/24/7

L. P. MONTAG, JR
1st Lt. AGO 889
Adjutant

203 20 CAB

Subject: Grain Harvest - ITALY

SECRET

15 JUL Recd 5647

3 Distinct
Vol. 100 6.
P. 100.

100 100.

100 100.

12 201 100.

1. There is a possibility of disturbances in ITALY on account of the low price of grain. I attach copies of the following:
 - (a) Letter dated 3 Jul from Col HANSEN, Regional Commissioner for ITALY, to Commander 56 Area.
 - (b) Letter dated 16 May from Col HANSEN to all Provincial Commissioners in ITALY.
 - (c) An account of the cost of production of grain in ITALY.

2. The price of grain is of course an issue. Even if disturbances were to arise from this cause that again is primarily a matter for the Italian Government, but if such disturbances were to cause serious proportions it could be a matter of concern to Commander 56 Area and myself as the military commander ultimately responsible for the maintenance of good order in ITALY. I am not conversant with the arguments, but it seems, on the face of it, to be asking for trouble to require producers to surrender their grain at a fixed price of Ave 1,000 a quintal when the production cost is known to be in the neighborhood of Ave 1,200 a quintal. Apart from that, when grain would seem to be going into the hands of the speculators who always over that grain is marketed for the benefit of the consumer.

3. I have not yet heard the result of the conference which Col HANSEN attended at HQ AD on 4 Jul, but perhaps it is not too much to hope that it has now been decided to pay the producers a price more commensurate with the cost of production.

4. A bid, with 3,000 tons of grain has just arrived at HQ AD. This will take matters over for about three weeks, but after that I understand it is the intention that ADHQ shall exist on the recent grain harvest which, if it can be collected into peoples' granaries, will be sufficient to meet all demands for about a year.

5. The Farmers are unwilling to part with their grain at Ave 1,000 a quintal and are hiding it. Unless the price is raised it will therefore be necessary to export the grain by force.

Commander 56 Area has discussed the position with Commander III Italian Corps and appropriate dispositions of troops have already been made. But Commander 56 Area, without in any way wishing to be alarmed, does not consider that the forces available would be sufficient to deal with the situation should serious trouble arise. A considerable proportion of the only division in ITALY (Abruzzi) is tied up on essential guard duties, duties which have recently increased owing to the withdrawal

the

6. I had understood that there was a possibility of a second Italian division being sent to ITALIA, but my (POI), who has just returned from visiting RUSSIA, tells me that there is no second division available. I therefore feel it my duty to report that we are faced with the possibility of serious supply crisis which within the present Italian emergency, including the immediate, may not be able to solve.

See 1

100%
 100%
 100%

28

ALDO GATTALONE, COORDINATOR
AGRICULTURAL SUB-COMMISSION

FILE 30/435

3 July 1964

SUBJECT: ITALIAN ECONOMY - ECONOMIC

TO: Brigadier Grigori,
Commander 56 Army.

1. In answer to your request to my provincial representative GATTALONE, at 101
sillon, the wheat situation in AGRICULTURE is briefly as follows:

The price of wheat in liberated Italy was fixed at 120 million per 100 kilos
and 120 000 for soft. Attached circular letter of 12 July 1964 to my provincial
representative and heads of divisions refers.

The "directive for the organization of agriculture and economy" issued by
the Italian Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in agreement with the
Agricultural Sub-Commission, which I also visited, explains in detail how the
harvesting and turning in of wheat and barley to the people's attention in so
be effected.

All officers have been following closely the organization of individual
and domestic agricultural committees in close contact has been established by
my Headquarters and the Italian regional, technical and executive officials.
The High Commissioner has issued additional instructions as per my training
(regret no English translation).

From the point of view of organization all concerned have been well left
the price, which is substantially below Italian production costs, is causing the
farmers, especially the small owner-operators, to hold on tight and not deliver
to the people's guarantee. A public showing that average cost is affected.

Since March I have strongly advocated to my contact without success a
price of 120 000 per quintal for Italy and I have every reason to believe
that the economists are the obstacle to my progress.

Under these circumstances the only way to get the wheat to the government
is to be tough. In this case I called a conference last Thursday evening when
General GATTALONE attended of all Italian police agencies including Physics
months together with inspectors of Agriculture and High Commissioner's representative
to whom I pointed out the gravity of the situation and if that info, later than
one day's supply of wheat had been turned in.

Plans were made to coordinate the police and army to an independent drive
which is now under way in the provinces strictly concerned namely, Agrigento,
Mazara del Vallo, Trapani and Palermo.

Reclamation is likely to be maintained for in that respect there may be
some trouble is not possible to estimate. General GATTALONE and the police are
now doing their best.

no great effect in the situation. I only was able to find out that the Italian and 1400 for sure. Attached circular letter 50/436 to say to my provincial Commissioners and heads of divisions refer.

The "Directive for the organization of Agriculture and raising" issued by the Italian Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in agreement with the Agricultural Sub-Commission, which I also attend, explains in detail how the harvesting and turning in of wheat and barley to the people's granaries is to be effected.

All officers have been following closely the organization of provincial and communal agricultural committees and close contact has been maintained by my Headquarters and the Italian Regional Technical and executive officials. The High Commissioner has issued additional instructions so far only enclosed (except no English translation).

From the point of view of organization, all concerned have done well but the price, which is substantially below Italian production costs, is causing the farmers, especially the small share-croppers, to hold on tight and not deliver to the people's granaries. A table showing the average cost is attached.

Since March I have strongly advocated to my communal officials a price of 1400 per quintal for wheat and I have every reason to believe that the cooperatives are the obstacles to my intention.

Under these circumstances the only way to get the wheat to the granaries is to be tough. To this end I called a conference last Thursday morning which General Martelli attended of all Italian police agencies including provinces, guards together with inspectors of Agriculture and High Commissioner's delegates to whom I pointed out the gravity of the situation as, at that time, less than one day's supply of wheat had been turned in.

Plans were made to coordinate police and army in an enforcement drive which is now under way in the provinces chiefly concerned namely, Bergamo, Gallarate, Sesto and Legnano.

Resistance is likely to be encountered but to what extent there may be real trouble is not possible to estimate. General Martelli and the police are fully alive to this.

2. My command is fully informed of the situation and is trying to hasten the despatch of another Italian division which is already enroute.

3. I have been called to Milan by air on Monday to attend a meeting at which the price of wheat for 1935 will again be discussed, but whatever the outcome it will be necessary to apply these now at the beginning of the harvest, in order to obtain sufficient grain to feed the population for a year.

(Signed) A. BASTIANI

Colonel,
Regional Commissioner.

COPY

ALLIED OVERSEAS COMMISSION
SOUTH AFRICAN INVESTMENT
AND TRADING

FILE 10/455

16 MAY 1944

SUBJECT: PRICE OF WHEAT

TO: All Provincial Commissioners,
Heads of Divisions.

1. After lengthy consideration the Chief Commissioner has decided on the recommendation of his advisers, that the price of wheat for 1944 should be fixed at 14s 10d per quarter. Among the many factors which have entered into the calculation of this price are, firstly, the position of the consequent price of wheat, secondly, the financial position of the Italian Government, and official opinion in the United Kingdom.
2. It may be noted that the price will appear inadequate but, nevertheless, it will be necessary for every officer in the region to ensure either personally or by advice and procure that the maximum quantity of wheat is turned into the people's granaries. Upon this and the proper feeding of the population depends the reputation of the United Kingdom and the Italian Government.
3. The Chief Commissioner looks to all of us to see that nothing is left undone to achieve this vital aim. He has indicated that the price of wheat will continue to be rigidly controlled at a figure not higher than 14s 10d per quarter. Furthermore, provided that assumptions are forthcoming that immediate steps will be taken to ensure that no one receives a ration card who is not legitimately entitled to one, and that a rigid monitoring will be made and maintained to restrict abuses, there is a chance that authorization may be given to increase the present bread ration.

4. Provincial Commissioners are requested therefore to provide a figure for each province showing the percentages of the population who actually need ration cards. Consequently calculations should be based not on such statistics as on actual conditions in the province.

5. These figures should be available at the next 10 conferences on the day as they have to be collected in time for the regional (inter-provincial) conference at 11.00 on 30 May.

6. In the meantime you will be able to collect local statistics on the wheat price which you should be prepared to discuss at the forthcoming conference. For the present, the answer to the question should be that an anti-inflationary price has been fixed in defiance of the view to which it is expected further measures will be taken to bring down the price of other commodities in proportion to that of wheat around which the entire price structure of the island's economy must be adjusted.

(Signed) A. H. HARRISON

Colonial

785017

2. To bring to control the price will appear inadequate but, nevertheless, it will be necessary for every officer in the region to ensure either essentially or by advice and pressure that the minimum quantity of wheat is turned into the peoples' granaries. Upon this and the proper feeding of the population depends the reputation of the ADG and the Italian Government.

3. The Chief Commissioner looks to all of us to see that nothing is left underside to achieve this vital end. He has indicated that the price of bread will continue to be rigidly controlled at a figure not higher than three 5 per kg. Furthermore, provided that assurances are forthcoming that immediate steps will be taken to ensure that no one receives a ration card who is not legitimately entitled to one, and that a rigid scrutiny will be made and maintained to restrict abuses, there is a chance that subsidization may be given to increase the present bread ration.

4. Provincial Commissioners are requested therefore to provide a figure for each province showing the percentage of the population who definitely need ration cards. Consequently calculations should be based not so much on statistics as on actual conditions in the province.

5. These figures should be available at the next AG Conference on 24 May as they have to be collated in time for the regional Commissioners' Conference at Salerno on 25 May.

6. In the meantime you will be able to collect local conditions to the new wheat price which you should be prepared to discuss at the forthcoming conference. For the present, the answer to the queries should be that an anti-inflationary price has been fixed in defense of the life to which it is expected further measures will be taken to bring down the prices of other commodities in proportion to that of wheat around which the entire price structure of the island's economy must be adjusted.

(Signed) A. H. HENDERSON

Colonel,
Regional Commissioner.

876

785017

Share-croppers Production.

Cost of wheat per hectare (2 1/2 acres).

Amount 1945-46.

(Prepared by Regional Agriculture Inspector - Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries).

1.	1st Ploughing 2 1/2 days, with two quadrupeds (oxen or cows) and one man @ L. 500 per day	750
2.	2nd Ploughing, 2 days, as above	500
3.	Sowing - 2 days as above and extra man @ L. 100 per day	640 200
4.	Cultivation -	
a.	3 days' hoeing @ L. 60 per day	420
b.	4 days' weeding @ L. 50 per day	240
5.	Harvesting -	
a.	Reaping 6 days @ L. 180 per day (actually increased to L. 300)	1080
b.	Transport of sheaves to barn, 2 days with one man @ L. 300 per day	600
c.	Threshing - 1/2 days with 2 oxen @ L. 200 per day 3 men @ L. 150 per day	750
d.	Transport of wheat to warehouse, mile and man 1 day @ L. 200 per day	100
	Total:	L. 5400

Income.

1.	Production 8 qtls of wheat of which 4 qtls to share-cropper.	
2.	10 qtls straw of wheat, 5 qtls to share-cropper @ L. 30:	150
	Production Costs	
	Less value of by-products	340
		150
	Total	L. 5250
4 qtls wheat @ L. 5250	per qtl:	L. 1312

1.	1st Ploughing 2 1/2 days, with two quadrupeds (mules or oxen) and one man @ L. 500 per day	1250
2.	2nd Ploughing, 2 days, as above	750
3.	Sowing - 2 days as above and extra man @ L. 100 per day	600
4.	Cultivation - a. 3 days' hoeing @ L. 60 per day b. 4 days' weeding @ L. 50 per day	480 240
5.	Harvesting - a. Reaping 6 days @ L. 100 per day (actually increased to L. 200) b. Transport of sheaves to barn, 2 days mule and man @ L. 200 per day c. Threshing - 1 1/2 days with 2 mules @ L. 200 per day 5 men @ L. 150 per day d. Transport of wheat to warehouse, mule and man 1 day @ L. 200 per day	1080 420 750 100
Total:		L. 5820

EXPENSE

1.	Production 6 qtls of wheat of which 4 qtls to share-cropper.	
2.	10 qtls straw of wheat, 5 qtls to share-cropper @ L. 30:	150
Production Costs		3400
Less value of by-products		190
4 qtls wheat @ L. 250 per qtl: L. 1212		L. 5290

73. British army are purchasing wheat in Sicily at L. 85,000 to L. 95,000 per sale.

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394
ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION

13/1.1/AS

13 Jul 44

SUBJECT : Enforcement of Grain Collection

TO : IC & MG Section.

Reference your 203/28/CA dated 6 Jul 44.

- 1 The undermentioned views are forwarded for your information and consideration.
 - a Re para 2 A (vii) Appx "A". No evidence concerning AVVORATO DE MARTINO, or Baron CESARE DI BRUNO DI BELMONTE has yet been received in this office or that of Legal Sub-Commission, if this is in your possession may it please be forwarded as it is not at present possible to proceed with the consideration of the action to be taken in these cases.
 - b Re para 2 C (vii) and 3 A (ii). The Director of Public Safety does NOT consider it possible to increase the strength of CC.RR in Regions I and II for the following reasons.
 - (i) That CC.RR are short in numbers and every available man that can be found in Southern Italy is required in the North as the armies move forward.
 - (ii) It was intended prior to the present situation to reduce the numbers in Sicily as Region I is already over the peace time establishment, figures are as under;

Present Strength - Sicily	8374
Peace Establishment- Sicily	<u>5475</u>
	<u>2899.</u>

In addition, approximately 160 recruits are just finishing their training in Sicily and can be made available temporarily for duty there.

- (iii) It is further pointed out that supervision and enforcement of grain collection is NOT normally a responsibility of CC.RR, but one of the duties of Inspectors of Agriculture and as far as practicable should remain so.

- 2 I concur in the views of the DPS set out in para 1 b. (above)

G. R. Upjohn
G.R. UPJOHN, Col
A/Head Admin Section.

874

HEADQUARTERS,
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION,
APO 394.

Regional Control and Military Government Section.
+++++

Ref: 203/39/GA.

13. July. 1944.

SUBJECT: Grain Collection in SICILY.

TO : Regional Commissioner,
REGION I.

I am directed by the Executive Commissioner to forward for your information the attached copy of HQ AAI letter 16/1/G(Ops) dated 11. July. 44 concerning the above subject.

C. J. Mammara

(dga) ~~Signature~~
Lieutenant,
PA to Executive Commissioner.

/JC.

873

203 *[initials]* 3 JUL 44 38
SUBJECT: Grain Collection in SICILY.

Adv Headquarters,
Allied Armies in Italy.

16/1/G(Ops).

To : 3 District.

1. AOC intend to enforce the collection of grain from an apparently unwilling peasantry in SICILY.
2. The Carabinieri and the Italian Army will be used where necessary.
3. You are requested to instruct the Garrison Commander, SICILY to give every assistance to the Regional Commissioner in this task.
4. Attached letter 203/28/CA of 6 July 44, and Appendices A & B from AOC show instructions which have been issued by AOC.

11 Jul '44.
JHE/ceb.

[Signature]
Lieut-General,
Chief of General Staff,

Copy to : A.G.C.

Copy to Reg I

See 39

HS 13/7

785017

SUBJECT: Enforcement of Grain Collection.

TO : Lt.Col. Shipp.

Ref 35436

Minutes of 12 July 1944
Adm. Conference.

1. With reference to minute 3 (folio 35) have consulted Col. Kirk and Col. Wilcox and it appears that this minute is not accurate.
2. It was tentative only that further CC.IIR be sent to Sicily and in view of the large total (8374) already there it is not considered that any further number can be spared. Normal strength for Sicily is 5475.

12 July 1944

E. S. Morden
E. S. MORDEN,
Capt.

90
4/7

041

203 11 JUL Re

ADJUTANT GENERAL
ADJUTANT GENERAL
ADJUTANT GENERAL
ADJUTANT GENERAL

12/22/54

10 JUL 54

12/22/54

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12/22/54

785017

Following the referenced memo of Jul 24, at which time present

Col. G. H. Giffen (the fr)

Col. H. H. Miller
Col. L. L. Orin
Major E. E. Allen
Capt. A. B. Fennell

Legal Sub Comm.
Adm. Sec.
Public Safety Sub Comm.
Interior Sub Comm.

Appended below are the minutes, against which are marked the authority responsible for action, in right hand column.

MINUTES

Action by

Reference Item

2a(1) Actg Pres. has been to discuss with Actg Chief Commissioner, with a view to the latter arranging for FBI to broadcast. Adm. Sec.
Text to be prepared by P. V. B. ?

2a(11) Question of visits to be taken up on arrival in under Adm. Sec.

2a(111) G.O. to write to regional legal officers regions I & II, calling for vigorous and immediate prosecution, and the imposition of maximum penalties in cases of grain collection evasion. Legal.
G.O. to arrange for air transport to transport sufficient copies of regional number of official Gazette giving actual penalties imposed to G.O. G.O. to be under- stood being printed 5 Jul 44.

2a(1v) Minister of Interior to issue instructions to Prefects in regions I & II, G.O. to prosecute grain laws enforcement. Interior.

Special Order of the day to be issued by Chief of Carabinieri emphasizing their responsibilities in enforcing grain collection, and vigorously arresting and prosecuting grain speculators. Public Aff.

2a(vii) Minister to inform already in hand. No immediate action on G.O. and in G.O. until receipt of evidence in the case of the last named two. Legal.

2b(iv) G.O. to interview Minister of Justice and press the importance of rapid trial of offenders in grain cases. (G.O. Minister of Justice has already stated his willingness to do this) Legal.

2b(vii) Public Safety to investigate the possibility of increase in number of G.O. in regions I & II. Public Aff.

2b(ii) Public Aff.

over/

This is good

PTD

-2-

Reference 2a(iv) and 20(vii). Major Wilson has since reported that the Chief of COMR is this day issuing a "Special Instruction", a copy of which will be obtained.

He stated further that the Commanding General COMR cannot furnish COMR for Region II but is moving an unspecified number up to a 100 to Sicily forthwith.

Copies to: DGC.
: Executive Commissioner. ✓
: Security (for Col Young)

R.R. Griggs
R.R. GRIGGS Col.
CSO Admin Sec.

1 8 0 2

34

HEADQUARTERS,
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION,
APO 394

Regional Control and Military Government Section

Ref: 203/34/GA.

8th July 1944.

SUBJECT: Enforcement of Grain Collection in SICILY.

TO : Regional Commissioner,
REGION L.

1. I confirm outcome of discussions with the Acting Chief Commissioner and Vice President, Economic Section that the price of wheat in SICILY will remain at L. 900 for soft and L. 1000 for hard, and that no war bonus or any other monetary inducement will be paid.
2. The policy to be adopted with regard to the collection of grain will be the rigorous enforcement of the Italian decrees recently issued on the subject.
3. The memorandum recently issued from this HQ explains to you the action which/being taken by the various authorities concerned and you will note that Colonel Young will be attached to you in order to assist you in ensuring the enforcement of these decrees.
4. I want to make it clear that the enforcement of law does not mean the use of force. It does mean, however, that every effort must be made to make the farmers bring in their grain and to bring before the Courts those who transgress the law.

MSI/36.

MSI/36

Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

SUBJECT: Enforcement of Grain Collection in SICILY.

TO : Regional Commissioner,
REGION L.

1. I confirm outcome of discussions with the Acting Chief Commissioner and Vice President, Economic Section that the price of wheat in SICILY will remain at L. 300 for soft and L. 1000 for hard, and that no war bonus or any other monetary inducement will be paid.
2. The policy to be adopted with regard to the collection of grain will be the rigorous enforcement of the Italian decrees recently issued on the subject.
3. The memorandum recently issued from this HQ explains to you the action which/being taken by the various authorities concerned and you will note that Colonel Young will be attached to you in order to assist you in ensuring the enforcement of these decrees.
4. I want to make it clear that the enforcement of law does not mean the use of force. It does mean, however, that every effort must be made to make the farmers bring in their grain and to bring before the Courts those who transgress the law.

121/315

MS/LSL
Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

112

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

785017

EC

Station Army for Rly Train Campaign 33

Gen Browning has replied to your signal saying that he cannot accept the 7000 paratroopers on his ceiling. Even if he could he has no rations in Italy for them, but if they remain on paratro they have no legal standing as members of the Army and would therefore presumably have to be rationed by us.

2. He can send 2000 from Calabria if 17th AGF order it but raises difficulties.

3. I understood Col. Hancock to say there was to be a Corp in Italy and not a Div, and that they are behindhand in implementing their programme. It looks from Gen Browning's telegram as if there is no intention of increasing the paratro above one Div. I think a phone call to Gen Browning is required.

Ash Col Tacey to ~~advise~~ explain to Col Hancock & to ask latter if he wants the 2000. M/8/7

~~SECRET~~ *BR*
 A JED CONTROL COM 'SSION *312632*
 INCOMING MESSAGE *18 JUL 1944*

TO: ACC MAIN AAI ACC ADV FOR PIDSLEY

SIGNAL MESSAGE CENTER No: 800/1

FROM: NMIA

CLASSIFICATION: SECRET

REFERENCE No: SD1136

PRECEDENCE: IMPORTANT

DATE AND TIME OF ORIGIN: JUL071020 OFFICE OF ORIGIN: *24*

FOR CAPT. STONE FROM GEN. BROWNING. REFER YOUR 7175 OF 6 JULY NOT REPEAT NOT TO ALL. FIRST. REFER AAI/3072/A(O) OF 25 APRIL CONCERNING P.W. P.W. RELEASED REVERT STATUS OF ITALIAN SOLDIERS. PAROLED P.W. WOULD HAVE NO (NO) LEGAL STANDING AS MEMBERS ITALIAN ARMY. ITALIAN ARMY CANNOT (cannot) ABSORB 7,000 REPEAT 7,000 MEN IN DIVISION IN SICILY AS ARMY IS ALREADY OVER STRENGTH AND RATION POSITION FOR SABAUDA DIVISION IN SICILY IS SERIOUS. RATIONS FOR PRESENT STRENGTH IN SICILY WILL LAST ONLY 5 DAYS AND TRANSHIPMENT IS NECESSARY FROM MAINLAND AS SHIPS DESTINED SICILIAN PORTS HAVE NOT (not) ARRIVED. THEREFORE EVEN IF 7,000 (7,000) P.W. WERE RELEASED AND ABSORBED IN SABAUDA DIVISION RATIONS ARE NOT REPEAT NOT AVAILABLE NOW. CONSIDER IMPRACTICABLE TO ABSORB P.W. IN SABAUDA ALSO FROM STANDPOINT OF ADMINISTRATIVE DIFFICULTIES AND PROVIDING WITH ARMS. SECOND. 2 BATTNS MANTOVA DIVISION IN CALABRIA APPROXIMATELY 2,000 (2,000) STRENGTH CAN BE MADE READY IF ORDERED BY 17TH AI. THESE WOULD HAVE TO BE TRANSPORTED TO SICILY AND TRANSPORT FOR RATIONS ON BASIS 24 (24) TONS PER 1000 (1000) MEN FOR 30 (30) DAYS WOULD ALSO HAVE TO BE PROVIDED

HEADQUARTERS
 8 JUL 1944
 ACC MAIN DIST
 A. C. C.

HQ AAI?

ACTION - CH BR
INFO - CSO

ACTION

FOR CAPT. STONE FROM GEN. BROWNING. REFER YOUR 7175 OF 6 JULY NOT REPEAT NOT TO ALL. FIRST. REFER AAI/3072/A(0) OF 25 APRIL CONCERNING P.W. HAVE NO (NO) LEGAL STANDING AS MEMBERS ITALIAN ARMY. ITALIAN ARMY CANNOT (cannot) ABSORB 7,000 REPEAT 7,000 MEN IN DIVISION IN SICILY AS ARMY IS ALREADY OVER STRENGTH AND RATION POSITION FOR SABAUDA DIVISION IN SICILY IS SERIOUS. RATIONS FOR PRESENT STRENGTH IN SICILY WILL LAST ONLY 5 DAYS AND TRANSHIPMENT IS NECESSARY FROM MAINLAND AS SHIPS DESTINED SICILIAN PORTS HAVE NOT (not) ARRIVED. THEREFORE EVEN IF 7,000 (7,000) P.W. WERE RELEASED AND ABSORBED IN SABAUDA DIVISION RATIONS ARE NOT REPEAT NOT AVAILABLE NOW. CONSIDER IMPRACTICABLE TO ABSORB P.W. IN SABAUDA ALSO FROM STANDPOINT OF ADMINISTRATIVE DIFFICULTIES AND PROVIDING WITH ARMS. SECOND. 2 BATTNS MANTOVA DIVISION IN CALABRIA APPROXIMATELY 2,000 (2,000) STRENGTH CAN BE MADE READY IF ORDERED BY 17TH AI. THESE WOULD HAVE TO BE TRANSPORTED TO SICILY AND TRANSPORT FOR RATIONS ON BASIS 24 (24) TONS PER 1000 (1000) MEN FOR 30 (30) DAYS WOULD ALSO HAVE TO BE PROVIDED

HEADQUARTERS
8 JUL 1944
A. C. C.

ACC MAIN DIST

Action - CAPR

Info - CSO

DAPC

EconSec

File

Front (2)

ACTION COPY

DATE and Time of RECEIPT JUL 8

Distribution:

SECRET

867

785017

SECRET

7251

file
203
31

ACC ADV HQ RPTD: IES FOR ACC REGION ONE

ACC MAIN

7251

8 July 1944

SECRET

IMMEDIATE

Civil Affairs Branch

FURTHER RE SEVEN TWO ZERO NINE OF SEVEN JULY REGARDING MOVE OF AXIS
FOR POLITICAL SECTION
DIPLOMATS TO PARISH TO ACC ADV HQ/REPEATED IES FOR ACC REGION ONE FROM
ACC MAIN PARISH OWING EXTREMELY SHORT NOTICE GIVEN AND COMPLETE
ABSORPTION OF FIVE REMAINING OFFICERS IN SICILY WITH GRAIN COLLECTION
REQUEST YOU DESPATCH MAJOR HARRISON EARLEST TO ASSIST IN NECESSARY
ARRANGEMENTS

Admin Section

ROGER B. DERRY
Capt. AGO
Deputy Adjutant

865

Ref: 203/CA

30
7th July 1944

SUBJECT: Inducement Scheme for Collection of Grain.

TO : Acting Chief Commissioner.

1. If the inducement plan first recommended some months ago and endorsed by Regional Commissioners on May 30th is to be prosecuted, I recommend that it be carried out on the lines suggested by Mr. Villa.

2. As the remaining paragraphs of Vice President, Economic Section's memorandum are directed against such action, I submit my comments:-

- (a) I do not agree with the Vice President's approach to the enforcement of law. Certainly we must do all we can to make the people respect the law (which incidentally is Italian law and not ACC law) but in a fairly long administrative experience I have always found that an appeal to the better senses of the people by making them realize that they have everything to gain by obeying the law, is better than resort to threats and indications of what will happen if the law is not observed. Moreover, I have tried the inducement plan with success elsewhere. The experiences of Colonel Walker, who has come from Syria to help us here, are that the use of force was not the best way to collect wheat but the employment of any means which would be likely to secure for the Government the goodwill of the peasants. The inducement scheme, which is ~~not a new scheme~~, is in my opinion an aid in the enforcement of the law and a proper psychological approach to a peasant population in dire need of manufactured articles. Had it been laid on earlier we might have had better initial results in Sicily.
- (b) I do not consider that the inducement plan would establish a precedent for other collection programmes. Wheat and barley are the staple crops.
- (c) Regional Commissioner cannot actively enforce penalties prescribed; he can only try to ensure that the Italian Government does so.
- (d) If the Island were under Allied Military Government, if there were Allied troops and police and officials in whom one had confidence in enforcing the law, then the use of the term "pushyfoot" with regard to artificial aids for enforcing the law might be justified. In the circumstances I submit that it is not and that every means to persuade farmers against the law and thus bringing it into contempt must be

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- (c) If the Island were under Allied Military Government, if there were Allied troops and police and officials in whom one had confidence in enforcing the law, then the use of the term "pussyfoot" with regard to artificial aids for enforcing the law might be justified. In the circumstances I submit that it is not and that every means to persuade farmers against evading the law and thus bringing it into contempt must be used before final application of force and penalties is employed.
- (d) The lack of manufactured articles is a serious handicap. Have we ever asked for an increased allotment in order to launch an inducement plan? But I believe that we should attempt to make the plan work.

MSL/JC

7/5/47

Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

MEMORANDUM TO: Executive Commissioner.

329
6 July 1944.

1. I wish to make the following comments on the proposals attached for an inducement scheme to encourage Sicilian farmers to hand over their grain.

2. I favour any proposal such as the attached one which is likely to secure for us the goodwill of the peasant. Our experience in Syria was that the use of force was not the best way to collect wheat, and that it was only when cultivators realised that they had everything to gain by delivering to the official organisation that the scheme became a success. The atmosphere to be created is that the Granai del Popolo is the farmer's friend.

a later 3. The objection to the payment of a cash bonus might be overcome by ~~the~~ declaration stating that the price offered at present will be reduced at a ~~certain~~ date. This would be equivalent to the payment of a bonus but would avoid the suggestion of bribery.

4. As regards the danger of bringing the law into contempt referred to in the letter of the V.P. Economic Section, it must also be considered that the enforcement of delivery is exceedingly difficult to maintain in all cases, and respect for the law suffers with every evasion. Any means therefore which can be used to obtain the goodwill of the farmer is to be welcomed.

H. J. Walker
H. J. WALKER,
Lieut.Col.

785017

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
R.C. & M.G. Section
APO 394

Ref/203/28/CA.

8 July 1944.

SUBJECT: Enforcement of Grain Collection in Sicily.

TO : HQ. Allied Armies in Italy.

1. I forward copy of a memorandum on the above subject for your information.
2. The Regional Commissioner in Sicily is going to be faced with many difficulties in enforcing the collection of grain from an apparently unwilling peasantry. Every step will be taken to ensure the maximum collection, using Carabinieri and Italian Army where necessary, and I should be most grateful if the ^{Area} Commander could be asked to give every assistance to our Regional Commissioner.

MSL
M. S. LUSH,
Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner,
For Chief Commissioner.

Incl.
as above

867

FOR GENERAL INFORMATION FROM CAPTAIN STONE TO MAJOR ALAN WALKER ID OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION ITALIAN MILITARY UNIT IN CLASH IN OTHER ASPECT IN CONNECTION WITH GENERAL STONE IS WORTH IT IS POSSIBLE TO REPLY AND REPLY FOR THIS PURPOSE SEVEN THAT THESE THAT ARE FOR THE RELEVANT ITALIAN ARMY AND ON DELATIONS IN AND BASE SITUATION WITHIN THE RENT FOR THIS WILL BE URGENT AND URGENTLY RELEVANT TO MILITARY SERVICE IS OTHERWISE SHALL HAVE TO ASK FOR RELEVANT AND RELEVANT FROM DISCUSSION

Copy to: Sec. Gen.
Comm. Sec.

MAJOR B. STONE,
CAPTAIN, A.D.C.,
RELEVANT ARMY.

(Sgt) Maj. Stewart

117
842

HEADQUARTERS,
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION,
REGION I.

MEMORANDUM FOR: Brigadier M.S. Lush,
Executive Commissioner,
ACC Headquarters.

5th July 1944

1. Following is precis of telephone conversation with PALERMO this morning:-

- (a) Sunday's incident at MESSINA was entirely a military concern. British Navy admittedly at fault. Brigadier Cripps, O.C. 56 Area, visited MESSINA to ascertain facts and was at PALERMO yesterday. Apologies tendered to 12th Army Corps, General Mariotti, and harmony restored.
- (b) Meeting at PALERMO yesterday, Brigadier Cripps, General Mariotti, and ACC officers re enforcement of wheat harvest programme. Brigadier Cripps agrees force is necessary solution. He will also apply for reinforcements to Italian 12th Army Corps, *his channel*.
- (c) Prefect of AGRIGENTO is proving obstinate over removals of grain from his Province and refuses to reduce bread ration from 500 to 200 grams until sufficient wheat is available for the pasta ration. His objections are based on public security. Under Secretary of State for War on visit to Sicily went to AGRIGENTO to see the Prefect and is reported to have come away dissatisfied. Prefect Pancano, 72 years old, offered his resignation to Bonomi by telegram about a fortnight ago. In view of his attitude, early replacement by a younger and stronger man is recommended.
- (d) Meanwhile Cripps, Mariotti and OC, IBS., Col. Bonsteel, request clarification of policy regarding 70,000 "parole" men ex-Italian Army (phone message heard as 70,000, signal quotes 7,000). Some of these men will be unemployed when IBS moves from Sicily within the next few days and it is reported that applications have been made to resume military service. They could be used as reinforcements to 12th Army Corps but question of equipment may be involved.

2. Reference (d) above, a decision as to policy regarding self-demobilized military, naval and air force personnel is also required. Italian Ministry of Marine is ordering arrests of ex-naval ratings on grounds of desertion, who have found employment with US Navy at Palermo Naval Dockyards, generally in specialist jobs. US Naval Commander is preoccupied at possible

Peb

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- (b) Meeting at PALERMO yesterday, Brigadier Cripps, General Mariotti, and ACC officers re enforcement of wheat harvest programme. Brigadier Cripps agrees force is necessary solution. He will also apply for reinforcements to Italian 12th Army Corps, *General Mariotti*.
- (c) Prefect of AGRIGENTO is proving obstinate over removals of grain from his Province and refuses to reduce bread ration from 300 to 200 grams until sufficient wheat is available for the pasta ration. His objections are based on public security. Under Secretary of State for War on visit to Sicily went to AGRIGENTO to see the Prefect and is reported to have come away dissatisfied. Prefect Pancamo, 72 years old, offered his resignation to Bonomi by telegram about a fortnight ago. In view of his attitude, early replacement by a younger and stronger man is recommended.
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AME/JC.

Antony Hancock
A. N. HANCOCK,
Colonel,
Regional Commissioner.

861

Executive Commissioner.

Col. Shipp 'phoned up to say that the harvest is not coming in to the granaries. The price is obviously too low. Up to date only 230 tons have come in. The position as regards grain is serious. Otherwise everything is in order and good shape. People are obviously holding on to their crops for a better price. He will be in Sicily from about 0900 hrs until 1130 hrs. tomorrow.

28th June 44.

See file 21 J. Reaney Maj.

860

see JB 8/7

RA

Ref: 207/24.

20 June 1944

SUBJECT: Harvest - Sicily.

TO : Acting Chief Commissioner.

1. I sent Lieut. Colonel Whipp (Civil Affairs Branch) to Sicily. He has telephoned to say that the harvest is not coming into the granaries only 250 tons have arrived to date. He regards the situation as serious and states that the reason is the prices which is considered too low.

2. I have confidence in Lieut. Colonel Whipp's judgment which confirms your Regional Commissioner's considered opinion. And, after the inspection which I gathered from this morning's conference, I feel bound to remind you again that the Chief Commissioner has committed himself to assistance in the way of a war bonus - certainly personally to Colonel Huseck. May I suggest, therefore, that before the proposal is rejected, which appears to be the present intention, Colonel Huseck should be given an opportunity of expressing his views to yourself and Vice President, Economic Section. I am not impressed by Musotto's declaration: he has an axe to grind with the Italian Government and the Allied Control Commission. I do not think that we should disregard the recommendation of the Regional Commissioner especially in light of Lieut. Colonel Whipp's report, without further discussion, e.g., at a Vice President's meeting.

MSL/JB.

Brigadier,
Receptive Commissioner.

000

203
123 JUN 1944
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
SICILY REGION HEADQUARTERS
APO 394

20
Econ Sec
4-2244

FILE:RC/433

19 June 1944

SUBJECT: Grain Harvest - SICILY

TO : Executive Commissioner
R.C. & M.O. Section
H.Q. A.C.C. Naples

8
23/6

1. Hereunder conclusions of a recent report by Regional Agricultural Officer after his tour of the three main grain provinces of SICILY.

" Grain crops are good, and there is ample to feed the island, the main difficulty to contend with is the price. Farmers state definitely that they will not hand in their wheat at Lire 1000 per q.li. The organization for the collection is progressing, but it is considered that unless very rigorous measures are taken to enforce the surrender of the grain the campaign will be a failure. Transport difficulties are very great, but not unsurmountable. Concern is felt with regard to the ability of the authorities to enforce the surrender of the grain."

2. A copy of complete report has gone to Agriculture Sub-Commission if more details are required.

HEADQUARTERS
22 JUN 1944
A.C.C.

A. Hancock Col.
A.M. HANCOCK
Colonel
Regional Commissioner

Copy TO: Food Sub-Commission

1/1A

22 June 94

1856 857

26 June 1944

Captain Stone:

I suggest that this be discussed at the V.P. meeting Wednesday.

Col. Hancock is recommending:

a. Prompt declaration of war bonus of 1500 lire per quintal.

b. Cooperation of Italian Armed Forces to enforce collection.

c. Declaration of penalties.

L.D.D.

785017

18

Ref: 203/17/CA.

22nd June 1944.

SUBJECT: Harvest - Sicily.

TO : Acting Chief Commissioner.

1. I think you should read pages 15 and 16 (report from Colonel Hancock). You will remember that at the Regional Commissioners' meeting the Chief Commissioner stated that inasmuch as Sicily suffered more from war damage than most of the other Regions, consideration would be given to the grant of a war bonus. In 4(a) the Regional Commissioner recommends a bonus of L.500 a quintal. No

2. Normally I should advise against the use of the Army as suggested in 4(b). There are many inherent dangers - especially when the political movements in Sicily are considered.

3. I raised 4(c) at the last Vice Presidents' meeting.

4. If you agree I will circulate to Vice Presidents for discussion at next Vice Presidents' meeting.

100L/10.

M.S.L.

Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

17
HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED COUNCIL COMMISSION
E.C. & E.C. SECTION
APO 994

20 June 1944

Ref 203/CA

SUBJECT: Refugees - Return of Warzone for Hurvent.

1 E.C. Region I.

Reference your HQ/983.7 of 10 June. This letter
has been passed to E.C. Region IV, and Italian Refugee
Branch, who are concerned with the above for necessary
action.

WES
WILLIAM E. FISKE
Colonel
Deputy Executive
Commissioner

What about the other
part of the letter?
✓
See 4.2
857

785017

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
R.C. & M.G. SECTION
APO 394

Ref/203/GA

20 June 1944.

SUBJECT: Refugees - Return of Workers for Harvest.

TO : R.C. Region I.

Reference your RG/393.7 of 10 June, this letter has been passed to R.C. Region IV, and Italian Refugee Branch, who are concerned with the above for necessary action.

MS
for NORMAN R. FISKE
Colonel
Deputy Executive
Commissioner

*What about the other
part of the instruction
see H-1*

MS
857

203. #1
CAB
4-1732 16

ALLIED CONTROL CORP. JUN 14
SICILY REGION 40
120 551

FILE:SC/403

15 June 1944

SUBJECT: Grain Harvesting

TO : Executive Commissioner
R.S. 2 H.O. Section
H.Q. A.C.C. Naples

Seen 21/6
HEADQUARTERS
13 JUN 1944
A.C.C.

1. On Monday 12 June I visited four of the main wheat growing areas in Caltanissetta Province namely Mazzarino - Sommatino - Geraciolico and Maseomeli, a tour of about 120 miles. In addition to the local sindaco, Comitato Comandante della Agricoltura, Maresciallo C.C.R.R. and U.P.S.L.A. representatives, 10 Mayors of neighbouring communes were also seen, together with members of their communal agricultural committees. I was accompanied by the Caltanissetta Provincial Inspector of Agriculture, the Provincial Commissioner, Public Supply Officer and my Executive Officer.

2. A very fine harvest is in sight and the following are the impressions I received from talks and observations in the above centres.

a. The price of L. 1000 per quintal is genuinely below cost of production in Sicily. Consequent reluctance on part of farmers to come forward as prescribed by the regulations to declare extension of land under cereal production.

b. An early announcement of a ration increase was strongly advocated as a strike for hoarding or disposal of wheat in small parcels at black market prices. Great ration increase has now been officially announced.

c. Harvesting is in progress and it is reported that wheat is already flowing to black market operators. This was confirmed yesterday by Provincial Commissioner Caltanissetta who reported that over 20 carts from the Gela plain (Caltanissetta province) loaded with wheat were intercepted on their way to Galtanisi (Caltanissetta) for account of speculators. Carts, animals and wheat have been sequestered and stern action will be taken against the drivers.

d. The communal committees are eager to do a good job but are preoccupied about the price of wheat and

growing areas in Caltanissetta Province namely Mazzarino - Scarnafino - Serradifalco and Mussomeli, a tour of about 120 miles. In addition to the local Sindaco, Comitato Comunale degli Agricoltori, Meresciolio CC.RR and U.P.3.I.A. representative, 10 Mayors of neighbouring communes were also seen, together with members of their communal Agricultural Committees. I was accompanied by the Caltanissetta Provincial Inspector of Agriculture, the Provincial Commissioner, Public Supply Officer and my Executive Officer.

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a. The price of L. 1000 per quintal is genuinely below cost of production in Sicily. Consequent reluctance on part of farmers to come forward as prescribed by the regulations to declare extension of land under cereal production.

b. An early announcement of a ration increase was strongly advocated as a brake for hoarding or disposal of wheat in small parcels at black market prices. Bread ration increase has now been officially announced.

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d. The communal committees are eager to do a good job but are preoccupied about the price of wheat and the repercussions on peasant mentality.

e. It is practically impossible to control animal threshing by small farmers.

f. There is anxiety, fostered by separatist propaganda that wheat will be compulsorily exported from Sicily.

3. I was well impressed by the general desire to combat black market activity. This, however, is coupled with a reluctance to enforce grain collection on a laborious and unwilling people.

4. I feel that the following steps are very urgently required:

a. A prompt declaration of the prospected War Bonus and other suggested inducements. The War Bonus to be paid only to the actual producer. I again recommend a bonus of L. 300 per quintal.

b. The co-operation of the Italian Army to enforce collection if all other measures fail.

c. An early declaration of penalties for evasion.

5. Failing urgent action there is a constant danger that much of the harvest will go underground or be sold on the black market with resultant suffering, tension, labor unrest and disturbances such as experienced last year before imported flour became available.

6. Instances are reported that farmers are taking deposits to supply wheat at L. 18000 per 224 kilos (local measure known as a "modino") equal to L. 70 per kilo.

The High Commissioner and the Regional and Provincial Agriculture Inspectors are sparing no effort to put the harvesting programme into effect. The first sowing, in conjunction with the Regional Agriculture Inspector, has circulated precise instructions to all concerned, with copies to civil and military authorities, regarding the implementation of the Ministerial Decree and directives and is spurring Prefects almost daily to guide and perfect the organization ~~work~~ work of their Province and Communal Agriculture Committees, and P.S.A. officials. He has ordered that any unco-operative Mayors be relieved from office.

7. The new Prefect of Palermo, D'Antoni, is showing considerable initiative, both verbal and written (he is a very capable and persuasive orator), which the local press is reporting. With the aid of this publicity and propaganda it is likely that his example will be followed elsewhere.

8. More press and radio propaganda would be welcome.

9. In conclusion, all concerned are working with a will but there is a strong undercurrent of anxiety as to the response of the farmers.

C. An early declaration of penalties for evasion.

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6. Instances are reported that farmers are taking deposits to supply wheat at L. 15000 per 224 kilos (local measure known as a "salma") equal to L. 70 per kilo.

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9. In conclusion, all concerned are working with a will but there is a strong undercurrent of anxiety as to the response of the farmers.

A.N. HAWCOCK
Colonel
Regional Commissioner

Antoni

855

copies TO: Agriculture Sub-Commission
Food Sub-Commission

15 JUN 1944 ⁰³

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
SICILY REGION HEADQUARTERS
APO 394

C A Br-14
H-1157

FILE:RC/383.7

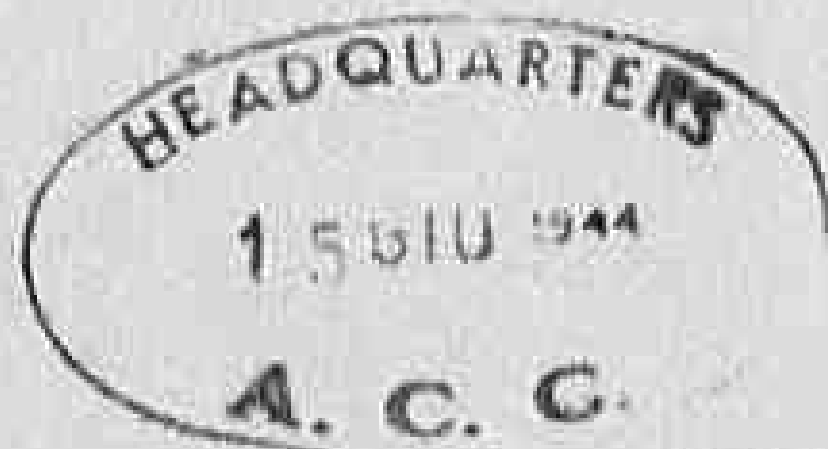
10 June 1944

SUBJECT: Refugees - Return of Workers for Harvest

TO : Executive Commissioner
R.C. & M.C. Section
H.Q. A.C.C. Naples
for Refugee sub-commission

1. A number of pressing requests have been forwarded to this Headquarters for the return of Refugee Agricultural Workers to their homes in order to collect the now ripening harvest.

2. These workers feel genuine anxiety for the adequate collection of their crops. May a policy be stated regarding the possibility of their return, as attempts at unauthorized movement are likely to attain considerable proportions.



A. Hancock Col.
A.H. HANCOCK
Colonel
Regional Commissioner

Discussed at Sect. Conf. 16/6.

Chief area Aprio-Nathans area.

Memo: Lt Col Morley Fletcher very much asked to give some idea of the numbers affected and the degree involved, if possible. He will do this answer tomorrow.

Action C.C. send copy this (without notes) to 854 RC Region + tell Reg. I we have done so 1407

See 17
copies sent to no/6

785017

203

SUBJECT: Security and the Harvest.

HQ ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

AAV1401/10/GSI(b)

3 June 1944

1. The ACC has raised the question of the movement of harvesters and of the difficulties likely to arise from the civilian movement restrictions during the weeks of the harvest.
2. We have informed ACC that we cannot agree to any general relaxation of the existing movement restrictions, either in the Army areas or in rear of such areas.
3. We have suggested that, in specific cases, where harvest labour requirements cannot reasonably be met (owing to large numbers or other circumstances) by the issue of AMG passes, Regional or Provincial commissioners, SCAO's or CAO's should consult with Ib/CI in the areas in question with a view to reaching a working arrangement satisfactory to both parties.
4. It should be possible to meet the needs of AMG/ACC without prejudice to security, and in view of the great importance of ensuring a good harvest, you are requested to give your fullest co-operation in this matter.

Brigadier,
B.G.S. (1).

Distribution:

G-2 Fifth Army
GSI, Eighth Army
GSI, 5 Corps
GSI, 2 District
GSI, 3 District
G-2 P.B.S.

Copies also filed on --

196/CA Harvesting Policy
147/CA — — Region II
199/CA Harvest Workers - Foggia

853

Executive Communique

You will require these papers for discussion
with R.C. Region I

Leon. test. express the view that the farmers
protest is in the nature of "pistol-pointing"
and that R.C. in this case appears to be
unduly sympathetic.

Wulf
29/5

E.C. discussed
with Reg. I today

P.A. *Wulf*

785017

From Sub.

Please see papers 9-14 within.
Comments are requested before the case
is presented to D.C. & Ch. Commr.

May the matter be treated as URGENT.

2/5/51

Civil Affairs B.

1. The Chief Commissioner
decided that the price of
wheat should be 1000
lire per quintal (hard),
and 900 lire per quintal
(soft). This decision was
only taken after he had
received advice and
opinion (including that
from Region I) from all
concerned.

2. Region I and the
Sicily landowners and wheat
farmers do not like the
decision and believe that a
'vint' a post-card to you & M.P.
campaign may have results.

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

CONFIDENTIAL 203
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
INCOMING MESSAGE

Recd 3/6
CAB 10

TO: ADD MAIN FOR LUSH, FOR AGRICULTURE SUB-COM FOR FOOD SUB-COM
SIGNAL MESSAGE CENTER No: 43
FROM: 134 STURGEON FROM HANJOK
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL
REFERENCE No: 3 10325
PRECEDENCE: PRIORITY
DATE AND TIME OF ORIGIN: MAY 25 11 15
OFFICE OF ORIGIN: CITY/ HQ 213

PROVINCIAL COMMISSIONERS CONFERENCE REGION I WHILE LOYALLY MAKING FULL
PLANS SUPPORT DECLARED WHEAT POLICY UNANIMOUSLY FULFILL DUTYBOUNDS UNDER
RECONSIDERATION PRICE ON SPECIAL SUBSIDY IN VIEW PARTICULAR PROBLEMS
SICILY. CIVIL AND MILITARY AUTHORITIES INDUSTRY COMMERCE LABOR POLITICAL
PARTING ALL PROVINCES VIEW FUTURE WITH GRAVE ANXIETY WHOLEHEARTEDLY IN
SYMPATHY WITH FARMERS, AND INVOKES TOTAL REQUISITION ALL PRINCIPAL CROPS
AT REMUNERATIVE PRICES BASED ON WHEAT AT NOT LESS THAN LIRE 1500 PER
QUINTAL TO ALLOW A MIXTURE FOR BREAD RATION 300 GRAMS PASTA 75 GRAMS
PER CAPITA DAILY. ALL INTERESTS PREPARED COMBINE SHOULDERS FULL
RESPONSIBILITY FEED POPULATION THESE TERMS UNTIL 1945 CROP READY.
PROVINCIAL COMMISSIONERS CONVINCED THAT CONCESSION TO THESE SICILIAN
ASPIRATIONS AT THIS TIME WILL PROMOTE ENTHUSIASTIC COLLABORATION INSTEAD
OF REPRESSION ON VASTEN SCALE OF STAGNATION AND RESISTANCE EXPERIENCED
1943 CROP WHICH PROVED RAMPANT BLACK MARKET INFLATION LABOR UNREST
GENERAL DISCONTENT

ADD DIST

ACTION/ ACTION SSC 4

INFO / DOG

DATE and Time of RECEIPT

Distribution:

CA HQ
FILE

PLANT

CONFIDENTIAL

HEAT 00000000
26 MAY 1944
A.C.C.

850

785017

From Sub.

Please see papers 9-14 within.
Comments are requested before the case
is presented to I.C. & Ch. Commr.

May the matter be treated as URGENT.

25/5

Civil Affairs B.

1. The Chief Commissioner
decided that the price of
wheat should be 1000
lire per quintal (hard),
and 900 lire per quintal
(soft). This decision was
only taken after he had
received advice and
opinion (including that
from Region I) from all
concerned.

2. Region I and the
Lucily landowners and wheat
farmers do not like the
decision and believe that a
'red' card to you & M.P.
campaign may have results.

785017

3. Col Hancock has now arrived at his HQ and will have the opportunity of discussing the Chief Commissioner about the latter's previous decision was wrong. Economic Section will advise no increase in price.
4. Certain ACC decisions passed to Regions as orders are being regarded by Regions as matters for discussion and contest rather than as orders. They do not appear to appreciate the overall picture.
5. Any assistance you could give to change this attitude and enable sub-commissions to get on with their job would be appreciated.

Chi Luanf Major
Economic Section

Col. Legg has seen this and concurs

2522/Recd
203
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
SICILY REGION HEADQUARTERS
APO 394

FILE:RC/433

20 May 1944

SUBJECT: Wheat Price - 1944 Harvest

TO : Executive Commissioner
R.C. & M.G. Section
A. C. C.

1. The first reactions to the wheat price for 1944 harvest are disillusionment, dismay and disapproval.
2. High Commissioner and Regional Commissioner in visiting 5 Provinces between 17th and 19th inst. obtained first hand impressions, which ranged from despair to an undercurrent of sullen mistrust and determination to resist what is considered an imposition on Sicilian agriculture.
3. The Separatists are jubilant and ready to make capital out of the wheat price to further their cause and gain new adherents.
4. Popular sympathy is with the farmer and in such an atmosphere enforcement of delivery to the people's granaries would be of scant effect.
5. The statement made in the document entitled "Directives of Organization and of Operation" which says "This Ministry will arrange to fix, in agreement with the Allied control commission, the prices of wheat and of other products which are to be placed under ammasso control, in a quite remunerative measure so that the price will not constitute an incentive to evasion, but to delivery." is commented upon as a complete mockery.
6. Nevertheless, the High Commissioner and Regional Commissioner are forcing ahead the formation of Provincial and communal commissions as set out in the documents attached to the official decree recently published. To this end it is felt that, owing to the wave of resentment and consequent apathy, provincial supply officers will have to accompany the Provincial Agricultural Inspectors to the principal communes to give the necessary drive and impulse for the creation of the local agencies to be set up. In this connection it is strongly recommended that the contemplated withdrawal of experienced Provincial Supply Officers from this Region be deferred until the organization of the people's granaries and relative commissions is completed.

7. Protests, verbal and written, are pouring in to the

High Commissioner and this Headquarters of which two authoritative ones in the original text are attached. Further resolutions and protests are anticipated as meetings are being held almost everywhere but the foregoing will present the picture at this stage which, it must be stressed, is one of indignation.

8. When a relative calm has been restored a fuller survey of the situation with comments will be submitted.

9. Meanwhile it is suggested that previous recommendations from this Headquarters for special consideration of Sicily's topographical, ethnological and traditional agricultural features be reviewed.

A. N. Hancock
A.N. HANCOCK
Colonel
Regional Commissioner

2 Encls- documents re Sicilian reaction to wheat price -
1944 harvest. (copies)

Copies To: Agriculture sub-commission
Food sub-commission

785017

3.1 7
The Committee of the Union of Agriculturalists of the province of Naples met on the 18th. May 1944 to examine the situation arising from the price of Lire 1000 per ql of hard wheat and of Lire 900 per ql of soft wheat having been fixed by the Government; Considering it to be of vital importance for the success of wheat to be a success at the present time, so much for the producers as for the consumers of the island;

Reconfirming that, apart from the system of ammasso its success depends chiefly upon the price, and recalling that this conviction is unanimous and has been recently and officially stressed by the members of the Government themselves, who have rightly attributed the failure of previous ammassi to the disproportion between prices and costs of production;

Having ascertained that in all the meetings they have attended, the representatives of agriculturalists have clearly shown a high understanding for the necessities of consumers and their utmost good will to make a success of the ammasso operation, advertising this point of view among its own members;

Considering that the prices fixed by the Government are absolutely out of proportion to the cost of production (exceeded by the reality of today) as compared to the estimates of about a month ago) which at the time was ascertained by the High Commissioner, Prefects of the Island, by the Regional Superintendent for Alimentation, by the Departmental Inspector, by the Provincial Inspectors for Agriculture, by the Committee of the Economic Front, to be not less than Lire 1500 per ql. and for some areas, even much higher.

Considering that the sacrifice now imposed on agriculturalists is excessive and altogether not to be borne by the small direct producers (be they owners, tenants, farmers or *metayers*) who relied already on the profitable price promised both by the representatives of the Italian Government and by the Allies, as stated by the Prime Minister in his appeal to the Italian agriculturalists and by Col. Poletti, who in his broadcast of the 10th. inst. made the following statement:

"We give them (the agriculturalists) formal assurance that they will be neither oppressed nor vexed with fascist systems, that wheat will not be paid, as in the past, a price lower than the value of their work. We want to liberate them from the nightmare of the black market, and from the fear which arises from the fact of having to hide and conceal oneself in order to make a profit necessary to make a living;"

Concerned of the serious consequences that the certain failure of the wheat crop will have on the mass and particularly on the poorest classes;

Recalling that the fixing of a fair price would have made the Union feel responsible for the success of the ammasso in regard to the Authorities and consumers of all classes;

✓ - 4
Considering that Lire 10 today have less purchasing power than the Lire 3.60 of 1941-1943; 6

Considering that another serious consequence of the low price will be the reduction in future campaigns of the sowing of wheat and of cultural advances;

DELIBERATES

- 1) to propose to the responsible Authorities that the advised price be urgently and with a realistic understanding re-examined, taking into consideration the real conditions of Agriculture and of the Sicilian economy, stating emphatically that the price of Lire 1000 per ql. of hard wheat and L.900 per ql. of soft wheat is absolutely out of proportion to the actual cost of production, which is continuously on the increase and therefore cannot be accepted.
- 2) to reject all responsibility regarding the certain failure the s-masse would turn out to be, should the measures already adopted in regard to the price be maintained, placing said responsibility upon those to whom it appertains;
- 3) to telegraph to H.E. the Minister for Agriculture in the following terms:

"Agriculturalists point out that recently announced price of wheat does not correspond to profitable price officially promised by Italian and Allied Authorities stop Sure of complete failure of wheat collecting operations, conscious serious injustice done to them and prejudice to production next year by maintaining advised price, point out urgent necessity to re-view problem and ask for price acknowledged to be fair by all parties' representatives, economic associations, technical organs and Regional Authorities - President Agriculturalists Union for the Province of Palermo - Giardinelli"

- 4) to send copy of the present deliberation to the competent Authorities and acquaint the public with it.

UNION OF THE CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND AGRICULTURE OF
SICILY.

ECONOMIC FRONT

The economic front composed ^{of} the representatives of the administrative and technical Organs of the Chamber of Commerce, ~~of~~ the Chamber of Labor, the Workers' Union, ~~the~~ the representatives of the agricultural employers and finally ~~of~~ the representatives ~~of~~ of all the political ~~parties~~ parties ;

CONSIDERING

that it was established so that, in collaboration with the authorities, the producers and consumers, provisions might be issued for meeting the food requirements of the populations, thus avoiding internal disorders, the unforeseen consequences of which would hinder the achievement of the common aim ;

CONSIDERING

that the first task that the Committee wishes to undertake is to propose the means and methods suitable to effect that the cereal production actually harvested during the wheat campaign of 1943-44 be ~~a~~ entirely put at the disposal of collective feeding;

CONSIDERING

that this task has been completely frustrated by the provision of the Council of Ministers, by which the price of grain to be paid to the producers is fixed at L.1000 per Quintal for hard grain and L.900 for soft grain ;

CONSIDERING

the urgency that decisions be taken to relieve the serious apprehensions caused by this provision ;

DECLARES

that the price that has been established is inadequate compared ~~with~~ the cost of production, and it is therefore anti-economic because it does not compare with the actual purchasing power of the Lira;

DECLINES

any responsibility for the unavoidable consequences due to the unsuccessful result of the delivery of grain to the granaries of the people;

REQUESTS

- a) that the Italian Government or whoever has the authority, after a more profound and more serene ^{evaluation} ~~valuation~~ of every ^{factor} ~~element~~, decide upon ~~expaying~~ ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ ~~the~~ the payment of a congruous price which, however, must not ~~influence~~ ^{the} price of bread ^{destined} for the feeding the categories with a fixed income;
- b) that at any rate the ration for the Sicilian populations be not less ^{than} gr.300 of bread and gr.100 of pasta daily, in view of the food necessities of these populations, traditionally based on ~~farina~~ ^{foods} also to eliminate the much deprecated sore of the black market;

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REQUESTS

finally the application of the project compiled by the Economic Front
and transmitted to the Italian Government delegating to that purpose H.E.
the High Commissioner for Sicily.

For the Economic Front
THE PRESIDENT

C. ORLANDO

3
Il Comitato della Lega fra gli Agricoltori della Provincia di Palermo, riunitosi il 18 luglio 1944, per esaminare la situazione che si presentava in conseguenza della fissazione da parte del Governo, del prezzo di L. 1.000 per q.li di grano duro e L. 900 per il tenero;

Considerata la vitale importanza che in questo momento assume la riuscita dell'ammasso del grano, tanto per i produttori, quanto per i consumatori dell'Isola;

Riconfermato che, a prescindere dal sistema di ammasso, la riuscita dipende prevalentemente dal prezzo, e ricordando che tale convincimento è unanime ed è stato recentemente e ufficialmente ribadito dagli stessi membri del Governo, i quali hanno giustamente attribuito l'insuccesso dei precedenti ammassi alla sproporzione fra prezzi e costi di produzione;

Constatato che, in tutte le riunioni cui hanno partecipato, i rappresentanti degli agricoltori hanno chiaramente dimostrato alta comprensione per le necessità dei consumatori e la massima buona volontà per la riuscita delle operazioni di conferimento, propagandando anche tale punto di vista fra i propri organizzati;

Visto che i prezzi fissati dal Governo sono assolutamente sproporzionati al costo di produzione (superato nella realtà odierna, rispetto alle previsioni di circa un mese addietro) costo che allora dall'Alto Commissario, dal Prefetto dell'Isola, dal Sovrintendente Regionale per l'Alimentazione, dall'Ispettore Compartimentale, dagli Ispettori Provinciali dell'Agricoltura, dal Comitato del Fronte Economico, venne accertato non inferiore a L. 1.500 al q.le, ed anche, per alcune zone, assai superiore;

Considerato che il sacrificio che si pretende dagli agricoltori è eccessivo ed addirittura insopportabile per i piccoli produttori coltivatori diretti (siano essi proprietari, affittuari, coloni o mezzadri) i quali contavano già sul prezzo remunerativo promesso tanto dai rappresentanti del Governo Italiano, tanto dagli Alleati, così come ha detto il Presidente del Consiglio dei Ministri nell'appello agli agricoltori italiani ed il Sig. Colonnello Poletti, che nel suo radiomiscorso del 10 corr. ha anzi testualmente dichiarato:

"diamo loro (agli agricoltori) formale assicurazione che non saranno oppressi e sfruttati con sistemi fascisti, che il grano non verrà pagato, come in passato, ad un prezzo inferiore al valore del loro lavoro. Noi vogliamo liberarli dall'incubo del mercato nero, dalla paura che viene dal dover nascondere e nascondersi per poter realizzare quel guadagno necessario per vivere.....";

Preoccupati delle gravi conseguenze che il sicuro insuccesso del raccolto del grano avrà sulle masse e specialmente sui ceti meno abbienti;

Ricordato che la fissazione di un equo prezzo avrebbe impegnata la

presentanti degli agricoltori hanno chiaramente dimostrato alta comprensione per le necessità dei consumatori e la massima buona volontà per la riuscita delle operazioni di conferimento, propagandando anche tale punto di vista fra i propri organizzati;

Visto che i prezzi fissati dal Governo sono assolutamente sproporzionati al costo di produzione (superato nella realtà odierna), rispetto alle previsioni di circa un mese addietro) costo che allora dall'Alto Commissario, dai Prefetti dell'Isola, dal Sovrintendente Regionale per l'Alimentazione, dall'Ispettore Compartimentale, dagli Ispettori Provinciali dell'Agricoltura, dal Comitato del Fronte Economico, venne accertato non inferiore a L. 1.500 al qle, ed anche, per alcune zone, assai superiore;

Considerato che il sacrificio che si pretende dagli agricoltori è eccessivo ed addirittura insopportabile per i piccoli produttori coltivatori diretti (siano essi proprietari, affittuari, coloni o mezzadri) i quali contavano già sul prezzo remunerativo promesso tanto dai rappresentanti del Governo Italiano, tanto dagli Alleati, così come ha detto il Presidente del Consiglio dei Ministri nell'appello agli agricoltori italiani ed il Sig. Colonnello Poletti, che nel suo radiodiscorso del 10 corr. ha ~~anche~~ testualmente dichiarato:

"diano loro (agli agricoltori) formale assicurazione che non saranno oppressi e sfruttati con sistemi fascisti, che il grano non verrà pagato, come in passato, ad un prezzo inferiore al valore del loro lavoro. Noi vogliamo liberarli dall'incubo del mercato nero, dalla paura che viene dal dover nascondere e nascondersi per poter realizzare quel guadagno necessario per vivere.....";

Preoccupati delle gravi conseguenze che il sicuro insuccesso del raccolto del grano avrà sulle masse e specialmente sui ceti meno abbienti;

Ricordato che la fissazione di un equo prezzo avrebbe impegnata la responsabilità della Lega alla riuscita dell'ammasso, di fronte alle Autorità ed ai consumatori di tutte le classi;

Rilevato che oggi L. 10 hanno minor potere di acquisto di quanto non ne avessero L. 3,60 nel 1942-1943;

Considerato che altra gravissima conseguenza del basso prezzo sarà la contrazione, nelle future campagne, delle semine di grano e delle anticipazioni culturali;

FRONTE ECONOMICO

Il Fronte Economico composto dai rappresentanti degli Organi amministrativi e tecnici della Camera di Commercio, della Camera del Lavoro, della Unione dei Lavoratori, dai rappresentanti dei datori di lavoro dell'agricoltura ed infine dai rappresentanti di tutti i Partiti politici;

CONSIDERATO

Che la sua costituzione avvenne perchè, in collaborazione con le Autorità, coi produttori e coi consumatori, provvedimenti venissero emessi atti a sopperire alle esigenze alimentari delle popolazioni evitando, in tal modo, disordini interni le cui imprevedibili conseguenze nuocerebbero al raggiungimento dello scopo comune;

CONSIDERATO

Che il primo compito che si è imposto esso Comitato è stato quello di proporre i mezzi ed i sistemi idonei a far sì che la produzione cerealicola effettivamente raccolta nella campagna granaria 1943-1944 venisse tutta messa a disposizione dell'alimentazione collettiva;

CONSIDERATO

Che tale compito è stato completamente frustato dal provvedimento del Consiglio dei Ministri, con il quale si fissa il prezzo del frumento da pagare ai produttori in L. 1.000 quintale per grano duro e L. 900 quintale per grano tenero;

CONSIDERATO

L'urgenza di decisioni che valgano a smentire le gravi apprensioni suscitate da tale provvedimento;

RICONOSCE

Inadeguato al costo di produzione, e quindi anti-economico, perchè non correlativo all'attuale potere di acquisto della lira, il prezzo così fissato;

DECLINA

Ogni e qualsiasi responsabilità per le inevitabili conseguenze dovute all'insuccesso del conferimento del grano ai granai del popolo;

CHIEDE

- a) che il Governo Italiano e chi di ragione, di seguito a più approfondita e serena valutazione di ogni elemento, decida la corresponsione di una congrua quota integrativa che però non gravi sul prezzo del pane destinato ad alimentare le categorie a reddito fisso;
- b) che in ogni caso le ragioni per le popolazioni civili non sia

atti a sopprimere alle esigenze alimentari delle popolazioni evitando, in tal modo, disordini interni le cui imprevedibili conseguenze nuocerebbero al raggiungimento dello scopo comune;

CONSIDERATO

Che il primo compito che si è imposto esse Comitato è stato quello di proporre i mezzi ed i sistemi idonei a far sì che la produzione cerealicola sia effettivamente raccolta nella campagna granaria 1943-1944 venisse tutta messa a disposizione dell'alimentazione collettiva;

CONSIDERATO

Che tale compito è stato completamente frustrato dal provvedimento del Consiglio dei Ministri, con il quale si fissa il prezzo del frumento da pagare ai produttori in L. 1.000 quintale per grano duro e L. 900 quintale per grano tenero;

CONSIDERATA

L'urgenza di decisioni che valgano a smentire le gravi apprensioni suscitate da tale provvedimento;

RICONOSCE

Inadeguato al costo di produzione, e quindi anti-economico, perchè non correlativo all'attuale potere di acquisto della lira, il prezzo così fissato;

DECLINA

Ogni e qualsiasi responsabilità per le inevitabili conseguenze dovute all'insuccesso del conferimento del grano ai granai del popolo;

CHIEDE

a) che il Governo Italiano e chi di ragione, di seguito a più approvata e serena valutazione di ogni elemento, decida la corresponsione di una congrua quota integrativa che però non gravi sul prezzo del pane destinato ad alimentare le categorie a reddito fisso;

b) che in ogni caso la razione per le popolazioni siciliane non sia inferiore a gr. 300 di pane e gr. 100 di pasta giornaliere, in considerazione delle necessità alimentari di tali popolazioni, esclusivamente basate, per tradizione, sui farinacci, ciò allo scopo anche di eliminare la tanto deprecata piaga del mercato nero

CHIEDE

da ultimo l'applicazione del progetto compilato dal Fronte Economico e trasmesso al Governo Italiano delegando a tal uopo S.E. l'Alto Commissario per la Sicilia.

P. il Fronte Economico
IL PRESIDENTE

C. Orlando

842

DELIBERA

1) di proporre alle Autorità responsabili che venga riesaminato urgentemente e con senso realistico la misura del prezzo annunziato, tenendo conto delle reali condizioni dell'agricoltura e della economia siciliana, dichiarando categoricamente che il prezzo di L. 1.000 per qle di grano duro e 900 per il tenero è assolutamente sproporzionato all'effettivo costo di produzione, sempre in continuo aumento, e quindi inaccettabile;

2) di declinare qualsiasi responsabilità circa il sicuro insuccesso cui andrebbe incontro l'assasso, se i provvedimenti già presi riguardo al prezzo dovessero essere mantenuti, riversando dette responsabilità a chi di ragione;

3) telegrafare nei seguenti termini a S.E. il Ministro della Agricoltura:

"Agricoltori fanno presente prezzo grano recentemente annunziato "essere non rispondente prezzo remunerativo ufficialmente promesso
"Autorità Italiane ed alleate ALT Sicuri completo insuccesso operazioni
"raccolta grano, coscienti grave ingiustizia loro danno et pregiudizio
"produzione anno prossimo mantenendo prezzo annunziato, prospettano ur-
"gente necessità riesame problema et chiedono prezzo riconosciuto equo
"da tutti rappresentanti partiti, associazioni economiche, organi tecnici
"et Autorità regione - Presidente Lega Agricoltori Provincia Palermo -
"Giardinali";

4) di trasmettere copia della presente deliberazione alle competenti Autorità e darne conoscenza al pubblico.

3) telegrafare nei seguenti termini a S.E. il Ministro della Agricoltura:

"Agricoltori fanno presente prezzo grano recentemente annunziato essere non rispondente prezzo remunerativo ufficialmente promesso
"Autorità Italiana ed Alleate ALT Sicuri completo insuccesso operazioni
"raccolta grano, cespicienti grave ingiustizia loro danno et pregiudizio
"produzione anno prossimo mantenendo prezzo annunziato, prospettano urgente necessità riesame problema et chiedono prezzo riconosciuto equo
"da tutti rappresentanti partiti, associazioni economiche, organi tecnici
"et Autorità regione - Presidente Lega Agricoltori Provincia Palermo -
"Giardinelli";

4) di trasmettere copia della presente deliberazione alle competenti Autorità e darne conoscenza al pubblico.

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