

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

ACC

10000/109/1604

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BROADCASTS
FEB. - JULY 1944

HEADQUARTERS,
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION,
APO 39.

Regional Control and Military Government Section.

Ref: 308/7/50.

17th July 1944

SUBJECT: Broadcasts by ACC Officers.

TO : Regional Commissioner,
Region III.

1. It is important that broadcasts made by any member of the Allied Control Commission should be scrutinized by the P.M.O. before release.
2. You should therefore submit to the P.M.O. copy of any broadcasts which you are called upon to make, 24 hours before the time of release.

MM/30.

MS Lucas
Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

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Executive Commissioner

27 APR 1944

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This is due to be given TUESDAY EVENINGRADIO TALK OF REGIONAL COMMISSIONER, COLONEL CHARLES POLETTIWEDNESDAY 7:05 P.M. - APRIL 28, 1944

In a radio broadcast which I made to the United States of America a few days ago, I stated that Allied Military Government had brought about many constructive improvements in Italy, but that the black market and the high cost of living remain our chief headaches. All Italians - other than the dishonest ones participating and profiting from the black market - are suffering. The preponderant majority of good citizens must, on their own initiative and without any compulsion from government, take steps to reduce the high cost of living. In fact, during the past few days, the good citizens of the communes of the Campania region have been volunteering as members of the Citizens Squads against the Black Market. The Police are cooperating. We are going forward. We are making progress. And we are confident that there will be in these squads many more thousands of good citizens whose love of Italy and love of honesty prompt them to volunteer their efforts toward the elimination of this black plague.

The economy of Italy will be improved by an exchange of goods from one province to another, from one region to another. We must do all we can to facilitate and accelerate these exchanges of foodstuffs and commodities. For instance, there are in Apulia and in Calabria large quantities of olive oil; around Lagonegro in Potenza tons and tons of charcoal; in Sicily tons of carrube, artichokes, and tunny fish.

The economy of Italy will not enjoy the improvement desired unless we destroy provincial barriers, unless we break down barriers between regions and barriers between the part of Italy governed by Allied Military Government and that administered by the Italian government. It is understandable human psy-

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chology for the officials of one province not to permit substantial exports. They want to hold on to what they have. The temptation is to operate a provincial or regional economy on a self-sufficient basis. We must not give in to that temptation. When we do, we err¹ gravely; we injure Italian economy. Italy is one country and its economy should operate accordingly.

Under the Fascist regime, government attempted to control all activities in a most rigid fashion. Man could not take a free breath. And so the farmer found himself harassed by all kinds of restrictions. In addition, Fascism forced the producer to sell his products at prices below cost. A most complicated bureaucracy of agencies - enti of all colors - was created, not to help the farmer and the consumer, but to give Fascist officials additional opportunities to graft. Those days, thank God, are over. Today we are insisting on the elimination of unnecessary bureaucratic controls. Grafters are no longer protected by government. On the contrary, we will prosecute and jail a grafter no matter how rich and powerful he is and no matter who his friends are. Today, we will give ample space for the play of private initiative and enterprise. Today, government will insist that the producer receive a fair price.

I would not wish to give the impression that improvements in the cost of living are easy to achieve. On the other hand, I am convinced there is a deliberate tendency to exaggerate the difficulties. And I am equally certain that there is a false and selfish attempt to minimize the large quantities of food-stuffs and commodities existing in Italy. Who foments the attitude of mind that foodstuffs are scarce and that difficulties are enormous? None other than the leaders of the black market rackets. None other than those who wish to exploit their fellow citizens for personal gain.

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Let us start with transport. The black market and the profiteer exaggerate the scarcity of transport in order to exact from the people the most exorbitant prices. Allied Military Government and the Allied armies, in full collaboration with the Italian government, have restarted the operation of the steam and electric railroads. That is true in Sicily, in Sardinia, and on the mainland right up to within a few miles of the battle front. A magnificent job has been done. Additional progress is being made each week. For instance, this week we have reopened the electric railway from Naples to Aversa, thereby facilitating the transport of fresh vegetables into Naples. These railroads, you understand, are not used only for the Allied military effort. Civilians- Italian consorzi and Italian merchants- can make arrangements to ship food stuffs.

Then there are many small coastal vessels that are being used. Water transport as you know is, comparatively speaking, low-cost transport. The Allied authorities are anxious to assist the movement of these coastal vessels.

Do you realize that the Allies have turned over hundreds and hundreds of good and efficient army trucks for civilian needs? They are being used exclusively to meet the demands of civilian economy. For instance, this week we have organized a new agency called the Ufficio Trasporti Campania. This operates more than 200 large army trucks. Furthermore, we are planning to use many civilian trucks for which we will supply army tires and parts so as to increase their efficiency.

The cost of production, and especially the cost of labor, do not justify the excessive prices profiteers are charging. You recall that we have increased the rates of pay for government and private workers only 70% on the first thousand lire of pay and 60% on the second thousand. Electric utility workers are earning 60 and 70 lire a day from the Societa' meridionale Elettrica and less than that in other parts of Italy. Sulfur miners are earning 50 lire a day and in one mine in Avellino which sells sulfur to farmers for 31

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the protection of the crops miners earn 90 lire for eight hour day.

Remember likewise that taxes have not increased one lira, rents have not increased.

In other words, the cost of production has been held within reasonable limits. And yet the producer, the middleman, and the profiteer are trying to sell at fantastic prices. Once the people understand the true facts that there are large quantities of food in Italy, purchasers will no longer be fooled. It is not just that excessive prices be paid by the wage earner or the widow who depends on rents from a piece of property her husband left her or the university professor, or school teacher whose salaries are limited by law.

For a moment before concluding, a word about olive oil. Why don't certain parts of Italy have olive oil? Why can't we distribute more than 200 grammes per month to each consumer in the Campania? Large quantities of oil are produced in Italy; in fact, before our arrival, substantial tonnage was exported abroad. Don't forget that the Allies are not doing what the Nazis did, namely, to rob Italy of enormous amounts of Italian foodstuffs and commodities. The oil exists in abundance in Apulia and in Calabria. The official price paid is far above the pre-occupation price. It is a good price. But the producers of Apulia and Calabria have not massed the oil. They have hidden it to sell to profiteers who then exploit their fellow citizens in the large cities. The producer does not gain in the long run. Transport exists to bring the olive oil north, but first the producer must turn in his oil at the massed at the fair price established.

Honest Italians condemn the black marketeers and profiteers who are charging prices far in excess of what is just and fair. These black marketeers spread the vicious and false propaganda that foodstuffs are scarce. My plea is

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that consumers - the industrial wage earners, the school teacher and professor, the honest citizens - refuse to buy goods at excessive prices. Stop being fooled by the profiteer. Do not believe the propaganda that foodstuffs are scarce. Consumers should refuse to buy goods. That is the quickest and surest way of defeating the profiteer. He will have to get rid of the foodstuffs soon enough. The fisherman cannot hold and hide his catch. The producer of tomatoes must sell. Eggs and meat do not remain fresh forever. Fruit will spoil. A new wheat crop and bean crop will soon be here. Refuse to buy from a profiteer.

In the past the Allied Governments have shown their generous spirit and their willingness to sacrifice to help the people of Italy whose young men are now fighting in the air, in the mountain passes and on the sea to achieve the downfall of Hitler and Nazism. The Allies have been and still are bringing into Italy thousands of tons of wheat, sugar, cheese, soups, milk and shiploads of gasoline, lubricants, coal and tons of medicines and clothing. And these imported goods are over and above the large quantities of foodstuffs that are produced in Italy. The Allied Governments in the future will not forget the welfare of the Italian people.

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SECRET PRIORITY TELEGRAM

RECEIVED AT
PDS SIGNAL MESSAGE CENTER

13 FEBRUARY 1944

SECRET

PRIORITY

CG PB FOR FARGO FOR MACFARLANE FOR REBER AND CACCIA

WONK

REINHARDT AND MAKING SIGNED CINO

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131737A

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PHMG9

RE YOUR 2121 FROM FATIMA OF JANUARY 24TH

NECESSITY OF FREQUENT BROADCAST APPEALS TO THE PEOPLE OF ROME TO MAINTAIN ORDER AND OBEDIENCE TO AUTHORITY IS AGREED BUT SINCE AT THE TIME OF ENTRY INTO ROME THERE MAY BE SEVERAL AUTHORITIES CLAIMING TO BE LEGAL IT IS DESIRABLE TO SPECIFY WHAT AUTHORITIES WE WANT THE ROMAN CITIZENS TO OBEY. PLEASE CONSIDER THIS AND LET US HAVE IN SOME DETAIL THE POINTS WHICH YOU THINK THE BROADCASTS SHOULD COVER, IN SUFFICIENT TIME FOR THE NECESSARY COORDINATION WITH LONDON AND WASHINGTON TO BE EFFECTED.

PDS DISTR:

ACTION : HQ AGC
INFO : G-2
SEC
CG

AGC DISTR:

(ACTION) POLITICAL SECTION
(INFO) PA TO CG
RC & MG SEC (2)
BRIG GUTENBOGE

SECRET

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