

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

ACC

10000/109/1781

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

10000/109/1781

MONTHLY REPORTS, ELBA
JUNE - OCT. 1944

37
As Caber
illuminated. No
Laminar I can't see
his action is
helicopter.

H 4/10.

5365

496
36
HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
LABOR SUB-COMMISSION
AFO 394

2 October 1944

Ref/496/23/CA.

23 OCT Recd

SUBJECT: Labour on Elba.

TO : Col. M. E. Fiske
Deputy Executive Commissioner

34/35
I attach as promised a copy of the report submitted by Captain Fraser on the conditions of affairs on the Island of Elba. It may be that you will wish to take a different line but in my opinion there will be no need to replace the evacuating French contingent.

If the presence of French troops constitutes a major political issue, their absence should remove the difficulty.

It has been my experience that officers unaccustomed to handling civilian Labour problems are invariably alarmist, and I hold the view that the mere presence of troops is an incitement to unrest. I can agree that it might be worth while to replace the 50 Carabinieri with 50 strangers (strangers of course will not know their way about).

I know of no reason why there should be extraordinary trouble on Elba, but even if we do have trouble on Elba it would be merely a drop in ^{the} bucket of trouble I foresee for Italy in general.

J. T. R. Bain
J. T. R. Bain
Colonel,
Director Labor Sub-Commission.

R.C. Reg Toscana was of the
same opinion as Col Bain at SIENA on 27 Sep

pa

8
4/10
5364

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
REGION VIII

26 September 1944

SUBJECT: Labor Conditions on the Island of Elba

TO : Director Subcommittee, A.C.C.

1. I proceeded to Elba on the next boat from Picbino after receiving telephone orders from the Labor Subcommittee to report on labor conditions on the island. I was also requested to investigate the matter of the garrison for this island.

2. There are about 2500 unemployed iron miners on the island. They formerly received about 45 lire per day and are very anxious to come to the mainland and work for the AMG wage of 65 lire per day. Inquiry among the citizens revealed that this would have an excellent psychological effect on the island and I recommend that some of these miners be brought over if and when needed on the mainland. At present the biggest problem on Elba is unemployment. The secondary problem is the political one occasioned by having the French garrison on the island. There is, however, no urgent immediate need for laborers at Livorno though the future requirements may change the picture.

3. I have located three boats (30 tonners) which may be used to transport laborers from Elba to Picbino. Each boat could bring 100 men each trip. Transportation from Picbino to Livorno would have to be provided from this end. We are working on the matter of establishing several barracks in Livorno for laborers.

4. The Camera del Lavoro is registering labor in Elba and the organization appears to be very active. I recommend that an employee of the Livorno Labor Office go to Elba, take registration cards (as used in our offices) and take over the functions of a collocamento but it is important that the man actually in charge of the Elba office or offices be an inhabitant of the island.

5. The economy of the island appears unaffected by the war. There is no inflation; prices are very low as well as wages. The citizens receive the same bread ration as the citizens of the mainland. Flour is imported but other foodstuffs are provided locally. Transfer of labor to the mainland meets with wide approval both of the citizens and the AMG officers there. This transfer would not upset the island economy as the difference in living cost on the mainland would absorb the increase in wage received.

6. I breakfasted with Major Murchie, the CAO of Elba, discussed labor and other problems with him and together we dined with the French governor, Col. Boulter, at Villa Napoleon. The French are leaving the island very soon. There are now 1500 French troops on the island and this presents a political problem. It is felt by many citizens, and in this I concur, that it would be much better to have either American, British or Italian troops for a garrison. This would relieve the present tense situation. Probably 150 troops would be sufficient.

1. I proceeded to Elba on the next boat from Piombino after receiving telephone orders from the Labor Subcommittee to report on labor conditions on the island. I was also requested to investigate the matter of the garrison for this island.
2. There are about 2500 unemployed iron miners on the island. They formerly received about 45 lire per day and are very anxious to come to the mainland and work for the AMG wage of 65 lire per day. Inquiry among the citizens revealed that this would have an excellent psychological effect on the island and I recommend that some of these miners be brought over if and when needed on the mainland. At present the biggest problem on Elba is unemployment. The secondary problem is the political one occasioned by having the French garrison on the island. There is, however, no urgent immediate need for laborers at Livorno though the future requirements may change the picture.
3. I have located three boats (30 tonners) which may be used to transport laborers from Elba to Piombino. Each boat could bring 100 men each trip. Transportation from Piombino to Livorno would have to be provided from this end. We are working on the matter of establishing several barracks in Livorno for laborers.
4. The Camera del Lavoro is registering labor in Elba and the organization appears to be very active. I recommend that an employee of the Livorno Labor Office go to Elba, take registration cards (as used in our offices) and take over the functions of a collocamento but it is important that the man actually in charge of the Elba office or offices be an inhabitant of the island.
5. The economy of the island appears unaffected by the war. There is no inflation; prices are very low as well as wages. The citizens receive the same bread ration as the citizens of the mainland. Flour is imported but other foodstuffs are provided locally. Transfer of labor to the mainland meets with widespread approval both of the citizens and the AMG officers there. This transfer would not upset the island economy as the difference in living cost on the mainland would absorb the increase in wage received.
6. I breakfasted with Major Murchie, the CAO of Elba, discussed labor and other problems with him and together we dined with the French governor, Col. Boulter, at Villa Napoleon. The French are leaving the island very soon. There are now 1500 French troops on the island and this presents a political problem. It is felt by many citizens, and in this I concur, that it would be much better to have either American, British or Italian troops for a garrison. This would relieve the present tense situation. Probably 150 troops would be sufficient.

7. I see no hope for the operation of the mines of Elba in the immediate future as this would not be practicable due to lack of transportation for the ore and the destruction of the iron and steel plants on the mainland. There is a large easily accessible supply of labor to Livorno.

ROBERT FRAZER,
Capt. Inf.
Labor Office AMG
Region VIII

Copy:

EC Region VIII
EC Livorno
CAO Livorno

5362

18/

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISS
LABOR SUB-COMMISSIO
A-0 394

LAB 43281

27 September 1944

28 SEP Recd

SUBJECT : Labour on Elba

To : Colonel Fieke,
Deputy Executive Commissioner.

An Officer from this Sub-Commission visited Elba and we
are awaiting his report, a copy of which will be supplied to you.

John 31 ref
J. T. R. Bain
J. T. R. Bain
Colonel,
Director Labor Sub-Commission.

28/9 2

5361
SW

E.C.

0

I
Uba Monthly Report, August.

32

You have seen the list of this in Capt Macnamara's report.

2. The main headache appears to be labor troubles (in the future) and a large number (2000) discharges from Army. RH concerned know of this but no solution has yet been found.

3. AFHQ informed us today that the move of the French garrison is delayed for a short time (10 days?) due to shipping.

CAB

II

8

2319.

1. Would you speak about Military Refugees.
2. How we recommended a small garrison BAFHQ? What is total strength of

Carabinieri?

C.C.

III

IX/24/5

5366

Discussed at
Sima. Pa.

24/9.

At by Capt Macnamara, report.

24/9

→ see 25

L

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

Ref/496/23/CA.

24 September 44.

SUBJECT:- Labour on Elba.

TO : Labour Sub-Commission.

1. No reply as yet been received to my 496/18/CA of 7 September, though I understand that an officer from Labour Sub-Commission has visited Elba since that date.
2. An early reply is requested.

SF
NORMAN E. FISKE,
Colonel,
Deputy Executive Commissioner.

5359

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

S E E N	
✓ A.P.G.S.	<u>ayp</u>
M.H.F.	
BEL.T.	<u>ayp</u>
J.J.L.	
AK.	
JEH	
HJ.T.	

→ Finance Sub-Commission 26
Pls return to Exec Comm
Acting Chief Commissioner.

The attached is submitted for your information/signature.

Elba goes over to Livorno Prov. on the departure
of French Troops in Sept 20. No Allied Troops
will be stationed there.

→ TR/1415 96
✓ 5354 18/9

-2-

10. As an alternative, a direct handover to the Italian Government would be a satisfactory solution to preserve a local administration.

11. The island should be still maintained as "out of bounds" to troops. On the departure of the French a more healthy situation should develop and on the cessation of their depredations the present administration will have put Elba on a fair way to recovery.

Reports.

Public Safety. 1. Carabinieri, morale low. Pre-drafting has been recommended. Forestry Guards have been again put on duty owing to the peasantry grazing their goats on new plantations and unauthorized felling. One prison for minor offences exists. The Assize prison is unfit for accommodation owing to war damage. There is very little crime on the island and none of a serious nature.

Agriculture. 2. Granai del Popolo deliveries were duly made.

Transportation. 3. A civilian bus service runs once a day from the principal points of the island (4 buses). Distances are long and a civilian petrol allocation is necessary to enable communal life to function. It is understood application has been made.

Admin Sec. 4. Local Government is handicapped by the absence of suitable men thus leaving some undesirables in office.

Refugee Br. Patriot Br. 5. There are two or three hundred refugees from various parts of the mainland. The main problem are the deserters from the Italian Army. They number some two thousand and in amounting to 7½% of the population they are an intolerable burden to the islanders. They are confined mainly to the more remote western end. A separate report on these has been made.

Food. 6. Supply is satisfactory. No oil is included in the island ration and none is produced there - they have been without for two years. Salt which has now arrived in quantity has eased a situation which has witnessed the boiling of vegetables in sea water. The resumption of night fishing would enable the meat ration to be discontinued and an export of a surplus both direct and by the small canning industry which is ready to recommence.

Labour. 7. There is some unemployment, 850 being from the iron mines alone. Apart from refugees very few are fully unemployed as labour is absorbed by the farmers and the reconstruction of Porto Ferraio. It is doubtful whether a thousand islanders are completely without work.

Liaison. 8. The excellence of the liaison between the French

SECRET

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

H 18
48434

Ref/496/18/CA.

7 Sept. 1944.

SUBJECT: Labour on ELBA.

TO / Labour Sub-Commission.

1. This is to confirm conversation this evening (Col. Bain - Col. Smith - Major Pelbot).
2. I will be grateful if you can arrange to investigate the iron ore labour situation in Elba at an early date. The matter has come to a head following a request by SCAD ELBA for an ~~allied~~ Garrison to replace the French Garrison when it is withdrawn on or about Sept. 20.

15/9
Spike hit Major Betworth
of whom I have been
in Elba recently. He promised
a reply tomorrow 16/9

SE
NORMAN E. FISKE,
Colonel,
Deputy Executive
Commissioner.

15/9

Handwritten signature/initials

23/9 noted
5346
By one
sw

Col. Liske. 6/

Major Murotic in
his report on Elba
states that Allied
Councils not yet functioning.
There would be no
need for them to function
if he has published
no proclamations.
Would you please take
the matter up with
him on your visit.
It may be necessary
to send a legal officer
or wait until Elba
comes within Reg. VII.

25/7.

J. K. Murotic

B. U. 20/8/44
J. K. Murotic

0 9 8 5 |