

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

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MONTHLY REPORTS, MINING DIVISION
FEB. 1944

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HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Mining Division

In reply
refer to:
319.11

4 March 1944

SUBJECT: Monthly Activities - Mining Division.

TO : Executive, Economic Section, ACC.

1. The activities of the Mining Division, ACC, for the period 1 February 44 to 1 March 44 included, in addition to other things, the following:

a. Coal. The total production of washed coal from Sardinian mines during the month of January was 41,250 metric tons. The following figures indicate percentages of total production according to sizes:

Size 10 x 0 = 51% of total production.
Size 30 x 10 = 26% of total production.
Size 50 x 30 = 15% of total production.
Size + 50 = 8% of total production.

Pursuant to instructions from MGS, AFHQ, production during the month of February was limited to 25,000 metric tons. No details on production figures have as yet been received from the mines.

The Sardinian coal mines at the present time are in position to produce well over 2,000 metric tons of coal per day, provided adequate timber and other supplies are available. The total number of workers employed at the mines at the present time is 5,584.

The conditions of all mine groups has materially improved during the three months of operation. Development work is in progress at all mines. Requisitions for mine supplies have been filed for the period up to 15 August 44. Requisitions for the balance of the year from 15 August 44 are presently being prepared.

Continued future production of coal in Sardinia is dependent upon the following, none of which are within the control of the Mining Division but are functions of higher echelons of service:

(1) The arrival of initial supplies as requisitioned in October, 1943, and the subsequent orderly flow of supplies thereafter. The lack of permissible mine explosives is reflected in the high percentage of small coal being produced at the present time.

(2) The availability of shipping for coal. The extent to which failure to supply necessary shipping for coal can become a

serious problem was indicated recently in Sardinia when after two successive months shipping had failed to meet requirements the overloaded stockpiles at the dock began to show indications of internal combustion. Failure to supply adequate shipping for any extended period will force the mines to close, as extensive stockpiling of Sardinian coal requires storage facilities which are not available.

(3) The furnishing of food to mine workers. The seriousness of this situation has been expressed in the recent demonstrations by the civilian population and the number of mine accidents attributable to poor physical condition of workers due to insufficient food for heavy work.

(4) The availability of shipping for timber for pit props. A certain amount of pit props have been located in Calabria and Corsica. Shipping has been arranged to take care of immediate needs. Steady production, however, depends on an orderly flow of props for mine workings.

b. Metals. Requisitions are presently being prepared for supplies and equipment required for the reopening of the Sardinian metal mines as directed by the Combined Civil Affairs Committee. The following indicates the present disposition of existing stockpiles and future metal production:

Lead Metal. Arrangements have been completed for exporting 2,623 metric tons of lead metal from Sardinia to North Africa. Purchase price for metallic lead as negotiated with the Italian Government has been established at \$50.50 per metric ton. The rolled-back world market price as furnished by Washington is \$88.00 per metric ton. Future production is to be stockpiled in Sardinia pending allocation.

Barite. In compliance with directive from Combined Chiefs of Staff, Washington, a comprehensive study has been made of barite deposits and stocks in Sardinia. An existing stockpile of 1,200 metric tons with not less than 92% barium sulphate content is available at mine near the port of Sant'Antioco. Investigation by the Mining Division indicates that production of barite from Sardinia could be made with an average of 1,000 metric tons per month during the first three months, and an output of over 2,000 tons per month at the end of one year's operation. Most of the heavy equipment required is available in Sardinia. The Mining Division is prepared to submit requisitions within ten days for all essential supplies should it be decided to reopen and operate the mines. This information has been transmitted to Washington, and further instructions are presently being awaited.

Cadmium. Existing stock of 3 metric tons of cadmium in Sardinia has been allocated to the United States and shipment is being made. The Combined Raw Materials Board has also allotted production for the next six months to users in the United States. The purchase price

for this metal as negotiated with the Italian Government is \$.25 per ~~pound~~
~~kilogram~~. The rolled-back world market price for cadmium as furnished
by Washington is \$.60 per ~~kilogram~~ ~~pound~~.

Other Metals. Advice has been received from Washington that no interest is held at the present time in Sardinian scheelite or antimony in either the United States or the United Kingdom. Instructions have been received to mine lead and zinc concentrates for local consumption and stockpiling.

c. Sulphur. A general inspection of Sicilian sulphur mines has been made, together with an investigation of processing equipment for the preparation of refined ground sulphur. There are facilities in Sicily at the present time for producing 700 metric tons of flowers of sulphur and 1,800 metric tons of ground sulphur per month. An allotment of 4,000 tons of raw sulphur has been made for dusting purposes, and will be processed in the Sicilian plants.

An inspection of sulphur mines on the Italian mainland is in progress. If conditions warrant reopening, supplies will be requisitioned for these mines and production started.

d. Lignite. An inspection has been completed of the lignite deposits in Lecce Province. It is believed that these deposits will have no appreciable bearing on the fuel situation as the one large deposit has been worked out and neither prospects nor records show the existence of any other sizeable deposit in that area. No disposition has yet been made by the Quartermaster, AFHQ, of the 20,000 tons of lignite previously reported available at the Mercure and Moroone mines. The initiation of the lignite mining program is contingent upon the rebuilding of certain bridges and roads which must be repaired to permit transportation of lignite from mines to consumers. Equipment and manpower are available at the Mercure Mine at Castelluccio for immediate operation.

Robert P. Koenig

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cc: Director, Ind. & Comm.
Chief, Reg. Mining Div., Reg. VI.

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