

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

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MONTHLY REPORTS, REGION 7
APR. - JULY 1944

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HEADQUARTERS REGTC I VII
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

File No. XVII/2/71/51

Date: 9 Aug 44.

SUBJECT:

Monthly Report, Region VII, July 44.

TO

Headquarters,
Allied Control Commission,
R.C. & M.G. Section (Civil Affairs Branch).

Herewith monthly report, in quintuplicate, for the month of
July 44.

A. Political Reactions and Popular Opinion.

1. The political situation is complex and there is considerable activity which extends to the smallest communes; but it is not considered that there is any cause for great anxiety on this account. Even in the event of a withdrawal of A.C.C. personnel from the Region leading to an outbreak of strife among the various parties it is considered that the CC.FE, existing police agencies and the Italian Army would be adequate to deal with it. The old principle of safety in numbers - in this case of the number of political parties - would seem to apply here. The increased bread ration should also be a stabilising factor.

2. No importance is attributed to fascism as a political factor. The fact that here and there arrests have been made, or are under consideration, of people working for fascist ends does not invalidate this statement. Many old fascists have transferred their allegiance to the Communist and Christian Democratic parties, and there is no evidence that their membership of these parties is being used as a cloak for fascist activity, or is in fact dictated by any motive other than opportunism and self interest.

3. The following political parties are now established and operating in this Region. All leaders are known to, and recorded at this H.Q. 58

Communist Party, Christian Democratic Party, Socialist Party, Action Party, Democratic Labour Party, Democratic Liberal Party, Independent Democratic Party, Free Italy Movement, Italian Republican Party.

B. Local Government - Provincial.

4. Reggio is still the only Province which has a Deputations Provinciale. In Catanzaro it is in process of formation and members are expected to be nominated shortly. Nothing has been done in this direction at Cosenza.

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B. Local Government - Provincial.

4. Reggio is still the only Province which ^{has} a Deputazione Provinciale. In Catanzaro it is in process of formation and members are expected to be nominated shortly. Nothing has been done in this direction at Cosenza.
5. Reggio now joins with Catanzaro in boasting a Giunta Provinciale, the members of this body being elected at a meeting of the Deputazione Provinciale on 18 July. Giunta Municipales have been formed so far only for the municipalities of Reggio and Catanzaro. The work of forming the Giuntas in the communes is however proceeding apace.
There is nothing to report from Cosenza where progress in local government is held up pending the appointment of a new Prefect.
6. The Prefect of Catanzaro continues to be dilatory in enforcing defascistization, raising first one pretext and then another.

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C. Economic Resources and Supply.

7. Grain/flour supplies: As a result of the cessation of sea borne supplies the stock position has deteriorated to a low level and the Region is at present being maintained from the local harvest and imports from Regions II and V. However so long as imports on present scale continue, no difficulties are anticipated in maintaining existing ration until end of Sept. Owing to difficult supply position in July it was not possible to distribute the increase of 550 grams per week. However as from 1 Aug. 350 grams of pasta or flour per week will be distributed to those communes which have made a satisfactory return of ration cards withdrawn. It is hoped that by Aug. 15 stock position will be such as to permit the introduction of the full scale of 550 grams flour or pasta per week.

8. Ration Cards: These are being withdrawn as fast as possible as the harvest progresses, and so far 100,000 have been withdrawn. This progress is not, however, considered satisfactory and a blitz is being carried out which will it is hoped produce improved results. It is not however expected to arrive at the total of 500,000 ration cards withdrawn which would represent the 30% of the population assessed previously to have rations and therefore not entitled to ration cards. This assessment was made rather hurriedly and it is now considered that 17% would be a considered assessment.

9. Transportation: This region is now maintained entirely by rail borne supplies, and this has proved reasonably satisfactory although there have been anxious moments. The withdrawal from this Region of 34 load carrying vehicles during July coming together with the increased grain to be transported to implement the increased ration led to a situation which at one time appeared critical and the fact that there was no breakdown in the bread ration now seems miraculous.

10. Dehydrated soup, meats, and stews: Partly because of the price being too high, and partly because of differences in national diet, these do not go well, and the Consorzio Agrario are left holding large stocks. The Black Market price of tinned meat is lower than the official one. It is recommended that these items be not sent in future. Credit notes totalling 25,000,000 lire being difference between old and new prices have been issued to Consorzio to enable them to liquidate their stocks bought in June without heavy losses.

11. Olive Oil: The collection of olive oil has been proceeding ^{slowly} under the direction of Major Duncan detached from the Food Sub-Commission. Up to 31 July 23,600 quintals of oil had been shipped to Naples from Reggio and Catanzaro provinces. There is still considerable traffic in Black Market oil to Naples by various means, particularly by train, and occasional raids carried out on trains by Police have yielded rich hauls of oil.

12. Local Resources: Tanning Extract has now entered the list of commodities produced in this Region with the starting up of two factories, one at Cocentze, the other at Catanzaro Marina. All production will be at

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Production of charcoal has been actively carried on in all three provinces and it is estimated that at present 18,000 tons are available for export. Stocks continue to accumulate owing to lack of transport. Timber, Silk, Bergamot Oil, and Briarwood continue to be produced and call for no particular comment here.

13. Price tendencies: There has been a gradual decline in Black Market prices which after all are the only satisfactory barometer of economic conditions. The reasons are several; first the increased price to grain growers and the consequent greater attraction of the granaio del popolo scheme; secondly the increased ration scale, and thirdly the greater availability of seasonal vegetables and fruits in the market. At one time bread fell as low as Lire 30 per kilo, but rose again to Lire 50 when the increased ration was not forthcoming on 1 July.

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D. Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

14. From a farmer's point of view the harvest is satisfactory both as to yield and quality, and harvesting is proceeding under ideal weather conditions. Collection, however, is another story. So far this Region has collected 83,000 quintals. The target figure is 290,000 quintals but it will not be possible to say whether this will be reached or not until the end of this month.

15. It is not considered that Black Market operations are at present very large, but it is feared that quite a considerable quantity of grain is being withheld by producers for sale at a later date. Family and seed retentions make this difficult to control, and it is probable that the only real cure will be a house to house search after sowing is completed. CC.RR have not been entirely inactive and in some cases have brought prosecutions and obtained convictions.

16. Provincial and Communal Agricultural Committees. The Provincial Committees are much improved both as to their methods and their activities, but the Communal Committees which are very much out of touch and lack supervision are in many cases far from what they should be. Closer liaison and intensive visiting is the remedy here.

17. Fertiliser Situation: Principal source of fertilisers for the Region is the Montecatini Factory at Crotone. This is ready to start production as soon as supplies of phosphate, due from North Africa early August arrive. Stocks of raw pyrites (obtained within the Region) are at a satisfactory level despite transport difficulties.

18. Collection of Silk Cocoons: Owing to mortality among silk worms, and evasion on the part of producers and spinners, this has not been satisfactory, and is proceeding only with great difficulty.

19. Grape and Wine production: Owing to lack of transport stocks of wine are already very high, and storage of the new vintage will be difficult unless these stocks can be moved. This is an important industry here and much economic hardship among the considerable proportion of the population connected with the industry is likely to result.

E. Labour.

20. Unemployment is not a major problem. Owing to incomplete registration statistics are very approximate and difficult to obtain. Unemployment exists mainly in the Provincial Capitals amongst the construction and building trades.

21. Italian Labour Offices: The Italian Government has now established a Regional Labour Office which during the month of July was in charge of AVV. Alessandro Bruni, of Matera, and serves both Regions II and VII. This official is responsible for supervising the Provincial Labour Offices. The organisation suffers from absence of transport and is greatly handicapped thereby.

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22. Labour Disputes: During the month of July the Regional Labour Officer was able to settle 4 major disputes where the Provincial Labour Office had been unable to reach any agreement. There is only one now pending, that involving the Società Elettrica della Calabria, and the Regional Labour Officer has made appropriate recommendations in this case.

23. Labour Legislation: The Provincial Labour Offices report a large number of labour controversies which do not involve wage increases, but rather violation of the provisions of existing collective labour contracts. The Directors have urged that legislation by the Italian Government is essential to clarify the judicial powers of their offices with respect to mediation, conciliation, and arbitration.

F. Public Works and Utilities.

24. Military Highways: There are no changes of program to record here and normal maintenance and reconstruction continues. Total value of work done on these at end of July amounted to L. 36,679,000 of which L. 9,379,000 has been expended.

Other Highways: Approval was recommended for L. 767,000 worth of work in this month, and for L. 2,055,000 worth of work to be carried out.

25. Public Works: Approval has been recommended for 16 projects amounting to L. 5,402,000.

26. Anti-malarial campaign: This is progressing with excellent results, and the supplies of Paris Green and Gas-oil are adequate for the next month. Use is also being made in streams of larva eating minnows. 125 pairs of shoes for malarial workers have been distributed.

27. Electricity: Very drastic cuts have had to be made all round in order to stay within the reduced allotment.

G. Public Safety and Italian Courts.

28. Crimes: The incident at S. Eufemia d'Aspromonte was reported in my Confidential XVII/90/1 of 11 July, and the two leaders not apprehended then have since been arrested. This is a part of Reggio Province which 15 years ago before the existing roads were built up into the Aspromonte, was completely dominated by bandits.

29. Allied Deserters: This is assuming serious proportions. Deserters are aware of the lack of military police in this Region - it is understood that there are only 7 MP's covering the whole of Southern Italy - and information is received daily as to the whereabouts and conduct of deserters or suspected deserters, but with the limited personnel available very little can be done.

30. Italian Courts: Italian courts generally are operating satisfactorily but complaints have been received to the effect that in many cases of Black Market offences, and offences against the grain laws, the sentences have been much too lenient. This matter has been taken up with the legal division and proper approach has been made to the Italian Legal Authorities.

H. Public Health.

31. There is now no Regional Public Health Officer at this H.Q. There have been 5 cases of small pox at Nicastro, limited to patients in the hospital there, where the original case contracted in Naples was treated. The Medico Provinciale has tightened quarantine measures.

I. Education.

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I. Education.

32. Nothing to report.

J. Refugees.

33. There has been no movement of Refugees into the Region during the month. The lot of those already settled in communes in the Region remains unenviable, and many are trying to return to their homes despite instructions issued by Prefects to the Sindaco that they are not to move without permission of the Italian Government.

K. Communications.

34. There is nothing to add to last month's report under this heading.

L. Property Control.

35. As stated in last month's report, this officer has now left.

M. Finance.

36. Funds for the financing of Provincial budgets are not forthcoming from the Ministry of Finance when due, and Provinces are accordingly embarrassed and unable to meet their commitments for Provincial and communal relief and other items. The same situation obtains with regard to the various ministries.

37. The Bank of Italy in Calabria is faced with a scarcity of loans. While continuing to increase their interest bearing deposits the banks are unable to employ this money advantageously in the form of loans and discounts which have reached a new low. This makes the refusal of the Bank of Naples to accommodate the Consorzio with seasonable loans at a lesser rate than 7½ all the more inapplicable in the light of limited earnings and excessive unemployed deposits. The Bank contends that it cannot deviate from published rates.

38. Emigrants Remittances: The Bank of Naples in Calabria reports an appreciable increase in emigrants remittances during July. Up to and including 25 July 64,19 separate remittances had been received totalling Lire 29,746,447 or 297,464 dollars.

G. C. Fraser

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LT. COL. R.A.,
REGIONAL COMMISSIONER.

HEADQUARTERS REGION

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

File Ref RVII/R/71

Date: 8 July 1944.

SUBJECT: Monthly Report, Region VII, June '44.

TO:

Headquarters,
 Allied Control Commission. R.C. & M.G. Section.
 ----- (Civil Affairs Branch)

Herewith monthly report, in quintuplicate, for the month of June 1944.

1. (a) Political Reaction and Popular Opinion.
Political Situation. Another quiet month with no events of note to report except the formation of new branches of political parties in the communes. 4 Socialist, 2 Communist and 2 Christian Democrat in Catanzaro and 1 Socialist in Reggio. None reported from Cosenza.
2. Morale is high consequent upon the Normandy landing and the successes in and beyond Rome, plus the news of an increased bread ration. Fifteen of the more unsatisfactory Sindaci in Catanzaro Province have been removed as a result of enquiries made by the Prefect into complaints received by him from individuals, and from various organisations.
3. Considerable dissatisfaction is expressed at the failure of the governmental committee of Catanzaro to dismiss certain fascists from office in governmental departments. Efforts to strengthen this committee have not met with complete success, though one change has been made. In Cosenza earlier work was more thorough and the position there, as in Reggio, is much better.
4. Demonstrations in celebration of the liberation of Rome took place throughout the Region. There were a few small untoward incidents; but on the whole everything passed off peacefully.
5. (b) Local Government - Provincial. The Reggio Deputazione Provinciale is now functioning and has held two meetings. At Catanzaro only a president and vice-president have been appointed. Nothing further has been done at Cosenza because the order was suspended by the Ministry: the Commissario Extraordinario is continuing his duties.
6. The Vice-Prefect there, however, states that he has prepared lists of names for nomination to the deputazione as well as for every giunta, and declares that the work of installing members could be completed in a little over a week, once a Prefect is appointed.
7. The Giunta Provinciale Amministrativa has been working at Catanzaro

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6. The Vice-Prefect there, however, states that he has prepared lists of names for nomination to the deputazioni as well as for every giunta, and declares that the work of installing members could be completed in a little over a week, once a Prefect is appointed.
7. The Giunta Provinciale Amministrativa has been working at Catanzaro since Nov. last; but giunte municipali have been formed in 12 communes only. Reggio has no Giunta Provinciale Amministrativa as yet, and only one giunta municipale, that for Reggio itself, is operating though others are in course of formation.
8. To sum up. While progress made does not call for congratulation, the field has got away at last to a very slow start, and there are hopeful signs that Catanzaro may yet beat the favourite Reggio with Cosenza finishing strongly, if the expected new order from the Ministry arrives reasonably soon. The course is heavy and the going up-hill all the way.
9. (c) Economics and Supply.
Food Supplies. Adequate stocks of rationed food were received with the exception of grain. The 15 day grain reserve built up in May was expended to meet the import shortage. A reserve for approximately 60 days of dehydrated vegetables, soup and canned meat was established. The balance of cheese, 180 tons, allocated in Apr. was not delivered.

Reduction in number of ration cards is continuing.

10. Olive Oil. Shipment of Lampante started: quantity moved not yet known.

11. Distribution of Food Supplies. The various consorzi agrario handled distribution of all food supplies from arrival at port or rail-head at a total cost of 100 lire per quintal.

12. Salt. Investigation was made into the distribution of salt. Conferences were held with the Salt Monopoly, and arrangements have now been completed to facilitate movement of salt to the warehouses by rail. Catanzaro and Cosenza were the provinces chiefly affected.

13. Transport. The railways were able to handle almost the entire quantity of Allied food supplies. Road transport was adequate to meet needs, which were, however, unusually light.

14. General price trend shows a very slight rise except in the Black market, where bread has fallen 30 points, and there has been a very sharp drop in the price of grain. The general position ~~may~~ may be described as reasonably satisfactory.

15. The shipment of briarwood blocks mentioned at para (4) of c in the May report has not yet been made.

16. (d) Agriculture and Fisheries.
Grain Harvest. The harvest itself is extremely good; but the critical period for collection is not until July. The Provincial Committees in Catanzaro and Reggio have co-operated well with the Inspectorates, UPSEA and Consorzi and commendable energy has been shown; but the Comunale ones have been a failure in the majority of places, despite efforts of Allied and Italian officials. In Cosenza, unfortunately the lack of ACC officers caused a set-back which the posting of Lieut. Morton there checked to some extent. Results to date Catanzaro 2240 quintals, Reggio 1181 quintals.

The Minister of Agriculture visited Cosenza and his rousing speech to all the Sindaci made a big impression, and was a most valuable contribution to the campaign. (He also addressed meetings at Catanzaro and Crotone on the 2nd and 3rd of July respectively.)

17. The larger producers on the whole do seem to be making an effort to make this "Granai del Popolo" a success; but the smaller ones find 51 black market temptations hard to resist.

18. Cocoons. Considerable difficulty has been met in the collection of cocoons, and a number of black market sales have taken place, and some local spinning which produces a coarse silk, quite unfitted for the W.K. market, has been carried on.

19. Fertiliser situation. 613 tons of copper sulphate have been distributed. The presence of a French firm at Crotone has been reported to the Agriculture Sub-Commission and is dealt with in para. 42 of this report.

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19. Fertiliser situation. 613 tons of copper sulphate have been distributed. The presence of a French firm at Crotone has been reported to the Agriculture Sub-Commission and is dealt with in para. 42 of this report.
20. In general rain is needed and potatoes are not expected to be very successful. On the other hand tomatoes promise remarkably well, and prices have already fallen on account of the supplies already coming in.
21. Fisheries. This is rather a Cinderella industry in which the problem is to find transport and refrigeration for the very moderate catches from the port to the inland centres.
22. Labour. Unemployment is prominent in Reggio Province only, and chiefly among artisans and skilled men. Accurate figures are hard to get because registration of the unemployed is voluntary.

Continuation:-

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23. Three disputes over wages are pending in CZ Province: the Regional Labour Off. has full knowledge of all that is happening and does not fear trouble.

24. The Camera del Lavoro, Reggio, which was rapidly becoming a purely Socialist and Communist organisation has voluntarily agreed to conduct itself in future on a non-political basis. The posting of a Labour Officer to the Region has been great help.

25. (f) Public Works and Utilities.
Efforts to find Italian engineers to replace Allied Officers for work on Military Highways have been unsuccessful. The present engineering staff cannot possibly cope with the many projects which have accumulated, and have to be examined before approval to start on them can be given.

26. Electricity. Meetings were held with the rationing Commissions, and work is in progress to curtail the consumption of electricity. The canals to four hydro-electric plants have been damaged by flood. One is a total wreck, one is out of action but can be repaired easily, while the remaining two are still operating; but are in serious need of repairs.

27. Public Utilities. Two projects for the repair of sewers in the Province of Catanzaro have been approved. All tramways are in operation in this Region. The one gas plant is intact; but has been shut down for the lack of fuel. It is considered advisable that it should remain closed for there are no major industries dependent on gas supplies.

28. (g) Public Safety.
Good. Liaison with Military Police and Security Services has been excellent. More good results from the presence of the Mobile Military Police Detachment in Cosenza have been noticed.

An interesting feature has been the joint action taken by the CC. RR., CC. FF., and the Questura in searching for contraband, which has proved conclusively that all these agencies can work together successfully if they want to do so.

29. No Allied Courts were held.

Italian Courts inspite of a summer slow down continue to function satisfactorily, except the Courts of Assizes, Catanzaro and Reggio, which have not disposed of any cases at all.

30. (h) Public Health.
Communicable diseases. Nothing of importance. A suspected case of small pox at Reggio was not confirmed; but one at Micaastro, Catanzaro Province, was confirmed on 29 June.

31. No Rabies cases reported. Action has been taken to enforce observance of regulations.

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28. (a) Public Safety. Liaison with Military Police and Security Services has been excellent. More good results from the presence of the Mobile Military Police Detachment in Cosenza have been noticed.

An interesting feature has been the joint action taken by the CC. ER., GG. FF., and the Questura in searching for contraband, which has proved conclusively that all these agencies can work together successfully if they want to do so.

29. No Allied Courts were held.

Italian Courts in spite of a summer slow down continue to function satisfactorily, except the Courts of Assizes, Catanzaro and Reggio, which have not disposed of any cases at all.

50

30. (b) Public Health. Nothing of importance. A suspected case of small pox at Reggio was not confirmed; but one at Nicastro, Catanzaro Province, was confirmed on 29 June.

31. No Rabies cases reported. Action has been taken to enforce observance of regulations.

32. Anti-malarial work continues, ponds are sprayed with gas oil or paris green and depressions filled in. Transport difficulties are the major problem in the distribution of larvicides for this work.

33. Drugs and Medical Supplies. Control is being exercised over the black market, and there has been welcome collaboration on the part of Italian officials. Public Welfare Committees have been set up to deal with public assistance, and Italian officials encouraged to deal with these matters. There is a great deal of squalor and want which is apt to be lost sight of, or never seen, by the "tip-and-run tourist" who remarks only on the comparatively sleek and well-dressed people in the main streets of the cities. It is hard to get any of the well-to-do to realise that they have any responsibilities in this respect.

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Continuation:-

- 4 -

34. (1) Education.
importance to report.

There is no Education Officer and nothing of

35. (j) Refugees. The treatment given to refugees in many parts still leaves a lot to be desired. There has been one interesting development, which shows that things could be worse for them. A number went off and returned to their homes only to come back when they found that conditions were impossible there. This should not be taken to imply that nothing further will be done for them. There has been no relaxation of the efforts being made on their behalf to arouse public opinion and to ameliorate their lot.

36. (k) Communications.
Roads. Repair and maintenance work goes on and the main roads for the most part are really surprisingly good.

37. Rail. Shortage of locomotives and rolling stock shows no improvement. Heavy military commitments have caused a famine in wagons.

38. Telecommunications. With the exception of nine unimportant places direct telegraphic service is now available in Reggio to all points which had such facilities before the occupation. The telegraph service throughout the region is very, very slow.

39. Telephonic communications have been re-established between headquarter towns and various centres as follows:- Catanzaro to 16, Cosenza to 36 and Reggio to 17 centres. The lack of shoes among the employees of the Circolo and Telegraph companies is being remedied.

40. Posts. Improvement continues.

41. (1) Property Control. The Property Control Officer has now left. There is one item of interest and that is the discovery of the Mineral and Metallurgical Company of Pertusola at Crotone, a full report on which was written by the Regional Property Control Officer before he went away. The plant, which is under normal and competent management of an engineer employed by the company, produces copper sulphate, and if price agreement could be reached should be of great value.

42. (m) Finance.
The Bank of Italy is meeting all normal Italian Treasury demands without assistance. Borrowing by correspondent banks is negligible, e.g. in Catanzaro the Bank of Italy has approximately 70,000,000 lire of correspondent banks deposits against which it has loaned less than 3,000,000.

43

43. Payments to beneficiaries of the substantial sums received from American banks are made expeditiously. Where banking facilities do not exist payments are made by mayors and post offices, ~~officiate~~ by arrangements with the Bank of Naples.

44. Interest charged by the Bank of Naples to Consorzi for loans

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44. Interest charged by the Bank of Naples to Consorzi for loans in connection with grain collection is 7½%, which is considered excessive particularly in view of the mounting bank deposits, and the limited scope for investment. The Consorzio Agrario is taking the matter up through Ministerial channels.

G. C. Fraser

G. C. FRASER,
 Lt-Colonel R.A.,
 Regional Commissioner.

Interpretation:
 Board (Economic Res.
 Admin. Sec.
 Information Department
 1943

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RESTRICTED

HE DOUQUARTERS REGION VIC CAR.

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

File Ref: RVII/R/71/188.

Date: 1944.

HEADQUARTERS

14 JUN 1944

SUBJECT: Monthly Report - May, 1944.

TO: Executive Commissioner,
HQ. Allied Control Commission.

Herewith my report for the month of MAY, 1944, forwarded in quintuplicate as requested.

A. POLITICAL REACTIONS AND POPULAR OPINION.

(1) Political Situation. On the whole a very quiet month with only one outstanding incident. This was at LAURAZANA, in REGGIO Province, where the Sindaco, a Socialist, was accused of having thrown a hand-grenade at a political meeting and was arrested. He was subsequently released after representations had been made to the Minister of Interior by his political party friends. There seems no doubt that the Socialist and Communist elements in the present Italian Government were instrumental in obtaining his release but, on the other hand, they have a strong case for their action as the arrest of a Sindaco is illegal without a Ministerial Decree. The Sindaco enjoys immunity from arrest being head of the Public Safety Department in his commune. The release of the Sindaco of LAURAZANA has caused much comment among opposing political parties and the population.

In CATANZARO a so-called Philo-Fascist movement was safely nipped in the bud and the arrested members were sent to NAPLES on 31 May, 1944. A full report has been forwarded through Public Safety channels.

There has been nothing untoward in COSENZA Province, although in the city of COSENZA itself, there has been a noticeable swing to the left.

(2) Defascistization. Committees have been sitting in all Provinces, and the results show some success so far. I feel, however, that these committees need careful watching if the initial success is to be continued, as there is a tendency to concentrate upon the small fry Fascists and not to go for the more influential ones.

B. LOCAL GOVERNMENT - PROVINCIAL.

A Deputazione Provinciale will shortly be in operation in REGGIO Province. The eight names have been submitted to the Provincial Commissioner by the Prefect and these are satisfactory, but there was a hitch as to whether the correct number of Deputies is eight or ten. This has now been settled by reference to the Interior Sub-Commission.

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"GIUNTA COMUNALE" and a "GIUNTA PROVINCIALE AMMINISTRATIVA" are also taking shape in REGGIO province and will be operating soon.

The situation in the other two provinces is not so advanced. Trouble is still being experienced in finding good sindaco, the present attitude seeming to be to make a man sindaco because he belongs to such and such a political party and not because he is a good Italian and capable for the job. Changes are, therefore, still taking place, and there is still a general lack of initiative and a regrettable reluctance to accept responsibility on the part of almost all sindaco.

Throughout the Region, Provincial Government is slow to act even on essential matters, and has to be constantly pushed from behind. There is no actual obstruction, but really active co-operation is all too rare.

The question of applying for a Questore for COSENZA, where there has been neither Questore nor Prefect for the last two months is under consideration. The Vice-Questore does not possess great
continued.....

2.

power of initiative and the situation in COSENZA would probably be improved by the appointment of a new Quastore.

C. ECONOMICS AND SUPPLY.

(1) Food. Adequate stocks have been received during the month, and a fairly good reserve is being built up throughout the Region.

(2) Olive Oil. An intensive drive is still on and it is hoped that more production will be declared as a result. Arrangements are being completed by Consorzio Agrario, CATANZARO to furnish NAPLES area with 1100 tons of lampante. This will only provide a reserve of 1300 tons estimated as sufficient to cover the needs of CATANZARO province until next harvest. It should be clearly understood that this depends on the entire amount denounced for collection being taken in. At present the Consorzio Agrario has in storage approximately 400 tons only of lampante. There is still to be collected approximately 1700 tons.

(3) Barbaquet Oil. 100,000 lbs are ready for shipment at REGGIO, having been purchased by the Ministry of Food. They originally purchased some 50,000 lbs in January 44 but it is believed that the present quantity is destined for the U.S.A.

(4) Brierwood. Some 3,500 bags of Brierwood blocks are to be shipped to the U.S.A. during the first fortnight of June. These will be shipped direct from REGGIO in grain ships and the War Shipping Administration (W.S.A.) representative from NAPLES is expected shortly to make the necessary arrangements.

(5) Silk Industry. In the province of REGGIO the rearing of cocoons for the production of silk is widely distributed and carried out for the greater part in the homes of the peasants. There is only one source of seed in the Province - the firm of CARIDI and CUNTIARI of SIDERNO.

Seeds were imported from the Middle East and the resulting silkworms are doing well. There is every hope of a good return of cocoons. For testing the value of the cocoons a small filature is being set up at RAVAGNANO near REGGIO under the control of the Istituto Bacologico of COSENZA.

Filatures now working for ACC in the Province of REGGIO are four in number. 2 at CANNIFELLO - 1 at VILLA S. GIOVANNI and 1 at LORRI. Two more filatures will shortly be added and the filature at LORRI is being greatly enlarged.

Arrangements are being developed for the collection, warehousing and despatch of silk to NAPLES, which is the selected port of shipment. A first consignment of silk has already been sent for shipment and during the coming month a further 2000 kilos will be sent.

(6) Clothing. The clothing situation is not good, particularly as regards boots.

(7) General. An extensive check, undertaken by ACC officers in REGGIO Province during the month, and which is still continuing, has brought to light several irregularities, both in administration and in

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(7) General. An extensive check, undertaken by ACC officers in REGGIO Province during the month, and which is still continuing, has brought to light several irregularities, both in administration and in efficiency of the personnel engaged in food distribution. Steps have been taken to correct these deficiencies and it is expected that smoother working will result.

d. AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES.

(1) Agriculture. Chief activity has been the planning for bringing in the grain. Each province has been busy making contacts with the local officials concerned, big and small, and cooperation is assured in almost all communes. Arrangements have been made for all available officers to help supervise the grain collection throughout the Region, and to continue to encourage the local farmers and officials to spare no effort.

As far as can be foreseen at the moment, a reasonable harvest is expected in REGGIO and COSENZA Provs. but CATANZARO will yield less than normal owing to a smaller acreage being under cultivation.

continued.....

3.
 It everywhere shows promise of being plentiful and good.
 In COSINZA Province potatoes have germinated up to 60 or 90% of what was planted.

(2) Forestry. There is the NEW ZEALAND Forestry Coy at CROTONE, and two lumber companies in COSINZA. All are working at high pressure, and a large amount of cut timber will result.

(3) Fisheries. In COSINZA Province the catches are now good and improving. Approximately 100 quintals per day are materializing from the two coasts, and arrangements have been made for its equitable distribution, military transport assisting.

In CATANZARO Province there are 7 schooners licensed to fish; 5 out of CATANZARO Marine and 2 out of CROTONE. Catches are fair, but very little seems to reach CROTONE.

4. LABOUR

There is considerable unemployment in the Region, but the forthcoming harvest will reduce this as will work on essential repairs when materials again become available.

There were two small strikes during the month, both in CATANZARO Province, but neither were serious and were quickly under control. Also 43 men absented themselves from work in the sulphur mines at MELLISSA, near the coast in the north-east of CATANZARO province, on the grounds that their pay and rations were insufficient. The dispute was settled without raising wages, which vary from 70.60 to 79 lire a day plus family allowance; but the employers promised a bonus of 10 lire a day for May and June. The new ration scale for heavy workers should remove the other grievance.

The local labour bureau in CATANZARO Province is proving itself quite useful and co-operating well.

F. PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES

Electric Light Companies and Water Works seem to be functioning satisfactorily in most areas and progress is being maintained in repairing damaged roads and bridges.

G. PUBLIC SAFETY

Good. The situation has improved in COSINZA owing to the recent appearance of military police in the city. More are urgently required in military trouble makers throughout the Region are to be obviated and I have taken preliminary steps to obtain the services of further Allied M.Ps.

No Allied courts have been found necessary during the month and the Italian courts are working quite well under the supervision of the Regional Legal Officer.

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No Allied courts have been found necessary during the month and the Italian courts are working quite well under the supervision of the Regional Legal Officer.

Many successful black-market raids continue to be made, but there is scope for plenty more.

7. PUBLIC HEALTH.

The position is very satisfactory. There have been isolated instances of typhoid in REGGIO Province which have been dealt with immediately and efficiently and there has been no fear of an epidemic spreading.

Anti-malaria and anti-rabies campaigns have been organized under the direction of the Reg. P.H. Officer and should produce very satisfactory results.

Welfare and condition of Population. The population seem to be well fed due, not a little, to Black-market activities but the worst sufferers are those in large towns where purchases have to be made at exorbitant prices. There is a certain amount of misery in the smaller communes but on the whole the population look well fed and some gain an increase in rations by growing vegetables.

continued.....

4.

I. EDUCATION.

Satisfactory. There have been student strikes owing to the instigation of exams but this matter will be cleared up without trouble.

In REMPIO the Provveditore has been dismissed in view of his Fascist sympathies and this move is welcomed by the populace.

J. REFUGEES.

Slightly improved though refugees in outlying and inaccessible districts are still underfed.

1800 passed through REMPIO en route to SICILY.

A shop has been opened in CATTOLICA for refugees to make their own clothes, but this has not been so successful as it might have been owing to the scarcity of sewing machines.

K. COMMUNICATIONS.

(1) Roads. Such as they are, fairly adequate for the amount of traffic using them. Pub. Wks and Utilities are doing their best to effect repairs where most necessary.

(2) Rail. Services on the increase, and this has effected diminishing P.O.L. consumption. Shortage of engines and rolling stock still very evident.

(3) Telecommunications. Telephones working quite well now, though telegraph system is usually very slow and if written in English the message as delivered frequently looks like cipher.

(4) Posts. Improving.

L. PROPERTY CONTROL.

Nothing to report.

M. FINANCE.

Generally satisfactory. Prices show a welcome tendency to become more stabilised, due to the availability of commodities previously lacking (fish, seasonable vegetables etc.).

The Banks, including the Bank of Italy, are functioning as well as can be expected, but throughout the Region deposits are increasing while the demand for credit remains stagnant.

The Region now possesses in addition to the R.F.O. (Major A.E. PUCCINELLI) a Regional Accountant and Supply Accountant (Capt. M. B. SCOTT).

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Regional Commissioner.

H. H. H. H.

527 30 MAY Recd C.A. Br

HEADQUARTERS REGION VII

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

9369

File Ref RVII/B/13/99

Date 28th May, 1944.

SUBJECT: Monthly Report - April 1944.

TO: Executive Commissioner,
Hq. Allied Control Commission.

1. Ref. 497/44/OA dated 25 April, 1944 herewith monthly report in quintuplicate for April, 1944.

2. Delay, due to recent formation of Region, is regretted. The report for May will be forwarded to reach you by 10 ~~May~~ ^{June} as requested.

Robert G. Kirkwood
ROBERT G. KIRKWOOD,
Colonel, FA, US Army
Regional Commissioner.

Encl.

Ed Oske

*This is too late to be of any interest
especially as its arrival coincides with
the current R.C.'s Conf. ? p.a without
further action.*

*Para 2 is noted. We will keep Reg VII
up to it.*



30/5

*P.A.
and*

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HEADQUARTERS REGION VII

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

Fds Ref RWIL/R/90/7th.

Date APRIL, 1944.

SUBJECT: MONTHLY REPORT. - APRIL, 1944.

TO:

1. POLITICAL REACTIONS AND POPULAR OPINION.

No major political developments during the month, though the situation in REGGIO has been somewhat electrical due to the coalition of the various parties in forming the new Government. The Communist and Socialist parties have joined hands, there, with the result that political friction is rife between this group and the other parties, and is sometimes a menace to public order.

Six active Squadristas have been arrested in REGGIO by PSS, and a round up of some active Fascists was made by the Carabinieri in CONENZA.

Newspaper attacks between parties are bitter and persistent throughout the Region. Personal characters are torn to shreds, always pointing to what political party the attacked person belongs. Nevertheless this has not been a menace to public order, and as all parties are active, the political aspect is healthy.

2. LOCAL GOVT: PROVINCIAL.

Not functioning vigorously enough. Criticism against the Prov. Authorities (Italian) is frequent, usually wrapped up with political feelings. In the communes, Sindaci and Carabinieri alike are generally apathetic and the sindaco especially do not seem capable of using their initiative. This is probably due to teething troubles after 20 years of Fascist control, but the situation is being closely watched and steps are being and will be taken to improve things as time goes on.

The Prefect of Conenza Province has been promoted to Cabinet Minister and there has been no replacement nominated as yet. The Vice-Prefect possesses little drive or initiative.

The Catanzaro prefect, GIOVANNI BATTISTA PONTIGLIONE has not, as yet, shown any marked signs of ability or initiative, and frequently has to be reminded of his duties.

3. ECONOMIC RESOURCES AND SUPPLY.a. General.

Satisfactory in all three Provinces. Arrivals are fairly steady and adequate. During April two ships arrived with supplies for Reggio with cargoes of flour, M & V, peas, beans and soap. The distribution centres at Reggio have been stocked with flour sufficient until 15 May.

b. Olive Oil.

The bringing in of olive oil is progressing, but it is extremely difficult to check that the maximum available quantity is being declared owing to the lack of records. It is felt that a fair amount of olive oil is still finding its way into the black market, but steps are being taken to increase the efficiency and enthusiasm of the Italian officials concerned.

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c. POL.

Allocation to Reggio province more than adequate and a reduction in consumption expected next month. On the other hand, Cosenza province was short owing to non-receipt of its allotment from Pst Sec. FIAMEO.

4. AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES.

a. Agriculture.

Nothing to report.

b. Forestry.

Kilizia Forestale are actively engaged in finding suitable timber for Citrus Trade. Approx 700 tons of timber has been exported to Sicily under AOC control for Sub-Commission Foreign Export. Further export held up owing to shortage of tptn facilities.

c. Fishing.

Meetings have been held with local authorities with a view to putting it continued....

Page 2.

on a sound basis. As always, tpting the catch presents most difficulties.

5. LABOUR.

Nothing to report; quantity and quality average.

6. PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES.

The only public works of any moment being carried out during April were in Reggio province where the situation is as follows:

a. State Roads.

Strada Statale No. 13.

Work is progressing satisfactorily. At CARAVILLA di BARCHINA, work on the piles and arches has been completed; and is continuing on the reinforcements and supporting walls. By the end of May the bridge will be opened to traffic.

At PAVAZINGA work on the supporting walls should be completed by the 10 May 1944.

Strada Statale No. 110 (di Monte Cucco and Monte Pecorello.)

PACERANO - The temporary crossing has been restored, and the work on the damaged supporting wall continues. The work is about 80% completed.

Strada Statale No. 112 (d'Avergnone).

PORTOPIA - a wooden bridge has been constructed and will be opened to traffic by 15 May 44.

VASI - Work has been started on a wooden bridge which should be finished during the month of June.

CORRACCHETTO - The wooden bridge will be completed by 15 May 1944.

b. Provincial and Communal Roads.

All work has now been completed with the exception of that taking place on the PONTE ROCCANO and the permanent rebuilding of the PONTE VACALE, temporary repairs to which latter have already been effected.

With the improvement of the weather and the apparent partial solution to the cement problem, good progress has been made during the month.

7. PUBLIC SAFETY.

Situation good. The Provincial Police Officers are organizing the efforts of the CC & NN and other Italian authorities, and results are extremely satisfactory. Criminal activity throughout the Region has not been above average.

In Reggio and Cosenza the lack of Military Police is causing difficulty in controlling transit and leave troops who have been the cause of several minor disturbances.

a. Allied Courts.

None held in this Region during April.

b. Italian Courts.

Functioning well under supervision of Regional Legal Officer.

8. PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE.

Civilian hospitals now functioning more or less satisfactorily and Regional Public Health Officer and the civilian Medici Provinciale make frequent inspections. Lack of essential medical articles and supplies has been taken up with RHED.

There was an outbreak of typhus near SULLA (22 cases). Victims were immediately isolated and the population (1200) received prophylactic treatment. No further outbreaks. Cause was the water supply.

Health situation generally good.

9. EDUCATION.

Situation improving. A system of "steering" more than one school into one

work on the supporting walls should be completed by the 10 May 1944.
Strada Statale No. 110 (di Monte Cucco and Monte Pecoreto).
 PALLANO - The temporary crossing has been restored, and the work on the damaged supporting wall continues. The work is about 80% completed.
Strada Statale No. 112 (d'Aspromonte).
 PORTOPIA - a wooden bridge has been constructed and will be opened to traffic by 15 May 44.
 VASI - Work has been started on a wooden bridge which should be finished during the month of June.

COSENZA - The wooden bridge will be completed by 15 May 1944.

b. Provincial and Communal Roads.

All work has now been completed with the exception of that taking place on the PONTE TOSCANO and the permanent rebuilding of the PONTE VALLI, temporary repairs to which latter have already been effected.

With the improvement of the weather and the apparent partial solution to the cement problem, good progress has been made during the month.

7. PUBLIC SAFETY.

Situation good. The Provincial Police Officers are organizing the efforts of the CC & RR and other Italian authorities, and results are extremely satisfactory. Criminal activity throughout the Region has not been above average.

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8. PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE.

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There was an outbreak of typhus near SCILLA (22 cases). Victims were immediately isolated and the population (1200) received prophylactic treatment. No further outbreaks. Cause was the water supply.

Health situation generally good.

9. EDUCATION.

Situation improving. A system of "staggering" more than one school into one building has been tried with success in Cosenza province, where almost all children are attending schools.

The weeding out of "undesirable" teachers and textbooks is almost complete.

10. REFUGEES.

There was no increase in the number of refugees in the Region during April, and the situation is fairly satisfactory.

In Reggio an Italian Colonel has been appointed Provincial Refugee Officer and he deals with the distribution of the rations supplied by the Army (Allied Command). The main difficulties regarding refugees are:

a. Tpt shortage makes it difficult to transfer food etc to those refugees in some outlying communes.

b. The attitude of the refugees themselves is well known; they are nearly all ungrateful, unreasonable and unhelpful.

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c. The lack of organizing ability and drive in the Italian authorities and committees set up for the purpose.

However, everything possible is being done to improve the lot of refugees and they are visited at frequent intervals by both civilian and Army officers with a view to settling their grievances and difficulties.

11. COMMUNICATIONS.

Poor, but other than Road Coms they are improving slowly. Road coms are not good ~~except~~ owing to the lack of fuel.

12. PROPERTY OWNERSHIP.

a. Most of the property that was in ACO charge in the Province has now passed to the charge of Prefects, the liquidation of assets still proceeding.

b. Place Arts and Monuments.

Mr. Jenkinson, the War Office representative toured this Region and expressed general satisfaction with what he saw. Some small repairs in the buildings housing the archives have, for the most part, been repaired, though glass is in very short supply.

W. M. P. H. H.
MORT. G. KIRKWOOD,
Colonel, PA, US Army
Regional Commissioner.

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