

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

785017

ACC

10000/109/1926

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

785017

00/109/1926

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN
APR., MAY 1944

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

SECRET

PRB 26/WB 7

20 May 1944.

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 7
14 May to 20 May

69

1. Political

The official price of wheat was eventually issued on Monday, May 15. The Italian Government took the line of asking that an ACC announcement should be issued, covering AMG territory, at 2 p.m., followed at 2.30 p.m. by an Italian Government communique, fixing a similar price "in order to ensure uniformity".

There is little else to report on the political front this week. The new law dealing with the punishment of Fascist crimes and illegal practices has "gone to the printers". The law contains a definition of crimes which enabled Fascists to assume power in 1922 and to eliminate the last traces of democratic rule.

Punishment ranges from imprisonment to death penalty. Latter requires judgment of High Commissioner. A list of mitigating circumstances is established to alleviate or to suspend sentences including such actions as fighting Germans etc. Provincial Commissions are established in each province to judge all cases. Members of the Commissions will be both judges and lay-men selected for their known anti-Fascist records and position. Commissions will be appointed by the Prime Minister upon the recommendations of High Commissioner and Minister of Justice. The judgments of provincial Commissions will be determined as in Courts of Law with a provision appeal. The High Commissioner may review any sentence of the Provincial Commissions.

It would appear that the words "defascistization" and "epuration" are not synonymous. The defascistization process, in charge of Onodeo, Minister of Education, removes Fascists from the governmental and administrative machine: the Epuration Committee, now headed by Sforza, would rid the whole national life of the traces of Fascism and punish those responsible for their crimes. Participation in the March on Rome, in the eyes of the Committee, is a crime. The word epuration, it seems, is likely to be dropped.

a definition of crimes which enabled Fascists to assume power in 1922 and to eliminate the last traces of democratic rule.

Punishment ranges from imprisonment to death penalty. Latter requires judgment of High Commissioner. A list of mitigating circumstances is established to alleviate or to suspend sentences including such actions as fighting Germans etc. Provincial Commissions are established in each province to judge all cases. Members of the Commissions will be both judges and lay-men selected for their known anti-Fascist records and position. Commendations will be appointed by the Prime Minister upon the recommendations of High Commissioner and Minister of Justice. The judgments of Provincial Commissions will be determined as in Courts of Law with a provision appeal. The High Commissioner may review any sentence of the Provincial Commissions.

It would appear that the words "defascistization" and "epuration" are not synonymous. The defascistization process, in charge of Omodeo, Minister of Education, removes Fascists from the governmental and administrative machine; the Epuration Committee, now headed by Sforza, would rid the whole national life of the traces of Fascism and punish those responsible for their crimes. Participation in the March on Rome, in the eyes of the Committee, is a crime. The word epuration, it seems, is likely to be dropped.

Cerabona, Minister of Communications, had an interview with Chief Commissioner on Wednesday and issued after the interview a mild communique stating that the ACC would do all in its power, subject to military exigencies, to restore facilities for goods and passenger transport.

Several Ministries have brought up with varying degrees of boldness or timidity the question of transportation. It is hoped that their own registration law will help them out since even with the most benevolent intentions and a definite policy of free collaboration it is felt that we are in no position to give away jeeps. "Charity begins at home" remarked one high-ranking officer, still unresigned to his permanent pedestrian status.

There is, however, a good deal of collaboration between the Ministries and the Sub-Commissions. Monuments and Education speak enthusiastically of their relationship and in general the impression of the new government is good. Gulio, Minister of Agriculture, has had a good press and is regarded as an efficient administrator. His speeches are more remarkable for commonsense than for eloquence.

Interior Sub-Commission has proceeded from the "pooling of sindaci" to the "earmarking of prefects" for yet unoccupied areas. Here too the Ministry has been sympathetic.

/ At

At Marshal Badoglio's urgent request, the Chief Commissioner attended a meeting of Ministers on Thursday afternoon to discuss increases in the wages of public utility workers in Naples, who had threatened, it appeared from reports, to strike on the following day. Legitimate increases had already been agreed to by the ACC and the main point at issue was the classification of workers. A meeting was convened in Naples for the following morning to discuss the point and the strike was called off.

2. Granai del Pozzolo

During the week Major Sutherland (see Bulletin No 6) made a tour through Campobasso, Foggia, Bari, Lecce, Taranto, Matera and Potenza. Some of his conclusions (which will be given more fully in the next Bulletin of the Agricultural Sub-Commission) are briefly as follows:-

- (a) There is a general demand that quotas for seed retention be raised. This is of doubtful validity: in Italy seeding has generally been too heavy, and lighter seeding would probably give better results; in some parts last year farmers seeded mixed grain deliberately to avoid amassing regulations: demands for extra seed retention may be merely to balance food retentions. Nevertheless, for future reference, this problem will probably have to be reviewed carefully on a provincial basis.
- (b) There is a general demand that all crops be amassed in order to avoid a switch-over to leguminous crops which will give a higher profit than wheat. It is suggested that all leguminous crops, if not physically amassed, be blocked on farms and merchandized at a controlled price through the Consorzi and other licensed dealers: otherwise farmers will be able to sell forward on a high market. This matter is under discussion with the Ministry of Agriculture. In this connection the value of oats, and recipes for oatcake and porridge, might be plugged to the Italian public.
- (c) Consorzi operating information is out-of-date owing to communication difficulties and it is thought that weekly price lists and weekly permissible operating costs should be issued. This matter is being attended to.
- (d) Communications south of the Bari-Potenza line are bad. Relay points for phonograms are suggested at Bari and

year farmers secured market for extra seed retention amassing regulations: demands for extra seed retention may be merely to balance food retentions. Nevertheless, for future reference, this problem will probably have to be reviewed carefully on a provincial basis.

- (b) There is a general demand that all crops be amassed in order to avoid a switch-over to leguminous crops which will give a higher profit than wheat. It is suggested that all leguminous crops, if not physically amassed, be blocked on farms and merchandized at a controlled price through the Consorzi and other licensed dealers; otherwise farmers will be able to sell forward on a high market. This matter is under discussion with the Ministry of Agriculture. In this connection the value of oats, and recipes for oatcake and porridge, might be plugged to the Italian public.
- (c) Consorzi operating information is out-of-date owing to communication difficulties and it is thought that weekly price lists and weekly permissible operating costs should be issued. This matter is being attended to.
- (d) Communications south of the Bari-Potenza line are bad. Relay points for phonograms are suggested at Bari and Potenza, and a special courier service during the harvest season.
- (e) There are great difficulties about the application of law and penalties (details will be given in Agricultural Sub-Commission bulletin). Penalties in many cases are insufficient.
- (f) Region V appears to consider that Region III permits and even encourages leakage to pedestrian and bicyclic traffic, which takes grain to high-priced black-market Naples.
- (g) A good deal of leakage occurs through Allied drivers who are bribed to use trucks for transport. No order, apparently, exists to cover this offence. A GRO-for-bidding any Allied soldier to engage in commerce might help.
- (h) In Foggia threshing machines and mills are controlled by Guardia di Finanza. Casual civilian labourers entering the province surrender ration cards immediately, are assigned to an employer who hands them harvest ration cards for purchase in bulk, are checked again by Carabinieri who never re-assigned.

/ Major

Major Sutherland's general impression was that in the areas which he visited, Italian agricultural officials were "getting down to brass-tacks", except in the Province of Lecce, where there are signs of indiscipline and evasion. The Provincial Commissioner there, he thinks, has a tough job.

3. News from Cassino

The following report was received on May 19 from Major Bullock of this Branch:-

- " (a) Before noon yesterday AMG Eighth Army had a party in the ruins of Cassino. The town is so completely flattened that Gp Capt Benson instructed his Cassino CAOs there was nothing for them to do there and so AMG will NOT occupy the town. Party was headed by Gp Capt Benson in person and was fired on from Monastery Hill by pockets of German resistance concealed in dug-outs.
- " (b) During the afternoon, under Polish conducting officers, Major Newton, AMG Monuments and Fine Arts and your DDPR climbed to the Abbey through the Polish lines with some 20 correspondents and a Polish flag party. Newton found the Abbey largely destroyed except for the walls on the side away from Cassino. Shall rush you his report earliest. There are German graves in the Abbey visible from the top of rubble and walls. Polish chaplain said some German wounded were still in lower passages of the ruins. Much of the rubble is fine dust. Excavation will be necessary to ascertain what remains. When the Poles raised Polish and British flags over the Abbey just before 1800 hrs it made scattered German holding parties very angry and we were opened on by mortar and snipers - no casualties.
- " (c) Shortly before we left Cassino town ruins around 1300 hrs to go to the Abbey, Capt Davies, PRO, told me two correspondents had been killed in the town but haven't their names yet.
- " (d) Got in only at midnight after 36 hours forward waiting to enter Cassino from San Vittore. Shall send you full report soon as possible."

4. Anti-inflation Committee

A committee has been appointed (and, we rather regret to say

found the Abbey largely destroyed except for the walls on the side away from Cassino. Shall rush you his report earliest. There are German graves in the Abbey visible from the top of rubble and walls. Polish chaplain said some German wounded were still in lower passages of the ruins. Much of the rubble is fine dust. Excavation will be necessary to ascertain what remains. When the Poles raised Polish and British flags over the Abbey just before 1800 hrs it made scattered German holding parties very angry and we were opened on by mortar and snipers - no casualties.

" (c) Shortly before we left Cassino town ruins around 1300 hrs to go to the Abbey, Capt Davies, PRO, told me two correspondents had been killed in the town but haven't their names yet.

" (d) Got in only at midnight after 36 hours forward waiting to enter Cassino from San Vittore. Shall send you full report soon as possible."

4. Anti-inflation Committee

A committee has been appointed (and, we rather regret to say, called in official documents the "Allied Inflation Committee", which we feel is more up our street) to "consider the existing financial situation in Italy and to make recommendations as to the measures which should be adopted to check the present tendency to inflation". The members of this Committee are Captain Ellery Stone, USNR. (Chairman), Colonel Grafftey-Smith, Colonel Foley, Colonel Upjohn, Colonel Fiske, Mr E.M.H. Lloyd (who was a member of the Economic and Financial Section of the League of Nations Secretariat; later Principal Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Food; in 1942 Consultant to O.P.A., Washington on Food Rationing; now Economic Adviser to the Resident Minister in Cairo, dealing with inflation problems in the Middle East - on loan to this theatre) and Mr H. Glasser (also on loan to this theatre from United States Treasury; he was Chief, Financial Division, N.A.E.B.; Financial Adviser to U.S. Representative on U.N.R.R.A.; and Financial Adviser to the Government of Ecuador).

The Committee met for the first time on Friday, May 19, and again on Saturday, May 20. We shall hope to tell you more about their views and decisions next week.

Meanwhile, not to be outdone in this sort of thing, PRB has started some investigations of its own. A cross-section of / family

family budgets in Naples, produced at our request by Region III, seems to show that Italians either starve or live on double their income. What to make of this at the moment we are not sure, but hope to tell you, of course, with the help of the Inflation Committee, in the next Bulletin.

5. Prisons

The prisons of Southern Italy are badly overcrowded, a matter of concern to Public Health and Public Safety. This is partly due to the slow turning of the wheels of Italian justice: "in this country it's as hard to get them out as to get them in" in the words of Colonel Young. A penal commission has been suggested by Legal Sub-Commission, but the Ministry of Grace and Justice seems to consider the matter not at all pressing and it is our policy not to press legislation on the Government.

6. Information Wanted

The Information Division, ACC, sends an S.O.S. to Regional and Provincial Commissioners for all available written material, time-tables, drawings, photographs, maps and other documents dealing with Italian railroading. Information is particularly desired on railroad yards, locomotives, passenger and freight cars, switches, etc. Such information is urgently required by the Transportation Sub-Commission, ACC.

7. Items

The Chief Commissioner and Colonel Fiske visited Bari on Monday: Brigadier Lush left on Thursday to visit 5th and 8th Armies AMG and Region V General Solodovnik has left the ACC and General Sudakov, formerly working with the Displaced Persons Sub-Commission will succeed him A sort of bump shook Naples at 0224 May 19. May have been an earthquake: usual differences of opinion. Possibly a mine: almost certainly not Colonel Poletti Two subjects likely to be brought up at the Regional Commissioners Meeting: procedure for the assignment or transfer of specialist officers and function and importance of Liaison ACC A shipment of 7,000 tons of copper sulphate is expected this week: it will be sold to farmers through Consorzio Agrario at 2,000 lire a quintal Night-fishing will be resumed this week at Sapri (Gulf of Salerno) and the Naples Market will thus get 10 tons of fish a day: 50 fishing boats and 169 men were moved to Sapri from the island of Procida At Ischia the tuna nets

and Provincial Commissioners for all available written material, time-tables, drawings, photographs, maps and other documents dealing with Italian railroading. Information is particularly desired on railroad yards, locomotives, passenger and freight cars, switches, etc. Such information is urgently required by the Transportation Sub-Commission, ACC.

7. Items

The Chief Commissioner and Colonel Fiske visited Bari on Monday: Brigadier Lush left on Thursday to visit 5th and 8th Armies AMG and Region V General Solodovnik has left the ACC and General Sudakov, formerly working with the Displaced Persons Sub-Commission will succeed him A sort of bump shock Naples at 0224 May 19. May have been an earthquake: usual differences of opinion. Possibly a mine: almost certainly not Colonel Poletti Two subjects likely to be brought up at the Regional Commissioners Meeting: procedure for the assignment or transfer of specialist officers and function and importance of Liaison ACC A shipment of 7,000 tons of copper sulphate is expected this week: it will be sold to farmers through Consorzio Agrario at 2,000 lire a quintal Night-fishing will be resumed this week at Sapri (Gulf of Salerno) and the Naples Market will thus get 10 tons of fish a day: 50 fishing boats and 169 men were moved to Sapri from the island of Procida At Ischia the tuna nets are in full operation after a lapse of two years; the estimated catch is 100 quintals a day MGS have now achieved General Staff status and will henceforth be known as G-5; Colonel Charles M. Spofford is designated as Assistant Chief of Staff and Colonel the Lord Middleton as Deputy Assistant Chief of Staff On Sunday 14 May, the feast of Joan of Arc, a review of more than 1,000 troops of the 1st Regiment de Chasseurs Parachutistes was held at Trapani. Regional Commissioner and Provincial Commissioner attended Italian ration agencies have completed inventories of ration cards in Naples City. About 300,000 ration cards illegally issued or used have been confiscated. A Regional Order requires an inventory of all ration cards to be made throughout Campania Lord Stansgate is preparing a list of "nefanda". It contains such striking phrases as "going through channels", "button up", "lay on", "headache" etc Security is tightening up in Naples. An officer of ACC was challenged on the street the other night and asked to show his dog-tag, AGO card and Naples pass. To all residents and visitors: verbum sap The proper method of answering a telephone has been the subject of some discussion. Security, insisting that officers should not give their names unless certain of caller's identity, is somewhat at odds with custom and civility. No decision has been reached and the happy middle ground between soldierly reserve and affable cordiality is still being explored A suggestion from the ladies: Miss

-5-

Nellie M. Marshall, president of the Women's Bar Association of Baltimore, Md, declares "a recent meeting of the group approved a resolution to have women commissioned equally with men to serve with Allied Military Government. The organization feels that women can be of essential service in the plans of AMG". Copies of the resolution were sent to President Roosevelt and to Secretary of War Stimson. The "Baltimore News-Post" carried the story on May 6.

8. Postscript on Montecassino

The following report on Montecassino Abbey has just come in:-

"(a) Montecassino Abbey examined from top of remaining walls at 1700 hrs 19 May 1944.

"(b) West End of Abbey remains standing to top floor. East and south sides, facing Cassino, mostly levelled to ground floor. Interior form of three lower cloisters still visible but without cross colonnades. Great stairway pulverized. Statue of St Benedict is headless but otherwise intact. Cloister of the Benefactors ruined. In Basilica south wall of Apse and part of two large piers at crossing still stand. Basilica appears otherwise gone.

"(c) Floor at High Altar and floor of Sacristy may be intact under rubble. Saw NO visible evidence of important bronzes doors. Sala Capitolare, Biblioteca, Pinacoteca and Archivio probably destroyed but possibly intact under rubble.

"(d) West End of Refectory still standing.

"(e) Reconstruction of entire Abbey is possible although much is now only heap of pulverized rubble and dust."

9. Quotes from an Esteemed Contemporary

"preacher Talks Punk Italian, Has Sticky Puss"

"(b) West End of Abbey remains standing to top floor. East and south sides, facing Cassino, mostly levelled to ground floor. Interior form of three lower cloisters still visible but without cross colonnades. Great stairway pulverized. Statue of St Benedict is headless but otherwise intact. Cloister of the Benefactors ruined. In Basilica south wall of Apse and part of two large piers at crossing still stand. Basilica appears otherwise gone.

"(c) Floor at High Altar and floor of Sacristy may be intact under rubble. Saw NO visible evidence of important bronze doors. Sala Capitolare, Biblioteca, Pinacoteca and Archivio probably destroyed but possibly intact under rubble.

"(d) West End of Refectory still standing.

"(e) Reconstruction of entire Abbey is possible although much is now only heap of pulverized rubble and dust."

9. Quotes from an Esteemed Contemporary

"Preacher Talks Punk Italian, Has Sticky Puss"

(Headline in 45th Division News)

Translation, if required, next week.

- 6501

LIONEL FIELDEN,

Major,

Public Relations Director.

/ Distribution overleaf

-6-

Distribution:-

1-10	Regional Commissioner, Region I		
11-18	" " " " " " " "	I	
19-24	" " " " " " " "	II	
25-33	" " " " " " " "	III	
34-43	" " " " " " " "	IV	
44-48	" " " " " " " "	V	
49-53	" " " " " " " "	VI	
54-58	" " " " " " " "	VII	
59-63	" " " " " " " "	VIII	
64	Senior Civil Affairs Officer, AMG Fifth Army	IX	
65	" " " " " " " "		
66	Chief Commissioner		
67	Deputy Chief Commissioner		
68	Executive Commissioner		
69	Deputy Executive Commissioner		
70	Vice President, Administrative Section		
71	Major-General L. Browning, MMIA.		
72	Colonel D.S. Adams, Chief Assistant, Economic Section		
73	Colonel Charles M. Spofford, Assistant Chief of Staff, G-6		
74	Colonel A.E. Young, Security Branch		
75	Joint Directors, Political Section		
76-77	Information Division		
78	Mr John Rayner, PWB		
79	Sir Noel Charles, British Representative on Advisory Council for Italy		
80	Mr Alexander Kirk, U.S. Representative on Advisory Council for Italy		
81	Major T.L. Bullock, PRO, 6th Army AMG		
82	Major John P. Leacacos, PRO, 5th Army AMG		
83	Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2 Sec PB8		
84	Experimental Det G-2, Room 41, Bank of Naples Building		
85	I.S.L.D., 126 Via Alessandro Manzoni		
86	Ensign Henry Roberts, R & A Branch, 628 Via Tasso (2nd Floor)		
87	Secretary-General		
88	File 26 (PRB)		

For distribution
to Provincial
Commissioners

PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

PRB 26/WB 6

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 6

7 May to 13 May

13 May 1944.

SECRET

1. Political

The weekly meeting of the Italian Cabinet held on Thursday, May 11, was expected to concentrate its discussions on the price of wheat and to issue an agreed figure. The only serious business transacted, however, was the passage of the main part of the Evacuation decrees. For the rest, the Cabinet discussed the retiring age of notaries, which it fixed at 75, set up a committee to study the composition of the consultative body, and apparently devoted the bulk of the day to condemning the action of the Crown Prince in making certain statements to Christopher Lumby, correspondent of the London Times.

(The interview appeared on April 20 and is reproduced in the Times Weekly Air Mail Edition of April 26. The Prince of Piedmont, in reply to the correspondent's question as to whether the King of Italy could have prevented the declaration of war, said: "Impossible. Had he attempted to resist Mussolini, it would have brought the Germans down on us. What happened last September would have happened then, and you must remember that at that time Germany was not at war with Russia, but had its army intact. The linking up of Fascism with Nazism made any other course out of the question. Moreover there was no sign that the nation wanted it otherwise. No single voice was raised in protest. No demand was made for summoning Parliament. Ostensibly Mussolini had the country with him." Actually, through negligence in the household, the script of the interview was never submitted to the Crown Prince, despite its having been forwarded by Lumby for this purpose. An interesting reflection on the authenticity of such interviews is that the Crown Prince, though attaching no blame whatsoever to Lumby, has stated privately that his intention was to say that Mussolini had the nation "sotto il suo pugno", which would

to condemning the action of the Crown Prince in making certain statements to Christopher Lumby, correspondent of the London Times.

(The interview appeared on April 20 and is reproduced in the Times Weekly Air Mail Edition of April 26. The Prince of Piedmont, in reply to the correspondent's question as to whether the King of Italy could have prevented the declaration of war, said: "Impossible. Had he attempted to resist Mussolini, it would have brought the Germans down on us. What happened last September would have happened then, and you must remember that at that time Germany was not at war with Russia, but had its army intact. The linking up of Fascism with Nazism made any other course out of the question. Moreover there was no sign that the nation wanted it otherwise. No single voice was raised in protest. No demand was made for summoning Parliament. Ostensibly Mussolini had the country with him." Actually, through negligence in the household, the script of the interview was never submitted to the Crown Prince, despite its having been forwarded by Lumby for this purpose. An interesting reflection on the authenticity of such interviews is that the Crown Prince, though attaching no blame whatsoever to Lumby, has stated privately that his intention was to say that Mussolini had the nation "sotto il suo pugno", which would mean "under his fist" rather than "with him")

However, the Cabinet, without further ado, issued a statement condemning such Royal interviews and stating that "the Cabinet unanimously rejected the assumption that the Italian people had any blame for the Fascist war." As the present Italian government had agreed to leave the institutional question alone, this attack showed no more good faith than courtesy. Moreover, the precedence given to this subject over the price of wheat, had about it a touch of Neronian fiddling. Fortunately perhaps, the operational news of May 12 almost completely obscured the Cabinet communique.

The Chief Commissioner visited Marshal Badoglio at Salerno on Friday, and a further meeting of the Cabinet was convened for Saturday morning. This meeting withdrew for lunch without having reached any decision on anything.

After further debate, Ministers Aldisio, Gullo, Quintieri and Under-Secretary Bergami left the meeting and came to Naples to discuss the wheat-price situation with the Chief Commissioner.

/ The

The discussion was still in progress at 6 p.m. when the meeting at Salerno adjourned. The communique then issued from Salerno does not refer to the price of wheat, but included (a) the nomination of Sforza as High Commissioner for Emigration in place of Zaniboni, who becomes High Commissioner for Refugees (b) the name "presidente del Consiglio dei Ministri" to replace "Capo del Governo" (c) various other administrative matters concerning Finance, Education and Industry.

A further special meeting of the Cabinet will probably take place on May 15 or May 16 for the purpose of reaching a final decision on the price of wheat.

2. Ammassi - Granai del Popolo.

During the early part of the week discussions on the price of wheat provided a very large headache indeed for the Chief Commissioner, Colonel Adams, Colonel Foley, the members of the Agriculture Sub-Commission and the Italian Minister and Under-Secretary for Agriculture. Furrowed foreheads were observed emerging from conference rooms at all hours of the day and night. We thought we saw (observe our reticence please) Colonel Foley and Major Hartman flash past us in alternate states of exhilaration and dejection. It was understood (note our caution here) that the supporters of 650 were no less indomitable and obstinate than the defenders of 1,400. Meanwhile the PR Branch did its best to guide and control the PWB on the best methods of conducting a publicity campaign without dropping too many strawless bricks. The declarations of Badoglio and Gulio are being put to the fullest possible use in press and radio, and some very simple posters have been adopted for general distribution. More are under consideration. It is intended to make short films - for showing in mobile film units - of Badoglio and other leaders, as well as representative farmers, urging the importance of amassing. It is also desired to publicize as far as possible the successful work done by the Communal Committees, stressing particularly the part played by, and the representation given to, small farmers. Assistance of Regional and Provincial Commissioners in giving such information either to this

of the Agriculture Sub-Commission and the Italian Minister and Under-Secretary for Agriculture. Furrowed foreheads were observed emerging from conference rooms at all hours of the day and night. We thought we saw (observe our reticence please) Colonel Foley and Major Hartman flash past us in alternate states of exaltation and defection. It was understood (note our caution here) that the supporters of 650 were no less indomitable and obstinate than the defenders of 1,400. Meanwhile the PR Branch did its best to guide and control the PWB on the best methods of conducting a publicity campaign without dropping too many strawless bricks. The declarations of Badoglio and Gullio are being put to the fullest possible use in press and radio, and some very simple posters have been adopted for general distribution. More are under consideration. It is intended to make short films - for showing in mobile film units - of Badoglio and other leaders, as well as representative farmers, urging the importance of amassing. It is also desired to publicize as far as possible the successful work done by the Communal Committees, stressing particularly the part played by, and the representation given to, small farmers. Assistance of Regional and Provincial Commissioners in giving such information either to this Branch or to the local PWB representative would be much appreciated - also, and we particularly ask you for this - comments on the success or failure of publicity of all kinds, and suggestions for its improvement.

Major J.R.G. Sutherland of the Agriculture Sub-Commission has already left for a swing through the provinces to help organize the Granai del Popolo collections. Signor Gino Bergami Italian Under-Secretary of Agriculture, is also making a tour for the same purpose. In addition, General Messe of the Italian Army has agreed that Italian soldiers should be available for use for harvest labour.

The Agriculture Sub-Commission are issuing a series of bulletins, the first of which will appear next week, to provide suggestions and information. We are not sure that we like this stealing of our thunder, but as far as we can see we can't help it.

3. GSI(b)

3 District Security Intelligence Summary for April notes "a disquieting increase in losses of and damage to ordnance and other stores" and quotes some bad breaches of security, e.g. at

Capri where "operations are discussed openly in the bars, which employ English-speaking civilians." It is also stated in this summary that "the period has been marked by a sharp rise in ill-feeling between civilians and troops, to a large extent it is regretted to say, as a result of the latter's bad behaviour, which reached a climax over the Easter week-end." The summary adds that "comment concerning the constitution of the new Government under Marshal Badoglio has been restrained and, if not on the whole unfavourable, doubts as to its value as an effective instrument of government are being aired."

4. Region II

Headquarters officers, concerned about getting reports of all kinds shorter and more concise, have been citing the April report of Region II, under the newly-appointed Regional Commissioner, Colonel John T. Zellars, as a model. In three and a half pages, Colonel Zellars covers the entire range of his region in a pithy and fact-packed manner. One item was of especial interest. It was Colonel Zellars' estimate of the general administrative situation in terms of leadership in the grass roots of the provinces. Potenza Province, for example, is "fairly strong in leadership and well organized", but Matera Province is "somewhat weak in leadership but very well organized." Taranto and Lecce Provinces are "fairly strong in leadership and very well organized." Brindisi Province is reported as being weak in both leadership and organization. Bari Province appears the worst of the lot: "Leadership weak and non-effective. Organization poor."

5. The French and AMG

A very interesting comment on relations with our French brethren is contained in the April report from the Fifth Army AMG field staff. A part runs as follows:

"Relations with the French have been harmonious and the presence of a French officer with the AMG Section has proved beneficial. However the French still have some misconception of the function of AMG and rather resent some of the restrictions imposed upon them in the interests of the civil population, such as the prohibition of local purchase of meat, the issue of white flour to Italians while they and their families in North

and a half pages, Colonel Zeliars covers the entire range of his region in a pithy and fact-packed manner. One item was of especial interest. It was Colonel Zeliars' estimate of the general administrative situation in terms of leadership in the grass roots of the provinces. Potenza Province, for example, is "fairly strong in leadership and well organized", but Matera Province is "somewhat weak in leadership but very well organized." Taranto and Lecce provinces are "fairly strong in leadership and very well organized." Brindisi Province is reported as being weak in both leadership and organization. Bari Province appears the worst of the lot: "Leadership weak and non-effective. Organization poor."

5. The French and AMG

A very interesting comment on relations with our French brethren is contained in the April report from the Fifth Army AMG field staff. A part runs as follows:

"Relations with the French have been harmonious and the presence of a French officer with the AMG Section has proved beneficial. However the French still have some misconception of the function of AMG and rather resent some of the restrictions imposed upon them in the interests of the civil population, such as the prohibition of local purchase of meat, the issue of white flour to Italians while they and their families in North Africa have to use brown flour, the lightness (in their opinion) of sentences imposed by AMG courts upon offenders against French troops and against law and order. This is understandable when it is remembered that Italian troops are said to be still occupying the French Riviera and that several stores of luxury goods looted from France by Italian soldiers have been discovered by the French during the present campaign."

6. Red Cross Meeting.

A general conference of Red Cross workers - American, British and Italian - was held 11 May in Naples, at which the Allied Control Commission was represented by Brigadier Lush, Executive Commissioner, and Brigadier Parkinson, Director of the Public Health and Welfare Sub-Commission, as well as representatives from the Italian Refugees Branch, with whom the Red Cross works in particularly close contact. ACC officials were deeply impressed with the volume and competence of the work done by the Red Cross organizations in helping ACC meet its human welfare problems. Especially encouraging is the growing renaissance of the Italian Red Cross, which insofar as it has been revived, has been of effective aid to the Allied

/ Red

Red Cross, short of manpower as the Allied agencies are. It was also reported at the meeting that approximately \$11,000,000 worth of clothing has been sent to Italy from the United States. Some of the clothing has found its way into the Black Market, of course, which was not unexpected, as one Red Cross official wryly reported. In Sicily, too, the issue of pyjamas was not quite successful. Sicilians prefer nightshirts.

7. May Day Postscript

Double pay for May Day was approved by the Italian Government for "operai" and "lavoratori" only, and NOT for "impiegati"; the Local Resources (Naples) Board, however, decided that no extra pay should be given to employees of the Armed Forces.

8. Fine Arts

News from the fine arts front is good this week, according to the Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives Sub-Commission. The text of the "Soldier's Guide to Rome", written by Major E.F. De Wald, Director of the Sub-Commission, finally went to the publishers after editing and arrangements had been made by the Public Relations Branch. The layout, in ACC green with the head of Greek god on the cover, and printing are being undertaken by the Psychological Warfare Branch, Italian Theatre, for the ACC. The initial printing order will run to 50,000. General Alexander, Commander-in-Chief, Allied Armies in Italy, has contributed the foreword.

The Fine Arts Sub-Commission also issued its first "List of Protected Monuments" for Lazio and Abruzzi-Molise. The pamphlet contains lists of monuments which troops will protect as far as it is consistent with military necessity. In addition, the Fine Arts Sub-Commission welcomes the appointment of a new Italian Inspector-General of Monuments, Signora Zancani-Montuoro, appointed by Minister of Education Onofrio. Signora Zancani-Montuoro is well-known in her profession for her excavations of Greek temples at Paestum.

news from the Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives Sub-Commission. The text of the "Soldier's Guide to Rome", written by Major E.I. De Wald, Director of the Sub-Commission, finally went to the publishers after editing and arrangements had been made by the Public Relations Branch. The layout, in ACC green with the head of Greek god on the cover, and printing are being undertaken by the Psychological Warfare Branch, Italian Theatre, for the ACC. The initial printing order will run to 50,000. General Alexander, Commander-in-Chief, Allied Armies in Italy, has contributed the foreword.

The Fine Arts Sub-Commission also issued its first "List of Protected Monuments" for Lazio and Abruzzi-Molise. The pamphlet contains lists of monuments which troops will protect as far as it is consistent with military necessity. In addition, the Fine Arts Sub-Commission welcomes the appointment of a new Italian Inspector-General of Monuments, Signora Zancani-Montuoro, appointed by Minister of Education Onodero. Signora Zancani-Montuoro is well-known in her profession for her excavations of Greek temples at Paestum.

9. Quotes from an Esteemed Contemporary.

American officers contemplating marriage in this theatre will be happy to learn that they are now authorized to draw one truck, 1/4 ton, 4 x 4, C & R, for a period not to exceed 7 days. Vehicle may be drawn from the Ordnance Officer on memorandum receipt upon presentation of certificate signed by the officer stating that the purpose is for transportation during the honeymoon." So states the 10 May issue of the Peninsular Base Section Daily Bulletin.

10. PRE

A directive defining our relationships with the Psychological Warfare Branch (PWB) will be issued shortly..... Lieut Gen F. Caprio, ACC Public Relations Officer now detailed to Region III, will come into headquarters in the next week, while two of our headquarters officers will go out to the field for a period. Major T.L. Bullock goes to Eighth Army AMG and Major John P. Leacocks goes to Fifth Army AMG.... The Public Relations Branch will be deeply appreciative if Regional Commissioners and Senior Civil Affairs Officers would occasionally send in reports on their problems in connection with the Allied Publications Board, the Psychological Warfare Branch

-5-

Branch, visits of Allied correspondents, Italian press relations or suggestions for the Weekly Bulletin.

11. Odds and Ends from Pountabout

AMG education officers in Avellino are now using three tents for school-rooms 400 tons of hemp have been exported to the U.K. in the first such shipment from the Italian mainland The novel "A Bell for Adano", written by John Hersey, Life correspondent, about the travails of AMG in Sicily, is to be made into a motion picture, it is reported, though not without some qualms among AMG officers as to the effect of such a film on the reputation of our honourable efforts at military government: some representation to the film companies may be made by the War Department if recent recommendations from this theatre are followed through The incidence of smallpox in Naples is much smaller than invited, being, first, of a mild type, and second, limited to 48 cases in three weeks, while 21,000 persons have been vaccinated Naples, further (if the reader minds so much Naples news, news from other sectors would be welcome), now has 14 soup kitchens feeding needy 9,000 persons therefrom Intelligence reports a new wrinkle among Italians, to the effect that not a few are crossing the front lines one night and returning as refugees the next night, posing as refugees so as to get board and lodging, for which they pay, as it were, with fantastic and imaginary reports of enemy activities Region III is conducting a study of actual living conditions and household budgets to find out how representative cross-sections of the populations really live The Carabinieri are still having trouble getting sufficient clothing, having to date obtained only about 25 per cent of their actual needs Major Francis E. Wray (A), SCAG of the II Corps on the Fifth Army AMG field staff, was decorated with the O.B.E. on April 23 for his work during his attachment as GAO to the 56th British Division Civilian population on the Anzio beachhead is now less than 1,000, the rest having been evacuated Some tunnels of Roman remains were found in the course of normal shellfire ground changes in the Nettuno area recently Shearing of the 20,000 sheep on the beach-head is a spring headache for AMG there In Sicily,

0 5 5 4

bruted, being, first, of a mild type, and second, limited to 48 cases in three weeks, while 21,000 persons have been vaccinated Naples, further (if the reader minds so much Naples news, news from other sectors would be welcome). Intelligence reports a new wrinkle among Italians, to the effect that not a few are crossing the front lines one night and returning as refugees the next night, posing as refugees so as to get board and lodging, for which they pay, as it were, with fantastic and imaginary reports of enemy activities Region III is conducting a study of actual living conditions and household budgets to find out how representative cross-sections of the populations really live The Carabinieri are still having trouble getting sufficient clothing, having to date obtained only about 25 per cent of their actual needs Major Francis M. Wray (A), SOAO of the II Corps on the Fifth Army AMG field staff, was decorated with the O.B.E. on April 23 for his work during his attachment as CAO to the 56th British Division Civilian population on the Anzio beachhead is now less than 1,000, the rest having been evacuated Some tunnels of Roman remains were found in the course of normal shellfire ground changes in the Nettuno area recently Shearing of the 20,000 sheep on the beachhead is a spring headache for AMG there In Sicily, Colonel A.N. Hancock, Regional Commissioner (recently promoted), reports that the Separatist movement appears to be declining, though the credo of regional administrative autonomy is still held firmly by all parties ACC Public Safety officials in Sicily also just caught a gang of forgers of 1,000-lire notes, together with their equipment and 43,000,000 lire in forged notes Pantelleria has 17 per cent of its 10,000 inhabitants on relief, according to AMG reports from there Sardinians are complaining that buyers from the mainland are buying dirt cheap on the island and re-selling at high profits on the mainland 100,000 animal skins are awaiting shipment in Sardinia to Naples, for glove makers, with negotiations in progress for another 135,000 900 Jews are being sent to Palestine by the Displaced Persons Sub-Commission.

/ Distribution overleaf.

785017

IX
10. Senior Civil Affairs Officer, AMG Fifth Army
11. Senior Civil Affairs Officer, AMG Eighth Army
12. Chief Commissioner

- 28 Via Tasso
(2nd Floor)

PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

SECRET

PRB 26/WB 5.

6 May 1944.

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 5
30 April to 6 May

1. Political

000015

The second meeting of the new Italian cabinet took place on May 4. Subjects under discussion were (1) the Amassi and the price of wheat (2) Defascistization (Omodeo, Minister of Education, being appointed Head of the Commission) (3) Suppression of the Ministry of Foreign Exchange, its duties being taken over by the Ministry of Finance (4) Suppression of the Ministry of Popular Culture, press relations being taken over by the Ministry of the Interior (home and foreign news) the Ministry of Communications (tourism and radio) and the Ministry of Education (cinema and theatre) (5) Economic betterment of State employees (a meeting to be held on Saturday, May 6, to discuss this subject between the Ministries of Finance, Labour, Communications and ACC Finance Sub-Commission; another meeting to be held Monday, May 8, between the Finance Sub-Commission and the Ministry of Labour to discuss similar problems applying to manual labourers).

On the same day Marshal Badoglio issued a statement urging all Italians to support and assist the Amassi collections.

A good deal of ground was thus covered by the new cabinet during the day. In connection with defascistization, the Government statement issued after the meeting contained an injunction to individual Ministers stressing their responsibility for reporting all cases which came to their notice, and suspending, on reduced salary, any suspected employees until such time as their cases could be settled by the Commission.

Correspondents, on the whole, were not particularly interested by the meeting. Their copy, however (a short digest is attached) showed indications that there was some definite wishful thinking about an ending of the state of co-belligerency.

"Il Corriere" produced a bad case of infringement of military security. A letter on this subject with precise directions was sent to the Italian Government on April 18.

Communications and ACC Finance Sub-Commission; another meeting to be held Monday, May 8, between the Finance Sub-Commission and the Ministry of Labour to discuss similar problems applying to manual labourers).

On the same day Marshal Badoglio issued a statement urging all Italians to support and assist the Ammassi collections.

A good deal of ground was thus covered by the new cabinet during the day. In connection with defascistization, the Government statement issued after the meeting contained an injunction to individual Ministers stressing their responsibility for reporting all cases which came to their notice, and suspending, on reduced salary, any suspected employees until such time as their cases could be settled by the Commission.

Correspondents, on the whole, were not particularly interested by the meeting. Their copy, however (a short digest is attached) showed indications that there was some definite wishful thinking about an ending of the state of co-belligerency.

"Il Corriere" produced a bad case of infringement of military security.. A letter on this subject with precise directions was sent to the Italian Government on April 18; there was therefore no excuse. Italian editors need to be reminded in all areas that such mistakes militate heavily against the transfer of press responsibility to Italians.

2. "I Granai del Popolo"

6498

As a result of Lieut-Colonel Ruck's letter, which was mentioned in this Bulletin last week, a last-minute endeavour was made by this Branch in cooperation with PWB to find a new name for the Ammassi. General consensus of opinion, Italian opinion especially, favoured "I Granai del Popolo". It was impossible to introduce this into the decrees themselves, which were already in print (and are now law). It was nevertheless decided that in spite of this a considerable change could be effected in the public mind by good and rapid publicity. The name "Granai del Popolo" was therefore splashed in "Risorgimento" on May 4, and Marshal Badoglio was asked, and consented, to include it in his statement. This line will now be followed in all publicity. We have no doubt at all that the word "Ammassi" with its connotations of corruption, can be made almost to

/ disappear

disappear, and the new name can be linked with a more honest and successful effort under Allied control.

3. Price of Wheat

On the matter of fixing the price of wheat some announcement is expected within another week, according to Colonel D.S. Adams, chief assistant to the vice president of the Economic Section. Changes in the price of wheat and consequently in the price of bread appear to be more important than any other factors in the discussions at the moment. Undue rise in the price of bread will have a bearing on the matter of inflation and would tend to be the lender other prices would follow. What boots it the farmer to gain a sharp increase in the price of wheat when a corresponding increase in the price of scarce consumer goods takes away his profit? That is one view. The object summed up: Effective amassing of grain with a price that will least disrupt the inflationary situation.

4. Labour Day

In agreement with the Allied authorities, May Day Labour celebrations were held in the principal centres on Sunday, April 30, in order that there should be no interruption in the regular working day schedules. Meetings were held in many towns, largely under the auspices of the Socialist, Communist and Action Parties and workers' organizations. Communist speakers at these rallies emphasized the necessity of further developing the war effort of the Italian people in cooperation with the Allies.

5. Documentary Discoveries.

Information of value was uncovered during the past week in two private document collections in Naples which hitherto had escaped notice. The collections were investigated by the Information Division, ACC.

One of the collections was that of the Provincial Tourist Agency (Ente Provinciale del Turismo). This yielded a large number of tourist handbooks, guides, maps and other documents dealing with all parts of Italy, and with Germany and Japan. The material will be of value to naval intelligence, and to several ACC Sub-Commissions, notably Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives.

In agreement with the Allied authorities, May Day Labour celebrations were held in the principal centres on Sunday, April 30, in order that there should be no interruption in the regular working day schedules. Meetings were held in many towns, largely under the auspices of the Socialist, Communist and Action Parties and workers' organizations. Communist speakers at these rallies emphasized the necessity of further developing the war effort of the Italian people in cooperation with the Allies.

5. Documentary Discoveries.

Information of value was uncovered during the past week in two private document collections in Naples which hitherto had escaped notice. The collections were investigated by the Information Division, ACC.

One of the collections was that of the Provincial Tourist Agency (Ente Provinciale del Turismo). This yielded a large number of tourist handbooks, guides, maps and other documents dealing with all parts of Italy, and with Germany and Japan. The material will be of value to naval intelligence, and to several ACC Sub-Commissions, notably Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives.

The second collection was that of the Campani Interprovincial Syndicate of Journalists (Sindacato Interprovinciale Giornalisti Campani). It included several different sets of encyclopedias, bound copies dating back many years of leading Italian newspapers, and much other reference material. The Information Division is taking steps to preserve this collection intact as an adjunct to the Central Reference Library.

6. One up to the Carabinieri.

Italian Carabinieri, under the direction of Allied Control Commission officers in Sardinia, have succeeded in cutting the leakage of imported food supplies from ship to warehouse to .05, or one twentieth of one per cent.

The foodstuffs are distributed in the three provinces of Sardinia by three commercial firms who take delivery and make payment at shipside.

/ The goods

-3-

The goods get four checks, and the cost of this checking amounts to 7 lire a ton for ACC. The first check is by the military port authorities upon receipt. The next is by ACC on consignment. The third is by the commercial firm on payment. The fourth is by the Carabinieri.

The Carabinieri check the stuff on to the trucks, ride the trucks to the warehouses, check the unloading and guard the warehouses.

As one ACC official said, "If one item is short the Carabinieri raise a hull of a row. They have been granted authority and have assumed responsibility in the most praiseworthy fashion."

In addition, the Carabinieri have taken on the salvage of broken sacks and are obtaining a high percentage of recoveries.

7. The John Hanshaw Camp

An Italian refugee camp operated under the supervision of Allied Control Commission authorities, Region II, at Pistocchi, near Matera, has been named the John Hanshaw Camp in honour of Lieut John Hanshaw, Inf, who was instrumental in helping to establish the camp as a model refugee centre a month before he was recently killed on duty in the 8th Army forward area.

Lieut Hanshaw, who was 35 and a contractor in civil life at home in Ithaca, N.Y., helped to turn the Pistocchi Camp from a collection of old stone buildings housing 1,500 miserable and sullen refugees to a clean, well-organized community where the refugees, with a new morale, take care of their own gardens, policing, entertainment and schooling.

Allied authorities paid tribute to the Italian Prefect of Matera Province, Dr Guido Tamburro, and Conte Gattini, local head of the Italian Red Cross, for their aid to Lieut Hanshaw in making the camp a success.

8. Courier Service

7. The John Hanshaw Camp

An Italian refugee camp operated under the supervision of Allied Control Commission authorities, Region II, at Pistiochi, near Matera, has been named the John Hanshaw Camp in honour of Lieut John Hanshaw, Inf, who was instrumental in helping to establish the camp as a model refugee centre a month before he was recently killed on duty in the 8th Army forward area.

Lieut Hanshaw, who was 35 and a contractor in civil life at home in Ithaca, N.Y., helped to turn the Pistiochi Camp from a collection of old stone buildings housing 1,500 miserable and sullen refugees to a clean, well-organized community where the refugees, with a new morale, take care of their own gardens, policing, entertainment and schooling.

Allied authorities paid tribute to the Italian Prefect of Matera Province, Dr Guido Tamburro, and Conte Gattini, local head of the Italian Red Cross, for their aid to Lieut Hanshaw in making the camp a success.

8. Courier Service

A courier service has started leaving Naples on Sundays (0930) for Campobasso, Foggia (stay overnight), Foggia (0800) Bari, Matera (stay overnight), Matera (0700) Potenza, Salerno, Naples. A similar service will leave Naples on Wednesdays (0800) for Salerno, Potenza, Matera (stay overnight), Matera (0800) Bari, Foggia, Campobasso (stay overnight), Campobasso (0900) Naples.

6497

9. Clean-up in Naples

May 7 to 13 is Clean-up Week in Naples. An elaborate campaign has been organized for all the communes in Naples province. Schools, civic groups, churches, military base installations and public health authorities are all participating. A prize will be given for the cleanest commune in the province. Communes and schools will also hand out prizes. Lectures, school themes, demonstration clean-up squads and all the paraphernalia of an old-fashioned American Chamber of Commerce civic drive, together with suitable publicity, will feature the campaign. Best of all, AMG officials have found another 2,000 old gasoline drums to use as garbage cans. This makes a stockpile of 7,000 cans for Neapolitan refuse.

/ 10. Items

785017

-4-

b. Items

Headquarters has now introduced bell-girls, girl guides, girl pages, (what shall we call them?) dressed in a becoming shade of green.... Colonel Russell has carried out a successful experiment in oil-spraying from aeroplanes against malaria!.... We understand that the ceiling for officers is safe and might even be raised a little, but no hope whatever for more EM/OR.... The next Regional Commissioners' Conference will be held on May 30 in the PBS Officers' Club building, Naples: opinion tends towards a round-table conference as against set speeches.... The busi-ness of getting a better designation than ACC/AMG is still under discussion.... In some parts of the country it's said that wheat has almost displaced currency.... Maj. T.3. Bergin has joined the Public Relations Branch.... Major T.L. Bullock of the PR Branch has visited Regions I and VI.... Edgar Kowrer, recently arrived here on a flying visit, tells us that arrangements for Moroccan troops in this theatre in-clude trucks of Serber lovelies run up to the front line and returned regularly after use.... Sir Clifford Heathcote-Smith, British Resident Representative of the Intergovern-mental Committee on Refugees has arrived and will work in close contact with Displaced Persons Sub-Commission.... Col. F.L. Whitely who entered 17th General Hospital on April 25 for a malaria check-up is still being checked and no bug can be found on him.... Mr. Leo Gerstenzang, Deputy Chief of the Balkan Mission of UNMRA, has arrived to discuss the Italian food situation with Colonel Legg and others: no immediate developments by UNMRA are contemplated.... Lt. Col. Lord Middleton has succeeded Col. Terance Maxwell in MGS AFHQ.... Col. Kirkwood has established the Headquarters of Region VII at Cetanzaro.... Region IV have set up a forward echelon under canvas.... Lt. Col. Feasey has left Region V for Region VII.... Lt. Col. French has left Region I for Region V...

11. Epilogue

This bulletin, it may be remarked for the benefit of those who haven't seen it before, was established and is intended for the peculiar delight of Regional and Provincial Commissioners of the ACC who may not be always fully acquaint- ed with the marvels performed at HQ. It is not, and will not, we trust, ever become (as an official

and returned regularly after use.... Sir Clifford Heathcote-Smith, British Resident Representative of the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees has arrived and will work in close contact with Displaced Persons Sub-Commission.... Col. F.L. Whitely who entered 17th General Hospital on April 25 for a malaria check-up is still being checked and no bug can be found on him.... Mr. Leo Gerstenzang, Deputy Chief of the Balkan Mission of UNHCR, has arrived to discuss the Italian food situation with Colonel Legg and others; no immediate developments by UNHCR are contemplated.... Lt. Col. Lord Middleton has succeeded Col. Terance Maxwell in MGS AFHQ.... Col. Kirkwood has established the Headquarters of Region VII at Catanzaro.... Region IV have set up a forward echelon under canvas.... Lt. Col. Feasey has left Region V for Region VII.... Lt. Col. French has left Region I for Region V...

11. Epilogue

This bulletin, it may be remarked for the benefit of those who haven't seen it before, was established and is intended for the peculiar delight of Regional and Provincial Commissioners of the ACC who may not be always fully acquainted with the marvels performed at HQ. It is not, and will not, we trust, ever become (a) an official report (b) a mere catalogue of events (c) an almighty document of absolute accuracy. Accuracy we seek, of course, but we are still smarting slightly under the breeze occasioned by an over-optimistic forward wheat quotation last week. A mistake is a mistake and we apologise; we have no Delphic Oracle on our staff but we refuse to be entirely budgered out of an occasional note of gaiety.

DISTRIBUTION

Regional Commissioner, Region I
" " Region II
" " Region III
" " Region IV
" " Region V
" " Region VI
" " Region VII
" " Region VIII
" " Region IX
S.C.A.O. AMG Fifth Army
S.C.A.O. AMG Eighth Army
Chief Commissioner
Deputy Chief Commissioner
Executive Commissioner
Deputy Executive Commissioner
Vice President, Administrative Section
Information Division
Mr. John Rayner, PWB
Col. Spofford, AFHQ, HQS
Lt. Caprio, Region III
Asst Chief of Staff, 3-2 Sec PBS
Experimental Det. G-2, Room 41 Bank of Naples Bldg
I.S.L.D. 126 Via Alessandro Mazzini
Security Branch
Political Section
Ensign Henry Roberts R2A Branch 628 Via Tasso
2nd floor

CHINIGO RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

5 May, 1944

PRR 20 TREND OF COPY FILED BY CORRESPONDENTS ON MAY 4

The second meeting of the new Italian cabinet failed to attract the flood of correspondents who attended the first. Maybe they felt that, having described the Palazzo del Governo with such a wealth of detail, there was nothing left to describe. As far as is known only CHINIGO (INS) ELEANOR P40K4RD (U.P) SPRIGIT (Reuters) and LUMBY (Times) were in Salerno, the last two only because the car which was taking them down to Sicily had broken down there.

Both ELEANOR P40K4RD and CHINIGO obtained scoops as they had done the previous week. The former certainly had the full text of Badoglio's message when she filed her story at 1825. She quoted his "granaries of the people" (while this Branch can persuade him to include) "equitable compensation" and "deeply felt discipline" which can achieve results far superior to those obtained by exclusively coercive measures." She also gave, once again, the full agenda, including the purging of fascists in key posts, the composition of the consultative body, the living conditions of state employees, communications (especially buses and trams for subordinates) and volunteers for the Italian army. At 2100 she filed a despatch stating that Omodeo had been appointed head of the anti-fascist purge.

CHINIGO had clearly got similar information at the same time and wrote a similar despatch (both correspondents were hours ahead of the official release) He also sent his story to the effect that Marshal Badoglio had had an hour's interview with Sir Noel Charles and had stressed the need for material, particularly aircraft, to permit full Italian cooperation in the war. CHINIGO (who was certainly busy) also sent a long interview with Sforza who was quoted as saying that "co-belligerency must go" and "the allies must decide once and for all whether Italy was to be allowed to take a serious part in the war"

This note stressed by CHINIGO in his account of both interviews and underlined by his own comments which suggested that a better deal was now called for, was also

6495

able compensation and "deeply felt discipline" which can achieve results far superior to those obtained by exclusively coercive measures." She also gave, once again, the full agenda, including the purging of fascists in key posts, the composition of the consultative body, the living conditions of state employees, communications (especially buses and trams for suburbanites) and volunteers for the Italian army. At 2100 she filed a despatch stating that Omodeo had been appointed head of the anti-fascist purge.

CHINIGO had clearly got similar information at the same time and wrote a similar despatch (both correspondents were hours ahead of the official release) he also sent a story to the effect that Marshal Badoglio had had an hour's interview with Sir Noel Charles and had stressed the need for material, particularly aircraft, to permit full Italian cooperation in the war. CHINIGO (who was certainly busy) also sent a long interview with Storza who was quoted as saying that "co-belligerency must go" and "the allies must decide once and for all whether Italy was to be allowed to take a serious part in the war".

This note stressed by CHINIGO in his account of both interviews and underlined by his own comments which suggested that a better deal was now called for, was also struck by SPRIGGE (Reuters) in a despatch sent two days previously, in which, after concentrating at some length on the "delicate negotiations" concerning prisoners of war, he worked up to the conclusion that "co-belligerent status is a source of much bewilderment to friendly Italians and to allied authorities controlling populations within it can treat neither as enemies nor as full friends". SPRIGGE and LUBBY (Times) filed despatches covering Badoglio's declaration on the 4th and late in the evening after it had been officially released (2115).

SIGART (Herald Tribune) filed a long article in praise of Colonel Poletti whom he described as "a man often criticized as a loud uncouth extrovert" who has nevertheless "convinced and bullied the population out of its bemused attitude of defeatism and despair".

A great deal of censorship trouble was occasioned by correspondents' references to the statement which appeared in IL CORRIERE of May 3 to the effect that there were large troop concentrations in Italy. This statement was a gross

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

PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

S E C R E T

PRB 26/WB 4/1

2 May 1944

CORRECTION TO WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 4

U R G E N T

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 4 dated 29 April 1944 item 5 paragraph 2 cancel sentence referring to price. No decision has yet been made about price and figure quoted is wholly inaccurate. Summary of decree is correct.

6494

PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

SECRET

PRB 26/ WB 4

29 April 1944.

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 4
23 April to 29 April

1. Political

The first formal cabinet meeting of the new Italian Government took place at Salerno on Thursday, 27 April. The meeting lasted from ten to four-thirty, with a luncheon recess during which newspaper correspondents percolated into the Council Chamber and had a look over the papers. This caused some alarm and despondency in cabinet circles, and produced a couple of journalistic scoops, but no serious harm was done. A short digest of correspondents' copy is attached.

The official declaration of policy made after the meeting may be summarized as follows:

- (a) The Government is formed from representatives of anti-fascist parties, no longer opposed to one another, but united in the effort to solve the vital problems of the moment.
- (b) Other problems, not of immediate urgency, will be set aside, including the institutional one, which can only be decided by a constituent assembly elected by universal suffrage.
- (c) All the parties, according to their beliefs, are prepared for the fundamental reforms necessitated by two world-wars; but such reforms cannot be initiated or completed while Italy is cut in half and still at war.
- (d) The renewal of democratic government provides a new spirit, lacking under Fascism, for the prosecution of the war at the side of the Allies, and for the heroic endeavours of patriots of every party now united in the defence of Italy and the conquest of Hitler's Germany.

the official declaration of policy made after the meeting may be summarized as follows:

- (a) The Government is formed from representatives of anti-fascist parties, no longer opposed to one another, but united in the effort to solve the vital problems of the moment.
- (b) Other problems, not of immediate urgency, will be set aside, including the institutional one, which can only be decided by a constituent assembly elected by universal suffrage.
- (c) All the parties, according to their beliefs, are prepared for the fundamental reforms necessitated by two world-wars: but such reforms cannot be initiated or completed while Italy is out in half and still at war.
- (d) The renewal of democratic government provides a new spirit, lacking under Fascism, for the prosecution of the war at the side of the Allies, and for the heroic endeavours of patriots of every party now united in the defence of Italy and the conquest of Hitler's Germany.
- (e) The necessity of war involves the severest measures against all traitors and the freedom of Italians from all those who, having served Fascism, still cling to its habits, hopes or aims.
- (f) Such work must not be actuated by a spirit of revenge, but by a determination that Fascism shall never recur. The work has been put in hand and will be carried energetically to a swift conclusion.
- (g) Government action will be based on the urgent necessity of improving conditions of life by increasing industrial and agricultural activity, fighting speculation, smoothing internal exchange of products, obtaining essential supplies from abroad, and hastening the construction of public buildings, roads and bridges. For such tasks the Government counts upon the cooperation of all professional organizations.

/ (h) Administration

6493

-2-

(h) Administration, despite difficulties of archives, accommodation and personnel, must be regularized and it is proposed to re-establish the State Accounting Office and the Accounting Court. It is proposed also, in cooperation with the Committees of Liberation, to establish a small Consultative Body, symbol of parliament, to which periodic reports of progress will be made.

After the declaration the cabinet discussed the May Day celebrations and decided to appeal to workers in German-occupied Italy to mark the day by a struggle for liberation. (The Italian Government has since proposed double payment for all workers on 1 May and this has been agreed by all concerned). The Minister of Agriculture addressed the cabinet on the measures of control of the Ammassi; and 200,000 lire was allotted for urgent Public Works.

2. Flashes from Naples

ACC HQ Commandant reports that the courtyard of the Provincia Building is sinking rapidly on account of previous excavations and vehicles must no longer be parked there. If HQ disappears one day, you know where it's gone EM/OR in rest camps at Naples are having catboats placed at their disposal: no advice yet as to whether guitars will be supplied Region III reports that 18 new pasta factories are in operation and hope to begin deliveries in two weeks' time Much argument has developed as to whether Naples was shaken by an earthquake or a time-bomb half-an-hour after the last air-raid. Old Californians stubbornly maintain the earthquake theory: Professor Imbo of the Vesuvius Observatory insists his instruments didn't record anything of the sort.

3. Displaced Persons - Communications, Records and Enquiries

A section has been set up to deal with records and Enquiries in the Displaced Persons Sub-Commission under Mr Thomas Parrington. The section is located at Bari. Nearly 25,000 displaced persons, out of a total of some 35,000, have been registered, though not always with the full details required. Thirty-one nationalities are involved. Out of a total of about a thousand enquiries received from all parts

ACO HQ Commandant reports that the courtyard of the Provincia Building is sinking rapidly on account of previous excavations and vehicles must no longer be parked there. If HQ disappears one day, you know where it's gone EM/OR in rest camps at Naples are having catboats placed at their disposal: no advice yet as to whether guitars will be supplied Region III reports that 16 new pasta factories are in operation and hope to begin deliveries in two weeks' time Much argument has developed as to whether Naples was shaken by an earthquake or a time-bomb half-an-hour after the last air-raid. Old Californians stubbornly maintain the earthquake theory: Professor Imbo of the Vesuvius Observatory insists his instruments didn't record anything of the sort.

3. Displaced Persons - Communications, Records and Enquiries

A section has been set up to deal with records and Enquiries in the Displaced Persons Sub-Commission under Mr Thomas Parrington. The section is located at Bari. Nearly 25,000 displaced persons, out of a total of some 35,000, have been registered, though not always with the full details required. Thirty-one nationalities are involved. Out of a total of about a thousand enquiries received from all parts of the world, nearly 200 have been satisfactorily answered and communications with relatives re-established: but this has not been an easy task, and Mr Parrington will shortly ask for the help of Regional Commissioners in drawing up lists of displaced persons in various parts of Italy. He is grateful for the cooperation given hitherto, but would like us to say that information from Sicily is particularly slow and meagre. It is hoped that later on a master card-index of all displaced persons may be established in Geneva under the International Red Cross, and the work now instituted here will be an important contribution to that end and to the eventual settlement of refugees and stateless persons.

4. Telephone communications

Communication has now been established as follows with Regional HQ.

Region I - Call Naples Long Distance and ask for Palermo.
Region II - Call Naples Long Distance - ask for Bari and then Matera
/ Region III

-3-

Region III - Naples 16183 or 50140
 Region IV - Naples 11722 or 11743
 Region V - Call Filipot and ask for Campobasso
 Region VII - Call Naples Long Distance and ask for
 Catanzaro via Salerno - Reggio

There is no telephone service yet to Region VI: it is hoped that this may be established by June 1. Regions VIII and IX can be reached at Vapor (Naples) 75.

5. Ammassi

The campaign to harness the Ammassi machinery of Italy, which has always been 80 per cent an agricultural nation, to the end that Italy become as self-sustaining as possible in food, is on the eve of starting. Working in closest cooperation with the Agriculture Sub-Commission, the Italian Minister of Agriculture has just signed a decree setting up the elaborate machinery for the harvest collection. The decree will be published within the next few days. Saturday and Sunday (April 29 and 30) Under-secretary Gino Bergami of Agriculture, together with Major W.A. Hartman (A), Director of the Agriculture Sub-Commission, and Major M.M.A. Dickie (B), Deputy Director, met with all agricultural officers in the Italian theatre - agriculturists, fishery experts, foresters and other technicians - to plan detailed support to the Italian officials in this first major effort of the new Italian Government. Marshal Badoglio is expected to issue a statement after publication of the decree.

Key announcement concurrent with the Ammassi decree will of course be that of the price to be paid for the wheat which, with barley, will be amassed. Both the AGC and the Italians are in fairly close agreement on the price which may be in the neighbourhood of 1300 lire per quintal. The decree may be briefly summarized as follows:

Five groups of organizations are set up: Compartmental and Provincial Inspectorates having over-all charge of regional amassing; Provincial Advisory Committees; Provincial Agricultural Inspectorate to collect and review all collection returns; Provincial Agricultural Consorzi, which will do the actual

Agriculture has just signed a decree setting up the elaborate machinery for the harvest collection. The decree will be published within the next few days. Saturday and Sunday (April 29 and 30) Under-secretary Gino Bergami of Agriculture, together with Major W.A. Hartman (A), Director of the Agriculture Sub-Commission, and Major M.M.A. Dickie (B), Deputy Director, met with all agricultural officers in the Italian theatre - agriculturists, fiscary experts, foresters and other technicians - to plan detailed support to the Italian officials in this first major effort of the new Italian Government. Marshal Badoglio is expected to issue a statement after publication of the decree.

Key announcement concurrent with the Ammassi decree will of course be that of the price to be paid for the wheat which, with barley, will be amassed. ~~Both the ACC and the Italians~~ ^(Canceled) are in fairly close agreement on the price which may be in the neighbourhood of 1300 lire per quintal. The decree may be briefly summarized as follows:

Five groups of organizations are set up: Compartmental and Provincial Inspectorates having over-all charge of regional amassing; Provincial Advisory Committees; Provincial Agricultural Inspectorate to collect and review all collection returns; Provincial Agricultural Consorzi, which will do the actual amassing; Communal Committees to arbitrate between the farmers and the agencies in disputes.

The decree states that unless the amassing programme yields maximum results this summer, the Italian Government will not be in a position to approach the Allied Authorities with requests for possible additional aid; therefore, every agricultural agency in Italy must do its utmost so that the Ammassi returns will be in accord with "the imperious needs of the moment." On the Allied side, the decree approved by ACC says: "In accordance with agreement reached in the Regional Commissioners' Conference, this is a first priority programme of work for Allied ACC/AMG officers."

The nub of the problem naturally remains the price. The decree mentions that the price to be fixed "will constitute an incentive not to evasion but to delivery." If the Italians do gather the 43 per cent of the crop that ACC authorities have estimated can be gathered, the forthcoming campaign will be nothing less than historic.

Some extremely interesting suggestions were received from Lt Col Ruck of Region II. Unfortunately his letter arrived too

/ late

6492

-4-

X / late to be included in the discussions. He has, however, suggested some very valuable ideas on the publicity campaign. Among other things he has advised that the word Annassi be dropped, since it has become associated with corrupt practices and was a special target for our own propaganda.

Distribution:-

Regional Commissioners, Regions I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII
Senior Civil Affairs Officers, Fifth and Eighth Armies AMG
Chief Commissioner
Deputy Chief Commissioner
Executive Commissioner
Deputy Executive Commissioner
Vice President, Administrative Section
Information Division (2 copies)
Mr John Rayner, PWE
Col Spofford, AFHQ M38.
Lt Caprio, Region III

Distribution:-

Regional Commissioners, Regions I, II,
III, IV, V, VI, VII
Senior Civil Affairs Officers, Fifth
and Eighth Armies AMG
Chief Commissioner
Deputy Chief Commissioner
Executive Commissioner
Deputy Executive Commissioner
Vice President, Administrative Section
Information Division (2 copies)
Mr John Rayner, PWB
Col Spofford, AFHQ MGS.
Lt Caprio, Region III

PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

PRB 20. Trend of Copy filed by Correspondents

27 April 1944

Correspondents' copy covering the first meeting of the new Italian Cabinet and its declaration of policy was mainly characterized by somewhat flamboyant reporting of the scene of the meeting. A multitude of words were cabled about the mahogany table, the size and shape of the armchairs, the exact dress of the carabinieri, the type of blotting-pads and inkwells used, the murals and the view, and even the sarafe of water on the table. Correspondents clearly regarded the declaration itself as pedestrian and LUMBY (Times) summed up the general view by saying that it was "an unexceptionable catalogue of good intentions: the country now wants to see what the Government will really do." The two points which attracted most attention were (a) the intention to set up a "limited advisory body as a symbol of parliament" and (b) the call to workers in German-occupied territory to celebrate May Day.

CHINIGO (INS) cabled a long interview with Onofeo, whom he called the "fiery Rector of the Naples Athenaeum." The interview was dramatically anti-fascist and anti-clerical. It was essential, Onofeo is quoted as saying, "to stress the true terms of the quarrel between Church and State." At 1300 CHINIGO telephoned a despatch from Salerno containing an exact translation of paragraphs 1-5 and paragraph 8 of the declaration (which was not released until 1730). He made no comment except that it was a "resounding declaration of new policy."

Only one other correspondent, ELEANOR PACKARD (U.P.) filed copy at this time (1315) from Salerno. She gave details of the declaration and quoted all six points on the agenda, giving them as (1) French Committee of Liberation (2) Participation of Italian forces in war effort (3) Government's relations with Russia (4) Government's relations with AGO (5) May Day celebrations (6) Epuration. SPRIGGE (Reuters) filed a straight story of the declaration from Naples at 1630. He did not, as CHINIGO, use its exact terms, and later, after the general release had been made, sent alterations of his previous despatch. PARKER (Exchange Telegraph) filed a descriptive story, with vague hints of the declaration, from Naples at 1830. He

CHINIGO (INS) cabled a long interview with Onofio, whom he called the "fiery Rector of the Naples Athenaeum." The interview was dramatically anti-fascist and anti-clerical. It was essential, Onofio is quoted as saying, "to stress the true terms of the quarrel between Church and State." At 1500 CHINIGO telephoned a despatch from Salerno containing an exact translation of paragraphs 1 - 5 and paragraph 8 of the declaration (which was not released until 1730). He made no comment except that it was a "resounding declaration of new policy."

Only one other correspondent, ELEANOR PACKARD (U.P.) filed copy at this time (1515) from Salerno. She gave details of the declaration and quoted all six points on the agenda, giving them as (1) French Committee of Liberation (2) Participation of Italian forces in war effort (3) Government's relations with Russia (4) Government's relations with AGO (5) May Day celebrations (6) Epuration. SPRIGGE (Reuters) filed a straight story of the declaration from Naples at 1630. He did not, as CHINIGO, use its exact terms, and later, after the general release had been made, sent alterations of his previous despatch. PARKER (Exchange Telegraph) filed a descriptive story, with vague hints of the declaration, from Naples at 1630. He described the Council Chamber in detail. "Badoglio was evidently too pre-occupied to smoke, as there was only one cigarette-stub in his ash-tray after the two-hour sitting."

GODFREY TALBOT (BBC) filed a straight descriptive story from Naples at 1650, getting neatly round the censorship stop on Salerno by stating that the windows overlooked a "beach made famous in this war."

6491

MACDONALD (News Chronicle) filed a story from Naples at 1706. "I learn that relations with Russia were discussed and Togliatti spoke at length on this ... and when I was allowed briefly to watch the cabinet discussion, Togliatti held the floor." He stated that the release of 50,000 prisoners in Russian hands was discussed, and also de-fascistization, "which was listed rather cursorily on the cabinet agenda."

This concludes the list of correspondents who filed stories before the release of the declaration.

/ COOPER (Daily Express)

-2-

COOPER (Daily Express) filing at 1745 sent a straight story of the declaration, giving the agenda of the meeting. He described the setting in details, mentioning the murals as "depicting the ancient history of the town."

YINDRICK (News Chronicle) filing from Naples at 1750 sent a descriptive story of a comically exaggerated nature. "I climbed the huge staircase to the Cabinet Chamber... a ceiling fifty feet high with walls topped by paintings of lovely women in various stages of undress... the carafe of water and the glass on the table were untouched." HALMOND (Sunday Times) also gave prominence to the untouched carafe. His statement of the declaration was factual without comment: he gave the full agenda.

ELEANOR PACKARD (U.P.) in a later despatch sent at 1838 said that the cabinet had allotted 200 million lire to public works, and added that the next meeting would be on 4 May.

KENNEDY (A.P.) filing at 1847 sent a perfectly straight story of the declaration. He included no mention of the agenda.

HOMER BIGART (New York Herald Tribune) and JOHNSON (Chicago Sun) did not send stories till later and then gave the declaration without comment.

It seems clearly established that several correspondents entered the Council Chamber during the lunch recess and examined the documents left on the table. This was unfortunate, especially as a notice had been posted in the correspondents' room at Naples on Wednesday giving the location of the Italian Government Press Bureau in Salerno and stating specifically that correspondents would not be allowed in the Council Chamber. At the same time, if State papers are left lying about in a room not properly guarded, it is difficult to bring accusations against particular correspondents, especially since it is clear that the information was spread amongst nearly all of them: CHINIGO and PACKARD were merely quicker to scoop.

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

PRB 26/WB3

22 April 1944.

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 3
15 April to 22 April

1. Political

The political crisis which began with the unanimous resolution of the Communist Party on 1 April, and proceeded to the King's request on 17 April to the Marshal to form a new government, was finally resolved on 21 April when Badoglio succeeded in forming a government in which all the six recognized opposition parties were represented. The new Government is as follows:

Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs		Badoglio
Ministers without portfolio	ACTION PARTY	Sforza
	LIBERAL PARTY	Croce
	COMMUNIST PARTY	Togliatti
	SOCIALIST	Mancini
	CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT	Rodino
Minister of the Interior	CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT	Aldisio
Under-secretaries	SOCIALIST	(Salerno)
	ACTION PARTY	(Caracciolo)
Minister of Finance	NON-PARTY	Quintieri
Under-secretary	COMMUNIST	Resenti
Minister of Communications	LABOUR DEMOCRAT	Cerabona
Under-secretaries	NON-PARTY	(di Raimondi)
	NON-PARTY	(Fano)
Minister of Public Works	ACTION PARTY	Tarchiani
Under-secretary	LABOUR DEMOCRAT	Cilento
Minister of Agriculture	COMMUNIST	Gullo
Under-secretary	LIBERAL	Bergami
Minister of Justice	LIBERAL	Arangio Ruiz

Foreign Affairs	Ministers without portfolio	ACTION PARTY	Sforza
		LIBERAL PARTY	Croce
		COMMUNIST PARTY	Togliatti
		SOCIALIST	Mancini
	CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT		Rodino
Minister of the Interior	CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT		Aldisio
Under-secretaries	SOCIALIST		(Salerno)
	ACTION PARTY		(Caracciolo)
Minister of Finance	NON-PARTY		Quintieri
Under-secretary	COMMUNIST		Pesenti
Minister of Communications	LABOUR DEMOCRAT		Cerabona
Under-secretaries	NON-PARTY		(di Raimondi)
	NON-PARTY		(Fano)
Minister of Public Works	ACTION PARTY		Tarchiani
Under-secretary	LABOUR DEMOCRAT		Cilento
Minister of Agriculture	COMMUNIST		Gullo
Under-secretary	LIBERAL		Bergami
Minister of Justice	LIBERAL		Arancio Ruiz
Under-secretary	LABOUR DEMOCRAT		Lombardo
Minister of Education	ACTION PARTY		Omodeo
Under-secretary	CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT		Jervolino
Minister of Industry	SOCIALIST		di Napoli
Under-secretary	CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT		Sansonetti
Minister of War	NON-PARTY		Orlando
Under-secretary	COMMUNIST		Palermo
Minister of the Navy	NON-PARTY		de Courten
Under-secretary	SOCIALIST		Albergo
Air Minister	NON-PARTY		Sandalli
Under-secretary to the Presidency	LIBERAL		Morelli
			/ This

6490

* Sforza is not strictly speaking of any party but is closely associated with the Action Party.

-2-

This gives a total of 17 ministers including Badoglio. Seven of these posts are held by the parties of the left, i.e. Action, Socialists and Communists. Five are held by the moderate parties, i.e. Christian Democrats, Labour Democrats and Liberals. Four are held by non-party men. Outside the three service Ministers no member of the previous government remains in office, although two are under-secretaries.

The party division of the whole government, including under-secretaries, gives the following picture:

Left	{ Action Party	4
	{ Communists	4
	{ Socialists	4
Moderate	{ Labour Democrats	3
	{ Christian Democrats	4
	{ Liberals	4
Non-party (including Badoglio)		7

The result was regarded by many as a striking victory for Badoglio in getting the parties together on reasonable terms.

Badoglio, who gave a press conference at 6 p.m. on the 21st, seemed in high spirits and said that "the Allies had wanted a representative government and there it was." He refused to make a statement of policy which, he promised, would be issued after the first meeting of the new Cabinet on or about Tuesday next.

2. Harvest

The hastening of the promulgation of new decrees on the Ammassi, and the statement promised by Badoglio on the decrees and on the necessity of amassing, have both been delayed by the long-drawn-out government crisis. The Marshal has promised to include references to the Ammassi in his statement after the first meeting of the new cabinet. Meanwhile the lines of a publicity campaign by PWB have been roughly drawn out by PR Branch on the advice of Food and Agriculture Sub-Commissions. There will be three phases in the campaign, (a) publicity and supporting articles for Badoglio's

The result was regarded by many as a striking victory for Badoglio in getting the parties together on reasonable terms.

Badoglio, who gave a press conference at 6 p.m. on the 21st, seemed in high spirits and said that "the Allies had wanted a representative government and there it was." He refused to make a statement of policy which, he promised, would be issued after the first meeting of the new Cabinet on or about Tuesday next.

2. Harvest

The hastening of the promulgation of new decrees on the Ammassi, and the statement promised by Badoglio on the decrees and on the necessity of amassing, have both been delayed by the long-drawn-out government crisis. The Marshal has promised to include references to the Ammassi in his statement after the first meeting of the new cabinet. Meanwhile the lines of a publicity campaign by PWB have been roughly drawn out by PR Branch on the advice of Food and Agriculture Sub-Commissions. There will be three phases in the campaign, viz (a) publicity and supporting articles for Badoglio's statement on the general necessity of contributing to the Ammassi (b) publicity for the announcement of prices which is to be made on May 1 and (c) publicity on transport, warehousing, machinery of decrees, advantages of early amassing etc from July 1 onwards. Suggestions from Regions as to the most effective methods of conducting the campaign will be very welcome.

3. Sardinian Coal

Headquarters mining experts seem to think that the much-maligned Sardinian coal situation is better than has been believed. The equivalent of 100,000 tons of coal that would otherwise have to come from the United States or the United Kingdom has been mined and brought to the Italian mainland for use in industrial plants. Technicians anticipate eventually surpassing the peak production of 104,000 tons a month attained under Italian management, which, incidentally, had been buying British coal to burn in the locomotives which hauled Sardinian coal to the port from the mines.

/ 4. Financial News

4. Financial News

While most sub-commissions have in recent weeks been getting their share of the press limelight, one sub-commission in particular - finance - has been as silent as a well-kept banker's sanctum. This week, however, finance will make its first news release and probably hold a press conference to explain it. It should be news to the Italians as well as to the Allied press.

5. Manoeuvres

Units of the Fifth Army will shortly hold manoeuvres in street fighting in Capua for two weeks. AMG is helping by evacuating 1,000 civilians for the term of the training course.

6. Black Market in Palermo

Since Easter volunteer civilian squads have been investigating shops in Palermo in an attempt to curb the Black Market. Provincial Commissioner Thomas reports that it is hoped to extend the movement to other Sicilian towns. The Italian High Commissioner for Sicily, Francesco Musotto, is very keen on the experiment and is giving it strong personal support. The volunteers are looking particularly for hoarding and are checking on prices and quality of oil, milk, wheat and pasta. Offenders are dealt with in several ways. If merchants withdraw their goods from sale after the visit of a volunteer squad, new squads go in and seize the concealed goods and apply for revocation of the merchants' licenses. An experimental order has been issued in Palermo shutting off flour for the commercial baking of little cakes.

7. Bread

The bluff of a Sicilian baker was called on Tuesday by ACC officials who went into a Palermo bakery with a crew of army cooks and produced on the spot 137 kgs of bread from 100 kgs of flour. The test was made in the presence of Sicilian bakers who had claimed that no such quantity of bread could possibly be produced from so little raw material. Colonel W.J. Legg states that some of the smaller and less efficient bakeries will probably not be able to produce quite so much bread from 100 kgs of flour. There is no doubt, nevertheless, that dilution and adulteration of bread are

Black Market. Provincial Commissioner Thomas reports that it is hoped to extend the movement to other Sicilian towns. The Italian High Commissioner for Sicily, Francesco Musetto, is very keen on the experiment and is giving it strong personal support. The volunteers are looking particularly for hoarding and are checking on prices and quality of oil, milk, wheat and pasta. Offenders are dealt with in several ways. If merchants withdraw their goods from sale after the visit of a volunteer squad, new squads go in and seize the concealed goods and apply for revocation of the merchants' licenses. An experimental order has been issued in Palermo shutting off flour for the commercial baking of little cakes.

7. Bread

The bluff of a Sicilian baker was called on Tuesday by ACC officials who went into a Palermo bakery with a crew of army cooks and produced on the spot 137 kgs of bread from 100 kgs of flour. The test was made in the presence of Sicilian bakers who had claimed that no such quantity of bread could possibly be produced from so little raw material. Colonel W.J. Legg states that some of the smaller and less efficient bakeries will probably not be able to produce quite so much bread from 100 kgs of flour. There is no doubt, nevertheless, that dilution and adulteration of bread are being practised on a wide scale. One favourite trick is to bake bread quickly in a very hot oven, getting a thick, hard crust and leaving the inside soggy and half raw to get the official weight.

8. Guardia Campestri

6489

Guardia Campestri, the private police force of the landowners in Sicily, will probably be revived soon as an adjunct to the senior agencies of public order. At a Regional Conference on Wednesday, Lt Col Hancock, Regional Commissioner, informed his Provincial Commissioners that Prefects have authority to set up Guardia Campestri by decree.

9. Messina

Illicit traffic across the straits of Messina is reported to be on a great scale and the Provincial Commissioner of Messina has asked for a coastguard service to check it. "Sicilian assets," he claims, "are being drained off to the mainland. Sicilian trucks are being sold for as much as 700,000 lire in Italy." Parochialism?

/ 10. Flashes from Sicily

-4-

10. Flashes from Sicily.

Sicily is exporting 10,000 tons of sulphur this week to UK. Revenue collections in Palermo in March 1944 reached 50 million lire as against 13 million in January and 16 million in March. Carabinieri in Catania seized a printing plant which was counterfeiting ration-books wholesale. At Agrigento a stock of 14,000 tons of Black Market flour was found. At Caltanissetta 90 quintals of Black Market wheat were caught in one convoy. Layettes and pyjamas given out by the Red Cross in Sicily seem to puzzle the Sicilians. Major Gilbertson, Finance Officer, Region I, reports that the only people neglecting payment of income-tax are AMG civilian employees. The Prefect of Trapani has started collecting public subscriptions from wealthy Sicilians for the purchase of food from the Black Market to feed the poor.

11. Psychological Warfare Branch

Psychological Warfare Branch came in for criticism by giving prominence in "Risorgimento" to McCaffrey's statement at the Regional Commissioners Conference. Coming at a time when the fate of the Badoglio Government was in doubt, the statement had political implications of an embarrassing nature. The case has led to some discussion of the activities and powers of PWB. The new head of PWB in the Italian theatre, Mr John Rayner, who has recently arrived in Italy, has undertaken to cooperate more closely with ACC in such matters in the future.

12. Allied Publications Board

It should be noted that the central APB includes representatives from the Political Section, Industry Sub-Commission and PR Branch of ACC, as well as representatives of Censorship and G-2. The control of newspapers and other publications is the function of this Board. PWB press officers are responsible to the Board. The present technical control of certain newspapers and of broadcasting stations is a temporary measure and steps to transfer responsibility to Italians are to be encouraged. Attention is drawn to PRB 14A of 16 April regarding clandestine newspapers.

Coming at a time when the fate of the Benito Government was in doubt, the statement had political implications of an embarrassing nature. The case has led to some discussion of the activities and powers of PWB. The new head of PWB in the Italian theatre, Mr John Rayner, who has recently arrived in Italy, has undertaken to cooperate more closely with ACC in such matters in the future.

12. Allied Publications Board

It should be noted that the central APB includes representatives from the Political Section, Industry Sub-Commission and PR Branch of ACC, as well as representatives of Censorship and G-2. The control of newspapers and other publications is the function of this Board; PWB press officers are responsible to the Board. The present technical control of certain newspapers and of broadcasting stations is a temporary measure and steps to transfer responsibility to Italians are to be encouraged. Attention is drawn to PRB 14A of 16 April regarding clandestine newspapers.

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

Distribution:-

Regional Commissioners, Regions I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII.
Senior Civil Affairs Officers, Fifth and Eighth Armies.
Chief Commissioner
Deputy Chief Commissioner
Executive Commissioner
Deputy Executive Commissioner
Vice President, Administrative Section
Information Division
Mr George W. Edman, PWB.
Col Spofford, AFHQ.

0 6 8 7