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10000/110/92 ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN OCT. 44 - MAR. 46 76/EST

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

Ref.605/PRB

22 March 1946

SUBJECT : A.C. Weekly Bulletin

TO : See distribution.

It is requested that Chiefs of Sub-Commissions, Branches, etc., who have files of the A.C. Weekly Bulletin which, as stipulated in Executive Memorandum No. 7 of 5 January 1946, para. 5, do not have to be sent to Archives, hand over their files to Public Relations Branch, so that a number of complete sets of the Bulletin may be made available. The earlier issues are particularly required.

JOHN P. LEACACOS,
Major, M'B,
Director,
Public Relations Branch.

Distribution:

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Displaced Persons S/C
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Civil Censorship Group
A.C. CLO Naples
" " " Livorno
" " " Bologna
" " " Liguria

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Finance S/C
Labour S/C
Surplus & Special Material Br.
Transportation & Shipping S/C
Executive Officer (A)
Executive Officer (B)
G - 1 (A)
G - 1 (B)
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" " " Lombardia
" " " Bolzano
" " " Venezia
" " " Sicily
" " " Bari
A.M.G. 13 Corps
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February 2, 1945

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RESTRICTED

ALLIED COMMISSION

WEEKLY BULLETIN

PUBLISHED BY PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH, HEADQUARTERS, ALLIED COMMISSION, APO 394 - VOL. II, No. 44

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

POLITICAL

Io vo gridando: Pace, pace, pace!
PETRARCH.

The political pattern of the past week is woven of the same threads that have dominated the tapestry for the last month or so: speeches, rumors of the peace treaty, allusions to Sicily and the prosaic but substantial work of the Council of Ministers. Only the colorful skein of the *Consulta* is temporarily missing. To begin with the Council: the meeting of this week was given over largely to a discussion of the problems of the *reduci*, the *partigiani* and the civilian victims of the war. A special committee was set up to look after the matter of employment and housing for these classes of citizens, and the Minister of Post-War Relief was authorised to carry out special measures for their shelter and welfare. Other business included: a report from Cattani on the condition of Torre Annunziata, a draft decree on the supplementary agreement between the Government and UNRRA, a measure to facilitate preparation of the electoral lists and a decree authorising such public work projects as could be called urgent. Two billion lire were allotted for the construction of *case popolari*. Later in the week the inner cabinet met and, according to the communiqué, "studied the food situation" and heard the President of the Council state that there will be no necessity of reducing the bread ration.

On Sunday Prime Minister De Gasperi spoke at Naples. Possibly stung a little by the criti-

also be forthcoming in this second one. Unlike his previous speeches, however, much of the talk at Naples turned on internal affairs, stressing the enormous difficulties of reconstruction. Labor must be pre-eminent over capital, he said, and a more equitable distribution of wealth must be brought about. He cautioned his hearers to remember that the State cannot do everything: "It is as absurd to form a magical idea of the power of the State as it is to expect that the *Costituente* will be able to solve, unaided, the immense and serious problems that hang over Italy." The *Costituente*, he went on, may be able to make certain reforms in the structure of the State but the rest will depend on the ability and determination of the individual citizens.

Allusions.

Since the speech was made in Naples there were certain local allusions not without interest; the Neapolitans were congratulated on their resistance to Fascism and the heroism of the *quattro giornate* before the Allied armies moved in. The President of the Council remarked also on the international link between Southern Italy and the rest of the world, recalling that the great majority of the ten million Italians living abroad came from the South. He referred to the Separatist movement in Sicily and, after extolling the Carabinieri, described *separatismo* as a "malady of defeat". He made it clear that he was not opposed to "autonomy within the state", as a central bureaucracy would suffocate Italy's revival, but separatism was a different matter, nor was it, indeed, confined to Sicily. "The

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On Sunday Prime Minister De Gasperi spoke at Naples. Possibly stung a little by the criticism—from some quarters of the press—that his earlier speeches had had too penitent a tone, he affirmed that Italy had expiated for a great many of her mistakes.

He made a special appeal to England, recalling that British Prime Minister Attlee had once said to him that the program of Christian Democracy is very similar to that of the Labour Party, and, remembering England's friendship in "the first *Risorgimento*", hoped that her aid might also be forthcoming in this second one. Unlike his previous speeches, however, much of the talk at Naples turned on internal affairs, stressing the enormous difficulties of reconstruction. Labor must be pre-eminent over capital, he said, and a more equitable distribution of wealth must be brought about. He cautioned his hearers to remember that the State cannot do everything: "It is as absurd to form a magical idea of the power of the State as it is to expect that the *Costituente* will be able to solve, unaided, the immense and serious problems that hang over Italy." The *Costituente*, he went on, may be able to make certain reforms in the structure of the State but the rest will depend on the ability and determination of the individual citizen.

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Freshly returned from his London mission, Nenni reported to the President of the Council and later gave an interview to *Paese* in which

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he described his impressions at some length. His first task, as Secretary General of the Italian Socialist party, had been to re-establish relations with the British Labour Party, he said, and in this respect the mission was an unqualified success. He had also taken advantage of his opportunity to discuss Italy's situation with various personages in London; he had had talks with Bevin, Spaak and Noel-Baker, among others. Not all he learned was encouraging, he reported, "certain national positions have been irreparably compromised by the mad Fascist policy ... for it is unfortunately true in foreign as well as domestic policy that nothing is forgotten and everything is paid for... This means in practice that the frontier and colonial questions and, in general, that of our rôle in Europe are being raised under very difficult conditions for us."

However, he added that he was convinced that no one wished to crush or humiliate Italy and the United Nations were aware that Italy "should emerge from her present crisis and regain her democratic destiny in the joy of living, without fear or want". He said that when he left England it was accepted by all that Italy would be given a chance to present her case, though the time and manner of the presentation would have to be worked out. He added that he had stopped in Paris on his return where he had had talks with M. Auriol and Leon Blum who were planning to come to Italy in April for the Socialist Party Congress which Mr. Laski of the British Labour Party also expected to attend... Silone, editor of *Avanti*, who accompanied Nenni, said that their visit "fell in the sphere of normal relations between the British and Italian peoples" and hoped that the example would be followed by doctors, artists and professional men of every branch. He wrote (in *Avanti*) further that "in London we met men ... who are generally conscious of their responsibilities towards European countries".

Other News.

Further news, though much of it unofficial, *Unità* printed the comments of the Communist member of the *Consulta* committee on elections; according to him, the Communists are in favor of the adoption of the "*collegio regionale*" and all major parties favor the proportional system. As for the compulsory vote, he was sure that Communist opposition would cause it to be rejected. On the question of limiting the powers of the *Costituente*, he remarked that it would seem strange if a body like the *Consulta*, which he described as "not precisely democratic", could restrict the power of another body which would be the expression of the will of the whole country... As for the date of the elections, he added, that would depend on the good will of the *consultori*.

Sicilian bandits have been busy this week, too. Latest reports are of an attack on the *polveriera* (powder-plant) of Villa Grazia near Palermo. ANSA reports that regular army units are being dispatched to deal with the banditry and the remnants of separatism on the island.

Ammenda: Partial quotation, though frequently necessary for such capsule publications as ours, is dangerous. In last week's *Bulletin* we left De Gasperi's words open to possibly wrong interpretations by omitting certain phrases in a quoted paragraph. To set the record straight we herewith give the paragraph in full with apologies to De Gasperi and to those who may have been misled by our editing:

"In reality if I were to describe my state of mind on the eve of the new negotiations, I would have to state that my trepidation is great. The British Empire cannot forget that the Italians one day threatened to cut her route to India and her danger was great. We are up against propaganda which is very ably carried on: photographs of exceptional gravity, dealing in particular with our activities in Jugoslavia, have been distributed. What can we do? However, I refuse to despair. We must have faith in a better world. I believe in international life so far as Italy is concerned; I believe in the way of thought and in our civilization."

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Other News.

Further news, though much of it unofficial, continues to come in about the peace treaty. A UP dispatch from Washington states that it will probably be ready by April 1st. Secretary Byrnes, on January 29th, told the press that it had been decided to give priority to the drafting of Italy's treaty and finally UP (from London this time) reported that considerable progress in the drafting had already been made.

On the elections, Romita, sticking to his statement of last week, told ANSA that it would be possible to hold the political elections in May. jected. On the question of limiting the powers of the *Costituente*, he remarked that it would seem strange if a body like the *Consulta*, which he described as "not precisely democratic", could restrict the power of another body which would be the expression of the will of the whole country... As for the date of the elections, he added, that would depend on the good will of the *consultori*.

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ECONOMIC FRONT

The most important news of the week appears to be that private trade between the United States and all parts of the British Empire and Italy will be resumed 15 February, which will be announced by the Italian Government 5 February. AFHQ has also issued a memorandum to all Allied commanders directing full cooperation with the Italian authorities in the latter's efforts to re-

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establish a customs service whose aims, of course, will be to prevent leakage of foreign exchange (that must be used only for the purchase of essential imports), to prevent the export of products needed in Italy and to operate the scheme of export subsidy and import surcharge set up by the Italian Government. Allied port commanders will release accommodations and extend such help to the Italians as will not conflict with military requirements.

The re-opening of private trade with the Allies in effect re-establishes private trade with all countries except Germany, Japan, Manchuria, Korea and Formosa, although all trade, of course, on the Italian side will be subject to the Government's regulations and to Italian cooperation with the rules, voluntarily accepted, laid down by the various international committees operating the procedures of the Reserved Commodity List. The affected commodities are food, coal, tin, rubber, hides and certain cotton textiles, which are controlled so as to insure equitable distribution throughout the world as long as they remain in short supply. There used to be 41 groups of commodities controlled before 1 January 1946 by the Combined Raw Materials Board, the Combined Production and Resources Board and the Combined Food Board, of which the first two have been split into five committees while the last is continuing unchanged.

The Economic Section and the UNRRA Bureau of Requirements and Distribution are operating more smoothly in their Janus rôle. Prospects at the moment are that the A. C. Section will not be able to go over entirely to UNRRA until 1 March. With the UNRRA Supplementary Agreement out of the way, a document necessarily marked with the reservations imposed by policies embodied in UNRRA Council resolutions, the A. C. Section and UNRRA Bureau are currently busy with studies of the problem of allocation, always, of course, in concert with the Italian Government. The former Allied Commission-UNRRA *Economic Notes* have also changed their title to UNRRA *Economic Notes*, although the PRB will continue to put them out through Issue No. 4, which is

the Allied Commission are accounted for, they are expected to amount to about six million tons worth about $700,000,000. As of 28 January, 983,600 tons of wheat have gone into the *Ammassi*. The final report of the AMG Economic Commissioner for the North has some statistics of note: The entire rice crop is being used as a substitute for pasta. Production of copper sulphate has started from 3,000 tons of imported blister copper. Synthetic methanol (as a substitute for gasoline) production is going on in one plant at the rate of 600 tons a month. An estimated 40,000 tons of "domestic coal" a month are being mined but about 5,000 tons leak unregistered to the black market. The Pirelli Co. got substantial quantities of raw materials captured from the Germans. As of the year's end, some 25,000 kilos of cotton had arrived and been distributed to 3,000 firms, together with 65,000 tons of coal. In brief, production is low, inspections have been made and everybody is waiting for raw materials and coal to get going.

ODDS AND ENDS

Eleven promotions to captain are announced, the lucky fellows being Oswald R. Anselmo, George W. Barrus, Delos De John, Joseph M. De Luca, William H. Hunter, William W. Sampson, John J. Scanlan, Odell M. Smith, Bertel W. Straight, Lewis L. Stuart and Wilson A. Treadway... Col. Leonard Densmore, Deputy Vice President of the Economic Section and one of the original U. S. officers from the Sicilian landing, has left the A. C. for the States... Separate British and American messes went into effect 1 February; the British have the Flora while the Americans have the Grand, the Bella Vista, the Inghilterra and the California... U. S. strength in the Commission is now 221 officers and 291 EM and British strength 389 officers and 618 ORs, which figures include many on LIAP or in the way to surplus; the American T/O has just been cut from its previous total of 750—250 officers and 500 EM—to 500, which, roughly, will be divided into about 200 officers and 300 EM while the British

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There are some incidental pieces of economic information. When all imports arranged for by for pasta. Production of copper sulphate has started from 3,000 tons of imported blister copper. Synthetic methanol (as a substitute for gasoline) production is going on in one plant at the rate of 600 tons a month. An estimated 40,000 tons of "domestic coal" a month are being mined but about 5,000 tons leak unregistered to the black market. The Pirelli Co. got substantial quantities of raw materials captured from the Germans. As of the year's end, some 25,000 kilos of cotton had arrived and been distributed to 3,000 firms, together with 65,000 tons of coal. In brief, production is low, inspections have been made and everybody is waiting for raw materials and coal to get going.

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NOT FOR PUBLICATION

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

January 12, 1946

RESTRICTED

ALLIED COMMISSION

WEEKLY BULLETIN

PUBLISHED BY PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH, HEADQUARTERS, ALLIED COMMISSION, APO 394 - VOL. II, No. 41

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POLITICAL

Fast en och hvar
Fritt sade på Tingel sin mening.
ESAIAS TEGNÉR

With the *presepi* packed away for another year, the *Befana* come and gone and the distractions of the holidays out of the way, the political program of this "year of decision"— as one of the journalists has called it—is now under way. The *Consulta* has assembled again in plenary session in an atmosphere quite different from that of the first meeting. For in October the press was full of satisfied and almost festive commentary, playing up the significance of this democratic, though to be sure, not elected, convocation. This time, on the other hand, commentary tends to stress the importance and seriousness of the tasks the *Consultori* must face.

The body made up, as the *Giornale della Sera* pointed out, of men having an average of ten years' imprisonment apiece behind them, opened its session on 9 January and elected Pietro Mancini (Socialist) Vice President. Sforza, who presided, announced that a special committee had been named to study the plans for the political electoral law. One of the *Consultori* predicted that this law would be the apple of discord and added, somewhat grimly, "if we are still alive and safe when this law is approved, then it will be possible to say that Italy is again a democratic country". Nor is this the only difficult knot likely to come before the *Consulta*. The administrative election law, so it was stated before the

Communist.

The Communist congress concluded its activities on the 5th. Next only in importance to Togliatti's speech (see last week's *Bulletin*) was the motion of Longo recommending fusion with the Socialists. In the course of his exposition, he made appeals to other parties too—or at least to the "democratic forces existing within them". He was particularly anxious to assure the Christian Democrats that the Communist party was not an atheist party and indeed "has always condemned anti-clericalism". The motion was passed after some discussion. This does not by any means imply that such a fusion is an immediate possibility; even Longo himself described the fusion as a *point d'arrivée* rather than a *point de partie*.

The Socialist answer came in Nenni's speech before the Central Committee of the Socialist party. He agreed with Longo that fusion was "a hope and a prospect" but felt that it would not come about by "premature decisions of Congresses or unification committees" but rather "from below when all mistrust between members of the two parties has disappeared". To Nenni the problem of united action was of more immediate importance than fusion. Nenni also took occasion to reaffirm other aspects of the Socialist platform: opposition to compulsory voting, a "sovereign" *Costituente*, the two fundamental needs of bread and employment, for which, said Nenni, "we are literally dependent on the Allies". On Allied policy, Nenni said, somewhat later in his discourse, "we owe them gratitude for the [illegible]

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The Council of Ministers has been mostly concerned with the Christmas bonus for state employees. As recorded in last week's *Bulletin*, the "*impiegati*" have threatened to strike if they are not given a more generous bonus than the one originally voted. The strike has not

yet taken place and the intervention of the CGIL has been a healthy mediating influence, but it seems clear that some further action is being planned. A special committee of Ministers was appointed to meet with the representatives of the state employees and the CGIL to work out some kind of compromise; meanwhile it is rumored that the Government is planning a distribution of food and clothing in place of another cash payment.

As we are on the point of consigning our stint to the printer, we learn the results of the first skirmish in the *Consulta*. The right of *autoconvocazione*—brought up by the Action Party—has been voted down by 214 to 89. The Action leaders had counted on the support of Communists and Socialists, but their hopes were dashed when Pertini, former secretary of the Socialist Party, said that in view of the imminence of the *Costituente*, it seemed unwise to give too much power to the *Consulta*. After the vote, De Gasperi consoled the losers somewhat by declaring that the *Consulta* should meet once a month as a normal thing and the Government should be called upon to explain the reason for any postponement of such regular meetings.

ECONOMIC FRONT

Wheat seems to hold the center of the economic stage this week as the pasta ration, already in arrears in Puglie and Naples, was postponed officially in all Southern Italy, Liguria, Veneto, Sicily and Sardinia. The shortage in grain reserves in the last week brought about a situation that left Lazio, including the City of Rome, and Campania, including Naples, with only seven days' supply on hand up to 10 January. Bari had only four days' supply up to 6 January. The state of grain reserves on 1 December and 31 December tells the story: On the former date, the reserves for the bread ration were 354,000 tons. On the latter, 208,000.

The causes of all this are several: a disastrously poor harvest, caused by bad weather at planting time, late frosts and by a severe drought which resulted in the lowest yield in 25 years. Northern regions—the Marche, Umbria, Emilia and Toscana. The other 63,000 tons of reserve stocks is in process of discharge from ships in port, in base and provincial warehouses or in transit and is wholly inadequate to insure regular supplies for the big urban centers. Nevertheless, our experts hope that the reserves can again be built to a minimum 320,000 tons (or about one month's supply for all non-producers), partly by importing in January and February the deficiency in the 1945 program and also by more stable shipping schedules.

On the basis of present consumption, local Toscana stocks will be exhausted by the end of January, those of Emilia by the middle of March, Umbria's by the end of July and the Marche's by the end of August. It is therefore only practicable to move limited quantities from the Marche and Umbria surpluses to deficient areas at this time and such movements can only be made within the limits prescribed by the shortage of Italian transport facilities. Thus, the whole of Southern Italy, the Islands of Sicily and Sardinia and the greater part of Northern Italy are now dependent on imported wheat and are existing on a day-to-day basis as far as the bread ration is concerned.

Most of the other economic news is in sort of abeyance. Studies are being made on the problem of preventing pilfering from imported supplies. The Requisition Branch reports that $63,500,000 worth of supplies from the $100,000,000 FEA appropriation have arrived in Italy, as of this week, and that another $18,200,000 is on the high seas. The Finance Sub-Commission, which has a new director in Lieut. Col. B. E. L. Timmons (A), has about completed an agreement with the Italian Government, to unify currency issue, in which the Government recognizes its responsibility for the issue of some 80 billion AM lire in Italy to date and to act henceforth as the issuing authority for AM lire. Finally, the *Economic Notes* announced in these columns a few weeks ago becomes a reality with as of this date, with both the Allied Commission and UNRRA represented on the masthead. All *Bulletin* sub-

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The causes of all this are several: a disastrously poor harvest, caused by bad weather at planting time, late frosts and by a severe drought which resulted in the lowest yield in 25 years. Further, amassing of what grain was produced has been notably inadequate. Lastly, shipping complications and the extraordinary demands for wheat by all the liberated countries of Europe, have resulted in a deficiency in the total amount of wheat requested for import to Italy.

Of the 208,000 tons of total reserve stocks available on December 31, 145,000 tons was indigenous Italian grain concentrated in four

weeks at home after serving overseas for periods of two years and upwards. The LIAP scheme was started just over a year ago to enable personnel serving in the Mediterranean to get a leave at home during their tour of overseas service. LIAP means Leave In Addition to Python (so *now* we know – *Ed.*) and Python is the code word used to signify the scheme by which British personnel serving abroad are posted back to the United Kingdom after completing their overseas tour. The duration of this tour was first fixed at 4 ½ years and later reduced to 4 years. Now it is practically inoperative as the majority of personnel still serving abroad are due for release long before qualifying for Python.

The first parties, which went, more comfortably, by sea, arrived in time to spend Christmas, 1944 at home. Throughout 1945, parties left A. C. regularly, and by now practically all entitled personnel have had their LIAP. For the whole period, up to and including the party leaving today, the total numbers sent from HQ. A. C. are 79 officers and 332 other ranks. One of the PRB staff has just returned with the following impressions of the journey and of England.

First, the journey, at any rate in winter, was so terrible as to make one wonder whether the whole enterprise was worth while, at least to this OR traveller. There was a time when one could board the Rome Express in the forenoon and arrive in London (and comfort) in the evening of the following day. To go on LIAP today one must get up at 3 a. m., walk to the station with all one's kit in the pouring rain (it usually does), and then stand about waiting for the train to come in at about 6. One is then packed into 3rd class compartments, hard seats, four a side and no leg-room, with kit. Many of the coaches are in the last stages of decrepitude, unlighted and, if nominally heated, one nearly always seems to find oneself in the one coach which the heat does not reach. (Officers, however, to do the organization justice, were better provided for; if they, too, were sometimes without heat or light, they were provided with the warm red plush of the Italian first class—and only two to a compartment.) wrapt in a Lombardy fog. The one—and only—warm corner was eventually discovered in the barber shop, which became the morning social rendezvous. In the afternoons one could keep warm by fighting one's way on and off the trams which went into Milan.

However, comes the day at last when one's name appears on the lists and one re-entrains at Milan in the gathering dusk. One is now on MEDLOC proper (Mediterranean Leave Over Continent) (just ask us anything! – *Ed.*) and there are rather better chances of a less dilapidated coach, of some heat and light. That same evening one dines at Domodossola and dives into the Simplon tunnel. Next morning finds Switzerland left behind and one is being turned out, shivering and aching, into the cold dawn for breakfast somewhere in France. The rest of the day and most of the following night seem to be spent waiting in sidings while French civilian expresses rush past, but somehow the train manages to stagger into Calais in the early hours of the morning. At the particular camp in Calais the organization was good. The party was documented, money-changed, NAAFI-issued etc., shipped across to Folkestone and delivered at Victoria Station, London, by 2 o'clock the same afternoon. It was a Sunday—one week and seven hours after leaving Rome, 36 hours being consumed in the ride from Milan to Calais.

Return Trip.

The return trip was worse still, subject to the worst torments of hell: darkness and cold. (My! My! Corporal! – *Ed.*) The transit camps at Calais and Novara were less well organized than those of the outward trip. Suffice it to say that the writer is now suffering from a terrible cold and feeling more dead than alive (he doesn't look that bad – *Ed.*). If top priority were given to heat and light, especially at this time of the year, it would make a world of difference. A word about the feeding arrangements: At the various stopping places everyone gets off the train for a meal which has been prepared for them. Of these establishments those in Italy are quite

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On to Milan.

About 26 hours after leaving Rome one reaches Milan, having lunched at Foligno and dined at Rimini. And from Milan in trucks to the transit camp at Monza. Here the whole scheme seems to fall into abeyance for some days—three or four perhaps—during which there is nothing to do but wander about searching in vain for a warm corner in the camp which seemed perpetually

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And what of one's impressions of England after two years absence, mostly in Italy? They are mainly of contrast, perhaps the most astonishing, bearing Roman food prices in mind, was the cost of a week's rationed food for one person:

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under 5/- including meat and eggs. One notices, too, the extreme docility of one's countrymen, their aptitude for forming queues which they carry to such a length that one even queues up to buy an evening paper. It is heartening to find the Englishman's sense of fair play, at least in the small matters of daily life, still so rampant. Yet one sometimes thinks, standing at the wrong end of the queue, that one would like to institute the good old Italian free-for-all system of boarding a bus.

The effects of controls, rationing, bureaucratic systemization, utility and austerity, are evident everywhere. With virtually no black market, England is still fully in the grip of a State-controlled economic system while Italy, at present, enjoys, through the black market, what appears to this observer to be a system of unbridled economic *laissez faire*.

CLAIMS

One of the most surprised Anglo-American teams in this Headquarters is that which is concerned with what, to them, must have appeared, in prospect, a terrifying task. This is the claims board created last October, which had the duty of compiling a list of civilian claims (made for a variety of reasons) against AMG and A. C. The surprise is occasioned by the happy paucity of the numbers of the claims and of their petty sizes.

By the American side only 40 have been received, concerning 12 motor cars, seven wheels and tires, one piano, miscellaneous furniture, china and linen and, most interesting of all, a claim for an ice cream machine. Another claim is fragrantly sentimental and is the cost of printing invitations (pink and with forget-me-nots, we trust) to a children's party. This was apparently organized by two nostalgic, if absent-minded, officers who, in a lapse of memory, forgot to foot the bill but who will, in due course, receive in their home towns, to which these kindly gentlemen have now returned, bills for their forgetful act of generosity.

The British side leads the field in numbers with a score of 120 claims. These include motor

esteemed British colleagues. Figures show that the total number of requisitioned cars held by the British numbers eleven—and these in far-off Venezie. The more fortunately endowed Americans possess rather more. This has placed something of a strain on British arches.

This state of affairs has been brought about by the fact that from the beginning a limit was placed on the number of vehicles the British could requisition, while to the Americans the sky seemed the only possible limit. The result was that almost all requisitioning in A. C. was done through American channels. All ran smoothly until recently Nemesis, in the form of the cancellation of Lend-Lease, brought an order that each army was to use its own physical equipment, among other things.

RIGHT OFF THE PRESS

The sympathy of PRB is extended to one of its best customers, Mr. Milton Bracker of the *New York Times*. Mr. Bracker for many months has questioned us shrewdly (often too shrewdly) on the activities of A. C. and AMG and the telephone wires between the *Stampa Estera*, where he has his office, and this Branch have hummed hot and heavy as we offered what information we had. But the other day a cruel fate overtook Mr. Bracker, and the news-hound became a news source himself.

Let it be said at once that Mr. Bracker was not backward in giving us what information he could and neither was there any question of the interview being "off the record". The point was that the Rome offices of Mr. Bracker and the *New York Times* had been broken into, despoiled, ransacked, not to say, feloniously invaded. Burglars, showing no respect for the immunity of the press, removed three typewriters (one a well-loved portable, carried by the victim for seventeen years), some 7,000 lire in cash, a bed roll, from which the blankets were removed, examined, and, apparently, rejected. Into the bed roll was placed the loot, and before taking their departure the visitors consumed a number of

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The British side leads the field in numbers with a score of 120 claims. These include motor cars, typewriters, five radio sets, four pairs of sheets attached to four beds, a horse, two welding sets, a suite of furniture, four accident claims and the small matter of somebody's wages. As of this report, no money whatsoever has been paid but it is hoped, say those responsible, that this will be done in the near future.

But speaking of such G-4 matters leads us to another tale: the sad condition of some of our

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Mr. Bracker came on the scene the next day, at an hour lordly journalists are wont to arrive, to see a wreckage of empty tins, a half eaten and rejected fruit cake and a dearth of typewriters. Left behind by the thieves was an envelope containing nearly 100,000 lire which may indicate that C and K rations are good for body building but not for the intellectual alertness proper to a well-trained burglar.

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ODDS AND ENDS

The post of Vice President of the Establishment Section has been abolished; Col. Charles M. Parkin will continue to act as Executive Officer (A) while Lieut. Col. K. Wilbe-Jones will be Executive Officer (B)... The Education Sub-Commission reports some revealing statistics: 83 per cent. of Italian children get five years or less of schooling while only about 5 per cent. complete secondary school... The following U. S. personnel has been awarded the Bronze Star: Pfc. Joseph Prola, Staff Sergt. Pasquale J. Marinelli and Majors George R. Koopman and Arthur E. Puccinelli... The Executive Commissioner is at present in England; Brigadier M. Carr, Vice President of the Civil Affairs Section, is acting in his stead... Perhaps the A. C. will get some U. S. EM replacements from the 500 expected to arrive for the Rome area in the next few days; the Regiment's current strength is now 226 EM (the T/O calls for 506)... Of the 225 American officers (T/O strength – 256) with the Commission, to date 33 have signed the certificates for one of the five categories on released from or staying on active duty; the certificates must be signed by 15 January since reports to higher headquarters are due by 31 January; the count of the 33: Category I (indefinite stay) – 4; Category II (until June, 1947) – 1; Category III (until December, 1946) – 1; Category IV (short term) – 8; Category V (immediate release) – 19... Here are alumni notes on certain of our old boys (A) which might interest their friends: Col. T. V. Smith, quondam Director of the Education Sub-Commission writes us that the U. S. Army has given him a shining pair of eagles as "a going away present"; that a star was bestowed on Henry Parkman whom many of us will remember from Charlottesville and G-5 at Algiers, and that Lieut. Col. John Clarke, late Senior Finance Officer, AMG Fifth Army, has been appointed by the Foreign Liquidation Commission as Field Commissioner for the North Atlantic Area, covering everything from the Bahamas to Greenland (imagine liquidating, not to say "unfreezing", Greenland)...

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December 29, 1945

RESTRICTED

ALLIED COMMISSION

WEEKLY BULLETIN

PUBLISHED BY PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH, HEADQUARTERS, ALLIED COMMISSION, APO 394 - VOL. II, No. 39

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POLITICAL

I don't know why I don't slap the next person who asks me, « What's the use of voting? ».

P. P. A.

There has been little action on the political front this week and—since the press had a two-day holiday like everyone else—very little commentary either. On 21 December the Council of Ministers met and carried out some relatively minor reshuffling in the cabinet. The Ministries of the *Consulta*, Reconstruction and Food were abolished. Ugo La Malfa, who was Minister for Reconstruction, now presides over the new Ministry of Foreign Commerce. The Food Ministry will be replaced by a High Commission. The High Commissioner is to be Pietro Mentasti (a Christian Democrat) and the Associate Commissioner Luigi Sansone (Socialist). Only comment on this new set-up came from the Rightist *Giornale della Sera* which expressed disappointment in De Gasperi, accusing him of putting aside high principles in order to place his man Mentasti in a position of authority.

A more important issue was opened when the special committee of the *Consulta* for the administrative elections voted (by 15 to 13) that suffrage should be compulsory. This was a definite defeat for the Leftist parties which had to confront the combined opposition of Liberals, Christian Democrats, Labor Democrats and the independents on the committee. Leftist papers were quick to point out that this ruling now has to go to the *Consulta* and therefore only the first

he must have been expecting something more than finally emerged, for on the 27th, the day the official communiqué was released, he called the press together and let them know that he had expressed to the American, British and Russian Ambassadors his disappointment at the outcome. An ANSA report, which gave every evidence of being inspired, spoke of a step backward from the Potsdam position and emphasized the "profound regret" which Italy feels when she observes that her 18 months of co-belligerency seem to avail her no privileges.

The editors of Rome's leading dailies were encouraged to interpret "the unanimous thought" of the nation and they did not overlook the opportunity. From Left to Right the reaction was the same, only the vocabulary and the interpretations differing somewhat. *Avanti* spoke of a feeling of pain that even some provisional *modus vivendi* could not have been arranged. *Risorgimento Liberale* headed its story "A Step Backward". *Italia Nuova* elaborated the same idea with the headline: "From Co-belligerency to Conquered Nation Status." Both *Unità* and *Avanti* put the blame to a certain extent on Italians themselves, since, in the view of these organs, the fight against Fascism has not been carried out with sufficient vigor. *Italia Nuova* saw in the whole affair as simply the sacrifice of Italy in the interests of Russia's satellites and *Il Globo* was inclined to blame the "campaign of certain elements of the foreign press, inspired at Rome, against the democratic government of Italy." But more impressive than the divergence of interpretations was the unanimity of the sentiment that the promise of

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Italians are not pleased with what has come out of Moscow. At first an AP dispatch quoted De Gasperi as saying: " Italy would receive with relief and new hope " the news that work on drafting a peace treaty would be resumed, but he must have been expecting something more than finally emerged, for on the 27th, the day the official communiqué was released, he called the press together and let them know that he had expressed to the American, British and Russian Ambassadors his disappointment at the outcome. An ANSA report, which gave every evidence of being inspired, spoke of a step backward from the Potsdam position and emphasized the " profound regret " which Italy feels when she observes that her 18 months of co-belligerency seem to avail her no privileges.

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On Christmas Eve a bomb was thrown at the Rome headquarters of the Communist Party. There were no deaths and no serious injuries. *Unità*'s comment was an austere refusal to " dramatize " the incident but both *Italia Libera* and *Avanti* urged the police to action, the Socialist paper adding that the act of violence " was committed by those same forces which are trying by all possible means to postpone the elections. "

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ECONOMIC FRONT

The Economic Section, it can now be said, is on its last lap as an A. C. entity, passage of the $550,000,000 1945 UNRRA appropriation and authorization for the 1946 contribution of $1,350,000 by Congress having ensured the eventuality of an UNRRA supply program for Italy. A tentative date has also been fixed for the turnover of the supply responsibility, subject to direction from the Combined Chiefs of Staff, authorizing the Commission to relinquish this responsibility for civilian supply. The date in mind is 31 January, although it is expected that the transition period of turnover will last until 1 March while odds and ends of arrivals from the September-December period of FEA-$100,000,000 interim program are received and accounted for.

During this period we will see some of our well-known figures disappear while others will be wearing two hats, as it were, that of A. C. and that of UNRRA. Mr. Harlan Cleveland, Acting Vice President of the Economic Section, is designated to be Deputy Chief of the UNRRA Mission in charge of it's Bureau of Requirements and Distribution. Our former Colonel W. J. Legg (B) who is back in Rome as civilian head of the Food and Agriculture Sub-Commission, will also in a post as a sub-chief under Mr. Cleveland at UNRRA. Mr. Elwood Holstein, Chief Staff Officer of the Economic Section, will take on the duties of being UNRRA executive officer to Mr. Cleveland. Col. Leonard D. Densmore, Deputy Vice President, who has been one of the standbys of the A. C. for so long, is leaving the Economic Section, after he returns from the Swiss tour he is about to embark on. Col. Charles Walton will continue for some time yet as head of the Supply Group.

The "two-hat" group in the main will not only start the new UNRRA program (indeed, have already started it, of which more later) but will at the same time be liquidating the remainder of the FEA program, mostly in wheat and coal, that theoretically ends with loadings as of 31 December, but whose arrivals will dribble in for

ments, under U. S. military requirements, under Venezia-Giulia requirements and under special programs such as special imports of the Italian Government for the Sardinian coal and railway program.

The personnel picture will naturally be affected by further transfers of function. Within the two months, functions of the Labor Sub-Commission, a few financial matters (such as watching out for fulfilment of the Allied policy that the Italians should not pay off old foreign debts) and foreign trade will revert to the British and American Embassies. The U. S. Embassy also will take an augmented industry job—that of advising on industrial projects in connection with loans of the Export-Import Bank. Of the 76 U. S.-FEA civilian employees of the Economic Section, about half will go to UNRRA, some will go back to the State Department and on to the American Embassy, others will be part of the clean-up staff and then go home and a few will go home shortly. Officers will go to UNRRA, Embassies, Udine, Venezia-Giulia, stay for a while on the clean-up staff or else be declared surplus.

On the UNRRA supply program side, the A. C. has managed to arrange already for $61 ½ millions of supplies for January loadings to get the show started with a bang. Mr. S. M. Keenty, Chief of Mission, is now on his way back from the States, and a draft of the new agreement to be signed between the Italian Government and UNRRA is already being discussed in Rome. With the A. C. and the Italians agreed on details of the total program and how its materials are to be used, the next steps are now in the percolating stage, to wit, procedures, especially port reception and so forth. The most important procedures of all—for allocation—are being worked out. Formation of a National Industrial Council to consolidate all past agencies, particularly now that the North Italy Industrial Council's authority (sustained by AMG) lapses, is also being arranged.

LIAISON ARRANGEMENTS

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A tentative date has also been fixed for the turnover of the supply responsibility, subject to direction from the Combined Chiefs of Staff, authorizing the Commission to relinquish this responsibility for civilian supply. The date in mind is 31 January, although it is expected that the transition period of turnover will last until 1 March while odds and ends of arrivals from the September-December period of FEA-$100,000,000 interim program are received and accounted for.

During this period we will see some of our well-known figures disappear while others will be wearing two hats, as it were, that of A. C. and that of UNRRA. Mr. Harlan Cleveland, Acting Vice President of the Economic Section, is designated to be Deputy Chief of the UNRRA Mission in charge of it's Bureau of Requirements and Distribution. Our former Colonel W. J. Legg (B) who is back in Rome as civilian head of the Food and Agriculture Sub-Commission, will also in a post as a sub-chief under Mr. Cleveland at UNRRA. Mr. Elwood Holstein, Chief Staff Officer of the Economic Section, will take on the duties of being UNRRA executive officer to Mr. Cleveland. Col. Leonard D. Densmore, Deputy Vice President, who has been one of the standbys of the A. C. for so long, is leaving the Economic Section, after he returns from the Swiss tour he is about to embark on. Col. Charles Walton will continue for some time yet as head of the Supply Group.

The "two-hat" group in the main will not only start the new UNRRA program (indeed, have already started it, of which more later) but will at the same time be liquidating the remainder of the FEA program, mostly in wheat and coal, that theoretically ends with loadings as of 31 December, but whose arrivals will dribble in for a couple of months yet. The use of one group to handle both the old and the new was felt more practical than the creation of a separate, small staff for the old program, especially since the A. C. staff, for example, in coal, is practised at keeping several balls in the air. The coal people are currently looking out—for purposes of coordinated information and necessary diversions when called for—for coal shipments under the FEA appropriation, under British military requirements. Commission, a few financial matters (such as watching out for fulfilment of the Allied policy that the Italians should not pay off old foreign debts) and foreign trade will revert to the British and American Embassies. The U. S. Embassy also will take an augmented industry job—that of advising on industrial projects in connection with loans of the Export-Import Bank. Of the 76 U. S.-FEA civilian employees of the Economic Section, about half will go to UNRRA, some will go back to the State Department and on to the American Embassy, others will be part of the clean-up staff and then go home and a few will go home shortly. Officers will go to UNRRA, Embassies, Udine, Venezia-Giulia, stay for a while on the clean-up staff or else be declared surplus.

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With the North now going back to its fathers and AMG to history, arrangements have been made for the Liaison Groups which will operate in Italy (outside of Udine and Venezia-Giulia) until the next and (we hope) final exodus. There will be eleven liaison stations, with a strength of 77 officers (including two civilians).

The liaison officers have received a directive (issued last September) outlining their duties and functions, which will consist mainly of keeping

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their eyes and ears intelligently open to what's going on. Headquarters wants careful reports as to conditions, especially as they affect Allied interests or as they might influence the general policy of the Commission. Officers will watch the effects of the handover, keep in touch with the countryside by personal visits, and maintain close relations with Allied military commanders, consular officials and press officers.

Specifically, the liaison officers should be on lookout for incidence of disease and unrest; pay special attention to law cases involving Allied personnel and property, and to requisitioning and derequisitioning, and to relations between Allied forces and the Italian police.

Most strongly, the liaison officers have been ordered to mix in no way with questions of Italian politics, local government and electoral lists and must NOT offer advice, even when asked, but refer Italian officials to their appropriate ministry in Rome, particularly on the matter of the elections, which the Allied Governments are anxious to see conducted in a free and secret manner.

The list of posts and Chief Liaison Officers is as follows, although it is expected that about 25 additional officers from the Economic Section may at various times be detailed, to clean-up tasks in the North:

Sicily – Major John Lund (A).

Naples – Col. J. A. C. Pennycuick (B), with a staff of four.

Bari – Lieut. Col. L. E. Vining (B), with a staff of two.

Livorno – Col. L. J. Hensley (A), with a staff of four, including a man at Florence.

Bologna – Lieut. Col. T. W. J. Walters (B) with a staff of five, with Capt. K. F. Vaughan (B) at Ancona (for transportation).

Liguria – Lieut. Col. W. Turner-Coles, with a staff of six.

Piemonte – Col. W. R. Jordan (A), who will function with a staff of ten until relieved by Col. A. S. Arnold (A) now on leave in the States.

Lombardia – Col. A. N. Hancock (B), with a staff of 17.

Bolzano – Col. S. W. Miller (B), with a staff

to work too hard to remember. Indeed, if the atomic bomb is really all it's supposed to be (and we hope it is'nt), 1945 will mark the beginning of a new Era or the Beginning of the End. But even leaving the A. B. out of it, it is'nt every year that gives you two V days. A lot of things came to an end this year: the war, the *Wehrmacht*, the sinking of the Rising Sun, and perhaps, too, an end for many people to the illusion that peace was simply a matter of silencing the guns. And it was also a year of great things beginning, the long voyage home for millions of soldiers, the painful reconstruction of many ravaged countries and the UNO which can be, *con un po' di buona volontà*, the greatest beginning of all.

Our little world has had its ebbs and flows, too. This time a year ago we were still beating stubbornly but not very effectually on the doorway of the North. Bologna was still the promised land and some of our friends in the field, scurrying back for the holidays, brought us tales of front-line shelling north of Lucca. Out Aquila way they were skiing and scaring hell out of themselves by the ascent of the Gran Sasso on the cable car. In Rome there was a shortage of light and heat and a new government had just been formed (some things are only to be described as hardy perennials). Then came the spring and the dam burst as the armies surged forward and the *partigiani* arose in their might and took a hand in liberating the great cities of the North. AMG moved in and started to deal with the industrial problems that loom larger and larger as the war fades away and the figure of reconstruction crowds everything else out of the foreground. With major industrial matters to deal with and political questions for the first time of truly national scope clamoring for an answer, it cannot be said that the summer was an easy time for any of us—perhaps an exception must be made for the Army AMGs who restored themselves (after living through the fever and smoke of the advance) on the sunny shores of Lago di Garda.

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Bolzano – Col. S. W. Miller (B), with a staff of eight.

Venezie – Brigadier J. K. Dunlop (B), with a staff of ten, until relieved by Lieut. Col. F. O. Mavis (A) when the latter returns from the States.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Looking back over the year, we have the impression that 1945 will be onedate that school children in the generations to come will not have too, an end for many people to the illusion that peace was simply a matter of silencing the guns. And it was also a year of great things beginning, the long voyage home for millions of soldiers, the painful reconstruction of many ravaged countries and the UNO which can be, *con un po' di buona volontà*, the greatest beginning of all.

Our little world has had its ebbs and flows, too. This time a year ago we were still beating stubbornly but not very effectually on the doorway of the North. Bologna was still the promised land and some of our friends in the field, scurrying back for the holidays, brought us tales of front-line shelling north of Lucca. Out Aquila way they were skiing and scaring hell out of themselves by the ascent of the Gran Sasso on the cable car. In Rome there was a shortage of light and heat and a new government had just been formed (some things are only to be described as hardy perennials). Then came the spring and the dam burst as the armies surged forward and the *partigiani* arose in their might and took a hand in liberating the great cities of the North. AMG moved in and started to deal with the industrial problems that loom larger and larger as the war fades away and the figure of reconstruction crowds everything else out of the foreground. With major industrial matters to deal with and political questions for the first time of truly national scope clamoring for an answer, it cannot be said that the summer was an easy time for any of us—perhaps an exception must be made for the Army AMGs who restored themselves (after living through the fever and smoke of the advance) on the sunny shores of Lago di Garda.

Then began the application of the point system and the last six months have seen a constant stream of old familiar faces checking in, packing luggage, filling out forms and joining the great westward trek. Even as the autumn leaves, the green freshness of their availability (if not vitality) withered away under the influence of the sinister chemistry of "points" and they were borne away from us—a process which still goes on as we write (Thank God—Ed.) We in the PRB had a whole staff shot away from under us and a procession of directors over us; 1945 saw three DPRS where 1944 had managed on one.

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Our experience of course can be matched by every S/C and Provincial team in the whole show. Finally—only less than a month ago—AMG, whose vitality had surprised everyone, gave up the ghost and among other things that end with 1945 is AMG itself, save for the last battalions of Udine province and Venezia Giulia.

On New Year's Day one looks forward as well as back—you remember the double face of Janus who presides over our January. So we look now to 1946. It will be, we devoutly hope, a year less easily memorizable by the high school students of the future; we are ready for a year of tranquillity rather than drama, however stirring. A year from now it is certain that we shan't be here and probably you won't either. The *Bulletin* will be dead, the steel will be used for Frigidaires and not shells, brown will be a much less popular color in the best circles and we shall be taking in the current hits of Broadway or Piccadilly rather than Ensa or USO offerings to brighten our holidays. This is all right and we like to think of it. Still it has been a long comradeship and a happy one. Silly, but we feel a little sad saying good-bye to it all... Happy New Year!

TRANSPORT ITEM

A recent survey of the truck situation reveals the fact that, up to early this month, 16,759 trucks and 3,285 trailers have been turned over by the Allies to the Italian Government, a figure which includes 3,960 imported vehicles. The truck turnovers have helped ameliorate a critical transport shortage whose extent can readily be appreciated when one recalls that, as of a count of 30 September last, there were only 58,992 vehicles available for road haulage with a lift of only 114,532 tons compared with a 1939 lift of 245,000 tons.

At present, essential needs are provided for but goods like fruit, wine and building materials seriously lack transport. However, as the output of the Fiat and other Italian works increases, the prospects will improve, officials feel. The trucks already handed over fall into two classes:

111,573 barrels of petrol, 51,956 barrels of kerosene and 88,613 barrels of Diesel oil, among other lubricants. Each barrel is 159 liters. The distribution between Italian Government territory and AMG areas of the North was, roughly, on a ratio of 3 to 2, respectively.

The shipping situation also looks somewhat better. November saw 84,808 tons by moved by Italian coasters under United Maritime Authority orders and another approximately 25,000 tons moved otherwise. UMA-directed coasters had moved only 74,225 in October. The coasters, whose total deadweight is 84,000 tons, however, have a problem in repairs and overhaul and so are often unavailable for work.

ODDS AND ENDS

Major Clyde A. Warren (A) has been awarded the Legion of Merit... Two more U. S. promotions: George E. Parker to Colonel and Frederick C. Barr to Captain... At least 10 Class B officers are slated to leave about 4 January, with more officers to follow as 70-pointers are redeployed... We are happy to print a correction of an egregious boner pulled last week in this department; when we occasionally succumb to human frailty, it is always a source of new news, accurate and up-to-the-minute; at any rate, the correction has to do with the electoral lists: Local Government's Director, Major R. R. Temple (A), states that there are 7,060 communes preparing electoral lists (not 28,000—where *could* we have gotten that figure?), that there are 14,120 lists (male and female) and that about 2,000 have been finally approved according to the most recent information... Col. J. L. Jones, G-1 (B), is leaving us to go with UNRRA... Twenty-three British decorations have been announced, many of them going to A. C. officers and men no longer with us; the list follow: C. B. E. – Brigadiers J. K. Dunlop, A. P. Grafftey-Smith, G. R. Upjohn, G. S. Parkinson and Col. P. R. Evans; O. B. E. – Colonels H. G. Wilmer, J. L. Henderson and H. G. Crawshaw and Lieutenant Colonels J. A. Balfour, P. F. Benton-Jones, W. M. Lapper, W. N. Stew-

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At present, essential needs are provided for but goods like fruit, wine and building materials seriously lack transport. However, as the output of the Fiat and other Italian works increases, the prospects will improve, officials feel. The trucks already handed over fall into two classes: army surplus and imported. Army surplus trucks included 84 six- to ten-tonners; 7,653 one-and-a-half- to five-tonners, and 5,062 one-quarter- to one-tonners, a total of 12,799 plus 3,285 trailers. The imported transport included 255 ten-tonners, 3,470 one-and-a-half-tonners and 235 one-quarter-tonners. More than 90 per cent. of the trucks turned over were American.

December allocations of POL to operate these fleets were the highest yet made and included [illegible] by Italian coasters under United Maritime Authority orders and another approximately 25,000 tons moved otherwise. UMA-directed coasters had moved only 74,225 in October. The coasters, whose total deadweight is 84,000 tons, however, have a problem in repairs and overhaul and so are often unavailable for work.

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October 20, 1945

RESTRICTED

Col Fitch

ALLIED COMMISSION

WEEKLY BULLETIN

PUBLISHED BY PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH, HEADQUARTERS, ALLIED COMMISSION, APO 394 - VOL. II, No. 29

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POLITICAL

The widely-advertised demonstration for the *Costituente*, which had been heralded by the Left parties for some weeks past as the opening of the campaign for a republic, took place Sunday 14 October throughout the country. Held under the auspices of the Communist and Socialist parties the meetings had the support of the Action party as well as of the Left Christian party (*not* the Christian Democrats) and workers' and women's groups. The warm autumn sunshine gave a kind of picnic atmosphere to the occasion and a crowd of approximately 100,000 (according to *Stars and Stripes*) gathered on the Palatine hill, in Rome, to ask for immediate elections for the *Costituente*. Red flags abounded, together with the customary banners and placards demanding elections, the Republic, bread and work. The demonstrations have certainly shown one thing, according to *Voce Repubblicana*: that not only the truce between the C. L. N. parties has been broken, but also the institutional truce, since all parties which declared themselves for an immediate *Costituente* have thus shown their republican leanings.

The next day all the leftist papers described the meeting under huge head-lines and pointed with pride to the calm and order that characterised the gatherings in all Italian cities, proving, according to Prime Minister Parri (in the *Tribuna del Popolo*), "the seriousness and political maturity of the Italian people". *Avanti* said that Italians, by their self-discipline, had now acquired the right to democratic consultations. The Sunday assemblies were defined by *Italia Libera* as

as alluding to Giannini, editor of *L'Uomo Qualunque*. In the leading article of *Italia Nuova*, on the 14th, "scrutator" wondered what was the good of holding a demonstration when Nenni had stated a few days earlier that the date for the elections for the *Costituente* would be fixed very shortly. *Secolo XX* - which, by the way, has shed its pretensions to being a purely financial paper and is now avowedly a non-partisan political one - suggested that all parties should unite and decide on a common program of revision of Italy's historic constitution, particularly since even those parties which call themselves republican appear almost fearful of undertaking the responsibility of forming a republic.

Electoral ferment.

On the 17th, a manifesto appeared in which a number of well known figures asked for the single-member constituency electoral system to be used, rather than the proportional system. The manifesto was signed, according to the Rome press, by such names as Nitti, Orlando, Croce, Bonomi, Labriola, Zaniboni, Einaudi and others. Interviewed by *La Capitale*, the secretary of this league, which calls itself the League for the Defence of Democratic Freedom, stated that the manifesto was issued because "we don't want the present Government, whose legality we do not discuss, even though it is not a Government elected by the people, to have the power to establish an electoral system which would favor one political current rather than another, as we believe the proportional system would". The secretary of the League went on to explain that, if the League appeared more rightist than leftist,

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Reactionary or monarchist parties allegedly feared that a "Communist revolution" was to have broken out and, it was charged, certain persons had gone in hiding already on Friday and did not dare appear again till well on Monday afternoon, according to Cadauna Mino in the *Avanti* making a reference which was widely interpreted as alluding to Giannini, editor of *L'Uomo Qualunque*. In the leading article of *Italia Nuova*, on the 14th, "scrutator" wondered what was the good of holding a demonstration when Nenni had stated a few days earlier that the date for the elections for the *Costituente* would be fixed very shortly. *Secolo XX* – which, by the way, has shed its pretensions to being a purely financial paper and is now avowedly a non-partisan political one – suggested that all parties should unite and decide on a common program of revision of Italy's historic constitution, particularly since even those parties which call themselves republican appear almost fearful of undertaking the responsibility of forming a republic.

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Voce Repubblicana promptly pointed out that the single-member constituency system lent itself much more easily to personal camarillas. C. L., in *Italia Libera*, asked out loud what the League wanted to defend democracy against. Perhaps against those same people who had installed democracy in Italy, it added. Orlando stated the next morning in *Giornale del Mattino* that he knew nothing about the existence of such a League,

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and that it was therefore impossible that he should have signed any petition. Sforza, too, made a statement to the press saying he had never heard of the League.

The Council of Ministers met on the 18th to discuss the question of increase of salary to State employees. Though the Council recognised the difficult conditions which employees have to face, it also recognised the difficult situation of the State budget. It was decided to allot, provisionally, 2,000 lire to be paid at the end of this month to each State employee, and that this sum should be considered as a first instalment on the definite increase which will probably be fixed next week. Ways of giving help to this class of employees by special distributions of food-stuffs, were also examined. The Council accordingly decided that the Ministry of Food should allot six billion lire for this purpose.

ECONOMIC FRONT

Col. Leonard Densmore, Chief Staff Officer of the Economic Section, reported on an interesting trip to the Adriatic Coast last week where he had gone to straighten out a warehouse situation and to look into the problems of the independent Republic of San Marino. This mite of a democracy—population 14,000, area 60.9 square kilometers—is managing all right and has not complained until recently that it had not received any flour since last May. The Republic's communications with the outside world are simply nil, the telephone line to Rimini being as yet unrepaired, and with winter coming on, there is another problem. Col. Densmore arranged to have six trucks turned over to San Marino, took notes on food requirements and promised to see what could be done to obtain coal for the Republic's industries—some cement and pottery factories. And like everyone else, San Marino is also interested in buying some surplus war materials, another matter for which the colonel will set the wheels in motion.

[illegible] of the Italian Govern-

lians are laying the ground to make claims for the stuff. In the interim, they would like to have the material located and guarded. The Communications Sub-Commission already has recovered a considerable quantity of goods on behalf of the Italian Telecommunications Ministry.

American control of the entire dock area of the port of Naples, except for Pier K, which has been under Italian civilian control, as of 20 October, will be split up further among both Italians and British authorities, Peninsular Base Section has announced. Under the new plan, the Italians will operate Piers D, E and K, with seven Liberty and four coaster berths. The British Army will control Piers F, G and H, berthing six Liberties and four coasters. Eleven deep-water berths at Piers A, B and C will continue under PBS. UNRRA supplies will dock in the new civilian area of the Italians. PBS employed about 7,200 Italian port workers but will now retain only about 2,500, the rest being made available to the new port authorities.

The wheat amassing, as of 15 October, was 859,900 tons or 66 per cent. of the 1,304,000-ton target figure. Italian Government territory has 70 per cent. collections, with 365,160 tons, while AMG areas reported 63 per cent. collections, with 494,800 tons. The accounting division of the Finance Sub-Commission is to be made stronger to catch up with its work, the accounts being about a year behind. Two new officers are coming in while four military personnel are being civilianized and added to the division. Mr. A. H. Sullivan, FEA civilian, has been appointed director of the Industry Sub-Commission. The Transportation Sub-Commission is helping the meeting of Italian women at Florence this weekend by arranging passenger train reservations. Speaking of PBS again, that organization will handle sale of its salvage material directly to the Italian Government, without recourse to the War Materials Disposal Sub-Commission.

VENEZIA GIULIA

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employees. Though the Council recognised the difficult conditions which employees have to face, it also recognised the difficult situation of the State budget. It was decided to allot, provisionally, 2,000 lire to be paid at the end of this month to each State employee, and that this sum should be considered as a first instalment on the definite increase which will probably be fixed next week. Ways of giving help to this class of employees by special distributions of food-stuffs, were also examined. The Council accordingly decided that the Ministry of Food should allot six billion lire for this purpose.

ECONOMIC FRONT

Col. Leonard Densmore, Chief Staff Officer of the Economic Section, reported on an interesting trip to the Adriatic Coast last week where he had gone to straighten out a warehouse situation and to look into the problems of the independent Republic of San Marino. This mite of a democracy—population 14,000, area 60.9 square kilometers—is managing all right and has not complained until recently that it had not received any flour since last May. The Republic's communications with the outside world are simply nil, the telephone line to Rimini being as yet unrepaired, and with winter coming on, there is another problem. Col. Densmore arranged to have six trucks turned over to San Marino, took notes on food requirements and promised to see what could be done to obtain coal for the Republic's industries—some cement and pottery factories. And like everyone else, San Marino is also interested in buying some surplus war materials, another matter for which the colonel will set the wheels in motion.

As a result of a request of the Italian Government, the Economic Section is attempting to trace records and inventories of German-held machinery taken from the Italians and shipped to Germany. The records found at the time of the German surrender in Italy were most complete and exact and some prospect of tracing the material is held out as far as learning the destination of the shipments. What happened to the machinery in Germany, now split into the four Allied zones, is another story. In any event, the Italians have the question of more [illegible] employees.

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VENEZIA GIULIA

The first 500 of the new Venezia Giulia police force made their initial appearance in the streets of Trieste last Saturday afternoon (13 october) after being reviewed by Lt.-Gen. Sir John Harding, GOC XIII Corps. The organization, recruited from local Italian and Slovene men, has been in process of training and equipment for many weeks. Difficulties in securing uniforms and in fixing terms of engagement were finally overcome in September. For some weeks past

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Military Police and Allied troops, with the aid of the recently reorganized *Questura*, had carried the entire burden of law enforcement throughout the Allied-occupied area of Venezia Giulia, assisted by a Jugoslav detachment south of Gorizia operating under XIII Corps command. Inauguration of the new force will free the troops in the area for other duties. Further recruits for the Venezia Giulia police are being trained and equipped in the police school in Trieste. Both Italians and Slovenes are offering their services and will work together under the tuition and command of British and American experts. The force draws Italian military rations.

The general strike of 23-24 September, called to protest against the granting by Allied Military Government of permission for employers to discharge employees for whom no work could be found, was called off after 48 hours. Not only was there no violence, but considerable good humor was shown by all parties with whom Allied Military Government officers discussed the issues. Registered unemployed in Zone "A" (Allied-held area) number less than 20,000, out of a population of roughly half a million; generous unemployment benefits have been instituted by the Labor and Finance Divisions; an Advisory Economic Council has been set up to evolve work projects for the coming months and to study practical steps to be taken to revive business in the area.

Shortly after the strike collapsed, rumors were in circulation to the effect that Allied Military Government would remain at least six months, a report believed to have originated in a request made by the Economic Section to industrialists that they submit requisitions for materials they will need during the first half of 1946. Within 48 hours local stocks had gone up several points on the Trieste Exchange, the banks loosened up commercial and industrial credits, and individual firms came forward with concrete offers to build new plants or to repair and improve existing ones. But perhaps the most striking effect was seen among industrial workers who are reported by one source to have told their Shop Committees

in the newspapers and by viewing their plans for development from the angle of providing jobs to workers rather than from that of immediate profits.

Not yet Rosy.

All is not yet rosy in Venezia Giulia, of course. The Slovene elements, who admit they are acting under orders from Zone "B" (Jugoslav-held area) and under pressure from the Littoral National Liberation Committee, still refuse to co-operate publicly with Allied Military Government under General Order No. 11, as the press reports fully indicate. Much activity, both open and underground, is being expended by the elements which favor annexation of Trieste to Jugoslavia to make it appear to the Deputies to the Foreign Ministers, whom they expect to visit the area, that all Venezia Giulia wants to belong to Jugoslavia. Pressure is brought to bear on Italian business people to have them put up signs in Slovene. Arches and signs on walls proclaim the undying devotion of everybody as far west as the Isonzo to the present Jugoslav Government. Col. Alfred C. Bowman, SCAO, has made it quite clear that Allied Military Government considers the display of flags, the signing of petitions, the painting of signs and the building of arches a perfectly legitimate, democratic expression of opinion, provided intimidation is not used to force men's hands. There is, in fact, a great deal of personal friendliness and frank talk in the discussions between Allied Military Government officers and the leaders of all groups and it seems fair to say that the patience, restraint and earnestness shown by the occupying authorities, in a part of Europe where feelings normally run high between conflicting elements, have toned down the bitterness which was so evident in June and July. But causes and symptoms of strain are numerous and it would be risky to call the present improved atmosphere more than a lull.

Living conditions are extremely difficult in Trieste. There is an acute shortage of accommodation, and Italian refugees from Fiume and other Jugoslav-occupied communities are entering

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Living conditions are extremely difficult in Trieste. There is an acute shortage of accommodation, and Italian refugees from Fiume and other Jugoslav-occupied communities are entering the city in a steady stream. Wood for fuel is selling on the black market at 800 lire a quintal. Food prices are very high, partly due to excessive charges for hauling from Italy. Energetic efforts are being made to establish price control machinery, to secure supplies of fuel and to bring in food. Allied Military Government officers who do not work seven days a week and generally far into the night are exceptions, with redeployment and Liap constantly increasing the burden.

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There is a wind which blows down upon Trieste from the hills which they call the *Bora*. For generations the Triestini have cultivated forests behind the town to moderate the force of the gales. Chains are strung along the streets for people to hang onto so they will not be blown away. Train cars have been known to overturn when the *Bora* blows. Automobiles on the coast road are sometimes swept into the sea by the violence of the wind. This winter the *Bora* is feared and dreaded as never before, because wood thieves have stripped away the trees from the hills to help meet the fuel shortage, and the small number of personnel available for police duties so far has made it impossible to check the thefts.

Under Local Government Order No. 11, all three Areas in Venezia Giulia Zone "A" now have Area Presidents and Councils. Out of 37 communes, only 18 have set up Communal Councils, but the 17 which are not participating represent only 15 per cent of the population and no town of more than 10,000... A new Central Transport Office has been set up to control the *Consorzio Autotrasporti* of Trieste, Gorizia and Pola and eliminate many abuses known to exist... Over 90 per cent of the total amassing goal of 10,000 quintals has been reached... Delivery of 500 draft horses from Austria has begun... The greatest barrier to industrial recovery is shortage of raw materials and coal; the latter should come from Arsa but—well it does not now... Public works plans are being pushed, with urban and road repairs and repairs to war damaged houses and schools heading the list... Water, electricity and sewer services are now normal throughout the territory... Public health is good, with no epidemics in the territory, the Chief Public Health Officer, in fact, having had time to plan an anti-rat campaign in Trieste city, but turning a cold shoulder to a Triestino expert who tried to sell him on the nutritive value of rat-meat... In September 1,834 persons passed through the refugee centres, 866 of whom were ex-POWs... The currency flow turned during

over the Trieste and Pola radio stations in Italian, Slovene and Croat, and the first Allied Military Government press room to be established in Italy has been set up in Trieste for the use of local newspaper men, with telephones, typewriters, desks and chairs, but, unfortunately, also with a window—allegedly very unorthodox...

MARGINAL NOTES ON A MISSION

Your PRO, having just returned from a brief – all too brief – but not uneventful mission to Washington, via London, has been persuaded to record his impressions while still fresh and fragrant. For what it is worth – and without prejudice – here they are.

The neatness of London was curiously impressive. One had somehow expected to see a city battle-scarred and untidy. There are plenty of gaps in the city; any quarter will yield its quota of blank spaces and here and there a whole block is missing. But the craters are enclosed by neat little stone walls and more often than not flowers are growing in the indentations left by the bombs. No rubble, no untidiness; one almost has the impression of little parks deliberately created to vary the monotony of rows of flats or office buildings. Another noteworthy sight was the incessant "queuing" that goes on. People "queue" for taxis, trams, busses, restaurants, theatres and of course hotels. (In vain as far as the last item is concerned, as we found to our dismay.) Queuing for restaurants is important because if you get to your table too late there is nothing left but spam – the one thing which seems to be abundant in London. Prices are up somewhat since our last visit (1937) particularly in clothing but expense is not nearly so much of a problem as sheer scarcity. True we paid 5 shillings for a Martini in the Ritz but maybe that's what it was in '37; we don't remember. (And it was a real Martini; no Benevento gin.)... We had the pleasure of seeing our old chief General Mason MacFarlane, M. P., who has come through a series of illnesses with unimpaired mo-

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Washington was pretty much as we remembered it; shortage of space, feverish activity, an air of tension and the Pentagon labyrinth as mysterious as ever to our simple mind. In New York a notable falling off in the proportion of uniforms though many were wearing the discharge button in their tweed lapels. (We wish we had one.) New York is experiencing the biggest hotel jam in history and we narrowly escaped sleeping

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on the floor of the Penn Station. (We wouldn't have been the first either.) On the other hand there seems to be enough of everything and "points" which have haunted the home front were in process of dropping into the limbo of forgotten things. It's a good year for oysters.

We stole a few days at home and are happy to report that once away from the big cities America is pretty much as we remember it. People are running around briskly in their cars – perhaps too briskly considering the condition of most tires – and enjoying the fall weather; where we come from the maples are just beginning to turn and the air had that health nip of the first frost that we remember so well. We thought we detected signs of a new Jazz age in the boisterous gayety of the younger generation. Football was in full swing and the T formation is much in vogue. Travel is still unpleasant back home what with lack of space, lack of taxis here and there and complete absence of porters. But if one will stay put it is a pleasant life. We ask ourselves why we came back – and can't really think of an answer.

ELECTIONS, ITALIAN STYLE

Major R. R. Temple, director of the Local Government Sub-Commission, gives us the latest report on progress of the electoral lists for the Italian elections, which prompts us to say, first, that recalling the pulling and hauling of politics in our own native lands, and second, that in Italy they have not had a regular parliamentary meeting since 1921, the progress reported is not too bad, though it is certainly nothing to shout about. In any event, the Italians apparently propose to do things in the Italian way, which is their privilege and what we always say we want them to do. The electoral proposals themselves, chiefly centering around the 1915 law, are being studied and will be submitted to the *Consulta* for approval before being made into law.

The report, as of 15 October, has to do with the electoral lists of voters in 44 out of 58 provinces in Italian Government territory and three provinces in Italian Government territory and three pro-

Of the 3,378, male lists numbered 1,138 and female lists 2,240. It is obvious that it is much easier to compile a list of female voters who are relatively settled and usually not involved in extra-curricular activities that need checking. The key figure comes last and is significant: There are 558 lists approved by the Electoral Commissions and that approval is the act which makes the lists legally valid so that the voters can exercise their franchise. Of the lists approved, 220 were male and 328 female. The number of approved lists, however, was 239 more than the number reported on last time, so that's something. In fact, it is expected that, as clearances come in from the Central Judicial Records Office, the number of approvals by Electoral Commissions may have a little boom.

In the three AMG provinces (in AMG areas work on the lists started almost six months after the same task was commenced in Central, Southern and Insular Italy), there were 287 communes listed. There were 72 lists completed, three male and 69 female. None as yet had been approved by the Electoral Commissions.

The bottlenecks, analysis showed, are still the judicial records clearances of the *Casellario Centrale* in Rome and the inertia of the Electoral Commissions. The *Casellario Centrale* files, Major Temple found on a visit, were, to put it mildly, in a mess, with little order, loose files and bundles scattered everywhere, and with no master index. With records destroyed in many towns, the central Rome office would be the last resort of many communes which wanted to check on the possible criminal records of the prospective voters, a requirement of the Italian law. The Chief Commissioner wrote to Italian Prime Minister Parri as a result of the Temple visit and the situation was taken in hand. Returns from the judicial records offices indicate a three per cent. female criminality and a 20 per cent. male criminality, the communes report.

The *Casellario Centrale* or judicial records office, in fact, the other day was inadvertently but accurately pegged by an ingenuous translator who rendered an Italian fortnightly report on electo-

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The report, as of 15 October, has to do with the electoral lists of voters in 41 out of 58 provinces in Italian Government territory and three provinces in AMG territory – Imperia, Verona and Novara. Each commune has its lists, two, in fact, one male and one female. There are about 8,000 communes, thus there should be about 16,000 lists. This report lists 3,450 as completed. In the Italian Government area, the breakdown is as follows:

Reported on are 2,845 communes, 217 more since the last report. Lists completed amounted to 3,378, which was 528 more since the last report. There are 558 lists approved by the Electoral Commissions and that approval is the act which makes the lists legally valid so that the voters can exercise their franchise. Of the lists approved, 220 were male and 328 female. The number of approved lists, however, was 239 more than the number reported on last time, so that's something. In fact, it is expected that, as clearances come in from the Central Judicial Records Office, the number of approvals by Electoral Commissions may have a little boom.

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The *Casellario Centrale* or judicial records office, in fact, the other day was inadvertently but accurately pegged by an ingenuous translator who rendered an Italian fortnightly report on electoral operations in the Province of Vicenza as follws:

"The *Prefettura* caused all copies of voters' lists of Communes of the Province to be collected, to avoid any of them going astray and had them sent to Central Pigeon-Hole Office of Rome through a concern of motor transportation. They include all persons that were born in the Province, whose Pigeon-Hole was not in a position to work."

Fragmentary reports indicate intense activity nevertheless in the preparations for the elec-

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tions, clearly the most urgent business on the Italian calendar. Many communities have started building ballot boxes, with deliveries in some cases expected this month. Official stamps for the ballots are also ready in a large measure, 20,000 having been made to date. In Geno, the air raids were so successful in destroying official record depositories that almost the entire population register (607,650 in the 1931 census) has had to be reconstructed. The commissions set up for the disfranchisement of Fascists have been almost completely set up in Central and Southern Italy but have little to do, there being few denunciations. In Rome Province, the Electoral Commission has 30 sub-commissions (shades of the A. C.) but 24 of them had to be fired because it was found that their personnel were all state employees, not quite cricket.

ODDS AND ENDS

The Legion of Merit has been awarded to Commander J. J. Lawler, former joint director of the Finance Sub-Commission and the Bronze Star to Major Eliot J. Bocchino while higher command has approved Italian decorations for the following American officers: Order of the Crown of Italy – Col. Robert B. Menapace (Grand Officer), Lieut. Col. Carlton J. Eggstaff (Commander), Lieut. Col. Edward C. King, First Lieutenants Ira Manck and Paul Leos and Technical Sergt. Ralph Bonomo (all Knights); Order of SS. Maurice and Lazarus (Knight) – Col. John W. Chapman... Allied war and political correspondents will revert to civilian status as foreign correspondents as of 1 November, after which date the military will no loner be responsible for facilities to them unless by special request of their respective embassies and except in covering specific military assignments... The PRO Villa of the A. C.'s PRB thus will close down in the near future and correspondents venturing into AMG areas will have to pay for their keep according to a set schedule of charges... British officers in Groups 21 and up will face a four-months postponement in their release because of and sub-commission reports available to the Italian Government... Col. Eugene R. McPhee is the new RC of Piemonte... Lieut. Col. Thomas G. Bergin is the new director of the Public Relations Branch... AMG in the North reports the return of Italian POWs from Russia is affecting the political temper... The redeployment status of all U. S. officers in A. C., as of 15 October, has been analyzed as follows: 10 Regular Army, 59 Class A, 90 Class B, 178 Class X (awaiting release) and 94 with less than 75 points, making a total of 431 officers... More than 100 officers, however, are leaving right now, 15 having gone on 16 October and 87 slated to report in Naples Monday, 22 October, while another 90 officers (and 310 EM) have to go before 30 October... The strength of the 2675 Regiment on 1 November is expected to be 682, comprising 248 officers and 434 enlisted men... Five Class A officers have signed up to go to Japan and the Far East while Major Gardner Bump is going to Norway... Major Edward D. S. Sullivan is the new G-1 of A. C.... Class A officers can now apply for a 30-day TD tour in the States; two Venezia-Giulia AMG officers will be the first to go, that military government operation having top priority in personnel considerations, especially as to being maintained at full strength and parity with the British... The new MTOUSA promotion circular has come in, which freezes promotions for all but Category I units; the A. C. is in Category IV; efforts are being made to have this changed... The departures of U. S. officers are affecting all sections of the A. C.; for example, the Monday shipment includes 18 from Venezia-Giulia, 18 from Piemonte, 5 from Liguria, 18 from Lombardia, 11 from Venezie, 15 from Headquarters and one each from Bari and Ancona... The British military authorities are making arrangements to allow officers and men of the Regular Army or those whose release has been deferred for at least a year to bring their wives to Italy; in the Rome area there is a quota of 10 vacancies, for which the A. C. already has a dozen applications while Rome Area Allied Command has several hundred applications...

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record depositories that almost the entire population register (607,650 in the 1931 census) has had to be reconstructed. The commissions set up for the disfranchisement of Fascists have been almost completely set up in Central and Southern Italy but have little to do, there being few denunciations. In Rome Province, the Electoral Commission has 30 sub-commissions (shades of the A. C.) but 24 of them had to be fired because it was found that their personnel were all state employees, not quite cricket.

ODDS AND ENDS

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NOT FOR PUBLICATION

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

October 6, 1945 RESTRICTED

ALLIED COMMISSION

WEEKLY BULLETIN

PUBLISHED BY PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH, HEADQUARTERS, ALLIED COMMISSION, APO 394 - VOL. II, No. 27

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

POLITICAL

The *Consulta*, the first assembly of popular representation to be held in Montecitorio since the last meeting of the Italian Parliament about two decades ago, completed its first cycle of plenary sessions 3 October. After Prime Minister Parri's speech on the political, economic and reconstruction plans of the Government, all the parties commented, through their orators, on the various points of these plans and all of them found the occasion notably suitable for making party propaganda. Noteworthy was General Benicivenga's speech on the 28th, particularly because he expressed the strongest criticism of the Government up to that point. Benicivenga is the promoter of a movement of the middle classes. He sat on the extreme right as part of the opposition. His speech was often interrupted by shouts of disapproval till, at a certain moment, in his capacity of President of the *Consulta*, Count Sforza had to ask him to sum up what he still had to say. Naturally, *Italia Nuova* commented on the incident, saying that after only three days of meetings, the Leftist parties were already doing all they could to prevent the opposition from speaking. The monarchist paper said that the *Consultori*'s duty was to have listened to all that Benicivenga had to say, since his criticism of the Government and of the C. L. N. was absolutely correct, and that no other orators before him had been reminded that their speeches should be shorter.

The next day Foreign Minister De Gasperi, back from London, gave a detailed account of out the various problems of the moment. He promised that the date for the elections of the *Costituente* would be fixed very shortly and asked all Italians not to forget that Italy is still under an Armistice regime and, therefore, in an unsettled situation. There was hope, however, that justice would be respected and that peace would be based on constructive principles. He ended by inviting the people to unite and to work.

The press, on the whole, declared itself satisfied with this first "experiment" of the *Consulta*, though, as almost all newspapers indicated, this was no reason further to delay the convocation of the *Costituente*. Subalpino, in *Avanti*, said that the *Consulta*, being a democratic assembly, should move out of Montecitorio which, somehow, "stinks of the *saluto romano*", though it was built before Fascism; this is only a proof, said the Socialist writer, that Parri was right in stating that, even before Fascism, democracy did not exist in Italy. *Ricostruzione* pointed out that speeches should be "spoken" and not "read", because it was very easy to read somebody else's works. Sforza himself added a jest to the occasion when he announced that microphones would be available for use of the orators, so that their voices might be better heard throughout the large hall, but that he regretted he could not supply microphones to all the "interrupters". *Italia Libera* said that this first week of meetings had strengthened the union between anti-Fascist parties, but that the parties must not consider this unity as a goal, but as a means to attain more important goals. The independent paper *Tempo* said that now we could realize how wide the gap was between the leftist

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The next day Foreign Minister De Gasperi, back from London, gave a detailed account of his mission, ending with an appeal to the Allies to remember President Roosevelt's ideals, that is, that this war was fought in order to safeguard the rights of men. He added that Italy believes that a just and constructive peace can be based only on such principles. Finally, on 2 October, Parri spoke again and answered very briefly all the various speeches which had been made during the week. He declared himself satisfied with the first experience of the *Consulta* which, rather than expressing its own opinion, had pointed out the various problems of the moment. He promised that the date for the elections of the *Costituente* would be fixed very shortly and asked all Italians not to forget that Italy is still under an Armistice regime and, therefore, in an unsettled situation. There was hope, however, that justice would be respected and that peace would be based on constructive principles. He ended by inviting the people to unite and to work.

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Nitti Attack.

On 3 October, as the *Consulta* was ending, former Prime Minister Nitti delivered his long-promised speech in the San Carlo theatre in Naples. The pre-war politician had the courage to say what so many Italians think but dare not pronounce, according to *Secolo XX*. At least his words touched to the core the sensitiveness of

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many, judging by the immediate reaction and comment they evoked. Nitti said that all the energies of a six-party Government were spent in trying to maintain order among these parties, instead of facing much more vital problems. These parties, he continued, though calling themselves anti-Fascist, were really still imbued with Fascist principles and Fascist mentality. He pointed out how absurd it was to want to have Communists in the same Government with Socialists – whose ideals he described as in absolute conflict – and even Catholics and Liberals, who were the natural enemies of all forms of Communism. He stressed the fact that Italy could not hope to receive help from abroad unless she showed the world that she was at least capable of stability, security and order; this help, furthermore, would be more likely to come from the western democracies than from anywhere else, he said. He made a spate of charges: it was high time to dissolve the C. L. N.; epuration should have been carried out a long time ago, all Italians with very few exceptions, were responsible for Fascism, as they were all Fascist. He went on to say that Italy would never be Communist and that a fusion between western Socialism and Bolshevism was not possible because of the great difference of mentality between Italians and Russians, as well as for historical and geographical reasons. Would it not be more important, he said, to know what and how we shall eat this winter, than to know when the *Costituente* is going to be convoked? Nitti ended his long speech by stating: "Should I form a new party, as many of my friends would like me to do, I would form a national party of reconstruction."

Unità, as might have been expected, immediately attacked Nitti, asserting that all those reactionary forces which did not find in the *Consulta* a man around whom to group themselves, would now naturally group around Nitti. *Italia Libera* joined the chorus and called Nitti a reactionary, saying that he had kept out of the *Consulta* because he knew that in that legal assembly his words would have provoked immediate answers. Leonida Repaci, in *Epoca*, approved of the

Other Business.

On the fourth the Ministry of the Interior announced officially the arrest or rather the "fermo" of Finocchiaro Aprile, leader of the Sicilian Separatist movement. Spataro, Undersecretary for the Interior, stated that Finocchiaro Aprile "and Company" might be tried, since they were allegedly responsible for concrete crimes covered by law, but that it would perhaps be inadvisable to hold a trial which might give too great a political importance to the matter. Pacciardi at once expressed his disapproval of the procedure; either people must be arrested and tried, according to law, or else they should be free to express their own opinions. Pacciardi added that the Republicans had always disapproved of the Sicilian Separatist movement, and ended by hinting that this belated "fermo" had been carried out because the movement was evolving and becoming something of a Republican movement. *Italia Nuova* very briefly said: "at last".

The Ministers, too, have been busy, meeting twice in these eight days. On 28 September, an agreement with the Allies on the handing over to the Italian Government of surplus war material was approved. It was decided that the agreement drawn between the C. G. I. L. and the industrialists would become legal on the 15th of October. According to this agreement, all workers who once belonged to the OVRA or who have been epurated owing to their Fascist activities, as well as those who have other sources of income apart from their work, will be discharged and paid a daily indemnity of 30 lire during a maximum period of two months, working hours will be reduced to 40 per week; as many veterans as possible will be offered work.

Commenting on these measures, *Italia Libera* said that the Government was not really solving the problem of unemployment but merely making a series of compromises. It then suggested that the Government should organise a sort of labor army in which unemployed workers could enlist. They would be housed and fed and sent to va-

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The papers of 4 October announced in huge headlines the apparent failure of the London Conference. According to *Avanti*, this failure shows

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clearly that international cooperation cannot be the same in peace as in war. It is no use, said the Socialist organ, to try to decide which of the five Foreign Ministers is to blame. The Conference failed because the delegates tried to solve some of the problems set before them without realizing that all problems were tied up with one another. *Epoca* pessimistically wondered how Italy could have ever hoped to obtain something from the London conference, because, (it said) "Italy is merely an unimportant pawn in the big chess game which is being played in the world". *Globo*, the economic paper, said that, even if the political questions of frontiers cannot be solved now, at least countries which find themselves in a situation as tragic as Italy's should be put in a position to rebuild their economic activity. According to *Il Popolo*, Italy is a victim of disagreements among the Big Powers; the Cristian Democratic newspaper wondered why at least the question of colonies had not been solved.

"Italian contribution to the war of liberation." This headline, more or less the same in all the papers which mentioned the matter, appeared the other day across two or three columns of the first pages. The A. M. G. and A. C. Review had been released to the press and evidently, according to the Roman journalists, the most important items of the whole booklet were the figures on the Italian contribution to the war against Germany.

THE FUTURE

What's going to happen to all of us is something any of us can make his own guess at, but at this writing and from this vantage, the official facts at the moment are nil. There are, however, several factors which our own High Command have been chewing over, factors, moreover, open to the view of anyone who will sit down for a moment and analyze the known situation. First, the A. C., as in the times of original organization and amalgamation with AMG in the dear, dead and hectic winter of 1943, is in the throes of change, but it is not merely the dissolution of therefore, of how the peace is obtained and maintained is what fundamentally is now up for action. Diplomatic channels, of course, are the routes to international solutions. The point of the minute is whether military representation is necessary as a sort of traffic guide for the freight travelling the crowded diplomatic highway.

And that is where we, the A. C., begin to figure in the picture. If one reads the newspapers, one knows that the London Conference terminated its sessions without announcing an Italian peace treaty. The delay in the handover of territory in the North, it is obious, has been tied up with the larger diplomatic questions. One knows that the Province of Udine is slated for even later handover than the rest of the North for obvious military reasons. The claiming by Austria of the South Tyrol or Alto Adige in the area of the Province of Bolzano as reported in the press raises another complication of handover. Then, lastly, there is the matter of Venezia-Giulia, now being studied by the deputies of the Big Five's Foreign Ministers. Until the diplomatic air clarifies, military forces will sit on the lid. How long we, as the A. C., go on sitting depends on decisions of the highest policy now being reviewed in Washington as to how far the U. S. wishes to use occupation forces as one means of implementing its foreign policy. That is the issue now being described in the U. S. press as occupying the attention of American officialdom. The British, with several centuries of active experience out from the native isles, apparently already have their policy.

The latest facts about U. S. officer personnel, as brought back from MTOUSA by Col. Charles M. Parkin, Commanding Officer, 2675th Regiment, are these: No one with 75 points, of course, can be declared essential and retained if he does not voluntarily wish to stay. Therefore, he will be redeployed and probably discharged as soon as the point system gets around to his number. Those who are willing to stay on a long-term basis now have to sign a Class A certificate (unfortunately, the third – and we hope – the last of its kind), which reads that the officer elects

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can still sign a Class B certificate (described in last week's *Bulletin*).

Col. Parkin also brought back word that the A. C. will have a top priority in replacements. Col. Parkin was also successful in clearing up what has been a rather muddled situation in the Regiment's T/O and strength. At present, on the U. S. side until 1 November, when a new T/O and strength will be fixed, the Regiment will have 443 officers and 868 enlisted men. It has already been announced that, as of 1 December, the Regiment should have a total of 700 persons, figured as 250 officers and 450 enlisted men. The over-worked personnel section of the Regiment will have to bank heavily on the promised replacements since, at present count, for the December 1st date, the known quantities who will be here are very few. In fact, at this reading, the figures are 154 officers, consisting of 46 Class A officers, 33 Class B (the six-month class) and the rest in low-score officers. Enlisted men of the Regular Army and with low scores who will be here 1 December now number only 185. One solution has been suggested: that certificates of necessity for officers whose services are essential be issued by the War Department. The Economic and Civil Affairs Sections are even now drawing up such lists of key personnel.

The British will have an equal number of officers and men which they anticipate no trouble in providing. However, the rapid redeployment is cutting wide swathes through American ranks in the North and in Venezia-Giulia, so there is actual danger of serious lapse from Allied parity, that is, equal numerical representation on the British and American sides. Besides the redeployed officers and men, though at the moment there are orders in from MTOUSA ordering any A. C. contingents in to the reppledepple depots, not a few officers are returning to civil life by application, citing the urgency of their presence in their peacetime businesses. The steady withdrawal of American personnel, not to mention the large number of British officers going home on LIAP (leave), prompted regional commissioners of the North to suggest recently the withdrawal of all Allied officers from the provinces, for example, are being redeployed in one fell swoop, as in signals, which has prompted a suggestion that all hands try to keep signal traffic at a minimum to help the hard-pressed staff remaining.

A brighter note as far as retaining some enlisted personnel lies in a MTOUSA circular which says that EM can sign a Class I certificate, that is, to stay in military service for the duration and six months, or a Class II, which means to stay on in this theater as long as required but not to exceed the duration plus six months. The official interpretation of the Class II certificate is that, if a soldier signs up to continue service in this theater, he will probably be lucky enough to find that MTO will wind up about 1 December and, therefore, he will be eligible for redeployment, according to Col. Parkin, since the Class II certificate is only for this theater. Incidentally, the colonel added, no EM will be considered for promotion who has more than 60 points unless he has signed either a Class I or II paper.

PIEMONTE

Col. Floyd E. Thomas, RC of Piemonte, has been continuing the profitable (to us) custom of making minutes of his regional meetings easily available, so we take this opportunity to look more closely at the hills of Piemonte and the gay city of Turin. As usual, things are under control but there are always enough problems to plague a harrassed Provincial Commissioner. For example, the Prefect of Alessandria attended the assembly of the *Consulta* in Rome and upon his return promptly submitted his resignation. The PC is wondering what is the connection. Probably the new democracy. In Turin, 300 representatives of industrial groups told AMG officials that the newly instituted bread ration was inadequate to them. (The North's heavy worker ration has been cut down somewhat to allow a national increase in that category.) In Novara, the local partisan leader, after a huddle with the AMG public safety officer, put out a manifesto

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Regiment's T/O and strength. At present, on the U. S. side until 1 November, when a new T/O and strength will be fixed, the Regiment will have 443 officers and 868 enlisted men. It has already been announced that, as of 1 December, the Regiment should have a total of 709 persons, figured as 250 officers and 459 enlisted men. The over-worked personnel section of the Regiment will have to bank heavily on the promised replacements since, at present count, for the December 1st date, the known quantities who will be here are very few. In fact, at this reading, the figures are 154 officers, consisting of 46 Class A officers, 33 Class B (the six-month class) and the rest in low-score officers. Enlisted men of the Regular Army and with low scores who will be here 1 December now number only 185. One solution has been suggested: that certificates of necessity for officers whose services are essential be issued by the War Department. The Economic and Civil Affairs Sections are even now drawing up such lists of key personnel.

The British will have an equal number of officers and men which they anticipate no trouble in providing. However, the rapid redeployment is cutting wide swathes through American ranks in the North and in Venezia-Giulia, so there is actual danger of serious lapse from Allied parity, that is, equal numerical representation on the British and American sides. Besides the redeployed officers and men, though at the moment there are orders in from MTOUSA ordering any A. C. contingents in to the repplepepple depots, not a few officers are returning to civil life by application, citing the urgency of their presence in their peacetime businesses. The steady withdrawal of American personnel, not to mention the large number of British officers going home on LIAP (leave), prompted regional commissioners of the North to suggest recently the withdrawal of AMG in all except the border provinces. The proposal, of course, had to be rejected for obvious reasons. Administration of provinces is being amalgamated and remaining personnel is concentrating in regional headquarters, although RC's have been requested to keep at least a skeleton representation in the field. In all this redeployment, the most keenly felt blow, naturally, is in the line of technical experts whose loss is irreplaceable. Whole sections of enlisted men,

ted personnel lies in a MTOUSA circular which says that EM can sign a Class I certificate, that is, to stay in military service for the duration and six months, or a Class II, which means to stay on in this theater as long as required but not to exceed the duration plus six months. The official interpretation of the Class II certificate is that, if a soldier signs up to continue service in this theater, he will probably be lucky enough to find that MTO will wind up about 1 December and, therefore, he will be eligible for redeployment, according to Col. Parkin, since the Class II certificate is only for this theater. Incidentally, the colonel added, no EM will be considered for promotion who has more than 60 points unless he has signed either a Class I or II paper.

PIEMONTE

Col. Floyd E. Thomas, RC of Piemonte, has been continuing the profitable (to us) custom of making minutes of his regional meetings easily available, so we take this opportunity to look more closely at the hills of Piemonte and the gay city of Turin. As usual, things are under control but there are always enough problems to plague a harrassed Provincial Commissioner. For example, the Prefect of Alessandria attended the assembly of the *Consulta* in Rome and upon his return promptly submitted his resignation. The PC is wondering what is the connection. Probably the new democrary. In Turin, 300 representatives of industrial groups told AMG officials that the newly instituted bread ration was inadequate to them. (The North's heavy worker ration has been cut down somewhat to allow a national increase in that category.) In Novara, the local partisan leader, after a huddle with the AMG public safety officer, put out a manifesto asking for the surrender of arms. Approximately 35 truckloads came in. Maybe the idea ought to be copied. Corn amassing, important to the region, came in for special attention. PCs would like to have Italian troops around as an aid to a law-abiding atmosphere. Grain amassing in general has been a success, 41 per cent. of the goal being in as of 1 October. In this latest drive, 110,000 quintals were brought in. Road blocks to control the movement of rice

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have been ordered. Finally, owing to the shortage of personnel, the Region is trying to work out a system whereby at least two officers will still be stationed in each of the seven provinces.

ODDS AND ENDS

The old, familiar faces are certainly leaving us, one of the latest being Brigadier A. P. Graffley-Smith, joint director of the Finance Sub-Commission, who has, with one exception, probably seen longer service in military government for Italy than any other British officer or OR, in fact, two years and five months of it since he joined the first civil affairs group at Chrea in North Africa after serving with British tank forces in the desert campaigns; we will miss the Brigadier, not only for his personal and never-failing charm and friendliness but also for his calm good sense and the cool dispatch with which he handled the intricate problems of his recondite specialty... The wheat mass amassing, sad to relate, had the poorest week so far, according to the report of 1 October, which listed a collection of 812,800 tons or 62 per cent. of the 1,304,000 ton goal; Italian Government territory reported 67 per cent. of its target while AMG territory 59 per cent... As usual, the Sicilian collections in Italian Government territory are the worst, only 15 per cent. having been gathered and an immediate shortage in the public food stocks being reported, probably resulting in a demand for early diversion of a grain ship to Sicily... AFHQ and the A. C. are cooking up a deal whereby Economic Section representation will be had in London to look after Italian requirements before the various European economic organizations now existing for allocation of goods and services... Erratum: The Communes of Naples and Livorno – but NOT the ports – will probably be turned back to the Italians when the handover of the North is announced... Allied political representatives will shortly be set up at Trieste: a British Political Officer and a Representative of the U. S. Political Adviser at Caserta... XIII Corps AMG is proposing that a liaison officer be appointed at Rome to expedite handling of questions between A. C. and Venezia-Giulia, particularly on the economic side... Public Safety and Displaced Persons and Repatriation Sub-Commissions are running into headaches in the form of certain nationals travelling in the North without proper authorization; 17 of one group have been arrested... Italian Prisoners-of-War Division reports that use of the port of Taranto as a port of ingress for repatriated Italian POWs may have to be abandoned because of the continued presence of the plague, the latest figures being 18 cases with nine deaths... We are happy to congratulate 17 new captains: Frank J. Amoriso, Clarence Anderson, Carl C. Banno, Salvatore A. Casale, Joseph A. Cicala, George M. Clegg, George G. Delmerico, Carl E. Fehr, Ralph F. Germann, Robert W. Lott, George M. Marinkov, Louis Mehr, Blaise J. Opulente, David L. O'Toole, Clement C. Petrillo, Milton Steinberg and Lester H. Weil...

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

June 2, 1945

Sup. 3

RESTRICTED

ALLIED COMMISSION

WEEKLY BULLETIN

PUBLISHED BY PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH, HEADQUARTERS, ALLIED COMMISSION, APO 394 - VOL. II, N. 9

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

POLITICAL

Probably no activity is more frustrating than the effort to chronicle the contemporary. Hardly had we sent our last week's stint off to the printer than the potentially pyrotechnic affair of Nenni at Vercelli burst on the political horizon. Perhaps, however, the perspective of the week helps to put the matter in proper light. What might have seemed a serious matter, indeed, can now be seen as a mere incident, rapidly diminishing in importance.

The facts are simple. Nenni arranged to hold a political meeting in Vercelli on his way to Turin. This was not permitted in Army areas and Nenni, as all other politicos visiting in the North, had agreed to refrain from such activities. In spite of formel warnings, Nenni attended the meeting. He was promptly arrested and, after writing a "lettera di scuse", was released. However, for a day or two—the 26th and 27th—the press was naturally somewhat excited about the matter. On his return to Rome a few days later Nenni told *Avanti* that it had been a result of the "impuntatura" (pedantry) of a local official and that as far as he was concerned the incident was closed. He added that nothing should be allowed to disturb good relations between the Allies and Italy but the Italian Government, and Washington and London as well, might profitably reconsider the advisability of suppressing political discussion in a country now liberated and with hostilities at an end. The Socialist Party and the CLN combined in a request to the Italian Goverument to take up with the Allies the granting to all citizens of

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Party differences.

Togliatti, reporting to *Unità* on his trip through the North, also referred to the difficult self-restraint he had had to exercise when surrounded by "tens of thousands" of followers. He added, somewhat unexpectedly à propos of the new government, that he himself did not expect to be in it unless called upon by his friend Nenni, whom he could not very well refuse. However, there seems to be another snag in the negotiations for the new government and one that may prove to be serious. Although a week ago the parties were reported to be substantially in accord on the program, if not on personnel, the Liberals, on returning to Rome, where the scirocco is more conducive to meditation than to action, somewhat unexpectedly announced that before it is possible to go on with the selection of the new cabinet the whole subject of the CLNs needs further "clarification". This opinion has received some support from the Christian Democrats and has been vigorously opposed by the parties of the Left. The difference in point of view is crucial: to the Leftist parties the CLN represent the "vital forces" of the nation whose energies are necessary for reconstruction and reorganization; to the Liberals the Committees, however admirable their service in resistance to the invader, now seem an ultra-governmental, undemocratic, politically dangerous element. The Liberals do not want as yet to abolish them but they

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Both sides have stated their arguments quite freely on the subject, the Liberals more or less

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officially in a letter of the party secretary on May 29, the Socialists and Communists on a joint answer two days later. *Unità* called the Liberals' letter "a wicked action against the interests of our country" and *Avanti* accused them of trying "to discredit Italian democracy". The Action Party joined the Communists and the Socialists in support of the CLN. The Liberals have found their allies not only among the Christian Democrats but, to judge from the speech of Ruini on the 29th, among at least some factions of the Labour Democrats as well. Thus, the whole question may have very serious effects on the unity of the six parties; it has certainly retarded the formation of the new government.

The Frontiers.

On Trieste the situation is substantially unchanged. The latest development is a letter from the CLN of Venezia Giulia accusing the Yugoslavs of tampering with the municipal records. On a higher level the *London Evening News* reported that the Allies are preparing an answer to Tito's latest offers (see last week's *Bulletin*). From Piedmont came the news (on the 24th) that the French had refused to withdraw from the Val d'Aosta just now because of snow on the mountains. Radio Paris contributed two days later the announcement that 15,000 Valdostani had expressed a desire to become French citizens. AMG reports do not bear out this assertion. Italian papers pointed out that the population of the region is some, in any case 80,000.

The government is discussing the situation, having been requested by the CLNAI to ask the Allies to put "contested frontier territories under temporary and impartial administration until the conclusion of the peace negotiations".

The action of Franco in blocking all Italian holdings in Spain has not been very popular in Italy. Franco's argument that such action is in line with anti-Axis measures recommended by the Allies seems a little anachronistic; for a long time, the wits are saying, Franco did'nt seem to know

AMG OPERATIONS

With the French in the West, the Yugoslavs in the East and Patriots in the center, AMG in the North would appreciate some balmy weather. The weather, indeed, off Liguria has been such that supplies have not been able to land and the long land haul from Leghorn is resulting in a precarious bread situation. The haul of fish is excellent, however, in Liguria, the port price dropping from 130 lire a kilo to 5 lire. Otherwise, events are moving along, though it is yet too early for summings up. The French are in some 14 communes of Imperia Province and in Aosta Province have been bringing in coffee and flour by mule from France. The matter of French francs may be adjusted in some areas, in others not as yet. In one Aosta bailiwick the French commander has agreed to withdraw French francs and use AMG lire. In others, the banks have been told to accept only francs. AMG also had to put its foot down on unofficial dealings such as barter trades involving French potatoes and fish for Italian rice and flour. In Vercelli a project to prevent erosion to the banks of the Sesia River has been conceived as a good unemployment relief measure. There is a need for kerosene or diesel oil in Piemonte to lubricate farm machinery. Throughout the North the program to distribute captured enemy draft animals to farmers is under way. Some concern is also felt about the lack of fertilizers and insecticides, which the North has been short of for the last few years. A minor but perplexing problem of AMG in Turin is the plumbing. Hotel hot water taps, when turned on, give forth beautifully hot, boiling water. Cold water taps give off steam. To get cold water (or moderately cool-tepid-lukewarm), one flushes the toilet several times. These Italians.

More than 3,000 denunciations of purported Fascists have been filed in Milan alone. Newsprint manufacturers in the North have agreed to make 60 tons of newsprint a day for four months at a price of 42 lire a kilo. 5th Army has called for a team of AC economic experts to inspect

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Fascist trials go on: Acerbo has been condemned to thirty years' imprisonment, Bottai, Federzoni and Rossoni to life, though they were not on hand to hear the sentences. All gerarchi and pezzi grossissimi in the dear dead days.

that supplies have not been able to land and the long land haul from Leghorn is resulting in a precarious bread situation. The haul of fish is excellent, however, in Liguria, the port price dropping from 130 lire a kilo to 5 lire. Otherwise, events are moving along, though it is yet too early for summings up. The French are in some 14 communes of Imperia Province and in Aosta Province have been bringing in coffee and flour by mule from France. The matter of French francs may be adjusted in some areas, in others not as yet. In one Aosta bailiwick the French commander has agreed to withdraw French francs and use AMG lire. In others, the banks have been told to accept only francs. AMG also had to put its foot down on unofficial dealings such as barter trades involving French potatoes and fish for Italian rice and flour. In Vercelli a project to prevent erosion to the banks of the Sesia River has been conceived as a good unemployment relief measure. There is a need for kerosene or diesel oil in Piemonte to lubricate farm machinery. Throughout the North the program to distribute captured enemy draft animals to farmers is under way. Some concern is also felt about the lack of fertilizers and insecticides, which the North has been short of for the last few years. A minor but perplexing problem of AMG in Turin is the plumbing. Hotel hot water taps, when turned on, give forth beautifully hot, boiling water. Cold water taps give off steam. To get cold water (or moderately cool-tepid-lukewarm), one flushes the toilet several times. These Italians.

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12,237 arrived in Rome from the North and 8,347 left Rome for the South. The Records Bureau of the Displaced Persons and Repatriation Sub-Commission also handled 59,000 messages from the North in this one week. (Distribution was made from Rome through the International Red Cross.)

Less than 1,000 civilians are being evacuated from the Rimini area – instead of the previously rumored 10,000 – to make way for the compounds being built for German prisoners-of-war.

To the East, where the Trieste question is going through the slow toils of diplomatic protocol, AMG teams are ready for operations but naturally cannot yet function. A separate region may be made of Venezia Giulia because of the problems involved. The food situation in Trieste is reported as "deteriorating" but not yet acute enough for alarm. A Yugoslav application to buy yeast in considerable quantities in Udine Province was turned down. The Yugoslavs are reported to have been removing machinery, spare parts, leather belting and batteries. Patriots in eastern Venezie are still armed, with some reports indicating captured enemy tanks and anti-tank guns in their possession.

ADMIRAL VISITS NORTH

Rear Admiral Ellery W. Stone, the Chief Commissioner, made a one-day trip to the North and back to Rome by plane May 29 to confer with 5th Army, IV Corps and AMG officers on the situation. Accompanied by Col. Norman E. Fiske, Deputy Executive Commissioner, who has been designated the Admiral's representative in the North, the Chief Commissioner conferred with Lieut. Gen. Lucian K. Truscott, jr., commanding general, Fifth Army, about AMG problems. Brigadier General Edgar Erskine Hume, 5th Army SCAO, and his executive officer, Col. Arthur E. Sutherland, jr., also attended.

In Milan the Admiral met with Maj. Gen. Willis D. Crittenberger, commanding general, IV Corps, his SCAO, Col. Hamilton T. Walker, and with Brigadier M. Carr, Col. R. P. Marshall and

The trip also saw the Admiral perform the honors at a ceremony at 5th Army AMG Hq, at which he presented to the senior non-commissioned officers of Company "G" of 2675th Regiment and to the British detatchment assigned to 5th Army AMG Hq the Meritorious Service Plaque awarded the 5th Army AMG by General Truscott for its "outstanding services in support of combat operations".

UPJOHN TRIP

Brigadier Gerald K. Upjohn, Vice President of the Civil Affairs Section, and Colonel R. R. Cripps (B), Director of the Local Government Sub-Commission, are back at Hq. from a nine-day tour of the North. They report greatly varying conditions but, apart from some political headaches, in all the Regions, the problem of disarming of Patriots looms largest. While disarmament parades have been held in most provinces and large numbers of arms of all sorts have been handed in, everyone knows that there still exist very large caches as yet uncollected, which will provide a very serious Public Safety problem for some time. While few Patriots continue to carry arms by day (except in the border provinces) the nightly killings, especially in Milan, Genoa and Bologna, point to the continued existence of armed bands of Patriots or thugs masquerading as Patriots. The Carabinieri have everywhere met with a mixed reception. It is plain that the Government will have to undertake a complete reorganization of the police forces before the Public Safety situation is fully restored. Arrangements are already in hand for recruiting Patriots into police forces other than the CC. RR.

So far as Local Government is concerned, on the whole, members of the CLNs appear to be serious minded and cooperative, but all provinces have had trouble in varying degrees in getting members of the Committees to become aware of their purely advisory role. The main heat has fallen on Colonel Poletti who has to deal with the CLNAI, but he has scored a signal success in

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In general, the Chief Commissioner said that he was "satisfied" with the trip, which, translated from the laconic style in which the Admiral usually speaks, means he thinks the plans of AC and work of AMG are working out fairly well.

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Prefects appointed.

In every case, except one, where prefects have already been appointed or nominated for appointment, Provincial Commissioners have recommended the CLN candidate. In the remaining case, the Government candidate was asked to accept the appointment of Prefect and he refused.

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Of eleven provinces in Emilia and Venezie for which figures are available, proposed Prefects wore the following party colours: Socialist 2, Non-Party 1, Communist 1, Christian Democrats 3, Action Party 3, Liberal 1.

General Order 35, providing for the dismissal of Fascists from state concerns, has been put up in nearly every province and is beginning to work without more than the usual birth pangs. General Orders dealing with the epuration of personnel of private concerns have been found to be necessary to prevent wholesale sacking of employees and workers for reasons of private vendetta and are now under preparation at Headquarters.

The decree setting up People's Courts has met with a very favourable reception and Courts have been set up in nearly every province. Illegal courts appear to have died down without undue trouble. By the time these words appear in print, Courts in most provinces will have commenced sitting. The first sitting in Milan was on 24 May and reports of convictions have already been received. Lieut. Colonel G. G. Hannaford (B) has had a very busy time providing for special sittings of the Special Section of the Court of Cassation sent up from Rome to hear appeals from these Courts.

Cultural notes.

In the field of education there are no special problems except in the East of Udine where the inhabitants appear unwilling to permit Italian to be taught. Capt. Willis E. Pratt (A) hopes to have 13,000 students, including a large number of Patriots, attending summer courses at Bologna University, as against 3,000 during the German occupation.

Many exciting things were found to be happening in the world of Monuments and Fine Arts. Nearly all the Florentine treasures have been discovered and will shortly be returned there (40 truck loads). Some of the Abyssinian crown jewels have also come to light.

The Public Health situation is on the whole good and a Deputation of experts from the North is due in Rome any day now to make plans with

dustrial capacity found in the North. Prime Minister Bonomi, in a letter to the Chief Commissioner, asks for certain immediate supplies and further requests that these latest items have absolute priority over all other supplies previously asked for. Col. Leonard T. Densmore, chief staff officer of the Economic Section, has left for the States, bearing with him the Bonomi letter and revised requisitions, which, in brief, ask for 710,500 tons of supplies, including 383,000 tons of coal, as the first part of the transitional program (for September of this year). The Prime Minister said that he was aware of the sizeable sea transport problem involved, but pleaded, in the name of Italy's 40 million war-stricken inhabitants, for immediate help to ward off unemployment – if coal and raw materials continue lacking – and possible unrest.

Mr. A. G. Antolini, Acting Vice President of the Economic Section, this week confirmed that he was leaving the Commission about June 15 to return to private business. He had announced some time ago his intention to retire. He will be succeeded by Brigadier General Edward B. McKinley, who has been Deputy Vice President (Supply). Brigadier D. L. Anderson, Deputy Vice President (Production), has just returned from a trip to London, where he took up, among other matters, the need of more British civilian personnel in AC.

Other news of economic interest: Of the more than 200 inquiries by AC officers into employment by the Foreign Economic Administration (FEA) as civilians in AC, 37 officers have been found qualified. — The Economic Section is currently working out ways and means whereby inter-regional commerce between the North and South can be most effective and controllable. — A large part of the Italian schooner fleet (once as many as 2,000 vessels) and some coast-wise ships are being turned back to Italian control by the Mediterranean Shipping Board (MEDEO). — Wheat ammassed, as of the latest report, is 11,622,539 quintals, and olive oil, 499,473 quintals. —Nine and a half tons of vegetable seeds were exported to Albania and Yugoslavia in the past week, the Commerce

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of Fascists from state concerns, has been put up in nearly every province and is beginning to work without more than the usual birth pangs. General Orders dealing with the epuration of personnel of private concerns have been found to be necessary to prevent wholesale sacking of employees and workers for reasons of private vendetta and are now under preparation at Headquarters.

The decree setting up People's Courts has met with a very favourable reception and Courts have been set up in nearly every province. Illegal courts appear to have died down without undue trouble. By the time these words appear in print, Courts in most provinces will have commenced sitting. The first sitting in Milan was on 24 May and reports of convictions have already been received. Lieut. Colonel G. G. Hannaford (B) has had a very busy time providing for special sittings of the Special Section of the Court of Cassation sent up from Rome to hear appeals from these Courts.

Cultural notes.

In the field of education there are no special problems except in the East of Udine where the inhabitants appear unwilling to permit Italian to be taught. Capt. Willis E. Pratt (A) hopes to have 13,000 students, including a large number of Patriots, attending summer courses at Bologna University, as against 3,000 during the German occupation.

Many exciting things were found to be happening in the world of Monuments and Fine Arts. Nearly all the Florentine treasures have been discovered and will shortly be returned there (40 truck loads). Some of the Abyssinian crown jewels have also come to light.

The Public Health situation is on the whole good and a Depatation of experts from the North is due in Rome any day now to make plans with the Government for the manufacture in the North of considerable quantities of medical supplies which should greatly relieve the present position.

ECONOMIC FRONT

Chief news of the week economically is the formulation of the revised joint program for first-aid to the Italian economy, which has been revised, of course, by reasons of the undestroyed in-

of the Economic Section, has left for the States, bearing with him the Bonomi letter and revised requisitions, which, in brief, ask for 710,500 tons of supplies, including 383,000 tons of coal, as the first part of the transitional program (for September of this year). The Prime Minister said that he was aware of the sizeable sea transport problem involved, but pleaded, in the name of Italy's 40 million war-stricken inhabitants, for immediate help to ward off unemployment – if coal and raw materials continue lacking – and possible unrest.

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three days from 750 lire a kilo to 250 lire and for sodium carbonate from 300 lire to 60 lire a kilo. — Cement production in four AC-controlled plants this week was 3,428 tons, an increase of 1,036 tons over the previous week.

MACMILLAN MESSAGE

Mr. Harold Macmillan, who has just left the posts of Acting President of the Allied Commission and British Resident Minister at AFHQ to enter the Churchill cabinet, sent the following message to all ranks of the Allied Commission:

"I cannot leave without sending a message of thanks and good wishes to all my friends in the Allied Commission and Allied Military Government. Ever since the landings in Sicily, nearly two years ago, I have seen and admired your work. During recent months I have been more intimately associated with you. Many conflicting duties have hampered my capacity to do more than try to help my friends and your chief, Admiral Stone, to the best of my ability. But I shall always be proud of my association with your enterprise, and the high ideals which have inspired you all. Good luck and God speed".

VERBA VOLANT, SCRIPTA MANENT

Whatever immortality AC/AMG will have in years to come, aside from the fireside reminiscences of old men, is in the hands of AC's Archives Branch. Sobered by this thought, which may well have been a by-product of the sense of mortality and impermanence following a discussion about age groups and release dates among certain officers (B), we called on Capt. A. J. Collins (B), head of the Branch and discovered that a lot of things have been going on that more people ought to know about. Capt. Collins has been in charge of the Branch since its inception about a year ago and emerged, willing but harassed, from behind a few packing cases to tell us something about it. The first thing he made clear was that Archives is not a reference department for current matters. If you want to look for a copy of that definitive letter that Colonel Blank wrote to be catalogued and made available for research in the future.

This sounds easy but is not without its hazards, which in the aggregate might well drive anyone but a born archivist mad. In the first place (this was true particularly in the early days) the files sometimes don't turn up. They have a way of being lost in office drawers, left behind in abandoned headquarters, absentmindedly thrown into wastebaskets, of falling off jeeps and so on. This sort of thing is offensive to any right-minded librarian and leaves gaps which will be seriously annoying to the future historian. Fact is, at first many administrative centers didn't appreciate the importance of records and didn't always have time to think about them, even when their intentions were good. The worst of that period is over but other difficulties remain and are indeed of the essence of the job.

Order from Chaos.

Bringing order into a catalogue of Ming Porcellain or a collection of editions of Petrarch (oddly enough we know something about the latter) is bad enough, but when you are dealing with anything as peripatetic, chameleontic and amorphous as AC/AMG, you have what may fairly be described as a problem. A black market trial in Portici, for example, will provide materials for the files of Public Safety (Regional and Provincial), Legal (ditto) and will involve, before you get through, Hq. (Provincial and Regional), possibly Public Health, very likely Legal (Hq.) AC, maybe even Political, Liaison or PRO (Adv.). Hence, the main job of Archives has been to work out a system whereby with the least possible loss of time, the future historian (and there will be one, if not many) can untangle the snarled skein of our bureaucratic threads and make some kind of a pattern for posterity. Captain Collins, neatly combining the Functional and Regional approaches, has done just that.

The system once set up, there remains plenty to do. Archives Branch has analyzed the contents of each set of files (frequently mislabeled) and has made check lists, easily accessible, prefaced

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The system once set up, there remains plenty to do. Archives Branch has analyzed the contents of each set of files (frequently mislabeled) and has made check lists, easily accessible, prefaced by a brief history of the set of files in question, stating its origin, scope and sequel—if any. These little prefatory remarks are in themselves a sort of thumbnail history of the Allied Commission. Obviously things never work out even; some Sub-Commissions, for example, have deposited in archives only a few loose sheets of paper, others have sent down enough to fill a dozen or more cabinets. Any morning either the former or the latter may descend on Archives with another

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five or six packing cases to be collated and dovetailed. (This brings up the question of space; how much will be needed to house our records is impossible to say, though in all probability it will be more than Archives has now, being a mere three rooms, two of them with three tiers of book shelves.) And as for the Regions, well, Region I is definitely dead, but its records have an awkward way of getting tangled up with those of Hq. AMGOT, and Southern Region, now almost completely in, is a little chaotic, what with tributary material from the older Regions it supplanted. Handover of territory in the North will inundate the Branch and when AC itself turns in its records – well, we didn't even dare bring that up.

Aside from the tactical head of Archives, there is a special committee which meets for strategic directives. The committee, headed by the Executive Commissioner, has one representative from each section of Hq. and two members of the Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives Sub-Commission, themselves archivists in civilian life. There have also been visits from advisers representing the Library of Congress and the British Records Office. What is going to happen when the Commission dissolves we don't know. Perhaps the British and American Embassies will be interested, perhaps special experts will take over. The Branch is interested in having records up-to-date, tidy and at least ready for proper indexing. All help that Sub-Commissions and Regions can give in the way of efficient listing and packing will be deeply appreciated and more than welcome. All joking aside, it's a big job and one that will hardly be through the first phase when the rest of us have arrived home. In fact, going out the door and observing the inscription *Verba volant scripta manent* we could not help adding (but very softly): Et tu, Collins.

AUSTRIA

Reports are now arriving (for information only) from our former colleagues with the 8th Army in the Austrian show and indications are that AMG troubles are still the same no matter where. Villach, Hermagor and Spittal, curfew infringements largely. A maximum of 2,000 refugees a day (with Italians having priority) are being evacuated from Austria to Italy. Allied Military Schillings have been introduced and banks will open shortly. The bread ration has been reinstated at 170 grams. Approximately 40 per cent. of the vehicles listed use wood fuel. Labor is short for agriculture and essential industries – sawmills, cement, wire and nails – though German POWs are now being made available.

ODDS AND ENDS

Redeployment news is practically nil, though it is of interest to report that Headquarters Command, Allied Forces, is now in process of setting up the rules for classifying units and personnel essential and non-essential in order to fit them into one of the four categories (I, occupation troops; II, redeployment to the Pacific and the U. S. for continued service; III, dispatch to the U. S. for eventual release, and IV, outright release). — All promotions, as everyone knows, have been suspended in the interim, a state of affairs which will obviously continue until the manpower re-shuffling is in the clear. — The Economic Section, however, got a new lieutenant-colonel in John M. Murtagh, who, being on TD here, got his promotion via the War Department; congratulations. — The AC Awards and Decorations Board has been meeting, considering about 15 recommendations to date. — Maj. Gen. Anderson of the British Civil Affairs Office visited Rome this past week. — The Hq. PX has moved to the basement and has been fixed up by Cpl. William H. Ferri in elegant department-store style; all that seems lacking is a floorwalker. — Brigadier Maurice S. Lush, the Executive Commissioner, is touring the North. — The Swiss have offered to send Red Cross help to the devastated areas and to house tubercular students in summer camps in Switzeland. — The Education Sub-Commission is aiding the Italian authorities to establish a central catalogue of historical and archeological works in Rome, so the city can become an international center for such research, already possessing Europe's best

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AUSTRIA

Reports are now arriving (for information only) from our former collegues with the 8th Army in the Austrian show and indications are that AMG troubles are still the same no matter where you are. Yugoslav withdrawals from some Austrian provinces have improved the feeling of the population, not to mention another result: declaration of hidden flour stocks. A Slovene minority delegation was informed that Slovenes would receive fair and impartial treatment from the Military Government of Austria. Search for Nazi Gauleiters to date has been unsuccessful, though two aides of one of them were caught. Military courts are functioning at Klagenfurt, stated at 170 grams. Approximately 40 per cent. of the vehicles listed use wood fuel. Labor is short for agriculture and essential industries – sawmills, cement, wire and nails – though German POWs are now being made available.

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May 4, 1945

RESTRICTED

ALLIED COMMISSION
WEEKLY BULLETIN

PUBLISHED BY PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH, HEADQUARTERS, ALLIED COMMISSION, APO 394 - VOL. II, N. 5

POLITICAL

A new and invigorating current has flowed into the Italian political stream during the past week. If similes were not out of place in the sober columns of our *Bulletin*, we might say that this current has in it something of the fresh swiftness of the Adige and something of the serene purposefulness of the Po. The Tiber, itself not normally a stream to be sneezed at, looks a little sluggish by contrast...

What will be the final result of recent political developments in the North is as yet not predictable but certain effects are already discernible. The rapid and coordinated operations of the patriots which enabled them to seize and organize Milan, Genoa, Turin and other large cities of the North before the Allied armies entered have given Italian morale a lift perceptible even in the capital. "Italy has now not only martyrs but heroes as well", wrote Pacciardi in *Voce Repubblicana*, concluding that Italians have now the right to talk to the "heroic Tito" on terms of equality.

Summary Justice.

The case for Allied status has of course been much strengthened—and not only in Italian opinion—by the deeds of the patriots, praised by Italian and Allied authorities alike.

The summary justice inflicted on Mussolini and his henchmen brought forth cries of exultation from those who had been saying bitterly that epuration in Italy has so far been a joke and general approval from all sides—except the *Osservatore Romano*, which entered a protest against the "violent and macabre" circumstan-

should follow. (See *Weekly Bulletin*, no. 12, for June 25, 1944.)

The C. L. N. parties held a joint rally on the 29th to celebrate the glorious events in the North and speakers from all of the six parties addressed the crowd. According to reports the audience was strongly anti-monarchist in its reactions, and when the Christian Democrat speaker attempted to say—quoting Churchill—that "one man alone" had brought ruin to Italy, he was interrupted by shouts of "No, no; the King too", "Badoglio", etc. The republican party as might be expected, lost no time in taking advantage of this state of mind and published a manifesto declaring the institutional truce was over and the time has now come for summoning the Costituente (in which the monarchists may also be represented, added the manifesto) and meanwhile a provisional government should be set up.

May Day.

A May Day pronouncement of the Socialist and Communist parties likewise called for the Constituent Assembly and announced their joint platform would have three points: establishment of a republic, socialization of monopolistic industry and agrarian reform. Other parties or factions of parties are invited to support this program. Togliatti in two speeches commemorating Gramsci (Communist leader who died in a Fascist prison in 1937) and in another radio talk as well called for "a new political direction" for the country, and, at the public meeting of the 29th, recalled Bonomi's promise to resign as soon as the North was liberated.

The government's response to events has

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The government's response to events has been, as is logical, somewhat less revolutionary. A message of congratulation to the Allied Armies and the patriots was issued on the 27th with the accompanying statement that the needs and aspirations of the North would be studied and satisfied as far as possible. The government has also asked the Allied Commission for permission to contact Northern C. L. N. as soon as possible and it is reported that representatives of the Northern groups are soon to come to Rome to meet with the government and the opposition

parties in the capital. What—if any—changes will come out of this meeting is yet to be seen. Nenni (in *Avanti*), leading the Leftist drive for immediate convocation of the Constituent Assembly, declared that anyone who retards or obstructs the formation of the new body is a traitor, and the time has come to sweep aside the "putrefying corpse of the monarchy". The government papers however have so far confined themselves to exultant and laudatory comments on liberation and the partisans.

Concern for Trieste.

The general concern for the future of Trieste and Venezia Giulia was sharpened by the rumour of Tito's occupation of the Adriatic port—recent reports which state carefully that the city was liberated by partisans and not Tito's regular troops may have somewhat allayed this concern though it is too early to assess the reaction. The government, after consultation with Allied authorities, declared on the 30th that the problem of Venezia Giulia cannot properly be studied until the war is over and that meanwhile, by the terms of the armistice, the Region must pass under Allied military administration... Italians are also somewhat troubled by the advance of French troops in Piemonte, a move which, as *La Capitale* sees it, "makes no sense at this time from a military point of view."

Another result of the pride in the heroism of the North has been the intensification of the campaign in the press against the proposed economic barrier between North and South. As noted last week there has already been much criticism of this scheme; this week's press has returned to the charge with reinforcements. Not only *Avanti* and *Italia Libera* but the Liberal *Risorgimento Liberale* and the economic journal *Secolo Ventesimo* have attacked the project as politically deplorable and economically unsound. It is clear that Italians are unanimous in wanting unity and territorial integrity; many, too want a change in the government—just how many, time will tell.

ably to ease the situation. Northern Italy, in brief, is largely undamaged, which makes the work of AMG that much easier. In fact, as the Chief Commissioner told the forward staffs in a recent memorandum, the period of AMG control may be shorthr and should be lighter than what was anticipated, especially with the Northern C. L. N. apparently anxious to cooperate with Allied authority in local administration.

From special reports by the two Armies, 15th Army Group and Special Force officers, whose undercover work with the Patriots has paid off in big dividends, the following summary account of key cities in the North may be made:

Bologna, little damaged outside the railroad yards, had 50,000 refugees, but with power and water limited. A large number of trucks are available, needing about two weeks to be made roadworthy. La Spezia was also only moderately damaged. Verona suffered heavily, all bridges being blown but the power station escaped unscathed. Some art damage, also. Food distribution needed and is getting a re-organization. Genoa, with Brigadier M. Carr, RC of Liguria, in charge, is normal. First food shipments by sea are on the way. Ferrara, where the 8th Army smashed into the German flank, has no water or power. Venice is completely undamaged, with all conditions normal. Milan suffered heavily from air raids naturally but all utilities are working. Food is short but not critical. Lombardy has 70,000 tons of coal but hardly any gas. Reports from Pavia, Reggio, Modena, Piacenza, Treviso and Turin, all indicate no damage and installations saved.

In cooperation with PWB, AMG is also trying out a new scheme for transport in the North. Civilians are being asked to assemble hidden vehicles and register them with AMG for food distribution. It is pointed out to the civilians that the trucks are to be rented, as it were, and not requisitioned unless absolutely needed. Other news includes another big Patriot parade, this time in Modena, where Brigadier General E. E. Hume reviewed 10,000 Patriots who handed in ten truckloads of arms. Carabinieri have moved into the North in force also, some 6,000 being

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Concern for Trieste.

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Another result of the pride in the heroism of the North has been the intensification of the campaign in the press against the proposed economic barrier between North and South. As noted last week there has already been much criticism of this scheme; this week's press has returned to the charge with reinforcements. Not only *Avanti* and *Italia Libera* but the Liberal *Risorgimento Liberale* and the economic journal *Secolo Ventesimo* have attacked the project as politically deplorable and economically unsound. It is clear that Italians are unanimous in wanting unity and territorial integrity; many, too want a change in the government—just how many, time will tell.

AMG WITH THE ARMIES

With the surrender of the German armies in Italy on May 2, an end finally came to the rush of special sitreps following the swift advance of the Allied Forces, and one may stop to take stock of what has been found in the North where AMG is in full control, having moved almost as rapidly as the combat troops. Everywhere, of course, there is praise for the Patriots whose guard on power plants and supplies has helped immeasurC. L. N. apparently anxious to cooperate with Allied authority in local administration.

From special reports by the two Armies, 15th Army Group and Special Force officers, whose undercover work with the Patriots has paid off in big dividends, the following summary account of key cities in the North may be made:

Bologna, little damaged outside the railroad yards, had 50,000 refugees, but with power and water limited. A large number of trucks are available, needing about two weeks to be made roadworthy. La Spezia was also only moderately damaged. Verona suffered heavily, all bridges being blown but the power station escaped unscathed. Some art damage, also. Food distribution needed and is getting a re-organization. Genoa, with Brigadier M. Carr, RC of Liguria, in charge, is normal. First food shipments by sea are on the way. Ferrara, where the 8th Army smashed into the German flank, has no water or power. Venice is completely undamaged, with all conditions normal. Milan suffered heavily from air raids naturally but all utilities are working. Food is short but not critical. Lombardy has 70,000 tons of coal but hardly any gas. Reports from Pavia, Reggio, Modena, Piacenza, Treviso and Turin, all indicate no damage and installations saved.

In cooperation with PWB, AMG is also trying out a new scheme for transport in the North. Civilians are being asked to assemble hidden vehicles and register them with AMG for food distribution. It is pointed out to the civilians that the trucks are to be rented, as it were, and not requisitioned unless absolutely needed. Other news includes another big Patriot parade, this time in Modena, where Brigadier General E. E. Hume reviewed 10,000 Patriots who handed in ten truckloads of arms. Carabinieri have moved into the North in force also, some 6,000 being there now and another 4,000 on the way.

ECONOMIC FRONT

The news from the Economic Section this week is all in the North, as with practically all other AC activity. Every Sub-Commission has sent or plans shortly to send, special delegations to the area to investigate conditions on the ground. Mr. A. G. Antolini, Acting Vice President, is

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expected to take a tour of the region also in the next few days. Mr. K. E. Stauffer of the Economic Section is currently looking into Northern price levels. Mr. L. J. Kugel, Deputy Director of the Commerce Sub-Commission, is examining the trade possibilities. The Section is also waiting on information concerning key installations and supplies from the surrendered German forces. The economic boundary, with road blocks, set up between the North and the rest of Italy came in for a press release in which the Economic Section told the Italian press particularly, that the control line would be kept only as long as was necessary to work out means to weld the two economies together.

The Industry Sub-Commission is in process of trying to derequisition the Arrigoni food processing plants, largest canners in Italy and much of whose equipment can be put back to work in short order. — Emilia Region hopes to export 5,000 tons of fruit this season. — A new system in forward regions whereby payment is required for WD transport has boosted traffic on the Autotrasporti agencies, in Emilia, for example, to 8,000 tons in March, compared with 5,000 in February. — The wheat collection, as of May 2, was 11,387,440 quintals and the olive oil collection 463,159 quintals.— The Rome Tuscolana plant resumed production of sulphuric acid April 28.

PBS IN NAPLES

Close cooperation between officials of the U. S. Army's Peninsular Base Section and those of the Allied Commission resulted in lasting benefits to Italians through the restoration of shattered utilities in the Naples area. This was revealed in a recent PBS report on rehabilitation of utilities in that zone during the first 11 months of Allied operations there. While vital to the military in the conduct of an arduous campaign, the work of restoring sewers, electric power installations, water facilities, streets, roads and sewers had an all-important bearing on the everyday lives of the civil population.

Chaotic conditions were found to prevail in the Naples area when our troops first entered it. Besides the damage done by the Germans in their withdrawal, there was the destruction caused by the Allied bombardment of the city and its port facilities. Streets were blocked with rubble and debris, and the city's water, power and sewer systems were in a state of collapse. Even more serious was the fact that the Germans had mined the entire area in and about the city and throughout the vicinity. This called for mine clearance, the removal of huge quantities of rubble and the filling of hundreds of bomb craters using Army Engineer troops and equipment together with many civilian laborers and such rock, gravel and other materials as the immediate area afforded.

This work, which started immediately upon the arrival of Allied troops, expanded steadily from mid-December 1943 until early in May 1944 when a road net of 225 miles outside of Naples and all of the main arteries within the city were maintained by PBS Engineers. The work continued to expand until, at the end of the 11 months period, 1,284,918 Allied military man hours had been expended on the work. In addition, Italian civilians worked 2,007,650 man hours and Italian military units worked over a half million man hours. Nearly a half million truck and heavy equipment hours were expended.

Next in importance to traffic arteries was the need for swift action to repair Naples' sewers and water system. Faced with the threat of a major epidemic, PBS and AC officials rushed sewer repair work and at the end of the period covered in the report had accomplished emergency work on sewers at 24 key points in the Naples system. On this work the military expended 27,444 man hours while 136,298 civilian man hours were used.

The retreating Germans had shrewdly demolished key installations in the city's water system and this problem had to be met aggressively. The result of extensive repairs to reservoirs, aqueducts and city water mains was the immediate establishment of a series of water points for civilians, as well as to fill military needs, and the eventual restoration of normal services through a series of emergency and permanent installations.

Like work was accomplished in the restoration of minimum electric power facilities. Here again the Germans had done their usual thorough job of destruction. Despite the extent of the damage, which had completely deprived the Naples area of electric power, emergency repair work resulted in near normal conditions at the end of the 11 months period.

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Chaotic conditions were found to prevail in the Naples area when our troops first occupied it and officials of the AC took over the administration of civil affairs. As one of the first steps in restoration and rehabilitation, civilian officials and contractors were called upon for such manpower and materials as were available. The actual work started immediately under the supervision of PBS Engineers and the ensuing results were impressive, the report revealed.

First task was to open up street and road nets from the port to Army installations through-

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The same result was achieved in the matter of communications. Beginning two days after the initial landing at Salerno, PBS Signal troops worked steadily forward with the advancing combat units and, by the end of the period covered in the report, had restored civilian switchboards destroyed by the retreating Germans, maintained military lines of communication and re-established a minimum civilian service covering the entire metropolitan area. On all of the work done in the area by and under supervision

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of PBS troops, civilians were employed whenever possible in order to relieve Armed Forces personnel for close support of combat units.

ODDS AND ENDS

The next transfer of territory to the Italian Government will take place shortly subject to ratification by the Allied Advisory Council, and will include the Provinces of Grosseto, Siena and Arezzo in Tuscany, Terni and Perugia in Umbria and Pesaro, Ancona, Macerata and Ascoli in the Marche, with the Commune and Port of Ancona remaining under AMG. — The Umbria-Marche Region will be abolished in course and AC officers withdrawn except for a few specialist and liaison men. — Arrival of sugar shipments made possible the first distribution of sugar in four months in Perugia, Umbria-Marche Region reports. — Col. Paul F. Russell, famed Rockefeller Foundation malarialogist, who was on duty with the Public Health Sub-Commission until recently, has been awarded the Legion of Merit. — We have two new full colonels Arthur E. Sutherland, 5th Army AMG chief of staff, and Hamilton T. Walker, SCAO, IV Corps: congratulations to all. — UNRRA reports that 12,000 tons of goods have been delivered to Italy, with three more ships on the way. — More than 200 U. S. officers in AC have expressed interest in being civilianized on the spot in response to the recent circular asking for applicants for FEA and the Auxiliary Foreign Service of the State Department. Permission is about to be given for the Italian Government to discuss its hopes for civil aviation — The Displaced Persons and Repatriation Sub-Commission is studying the question of repatriating Libyan school children brought to Italy from that Italian colony. — Lieut. Col. C. T. Francis (B), Public safety Chief in Lombardy, has received the OBE and Lieut. Col. E. J. Pullen, SCAPO, 8th Army AMG, and Major T. Sculby, the MBE: felicitations. — Emilia Way, house organ of Emilia Region, tells us that a free election was held (with permission) in the Commune of Mondaino in Forli Province, in which voted 833 persons out of 1,085 men and women eligible and that 60 per cent. cast ballots for the Communist Party. — The first civil air mail service abroad – to Tripolitania – has started.

ERRATUM

Our face is red. In our account of the Acting President's trip to the North in the April 27th issue of the Bulletin, there was a slight mix-up of names. Mr. MacMillan was met at General Clark's headquarters by Col. Nelson Montfort, DCCAO, and Lieut. Col. P. Friend-James and not by Col. A. C. Bowman, who met the Acting President later in 8th Army territory. Our apologies.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

April 27, 1945

Col LE Fiske

RESTRICTED

ALLIED COMMISSION

WEEKLY BULLETIN

PUBLISHED BY PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH, HEADQUARTERS, ALLIED COMMISSION, APO 394 - VOL. II, N. 4

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

POLITICAL

The government's "definitive decisions" on the formation of the Consultative Assembly were announced at the end of the Council meeting on Wednesday. As noted in last week's Bulletin the parties of the C. L. N. will have a preponderant majority in this assembly which will number around three hundred in all. In addition to the representatives of the parties there will be appointed also spokesmen for the various unions, and twenty four members from the CGIL. The new partisan group (Associazione Nazionale Partigiani Italiani, known as ANPI) will have six members and representation of other agencies will bring the veterans total up to 10. The free professions will have ten delegates. As planned originally too the Consultative Assembly will include the 60 staunch anti-Fascist ex-deputati of the pre-Mussolini parliament and 9 senators. *Italia Nuova* (whose democratic non C. L. N. party gets 10 seats) doesn't like it much and described the new organization as "neither political nor technical, neither traditional nor revolutionary, founded on compromise and a typical creation of neodemocracy Bonomi style", which is to say, in *Italia Nuova*'s opinion "totalitarian in essence". It is true that the representation is weighted heavily in favor of the C. L. N. — even more heavily than is apparent since it is likely that many of the labor representatives, many if not most of the old parliamentarians and some others may belong to one of the six parties. It is also true, however, that almost every kind of political and social current has been given expression in the new assembly and since it is purely a "Consulta" and not a parliament, the actual strength of the representation is probably not as important as *Italia Nuova* would have one think.

Wednesday's meeting began with a message read to the Council by Bonomi congratulating the Allied armies on their successes in the North and lauding with particular pride Italy's two armies—regulars and the partisans—for their share in the victories. It was in a way symbolic that the meeting should begin on this strain for taire" between North and South planned for the early stages of AMG administration (see last weeks Bulletin: Warming up for Northern Italy). Nenni in *Avanti* led the attack and was supported by *Italia Libera* and *Il Popolo*. More discussion of this matter is to be expected.

The press is in unhappy unanimity on the subject of exclusion of Italy from San Francisco. *Marforio*, a weekly comic sheet, proposes that the opening day of the conference be declared a day of mourning—not for Italy but for the rest of the world since a new world order could hardly hope for success if it began by excluding "a country as rich as Italy in political experience". This puts the case rather more strongly than most but all parties regard the action—or rather lack of action—of the United Nations as an indication of their misunderstanding of the new Italy. Indeed at the meeting of the Council De Gasperi read a message to his fellow ministers expressing Italy's disappointment—this message is to go to the United Nations.

ACTING PRESIDENT SEES AMG IN OPERATION

Anticipating events in the north, Acting President Harold MacMillan left his desk last week to make a flying four-day trip to the forward regions. He was accompanied by the Director of Public Relations and Lieutenant John Atkinson, his aide.

On the initial day he conferred with General Mark W. Clark regarding the progress of the offensive. He was met at the General's headquarters by Col. Alfred C. Bowman, Regional Commissioner for Emilia, who later conducted him by special plane to Forli where Air Commodore C. E. Benson, SCAO, 8th Army AMG, joined the party.

The second day saw the President out early to inspect various phases of AMG work in Ravenna, Rimini and Riccione. Lt. Col. Henry P. Kucera, Provincial Commissioner in Ravenna, and Major Norman Newton, Monuments, and Fine Arts

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Wednesday's meeting began with a message read to the Council by Bonomi congratulating the Allied armies on their successes in the North and lauding with particular pride Italy's two armies—regulars and the partisans—for their share in the victories. It was in a way symbolic that the meeting should begin on this strain for Italians are looking North these days and the press has been full of accounts of the physical and moral conditions encountered in Bologna and adjacent points, many papers commenting on the "dignity" with which the people of Bologna received the liberating armies—some contrasting it sharply with the behaviour of Romans and Neapolitans. Incidentally the Roman press is beginning to show some signs of uneasiness at the principle of the economic "cordon sanitaire" between North and South planned for the early stages of AMG administration (see last weeks Bulletin: Warming up for Northern Italy). Nenni in *Avanti* led the attack and was supported by *Italia Libera* and *Il Popolo*. More discussion of this matter is to be expected.

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The second day saw the President out early to inspect various phases of AMG work in Ravenna, Rimini and Riccione. Lt. Col. Henry P. Kucera, Provincial Commissioner in Ravenna, and Major Norman Newton, Monuments and Fine Arts, showed him the splendid work that had been done in restoring damaged historical monuments in and around the city.

Inspection of mine clearance came next with Major N. W. Harrisson conducting the party. The President interestedly watched AMG-trained Italians prodding out "SCHU" mines from a farmer's field.

The next stop was at the Saccheria Ravennate plant, near Ravenna, where Major H. B.

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Bradbury (a former Connecticut lawyer turned industrialist by the mysteries of AMG) has done a fine job in reactivating a hemp and rubber plant. The plant is concentrating on the production of machine belting made from hemp cloth and scrap rubber. The plant will soon produce enough belting to supply all the machinery of Italy. It also will manufacture sacks, tarpaulin, shoes, rubber soles, etc.

Inspects Plant.

Enroute from Ravenna to Rimini the President inspected one of a series of repaired pumping plants which have drained the land flooded by the Germans. He was shown around by Capt. C. H. Ault.

In Rimini the President was unusually interested in the new town plan and the rehousing project. He went over the blueprints with Lt. Colonel H. S. Robinson, Major T. Goodacre and Lieut. Peter Natale.

A refugee station occupied chief interest of the President in Riccione. He saw how the refugees were brought in, vetted by security, bathed, disinfected, fed and lodged. Grateful refugees spoke warmly to him of the care they were receiving.

During the afternoon word came through that Bologna had been liberated. To celebrate the news and the imminent transfer of Emilia headquarters to that city, Col. Bowman "threw" a banquet with flowers and speeches.

The third day of his visit was spent with the 8th Army Commander witnessing military operations in forward areas and meeting with members of the Guards Brigade, in which he served in the last war. The President returned to his camp near Imola covered with dust and in a happy frame of mind.

The red-letter day of the trip was the visit to Bologna and Modena, the latter visit a few hours after it was liberated. Brig. General Erskine E. Hume SCAO, 5th Army AMG, met Mr. MacMillan at the Municipio in Bologna where AMG had established headquarters.

The streets were crowded with happy Bolognese and jubilant partisans roamed the streets looking for Fascists and collaborationists. There was an occasional bit of shooting between Partisans and members of the Black Brigade, some of which the President saw from the window of General Hume's office.

To the Allied war correspondents who had established themselves at AMG headquarters, Mr. MacMillan made the following statement:

"It has been a great occasion for me to visit Bologna so soon after its liberation, and to see that most of the city has escaped destruction. Allied Military Government, with the cooperation of the population, appears to have the situation well in hand. Essential public services are being quickly restored and life is rapidly returning to normal.

"In due course Emilia will probably pass to the administration of a freely-chosen Italian government. Rear Admiral Ellery W. Stone, Chief Commissioner of the Allied Commission, and I call upon the people of Bologna and the population of the rest of Emilia which is being rapidly liberated from the invader, to put their hands, their hearts and their minds now to the reconstruction of a democratic Italy, welded together by the idea of national unity."

Trip to Modena.

By lunch time word had come through that Modena, to the north of Bologna, had been liberated. General Hume, without lingering at lunch, decided to hurry there on behalf of AMG. Sensing the possibility of excitement, the President insisted on going along. His civilian hat flapping in clouds of dust, the President jeeped to Modena with the General, passing long lines of troops moving forward. At the gates of Modena the President's jeep was halted by enthusiastic natives who tearfully shook his hand and that of the General. Bunches of flowers were tossed into the car.

Partisans, loaded with every variety of lethal war equipment, jumped aboard the jeep and directed the General and the President to the Municipio where they met briefly with the Partisan leaders who had been running the city since the day before.

The Partisans reported there still were a few Germans and Fascists in the city and this was verified by the sound of an occasional burst of gun fire from various sections of the city. Later, as the party moved through the streets alongside a group of German prisoners and collaborationists being taken to prison, the shooting increased in tempo and everyone (including the visiting Liberators) had to take cover temporarily. Before leaving the President received assurances from the Partisans that order would be promptly restored in Mo-

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Conditions Good.

Generally the President found conditions were good in Bologna and that AMG had matters in hand. He complimented General Hume on his early arrival in the city and the way things were being handled. Colonel Bowman in the meantime was scouting around for office space for his regional headquarters when the territory will revert to him.

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Following his return to headquarters in Rome, the *Bulletin* asked the President to give our readers a short message. Here it is:

MacMillan Message.

"When I was appointed Acting President of the Allied Commission last November by President Roosevelt and Mr. Churchill, I sent a

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message to all AC/AMG officers and officials saying that I hoped to meet them personally as often and as soon as possible.

"In spite of a number of distractions (including a visit to London to lay the foundations of the New Deal for Italy and several weeks of civil war in Athens) I have seen a good deal of the work both at headquarters and in the field. I have also had the good fortune to make two four-day trips to the forward areas in recent weeks – one upon the west of the line, and the other a few days ago upon the eastern side.

"Like every other observer I have been immensely impressed by how much you have achieved with very modest resources. The whole conception of Allied Military Government is unique in two ways: first, because never have victorious armies turned so immediately to the task of liberation and reconstruction, and secondly, because never has an alliance between two nations been accompanied by such closely woven and integrated effort. At Headquarters we deal with papers and plans; in the field one has the inspiration of seeing these plans translated into action. And what a variety of things I have seen in recent days!

"My visit to the Fifth Army a few weeks ago enabled me to appreciate the work of consolidation behind the lines and preparation for the great forward move. My visit to the Eighth Army and to part of the Fifth a few days ago gave me the privilege of seeing the actual forward spring. After many disappointments and great hardships the Allied armies have won a complete and resounding victory. The courage of the troops has been made fruitful by the rare skill of their commanders. In this triumph AMG officers can claim their share. They have at least enough taste of the risks to stimulate and inspire. I have seen this with my own eyes. They also have the satisfaction of carrying into actual operation plans so long prepared. And the variety and complexity of their work would hardly be believed by the ordinary public. Under your guidance the agricultural and industrial life of Italy is being salvaged and restored. The housing and the feeding of her people is in your hands. The preservation of the greatest and most traditional of her national resources – her arts and monuments – is in your keeping. Hardly has the smoke of battle been lifted when the work of reconstruction begins. You have to improvise by new and unconventional methods. You have to depend on resourcefulness and initiative. From the first landings in Sicily to the Pisa-Rimini line where we have stood so long

AMG WITH THE ARMIES

The front lines in Italy are moving so fast that it is simply impossible to give an accurate and complete picture of conditions AMG is finding in the liberated towns. Two facts stand out: Italian Patriots are doing excellent work in maintaining law and order while waiting for AMG to come in and AMG staffs and regional follow-up teams are moving as rapidly as possible to assume their new tasks. Lombardy, Liguria and Venezie Regions are moving into their bailiwicks. An unverified report had a British colonel, a liaison officer with the Patriots, speaking over Milan radio early April 27. The fall of Verona, railroad link to the Brenner Pass, announced as captured in communiques of April 27, but badly damaged, caused Brigadier General Hume, SCAO, 5th Army AMG, to rush to the city at once, shortly after reviewing a Patriot parade in Bologna and receiving the surrender of 4,000 weapons by 3,500 Patriots. Lieut. Col. Thomas Michie and a small team were also en route to Verona. An AMG team has also left for Genoa. All three RC's of the forward regions – Brigadiers Carr and Dunlop and Colonel Poletti – are now forward and on the heels of the on-rushing troops.

La Spezia, the West Coast naval base, was found only moderately damaged. Carabinieri and the provincial commissioner are already on the job. 2,500 Patriots are there, well-disciplined and under command of an Allied officer. Reggio Emilia has water, power, little damage and 5,000 Patriots. Food will last for a few days yet. The 8th Army AMG reported on a large number of smaller towns, where incidental damage was indicated and no acute problems. Ferrara was mainly undamaged except for the railroad station and outskirts. The water acqueduct was broken for two kilometers but city wells had water. Power was out but food and health were o. k. Ferrara, incidentally, was first entered by two AMG officers, Capt. Keith Erskine (B) and Lieut. Don Pesaurd (A), who accompanied two Patriots into town and took 30 German prisoners.

ECONOMIC FRONT

In the midst of concentrating to the utmost to help the fast-moving field operations of AMG, the Economic Section found time during the week to overhaul its shop and divide the subcommissions between the two Deputy Vice Presidents, Brigadier D. L. Anderson and Brigadier

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civil war in Athens) I have seen a good deal of the work both at headquarters and in the field. I have also had the good fortune to make two four-day trips to the forward areas in recent weeks – one upon the west of the line, and the other a few days ago upon the eastern side.

"Like every other observer I have been immensely impressed by how much you have achieved with very modest resources. The whole conception of Allied Military Government is unique in two ways: first, because never have victorious armies turned so immediately to the task of liberation and reconstruction, and secondly, because never has an alliance between two nations been accompanied by such closely woven and integrated effort. At Headquarters we deal with papers and plans: in the field one has the inspiration of seeing these plans translated into action. And what a variety of things I have seen in recent days!

"My visit to the Fifth Army a few weeks ago enabled me to appreciate the work of consolidation behind the lines and preparation for the great forward move. My visit to the Eighth Army and to part of the Fifth a few days ago gave me the privilege of seeing the actual forward spring. After many disappointments and great hardships the Allied armies have won a complete and resounding victory. The courage of the troops has been made fruitful by the rare skill of their commanders. In this triumph AMG officers can claim their share. They have at least enough taste of the risks to stimulate and inspire. I have seen this with my own eyes. They also have the satisfaction of carrying into actual operation plans so long prepared. And the variety and complexity of their work would hardly be believed by the ordinary public. Under your guidance the agricultural and industrial life of Italy is being salvaged and restored. The housing and the feeding of her people is in your hands. The preservation of the greatest and most traditional of her national resources – her arts and monuments – is in your keeping. Hardly has the smoke of battle been lifted when the work of reconstruction begins. You have to improvise by new and unconventional methods. You have to depend on resourcefulness and initiative. From the first landings in Sicily to the Pisa-Rimini line where we have stood so long you have done a splendid work.

"We now set out together on a new task. I am certain that you will crown your efforts by success in the solution of the problems that await us in Northern Italy. If you can do this (and I am sure you can) and set the Italian people upon a new path towards liberty and dignity, you will be able to look back with legitimate pride as partners in an undertaking unique in history."

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ECONOMIC FRONT

In the midst of concentrating to the utmost to help the fast-moving field operations of AMG, the Economic Section found time during the week to overhaul its shop and divide the sub-commissions between the two Deputy Vice Presidents, Brigadier D. L. Anderson and Brigadier General Edward B. McKinley, for general supervision. Brigadier Anderson will be in charge of production activities and so will supervise Industry, Public Works and Utilities and Labor Sub-Commissions. General McKinley will be in charge of supply and has jurisdiction over Agriculture, Food, Commerce, Shipping and Transportation Sub-Commissions. Finance Sub-Commission will report directly to the Acting Vice President, Mr. A. G. Antolini. General McKinley started off his group by having an afternoon

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session on supply and requisition procedures and general functions under the New Deal economic directive.

Mr. Antolini will hold a press conference April 29 to explain the economic boundary line between Liberated and North Italy, the private trade program and the amount and value of the civilian supplies which the Allies have imported into Italy — Mr. David C. Sachs, American civilian, has been appointed deputy director of the Labor Sub-Commission — The trouble at the Sardinian coal mines seems about over and normal production should be reached again soon, it is hoped — The Italian Ministry of Agriculture plans to name a Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial Forest among its long-range re-forestation plans — Wheat ammassed, to April 24, was 11,177,975 qtl. and olive oil collected was 449,541 qtl — A sulphuric acid plant has gone into production at Castellino at the rate of 300 tons a month — Glass production also has commenced at the Bordoni plant in Rome — Arrangements have been made to hand over to COGENA 10 ships flying the Italian flag for use in coastwise shipping — The second 35,000 kw. generator at Terni has been repaired after six months' work and is now supplying power to Central Italy — A Joint Military Finance Committee has been set up at AFHQ to coordinate Allied military financial policy in this theater; the committee will work in closest cooperation with the AC.

ODDS AND ENDS

The Commerce Sub-Commission has made 182,000 blankets available to the Welfare Branch of the Public Health Sub-Commission for distribution to needy Italians through ENDSI — Civil cablegram service to the U. S. and U. K. will be resumed, probably about May 4, the Communications Sub-Commission reports — The first call-up for recruits for the Italian Navy will take place in May and June, the Navy Sub-Commission announces — The War Disposal and Italian Prisoners of War Sub-Commission has finally worked out the status of Italian prisoners of war still held in Italy and who are called "cooperators": the lot – 34,000 – will be released to the Italian Government July 1 — Undulant fever is reported at Pisa, Tuscany Region says — The Public Health Sub-Commission, incidentally, has caused an imported American vaccine for brucellosis – the cattle disease which results in undulant fever in humans – to be manufactured on quite a large scale in Rome, 5,000 tubes having been produced, although only 12 cows have been vaccinated to date — A new transfer of territory to the Italian Government is being studied, approval for which has to be given by the Allied Advisory Council — Col. Norman E. Fiske, Deputy Executive Commissioner, has been awarded the Bronze Star "for meritorious service in support of combat operations in Italy during May and June, 1944"; congratulations — British officers in AC are also being offered the chance to go into civil affairs in the Far East — Lieut. Col. Joseph D. Scholtz (A) and Col. John B. Thornhill (A) have been appointed Deputy PC's of Venezie and Umbria-Marche Regions, respectively — The Local Government Sub-Commission has suggested to the Italian Government that its election plans, based on a 1915 law, are not yet good enough to guarantee a free election democratic style — New U. S. Army regulations state that officers going home on TD will not be returned to this theater — Brigadier Maurice S. Lush, the Executive Commissioner, has returned from London.

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Col. A. C. Fiske
Col. Tatin

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

SECRET

RB6/WB3/PRB

AC WEEKLY BULLETIN
Vol. II, No. 3
28 April 1945

1. Political

The Council of ministers, having postponed the scheduled meeting of the 13th on learning of the death of President Roosevelt, met on the 17th and began its activities by offering its thanks for the "gesture of generous fraternity" on the part of Argentina which has announced a gift of 100,000 tons of wheat to Italy. The Council added that it looked to the Allies for help in bringing the wheat to Italy as soon as possible. A draft decree was approved creating a Defence Committee to advise the government on military matters and a new Chief of the General Staff, General Claudio Trezzani, was named. The functions of the General Staff were carefully defined as "advisory...on principal technical questions affecting the armed forces". General Trezzani is an infantryman who fought in Africa and has recently spent some time in the United States as a prisoner of war. According to reports he is regarded in military circles as a man of monarchist sympathies.

The Council then elaborated further the rules for repression of Fascist activities which it had approved some weeks ago. One point is noteworthy; the presidency of the epuration committees may now be entrusted to University professors, lawyers or retired state functionaries as well as to magistrates, the only category eligible in the past. This is a move long since recommended in the interests of efficiency by Associate High Commissioner Berlinguer and the Leftist press. It was also announced that special Assizes Courts would be set up in the liberated North and that punishment for fascist activities had been made more severe.- even including the death penalty. It was perhaps this last measure which caused ITALIA NUOVA to exclaim "The government is fighting Fascism with Fascist methods."

At this meeting too De Gasperi made a dignified commentary on the relations with Jugoslavia. The question of Trieste, he said, could hardly be settled while the patriot elements of both countries were bending all their efforts to expel the German invader. He hoped the matter would be studied on a level "above that of press polemics". The Council followed these remarks with a resolution stating its desire to see a harmonious good neighbor relationship grow up and flourish between the two countries. These manifestations of reason and calm were applauded by some sections in the press but did not

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In this context further irritation was added by the Separatist Convention in Palermo. The session lasted three days and was full of fiery speeches and talk of defence of Sicilian independence at all costs. The signal accomplishment of the convention was the dispatch of a message to the United Nations urging that the Separatist case be considered at San Francisco. The government in an official

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communique called this an act of treason and the whole press of Rome fell to belaboring the separatist movement, though explanations for its existence varied. To Nenni in AVANTI a Fascist plot was clearly visible; ITALIA NUOVA saw in the movement the hand of "outside forces" which had been known to stir up trouble in the South in pre-unification days. Aldisio, Sicily's High Commissioner, called the whole business a bluff but the TRIBUNA DEL POPOLO pointed out shrewdly and sadly that Italy will not be represented at San Francisco while the Separatists, thanks to their memorandum, will.

Further and apparently final plans for the Consultation Assembly were worked out at the second Council meeting of the week (April 20.) Noteworthy is the representation accorded parties outside the C.L.N. The Republicans are to have ten representatives and the Democratic Party and the Democratic-Liberal Concentration (both Rightist and Monarchist) five each. (Each of the six C.L.N. parties will have twenty-six representatives.) ITALIA LIBERA promptly took up the cudgels for the Sinistra Cristiana (quondam Catholic Communists) and it is likely that other opposition groups will be heard from when the press has had more opportunity to study the Council's report, not yet officially published.

Baistrocchi, Fascist hierarch, once Undersecretary for War and self-appointed chief of the General Staff in the old days, has been arrested. Baistrocchi was responsible for such modernizations in the Italian Army as the introduction of the "passo romano" (elsewhere known as the goose step) and the adoption of "Giovinezza".

The Camera del Lavoro of Messina was reported attacked by "Fascist elements" and, according to the first version of the story, was set on fire. This brought threats from EL LAVORO that the workers would take the law into their own hands if the government failed to act. However it now seems to have been a matter of minor banditry and the theft of a typewriter and the government reports the situation under control.

2. AMG with the Armies

Bologna, goal of Allied arms for the last six months, fell to American, Polish and Italian troops 21 April. Brigadier General Edgar Erskine Hume, SCAO, 5th Army AMG, following his penchant for getting into newly liberated cities as soon as possible, was one of the first Allied officers to enter the city. Colonel Norman E. Fiske, Acting Executive Commissioner, likewise was on the spot. The gist of the Bologna situation is as follows:

The city is in fairly good shape. The railroad yards are badly bombed but the center of town is practically intact. The water system is likewise intact. Sewers are all right. The electric power system also seems to have escaped destruction and connections should be made shortly. The same for the telephones. There are a lot of people in the city, but the exact number is unknown. There is enough food on hand. Partisans are in fairly good order. Just before the Fascists left, they caught and shot a few Partisan leaders, whose

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twenty-six representatives.) ITALIA LIBERA promptly took up the cudgels for the Sinistra Cristiana (quondam Catholic Communists) and it is likely that other opposition groups will be heard from when the press has had more opportunity to study the Council's report, not yet officially published.

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Towns on the 8th Army side have been falling faster than on the West Coast side where Massa and Carrara were liberated earlier in the week. Food for 12,000 was ordered for Massa. Scabies was rampant in the area. Carrara had 90,000 population. 400 Partisans were keeping order in both towns. The Acquila team has already moved in to administer the province. Power stations suffered minor damage and power is expected to be restored shortly. Water was o.k.

On the East Coast Imola fell first. A 62-year-old former Lancashire football player, William Garbutt, was found in the town and hired as an interpreter. 60,000 persons were in Imola, including 330 patients in the hospital. Mills, water and food appeared satisfactory. In its onward rush toward Ferrara, the 8th Army was

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less than 25 miles from the first provinces of Venezia Region which has four provincial teams ready to move in. Castel San Pietro had 5,000 population on entry, including 1,600 from Bologna. Normal population is 3,500. AMG is already functioning. More than 100 tons of grain were found stockpiled. There was no electricity but two steam-operated flour mills were found. Massa Lombarda, with half its normal population of 4,000, sustained heavy damage. Sant Agata was 95 per cent. destroyed. Conselice was also somewhat damaged, but in all three towns food and public health gave no concern.

3. The Economic Front

Wheat amassed to April 15 was 11,604,654 qtl., while the olive oil collection stood at the same date at 432,340 qtl...The third Italian agricultural conference has opened, with AC Hq. and regional agricultural officers in attendance...A shortage of raw material has caused the shutdown of five hemp weaving plants while half the spinners are idle...The Colleferro cement plant now has a production of 164 tons a day, an increase of 43 tons over the previous week... Reconstruction of the generating unit at Castelnuovo-Lardello has increased total power capacity by 12,000 kw.; the plant is the only one in Italy and one of the few in the world - run entirely by volcanic steam, requiring no oil or coal...Public Works and Utilities Sub-Commission also reports that 220 communities housing committees are functioning, that 12,000 housing projects have been initiated, valued at 1,.10 million lire, and that 6,000 of the projects have been completed... In eight months the five national betting lotteries in Italy have garnered 242.5 million lire; Naples alone now contributes at the rate of 10 million a week...Umbria-Marche Region says that road blocks definitely reduced black market prices wherever tried and that 340,000 cots are being amassed monthly and are being sold to the public at 10 lire each...860,000 Italian Navy shell forging are to be converted to scrap to make at least 2,500 tons of steel for carpenter's nails and other construction materials...Mr. L.J. Kegel, former merchandising manager of Marshall Field & Co. in Chicago, is the new Deputy Director of the Commerce Sub-Commission...A United States Army and Navy Liquidation Board is in Italy to look over surplus war equipment and negotiate sales to the Italian Government, which, in turn, will sell/a to private dealers, netting, it is hoped, a good profit which will help as a deflationary measure...For a 2,200-salary list would have only had to spend in March 12,456 lire, compared with 10,277 lire last of December, 2,392 in September, 1943 and 1,147 in September, 1942...Five Lucca factories are selling sewing thread at 14 lire per 100 meters while the Rome sales price for the same is 140 lire...Prato textile mills report that labor costs amount to only 8,000 lire out of a daily production cost of 300,000 lire, or only 2½ per cent. compared with the normal 33 per cent. of normal times...Imported civilian supplies, according to accounting records of the Finance Sub-Commission amount to 1,521,00 tons since the days of Sicily through December 1944...A further shipment of 1,860 trucks to Italy has been approved, which, with the 1,700 authorized (of which 1,852 have already arrived) will make 3,560 trucks to help relieve the transport situation. The

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4. Warming up for Northern Italy.

With the final drive to clean the Germans out of Italy now going into high gear, AC Hq. and the regional teams for the North have been on the qui vive and last-minute plans and projects are going the rounds preparatory to entry of the Allied Forces into what

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promises to be the biggest job of military government since the liberation of Sicily. Regional commissioners for the North have all been introduced to Major General Willis D. Crittenberger, commanding officer of IV Corps, which, as a separate unit under 15th Army Group, will be the first to enter the Northwest areas, first phase military government being thus under its command. The Economic Section and its sub-commission directors paid a mass visit to IV Corps this last week-end to discuss economic plans. Northwest Italy after the combat troops give over, will be in charge of No. 2 District under General Naras.

From the North, where AMG will also encounter for the first time national frontiers with France, Switzerland, Austria and Yugoslavia, reports have arrived that Italians have hidden considerable machinery and that Germans have orders to destroy as much equipment as possible on withdrawal. Grain has been systematically shipped to Germany, though there is not much Germany left to ship to now. Germans are said to have bought up Italian goods right and left, using 300 billion Italian-printed lire to do so. Milan is reported crowded with refugees, 6,000 Italian workers having recently been returned from Germany. Wheat is short but adequate stocks of rice and corn are said to be available. Fats, cattle and fertilizer are scarce. Despite the low price levels of the North, sugar in Turin is said to be selling for 850 lire a kilo on the black market and butter for 700 lire.

Venezia Region will have a new problem in AMG - besides Trieste and the Yugoslav - in the Provinces of Trento and Bolzano, which have been incorporated into the Reich economy, and which will probably need systematic change-over into the Italian system, including introduction of new lire currency, an exchange rate for the Reichsmark and new administrative procedures, all points on which CCS and AFHQ will rule.

The geographical delimitations of North Italy will be officially announced shortly. At this reading they will probably consist of Italy north of the northern boundaries of Tuscany and the Provinces of Forli and Ravenna. Comprising about three-eighths of all Italy, the industrialized North will present two major headaches - one political, the other economic (of which more later). The first consists of Fascists in their last lair, and of Patriots who are called Volunteers of Liberty under the Committee of National Liberation of Alta Italia. The Patriots, well organized and functioning with Allied support and even officers from our military units, are hoping to defend key installations against German attempts at scorched earth tactics. Speaking of destruction, Fine Arts officers of AC have made a detailed map of North Italy art deposits and monuments for the Air Forces, copies of which map are being distributed down to squadron

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The C.L.N.A.I. is expected to have set up "shadow" governments in many places which will be found operating when AMG move in. They are supposed to resign at once and recognize the authority of AMG, which in turn, is prepared to try to use as much C.L.N. personnel in the civil administration as possible. Prefects, for example, should be appointed from local non-career persons acceptable to the C.L.N., while the vice prefects may come from career administrators being

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rendied in the pool by the Local Government Sub-Commission. The C.L.N.A.I. has been recognized by the Italian Government as its representative in the North and the Northerners have recognized the Italian Government in Rome as the sole repository of legal authority. The Allies have NOT given the C.L.N. any political recognition as a constituted authority but have made military agreements with the military army of the C.L.N. for the Volunteers of Liberty to work under Allied military orders. The wishes of the Italian Government to contact C.L.N. representatives as quickly as possible will be favoured by AC in the interests of obtaining a nationally representative government. As far as epuration is concerned, it is expected that the Patriots will do a bit of unofficial epurating on their own, since all official positions there are held by Fascist Republicans. In any event, AMG epuration is expected to be as swift and thorough as it can be made.

Tied up with this question is that of re-creating the great pre-Fascist newspapers of the North like the Corriere della Sera of Milan and La Stampa of Turin. The PWB Press plan, agreed to by AC, envisages close cooperation between AMG and PWB, with PWB willing to check with AMG about all news and radio materials used. All newspapers will be suspended immediately and Fascist papers suppressed for good. Those publications the authorities decide to authorize will be in charge of commissariats appointed by AMG. Clandestine papers which operated despite the Germans will be allowed to continue but must apply for a license within seven days. Military censors will operate in the larger towns. In others AMG will act as the censoring power. Newsprint is now being stockpiled for the North. A stockpile of 5,000 tons, belonging to Milan and Turin papers, has been found in Switzerland, incidentally, and will be shipped into Italy as soon as the Swiss border is negotiable.

What is worrying the Economic Section is the Northern economy of wages and prices, the availability of industrial production (Italian technical experts are to enter the area as soon as possible for this purpose) and the first priority problem - food and transport. The Allied Motor Transport Group, under its energetic organizer, Col. J. J. Carnes (A), and with new trucks arriving from the States, is set for its big job. 15th Army Group have requested transport help. AC will lend 600 trucks in the first phase. An advance echelon of the Transportation Sub-Commission will go forward as fast as possible to help coordinate movements. Col. Lacy, director of the Food Sub-Commission, has been devoting his time almost exclusively to the North. A food directive for all regional officers has been issued. Approximately 40,000 tons are already stockpiled, major dumps being at Livorno and Ancona. Salt, a Northern deficiency, is well in hand. Further stocks of food 10,000 to 15,000 tons - are ready further down the peninsula and so should provide all together a reserve of one to two months at least. The initial ration of bread will be 100 grams plus what can be supplemented from local grain [illegible]

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The main economic problem, of course, lies in the fact that the North Italy wage-price structure is on a much lower level than in Liberated Italy where the inflation spiral has been in evidence. Bread in North Italy, for example, is five lire. Here it ranges from 10 to 18 lire. It will be of the utmost importance to get in as much local wheat as possible as quickly as possible. A nation-wide assessing policy for next harvest cannot be established until Northern conditions are examined. Present thinking is to introduce the U.S. AAA system of pre-determined crops, of which the Government will ask for a certain share at a set price and allow the farmer to keep or sell the rest in

a free market. Prices may be allowed to vary regionally. In any event, the counsel of the AC Advisory Anti-Inflation Board to the Chief Commissioner has been to treat North Italy initially as a separate economy, to "freeze" the wage-price structure and to establish strong controls on the line between South and North Italy in order to prevent smuggling. The labor committee of the Allied Forces Local Resources Board has decided to go into North Italy with only its basic wage rates and without the cost-of-living bonuses which have accrued in Liberated Italy in the course of the last year. The Board also voted for geographical differentials on the matter of wage increases. The wage rate for unskilled Labor in the North is reported to be 50 lire. Here it is 85 without the cost-of-living bonuses. The Anti-Inflation Board recommended the appointment of Regional and Provincial Joint Advisory Boards to review requests for increases in wages and prices as a measure of inflation control until such time as the matter can be tackled on a national scale.

What the Regional Commissioners think about the hot spot they soon will be sitting on can be best be told over a drink: they know they have their work cut out for them. Piemonte Region, for one, has issued a fine brochure giving detailed instructions on what to do and how to do it. Lombardy Region - six millions persons in 1,400 communes with the hottest spot of all industrial, teeming Milan, held a three-day staff meeting a short time ago and went over its program point by point. The region would like to have more specific directions about displaced persons, for one thing. Lombardy Region also proposes to have the C.L.N. submit names of candidates for offices only after unanimous agreement. It is also concerned with what may happen if the Germans flood the canals in Milan and Mantua. The region's 210 officers are to be spread over 12 provincial administrations, counting Milan City as one province. Methane gas is used in many automobiles in the North and the region will try to continue such use. No coal is looked for until at least 30 days are over. Lastly, the Lombardy meeting chewed on a particularly new and tough bone: What to do about the so-called socialization of some industrial plants now reportedly being carried out in the North by the Fascist Republicans.

5. Ollis and Ends

Mr. Harold MacMillan, the Acting President, and Mr. C. Stewart Brown, Director of Public Relations, are taking a trip to the front... 80,000 parcels from the U.S. have been received in Rome, Naples and Palermo since Jan. 1...while six million letters a week are now being processed in Italy, 25 per cent. of pre-war volume, the Communications Sub-Commission reports...AFHQ has granted authority, while awaiting confirmation by the Combined Chiefs of Staff, for rations and clothing to be issued to Italian Patriots; also authorized has been the creation of five Patriot reconnaissance companies...The Public Safety Sub-Commi-

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The Legal Sub-Commission has got out an index of all important Italian Government decrees to March 1, 1945 for practical field use...Orders have been issued recalling U.S. personnel earmarked for Austria from their AC attachments...Colonel Richard H. Wilmer, former director of the Legal Sub-Commission and now back in the States, has been awarded the Legion of Merit for his service in Italy...Congratulations to Pfc. Henry M. DeLeo for the Bronze Star presented to him by Col. C.M. Parkin, CO, 2675th Regt., for "meritorious service" in the course of his duties at a repatriation camp where he helped unearth a Fascist plot and aided in conviction of the plotters...Good wishes, too, to Thomas A. Milazzo and Mario A. Perillo, who have been honorably discharged from the army as enlisted men and immediately appointed by Col. Parkin as Junior warrant officers...Felicitations are also in order for 5th Army AMG, which, as Company G, 2675 Regiment, has been awarded the Meritorious Service Unit Plaque by Lieut. General Lucian K. Truscott, jr., commanding general, Fifth Army, for "superior performance of duty in the accomplishment of exceptionally difficult tasks"...More Kudos: Col. G. D. Murphey (A) of the Economic Section received the Legion of Merit in a Hq. ceremony 28 April....

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

SECRET

R26/WB1/PRB

AC WEEKLY BULLETIN
Vol. II, No. 1
6 April 1945

1. Political

The past week has been relatively quiet on the political front. The Council, meeting on the 4th, approved some matters which had been pending for a long time. The Fascist racial laws were re-oinded in toto, and the constitution of a Consulta for Sardinia, projected some time ago, was approved. Pensions of wounded veterans are to be increased by 100% and farmers granted bonuses by Fascism are to pay back sums to the state expected to reach one and a half billion lire. Action on these rather heterogeneous matters had been expected and there was no press comment worthy of quotation. The new issue of government bonds went on sale on the fifth and Soleri made a statement for the press urging subscription and affirming that Italy's financial situation while grave was not beyond salvation. The papers have all urged support of the bond issue, even the usually irreconcilable VOCE REPUBBLICANA.

In the field of foreign affairs it was announced on the third that Saragat had been formally accepted by the French and would shortly leave to take up his post in Paris. Marchetti, proposed ambassador to Turkey is also soon to leave. There has been a good deal of comment on the San Francisco conference, with emphasis on the unhappy exclusion of Italy. Croce spoke with some vigor to Reuter's correspondent on the subject - and later in the week the London Times printed a letter from him to the same effect- arguing that to deny Italy representation would be an offense to the nation in view of its long devotion to democracy and the recent heroic struggle of the partisans. It would also be a mistake for the United Nations, he feels, to attempt to lay the foundations of a durable peace without Italy's voice being heard. A similar line was taken by Don Sturzo (quoted in IL POPOLO.) On the subject of colonies Bonomi said that Italy was anxious to establish friendly relations with an independent Abyssinia. What Italy had accomplished in East Africa, Eritrea and Somaliland, he added, should not be forgotten; these colonies, in his opinion "had been administered with great wisdom, especially in the pre-Fascist period." TEMPO, commenting on this statement, brought into the open the widespread Italian feeling on the colonial question which has been hinted at in various articles over the past

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The opposition papers have been much concerned with possible developments consequent on the liberation of the North. ITALIA LIBERA believes that it will mean the cross-roads for Bonomi; either he will have to recognize the "new forces" in the country or reveal himself and his government as definitely reactionary. The meeting of the six parties of the C.L.N. which took place on the sixth may be seen as significant in this light. The order of the day voted at the

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end of the meeting recommended a convention of the provincial Committees of Liberation as soon as the North should be liberated and stated that the six secretaries would soon reconvene to discuss details of the new Consulta. These are both points that the Socialist and Action parties have been urging and the meeting (the first of all six parties since the December crisis) probably indicates the governments desire to tackle the problems of the North with its rearguard safe from sniping - or desertion.

The government's announcement that General Cadorna is now in command of patriot resistance in the North has aroused suspicion - or more accurately further suspicion - in the ardent republican breast of VOCE REPUBBLICANA. Pacciardi, editor of that vigorous organ, is willing to give Cadorna credit for doing his duty but sees in this late turn of the spotlight an effort on the part of the monarchy to claim credit for the partisan struggle, inspired, Pacciardi believes, by very different motives. And, as theweek ends, the Leftist papers are aflame with indignation because of an alleged statement of the Duca D'Aosta (kinsman of the King and at present an admiral in the Italian Navy). According to Sylvia Sprigge, Manchester Guardian correspondent, the Duke said he "would have shot" the judges of the High Court who sentenced Roatta. The statement was published in AVANTI of the 4th and confirmed in a letter written by Mrs Sprigge to the editor of the same paper. Maroni, president of the High Court, protested immediately and asked Bonomi, De Gasperi and De Courten for "measures the government may deem opportune for the preservation of the dignity and prestige of the High Court." The barrage from the left synchronized with this step. ITALIA LIBERA commented that the incident was a significant revelation of the mentality of certain circles. UNITA and AVANTI more pointedly asserted that such sentiments were hardly appropriate from an Admiral in his country's service, AVANTI adding that Azzi had been dismissed for a less serious indiscretion. No one has yet asked for the Duke's head but his epaulets may be in some danger.

2. The Economic Front

The AC Advisory Anti-Inflation Board, having established its terms of reference, is now going into high gear. It has written a memorandum of recommendations to the Chief Commissioner to pass on to The Italian Government concerning Liberated Italy and will next tackle the even more complicated question of the North and its key problem of lower price levels. Its first memo, in brief, asked for stronger controls to be exercised by the Italians, as was suggested in the MacMillan Aide Memoire to Prime Minister Bonomi, where adequate economic controls were set down as a Chief Allied requirement. The controls requested concern prices, commodities and wages. Producer to consumer control - of buying, transporting and distributing were emphasized, that is, control which, if not downright physical control, would be tantamount to the same. The bulk of food is now

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private wage agreements between employers and workers are adjusting some cases, employers paying more to retain or placate their workers the instance being given of sheet metal workers being paid 600 lire a day. The Board recommended the establishment of a National Wage Regulation Committee to watch negotiations between industry and labor and to protect the interest of the government and the consumer. Similar boards, to act in an advisory capacity only, would be appointed in Allied Military Government territory, to keep policy uniform as possible.

The importance of taking full advantage of shipping offered by AFHQ was highlighted at the weekly staff meeting of the Economic Section where it was disclosed that, at the moment, only 1,500 tons of a proferred 20,000 tons of shipping had been programmed. Mr. A.G. Antolini, acting Vice President of the Section, said the shipping would be used despite incidental difficulties of bookkeeping, though at the same time he said the obstacles in the shape of transporting the goods to the ports were considerable. There was stuff to be moved, all agreed phosphates from North Africa are needed, 20,000 tons of wheat at Ancona is waiting, and Northern food stockpiles must be tipped into and brought South in view of the currently slow rate of imports. Ravenna has been cleared as a port. Last month 72,000 tons were moved by sea. A good example of adequate planning for shipping is the project to bring in 600,000 sacks from Sardinia for Food Sub-Commission use. Notice of the movement has been given in advance to the Transportation Sub-Commission, which will try to get the ships required at the proper time some weeks hence.

Six sugar beet processing plans will be re-activated, starting in July, to make an expected 15,000 tons of sugar for the civilians and 4,000 tons of molasses from which to obtain yeast for the armies, the beets to be had from plantings of an estimated 17,500 acres, the Industry Sub-Commission reports....The 1944 Granni del Popolo now stands at 11,422,637 qtl. or better than 98 per cent. of the 11,600,000 qtl. goal....The pressed olive collection, as of April 1, had a total of 486,194 qtl. or better than 46 per cent. of the target, with former Lazio-Umbria Region having the best results - 68 per cent. - to date....Another 100 trucks have arrived, bringing the shipments this year to 1,194; the trucks are being put together in Rome on regular assembly lines and are being assigned to the Allied Motor Transport Group for service....The Finance Sub-Commission is hunting what assistance it can to the Italian Government's first major try at floating a bond issue; the issue is for 20 billion lire of 5 per cent., five-year maturity bonds, sold at 97½, which would give them an effective yield of 6.14 per cent., a good bait for the idle money the issue is aimed at....Col. Prenn, CO of Umbria-Marche Region, reports that in the four Italian Government provinces of the Abruzzi (which he gave over April 1), there were 814 projects engineering projects worth 812 million lire prepared, of which 331 worth

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2,000 tons of Allied coal a month for its industries and railroads,... In Naples, as Souther Region gave over, 1,267 telephones were added and nine long distance lines....March grain ship arrivals are 10,800 tons below schedule and April looks worse, with a 35,000 shortage indicated....A sulphur program has been started which will mean a distribution of about 400 tons of ground sulphur a week for northern farmers....Col.L.A. Jenny, Director, Public Works and Utilities Sub-Commission, is in Switzerland, looking over possibilities of transporting electric power into Northern Italy; Swiss manufacturers, incidentally, are bearish on their chances for making power equipment to repair the devastated Italian electric plant, asserting they lack raw materials....Salt is reported at 1,100 lire a kilo in Milan; Food Sub-Commission salt stockpiling is going on a pace for such future contingencies....

3. Advertisement

All U.S. officers in AC, although those under 31 may find it more difficult, are to be offered a chance to apply for a limited number of civilian jobs with the Foreign Economic Administration and the Auxiliary Foreign Service of the State Department. Acceptance would mean taking off the uniform over here and working for AC as a civilian, the change-over taking effect immediately. There are some 80 FEA jobs open. Commanding officers of applicants will be asked to give their opinions on the applicants under their present command. After the Italian assignment is completed, FEA personnel will be considered for other foreign assignments or work in Washington. Those who go with the State Department will serve in the AC as long as needed and then be subject to appointment at a diplomatic or consular post. All officers relieved from active duty will get honorable discharge and will be eligible for all pay and allowances accorded after honorable seperation from the service, except for accumulated leave. Anyone interested has only to tell the Establishment Section through channels. In turn, the applicant will be informed if any position exists for which he may be considered and full particulars forwarded. After an interview, recommendations will be made through AFHQ to Washington for action.

4. Odds and Ends

In its final monthly report, Sardinia Region reports that 15,000 cases are still hanging fire in Italian courts....AFHQ has asked for an interim report on how the New Deal for Italy is working out.... A typhoid outbreak is noted at an AMG camp in Florence, 34 cases and suspects and one death being reported....New York University is offering fellowships to graduate Italian art students, the Education Sub-Commission says....Increased postal facilities in Terni province, Marche-Umbria Region indicates, may make Terni the only province in Italy with daily mail service....AMG Fine Arts officers have approved expenditure of 5½ million lire for fine arts reconstruction in Ancona

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Italians who still retain prisoner of war status in Italy and work under supervision of military authorities (but with considerable freedom) seem loath to lose their prisoner status because they would at the same time lose good pay and maintenance conditions, it is reported, thus bringing a new factor to the keeping of the Allied promise in the New Deal for Italy memorandum as to freeing Italian PCW's held in Italy itself....City lights went on in Naples for the first time in five years last week; Rome is also having street lights for the first time since liberation....The Education Sub-Commission, in cooperation with the Italian Ministry of Education, is planning an interchange of lectures in Rome and Florence between Italian professors and scholarly Allied officers; officers who wish to volunteer should send in their names....What is believed to be the first free technical school in Italy has been started at Rimini under auspices of the 8th Army AMG and the town's civic leaders to train unskilled laborers in various crafts....Honorary appointment as a Commander of the British Empire has been conferred on Admiral Stone by the King of England on the recommendation of the First Lord of the Admiralty; congratulations....

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

Col. W. E. Fiske

SECRET

RCS/WB52/PRB

2 April 1945.

AC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO. 52
26 Mar 45 to 2 Apr 45.

1. Political

The principal business of the Council meeting on the 28th was to set up the long-awaited Consulta (Advisory Assembly). As planned the Consulta will have 320 members divided as follows: 160 chosen "by the most important parties", 70 by the syndical organizations and 70 from among old anti-Fascist senators and ex-deputati. These will be divided among various commissions and will give their opinion - when asked - on legal measures and "general problems". The commissions correspond roughly to the Ministries; they are eight in number, as follows: Foreign Affairs, Public and Administrative Affairs, Justice, Education and Fine Arts, National Defence, Finance and Treasury, Agriculture and Alimentation, Industry and Commerce, Labor and Welfare, Reconstruction, including Public Works and Communications. The creation of the Consulta was hailed enthusiastically by the government parties (except by the Communists whose approval was temperate; they felt all representation should be confined to the parties of the C.L.N.) but the Left had many reservations. AVANTI finds the move comes late "as usual" and ITALIA LIBERA objects to the "commission" principle, arguing that what emerges is not an advisory council at all but simply a number of groups of "experts" that the government may convoke or ignore as it chooses. The Action Party organ indeed calls the new institution "corporative" - no longer a flattering adjective in Italy. Parties out of the C.L.N. are of course waiting to see how much - if any representation they will have; for ITALIA NUOVA (Democrat) Leftists skepticism has already been sufficient to draw forth some words of praise for the scheme.

The government announced during the week that Italian diplomats would soon leave to take up their posts in South America...Otherwise the week has been relatively quiet on the political front. Perhaps because it was Easter Week, perhaps because, like everyone else, the Italians have their eyes fixed on rapidly moving developments in Germany.

2. The Economic Front

The biggest economic news of the week was getting the joint program for first-aid to Italian economy off the ground. The Chief Commissioner tendered his congratulations to the Economic Section for their "monumental work" and mentioned Brigadier General Edward B. McKinley, Deputy Vice President (who inspected the Category A part with a fine-tooth comb), Mr. Harlan Cleveland, Executive Director (who put in three-weeks' of day-and-night grind on the job) and

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the minimum materials and products commonly needed for general manufacturing schedules. Cost of the Category B program will be assumed by the Italian Government from credits in excess of $100,000,000 provided by the U.S. (mostly from troop pay exclusive of money spent in PX's and sent home) and from further funds to be made available by the British. As everyone knows, when the goods asked for (assuming the requisitions are approved, in the main) will arrive, depends entirely on the industrial market and the availability of shipping, which is getting tighter and tighter in this direction.

What will undoubtedly be an important agency was created March 30 in the shape of an Advisory Anti-Inflation Board to make reports to the Chief Commissioner on measures and policies which should be recommended to the Italian Government for immediate action to check and control the existing tendencies towards inflation. It is noted that since the issue of the Anti-Inflation Committee report about a year ago, the situation has grown worse. Particular attention in anti-inflation considerations will be given to the bearing of such advice on problems of military production and procurement. Chairman of the Board will be the Vice President of the Economic Section. Other members will be the Vice President of the Civil Affairs Section, the Joint Directors of the Finance Sub-Commission, and the Director of the Labor Sub-Commission. Advisors who will be invited as needed will be the Treasury attaches of the British and American Embassies Mr. K. E. Stauffer is secretary.

Activities in the economic line also filled the sitreps from the field as well as HQ. : Truck arrivals this week - 216; total this year - 1,034; promised consignment - 1,700..Marche-Umbria Region reports that transport cost of moving 4,300 schoolbooks from Rome to Macerata was 23,000 lire, an eyebrow raising fact which prompted the Chief Commissioner to order the charge investigated...The War Material Disposal and Italian Prisoners of War Sub-Commission received 7,550 tons of salvage material last in February, including aluminum, ferrous and heavy metals, old canvas and derelict vehicles... The Public Works and Utilities and Agriculture Sub-Commissions are happy to report that 62 per cent of the flooded Pontine Marshes have now been reclaimed and that planting is proceeding on much of the drained land...Hazards of the fishing industry off Tuscany - floating mines which sank three boats off Ercole Giannutri...Exports made records last week when 4,50? tons valued at 135 million lire went to the U.K. (lemons), France (mercury and bergamot oil), the U.S. (salt), Malta (wine, salt and oranges) and to the Middle East (citric acid)... The Granai del Popolo now reads at 11,023,303 qtl and the olive oil collection at 400,079 qtl...Increased allocation of power for civilian use is making possible increased industrial production in fertilizer and textile items..Approximately 400 tons of 4,000 tons of heavy engineering equipment requisitioned a year ago by Public Works & Utilities S/C has arrived, including trailers, cargo trucks, air

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3. ELBA

Major T. L. Bullock, DDPR (Field), sends the following report after a visit to Elba.

Both the immediate and long-term problems of Elba are economic, says Major Harold V. Reilly (A) who has administered the historic island since last December, almost as an independent entity under Livorno Province and Toscana Region. There are two schools of thought among the islanders. The Christian Democrats say the ancient mines have had their day and the people must look to the land and the sea for a living. The Communists, a vocal minority of less than 1,000 in a population of 31,500, claim the mining industry must be revived even if the state has to operate it at a loss. There are variations

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on this theme, of course, though the people of Elba do not seem particularly sensitive to political currents on the mainland. But the iron mines which were once the springboard of Etruscan power and later gave Rome her commerce in the world have dwindled in importance and ILVA, the greatest corporation on the island, is reluctant to rebuild its war-smashed plants. For several years past they are said to have been run at a loss under pressure from the Fascist government. Transport, industry and mining combined have never given a living to more than 20 per cent of the people, 65 per cent of whom live off the land. The wine industry, with 30 million seed plants and a value of 12 billion lire, is of great importance. Elba wines are fine and rich and could be exported for high prices. Fishing will become again a major factor in Elban economy when present restrictions are relaxed. Green vegetable production meets about half the needs of the population. But a year's grain crop will feed Elba only a month because the acreage of arable land is comparatively small. The war hit hard here. In September 1943, when the people resisted German occupation, the chief town of Portoferraio, where 36 per cent of all Elbans live, was bombed and shelled by the Germans. In April 1944, it was bombed again by the Americans and British, the entire population was evacuated and the city was partly looted by Germans and civilians. The French landed at Marina di Campo on the south side in mid-June 1944 and threw the Germans out after a battle which swept through one-third of the island. Elba remained under quasi-French rule, with AMG in an advisory capacity, until 11 December 1944, and it was not until December 20 that Toscana Region formally took over. In the last three months there have been great changes. Elba is divided by old custom into 8 communes but for purposes of feeding, schools, public health and public welfare, AMG is administering it on an island basis and has recommended the appointment of a resident Vice Prefect. Local administrations are running well. SEPRAL has a capably staffed and efficient branch in Elba and the Italian officials have been held wholly responsible since 1s January for indenting for, financing, transporting and distributing, all civilian basic foodstuffs, though AMG helps get supplies to the quayside in Piombino, nearest mainland port. The CAO says SEPRAL in Livorno overcharges fantastically for transport to Piombino and leakages in transport are serious, so unrationed foods are not being imported in any quantity. There is considerable undernourishment in the two main port towns and clothing or shoes are badly needed, and though the Red Cross has distributed one ton of clothes, nearly 3000 people are still in need. Fresh meat is available only for institutions and fish will be in short supply until the Navy relaxes its ban on night fishing. The nearby islands of Capraia and Pianosa have been connected to Elba by phone over old Morse circuits and there is military telephone communication with the mainland. Mined and demolished harbors are being cleared, 10 sunken ships have been raised and are being refitted in a local shipyard, small boats run regularly to Piombino in good weather, though travel to the mainland is limited to 10 persons a day beyond Piombino. Shops are open and doing some business. Banks have been in operation since [illegible]

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more supplied by Tuscans Region. The Italian court calendar is up to date and the first AMG court since December will sit next week. A new, modern prison at Porto Longone is being cleaned up for use. Health is good. There was an outbreak of scabies which reached nearly 5,000 cases, but Major Reilly improvised ointment from machine grease, grappa and sulphur until a more conventional salve could be brought from the mainland. Extra soap is now available for sale on doctors' certificates and the epidemic is breaking up. Medical supplies have been received for the Portoferraio hospital and the only desperate needs are rubber surgical gloves and an operator for the X-ray machines. Bedding is scarce and the four ambulances on the island are immobilised for lack of tires. Serious accidents have been caused to children playing with "Red Devil" grenades and fishermen dismantling shells to get explosives for illegal fishing. Elba is not rated as one of the Italian malarial areas, but the situation would be considered bad by American or British standards and control measures are being carried out by the local Genio Civile under instructions from AMG which are now being supplemented by the Italian government. There is practically no typhoid but tuberculosis is serious because of bad living habits. There were four cases of diphtheria around Christmas time. Bread, which sold all winter for 3 lire, is now 15 lire and all ration scales and rations food prices have been raised to mainland levels. The Assistenza rate is 6 lire a day and wages have been ordered up to national standards. There is one exception: the mines, under pressure, are employing labor to produce ore at twice the old wage scale, which is still below the set rate, but there is no outlet for the ore and if standard wages are enforced either the mines will close or the Italian government must pay the difference. AMG has put an export duty of 5 lire a litre on Elba wines and is blocking a percentage of the crop for island consumption at controlled prices. The levy is earmarked for public welfare and the proceeds are distributed by a committee of the 6 Sindaci. Prices of fish, vegetables and milk are also controlled. Rains this week have improved the prospects for a good crop but 500 tons of sulphur are needed for the vineyards. Garden seeds were imported last December. Some farmers moved their vineyards up the hills and put in gardens on the lower levels. The Social Democrats are campaigning to persuade the people to extend this practice. Political parties are allowed to operate headquarters if they may want; they may solicit members and hold social and welfare gatherings, but all manifestos, pamphlets and political meetings are banned. The CAO thinks that in a election with the women voting, the Social Democrats would win. A committee of ex-partisans has been set up to examine claims for partisan certificates and it is anticipated that the number who can show they actually risked their lives opposing the Germans will be about 75.

4. Olive and Vine

8th Army A.G reports that 1,600,000 seedling trees are being planted in Forli and Ravenna and that 800 vines were lifted at Forli

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4. Odds and Ends

8th Army AMG reports that 1,600,000 seedling trees are being planted in Forli and Ravenna and that 800 mines were lifted at Forli in two days....U.S. School of Military Government graduates from Charlottesville may be interested to know that 55 of the 130 members of the third class have been promoted: one to brigadier general, seven to colonel, 25 to lieutenant colonel, and 26 to major....The RC of Emilia Region and 8th Army AMG staff members are attending the April 1st inauguration of the Captains-Regent of the Republic of San Marino (founded 301 A.D.)....900 Jewish emigrants embarked for Palestine last week while 200 Greeks, Arabs, Maltese and others, went to Tripolitania and Cyrenaica, all under auspices of the Displaced Persons and Repatriation Sub-Commission....3,600 of the 3,500 repatriated Italian soldiers of the Garibaldi Division will be sent to Viterbo for re-grouping and training....A new and definite list of appointments of provincial commissioners, superseding all previous appointments, has been issued by the Establishment Section....Italians under 8th Army AMG [redacted] are recovering precious gems valued at millions of pounds sterling from the bomb debris of the Museo Nazionale at Ancona....U.S. promotions are still coming through, the latest being one to Colonel - Robert B. Menapace: five to [illegible]

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tenant colonel -- John W. Clarke, Leon V. McCardle, Vinal G. Ramton, Glenn E. Riddell and Rowland W. Rushmore; and six to major....Good luck to all....Civilian postal service is to be started for parts of Pistoia and Lucca Provinces by April 9....Spuration of Italian state officials in the higher grades (not counting the prefects reported on last week) has resulted in nearly 1,000 investigations, 300 trials and 100 dismissals to date, the Civil Affairs Section reports....

5. Amendment:

In Weekly Bulletin No. 49 for 9 March paragraph 2 on page 2 should be amended to read as follows:

Mr. Henry Hopkinson, British Political Advisor, emphasized that the policy of AC in the North should be to absorb so far as possible into the military government administration the local authorities set up by the Committe of National Liberation during the German occupation.

6. Summeanno

Somehow our sentimentalism - or time-sense whichever it is - will not permit us to let this week's Bulletin go out without some expression of pleasure and modest satisfaction, muffled a little by secret surprise, that we have rounded out the year. With more punctuality than you would think possible if you were behind the scenes, we have sent our weekly message out to our little world. We aren't asking for compliments; we are soldiers (of a sort) and it is our simple duty. None the less, there is a sense of accomplishment and an even deeper sense of amazed gratitude that our customers have put up with it so long. Perhaps now, if they had to pay for it...

We remember the first Bulletin, a minuscule two page affair, the work of one man alone; we hope you remember it too, shyly, timidly edging its way onto your desk. Since then the world has moved faster, the Commission has become more articulate, and we have been privileged to convey more and more information to our friends within the circle. We have even found people telling us what to put in as well as what to keep out. Since in the nature of things the Bulletin is made up at the last minute, and since it is also classified as SECRET the weekly preparation of it has been as nice a combination of frenzy and circumspection as you could wish for. Still all in all it's been fun; we only hope you've enjoyed it as much as we have. But we won't be misunderstood when we say we don't really want to have it run another year. Now you either, we suspect.

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authorities set up by the Committee of National Liberation during the German occupation.

S. Cumbrezamho

Somehow our sentimentalism - or time-sense whichever it is - will not permit us to let this week's Bulletin go out without some expression of pleasure and modest satisfaction, muffled a little by secret surprise, that we have rounded out one year. With more punctuality than you would think possible if you were behind the scenes, we have sent our weekly message out to our little world. We aren't asking for compliments; we are soldiers (of a sort) and it is our simple duty. Lose the loss, there is a sense of accomplishment and an even deeper sense of amazed gratitude that our customers have put up with it so long. Perhaps now, if they had to pay for it...

We remember the first Bulletin, a minuscule two page affair, the work of one man alone; we hope you remember it too, shyly, timidly edging its way onto your desk. Since then the world has moved faster, the Commission has become more articulate, and we have been privileged to convey more and more information to our friends within the circle. We have even found people telling us what to put in as well as what to keep out. Since in the nature of things the Bulletin is made up at the last minute, and since it is also classified as SECRET the weekly preparation of it has been as nice a combination of frenzy and circumspection as you could wish for. Still all in all it's been fun; we only hope you've enjoyed it as much as we have. But we won't be misunderstood when we say we don't really want to have it run another year. Nor you either, we suspect.

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH SECRET

R26/WB51/PRB 25 March 1945

AC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO. 51
18 Mar to 25 Mar 45

1. Political

The delicate task of fusing Italy's two armies - the partisans and the regulars - was attacked at the Council meeting on the 15th. The problem was of course to give the partisans recognition (politically vital to any government) and to keep alive their militarily valuable enthusiasm without detriment to or adulteration of the regular army which, however much discredited after the Armistice in the eyes of the more radical parties, has still the monopoly of technical and professional skill. The fusion was arranged on the basis of temporary enrollment of the partisans with recognition of ranks up to Lt.Col. It seems to be a solution acceptable to all; even Bertorius, ITALIA NUOVA's able military expert, expressed satisfaction with the arrangement. Somewhat later in the week Scoccimarro, Minister for Occupied Italy, stated in an interview that camps for feeding, clothing and re-organising the partisans had been set up, a special camp for partisan women being in preparation. He said rather expecting help from the North it would be more likely that the liberated areas would need aid from the government and he looks to the C.L.N. to mobilize the working masses immediately after liberation. He further claimed for Italy the right to try German prisoners of war for war crimes committed in Italy.

The government has been somewhat harassed during the week by repercussions of the affair in Caulonia (Calabria) some two weeks ago. Accounts of the origin and development of the episode vary but it is clear that for a time at least the Communists took over the town and replaced the normal authorities. There were two casualties; a priest and the secretary of a local C.D. group. RISORGIMENTO LIBERALE, IL POPOLO, and ITALIA NUOVA have again raised the cry of "red domination of the South" and pressed the government for action. The Press Office of

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The second meeting of the Council during the week (March 21) was high-lighted by the report of Bergami, High Commissioner

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for Food, who told the Council and the Country that the wheat situation is in hand until the next harvest; the population will have its 200 grams of bread and 80 grams of pasta. The High Commissioner spoke again on the need of controlling prices and protecting the citizens against speculation. At this meeting the Council also approved a decree to keep existent agrarian contracts in force till the end of the war. On the subject of the black market Liszadri wrote (in IL LAVORO) in rather strong terms; it was idle for the government to raid a few street vendors, he asserted; either it should show it means business and go after the profiteers who are in back of the black market or the people may be expected to take the law into their own hands. The C.G.I.L. followed this lead with its motion of the 22d asking for more governmental energy in this matter and for greater power to the Italian people, adding as well that railways, telephones and public utilities should be nationalized.

Turning to the international scene the long waited appointment of Italy's ambassador to France was made during the week, the post going to Saraget, Socialist leader, and no stranger to France where he spent thirteen years as an anti-Fascist exile.

The Quintieri-Mattioli mission gave its report which was acclaimed by most of the press, not so much for any real concessions that had been won as from the encouraging tone of American interest in Italy. AVANTI pointed out that nothing had really been obtained in the delicate matter of the Am-lire and found the optimism created by the report was "exaggerated" but optimism there is, nonetheless...All parties have been campaigning for some kind of a seat at San Francisco where, it is objected, even Turkey can go though she has fired no shot in the war. In this context the Pope's speech of a week ago has won general approval, insisting as it does on the rights of small nations and on the need of doing away with selfish nationalism.

The speech of the venerable Orlando calling for national unity did not evoke such unanimous approval; "national solidarity is a fine thing", said UNITA, " as long as it doesn't mean whitewashing those who were guilty of Fascism" - and other Leftist papers followed the same line....Perhaps under international items should be noted the departure of one of Italy's more celebrated guests; Kesselring left during the week for more important business at home. Italians only wish he had taken his friends with him.

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2. Organizational Changes

As promised by the New Deal for Italy, headquarters and staffs of the Southern, Sicily and Sardinia Regions - all Italian Government territory - are being abolished. Lazio-Umbria Region headquarters at Rome and Abruzzi-Marche Region headquarters at Aquila are likewise undergoing a change in dropping off representation in the Italian Government provinces under their present jurisdiction. The Southern Italy and Island changes are taking place April 1 and the new Umbria-Marche Region, with headquarters at Perugia, probably, will come into being on April 1. The new region will have its four military government provinces in the Marche plus Terni and Umbria from the former Lazio-Umbria Region. The Regional Commissioner will be Col. C.H.A. French, present head of Abruzzi-Marche (B). Col. Charles Poletti (A),

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from his RC post at Lazio-Umbria, goes to planning for his RC post in Lombardia making his staff headquarters at Siena. Brigadier J.K. Dunlop (B) leaves Southern Region to intensify his planning for Venezia Region, where he is RC. He is winding up his Naples sojourn with a quick tour of calls on the Italian Prefects in his bailiwick and a farewell press conference with Italian journalists March 28. Col. J.R.J. Pennycuick (B), RC of Sardinia, will take up the post of AMG Commissioner in Naples still controlled by the Allied Commission. Liaison officers will be stationed at Catania and Palermo in Sicily, in Rome with the Rome Allied Area Command and at Bari on the mainland and at Cagliari in Sardinia, where such duties will probably be handled by a representative of the Land Forces Sub-Commission. Regional Executive officers also will henceforth be known as Deputy Regional Commissioners.

3. The Economic Front

The Economic Section seems to be keeping about a dozen balls in the air these days. Intensive work is being done, tidying up presentation of the joint program for first-aid to Italian rehabilitation, with Brigadier General Edward B. McKinley (A), Deputy Vice President and Mr. Harlan Cleveland, Executive Director, as well as a battery of AFHQ G-4 and G-5 experts lending their touches. General McKinley; Mr. Cleveland; Mr. W.S. Vaughan, director, Industry Sub-Commission; Major J.M. Merritt, Agriculture Sub-Commission, are all going to Washington shortly to be on hand if the Combined Chiefs of Staff want to ask questions. The program is being whipped into technical shape in such a way that military responsibilities for Category A requirements are clear-cut, which should help speed approval, it is hoped.

The export outlook is also occupying considerable space in the AC economic agenda. The Italian Government is going ahead with various projects while the AC gives its opinion and something definite ought to emerge before long. There are possible deals in the air concerning import of frozen meats from the Argentine, the repayment of 10,000 tons of wheat from Spain as well as barter suggestions in which Italian cement and wine would be swapped for Yugoslav prunes and salt. Speaking of exports, this past week was an outstanding one, 100 million lire worth going to the U.K. (silk, hemp and acids), Greece (1,865 tons of sulphur) and France (35 tons of mercury).

Derequisitioning of industrial premises is progressing, 11 plants having been freed from military control the last 6 weeks with further requests on file to return to civilian ownership an olive oil extracting plant at Bari and a fertilizer plant at Taranto among others. 366 more 10-ton trucks have arrived

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in recent months and 9 others will do so shortly, according to the Public Works and Utilities Sub-Commission...

4. Voice from SHAEF

One of the most interesting tales brought by a visitor to AC Hq. recently has been that of an American officer who has returned for duty in this theater after having been originally in Sicily and then in SHAEF on German planning. He is Major Aldo L. Raffa, who devised the original scheda personale in Sicily for separating the Fascist goats from the sheep and has been working on a similar job for the Nazi problem. He has come back to take up a post in North Italy when we get there. The Italian experience has been invaluable in planning for Germany, Major Raffa said, the German Fragebogen or questionnaire being modelled strictly on the Italian AMG one and the general lines of purification of the body politic following profiting by the Italian experience. In brief, the German epuration proposes to clean out immediately all Germans on the normal "black lists" and all those who were either political leaders or held any sort of important civil office, since the thorough Teutons have completely infiltrated the German civil service with Nazi Party members. In addition, since Nazi Party requirements are much more strict than eligibility for joining the Fascist Party, there are expected to be many more ardent Nazis than there have been ardent Fascists. The CIC will close down Nazi Party offices and arrest leaders and war criminals. AMG exclusively will clean out Nazis from the public administration. The business of finding the "real" Nazis among those who say that they were simply members of the party is again complicated, as in Italy, the major reports, by the fact that most of the Germans so far encountered proclaim that they "have never been Nazis" just as the Italians announced that they had "never been Fascists". Perhaps, at the moment, finding admitted Nazis is even more difficult than it was to find avowed Fascists. The people in the towns taken and seen by Major Raffa up to the time of his departure are simply sullen and fazed but despite the rigid anti-fraternization rule, there are as many attempts on the part of the Germans to ingratiate themselves with the Allied authorities as there were here among the Italians. Finding competent and trustworthy Germans to use in the civil administration under AMG is also more difficult since the Germans fear that the Nazis may reconquer the territory. Particularly amazing to the Germans has been the scrupulous justice of the AMG court procedure which to a people used to totalitarian Peoples Courts for the last several years, is something quite incomprehensible. In general, Major Raffa says, the AMG problems are the very same as those met in Italy - public health and sanitation and food transport, complicated by the fact that German towns captured to date have suffered much greater destruction than most of those in Italy.

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5. Allied Properties

Lieut. Col. E.C.King (A) of the Property Control Division of the Finance Sub-Commission has just completed tidying the picture of Allied properties taken under the protection of the Allied Commission in Liberated Italy. No estimate of the total value of these properties can be made at this time, Col. King remarks, except to say that an "immense" value is indicated. Allied bank accounts alone sequestrated by Istoambi on behalf of the Italian Treasury when Italy was against us amounted to one billion 435 million lire, of which 819 million was American, 295 million British, 280 million French and 41 million in other Allied accounts. Up to the end of February, with more properties being steadily taken over in Tuscany, the Property Controllers had assumed charge of 6,494 items, the bulk to that date in Southern Region. These included 4,029 American, 945 British,

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494 French, 20 Russian, 66 Greek, 16 Yugoslav, 28 Brazilian, 169 other Allies, 161 Italian statal or parastatal accounts and six German. As many as 3,995 items had been returned to their owners or legal representatives. These were broken down as follows: 268 in real estate (villas, farms, buildings); 34 in industrial and commercial entities (plants, shops and banks); 3,562 in securities and miscellaneous objects of value, and 131 Italian statal and parastatal properties, usually Fascist. British real estate generally has been more valuable than that held by Americans. North Italy is expected to show the greatest list of Allied properties, both industrially in Milan and habitatio s in the resort districts, 2,500 real estate items and 500 industrial and commercial items being already listed. In addition, the Property Control Division is holding some 115 million lire, for the Psychological Warfare Branch (PWB) Film Section, the results of proceeds of the distribution of British and American films in Italy.

6. Odds and Ends

Brigadier Maurice S. Lush (B) is on a month's leave in England; Col. Norman E. Fiske (A) is Acting Executive Commissioner, in the meanwhile...While under constant enemy observation on the edges of Mount Belvedere, Italian civilians mobilized by Capt. Jack Garcia (A), AMG officer in the area, built an excellent military road from Lizzano to Silla, 5th Army AMG reports...A temporary Allied-Italian Film Board to facilitate the revival of an epurated Italian film industry has been finally formed...The Local Government Sub-Commission announces that all 98 prefectural officials in Italian Government territory have now been epurated, 34 having been sent to trial, six having been dismissed and 16 others having received minor punishment...The Public Relations Branch is arranging for the weekly showing of documentary films held by PWB to Allied Commission officers...Lieut. Col. Frank E. Toscani (A), 5th Army AMG economics and supply head is now back from leave in the States...Some more U.S. promotions have come through: To Colonel - Clarence R. Birchett; to Lieutenant Colonel - Charles J. Birt, Paul Gardner, William E. McBratney, Paul D. Shriver and Carleton W. Washburne; plus four new Majors: to all, congratulations...The Communications Sub-Commission has turned over four more Rome-Naples telephone circuits to the Italian Government....Buona Pasqua and watch out for the pesci d'aprile!

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

SECRET

R26/WB50/PRB

18 March 1945.

AC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO. 50
10 Mar to 18 Mar 45

1. Political

The long drawn out trials of Roatta, Suvich et al came to an anti-climactic end on the 12th when sentence of death was passed on Anfuso (once Ambassador to Berlin) and life imprisonment to Roatta. Suvich and Jacomoni were given 24 years. The sense of anti-climax was due partly to the fact that the two principal figures were not present (Anfuso reputedly in Berlin and Roatta still at large, reported variously as in Bengasi, Florence and in Kesselring's Italy) and partly to a rather vague feeling that the trials had not been handled efficiently. Spano, in UNITA, thundered that the present law had been proven inadequate; a few hours, he said, should suffice to condemn "fascist scoundrels." RICOSTRUZIONE remarked in a more legalistic vein that the existent law is bad in that it fails to conciliate political and legal criteria and that the trials just concluded had grouped together too many accused and too many charges. TEMPO complained that the sentences -- except for Anfuso -- were either too easy or too light; if Suvich was indeed sufficiently guilty to deserve a 24 years sentence he might well have been given life; if he was not a big criminal then who are the minor penalties for? As remarked in last week's Bulletin the trials have been more noteworthy for their tangential effects than in themselves. The latest indirect product of the affair was the government's statement, at a press conference on the 13th, that it intended to enforce firmly the regulations for sending "socially dangerous elements" to labor camps and for removing from official posts all who once held political charges in the Fascist party, no matter what their present affiliations may be. Nonetheless there is much discontent with the machinery of epuration and Grieco last week delivered himself of what ITALIA NUOVA unsympathetically called "one of the usual Jeremiads", pointing out the difficulties in carrying out the task expeditiously; citizens are afraid to sign their denunciations, he said, and employees who reported on their superiors are terrorized. Meanwhile some progress may be noted: the properties of Bocchini (Fascist head of the police) and Crolialanza (once minister of Public Works in the old regime) have been confiscated, and Chiavolini, erstwhile private secretary to the erstwhile duce,

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The Council's meeting on the 8th was particularly important for the sanctioning of a national loan "for intensification of the war effort" and emergency expenses. Bonds are to go on sale on April 1st, and in this project the government has had a good press, even the recalcitrant ITALIA NUOVA coming to its aid with an article urging all Italians to get in back of the government and buy. IL GIORNO also reported that the Solidarity Fund was going well and predicted that 5 billion lire would be collected within three months. A further cheering note was the return of the Mattioli-Quintieri financial mission from Washington; their report has not been made public but Tarchiani announced in Washington that Italy had been granted 125 million dollars in credit for purchases in America. In a related sphere the signing of the agreement between UNRRA and the government should be noted; Italy is to get supplies and services to the amount of 50 million dollars for relief purposes. The first 5,000 tons of supplies are to arrive this month.

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Bonomi made a visit to the front and came back impressed by the "new spirit" and the friendly collaboration between Italians and Allies. Another happy symbol of this collaboration was the "inauguration" of the new Cassino. The first houses were ready and tenanted on Thursday when the ceremony took place. The Ambassadors of the United States, England, Russia and France were present as well as three Italian Ministers (including Bonomi) and a number of other dignitaries. IL POPOLO saw in the rebirth of Cassino a symbol of the new Italy which is rising from the past and ITALIA LIBERA, ordinarily no friend of the government, wrote lyrically of the occasion and of the "victory of life over death" which it symbolized.

Political life - in the narrower partisan sense - has continued active throughout the week. The Action Party is ever vigorous in its attacks on the government; ITALIA LIBERA of the 16th carried a number of resolutions of the party's central committee, calling for a Consultiva, more power to the C.L.N. and more efficacious epuration and proclaiming that the Bonomi government was incapable of "creating proper conditions for the renewal of democracy." The Communists have been under fire from both the Christian Democrats and the Liberals for (among other things) the pronouncement that Communism and Anti-fascism are one and the same. Trieste slipped briefly in the headlines again when Tarchiani was quoted as saying in Washington that the "italianita" of the Adriatic port was beyond discussion. IL GIORNALE DEL MATTINO, which speaks for the government, approved the sentiment, manifesting admiration for Tito, the heroic liberator of his country, but adding that questions of frontiers must be settled in a spirit of reason and not in one of inflamed nationalism.

Recently there has been a tendency on the part of papers of all parties and independents to ask the government for some preliminary notice of measures under consideration. Even IL GLOBO, normally not given to harassing the government, has written an open letter to Bonomi on this subject. This may be worthy of note as indicating the need of some kind of parliament - or perhaps simply of better press relations.

2. <u>AMG with the Armies</u>

Typical of the communes liberated by Fifth Army this Spring after a cruel winter just within the German lines is the tiny group of settlements grouped around and above GAGGIO MONTANO. The main village lies up a winding country road three kilometres west of Route 64. To reach it you climb more than a thousand feet in two miles. Normal population of the entire commune is

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continued active throughout the week. The Action Party is ever vigorous in its attacks on the government; ITALIA LIBERA of the 16th carried a number of resolutions of the party's central committee, calling for a Consultiva, more power to the C.L.N. and more efficacious epuration and proclaiming that the Bonomi government was incapable of "creating proper conditions for the renewal of democracy." The Communists have been under fire from both the Christian Democrats and the Liberals for (among other things) the pronouncement that Communism and Anti-fascism are one and the same. Trieste slipped briefly in the headlines again when Tarchiani was quoted as saying in Washington that the "italianita" of the Adriatic port was beyond discussion. IL GIORNALE DEL MATTINO, which speaks for the government, approved the sentiment, manifesting admiration for Tito, the heroic liberator of his country, but adding that questions of frontiers must be settled in a spirit of reason and not in one of inflamed nationalism.

Recently there has been a tendency on the part of papers of all parties and independents to ask the government for some preliminary notice of measures under consideration. Even IL GLOBO, normally not given to harassing the government, has written an open letter to Bonomi on this subject. This may be worthy of note as indicating the need of some kind of parliament - or perhaps simply of better press relations.

2. AMG with the Armies

Typical of the communes liberated by Fifth Army this Spring after a cruel winter just within the German lines is the tiny group of settlements grouped around and above GAGGIO MONTANO. The main village lies up a winding country road three kilometres west of Route 64. To reach it you climb more than a thousand feet in two miles. Normal population of the entire commune is only 6,600 souls of whom 5,800 are still sheltered in partly ruined buildings, sharing what cover they can find with 1,300 refugees from other places. Over the hamlet rise the twin peaks of Monte Belvedere and Monte Torraccia. GAGGIO MONTANO is in bad shape. One-third of its buildings have been completely destroyed; of four post offices in the commune, two are shattered and one has been hit. It will cost six million lire to restore smashed public works alone. Water works, sewers and electrical installations are gone. The peasants hid their grain because the partisans told them it was the thing to do. The grain ration up to the end of May was distributed to 4,700 persons and there is said to be more concealed in various corners of the commune. There is a shortage of meat and fats; only one-third of the livestock is left alive. Fifth Army AMG has brought in fodder to save that remnant, as well as garden seed, oxygen, tobacco, and fuel for mills and vehicles. Financially the commune is bankrupt, though it was once self-supporting. No taxes have been collected since last August when 150,000 lire were levied. There

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is an overdraft of 70,000 lire at the local Credito Romagnolo. Many records have disappeared; the tax rolls must be revised; local officials say it will take until June to finish the job. In the meanwhile, to supplement preliminary financing done some weeks ago, AMG has advanced a further 2,500,000 lire, more than a million of which will be spent in the next two months to restore essential public services. The rest will cover normal budget requirements, pensions and a State payroll of 42,000 lire a month. At the junction of the GAGGIO MONTANO road with Route 64 Italian civilians under the direction of combat engineers have built a stone memorial to Fifth Army troops who died to free the Commune.

3. Pisa Comes to Life

Pisa is coming to life again after its many ordeals last fall and winter, reports Maj. T.L.Bullock, our PRO with 15th Army Group. But it will be a long time before the city returns to normal, says the Provincial Commissioner, Lt. Col. T.W.J. Walters (B). It will take a year to get roads, bridges and essential public works completed, though they are off to a good start. The city is about 60 per cent destroyed or badly damaged, particularly on the south bank of the Arno. German shelling continued for 24 days after the Commissioner entered on 3 September. Both the Cathedral and the Leaning Tower were hit by small calibre shells. The famous Campo Santo suffered terrible damage to frescoes and sculptures when shelling set fire to the lead roof and molten metal poured into the quadrangle. Fifth Army engineers have built a temporary roof to prevent further damage. Pisa's troubles were aggravated by broken retaining walls and spread along the streets to depths which varied between two and five feet. Four hours after the flood began the Lucca Gate became impassable. Bakeries were drowned out and nearly 50 tons of army biscuit had to be brought in and distributed in Army "ducks." The water did not go down for three days and the sea of mud which remained behind is still being cleared away. Flood prevention works, undertaken with Army help, have now been completed. Fortunately a good cesspit sewage system withstood the flood and there has been very little typhoid. Health is good. An outbreak of scabies has been controlled. Hospitals are working very well in Pisa, as well as in Pontadera and Volterra, and some supplementary items of diet are available for patients. Food is scarce in the towns of Pisa Province but the ration scales of bread and pasta are being maintained. The province reports a good grain amassing; vegetables are available in quantities but prices are high. Civilian transport could help relieve local shortages if batteries and tires were obtainable. When sufficient lignite is available, it is hoped to reopen the light railway line from Pisa to Cascina and Pontedera. Work animals are in very short supply. In the City of Pisa water is on again in the mains and leaks are being fixed. Some electricity is going to

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fall and winter, reports Maj. [illegible] Bullock, our PRO with 15th Army Group. But it will be a long time before the city returns to normal, says the Provincial Commissioner, Lt. Col. T.W.J. Walters (S). It will take a year to get roads, bridges and essential public works completed, though they are off to a good start. The city is about 60 per cent destroyed or badly damaged, particularly on the south bank of the Arno. German shelling continued for 24 days after the Commissioner entered on 3 September. Both the Cathedral and the Leaning Tower were hit by small calibre shells. The famous Campo Santo suffered terrible damage to frescoes and sculptures when shelling set fire to the lead roof and molten metal poured into the quadrangle. Fifth Army engineers have built a temporary roof to prevent further damage. Pisa's troubles were aggravated by broken retaining walls and a flood which spread along the streets to depths which varied between two and five feet. Four hours after the flood began the Lucca Gate became impassable. Bakeries were drowned out and nearly 50 tons of army biscuit had to be brought in and distributed in Army "ducks." The water did not go down for three days and the sea of mud which remained behind is still being cleared away. Flood prevention works, undertaken with Army help, have now been completed. Fortunately a good cesspit sewage system withstood the flood and there has been very little typhoid. Health is good. An outbreak of scabies has been controlled. Hospitals are working very well in Pisa, as well as in Pontadera and Volterra, and some supplementary items of diet are available for patients. Food is scarce in the towns of Pisa Province but the ration scales of bread and pasta are being maintained. The province reports a good grain amassing; vegetables are available in quantities but prices are high. Civilian transport could help relieve local shortages if batteries and tires were obtainable. When sufficient lignite is available, it is hoped to reopen the light railway line from Pisa to Cascina and Pontedera. Work animals are in very short supply. In the City of Pisa water is on again in the mains and leaks are being fixed. Some electricity is going to essential offices and mills and a little is left over for olive pressing and industry. When more power is available several plants in the Arno Valley will reopen. Industry is reviving slowly. The salt monopoly plant at Volterra is working well and an alabaster industry there has enjoyed a boom from sales of souvenirs to troops. Schools are open throughout the province except in Pontedera, many of them in teachers' houses; attendance is high and text books have been epurated by the Italian authorities. The Italian courts began to function early and AMG courts, while they are busy, are not overworked. Eight young Italians were sentenced to one year each by an AMG court for cutting the hair of an Italian girl who went out with Allied soldiers. The Prefect is giving satisfaction to AMG officials, but there are only three CAOs in the province to administer 38 communes. While the Provincial Commissioner believes the bulk of the people are Christian Democrats, he says the Communists have the best organization. Taxes are coming in well, the Italian administration

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is functioning satisfactorily and bank deposits are up. Five small papers, two of them published by the Church, are appearing regularly under AMG supervision.

4. Travel Agency

It came as a surprise to us, and probably will to others, that the AC HQ. Dispatch Office moved approximately 25,000 persons through its facilities during the past month. The office, which functions under the Hq. Commandant, is run by Major H. J. Birch (B), assisted by Lieut. H.L.White (A), and in addition to running the motor pool, providing transport for out-of-town trips and local visits, has moved personnel by sea, rail and air to countries all over the globe. For example, 245 passengers, mail, urgent medical supplies, luggage, seed and tools were moved by the Courier Section. Every night 350 female employees of AC HQ. are taken home by car. HQ. officers and staff, totalling 6,524 passengers during the month, made 233 taxi trips a day. By rail to places up and down Italy - speaking of rail, there is now a sleeping car service to Rimini - 52 persons were dispatched. Another 88 went by air to cities in Italy, Sicily and Sardinia as well as to the States, U.K., India and Cairo. Sea lanes were used by 14 to get to Madrid, South America and Tangiers. Diplomats were escorted to points of departure. Trips by officers out of town amounted to 114, trips within the Rome area to 530, local trips to 1,348. In addition, the American maintenance unit, also supervised by the Dispatch Office, took care of 1,712 jobs. Major Birch and his staff rate a brace of bouquets at least, for the care, planning and dispatch, with which one of the most vital services of AC is rendered.

5. Odds and Ends

Congratulations to Lieut. Col. Robert B. Menapace (A), 5th Army AMG finance officer, for his award of the Legion of Merit..... Eight more American promotions have come through in the last few weeks; two to First Lieutenant, one to Captain, one to Major, one to Lieutenant Colonel and three to full Colonel, the last lucky three being Colonels Floyd E. Thomas, Russell A. Snook and John B. Thornhill.....A temporary (we hope) freeze is on, however, for Hq. U.S. promotions.....The census promoted by the Economic Section last Summer has been finally published: 1,000 copies are in process of being distributed of the 253-page, "preliminary" statistical abstract of 38 provinces of Liberated Italy, which, incidentally, shows that four out of ten industrial plants on this side of the line have suffered sufficient war damage to be out of production..... The approximately 75 U.S. combat officers who are now in process of being indoctrinated into AMG background in a series of courses will be earmarked for future use but returned to their units in the meantime.....A political strike in Sardinia the first week in March caused an estimated loss of 6,000 tons of coal production..... 1,800 tons of pyrites have been exported from Piombino and 800

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is now"firm" (a HQ. expression meaning more or less "definite", "certain" or "pretty sure") - at 123 officers so earmarked..... The Italian Army Order of Battle - though its WE is 368,000 - now stands at 342,258, including a CC.RR. strength of 53,990, of whom only 45,207 are being used for normal police duties..... Some 23,000 are in administrative units, 48,000 slated for combat & 135,000 being used in service units.....U.S. inquiries have been received for accordions from the Marche Region.....25 million lire worth of straw hats and braid are being offered for export to the U.S.....27 tons of Persian cocoons have been imported for the Calabria silk mills.....Italian troops in the line will now receive a cognac ration of three centiliters per man, the rate of issue being at the discretion of unit commanders..... Major Lionel Fielden (B), former director of the Public Relations Branch, has left for England.....Mr. G. Stewart Brown, new director of the Branch, has just made his first trip into forward areas, promoting bigger and better public relations from the AMG field staffs, all of whom he found highly cooperative, he reports... Cement production for civilian use now amounts to 4,000 tons a month.....A Consultative Committee representing the supervisory staff, employers and workers has been formed at the Terni Co. (electricity, chemicals, steel and cement) to examine technical and administrative problems, the Labor Sub-Commission reports..... AFHQ is now considering an AC proposal to form a limited number of reconnaissance companies from Patriots to serve with Italian units in combat areas.....The olive oil collection at this date is 351,144 qtl.....Mr. A.G.Antolini (A) is back at his job as Acting Vice President of the Economic Section; Brigadier General Edward B. McKinley is a Deputy Vice President.....All 16 universities in Liberated Italy are open and functioning.....The Agriculture Sub-Commission is currently scratching its head over the supply of sheep and goats to Indian troops, to whom only male animals are acceptable, though our people are trying to offer ewes, first guaranteeing that the females in question will be non-pregnant.....The Granai del Popolo of 1944, now practically written off, stands at 92 per cent of the target or 16,911,754 qtl..... 610 Italians were returned from Rome and the North to Sicily and the South by the Displaced Persons and Repatriation Sub-Commission this past week.....Felicitations are also in order for the SCAO, 8th Army AMG, who is now Air Commodore G.E.Benson.....Although the Political Section was abolished as of March 1, the American and British Embassies will furnish HQ. with two political Advisers: ~~MR~~ Minister H.L.d'A. Hopkinson and Mr. W.C.Dowling, Second Secretary of the U.S.Embassy.....Visiting officers from the field will be glad to learn that, after many complaints about lack of accommodations, there is going to be more room at the Flora Hotel in Rome, an exodus having been ordered of, first, all personnel

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T. G. Bergin

T. G. BERGIN
Major, AUS
DDPR.

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· March 9, 1945

RESTRICTED SECRET

ALLIED COMMISSION
WEEKLY BULLETIN

PUBLISHED BY PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH, HEADQUARTERS, ALLIED COMMISSION, APO 394 · VOL. I, No. 49

POLITICAL

The outstanding event of the week, both from the point of view of political effect and sheer spectacular interest, was the escape of General Roatta from custody of the Carabinieri and his subsequent disappearance into the blue. Roatta is in process of being tried along with Suvich, Jacomoni et al. for crimes against the Italian state. The trial which has dragged on for some time is approaching the final stage and the verdict has been awaited with some impatience. Only a few days ago the Pubblico Ministero asked that the ex-Chief of Staff be given a thirty years sentence and the General has further achieved a rather unenviable international prominence, for Tito's government has asked to try him for war crimes allegedly committed in Jugoslavia. On the night of March 4th, taking advantage of what seems to have been rather lax guard, he simply vanished from the Virgilio hospital where he was under detention. The next day the government, harassed by agitation from the Left, Action and Socialist parties leading the line and cry, issued a communiqué offering a million lire reward for his capture and announced that the head of the Carabinieri had been removed. This was by no means the end of the matter. On the afternoon of the sixth an indignation meeting was held in the square of the Colosseum and, after speeches by various Leftist leaders, moved on to the Quirinale, where an attempt was made to storm the palace. Bombs were thrown — some say by the Carabinieri or the police, others say by members of the crowd — and the Carabinieri fired. One of the crowd was killed and a number (18 is the last figure we have heard) was wounded. The demonstrators then proceeded to the Viminale where a delegation forced its way with insistence if not violence into the presence of Molè and Bonomi. They asked for immediate resignation of the government. Bonomi refused to resign out of hand, stating that he could not desert his post and that he was responsible to the Council, which was a coalition, but promised to take the suggestion under consideration at the Council meeting the following day. The membership of the delegation is interesting from the political point of view. It was made up of representatives of the Action Party, the Socialists and Communists, the Unione Donne Italiane, a partisan, a pair of "invalidi di guerra" and General Azzi, himself a storm center not so long ago (see *Weekly Bulletin*, No. 39, for 30 Dec. 1944).

The papers of the seventh were full of speculation on the government's possible course of action and indeed on its duration. However, the communiqué which followed the meeting of the afternoon of the seventh relieved all fears of another crisis. It stated that "after a lengthy discussion which clarified the attitude of the parties forming the government, the Council concluded [illegible]. It added Alto Commissariato for Sanctions against Fascism and it was stated that immediate measures would be taken for internment or incarceration of "socially dangerous elements of the previous regime". Meanwhile, the papers are full of speculation about Roatta's accomplices (it is generally conceded he could not have managed his escape unaided) and his present whereabouts. His wife is quoted as saying she believes he has committed suicide and he has been variously reported as on his way to Florence, "in a neutral country", or hiding in the Vatican. *Italia Nuova* reported on the 7th that he had asked to have his trial continued *a bassi clos* for he was about to make "sensational revelations" but this was denied the following day.

Other events of the week pale before such a dramatic (some say "farcical" and some say "tragic") event. But the meetings of the Liberal and Christian Democrat party directorates should be noted. Noteworthy in the Liberal meeting were the satisfaction of Casati with the answer to the call-up and the reasonably optimistic report of Soleri on the Treasury; he refuses to be downcast, because he sees the future of Italy's financial life bound up with the Allies, in whom he expressed faith and confidence. The final manifesto at the end of the meeting stressed the Liberal belief in private initiative and urged limitation of government intervention while admitting the urgent need of social reform. It also recommended speedy convening of an Advisory Assembly. The Christian Democrats among other things looked to a gradual transfer of political power to the masses, stressing that the process should not be accompanied by violence, and urged that for the moment reconstruction should be the first political priority. In this they expect help from the Allies both in imports of raw materials and equipment and in repatriation of prisoners.

REGIONAL COMMISSIONERS' CONFERENCE

The first Regional Commissioners' Conference since last August was held this week (March 8-9) in Rome, with full attendance of all the dignitaries from the field and the resident ones at Headquarters, including the Acting President who met the Commissioners en masse for the first time and in the evening of the first day's meeting entertained the lot at a cocktail party. Unfortunately, the Chief Commissioner, being ill and confined to bed, was unable to attend. Closed to the press and without the requirement of reading reports, the meeting was devoted principally to an explanation by Mr. Macmillan of the Allied Commission's role vis-à-vis the Italian Government as a consequence of the new status for Italy and to discussion of plans for operations in the North. As was to be expected, economic problems and technical details of their handling occupied the la[illegible] part of the agenda. A chronological record of the Conference

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Mr. Macmillan pointed out that the New Deal for Italy was simply a natural development of AC policies as they have been worked out since the Armistice rather than anything drastically novel. He said AC objectives are still: (1) to facilitate military operations; (2) to assist in the immediate rehabilitation of the civilian population as fast as possible; (3) and to prepare for transfer of territory and administrative functions to the Italians. He stressed that the continuity of policy from the initial AMG phase to the turnover stage was of the greatest importance and should be kept in mind in all field operations. He predicted that the new populations of the

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North would have an invigorating effect on the AMG-AC operations. He added that, should hostilities cease, their ending probably would have to be arbitrarily fixed by the Combined Chiefs of Staff, and that there would be no collapse of AC functions but rather an immediate intensification (excluding the temporary festivities) and a continuation of activity as long as the military in any force were still stationed in Italy.

Brigadier Maurice S. Lush, the Executive Commissioner, opened the business by mentioning the withdrawal from the South, where regional headquarters will be abolished by April 1 and officers withdrawn as fast as possible except for approximately 66. These will be stationed as follows: Two in Sardinia to look after the mines; seven in Sicily; 24 in Italian Government territory (supply, transportation and financial) and 33 in the AMG Commune of Naples, whose status will continue the same for a few more months. The Executive Commissioner insisted that relations between AC and the Italian Government concerning Italian territory problems be restricted to a high level, that is, between Ministers and Directors, in order to insure that no idea of control is still in evidence. He said there will be a policy of close follow-up of Army AMG's by the AMG regional teams and that the bulk of the officers are naturally being assigned to the Northern regions, headquarters maintaining a staff of 350 of the total of 1,335 officers allotted to AC. Sixty U. S. officers are coming to AC from combat units. (The first of these are even now getting indoctrinated.) There will be no forward headquarters of AC, although it might be necessary to appoint another DCAO for Northwest Italy, should the DCAO with 13th Army Group move in another direction. Military authorities have also promised to give NW Italy AMG operations a high priority on material assistance.

Mr. Henry Hopkinson, British Political Advisor, emphasized that the policy of AC in the North should be to recognize the local authorities set up by the Committee of National Liberation, which as pledged itself to co-operate with AMG and to have the Patriots disband and surrender their arms. Stability of government is the prime objective and to that end every effort will be made to make the national Italian Government more representative by inclusion of Northern representatives through the proper channels of negotiation. The Italian Government will try to make contacts as early as possible. Colonel Charles Poletti (A), who whill be RC of Lombardy, made the point that there should be a minimum of Rome imposed administrators and Brigadier J. K. Dunlop (B), whose future region is Venezia, also insisted that local consultation and local appointments be kept in hands of AMG people on the spot.

The question of implementation of Italian Government decrees in AMG territory was raised by Col. W. E. Behrens (B), Deputy Chief Legal Adviser, who remarked that 5th Army AMG usually accepts most such decrees while 8th Army AMG does not. He pointed out that where the decrees are not implemented, it imposes a considerable problem on handover of territory to the Italians in that a new and heavy body of law comes into effect which complicates administration and impedes a smooth transition.

Col. W. J. Legg (B), Director of the Food Sub-Commission, explained the new procedures on the price of bread and pasta, the main point of which lies in the fact that the price of these items will vary from place to place, as, for example, 15.5 lire for bread in Lecce, 16.5 in Bari and 18 in Rome, the price being fixed by Special Offices

one, said that barter had come to Italy to stay for a while. It would be more sensible to set up channels to control the barter rather than try to stop it, he added. (The present system of inter-provincial trade is based on the procedure of declaring surpluses and distributing them to deficiency areas at AC Hq. direction).

Commander J. J. Lawler (A), joint director of the Finance S/C, outlined the new plans of the Italian Government on Finance. A Committee of Economy will examine the State administration and re-organise or eliminate departments set up under Fascism which are no longer necessary. Another proposal was for the formation of local Tax Committees. This would create within each Province a local committee made up of local business men rather than officials. They will co-ordinate State revenues within their area. The Allied Commission favours this idea. State support was proposed to increase the number of food co-operatives and to form local Ente for that purpose. No decree has yet been made, but it was planned to control millers and all food processors. Violation of the decree would lead to the complete confiscation of the property of offenders. There will be two new Bond issues. One will be a small issue and will open on April 25th, issued at par. The final bond issue will probably be for 100 million at 3, 3½ and 4 %, and for this there will be extremely complicated conditions. It will be issued at par and there will be various guarantee clauses. Commander Lawler asked AMG officers to keep an eye on any attempt of local officials to give a purely local interpretation to any decrees issued.

Mr. William Henry Brame (B), Director of the Labor Sub-Commission, gave one of the most interesting and lucid expositions. He outlined the policy for labor in AMG territory. The keynote would be encouragement of accredited organisations, and a sympathetic approach on the part of AMG. He pointed out that the deportation of agitators would serve no useful purpose since the agitators would merely be removed into another region. Although criticized in the past, the Labor Offices in the North will be supported by the Confederation General of Italian Labour and the employers' organisations, particularly in connection with wage agreements. To avoid unrest it is to the interest of AMG to encourage the appearance on the scene of representatives from the CGIL and the workers' organisations. It is hoped they will give advice and guidance on local conditions so that the national economy will not be upset. The impression is that wages and prices are considerably lower in the North and that for some time there will be a sufficient margin to meet the upward trend and yet keep within the level applying here. On the question of wage negotiations, the policy of the CGIL and the employers' organisations is to provide a new basic wage structure. This will be coupled with a sliding scale and cost of living bonus. The CGIL is the workers organisation and AC policy is to recognise it. The CGIL will hold an extraordinary general conference as soon as possible after liberation of the North so that the area can have full representation. With regard to the Internal Commissions or Workers' Committees the policy of the CGIL and the employers' organisations is not to allow these to negotiate on wages and conditions. The Fascists have been giving these groups rather more leeway in management problems in hopes of currying favor. AC policy is to set up the Armed Forces Wage Scale a little above the normal rates. AMG RC's will naturally be responsible for permits for labor leaders to travel to the North.

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on Finance. A Committee of Economy will examine the State administration and re-organise or eliminate departments set up under Fascism which are no longer necessary. Another proposal was for the formation of local Tax Committees. This would create within each Province a local committee made up of local business men rather than officials. They will co-ordinate State revenues within their area. The Allied Commission favours this idea. State support was proposed to increase the number of food co-operatives and to form local Ente for that purpose. No decree has yet been made, but it was planned to control millers and all food processors. Violation of the decree would lead to the complete confiscation of the property of offenders. There will be two new Bond issues. One will be a small issue and will open on April 25th, issued at par. The final bond issue will probably be for 100 million at 3, 3 ½ and 4 %, and for this there will be extremely complicated conditions. It will be issued at par and there will be various guarantee clauses. Commander Lawler asked AMG officers to keep an eye on any attempt of local officials to give a purely local interpretation to any decrees issued.

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Major Ralph Temple (A), of the Local Government Sub-Commission, reported the current preparation of electoral lists and the desirability of holding local elections in AMG territory once it was safe to do so, a condition it would be up to the regional commissioner to decide. Brigadier G. R. Upjohn, vice president for the Civil Affairs Section, added, however, that such elections in AMG territory would have to be on a uniform basis and that, whenever they were held, it would be even more desirable to hold them in all AMG areas at one time. This, of course, was not taken to apply to areas still under direct Army control. It also was decided that the Displaced Persons and Repatriation Sub-Commission's field operations should be placed under direct regional command on a gradual scale.

The last item on the agenda was public relations upon which Mr. G. Stewart Brown, Director of the Public Relations Branch, told of his plans to combat previous criticism of AC by more and fuller information as to achievements, especially by more worthwhile stories from the field. The perennial question of control over PWB news announcements when the North opens up was also discussed. As Mr. Macmillan remarked, should hostilities cease, PWB will no longer have a mission, which is to direct propaganda to the enemy. It would then be particularly desirable to have closest coordination between news to the Italians by PWB and approval thereof by AMG, which is responsible for conditions in those territories.

THE ADRIATIC SIDE

Things are definitely on the up-grade on the Adriatic side of central Italy, reports Abruzzi-Marche region. The inhabitants are setting to with a will to even out supplies of essentials among the various provinces, some of which have surpluses of commodities found deficient in others. Ancona, for instance, in return for textiles from Florence, is to provide breeding cattle and alcohol, which, for better or for worse, is said to be against the best principles of the Food Sub-Commission. With the bread ration now at 300 grams imports for Pescara province have gone up to 1,400 tons a month, Chieti 2,000 tons and Aquila 2,035 tons, which has put a great strain on transport.

Wheat collections have reached 245,345 tons, or 114 % of the target figure. Shortage of sacks has been hampering exports from Macerata, but 3,100 tons have already been moved by motor transport and 102 tons went by rail only last week from Ortona to Lecce. Olive oil amassed now totals 6,002 quintals, 14 % of the goal aimed at. Several prosecutions under way against non-complying big producers are expected to ginger up the campaign. Producers are complaining that potato growers, who now get more than double the price they used to for their crop, are being unduly favoured. Road blocks in Ascoli and Macerata Provinces brought in 51,000 eggs, 4 tons of flour and pasta and 18 tons of olive oil.

Vatican-operated communal soup kitchens to the number of 74 are being set up in the devastated Abruzzi to cater for the immediate needs of 47,000 persons and ultimately for 94,000. Italians, however, are still chary of soup and an Allied supply officer drily remarks: "You can lead people to a bread line but cannot get them to eat green pea soup; they prefer pasta to vitamins".

In Macerata 29 small industries are back in operation again and another 23 being repaired. Mine-clearance in the provinces of Chieti and Pescara has so far accounted for more than a quarter of a million mines and a second training course has begun in the Abruzzi. Morale among troops employed is high.

American films are much in demand and proving very popular in the provinces of the Abruzzi, where they easily outdistance all other forms of entertainment.

ODDS AND ENDS

Collections of pressed olive oil now stand at 325,281 quintals or 34 per cent. of the goal. — The Granai del Popolo of 1944 (on the point of passing into history while plans are being made for the 1945 Granai) now stands at 10,884,736 quintals or 92 per cent. of the target. — Imported British seed potatoes are now flowing to the regions, 800 tons having gone to Tuscany, 100 tons to Apulia and the rest to Campania. — Exported to the U. K. in the last week were 4,514 tons lemons, 725 tons bitter oranges, 237 ½ tons wine, 140 tons tartaric acid and 85 tons citric acid. — Ancona is getting some warehouse space to meet its shortage; after repairs space will be available for 22,000 tons (covered) and 8,000 tons (open storage). — The sulphuric acid plant at Castellina Chianti is going into operation to supply the alum plant at Salpa, which alum is required in army map paper production. — Another flat-glass factory has started near Arezzo and a calcium carbide plant at Papigno, which latter has materials for 2,400 tons of carbide at the rate of 20 tons a day manufacture. — Industry Sub-Commission has got five more key plants derequisitioned and are trying to free 32 more, including a tannin extract factory and a wool impregnating plant; among the important factories returned to civilian use are an agricultural machinery plant at Ostia, a railway rolling stock plant near Naples, an olive oil refinery at Caserta, the Stucky Flour Mills at Bari and also a tobacco warehouse at Zagarolo. — Although he is now with Civil Affairs in France, congratulations nevertheless to Capt. Murray Richards (A) for being awarded the Bronze Star for "Meritorious achievement" in Italy when he was with AMG. — Mr. M. H. Taylor, director of the Transportation Sub Commission, has left for the States by way of London to plug AC transportation problems and search for more civilian personnel in his field. — Public Relations Branch is conducting a party of Allied correspondents to the Cassino memorial services and rebuilding inspection March 15. — Major Evan Talbot (R) has been named Chief Staff Officer to the Executive Commissioner, succeeding Col. G. W. I. Shipp, who has been recalled to the Colonial Service. — 375 refugees from Lucca and Chiaravalle arrived in Rome during the week. — Italian police agencies, thanks to the Public Safety Sub-Commission and the AC Priorities Board, have now received nearly 20,000 items of clothing, including shoes, from Allied sources. — U. S. personnel of AC in the Rome area may now study a variety of subjects, including languages, at government expense in their leisure time at an Information and Education Center just set up. — A Motor Transport Group, operating under AC direction as an integral unit comparable to a region, has been established, consisting of the 1st Truck Bn. and the 2nd and 3rd Truck Bns. (now in process of organization), all to be commanded by Col. J. J. Grieg, M.

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH RESTRICTED

P26/WB48/PRB 4 March 1945.

AC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO. 48
26 Feb to 4 Mar.45

1. Political

"The Allies", according to the vigorous simile of AVANTI, "are giving Italy the hot and cold shower treatment - which may not always be the best thing for a convalescent." Specifically AVANTI had in mind the new directive for Italy (see last week's Bulletin) and the statement of U. S. Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau in the roles of doccia calda and fredda respectively. Leaders and articles throughout the week have been dedicated to either or both of these manifestations of Allied policy and to their relationship to each other and (if any) to the Unita conference. Press reaction to the directive was particularly interesting; in general it might be described as one of tempered enthusiasm. The warmest appreciation came from IL GIORNALE DEL MATTINO (to be expected since it is the government's mouthpiece) and from IL GLOBO which saw in the move "a personal success of Bonomi" and did not forget to thank Admiral Stone and his officers. And indeed all papers recognized that the new status does represent a step forward. Yet there was a rather strong obbligato of discontent; even L'INDIPENDENTE, which also speaks for the government, regretted that "parity status" was not yet forthcoming. UNITA was very lukewarm in its approval, and felt that Italy had not yet been given a chance to offer her full contribution to the war effort. Caracciolo, writing in the Action party's ITALIA LIBERA, "had hoped for a policy of great gestures" from the Allies rather than one of petty concessions. And Nenni in AVANTI said that the move was good only four months too late and added in one of his now celebrated "post-scripts" that this would be the proper time to turn over Umbria, the Marches and Tuscany to the Italian government.

On the same day that the papers carried the text of the 4787
status for Italy they printed as well the statement of Secretary Morgenthau to the effect that the U.S. has not pledged itself to re-absorb occupation currency after the war but that in the case of Italy this responsibility had been accepted by the Italian government under the armistice clauses. This was indeed a cold shower - not only to AVANTI. VOCE REPUBBLICANA was particularly bitter and said the concessions granted in the new status order were totally mean-

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Dealing strictly with internal affairs the Council meeting on the 27th decided to increase pay of State employees by 50% and family allowances by 100%. The rates followed the recommendations which the CGIL had earlier in the week persuaded the General Confederation of Italian industry to accept. There has been much comment in the press on the futility of fighting the rising price level with these dangerous tactics but in this emergency the government has hardly any alternative.

Sicily was in the news again as the new Consulta convened in Palermo. Bonomi sent a message in which he called the machinery of the High Commissioner and the Consulta "an experiment" and said he hoped their work would give him guidance. The President of the Council had been expected to go himself and ITALIA NUOVA thought it a great mistake that he had not done so. And VOCE REPUBBLICANA was merciless in its criticism of the whole scheme; "an imposition from above and not a spontaneous growth from below it is destined to failure" it said of the Consulta, adding that if the members were honest men their first act would be to resign.

2. Who's Who At G-5

Military government operations on the stratospheric levels of AFHQ may be a long way from officers and men in the field but it may be enlightening to explain the organization and list the key personnel of an echelon which to many of us has been only a name.

Head of the staff section of less than 30 is Brigadier General Charles M. Spofford, GSC, who holds the title of Assistant Chief of Staff, G-5, and who was one of the very first men in AMG. His deputy is Brigadier T. R. Henn (B). Under these officers are two main divisions and a sprinkling of special divisions. They are as follows:

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3. Power

Here is an item that speaks for itself. The Public Works and Utilities Sub-Commission will take the bouquets.

Region	PreWar Power Capacity	Capacity Found On Allied Entrance	Present Capacity (as of 3 Mar 45)
Central Italy	1,292,336 Kw.	46,000	203,000
Southern Italy	380,936	166,800	282,000
Sicily	81,673	45,800	64,000
Sardinia	96,080	96,060	96,060
TOTALS	1,831,024	343,760	625,060

4. Army Requisitioning

As every military government student knows, an army has the right to requisition the goods and chattels of a population it is fighting among in the interests of its military effort, and needless to add, the British and American Armies in Italy have, as their right, taken what they needed. With peace (we trust and pray) not too far off, the question of tidying up the requisition picture is coming to the fore and new and more liberal rules are reported by Brigadier A.P. Grafftey-Smith, joint director of the Finance Sub-Commission, to be under consideration by AFHQ which will permit much more rapid payment for goods on the spot under the criterion that the army may pay spot cash for those goods and services which it deems necessary to keep in continuous production for benefit of the war effort. In short, if one takes away all the production of a factory without paying for it, the factory, which may be making items useful to the war, will necessarily close down because it will have no money with which to buy more raw materials or support its labor costs to continue making the same product allegedly necessary to the military.

The whole matter of military requisitions, in the history of which AC and AMG figure as only other military units, starts, of course, with the first days of the Sicilian invasion when the army began taking what it wanted and giving out slips of paper indicating that the person from whom the property was requisitioned would eventually get paid by some proper authority. Not a few of the slips of paper in those early days, it is reported, bore signatures purporting to be "F.D.Roosevelt" and "Winston Churchill." There were also signatures of "Thank You" and "In God We Trust." In any event, the authority, under terms of the Armistice, would naturally be the Italian Government, who, in terms of its own sovereignty over its own people, would decide the rate and scale of payments. The problem of payment has been handled differently by the British and by the Americans. The British have had more clearly defined requisitioning procedures and have kept extremely careful records in a central register. Also, they have been allowed much more discretion from the start in paying for goods or services required, whereas the Americans were for a considerable time quite restricted by cogent War Department rules from employing as liberal policy, except insofar as certain items such as vegetables and direct services (that is, labor) were concerned. The 4787 the amounts involved are considerable can be seen at a glance when one recalls that the average reasonably spent sum by the armies on goods and services amounts to around 1.2 billion lire.

At any rate, as our finance people explain it, until at least January 3, 1945, the vast majority of unpaid requisitions (Island Base Section, for example, is asking where to send their packing cases full of unpaid requisitions) were American. Peninsular Base Section, as another example, had 80 million lire in unpaid requisitions three months ago. Much of the American claims, however, have been met or are being met under the liberalized [illegible]

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The whole matter of military requisitions, in the history of which AC and AMG figure as only other military units, starts, of course, with the first days of the Sicilian invasion when the army began taking what it wanted and giving out slips of paper indicating that the person from whom the property was requisitioned would eventually get paid by some proper authority. Not a few of the slips of paper in those early days, it is reported, bore signatures purporting to be "F.D.Roosevelt" and "Winston Churchill." There were also signatures of "Thank You" and "In God We Trust." In any event, the authority, under terms of the Armistice, would naturally be the Italian Government, who, in terms of its own sovereignty over its own people, would decide the rate and scale of payments. The problem of payment has been handled differently by the British and by the Americans. The British have had more clearly defined requisitioning procedures and have kept extremely careful records in a central register. Also, they have been allowed much more discretion from the start in paying for goods or services required, whereas the Americans were for a considerable time quite restricted by cogent War Department rules from employing as liberal policy, except insofar as certain items such as vegetables and direct services (that is, labor) were concerned. That the amounts involved are considerable can be seen at a glance when one recalls that the average reasonably spent sum by the armies on goods and services amounts to around 1.2 billion lire.

At any rate, as our finance people explain it, until at least January 3, 1946, the vast majority of unpaid requisitions (Island Base Section, for example, is asking where to send their packing cases full of unpaid requisitions) were American. Peninsular Base Section, as another example, had 80 million lire in unpaid requisitions three months ago. Much of the American claims, however, have been met or are being met under the liberalization of the payment provisions recently authorized by the War Department. Italians, in view of the former virtual non-payment policy, were found to be concealing their goods rather than sell. Even lately the forward areas reported that merchants of Bologna are hoarding and hiding goods. For the record, the other main Allied requisitioning authorities in Italy, in addition to those already mentioned, have been the 5th and 8th Armies, Rome Allied Area Command and Adriatic Base Depot.

The reasons why the American payment policy appeared less open-handed at first may well be understood in light of the fact that U.S. expenses are directly chargeable to definite War Department appropriations granted by Congress and that it seemed to fiscal officers in the early days that the account was in danger of being overdrawn beyond anticipations. The order went out from fiscal officers to purchasing officers on the American side in this theater to make as few payments as possible since, under the Armistice, it was the Italians who had to foot the bill, not the Allied Armies.

The situation, which was in danger of veering toward snafu, was unsnarled by General McNarney's January memorandum so that now U.S. procurement officers report that they are fast regaining their popularity with the Italians. In line with prospects of the even further liberalized policy of spot payments, the AC's Finance Sub-Commission has also arranged for all military requisition files to be sent en bloc to the Commando Genio Militare of the Italian War Ministry who will have the task of sorting out the claims of their fellow Italian citizens for goods taken ranging from accordions and grand pianos to iron girders and a host of industrial products, not to mention divers motor cars. In the meantime, when in the cases where the army does not, for some reason or other pay on the spot for goods it requisitions, AC will take it upon itself to recommend to the Italian Government that in the country's interest the claim be paid at once when it appears that it is vital to continued production for essential civilian needs. What, of course, would have been ideal would have been a lira account whereby the Allied military could have drawn from the Italian Government the sums necessary to meet bills for immediate payment. The absence of provision in the Italian budget, already rather astronomical, for such financing, particularly, the absence of adequate accounting machinery and general political considerations, has made that impossible except, strangely enough, in the case of the Italian Navy, where the departmental budget is prepared to meet certain expenses and has done so whenever they were incurred on the part of the Allies in using Italian marine facilities. The entire question naturally is a post-war problem: for the Italians to decide politically and with an eye out for inflation, how much of the claims shall be paid to its citizens, if at all in many cases; for the Allies, how much to charge the Italians in occupation costs, decisions which are tied up on the highest levels with factors of Italian hopes for membership in the United Nations, the value of the currency and plans for economic reconstruction.

5. Odds and Ends

There are now more than 4,000 Boy Scouts in the two Italian Scout organizations re-established in Italy with the help of the Education Sub-Commission....Greetings to "Emilia Way", new house organ of Emilia Region, which is keeping the Region's officers and men informed of what the other fellow is doing....Beginning with the next issue, the AC Weekly Bulletin will be printed....All HQ. sub-commissions must immediately cut their officer staffs to the manpower ceilings set for them and send all other officers back to the field.... A 25 per cent reduction in Italian civilian personnel, with prospects of a later cut up to 50 per cent has also been ordered....Rear Admiral Guy L. Warren (S) has been named Chief of the Navy Sub-Commission, succeeding Rear Admiral C.E.Morgan, former chief, who will continue as Flag Officer at Taranto....100,000 yearling pigs are available f

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for which refers to his "outstanding services as Senior Civil Affairs Officer with the French Corps" in last year's campaign....Bids have been submitted for reconstruction of two of Florence's six destroyed bridges....Radio telephone service between Rome and New York was opened for the first time since the war began 8 March when Prime Minister Bonomi spoke to Signor Alberto Tarchiani, Italian Ambassador to the U.S.; the service will be in late afternoon to a select list of authorized callers, including diplomats, top AC officials, Italian Ministers and Allied correspondents....2,000 persons have been vaccinated in Arezzo Province where typhoid cases number 138....Forli now has a water system which should soon provide 120,000 gallons a day....Dykes and drainage pumps are being increasingly restored in the 8th Army area where the Germans had taken full advantage of flooding the cut-up terrain....Schools in the area are also using glass from picture frames to replace windows....246 more trucks from the U.S. have arrived as part of the 1,700 promised shipment; also eight tons of truck spare parts....The Granai del Popolo currently reads at 10,809,208 qtl or 91 per cent of the target of 11,800,000 qtl....Capt. John L. Kay (A), spearhead CAO with the 10th Mountain Division, which took Mount Belvedere, reports that the newly liberated area includes four small fractions of communes, but not a single civilian, all the population having been evacuated from front line areas some time ago....Brigadier Maurice S. Lush, the Executive Commissioner, following a trip to Emilia Region, reports a particularly interesting item about sugar: 800,000 tons of sugar beet was allegedly wasted from last year's crop because of destruction of factories; one processing factory at Cesena could be re-activated: it would take 4,000 tons of coal, much of it imported, to make 7,000 to 8,000 tons of sugar; it is essential to fix the price of sugar beet immediately to meet spring sowing needs....Following complaints from Army AMG's about loose travel control into forward areas, Executive Memorandum No. 77 laying down the rules for such movement is being revised, with the end in view that the Public Safety Sub-Commission will be the one and ultimate near authority for screening and clearing with the Army elements....

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Col. Taste A.P. Establishment
Sect 7

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

SECRET

R26/WB46/PRB

17 February 1945.

AC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO. 46
11 Feb to 17 Feb 45.

1. Political

It cannot be said that Italian reaction to the Yalta conference was happy, at least to judge by the press. Hopes were running high that some reference might be made to Italy in the now historic Crimea communique and the papers on the 10th had all carried the statement (usually in bold face or italics) that Bonomi had sent to the "Tre Grandi" a plea for allied status, some changes in the financial clauses of the armistice and readjustment in the status of prisoners of war. (Four days later, however, the Press Bureau of the government denied that allied status had been asked for.) The publication of this appeal at a time when everyone knew the conference was in session seemed to imply some hope of its being granted and consequently to find Italy passed over in silence in the communique which came from Yalta was a bitter blow. Jacchia, to be sure, writing in the GIORNALE DEL MATTINO (Government) assured his readers that Italy must have been discussed at the conference but evidently the Big Three had decided the time was not ripe for announcing their decisions and meanwhile Italians must wait and hope. AVANTI too took it with resignation, pointing out that this was another instalment in Italy's payment for the crimes of Fascism. But most commentary was not so patient in tone. ITALIA NUOVA (Monarchist) and VOCE REPUBBLICANA found themselves for once in agreement; to both this "ignoring" of Italy seemed a measure of the incompetence of the Bonomi government. Sonelia too, in IL POPOLO (the organ of the Christian Democrat Party of which De Gasperi, Foreign Minister, is the leader) expressed dissatisfaction that Italy "was not even mentioned" and similar reaction came from the independent Catholic QUOTIDIANO.

It is clear from the press that some kind word for Italy would have given the government a boost in prestige as well as improving the morale of the country. However, the San Francisco meeting is not far off and already towards the end of the week editorial eyes were looking to the future rather than the past. Yalta aside, there have been some cheering items in the international field: Italian labor representatives have been invited to the

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On the home front the joint Socialist-Communist declaration is worthy of note. Their program, published on the 10th, reminds the workers first of all of their duty to carry on the fight against Fascism. It then asks the Allies for more autonomy. The abolotion of the political price of bread is accepted but it must be accompanied, says the manifesto, by confiscation of the patrimonies of all "who have enriched themselves through Fascism, war or black market dealings." The program also calls for a national convention of the C.L.N. and for the formation of a "consultive" (advisory assembly). On the tactical side the parties announced that they would work together in the administrative elections with common

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programs and candidates in common, this last arrangement however not to exclude agreements with other parties. Just how this complicated arrangement will work out is hard to say.

The Roatta trial is still going on and has thrown off two tangents which have been more provocative of discussion than the trial itself. The Leftist parties have been infuriated by the spectacle of certain witnesses summoned to the trial who, they claim, are members of the OVRA, still secure, serene - and in the employ of the state. The government denied that these witnesses were members of the OVRA whereupon the cry went up: the government must know who is, and if so the names should be published and the individuals put on trial. The Action party has been particularly ardent in this campaign and recently the CGIL has also joined the chorus, formally requesting the government to tell what it knows. The other tangent is the international one: Roatta, among others, has been asked for by Yugoslavia, being on the list of war criminals that Tito has marked down for trial. This brings up the delicate matter of whether Italy can be allowed to try her own war criminals if there is also competition from other nations. National pride and the sheer logic of the situation - for this is now an anti-Fascist Italy - are on one side of the debate but UNITA (for obvious reasons) and VOCE REPUBBLICANA (on the lines of its general mistrust in what it calls the Savoyard government) have indicated that they are for handing such people over to Tito. It seems possible that the matter will be turned over to the United Nations War Crimes Commission, sitting in London, for adjudication. Meanwhile, the business of epuration moved on a step with the setting up of the Central Commission. Bonomi spoke on the occasion and emphasized what has always been his line in this matter: epuration must strike those who had important charges and were blindly subservient to the regime, but for the lower ranks justice must be tempered with mercy. Above all the operation must be carried out with justice and legality.

The week has also seen a good deal of agitation and discussion revolving around the high cost of living. We have noted the Socialist Communist manifesto which used the return to the economic price of bread as a basis for demands for increases for the workers. Naturally IL LAVORO and other elements in the press and the public have taken up the cry. The week has seen the typographers and theatre employees threaten to go on strike and teachers are reported to be on the verge of one. The "maestranze" (skilled workers unions) and sindacati held a meeting on the ninth and warned that, sympathetic as they are to the government's difficulties, they cannot wait for ever, for people are hungry and if they find it necessary they will not hesitate to call a general strike. The government has not been idle. On the 15th the special interministerial committee met and drafted a general plan on the subject, including the specific intentions of "fighting rising prices and the black market" and "improving the food situation of the more needy classes."

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To implement these intentions special "committees of the people" with representation from the C.L.N., the unions, the womens organizations and the police, are to be formed to fight the black market and control the restaurants. It is understood that the days of the "di lusso" restaurants are numbered and bread mills and pasta factories are to be strictly controlled. Yet the problem remains more fundamental; Lucci, an able analyst and the government's bitterest critic, wrote in ITALIA NUOVA that all measures of control and all attempts to bring salaries in line with mounting prices are vain unless production and distribution are improved. Yet, in spite of his sneers at the government, his only solution for the moment is "selling" the United States "the only nation that can help us", on the necessity of coming to the rescue now (particularly with transport) rather than a little later when rescue will be a much more difficult operation. How much of this week's intensified agitation on the high cost of living reflects an accelerated raise in prices and how much is political reaction to the return to the real price of bread is hard to say. But the papers today carry the story from the Italo-American PROGRESSO (New York) that AC is

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sitting on top of a volcano."

2. Newsprint Squall

Freedom of the press, Italian editorials have been saying of late, must be paid for; but by whom was not mentioned except by a few writers who thanked the Allies for granting Liberated Italy this democratic boon and more especially for importing newsprint from the United States where it is in acute short supply. The editorials were touched off by the blowup in Naples where no newspapers were published Thursday for the reason (Naples editors alleged) that there was no newsprint, all of it (they added) being used by Rome's 25 authorized daily newspapers (of which 19 at last count are actually published and are bought and scanned six times a week by the Public Relations Branch's Daily Digest of the Rome Press Section), not to mention 102 (correct) authorized weeklies and one tri-weekly publication. The Naples editors set up such a howl that the chairman of the Italian Press Commission and head of the Italian Government Press Bureau, Signor Rossini, travelled posthaste to Naples to investigate the affair only to find the Neapolitans somewhat hostile, whereupon he came back to Rome, leaving in his trail cries against Rome echoing in the Naples papers and a threat of an editorial delegation to complain against the Italian Press Commission.

The background, according to the Commerce Sub-Commission (which imports the newsprint) and the Allied Publications Board, which, since late November, has exercised a rather loose supervision over the Italian Press Commission, is as follows: The AC in 1944 had requisitioned 600 tons a month or 7,200 tons for the year, of which 2,670 tons never arrived. In fact, there have been no imports since November and none are expected until next month. In view of the then prospective tight situation, therefore, a freeze on further allocations of newsprint was ordered in September and a reserve built up which will last a couple more weeks. But when the Italian Press Commission, on AFHQ order, took over granting of licenses, the system built up by the APB went out the window, since the Italians felt that [illegible] freedom of the press meant that any and every newspaper that wanted to could publish, provided only that it was not Fascist. The Italian Press Commission immediately authorized 13 new dailies in Rome alone but passed on the responsibility of distributing the newsprint to the Association of Newspaper Editors in Rome. This, it was eventually discovered, led to some dubious practices and PWB investigators reported widespread black market activity in imported paper, 30 per cent allegedly disappearing into the black market, including stocks of PWB itself and those of the army morale papers. Newsprint from the U.S. was sold by the Allies to authorized recipients for $175 a ton. The reports said that it was being exchanged for black market local paper in a ratio which provided the papers with considerably more stock for

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Provincial papers, as in Naples (which has seven authorized dailies and 11 weeklies) and Florence (which has two dailies and six weeklies) began complaining that they were suffering because of the preferential political treatment afforded the Roman dailies. One result followed. AC pressure turned the distributing agency to the Banca Nazionale del Lavoro. APB authorities insist there is newsprint in Naples and that the Naples squall is a political strike against the free-handed policies of the Press Commission. Roman papers have been apologizing to their provincial brethren of the pen, avering that it was a breakdown of transport to Naples which deprived that city of paper. To sum up, the situation has reached such a pass that the Allied Commission is asking the Allied Publications Board to ask the Italian Government to take action in the matter by making final recommendations as to what imported paper it needs for Liberated Italy

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and the North in order that the AC might submit a revised 1945 requisition to AFHQ. The original requisition was for 1,000 tons a month which would be a drop in the bucket if the same rate of publication were continued.

Whether the Government will recommend cutting the number of copies of each paper or rescinding the licenses of some dailies is yet to be seen; the decision is delicate and in essence political; in general the "established" papers (UNITA most firmly) favor cutting down the number of dailies now circulating in the capital; in general the newer papers argue that freedom of the press means quite simply freedom to print - which brings us back to our leading sentence. Meanwhile, the brief period of luxury in which all Roman papers were entitled to one four page issue a week has come to an end - an indication perhaps that the second alternative will be followed.

3. The Italian Fleet

After fifteen months of protracted negotiations with the Spanish government, the Regia Marina Italiana has received a welcome reinforcement by the return from Spanish waters of the light cruiser "Attilio Regolo", four destroyers and some small craft, reports the Navy Sub-Commission. The ships put into the Balearics after the Armistice in September 1943 instead of proceeding with the rest of the fleet to Malta - some because they carried survivors of the battleship "Roma", sunk by German bombers west of Sardinia, others alleging shortage of fuel. The Minister of Marine called off his expected visit to Taranto to welcome them in person, either because he found himself unable to get away from the Ministry or because it occurred to him that the conduct of the commanding officers had yet to be inquired into.

Since the Armistice the Royal Italian fleet has "co-operated to the fullest possible extent" with the Allied authorities, as Rear-Admiral C.E.Morgan (B), head of the Navy Sub-Commission put it - subject, of course, to the limitations imposed on the fleet at the surrender and the ability of the Allies and the Italian Government to provide facilities for modernization and repair. Of the five battleships, all in reserve, the two most modern - the "Italia" and the "Vittorio Veneto" - are interned in the Bitter Lakes of the Suez Canal. The one-third of the ships' complements kept aboard are allowed daily periods of recreation in the desert and received their Christmas mail by destroyer. Two of the older ships, which are at Taranto and Siracusa, occasionally go to sea for gunnery training of recruits. The fleet's six cruisers and eight destroyers are kept constantly at work and have rendered effective service in transporting men and materials at high speeds between Mediterranean ports, running harder in the Allied cause than ever they did for the Axis. Some idea of the extent of the

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3. The Italian Fleet

After fifteen months of protracted negotiations with the Spanish government, the Regia Marina Italiana has received a welcome reinforcement by the return from Spanish waters of the light cruiser "Attilio Regolo", four destroyers and some small craft, reports the Navy Sub-Commission. The ships put into the Balearics after the Armistice in September 1943 instead of proceeding with the rest of the fleet to Malta - some because they carried survivors of the battleship "Roma", sunk by German bombers west of Sardinia, others alleging shortage of fuel. The Minister of Marine called off his expected visit to Taranto to welcome them in person, either because he found himself unable to get away from the Ministry or because it occurred to him that the conduct of the commanding officers had yet to be inquired into.

Since the Armistice the Royal Italian fleet has "co-operated to the fullest possible extent" with the Allied authorities, as Rear-Admiral C.E.Morgan (B), head of the Navy Sub-Commission put it - subject, of course, to the limitations imposed on the fleet at the surrender and the ability of the Allies and the Italian Government to provide facilities for modernization and repair. Of the five battleships, all in reserve, the two most modern - the "Italia" and the "Vittorio Veneto" - are interned in the Bitter Lakes of the Suez Canal. The one-third of the ships' complements kept aboard are allowed daily periods of recreation in the desert and received their Christmas mail by destroyer. Two of the older ships, which are at Taranto and Siracusa, occasionally go to sea for gunnery training of recruits. The fleet's six cruisers and eight destroyers are kept constantly at work and have rendered effective service in transporting men and materials at high speeds between Mediterranean ports, running harder in the Allied cause than ever they did for the Axis. Some idea of the extent of the relief thus afforded to Allied shipping can be gained when we realise that up to the end of 1944 the Italian Navy had carried 210,000 Allied personnel, moved 67,000 tons of stores, escorted 1,170 convoys - including 9,300 ships - and steamed a total of 1,600,000 miles. The lightness of design and the lack of spare parts are beginning to tell on these ships, however. Of the torpedo boats and corvettes, some 40 in all, approximately two-thirds are used in convoy and escort work. The fleet is encouraged to sweep its own minefields, though Allied shipping proceeds only through waters previously swept by Allied minesweepers. Mussolini's Italy once proudly boasted large numbers of submarines, but now there are only about a dozen in any way fit for service. Those remaining, however, perform useful work on special operations or serve as "clockwork mice", i.e. targets for Allied destroyers in training. Naval officers and men in many cases have shown commendable enterprise and individual bravery in special operations against the Axis. Up at the front the San Marco Battalion, roughly corresponding

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to one of our marine battalions, is composed of Italian naval officers and men.

In general, the morale of officers and crews has been good. The men get more sea time than ever before and welcome any kind of active work to take their minds off the state of their country and of their families. With the traditional "pazienza" of the Italian contadino, the crews are docile enough, happy to be employed, fed and clothed, and they have tackled with a good will even such uninspiring tasks as repatriating unwashed and often verminous soldiery and prisoners-of-war. True, some of the younger and more energetic officers gird at the leisurely ways of the Ministry of Marine, and there was a case of one commanding officer, "plus royaliste que le roi", who refused to put to sea on the plea that the Minister had not sworn allegiance to the King. He was relieved of his command and put on half-pay for six months - "pour encourager les autres". The food situation is good. A Benthamite reform which equalized the rations for combat and non-combat personnel was received with great satisfaction by the latter, who got a considerable increase, and with the grudging acquiescence of the former, who lost a little by the change. The overall strength of the Navy is 75,000 and the numbers are kept down by discharging reserves and time-expired men in favor of young volunteers.

But the Regia Marina's greatest asset and by far its most important contribution to the Allied war effort has been the shipbuilding and repair facilities provided by its dockyards and harbour installations, especially at Taranto and Naples. To date more than 2,000 repairs, refits and overhauls have been carried out to Allied and Italian vessels and there have been over 1,000 dockings. The dockyards employ more than 35,000 Italian workmen, of whom some 14,000 are at Taranto, 14,000 at Naples, 3,000 at Palermo and 3,000 at Leghorn. Many of the repair units operate almost entirely under Italian direction, with a minimum of Allied supervision. The fact that some 150 Allied vessels are handled each month in Italian dockyards means there is no need for those ships to return to home waters for repair - a big relief to Allied shipping resources and one much appreciated at the time of the landings in France, not to mention the saving to Allied manpower in the Italian manning of port and harbour installations.

4782

4. Odds and Ends

Congratulations to the following British officers who have been mentioned in dispatches in "recognition of distinguished services in Italy": Brigadiers G.H.Upjohn and A.P.Grafftey-Smith (to whom also felicitations on his promotion); Col.W.J.Lemg; Lieut. Cols. C.R.Briggs, J.H.Giffen and D.G.H.Hartley-Smith; Majors P.E. Coxhead, J.A.Balfour, C.P.S.Goldson, H.B.S.Hoddinott and D.D.McColm, and Captains G.H.Campbell, J.B.Black, J.A.Kellett, R.C.L.Limbert and A.G.Mack....The Information Division of the

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allocation of the product for military use has now ceased and the full production reserved for civilians; the Officine Meccaniche e Fonderie plant at Terni is making olive oil presses. ..Nomenclature: The title of Chief of Staff at HQ. has been abolished and that of Executive Commissioner resumed; vice presidents of sections will be known simply as vice presidents and not also as deputy chiefs of staff....Brigadier General Edward B. McKinley is now serving as Acting Vice President of the Economic Section pending final designation of the man to fill the post....The Economic Section, incidentally, is out to stir up the salvage question in the hope of getting some scrap for industry and other agencies, old tin cans, for example, making a good substitute for tiles on new houses, in the experience of our Public Works officers....Full control of Naples schools and higher educational institutions has been turned back to the Italian Government, including 8,000 teachers, 156,012 pupils in nearly 600 schools....January exports of Italian products surpassed those of any previous month and totaled 15,882 tons, representing a value of 153 million lire....Plans are being made to activate six sugar mills having a production of 20,000 tons of sugar and 6,000 of molasses....In 1944, Naples Reports, 38 of the 376 dogs impounded had rabies....The Economic Section brain trust and the Italian Government interministerial committee will discuss the question of prices at their next weekly meeting, 22 February, especially farm prices which are considered the key to the Italian price structure....The Carabinieri now stands at 60,054, but there are only 46,719 effectives....5th Army AMG reports that several large caches of arms of Italian, German and Allied make have been found around Pistoia, apparently hidden away by Patriots....20,000 pigs are expected to be slaughtered also in the 5th Army area and 200 tons of salt already received for curing....The Italian Government will be invited to send representatives, at need, to sit with 40 delegates at pertinent meetings of the Allied Forces Local Resources Board....The Granai del Popolo currently reads 10,735,115 qtl or 90 per cent of the 11,600,000 qtl goal....Abruzzi-Marche Region industries are on the upgrade despite occasional power shortages, the following enterprises being in operation: Woolspinning plant at Aquila; cement and lime works at Somba; various brick factories; maiolica plant at Teramo; shoe factory at Chieti; Montecatini chemical plant at Bussi; leather tannery and foundry at Tolentino; paper mills at Pioraco and Fabriano; silk mills at Ancona; match factory at Jesi, with largest production in Liberated Italy; lignite mines at Scoppito and Bussi; asphalt mine at Scafa, and sulphur mines at Pertienza and Caberneadi....The olive oil collections are now 233,329 qtl or 24 per cent of the target figure, despite perennial shortage of transport for control officers....By providing needed solvents and truckage to refineries, it is also expected to extract 45,000 qtl of edible olive oil from the sansa or pressed olive residue which usually goes into soap making....Forged AM lire which were last showing up around Florence are now making appear-
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in nearly 600 schools....January exports of Italian products surpassed those of any previous month and totaled 15,582 tons, representing a value of 155 million lire....Plans are being made to activate six sugar mills having a production of 20,000 tons of sugar and 6,000 of molasses....In 1944, Naples Reports, 58 of the 378 dogs impounded had rabies....The Economic Section brain trust and the Italian Government interministerial committee will discuss the question of prices at their next weekly meeting, 22 February, especially farm prices which are considered the key to the Italian price structure....The Carabinieri now stands at 60,054, but there are only 42,719 effectives....5th Army AMG reports that several large caches of arms of Italian, German and Allied make have been found around Pistoia, apparently hidden away by Patriots....20,000 pigs are expected to be slaughtered also in the 5th Army area and 200 tons of salt already received for curing....The Italian Government will be invited to send representatives, at need, to sit with AC delegates at pertinent meetings of the Allied Forces Local Resources Board....The Granai del Popolo currently reads 10,733,115 qtl or 90 per cent of the 11,600,000 qtl goal....Abruzzi-Marche Region industries are on the up-grade despite occasional power shortages, the following enterprises being in operation: Wool-spinning plant at Aquila; cement and lime works at Bomba; various brick factories; maiolica plant at Teramo; shoe factory at Chieti; Montecatini chemical plant at Bussi; leather tannery and foundry at Tolentino; paper mills at Pioraco and Fabriano; silk mills at Ancona; match factory at Jesi, with largest production in Liberated Italy; lignite mines at Scoppito and Bussi; asphalt mine at Scafa, and sulphur mines at Pertiarra and Cabernardi....The olive oil collections are now 233,329 qtl or 24 per cent of the target figure, despite perennial shortage of transport for control officers....By providing needed solvents and truckage to refineries, it is also expected to extract 45,000 qtl of edible olive oil from the sansa or pressed olive residue which usually goes into soap making....Forged AM lire which were last showing up around Florence are now making appearance around Bari and Brindisi....

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We regret to announce the death of Col. M.B.King, Regional Public Health Officer for Piemonte Region. Col. King was killed in a motor accident near Caserta.

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5. Announcement

Mr. G. Stewart Brown, former vice chairman in charge of public relations for the American Red Cross, has been appointed Director of the Public Relations Branch, succeeding Major Lionel Fielden (B), who is going home on leave to England. Prior to the war Mr. Brown was United Press correspondent in Rome and other European capitals.

T. G. BERGIN, Maj., AUS
D/DPR.

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Col. Fisher

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

S E C R E T

R26/WB43/PRB

26 January 1945.

AC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO. 43
22 Jan to 28 Jan 45

1. Political

Addio, mia bella, addio,
L'armata se ne va
Se non partissi anch'io
Sarebbe una vilta!

Il sacco è preparato,
Sull'omero mi sta,
Son uomo e son soldato,
Viva la libertà!

(Soldiers' song)

The revitalized war effort, symbolized by the recent call to arms, and its various political tangents have formed the main theme of the week. The press having swallowed Churchill's words with indignation, injury or resignation, according to their temper and political color, have presented more or less of a united front, agreeing that for reasons of national prestige, decency or simply self-preservation an Italian war effort is necessary, regardless of how much or how little the new Italy is appreciated in London or elsewhere. "The shadow of the war we fought for Mussolini and for the Germans must be shaken off," wrote Jacchia in the GIORNALE DEL MATTINO, "and this is good enough reason for FIGHTING even if Churchill and Eden will not utter one single word on the increasing cordiality of England towards Italy." De Gasperi made an appeal to Italian youth, pointing out this was a time for discipline and not debate, and later in the week, speaking at Salerno, recommended the example of the English people as worthy of imitation. Casati also addressed the recruits and urged them by their enthusiasm and good-will to restore to Italy "her austerity and honesty", adding, as a practical footnote, that those who are to be called up may be assured that their families will be taken care of. There were two meetings of youth organizations during the week in which the younger elements of the Communists, Socialists, Christian Democrats and the Sinistra Cristiana expressed their enthusiasm for the war. The absence of the other parties, we suspect, hardly indicates less enthusiasm for the war effort but rather less well-organized youth groups. Certainly their press has been equally ardent. RISORGIMENTO LIBERALE even proclaims that if the young

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Two new government agencies found their first public expression during the week. Bergami, new Commissario of the new Commissariato per l'Alimentazione (Food Commissariat) held a press conference on the 23d. He announced that one "Direzione generale" would take the place of the two divisions of "alimentazione" and rationing. He promised to facilitate the organization of cooperatives and group kitchens, and to encourage interregional exchanges and cooperation with UNRRA. On plans for supply of non-rationed goods the High Commissioner announced

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the following program: securing from the Allies permission to get food from foreign markets, persuading the producing population to accept the principle of the same prices for export as for local sale, and providing food at lowest possible prices to people with low fixed incomes. Soccimarro, the new Minister for the new Ministry of Occupied Italy, also spoke to the press, asking the gentlemen of the fourth estate for their cooperation in "mobilizing public opinion in favor of the partisans of the North." He announced that the 16th of February would be set aside as a "day of national solidarity", dedicated to patriots, soldiers, sailors and aviators. He said that preparations must be made for the fusion of the partisans with the regular army; this would indicate national unity in the material as well as in the spiritual sense. A strong army thus created might easily induce the Allies to call on Italy to participate in the invasion of Germany. He concluded by saying that his Ministry was above party politics and said that he and his Liberal sottosegretario, Medici Tornaquinci, worked together as if they belonged to the same party, a statement which called forth, according to the GIORNALE DEL MATTINO, the "eager confirmation" of the sottosegretario himself.

The campaign, initiated last week, to call a national convention of the C.L.N. lagged a little this week. There was one good presentation of the case; Francesco Fancello wrote in ITALIA LIBERA that the C.L.N. is the only authentic and readily available "political current of national revival" and that there is certainly need of some kind of national body since the government in Rome, by force of circumstances, lives in a sort of vacuum. ITALIA NUOVA snapped back sharply and, suspecting the six parties of wanting to make the C.L.N. a national Assemblea Consultiva (which indeed is not improbably their intention), said that on the two major issues of the day, reconstruction and the war effort, no party or group of parties had a monopoly and anyway the C.L.N. has no raison d'etre in Liberated Italy.

Some not entirely unexpected sparks were struck off the Roman press by the announcement that the Press Commission had authorized 13 more dailies. (4 have been weeklies, the rest are nuovissimi). AVANTI remarked sardonically that Rome had now more newspapers than Paris or London and could at last claim "one world's championship". UNITA took it more seriously and waxed indignant over the fact that a city without light or food in plenty should have this plethora of newspapers, and suspected (inevitably) a reactionary plot. ITALIA NUOVA contented itself with noting ominously "for the record" the names of the members of the Press Commission which had given the authorizations. Only RISORGIMENTO LIBERALE, faithful to the old liberal cult of free trade and free competition, seemed to think it a good thing. As for us, gentle reader, we shall watch them and try to tell you what the fledglings are like. The recent new ones are the GIORNALE DEL MATTINO which speaks for the government and serves a useful purpose, and LAVORO, the daily of the CGIL, out less than

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The Council met on the 26th and heard De Gasperi express his satisfaction over the clarification of Churchill's speech which he said would cut the ground from under speculations in various quarters made on certain phrases of the speech, taken out of context. The "precisazione" which came from Downing St. on the 25d reads (in part) as follows:

The Prime Minister is quoted as saying "We do not need Italy", whereas what he actually said was: "We say once and for all that we have no political combinations in Europe or elsewhere in respect of which we need Italy as a party..."

These words relate to the suggestion which has been widely made that Great Britain was embarking on a system of "power politics" in Europe, and especially in the Mediterranean.

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They in no way supersede or modify the Prime Minister's statement last August about Italy..nor do they imply that Italy now or in the future should be excluded from an honorable role in the European political system.

Otherwise the Council concerned itself with routine administrative matters, the only noteworthy action being the suppression of the Ente Italia Stampa, a press governing body established in Fascist days and out of tune with democratic practice. ITALIA NUOVA reported dissension again brewing among the four parties - but that may well be wishful thinking; there have been no open indications of it. During the week Boeri, lately returned from exile in Switzerland, was named secretary of the Commissariate for Sanctions against Fascism. Since he was a founder of the Action party the appointment gave ITALIA NUOVA the opportunity for mischievous quotation of Dante's line:

L'ombra sua (di Sforza) e tornata, che era dipartita...

(Lo,the shadow hath returned of him who hath departed)

Much space in the press has been given to following up the threads of the "gobbo" case. (See last week's Bulletin). The various articles and "revelations" hint at a background of conspiracy and corruption, evoking a world that is made up of equal parts of E. Phillips Oppenheim and Edgar Wallace. The trail of the gobbo leads somewhat uncertainly to the Headquarters of the Unione Proletaria which was raided by the Carabinieri on Friday. We give you some further details in Section 3 of this Bulletin.

Correction: We stated last week that Tarchiani, newly appointed ambassador to Washington, had held the post of Minister without Portfolio in the second Badoglio cabinet. Actually he was Minister of Public Works. This comes of reading RISORGIMENTO LIBERALE instead of our own Bulletin: see Weekly Bulletin No. 3 for April 22, 1944 where we had it right.

2. Odds & Ends from Florence

Enemy radio stations made quite a fuss recently about an alleged typhus epidemic in Prato, Florence Province, said to be the worst in history. The Provincial Medical Officer of Florence (Italian) has just issued an official report on infectious diseases in the Province since 1939, and this report is being given wide radio and newspaper publicity in the area. There has not been a single case of typhus in the Province in the last four years. The only infectious disease which has not decreased since the Allied occupation is typhoid fever, and the spread of typhoid is directly due to the systematic destruction and pollution of water systems, sewer systems and wells [illegible] German forces. Here are a few comparative figures

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	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944
Measles (Cases)	1941	492	5267	794	1820	240
Scarlet fever	451	503	673	773	503	106
Chicken pox	674	661	786	676	961	200
Typhoid fever	227	180	322	340	313	150
Paratyphoid	125	196	170	166	116	100
Dysentery	17	20	67	23	22	3
Diphtheria	516	482	294	713	900	582
Whooping cough	247	536	513	564	336	87

Civilian motor vehicles in and around Florence are being fuelled in steadily growing numbers by natural gas (Metano) which is carried in metal cylinders fixed on passenger cars and trucks. The compressed gas is derived from wells 33 miles away with a daily yield of 20,000 cubic metres. By the end of January 50 trucks will

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have been converted to burn Metano, and conversion will continue at the rate of 50 vehicles a fortnight thereafter. Metano-burning civilian vehicles are issued ten times as much fuel as petrol-burning cars. When AMG took over one of the garages in Florence in the early days of occupation, it was found to be the terminus of the pipe-line leading to the wells. Surveys showed the enemy had made 25 breaks in the line as they fell back. Repairs took three months to complete, and were carried out by S.A. Idrocarburi Nazionale under AMG Fifth Army direction. Some of the gas now being piped into Florence will be used as domestic fuel.

3. Confusion

"Everybody is in it - police chiefs, generals, officials, prefects, and doubtless many more". Thus spoke L'UNITA this Saturday, referring to the rumours following on the "Gobbo" case. L'UNITA indeed, in this editorial, argued that what ITALIA NUOVA called "political banditry" was the result of the "multiplication of parties and multiplication of newspapers" both engineered, according to L'UNITA, by the "obscure forces of reaction" in an attempt to confuse the public mind and pave the way for a new Fascism. What the Communist party's solution would be, L'UNITA did not specify: but confusion is certainly the right word both in reference to the Gobbo case and the long-awaited Roatta-Suvich trial. The latter, after two days of legal quibbling, fizzled out into an adjournment until next week, Roatta's lawyer, Casinelli, having been suddenly though not unexpectedly eliminated by epuration, and Roatta himself having appealed for trial by a military court. The accusations against Roatta (former chief of Staff) Suvich (former undersecretary of Foreign Affairs) Jacomini (former "viceroy" of Albania) are numerous and diverse, ranging from terrorist activities which include the assassination of King Alexander of Yugo-Slavia to "having exposed Italy to war risks; turned the SIM over to the Germans and transformed it into a politically subversive instrument; indulged in political espionage, denounced anti-fascists; arranged the assassination of the Rosselli brothers by bribing Fronen Cagoularis with one hundred Beretta rifles; organized shipwrecks, fires, railroad disasters; spread epidemics by bacteriological methods;" and so on.

It looks as if the trial might be a long one.

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is the incriminating documents which he claimed to possess. It has been suggested that the Gobbo when shot was on his way to obtain such documents by blackmail, and that Salvarezza tipped off the Carabinieri. L'UNITA even alleged that the Gobbo was killed not by the Carabinieri but by shots fired from the Unione Proletaria. We have probably not heard the last of this peculiar case.

4. Tobacco

Observers in prewar Italy frequently stated that if Fascism was subjected to a series of strains, it would go up in smoke. That it did this is to the credit of the observer's perspicacity but what is surprising is the knowledge that before Fascism disappeared in smoke it practically lived on it. Tobacco in Italy was, and today still is, a state monopoly and the largest of all the monopolies controlled by the Italian Government. It contributed in revenue approximately 17% of the total taxation collected and 80% of that contributed by all the monopolies, and in the year 1942-43 the estimated hand-over to the treasury amounted to 4816 million lire. The method of collecting this money was simple. The entire revenue of the industry was handed over to the state which subtracted twenty per cent and gave it back to the industry for administrative expenses. In its happier days the industry directly employed 270,000 people in the growing, processing and packing departments and indirectly many others in transportation, warehousing and distribution. The German army in its retreat, for one reason or another, possibly as a result of a distaste for Italian cigarettes, destroyed practically all the machinery and factories coming within its grasp. The effect of this was that 14% of the cigarette making machines and 20% of the tobacco cutting machines were completely destroyed. The industry was virtually crippled, the Italian Treasury deprived of an important source of revenue and Italy's seven and a half million male and legal smokers (only males over the age of 17 are entitled to buy) left without cigarettes. For many reasons it became necessary to rehabilitate the industry. The Italians needed cigarettes and the treasury needed money. Money was loaned to the industry by the Industry Sub-Commission of the Allied Commission to buy and replace machinery. Materials, such as unobtainable and unimprovisable parts and cigarette papers, unobtainable south of the Pisa-Rimini line, were brought from the United States. Staff for the industry was found and brought to the factories. The military authorities who had requisitioned tobacco factories and plants were persuaded to derequisition. Transport was obtained, fuel and electrical power made available, and slowly the industry began to breathe. Results, so far, have been that production has reached surprising figures and monthly, the tobacco plants turn out, for Liberated Italy, 131,800 kgms of cigars, 79,835 kgms of cut tobacco and 373,500 kgms of cigarettes. This means 373,500,000 cigarettes are produced monthly. So much for the pure production results of the programme. The sale of tobacco now helps to fill the coffers of the treasury to a considerable extent.

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5. Shall Italy trade with neutrals?

The Economic Section staff and the inter-ministerial committee of Italian ministers tackled this problem at last week's regular meeting between AC experts and the Italian Government, when the Italians expressed a desire to get back into the swim of world trade and AC officers had to tell them regretfully that the middle C in ACC had not yet been fully muted as far as foreign trade was concerned, so that all Italian

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proposals for such trade would have to go through the AC screen. The Italians say that they would like to get ball bearings and machine parts for electrical equipment from Switzerland (much of the Italian hydro-electric plant is Swiss-made). Sweden has wood pulp for Italian paper, besides already having offered to rehabilitate with technicians and material the Southern Italian telephone system. Spain has an Italian tire making plant. The Argentines, in a report that is really no more than a strong rumor, are supposed, through the medium of "syndicate of Argentine financiers", to have offered to provide meat, ships and funds in a deal with the Commune of Rome. It is not known what Rome would have offered in exchange except a hearty appetite. The Italians were told to draw up programs for neutral trade, outlining what they propose to import, listing what existing frozen assets were available and suggesting what exports they could provide. The AC would then screen the proposals on the basis of their general soundness, making sure such exports did not interfere with the Italian war effort or civilian economy, verifying whether or not the exports were not required by the U.S. or U.K. and keeping in mind the tenets of economic warfare as applied to neutral countries. After this examination and if an o.k. were gained, the Italians would be free to start concrete negotiations with the neutral countries through regular diplomatic channels, though all deals would have to be consummated on a government-to-government basis. The Allies hold the key to the neutrals' position in the question through the issue of navicerts or permits for ships to ply Allied-controlled waters. The French now want to begin trading with Italy, their first request being for perfume oils. The U.S. and U.K. to date have been getting citrus fruit, perfume oils, wine and odd lots of minerals. The French, of course, as reported some time ago, have already bought Italian products for French consumption without authorization through local resources channels, a procedure which has been under review by AFHQ. Similar representations have now been made concerning Yugoslav purchases near Avellino where grain, vegetables and machinery has been purchased without AC authority for export. The Italians would also like to bring in goods from Libya and Eritrea, particularly tuna fish and leather.

6. Odds and Ends

The Granai del Popolo stands, as of 27 January, at 10,363,780 qtl. or 89% of the 11,600,000 qtl. goal..Olive oil collected by the same date amounts to 174,896 qtl. of the 600,000 qtl. target, which will be distributed as follows: 375,600 qtl. in a general issue;64,000 qtl. to special and supplementary classes; 41,360 qtl. to the Italian Army; 15,000 qtl. to devastated areas, and (all of the foregoing being for liberated Italy) 294,720 qtl. into a stockpile for the North..G-4(A) of AFHQ has tentatively promised the Commerce Sub-Commission about 10,000 old uniforms for distribution to heavy outdoor workers of the armed forces..Shipped to the US during the week were 51,000 kilos of argols (deposits on wine vats),18,000 kilos of tartaric acid and 1,500 kilos of onion seed. An Allied Railway Board has been formed to [illegible]

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RICHARD FIELDEN
Major, DPR.

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

SECRET

R26/WB42/PRB

21 January 1945.

AC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO. 42
14 Jan 45 to 21 Jan 45

1. Political

On the 18th the government's mobilization decree, calling the classes of 1914 through 1924 to arms was published and posted. The government, at one of the regular press conferences, put the case mildly enough, explaining that the call was made in order to equalize the contribution of men from the various regions and to replace the older classes with younger recruits. But the press sensed that the moment meant - and should mean - more than that. Sforza was quoted as saying that this was the moment for Italian youth to show the strength of its desire to contribute to the rehabilitation of Italy and in general all parties urged not merely compliance but enthusiastic response to the call to arms. A large section of the press found the time again opportune for bringing up the matter of changing Italy's status. "The Allies," wrote Enzo Selvaggi in ITALIA NUOVA, "must now recognize that rights and duties exist on both sides", going on to say that a situation like that in Greece must be avoided and concluding with the frank statement that Italians want abolition of the armistice clauses, guarantee of their frontiers and a full alliance. QUOTIDIANO on the same theme remarked that an armed Italy with a victory to its credit will be assured of having a voice in the formation of the new Europe. Climaxing this line of thought the C.L.N. addressed a message to Roosevelt, Stalin, Churchill and DeGaulle asking to be allowed "a strong national army, capable of taking its place at the side of the Allies." The anti-monarchist papers of course found it also a good moment to insist on Army reform; ITALIA LIBERA affirmed that there should be no connection between the new army dedicated to the victory of democracy and the old one," condemned, as it had been, to failure in an ignominious war," and VOCE REPUBBLICANA assured its readers that the youth of Italy was anxious to fight for the country but not for the King. In the University of Rome the students held a meeting on the 16th to express their enthusiasm for the new army and their willingness to serve in it. They too asked for alliance instead of co-belligerency and carried banners reading "La guerra, si; ma non ad occhi chiusi." (War, yes; but not blindfolded).

This tide of adolescent effervescence, as might have been expected, undergraduates being what they are, broke its bounds and poured over to the Viminale where the Council of Ministers was in

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This tide of adolescent effervescence, as might have been expected, undergraduates being what they are, broke its bounds and poured over to the Viminale where the Council of Ministers was in session. Bonomi was coaxed to the balcony and made a short speech, urging the young men (according to IL GIORNALE DEL MATTINO) " to be ready to sacrifice themselves for the ressurection of their country" and then returned to the business of the meeting which was indeed not alien to the matter of the students' demonstration, dealing largely with the army and international matters. As predicted a few weeks ago measures were passed to improve the lot of soldiers and their families. The patriots were included in the family subsidies. The principle of employment to veterans was also laid down. De Gasperi, reporting on international affairs, said that the C.L.N. message (mentioned above) had been transmitted to the Allied leaders. He also announced the formal recognition by Italy of the Chung King government and declared null and void the Fascist "Vienna accord" of 1940, replacing it by a declaration of the "necessity of friendly co-operation between Italy and the Balkan-Danubian nations." He further informed the Council that negotiations are going on in Washington between Italian financial experts and competent American authorities on the financial clauses of the armistice. Perhaps the headline item

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in foreign affairs department was the announcement of the appointment of Alberto Tarchiani as Ambassador to the United States. Tarchiani (born 1885) is a real anti-fascist; once editor of the "Corriere della Sera" of Milan, he went into exile in 1926 and in Paris became associated with Rosselli, Lussu and Cianca in the publication of "Giustizia e Liberta". He traveled widely in his years of exile and is well-known abroad. He served in the last Badoglio government as Minister without Portfolio. Incidentally he is a member of the Action party and his appointment may somewhat console that sensitive group for their sense of injury over "L'affaire Sforza".

Two speeches abroad made for rather sombre reflection in Italy this week. Rightly or wrongly, Churchill's declaration in the House of Commons that "England does not need Italy as a partner" dampened any hopes of a conciliatory spirit in that quarter, and his statement that British arms are playing the main role in the Italian campaign was interpreted by Italian papers to mean that "Tory England" would have the dominant policy on the peninsula. Nenni remarked, more in sorrow than in anger, that Churchill doesn't understand the new Italian democracy and warned that an unsympathetic British policy might well drive Italy into what Churchill calls "Trotskyism" or back into exasperated nationalism. The French Foreign Minister, speaking on the question of Tunisia, pointed out that it was not France that had torn up the Convention of 1896 (which had given preferred status to Italian residents in Tunisia and which was abrogated by Mussolini), and while France recognized that there was now a new regime in Italy, and one worthy of French sympathy, negotiations would have to be carried on with the recognition that the terms of the Convention were a dead letter. Italy is paying dearly for Mussolini's gangster-like diplomacy but perhaps nowhere more dearly than in the delicate field of Franco-Italian relations.

Einaudi was formally installed as Governor of the Bank of Italy on the 2nd in the presence of Bonomi, Admiral Stone and other personages. He and Soleri both made brief speeches, the latter expressing moderate optimism on Italy's financial future and looking to the winding up of the Fascist nationalistic money policy and a return to "free exchange and open and plurilateral agreements." Einaudi and he both spoke of counting heavily on Allied understanding and cooperation in these matters.

In the field of anti-Fascist sanctions, announcement was made of the appointment of four Vice Alti Commissari Aggiunti, a new office and, one would think, an indication that the process is to be speeded up since these officials do not replace the existing Commissari but assist them. Grieco, too, taking over from Scoccimarro in the field of administrative epuration, stated his intention of carrying on his work along the lines laid down by his predecessor. Nevertheless the charge persists in left-wing papers that the departure of Sforza and

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Meanwhile the Roman press has been full of discussion of the imminent trials of Suvich (ex-Minister of Foreign Affairs) and Roatta (ex-chief of Staff), which are slated to begin next week, and the defense lawyer, one Cassinelli, famous for his forensic furberia, has created a certain amount of consternation mixed with hilarity by calling an imposing list of defense witnesses including such names as Badoglio, General Franco and our own Generals Mason MacFarlane and Max Taylor, and Mr. Macmillan. Aided by that device and the inevitable illness of Roatta (for Caruso set a fashion in these matters) it is charged that he has been hoping to postpone the trial. Latest development however is that Cassinelli has himself been disbarred (epuration at work) and the trial will go on without him - and without, at least, some of his witnesses.

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Connection

It has been pointed out to us that the three billion lire mentioned in the government decree of last week were allotted for repairs to public works and not buildings as we had it. True enough and it makes a difference. Sousi tanto.

2. Italia Combatte

The call to arms, which last week provoked widespread disorders in Sicily, was greeted this week by an enthusiastic display on the part of Roman students - possibly fired by the CLN declaration of 17 January - who (as reported under Political) drew a balcony speech from Bonomi. Indeed throughout the week the Roman press has been agitating for a greater Italian share of belligerosity. No doubt they argue that if the war comes to a sudden end it will be nice for Italy to have a large army, and much less dangerous for those who join it. Nevertheless there would seem to be a growing feeling in Liberated Italy that a larger Italian army will be an indispensable factor in the liberation and administration of Northern Italy. The Land Forces Sub-Commission of the AC, also known as the Military Mission to the Italian Army (in which latter role it is not under the control of the AC) presided over by Major-General Langley Browning, has for some considerable time been occupied in rebuilding the Italian Army to the extent to which Allied resources and intentions permit. In August 1944 there were 20,000 Italian combat troops (C.I.L.) in the line, and it was decided by AFHQ that the ceiling for the Italian Army should be set at 310,000; (of this, roughly speaking, 83,000 were to be US-ITI, furnished with American equipment, 157,000 BR-ITI including combat troops, furnished with British equipment, while 60,000 would be ITI-ITI guard and administrative troops mainly furnished from Italian stocks); the ceiling for the Carabinieri who are regarded as part of the armed forces was set at 35,000. The size of the Italian Combat Force was limited by the ruling that it had to fight with Italian equipment captured in Italy. The remainder of the army was used on lines of communication work - a factor of no small importance in saving Allied manpower.

In August the Supreme Allied Commander asked the Combined Chiefs of Staff to authorize the issue from England or Africa of 3 British Divisions worth of equipment for the Italians: with this he intended to form 6 "Combat Groups" each 9000 strong. At the same time General Browning asked Allied authorities to stop dipping into Italian Army reserves for any odd job that they wanted done, since Italian troops were required to assist the war effort [illegible] also suggested that patriot bands should not be incorporated into the Italian Army as units: pointing out that this could not be done under the fixed ceiling (which represented an 18% cut in the Army strength) but agreeing to take individual Patriot volunteers, though each volunteer would oust a soldier from the Army.

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In August the Supreme Allied Commander asked the Combined Chiefs of Staff to authorize the issue from England or Africa of 3 British Divisions worth of equipment for the Italians: with this he intended to form 6 "Combat Groups" each 9000-strong. At the same time General Browning asked Allied authorities to stop dipping into Italian Army reserves for any old job that they wanted done, since Italian troops were required to assist the war effort [illegible] also suggested that patriot bands should not be incorporated into the Italian Army as units: pointing out that this could not be done under the fixed ceiling (which represented an 18% cut in the Army strength) but agreeing to take individual Patriot volunteers, though each volunteer would oust a soldier from the Army.

As a result of the permission to form the six new groups, to be known as FRIULI, CREMONA, LEGNANO, FOLGORE, MANTOVA and PICENO, MMIA found plenty of work on its hands. It had, as General Browning put it, "the largest old clothes and old boots business in the world" (400,000 pairs of old boots) and was "well established in the foodstuffs and grocery business". The whole of Italy - including the North - was organized into military regions, districts and depots so as to provide an organized overall control by the Ministry of War. Ration scales had to be devised and revised. Equipment and its wastage had to be worked out item by item. Bids had to be made for quantities of leather, thread and nails. A large system of repair and manufacture - mainly at Naples and Bari - had to be set up. Italian manufacture thus providing, for instance, 17,000 towels and 10,000 wool jackets - but only 62 overcoats - and repairing 120,000 caps and 12,000 blankets. A repatriation camp was started at Taranto in November for Italian soldiers returning from Greece and the Balkans, and 23,367 officers and ORs had passed through it by January.

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Meanwhile the organization and training of the six combat groups went ahead under British instructors. In November the FRIULI and CREMONA groups, fully equipped, passed through Rome on their way North. The LEGNANO & FOLGORE are expected to be ready for action by the end of February. The MANTOVA will probably be ready by the end of March. The PISTOIA will act as a reinforcement group. Such are the beginnings of the new Italian Army.

But it must be added that 48,000 men are still required to complete the calling - owing to war weariness (some Italian soldiers have now been fighting for 5 years) widespread desertion, over-lenient exemption laws, and lack of enthusiasm to enlist. The call-up in Rome and Lazio - target 14,000 - resulted in 3,700, and in Abruzzi - target 6000 - in 2000. We know what happened in Sicily. Call-up are getting in Sardinia and Umbria. The Roman Press and party leaders nevertheless continue to stress Italy's desire to fight. And speaking of the press, the Italian Army is now to have one of its own in the form of a daily morale newspaper, to be called "Patria", with an initial circulation of 60,000 and to be published at Rome, Bari and Florence.

3. The Gobbo of Quarticciolo

Early this past week a marescialllo of Carabinieri shot and killed Giuseppe Albano, alias 'Il Gobbo' (The Hunchback), 18-year-old boy leader of Rome's most formidable gang and two days later, January 18, over 1000 Carabinieri, Italian infantrymen and Questura agents successfully rounded up the main elements of his leaderless henchmen whose operations have ranged from Beniamino Gigli's villa in the Salaria district to the headquarters of a political party in Trastevere and whose crimes have included car stealing, extortion and murder.

Police investigations concerning the death of a Carabinieri and the fatal shooting of a British corporal had already led to the poor Quarticciolo and Gordiani districts where in the slum dwellings of the former and in the ancient catacombs that extend for miles under the latter the gang was known to be hiding with considerable stores of arms, ammunitions and stolen property. There remained only the execution of carefully laid plans for a general clean-up of the area when Il Gobbo was killed and four members of his gang were captured. On January 16 three of the gangsters were apprehended by Carabinieri near Beniamino Gigli's villa where, it is believed, they had gone on a blackmailing mission. On the same day across the Tiber in the Trastevere district two boys, one a five-foot hunchback with brown hair and eyes and, witnesses say, the face of an angel, were approached by three Carabinieri. Carabinieri fashion, they attempted to take Il Gobbo into custody without using their weapons when suddenly Angel-Face Gobbo whirled around, fired several times

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3. The Gobbo of Quarticciolo

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Police investigations concerning the death of a Carabinieri and the fatal shooting of a British corporal had already led to the poor Quarticciolo and Appiano districts where in the slum dwellings of the former and in the ancient catacombs that extend for miles under the latter the gang was known to be hiding with considerable stores of arms, ammunitions and stolen property. There remained only the execution of carefully laid plans for a general clean-up of the area when Il Gobbo was killed and four members of his gang were captured. On January 15 three of the gangsters were apprehended by Carabinieri near Beniamino Gigli's villa where, it is believed, they had gone on a blackmailing mission. On the same day across the Tiber in the Trastevere district two boys, one a five-foot hunchback with brown hair and eyes and, witnesses say, the face of an angel, were approached by three Carabinieri. Carabinieri fashion, they attempted to take Il Gobbo into custody without using their weapons when suddenly Angel-Face Gobbo whirled around, fired several times in quick succession with his Berretta pistol, and raced across Via Fornovo before one of the two wounded Carabinieri, a maresciallo, took careful aim with a pistol and killed the gang leader in the doorway of the party headquarters of the Unione Proletaria. His accomplice, wounded in the gun-fight, was captured.

At 4:30 AM January 16, Lt. Col. Bruto B. Bersanetti of the CC.RR., having flung a dragnet employing 670 Carabinieri, 220 Italian infantrymen and 120 Questura agents over the adjoining Quarticciolo and Appiano districts, began systematically to comb the area. At a cost of one civilian dead and four children wounded, one seriously, (when gang members attacked with hand grenades) the day-long search netted 74 draft dodgers, 9 deserters from Italian Army units, 11 car thieves, 35 arrests for unlawful possession of weapons, 16 taken into custody for armed rebellion, 141 persons detained for public safety reasons, the capture of one allied deserter and 22 members of the Albano gang, including the notorious Archangel, alias 'Er Cipolletta' (The Small Onion), who was killed. Property seized included the following interesting items: 16 rifles, 12 revolvers,

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1 German machine gun, a military telephone exchange, 10 gas masks, a military automobile, 40 pounds of explosives, 3,000 projectiles of various calibres and an assortment of 36 swords, daggers and bayonettes.

Since Il Gobbo was killed on the doorsteps of the Unione Proletaria headquarters the press has injected a strong political flavor into the affair, seasoned on one side by AVANTI which claims Albano innocent of political connections and spiced on the other hand by UNITA which alleges that the hunchback was the agent of sinister elements within the Unione Proletaria. A well informed source traces this schism in the UNITA-AVANTI political front to the fact that at the time of the Allied occupation of Rome Albano cancelled his membership of the Communist party and joined the Socialists.

4. The Course of Epuration

In a report on the activities of the Assistant High Commission for Epuration from 15 August to 31 December 1944 the former Assistant High Commissioner (Scoccimarro) describes the task of the legislator to rehabilitate the public administration "in a spirit of wide human understanding". At the close of the year the organization of the Commission ranged from a general and a special secretariat through 16 offices of investigation (one for each ministry, one for government dependent or controlled bodies, one for the province and commune of Rome and one for the professional lists in the province of Rome), offices for the provinces, for commissions of first instance, for suspensions and for appeals, down to an information office, technical services and a police office. In 41 of the provinces of Liberated Italy were delegates appointed on designation of the local CLN in conjunction with the prefect - men chosen for the immaculacy of their non-Fascism. One hundred and twenty-five commissions of first instance were functioning, with a further 44 about to be appointed; there was a provincial commission for Rome and nine were to be appointed for Avellino, Benevento, Macerata, Matera, Puglia, Potenza, Rieti and Salerno. Finally, there was a Central Commission, with its own work and organization, which dealt with appeals lodged against the findings of the commissions of first instance.

In the period covered by the report commissions of first instance concluded 3,688 proceedings, deciding on 857 dismissals, 1,461 "lesser sanctions" and 1,530 acquittals. The Assistant High Commissioner, to whom the decisions were conveyed, presented 227 appeals to the Central Commission. He requested 1,258 suspensions from service and obtained 600. A further 2,817 suspensions, mainly of lower officials, were effected on the initiative of the various administrations, but in many cases the suspensions were revoked by the Assistant High Commissioner, concentrating rather on getting the big fish into his net. This was partly because the suspensions had been [illegible] not consistent with the July decree

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In the period covered by the report commissions of first instance concluded 3,888 proceedings, deciding on 897 dismissals, 1,461 "lesser sanctions" and 1,530 acquittals. The Assistant High Commissioner, to whom the decisions were conveyed, presented 227 appeals to the Central Commission. He requested 1,256 suspensions from service and obtained 800. A further 2,917 suspensions, mainly of lower officials, were effected on the initiative of the various administrations, but in many cases the suspensions were revoked by the Assistant High Commissioner, concentrating rather on getting the big fish into his net. This was partly because the suspensions had been made under Allied ordinances not consistent with the duly decreed "Sanctions against Fascism" and partly because he did not wish to clutter up the works with a mass of cases involving unnecessarily prolonged sufferings or discomfort for the guilty for unjustified by the immediate exigencies envisaged in the decree. Of more than 16,000 cases deferred for epuration trial the Commissioner was responsible for 5,104, the central and local administrations 11,364. In conformity with the general policy to hit at the higher grades and to be indulgent where possible in the low, more than 80% of the defendants were in the top four grades, middle grades contributed only 20% and the lower grades only 1%. By 30 November, the date decided upon, the High Commissariat had concluded its investigations in all ministries except Education, Interior and Grace and Justice, where special circumstances made a clear sheet impossible. Cases not concluded were either withdrawn or are still under investigation.

Although "unyielding to reproachable weaknesses or to corrupting influences" the Assistant High Commissioner issued general directives from time to time, opposing excessive rigidity and extremism.

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The spirit of the law was always to prevail over the letter. Many factors were to be taken into careful consideration. For instance, the repentant Fascist and the good official were not to be removed out of hand as a result of hasty judgment, because the law was designed as a means of moral rehabilitation, not as a measure of political persecution. The aim was to "remove the irreconcilables". As a general rule greater clemency was recommended for the lower grades, especially where dismissal would involve the ruin of families. Effective epuration of the higher grades would, it was argued, effect such a sound cure in the administration that minor discrasties would find it hard to breathe in the healthy atmosphere created. It was hardly likely that the ardent "squadrista", "antemarcia" or "marcia su Roma" could have remained with faith and mentality unimpaired without considerable advancement! And such a title as "squadrista" might have been more nominal than indicative of intransigent Fascism. Ever continued allegiance to the republican fascist government, where the loyalty was due primarily to avoid loss of employment, family perishio or starvation, was to be judged with full regard to all extenuating circumstances,and sanctions, if unavoidable, were to be of the smallest degree. Loss of pension in particular was to be avoided, except in the most flagrant cases of peculation or collaboration. Nor was suspension during proceedings to have any bearing on the decisions of the commissions.

By such means it was the desire and hope of the High Commissariat to carry out the task of epuration by "Tempering the necessary severity with wholesome criteria of impartiality and indulgence and by showing a sense of juridical and political understanding".

5. Economic Front

LANDED COSTS - H.M.Bunker, price economist, has received the first sizeable batch of consolidated advices on the landed cost of goods being imported into Italy, a piece of information keenly sought after, and in view of the growing import of essential materials, urgently needed. Definition of the cost of these goods is the first step toward a sensible attitude toward Italian prices in relation to world prices, Mr. Bunker explains. Complete lists of landed costs should be available within about three weeks, after which they will be published in the form of Italian equivalents. For example, the landed cost of 100 lbs. of wheat is $6.66. For the Italian equivalent, read on next issue.

PRIORITIES BOARD - The Hq. Priorities Board, set up to decide what should be given to whom first, has not, organized itself, is working out procedures and has got far enough along to tackle its first problem, that of salvaged clothing, or "rags", as Col. Evans,

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PRIORITIES BOARD - The Hq. Priorities Board, set up to decide what should be given to whom first, has met, organized itself, is working out procedures and has got far enough along to tackle its first problem, that of salvaged clothing, or "rags", as Col. Evans, director of the Commerce Sub-Commission puts it. The board consists of Col. Densmore, acting vice president of the Economic Section, as chairman; Mr. Harlan Cleveland, executive director, Economic Section; Col. R.R.Cripps, chief staff officer of the Civil Affairs Section, and Col. C.W.I.Shipp, chief staff officer to the Chief of Staff. Priority claims are filed with sub-commissions which have materials or services to allocate. The board then sits in judgment, with interested sub-commissions in attendance. The allocating sub-commissions ask the board to decide to whom they should give their goods when the claims pile in too thick and fast. Properly co-ordinated, it is hoped to work out, through this medium, a three-months' forecast of supply and demand which should materially help operations for both speed and reliability. On the salvaged clothing problem, the background is this: The Land Forces Sub-Commission gets first crack at old Allied Army clothing to salvage it for the Italian Army. The remainder - and a pretty sad lot of it - then goes to the Commerce, which a month ago handed over salvage operations to the Italian Government but has just had to take it back. Various agencies of the armed forces which have civilian labor ask for allotments of clothing. Poser: Who should get it before whom? Available now for distribution 14,000 items.

awaiting processing are 80,000 lbs. of wool clothing, 149,000 lbs. of cotton and 61,000 lbs. of mixed, besides 10,000 pieces of uniforms. The decision arrived at was to distribute available clothing on a pro rata basis to agencies of the armed forces for employees doing heavy work in exposed places.

OLIVE OIL CAMPAIGN - The Agriculture Sub-Commission is getting close to the drying stage itself from the heat being generated by its olive oil program. There are daily arrivals from the field of the officers assigned to the campaign. Short training courses are being given at headquarters to the recruits. Explicit instructions on what Allied officers may and may not do in Italian Government territory to help the Italians are being worked out. Regional commissioners in AMG territory are to be asked, exported and finally instructed to make a good showing and set a good example for the AMG side of the collection. Of the 800,000 qtl. target, 170,000 are to be collected in AMG areas, notably Tuscany. To date the collections for entire Liberated Italy, as of 15 January, were 147,305 qtl., compared with 485,863 qtl. collected by the same date two years ago. Transportation Sub-Commission is pitching in with some good coordination, being ready to provide 50 to 100 trucks for the second pressing of the olives. Incidentally, of the 60 officers assigned to the drive, 41 will be used in the Southern Region and 19 in AMG areas. Lastly, there is the question of whether the Italians are holding back on olive oil for fear the Allied Armies will take it all. Agriculture officers report this as a real fear in the villages. It has been requested that AC put out a statement saying that none of the olive oil will go to the Allied troops. But can it? Especially when one thinks of all the officers' messes and dinner salads over which AC has no control.

REQUISITIONING - The AC won the other day what the Industry Sub-Commission(native agent in the case) modestly will not term a victory but a hopeful sign for the future. Peninsular Base Section wrote into Hq. asking about the possibility of requisitioning the machine works of the big Solvay caustic soda plant at Rosignano, essential to Italian economy. AC immediately contacted AFHQ and got a ruling that the key plant was not to be touched. What most gratifies the economic people is that, at long last, it will at least have a voice in ruling as to the utilization of industrial premises and even hopes to get plants requisitioned through the newly-formed Industrial Coordination Committee of AFHQ.

EXPORTS - Permission previously granted by AFHQ to AC to handle matters of exports directly with London and Washington has now been confirmed by messages from those capitals.

CENTRAL POWER - A notable step forward in the electrical power reconstruction of Central Italy took place late Saturday, 29 January, when a long-shorthaul plan of the Public Works and Utilities

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for the AMG side of the collection. [illegible] qtl. barley, 170,000 are to be collected in AMG areas, notably Tuscany. To date the collections for entire Liberated Italy, as of 15 January, were 147,305 qtl., compared with 485,353 qtl. collected by the same date two years ago. Transportation Sub-Commission is pitching in with some good coordination, being ready to provide 50 to 100 trucks for the second pressing of the olives. Incidentally, of the 60 officers assigned to the drive, 41 will be used in the Southern Region and 19 in AMG areas. Lastly, there is the question of whether the Italians are holding back on olive oil for fear the Allied Armies will take it all. Agriculture officers report this as a real fear in the villages. It has been requested that AC put out a statement saying that none of the olive oil will go to the Allied troops. But can it? Especially when one thinks of all the officers' messes and dinner salads over which AC has no control.

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CENTRAL POWER - A notable step forward in the electrical power reconstruction of Central Italy took place late Saturday, 20 January, when a long-cherished plan of the Public Works and Utilities Sub-Commission was put into effect amid not inconsiderable fanfare not to mention social tea and cakes and now-do-you-do's. The event was the establishment of a central control system for electrical generating facilities whereby surplus energy can be transferred to points more urgently needed, a more steady supply to essential installations made possible as well as the regulation of the up-to-now rather erratic frequencies and voltages. The new system will operate at a frequency of 45 cycles. Col. L. A. Jenny (A), director of the sub-commission, who, incidentally, has just won his eagles, for which congratulations, gives full marks for the achievement to Lieut. Col. W. H. Lapper (B), his electrical expert, who has had many years' experience on the Central Electricity Board of England. The centralization of control in such a tightly-knit hydro-electric economy as Italy has been long over-due and is a radical innovation in Italian practice. The linking of all the smaller systems into one grid system was celebrated at headquarters with speeches by Col. Jenny and Minister of Public Works Mulni who cut a pretty red ribbon and then spoke into the telephone giving the first order for linking up the systems. Afterwards some scores of

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guests, both Italian and Allied, drank tea, sipped vermouth and ate fancy little cakes handed around by bustling white-coated waiters from the Grand Hotel. One fine sweet had a fancy superstructure in the shape of a turbine. (Let it be added that the description of the sweets regretably comes from visual, not oral, experience, because we were too busy to stay for the festivities).

6. A Homely Tale from Marina Palmense

Marina Palmense, which (you may or may not know) is not far from Macerata, was impertinently desecrated, so it appears, by what the Germans probably called a Comando raid on January 18. The raid, as Major Jackson, Provincial Public Safety Officer, remarks, achieved nothing; but the incidental details, as reported by the local CCRR, are so lurid that we think some of them might please detection-minded readers. Here is an extract:

"There seems to be no doubt of the fact that the signals noted at the highest point of the erection of Torre di Palme were made by a German spy. In fact, in the course of the investigations carried out, it was discovered that on the 16 or 17 of this month, about 1100 hours, an individual disguised as a pilgrim, of medium-robust stature, with reddish hair and beard, with a reddish complexion, with a round face, and apparently 40 to 45 years, wearing a civilian cap of a dark red color with a visor, with a faint dark red overcoat, rugged and carrying a stick, was seen going around the fraction and paying attention to the points which overlooked the beach. An adolescent boy, sensing that he might be a spy, asked him, "Do you speak German", and he acted as if he would hit the boy with the stick, showing evidently that he well understood what the boy meant. He spent about half an hour in the inhabited part of the fraction, then the pilgrim went toward the beach, where he was lost to view.

"Yesterday, the 18th, at about 1100 hours, the same self-styled pilgrim was seen to go past on the road that leads from the Adriatic national road to the fraction of Capodarco, in the direction of that town, with a sack on his left shoulder. Following this, according to orders received, a search was immediately begun for the criminal, but up to now it has been without result. At the same time, neighboring stations were notified so that they could provide for similar searches in their territory unless higher command provides otherwise."

So now you know who to look for - unless higher command provides otherwise.

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"There seems to be no doubt of the fact that the signals noted at the highest point of the fraction of Torre di Palma were made by a German spy. In fact, in the course of the investigations carried out, it was discovered that on the 21 or 22 of this month, about 1100 hours, an individual disguised as a pilgrim, of medium-robust stature, with reddish hair and beard, with a reddish complexion, with a robust frame, and apparently 40 to 45 years, wearing a civilian cap of a dark red color with a visor, with a faint dark red overcoat, rugged and carrying a stick, was seen going around the fraction and paying attention to the points which overlooked the beach. An adolescent boy, sensing that he might be a spy, asked him, "Do you speak German", and he acted as if he would hit the boy with the stick, showing evidently that he well understood what the boy meant. He spent about half an hour in the inhabited part of the fraction, then the pilgrim went toward the beach, where he was lost to view.

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7. The Wise Art of Rebutting Criticism

Enterprising Allied newspaper correspondents are apt to cable to the world some of the acid comments of the Italian Press, and visiting MPs and Congressmen may swallow them entirely. AC PRO is supposed to mitigate such evils as best he can. Here is an example:

On December 15 the RICOSTRUZIONE of Rome published a particularly virulent article describing in harrowing terms the plight of Foggia. The article conveyed the impression that Foggia, having been thoroughly bombarded and fought over, was being systematically looted and despoiled by the Allied Air Forces. Not knowing the correct answer we sent this article, for information, to the Southern Regional Commissioner, whose interesting reply is worth quoting. He wrote, in part:

"The article is like every similar article dealing with a devastated city. It is exaggerated, but not to a degree which could justify our claiming that it was distorted. It is perfectly

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true that a very great deal of the available accommodation, which remains intact in Foggia, is occupied by Allied units. It is also perfectly true that buildings are being used for Allied Clubs. It is further perfectly true that a good deal of materials, bricks, stone etc., have been taken out of the city of Foggia to be used in the construction of huts, flooring of tents etc. in the camps and airfields of the American Air Force. The maintenance of a reasonable balance between troop requirements and the needs of the civil population becomes one of our greatest preoccupations. While there is no doubt that the standard of accommodation demanded by the Air Force is high, I am not prepared to sit in judgment upon it. The young officers of the Air Force are engaged in hazardous combat work and deserve reasonable comfort, when they are not flying. There are two real answers to the article. The first is the general one that you cannot embark upon a major modern war without running risk of bringing misery to your own population. The second and more particular one is that the best way in which the Allies can help Italy is to bring the war to an end as rapidly as possible. One of the most potent instruments towards an early close of the war is an Allied Air Force operating from its bases in Foggia Province."

This seemed very sensible, although of course it would do nothing to reassure the millions of armchair humanitarians back home who, after reading extracts from RICOSTRUZIONE, blame AC and AMG. A little later we had a letter, equally interesting, from Lieut. Colonel H. N. Bright, Zone Commissioner of Foggia, to whom Brigadier Dunlop had forwarded the article. He wrote, in part:

"The article was written by the Director of the Polygraphia in Rome - a close friend of the Sindaco SBANO of the same Political Party - Democratic Labour. SBANO was a "small" lawyer in Foggia before becoming Sindaco, and by virtue of this appointment has materially increased his practice. He is, moreover, an ambitious man and an aspiring Politician. Most of his time, therefore, is spent either in the Law Courts or in writing or inspiring newspaper articles of the type mentioned. Now does he confine himself to one paper, vide various articles in attached "RICOSTRUZIONE DAUNA", and other papers in the Province. The theme throughout is the same, i.e. the self-glorification of SBANO so that he may be acceptable to the people of Foggia, probably during the coming Elections".

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"Much of the article is true, as you so rightly say. I do feel that after 10 months occupation more consideration should be given to this bombed city by the Italian Government. Foggia Province has received little or no consideration by the Italian Government for its great work in grain producing during the last harvest. No allotment of clothing has been made to either its agricultural labourers, its salt workers, its charcoal workers, its woodcutters and its street cleaners. No railway facilities exist linking its important towns with the capital and with connections to Lucera,

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This seemed very sensible, although of course it would do nothing to assuage the millions of armchair humanitarians back home and, after reading extracts from RICOSTRUZIONE, blame AC and AMG. A little later we had a letter, equally interesting, from Lieut. Colonel H. W. Bright, Zone Commissioner of Foggia, to whom Brigadier Dunlop had forwarded the article. He wrote, in part:

"The article was written by the Director of the Polygraphic in Rome - a close friend of the Sindaco SBANO of the same Political Party - Democratic Labour. SBANO was a "small" lawyer in Foggia before becoming Sindaco, and by virtue of this appointment has materially increased his practice. He is, moreover, an ambitious man and an aspiring Politician. Most of his time, therefore, is spent either in the Law Courts or in writing or inspiring newspaper articles of the type mentioned. Nor does he confine himself to one paper, vide various articles in attached "RICOSTRUZIONE D4UNA", and other papers in the Province. The theme throughout is the same, i.e. the self-glorification of SBANO so that he may be acceptable to the people of Foggia, probably during the coming Elections". 4774

"Much of the article is true, as you so rightly say. I do feel that after 18 months occupation more consideration should be given to this bombed city by the Italian Government. Foggia Province has received little or no consideration by the Italian Government for its great work in grain producing during the last harvest. No allotment of clothing has been made to either its agricultural labourers, its salt workers, its charcoal workers, its woodcutters and its street cleaners. No railway facilities exist linking its important towns with the capital and with connections to Lucera, where both the Prefettura, Hq Allied Commission, Appeal Court, Alimentation etc., offices are located. It's bus services, such as they are, are rapidly deteriorating for lack of spare parts and tyres. As I have said in my report for last month, the requisitioning in Foggia requires independent enquiry. Lists of requisitioned property have been asked for and have been refused by the Town Major who appears to be intolerant of any Italian making any request no matter how reasonable, particularly in connection with his property. I should, therefore, be grateful to you for any action you can take to provide some of the needs of Foggia, and remedy some of its justifiable complaints, most of which were, I believe, brought to the notice of H.E. The Minister of Public Works by Italian officials on his visit to Foggia yesterday."

Brigadier Dunlop writes in this connection that he is doing what he can "to secure better rail communication between Foggia and Lucera and to help in other ways the admittedly difficult situation at Foggia".

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Forria is only one problem. But, gentle reader, if you were us with these facts in your possession, and were expected to erase the effects of the RICOSTRUZIONE article, how would you do it? Its a nice parlour game for the long winter evenings at CHIANCIANO and MONTECATINI.

6. Odds and Ends

Col. E.B.Rayne, 5th Army AMG chief of staff, is back with us after a leave in his native South Africa..Four trucks with food for snowbound Castel del Sangro in the Abruzzi have been battling the impassable roads for nine days to get into the town while Italian-flown planes of the NAAF finally succeeded in dropping 10 tons of flour a few days ago..The Transportation Sub-Commission has just received a thorough over-hauling at the hands of its director, Mr. Merritt H. Taylor (A), and newly joined Deputy Director Col. M.S. Thomas (B), who will now direct a Planning Staff and five sections: Administration, Movements, Rail, Road and Ports and Warehouses..The Granai del Popolo, as of 20 January, stands at 10,560,610 qtl. or 88 per cent, of the 11,800,000 qtl. target..Good news for American officers came through again this week in the form of 28 more promotions: two to Colonels (Alfred C. Bowman, Emilia Regional Commissioner, and Louis A. Jonny, Public Works S/C director); nine to Lieutenant Colonel; five to Major, and 12 to First Lieutenant - to all congratulations..150000 tons of UNRRA goods, mostly food, are expected to arrive by the end of February: Transportation S/C is making preparations to store the goods in its warehouses until the UNRRA organization is prepared to take over such physical details..Mr. John Rayner will head PWB 15th Army Group and Mr. George Ethan PWB in AC Italy during the liquidation of the latter in the re-organization of PWB now going on..The glass industry is looking up, though not fast enough to put glass into all schools and hospitals needing it during this winter: still, the Solarma works at Rome now goes into immediate production of 10,000 sq.m. monthly and at Col il Val d'Elsa near Siena enough sand has been allocated for a production of 12,000 sq.m...Automobile parts, another critical shortage item, got a boost this week when Industry S/C succeeded in requisitioning all but 16 of 130 machines in the ARCO plant in Rome, machine necessary for the manufacture of interchangeable spare parts..35,000 greatcoats idle, infested and almost rotting have been discovered in a Naples warehouse: steps to disinfest them and put them to use are being taken by the Public Health S/C and the War Materials Disposal and Prisoners of War S/C..Two moves were taken this week to get further better mutual acquaintance between regional commissioners and Headquarters sub-commissions: Space and staff are being provided at Hq. for visiting RC's and directors and deputy directors have been instructed to visit every region within the next two months..70 head of cattle, the first installment of livestock from Sardinia, have arrived at Civitavecchia for re-stocking of the Lazio-Umbria Region..77 boxes of silk worm seeds arrived at Naples by air from the Middle East, of which 17

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5. Quote from an Esteemed Contemporary

"Lust: anything softer than stone."
- from R. H. Macy's Glossary of Unfamiliar Words and Phrases in Advertising as quoted in TIME, American news magazine, Dec.11,1944.

Lionel Fielden
LIONEL FIELDEN
Major,
Public Relations Director.

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Deputy Chief of Staff

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

SECRET

R26/WB41/PRB

13 January 1945.

AC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO. 41
7 Jan 45 to 13 Jan 45

1. Political

On the eve of Epiphany (Twelfth Night) all good little Italian children go to bed with the happy conviction that the benevolent Befana will visit them during the night and bring some little present for them. The Council of Ministers, meeting on the 8th, took over the Befana role very handsomely and allotted five billion lire for a housing program, surely one of the most practical and essential measures to their credit. It might more correctly be called a shelter program since it was stressed that the funds were to go to urgent repairs rather than to new construction (that must await a more fitting time for nationwide planning) for the idea is to reduce as soon as possible the number of 'senza tetto'. Of the five billions set aside three are for repairs to public buildings and two for private ones. It was stated that the Ministries of Public Works and Industry have notified 40 of their needs in the way of raw materials, transportation and coal. Special committees have been formed in all communes to deal with the problems of the shelterless, thus assuring that the matter will be approached from a local as well as a national point of view. Also posters are to be put up everywhere explaining the machinery of the law so that the average simple householder will know where and how to put in his claim. Still playing the part of the Good Fairy the Council also approved measures to improve the lot of the fighting soldiers, raising their food allowance and doubling their cigarette ration. It sanctioned decrees raising the pay of functionaries of the judiciary and prepared to examine with benevolence the possibility of larger subsidies to needy soldiers' families.

Sforza's letter of resignation from his High Commissionership of Sanctions against Fascism was read at the meeting. He gave statistics on the work done under his administration, which he surveyed with moderate satisfaction, and expressed the belief that the process would be carried out much more rapidly in the North where it would be a simple matter of getting an answer to the question: did you or did you not collaborate with the enemy? Sforza's place is not to be filled, at least for the time being; the four Commissari Aggiunti will report to Bonomi. "A compromise solution", growled ITALIA LIBERA, which follows Sforza and all things affecting him with jealous vigilance. It is all to the good that

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will visit them during the night and bring some little present for them. The Council of Ministers, meeting on the 5th, took over the Befana role very handsomely and allotted five billion lire for a housing program, surely one of the most practical and essential measures to their credit. It might more correctly be called a shelter program since it was stressed that the funds were to go to urgent repairs rather than to new construction (that must await a more fitting time for nationwide planning) for the idea is to reduce as soon as possible the number of 'senza tetto". Of the five billions set aside three are for repairs to public buildings and two for private ones. It was stated that the Ministries of Public Works and Industry have notified 40 of their needs in the way of raw materials, transportation and coal. Special committees have been formed in all communes to deal with the problems of the shelterless, thus assuring that the matter will be approached from a local as well as a national point of view. Also posters are to be put up everywhere explaining the machinery of the law so that the average simple householder will know where and how to put in his claim. Still playing the part of the Good Fairy the Council also approved measures to improve the lot of the fighting soldiers, raising their food allowance and doubling their cigarette ration, sanctioned decrees raising the pay of functionaries of the judiciary and prepared to examine with benevolence the possibility of larger subsidies to needy soldiers' families.

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Rossini, Capo dell'Ufficio Stampa della Presidenza - i.e. Chief of the government Public Relations Office, gave another press conference on the 5th. He stated that the government was pleased with Macmillan's declaration that the Allied plan for Italy looked toward progressive restitution of responsibility for political and administrative life. He further affirmed that the Italian government had nothing against the publication of the armistice clauses nor could the government understand, "in the sphere of its competence" what were the military reasons for delaying the publication to which President Roosevelt had referred. And he admitted that there was serious

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disorder in Sicily. This, he said, was caused by rumours circulating to the effect that Italy was going to be sacrificed for the benefit of other countries. Sicily has indeed been in the headlines all week and the island of fire has cast a more lurid glow than ever over the political horizon. Details may be found elsewhere in our Bulletin; the simple fact is that the young men are resisting the call to arms, either because they have been infected with separatism as some claim or are unwilling to fight for the King (as the Leftists claim) or are simply tired of war. At any rate resistance has gone so far as to produce the paradoxical spectacle, notably in Ragusa, of men fighting in order not to fight.

An event of higher political importance than routine administrative matters or party manoeuvring was forecast in a press release of Jan 7. The release quoted the Chief Commissioner as announcing that "Rome will enjoy the first free interchange of news in over 20 years on Jan. 10th when domestic and world news agencies such as the Associated Press, International News Service, Reuters and United Press will begin the distribution of news directly to the Roman newspapers". This means, as the communique went on to state, that "world news agencies will be free to sell news to any individual Italian newspaper, and the newspapers in turn will be free to buy any world or domestic news service they wish." This, being real freedom for the press, strikes a blow for democracy and was appreciatively hailed by the Roman papers. "The long servitude of the Italian press comes to an end", said ITALIA LIBERA and similar expressions of satisfaction were to be found in the columns of POPOLO and RICOSTRUZIONE, the latter remembering to thank the Allies for this new freedom.

Two illustrious personages were invalids this week. The King was reported as in "condizioni preoccupanti" - the supplement of ITALIA LIBERA on Monday suggested that he might be dead and was promptly confiscated. And Badoglio was also reported ill - how seriously no one will tell us.

On the 8th there was a meeting of a special Interministerial Committee, headed by Bronchi, to tackle the business of "disciplining prices and fighting the black market". In bocca al lupo!

2. The Armies

No last minute news is available from the armies, but Fifth Army AMG reports that December was "the most uneventful month since last winter". The village of Barga in Lucca province changed hands twice in the space of a few days, being the first commune since the landing at Salerno to be lost after the setting up of Allied military government. It is back now in Allied hands but not before the Republican Fascist radio had put out a message of grateful thanks to

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On the 9th there was a meeting of a special Interministerial Committee, headed by Gronchi, to tackle the business of "disciplining prices and fighting the black market". In bocca al lupo!

2. The Armies

No last minute news is available from the armies, but Fifth Army AMG reports that December was "the most uneventful month since last winter". The village of Barga in Lucca province changed hands twice in the space of a few days, being the first commune since the landing at Salerno to be lost after the setting up of Allied military government. It is back now in Allied hands but not before the Republican Fascist radio had put out a message of grateful thanks to AMG for a ten-day stock of civilian food the enemy found in the village. In Florence agitation continues against the prefect and at the end of the month the Provincial Commissioner and the city SCAO had to administer a sharp rebuke to the Committee of Liberation for attempting to interfere with the administration. Static conditions at the front have accentuated a general feeling of frustration among the population. The Communists are easily the best organized party and the political fray has now been joined by an underground group of extreme Anarchists, not unconnected, it is thought, with the various recent crimes of violence. Relations with Allied troops are good, marred only by complaints of misconduct on the part of American colored troops on the coast. Much discontent is evident over the scarcity and high price of food but the freezing cold weather has made fuel loom even larger in the public mind. The scarcity is due entirely to lack of transport. An olive oil ration distributed in nearly all the communes caused general satisfaction, but opinion is reserved on future prospects. With the new year begins the supply of cigarettes to the civilian population - previously they had gone only to patriots.

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The work of the Carabinieri comes in for special praise and the reserve waiting to go north has proved extremely useful during the lull in military operations. In Florence there were several cases of serious crime, including the theft of Allied property and attempted bribery of the military police. A band of Patriots broke jail in Pistoia to liberate a prisoner held for wrongful possession of arms: the liberators are now in jail, but the ex-prisoner is still free. The arrest of 11 ex-partisan terrorists also in Pistoia has caused widespread satisfaction. A remarkable increase in forged currency is reported, 90 counterfeit 1,000 lire notes having been discovered in Florence and some 30 elsewhere. It is suspected that the notes enter through the port of Livorno. Health in general is good, except for Prato where a typhoid epidemic hospitalized 10% of the population. Over 3,500 refugees were evacuated during the month, nearly all to Southern Italy. In Lucca there was a run on the banks, fortunately not too serious, by a population over-sensitive to war rumours.

3. Guerra Siciliana

Sicily, since January 3, has been having a little war of its own. We all know by now that the causes of war are extremely difficult, not to say dangerous, to analyze: far be it from us to make the attempt.

But perhaps it may be said that one BRANCATO made a flaming Fascist speech at Agrigento on January 7 and that Major J.T.Manuel, in an extremely interesting report on Public Safety in Sicily during December, analysed Sicilian protests against the call-up as follows:

(a) As ITALY had not been declared an Ally and was presumably regarded as a conquered people, for what was she fighting?
(b) Why were the Armistice Terms not published?
(c) What were the conditions of service, equipment, etc. (one rumour stated that recruits were to be sent to fight JAPAN).
(d) Why had the call-up been made immediately prior to the Christmas and New Year festivities?
(e) Why serve while brothers and other relatives were still over-seas in P.O.W. Camps?
(f) Why leave families to starve in present difficult economic conditions?
(g) Why should those with Separatist and/or Republican sentiments fight in the Italian Army?

It was reported on January 7 that conditions were serious in the towns of Vittorio, Comiso and Modica, that 100 Italian soldiers had been disarmed by the populace, that further troops had been despatched and that unconfirmed reports indicated 4 Italian soldiers and

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It was reported on January 7 that conditions were serious in the towns of Vittoria, Comiso and Modica, that 100 Italian soldiers had been disarmed by the populace, that further troops had been despatched and that unconfirmed reports indicated 4 Italian soldiers and 6 CCRB were killed. After this a positive hail of contradicting reports about conflicts began to come in from various authorities. Judging as best we can from these, we gather that reinforcements of 800 Italian troops arrived at Ragusa (where the call-up had been postponed until order was restored) from Syracuse on January 8 sustaining casualties of 1 killed, 18 injured and 6 missing, 3 rioters also being killed. The 18th Artillery Regiment attacked at Comiso, which was now firmly held (and the approaches mined) by 1000 rioters. By the 9th General Roncs had restored order in Ragusa, but the Artillery unit had got lost, stolen or strayed somewhere, and Colonel Leonardi was stated to be out looking for it in "the only available tank". Meanwhile both MAAF and AC had got hotted up about the use of Italian airplanes, one S.M. 79 having been moved to Catania without reference to the Allies and another having, for some mysterious reason, returned to Rome. Orders were issued on January 6 that no fighter aircraft were to be used in Sicily, though reconnaissance or supply dropping by S.M.79's was permitted. The despatch of two Italian cruisers to Sicilian

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waters was also authorized. On the 10th 300 Italian troops (whose train from Avricento had been held up by mixters with machine-guns) entered Vittoria: total Italian army casualties 3 wounded; civilian, 3 killed and 20 wounded. Comiso - to judge from our information - was holding out to the last man, having presumably swallowed the artillery unit and tank and possibly Colonel Leonardi as well of whom no more had been heard by us. But on the 11th came, we must confess, something of an anti-climax, when we learnt that "General Brisotto's troops entered Comiso at 1200 hours. Population showed no reaction at all to entry of troops". This PWB report adds "Although order now restored main towns Ragusa province, practically no rebels or arms captured. These will remain a potential danger..." And District HQ remarks laconically" Anticipate this action will terminate disturbances but further disorders are likely to occur".

In these somewhat confusing skirmishes the Allies were, needless to say, strictly non-belligerent and non-interventionist. (We could wish that communications did not share this detachment). Last time that Sicily was having its fun, we understood on the best authority that Catania had now no AC officers and said so, unguardedly, in this Bulletin. Which brought us a prompt and just protest from Lt.Colonel Walker, who informs us that he, as Provincial Commissioner, with an Executive officer, Supplies officer and an Export Division officer, are all at Catania. We apologize. A picture postcard from the island would not come amiss.

4. -And Sardinia

In Europe's seventh largest island, Sardinia, 1944 came to a close with a gradually returning normality symbolized by the departure from Cagliari on December 30 of the steamer "Abbazia" to resume regular service with Naples on the mainland. The return of the ship, which is plying on a bi-contrly basis and can carry up to 300 passengers and a cargo of 1,000 tons, is awaited among others by between 50 and 60 time-expired prisoners from the penal colonies, due for repatriation to their home communes in Liberated Italy. Shipping activity in December was brisk, reports the Regional Commissioner, Colonel J.A.C. Pennycuick, and 3,600 tons of imported wheat and 7,200 tons of barley were unloaded at the wharves. 750 tons of rock phosphate and 252 quintals of white bean seed also came in and the arrival of 70 tons of tobacco ensured a whole two months' cigar smoking (rationed) for the islanders. Exports for the year came to over 250,000 tons, more than a quarter of a million of which consisted of coal for the mainland. The total coal production was 376,000 and it is estimated that by using means at present in sight, and additional mines unfortunately not quite yet in sight, the monthly production could be raised from 40,000 to 70,000 tons. After coal the chief exports were salt (10,465 tons), fireclay (2,800 tons), lead (1,651 tons), pains plaster (1,000 tons), magnesium sulphate

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The long spell of dry weather before the heavy rains broke on Christmas Day was most beneficial to winter cultivation. Wheat collections for the year totalled 273,565 quintals, barley 29,966 quintals and the olive oil crop is reported to be exceptionally good. Meat prices are reasonably low, lamb being available at less than 80 lire a kilo - and no black market. Surplus cattle, horses and sheep are to replenish depleted herds on the mainland. With repairs continuing to schools and other buildings, road construction going on, work progressing on drainage schemes and on the hydro-electric installation at Flumendosa, the island is getting back more of its pre-war appearance. In Cagliari alone 600,000 lire has been spent on the clearance of war debris. The city now enjoys extended gas and electric lighting facilities and there is street lighting once more in all the main towns.

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Tradition, however, in the shape of the island's unenviable reputation for organized brigandage and casual robberies, dies hard, and was kept alive in December by an increase in the number of murders to 11 and armed robberies to 36 (compared with a monthly average of 5 and 25 respectively). Against this resurgence of irresponsibility emerges the rock-like figure of the prefect of Nuoro, "unhurt and unperturbed", after his office and dining room windows had been sprayed with bullets from an automatic weapon. And in the north of Cagliari province the shepherds' vendetta was carried one vicious stage further when a whole flock of 315 sheep was wantonly slaughtered on December 21. Nevertheless the Regional Commissioner was able to report the month as "reasonably quiet".

5. Olive Oil Campaign Starts

The olive oil campaign which was getting slowed down to a walk by reason of hoarding and black market operations is getting a shot in the arm this week as a result of a decision taken to help the Italian Government with AC personnel and plans, but at the same time making it crystal-clear that the responsibility for efficient collections in Italian Government territory belongs to none other than the Italian Government. Mr. Leland G. Albaugh (A), director of the Agriculture Sub-Commission; his olive oil brain truster and field man, Maj. J.R.T.Crawford (B), and Maj. G.M.Duncan (B), respectively, and sundry Italian officials met at Naples this week to lay detailed plans which will shortly be sent to the field. Sixty teams, in which Allied officers will participate with Italian officials and police who will total about 400, will be sent throughout Liberated Italy into the olive oil areas (except Sicily, by the way) to insure that collections are made. (There will be modifications in procedure, of course, in AMG territory). Italian Government road blocks will be manned 24 hours a day, trains will be searched, records of olive oil mills and presses will be examined. Italian courts have been ordered by the Government to make examples of violators and a wide publicity campaign has been organized. The goal has been set at 800,000 qtl. by the end of April, enough to give all ration card holders 200 grams a month south of the Pisa-Rimini line, fill Italian Army requirements, to provide for the devastated areas and even stockpile for the North in a small way. Collected to date have been 118,382 qtl., a bad show when one recalls that the comparable figure for two years ago was 419,486 qtl. Allied officers are being carefully instructed that in Italian Government territory they must only advise and supervise but not take part in actual seizures or executive action. Arrests (except of Allied personnel carrying oil on military vehicles) will be carried out by Italians, especially action against black market rings who are believed to be holding considerable quantities of oil for future sales. Special Italian agents, armed with letters of authority from Prime Minister Bonomi, also will impress on Italian prefects the necessity of drastic action. Let us hope for the best.

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The olive oil campaign which was getting slowed down to a walk by reason of hoarding and black market operations is getting a shot in the arm this week as a result of a decision taken to help the Italian Government with AC personnel and plans, but at the same time making it crystal-clear that the responsibility for efficient collections in Italian Government territory belongs to none other than the Italian Government. Mr. Leland G. Albaugh (A), director of the Agriculture Sub-Commission; his olive oil brain trusters and field men, Maj. J.R.T. Crawford (B), and Maj. G.M. Duncan (B), respectively, and sundry Italian officials met at Naples this week to lay detailed plans which will shortly be sent to the field. Sixty teams, in which Allied officers will participate with Italian officials and police who will total about 400, will be sent throughout Liberated Italy into the olive oil areas (except Sicily, by the way) to insure that collections are made. (There will be modifications in procedure, of course, in AMG territory). Italian Government road blocks will be manned 24 hours a day, trains will be searched, records of olive oil mills and presses will be examined. Italian courts have been ordered by the Government to make examples of violators and a wide publicity campaign has been organized. The goal has been set at 800,000 qtl. by the end of April, enough to give all ration card holders 200 grams a month south of the Pisa-Rimini line, fill Italian Army requirements, to provide for the devastated areas and even stockpile for the North in a small way. Collected to date have been 119,362 qtl., a bad show when one recalls that the comparable figure for two years ago was 419,408 qtl. Allied officers are being carefully instructed that in Italian Government territory they must only advise and supervise but not take part in actual seizures or executive action. Arrests (except of Allied personnel carrying oil on military vehicles) will be carried out by Italians, especially action against black market rings who are believed to be holding considerable quantities of oil for future sales. Special Italian agents, armed with letters of authority from Prime Minister Bonomi, also will impress on Italian prefects the necessity of drastic action. Let us hope for the best.

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6. PWB Loses Out

The Psychological Warfare Branch, whose tentacles of radio, film, press and leaflet propaganda have been spreading more and more widely through Northern Italy and the Balkans is now withdrawing some of them from Liberated Italy in conformity with the general policy of allowing Italians to run their own house. In recent months there have been a good many discussions about the functions, present and future, of the PWB. To put the matter in a nutshell, it may be said that propaganda backed by force, if too long continued, may develop into a monopoly of controlled opinion which has little in common with democracy. In the course of its varied activities the PWB has naturally built up large staffs of Italians and - what is perhaps more important - "invisible" assets in training of personnel, circulation of newspapers, methods of distribution, and channels of

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information, besides visible assets, now difficult to remove, such as the materials used to repair radio transmitters and printing presses. The vexing question is how such assets can be transferred to other ownership without creating, on the one hand, another monopoly of a purely Italian kind, and, on the other, chaos and confusion in the world of news. On January 15 PWB Italian Theatre Headquarters ceases to exist, and PWB will be divided into two separate units - PWB XV Army Group, and PWB AC Italy, the latter extending over Liberated Italy up to the Rear Army Control Line and being only "a liquidation operation". In other words PWB will now withdraw its activities fairly rapidly from Liberated Italy. On the same day, January 15, the news agencies of the United Nations will be permitted to sell their news direct to the Rome newspapers. Italian news agencies will also be allowed to operate, the AC taking care, as far as it can, to prevent the growth of any monopolistic screening agency such as STEFANI was. For the time being the PWB will continue to supply news to the provinces, until recommendations for its channels of distribution (a knotty point when communications are as poor as they are to-day) have been made by a technical committee now sitting under the chairmanship of the Chief Commissioner. The PWB-controlled newspaper, CORRIERE DI ROMA, will also disappear, at least as far as its name is concerned: the Rome press is much exercised to know whether its machinery and employees will revert to the former owners, who, so it is said, flourished under Fascism. Other legacies of PWB such as films, publications, propaganda shops, and even perhaps the hush-hush "D" intelligence section, are likely to come under AC control or coordination, modified by the participation of OWI and MOI and the Rome embassies, and in the course of God's, or the Allies', good time, reverting to Italian hands. Perhaps the most interesting point about the shift in ownership or control of all such projects and propaganda weapons is that no one has yet discovered a method which is not either arbitrary or plutocratic. In other words, a newspaper or radio station can be handed to a Government or a deserving group, which is an arbitrary action, or allowed to find the highest bidder, which is a plutocratic solution. Short of breaking things up altogether, there seems to be no solution which could be called strictly democratic.

7. Odds and Ends

Lieut.Col.F.Craig(S) has left coordinating the devastated areas headquarters relief staff and taken on the directorship of the Patriots Branch...Mrs. Susanna Agnelli, a relative of the Fiat family, has donated the Public Health Sub-Commission five brand-new ambulances, complete with drivers and English-speaking nurses, to serve in the Fifth Army A/G area...The first regularly scheduled civilian passenger train between Rome and Naples will leave Rome the morning of January 22 as the start of what is hoped will be a thrice-weekly timetable...Another first will be the navigation by regular shipping of the River Tiber within a few days when a schooner will traverse the channel for the

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61 promotions: 60 from Captain to Major, 11 from Major to Lieutenant Colonel and one Lieutenant Colonel to Colonel, the word continuing that some further promotions will be announced within a couple of weeks...Brigadier Upjohn, vice president of the Civil Affairs Section, on January 12 presented Mr.S.M.Keeny, chief of the UNRRA Mission, to Prime Minister Bonomi, making the occasion the first official contact between the civilian agency and the Italian Government...Limited service enlisted men numbering about 300 will replace an equal number of general service men on the AC American strength, the transfers taking place in groups of 20 or 30 and allowing time for the replacements to be properly trained in the jobs they take over... Mr. Macmillan, Acting President, has been meeting directors of sub-commissions at Hq., getting briefed on the general picture...Commerce Sub-Commission reports Italian holders of real goods increasingly loath to part with their stuff for lire in view of the fact replacement of their stocks is quite uncertain at this stage of the game... First steps toward reconstruction of the port of Civitavecchia(so that tonnages up to 3,000 tons a day can be handled) have been taken, with fine cooperation from PBS and AFHQ. AC engineers report...The Carabinieri are finaly at their ceiling strength of 65,000, but the Public Safety Sub-Commission wants the ceiling increased to 85,000 since of the paper strength, 6,000 actually are non-effective and another 2,000 are doing MP Ital duties for the Italian Army...France has asked for permission to send commercial visitors to Italy, joining the list of American, British, Swiss and Swedish firms who have asked for the same thing...Lieut.Col.Pollock(S) has left the somewhat hectic life of supervising the Roman police to take up the Austrian planning at AFHQ... Southern Region is reorganising its headquarters on the pattern of AC Hq. with Civil Affairs, Economic and Establishment Sections...The Land Forces Sub-Commission has asked for the repatriation of 31,000 technician POW's to help complete reorganization of the Italian Army...We fully appreciate how cold it must be in the field, especially up in the mountains, but you ought to be in AC Hq., where the heating system has broken down completely, where business has to be conducted in coats and while walking briskly up and down our cubicles and where it is hoped that conversion of coal furnaces to fuel oil might get us some heat eventually(time not specified)... A permanent Northwest Italy planning committee will be set up at Hq., with Colonels Marshall and Feasey as co-chairmen...Despite the intensive epurative efforts of the Education Sub-Commission on elementary textbooks, it remained for the eagle eye of the Czechoslovak representative in Rome to discover that the fifth grade geography still described (in six lines) "Slovacchia" as established in 1939:(corrections in ink-printing are being made)...The Chief Commissioner has been visiting 10th Army Group...General Nares, who commands No. 2 District with whom AC/AMG has a lot to do in forward planning, also is in charge of Algiers, Marseilles, Corsica, Sardinia, etc., etc., an AFHQ memo informs us.

LIONEL FIELDEN
Major,
Public Relations Director.

Col. Burke
Deputy C. of S.

Col. Lisle

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

SECRET

R26/WR39/PRB

30 December 1944.

AC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO. 39
24 Dec 44 to 30 Dec 44

1. Political

Following the Bonomi line, announced some time ago, of putting first things first, the Council, meeting on the twenty-third, attacked only severely practical and urgent matters. The budget, proposed by the Ministry of the Treasury for the whole present financial administration was approved. The agreement worked out between the CGIL and various categories of employers for the payment of the "13th month" gratifica to workers (an old Italian tradition calls for double pay for December) was also sanctioned and made obligatory. The Council said that money set aside for reconstruction will do much to relieve unemployment, but against the prospect of additional unemployed as repatriation of prisoners of war gets under way, the Ministry of Public Works was instructed to prepare an emergency program. The Commissario for Food was asked to keep in mind the demands made by the CGIL, State employees were given a special Christmas bonus and finally the Council, while preparing a final plan for the pensionati - who have so far been excluded from indemnity legislation - decreed that part payments should be given them beginning Jan 1st. Having thus brightened the Christmas season for a large section of the population, the Council adjourned until the 30th.

The political stage then remained dark until the Press conference for foreign journalists given on the 27th by the Public Relations Office of the Presidenza. It was announced by the head of the Office that the Italian government was happy to have resumed diplomatic relations with Belgium and to have "reactivated" them with Roumania. Most problems that impede resumption of relations with France have been solved, he said, and the government is hopeful of speedily settling the few that remain. (Incidentally Bonomi told the Times representative that all his ministers were Francophile and that De Gasperi, the new Foreign Minister, considered reconciliation with France "his first objective"). It was stated that the war effort was and would continue to be the first concern of the government; pressing internal problems could be summed up under the headings: epuration, food, reconstruction. In the delicate matter of epuration announcement

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journal seems particularly sensitive. AVANTI was untroubled by this faux pas - if such it be - but, expressing its regret at Sforza's resignation, predicted that epuration would now come to a standstill.

During the week there has been much discussion of "l'affaire Azzi". Azzi is a general who fought against the Germans with vigour and alacrity after the armistice. Having served in Albania with the Partisans he was appointed commander of the military region Lazio-Umbria-Abruzzi. He has ideas of a strongly Republican tinge and suggested (in an article in ITALIA LIBERA, Dec 24th) that the Army be called Nazionale instead of Regio, that the formula of the oath of allegiance be changed and that various other steps be taken to democratize the service. Subsequent to making these outspoken comments he was put on inactive service. In the course of the week almost every paper in Rome has discussed his case; some returning frequently to the charge. ITALIA NUOVA, POPOLO and RICOSTRUZIONE have defended his removal; UNITA, VOCE REPUBBLICANA, ITALIA LIBERA and AVANTI have sturdily clamored that he has been wronged. TEMPO (which has no party affiliation) admired "his initiative" but found it a little out of place. AVANTI made the point that while his removal may have been inevitable and even desired by the officer himself, it seemed a pity that such a good man should have to go while generals with few different records remained. "Il caso Azzi" said Nenni, has now become "lo scandalo Azzi". Friday's ITALIA LIBERA contained a letter from the general himself, pleading that he had no idea of under-mining discipline but retracting nothing he had said and pointing with pride to his forty years service and recent accomplishments as evidence of his devotion to his country. On the same day AVANTI challenged the Ministry of War to publish a communique on the case. It may be that a first class cause celebre is in the making.

De Gasperi made his first speech as Foreign Minister, following the lines laid down by Bonomi in his instructions to the Foreign Office last July (See Bulletin No. 17, 30 July); i.e. urging a return to the traditional, pre-fascist foreign policy of Italy. Soleri's exposition of the financial situation brought ITALIA NUOVA and AVANTI together again; they both found it too Pollyanna-like in tone and agreed that an appeal to faith and confidence was not a good substitute for practical remedies for Italy's financial condition. The Pope's Christmas speech was of necessity general in terms and of course is not strictly speaking a matter of Italian politics at all. But anything emanating from the Vatican is subject to careful scrutiny and analysis those days. Comment from the Roman press was in general favorable. The Pope's definition of democracy while not entirely clear did draw a distinction between "people" and "masses" which pleased the moderate parties. He also defended - as the OSSERVATORE has occasionally

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2. AMG with the Armies

AMG entered Faenza on 16 Dec just in time to relieve some 8000 citizens, hiding in cellars in the town, from starvation. There was no flour left, and the people were grinding grain in coffee mills. The water and sewer systems were out of commission and there was no electricity. At least 20 per cent of the town has been completely destroyed, and it is estimated that 40 per cent of the buildings in the commune are ruined beyond repair. Every tower in Faenza which might have served as an observation

point was demolished by the Germans, including the towers of every church and the one on the post office building. The Bishop of Faenza, nearly 80 years of age, was killed by a shell fragment 7 December in his room in a convent some five kilometers outside the town. A memorial service was held in the Duomo on 23 December attended by AMG officials. Destruction is particularly heavy in the neighbourhood of the railway station and along both banks of the Lamone River where Route 5 runs in from Forli. Citizens have begun to return in small numbers from hiding places in surrounding villages, but most of the townspeople sheltering in cellars are still in hiding, and the number of sick and wounded among them is still unknown. An emergency hospital with 100 beds is being organized. Dyptheria serum has been sent for to ward off a threatening outbreak. Sick and wounded from a hospital which the Germans used as a machine-gun post are being transported to the AMG hospital in military ambulances. A refugee centre has been organized and between 700 and 800 from nearby hamlets will be accommodated in it. The town is still under shell fire from the German lines, but there has been no mortar fire since 21 Dec. Very few dead and wounded civilians were found in the streets when the Allies arrived.

Exhibits from the famous Museum of Ceramics were removed for safekeeping some time ago to two private houses. One of them has been knocked flat and the priceless examples of early Faience which it contained are buried in the rubble. The other house is intact. The Army is co-operating with AMG to see that the rubble in the ruined house is not touched until experts can begin salvage operations.

The food situation in the Commune of Faenza is not bad. At least 20,000 quintali are reported stored in different places, though some of the grain is wet. There is storage space for about 7,000 quintali in the town and AMG has brought in supplies. There seem to be adequate supplies of vegetables on farms near Faenza but importation cannot be allowed for a few days for security reasons. The electrical flour mills are all out of commission and water mills cannot operate just yet because canal walls have been smashed, but it is hoped that two will be running shortly. Water mains were fed through a gravity feed system 35 kilometers long. The pipes have been broken in several places. The Royal Engineers are installing water pumps along the Lamone and water points will be set up because the compensating reservoir has been smashed.

Doctors, nurses, technicians from the waterworks and electrical services as well as municipal employees are being allowed back into Faenza as fast as they appear. The banks have adequate funds on hand, between one and two million lire having been found in the vaults of one branch alone. The electrical transformer station was not blown up and most of the equipment was

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A Sindaco, a Vice-sindaco and a Giunta, nominated by the CLN and described unofficially by the Acting Bishop as useful and trustworthy citizens, have been appointed. The Sindaco is a man who held the position before the Fascist regime came into power. Capt. Pallotti, the CAO, says: "The CLN seem a substantial lot. There is no party wrangling among them. The town was peaceful when we came in. There were none of the usual bands of partisans

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walking around with arms and red kerchiefs. The civilians have turned in their arms to the Carabinieri and the partisans at the Caserma. This seems better than to have them disarmed by us. The clergy helped greatly to keep things under control before we arrived."

There are no ceramics factories as such in Faenza. The traditional art is carried on by families who hand on their skill and knowledge from generation to generation. Most of their work is done to order. Faenza had a furniture factory which employed 150 hands. The machines are gone and the buildings are partially wrecked. There was one silk mill which is also without machines and partly smashed.

3. Retrospect

1944 has been a memorable year in history with the taking of Rome and the long-awaited second front to say nothing of a Presidential election and various developments of military and political nature which will provide future historians with material for volumes. But in one way it has been like any other year; it was a long year to look forward to and now that it has passed the time seems to have been very short. Memories are of course highly personal yet it may well be that those of the writer - who has never been anything but a Headquarters Benny (base wallah, if you will) will be shared by many of our family. We remember that a year ago we were in Santa Cesarea; it was sunny and there was actually basking available for those who had a day off. It was cold in the hotel though (some things are apparently unchangeable), and we remember still with a shudder the long ride twice a day from Santa Cesarea to Brindisi and back. The night ride was particularly grim what with the cold, the confinement in the crowded cars and the hazard from unlighted waggons passed on the road. As for Brindisi itself we used to wonder why anyone had ever come to the town and from the moment of our arrival gossip used to play with the idea of an early move. It came and with it a cleavage in our family. Some of us learned to know Salerno where the offices were colder than the Corporazioni (honest!) and the refuge of the Cava mess no warmer though brightened by unusual good food and warmed by the charm of Lord Stansgate. Others made the acquaintance of Naples, at that time, dirty, overcrowded and inevitably cold. Still there was a good mess - remember Santa Brigida? - an officers club and - faute de mieux, in the early days - a little Swiss wineshop frequented by some, or let us be frank and say many. No, life was not all drab in Naples. The fiery glamour of Vesuvius in eruption and perhaps an occasional flaming sunset behind Posillipo will linger in our memories as long - daringly we say perhaps longer - than the first Regional Commissioners meeting, not without [illegible]

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3. Retrospect

1944 has been a memorable year in history with the taking of Rome and the long-awaited second front to say nothing of a Presidential election and various developments of military and political nature which will provide future historians with material for volumes. But in one way it has been like any other year; it was a long year to look forward to and now that it has passed the time seems to have been very short. Memories are of course highly personal yet it may well be that those of the writer - who has never been anything but a Headquarters Benny (base waliah, if you will) will be shared by many of our family. We remember that a year ago we were in Santa Cesarea; it was sunny and there was actually basking available for those who had a day off. It was cold in the hotel though (some things are apparently unchangeable), and we remember still with a shudder the long ride twice a day from Santa Cesarea to Brindisi and back. The night ride was particularly grim what with the cold, the confinement in the crowded cars and the hazard from unlighted waggons passed on the road. As for Brindisi itself we used to wonder why anyone had ever come to the town and from the moment of our arrival gossip used to play with the idea of an early move. It came and with it a cleavage in our family. Some of us learned to know Salerno where the offices were colder than the Corporazioni (honest!) and the refuge of the Cava mess no warmer though brightened by unusual good food and warmed by the charm of Lord Stansgate. Others made the acquaintance of Naples, at that time, dirty, overcrowded and inevitably cold. Still there was a good mess - remember Santa Brigida? - an officers club and - faute de mieux, in the early days - a little Swiss wineshop frequented by some, or let us be frank and say many. No, life was not all frab in Naples. The fiery glamour of Vesuvius in eruption and perhaps an occasional flaming sunset behind Posillipo will linger in our memories as long - daringly we say perhaps longer - than the first Regional Commissioners meetings, not without glamour and a certain amount of fire themselves. A chosen few among us will remember 1944 for the hysterical joy of welcome given us on our entry into Rome - even a night spent on the ground in the Villa Borghese was a small price to pay. And for all of us there will be satisfaction in recalling the warmth of the Roman summer - with all too infrequent excursions to Fregene and Ostia - and the sense of victory on the way and contact again with the life of a capital and a city unmarred by war. Winter comes again now and we shall again be cold and cough and sneeze, and it is a long way from where most of us would like to be, but in retrospect 1944 has had its points. We haven't solved all our problems; some of them even grow greater with time and even from the humble - or lower echelon - point of view the headaches are still with us and the aspirin is running out. But we have come a long way together since the gloomy days of the Internazionale and some of it has been pleasant.

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There is a proverb in this country: Buona compagnia mezza la via. One could wish 1945 may shorten the way but however long it may be we can only be grateful for the company. E a tutti buon capo d'anno!

4. Odds and Ends

Work on the devastated areas is showing some progress, Lieut.Col.F.Craig, Hq. coordinating officer on the problem, cautiously reports: The number of roofless has been reduced to 200,000; 170,000 sq.m. of canvas has been distributed, also 700 tons of clothing; a special ration scale, with a base issue of 200 grams of bread and 60 grams of pasta or flour daily is in effect; mine clearing squads have removed 60,000 mines; 30 per cent. of the bridges to isolated communes have been repaired; one G.T. company provides exclusive transport for the areas; Mr. Solomon, an American housing expert, has been touring the areas, giving expert advice on repairs; 4,000 blankets have been distributed, and supplies of cement have been obtained...Southern Region has set up an entire organization for the repair and dyeing of salvaged Army clothing, initial output to be 2,000 garments a day...Sugar beet plants are being surveyed in Southern and Central Italy...The Finance Sub-Commission reports that the current Italian budget shows total estimated expenditures at 73 billion lire and estimated receipts at 15 billion, while Italian officials were officially informed for the first time that the aggregate amount of AM lire outstanding as of 31 October was approximately 44 billion ..Flashes from the Electrical Front: The 5,500 kw. generating unit at Ceprano, which was recently repaired, developed a short circuit and damage resulting will take three months to repair; at Cervara, a 1,800 kw. unit was restored after five months' work...Discussions are afoot concerning the desirability of amalgamating the three northern regions of Liguria, Lombardy and Piemonte into one super-region, with strong sub-commission representation, and perhaps modelled organizationally after Hq. (that is, into Economic, Civil Affairs and Establishment Sections, etc.) in order to deal broadly and quickly with the heavy political-industrial problems anticipated...Only 1,000 Italians have responded to date to the military call-up in Sicily instead of the anticipated 6,000...Tuscany peasants are reported increasingly resentful of the continuing ban on hunting in their native mountains, but what otherwise can the military do in an army area...The Patriots Branch has shipped 2,000 overcoats, 2,000 sweaters, 2,500 pairs of socks and 2,500 shorts to the Patriots in the Florence area while the Fifth Army AMG has collected 2,500 trousers and 5,000 shirts for the same purpose...Olive oil amassing, as of 23 December, stood at 66,881 quintals,

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200 grams of bread and 80 grams of pasta or flour daily is in effect; mine clearing squads have recovered 65,000 mines; 30 per cent. of the bridges to isolated communes have been repaired; one G.T. company provides exclusive transport for the areas; Mr. Solomon, an American housing expert, has been touring the areas, giving expert advice on repairs; 4,000 blankets have been distributed, and supplies of cement have been obtained...Southern Region has set up an entire organization for the repair and dyeing of salvaged Army clothing, initial output to be 2,000 garments a day...Sugar beet plants are being surveyed in Southern and Central Italy...The Finance Sub-Commission reports that the current Italian budget shows total estimated expenditures at 73 billion lire and estimated receipts at 15 billion, while Italian officials were officially informed for the first time that the aggregate amount of AM lire outstanding as of 31 October was approximately 44 billion ..Flashes from the Electrical Front: The 5,000 kw. generating unit at Ceprano, which was recently repaired, developed a short circuit and damage resulting will take three months to repair; at Cervara, a 1,000 kw. unit was restored after five months' work...Discussions are afoot concerning the desirability of amalgamating the three northern regions of Liguria, Lombardy and Piemonte into one super-region, with strong sub-commission representation, and perhaps modelled organizationally after Hq. (that is, into Economic, Civil Affairs and Establishment Sections, etc.) in order to deal broadly and quickly with the heavy political-industrial problems anticipated...Only 1,000 Italians have responded to date to the military call-up in Sicily instead of the anticipated 8,000...Tuscany peasants are reported increasingly resentful of the continuing ban on hunting in their native mountains, but what otherwise can the military do in an army area...The Patriots Branch has shipped 2,000 overcoats, 2,000 sweaters, 2,500 pairs of socks and 2,500 shorts to the Patriots in the Florence area while the Fifth Army AMG has collected 2,500 trousers and 3,000 shirts for the same purpose...Olive oil amassing, as of 25 December, stood at 66,661 quintals, while the Granai dei Popolo is now 87 per cent. of the target figure of 11,600,000 qtl. or 10,088,501 qtl. collected, as of 28 December...Refugee Comings-and-Goings: 1,200 Italians left Rome for towns in Calabria and Puglie while 730 Italians came into Rome on a train from northern areas, of whom 614 were Romans...Six Members of Parliament will grace the AC with a visit shortly...A first consignment of 700 sacks of parcels for Italians from the U.S.A. arrived in Naples 26 December, while another 800 sacks are arriving January 1...Efficiency reports are now to be returned on all American officers, irrespective of rank (as in the past, when only field grade officers got the once-over), and on a new numerical calculation, Superior counting, roughly, for 7, Excellent for 5, and Very Satisfactory for 3...Both AC HQ, the regions and the Army AMG's did themselves

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proud with hospitality on Christmas, acting as Santa Claus to any number of children, poor people and unfortunates...During the week an attempt was made to steal the elephant from the Rome zoo...And the inhabitants of Itri want to take up a collection to build a monument to their most famous citizen, the bandit Fra Diavolo...We don't know what it means but that's 1944 for you...Happy New Year.

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
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PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

SECRET

R26/WB38/PRB

23 December 1944.

AC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO. 38
17 Dec 44 to 23 Dec 44

1. Political

The tension created by the long crisis may be said to have abated. The Action Party, in ITALIA LIBERA, has had one or two articles during the past week explaining why it could not have accepted a share in the Govt, and AVANTI has continued to mutter that Bonomi must be watched but in general the situation has been accepted by all parties which are looking now to the future rather than sulking - or exulting as the case might be - over the past. Sforza, having refused the post of Ambassador in Washington, was the object of a special commendatory communique issued by the Council; it was to be regretted that a man of his capacities should "for the moment" feel it his duty to refuse out of delicacy so important an assignment, but the Council hoped that he would be available in the future for the service of his Country. For the Leftist appetite for epuration has not been dulled by recent events, but even if the flattering words of the Council were merely a "consolation prize" as AVANTI called them, the gesture was symbolic of the conciliatory attitude of Bonomi towards the missing brethren. Indeed he went further and at the opening of the Council meeting (on the 20th) took occasion to point out the importance of the C.L.N. It may be that the spectacle of the unhappy lot of Greece has had a sobering effect on Italian public opinion; certainly the papers have been full of articles on Greece and there has been a tendency to look upon it as the best test case of what the future may be. "The Allies seem to forget they belong on the Liberal side" said RISORGIMENTO LIBERALE, "and if they are to go back to a policy of Westphalian understandings rather than follow the Atlantic Charter, then the Nazi-Fascists will have won the war". Much space has been given too to the Polish situation and against the wide background of international malaise the difficulties of the C.L.N. and the new Govt have been seen in proper perspective.

The Council met twice on Wednesday. At the morning meeting Bonomi stated his decision to have election lists prepared and the papers advertised the prospect of "administrative" (i.e. Communal)

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The Council met twice on Wednesday. At the morning meeting Bonomi stated his decision to have election lists prepared and the papers advertised the prospect of "administrative" (i.e. Communal and Provincial) elections next Spring. In the meanwhile Togliatti, De Gasperi, Bressio and Ruini (one from each of the four parties) were directed to make concrete proposals for setting up some kind of advisory body which will allow the "direct expression of the living forces of the Nation to collaborate with the Govt". (For the recent crisis has clearly revealed the need of some kind of parliament; Sprigge (Reuter) pointed out that the crisis was unique in that normally a Govt loses the confidence of the Chamber over some specific plan of legislation and resigns, but in this case the Govt resigned and the causes of its resignation were still being discussed a week later). The Council then approved the creation of an inter-ministerial committee to coordinate the work of economic reconstruction, increased the powers of the High Commissioners of Sicily and Sardinia who are to be aided by local "Consulte", and granted more funds to these islands for rehabilitation and improvements. The "aspiration

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to regional autonomy" expressed through the "consulte" are to be encouraged but, in case there should be any misunderstanding, the Council issued a clear-cut statement of its intention to deal firmly with separatism. The afternoon meeting delegated wide powers to the Commissariato per l'Alimentazione and sanctioned other draft decrees for relief of refugees and the homeless, and found time to pass a measure aimed at "facilitating weddings between Italians and Americans".

The anti-separatism declaration was of course aimed at Sicily. This fiery island, once described by our geography teacher as "the ball which is being kicked by the Italian boot", has been bouncing back repeatedly and vigorously for some time. The disturbances in Catania on the 14th (see last week's Bulletin, No 37) resulted in the resignation of the sindaco and the Giunta Communale, the application of a six o'clock curfew and the inevitable flood of commentary in the press. The Leftist press sees in it another episode in the separatist campaign, instigated by landowners and reactionaries, ITALIA NUOVA views it as criminal violence pure and simple, and RISORGIMENTO LIBERALE remarked that Sicilian students obviously didn't want to be called up and ought to be thoroughly ashamed of themselves and that was all there was to it.' All papers, for different reasons, agreed that it was time the Govt showed its teeth, which probably explains the baring of the Council's fangs last Wednesday.

The trial of Pentimalli and Dei Tetto ran through the week. These are the Generals accused of having surrendered Naples to the Germans without a struggle. The case was followed intently by the press which is keen to sense possible dramatic ramifications. Two attempts by the defense to have the case shifted to a military tribunal failed.

The prosecution asked the death penalty but the verdict, which came on Friday was twenty years imprisonment, which made a strange contrast, as pointed out by ITALIA LIBERA, to the 30 years given on the same day to Cornelia Tanzi, ex-mistress of Mussolini, accused only of incidental and petty "acts of collaboration" with the Nazis.

Nenni, back from London where he was accorded an "ovation" according to AVANTI (" a Fascist word"taunts IL QUOTIDIANO) seemed rather sobered by the spectacle of a Country submitting cheerfully to the most rigid discipline in order to win the war. However he reported progress and "flattering promises"in his campaign to make Italy's position better understood and to obtain for Italians a larger control over internal matters. Nenni speaking on Sunday called for unity and greater war effort. On the same day Mussolini

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2. On and off the rails

Civilian traffic carried by the railways is looking up. The freight amounted in the month of November to 303,034 tons, including 121,736 tons of foodstuffs, 31,722 tons of fuel and 21,821 tons of seed fertilizer. In Sicily a large fruit movement programme was fitted into existing train schedules and export was brisk. Cagliari movements included 1,000 tons of D.I.D. supplies, 800 tons of cheese and 1,000 tons of pigment, all for export. On 8 November a violent cyclone blew a train of five cars and engine clean off the rails in the Tirso-Chilivanni section of the Sardinian Ferrovie Complementari, killing one and injuring fifteen. Bari Division accepted bids for taking 5,880 tons of wine in approximately equal quantities to Naples and to Ortona. The same division moved 405 tons of olive oil. The amount of olive oil moved illegally is not disclosed, but on one occasion when the Bari-Naples train was searched for contraband 10 tons were found secreted on the bodies and in the baggage of travellers. Naples movements were attractively varied. Besides the more usual commodities, 6,000,000 lire in currency was taken to Bari, two cars of women and children from the Italian Embassy in Ankara were conveyed on the final stage of their journey to Rome and theatrical parties were moved, with who knows what trappings, to Bari, Taranto and Sicily. Pontecagnano's bad reputation for pilfering has lost the town its right to a daily call by the Naples-Reggio passenger train.

Speaking of pilfering, large-scale disappearances of Allied property from railway cars by organized gangs is reported by the Naples Division of the Military Rail Service and steps are being taken in conjunction with Public Safety, Southern Region, to provide police protection at the most difficult control points. Activities, it is said, are on such a scale that the Allied war effort is being impaired. The stretch of rail between San Giovanni and Salerno appears to offer particular attractions to the thieves. At Fratte Maggiore the Capo Stazione complains that he and his staff have been held up by an armed band on more than one occasion. In Naples it is known that at least four organized gangs have been working in cooperation with railroad employees anxious to line their pockets quickly at the expense of the community. Cars are run by the hi-jackers to suitable spots where black market racketeers hungrily await the spoils. The cars are unloaded, goods and money change hands on the spot with bewildering rapidity and by morning it is safe to assume that the trucks are standing in empty innocence many miles away. The Naples gangs, evidently aware their activities have not gone unobserved, are at the moment strategical followers of Brer Rabbit. Not so elsewhere. At one place (which must of course be nameless) a gang of 20 thieves were surprised by a vigilant RTO as they were pilfering grain intended for the local [illegible]

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One night an Italian clerk in the rail division with a taste for excitement decided to conduct an investigation of his own and with commendable determination carried out a lone reconnaissance in a Naples railway yard, beginning at 9 o'clock and staying out till 3 the following morning. At 11 his patience was rewarded when 11 members of the "Guerrilla Marci" emerged stealthily from the shadows and by wriggling through a hole 2 ft by 1 ft in certain of the brake vans effected an entrance into loaded rail cars. Sacks and cases were promptly handed out and the spoils divided there and then among the gang. The hi-jackers, it is evident, bear all the marks of specialized stealers, including a corps d'elite of railwaymen whose knowledge of local conditions proves invaluable in spotting likely wagons, judiciously switching points and pulling out 2 or 3 cars to more suitable positions. The cars, once selected, are

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hooked on to an engine and after what appears to be a harmless shunting operation - three railway yards in particular have bad names in this respect - are pulled up in selected spots further along the line. One favourite location for brisk illicit trade is a stretch of line conveniently situated where two adjoining roads facilitate access to black market runners and where a group of badly battered buildings makes observation difficult. Here a score or so of dealers gather to buy whatever plunder the night brings. Cars are emptied, labels destroyed, and moved far away from the scene. Some weeks ago the thieves had a field day, tapping a veritable gold mine in the shape of a car full of silk. A truck full of sugar provided another valuable haul. Five warehouses are known to exist for handling the stolen goods. The amateur investigator who reports this, ends, after deploring the sybaritic tendencies of some of the guards, by assuring his chief that, given time to develop his prowess as a sleuth, he could "manage to find out the names of some of the people concerned in these affairs."

3. Little by Little

Almost a million elementary school textbooks have been run off the presses in Italy since the Allies first landed in Sicily. Relying solely on Italian materials and newsprint from the PWB, the Education Sub-Commission was able to eke out a modest 250,000 textbooks in the Spring of 1944, but with the arrival late this year of 18,920 pounds of glue, 15½ tons of ink and over 400 tons of paper from the United States approximately 700,000 textbooks have been prepared and issued, a step toward the Sub-Commission's 3,800,000 goal. It also plans to print several million 20 to 40 page notebooks in Italy; 200,000 have been completed and a million more are now being produced in Roma. School supplies are harder to get than book-making materials. When a requisition made last Spring for penholders was returned this November for restudying, on the ground that it equalled three months total production in the United States, the Sub-Commission feelingly replied that an order for one penholder per year for every three school children in Italy is not an exorbitant request.

The job of rewriting elementary school textbooks which are the only schoolbooks ever to reach the hands of 80 percent of Italian school children was, for the newly established Elementary Textbook Committee composed of Italian teachers like rediscovering the world. Joyfully they replaced avanguardisti and sons of the wolf which figured largely in simple arithmetic problems with the easier-to-handle pears and apples, and decided that pure science provided better examples of uniform motion than Italian soldiers doing the passo-romano (German goose-step) which they deleted. In some areas where new textbooks have not yet arrived the fervor of the teacher reformers carries them to unforeseen ends. Recently, in Sardinia, an education officer was greeted by one school head who proudly showed him an old primer in which I for IMPERO had been changed to I for INGHILTERRA. Nineteen of Sardinia's forty-three schools are

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The job of rewriting elementary school textbooks which are the only schoolbooks ever to reach the hands of 85 percent of Italian school children was, for the newly established Elementary Textbook Committee composed of Italian teachers like rediscovering the world. Joyfully they replaced avanguardisti and sons of the wolf which figured largely in simple arithmetic problems with the easier-to-handle pears and apples, and decided that pure science provided better examples of uniform motion than Italian soldiers doing the passo-romano (German goose-step) which they deleted. In some areas where new textbooks have not yet arrived the fervor of the teacher reformers carries them to unforeseen ends. Recently, in Sardinia, an education officer was greeted by one school head who proudly showed him an old primer in which I for IMPERO had been changed to I for INGHILTERRA. Nineteen of Sardinia's forty-three schools are functioning, but attendance is cut down partly by problems of clothing and footwear, partly by lack of transport, and partly because older pupils are being used for work on the farms.

In the end the Fascist series of texts for the five elementary school classes was rewritten in 10 books of plain facts. Since the Fascists found it impossible to make Homer, Ovid and Virgil into protagonists of Mussolini, and algebra, geometry, physics and chemistry didn't yield to Fascist persuasion, only 709 secondary school textbooks (in addition to schoolbooks on Fascism) had to be either expurgated or destroyed and 4,117 may still be freely used. Regional education officers report satisfactory progress in eliminating Fascist personnel from the teaching staffs and supervisory posts in schools over which they have jurisdiction. One officer notes the fact that in seven out of his eight provinces the post of High Commissioner for Epuration was held by a Communist.

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"All in all" he observes "there are trends of political infiltration into a rather susceptible and easy target."

The greatest problem in reopening schools in the regions, including Italian government territory, is getting undamaged school buildings out of the hands of the requisitioning authorities. In Rome the RAAC and local military commanders when requested reduced the number of Allied occupied schools to about one half and Italian military units made an even greater reduction in the number of buildings they occupied, but the prefect and sindaco, who are the sole authorities for removing civilians and repairing and cleaning school buildings have so far made no progress. The following chart shows the trend of derequisitioning events in Rome between 20 October (when the Education Sub-Commission broadcast an appeal to Allied and Italian authorities to hand the schools back to the school children) and 1 December:

	OCCUPIED 20 Oct	OCCUPIED 1 Dec	RTN'D TO USE
Elementary			
Allies	18	10	8
Italian Forces	8	1	7
Italian Civilian Authorities	20	20	•
Refugees, etc.	43	43	0
Italian Political Parties	12	11	0
Needing Repairs, etc.	59	59	0
School Children	49	64	15
Secondary			
Allies	16	6	10
Italian Forces	5	3	2
Civilian Authorities	1	1	•
Refugees, etc.	13	13	0
Political Parties	5	4	1
Needing Repairs, etc.	33	33	0
School Children	52	65	13

In contrast to the situation in Rome, schools are beginning to function in a large number of buildings in the Naples area, and in other parts of Lazio-Umbria. In the northern provinces of Grosseto, Arezzo, Lucca, Pistoia, Siena and in Florence province south of the Arno a large percentage of the schools are open, but in some cases lack of accommodation prevents large attendances. In recently liberated Emilia plans are being perfected for the opening of schools in Forli and Ravenna. Despite realistic student aid measures, such as the plan to serve pupils hot lunches daily, it is unfortunately probable that many Italian schools, opened and operated at such effort and expense, will have to be closed down during the

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Refugees, etc.	13	13	0
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Needing Repairs, etc.	33	33	0
School Children	52	65	13

In contrast to the situation in Rome, schools are beginning to function in a large number of buildings in the Naples area, and in other parts of Lazio-Umbria. In the northern provinces of Grosseto, Arezzo, Lucca, Pistoia, Siena and in Florence province south of the Arno a large percentage of the schools are open, but in some cases lack of accommodation prevents large attendances. In recently liberated Emilia plans are being perfected for the opening of schools in Forli and Ravenna. Despite realistic student aid measures, such as the plan to serve pupils hot lunches daily, it is unfortunately probable that many Italian schools, opened and operated at such effort and expense, will have to be closed down during the coldest part of the winter for lack of glass window panes.

4. Odds and Ends

Col. Densmore, chief staff officer of the Economic Section, is officiating as acting deputy chief of staff and vice president of the Section in the absence of Mr. Antolini...Ch Well Department; 23,000 cases of citrus fruit arrived in good condition at Civitavecchia from Sicily and 1,500 cases promptly disappeared en route from the port to Rome...Sardinia is to contribute 300 horses, 500 head of cattle and 2,000 sheep to livestock-ravaged areas in the Lazio-Umbria Region...254,000 boxes of lemons have been shipped to U.K. this season already...Italian coasters and schooners are slowly coming back into their own, 22,000 tons being carried last month... AMG violations apparently center in the busiest ports, Livorno now outranking Naples, according to the latest reports, which show

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1,700 cases for November in Toscana Region, with 187 acquittals while Southern Region, which includes Naples, had only 1,003 cases but, undoubtedly as a result of a long and tested experience, saw fit to acquit only 34...The Displaced Persons and Repatriation Sub-Commission has been getting requests for individual repatriation of stranded Italians who want to come home from places as far removed as Haiti, New York and Brazil...Patriot centers are now housing 2,000, many having come through the lines to seek relief through the winter months...The weather, which has been wreaking damage to roads and rails, has interrupted flour deliveries to Reggio and Catanzaro, some communes being without flour for four days...Peasants near San Gregorio in Salerno Province staged a small riot over the new swine tax and the olive oil amassing...The AC Typhus Control Unit is now operating 10 dusting stations in Naples as a safeguard against any possible re-appearance of the epidemic of last year...Electrical Ups-and-Downs: Gained - 3,800 kw. generating capacity restored at Acquonia hydro-plant; Lost - 4,500 kw. through breakdowns at Terni and Larderello...Current Ammasi del Popolo totals: 8,936,036 qtl. or 86 per cent. of the 11,000,000 qtl. goal... Olive oil collections to date are 50,726 qtl. which, according to Agriculture S/C experts, is a pretty bad show, definitely...Major Robert Dee, the AC's former secretary-general, is back at headquarters from a northern region as AC liaison officer with UNRRA and the Economic Section's administrative officer...The inter-ministerial reconstruction committee of the Italian Government and staff officers of the Economic Section are now holding weekly pow-wows every Thursday afternoon at the Grand Hotel, taking their hair down over mutual problems...Military authorities are now approaching the Industry Sub-Commission, asking for AC views before proceeding to requisition factory buildings, a hopeful sign... Lieut.Col.John D. Ames, acting regional commissioner of Lazio-Umbria Region, is pulling a Poletti Christmas Eve by making a radio broadcast to his Romans in Italian (but not, as he adds, without a strong Chicago accent)...Rome coal needs for essential military and civilian consumers now amount to 2,300 tons a day, mostly Italian coal, of which 200 tons a day are used for Allied military installations, 300 tons for the railways which haul the coal and the rest for essential civilian users such as public utilities, hospitals, pasta factories, bakeries, cement works and key industries...You may have three guesses as to why 'Cantachiaro' disappeared this week on the day of its publication...Carabinieri did a smart job this week at Tor Marancia, rounding up a gang which had been giving trouble in the district and getting a haul which included 3 machine guns, 50 sticks of dynamite, 34 rifles and some more...On Friday night at the Bernini cinema in Rome printed leaflets were showered on the audience bearing the quotation from Rundstedt's proclamation "The hour has struck..."(made at the beginning of the present German offensive)and, of course, "Heil Hitler!" and "Viva Il Duce"...Rome will not after all be all lit up at Christmas, any extra electric power being consumed by an extension of tram

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is now operating 20 [illegible] in Naples as a safeguard against any possible re-appearance of the epidemic of last year...Electrical Ups-and-Downs: Gained - 3,800 kw. generating capacity restored at Acquoria hydro-plant; Lost - 4,500 kw. through breakdowns at Terni and Larderello...Current Granai del Popolo totals: 9,838,036 qtl. or 88 per cent. of the 11,000,000 qtl. goal... Olive Oil collections to date are 80,728 qtl. which, according to Agriculture S/C experts, is a pretty bad show, definitely...Major Robert Poe, the AC's former secretary-general, is back at headquarters from a northern region as AC liaison officer with UNRRA and the Economic Section's administrative officer...The inter-ministerial reconstruction committee of the Italian Government and staff officers of the Economic Section are now holding weekly pow-wows every Thursday afternoon at the Grand Hotel, taking their hair down over mutual problems...Military authorities are now approaching the Industry Sub-Commission, asking for AC views before proceeding to requisition factory buildings, a hopeful sign... Lieut.Col.John D. Ames, acting regional commissioner of Lazio-Umbria Region, is pulling a Poletti Christmas Eve by making a radio broadcast to his Romans in Italian (but not, as he adds, without a strong Chicago accent)...Rome coal needs for essential military and civilian consumers now amount to 2,300 tons a day, mostly Italian coal, of which 200 tons a day are used for Allied military installations, 300 tons for the railways which haul the coal and the rest for essential civilian users such as public utilities, hospitals, pasta factories, bakeries, cement works and key industries...You may have three guesses as to why 'Cantaoniard' disappeared this week on the day of its publication...Carabinieri did a smart job this week at Tor Maranoia, rounding up a gang which had been giving trouble in the district and getting a haul which included 5 machine guns, 52 sticks of dynamite, 34 rifles and some more...On Friday night at the Bernini cinema in Rome printed leaflets were showered on the audience bearing the quotation from Rundstedt's proclamation "The hour has struck..."(made at the beginning of the present German offensive)and, of course, "Heil Hitler!" and "Viva il Duce"...Rome will not after all be all lit up at Christmas, any extra electric power being consumed by an extension of tram services up to 3 a.m. to cope with crowds attending midnight mass at St. Peters...and so, may we wish to our superiors a Dignified Christmas, to our equals a Well-Provided Christmas, and to all others a (censored) Christmas.

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 324
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

Col Fiske
Col Fiske

SECRET

R26/W837/PRB

16 December 1944.

AC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO. 37
11 Dec to 16 Dec 44

file 7

1. Political

With the nomination of the Undersecretaries at the first meeting of the new cabinet on Thursday the government was able to present its complete line-up. It will be useful to append here the entire list for it will indicate graphically the system of two-party ministries and will give a clear idea of the relative strength of the parties:

	Cabinet Ministers	Undersecretaries of State
PRESIDENCY	Bonomi (I) (1)	Spataro CD)
VICE PRESIDENCIES	Togliatti (C)	
	Nenni (CD)	
WITHOUT PORTFOLIO	Bresio (L)	
AGRICULTURE	Gullo (C)	Segni (CD)
AIR	Scialoja (LD)	Gen. Pellegrini (I)
EDUCATION	Arangio Ruiz (L)	Mattarella (CD)
FINANCE	Pesenti (C)	Gabriele (L)
FOREIGN AFFAIRS	De Gasperi (CD)	Reale (C)
INDUSTRY, COMMERCE, LABOR	Gronchi (CD)	Fiore (C) (2)
		Paresce (LD) (3)
INTERIOR	Bonomi (I)	Molo (LD)
JUSTICE	Tupini (CD)	Veroni (LD)
NAVY	Adm. De Courten (I)	Bassano (LD)
		Montalcano (C) (4)
OCCUPIED ITALY	Scoccimarro (C)	Medici Tornaquinci (L)
COMMUNICATIONS (PTT)	Cevolotto (LD)	Fano. (I)
PUBLIC WORKS	Ruini (LD)	Cassiani (CD)
TRANSPORTATION (RR)	Corbonna (LD)	Rizzo (L)
TREASURY	Soleri (L)	Scoca (CD)
WAR	Casati (L) (5)	Palermo (C)
PRESS, THEATRE AND TOURISM	(6)	Libonati (L)
ITALIANS ABROAD		Morelli (L)

(1) Abbreviations: (C) Communist; (CD) Christian Democrat; (L) Liberal; (LD) Labor Democrat; (I) Independent.
(2) Undersecretary for Industry and Commerce.
(3) Undersecretary for Labor.
(4) Undersecretary for Merchant Marine
[illegible] Culos nostra.

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	Cabinet Ministers	Undersecretaries of State
PRESIDENCY	Bonomi (I) (1)	Spataro (CD)
VICE PRESIDENCIES	Togliatti (C)	
	Bodino (CD)	
WITHOUT PORTFOLIO	Brosio (L)	
AGRICULTURE	Gullo (C)	Segni (CD)
AIR	Scialoja (LD)	Gen. Pellegrini (I)
EDUCATION	Arangio Ruiz (L)	Matterella (CD)
FINANCE	Pesenti (C)	Gabriele (L)
FOREIGN AFFAIRS	De Gasperi (CD)	Reale (C)
INDUSTRY, COMMERCE, LABOR	Gronchi (CD)	Fiore (C) (2)
		Paresce (LD) (3)
INTERIOR	Bonomi (I)	Molo (LD)
JUSTICE	Tupini (CD)	Veroni (LD)
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COMMUNICATIONS (PTT)	Cevelotto (LD)	Fano. (I)
PUBLIC WORKS	Ruini (LD)	Cassiani (CD)
TRANSPORTATION (RR)	Cerabona (LD)	Rizzo (L)
TREASURY	Soleri (I)	Scoca (CD)
WAR	Casati (L) (5)	Palermo (C)
PRESS, THEATRE AND TOURISM	(6)	Liconati (L)
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(2) Undersecretary for Industry and Commerce.
(3) Undersecretary for Labor.
(4) Undersecretary for Merchant Marine
(5) Liberal and not Independent as we reported last week. Culpa nostra.
(6) Formerly "Press and Information" and to be liquidated.

The list of Undersecretaries was ready some time before Thursday but Bonomi chose to follow the old pre-Fascist tradition of putting their formal nomination on the agenda of the first cabinet meeting. This took place after the oath taken by the ministers in the presence of the Luogotenente. The formula of the oath was the same as that agreed upon in June (see Weekly Bulletin No. 12 for June 25), the ministers binding themselves "to exercise their functions in the supreme interest of the nation" and not to commit any acts prejudicial to the institutional question until the convocation of the Constituente. After the ceremony Bonomi made a short speech (AVANTI, losing no time in going into opposition, called it a "sermoncino") in which he stressed the obligation to respect

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the truce on the institutional question and reminded the ministers that they had all seen the armistice terms and must consider themselves bound by them. These terms he described as "hard" but he added that they have recently been more kindly interpreted since diplomatic relations between Italy and the Allies have been resumed. This was largely due, he said, "to the tact and spirit of understanding of Admiral Stone, Chief of the Allied Commission, who has brought into his relations with democratic Italy a spirit of friendship and wise cooperation for which we are deeply grateful and which we shall never forget."

The first meeting of the Council, in addition to ratifying the list of undersecretaries, set up a Commissariato Generale dell' Alimentazione (Food Commissariat) to be directly under the President of the Council. Gino Bergami, a Liberal and former Undersecretary for Agriculture, was named Commissario. The Council then discussed food problems, "with special attention to Sicily" and subsequently adjourned. The next meeting is scheduled for the 20th.

Press reaction to the new government has been about what might have been expected. RISORGIMENTO LIBERALE surveyed the crisis with serenity, even the opposition parties had played their roles well, wrote De Pec, and if the crisis had frankly lasted too long its very length at least indicated that it was an honest crisis and not a political farce with a ready-made "solution" prepared in advance. ITALIA NUOVA grumbled that we now have a dictatorship of four parties instead of six and later added sourly that in personnel and office costs this would be the most expensive government the new Italy has yet had. Saragat, in AVANTI, called attention to the prevalently Rightist character of the cabinet; the Communists had been excluded from the key ministries of Foreign Affairs, War and Interior. (This is only partially true, they do not have a minister in any of those branches to be sure, but the Undersecretaries of War and Foreign Affairs are both Communists). Saragat added enviously that the Communists just because they were the one Leftist party represented might very possibly have an importance out of proportion to their numbers in the new government.

Looking back on the crisis and its solution it may be fairly admitted that many criticisms could be made. However, the world of politics is not the world of the ideal. Doubtless there are many groups and many party leaders who are not entirely happy about the present government. Obviously no one knows how well it will work for no one knows what trials it may yet have to face. But it can be said too that the crisis was met in a democratic fashion: there was open and honest disagreement, sincere negotiation and a final solution which has been at least temporarily acceptable to all. Compared to the violence and intransigence to be observed in other countries, the Italian way does not look too bad.

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for Agriculture, was Mauro Scelba. The Council then discussed food problems, "with special attention to Sicily" and subsequently adjourned. The next meeting is scheduled for the 30th.

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2. Congratulations

We should like to voice the congratulations of the Commission to Admiral Stone on his promotion. This comes at a particularly happy moment, since the Chief Commissioner had no easy time in playing, as Bonomi put it, the part of "wise collaborator" in the prolonged government crisis - with the thought of disturbed Greece and Belgium not far from his mind. The tribute spontaneously given to him by Bonomi at the first Cabinet meeting must, we feel, have been almost as pleasing to him as the promotion which followed.

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3. A.M.G. with the Armies

The City of Florence is counting the days until railhead comes up for relief from a desperate fuel shortage. In the first four months after the Germans withdrew from the south of the city only one kilo of charcoal per person was distributed and the total lignite issue was only seven kilos. Some black market supplies have been sold at high prices, but A.M.G. officials confess they have no idea how the people have done their cooking. Vegetables are in short supply. Sugar for November has not been distributed. There is no fuel in the orphanages and there has not been enough food. Public soup kitchens are serving 4,031 meals a day. Garbage collections are still unsatisfactory though farmers have helped by hauling away refuse for fertilizer. Otherwise conditions in the Tuscan capital are improving steadily. Production of shoes will have totalled 50,000 pairs by Christmas. All-wool workmen's socks are being made at a rate of 500 dozen pairs a day. Ten million bricks a month are coming from the kilns for industrial and civilian use. Manual labour is being imported from Pistoia to relieve a local shortage. By the end of November 2,500 civilian phones had been connected and the total number in use by the end of the year will be 5,000. There is some improvement in the electrical supply and it is hoped that production of gas will be resumed by the end of the year. A.M.G. vehicles are doing three wheat runs a day from Siena but the civilian rate of haulage is disappointing. Two new mills in the northern end of Siena province will add seven tons a day to the flour supply for Florence. The City A.M.G. is operating a pool of 24 hired civilian vehicles. Clearing of rubble and demolitions is in the hands of the Genio Civile and is going well. The Council of Administration of Florence University has been dissolved and the Rector is nominating a new one. Sixteen Jewish teachers have been reinstated.

Children attending schools at the end of November numbered 12,800 in the elementary grades, with 805 in the kindergartens and 7,400 in secondary schools. Courses for Canadians at the University in Italian literature, history, language, art and politics have been so popular that extension courses may be offered to British and American troops. There has been a little trouble with troops: five civilians were assaulted by drunken soldiers, one shot in the wrist. Refugees are in good health and spirits. The peak figure in the Florence centre in recent weeks was 4,895. Out of a total of 16,016 handled in three months only 47 were hospital cases. Following a recent cinema show the refugees put on a variety show they had organized and rehearsed themselves without telling the authorities. It has been described as "very good and very funny". The Tuscans seem to be learning to laugh again. Unfortunately the partisan situation, while policy is still in a state of flux, is not so encouraging. There has been a lull in political activity in Florence since the beginning of the Italian Cabinet crisis but quiet political meetings go on, the Communists showing the best organization and

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Conditions on the Eighth Army front are much as they were last winter in the Abruzzi-Molise area. Mud, floods and demolitions make travel difficult. Diversions are insecure. The only likely way to reach where one wants to go is in a jeep and that is cold, wet, dirty business. Gum boots, trench coats and warm clothing are recommended. Most billets are unheated, many lack doors, windows, bits of roof. A CAO working in the hills near San Marino got around for weeks with a mule train and visited some of his villages on foot. The Forli team are under constant shell fire. Last Sunday night the Luftwaffe had a go at them and blew in their doors and windows, pitting walls and furniture with broken glass. The Church of S. Biagio was hit during vespers. Known civilian dead at 1600 hrs Wednesday were 26, with others still being dug out and 50 wounded in hospitals. Though all the shops in Forli are still closed, some industries are starting up. Two brickworks are producing for the army and some

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32 in the whole of Sicily).

More trouble was brewing, it was feared, in other parts of Sicily on the food question. Brigadier Carr, the regional commissioner, reported to AC Hq. that the situation was grave. The report has caused the diversion of a cereal ship to Sicily.

6. From the Abruzzi

"I regard" - says Colonel French, in a lively report for November on the Abruzzi-Marche Region - " the sending of seed potatoes to Rome with great suspicion. I feel they will be used for food as soon as they arrive". (Civil restaurants are off limits these days but we shall tell Colonel French if we get some new potatoes in the mess.) "Political agitation", Colonel French states "can be traced to the shortage of certain foodstuffs, the wholesale requisitioning of property by the Army, the inefficiency of the Italian administration and, in the case of Aquila, a feeling that whatever the disturbance the promoters thereof can get the better of the CCRR". The report (in what is now almost traditional fashion) has some hard things to say about transport; between Ortona and Iesi - over 180 miles - there are no railways, and the problem of stockpiling in devastated areas and moving 280,000 tons of amassed grain out of the Region to deficient Regions is one of transport. Colonel French thinks that, with present transport, half the grain will still be in the warehouses when the next harvest comes round. "The need for transport in this Region" he claims, "is not a parochial but a national one." There are now many troops "resting" in the Region, a matter which is also giving Colonel French a headache over prices and accommodation (warehouses for instance needed for amassing are being taken over by troops). Deliveries of olive-oil and potatoes are still below schedule: Macerata had a food demonstration arising from an increase in wages in Ancona Province which sent Anconaites scurrying to Macerata to buy food and thus rocketed Macerata prices. "The Macerata trouble", observes Colonel French, "resulted in the Prefect fleeing for Rome in a hurry." Another problem is the continuing lack of bridges in Pesaro Province, reconstruction lagging for want of transport and material: Ascoli, however, manages to have a big black market in eggs.

In spite of these little worries, Colonel French reports "a fairly quiet month politically: police functioning better; no serious crimes; general health good, even in the devastated areas."

7. Epuration

Despite the recent government crisis which resulted in the retirement of the High Commissioner, Count Carlo Sforza, and the appointment of his deputy, Mauro Scoccimarro, to the new position of Minister for Occupied Italy, the branch of the government concerned

to the shortage of certain foodstuffs, the wholesale requisitioning of property by the Army, the inefficiency of the Italian administration and, in the case of Aquila, a feeling that whatever the disturbance the promoters thereof can get the better of the CCRR". The report (in what is now almost traditional fashion) has some hard things to say about transport; between Ortona and Iesi - over 180 miles - there are no railways, and the problem of stockpiling in devastated areas and moving 250,000 tons of amassed grain out of the Region to deficient Regions is one of transport. Colonel French thinks that, with present transport, half the grain will still be in the warehouses when the next harvest comes round. "The need for transport in this Region" he claims, "is not a parochial but a national one." There are now many troops "resting" in the Region, a matter which is also giving Colonel French a headache over prices and accommodation (warehouses for instance needed for amassing are being taken over by troops). Deliveries of olive-oil and potatoes are still below schedule: Macerata had a food demonstration arising from an increase in wages in Ancona Province which sent Anconaites scurrying to Macerata to buy food and thus rocketed Macerata prices. "The Macerata trouble", observes Colonel French, "resulted in the Prefect fleeing for Rome in a hurry." Another problem is the continuing lack of bridges in Pesaro Province, reconstruction lagging for want of transport and material: Ascoli, however, manages to have a big black market in eggs.

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7. Epuration

Despite the recent government crisis which resulted in the retirement of the High Commissioner, Count Carlo Sforza, and the appointment of his deputy, Mauro Scoccimarro, to the new position of Minister for Occupied Italy, the branch of the government concerned with defascising Italy is gathering rather than losing steam. The reason is that the various legal procedures instituted and courts constituted by the 70 decrees published since July 1943 by which the government intends to cleanse itself of Fascism have been joined into a smoothly functioning administrative machine only comparatively recently. This complex machinery for epuration - so large that it requires 160 tribunals and so painstaking that one (though not typical) case involving a high official resulted in 32 court sittings and 1800 pages of testimony, charts and photographs - is now pushing ahead with the work of finding and discharging Fascists from the government ministeries and trying and sentencing those guilty of Fascist crimes. By the end of last month all suspect senior officials (down to Grade IV incl) in eight of the government's 13 ministries had been tried and either dismissed or suspended and it is confidently expected that at the present rate epuration of senior officials will be completed in all the government ministries before the New Year. This week Italian Army Generals Riccardo Pentimalli and Ettore Del Tetto appeared before

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the High Court of Justice to be tried for failing to defend Naples against the Germans.

Over 1200 persons accused of Fascist crimes have been investigated to date and in only five cases have the defendants been released for lack of evidence. On the whole AC Sub-Commissions report a fair amount of satisfaction with the way Italians are conducting the immense and difficult job. If some Sub-Commissions have scoffed at the lapse of time before the appearance of concrete results, other Sub-Commissions frankly state that they have been benefited by the meticulous precision with which the Ministerial Commissions with which they deal and the courts did their work which, while time-consuming, definitely saved many valuable senior officials, who would have been lost if epuration had taken on the character of a witch hunt. In any event, epuration as a system for rebuilding the government of Italy and purging the national life of the evils and crimes of Fascism is a going concern, a comforting fact which bodes no good for the Fascist Republicans when its probing fingers begin to reach into northern Italy.

8. Odds and Ends

Five U.S. officers who have applied for release from military service have received orders for 21-day furloughs in the United States on the way to Fort Ord, Calif...General service enlisted men on the American strength are being replaced by limited service personnel... Latest figures on the collection of olive oil are 44,151 quintals, of which two thirds come from the Bari area...The Granai del Popolo now stands at 9,875,011 quintals or 85 per cent. of 11,600,000 qtl. target...43,000 cases of citrus fruit from Sicily are to arrive at Civitavecchia in coasters...38 civilian prisoners escaped from the Campobasso jail last week...The second shipment of rock phosphate has arrived at the Montecatini chemical plant near Naples and fertilizer is beginning to be distributed in the Abruzzi-Marche Region... Postal service to Ancona will open 15 December...Fiumicino will be ready to serve as a coal port for barges shortly...Lieut.Col.O.E. Rhodes of Public Works S/C has just returned from a two-weeks' leave in London...The Economic Section is in favor of stricter military censorship in the interest of controlling loose expression of Italian opinion detrimental to the war effort...The shipping scarcity is causing re-adjustment of the UNRRA program, which is in process of being cut back to handle only medical supplies and displaced persons until ships can be found for the small tonnage slated for mothers and children...AC Hq. now has radio telephone service to New York and Washington but conversations have as many restrictions as a porcupine has quills..Col.Gevers is transferring his services to AFHQ where he will dip into Austrian planning: Col. Page will replace him as Executive Officer...A Temporary Film Board, similar to the Allied Publications Board for control of newspapers, has been authorized by AFHQ on the recommendation of AC, to sort out some of the complications

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a witch hunt. In any event, ebullition as a system for rebuilding the government of Italy and purging the national life of the evils and crimes of Fascism is a going concern, a comforting fact which bodes no good for the Fascist Republicans when its probing fingers begin to reach into northern Italy.

8. Odds and Ends

Five U.S. officers who have applied for release from military service have received orders for 21-day furloughs in the United States on the way to Fort Ord, Calif...General service enlisted men on the American strength are being replaced by limited service personnel... Latest figures on the collection of olive oil are 44,161 quintals, of which two thirds come from the Bari area...The Granai del Popolo now stands at 9,675,011 quintals or 83 per cent. of 11,600,000 qtl. target...83,000 cases of citrus fruit from Sicily are to arrive at Civitavecchia in coasters...36 civilian prisoners escaped from the Campobasso jail last week...The second shipment of rock phosphate has arrived at the Montecatini chemical plant near Naples and fertilizer is beginning to be distributed in the Abruzzi-Marche Region... Postal service to Ancona will open 15 December...Fiumicino will be ready to serve as a coal port for barges shortly...Lieut.Col.G.E. Rhodes of Public Works S/C has just returned from a two-weeks' leave in London...The Economic Section is in favor of stricter military censorship in the interest of controlling loose expression of Italian opinion detrimental to the war effort...The shipping scarcity is causing re-adjustment of the UNRRA program, which is in process of being cut back to handle only medical supplies and displaced persons until ships can be found for the mail tonnage asked for mothers and children...AC Hq. now has radio telephone service to New York and Washington but conversations have as many restrictions as a porcupine has quills...Col.Gevers is transferring his services to AFHQ where he will dip into Austrian planning: Col. Page will replace him as Executive Officer...A Temporary Film Board, similar to the Allied Publications Board for control of newspapers, has been authorized by AFHQ on the recommendation of AC, to sort out some of the complications of the Fascist cinema world...The chronic complaints about lack of transport are now changing to complaints about lack of tires for the little transport there is...Tuscan rains have hit hard at the vegetable crops of Grosseto and Arezzo...Management and workers at Prato textile plants have agreed to work night shifts in order to avoid power drains at peak consumption periods...Manufacture of paraffined paper panels in light metal frames has started at Collefero to meet the acute glass shortage...A bituminous felt roofing plant at the same place also has begun operating...Between 100,000 and 150,000 qtl. of firewood are available in Sardinia for those with ships to come and get it...22 tons of vegetable seeds have been bought and 26 more tons will be purchased for the Balkans.

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

Deputy Chief of Staff
Col Fiske

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

SECRET

R26/WB35/PRB

3 December 1944.

AC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO. 35
27 Nov to 3 Dec 44

1. Political

The crisis, which began last Sunday with the resignation of the Bonomi ministry, has continued all week. The party organs have been full of "orders of the day", charges, counter-charges, speculation and partisan commentary. The week of suspense ends in anti-climax as the new government is yet to be formed and it is still uncertain who will head it. In the absence of a proper dramatic denouement which events are unwilling to supply it will be useful perhaps to record the developments in the crisis in chronological order.

The origin of the disintegration of the Bonomi government is not quite clear. It has been known for some time that the Leftist parties wanted stronger representation in the cabinet and presumably had been pressing Bonomi. On the other hand AVANTI declared on Tuesday that the Liberals were to blame inasmuch as they were anxious to return to the old pre-Fascist Italy rather than accept the Socialist orientation towards the future. However true the charge may be, it was the first open statement from the Left to the effect that the Liberals were the obstacle to unity. This charge was maintained during the week and, it need hardly be said, refuted by the Liberals. On Tuesday, too, ITALIA LIBERA (Action) came out in the open and affirmed that Sforza was the man indicated for the Foreign Affairs portfolio. Later in the same day the Action Party went further and declared it would not collaborate in any government which would not assign the post to Sforza. By this time the British "veto" against him was made known and he resigned his chairmanship over the deliberations of the six parties consultations which had been entrusted to him the first day of the crisis. We then had, as AVANTI put it, two crises; "la crisi Bonomi" and "la crisi Sforza." On Wednesday the Socialist Party joined the Action group in protesting against the treatment accorded Sforza and (furthermore) stated its unwillingness to serve under Bonomi. The Communists, though speaking mildly and urging Italians not to forget their debt to the Allies, indicated their solidarity with the Socialists and maintained that Bonomi had not followed the democratic program laid down by the C.L.N. Bonomi wrote a letter to Nenni saying that he considered the C.L.N. the expression of the most important political currents in the country

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By Thursday the cleavage between Left and Right had deepened. The Communist, Socialist and Action parties were resolved not to accept Bonomi, ITALIA LIBERA going as far as to say that he had put himself outside the pale by handing his resignation to the Luogotenente rather than to the C.L.N. and AVANTI observing sadly that he had now only two alternatives; either to fight democracy or to retire. None the less the other parties - Christian Democrats, Liberals and Labor Democrats - were willing to accept him. At this time too there was talk of Ruini as an alternative; the Left would follow him and the others promised support if Bonomi should fail, the Liberals being particularly insistent that the latter be given a chance to try.

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This is substantially the position as the week closes. Bonomi is still trying and, as seen by ITALIA NUOVA (the conservative-monarchist organ whose adherents have had an exciting week with the prospect of participation in the government before them) the alternatives are as follows: 1. Bonomi may form a government based on the three parties which will accept him and reinforced by others outside the six party group, 2. he may form a so-called cabinet of technicians, at least theoretically non-political, 3. he may give up the attempt and a government more closely linked with the C.L.N. and presumably more to the Left may come in.

The six party coalition was not alone in showing lack of cohesion under pressure of circumstances; Anglo-Saxon unity also yielded somewhat under the strain. After England's disapproval of Sforza had been well aired in the Press a statement came from Stettinius indicating that the United States had nothing against him. ("A victory for us," cried AVANTI.) Eden, speaking Friday in the House of Commons, objected to the use of the word "veto" to describe England's attitude but reaffirmed the British thesis that Sforza who, Eden claimed, had not kept his promise to the British government to support the King and Badoglio and who had indeed worked against Bonomi as well, was hardly the man to be made Foreign Minister at this time. Eden also added pointedly that Italy was not an ally but a co-belligerent and at the moment a base of Allied military operations. Italians did not like the tone of his remarks at all. They could find however some consolation in Alexander's words of praise for Italian units he had visited..On Friday the Cremona division, clad in British uniforms, passed through Rome. The crowd followed them with placid enthusiasm. Even a determined group of adolescents whom we saw baiting the Carabinieri while chanting "Repubblica, Repubblica" like a college yell, took time off to applaud as the trucks rolled by. The man in the street seems heartily behind the war effort, as nearly as we can judge, and - if the truth must be told - relatively indifferent to the political crisis. Indeed even Nenni is reported to have said that the crisis was of major concern only to a few politicians and a score of journalists. He probably overstated the case (and ITALIA NUOVA did not overlook the opportunity to deplore his "cynicism") but he may not have been far wrong.

The confirmation by the Senate of Alexander Kirk as Ambassador to Italy was also imminent this week. He, as well as the British Ambassador and Commodore Stone, has had a busy week of conferences with the Luogotenente and various political leaders.

2. AMG with the Armies

The latest report from Fifth Army AMG - which takes us only up to November 23, while Eighth Army AMG has no report since November 14 - strikes a more optimistic note than usual. Whether this is due to encouraging new facts or to a change in editorship we cannot say. (Colonel Mayne has gone to South Africa [illegible]

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badly needed in the large towns, despite the fact that an abundance of lignite is available in local areas; the non-implementation of the "promised" 300 grams bread ration continues to give trouble, and the word HUNGRY is appearing in English on the walls of Florence, while Proto's wall-notices read "Is this Liberty?" and "Out of the frying pan into the fire."

The CTLN have still not reconciled themselves to the Prefect, whose morale, reported going up in our issue of Nov. 10, is now reported going down.

3. Bringing Home the Bacon

Colonel W.J.Legg, director, Food Sub-Commission, is back at AC after what started to be a two-week trip to Washington and London last September. And judging by the happy relief in the Economic Section, Col. Legg's trip was highly productive, both as to his main mission - getting implementation for a 300-gram ration for Italy, and for an extremely desirable by-product, better understanding of AC's problems in the world-straddling headquarters across the seas. The gist of the Colonel's report on his activities is as follows: 1. The 300-gram ration has now been accepted as the basis of all further subsistence planning for Liberated Italy. 2. Arrival of supplies for the increased ration will depend on the allocation of the necessary shipping, which has already been programmed. The mechanics are now being worked out with AFHQ at Caserta. The program agreed upon by both the Americans in Washington and the British in London runs from January to June, 1945. Colonel Legg's missionary work took him through the maze of Washington agencies Among those consulted who had to give their approval before the program received top blessing - the Colonel pointing out that nothing naturally would have resulted from his efforts had it not been for the fine personal cooperation of all the officers and officials/he... dealt with - were the following: Civil Affairs Division, International Division of Army Service Forces, Office of the Quartermaster General, Civil Affairs Committee of the Combined Chiefs of Staff, State Department, Foreign Economic Administration, Department of Agriculture, the British Embassy in the U.S., and the British War Office and Ministry of Supply in London. One result of Colonel Legg's rounds, gathering support from every quarter, was the discovery of 3,000,000 bags of Cuban pulses or dried beans of the 1942 crop which were found available.

The following brief table in tons gives an indication of the extent of the agreements reached, the high point of which is that 107,000 tons of wheat/flour a month are now earmarked for all Italy.

	August AFHQ Estimates	AC Mission Estimates	Now Accepted	Net Results Increase	Percentage Increase

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	August AFHQ Estimates	AC Mission Estimates	Now Accepted	Net Results Tons	Percentage Increase
Wheat	600,000	1,302,000(a)	642,000(b)	42,000	7
Dried Vegetables	None	135,870(a)	69,440(b)	68,440	all
Sugar	18,900	51,660(a)	38,160(b)	19,260	102
Milk	9,660	23,970	23,970	14,310	148
Meat	None	20,160	20,160	20,160	all
Fats	13,500	13,500	13,500	----	---

(a) Subject to adjustment according to operational plans, available shipping and stocks found in North Italy.
(b) For Liberated Italy, with surplus stockpile for North.

4. Displaced Persons

An enlightening summary of one of the major problems following in the wake of war was given the other day before the Allied Advisory

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Council for Italy by Colonel C.B.Findlay, Director of AG's Displaced Persons and Repatriation Sub-Commission. Here are some points from his address.

"There are at present in Liberated Italy some 23,000 displaced persons. Of these 9,000 live in camps and 14,000 are living in private residences. These 14,000 are entitled to certain financial allowances from the Italian Government and also, in many cases, to allowances from the countries to which they belong. The nationals of the United Nations are also entitled to rations on a more generous scale than the ordinary Italian civilian ration. The Sub-Commission administers and pays these allowances and distributes the ration cards for the additional rations.

"With the freeing of France and the Balkans a further problem has arisen. There are in Southern France 200,000 Italians, partially refugees, partially forced labour, to be returned to Italy. There is in the Balkans, a large number of soldiers who formerly belonged to the Italian Army and of civilians who resided or worked in Albania or Greece. The Commission has the personnel and the machinery to plan and deal with the reception of such persons and it has therefore been made responsible for the repatriation of Italians (other than prisoners of war) to Italy and of other nationals from Italy. In this connection the term "repatriation" is used loosely to cover the return of persons to their normal place of residence, though not their country of origin and the settling of the stateless or persecuted in their new homes.

"The following figures indicate scope of the problem:

	Dealt with	To be dealt with in N. Italy(est)	Total
Italy War Refugees to-date	141,000	200,000	341,000
Displaced Persons repatriated	31,500		31,500
Displaced Persons in Liberated Italy	23,500	50,000	73,500
			446,000

"Estimate of Repatriations to be affected:

To Italy:	From Enemy Countries	380,000
	From France	200,000
	From former Italian Divisions	600,000
		1,180,000
From Italy:	Czechs and Poles	5,000
	Yugoslavs	9,000
	Germany	25,000
	Other Nations	5,000
	Stateless	5,000

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	Other Nations	5,000
	Stateless	5,000
		49,000

"These figures also indicate one of the problems to be faced: REPATRIATION. Over one million Italians have to be returned to Italy. It is for the Commission to provide the necessary machinery to receive them but when this should take place is a matter of high policy involving both political and economic questions as well as transport. Planning cannot be taken to any advanced stage until a key plan on this subject has been received. Any such plan will be dependent also on the plans of the staff responsible in the dispatching countries, with whom the plans will have to be co-ordinated.

"The question as to whether the frontier shall be closed to prevent unorganised self-repatriation with the possibility of dislocation of labour, transport and supplies, and the importation of typhus or other diseases by hordes of returning refugees is also one of high policy. Here again the planning of staging camps and transportation cannot proceed until the routes by and rates and times at which repatriation will be allowed are known. Such plans will also

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have to be co-ordinated with the despatching countries.

"The second major problem is CLOTHING. An attempt is being made to obtain salvage clothing from the Armies and repair shops are being set up to deal with such salvage as may be obtained. The scale of the problem can be grasped when it is said that 100,000 blankets and 75,000 boots are required at once for present urgent needs and other items on the same scale.

"Many of the ex-Italian soldiers to be repatriated from overseas are invalids and in rags. They will have to be received in hospitals and whether Land Forces Sub-Commission or Displaced Persons are responsible, they will require clothes to go home in. It is no answer to say that that is a responsibility of the Italian Government unless that Government is in a position to find clothes on that scale. At present it is not.

"Lastly there is the problem which is the problem of the whole AC; insufficiency of TRANSPORT - the problem of providing further transport is urgent and acute.

5. Odds and Ends

UNRRA which has been wanting to start business as soon as possible in Italy by borrowing AC supplies has been persuaded first, to follow through on their requisitions; second, to check if and when shipping is available, and third, only then to borrow from AC up to 8,000 tons of goods, to be re-paid when their own supplies arrive ... U.S. Congressmen from the House Military Affairs Committee will visit Italy and the AC shortly to see things at first hand...Field Marshal Alexander will review 2,000 Carabinieri in Rome in the near future... The Public Relations Branch is having sent to every American officer, enlisted man and civilian in AC/AMG a biographical form to fill out for a news article in each man's hometown newspaper, in accordance with standard U.S. Army PRO practice, so please fill out your form and return it to your adjutant as soon as possible after receipt... 479

Macerata Province reports that 30,000 hectares of maize is ready for collection as soon as warehouse space becomes available...Lieut.Col. Worley, who has been dealing with civil affairs in Burma, has been a recent visitor to AC, looking particularly into Displaced Persons and Repatriation activities...Maj. John Boettiger, formerly with the 5th Army AMG and now with the Civil Affairs Division, U.S. War Department, is current visitor to Hq....Story without Comment: 1. Before the May campaign, there was an estimated 862,000 kw. of electricity in Central Italy from Cassino to Pisa-Rimini; 2. The Allies, on their arrival, found 45,000 kw. left; 3. Today the kilowatt capacity is 84,000...Possibly the only electrically-operated traffic signal in Italy is flashing these days in Aquila...The Granai del Popolo, as of latest reports, stands at 9,750,397 qtl. or 84 per cent.

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Director of the Transportation S/C with Col. Thomas (B) - expected from UK - as his Deputy. Col. Adams has been temporarily assigned to Lombardy Region as Acting Regional Commissioner....

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH SECRET

R26/WB34/PRB 28 November 1944.

AC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO. 34
20 Nov to 26 Nov 44

1. Political

After ten days of political manoeuvre in which rumour, always apt to gallop in Rome, was given full rein, Bonomi tendered the resignation of himself and his ministers to the Lieutenant General at noon on Sunday. Among other consequences of this action is the lateness of the Bulletin this week, our delphic oracle having been upset by this last minute climax.

The steps leading to the resignation are somewhat obscure and at best we can only give you rumour as it trickled from the Viminale to the Press. There were two main rumour trends - one, current earlier in the week, that the leftist parties wanted stronger representation in the Govt, and were anxious to weed out the "weak sisters" whom they professed to find representing the more moderate parties. Their idea would have been not only to give stronger representation to the "masses" but also to work more closely with the C.L.N. The other school of rumor was based on the alleged attempt of Bonomi to gather about him a Cabinet of technicians. According to Italia Nuova, which, as cautious as your reporter, carefully labelled its own account pure rumor - Bonomi went to Naples and attempted to persuade Orlando, Croce and De Nicola to join the Govt. The three elder statesmen are said to have made the condition that the six party principle should be abandoned and a new Govt formed of able men regardless of party affiliation. When this condition was submitted to the Ministers without portfolio - so the story runs - they refused. This story is not improbable. Tempo stated on 24th Nov that "only a Govt of technicians could gain the approval of De Nicola and other parlamentarians" and on the same day there was an indignant blast from Avanti against the attempt of the "reaction to exclude the communists from the Govt" by forming a Cabinet of technicians. It was clear - rumor and chiacchiere aside - that something had to be done to reestablish the balance when Carrandini left the Cabinet, and once tinkering begins in such a delicate machinery as the coalition, there is no telling how many or what kind of spare parts will be needed. An added indication of change was the resignation of Visconti Venosta, under-secretary for foreign affairs. It looked as though the way was being prepared [illegible] minister in that field. Sforza, perhaps?

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Lieutenant General at noon on Sunday. Among other consequences of this action is the lateness of the Bulletin this week, our delphic oracle having been upset by this last minute climax.

The steps leading to the resignation are somewhat obscure and at best we can only give you rumour as it trickled from the Viminale to the Press. There were two main rumour trends - one, current earlier in the week, that the leftist parties wanted stronger representation in the Govt, and were anxious to weed out the "weak sisters" whom they professed to find representing the more moderate parties. Their idea would have been not only to give stronger representation to the "masses" but also to work more closely with the C.L.N. The other school of rumor was based on the alleged attempt of Bonomi to gather about him a Cabinet of technicians. According to Italia Nuova, which, as cautious as your reporter, carefully labelled its own account pure rumor - Bonomi went to Naples and attempted to persuade Orlando, Croce and De Nicola to join the Govt. The three elder statesmen are said to have made the condition that the six party principle should be abandoned and a new Govt formed of able men regardless of party affiliation. When this condition was submitted to the Ministers without portfolio - so the story runs - they refused. This story is not improbable. Tempo stated on 24th Nov that "only a Govt of technicians could gain the approval of De Nicola and other parlamentarians" and on the same day there was an indignant blast from Avanti against the attempt of the "reaction to exclude the communists from the Govt" by forming a Cabinet of technicians. It was clear - rumor and chiacchiere aside - that something had to be done to reestablish the balance when Carrandini left the Cabinet, and once tinkering begins in such a delicate machinery as the coalition, there is no telling how many or what kind of spare parts will be needed. An added indication of change was the resignation of Visconti Venosta, under-secretary for foreign affairs. It looked as though the way was being prepared for the nomination of a minister in that field. Sforza, perhaps?

At the moment there is no government. Yesterday the Lord Lieutenant in accordance with parliamentary tradition conferred with Orlando, President of the Chamber, and Della Torretta, President of the Senate, and with "other political leaders" as well. A communique is expected sometime within the next forty-eight hours. Rumor has it that Bonomi feels sure he will be again called upon and indeed any alternative seems unlikely. The leftist parties have made it clear that they will have no truck with "reaction" however it may label itself - an article by Togliatti in the Corriere di Roma leaves no doubt on that score - and it is hardly probable that the moderate parties would accept communist or socialist leadership. However, as the saying goes nowadays in Rome, "tutto e possibile".

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Proceeding from the unknown to the known; the council met on the 22nd and drew up a plan for Sardinia similar to that outlined for Sicily (see Bulletin for 29th Oct). There is to be a Sardinian Council and a Sardinian Bank and the State is to give a billion lire for industrial and agricultural development. The council also approved of a program for coordination and control of radio and a decree for "revision of films" (which looks very suspicious to Avanti to whom "revisione" means "censura" and nothing else). It was stated too that before abandoning the "political price" of bread, Bonomi would consult the C.G.I.L. and some means of protecting the very poor from the additional burden would be worked out.

The abolition of the General Staff, decreed two weeks ago, was followed this week by the arrest of General Roatta and two of his assistants. The trial of Pentimalli and Del Vetto has been again postponed - this time till the 14th of Dec. The press is vigilant but patient. The papers have been concerned most of the week with the plight of the patriots; they have pointed out that the fighters in the north cannot simply go home and wait for spring as the Allies seem to want; Tempo suggested they be given the juridical status of belligerants and sent to France for winter training, and Unita recommended that they be given rights to subsidies and pensions like any other branch of the Army.

Carandini's first speech in London also called attention to the heroism of the patriots. As quoted in the Observer he stressed too the seriousness and responsibility of the six party coalition and stated it was his purpose to make England acquainted with the material and moral problems of Italy. Otherwise the week had little of interest in the field of foreign affairs; formal exchange of ambassadors took place between Italy and Russia, Kostylev, already named by Moscow, was accepted by the Italians and Quaroni became Italian ambassador to Russia. De Gaulle's "hope for a true reconciliation between France and Italy" was warmly echoed in the press - Italians would like nothing better.

2. Mission

One of the most interesting incidents that have occurred recently on the economic side of Italy and one which in fact looks forward into the post-war period, is the current visit here of the all-American Culbertson Mission, headed by Lieut.Col. William S. Culbertson, who carries the personal rank of ambassador. (He was former U.S. Minister to Rumania and U.S. Ambassador to Chile). With him are six others, five of whom are American businessmen and four of whom are members of the United States Commercial Company, an adjunct of the American Foreign Economic Administration, which has been engaged in economic warfare against

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For example, one of the nations in which buying and bidding was hot and heavy and at exorbitant prices between Germany and the Allies was naturally Turkey. Mr. Van Lear Woodward, a member of the Mission who is also vice president of the U.S.C.C. and in private life a member of the big New York importing and exporting firm of Frazar & Co., was one of the original agents for many of the Turkish purchases. Since July, the Mission has surveyed the scene in North Africa and in the Middle East. While in the latter place, Mr. Woodward looked over the U.S. stockpiles in Turkey which, now that the pressure has eased off, are to be sold, if possible, at the price best calculated to make the least dent on the poor taxpayer's pocket. Certain wares, thus,

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have been offered to the Italians through AC and discussions are being held as to how best to do this, a problem obviously of payment. There can be no question of sale at the original buying price but mostly of covering charges and transportation. Offered are several commodities that can be put to effective use immediately in this shortage-stricken country, as for example, woollen and cotton rags for textile mills, which before the war used the self-same Turkish products.

Other items include asbestos, blue poppy seed, casings, castoroil seed, catgut, new cotton clippings, old cotton rags, cotton waste, gallnuts, hazelnutoil soap, hempseed, linseed, linseed cake, linseed oil, gum tragacanth, gum traganton, rapeseed, sesameseed, soy beans, sunflowerseed, woollen rags, airdried sheepskins, drysalted sheepskins, airdried lambskins, drysalted goatskins, pickled sheepskins, valex.

The Mission whose sole function is exploratory, with no authority to make any commitments, has been investigating the industrial capacity of Italy, the possibilities of import and export trade and the currency exchange position. Both the Mission and the Economic Section have been full of mutual compliments on their relationship, the Mission being frankly impressed with the alert awareness of problems by AC and the Economic Section being heartened by the crisp, factual approach of the Mission whose members, as businessmen, are considering only what is practical and feasible in returning trade to private channels as soon as possible and so allow the vitality of individual enterprise to do its share in the promotion of reciprocal trade. One step might be the strong revival of Italian handicrafts. It might be added, however, that the Mission soon found that many Italian firms, although the beneficiaries of cheap labor and cheap power (that is, in normal times), were also full of padded political payrolls and had sites in the most uneconomic positions, again for political reasons of Fascist autarchy, a combination of circumstances that will clearly prevent them from resuming a competitive position in post-war world markets.

Other members of the Mission are Mr. John L. Gillis, vice president of Johnson & Johnson, Inc., medical supply house; Mr. Victor Bowman, executive vice president of the American Steel Export Co.; Mr. Richard C. Thompson, manager of the Export Division of the Electric Auto-Lite Co.; Mr. William Friedlaender, retired importer, and Mr. Henry Fox, chief of the Division of Commercial Treaties of the U.S. State Department.

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4. Vanguard of a new Italian Army

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3. Vanguard of a new Italian Army

On Friday the 24th a first contingent of the six Italian "groups" now being re-equipped and reorganized passed through Rome on its way north. This passage of a small contingent - 200 vehicles in all - was a more or less minor event, partly owing to AAI's desire to keep publicity to a minimum until the new groups have distinguished themselves in battle and partly also to the fact that the march-past which had been proposed was changed at the last moment into the mere passing of troop-carrying vehicles of every varied shape and size. Nevertheless the Roman citizenry, encouraged by the Committee of Liberation, decided to turn out and line the streets in large numbers, and the Lieutenant-General, appearing in Rome in public for the first time since our entry, took the salute. He seemed nervous - as indeed he well might be in view of prevailing polemics - when he stepped on to the dais, but he received a good round of applause, though there

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were a few whistles. A group of young monarchists gave him an ovation when he re-entered his car at the end of the ceremony. About the sincerity of the Roman welcome to this first detachment of democratic Italian troops there was no doubt at all: the enthusiasm and goodwill of the crowds was reminiscent, as a Reuters correspondent remarked, of Roman scenes in early June.

Of the six new Italian groups, roughly equal in number to three Allied divisions, two are now virtually ready - having been re-equipped and trained in the astonishingly short space of four months - and a start has been made with the training and equipment of the remainder. Both training and equipment, including guns, rifles and ammunition, are British, as rations will also be. Major-General Browning who, as GOC, MMIA, has supervised the reorganization of the Italian Army, says that the rank and file are of first-rate quality. "Give me two years with British officers and NCOs," says General Browning, "and we'd have an army as good as any in Europe".

Perhaps the dominant note of Friday's parade was spontaneity. No orders to come out and cheer, no cut-and-dried propaganda, few police - in fact, a Roman holiday.

4. The High Command

Mr. MacMillan, Acting President of the A.C., is now in London, for discussion concerning future operations of the Commission, and will shortly proceed to Washington where he will be met by General Spofford of G-5. On the agenda, besides the general policy of the economic rehabilitation of Italy, are: Position of UNRRA, which now operates through the AC but which says it must enter into negotiations with the Italian Government before it can consummate technical delivery of supplies here; clarification of Categories A (immediate requirements to avoid disease and unrest) and Category B (longer-term first aid goods) in the material help being planned for Italy, and civilianization of the AC. On this latter point, Brigadier Lush who recently returned from London, reported that a few British civilian appointments on a permanent basis may be soon forthcoming. Mr.MacMillan was also asked by the Economic Section to settle a disturbing report that the 1,700 3-ton trucks asked for by AC will be 1½-ton trucks, a development which would literally cut in half the present requisition for this urgently needed transport.

5. Sicilia Liberata

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5. Sicilia Liberata

It is probably fair to say that Sicily is both better and worse off than the Italian mainland and that conditions there are more serious in some respects and considerably easier in others than they have been reported. The gravest "situation" is a definite shortage of food for sale. There are several reasons why the ammasi did not work satisfactorily this year, why less than half the estimated stocks were brought in. But the main one seems to be that the Sicilians have made up their minds that the lira is going to dissolve into thin air as soon as the war ends in Europe and there is a concerted rush for "staple goods" which makes prices and regulations meaningless. No spending by Allied troops exists in Sicily to keep prices at an artifical level. You can walk the length of Via della Liberta and Maqueda in Palermo and you will not see a single allied uniform or vehicle. You can stand for a quarter of an hour in the square outside the Cathedral in Catania and only civilians will pass by. But prices are higher in the shops than they have ever been in Naples or Rome, higher than they were

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last fall, higher than they were this spring. Merchants do not care whether they sell or not. Here are some sample prices jotted down at random in both Palermo and Catania: Shoes sell for four, six, eight and ten thousand lire a pair; cloth caps for boys 650; white sewing thread 390 a spool; locally made toothpaste 100 a tube; cheap black cotton socks 450 a pair; men's cotton shirts 1300 to 1700; men's suitings 2000 to 2500 a metre and rough thick cloth for overcoats 2700 to 3500; a cheap fur coat which looks like dogskin with the hair left on is priced at 28,000 lire. Cigarettes bring 100 to 200 lire a pack. Walnuts are 70 lire a kilo as against 35 in Naples last winter. The only thing which is reasonably priced is soap, for which there is obviously no insistent demand. Allied officials do not believe the wheat which was not amassed is being held for the black market, though black market bread in Catania is already 100-120 lire a kilo. They say that grain and oil are more probably being hidden away for "barter currency" to be used when the lira blows up. The English pound sells for 1000 lire, a gold sovereign for 5000. Repairs and improvements to private property are going on at a noticeable rate, because the people are turning paper money into bricks and mortar at any price. Public works, however, are pretty much at a standstill and church repairs are going very slowly. Most of the bridges have been rebuilt and the railways are all running but road work is in arrears and if any more railway rolling stock is drained off to the mainland the few industries trying to operate will be crippled. The schooner control plan is said to be bogged down in red tape and working very badly. Forged permits to cross the Straits of Messina have sold for as much as 100,000 lire.

Men who ought to know pooh-pooh the idea that the Mafia has been revived as an organized movement, though they say there may be a rapprochement between lesser politicians and local criminal groups. What has happened, they say, is that the Allies in attempting to eliminate Fascism in an Island where it never really existed except in the schools so weakened the machinery of law enforcement that the Sicilians have returned to their traditional custom of ignoring the law and enforcing their own ideas of justice. Isolated bandit gangs are being broken up, but the prisons are clogged. There are 12,000 persons awaiting trial in Sicily, 1531 of them in close arrest. Red tape and bribery on the lower levels of Italian administration are reported as flourishing as ever. All AMG-appointed prefects but two have been sacked. There is no question of holding elections for local posts. An attempt by the local Giunta of Catania to interfere in the election of a University Rector was blocked.

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Schools have not yet opened this year because of an epidemic of small-pox in Palermo (23 cases on Thursday of this week) and for lack of text-books. The high-pressure educational reforms launched last year are disappearing. Teachers are said to be as Fascist as ever. Increasing confusion and political juggling with inspectors in the state schools is expected to result ultimately in the Church taking over practically all Sicilian education. Soup kitchens are running in Palermo and Catania and there is talk of giving one free meal a day in schools after the New Year.

The Regional Commissioner complains that the High Commissioner, Aldisio, is playing politics and cannot be found for days at a time. When he can be persuaded to discuss administrative problems, he often fails to act.

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Public Safety officials are sharply critical of reports on the political situation turned in by military security personnel. They say sensational and unverified rumours are reported as fact. Lurid tales are picked up from professional informers. Lt.Col. Snock says: "I do not believe there is any definite plan or any organization to make trouble this winter, though if the food situation becomes very bad there may be impromptu trouble which will go far".

Sicily is sunny and warm these days and there are millions of flies. The country seems shabbier than it did a few months ago. The rains are late this fall, the electric networks are operating fitfully and the farmers are worried about the spring crops.

There will be no amassed grain left for distribution after the end of December. The pasta ration for the fourth week in September was distributed only in the week beginning 11 November. People will not freeze in Sicily this winter, but there will be hunger.

6. Rieti - Rail Romance

We are not even sure if it has a bell, but Train Number 3310 as it chugs and puffs its way up the mountainside from Rieti to Antrodoco and back again makes those who have an ear for sound think of Adano. When, some months ago, AMG 8th Army's Major Crippen entered Rieti, he found railwaymen sitting among their burnt out stock and damaged sheds and track with a sad look in their eyes. Not a railwayman himself, he soon had organized gangs of workers feverishly tearing up, salvaging and relaying track, removing mines and debris from tunnels, rebuilding stations and overhauling a small locomotive and a massive Wagon Lits restaurant car left by the Germans, until 22 kilometers of railroadworthy track stretched through the mountains from Rieti to Antrodoco and Train Number 3310 was ready. On its inaugural run every dignitary for miles around vied for the honor of standing on the footplates, while the huge Wagon Lits coach was crammed with tired cyclists and gaily dressed peasant women. Once a shortage of fuel threatened a crisis, but Transportation Sub-Commission decided not to frown on the little landlocked train even if it did not make a connection with any other line and the Military Railroad Service is not averse to a little romance in its life either, so Train Number 3310 got its coal. Today, as the small engine and the big restaurant car carry all manner of goods and persons on a once daily roundtrip schedule between Rieti and Antrodoco, men and women in the fields look

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7. Pre-view

Final tabulations are on the eve of completion of what may well be considered the first authoritative census taken in Italy for years and probably the first to show in detail the effects of modern war on a country which has served as a battlefield in the bitter fighting between the Nazis and the Allies. The census or Censimento per la Ricostruzione Nazionale was ordered last August by the Economic Section. Photographic copies of the first preliminary report are expected to be ready the first part of the coming month.

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The census has covered 10 compartments, i.e. all provinces from Perugia southward, including the island of Sicily and Sardinia. It included five types of information:

A demographic census covering the entire resident and present population, and laying particular emphasis upon the enumeration of war prisoners, persons transferred to forced labor in Germany, refugees, unemployed, and other groups displaced or disorganized as a result of the war.

An agricultural census covering all farms and enumerating, in addition to usual agricultural information, the extent of war damage to farm buildings, lands, and equipment.

An industrial census covering all firms employing 10 or more persons and counting particularly the extent of war damage to plants and equipment and the extent of German theft of industrial equipment and raw materials.

A transportation survey covering motor transport and the merchant marine.

A survey of living conditions covering food, clothing, housing, health, and public services.

The figures produced may throw some light upon the conditions that await us in areas not yet occupied. The census will include, for example, a "coefficient of war damage" for every commune in Italy suffering damage. The coefficient, the ratio of the number of residential rooms destroyed to the number existing prior to the war, may, when compared with army records of land manoeuvres and of bomb tonnages dropped, provide a useful index of damage that may be expected to be found elsewhere.

Partial provincial figures of house destruction available include:

Province	Rooms in destroyed habitations	Rooms in damaged habitations	Rooms not occupied owing to damage	Rooms damaged but occupied
Naples	38,887	33,428	22,733	10,695
Salerno	10,713	6,842	3,795	3,047
Lecce	2	5	2	3
Taranto	425	159	141	18

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Taranto	428	159	141	18
Catania	12,121	9,189	5,474	3,685
Agrigento	2,359	1,062	635	427
Bari	167	346	244	102
Littoria	27,178	9,568	2,634	7,934
Frosinone	2,975	4,582	2,453	2,129
Benevento	4,702	2,092	1,512	580

Chiefly, of course, the census has been designed to help in the making of plans for Italy's future. The preliminary report will contain details on the existence and condition of machinery classified by 2,000 types. Similarly, the details on unemployment, on the animal population, on schools, hospitals, etc. should help fill in blanks in present operational knowledge. Finally, the emphasis upon war damage and German theft should provide one of the most detailed bills of charges that any country will have ready for presentation to the Germans.

The census has been taken by the Istituto Centrale di Statistica under the continuous supervision of Lieut. J.E.Hicks, of the United States Coast Guard, a member of the staff of the Economic Section. The enumeration work was done by the communal authorities with the help of some 10,000 extra employees taken on for the purpose and under the supervision of 220 inspectors trained in Rome and dispatched to the field. The tabulating work is being done by hand by approximately 3,000 clerks - a circumstance necessitated by the fact that the Istituto's tabulating machinery is amongst that taken by the Germans.

8. Note from Predappio

Predappio, birthplace of Mussolini, was recently occupied by Polish troops. A contributor, no less than the Provincial Commissioner of Forli, describes the place as follows:

"The town is overshadowed by the Duce's castle, Rocca delle Caminate, where he was wont to retire in solitude and take decisions which, it was said, would bear on the future history of the world. The castle now looks down on the passage of those troops which have brought about the downfall of its lord and of the regime he installed.

"In spite of the battle, the town of Predappio is still in fairly good order and the buildings retain their newly-built aspect. The Duce caused a new town to be built on the site of his little village birthplace. Fascist emblems are to be seen everywhere. In the main square the nigh "Lictor tower" of a bright red colour, still bears its fasces carved in white marble and the effect of the setting sun shining on it is quite pleasing. There are very few civilians in the streets, but Polish troops everywhere.

"The avenue leading up to the Duce's birthplace, once so well cared for, is evidence, in its present unkempt state, that pilgrimages had ceased long ago. The house itself is almost untouched with the exception of a bomb which slightly damaged a ceiling on the top floor. All the furniture has gone, except two iron bedsteads and some notices with the inscription "Visitors are requested not to write on the walls". It occurs to us that many visitors who did not obey the injunction, may be now hoping that their signatures will have been obliterated. An Army Unit, which has occupied some of the ground floor premises, has its number painted on the wall, in defiance of any prohibition. The remainder of the house is quite empty except for a three legged table leaning forlornly against one of the walls, and of fragments of broken glass and plaster which are strewn everywhere.

"After much difficulty, the caretaker, a tallish man of about forty, Nino Berti by name, was found. He speaks the local

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Polish troops. [illegible], no less than the Provincial Commissioner of Forli, describes the place as follows:

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"After much difficulty, the caretaker, a tallish man of about forty, Nino Berti by name, was found. He speaks the local dialect (the same as the Duce's) and appears to be quite well fed. He has not much information to impart, except to do his best to impress us with the fact that he never had anything to do with the "Fascists". In spite of his expressive gesticulation, we cannot help feeling that this is a rather difficult one to swallow. He cannot supply any information, he has no idea where the furniture and various paraphernalia has gone to, his reply to every query is the same: the "Tedeschi" have been there and have taken everything away.

"We take a turn round the town and talk with the few civilians who are about, they have all the same to tell, nobody had anything to do with Mussolini and they are glad to have seen and, they hope, to have heard, the last of him. It is a fact that the Allied troops have been well received and that the residents have given them a good welcome and that their attitude is the most collaborative. We leave Predappio, wondering how much reliance can be placed on the Duce's fellow citizens, and feeling that they certainly are most ungrateful for all the embellishments and improvements

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which the liberality of their once illustrious townsman so lavishly expended on them."

8. Odds and Ends

Senior Commander Stones, of the War Office Civil Affairs Branch, is visiting sub-commissions at headquarters to get first hand experience of AC operations....Lieut.Col.Craig has been named co-ordinating officer for the devastated regions....A suggestion has been made to repatriate 1,000 Italians from the Dodecanese, a project opposed by AC at this time....As many as 2,000 refugees harbored in Sicily have been repatriated to their mainland homes....Unemployment is rising in the Abruzzi-Marche Region, which, it is feared, may be a harbinger of the near future in other parts....Wheat collections as of reports received by 25 November stand at 9,714,162 qtl. or 84 per cent. of the 11,600,000 qtl. target figure. Grain in the forward areas is being spoiled by the rains, as, for instance, at Arezzo, where the warehouse leaked, so in some areas the damp crop is being issued in lieu of bread on the 200-gram ration cards.... Two woollen companies have commenced work at Prato and a further 23 are ready to go as soon as power is available....Several requests for derequisitioning of industrial premises will be presented to the first meeting of the Industrial Coordination Committee of the Allied Local Resources Board on December 1....The first fruit ship of the season is now loading in Sicily for export to the U.K..... Ration scales for food and petrol in the Republic of San Marino will be the same as in Liberated Italy....The general issue of dehydrated soup and vegetables will be suspended December 1, except in army areas, because of uncertainty over future imports....An acute shortage of freight cars is hampering the movement of wheat from surplus to deficiency areas, particularly, the Rome area....

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Lionel Fielden

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Col. h.E. Zicke

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

V. P. Establishment Sect.

SECRET

47

R26/WB33/PRB

19 November 1944

AC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 33
13 Nov to 19 Nov 44

1. Political

Coccio rotto dura piu di quello sano - "a cracked pot lasts longer than a sound one" - says a Tuscan proverb, applied this week by IL TEMPO to the Bonomi Government, which was also described by an Allied correspondent as being in its "chronic state of crisis." Such opinions echoed a general feeling that the Government could not fail because it was already on the ground: in other words, with no electoral machinery and no clear opposition there is nothing to take its place. The crisis, however chronic, certainly went deeper than usual, intensified partly by immediate causes such as the Lieutenant-General's interview, the rift between the Government and the Tuscan C.L.N., and the "slow-down" order to the partisans of the north: and partly also by remoter causes such as the Palermo affray and the general question of Sicily, dissatisfaction at the slow progress of epuration, and, last but not least, disillusionment over a misunderstanding which translated Roosevelt's "asking" for a ration of 300 grammes into a promise of instant fulfilment. But perhaps the greatest single factor of uneasiness was the apparent deferment of victory until the spring, and the consequent necessity for the present Government of partly-liberated Italy to act.

Between November 11 and November 18 all six parties issued 475
orders of the day. These party declarations, largely composed of pious resolutions not altogether new, seemed, if not to indicate a government fall at least to suggest a reshuffle. The Communists and Christian Democrats (as reported in our last Bulletin) led off on the 11th: on the same day the Liberals issued an order of the day which, though limited to the Sicilian issue, indicated clear sympathy with the idea of greater regional autonomy. The Action Party and Socialists made resolutions on the 17th: on the 18th the Labour Democrats brought up the tail. Common to all these manifestos were the ideas of grave discontent and government weakness: methods of dealing with these maladies were diverse and vague. The Communists put their emphasis on a greater war effort, more power to partisans and C.L.N., local elections, less Allied control, and a Republic: the Socialists, six days later, went somewhat further along this line by demanding annulment of the Armistice, the limitation of AC control to "matters directly connected with military organizations", and help

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Government to "get together" with the C.L.N.; that of the Labour Democrats echoed the Christian Democrat warning against agitation and disorder and reaffirmed the "truce" on the institutional question: but added, somewhat naively, that they reserved the right to "persuade" other parties about the necessity of agreeing upon a democratic Republic.

Thus far the parties. The Government, at its meetings on Wednesday and Thursday, "heard" the reports of Aldisio and Pinna, High Commissioners of Sicily and Sardinia respectively. Sad stories of both islands were told: and perhaps these peripheral worries were a not altogether unwelcome diversion to the Roman cabinet. Another diversion, growing rapidly stronger as the week closed, was caused by General Alexander's instructions given on November 13 to the patriots in the north, which spoke of "a slowing down of the tempo of battle" and a "cessation for the time being of large-scale organized activity." This focussed attention, perhaps fortunately, on the plight of Northern Italy, and on this at least the Italian Press could unite in calling for a greater war effort and every sacrifice by Italians in liberated territory for their brothers in the north. It is good to report in this connection that Rome will next week see the first march-past of newly-equipped Italian troops on their way to the front.

An uneasy week politically, with much exasperation over the unfulfilled or incorrectly reported "request" (the Italian "chiedere", may be translated "ask" or "demand") of Roosevelt for a 300 gramme ration. And Churchill's Friday statement that "the war would go on for some time", following Roosevelt's Thursday "victory in sight", did not add to the general gaiety.

2. AMG with the Armies

Eighth Army AMG's report for the first half of November gives a picture which is a good deal less black than might, in such a fought-over area, have been anticipated. Damage seems to be comparatively slight in almost all the recently captured communes such as Predappio, (home of Mussolini) Civitella di Romagna, Rocca San Casciano, Forlimpopoli, Meldola and Forli itself. In the last there are said to be 35,000 people, all (the town being still under shellfire when the report was written) "living like Troglodytes." Everywhere in the area there appears to be a fair amount of grain: in inaccessible districts such as Civitella or Romagna the Prefect of Forli had, before the arrival of the Allied troops, made a distribution of 2 quintals per worker and 1½ quintals per non-worker or child: that is, a year's ration from August 1, 1944 to 90% of the population, the remaining 10% getting 400 grammes of bread daily at a price of 3.60 per kilo. Normal water supplies have of course been damaged everywhere in the area but wells are plentiful and repairs proceeding smoothly. There are few refugees and health

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Fifthy Army AMG also sends a more or less "all-quiet" report. Some 2,000 refugees have been evacuated to the south, among them "a man purporting to be the Bishop of Benghazi." The partisans being held in the center at Florence have been found employment en bloc with an army formation which has made provision for their housing in a Labour Camp: and everyone, it appears, is pleased. The Roosevelt 300-gramme declaration has had the same effect as elsewhere - "the population are asking how soon it will become effective...applications are also being received from private undertakings for some of the promised 1,700 trucks."

Florentine politics continue lively. On November 10th 160 women congregated outside the Prefettura with banners bearing the slogans:

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"Milk for our children!"
"Away with the Fascist Prefect!"
"Long Live the Allies!"
"We want Epuration!"

It appeared that the second and the fourth were the keywords, the ladies asserting that they preferred privation to Paterno'. In fact, the demonstration might perhaps have been considered as politically staged, had not the innocent T.C.L.N. been away in Rome on that day. During the week a visit from the Soviet Labour Delegates was expected, but they were unexpectedly detained in Rome.

3. Wails from the Siena Woods

Army SCAOs and Regional Commissioners met in Conference with AC Headquarters chiefs and officers of the Civil Affairs Section, AAI, in Siena on Friday. With key Commission personnel away, elections in the United States distracting the minds of many officers, foul weather in Italy and roads and bridges washed out, five weeks had flitted since the last Conference. Many things can change in AC/AMG circles in five weeks and several new faces were introduced. But the old difficulties remain, and they were thoroughly aired at Friday's meeting which lasted until mid-afternoon. The Conference opened on an ominous note. Col. Fiske, substituting as Chairman for Brigadier Lush, scarcely back from Britain and busy in Rome, announced that, contrary to rumour, U.S. AC personnel "would not be out of the trenches by Christmas". He said the War Department was exploring the possibility of recalling certain Sub-Commission and Specialist personnel but he doubted if any appreciable numbers would be released. New Year's Day was mentioned as a tentative date-line for a decision.

The food situation, forced into the open by President Roosevelt's request that the bread ration in Italy should be 300 grammes and by a third demonstration in Florence because that quantity is not yet being issued in the Tuscan capital, came in for frank discussion. Mr. Antolini led the chorus with the statement that "we are practically bankrupt." He said a 300 gramme ration could and would be issued if the Commission discounted a theoretical stockpile of 800,000 tons of grain in what the meeting called "Kesselring's Italy." But issue on that scale would deplete those stocks, if they exist. To make matters worse the CGIL is pressing for a scale of 350 grammes for workers. November and December imports of wheat were out back considerably below expectations. There was only one ray of hope: Mr. MacMillan was leaving shortly for London and Washington and was being briefed with the facts for the attention of both Govts. The message to the President will be, in effect, that if 800,000 tons of grain are not found in Northern Italy "we are out of business".

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American opinion was instanced by a demand that if Mr. Roosevelt could shake anything out of his sleeve, it was time for him to shake. A British comment: was that if anything could undermine our prestige, this sanction by the highest authority for a thing we could not do was surely the way to effect it. The Presidential request has been taken as a pledge in Florence and elsewhere and is a current topic of discussion among Italians. The Florentines, according to Col. Mayne, view it in three different ways. Some say it was an election trick, others say the "Fascist" Prefect has the grain locked up, others believe it will come true. Meanwhile, over in Aquila, food stores were broken into five times last Saturday night and the Prefect of Macerata fled to Rome to escape a threatened riot. The bread crisis is aggravated by the fact that stocks of supplementary foods are dwindling and no fresh supplies are in sight in any appreciable quantities. The score: dehydrated vegetables will run out in two weeks; soup in mid-January; M & V about 14 February. Amassing of oil is being taken over by the Italian government and if it works there will be an issue of 400 grammes a month. Mr. Antolini drew a laugh

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when he announced that UNRRA had come into Italy with $50,000,000 in credits and nothing else but a request to borrow AC stocks of food, transport and medical supplies to start UNRRA distribution.

Minister

Mr. Hopkinson, British/in the Rome Embassy, informed the Conference that Mr. Caccia had been sent to Greece by Foreign Secretary Eden to act as co-ordinator of a joint Anglo-American Commission established in that stricken country. The situation in Greece is chaotic from lack of food and the collapse of the drachma. It is not sure that Mr. Caccia will return to AC. Reviewing the political situation, Mr. Hopkinson made it quite clear that as far as Britain and the United States are concerned Italy is still a co-belligerent. Italian pressure for full Allied status is expected to increase when the Italians are invited to join in the war against Japan. The official British view that Italian colonies should not be returned will have to run the gauntlet of the United Nations before it becomes a firm policy. When Italy denounced the 1940 armistice with France, the DeGaulle Government promptly sequestrated all Italian government property in France, but improved relations between the two countries are hoped for. Italy is trying to get news of 100,000 prisoners-of-war in Russia. Turning to the internal political scene, Mr. Hopkinson hinted that unity within the government is not expected to last. It was badly cracked by the interview the Prince Regent gave to Matthews of the New York Times. The Left is nervous of the effect of the Prince's intervention in the constitutional question, claiming that plebiscites in countries which have been Fascist have been "fixed". The Christian Democrats by implication have criticized the Left for attacks on the government and carabinieri and seem to be crystallizing on the Right rather than the Left. But nobody appears to want a disruption of the government because no group wants to bear the burden of this winter alone and all want to sit in when the machinery for determining the constitutional question is being organized.

There was free discussion of many difficult problems. The carabinieri are not liked in the Communist province of Grosseto but were reported to have turned the corner in Rome as a result of their strong handling of gangs in the Eternal City. Complete outfits for all the carabinieri in service in Italy are stocked in Naples and Bari and will be moved forward by rail for distribution. Activities of the Patriots Branch were praised and damned. Political meetings in Army areas are banned and very strong representations have been made to the Prime Minister of Italy about ministerial trips into forward districts. Col. Gibson of AAI attended the Conference and listened to pleas for moving the rear Army boundary north of Florence and Pisa. He explained the security risks involved and reminded the Conference that there is still a German Embassy in the Vatican. Brigadier Upjohn said that though there have been diplomatic flurries because members of the Yugoslav mission have been arrested and convicted for entering Army [illegible] the issue has been settled

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Japan. The official British [illegible] that Italian colonies should not be returned will have to run the gauntlet of the United Nations before it becomes a firm policy. When Italy denounced the 1940 armistice with France, the DeGaulle Government promptly sequestrated all Italian government property in France, but improved relations between the two countries are hoped for. Italy is trying to get news of 100,000 prisoners-of-war in Russia. Turning to the internal political scene, Mr. Hopkinson hinted that unity within the government is not expected to last. It was badly cracked by the interview the Prince Regent gave to Matthews of the New York Times. The Left is nervous of the effect of the Prince's intervention in the constitutional question, claiming that plebiscites in countries which have been Fascist have been "fixed". The Christian Democrats by implication have criticized the Left for attacks on the government and carabinieri and seem to be crystallizing on the Right rather than the Left. But nobody appears to want a disruption of the government because no group wants to bear the burden of this winter alone and all want to sit in when the machinery for determining the constitutional question is being organized.

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at all." AMG Eighth Army pressed for American promotions and Piemonte was anxious to promote British subalterns brought in from Ack-Ack Regiments.

4. Granai del Popolo

Wheat harvest collections as of 15 November stood at 9,408,649 quintals or 81 per cent. of the AC target figure of 11,600,000 quintals for Liberated Italy. The reports from the field are about 10 days to two weeks. For purposes of comparison, on 31 October, 1942, collections were 93 per cent. of that year's goal. The recent torrential fall rains in forward areas have helped further cut down the expected returns since the wheat there was largely stacked in the open and 30 to 50 per cent. may now be considered as lost. In the Marche-Abruzzi Region farmers are reported feeding grain to hogs and cattle. Three areas - Campania, Lazio-Umbria and Tuscany - have, however, exceeded expectations to date. Calabria and Sicily, of course, still trail. Sicily, with a reduced goal of 2,000,000 q'ls., has brought in a little more than 1,200,000. The collection is not ever expected by many to reach 1,500,000 qtl. by the end of the year, although sundry devices are being tried out. This now brings to the fore the question of feeding Sicily through imported wheat and the Agriculture and Food Sub-Commissions have been addressing their attention to this problem recently. From preliminary studies it appears that Sicily in years of average wheat production imported 900,000 qtl. a year. The Sicilian food situation is further aggravated by the fact that production of dried horse beans (fava), a staple of Sicilian diet, is almost half what it used to be due to the shortage of phosphate fertilizers. Using the figure of 1,600,000 qtls. as theoretically delivered to the collection centers by the end of the year, the AC agriculture experts estimate, roughly, that Sicily will need 1,650,000 qtl. of imported wheat for January 1 to July 31, 1945, while the food specialists give their estimate for the same period as 1,825,000 qtl.

5. Turnover

As every manjack in the Economic Section knows, the pressure has been on increasingly in recent months to turn over more and more operational responsibility for administration to the Italian Government. If anything, this turnover pace will increase, topside reports indicate. The Public Works and Utilities Sub-Commission took a large step in this direction this week. Henceforth, all civil projects, regardless of cost but providing they involve no critical materials, may be carried out by the Genio Civile without reference to AC. In the Industry Sub-Commission, arrangements have finally been agreed to by AFHQ to turn back operation of Sardinian coal

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the open and 30 to 40 per cent [illegible] the Marche-Abruzzi Region farmers are reported feeding grain to hogs and cattle. Three areas - Campania, Lazio-Umbria and Tuscany - have, however, exceeded expectations to date. Calabria and Sicily, of course, still trail. Sicily, with a reduced goal of 2,000,000 qtls., has brought in a little more than 1,200,000. The collection is not even expected by many to reach 1,600,000 qtl. by the end of the year, although sundry devices are being tried out. This now brings to the fore the question of feeding Sicily through imported wheat and the Agriculture and Food Sub-Commissions have been addressing their attention to this problem recently. From preliminary studies it appears that Sicily in years of average wheat production imported 900,000 qtl. a year. The Sicilian food situation is further aggravated by the fact that production of dried horse beans (fava), a staple of Sicilian diet, is almost half what it used to be due to the shortage of phosphate fertilizers. Using the figure of 1,600,000 qtls. as theoretically delivered to the collection centers by the end of the year, the AC agriculture experts estimate, roughly, that Sicily will need 1,650,000 qtl. of imported wheat for January 1 [illegible] July 31, 1946, while the food specialists give their estimate for the same period as 1,925,000 qtl.

6. Turnover

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"Distribution of drugs was taken over by civilian authorities; two cement works and two brick works were handed back to their owners; the control of certain minor industries, such as soap, was taken over by the Italian authorities; repairs to power stations and the operation of public utilities were largely handed over to the Genio Civile; agricultural supplies have been handed back to the Consorzio Agrario; military highways have become the responsibility of Italian road engineers; the ports of Castellammare and Torre Annunziata were taken over from the military authorities and Crotone from AC; the Posts and Telegraphs of Naples Comune are now controlled by the State. The Italian Ufficio del Commercio e dell'Industria is responsible for preparing bids for controlled materials; coal will be received, distributed and accounted for by the Italian State Railways.

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6. Neapolitan Notes

To one returning to Naples after four months absence two changes are apparent. The city is growing progressively cleaner and there are evidences that it is gradually going back to the Neapolitans. A good deal of debris and rubble has been removed and the absence of a motor pool in front of the Municipio and of the stacks of material in the square before the Prefettura give an air of tidiness and spaciousness. True the Via Roma is what it always was and indeed the mixture of uniforms has received a new ingredient - one encounters the Brazil shoulder patch fairly frequently - but the majority of the throng is now predominantly civilian. From the AC point of view there are minor changes that loom large. The Excelsior opulence is now available to the visitor and Southern Region has set up its mess in the celebrated Zi' Teresa, although the cooking has suffered some change since the old days since it is now based on army rations.

AC problems in Naples are the standard bag of headaches with a few local variations. The Naples zone is still AMG territory, of course, and the busy port needs constant policing. Further, of the many deserters estimated to be at large between Rome and Calabria, it is fair to assume that many are concealed in the alleyways of Naples. Yet, according to the Zone Commissioner, there is surprisingly little crime. Pilfering of army trucks goes on but on a decreasing scale. There has recently been an order put out over the Sindaco's signature forbidding Neapolitans to shelter in their homes or hotels any member of the Allied Forces; it is expected that this will dry up the source of supply of some of the black market centers. Superficially food would seem not to be a serious matter at the moment; even the food stalls of Santa Lucia(one of the poorer quarters) are well stocked with almost every kind of foodstuff. Prices are not low but at least lower than Rome. Naples is naturally regarded as a supply center in the matter of flour and the Zone Commissioner's efforts to build up sufficient reserve of pane, pasta and farina to take care of possible calls from the North or local emergencies, are continuous and strenuous. Naples province itself consumes 670 tons of flour a day. The rationing of olive oil is causing some discontent since at the moment some communes are getting it and others must do without. Public health, we are informed, is good. There have been one or two small-pox flurries in the small towns in the province but prompt action including mass vaccination has averted any danger of an epidemic. Welfare will always have its troubles in Naples but the orphanage is now running well and efficiently. There are 5,000 boy scouts in the province and the movement is growing. There is still a great shortage of footwear and blankets. Education is in good shape as the second school year after liberation begins. Of elementary schools 68% in Naples province and 90% in the provinces of Avellino and Benevento are open for business. In Naples itself, unhappily,many schools are still requisitioned.

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Politics go merrily on, indeed at a livelier pace than ever. The Zone Commissioner, who was scolded by "Avanti" for not accepting the candidate recommended by the local C.L.N. for Sindaco, is actually on the best of terms with the party leaders and it is expected that soon a solution acceptable to all will be reached. Meanwhile the Commissario is doing a good job. Incidentally, the Zone Commissioner, who was approached by the "partito rivoluzionario" for permission to publish "Bandiera Rossa", achieved a triumph for moderation when he persuaded them to become the "partito riformista."

In spite of the persistence of problems of supply and reconstruction and in spite of the presence of the military the war seems very far from Naples - even further than from unscarred Rome where the political repercussions of the fighting are so immediately felt. The days of tenseness and the nights of sleeping in the ricoveri are over and the Neapolitan is pretty much himself again.

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Some troops have been in Naples a year and more now and the inevitable has happened; there have been a number of marriages between Allied soldiers (including officers) and nubili Napolitane. There have been an even greater number of thwarted matrimonial attempts since the authorities investigate such projects thoroughly. Statistics are, however, delicate and should be regarded as highly secret - and we suspect would be at best inaccurate.

7. Odds and Ends

Grosseto Province reports, among local government matters, that the Commune of Monte Argentario is quiet but perhaps has taken on an air of sanctity since Signor Silvio Costa,who lives there, recently declared its independence as a "Principality of Peace" in preparation for the imminent arrival of the Saviour....Possible manufacture of small arms and shells in Liberated Italy for the war effort has been investigated recently by Allied specialists from abroad....Salvaged machinery of the Italian Government match monopoly at the destroyed Futignano plant which produced normally 11 billion matches a year may be moved to Pisa as a new production site....The 130 tons of American cotton recently received - plus 400 tons of Sicilian cotton is being made into bed and personal linen, sewing thread for civilians and some into underwear and stockings for the Italian Army....A survey of the north Tuscany textile belt shows 30 per cent. of the plants undamaged, 20 per cent. capable of short term repairs, 20 per cent. capable of long term repairs, and 30 per cent. totally destroyed.... On the basis of a 200-gram ration of olive oil a month, it is estimated that there will be a deficit of approximately 35,000 tons in the current olive oil amassing program, despite the intensive efforts of the eight harvest control officers now on the spot in the Southern Region....On the heels of a 15,000 ton distribution of nitrogen fertilizers in Southern Region, bonus-type issue of imported fertilizers to farmers in Sicily is being planned on the basis of the grain harvest legal retentions and deliveries....Use of supplies as bonuses in control of collections is also being applied to the fishing industry where villages will have collection centers for fish and distribution centers for nafta, benzine, kerosene and oil for the boats and the night fishing lamps....Two steps toward increased coordination of inter-related Economic Section activities have been taken in the establishment of a Priorities and Movements Division, with Mr. Merritt H. Taylor, American civilian as head, and a Supply and Resources Division under Mr. Harlan Cleveland, the Section's Executive Director.. 700 Yugoslavs have been repatriated to their homeland this month.... Plans are afoot to recruit 1,000 Carabinieri a month for emergency war duty from volunteers for enlistment in the Italian Army....The study of German will no longer be compulsory in Italian schools, the Education Sub-Commission reports....Noting an almost complete stoppage of the flow of imported foodstuffs other than wheat, the Food Sub-

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acute tobacco shortage in that city....Italian exports amounted to 1,636 tons of various products, valued at about 90 million lire, during October....Re-activation, now under way at the large Solvay chemical plant at Rosignano, is expected to eliminate completely all imports of caustic soda and sodium carbonate for Italy....Statistics for venereal disease among British troops in Italy shows that more than 50 per cent. contracted infection in Rome,.Pub Health reports....Total number of Patriots recruited into the Italian Army as of 31 October were 807....More than 90,000 persons have now viewed The Palazzo Venezia exhibition of great paintings in Rome....Of 7,000 Italians arriving in the Rome refugee camps, 5,000 have been repatriated to their home communes....The Displaced Persons and Repatriation Sub-Commission is currently arranging the repatriation of 116 Greeks for Tripoli and Cyrenaica, 31 French-Italians for French North Africa, 20 Czechs for the United Kingdom (to join the Czech forces), 25 Latin American ecclesiastics for South American countries, 900 Jews for Palestine and 50 other Catholic clerics for countries all over the world....A Sardinian shepherds' vendetta has resulted in the slaughter of some 800 sheep....A note from Lt.Col.Dickie, former deputy director of the Agriculture Sub-Commission and now in Greece: "Many of the problems to be faced here are similar to those in Italy - destruction, disruption of communications, neglected land, lack of draft animals, of seed and of fertilizer, but we feel we have made a good beginning and if party antagonisms, not verbal only, can be calmed, then our progress will be vastly quickened."....Overheard from a British sergeant at a sergeant's dance "I don't know what all this Fascism was about but it seems to have been very popular".

Lionel Fielden

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

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Deputy City of Italy

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
CMF
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

SECRET

PRB/R26/WB30

29 October 1944.

AC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 30
17 Oct to 29 Oct 44

1. Political

The past week has been a very lively one in the sphere of international relations. Action began in London where, on the 25th, it was announced that direct relations "have been established" between England and Italy. Sir Noel Charles was given the personal rank of ambassador and His Majesty's government expressed its satisfaction with the appointment of Count Carandini as Italian representative in England. (Carandini, it will be recalled, is a Liberal and Croce's successor in the Bonomi government; see ACC Weekly Bulletin No. 17, July 30). Russia also acted immediately, appointing Kostylev Soviet ambassador and the following day Stettinius announced in Washington that, after consultation with other American republics it had been agreed to resume diplomatic relations with the Italian government. The Senate is to be asked to approve the nomination of Alexander Kirk, now U.S. representative on the Allied Advisory Council, as Ambassador. The statement of Stettinius made it quite clear that this did not signify any change in the status of co-belligerency but he did add that it was the policy of the United States to give back to Italy control of her internal affairs as soon as possible. These good intentions are symbolized by dropping the middle C out of our well-known initials...Bonomi, as was to be expected, made much of these developments; Italy, he said, had been released from her isolation and for the rest he trusted the sense of justice of the United Nations which would be certain to appreciate the need for making Italy an Ally. AVANTI remarked rather sourly that all this was well enough but the position was still far from clear; the armistice terms are still secret, the status of Italy remains ambiguous and it would be good to know once and for all whether the large armies in Italy are liberators or occupying forces. Points no doubt well taken, which should not however detract in the least from Bonomi's legitimate sense of satisfaction.

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In an interview given to Sprigge (Reuters) on the 28th Bonomi said that Italy should leave fundamental political and social problems for the moment and concentrate on the present "tragic situation". One matter that will not wait and could accurately be defined either as an aspect of the "tragic situation" or a fundamental problem is the Sicilian question. This the Council of Ministers, meeting on the 27th, attacked with energy. The result of their consideration was the preparation of necessary decrees to set up the following machinery: a "Consulta" to be added to the Alto Commissariato - the Consulta to be made up of 24 members representing various interests on the island: further industrial development to be financed by special funds and "modifications" in the institution for colonizing the Latifundia. The land question was studied but in accordance with the Bonomi policy there are to be no radical reforms at the moment. It may easily be imagined however that the agrarian question will take up most of the time of the Consulta, which is, if the Consulta is what it should be, just where the matter can most profitably be studied. The latifundia problem is by no means confined to Sicily, as readers of the Bulletin will have observed, and earlier in the week the Prime Minister found it advisable to send a circular to the prefects outlining the measures for agrarian reform (see Bulletin No. 27 for 8 Oct.), stressing the restricted and emergency nature of these measures and urging that above

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all the law should be observed and no violence tolerated. ITALIA NUOVA drawing a satirical picture of a typical bureaucrat, complete with top-hat and umbrella, trying to explain to a group of aroused peasants that the law didn't mean what they thought it did, ridiculed the attempt of Bonomi to keep the peace. However, there have been no cases of violence reported this week and perhaps the circular has had something to do with it.

The trial of Pentimalli and Del Tetto, the two generals held responsible for surrendering Naples to the Germans, has been postponed, giving ITALIA LIBERA the opportunity to hint at a plot to conceal the guilt of the higher-ups. And UNITA has carried a series of articles devoted to the Roman aristocracy and proving, at least to the satisfaction of UNITA, that they are a bad lot. Perhaps next week we can tell you who is to be ambassador to Washington. Sforza's name is bandied about to the exclusion of all others but there is no official report as yet. And perhaps next week we can tell you who will take Carandini's place in the Cabinet. Vedremo.

2. AMG with the armies

Fifth Army AMG draws no encouraging picture in its report of October 14 - 24. Food, particularly in Pisa and Pistoia, is scarce, and the scarcity is producing inevitable results. In Pisa a Black Market is developing rapidly, mostly through purchase or barter by Brazilians and American coloured troops. Brazilians, for example - though such dealings aren't limited to Brazilians - are said to buy grapes (price 20 lire a kilo) for 20 cigarettes a kilo; the 20 cigarettes then being sold by the Italian buyer for 80 lire. In Pistoia there was a food demonstration on October 16, and resentment is growing against the paucity of the 100 gram ration as compared with 300 in the more fortunate south. In Florence the food situation remains bad and the fuel situation worse; " civilian transport is in a deplorable shape and will soon be off the road unless tyres are provided". Altogether a somewhat sorry state of affairs, with winter coming on: and Fifth Army AMG, speaking of Pistoia, adds tersely that "morale in the Province is low and the people only fairly sympathetic to the Allies".

No recent report has been received from 8th Army AMG.

3. A Note from Florence

Career trained Prefect of Florence Giulio Paterno deftly spiced the political stew between himself and the Tuscan Committee of National Liberation last week when he presented the local allied

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Tuscany and, allowing only for short stop-overs for speeches, was making for Florence where he was scheduled to address a meeting of Christian Democrats the following Wednesday. In the nick of time, an allied officer intercepted Minister Gronchi at Figlini and in Florence on Wednesday a meeting at which Gronchi was present was held in Lt. Col. Michie's office. Neither Dr. Paterno, Florence's prefect, nor Col. Spicer, AC's Chief of Local Government Sub-Commission, who was in Florence for the day, were present....Even the cheerful rumor that Carandini had been nominated ambassador to the Court of St. James failed to console the Treasurer of Florence's Liberal Party who was glum all week long; warned only one day in advance of the scheduled meeting that their principal guest would not be present he had made extensive preparations for a sumptuous reception and dinner afterwards (at today's prices!).

4. Sniping in Sardinia

The workers of Sardinia have, it seems, taken their reduced ration - which brings them into line with the rest of Italy - fairly well. A spot of trouble came from the 300 workers at the coal distillation plant at S. Antioco, who discovered that, since they were not technically miners, they would not get the "A" supplementary ration: and went on strike accordingly. However, a concession in the form of dehydrated soup and vegetables, coupled with a rough house for the Secretary of the Sindaco, restored them, apparently, to work and good-humour. Sardinia seems to share some of Sicily's difficulties over grain-amassing: the prisons are full and the authorities not keen to add to the fifteen thousand cases pending. Yet the grain fails to arrive. The High Commissioner has been speechifying energetically and, no doubt, eloquently: more to the point perhaps, he has devised a scheme of taking around to the most grainless districts a small force of Carabinieri, who "clean their rifles and sharpen their weapons rather ostentatiously while the people are reminded that although the date for the grain collection is past, no punishment will be given to anyone bringing it in voluntarily even now". This rather naive proceeding had the effect of producing 300 quintals in Florinas and 500 at Santievi - each in one day. The best Sardinian story of the week, however, must be told in the words of Colonel Pennyquick. "In the Province of Sassari, one of the Priests has created a minor problem. It appears that the local people consider he is charging too much for ceremonies such as funerals etc and there is undue delay when the fees are not forthcoming. This rather unexpected variation on Black Market practice in this Island where violence is not far below the surface has resulted in a bomb being thrown near his and some attempt to snipe him at his parochial window. The Prefect is asking the Arch Bishop to arrange for an exchange."

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5. Symptoms of Hope?

The Economic Section these last weeks has been holding nightly meetings preparing orders and justifications for a program of limited aid to Italy requested by two envoys of the Combined Chiefs of Staff, Mr. Maris (B) and Mr. Mitchell (A). The program, breaks down requirements into two categories: A - goods to alleviate disease and unrest for reasons of military necessity; B- longer term first-aid goods. Under the former go all food, transport and medical supplies needs. Such materials are at present paid for out of regular civil affairs military appropriations set up for the purpose. The second category comprises materials for essential industries such as power, textiles, cement, fertilizers, etc.

Other signs of economic stirring may be noted in the fact that two Italian Government officials will shortly go to Washington for financial talks, accompanied by a representative of the Finance

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Sub-Commission, and it has been suggested that the Italian Government would accept an invitation to attend the International Chamber of Commerce convention at Atlantic City, N.J. early in November. As with the materials orders of the Italian Government, so, with these projected trips, the AC still acts as screener, since no word has yet come as to lessening of actual controls. Another indication is the report that Italy will be permitted shortly to have communications through cables and radio with the outside world.

On the food front, while waiting for word on the AC request to raise the ration throughout Liberated Italy to 300 grams, the Economic Section has decided to issue a 300-gram extra ration of flour or pasta north of the Guarigliano River, effective November 5. This would amount to a 25-gram daily increase.

6. Neighbouring Countries

The D.C.O.S. and VP Est Sec(Colonel Fiske, in case you don't remember the latest initials) has recently returned from a rapid but comprehensive tour which took him first to a spot near Dijon, where his plane was grounded, and thence by car to the 6th Army Group, then up into Belgium and back to Versailles and Paris. He covered a good deal of country and was struck by the negligible damage, compared to this country, and the speed with which France is getting back to normal. Livestock abounds, railways are in full operation, even prices, in the country, are reasonable. Paris of course has luxury prices of its own, but its markets are well stocked. No troops are allowed in the city except on official business, which of course may cover a multitude of leaves. Administration is, as elsewhere in France, entirely in the hands of the French. The AMG, acting (if at all) in a liaison capacity, are settled in some well-known, though of course not Augean, stables; and some of them were heard to lament a fate which, after two years "schooling" at Charlottesville, Tizi-Ouzou, and other delightful resorts, now had them schooling again for Germany. The main facts about France seem to be that it's no place for AMG, that it is astonishingly prosperous, and that not many Frenchmen are keen on doing any more fighting.

From Greece, through correspondents arriving back in Italy, come not altogether dissimilar stories: little or no starvation, at least in the south, plenty of livestock, little destruction, and - as things go in wartime - a cheerful people. Currency is a worry, the drachma having run into uncountable billions. It is said (unreliably) that exchange rates were based at the start on the price of a shave, which was 15,000,000 drachma: estimated equivalent, sixpence. An American correspondent told us "By the time that I had changed a two dollar bill and an Egyptian pound, I found that the equivalent in drachmas was worth one cigarette".

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7. Odds and Ends

The Granai del Popolo, as of 28 October, had 8,886,888 qtl. in its bins out of the 11,800,000 qtl. collection forecast;...The Allied Commission now has 21 ATS officers, of whom 14 have been sent in pairs to regions and 7 assigned to Headquarters....Congratulations to the following Allied Commission American officers all attached to the 8th Army AMG on having been awarded the Bronze Star for, as the citations read, "meritorious service with the Allied Armies in Italy in support of combat operations": Lieut. William A. Lessa, Lieut. Albert L. Barnard, Capt. Edmund S. Torchelli, Major Fred O. Mavis, Major James C. Grizzard, Major John A. Steel, Colonel Charles J. Farinacci....A trek back north is in progress under AC auspices, the Displaced Persons and Repatriation Sub-Commission having asked for train transportation for 11,746 refugees in Sicily and Southern Region to be moved back to Central Italy where they are needed to cultivate their farms....About 17 Rome elementary schools are open now (one out of ten), the others being closed, in the words of the Education Sub-Commission, because the buildings are (1) Occupied by our troops;

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(2) Occupied by Italian troops; (3) Occupied by refugees; (4) Occupied by lice , disinfectants being nil; (5) damaged"....All Italian Public Safety organizations will have their rations increased from the heavy worker scale to the Italian Army scale as of November 1....Regional commissioners have been instructed to support properly appointed Provincial Prefects to the full, even when these Italian officials are under attack by the local Committee of National Liberation, who have been rather waspish of late....Teams of officers are to be formed to work on rehabilitation programs in the devastated areas....Italian voice at a Florentine football match after the Italians had scored their fifth successive goal over a scoreless allied team: "Let them score a couple of goals---then maybe they'll give us better armistice terms."....This week the ACC became, officially, the AC.

8 Anniversary

The ACC or AC will be a year old on November 10 and, since this seems a good opportunity of summing up its publishable activities for the benefit of the doubting Thomases of the Press, Public Relations Branch has been attempting to compile a short readable outline of the Commission's varied career. The job has proved a great deal more difficult than we anticipated: accurate records of early days are hard to come by, busy sub-commissions have found it difficult to hunt up detailed figures, and the intertwined and sometimes delicate threads of operations, politics, supplies and organization have not lent themselves easily to the making of readable rope. The outline does, however, provide the framework of a more detailed history which we should like to write before the AC becomes the C or merely O. We therefore take this opportunity of asking all who are interested and have stories to tell, particularly about our early days, to send us any material, humorous, tragic, or simply banal, to fill the gaps which will doubtless be perceived, by many, when our outline sees the light on November 10.

4745

Lionel Fielden.

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

DCOS & VP
Establishment Section

PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION SECRET

PRB/R26/WB29 22 October 1944.

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 29
16 Oct to 22 Oct 44

1. Political

The most dramatic political event of the week was Thursday's riot in Palermo which we deal with under a separate heading. It came just in time for the meeting of the Council of Ministers on the following day. The forenoon meeting was given over to hearing Aldisio's report, considering "appropriate measures for normalizing the situation". At the end of the session Aldisio left by plane for Palermo, charged by the ministers to carry out a complete investigation of the affair....In the afternoon session the Council, as promised, ratified the measures for the workers' subsidy as outlined in last week's Bulletin. Further measures were authorized for the "economic betterment" of state employees, and a draft decree to ease credit for industrial enterprises concerned with reconstruction. Epuration in the field of journalism was the object of special attention. A committee is to be named by the Minister of Justice on the advice of the Undersecretary of Press and Information. Meanwhile Armando Rossini has been made "director general of the Italian press".

The workers' subsidy may well be regarded as a victory for the Leftist parties and the CGIL who began agitation for it on Aug. 9. Victory has been so long delayed however as to be greeted more with ungracious acceptance than exultation, especially since there have been repeated hints from the government that the "political" price of bread may have to be abandoned. Indeed while the manifesto of harmony of Sept. 28 is still honored by all parties it is obvious that the restriction implied in it is somewhat chafing to the Left. Nenni came out with an article in AVANTI on the 15th in which he reiterated the three fundamental and essential steps in the true democratization of Italy: the founding of the republic, solution of the agrarian problem and industrial socialization. He added, for the benefit of those who like to hide behind the allies, that all these were Italian problems; "dollars, sterling, and the Tory caprices of Churchill have nothing to do with them". He was supported by La Malfa of the Action party and opposed, at some length by the Christian Democrats. It is probably unfair to say that Nenni is trying to break up the government - indeed he asserted specifically that he was not - but the Leftist parties are in a difficult position in the coalition. The Labor Democrats and the Liberals being dedicated to deliberate and orderly reform are at least relatively content with this period of waiting; the Christian Democrats, being divided among themselves are happy to have a chance to temporize.

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And the monarchists, not represented in the government but by no means extinct, will tell you frankly (though not for publication) that the longer the institutional question is left in abeyance the stronger the position of the King becomes. In such a situation it is only natural for the Socialists to reassert their revolutionary program. The Communists, who are of the same opinion, have taken the line of urging citizens to "look to the North" where, according to them, revolutionary elements are much stronger, and of giving further strength to the local committees of liberation as more dynamic and representative of the people than the government is. Since the monarchist ITALIA NUOVA has been urging dissolution of the C.L.N. there is probably some truth in the Communist argument.

The week produced rather more than its share of violence. The carabinieri broke up a display of anti-monarchical propaganda in the offices of the Republican party at Grosseto. Unquestionably the carabinieri used violence but, as ITALIA NUOVA pointed out,

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~~unquestionably the anti-monarchical display was provocative. Just~~ how far one can go in attacking the head of the state is a matter more for tradition than legislation and in Italy the tradition is not clear enough to make such incidents avoidable. In the Marsica Region of the Abruzzi the carabinieri were alleged to have fired on the peasants who were moving into uncultivated lands...Palermo provided the climax.

All quiet on the international front. Dewey's statement that America has not done enough for Italy was given some prominence. And Pacciardi, in VOCE REPUBBLICANA, called the policy of Roosevelt "Machiavellian"....No more talk of colonies, no declaration of war on Japan, no ambassadors to Washington or London.... There is in the air a feeling of suspense, of waiting - for Nov. 7, possibly?

2. AMG with the armies.

Reports over the past two or three weeks from both 5th and 8th Army AMG's indicate a good many difficulties and frustrations, natural consequences of heavy fighting in bad weather, and limited advances. As an example, here is a part of a report from SCAO II Corps:

"The A.M.G. work in these communes has not been as satisfactory or thorough as desired, due to the fact that all of the towns have been badly damaged and are uninhabitable, and the people who are scattered throughout the fractions are unually inaccessible owing to the lack of or bad conditions of the roads....The commune of Loiano is 80% destroyed; there is no water and no habitable buildings are left."

Food supplies in Pisa, Pistoia and Florence are still unsatisfactory, and some food rioting occurred in the first two. "In no commune north of the Arno" states 5th Army AMG "is there any appreciable amount of grain in the Ammassi. 40% of the grain is still in the fields unthreshed and much of it is sprouting". Under these circumstances there is naturally much apprehension about the winter.

Better news is that the SMI munitions factory in the commune of Barga, which can employ up to 8000 people, has been found only slightly damaged: that there are abundant chestnuts to help out the grain supply: and that the inhabitants of Pisa are still lively enough to have a current jest - "with a Scotsman as Provincial Supply Officer, we naturally have to tighten our belts".

Eighth Army AMG also stresses devastation and difficulties of communication in mountainous country. CAO's with both armies are, it seems, having very considerable and lengthy practice in mule-riding with peasants as guides. The communes of San Archangelo and Coriano are heavily damaged and their re-population presents the usual difficulties. The almost inaccessible [illegible]

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3. Disorder in Palermo.

On the morning of October 19 a demonstration occurred in Palermo in the course of which the Italian military were called out and opened fire on the crowd, killing (as far as is known at present) 16 and wounding 104, 38 only of whom were hospital cases. At the time of writing news from Palermo is scanty and somewhat contradictory, but the following facts seem clear.

The demonstration was a result of growing irritation against the high prices of food: it was not any shortage of food, but the fact that there was abundant food to be seen at prices far above the average wage-earners' purchasing power, which was at the root of the trouble. Some shops were looted and a crowd - apparently not violent - collected in front of the Prefettura. The officials of the Prefettura called out the military and a truckload of 40 arrived. What happened then

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is not yet clear: the Italian military authorities state that someone in the crowd threw a hand grenade which injured nine soldiers. Other reports say that the hand grenade was thrown by the military and fell short. Certain it is the troops then reacted with rifles and hand grenades; and the crowd dispersed. Feeling, however, continued to run high and on the 20th a crowd of 1000 attacked the Italian Guard at the U.S.Naval Base with stones; the guard replied with hand grenades and rifles but on this occasion it seems that there were "no serious casualties". Italian Guards on British installations were replaced by British unit personnel and the U.S.Navy took similar action. 70 Sub Area concludes its report by a suggestion that further incidents may occur at the funeral of the victims of the first riot.

Aldisio, the High Commissioner for Sicily, met the Acting Chief Commissioner at ACC HQ on the 19th to discuss measures of Public Safety in Sicily. It was then agreed that no more Carabinieri were to be withdrawn - Brigadier Carr had already drawn attention to the danger - unless replaced by Italian troops. It is hoped to send back to the Island a battalion of Italian troops recently moved to Calabria. The subsequent disorder, however, appears to have switched public feeling against the troops and not against the Carabinieri, who, for once in a way, are not getting the blame.

Aldisio held a press conference in Rome at very short notice on the morning of the 20th and told Allied correspondents among other startling things, that the situation in Sicily was due to the Allies belief in separatist propaganda (and perhaps by implication their approval of separatism) which insisted that Sicily could be and should be self-supporting. The island, said Aldisio, had had to import grain for the last four years; and had now only two months grain in stock. The population he implied (and this cry of distress was cabled by many across the seas) would be starving by December 15.

The position as outlined by Aldisio is a very long way from the declared plans of the ACC. The argument that Sicily has imported in the past is of doubtful validity: Sicily has in fact always exchanged some of the hard grain which she grows in exchange for the soft grain of the mainland. Brigadier Carr, in his report of October 17, states cautiously that "in the opinion of this HQ the Island produced sufficient grain to feed the population possibly till the next harvest but at least to within a month or two of it". He goes on to show the difficulties of an accurate forecast "in the absence of any reliable statistics.....or franz information". Citing the case of Trapani, the province with the worst record of amassing, he shows that the original target figure of 300,000 quintals was reached on the basis of 65,000 cultivated hectares yielding 9.9 quintals per hectare, giving a total of 645,000 quintals: from this was subtracted 85,000 for seed retention and 161,000 for food retention, bringing down the "amassable" total to 399,000 - leaving the wide margin of 99,000, the target figure was set at 300,000. The provincial authorities - who have never questioned the figure of 65,000 hectares cultivated - later objected

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If the Trapani instance is indicative of the general amassing situation in Sicily, as it appears to be, there can be little doubt that the actual amount amassed (1,294,781 quintals on Oct 13) is only a fraction - perhaps not more than 15% - of the total production, and that the vast bulk of grain produced is being hoarded. Aldisio's cry of distress, echoed by correspondents across the Atlantic, seems little justified.

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In the meantime Mr. Antolini is collecting some hard - extremely hard - facts about Sicily as a counterblast to any suggestion that food for the North should be diverted to the gaping jaws of Empeladus.

4. Calories.

A strong memorandum is being prepared for higher authority on the necessity of maintaining a 300-gram ration in Italy and of raising the ration to that figure in places where it is lower. The ACC view is that the 300-gram ration is the irreducible minimum and that any reduction below that figure (except for short periods in operational areas) would be disastrous to the health of the nation. The Italian diet has been traditionally that of bread or flour in one form or another, plus sugar. Dietary experts say that the Italians over-weight their diet on the protein side, doing without enough carbohydrates. Of course, that is the Italians' affair. In any event, investigation shows that the present daily scale of 300 grams of bread and 4.15 grams of sugar which is the regular ration in Southern Italy produces a calorific content of only 763 calories. This is supplemented in urban districts over 30,000 population by meat and vegetable issues, providing an additional calorific value of 143 calories, making a total of 906 calories.

The League of Nations Health Committee in 1936 recommended that 2,400 calories a day should be the calorific intake of a man or woman living in a temperate climate and not engaged in manual labor. If the person is doing moderate muscular work, he should get 3,000 calories a day. U.S. Army medical manuals prescribe that a soldier marching on level or undulating ground should get approximately 3,000 calories a day. Italian prison inmates are receiving a double sugar ration - 8.3 grams a day but cases of malnutrition have nevertheless been occurring, pointing up the inadequacy of the ration. The usual story is that the population makes up its diet deficiencies by buying on the black market. However, when there is little supply of the necessary items on the black market or people have no money to buy at the high prices there quoted, they simply do not get enough to protect their health. At the same time, while the black market is the only other source of supply, legally the authorities are committed to take measures to combat it. The ration increase to 300 grams in Naples was immediately reflected in a drop in black market prices. Thus, even to allow the population to purchase the extra needed foodstuffs in the black market, the ration should be kept to 300 grams and thus help control prices. Otherwise, prices will be so high this winter that poorer people will not get enough to eat, with the obvious consequences of further destitution by selling of clothing and furniture for money and, especially of prostitution which increases the V.D. among the troops.

What continuance of these conditions will mean in the way

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What continuance of these conditions will mean in the way of social unrest and threat to military security is anyone's guess. The intertwined question of proper ration-black market control also has a positive effect on the amassing program, farmers hoarding their wheat to sell at fantastic prices to illegal speculators. Politically, the matter is also full of dynamite. If failure to provide adequate food persists, discontent this winter may well lead to riots and the fall of the Italian Government. We are receiving sympathetic help in high quarters in presenting this case.

5. Odds and Ends.

150 tons of American cotton has arrived at Naples to be made into cloth by Italian textile mills for essential civilian use... Col. Temperley, Regional Commissioner of Southern Region, is being posted to England; he will certainly be missed, particularly by PRB whose informative friend he ever was....The Granai del Popolo, as of

October 21, had received 8,769,172 quintals of grain or 76 per cent. of 11,600,000 qtl. target....Speaking of wheat, the Bulletin in a recent number stated that 1,000,000 to 4,000,000 quintals of grain were expected to be found in the Northern regions, which was in error, the actual estimates of wheat amassing in the northern areas range from 8,000,000 to 10,000,000 quintals....Lazio food officers report that Rome is feeding on a hand-to-mouth basis, only about one and a half days' supplies usually being on hand....Mr. William S. Vaughn, American civilian and metallurgical engineer, becomes the first civilian to take over directorship of an ACC sub-commission, succeeding Col. J.S.E. Todd to the top post of the Industry Sub-Commission.... Brigadier Upjohn, vice president of the Civil Affairs Section, has proposed that all Italian Government decrees be sent to the Ministry of Justice before drafting in order that the ACC could check all proposals through one channel....The Advisory Council for Italy has suggested that the ACC become responsible for collection of information on war crimes, a proposal which will add a great deal to our limited staff....UNRRA has requested and received permission to enter this theater to discuss the commencement of limited operations. Col. Murphy of the Economic Section will act as liaison officer between UNRRA and ACC....The Economic Section is distressed over a report that 8th Army AMG has made a distribution of 100 kilos of grain a person (enough to last a year on the present ration scale), a procedure (which if true) regarded as extremely unsound....Harlan Cleveland, American civilian, has arrived to be an economic advisor to the ACC from the Foreign Economic Administration where he was in charge of occupational studies of the Italian economy....Col. McCarthy, Director of Patriots Branch, becomes a Brigadier and goes to Eritrea... congratulations

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LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

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PRB/R26/WB27

PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

SECRET

8 October 1944

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 27
2 Oct to 8 Oct 44

1. Political

The past week has not been an easy one for Italians alert - as most of them are - for a kind word from Washington or London. It is true that President Roosevelt's detailed announcement of supplies and equipment (including 1,700 trucks) to help the country to its feet made good reading and brought forth enthusiastic thanks, the OSSERVATORE ROMANO remarking with pleasure that the "promises to Italy" are now being fulfilled. But, satisfaction being in essence much less lasting than anxiety, the press has given most of its attention to the statements of Churchill, Cranborne and Eden in Parliament. The first two, taken together, for Cranborne merely echoed Churchill when he spoke of looking toward broadening the base of the government when the North is conquered, managed to give the impression that English policy favors the monarchy and intends to see that the right people get into the government in order to assure the political welfare of Casa Savoia. Some rather harsh things were said in the Leftist press: VOCE REPUBBLICANA thought it well to inform the world that Italy "would choose a government to please herself and not other nations" and Spano wrote in UNITA that there was one question to put to the nations fighting for democracy, absurd as it may seem: "do they really have faith in the people?" The rumor of British intervention in Italian affairs reached such a point that it had to be categorically denied that Badoglio had been named ambassador to England. All this was hard enough to bear but Eden's statement that Italy's colonies were "irrevocably" lost to her was another and harder blow. Here the press reaction was perhaps a little paradoxical; Nenni in AVANTI took it almost with satisfaction, saying that the Socialists had always opposed imperialism though adding that it was equally good Socialist doctrine that all colonies should be under international management with raw materials and markets open to all nations. Stronger expressions of unhappiness came from ITALIA NUOVA, which had expressed no disapproval of England's alleged concern for the monarchy, but felt bound to point out that Italian colonies existed a long time before Fascism and that there seems no good moral principle on which to base their surrender. RISORGIMENTO LIBERALE remarked on the inconsistency of asking Italy to fight Japan while at the same time stripping her of her possessions and ITALIA LIBERA in effect asked Mr Eden: how can you do this to us fellow democrats? An announcement was made that Bonomi had asked the British Ambassador for clarification of what Eden meant (for the hope dies hard that he had only Ethiopia in mind) but as yet no further illumination has come ..... The discussion of war with Japan has also gone on briskly; at this point all parties are united in holding that allied status and possibly "other concessions"

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The discussion of these various aspects of foreign affairs leaves one with two definite impressions. The first that, making allowance for occasional party eccentricities, on matters of foreign policy all articulate Italians think much alike. The second that there is growing and spreading rapidly a feeling that Italy is being treated with special injustice. This feeling may be sensed not only in the comments on the Japanese war and the colonies but also in articles on subjects such as relief and the allied financial policy. IL POPOLO this morning carried a poignant lament that the Italian lira was getting worse treatment than the mark, to say nothing of the favored franc. The prevalent point of view seems to be that Italians have expiated for whatever sins Fascism committed, they have already suffered more than their share - especially since Fascism was forced on them anyway - and that they are now being made the victims of reprisals for crimes not their own. It is alas, not unlike the "no-one-wants-to-understand-us" psychology of 1919 - if anyone still remembers those days. Verbum

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sap. --- or, shall we say: cave canem?

The meeting of the council on Friday took up two very fundamental matters. There was a long report by Siglienti, Minister of Finance, prefaced by the comment that a revision of the Italian tax structure necessitated by years of Fascist control could not be undertaken at this time but that emergency measures were necessary to insure the maximum efficiency and the greatest yield from taxes already in effect. The modifications suggested (and approved by the Council) were also designed to shift the burden somewhat from lower to higher income groups. Although AVANTI, as might be expected, found the new measures inadequate, it seems fair to say, judging from other press comment and from the remarks of our own ACC experts, that they represent a step in the right direction. The other matter was even more delicate, if possible. For gingerly and timidly and with many reservations the Council approached the thorny question of the expropriation of large holdings of land. UNITA has been urging the contadini to move in on uncultivated land and this has led to a number of awkward situations over the past month, particularly in Latium where some of the most aristocratic Roman families have large estates. It was laid down that through properly organized and recognized peasants' cooperatives uncultivated lands or lands which were "relatively uncultivated" in relation to their quality or the agricultural conditions of the area could be turned over to the peasants. The surrender of the land is to be carefully controlled by a board in which all parties, peasant, landowner and state are represented and by the terms of the decree the length of the concession cannot be more than four years. "Cad not even be considered as the first step toward agrarian reform", cries UNITA. But it is, though.

2. <u>AMG with the Armies</u>

"With the break in the weather already here," says Fifth Army AMG, "it is difficult not to be gloomy about the future." Long-range shelling of Pistoia continued until Sep 27; of Pisa until Sep 28; of Lucca until Sep 29. In the central area, in the path of the main advance, communes are very heavily damaged and their chief centres completely destroyed: on the west there is less destruction but considerable displacement of population. Food is just sufficient for day-to-day consumption but no stocks are being built up. Partisans are "everywhere organized by and affiliated to the local political committees"; those who have fought well give least trouble but "the far larger numbers of hangers-on ..... are using the recognition given them by the Allies as a cloak for political organization." Fifth Army AMG adds (a bit sourly?): This rebirth of political life is welcomed."

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Except for food, conditions in Florence City are improving. Repairs and clearance of debris have progressed well and there is now electric power for essential needs. "Considerable political activity" is noted, and the town has been visited by the Prince of Piedmont, Dino Phillipson, and Togliatti. Meetings to greet popularity-bidders are being limited to 200 with "admission by invitation only."

At Pisa the large hole in the roof of the Cathedral has been mended by Army engineers and repairs to the Camposanto are in progress: in the latter the destruction of some of the frescoes has revealed the original monochrome cartoons beneath the plaster, compensating to some extent for the loss.

Except for a short statement on much-damaged Rimini, the only report received from Eighth Army AMG this week concerns the Republic of San Marino, which is standing very firmly on the dignity of its neutrality. It asks that its territory be

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by Allied troops at the earliest possible moment and that houses, dwellings, and goods be returned to their owners. Requisitioning of R.E. stores and "normal billetting rules" were permitted by Vth Corps, which may - legally - be a violation of international law, although no operational commander in present circumstances could be expected to prevent his troops from getting shelter and the San Marino authorities are not unaware of this overriding necessity while the front line is so close. There are a good many other complications. San Marino would like (though it has not officially claimed) compensation for bombing, requisitioning and war damage, but the bill cannot be paid in AMG lire. The possible presence of enemy agents in San Marino territory is another question which the Allies cannot afford to ignore: they have taken necessary steps with the tacit acquiescence of the Republic. Says AMG Eighth Army: "It is no use pretending that with the presence of troops engaged in active operations in the Republic there will not be incidents." Incidents, bombs, armies notwithstanding, San Marino held the usual elections of its constitutional rulers on Sep 24: Theodore Lonfernine and Professor Susey Valli were elected Captains Regent.

3. Transfer of Territory

The Advisory Council have recommended to the Supreme Allied Commander that on Oct 16 the provinces of Teramo, Aquila, Pescara, Chieti, Viterbo and Rieti should be handed back to the jurisdiction of the Italian Government. The transfer of these provinces would complete the handover of the Lazio and Abruzzi regions. The provinces in question include a population of about 1,700,000 and an area of 17,000 square km.

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The restoration of Teramo, Aquila, Pescara and Chieti was requested by the Italian Government in August on the ground that the people had shown themselves predominantly anti-Fascist and anti-German and had been in great part liberated by the Italian Corps of Liberation and by intense patriot activity. The ACC, in recommending the transfer to the Advisory Council, suggested the addition of Chieti and Viterbo in order to conform with the new boundary of AFHQ administration in Italy fixed on Sep 10. The ACC added that damage in these provinces had not been so great as elsewhere, that public works were well in hand and that the handover would enable us "to withdraw at once a small number of officers badly needed in the North."

4. From the Abruzzi-Marche Region

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4. From the Abruzzi-Marche Region

The picture given by Colonel French in his September report is of interest in view of the imminent transfer of these territories to the Italian Government. The main grouse of the population seems to be the 200-gram ration, since these provinces are grain-producing and are now irritably aware that the ration in ACC territory is 300 grams: moreover, under the Germans they had a nominal 380. Secondary grouses are lack of salt, price of potatoes, and continued difficulty of mine-clearance. The potato crop has been so much publicized, it seems, that farmers in Aquila and Avezzano are sniffing at the official price of 8 lire per kilograph (a nice new measure which we cannot resist quoting from Colonel French's report) when 8 or 9 lire can be obtained in the Salerno-Naples area. As to mine-clearance the fact that in one commune alone there are 150,000 mines, while the whole area has only seven detectors, gives the measure of this distressing problem, with which we intend to deal more fully in our next Bulletin. These grouses apart, Colonel French gives high marks to the Italian administration and population, who are "definitely pro-Ally" and cooperative. The olive harvest promises to be good: the region is "practically free from serious crime" (in spite of a lack of boots for the police): health is good and there have been no epidemics. Italian courts are functioning satisfactorily: even

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the Black Market "does not appear to be serious": schools, despite an absence of text books, opened on Oct 1. Refugees, officially speaking, have ceased to exist, none having been received from the forward areas and those in refugee camps having been dispersed: but the Italian Army unfortunately continues to carry hundreds of civilians from the South in defiance of regulations. The question of housing in devastated areas is, as elsewhere, a matter for some apprehension. "An early promulgation of policy is necessary," writes Colonel French, "but it is now so late that great suffering must be experienced by many people this winter."

5. Waiting for the Green Light

The Economic Section currently is, as Mr Antolini, head of the section put it, in an in-between-and-betwixt stage, waiting for clarification of policies on higher levels and operational directives to suit. All anyone knows at the moment is what one reads in the newspapers. UNRRA is coming over but exactly when, no one knows. ACC Economic sub-commissions feel rather strongly that UNRRA had better come in equipped with its own organic transport, since competition for the woefully limited transport of ACC in Italy would be disastrous. The question of whether UNRRA goods will be distributed free, with some subsidy from the Italian Government, or at a minimum cost, also is still undecided. American relief goods, it might be added, coming through private sources will be definitely issued gratis through the Vatican, Italian Red Cross and Italian Government, with ACC acting in a purely advisory capacity.

The ACC representatives now in Washington are apparently producing some results, judging by the latest dispatches which promise Italy 1,700 new trucks and 150,000 tons of wheat and flour. As our headquarters experts point out, however, the meaning of 150,000 tons depends strictly on the time factor: 150,000 tons for what period? It will make all the difference in the world between raising, lowering or maintaining the basic ration. The ACC men in Washington at the moment include Brigadier-General O'Dwyer, Vice-President of the Economic Section; Lieut-Colonel Jenny, Director, and Lieut-Colonel Lapper, head of the Electrical Section, of the Public Works and Utilities Sub-Commission; Colonel Legg, Director, and Major Tolman, economist, of the Food Sub-Commission, and Captain Kamarck, Economic Section staff officer. Two other Economic Section men are in London attending the initial sessions of the European Internal Transportation Organization which is looking into maximum utilization of transportation in the immediate post-war period. Colonel Adams, Director of the Transportation Sub-Commission, and his expert, Mr Tony Villa, are representing ACC views as to Italian requirements. Di Raimondo also went as an expert adviser from the Italian Government standpoint.

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In the meantime, the special inter-ministerial committee of the Italian Government has turned over to Mr Antolini its own plan and idea of what Italy needs to rehabilitate its devastated economy. In addition, specific Italian pressures to take over more operational responsibilities are increasing in some ministries while others are frankly apprehensive of the burden, particularly of food and transport, the two hottest potatoes in the ACC carload. In turn, the Italians have passed to ACC an extremely scorching issue of expropriation of land, a decree which the Economic Section is presently examining with kid-gloves and about which more later. In turning over controls to the Italians, the Industry Sub-Commission has gone so far as to request that Commissari be appointed to run the superphosphate nitrogenous fertilizer (basic for agriculture), paper and soap industries. Speaking of soap, ACC now is operating a plant at Bari which is producing 300 tons a month for the British Army.

In fact, whatever industry is left in Italy of any value is in the hands of the military who employ between 200,000 and 300,000 workers in machine shops, cement and brick factories and steel mills. These latter are minuscule compared with production back home in

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Allied countries, of course, but the latest to resume operation at Terni is pouring 100 tons of steel a day for Bailey bridges. It will take six to nine months before production could benefit the civilian economy and only if the military has no further use for it. Work is now imminent in clearing the devastation of the wreckage caused by the cascade bombing of the Allied air forces on the steel plants at Piombino where on one mill 800 bombs fell in over-lapping patterns within three and a half minutes. Even to get the site cleared and the salvage separated is a task of mammoth proportions, according to Capt. T.G. Elliott of the Industry S/C, who is supervising the job. First, iron "bottles" for oxygen are needed to provide the fuel for the acetylene torches. Capt. Elliott has oxygen up his sleeve despite the fact oxygen has an A-1 military priority. In the re-building of Italy where blow torches and cement will be the chief ingredients, it is also heartening to record that ACC has laid its hands on a 7,000-ton capacity cement plant near Tivoli. It is practically new and luckily untouched. Arrangements for power, coal and sacks are well under way.

6. Promotion

Announcement is made of the promotion of the Acting Chief Commissioner of the Allied Control Commission to the rank of Commodore, United States Naval Reserve, effective 30 September 1944.

7. Light on Public Health

In a field where newspaper reporters and lay observers are often apt to grasp the most spectacular statistics with the maximum of miscomprehension, it is fitting to place on record a little of the work of the quiet specialists of the Public Health Sub-Commission. In a country famed through history as the classic home of malaria, the ACC has operated so effectively that not only has the disease been kept in check despite flooding of the Pontine Marshes, a disrupted Italian public health service and the tragic lack of transport and supplies in the midst of intensive military operations, but actual decreases have been registered in many places in the malaria rate. In Sardinia, notably, where malaria is practically endemic, the 1943 cases reported from January to July were 4,065. This year in the same period there were 1,852. In Region IV where the Germans scientifically flooded the lowlands, 20,749 cases were reported in 1944 up to the end of August, but only one death resulted. The distribution of 9,000,000 atabrine tablets to Italian health authorities was one factor in keeping down the possible death rate and malaria potential. Another 7,000,000 atabrine tablets are stockpiled for use on call. Col. Russell, who has now left Italy, deserves the highest praise for his outstanding work in this field.

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As far as medical supplies are concerned, Public Health officers are relieved that a shipment of 600 tons has just arrived. Already made available to the Italians before have been 775,000 units of insulin, 18,000 pounds of ether, 8,000,000 sulfa tablets and 60,000 ounces of sulfa powders, and nearly 15,000 quinine ampules imported from America, among a host of items. Of the 8,000 kilograms of quinine found by the Fifth Army at Saline di Volterra, 4,270 Kgs. were turned back for Italian use, including that of the Italian armed forces, and 3,726 Kgs. were sent to the U.S. for processing and eventual use in the Pacific. ACC is also happier over the fact that Italians can now themselves make all the biologicals - vaccines, serums and anti-toxins - they need for liberated Italy in three major laboratories at Palermo, Naples and the biggest and latest at Siena.

While on the subject of public health, it might interest readers of the recent scareheads about infant mortality and tuberculosis rates to glance at the account that follows paraphrased from the Public Health sub-commission's September report :

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In the absence of proper notification to the health authorities of the existence of tuberculosis, the only reliable criterion is the death rate. The rate for Rome, for example, of tuberculosis deaths per 10,000 of the population is 29.8 in 1918, 12.17 in 1938, 19.63 in 1943 and 24.23 in 1944 (to date).

In the question of infant mortality, again using Rome as an instance, the health authorities explain that the rate is figured out on the formula of number of deaths of infants under one year of age times 1,000 over the figure of the number of registered live births in any given period. The rate then is as follows for the first eight months of the years compared: 119.1 in 1918, 84.6 in 1938, 92.6 in 1943 and 113.4 in 1944. In May of this year the rate in Rome was 183.9, in June 189.2, in July 221.3 and in August 148.7, the latter figure being directly laid to the supply of tinned milk made available by ACC.

8. Epuration

The report made by Brigadier Upjohn to the Advisory Council contains the clearest picture yet given on the process of cleaning-up Fascists. By the decree of 27 July 1944 epuration was divided into four main categories, viz:

(a) Punishment of Fascist crimes;
(b) Purging of the administration;
(c) Disposal of profits made by Fascists;
(d) Confiscation of Fascist property.

The first, in charge of H.E. Berlinguer, provides for the trial and punishment up to the death penalty, of high-ranking members of Fascism. Among such was Caruso, and is Azzolini (former Director of the Bank of Italy, who comes up for trial on Oct 9 for handing over the Bank's gold to the Germans) and are also Generals Pentimalli and DelTetto, who will be tried in Rome on Oct 23 for collaboration with the Germans and for not having defended the city of Naples. On Oct 22 Soprano, ex-Prefect of Naples, will be tried in that city on a similar charge. 86 more such persons are under arrest and awaiting trial, including Suvich, former under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs. 111 more, former members of the Special Tribunal for the Defence of the State, will shortly be arrested and placed on trial. A further 600 denunciations have been sent out and are now being investigated. In addition the High Court of Justice will shortly sit to consider the records of the conduct of members of the Senate.

Category 2 is in charge of H.E. Scoccimaro and deals mainly with the dismissal of officials guilty of Fascist bias, incompetence, corruption and collaboration with the Germans since Sep 8. It is proposed to form 126 Commissions to judge these cases: 61 are already functioning. 6,651 cases are under consideration and 3,471 have

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Category 3 is in charge of H.E. Cingolani and is concerned with the collection and disposal of the profits of Fascists. In Rome alone measures for the sequestration of the property of 20 persons - amounting to 3 billions of lire - have already been taken. In Naples the sequestrated property of the five brothers Piscitelli amounts to nearly 3½ million lire, and sequestration measures have been taken against 915 persons.

Category 4, in charge of H.E. Stangoni, deals with the collection and disposal of Fascist organisations an societies. In Rome alone cash to the value of 269,000 lire and other movable property to the value of 6 million lire have been taken over.

In these matters it certainly seems that the Italian Government is getting into its stride.

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9. Red Stars on the Horizon

Authority has been given by the combined Chiefs of Staff for the attachment of eight Russian officers to the ACC in the capacity of observers only. They will form part of the staff of the Soviet Representative to the ACC, Major-General Ivan Susloparov. It seems that they will be attached to the Economic Section, Civil Affairs Section, Air Sub-Commission, Army Sub-Commission and War Materials Disposal and Italian Prisoners-of-War Sub-Commission. They will see files and generally scrutinize the work of their particular Sections. One of them, we understand, speaks English.

10. Correction

The War Materials Disposal and Italian Prisoners-of-War Sub-Commission will continue to be an independent Sub-Commission and not be amalgamated with any other, contrary to reports published in last week's PRB Bulletin (for which we hang our head in shame). The change occurred because the sub-Commission, as expressed by Lieut-Colonel J.A. Campbell, Director, is now getting more and more work to do, the policy of repatriation of Italian prisoners-of-war being loosened to some extent and a flow of salvage war material beginning to come in. Now landing from North Africa are 2,000 Italian POWs, which include 1,500 able-bodied men, the first contingent of this classification to be freed. Further, military units have just turned over to the sub-Commission 10,000 vehicles in disrepair for salvage.

11. Odds and Ends

Fine Arts S/C discloses that the Germans have been kind enough to remove 58 cases of world-famed sculptures (among other removals) from the caches around Florence, including Donatello's St George and his David, and Michelangelo's Bacchus, so that (the German radio says) the priceless art objects might be "saved" from being "stolen by the American Art Jews"..... The Granai del Popolo figures as of reports reaching headquarters Oct 7 now stand at 8,223,988 quintals or 70 per cent of the 11,600,000 qtl. forecast for the collection which is now beginning to include grain harvested under Fascist Republican auspices, for which grain the Allies will pay the standard 800 - 1,000 lire price if delivered since Allied occupation while only the much lower Fascist price will be paid for stocks found in warehouses under Fascist contracts and not yet paid for ..... The demographic census of Italian conditions and resources is having tough sailing, sad to relate: Five tons of forms, for example, arrived at the Naples railroad station, but there was no truck to take the load to the pier where a ship was to take the forms and a special crew to Sicily; at the last minute, the truck came and

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serviceable uniform, overcoat, two blankets or a comforter, pullover, two pairs of socks, two pairs of pants, shirt and boots .....

12. Reminder

Will our readers be kind enough to remember that the PRB Weekly Bulletin they are reading is a secret document and should receive the security handling so required?

Lionel Fielden

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

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PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

SECRET

PRB/R26/WB26

1 October 1944.

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 26
25 Sep to 1 Oct 1944

1. Political

The papers of the 27th made good reading for Romans. For one thing the Council of Ministers, meeting the day before, had reasserted the solidarity of the six-party government and issued a communique notable for clarity and firmness. The parties, it said, are to postpone the solution of major political problems, resolve their differences within the government, bring their press in line with this principle, maintain the impartial authority of the state and defeat all attempts of reactionaries to return to power. This was hailed by all parties - even by the critics of the Government, with the exception of "Voce Repubblicana" which refuses to admit anything can work in a country that still harbours Casa Savoia - as a sensible and necessary step. Things had been drifting along toward a dangerous cleavage and the recent squabbles among the parties have not done the government any good at home or abroad. It is harder to say whose is the victory. "Voce Repubblicana" of course asserted that the action was "forced on the parties of the Left by Bonomi and the conservative elements"; but Togliatti and Nenni both protested that some such resolution was what they were hoping for all the time and that the agitation of recent weeks had served its purpose in making the government aware of the dangers of reaction. It is fair to regard the motion as a victory of common sense and a recognition of the fact, in the words of "Il Popolo", that the Italian people is very tired of "living dangerously" and finds no appeal in the promise of "permanent agitation".

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The government statement, newsworthy as it was, had to share the spotlight with the Roosevelt-Churchill declaration on Italy which also made its appearance on the front page of the papers of the 27th. This statement looks toward giving the Italian government more autonomy, beginning by the sending of representatives to London and Washington and cancellation of the word Control from ACC. (We haven't had any orders yet so may be forgiven if we carry on withthe two C's for a while). Civilian technicians are to be sent over to help in reconstruction. Italy is expected to assist the United Nations in the war against Germany and Japan and, as a start, 50 million UNRRA dollars are assigned to her for emergency relief measures. Comment was in general favorable on this statement too, the "Osservatore Romano" calling it a "vote

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Affairs, in a press conference on Thursday indicated the government was quite ready for it. Taking it all in all the Allied Statement was well received; to Italians it is a starting point for the goals they are working towards ..... Churchill's speech in the Commons however has set them to thinking again; there was no indication of any further autonomy, rather the contrary indeed in the reference to the Carretta lynching and the need of maintaining law and order through Allied authorities if necessary. His recognition of the temper of the Italian people was applauded but it was felt he might have been somewhat less fulsome in his praise of the Marshal and the Lord Lieutenant and found room for a kind word for Bonomi.

There were other developments on the international front. The Greek Minister of Information gave a press conference in which he said he hoped for good relations with Italy provided of course the Italians gave up their "imperialistic ambitions". He assumed that the Dodecanese would be "restored" to Greece and that in the matter of relief and aid from the Allies Greece had earned a certain priority. Many Italians hope for a plebiscite in the Dodecanese rather than outright surrender and almost all feel that Italy has suffered enough by now to yield no no-one in priority of need so the last two points were not too well received. However, a very sincere article by Manlio Lupinacci in "Risorgimento Liberale" indicated some hope for good relations: he admitted that the Greeks have every reason to hate Italians but hate is an expensive and futile basis for foreign policy and Greece and Italy need each other. Similar views were expressed in "Italia Libera". Among other international items: the government (appropriately enough on the eve of St Wenceslaus of Prague) declared the Munich pact null and void, the Russian Labor delegates arrived in Rome and it is reported that coffee is on its way from Brazil and La Guardia from America.

The second meeting of the Council of Ministers this week was chiefly noteworthy for the report of Soleri, Minister of the Treasury. The detailed breakdown of Italy's labyrinthine finances and the honesty with which the hard facts were faced command admiration. We cite some figures, not being quite sure what they prove: the deficit for 1943-44 is 180 billion lire, the public debt (only a guess since Soleri admitted there are too many unknown factors) roughly 683 billion lire. He also made a guess at the amount of Allied Military lire in circulation but Finance Sub-Commission won't tell us how good or how bad it is.

2. <u>AMG with the Armies</u>

In Florence last week four persons were killed and 38 wounded by mines and booby-traps in the city. Feeding of the

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2. AMG with the Armies

In Florence last week four persons were killed and 38 wounded by mines and booby-traps in the city. Feeding of the city is practically on a "day-to-day basis", all efforts to build up stockpiles having failed through lack of transport. "The situation," says Fifth Army AMG, "may at any time become critical." The same report states that "large numbers of troops are on leave in the city." Viareggio, it appears, is in poor case: the CAO reports that "this is the first commune in my experience that seems to be <u>really</u> hungry: there is no local production of foodstuffs." Supplies in general are causing concern and Fifth Army AMG points out that "the assumption that considerable local supplies of food would be found is proving false. The Germans are living on the land while the effects of war and the breakdown in administration have lost a large part of the harvest."

Fifth Army AMG has some criticism of the Partisans and the Vatican. The latter, it seems, is showing "considerable laxity in the observance of movement regulations." As to the former "the present Allied policy may produce results somewhat different from those envisaged ..... the Partisans have become one of the prize bones for which Italian politicians are scrapping." It is

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noted that Colonel Sansone, in two months of operations, has collected only 200 volunteers from the provinces of Siena, Pisa, Livorno and South Florence. In Florence city two weeks work produced 8 volunteers out of 3,000 Partisans. Colonel Sansone attributes this to "the boycotting of the Royalist Army by the Communists." On the other hand it is "reliably reported" that individual partisans are being offered financial inducement to join the Communist party.

3. Pruning at Headquarters

As a result of the recommendations of the Manpower and Reorganization Committee nearly 200 officers and EM/OR become available for field assignment and Headquarters functions become streamlined as operational responsibility is shifted to Italian agencies ready to take them over. Total HQ staff will be 255 officers and 279 EM OR. Most important change is the creation of a Chief of Staff under the Chief Commissioner. PC and MG Section disappears, as do the Secretary-General's office, the Property Control Sub-Commission (absorbed by Finance), the War Materials and Prisoners of War Sub-Commission (the first taken over by Industry and the second by MAIA), the Information Division and Archivist Section (absorbed by Public Relations Branch). Displaced Persons and Italian Refugees amalgamate, as has been announced. The Interior Sub-Commission will be known as the Local Government Sub-Commission. There will be four sections under the Chief of Staff - Civil Affairs, Economic, Establishment and Political. A forward echelon of ACC HQ will be established at AAI HQ to administer to the emergency operational needs of the Armies but is not to be regarded as a forward Headquarters, orders still normally coming from ACC HQ through the channel of the Chief of Staff. Brigadier Lush, present Executive Commissioner, will be Chief of Staff. Mr Antolini, in the absence of Brigadier-General O'Dwyer, will continue as acting Vice-President and Deputy Chief of Staff of the Economic Section. Brigadier Upjohn will be Vice-President and Deputy Chief of Staff of the Civil Affairs Section (renamed from Administrative). Colonel Fiske will be Deputy Chief of Staff and Vice-President of the Establishment Section. Mr Caccia and MrSchott will be Vice-Presidents but not Deputy Chiefs of Staff. Colonel Monfort will be Deputy Chief Civil Affairs Officer at AAI HQ in charge of the forward field coordinating echelon.

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With the fall of Bologna looming before them, Regional Commissioners and SCAOs of the Armies, together with HQ staff, met at Siena this week in an atmosphere of intense airing of

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accepted that only Provincial Commissioners and heads of specialist divisions need to report in person when called from present posts and that all other personnel re-assigned to northern regions should do so at this time by letter, awaiting operational calls only when actually needed for imminent entry into their areas. General Hume, facing, as he put it, fluid conditions as Army boundaries expand and contract with tactical changes, insisted that he be placed on record as opposing any withdrawal of personnel from Army AMGs. Colonel Mayne of Fifth Army AMG, in what he termed the "unrealistic" nature of some Patriot directives, asserted that Patriots were over-played in public praise. He finally admitted that some special treatment was deserved for genuine Patriots who had performed real service. Mr Caccia summed it up when he said the administrative goal of making Patriots good citizens and keeping law and order, for better or worse, had to be balanced against the political situation in which Patriots were now exploited so as not to embarrass the larger question of support for the Government. It was agreed that AAI had perhaps gone too far through PWB publicity in stressing Patriot achievements, and representations would be made. Colonel Ames from the big city of Rome faced the combined attack of most Regional Commissioners who declared against what they termed the continued disparity in favor of Rome. Particularly Region V's Major Scholtz said his Region faced food demonstrations because of lack of food, oil, salt and the fact that, although some of the provinces there had grain surpluses they only had a 200-gram bread ration whereas other Regions to which their grain was shipped had 300-gram rations. Speaking very modestly, Colonel Ames stuck to his queries of who did what and how and got agreements to enter Regions with his own trucks to take wheat from surplus Macerata and wood from Rieti. Mr Antolini of the Economic Section admitted he had bad news again. He had just made a tour of the Fifth and Eighth Army areas in preparing for forward food supplies and stated frankly that every day's delay in the advance of the Armies was just so much breathing space to rush supplies forward. The supply question was especially crucial for the North where a 100-gram ration is now planned because of the reported cutdown in November anticipated imports from 100,000 to 33,000 tons. If so, Mr Antolini said, we might have to cut down the basic ration throughout Italy unless Colonel Legg of the Food Sub-Commission, now in Washington, succeeded in changing the minds of the Combined Chiefs of Staff. In the meantime, Mr Antolini continued, there is for the moment practically no wheat in the Mediterranean Basin on which to draw in an emergency. There was also no sugar programmed and milk imports had been cut. Brigadier Upjohn then spoke of administrative problems of prefects (there are 11 in a pool for forward regions), Carabinieri (additions are expected from former prisoners of war) and the usual bad news about lack of de-mining squads. Satisfied

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5. The Road Back

The road back to Italy for thousands upon thousands of Italians now stranded in enemy areas will lead through some of the 10 or 20 or (who knows?) maybe 30 camps that Colonel C.B. Findlay, Director of the newly-amalgamated Displaced Persons and Repatriation Sub-Commission, is contemplating. Now in process of investigating the scope of his future responsibilities, Colonel Findlay says he is only sure of one thing: It will be a whopper of a task. There may be 600,000 Italians under forced labor in Germany, perhaps 200,000 in the Balkans. Austria, across the border from Italy, is known to be the cross-roads of Europe for displaced persons and

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entry into Italy from Central Europe will be a problem to handle. Italians will be used to handle Italian refugees coming home but Allied personnel will still take care of Allied nationals. In the meantime, the Colonel is looking hopefully to November 1 when UNRRA plans to take over four of his Southern Italy camps and two hospitals, mostly for Yugoslavs, and begins to implement with cash, supplies and personnel some of the commitments made at Quebec.

6. Police and prisons

For a considerable time now, as most of us know, two problems - the overcrowding of prisons and the morale of Italian police - have worried all those who have an eye on the future. There has been much, sometimes scandalous, congestion in prisons, due mainly to three factors - the number of arrests made - sometimes hurriedly - of suspect Fascists or collaborators by our intelligence services; the wave of petty offences against Allied orders, e.g. being in possession of Allied property, being out after curfew, selling in the black market, hoarding grain, etc; and last but not least, the slow turning of the wheels of Italian justice, which results in prisoners serving terms without trial. Such a state of affairs naturally reacts against the police: but the police problem is complicated by the Fascist and Monarchist associations of Carabinieri, Metropolitani and Agenti di Pubblica Sicurezza. These forces are conscious of their uneasy past and the Italian press does not fail to remind them of it daily. They are also conscious that real power is not in their hands: the other evening in Rome a GI lifted the rifle off a Guardia di Finanza as a souvenir: the Guardia di Finanza had to pay 8,000 lire - six months pay. Should he have fought the GI? A nice question. Apart from these troubles the police are undoubtedly suffering severely from low pay and rations - matters which are being remedied.

The riot which began in Regina Coeli prison on September 23 extended itself until the evening of September 25. The brief facts are as follows. The overcrowding and restlessness of the prisoners had been for some time a matter of anxiety. Since August 15 meetings had been held in an endeavour to get rid of outstanding or trivial cases. (Among these were two sempstresses who had served for three months without trial, the accusation against them being solely that they had been found on June 5 stitching German uniforms.) Colonel Pollock and the Governor of the Prison were both strongly in favour of letting such cases out on bail. But so difficult was it, apparently, to sort out matters between G-2, CIC, SCI, FSS, OSS and the Italian legal authorities themselves that virtually nothing was done. This was the prelude to the riot.

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On the night of September 23 some prisoners got on to the roof and fired it. In the general commotion Carabinieri opened fire, killing one prisoner and wounding six. Feeling against the Carabinieri ran high: 20 of the guards deserted: the prisoners were out of the cells, many of which had no locks; even the gates to the central rotunda - to quote Colonel Pollock's report - "could not be locked properly because the prisoners themselves could slip the lock with a piece of wood."

At this point Colonel Pollock and Major Coxhead in their own magic way (a magic used untiringly day and night in Rome these days) restored order. A meeting was once again called to discuss the removal of prisoners, but ended in smoke. At this meeting the Questore said quite plainly that his Metropolitani were demoralized and no reliance could be placed on them to preserve order or hold the prisoners. Trouble brewed up again in the afternoon: the prisoners said freely that they were going to break out and, in Colonel Pollock's words "the situation was extremely grave: we were faced with a distinct possibility of a complete

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prison break and ... the whole or part of the prison being burnt to the ground."

At 7.30 p.m. Colonel Poletti walked unconcernedly into the prison and made a speech in each of the three riotous "branches". The prisoners crowded closely round him, and hung over the seven tiers above.- a dramatic spectacle in the dim light of the prison. Starting amidst hissing and shouting, Poletti in the end got applause: and certainly his presence quieted things down for the moment. Later Pollock and Coxhead got the prisoners to form committees to ventilate their grievances.

On Monday morning 200 were sent to Viterbo prison (in RAAC vehicles) and another 220 were moved to another wing of Regina Coeli. These moves occasioned further disorder and rioting and some small fires were started. Eventually the prisoners were persuaded to move by one of their number, a Communist named Bevilacqua. There for the time the matter rests.

It is obvious that Regina Coeli is only a reflection of present and possibly future conditions elsewhere in Italy. Colonel Pollock in his report recommends a thorough purge of prison guards, a ban on prison overcrowding, a dismissal of those who have served long sentences without trial for trivial offences, better food, pay and backing for the police, and a speed-up of Italian courts.

No doubt everyone will agree. But whether police who obeyed Fascism can be reinstated in popular esteem, whether the number of arrests - 60 a day go into Regina Coeli alone - can be cut down under present conditions, whether Italian courts can be made to work harder - these are tough nuts to crack. They have got to be cracked, and no doubt they will be. A phrase in Colonel Pollock's report is worth quoting: "It is all very well to say that it is the responsibility of the Italian Government, but if things had gone badly it would be a reflection on us because the Italian people ..... whatever is said to the contrary, look to us for help, guidance and support."

This point of view seems to be held by Mr Churchill who stated in the House of Commons on Thursday that cases such as the Carretta lynching were "the responsibility not only of the Italian Government but also of the Allied Military authorities." On the next day we are told - through the press - that we are the "Allied Commission" without the "control". Which gives food for thought.

7. Granai del Popolo

The Agriculture Sub-Commission, looking over the wheat

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7. Granai del Popolo

The Agriculture Sub-Commission, looking over the wheat harvest campaign and amassing with its ups and downs and discouragements, has made up its mind to pronounce it "good" and a "qualified success, considering the tremendous difficulties encountered." As of figures received from the field by September 30, the total collection amounted to 7,815,953 quintals or 67 per cent of the 11,600,000 quintals most recently estimated that will be amassed. The previous target figure, based on Regional Commissioners' local campaigns, had been 13,045,175 quintals. With collections late in the northern regions because of transport (as usual) difficulties, it is expected that the percentage should rise to 70-75 per cent when the September 30 field reports are in. The harvest collections compare favourably with Fascist years, when one remembers the fact that the Allied-sponsored Granai del Popolo operated in the immediate rear of intensive military operations. In the same area of Liberated Italy, collections ran from, roughly, 13,000,000 quintals in 1942 to 17,000,000 in the peace-time years of 1936-1938. Of interest also are these facts: Total crop produced was estimated at 33,345,440 quintals; food retentions will amount to 11,477,000

/ quintals

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quintals and seed retentions to 6,000,000-quintals. The amassed wheat will go to about 18,000,000 ration card holders in Liberated Italy among a population of some 24,000,000. Some farmers will get ration cards because they do not raise enough wheat to take care of themselves for the entire year. The latest figures are:

Region	Average Date of Reports	Collected at Latest Report	Collection Forecast	Percentage collected of Forecast	Percentage collected Sep 30 1942
I(Sicilia)	21 Sep	1,127,678	2,000,000	56	87
Southern (Calabria, Lucania, Puglie, Campania, Campobasso)	23 Sep	2,820,433	3,950,000	71	88
IV (Lazio-Umbria)	15 Sep	1,388,830	1,600,000	86	91
V (Abruzzi-Marche)	21 Sep	1,248,021	2,250,000	55	94
VI (Sardinia)	16 Sep	226,700	300,000	75	85
VIII (Tuscany)	15 Sep	1,004,391	1,500,000	67	92
Total		7,815,953	11,600,000	67	90

8. Odds and Ends

The only Public Works and Utilities officer of the ACC in Sardinia is being withdrawn as an experiment of turning over complete field responsibility to the Italians: if successful, similar withdrawals of specialists will occur in Sicily ..... Naples area bank deposits rose from 5,000,000,000 lire in January to 22,600,000,000 lire last month ..... Down in Calabria the village of Castrovillari proclaimed itself a republic the other day, but the new regime collapsed hurriedly with the appointment of a new sindaco ..... At least there will be no amassing of the almond crop this year, the Agriculture Sub-Commission has decided in its wisdom ..... Military units have turned back four more factories to the ACC for the use of Italians: A cement factory, with a capacity of 200 tons a month at Taranto, and one with 600 tons a month at Barletta; a tile factory with production of 8,500 cubic meters a week at Pescara

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dropped his bottle on the marble floor of the hall. Believed to be going on well in hospital after a period of unconsciousness ..... Travel advt: ACC personnel who wish to cross the peninsula during inclement weather in a hurry may avail themselves of the air courier service operated by the Italian Air Force (whose couriers have flown over 200 sorties a month the last five months quite without incident, the Air Force Sub-Commission hastily adds) .....

9. Quote from esteemed Contemporary

The airborne troop position was stated by a British staff officer to be "quite satisfactory, but not wholly so".

UNION JACK, Sep 28.

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

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