

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

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INTELLIGENCE REPORTS
OCT. 44 - FEB. 45

86/EST

15 ARMY GROUP INTELLIGENCE NOTES NO. 15 OF 6 FEB 52

1. ENEMY SITUATION

The patrol activity which has monopolized the communications of the last week has been most valuable in widening our picture of the enemy's dispositions and intentions. Assisted by the services of a larger number of deserters than usual the prisoners taken have confirmed in general terms the conclusions reached in our last Summary that no great changes in policy were yet being effected, though regroupings and reliefs continue.

On 8 Army front the main point of interest is the relief of part of 16 S.S. by 42 Jaeger Div. So far as our evidence goes only the Northern battalion of the former has been relieved as yet though a deserter taken yesterday has a story which suggests that the Jaegers may now have taken over as far as the 410 Easting. The S.S. men themselves confirm that there is a strong rumor in the division that it is going to GERMANY; a story we have heard before of many divisions but three Alsatian deserters add corroborative detail, according to them I Bn 36 S.S. has already left for ENGLAND and II Bn was expected to go on the night 4/5 Feb (which was why they deserted). They had already seen the advance party of the relieving troops. It seems not unreasonable that the Reichsfuehrer S.S., who has just taken over the command in the vital sector of the Eastern front, should wish to recall his own division from a secondary theatre, possibly to fill the gaps in 6 S.S. 2d Army which is also believed to be now on that front. At any rate we can accept the fact that 16 S.S. is in the process of being relieved.

Further South and West another reshuffle is taking place. 4 Para Div has taken over part of the former sector of 90 P.G. which in turn has relieved some of 715 Div and a deserter states that it intends to take over the whole of 715 Div's sector. It is not quite clear why this particular division should be relieved, especially since it means that 90 P.G. Div, a motorized formation, takes over a mountainous sector, and again the possibility presents itself that it may be required elsewhere. But there is no evidence whatever that this is so, nor even any good evidence that it has yet been wholly relieved.

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Otherwise dispositions are normal. Prisoners have confirmed that it was 157 Mtn Div, as we expected, which relieved 4 Para Div West of route 65. 232 Div is still in its old position with four battalions forward and three in reserve. The 440 Division sector has been the scene of considerable vicissitudes during the past few weeks, due to political and psychological reasons rather than military. The main factor is the arrival of a regiment of ITALIA Division plus the divisional Engineer Bn; the other Regt is allegedly in the area South of PARRA and is not expected in the line till March. In the early part of the period the trend was to relieve forward German battalions by Italians to allow the latter to gain experience, and the former to rest. The most important sectors, C.E. the coastal plain, were still, however, held by

yesterday has a story which suggests that the Jaegers may now have taken over as far as the 118 Easting. The S.S. men themselves confirm that there is a strong rumor in the division that it is going to EXHAUST; a story we have heard before of many divisions but three Alsatian deserters and corroborative detail, according to them I Bn 36 S.S. has already left for VERBALE and II Bn was expecting to go on the night 4/5 Feb (which was why they deserted). They had already seen the advance party of the relieving troops. It seems not unreasonable that the Reichsfuhrer S.S., who has just taken over the command in the vital sector of the Eastern front, should wish to recall his own division from a secondary theatre, possibly to fill the gaps in 6 S.S. 2d Army which is also believed to be now on that front. At any rate we can accept the fact that 16 S.S. is in the process of being relieved.

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There has been no change visible in the aspect of the German reserves. 111 Jaeger Div is still reported from time to time in the area North of Lake ORMASTON. 26 Pz Div has not been reported since about 15 Jan, when its divisional sign was seen in the area East of VERBALE, but there is no evidence that it has left or is intending to leave. 29 P.G. Div too is still believed to be somewhere North of BOLSON. So far, therefore, RESSLEING is almost as strong as ever; his front line is still solidly held and he has one mobile division in reserve behind both the Fifth and Eighth Army fronts. Like MCGOUGH on the MILANOFF Redoubt, though with rather more anxious glances over the shoulder than the gallant Franco-Scottish Marshal allowed himself, RESSLEING can still say "J'y suis, j'y reste".

....2. WESTERN FRONT....

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2. WESTERN FRONT

Von RUNDSTEDT's problem this week has been to form a strategic reserve which will at least in part compensate for the departure of 6 S.S. Pz Army. The four Armored Divisions of the latter are now definitely away, although the six or seven Infantry Divisions which had been operating with them appear for the present to be staying. The destination of the armor is certainly Eastwards. If the captured document showing the move of I S.S. Pz Corps to HOLLAND was not a plant, it was at any rate cutnated by events in the East. Although the farewell to the West has been a slow business with the weather and the air forces alternating in their efforts to protect it, it has none the less been final. 6 Pz Army's crowded and not inglorious hour in the West is over, though the East offers it prospects fateful as ever it had in the forests of the ARDENNES.

RUNDSTEDT's problem now, if he is allowed to keep the remaining seven Panzer Divisions, is to make them do the work of eleven or at any rate so to displace them that he will still have some form of reserve on which to fall back when the next Allied attack starts. His first action has been to start reducing his unnecessary commitments in the West of which the COLMAR pocket was apparently judged to be the least essential. The effort has not been wholly successful. True the pocket is now virtually eliminated but the cost was probably higher than RUNDSTEDT had expected. At least two Infantry Divisions (708 and 16) have been reduced to remnants while 33d Infantry Division which had been defending the western edge of the pocket collapsed quickly when the French attack on the VOSGES ridge started. French forces attacking from the South nevertheless have had a hard fight of it all week against 2 Mtn Div reinforced by elements of 5 Mtn Div from ITALY; harder by far than the French-American forces in the North of the pocket who took COLMAR, cut the COLMAR-BREISACH railway and reached the RHINE on a 35 mile front South of SERSBURG against light to moderate resistance. The pocket is now half its size of a week ago and in view of the absence of any good roads, the German position West of the RHINE looks untenable. What economy RUNDSTEDT has effected by withdrawing is problematic but on the principle that every little helps, he may feel that the withdrawal has probably been worth his while.

While these operations were in progress in the South, the armor remaining in the West after the departure of 6 S.S. Pz Army was being quietly taken out of the line. In Northern ALSACE 25 Pz G. and 21 Pz Divs are missing, although 10 S.S. Pz Div (NOT of 6 S.S. Pz Army) and 17 S.S. Pz G. Div are still there. The former has helped the infantry of First German Army to offer surprisingly firm resistance to our attacks particularly around HANAU where we have made little headway. Extensive flooding, natural rather than Tontonic in origin, are adding to the difficulties in this sector. An increase in rail movement has been observed this week down the RHINE Valley from KARLSRUHE through HEIDELBERG. It need not necessarily imply further transfers from the West and probably does not, for the indications are that the RUHR is being reinforced at the expense of other areas.

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The same thing has been going on all along the front. 11 Pz Division has been out of contact from the FENICH area for several days, while at the end of last week none of 5 Pz Army's armored divisions were left in the line. The infantry remaining in the ALGIES has fought an undistinguished but orderly rearguard in the area South of ST. VIT. Our bridged over the OH river was quickly expended and we have pushed across the German frontier to within 5 miles of FRUM, the first town of any size East of the frontier in this region. Now that we are in contact with the Siegfried defenses once again, there is some stiffening of enemy resistance here.

However, RUDSEITZ was not to solve his difficulty as easily as that. He sooner had he got a force of six armored and three Pz Divisions out of the line than a new crisis arose. The American First Army attack

.....in the WESTPHALIA.....

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in the MONSIEUR forest seems to have caused some confusion in the enemy ranks. Resistance on the first day was light, and offered largely by a miscellany of dubious units ranging from a Hano Guard Bn to elements of 15 Army's Engineer School. Considerable progress was made. We cleared the MONSIEUR forest and the high ground to the South before RUMSTEDT's counter-measures started. The situation must have been badly reminiscent to him of the days before 6 S.S. Pz Army appeared on the scene, when his armour had to be rushed to and fro to plug each hole as it appeared. First of all he put 3 Pz G. Division back into the line and quickly after it came 9 Pz Div accompanied by 12 Volksgrenadier Division not yet properly recovered from its WARSAW battles. So far there has not been any great stiffening in enemy resistance, and as we are astride both banks of the RHEIN river it would seem that the enemy must go back to the line of the GEF river covering the GEF Forest. In this attack we have penetrated to points 12 miles inside GEF and are well into the SIEBERND defenses, having gained most valuable ground for any resumption of large scale attacks towards the RHINE.

There are now five armoured and two Panzer Divisions unlocated in the West - almost exactly the same number as in the week preceding RUMSTEDT's WARSAW attack. The situation is far from analogous however. One has learnt by now the dangers of thinking the Germans to be wholly on the defensive at any time; but if only a limited and costly success could be achieved in December with the full employment of the fresh 6 Pz Army, the prospects of even a spoiling attack are at present slight. Moreover the deported Pz Army was the better of the two and in better shape when it left than is 5 Pz Army to-day. Of the rest of RUMSTEDT's armour, 116 Pz Div is tentatively placed in the DUKEN area, and the general trend of traffic suggests that a proportion of the remainder is moving into the area West of the RHEIN. Confirmation is given to this suggestion by the identification of 8 Para Div from GERMANY in the VENLO area, an indication that RUMSTEDT is once again worried about the security of the RHEIN Valley, and is taking steps to thicken up the thinly held approaches to it from HOLLAND. The brief breathing space which he may hope to have before the spring will surely be spent in restin and strengthening the defenders of the RHEIN. For what was said in this Summary long before the December battles has more force to-day than it ever had. Loss of the RHEIN will finally decide the issue.

2. NORTHEN FRONT

EAST PRUSSIA AND POLAND

5538

There has been an appreciable slowing down of the Russian advance in this past week. The extended L of C, with POZNAN still in German hands, a stiffening enemy opposition, particularly in East PRUSSIA, and a premature thaw in the Central sector have all contributed to the Soviet difficulties. In East PRUSSIA, the Russians have now occupied about five-sixths of the entire province, and the defence of what is still left involves

that the enemy must look to the line of the Elbe river covering the German Forest. In this attack we have penetrated to points 12 miles inside Germany and are well into the SIEGFRIED defenses, having gained most valuable ground for any resumption of large scale attacks towards the RHINE.

There are now five armoured and two Panzer Divisions unlocated in the West - almost exactly the same number as in the week preceding RUNDSTEDT's ARDENNES attack. The situation is far from analogous however. One has learnt by now the dangers of thinking the Germans to be wholly on the defensive at any time; but if only a limited and costly success could be achieved in December with the full employment of the fresh 6 Pz Army, the prospects of even a spoiling attack are at present slight. Moreover the departed 12 Pz Army was the better of the two and in better shape when it left than is 5 Pz Army to-day. Of the rest of RUNDSTEDT's armour, 116 Pz Div is tentatively placed in the DÜREN area, and the general trend of traffic suggests that a proportion of the remainder is moving into the area west of the RUR. Confirmation is given to this suggestion by the identification of 8 Para Div from GERMANY in the VELD area, an indication that RUNDSTEDT is once again worried about the security of the RUR Valley, and is taking steps to thicken up the thinly held approaches to it from HOLLAND. The brief breathing space which he may hope to have before the spring will surely be spent in resting and strengthening the defenders of the RUR. For what was said in this Summary long before the December battles has more force to-day than it ever had. Loss of the RUR will finally decide the issue.

2. EASTERN FRONT

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There has been an appreciable slowing down of the Russian advance in this past week. The extended L of C, with POZNAN still in German hands, a stiffening enemy opposition, particularly in East PRUSSIA, and a premature thaw in the Central sector have all contributed to the Soviet difficulties. In East PRUSSIA, the Russians have now occupied about five-sixths of the entire province, and the defence of what is still left resolves itself for the enemy into the defence of KÖNIGSBERG and GDAŃSK. He is clearly determined to hold on to these two ports as much to deny them to the Russians as for their own worth to him. The Soviets have already this week acquired one important naval base in the shape of MESEL; they have also developed the threat to LUTIC and GUMBI, while STETIN itself is only 37 miles from the front. The whole German position in Eastern Baltic waters is thus endangered - a threat which if it matured would have the gravest consequences for the twenty-odd enemy divisions at present isolated in LATVIA. Fierce enemy resistance is to be expected as the Soviets draw nearer to these naval bases and ports. However the German efforts to break through the Russian wedge which isolates East PRUSSIA seem to have abated. The measure of success achieved by these attacks is not clear. There are no claims

.....or admissions that.....

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or admissions that the Soviet wedge has been broken, but this proves little, for the Russians might not admit a setback nor the Germans that they were ever really firmly isolated. It is clear however that in the past week, the Russians have been able to broaden their salient to the West and are within seven miles of DANZIG. Farther to the S.W. ROMOSSOVSKI has made satisfactory progress in extending the left flank of his 2 White Russian Army Group across the German frontier on a broad front 3.2. of STETTIN. SCHNEIDERHIL at the junction of seven railway lines remains however an isolated garrison in enemy hands behind the front. This obstacle combined with the marshy lake country of POMERANIA is likely to make the advance on STETTIN a formidable business.

Marshal ZHUKOV's First White Russian Army Group continues its advance to the ODER though at a much reduced pace. If the German defences between ZÜLLICHAU and MESSNITZ proved no great difficulty to the Russians, the enemy held on POMAN and the rapidly lengthening L of C must do so. The ODER has been reached at only two points North of the bend at PUSCHENBURG, and the direct assault on FRANKFURT and KÜSTEN has not yet commenced. FRANKFURT at any rate is reported to be strongly defended and the reduction of both FRANKFURT and KÜSTEN is likely to be a difficult task. FRANKFURT itself lies on both banks of the ODER, though KÜSTEN is largely on the West bank. In this region the ODER reaches its widest point - about 200-250 yards - and remains at this width to its mouth. The establishment of Soviet bridgeheads on the West bank will probably present considerable difficulties, although the task would be easier now than in the few periods when the current becomes fairly rapid. However ZHUKOV at this stage is probably more concerned with closing up to the West bank of the ODER on a broad front South and if possible North of KÜSTEN than with establishing bridgeheads on the far bank. The Soviet line has now developed into a vast salient which narrows down through Western POLAND to its tip near FRANKFURT. As such it offers the enemy possibilities of counter-attack from North and South, and ZHUKOV must be anxious to get his flanks resting firmly and without delay on the natural protection of the ODER.

From the remainder of the Central sector, the only development of importance this week has been the German report of a new Soviet attack from the bridgehead over the ODER N.W. and S.W. of BRISL. This has now been confirmed by the Russians, showing that the relative calm of the preceding week was probably put to good effect by KNEBEV in bringing up fresh forces. The attack may be intended only to broaden and deepen the Soviet bridgehead, and to cut the main highway from KESLIN to Upper SILESIA; nevertheless the important nickel mines at FRANKENSTEIN, 35 miles S.W. of BRISL, offer a tempting prize to KNEBEV now that GERMANY has already lost her main nickel supplies at PETSAVO. In any case the next few days should show whether this is the end of an old battle or the beginning of a new.

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From the reminder of the Central sector, the only development of importance this week has been the German report of a new Soviet attack from the bridgehead over the ODER N.W. and S.W. of BRIEG. This has now been confirmed by the Russians, showing that the relative calm of the preceding week was probably put to good effect by KONEV in bringing up fresh forces. The attack may be intended only to broaden and deepen the Soviet bridgehead, and to cut the main highway from BERLIN to Upper SILESIA; nevertheless the important nickel mines at FRAUENSTEIN, 55 miles S.W. of BRIEG, offer a tempting prize to KONEV now that GERMAN has already lost her main nickel supplies at PITTSBO. In any case the next few days should show whether this is the end of an old battle or the beginning of a new.

HUNGARY

There has been little change in the situation in HUNGARY. The long battle for BUDAPEST seems to be drawing nearer its end and the garrison is reduced to a small force holding the area of the castle in BUDAPEST.

South of the capital the Soviet counter-attacks against the German salient are making good progress, although it is evident from the Soviet claims of towns recaptured that the German drive of a fortnight ago made more progress in a Southeasterly direction than had previously been thought. After recapturing SZÉKES FEHÉRVÁR, the army seems to have driven East to the DANUBE and S.W. towards DEBRECEN with his left flank resting on the SARVIZ Canal. The Soviets have now counter-attacked Northwards along the same ground and are within eight miles of SZÉKES FEHÉRVÁR.

.....No change in.....

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No change in the enemy Order of Battle is reported from HUMAKI this week.

YUGOSLAVIA

The main news of the week has come from DUBOVIKA where the enemy has carried out a strong sortie from the MOSLAK region, in the direction of the Delatinska coast. This drive was probably conducted by elements of 369 German-Great Division supported by 9 Great Div and seems to have taken the Partisans completely by surprise. KRALJEVO (W 09) was quickly overrun and the enemy continued the attack as far as METKOVIĆ in the NERETVA estuary seven miles from the coast. A wedge was thus driven which prevented Partisan movement between Northern and Southern Dubovik. A hint that the enemy occupation was not to be permanent however was given when the Germans blew the bridges over the NERETVA in the METKOVIĆ area. This was followed by a withdrawal from METKOVIĆ to KRALJEVO which was abandoned by the enemy on 1 Feb after heavy fighting. The Germans are thus almost back to their start line of a week ago. What exactly was the object of the operation is still not clear. If it was to interrupt the Partisan communications in DUBOVIKA a certain limited and temporary inconvenience has certainly been achieved. The Partisans however see more in the silly than this and suggest that it may have been designed to cover the withdrawal of supplies and troops from MOSTAR. Further reports have indeed been received this week of supplies leaving MOSTAR, but such stories have been coming in for nearly a month now, and stronger evidence will be needed before we can assume that the withdrawal from the SARAJEVO base has been resumed. A more plausible explanation is that the enemy wishes to tighten his hold on the bauxite mines in the MOKRAR area, and to disperse Partisan concentrations which might threaten them. Now that he has lost so much through Allied force of arms in Upper SLOVENIA, he may be loath to abandon voluntarily any source of economic supply, however small, in other regions.

There has also been a recrudescence of reports of heavy eastward road movement from VISOKO to SARAJEVO. The only certain facts about all these rumors are that both MOSTAR and VISOKO are in enemy hands, and that VASSINICA, the third outpost covering SARAJEVO is being used by the enemy as a base for a new drive Northwards. This drive has led to the capture of DRINKA in the DRINA Valley 50 miles N.W. of SARAJEVO, and the enemy is now advancing Northwards down the DRINA Valley in the direction of ZVORNIK. His objective here appears to be twofold; firstly to open up the L of C through the DRINA Valley to VISOKO; and secondly to follow last week's capture of the old VISOKO-DRINA main defense line by securing a firm Eastern flank for Army Group F in the Balkans along the line of the DRINA river.

The enemy layout in the SARAJEVO area has become clearer during the past week. H.Q. XXI Mountain Corps is at SARAJEVO with four divisions under command disposed as follows:

364 German-Great Div

MOSTAR-TRAVNIK

5537

German forces however was given some time to withdraw from METKOVO to KAPLJINA, the METKOVO area. This was followed by a withdrawal from METKOVO to KAPLJINA, which was abandoned by the enemy on 4 Feb after heavy fighting. The Germans are thus almost back to their start line of a week ago. Most notably was the object of the operation is still not clear. If it was to interrupt the Partisan communications in KAPLJINA a certain limited and temporary inconvenience has certainly been achieved. The Partisans however are now in the rally then this and suggest that it may have been designed to cover the withdrawal of supplies and troops from METKOVO. Further reports have indeed been received this week of supplies leaving METKOVO, but such stories have been coming in for nearly a month now, and stronger evidence will be needed before we can assume that the withdrawal from the SARAJEVO base has been resumed. A more plausible explanation is that the enemy wishes to tighten his hold on the bauxite mines in the MOSLAR area, and to disperse Partisan concentrations which might threaten them. Now that he has lost so much through Allied forces of arms in Upper SLOVENIA, he may be loath to abandon voluntarily any source of economic supply, however small, in other regions.

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364 Germano-Great Div	-	MOSLAR-TAVNIK
104 Jg Div	-	TRAVNIK area
22 Inf Div	-	VLASSNICA-DRINJACA (probably conducting the present DRINA Valley operations)
181 Inf Div	-	VISERAD-SARAJEVO road. (largely concerned with protecting Southern flank of 21 Corps).

H.Q. Army Group E which was at SARAJEVO appears to have left for the North, and is variously reported at NOVA GRADISKA and ENOS, either of which would be a healthier location than SARAJEVO. Army Group F and the whole of G in C S.E.'s staff is also said to have moved, abandoning its long though not wholly happy associations with ZAGREB for the more homely surroundings of the fatherland at GRIZ.

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H. Q. A. A. I. INTELLIGENCE NOTES HQ 39

OF 12 DEC, 1944

2. ENEMY SITUATION

On the 8 Army front the enemy is at the moment in process of being thrown back off yet another river line. After an unsuccessful attempt to establish a bridgehead across the LAMONE on the 5th in the area N.W. of RUSSI (the enemy counter-attacked strongly with S.P. guns and drove us back East of the river) two attacks were launched on the night 10/11 Dec and by the following morning we were firmly on the West bank of the LAMONE. One of these attacks went in N.W. of RUSSI where the previous attempt had failed and by first light had pushed 114 Recoce Unit back behind the FOSCO VECCHIO, a canal some 2,000 yards East of BATTICAVALLIO. The other bridgehead was made about 5,000 yards to the North and quickly captured VILLANOVA M 4541 from 741 Jaeger Regt and seized the bridge at 428398 intact. Counter-attacks later in the day by 190 Recoce Unit, assisted by some 5-6 Tigers, against the right wing of this bridgehead in the area M 4542 were repulsed and by nightfall the enemy was West of the FOSCO VECCHIO between the 37 and 42 Northings. The day's fighting brought us in some 300 prisoners from 114 and 356 Divs.

Whereas the enemy appeared to be expecting the first attack over the LAMONE on 5 Dec, the crossing on the night of the 10th seems to have taken him unawares as is evidenced by the large number of prisoners and the capture intact of the bridge. The only reserves the enemy apparently had in this area, apart from internal battalion ones, were 190 Recoce Unit and some Tigers. On the other hand, between the 8 - 10 Dec 90 P.G. Div (less its Recoce Unit) moved from General reserve North and East of BOLOGNA into the line S.W. of FAENZA, thus indicating that the enemy was expecting a renewal of attacks in this area where the whole of the West bank of the LAMONE was already in Allied hands.

90 P.G. Div started getting ready to intervene on the 5th, but for the next few days it was content to play a watching role, during which time 305 Div was engaged in fairly heavy fighting S.W. of FAENZA. The enemy evidently decided that 305 Div was getting worn down in a battle of attrition and with 26 Pz Div on Route 9 still weak after its defeat on the GERHOLD Line, he brought 90 P.G. Div down hurriedly and committed it between the two tired divisions. 90 P.G. Div's entry into the battle was as dramatic as on the two previous occasions on which it has been rushed into the line - on the CERIANO ridge S.W. of RIMINI and at M. GRANEL. Using about four battalions supported by tanks and S.P. guns, 90 P.G. launched a series of violent counter-attacks on the 9th, designed probably to knock the Allies off their balance just as they were building up for a renewal of the offensive and if possible hoping to gain a spectacular

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East of the river, two attacks were launched on the night 10/11 Dec and by the following morning we were firmly on the West bank of the LAMONE. One of these attacks went in N.W. of RUSSI where the previous attempt had failed and by first light had pushed 114 Recon Unit back behind the POSO VECCIO, a canal some 2,000 yards East of BARNACAVALLIO. The other bridged was made about 5,000 yards to the North and quickly captured VILLANOVA M 4541 from 741 Jaeger Regt and seized the bridge at 428395 intact. Counter-attacks later in the day by 190 Recon Unit, assisted by some 5-6 Tigers, against the right wing of this bridgedhead in the area M 4542 were repulsed and by nightfall the enemy was West of the POSO VECCIO between the 37 and 42 Northings. The day's fighting brought us in some 300 prisoners from 114 and 356 Divs.

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90 P.G. Div started getting ready to intervene on the 5th, but for the next few days it was content to play a watching role, during which time 305 Div was engaged in fairly heavy fighting S.W. of PARENZA. The enemy evidently decided that 305 Div was getting worn down in a battle of attrition and with 26 Pz Div on Route 9 still weak after its defeat on the GERHOLD Line, he brought 90 P.G. Div down hurriedly and committed it between the two tired divisions. 90 P.G. Div's entry into the battle was as dramatic as on the two previous occasions on which it has been rushed into the line - on the GERHOLD ridge S.W. of RIMINI and at M. GRADIZ. Using about four battalions supported by tanks and S.P. guns, 90 P.G. launched a series of violent counter-attacks on the 9th, designed probably to knock the Allies off their balance just as they were building up for a renewal of the offensive and if possible hoping to gain a spectacular victory by throwing them back across the LAMONE. The attack progressed some 400 yards South of CILE 2724 but elsewhere failed to gain any important ground. These smoldering attacks lasted only one day and cost 90 P.G. Div heavy casualties. Since then the Div has been unobtrusively settling down in its new sector, which now extends from approx the 29 to the 24 Easting.

90 P.G. Div has therefore taken over most of 305 Div's front, and the latter has 577 G.R. and probably 576 G.R. as well in reserve. At the same time 715 Div, now back on the POSO ridge, has shifted part of its weight further West and II Bn 725 G.R. is now on M. INCISA M 1718 with both Bns of 1028 G.R. on its left stretching at least as far as the 21 Easting. It is too early to say whether the intention is to take 305 Div out of the line completely, but the fact that it was mentioned in the German Communiqué of the 6th Dec suggests, if previous experience is any pointer, that it has had fairly heavy casualties and may be earmarked for a rest. At the moment,

..... however, such.....

- 2 -

however, such units as it has out of the line are the only immediate reserves available to be switched North to the BACCAVALLO area, should 114 and 356 Divs find themselves in trouble.

On the rest of the front apart from active patrolling, in which 1 Para Div was to the fore, and the usual flow of Italian deserters which reached a peak with 91 in the 24 hours ending 1500 hours 8 Dec, there was little ground activity of note. The relief of 29 P.G. Div, forecast for the first week of December by an intelligent prisoner captured late in November, has however been effected. On the 5th a prisoner was taken from 1059 G.R. who said that the rest of 362 Div had moved into the area South of BOLOGNA preparatory to taking over a sector in the line. Since then 1060 G.R. has been identified well inside 29 P.G. Div sector on the 92 Easting. There has been no contact at all with 29 P.G. since the 6th and it can be assumed that it is resting North of BOLOGNA. A prisoner statement that the third regt of 362 Div - 956 G.R. - had come in to the West of 1059 G.R. is interesting, and taken in conjunction with the finding of two bodies from 362 Fusilier Bn as far West as E 6632 would imply that some units of 362 Div have also moved into 65 Div sector. It would be surprising if the enemy were to take 65 Div as well as 29 P.G. out of the line and hand over the vital Route 65 sector to a single Div - and a division which though recently reformed has not a very high fighting reputation - but such a possibility cannot be altogether ignored: III Bn 4 Para Regt lost prisoners at L 9732, which is further West than we have previously had parachutists, and as a result 42 Jaeger Div may also have sidestepped slightly West into the old 29 P.G. Div sector, reducing the area to be taken over by 362 Div. In addition 4 Para Div with only one regt in the line has for long been on a narrow front, but now both 11 and 12 Para Regts are forward it may have extended slightly Westwards into 65 Div sector. This reshuffle, if it has in fact taken place, might enable both 29 and 65 Divs to go out of the line and at the same time leave 362 Div with a sector of reasonable width. Even then the withdrawal of two divisions from the line South of BOLOGNA would imply that the enemy regarded an attack by 5 Army as unlikely for the moment: there is no evidence that such is his appreciation and pending further information it is wiser to carry 65 Div still in the line though on a narrow front with probably only one regiment forward.

In North West Italy most of 157 Mtn Div is now believed to have left, and its place along the frontier has been taken by LITTORIO and 5 Mtn, with an Alpine Regt of the former in the AOSTA Valley and 100 Mtn Regt in the area of Mt CENIS pass. In the old 5 Mtn Div sector 85 Mtn Regt is in the A.S. GEMENNE area South to the FELICE River while the rest of LITTORIO appears to have moved into the CROSO area with responsibilities on the Col de la MATELLE. 34 Div remains unchanged in the Southern part of the Alps. In N.E. Italy Mountain troops have been reported arriving - on 24 Nov a detachment had reached the area South of UDINE from FRIEDMONT and more troops were reported arriving in the UDINE area in early December. This must be 157 Mtn Div, and from these reports it appears to be taking over the sector vacated by 71 Div bounded roughly by UDINE - GORIZIA - exclusive TRIESTE - MONFALCONE - LANTISANI. 204th Div has now been identified by the Russians near Lake Balaton and is struck off the strength of Army Group C. This reduces the strength of Kesselring's command to 26 German divisions plus Cossacks in N.E. Italy in strength of about

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.....2. WESTERN FRONT.....

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The pattern of the fighting has not changed materially since last week and resistance continues stubborn in the critical sectors of AACHEN, the SAR Valley and the KALSBERG gap. In the South 19 Army has been further compressed on COLMAR in spite of spirited opposition and frequent counterattacks especially in the MELLEUSE and TILLI areas. The loss of SELESSTAT, however, threatens to release the Northern jaw of the trap and endanger the Army's whole position west of the RHINE. It is not surprising therefore that, in spite of an order by HITLER demanding valor rather than discretion, there are already many indications pointing to a general withdrawal to the safer side of the river. Nevertheless we may expect to see the retreat marked by the skillful obstinacy characteristic of the Germans in such situations, with every Allied advance within the pocket stiffly contested and every threat to the COLMAR-BESISCH escape route fiercely counter-attacked.

North of STRASBURG, in the HAZENAU area, the enemy has shown considerable sensitivity in face of our advance which holds the double threat of turning his whole position in the SAR Valley and of forcing the KARLSRUHE gap. But, though sensitive, he has not proved strong enough to halt us. RICHMILLER, NIDERTHORN and WEICHSOWEN have fallen and finally, after a week's hard fighting, the capture of HAZENAU has opened the last approaches to the Siegfried line in this area. In the SAARBRÜNNEN sector the loss of SAARUNION led to a substantial advance which has brought us to a line from ROERBACH to SARGEMUND. Here, as at SAARLAUTEN and DILLINGEN, the enemy has made repeated attempts to drive us from our bridgeheads East of the SAR river, but has nothing to show for his pains.

The ELZEL sector has had another peaceful week while further North in the COLOMER sector the rate of our advance has been slowed down - but by no means stopped - by increasingly bitter opposition as we close up to the ROER River. Our attacks in the MERGEN Forest area continue to threaten the enemy's flank and wear down his strength. In the ARNHEM sector the area of flooding between the WAIL and the Lower RHINE has grown during the past week. Whether the enemy's immediate intentions here are aggressive or purely defensive, is not yet clear, but certainly the flooding reflects his continued fear of an attempt to turn his right flank and encircle the ROER from the North.

The problem facing the enemy has not changed, nor is it nearer to its solution. The rate of his casualties is still much higher than he can afford. And though he has been able to reduce the rate of our progress in the North, it is only at the expense of the Centre and South. He cannot simultaneously make up his current casualties and build up trained reserves strong enough to hold us all along the front. He is living on capital and sooner or later bankruptcy is inevitable.

3. HUNGARY AND THE BALKANS

In Northern HUNGARY fierce fighting has taken place throughout the week in the MISKOLCZ sector. Little progress has been made, but the

North of STRASSBURG, in the HAINAU area, the enemy has shown considerable sensitivity in face of our advance which holds the double threat of turning his whole position in the SAAR Valley and of forcing the KARLSRUHE gap. But, though sensitive, he has not proved strong enough to halt us. BISCHMILLER, NIEDERBORN and REICHSMANN have fallen and finally, after a week's hard fighting, the capture of HAINAU has opened the last approaches to the Siegfried line in this area. In the SAARBOGEN sector the loss of SAARBOGEN led to a substantial advance which has brought us to a line from ROERBACH to SAARBRUNNEN. Here, as at SAARLUTHER and DILLINGEN, the enemy has made repeated attempts to drive us from our bridgeheads East of the SAAR river, but has nothing to show for his pains.

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3. HUNGARY AND THE BALKANS

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In Northern HUNGARY fierce fighting has taken place throughout the week in the MISKOLCZ sector. Little progress has been made, but the Russians consolidated their previous gains by advancing some 5 miles along the railway leading North from the city.

Fronts to the North of the Hungarian capital have taken a new and dramatic turn and threaten to outshine the victories reported elsewhere by Marshal GOLOVIN. Marshal MALINOVSKIY in a drive from the direction of HATVAN reached and captured VACS on the DANUBES, and striking North is reported to have reached the Slovakian frontier on a 15 mile front beyond BALASSAGYARMAT H 76. BUDAPEST, now surrounded from North, South and East, is facing the final phase of its period of German domination. Russian spearheads were 8 miles away to the North on the 10th while to the Northeast our Allies have reached to within 10 miles of the city. Romanian troops are reported to be in the fore - and no better incentive could be offered to them than the capture of the Hungarian capital.

.....The Russian.....

The Russian breakthrough in Southern HUNGARY has been further exploited. By 8 Dec the whole of the Southern shore of Lake BALATON was reported clear of enemy and a further crossing of the DANUBE south of BURFASZ had been effected. Advancing N.E. from BALATON our Allies linked up in the area of Lake VERNICE and are now threatening the important communications centre of SZEKES-TEREVAR. The capture of this latter town would open up for the Russians one of the best routes to VIENNA. There is evidence that the enemy has hastily strengthened this sector, and one report states that the HUNGARIAN 2nd S.S. Div is being hastily organized in the VARELOSIA D 89 area. This Div is composed of young Hungarian conscripts from TRANSILVANIA.

Meanwhile, the enemy on the ZALA Flank has been given no respite. The Russians crossed the river Southeast of BUDAS on the 9th and claim to hold a substantial bridgehead. BUDAS is firmly in Russian hands and unconfirmed reports state that VIROVITICA P 69 and SLAVINA P 68 have fallen to our Allies thereby still further increasing the quantity of Army Group B.

To the Southeast fierce fighting is taking place in the SRENI, centred on the Russian bridgehead at VUKOVAR X 18. German communications claim they have virtually eliminated the Russian forces to the N.E. of the city but the Russians and Partisans are advancing N.W. along the railway on VUKOVAR X 18 which they claim to be threatening. The capture of VUKOVAR by our Allies would render the German positions in VUKOVAR, and indeed the whole pocket from OSIJEK down the DANUBE to SOTIN, untenable.

The withdrawal of the tired forces of Army Group B is indeed a fighting one. 21 Mtn Corps in MONTENEGRO, is suffering afflictions in the shape of Partisan pressure and inclement weather. SERBIA H 75 was evacuated by Army Group B and promptly occupied by the Partisans and Bulgars. The tail, composed of forces from 91 Corps, appears to still have some sting as the evacuation was carried out almost without hindrance from the Partisans. However, each stronghold given up by this force increases the threat to the forces trapped in MONTENEGRO. It remains somewhat problematical if the drive initiated by 21 Mtn Corps up the LINA Valley and the relief column of 91 Corps pushing down the MOKOVAC - KATSEVO road can effect a junction in time to rescue the former force. Whatever the fate of troops concerned, they are unlikely to get out all their heavy equipment and MT, much of which will have been blocked by the destruction of bridges over the swollen rivers. A gap of some 10 miles is stated to still separate the two forces, between which lie the Partisans, subject to the fire of both.

Lt. Gen MEHLER, former G.O.C. CHERIE, is reported to be commanding a Corps in the ZVORNIK area composed of 7 S.S. Prinz Eugen Mtn Div, 104 JG Div and elements of another Div, presumably II G.A.R. Div.

At Appendix 'A' is a report on 'Allied Air Attack on German Oil Resources.

claim to hold a substantial bridghead. It is likely in Russian hands and unconfirmed reports state that VIROVITICA P 69 and SLATINA P 88 have fallen to our allies thereby still further increasing the jeopardy of Army Group B.

To the Southeast fierce fighting is taking place in the SPEN, centred on the Russian bridgehead at VUKOVAR X 18. German communiques claim they have virtually eliminated the Russian forces to the N.E. of the city but the Russians and Partisans are advancing N.W. along the railway on VINKOVCI X 18 which they claim to be threatening. The capture of VINKOVCI by our Allies would render the German positions in VUKOVAR, and indeed the whole pocket from OSIJEK down the DAVAR to SOTIN, untenable.

The withdrawal of the tired forces of Army Group E is indeed a fighting one. 21 Mtn Corps in MONTENEGRO, is suffering afflictions in the shape of Partisan pressure and inclement weather. SLATINA H 75 was evacuated by Army Group E and promptly occupied by the Partisans and Bulgars. The trail, composed of forces from 91 Corps, appears to still have some sting as the evacuation was carried out almost without hindrance from the Partisans. However, each stronghold given up by this force increases the threat to the forces trapped in MONTENEGRO. It remains somewhat problematical if the drive initiated by 21 Mtn Corps up the LIM Valley and the relief column of 91 Corps pushing down the MOJNOVAC - MATSEVO road can effect a junction in time to rescue the former force. Whatever the fate of troops concerned, they are unlikely to get out all their heavy equipment and MT, much of which will have been blocked by the destruction of bridges over the swollen rivers. A gap of some 10 miles is stated to still separate the two forces, between which lie the Partisans, subject to the fire of both.

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At Appendix 'A' is a report on 'Allied Air Attack on German Oil Resources.

CSI(a).
HQ. J.I.
12 Dec 44.

BRIGADIER,
R.G.S.(I).

CE R. H. Wick

Appendix 'A' to D.I.I.I.
Intelligence Notes No. 39
dated 12 Dec 44

ALLIED AIR ATTACK ON GERMAN OIL RESOURCES

The overall German shortage of petroleum products is well known. In ITALY the enemy has been able to "get by" only by the strictest economy measures and the maximum use of rail facilities. A captured order from Headquarters 10 Army dated 27 August, 1944, directed a 60 per cent cut in fuel consumption and presumably a similar reduction applied to all other formations in ITALY. There have been many reports of various economy measures, a recent example being a Tac/R report on 10 Dec of a number of 17 moving in groups of three, the lead vehicle towing the other two in each case; a similar practice has been reported in FRANCE.

The current enemy overall position is briefly set forth in the following extract from A.F.M.C. Weekly Intelligence Summary of 20 November:

"The enemy European oil situation at the end of September may be summarised as follows (the 'normal output' (100%) represents production figures prior to the comprehensive Allied bombing of oil targets in enemy Europe which started in April):

	Metric Tons per Month
Pre-raid normal output of finished products	1,344,000 (100%)
Estimated production in August	526,000 (39%)
September	314,000 (23.5%)
October	436,000 (32%)
November	616,000 (46.1%)

"Revised estimates of the output of principal refined products in October and November are summarised below:

	<u>Per cent of Pre-raid Normal Output</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>November</u>
Gasoline		31.5	50
Kerosene		18	25
Gas/Diesel oils		38.5	60
Fuel oils		38	41.5
Lube oils		24	32
		<u>32.5</u>	<u>45</u>

The above figures speak for themselves, but what they imply in terms of Allied strategic air effort is perhaps not quite so well known. Thus the following unclassified report (extracted from MAX Air Intelligence Weekly

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Fuel oils	18	41.5
Lube oils	24	32
	32.5	46.1

The above figures speak for themselves, but what they imply in terms of Allied strategic air effort is perhaps not quite so well known. Thus the following unclassified report (extracted from MAF Air Intelligence Weekly Summary of 4 December) by an R.A.F. Squadron Leader, recently broadcast by B.B.C., on how this reduction of German petroleum-products production has been accomplished is of interest:

"I want to say something tonight about the bombing by the Germans of an important oil industry in Europe and about our present campaign to destroy that industry again from the air.

"You'll remember that in the first year of the war many an optimistic article was written proving, with many a fact and figure, that Germany couldn't really be a serious menace because she simply didn't command the necessary oil to sustain a modern war. The facts and figures were all very impressive and nobody seemed to be able to contradict them. How then has Germany in fact been able to sustain five years of world war? Where has she found the oil to do it?

"She has done it in three ways. First, she has built about two dozen enormous synthetic oil plants. These plants turn a part of Germany's ample coal supplies into fuel oil and petrol. At the beginning of this year they were turning out enough

oil

oil to meet about forty per cent of Germany's needs; but that wasn't enough; where did the other sixty per cent come from: It came from two sources: first from the conquered Rumanian oil fields, and second - and this is the thing which I don't think many people have realized - from several new oil fields which the Germans had discovered in their own territory.

"The fact is that just before the war the Germans had struck oil on a considerable scale in the Reich itself. Then they found impressive oil deposits in both Austria and in Hungary. When we re-discovered Central Europe we shall find that it has become a considerable new oil producing area. That's a new fact in the economic geography of the world.

"These three sources of oil, the great synthetic, the Rumanian oil field and the newly discovered wells of Central Europe were between them giving the Nazis over a million-and-a-quarter tons of oil a month at the beginning of this year. That was probably just about enough for their needs. But it wasn't by any means ample; the Germans were still after more oil; for instance, the strategy of their 1942 campaign in Russia was probably distorted by the need to break through to the huge oil sources of the Caucasus. Without them the Nazis can never have felt really happy and secure about their oil position. All the same, an output of a million-and-a-quarter tons a month was a most remarkable achievement. It was the fuel basis for the Nazis drive for world empire.

"Why did we let all this happen? Why did we let the Nazis build their huge synthetic plants, sink their new oil wells and build their refineries? It's true that you can't effectively bomb oil wells themselves; but you can bomb the refineries without which the output of the wells themselves is useless. Why then didn't we switch our air attack on to oil four years ago, as many people were always saying that we should?

"The answer is perfectly simple; we tried to do so and found we couldn't. In 1940 and 1941 R.A.F. Bomber Command, which was then the only bombing force in the field, made experimental attacks on several of the big synthetic oil plants such as the two Gelbenkirchen plants in the Ruhr for instance. But we soon found that we had neither the forces nor the operational techniques to do these serious jobs. In those days small precise targets such as oil plants were difficult to find. When they were found they couldn't be hit hard enough to put them out of action for long enough to matter; it wasn't the lack of will but the lack of means, which stopped us bombing oil in 1941.

"In the years that followed, two major developments in air warfare took place. First and foremost the American day heavies, the Fortresses and Liberators, with their attendant long-distance fighters, appeared in the skies of Europe; and, second, R.A.F. Bomber Command acquired the new scientific instruments, and learned the operational technique, needed to attack precise targets at night. Both these things had to happen before the two bomber forces could go for oil.

When then we couldn't start out on oil straight away. All this time the Nazis weren't idle either. When, two years ago, the Forts and Liberators first cast their shadows on German soil, the Nazi leaders saw the red light; they began building defensive fighters on an altogether new scale. The leaders of the American air

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"Why did we let all this happen? Why did we let the Nazis build their huge synthetic plants, sink their new oil wells and build their refineries? It's true that you can't effectively bomb oil wells themselves; but you can bomb the refineries without which the output of the wells themselves is useless. Why then didn't we switch our air attack on to oil four years ago, as many people were always saying that we should?

"The answer is perfectly simple; we tried to do so and found we couldn't. In 1940 and 1941 Dumber Command, which was then the only bombing force in the field, made experimental attacks on several of the big synthetic oil plants such as the two Gelsenkirchen plants in the Ruhr for instance. But we soon found that we had neither the planes nor the operational technique to do them serious harm. In those days small precise targets such as oil plants were difficult to find. When they were found they couldn't be hit hard enough to put them out of action for long enough to matter; it wasn't the lack of will but the lack of means, which stopped us bombing oil in 1941.

"In the years that followed, two major developments in air warfare took place. First and foremost the American day-bombers, the Fortresses and Liberators, with their attendant long-distance fighters, appeared in the skies of Europe; and, second, B-29 Superfortresses acquired the new scientific instruments, and learned the operational technique, needed to attack precise targets at night. Both these things had to happen before the two bomber forces could go for oil.

Effect Then then we couldn't start out on oil straight away. All this time the Nazis kept idle either. Then, two years ago, the Forts and Liberators first cast their shadows in German soil. The Nazi leaders saw the red light; they began building defensive fighters on an altogether new scale. The leaders of the American Air Forces weren't unaware of this; they saw that if the Germans were allowed to carry through their huge program for mass producing single-engine fighters - literally on a scale such as the world had never seen - it might never be possible to strike at the vitals of Germany by daylight. And so the first lack of the Forts and Liberators, before they could go for oil or anything else, was to strike down the planned defensive power of the German Air Force itself. For nine months, from about July 1942 to March 1944, the 8th and 15th American Air Forces went for the German fighter assembly plants, and the American escort fighters fought huge battles over the Reich. At all costs they had to nip the menace of the German's vast new fighter program in the bud.

"That struggle culminated in a spell of exceptionally clear weather in the first week of last February. In that week the Americans bombed almost every one of the basic German fighter assembly plants. The work of that week, and of all the other attacks on their aircraft industry, didn't prevent the Germans from turning out fighters. On the contrary, by a remarkable effort of improvisation they have managed

to maintain

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to maintain a very considerable output. But what these attacks did do was to decide the balance of air power. They were decisive in the sense that never again has there been any doubt that the American day heavies could penetrate into every part of Central Europe. These attacks meant that for the past six months American air power has been decisively ahead of the German defense.

"No sooner was that issue decided than it became essential to choose the next objective for attack. Air superiority had been won; the great question was how to use it? It's been used in two ways. In the first place air superiority has made possible the invasion of Europe by air land and sea forces; second, and hardly less important, it has made possible, at last, a sustained and concerted attack on Germany's oil resources. In April of this year that attack began.

"The two great American air forces of day, precision bombers - the 8th and the 15th - have played the predominant part in the campaign against oil. In the case of the 15th, based in Italy, we now know exactly what they achieved, for when the Russian troops entered Ploesti and so captured the Romanian refineries they found that the output of Romanian oil had been reduced to under a quarter of what it had been four months before. Thus the magnificent work of the 15th had meant that the Germans suffered the crippling loss of the bulk of their Romanian oil as early as April and May.

"The Eighth U.S. Air Force, from this country, has taken as its specialty the synthetic plants of Central Germany - such as Leuna, Buxa and Politz. Each of these plants is an industrial monster, several square miles in extent. Many hundreds of tons of bombs must strike such a monster, not once but again and again, before it's finally put out of action. And many hundreds of tons are striking them.

"But the Americans have been the first to recognize that Bomber Command of the R.A.F. has proved able to play surprisingly large part in the attack on oil. In the early months of this year, Bomber Command proved that they had developed a new capacity to hit precise targets such as oil plants at night. Bomber Command can now find them with their instruments, light them with their flares, mark them with their target indicators, and hit them with their bombs. The most important synthetic oil plants of the Ruhr, were first put out of action in a series of successful night precision attacks during the early months of this summer. But with the advance of our Armies a new development has occurred. We can now give fighter cover to Bomber Command over the Ruhr, and in recent weeks the Ruhr plants have been attacked by R.A.F. Lancasters and Halifaxes in the middle of the day. Such day precision bombing of German targets is an entirely new development for Bomber Command, and it is a remarkable tribute to the versatility of the crews that they have been able to make a success of it.

"What have been the results of going for oil this summer? First a word of warning. We must not imagine that a particular day will dawn on which every German tank and lorry and car will stop dead in its tracks because its petrol tank has run dry, and every German aircraft will fall out of the sky! In real life things don't happen like that. I repeat that one of the greatest errors that we can make is to look at any one attack and say we are taking on the enemy by

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"What have been the results of going for oil this summer? First a word of warning. We must not imagine that a particular day will dawn in which every German tank and lorry and car will stop dead in its tracks because its petrol tank has run dry, and every German aircraft will fall out of the sky! In real life things don't happen like that. I repeat that one of the greatest errors that we can make is to look at any one attack when we are talking in the enemy by itself, because no one attack will win this war. What will win it is the air attack on oil, plus the ground attack on the German armies, plus the bombing of the German cities, plus the naval blockade, plus every other form of attack which all the Allies are making on the enemy. But having said that we can already state some very positive and definite results from our attack on oil.

"Last month the enemy managed to produce only a small proportion of the oil fuel which he produced in March, before our attacks began. I mustn't tell you how small that proportion was; but I can assure you that it was so small that it will cripple the enemy's whole war effort, if only his oil output can be kept down for a few months more. Already, hardly a drop of oil is being used in German war industry. Every industrial lorry and truck runs on one of these clumsy producer gas gadgets, with all the loss of efficiency which that entails. But we also know from captured documents that actual German military operations at the fronts, both on the ground and in the air, are already being gravely handicapped for lack of oil.

.... "Unquestionably, if....."

"Unquestionably, if only we can prevent the recovery of his oil industry, there will come a point when the work of the German Panzer Divisions and the German Air Fleets will be so crippled for lack of fuel that they won't be able to withstand the pressure of the Allied Forces. I say 'if we can prevent a recovery', because you mustn't for a moment suppose that the German oil production which we had destroyed by last month will stay destroyed, if we leave it alone. On the contrary, the Nazis are making the most extreme efforts to repair and rebuild their plants. They have now gone to the lengths of building permanent 'repair camps' alongside the major synthetic oil plants, so that each time they are bombed the repair squads can rush into the plants almost before the smoke has cleared. Therefore the job ahead of the Allied Air Forces, the job of keeping down the Nazi oil industry, will be almost as big and difficult as the job of crippling that industry, the job they have done this summer. The struggle goes on! Much has still to be done, but more and more in the air, as on the ground, the balance tilts our way.

"After the war, the 1944 attack on German oil supplies will be studied as the first major air attack, with adequate resources, upon the economic vitals of an enemy power."

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COPY NO 26

H. G. A. L. INTELLIGENCE NOTES NO 37

OF 23 NOV 1944

These Notes have been introduced to meet the requirements of certain units not normally in receipt of the ordinary Intelligence Summary issued by this Hq. Their purpose is to keep such units in the general battle picture.

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1. ENEMY SITUATION

On 22 Nov we attacked again on the axis of Route 9 and succeeded in getting over the river COSIMA to the South of the road. Very heavy fighting ensued with 26 Pz Division but by the afternoon of 23 Nov the enemy had had enough. The German communiqué for 24 Nov described the action as follows: "The Eighth Army, with the concentrated mass of its forces and with the strongest employment of material threw itself against one single German division. In exemplary steadfastness the 26th Pz Division, under command Colonel CRASEMAN, defended the cohesion of the front". (Incidentally, Colonel CRASEMAN commanded 8 Tank Regt in Nov 41, during Eighth Army's first offensive). In fact the evening before this announcement the division, which had lost 400 prisoners, made a rapid withdrawal across the LAMONE, leaving no rearwards behind apart from a few men in the houses of BORZO DUREZZO. The situation was in fact regarded as sufficiently serious to call for the employment of 577 G.R. which has been out of contact in reserve for some two months; it came in to the South of Route 9, on the left flank of its parent division and had some casualties apparently due to lack of contact with 26 Pz Div to its North. 278 Div also withdrew to conform. However, the divisions' left hand regiment, 993 G.R., still stayed forward between the rivers and a prisoner from I Bn taken in the area M 392265 on 27 Nov stated his orders were to withdraw only if pressed. Similarly, 871 G.R., the next adjoining regiment, stubbornly defended ALBERGO, M 3927, and a general line along 28 Northing and prisoners on 27 Nov said they had no orders about a withdrawal. 114 Jg Div also appears to be still in its old positions behind the FIUMI UNITI although the Partisans in this area have consistently reported a thinning out here and say the main body of the division is back behind the LAMONE. It certainly appears, that although the enemy line has now been extended by the withdrawal to FAENZA he is not yet prepared to give up any ground to the North. Such a withdrawal would involve abandoning RAVENNA and PORTO COSELM and although the enemy has probably already carried out all the demolitions he wants, he still will not give them up without some sort of a struggle. South of FAENZA, on the other hand, he has withdrawn wholly behind the LAMONE though there may be still some on forward of the river in the mountainous Southern sector of 305 Div.

On the remainder of the front there have been minor changes in enemy dispositions only. A second regiment of 143 Div, 286 G.R., has turned up and is apparently in the SERGIO Valley. 4 Alpine Bn, which has not

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in getting over the river could be south of the road, very heavy fighting ensued with 26 Pz Division but by the afternoon of 23 Nov the enemy had had enough. The German communiqué for 24 Nov described the action as follows: "The Eighth Army, with the concentrated mass of its forces and with the strongest employment of material threw itself against one single German division. In exemplary steadfastness the 26th Pz Division, under command Colonel GRASEMAN, defended the cohesion of the front". (Incidentally, Colonel GRASEMAN commanded 8 Tank Regt in Nov 41, during Eighth Army's first offensive). In fact the evening before this announcement the division, which had lost 400 prisoners, made a rapid withdrawal across the LADONE, leaving no rearwards behind apart from a few men in the houses of BORZO D'ARZIZO. The situation was in fact regarded as sufficiently serious to call for the employment of 577 G.R. which has been out of contact in reserve for some two months; it came in to the South of Route 9, on the left flank of its parent division and had some casualties apparently due to lack of contact with 26 Pz Div to its North. 278 Div also withdrew to conform. However, the divisions' left hand regiment, 993 G.R., still stayed forward between the rivers and a prisoner from I Bn taken in the area M 392265 on 27 Nov stated his orders were to withdraw only if pressed. Similarly, 871 G.R., the next adjoining regiment, stubbornly defended ALBERTO, M 3927, and a general line along 20 Northing and prisoners on 27 Nov said they had no orders about a withdrawal. III Jg Div also appears to be still in its old positions behind the FIUME UNITI although the Partisans in this area have consistently reported a thinning out here and say the main body of the division is back behind the LADONE. It certainly appears, that although the enemy line has now been extended by the withdrawal to FANZA he is not yet prepared to give up any ground to the North. Such a withdrawal would involve abandoning RAVENNA and PORTO CORSI and although the enemy has probably already carried out all the demolitions he wants, he still will not give them up without some sort of a struggle. South of FANZA, on the other hand, he has withdrawn wholly behind the LADONE though there may be still some elements forward of the river in the mountainous Southern sector of 305 Div.

On the remainder of the front there have been minor changes in enemy dispositions only. A second regiment of 446 Div, 286 G.R., has turned up and is apparently in the SERGIO Valley. 4 Alpine Bn, which has not been encountered for many months, announced its arrival by a deserter and its H.Q., from a civilian report, is at ABBONATE, L 331. It is possible, though a little difficult, to suppose that this Bn is alone responsible for the many reports of the arrival of Mountain troops in this sector, which have run to as high as six battalions, but they would be well within the normal Italian range of exaggeration if we could assume that 3 Alpine Bn had also arrived, possibly in a different sector. The supposition would not be unreasonable, as the two Bns have previously normally operated together.

There has been a steady flow of deserters on this front, reaching the record figure of 106 on 24 Nov, and a few statistics may be of interest. The figures available cover the period 8 - 22 Nov, and show that on 8 Army front there were 651 prisoners taken of whom 80 deserted and on 5 Army front 455 of whom 409 deserted. The difference is striking - 10% deserters

.....in one case.....

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in one case and 90% in the other - and requires a little explanation. The figures for 5 Army are heavily weighted by 136 Russians and 153 Italians, all deserters, who make up about two-thirds of the whole; however, of a total of 83 Germans, 46 or 56% and of 22 Austrians 17 or 77% were deserters. The main explanation must lie in the difference between a static and an active front. On 8 Army front opportunities for actually crossing the lines were much fewer than on the more thinly held and mountainous Western sector of 5 Army front; on the other hand on an active front with the Allies advancing now a would-be deserter can take the easier option of remaining behind when his comrades withdraw. In the latter case he is usually classed as an ordinary prisoner and not a deserter, an additional advantage for him but confusing for our statistics. It is dangerous therefore to build theories on enemy morale on these figures but the high proportion of pure German deserters on 5 Army front is certainly encouraging.

We have further news this week of changes in Northern ITALY. 162 division, whose withdrawal from the line in the RAVERIO sector was reported on 15 Nov, has been definitely identified at FLORENCE. It is apparently to take part in an anti-Partisan drive in the mountains to the S.W. which is about all it is fit for. It was originally employed on this task in N.E. ITALY before the June crisis made it necessary to put it into the line, an experiment which has not been successful. In N. ITALY a usually reliable source states that 157 Mtn Division is being withdrawn from the Alps and the troops say they are going to the BOLOGNA front. Their destination may not necessarily be correct - it would be a natural assumption for the average man to make - but the move of the division seems to be confirmed. It makes much more unlikely the move away of 5 Mtn Div as this would leave the defence of the Franco-Italian frontier to only 34 Div and LITTORIO; in any case with apparently of 5 Mtn Div were reported moving up towards the frontier on 15 Nov in the VAL DI SUSI. It seems more likely that 5 Mtn and LITTORIO together will take over the Central and Northern part of the frontier, probably intermingled so as to avoid entrusting one large sector to LITTORIO. The various last reports which have suggested a move of 5 Mtn Div may have been based on a mistaken identity of 157 Mtn Div or of 3 and 4 Alpine Divs. In North-Eastern ITALY two further reports from good sources mention the departure of 44 Div, one by its number and the other by the name of the Divisional Commander, Gen van ROST. In both cases its destination is given as HUNGARY.

2. WESTERN FRONT

The rapid drive of French forces on to the RHINE North of BASLE last week did not go unchallenged. Although MULHOUSE and BELFORT soon fell to the French, 19 Army rallied sufficiently to launch a limited counter-attack with the object of cutting through to the Swiss frontier South of BELFORT. The spirit was there but the flesh was weak and the armour non-existent. Doubtless Gen WISSE of 19 Army had hoped to do at BELFORT what ROSSIGNOL failed to do at STRASBURG, but all he achieved was a certain limited infiltration into our positions which has now been mopped up. Nevertheless the tactics were sound, for 19 Army's situation in the VOSGES is serious and would be desperate if the Allies succeeded in driving Northwards towards COLMAR combined with a Southward push from STRASBURG. Thus any resistance to our drive on the RHINE has been

division, whose withdrawal from the line is 15 Nov, has been definitely identified at FROBERG. It is apparently to take part in an anti-Partisan drive in the mountains to the S.W. which is about all it is fit for. It was originally employed on this task in N.E. ITALY before the June crisis made it necessary to put it into the line, an experiment which has not been successful. In N.E. ITALY a usually reliable source states that 157 Mtn Division is being withdrawn from the Alps and the troops say they are going to the BOLOGNA front. Their destination may not necessarily be correct - it would be a natural assumption for the average man to make - but the move of the division seems to be confirmed. It makes much more unlikely the move away of 5 Mtn Div as this would leave the defense of the Franco-Italian frontier to only 34 Div and LITTORIO; in any case units apparently of 5 Mtn Div were reported moving up towards the frontier on 15 Nov in the Val di Susa. It seems more likely that 5 Mtn and LITTORIO together will take over the Central and Northern part of the frontier, probably intermingled so as to avoid entrusting one large sector to LITTORIO. The various past reports which have suggested a move of 5 Mtn Div may have been based on a mistaken identity of 157 Mtn Div or of 3 and 4 Alpine Divs. In North-Eastern ITALY two further reports from good sources mention the departure of 44 Div, one by its number and the other by the name of the Divisional Commander, Gen van ROST. In both cases its destination is given as HUNGARY.

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At the Northern end of the great German bridgehead over the RHINE, General LACROIX's division ended another phase of its long trek from CHLD by the capture of STRASBOURG. Here the French have now completed mopping up. The situation with regard to the RHINE bridges is not altogether clear. Early reports suggested that the French had found one of the RHINE bridges intact and succeeded in passing armour across to Kehl on the German side of the RHINE, where some civilian sniping was encountered. South of the city, between STRASBOURG and BASLE, the enemy had at least seven ponton bridges ready for installation on 19 November and may by now have more ready to deal with a possible hurried withdrawal of 19 Army across the RHINE.

.....N.W. of STRASBOURG.....

N.W. of SIEGEN 1 Army has been giving ground fairly rapidly before SAARBRÜCKEN. An interesting identification in this sector has been the Pz Lehr Division of 6 Pz Army. So far there has been only one identification of this formation, but its appearance away from the bulk of 6 Pz Army is less surprising than would have been that of one of 6 Pz Army's other four armored divisions. Whereas prisoners had reported the presence of the four other formations of 6 Pz Army in the AACHEN sector, there had been no mention of Pz Lehr Division, which was obviously making its way down to 1 Army's sector. Between SIEGEN and SIERCK the enemy has what appears to be on paper a fairly strong armored force. In addition to the Pz Lehr division, 11 Pz, 21 Pz, 17 S.S. Pz.G. and 25 Pz.G. Divisions are all represented. What they amount to on the ground is a different matter. Their inability to stop the Allies crossing the German frontier on a 20 mile front west of SAARBRÜCKEN can hardly be encouraging to the enemy. Nevertheless their presence in this sector is an indication that it enjoys a priority second only to that of the AACHEN area.

East of AACHEN German resistance has shown no sign of slackening in the course of the past week. Impeded by thick minefields and difficult going Allied progress has been slow. Some advances have been made in the HERTZEN Forest, but the most important advance of the week has been along the RUCKWILLER - MÜCKEN road where WELSHILLER and FERNZ to the North-East have been captured, an advance of about 5 miles in all. Progress has also been made in the direction of JULICH, and we hold the high ground about a mile West of the town. Although nothing in the way of an Allied breakthrough has been achieved in this area, there are indications that RUDSIEDT is uneasy about the situation. 5 Pz Army has been reinforced by 10 S.S. Pz Div from the AACHEN area, and more important still, one regiment of 1 S.S. Pz Div of 6 Pz Army has been identified North-East of GELSENKIRCHEN. This may presage the commitment of the whole of 6 Pz Army - the enemy's last armored reserve. It certainly implies a lack of confidence regarding the ability of his present forces to check the Allied assault unopposed.

North of AACHEN heavy rain and extensive flooding have made operations in the British sector difficult. South of VIELLO the enemy has abandoned the whole of the West bank of the MAAS, although clinging to a bridgehead at VIELLO itself. Further North, advancing through mined and water-logged country, we have reached the MAAS 15 miles North of VIELLO against light resistance. The enemy now has only light screening forces on the West bank of the MAAS here and the elimination of this bridgehead is only a matter of time.

The enemy's prospects have thus deteriorated still further in the past week. In the South, the best 19 Army can now hope for is to get itself back intact across the RHINE. In the Central sector the Allied threat in the SAAR may soon be even more serious than that from AACHEN. Only in the AACHEN area has RUDSIEDT come near to exerting the price which German propaganda has assured us we shall have to pay for every yard of German soil. And he too has had to pay in costly currency - armor. Tanks are also precious to him than bodies at this moment. GCHQ's mobilization may turn out a Volkspremier division of sorts in three weeks. It cannot produce an armored division at that speed.

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The enemy's prospects have thus deteriorated still further in the past week. In the South, the best 19 Army can now hope for is to get itself back intact across the RUHR. In the Central sector the Allied threat in the SALER may soon be even more serious than that from AACHEN. Only in the AACHEN area has RUDELSTEDT come near to exacting the price which German propaganda has assured us we shall have to pay for every yard of German soil. And he too has had to pay in costly currency - armour. Tanks are more precious to him than bodies at this moment. GEBEL'S mobilization may turn out a Volksgrenadier division of sorts in three weeks. It cannot produce an armoured division at that speed. Already RUDELSTEDT's losses have forced him to draw on his armoured reserve and it may be that after all the situation will force him to fritter away precious that precious reserve. Last week he had five armoured divisions completely uncommitted. This week he has three. His hope must be to wear out the Allied assault before the last verse of this ominous little nigger-boy song is reached.

3. BALKAN FRONT

North East of JUMPEST, Russian progress has been slower in the past week. The Hungarian plain now lies behind the Red Army and in the mountainous country rising in places to over 3,000 feet the enemy has been able to offer stiffer resistance. The rail junction of HATVAN has been captured by the Russians but both MISKOLCZ and BUDA are still in enemy hands. There has been no change in the BUDAPEST sector nor along the DANUBE front as far South as BUDA. German Panzer Corps is reported operating in the BUDAPEST area under Lt. Gen. KRAMER, one time commander of 90 Light Division in the desert, and later of assault Division HUNGES.

....In Northern YUGOSLAVIA...

In Northern YUGOSLAVIA the Germans have reported throughout the week Soviet attacks from the DANUBE bridgeheads at EMIN and PAMIN. MOSCOW has remained silent about these, but it seems very probable that an attempt is being made to link up those two bridgeheads with the object of establishing a firm base on the west bank of the DANUBE preparatory to a drive North of the DRAVA into South West HUNGARY.

In N.E. YUGOSLAVIA the enemy is still trying to open up the UZICE (C 51) - ZVORNIK (C 12) road. A bridging column is at work repairing the bridge at ZVORNIK (C 35) the intention doubtless being to withdraw some of Army Group E together with 7 S.S. Mtn Div and the other forces in the KRALJEVO (J 39) area back along this road. It is too early to say yet whether this is in fact being done. P.R. of 22 Nov saw no movement on the road and reported at least three bridges still down.

In Central and Southern YUGOSLAVIA the varying fortunes of Army Group E's withdrawal have led to a split of the Army Group forces. On the East the bulk of the Army Group is pulling up along the NOVI PAZAR (J 13) - VISOKO (C 21) road, with some elements possibly using the alternative routes via RUDE (H 29) and GORAZDE (E 90). The RASKA (J 24) - KRALJEVO road is no longer in use and Partisans claim to control a large portion of it. The fact that the enemy allows the Partisans to operate so near to KRALJEVO suggests that Army Group E is now for the most part North of a line NOVI PAZAR - RASKA and the day may not be far distant when the whole front will start pivoting back on KRALJEVO. H.Q. Army Group E is now reported at SARAJEVO with 22 Mtn Corps and 91 S.D.V. Corps coming up from the South. Between them these formations have under command four fairly weak divisions with battle groups of two others.

The withdrawal of Army Group E from METROVICA (J 30) last week left 21 Mtn Corps isolated in MONTENEGRO and Northern ALBANIA. This formation has during the past week continued its efforts to break through from DANILOVGRAD (M 97) to NIKSIC (G 70). By dint of great effort it eventually reached METROVICA 8 miles South of NIKSIC, and got no further. There has been no sign of 5 S.S. Mtn Corps sending a relief force down from MOSTAR to join up with 21 Mtn Corps, and it looks as if the latter has decided to seek less thorny paths of escape. Reports of Eastward movement from POGORICA suggest that the enemy is now trying to open up the alternative escape routes via KOLASIN (H 20) and HERANE (H 50). The former is little better than a track, the latter a tolerably good road. Both are blocked by Partisans.

Meanwhile the garrison at KOTOR, despairing of ever seeing 21 Mtn Corps break out to the North has had to withdraw in a Southward direction down the coast road via BUVKA (M 60) and E.R. (J 83) to SUTARI, as the KOTOR - POGORICA road was blocked by Partisan action. R.A.R. has been encountered by these forces who should by now have joined up with the rest of 21 Mtn Corps.

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the East the bulk of the Army Group is pulling up along the NOVI PAZAR (J 15) - VISOKO (G 21) road, with some elements possibly using the alternative routes via HUDO (H 29) and GORAZDE (E 90). The R.S.M. (J 24) - KRALJEVO road is no longer in use and Partisans claim to control a large portion of it. The fact that the enemy allows the Partisans to operate so near to KRALJEVO suggests that Army Group E is now for the most part North of a line NOVI PAZAR - RASKA and the day may not be far distant when the whole front will start pivoting back on KRALJEVO. H.Q. Army Group E is now reported at SARAJEVO with 22 Mtn Corps and 91 a.V. Corps coming up from the South. Between them these formations have under command four fairly weak divisions with battle groups of two others.

The withdrawal of Army Group E from MITROVICA (J 30) last week left 21 Mtn Corps isolated in KOSOVAC and Northern ALBANIA. This formation has during the past week continued its efforts to break through from DALLORAD (X 97) to NISIC (G 70). By dint of great effort it eventually reached DUCIJE 8 miles South of NISIC, and got no further. There has been no sign of 5 S.S. Mtn Corps sending a relief force down from MOSTAR to join up with 21 Mtn Corps, and it looks as if the latter has decided to seek less thorny paths of escape. Reports of Eastward movement from PODGORICA suggest that the enemy is now trying to open up the alternative escape routes via KOLJIN (H 20) and HERANE (H 50). The former is little better than a track, the latter a tolerably good road. Both are blocked by Partisans.

Meanwhile the garrison at KOTOR, despairing of ever seeing 21 Mtn Corps break out to the North has had to withdraw in a Southward direction down the coast road via BUDA (X 60) and B.R. (A 83) to SCUTARI, as the KOTOR - PODGORICA road was blocked by Partisan action. B.R. has been evacuated by those forces who should by now have joined up with the rest of 21 Mtn Corps.

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28 Nov 44.

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COPY NO

H.Q., A.A.I., INTELLIGENCE NOTES NO 36

OF 22 NOV, 44

These Notes have been introduced to meet the requirements of certain units not normally in receipt of the ordinary Intelligence Summary issued by this HQ. Their purpose is to keep such units in the general battle picture.

-O-O-O-O-O-

1. ENEMY SITUATION

There has been but little change in enemy forward dispositions this week and that all at the extreme Eastern end of his line. He is still determined to hold his positions in this sector until they are seriously endangered and to make us mount a large-scale offensive for each river obstacle; but he is fully prepared to withdraw at least back to a position covering BOLOCHA on the right and resting the left on the VALLE DI OMBACCHIO. In the meantime there is evidence, though of uncertain value, of important moves in his rear areas.

At the beginning of the week 76 Corps was back on its MONTONE line except in the coastal sector where we have pushed forward gradually in no great strength against equally weak German outposts to the river RONCO and the FIUME UNITI. 721 Jaeger Regt and 144 Recon Unit are holding this flank among the marshes. 992 A.R. pulled back in the area of the railway and redated strongly and successfully our attempts to secure a bridgehead in this area on the morning of 21 Nov. 67 P.G.R., now responsible for the axis of Route 9, also defended its sector with great stubbornness and prevented any progress across the canalised river BOLZANERO. Further South, however, in the sector of 9 P.G.R. and 39 G.A.R. we were able to make better progress in an area where the enemy has not the same advantage of water obstacles, capturing CASTELLONE, M 3216 and the stubbornly defended Monte FORTINO, M 3214, and advancing some two kilometres further North at both points. It seems likely that in this area the enemy will next try to hold a line shown on a captured map (called GERHIL) probably a switch-line from the original GERHIL) which follows the upper reaches of the river COSINA to MONTE RICCIO M 3218, and then presumably bases itself on the river MARCON. Monte RICCIO is particularly important as it affords dominating observation over the low ground below the present enemy line and over PAVENZA and any further advances in this sector must make the MONTONE line, at least in the neighbourhood of 5530, untenable for the enemy.

On the whole of the rest of the front there have been only minor operations. Prisoners from 93 Division confirm that 42 Jaeger Div has relieved 362 Div and that it is being out by P4 Over Hill to O. Jaeger Div's continued attack 8630

1. ENEMY SITUATION

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On the whole of the rest of the front there have been only minor operations. Prisoners from 95 Division confirm that 12 Jaeger Div has relieved 362 Div and that is borne out by PW from III Bn 40 Jaeger Regt, captured at L 9632. In general in the Central part of the front most divisions have a regiment out and resting; 4 Para Div may have two of its three regts out of the line and a report from a usually reliable source states that 2,500 troops from the division are training at AVESA, Z 6457, just North of VERONA. These men are presumably replacements and we know that both the Parachute divisions in ITALY have always insisted on a long and thorough period of training for their recruits even at the risk of allowing strengths of units in action to fall very low. The fact that fairly copious replacements have been made available is shown by the increased strength in which 12 Para Regt returned to the line, and we must expect 1 Para Div also to have been made up on much the same scale.

There has been considerably more daylight movement seen by the air in rear of the Eastern part of the front than has been usual for some time. Part of this may be explained by the move away of 162 Div, but not the movement reported between 18 and 22 Nov in the area BOLOGNA - MEDICINA - LORO - PENZA, which has been so frequent as to suggest the arrival of new troops in

....this area....

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this area. It may possibly be connected with a report from Partisan sources that new troops have arrived along the river SAAR in the area of LUXO and ALPENDING where they are erecting defences on the river bank. These troops are reported to bear a sign which might be that of Mountain troops. There has been no further news since that reported last week of the move of 5 Mtn Div or any confirmation that such a move is taking place and it is too early to say what credence is to be given to the Partisan report. However the hypothesis that 5 Mtn Div may be coming to reinforce 76 Corps is to be borne in mind. If there is no further news of departures from N.W. ITALY there are reports of arrivals. Between 13 and 16 November troop trains were seen moving South through TURIN carrying troops of the LITTORIO Division. They were said to be bound for the CUSEO area though this information is naturally less reliable. It may be, therefore, that LITTORIO is destined for the Franco-Italian frontier, to relieve 5 Mtn Div, rather than for the GERSA area. In the meantime a report, confused and uncorroborated, from N.E. ITALY may throw some light on the move of 44 Division. It has been noted, worthy that, although all other formations known to be in N.E. ITALY are frequently reported on, there has been no hint of the whereabouts of 44 Div since a prisoner on 29 Oct said it had left for TRIESTE. The latest report, the date of which is not known, does not specifically mention 44 Div but says that "a VERONA division which fought at STALLINGRAD" was moving through N.E. ITALY to AUSTRIA and RUSSIA. This description will fit 44 Div, and no other in ITALY, and it has always been considered likely that the time would come when reinforcements from ITALY would be required for the South-Eastern front. This may be the first contribution, and it is unlikely to be the last.

2. WESTERN FRONT

All along the front from FALC to the Swiss frontier the enemy has been forced back during the past week. In the Southern sector of the front GERZ has been freed, and the MOSELLE crossed in strength, while at AUCHEN progress over terrain vital to the enemy against stubborn German resistance.

In the South 19 Army, with a collection of formations preventing an enemy more formidable on paper than on the ground, was unable to resist for long before the BELFORT Gap and by 19 November its left wing had completely collapsed enabling French forces by a double thrust to occupy HELLER and push along the Swiss frontier to the RHINE on a ten mile stretch North of BASEL. The enemy is now trying to prevent fresh exploitation down the RHINE Valley towards STRASBOURG and appears to be making a stand on the RHINE-RHINE Canal in the Southern outskirts of MINHOUSE. However, a threat to STRASBOURG is also developing further North where 19 Army, after conducting a long and stubborn fight along the LUNEVILLE - STRASBOURG railway suddenly broke under the pressure of American armour and fell back 15 miles in one day to behind SAARLOU. It was so far to hold apart of considerable enemy disorganisation in this area and American forces are now within 20 miles of STRASBOURG.

While 19 Army Group G's Southern flank

worthy unit, although all other formations known to be in M.E. Italy are frequently reported on, there has been no hint of the whereabouts of 44 Div since a prisoner on 29 Oct said it had left for TRIESTE. The latest report, the date of which is not known, does not specifically mention 44 Div but says that "a VERONA division which fought at STALLERAD" was moving through N.E. ITALY to AUSTRIA and RU GERM. This description will fit 44 Div, and no other in M.E., and it has always been considered likely that the time would come when reinforcements from ITALY would be required for the South-Eastern front. This may be the first contribution, and it is unlikely to be the last.

2. WESTERN FRONT

All along the front from VIELTO to the Swiss frontier the enemy has been forced back during the past week. In the Southern sector of the front striking progress has been made by French and American forces. In the Centre MEX has been freed, and the MOSELLE crossed in strength, while at AIGLEN and to the North British and American forces have made slow but steady progress over terrain vital to the enemy against stubborn German resistance.

In the South 19 Army, with a collection of formations presenting an array more formidable on paper than on the ground, was unable to resist for long before the BELFORT Gap and by 19 November its left wing had completely collapsed enabling French forces by a double thrust to occupy BELFORT and push along the Swiss frontier to the RHINE on a ten mile stretch North of BASLE. The enemy is now trying to prevent fresh exploitation down the RHINE Valley towards STRASBOURG and appears to be making a stand on the RHODEN-RHINE Canal in the Southern outskirts of MULHOUSE. However, a threat to STRASBOURG is also developing further North where 19 Army, after conducting a long and stubborn attack along the LUXEMBURG - STRASBOURG railway suddenly broke under the pressure of American armor and fell back 15 miles in one day to behind SACKENBOURG. It was so far to hand speak of considerable enemy disorganization in this area and American forces are now within 20 miles of STRASBOURG.

While Army Group G's Southern flank has had a disastrous week, the German withdrawal further North has been more orderly. Reinforced by 25 Pz G Div, a new arrival, and 21 Pz Div from the RHEIN sector, the enemy forces in the MEX area were able to offer stubborn resistance before the fortress eventually fell and even now isolated forts are still holding out on the perimeter of the city. With the loss of the fortress German resistance has been less fierce and Allied forces have pushed across the German frontier North East of MEX.

From TRIER up to the AIGLEN sector the front has been fairly quiet and main interest has centred on the arrival of a number of newly formed infantry divisions. Three Volksgrenadier divisions have put in their appearance, one South and two North of TRIER. It is clear, as suggested in last week's Summary, that the enemy is following a policy of putting in his new untried formations in quiet sectors while battle experienced formations are released for employment in other sectors. It is of particular interest that 212 Volksgrenadier

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Division which has been identified just North of TRIER was set up in POLAND some six weeks ago and has only just arrived in FRANCE. PW from this formation say that they were accompanied to the West by yet another Volksgrenadier division, this time from CZECHOSLOVAKIA. The fact that the enemy considers it necessary to bring formations all across EUROPE from the East at the present time is a clear indication of the priority which the Western front enjoys in his eyes.

In the AACHEN sector the fiercest fighting of the week has taken place. In the face of savage enemy resistance and across very extensive minefields, our advance has been slow. This is the vital sector of the front for the enemy and he must cling to every yard of German soil in order to keep the allies from the RHINE. Nevertheless progress has been made in the past week. We are only six miles from DUESSELDORF, ESCHENELER has been entered, and GELDEREN is entirely in our hands. An assortment of infantry divisions backed up by armour in the form of 9 and 116 Pz and 3 and 15 P.G. Divisions form the enemy's force in this sector. There have been indications however that some of the five missing Panzer divisions setting up under 6 Pz Army are getting ready to participate in the battle. Prisoners have reported the presence of four of them in the area immediately East and S.E. of AACHEN and although none has been committed yet, it looks as though RUDOLPH is now ready to commit them as soon as he feels that his present forces at AACHEN can no longer take the strain.

In addition the British advance on the MAAS has made good headway against moderate to stiff opposition. The enemy seems to be reconciled to abandoning the West bank of the river and no new formations have been identified. The whole of 7 Parachute Division appears to be West of VIELVO but that is all the Parachute representation in the area. 3, 5 and 6 Para Divs are still out of the line.

The winter offensive is now in full swing and the enemy is faced with a situation in which he is most vulnerable - a simultaneous attack on several widely separated sectors of the front. Already events in the South have shown that he is unable to meet his commitments in one sector without having to give ground elsewhere. Nevertheless RUDOLPH is an old and cool hand, and has so far played with the measured caution of a chess player rather than the abandoned recklessness of a gambler. He may have been taken by surprise by the French thrust in the South, but his eyes are still firmly fixed on the AACHEN area where he knows full well what is at stake. The temptation to transfer his armoured reserve to the less crucial sectors further South has been resisted. The armour is still in the North and when it is committed, will probably be committed as a whole. RUDOLPH taught a bitter lesson about tactical commitment of armour. The COLDEN plain may show that it has been learnt.

Some points from a STAFF Intelligence Summary on shortages of equipment of German formations in the West are of interest. In spite of the continued evidence of the acute shortage of fuel for vehicles of the armoured forces, and, in spite of repeated accounts of immobilised vehicles and low unit motor transport strength as a result of this shortage, the

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In AACHEN the British advance on the M45 has made good headway against moderate to stiff opposition. The enemy seems to be reconciled to abandoning the West bank of the river and no new formations have been identified. The whole of 7 Parachute Division appears to be West of VIELT but that is all the Parachute representation in the area. 3, 5 and 6 Para Divs are still out of the line.

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Some points from a SIAF Intelligence Summary on shortages **5528** equipment of German formations in the West are of interest. In spite of the continued evidence of the acute shortage of fuel for vehicles of the armor forces, and, in spite of repeated accounts of immobilized vehicles and low unit motor transport strengths as a result of this shortage, the greater part of information received in recent weeks points in another direction, namely to a shortage of equipment, especially small arms, automatic weapons and motor transport.

Information from a senior officer prisoner of war to the effect that the usual tank strength for Panzer divisions is now between 20 and 50 tanks is a fair indication of the production problems encountered by the Germans under the strain of strategic bombing and heavy operational loss. That this applies to other production as well, is shown by the report of one unfortunate from a Landeschützen battalion who stated that there were 3 Czech MGs in the whole unit. Other reports indicate that stores of arms confiscated at the time of occupation of CZECHOSLOVAKIA are now being issued to infantry units in default of German stocks. This practice particularly applies to non-German troops who receive outmoded weapons of Czech, French and Russian origin. Of course it may be that, as one prisoner of war glibly states, care had to be taken NOT to produce up-to-date German equipment, otherwise the Bulgarians would have promptly asked for it. The capture of a secret enemy manual mentions

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the first use in ground fighting by units of armoured Panzer Grenadier battalions of a heavy machine gun (Drilling MG 151/15 and 151/20), formerly used only as aircraft armament.

Most revealing is one prisoner of war report which gives in detail the composition of an infantry division supply column. In a total of 15 lorries, two thirds of which were confiscated from civilian sources, 5 different manufacturers were represented. Moreover the 15 lorries were of 5 classes ranging from 1 1/2 tons to a Loro Renault 3 1/2 ton vehicle. The maintenance problem for this motley caravan is revealed by information obtained from an NCO formerly employed in the motor transport repair depot at LEIGHTON, SUSSER. He stated that of 6 truck and tractor types commonly used by the Wehrmacht, spare parts for two are virtually unobtainable, parts for two others very scarce, and only for the remaining two is a fairly adequate supply available. These shortages he attributed directly to the bombing of industry and stated further that all German divisions have now but on average of one-third of their authorized motor transport strength. Using as an example the 3-ton Borgward truck, prisoner of war remarked that since the bombing of the KUNIGS-LOED plant in BREMEN there have been almost no replacement parts for this model and that when the gears are damaged, the vehicle has to be abandoned.

3. BALKAN FRONT

Russian progress during the past week has been confined to the sector N.E. of BULGARIA where Army Group South URBANE supported by Hungarian forces has been pushed back to the general line of the BUDAPES-ISKLOZ railway. The Russians have cut this railway at several points between BUDAPES and RUTAN, and control is completely from exclusive RUTAN to exclusive ISKLOZ. Both the latter towns are now closely threatened by Soviet forces.

South of BULGARIA the front line has shown little change. Russian troops still hold their bridgehead at APIN but are not across the river in sufficient strength to constitute a serious penetration of the DANUBE line. There is certainly no sign of any early German retirement to a defensive line further West; indeed, until Army Group B's withdrawal from Southern YUGOSLAVIA is considerably more advanced than at present, the enemy has every reason to hold on to his DANUBE position.

In Southern YUGOSLAVIA, the German withdrawal is meeting with varying success. From MACEDONIA Army Group B is succeeding in withdrawing its forces relatively rapidly. PRISTINA, 50 miles N.W. of SKOPJE, is clear and enemy rearwards are falling back to the road junction of MITROVICA. The main, and indeed the only escape route at present being used by these forces is that via NOVI PAZAR - VISOKA. 21 Corps at NOVI PAZAR is retiring along this road leaving 22 Mtn Corps to conduct the rearguard. A bridging column has arrived at VISOKA to repair the bridge destroyed by Partisans earlier this month, and all the evidence suggests that the enemy intends at present to clear the NOVI PAZAR - VISOKA road in preference to the alternative route via ANDRIJEVICA - KOPTIC. It is significant that no attempt has so far been made to clear the Partisans from the road centre of ZIVILJA on the latter route.

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Russian progress during the past week has been confined to the sector N.E. of BUDAPEST where Army Group South URBANE supported by Hungarian forces has been pushed back to the general line of the BUDAPEST-KISKLOZ railway. The Russians have cut this railway at several points between BUDAPEST and KATVAN, and control it completely from excludive KISKLOZ to exclusive KISKLOZ. Both the latter towns are now closely threatened by Soviet forces.

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In Southern YUGOSLAVIA, the German withdrawal is meeting with varying success. From MACEDONIA, Army Group E is succeeding in withdrawing its forces relatively rapidly. PRISTINA, 50 miles N.W. of SKOPJE, is clear and enemy rearguards are falling back to the road junction of MITROVICA. The main, and indeed the only escape route at present being used by these forces is that via NOVI PAZAR - VISEGRAD. 91 Corps at NOVI PAZAR is retiring along this road leaving 22 Wtn Corps to conduct the rearguard. A bridging column has arrived at VISEGRAD to repair the bridge destroyed by Partisans earlier this month and all the evidence suggests that the enemy intends at present to withdraw via NOVI PAZAR - VISEGRAD road in preference to the alternative route via ARADJEVICA - ROZETIC. It is significant that no attempt has so far been made to clear the Partisans from the road centre of ARADJEVICA on the latter route.

In MONTENEGRO the enemy withdrawal as light have been expected in proving a much more hazardous affair. Here 21 Wtn Corps has been attempting to open up the route from PODGORICA to NIKSIC where it would have the choice of taking either the NIKSIC - VISGRAD, or the NIKSIC - MOENAR road. Considerable troop concentrations have been reported at PODGORICA, and the enemy has succeeded in advancing as far as RANJENOVIC. Here he has stuck. Partisans reinforced with Allied units have offered stubborn opposition to all attempts at pushing through to NIKSIC and 21 Corps' position is becoming serious. The only alternative route it can use is the ARADJEVICA - ARADJEVICA road which is also blocked by Partisans. A determined attempt to open up the NIKSIC road is therefore to be expected when the withdrawal from ARADJEVICA is more advanced. Discussions between FRANK and SCHWARTZ are at present holding up this withdrawal.

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On the Dalmatian coast the town of RISAN on KOTOR Bay has been taken by the Partisans who are also operating on the TIVAT peninsula. The enemy situation in the KOTOR area is becoming difficult in the extreme and the Partisans speak of a general German withdrawal. In ALBANIA the German forces despite road demolitions have now reached JESSIO, and the whole of ALBANIA should be clear of the enemy very shortly. The Germans will then have the task of getting Army Group E out of the long salient in YUGOSLAVIA back in a staged withdrawal to the defensive positions now being built in N. W. YUGOSLAVIA.

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AM.
23.11.44.

C. R. H. H. H.
BRIGADIER,
L. G. S. (I).

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Weekly News Summary

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Newspapers published in Rome.
Evaluation: E-2

Week of 28 Oct - 4 November 1944

I. POLITICAL

1. The BONOMI Government this week displayed a new energy in dealing with problems and adopting a number of measures to improve the administration.

2. Attacks upon the royal police (Carabinieri) by the Leftist press led the Government to make a statement tending to support the police. An Allied officer also issued a declaration calling attention to the duties of press and public toward its police.

3. New measures taken jointly by Italians and Allies to combat crime wave in Rome.

4. Further evidence of the fundamental conflict between the Left and the more moderate parties.

5-6. Thorough dissatisfaction with the progress of "purification" frequently expressed in the press. Mussolini properties sequestered by the State.

II. ECONOMIC

7. Rome authorities announce measures which should effect some permanent improvement in Rome's food supply.

8. Criticism over land assignment to peasants continues with the Government acceding to the demands of the peasants.

III. LABOR

9. Soviet Labor Delegation to be welcomed back in Rome with demonstration. BONOMI Government intervenes to settle two labor difficulties in Rome.

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

11. Minister of Education pleads with Generals to spare Revenue art treasures.

//////CICARA: JLAG; C-2 AUTH; COMSTAFlet(MIO); VIIA.

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5 November 1944

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

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//////RICANA: JIARO; G-2 AFHA; COMBthFleet(RUS); File.

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Weekly News Summary, 29 October - 4 November, 1944

I. POLITICAL

1. ECONOMIC Government activity

The ministry displayed a new energy in dealing with the problems which faced it this week (see Rome Stability Report 29 Oct - 4 Nov) and took several steps toward eradicating old evils: the dissolution of the General Staff Corps and a radical reassignment involving upwards of 100 judges in the higher courts which was undertaken for the purpose of rejuvenating Italy's judicial system (Corriere 4 Nov). The Prime Minister acted boldly in averting two threatened work stoppages. In one case a general strike of one half hour's duration had been planned as a protest against the delay in payment of the high-cost-of-living indemnity (see Rome Stability Report 29 Oct - 4 Nov). In the other, printers who work at night refused to return to their jobs until assured that transportation would be furnished to take them to their homes safely during the night hours. In both cases the workmen's demands were satisfied by prompt intervention of the Government. By its action, the Government gained a new prestige.

2. Controversy over Carabinieri

The Government took a direct hand in the controversy over the police. For several weeks the Leftist press has been attacking the Carabinieri as the minions of the reactionaries. The recent episode near Avezzano, when the Carabinieri fired on the crowd of peasants who were illegally occupying lands, has been the subject of numerous and bitter denouncements in the Socialist Avanti and Communist Unità. The Socialist paper this week published an order from the Commanding General of the Carabinieri, General Indro Orla-Mio, under date of 31 August, in which he deplored the growing acts of public disorder and directed the police to fulfill their duty by enforcing the laws. He referred specifically to the acts of violence to the Italian flag bearing the arms of Savoy and the illegal occupation of privately owned lands by peasants. The Leftist press interpreted this order as, in effect, a command to the police to fire upon the people. The Action party organ, Italia Libera, joined in the cry against the Carabinieri, while the more moderate papers admitted that the Commanding General had been ill-advised in expressing an opinion on matters which are now the subject of political controversy. Thereupon the Government undertook to clarify the situation and to lend to the support which they so badly need. The Under-Secretary for the Interior issued a public statement calling attention to the fact that the Commander of the Carabinieri had published an order subsequently to that of 31 August, in which he reminded his forces of the non-political nature of the police and called upon them to do their duty to the state irrespective of their own political feelings. General Orla-Mio

high-cost-of-living indemnity (see Rome Stability Report of Oct. 4 Sov). In the other, printers who work at night refused to return to their jobs until assured that transportation would be furnished to take them to their homes safely during the night hours. In both cases the workmen's demands were satisfied by prompt intervention of the Government. By its action, the Government gained a new prestige.

2. Controversy over Carabinieri

The Government took a direct hand in the controversy over the police. For several weeks the Leftist press has been attacking the Carabinieri as the minions of the reactionaries. The recent episode near Avezzano, when the Carabinieri fired on the crowd of peasants who were illegally occupying lands, has been the subject of numerous and bitter denouncements in the Socialist Aventi and Communist Unita. The Socialist paper this week published an order from the Commanding General of the Carabinieri, General Addeo Orlando, under date of 31 August, in which he deplored the growing acts of public disorder and directed the police to fulfill their duty by enforcing the laws. He referred specifically to the acts of violence to the Italian flag bearing the arms of Savoy and the illegal occupation of privately owned lands by peasants. The Leftist press interpreted this order as, in effect, a command to the police to fire upon the people. The Action party organ, Italia Libera, joined in the cry against the Carabinieri, while the more moderate paper, admitted that the Commanding General had been ill-advised in expressing an opinion on matters which are now the subject of political controversy. Thereupon the Government undertook to clarify the situation and to lead to the support which they so badly need. The Under-Secretary for Internal Affairs issued a public statement calling attention to the fact that the Commander of the Carabinieri had published an order subsequently to that of 31 August, in which he reminded his forces of the non-political nature of the police and called upon them to do their duty to the state irrespective of their own political feelings. General Orlando followed up with still another order along the same lines dated 23 October. The only Leftist response was a sneer that he had chosen the principal Fascist holiday on which to date his order.

The Allies have added their support of the police in the form of a public declaration by Colonel A. E. Young of the Public Safety Sub-Commission AC, specifying the duties of the press and the public toward their police who, after all, cannot be expected to carry out their duties without the confidence of the people they are supposed to protect (Corriere 31 Oct).

3. Rome Police

Measures are being taken to meet the serious delinquency situation in Rome. The Allies and the Italian Government are cooperating in supplying a larger night patrol, with Italian and Allied military police circulating through the city together in groups. The Allies are furnishing 16 radio-equipped cars which should be particularly effective. Several successes have already been reported against the night marauders, the most spectacular of which was the capture of a gang of thieves wearing Allied uniforms and composed largely of deserters of French, Spanish and Italian nationalities.

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4. Political Parties

a. Party Strife

Press disputes continue. The fundamental cleavages between the Left and the more moderate parties in the Government on the one hand, and between the opposition parties and the Government parties on the other, become daily more marked. COLLIARDI, Communist Minister without Portfolio, published a leading editorial in Unità, (21 Oct) in which he expressed a rather disingenuous inability to understand the recent party attacks upon the Left. The Communists, he asserted, are responsible for practically all the accomplishments of the BONAIUTI Government to date. He ended on a more usual note, saying that if these critics did not show greater appreciation of the real situation, let them beware of the consequences.

MERLINI again this week brought up the matter of an immediate declaration in favor of a republic which led to so bitter a press controversy two weeks ago.

The more outspoken critics of the Socialists and Communists are the Risorgimento Liberale and the Christian Democrat Il Popolo.

b. Republican Party

The program of the Republican Party this week was the subject of a speech by Giovanni COCCI, the editor of the party paper Voce Repubblicana. This party insists on the establishment of a republic as the fundamental point of departure for consideration of the future constitution and of social and economic reforms. Press comment was condemnatory; even the monarchist organ, Italia Nuova, came out with a gesture of friendship toward their fellow party of the opposition by pronouncing COCCI's program to be sincerely constructive. But the Republicans would not accept this overture and ruskly refused to be on terms of friendship with the monarchy "which has ruined Italy" (Voce Repubblicana 3 Nov).

c. Liberal Party

The Liberal party leader, Minister without Portfolio Count Giulio CARANDINI, who is shortly to go to London as Ambassador, delivered an address at Perugia on the tenets of his party. His reputation as an able and sincere statesman appears to grow with his every public utterance.

d. Defascistization

e. "Purification"

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5. Defascistization

a. "Purification"

Present criticism of the slow rate of progress in "purification" continued in all papers. Specific departments are constantly being pointed out as in great need of being purged of their Fascist officials. For example, Ministero delle Istruzione (2 Nov) asks that the Fascists be removed from Public Instruction, the Institute of Fine Arts and the OVRA. Italia Libera and Avanti (3 Nov) attack, one the Carabinieri, the other the navy, as still under the control of Fascist and reactionary officials. A critical editorial in Risorgimento Liberale called forth a reply from the Vice-High Commissioner for Purification, who agreed that the progress being made is disappointing, but insisted that the blame does not rest with the "purification" Commission (see JICA/RAC Rpt RO-153).

Two sections of the armed forces have announced mild purges this week. General Federico Balistocchi, Under-Secretary of War during the Abyssinian campaign, has been suspended along with 30 other officers. The Ministry of Air has dropped six Generals and 33 officers of lower rank.

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b. Punishment

The second group of Senators, twenty-three in number, has been suspended from the Senate by the High Court. A few cases important Fascists have been arrested. They include Mario Appelino, noted Fascist journalist and radio commentator; Raffaele Nappi, charged with collaboration, rapine and theft; Vincenzo Zuccheri, former Vice-Secretary of the Fascist party.

A number of trials are scheduled for the immediate future. Several army officers are to be court martialed, among them Generals Antonio Basso and Giacomo Castagna, who were in command of armed units in Cardinia at the time of the Armistice, and General Livio Negro, who is accused of having deserted his command of the "Emilia" Division. Attilio Teruzzi, one-time Minister for Italian Africa and Chief of Staff of the Militia, will be brought before a some tribunal to answer charges in connection with the possession of nine vases of looted gold and jewelry and thirty-two oriental rugs. The postponed trial of Generals Del Tetto and Lentimelli is now expected to take place in mid-October.

c. Sequestration

The property of three former Fascist officials was sequestered in Naples this week. A great deal of interest has attended the order for the confiscation of the property of the Mussolini family. Included in the order are the holdings of fourteen persons: Mussolini, his wife, his children and grandchildren, Clara Petacci, Mussolini's mistress, and her immediate family.

II. ECONOMIC

7. Food

The Prefect of Rome held a press conference this week, at which he announced four measures designed to improve food conditions in the Capital:

a. Transportation difficulties will be partially overcome by the use of river barges which will bring food into Rome from the North and East.

b. The road blocks against the black market which have been universally criticized as worse than ineffective, are to be removed and probably replaced by roving squads which will exercise control and supervision.

c. A conference of the Prefects of the surrounding provinces will be called to reach an agreement on the movement of foodstuffs

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c. A conference of the Prefects of the surrounding provinces will be called to reach an agreement on the movement of foodstuffs in the area of Central Italy. Such a conference is properly the function of the new Undersecretariat of food but since that office is not yet fully operative, the Prefect of Rome is taking the initiative.

d. The pasta (spaghetti) ration is to be doubled, i.e. 300 grams per person per month, instead of 300 as at present.

Criticism of the misuse of sugar and milk for sweets and pastries when there is not enough for authorized distribution to children and the sick, has become very loud this week. The complaints in the press have been supplemented by notices painted on the walls of the houses, pointing out that shop windows are full of sweet delicacies at very high prices, though there manufacture is forbidden by law. The Government has yielded to the popular clamor to the point of issuing a reminder that the manufacture and sale of all articles containing rationed food items such as sugar, milk, flour, shortening, are strictly forbidden (Corriere 4 Nov).

Comment: During the 48 hours which have elapsed since the publication of the Government's warnings, there has been no sign of compliance on

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the part of either pastry shops or itinerant vendors. If this just and necessary provision is not now enforced, the Government's prestige is sure to suffer and, moreover, acts of violence against the sweet shops may be expected.

B. Agriculture.

a. The assignment of uncultivated lands to peasants is still causing the Government trouble. On the 30th of October Prime Minister BONAI met with the three Secretaries of the GAIL which is coming more and more to be recognized as the authorized spokesman for labor. The Government was urged to use all possible haste in making the lands available at once, in order that the farmers may prepare them in time for sowing. The Government, in effect, agreed to do all it could and authorized cutting red tape to accelerate reassignment. Special measures were also adopted for handling any new outbreaks of violence or cases of conflict between the police and peasants by immediate dispatch to the scene of the trouble of experts who will act as intermediaries in the dispute.

b. The more conservative forces are still not resigned to the Government's program of reassigning lands at this time. Assignments to Liberales (3 Nov) expresses concern last the present redistribution be handled as badly as that which was undertaken immediately following World War I. At that time, it is said, rich pasture lands and fruit bearing orchards were taken over by the peasants for cultivation.

c. The announcement that Lt. Col. M. A. RASMAN, Director of the Agricultural Sub-Commission AC, is introducing his successor (Corriere 3 Nov) raises the question whether his disagreement with the Italian Government in this matter of land assignment to peasants (see JICA, Rome Rpt RC-149) is to be connected with his replacement.

c. Offici del Popolo

Two arrests for violation of this program, which was just announced last week, indicate the seriousness with which olive oil collection is to be conducted.

III. LABOR

9. The Soviet Delegation which has been making an extensive tour of inspection in Southern Italy and Sicily, returned to Rome this week. A public demonstration of workers in their honor is scheduled for Sunday 5 November.

10. The Government's quick and effective handling of the labor difficulties in Rome has been described above in paragraph 1.

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

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IV. MISCELLANEOUS

11. A plea to the army commanders of both the Allied and the German forces fighting in Northern Italy to spare Ravenna because of its inestimable art treasures, was made by the Minister of Public Instruction Guido ARDUINO (Corriere 1 Nov). This plea is strongly indorsed by the Vatican.

12. Disquieting reports on misappropriation of medicinal supplies coming from America are already being printed. Aveni (2 Nov) says that they are being sold at black market prices. Notice is apparently being taken by the Government, however, for a price fixing decree covering them was published in Corriere (4 Nov).

7012 GEORGE K. BOYCE
1st Lt., A.C.
JICA/RAAG
RO-153

Approved and forwarded.

BYRON R. SMITH
Colonel, A.S.
Chairman, JICA

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STABILITY REPORT

Week 23 Oct - 5 Nov 1944

RO-164
18-3020

6 November 1944

Sources: G-2, SAAG, FUS, CIO, AGO, PAB Reports, local newspapers, personal observations and contacts.

SUMMARY

I. POLITICAL

BONOMI Government further strengthened this week but rumors of a cabinet crisis persist. BONOMI's 2 hour conference with MONTI reportedly left the Italian Prime Minister with the impression that no favors for Italy can be expected from the British Foreign Secretary. Good news from America favorably received. Italian Government displayed vigor in handling various problems. Monarchist sympathizers break away from Liberal Party to form a new "Party of Liberal Democratic Concentration" headed by Senator/AMBASCIOLI. A move is growing to oust the extremist General Secretary Pietro MONTI from the Socialist Party. ORLANDO delivers speech appealing for unity inside Italy.

II. ECONOMIC

No real change in economic situation. Much publicity given to what Allies are doing for Italy. Prime Minister BONOMI personally interviewed and averted a strike resulting from the delay in payment of the high-cost-of-living indemnity. As of 6 November, a noon day soup meal will be furnished 95,000 workmen.

III. LOYALTY OF ITALIAN FORCES

Ministry announces the dissolution of the General Staff Corps. Italian forces decide the evacuation of high ranking officers who

no favors for Italy can be expected from the British Foreign Secretary.

Good news from America favorably received. Italian Government displayed vigor in handling various problems. Monarchist sympathizers break away from Liberal Party to form a new "Party of Liberal Democratic Concentration" headed by Senator ^{Alberto} ARSIZINI. A move is growing to oust the extremist General Secretary Pietro Nenni from the Socialist Party. ORLANDO delivers speech appealing for unity inside Italy.

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III. LOYALTY OF ITALIAN FORCES

Ministry announces the dissolution of the General Staff Corps. Leftist press demands the expatriation of high ranking officers who were awarded their positions because of their support of Fascism. Large number of soldiers of the 1930-33 class reported deserting.

IV. UNIVERSITY

Leftist parties rumored to have clandestine military organizations. Crime wave continues on a very large scale.

V. GENERAL CONCLUSIONS

Economic: If present situation does not improve, popular demonstration may be anticipated in next few months.

Political: BONOMI Government appears strengthened and has little possibility of changing ^{its} ~~its~~ course to the contrary.

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10-3090
6 November 1944

STABILITY REPORT
Week 25 Oct. to 5 Nov. 1944

I. POLITICAL:

On the surface the position of the ROMANI Government appears to have been further strengthened this week. In the first place, it has to its credit additional gains in Italy's relations with the Allies in both the political and economic spheres; secondly, there are signs of a more determined and resolute manner in attacking internal problems; and in the third place, the solidarity of the six party collaboration was once again reaffirmed in Cabinet meeting. In spite of these evidences of strength, however, rumors of an imminent Cabinet crisis persist. Again ORLANDO and BABUOLIO are stated to be the men who will head the new government. The Liberal Party paper, Risorgimento Liberale (4 November 44) mentions these "rumors of crisis and of ministerial changes which have been in circulation in recent days" in connection with the news that the six parties have reaffirmed their loyalty to ROMANI.

The reestablishment of better feeling between Italy and the Western Allies has received additional impetus this week from both England and America. Some of the two-hour conferences which ROMANI held with BRITAIN were particularly pleasing to the Italians. **5514** had been singled out by Fascists as Italy's special enemy and years of propaganda against him have left the Italians a little uncomfortable concerning the attitude he may entertain toward them. The press

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A confidential source close to Mussolini reports that the Prime Minister found Mussolini cold and reserved and that he left the conference convinced that no favors for Italy were to be expected from the British Foreign Secretary.

From America has come much good news. Italian public opinion has reacted most favorably to the continuous flow of assurances that

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everything possible is being and will continue to be done for them. The promises of increased food ration and additional material relief make the population less apprehensive about the winter (see below ECONOMIC, Paragraph 2). Important for the welfare of the people in the new U.S. postal ruling which permits the mailing of parcels to civilians in Italy. The similar relaxation of censorship restrictions to allow transmittal of vital documents and exchange of business information, is another step toward resumption of normal relations between the two countries. Satisfaction is felt in the State Department's announcement that publication of the armistice terms is under consideration.

On the home front the Government has displayed vigor in dealing with a number of problems.

1. The direct intervention of ROSSINI averted two threatened labor stoppages (see ECONOMIC, Paragraph 3 below).

2. Several concrete measures have been announced to improve the Capital's food supply (see Home News Summary 29 Oct - 4 Nov, Paragraph 7).

3. In collaboration with the Allies, steps have been taken toward meeting the serious delinquency situation by establishing more effective night patrols (see Home News Summary 29 Oct - 4 Nov, Paragraph 3).

4. An official announcement has been issued which, in effect, supports the police (Carabinieri) against the constant attacks by the Left (see Home News Summary 29 Oct - 4 Nov, Paragraph 5).

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Paragraph 8).

D. An official announcement has been issued which, in effect,
supports the police (Carabinieri) against the constant attacks by
the Left (see Rome News Summary 23 Oct - 4 Nov, Paragraph 3).

In the field of political parties, there has been a reversal
of the trend of recent weeks in the subdivision of one party to
form two. The monarchist sympathizers have broken away from the
Liberal Party to form the separate "Party of Liberal Democratic
Concentration". The new party is headed by Senator MONTANARI, founder
and director of the newspaper "Giornale d'Italia".

The program of the new party is a bit vague. It asks the
support of all "those who love Italy and liberty, who have not yet
joined other political parties, and who wish to see an orderly

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realization of the most thorough-going social reforms". Prince Umberto is reported to have received the members of the Executive Committee and to have expressed his pleasure at the promising beginning of the new party.

This new addition to Italy's already numerous parties is offset by the fusion of the Christian Social Party with the Party of the Christian Left (compare Rome News Summary dated 6 Oct, Paragraph 3).

There are signs that the two groups within the Socialist Party, the moderates headed by AMABAL, Minister without Portfolio, and the extremists led by the party General Secretary, Pietro Nenni, are daily moving further apart. A growing dissatisfaction is reported within the party with Nenni's uncompromising attitude, his unreserved language and his general tendency to exclude the Communists in revolutionary ideas.

On the 4th of November 1944, Vittorio Emanuele ORLANDO delivered a speech at the Quirino Theater in Rome, on the occasion of the celebration of World War I Victory Day. ORLANDO made an appeal for unity inside Italy. The speaker paid a tribute to Great Britain, the United States and France and confirmed the friendship, true comradeship and gratitude of the Italians toward the peoples of these countries.

II. ECONOMIC

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II. COMMUNISM

Though there has been no real change in the economic situation, a good deal of publicity on the accomplishments to date and some additional promises, particularly in respect to food, have been made (see Rome News Summary, Paragraph 7).

Allied Public Relations agencies appear to have entered upon a campaign of well deserved publicity to inform the Italians of all that the Allied forces have done and are now doing for Italy. The Allied Commission has literally flooded the press this week with releases. The most comprehensive was General GIBBON'S report on the quantities of foodstuff that will have reached Italy in the year ending 31 December. In the same report, he treated again the

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results of the Allied efforts to restore highways and railroads and to rehabilitate the education system and reopen the schools. The Industry Sub-Commission issued four reports on the progress made in getting factories back into operation, naming more than a dozen different types of manufactures now being turned out. Two of those reports deal with the rehabilitated hemp and textile industries. The Agricultural Sub-Commission released two reports on measures taken to restore the herds of domestic animals which have been so severely depleted by the war. A special report was devoted to the success of their campaign in fighting the epidemic that threatened to wipe out farm animals entirely. Finally, the Public Health Sub-Commission reported on the current provisions for distributing the tons of medicinal supplies already received from the U.S.

The general effect of these announcements on the Italian populace cannot have been other than encouraging. There are now wanting, however, doubtless thousands among the public and in the press who pass it all off as "promises".

An important economic accomplishment is seen in the announcement from New York of the arrival there in recent weeks of more than one million dollars worth of Italian goods. The actual resumption of Italian export trade, quoted in terms of tons and of dollars and cents, gives an assurance of the economic rehabilitation of the country such as no volume of promises can equal.

The workers have won a dual victory this week. The delay in payment of the high-cost-of-living indemnity, which was finally

depleted by the war. A special report was devoted to the success of their campaign in fighting the epidemic that threatened to wipe out farm animals entirely. Finally, the Public Health Sub-Commission reported on the current provisions for distributing the tons of medicinal supplies already received from the U.S.

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The workers have won a dual victory this week. The delay in payment of the high-cost-of-living indemnity, which was finally approved in detail two weeks ago, led to an organized protest. Under the leadership of the General Italian Confederation of Labor (CGIL) a work stoppage of one half hour was threatened in order to bring the workmen's demands before the public. Prime Minister BONOMI intervened at the last moment and the strike was averted. The Government agreed that the workers' protests were justified and ensured them that the law would be immediately enforced. The workmen further asked for a resumption and extension of the factory recess and that demand is also to be met. As of 6 November, a noon-day meal of soup is to be served to 1,000 workmen. Of this number,

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40,000 will be served by newly instituted messes, 55,000 by re-activated messes. The content of the soup to be furnished is fixed as follows:

40	grams	pasta
30	"	vegetables
20	"	soup
5	"	oil
5	"	salt

The third demand, an increase in the supplementary ration for workmen doing heavy labor, is under consideration.

III. LOYALTY OF ITALIAN FORCES.

An important step has been taken toward establishing a new Italian Army on a sounder basis. At the regular meeting on 3 November, the Ministry announced the dissolution of the General Staff Corps. General BERGAMI, Chief of the General Staff, expressed in an official announcement the following reasons for this action:

a. An inefficiency resulting from the lack of careful selection of members of the corps.

b. A spirit of arrivism amongst the members which results from the careless selection.

2. A tendency to shirk responsibility.

Articles have been published by the Socialist and Action Party press demanding the expunction of high ranking officers, Carabinieri and the army, who were awarded their positions because of their Fascist feelings. BERGAMI, in the newspaper "Avanti!"

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Articles have been published by the Socialist and Action Party press demanding the expunction of high ranking officers, Carabinieri and the army, who were awarded their positions because of their Fascist feelings. **AVANTI**, in the newspaper "Avanti" demands the expunction of all high ranking officers who had a share in the responsibility of the war whether or not they remained loyal to the government at the signing of the Armistice.

It is reported that large numbers of Italian soldiers belonging to the recently called up 1930-32 class are deserting their units and engaging in armed robbery along the roads south of Rome. Italian youth is not anxious to re-enter the army and the prospect of combating in the Far East is viewed with antipathy. (see Radio Security Summary No. 5, Page 6).

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IV. SUBVERSIVE:

Local security agencies are keeping a very close watch on various Leftists parties which are capable of developing threats to security (see Rome Allied Area Command Security Summary No. 5, Pages 4, 5 and 6, dated 1 - 31 October 1944). Leftists parties are rumored to have clandestine military organizations which are disposing of considerable quantities of arms and ammunition. The heads of the local Italian police are presently much concerned, because they are not confident that their force, in its present state, can deal effectively with any serious outbreak of popular violence.

Crime and delinquency continues on a large scale in and south of Rome. Allied and local authorities are dealing with this problem and several important arrests have taken place this week. The Prefect of Rome has ordered that all building entrances be locked at 2000 hours and provision be made for lighting all hallways during periods when there is no electric current available.

Black market on food supplies continues unabated in Rome and popular exasperation is increasing. ~~If the situation does not improve during the next few months, incidents such as that at Palermo may well be anticipated.~~

V. GENERAL COMMENTARY:

Economic: No real change in the economic situation. The food situation continues to be very bad and unless some improvement takes place during the winter months, some serious

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Black market on food supplies continues unabated in Rome and popular exasperation is increasing. ~~In the situation described above during the past few months, Italian authorities are doing all that is possible to maintain the situation.~~

V. GENERAL CONCLUSIONS:

Economic: No real change in the economic situation. The food situation continues to be very bad and unless some improvement takes place during the winter months, popular demonstrations may be anticipated. Allied publicity of economic aid to Italy has had an encouraging effect on the Italian people in general.

Political: On the surface, Mussolini's government appears to have been further strengthened; however, rumors persist that in spite of the six parties' continual re-affirmation of their mutual cooperation, there are several forces at work to oust Mussolini in favor of a government headed by Ciano and Badoglio.

The constitution of the latest party, Party of the Liberal Democratic Concentration, has aroused curiosity. The formation

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of the new party appears to be diametrically opposed to the
general tendency of political parties to rise.

7008 GARY P. BRUND, Capt., Inf.,
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(FD-158)

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Weekly News Summary

ITALY

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Various Newspapers Published in Rome
Evaluation: B-2

Week of 28 - 28 October 1944

I. POLITICAL

1. Resumption of regular diplomatic relations with United Nations is most important event of week.
2. BONOMI issued Circular to Prefects of Provinces making them responsible for preserving the peace in cases of peasant agitation for occupation of untilled lands.
3. Cabinet adopts further measures to pacify Sicily, and provides for new national police force.
4. Political party relations are uneasy, as the collaboration of Left and moderates appears more strained.
5. De-fascistization activities continue at same pace.

II. ECONOMIC

7. General Confederation of Industry, representing interests of the owners, meets with Prime Minister.
8. New campaign announced to amass olive oil at fixed prices, as was done with grain.

III. MISCELLANEOUS

10. Education. Province of Rome outstrips capital in opening schools. University of Rome fast resuming its activities.

XXXXXXXXXXXX: JIARC; G-2 AFHQ; COMSTAFHQ(MTU);File.

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INTERNATIONAL JIARC; G-2 AFHQ; Const Fleet (HUN); File.

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Weekly News Summary, 22 - 23 October 1944

I. POLITICAL

1. The outstanding political event of the week for Italy was the resumption of regular diplomatic relations with her by the majority of the United Nations (see Weekly Stability Report 22-23 Oct, par II).

2. Circular on land expropriation

On the 22nd, Prime Minister BONOMI issued a Circular to the Prefects of all Provinces on the subject of peasant appropriation of privately owned lands. Outbreaks between peasants and law enforcement personnel have been continuing unabated in spite of the Ministry's recent action authorizing expropriation of untilled lands. The newspapers of the Leftist parties have been giving wide publicity to these outbreaks and in every case blaming the land owners and the police, whereas the more moderate press has expressed great alarm at these acts of violence and at the apparent intention of the Left to encourage them. BONOMI's circular called the attention of the Prefects to the legal machinery which has now been provided to handle any peasant requests to take over untilled land, and directed the Prefects to see to it that the occupation of land by peasants is carried out peacefully and in accordance with the new law.

Comment: The varied reporting of this Circular in the press illustrates the manner of interpreting an act according to the sympathies of the individual party. Risorgimento Liberale, Il Quotidiano and Nicobatrone (all papers of the Right or Center) emphasized the call for law observance. The Socialist paper presented the Circular as an admonition to land owners to hand over their lands to peasants; the Communist paper, significantly, did not even mention the Circular, but instead carried a long document on the agrarian disturbance reported near Avezzano last week which purported to show how the peasants had been foully attacked by the forces of reaction.

3. Cabinet Meeting

a. The regular weekly meeting of the Government was again largely devoted to measures designed to restore tranquility in Sicily: establishment of a Consultative Committee of 25 members to advise the High Commissioner; provisions to aid the restoration of industry; and an attempt to improve agricultural conditions without making radical changes in the status of the latifondi.

b. New Police Force

Further steps were taken toward activation of the new police force, a project which was first initiated several weeks ago (see Weekly News Summary dated 23 Sep par 5b.). Details of enrollment are being worked out and a new uniform designed to be the visual evidence of its complete independence of the much criticized forces of the past. The plans are still so far from complete that no date can be set for the official inauguration of the new force.

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4. Political Parties

a. All is not well in the collaboration of the six parties, although the violence of the press polemic which was reported last week has, for the most part, subsided. The Christian Democrat Il Popolo maintains its attitude of distrust of the Left. Its editor, Guido CONELLA (27 Oct) devotes an article to what he considers the incomprehensible and contradictory attitude of the Socialist Avanti!. In his last paragraph he sums up:

"Today I read in Avanti! a terse editorial by its director, bitter accusations and harsh warnings to the Government and to some of the parties which compose it; appeals to beat down, on the one hand, to strike, on the other; to purge, to overturn old and new social structures and old and new organizations, beginning with those which maintain law and order; admonitions, warnings, and threats; premonitions of new reforms and of new lacerations in the already lacerated body of Italy..."

On the following day, Avanti! replied only with a few sarcastic words appended as a postscript to his regular editorial.

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Risorgimento Liberale likewise distrusts its fellows of the Left, although they are bound together by a pledge of collaboration. The Communist Unità (24 Oct) is accused of misrepresenting facts in its account of the Palermo incident, even as it had previously omitted important (and unpleasant) parts of CHURCHILL's message on his departure from Italy (see Weekly Stability Rept dtd 7 Sep, par 3). Again on the 27th, Risorgimento Liberale revived that criticism of the Left which was so widespread in the moderate press before the reaffirmation of collaboration about a month ago; namely, that the Left is quite as active in fomenting unrest and discord as are the reactionaries. The Labor Democrat Minister without Portfolio, MUSSI, (Ricostruzione 24 Oct) assumes essentially the same position as do the Christian Democrats. The Action party, on the other hand, continues to side with the Socialists.

b. The possibility of a split in the Socialist party is always present, though latent. SARACAT's mild socialism is often contrasted with the story violence of MUSINI. The former asserted in Avanti (2 Oct) that the complex land tenure reform should be submitted to a thorough study before action is taken, thereby seeming to go counter to the policy of his party as voiced by MUSINI. The fundamental differences between these two Socialist leaders is the more interesting in view of the recent return to Italy of two other moderate Socialists: Emmelele MUGNICH and Ignazio SILVER, who are thought by some to have come back to work against MUSINI's extremism.

c. A fusion between the Labor Democrats and the Action party is to be expected, according to the Communist paper Unità. This prospect, which appears rather improbable in view of the fundamental differences between the two parties, has been absolutely denied by the Action party's Italia Libera. Certainly the parties would need to come much closer together than at present, for the Action party considers itself a part of the Left, whereas the Labor Democrats are firmly committed to a policy of moderation.

5. Defascistization

a. "Purification"

No new developments of significance on "purification" have been reported this week, although the conservative opposition paper, Italia Nuova (25 Oct) has hinted that the whole Defascistization program might well be dropped. The paper estimated that there are some 600 officials already serving on the several purification commissions in Rome and doubts that the results will justify the considerable expense. The Action paper Italia Libera (26 Oct) the other hand, presses for action in the difficult but very necessary task of purifying the Foreign Office.

No figures of prominence have been dropped this week. Sixteen officials were suspended from their posts with the semi-official National Insurance Institute and two Generals were put on the inactive list because of their collaboration sympathies.

b. Punishment

The first session of the High Court to consider the cases of members

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b. Punishment

The first session of the High Court to consider the cases of members of the Italian Senate was held this week. On the basis of the list submitted by High Commissioner SPORZA last summer, 40 cases were reviewed and 28 men dropped from the Senate.

The postponement of the trial of the two Generals charged with complicity in surrendering Naples to the Germans, Generals DEL TETTO and PERTINAXI, has added to the growing lack of confidence in the seriousness of Defascistization. The alleged reason for the postponement, namely the need to procure additional evidence, is widely disbelieved by public and press, which fear that the guilty are to escape just punishment.

No prominent names have appeared among the new arrests other than those of four members of the nobility whose arrest, although reported officially, has been unofficially denied. Two princes of the PRIGNATELLI family, the wife of one of them and Prince VANDUCCI, were stated (Corriere 25 Oct) to have been arrested on a charge of collaboration with the Germans. The three princes are supposed to have served as officers in the Italian R.S. The paper of monarchist sympathies, Italia Nuova (25 Oct), insists that these reported arrests are false and cites convincing proof. A dozen others have been put into prison on the

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charge of aiding the Germans, including Lt. Col. Artemio CANALI, who had been active in recruiting young men for the fascist army.

II. ECONOMIC

6. Foreign Exchange Rates

The press continues to display interest in the subject of the occupation Lira and particularly in their relation to the rate of exchange of the Lira to the Dollar. No consistent policy is foreshadowed, however. Italia Nuova (22 Oct) asks that the value of the Lira be raised to equal that of the Franc (50 to the Dollar). Risorgimento Liberale (27 Oct) advocates the opposite, saying that the value of the Lira must be decreased in order to favor the development of the Italian exports. The treatment of the subject of foreign exchange on the basis of "National Pride" rather than of economic realism, is criticized.

7. Reconstruction

No new steps toward reconstruction are reported. The Industrialists' Organization (the General Confederation of Industry) which was established some time ago as a kind of counter-balance to the General Italian Confederation of Labor, is functioning. Prime Minister BONOMI received its executive committee this week and its report on the Confederation's activities and prospects. The president of the Confederation is Fabio FRIGERI.

8. Agriculture

a. The technical aspects of the land tenure decrees issued two weeks ago and still the subject of much political controversies (see par 2. above and JICA/RAC Rpt 20-149) are being elaborated in the press; for example Corriere di Roma 25 October.

b. A new campaign is announced by Allied and Italian authorities for obtaining the bulk of this year's production of olive oil by amassing at the fixed price, as was done with grain in the "Granai del Popolo" (Granaries of the People). The corresponding name for the olive oil collection program is to be "Oliari del Popolo" (Corriere 26 Oct).

III. MISCELLANEOUS

9. A new news agency to be set up for Italy, is reported by the Socialist paper Avanti! (28 Oct). It awaits recognition by the Allies before being official. It will replace the old STERANI Agency and bears the name ANTI-Assenza Radio-Telegrafica Italiani). The new organization will furnish news to the Rome press and to all papers published elsewhere in liberated Italy. It is said to be modelled after the news agencies of the United States and Britain.

10. Education

a. The elementary school situation is reported to be far better in the Province of Rome than in the Capital. Outside the city nearly all the schools are functioning again, although frequently compelled to operate in makeshift conditions. Assenza announced last week for

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10. Education

a. The elementary school situation is reported to be far better in the Province of Rome than in the Capital. Outside the city nearly all the schools are functioning again, although frequently compelled to operate in makeshift quarters and with inadequate equipment. The schedule announced last week for opening of the intermediate schools throughout the province and of the rest of the city's elementary schools early in November, is being pushed (Cor. 28).

b. Good reports are forthcoming on the progress made in restoring the University of Rome as a center of education and culture. The accelerated courses which have been in progress since 1 September, will finish at the end of October. The regular academic year is to begin in the middle of December. The welfare of students is being promoted as well as the problem of purifying the faculty and the curriculum from Fascist taint. The "House of the Students" is already in limited operation in spite of having suffered serious bomb damage. Meals are provided for all students at the low cost of 20 Lire. Additional recreational facilities are shortly to be reopened, in particular the University's theater and the Sapienza Club.

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Not all are satisfied with this progress in the University. The Communist
Unita, (23 Oct) severely criticizes the work of purifying the University's
faculty.

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1st Lt., A.O.
JICA/RAAC
RO-136

Approved and forwarded.

WYRON R. SWITZER
Colonel, A.O.
Chairman, JICAMA

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

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BYRON B. SMITH
Colonel, A.C.
Chairman, JICANA

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RG-153

IC-3020

30 October 1944

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SUBJECT: Weekly Stability Report, 22 - 28 October 1944

Sources: Allied Commission, FSS, AMO, PAB, local newspapers, personal observations and interviews

I. ECONOMIC:

No change in the economic situation this week. Rome's food problem continues as previously reported. A proposal has been accepted by the Italian Government to reactivate the idle sulphur industry in Sicily. Within a matter of days, thousands of unemployed miners will be back to work in the Island's most important industry (see JICA Rome Report RG-154, ^{Sulphur Mining} Industry in Sicily, and JICA Rome Report RG-155, ^{Situation in Sicily} Proposal for Reactivating Sulphur Mines).

II. POLITICAL:

The personal position of Prime Minister BONOMI is considered to have strengthened materially by the success of his Government in winning for Italy full diplomatic parity with the Allies. The actual resumption of regular diplomatic relations with most of the United States is received partly as concrete evidence of the Allies' intentions to keep their promises to Italy, partly as an occasion for pressing more strongly Italy's demand for a full alliance. The ambassadorial appointments were, for the most part, as expected and caused little comment. There is, however, a rumor that the Italian Government has suggested Count SPOROLA as its representative in Washington 5507 5506 and that he has been rejected. It is believed in certain government circles here that President ROOSEVELT wishes to have back again the representative of the Fascist Government, MUNDO, who made a very favorable impression there.

The internal situation remains calm, with the Government hard at work. Yet it is an uneasy calm at best. The collaboration of the six parties holds

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The internal situation remains calm, with the Government hard at work. Yet it is an uneasy calm at best. The collaboration of the six parties holds firm, but the Leftists are champing under the restraint and ill-concealing their impatience for the day when they can openly declare their scorn for their present collaborators of the Right and Center. The press controversy between the Socialists and Christian Democrats, which last week seemed to threaten the collaboration, has diminished in virulence, though it does continue. The more moderate parties are again voicing their alarm at the undeniable eagerness of the Left to encourage violence and then play up every manifestation of it as the machinations of the forces of reaction.

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The Government is doing what it can to pacify unruly Sicily. At Friday's Cabinet meeting, further measures were adopted to aid the Island's industry and agriculture. A promise of similar measures of assistance and rehabilitation was made to Sardinia, apparently in order to forestall any dangerous outbreak there -- in Italy's other sore spot, which also nurses a traditional grievance of neglect.

III. LOYALTY OF ITALIAN FORCES:

Nothing to report.

IV. SUBVERSIVE:

The previously noted propaganda tactics of the extreme Left (see Weekly Stability Report, 8-24 October 1944, 80-140) i.e., their exploitation and amplification of small incidents to increase tension and resentment in public opinion, has been evident this week in the reporting by the Leftist press of two types of news items: 1) Developments following the Palermo riot, which is consistently presented as a spontaneous, murderous attack on the innocent population and 2) small local incidents such as the disturbances resulting from peasant attempts to occupy private lands illegally. All such incidents are played up as vicious attacks by the "forces of Reaction" on the helpless proletariat and the implication is regularly made that before long such uncalled-for violence will have to be countered by violence on the part of the people.

Figures on the strength of the official Italian Communist Party in four provinces have been obtained from a fairly reliable source:

Salerno 44,391,000 - 5,600 members

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SALERNO	44 Sections	- 5,600 Members
PESCARA	33 "	- 4,000 "
CAMPOTRASO	27 "	- 2,000 "
FERRARA	67 "	- 7,000 "

For fuller details on the dissident Movimento Comunista d'Italia which has been mentioned in this subversive paragraph for a number of weeks past, see JICA Report No. RO-151, Communist Movement of Italy.

V. GENERAL CONCLUSIONS:

Very little economic and political activity has been reported this week. BONOMI's position has been strengthened by his successes in foreign relations and relations with the Allies are much improved by the Italian diplomatic posts and official removal of the word "Control" from Allied Control Commission.

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VI. RUMORS:

It is reliably reported that Prime Minister BONAI intends to take advantage of his strength and position to revise the personnel of his cabinet in the direction of more complete solidarity. Certain members have acted in ways to annoy and embarrass the government and its Prime Minister. Among these are reported to be the Communist Minister of Agriculture, GULLO; the Christian Democrat TUPINI, Minister of Justice; and the Labor Democrat Minister without Portfolio, RUINI.

Another rumor, source of which a local intelligence agency qualifies as reliable, reports that Marshal BADOLIO and Count SALAZAR discussed the possibility of the resignation of the present government. BADOLIO is reported to have expressed his opinion that the present government would best be replaced by one formed as follows:

Presidenza	-	ORLANDO
Estero	-	BADOLIO
Guerra	-	ARMELLINI
Lavori Pubblici	-	ROSSI-TTI
Marina	-	DE CULTER
Finanze	-	GIANNINI
Aziende	-	PIACENTINI
Interno	-	MISURI

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7008 GUSI P. BRUNO
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Marina	-	DE CURTIS
Finanze	-	GIANNINI
Aviazione	-	FIACENTINI
Interni	-	MINORI

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Rome, Italy

AD, ALO, PWG, CIG, TBS Reports, Daily
Newspapers, Personal Observations
and Contacts.
Italy

22 October 1944

I.O. No. 1020

Stability Report, from 18-21 October 44
JIC:HA rpt No. 20-143

- I. ADMINISTRATIVE. Food situation remains static. Improvement in state of government finances is expected from A. concession of issue of occupation Lira. B. Prospective abolition of "political trial of crimes".
- II. POLITICAL. The political scene has been disturbed by a number of incidents this week:
- A. Acts of violence of which the Palermo outbreak is most serious.
 - B. Fierce controversy between the Christian Democrats and Socialists.
 - C. Incidents between Italian troops and Communists.
- III. SECURITY. Unconfirmed reports indicate that Fascist elements are re-organizing in the city of Rome because it is free from Allied military control than the regions further north. Strike waves in the capital continue to be serious.
- IV. INFLUENCE OF THE ITALIAN PRESS. Morale of Italian troops serving with the Allies is high. That of the regular Italian units is relatively low because of unwholesome living conditions and disorders are common.

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I. ECONOMIC

No real improvement is reported in Rome's food situation during the last month. The sore lack of transportation and local corruption are keeping prices at high levels and are causing considerable discontent. (See JICA Rome Report No. RO-146, Black Market in Rome).

At its meeting on 20 October, the Italian Cabinet voted to authorize the Ministry of the Treasury to make available through banks and credit institutions a credit of two billion lire, to be used for financing industrial reconstruction.

The Minister of Agriculture, Fausto GULLO has indicated that the "political price" of bread and pasta may soon be abolished. It is estimated that it costs the Italian Government thirty billion lire per year. The Communist Minister GULLO adds that as soon as the State is relieved of the burden of the political price of bread, it will be in a position to sell other food items below cost.

Comment: The Communist minister's program is not very consistent because he apparently intends to abolish one political price and later replace it by a number of others.

The American Treasury has announced cessation of the printing and issue of Allied Military currency in Italy. This provision is made possible because money is now circulating with rapidity and being returned to banks, so that the Italian Government can make the bank notes again available to the Allies. Hence, it is not necessary for them to issue new bank notes.

Comment: This decision, which is to be related to the opening of a credit in dollars in favor of the Italian Government, is regarded as a new and important step toward an anti-inflation policy.

II. POLITICAL

The truce which followed the re-affirmation of collaboration in the government on the part of the six parties, was again threatened this week. (See JICA Rome Report No. RO-129, Roman Government strengthened by new solidarity of Six Parties). Controversy broke out following an article written by MORINI in the Socialist paper of 15 October, under the title "The Republic Unites Us". In this article, the Socialist leader asked all parties, and especially the Christian Democrats, to come out openly for the Republic, to advocate immediate action on agrarian reform and on socialization of large industries. The Christian Democrats took issue and refused to have anything to do with the reforms at this time. Toward the latter part of the week, the inter-party polemics in the press quieted down and at the ministerial meeting of 20 October, tranquility reigned.

Comment: This recurrence of agitation on the part of the extremist parties shows how fragile is the present collaboration of the parties in the government.

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Comment: This recurrence of agitation on the part of the extremist parties shows how fragile is the present collaboration of the parties in the government. The government is facing a number of difficult questions, particularly financial and currency difficulties, raising of wages, and combatting separatism in Sicily. The extremist parties are counting upon "a wind which will blow down from the North" to bring about a solution in their favor.

Acts of violence which are to be related to the general political and economic unrest are increasing in gravity. Most serious of this week's episodes was the Palermo outbreak over which the people and the government are deeply concerned.

Another incident resulting from the peasants' intention to occupy lands heretofore in the possession of large land holders, took place near Avuzzano

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It is said that peasants invaded lands belonging to Prince TOMASIA, following the breakdown in negotiations through which they had hoped to gain authorization to cultivate those lands. Some hundreds of peasants are reported to have been involved and to have refused to obey the orders of the guards and Carabinieri to halt. Thereupon, the guards opened fire, killing one and wounding five peasants. The Socialist and Communist press are very much wrought up over this incident.

The Italian Communist Party has complained to AGC of a series of incidents between Polish troops and members of their party. The tales are represented as being the aggressors in all cases. AGC reports that the matter has been taken up with the commander of the Polish troops and that a cessation of friction is hoped for.

III. SUBVERSIVE

There is very little change in the subversive situation from previous reports. A local intelligence agency is investigating unconfirmed reports that Fascist elements are re-organizing in Rome for the purpose of carrying on Fifth Column activity. According to these reports, Fascist sympathizers are leaving the territory near the front and coming down to Rome where they will be able to conduct their activity with less surveillance on the part of Allied military authorities. The fact that former collaborators are leaving forward areas, is confirmed by Questura reports of numerous arrests of Axis-Fascist collaborators who are no longer active but who are returning to Rome with the hope of remaining out of sight until conditions return to normal.

The crime wave continues to be a very serious problem in the city of Rome. Night patrols are being increased and it is expected that conditions will improve somewhat. The Italian police continue to be poorly organized, poorly equipped and greatly underpaid. SPURZA, in commenting on the action of the Italian police during the Carretto lynching, is reported to have said, "What can you expect of police who eat only one meal per day". It is reliably reported that, except for the commanding generals of the Italian police force, no one earns more than \$50 per month.

IV. LOYALTY OF THE ITALIAN FORCES

Morale of the Italian troops who are under the command of Allied units is reported to be very high. The welfare and comfort of Italian soldiers is usually provided on a par with that of Allied troops. Italian formations, on the other hand, do not have these welfare facilities and apparently make little attempt to improve the soldiers' morale. As a result, there is much discontent and many more desertions from Italian units than from those under Allied command. Desertions among the Italian soldiers are fairly numerous for the following reasons:

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1. Italy has been almost constantly at war since 1936 and soldiers are war-weary.
2. They are dissatisfied with the general conditions in the Army.
3. Many soldiers want to return to their families to help during the bad economic crisis which Italy is now undergoing.
4. Deserters are fairly safe from being caught and punished because Italian military authorities do not have the necessary facilities for apprehending them.

A principal factor that contributes to the lowering of the discipline of the Italian soldier is because the Italian officers and non-commissioned officers do not have the same control or have the same personal contact and comradeship with the men as exists in the Allied forces.

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V. GENERAL CONCLUSIONS

The calm atmosphere of the past two weeks which resulted from the improvement in Italo-Allied relations, is now threatened by internal disturbances. Several disquieting symptoms are in evidence.

Acts of violence are growing in number and in gravity. By far the most serious is the outbreak in Sicily. Further instances of the resort to violence in settling agrarian disagreements are hardly less disturbing and they indicate the fundamental distrust of the government's ability to solve their problems with speed and justice.

The renewal of discord between two of the strongest parties participating in the Ministry again accentuates the fundamental weakness of the present government based as it is on an artificial truce between inherently hostile factions.

No particular improvement in the economic situation is apparent but there is promise in the Government's action providing for financing reconstruction and attempting to remedy the basic conditions underlying Sicilian unrest.

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STANLEY R. HAYWARD, Colonel, A.C.,
Chairman, JICARA.

7808 GARY F. KRUHO,
Captain, Inf.,
Acting Chief, JICARA/NAAC.

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7008 CORR P. HEND,
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ITALY

Weekly News Summary

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Various Newspapers published in Rome,
Evaluation: B-3

Week of 15 - 21 October 1944

I. POLITICAL

1. Disagreement has again broken out between two of the parties forming the government, the Socialists and Christian Democrats. It is not yet clear whether this is an isolated occurrence or whether it betokens the early dissolution of the six party collaboration.

2. Defascistization activities continue. The government is trying to hasten the process of "purification" of its administration. Further arrests and sequestrations of property announced.

II. ECONOMIC

3. Government has taken some steps toward encouraging reconstruction, especially by making available to industry a credit of two billion lire.

4. Prospects for some improvement in the electric power shortage in the city of Rome.

III. MISCELLANEOUS

5. Bogus dollar bills dropped as German propaganda on Rome.

6. Central relief organization set up to coordinate all welfare activities in Rome.

7. Opening of schools, once postponed, now expected in November. Severe criticism of Allies military authorities requisitioning so many school buildings for military use.

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XXXXXXXXXX: JIARC; 6-2 AFHQ; ComSouthFleet(MTU); File.

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Weekly News Summary, 15-21 October 1944

I. POLITICAL

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2. Recognition of Inter-Party Strife

Sharp controversy between two of the parties making up the government has broken out again this week. It takes the form of an acrimonious exchange between the Socialist and Christian Democrat leaders in their party organs. On 15 October Guido Gonella, editor of the Christian Democrat Il Popolo, raised an objection to an article by Giacomo PERTICONE appearing in Avanti!. The Socialists had brought up an old point of controversy by stating again their thesis that the Italian democracy of the future must be a proletarian democracy. The Christian Democrat paper naturally could not accept that narrow conception of democracy.

More serious was the interchange occasioned by two editorials of Pietro Nenni, the editor of Avanti. On August 14, he asked that "all power be conferred upon the Committees of National Liberation". The Communist paper seconded this suggestion. Others at once pointed out that acceptance of the suggestion would mean the virtual end of the Italian Government. Its authority would be supplanted in each region or province by that of the local Committee of National Liberation. Much more stir resulted from Nenni's second editorial which he issued on the following day under the title "The Republic Unites Us". In it, he called upon all parties, but by inference upon the Christian Democrats in particular, to take a stand openly and immediately for a republic and in favor of certain fundamental economic reforms. He specified the minimum conditions under which the anti-Fascist coalition can hope to proceed as three:

6. A republic.
7. Agrarian reform by expropriation of large estates.
8. Socialization of large industries.

MUNINI's editorial contained, in addition, slurring references to the "old glory" preoccupations of Churchill" and to American "gratuitously offensive doubt" concerning the political maturity of the Italians - words which were hardly calculated to promote friendly relations between the Allies and Italy.

The Christian Democrats immediately took up the challenge in 11 and charged Nazi with weakening the collaboration of the parties in the government by bringing up at this time those very subjects which cannot be settled without endangering that collaboration. His unsympathetic references to England and America were deplored as likely to destroy the improved relations which the events of the past two weeks have been bringing about.

The controversy has continued along these lines for several days. Avanti protests its loyalty to the principle of party collaboration and in Popolo

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2. Defascistization

a. "Purification"

The government has been active in revising "purification" machinery. New regulations require action to be taken on all cases concerning civil servants of the first four grades before the close of this year. The entire "purification" process is being speeded up.

A special commission has been appointed by the government for general reform of the national administration. Its purpose is stated to be the "elimination of every trace of Fascism from our administration and legislation" (Corriere 18 Oct).

b. Punishment

The following arrests have been announced this week:

Vincenzo PIGNONE, ex-Console of the Fascist Militia
Francesco LANDOLFI, ardent Fascist propagandist and ex-Console of the Fascist Militia

Alfredo BRANDIMARTI, a soldier in the German S.S.

Mario NOTTALI, collaborator with the S.S.
Cornelia TENZI-PIZZATO, presumed mistress of Mussolini, arrested for the third time

Ercole VILLALI, ex-Director General of the Ministry for Italian Africa

Sergio SPADARI, former Secretary of the infamous Pietro KOCH

Paolo FARNER, accused of collaboration with the Germans

General Fernando SOLERI, accused of collaboration with the Germans

Claudio AVIGNINI DI TALLONONE, accused of participating in the execution of patriots

Vittorio CAMPANILE, accused of acts of violence in 1922

Mario STORNELLI, informer against the patriots

Aurizio MARAVIGLIA, Senator, member of the Fascist Grand Council

Admiral Giulio INGIANI, former General Director of the Navy Ministry, accused of having falsified orders for the purpose of keeping merchant ships out of the hands of the Allies.

c. Sequestration

Activities continue. The properties of the following have been declared forfeit to the state this week:

Marshal Rodolfo GRAZIANI, Chief of Staff of the Fascist Republican Army

Bartolomeo RICCIARDI, ex-Minister of Exchange and Currency

Giovanni MARINELLI, ex-Undersecretary of Communications

Antonio LA PERA, ex-Prefect and ex-Director General of the Office for Population and Race

The following arrests have been announced this week:

Vincenzo PEROMINI, ex-Console of the Fascist Militia
Francesco LANDOGNI, ardent Fascist propagandist and ex-Console of
the Fascist Militia

Alfredo BRANDIMARTI, a soldier in the German S.S.

Mario ROVELLI, collaborator with the S.S.

Cornelia MANZI-PIZZATO, presumed mistress of Mussolini, arrested for
the third time

Arcole VILLI, ex-Director General of the Ministry for Italian
Africa

Sergio SPADARI, former Secretary of the infamous Pietro KSON

Paolo FARRERI, accused of collaboration with the Germans

General Fernando SOLETTI, accused of collaboration with the Germans

Claudio ANTONINI DI VALMONTONE, accused of participating in the
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Vittorio CAMPANELLO, accused of acts of violence in 1922

Mario STORMI, informer against the patriots

Laurizio KARAVIGLIA, Senator, member of the Fascist Grand Council

Admiral Giulio INGIAHI, former General Director of the Navy Ministry,
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merchant ships out of the hands of the Allies.

C. Requisition

Activities continue. The properties of the following have been
declared forfeit to the state this week:

Marshal Rodolfo GRABIANI, Chief of Staff of the Fascist Republican
Army

Raffaele RICCARDI, ex-Minister of Exchange and Currency

Giovanni MARINELLI, ex-Undersecretary of Communications

Antonio LE PERA, ex-Prefect and ex-Director General of the Office
for Population and Race

Prof. Giovanni BALBILLA, ex-member of the Fascist Grand Council

Dr. Vincenzo AZZOLLINI, sentenced to 30 years imprisonment by the
High Court last week.

II. ECONOMIC

3. Reconstruction

a. Some concrete steps have been taken to aid the material recons-
truction of the country. The Inter-Ministerial Committee for Reconstruction
(made up of the Ministers of Communications, Finance, Treasury, Agriculture,
Commerce-Industry and Labor, and meeting sometimes under the presidency of
BONOMI, sometimes of one of the Ministers without Portfolio) held two meetings
this week. The second was devoted exclusively to consideration of a special
plan for the economic rehabilitation of Sicily.

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b. The Cabinet approved a measure making available a government credit amounting to 2 billion Lire to be used in the reconstruction of industry.

c. The Allies Control Commission this week issued a long report detailing the accomplishments of the Allies and the Italians working together in the rehabilitation of public works and utilities in southern and central Italy (Report published in basic news 18 Oct.).

4. Electric Power Shortage

The serious electric current situation which has been causing so much discontent among the Roman populace, is to be somewhat improved. Details have been announced for a change in the distribution scheme, which, it is hoped, will be more equitable and do away with at least a part of the complaints which fill the daily press. Three of Rome's daily papers did not appear on the afternoon of the 18th in protest against what they termed to be the injustice and unavailability of the present distribution of available current.

5. The food situation remains unchanged for the most part, with food supplies fairly abundant on the black-market, but at prices beyond the reach of the working classes (see RC-146 subject: The Black-Market).

III. MISCELLANEOUS

6. Announcement was made this week that a German plane had dropped propaganda on Rome on the evening of 12 October. It was estimated that a million replicas of the American dollar bill were dropped. The obverse was a photographic reproduction of the American banknote; the reverse bore this inscription in Italian: "American promises are empty; they are like soap bubbles (like this dollar bill)".

7. Welfare

a. A central relief organization has been formed in Rome, "Unione Romana Assistenza", to coordinate all activities of the several relief associations. Ten political parties and fifteen welfare agencies are listed as members (Corriere 17 Oct.).

b. The week beginning 22 October has been designated Italian Red Cross Week. Rome is to be divided into 8 zones and a systematic collection of clothing will be undertaken for the benefit of the more unfortunate. The Corriere di Roma is conducting a campaign to collect subscriptions **5,397** benefits are to be held.

Comment: It will be interesting to see whether this well organized campaign appealing to the people of Rome to help others less fortunate than themselves, will meet with greater success than have the previous, more amateurish attempts (see Weekly News Summary dated 25 Sept, par 12).

8. Education

The original date set for re-opening the schools has had to be advanced because the school buildings were not ready in time. However, 8 November has now been fixed for resumption of instruction in the secondary schools.

3. The food situation is fairly abundant on the black-market, but at prices beyond the reach of the working classes (see RO-146 subject: The Black-Market).

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Comment: It will be interesting to see whether this well organized campaign appealing to the people of Rome to help others less fortunate than themselves, will meet with greater success than have the previous, more amateurish attempts (see Weekly News Summary dated 23 Sept, per 12).

8. Education

The original date set for re-opening the schools has had to be advanced because the school buildings were not ready in time. However, 6 November has now been fixed for resumption of instruction in the secondary schools. The elementary schools will be ready to open shortly thereafter.

A great deal of criticism of the Allies has appeared in the press because of the requisitioning of so many school buildings. At present sufficient buildings have been returned to the Italian authorities to make possible a resumption of classes on a basis of two or three shifts per day.

Comment: The Education Sub-Commission ACC confirmed the shortage of school buildings now available. Many are still occupied by military organizations which are using them for hospitals or barracks. Some others have been taken over for housing bombed-out families and refugees. This latter group, however, offers no serious problem, since they can be ejected and the building returned to its proper use, as soon as it has been cleaned and disinfected.

Approved and forwarded.

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