

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

ACC

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FOOD
SEP

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

10000/110/147

FOOD DISTRIBUTION
SEPT. 44 - FEB. 45

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104/94
File *Col. Lisko*

AMG EMILIA REGION RPTD AMG FIVE ARMY RPTD AMG EIGHT ARMY RPTD HQ
FIFTEENTH ARMY GROUP

2171

21 FEBRUARY 45

PRIORITY 15

SECRET PD

PARA ONE PD SUBJECT IS RATION SCALE PD

PAREN TO AMG EMILIA REGION FOR SUPPLY OFFICER RPTD FIVE ARMY FOR
AMG FOR SUPPLY OFFICER RPTD EIGHT ARMY FOR AMG FOR SUPPLY OFFICER
RPTD HQ FIFTEENTH ARMY GROUP FOR STEWART FROM ALCOM CITE ACFOB PAREN

PARA TWO WITH EFFECT FROM ONE MARCH ALL PROVINCES OF PRESENTLY
LIBERATED ITALY NORTH OF THE NORTHERN BOUNDARIES NAPLES SLASH
CAMPOBASSO PROVINCES WILL HAVE BREAD SLASH PASTA RATION OF TWO ZERO
ZERO GRAMS BREAD DAILY AND FIVE FIVE ZERO GRAMS PASTA WEEKLY FOR ALL
NORMAL CONSUMER BREAD RATION CARD HOLDERS

PARA THREE PD ADJUSTMENTS TO SCALE ABLE AND BAKER FOR HEAVY
WORKERS CONSEQUENT UPON THIS INCREASED RATION WILL BE FORWARDED
IMMEDIATELY PD

DISTRIBUTION (BY ELS):

REGIONAL COMMISSION, LAZIO*UMBRIA REGION, ATTN: SUPPLY OFFICER
REGIONAL COMMISSIONER, ABRUZZI MARCHE REGION, ATTN: SUPPLY OFFICER

FOODS/C

206

N.W. DRAGNEFF
LT. COL. AGD
ADJUTANT

6745

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

Phone 478183

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APG 394
Establishment Section

Ref/105/Eet

NEF/mrd
21 February 1945

Dear Bowman:

This is for your information. I don't feel that any further action needs to be taken in the matter, unless you so desire.

NORMAN E. FISKE
Colonel
Deputy Executive Commissioner

Encl: 2
Cable No. 9090, 31 Dec. 44
Routing & Work Sheet

6743

SCAO 8TH ARMY AMG RPT 15 ARMY GROUP FOR CIVIL AFFAIRS
SECTION RPT AMG 5TH ARMY RPT AMG EMILIA REGION

9090

31 DEC 44

ROUTINE

IN CLEAR

PARA ONE PD REF YOUR SLANT TWO ONE NINE FIVE PD RECOMMEND YOUR
PROPOSED PLAN NOT BE EVOKED AS NEW MINISTERIAL DECREE HAS BEEN
PREPARED COVERING CEREAL AMASSING UNDER NORTHERN CONDITIONS PD
ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS WILL BE SENT YOU BEFORE FIFTH JANUARY PD
PAREN TO SCAO EIGHTH ARMY AMG RPT FIFTEENTH ARMY GROUP FOR CIVIL
AFFAIRS SECTION RPT AMG FIFTH ARMY RPT AMG EMILIA REGION FROM HQ
ALCOM SIGNED STONE PAREN

PARA TWO PD DECREE WILL NOT HAVE BEEN PASSED BY COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
BUT CAN BE USED AS BASIS FOR PREFECTS TO ISSUE PROVINCIAL DECREES
IN LINE WITH FORTHCOMING MINISTERIAL DECREE WHICH IS GENERALLY IN
LINE WITH YOUR PROPOSAL PD

COPY. Agriculture Sub)Commission

CKX ECONOMIC SECTION

6747

1607

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PREPARED COVERING CEREAL AMASSING UNDER NORTHERN CONDITIONS PD
ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS WILL BE SENT YOU BEFORE FIFTH JANUARY PD
PAREN TO SCAO EIGHTH ARMY AMG RPT FIFTEENTH ARMY GROUP FOR CIVIL
AFFAIRS SECTION RPT AMG FIFTH ARMY RPT AMG EMILIA REGION FROM HQ
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IN LINE WITH FORTHCOMING MINISTERIAL DECREE WHICH IS GENERALLY IN
LINE WITH YOUR PROPOSAL PD

COPY. Agriculture Sub)Commission

CKX ECONOMIC SECTION

To *for* 6747
May 1967
appropriate committee
see
See attached memo
CC

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Page

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DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

ESTABLISHMENT SECTION

File

Date 9 Feb

FROM

Sec. Sec < TO

Deputy Chief of Staff

→ Staff Officer

Executive Officer (A)

Executive Officer (B)

G-1 (A)

G-1 (B)

G-4 (A)

G-4 (B)

Headquarters Commandant

Adjutant

FOR:

Draft of reply for signature of
Please see/telephone me about this
Investigation and report

Answer

Signature

Approval/Disapproval

Your Information and return

Your File

9/2- Elong Sec. This note from 8th Army
HQ EIGHTH ARMY REAR
and in a recent visit
ARH/jff 10.03

Reference: RIX/AGR/2

SUBJECT : Inconvenience caused by H.Q., A.C. failure to keep lower formations informed.

TO : Regional Commissioner,
Emilia Region

1) This Division, as ordered by the Regional Commissioner, begs to bring to the notice of the Regional Commissioner the following waste of time and effort, which could have been avoided if H.Q., A.C. had kept this H.Q. informed.

2) Owing to the failure of the ministerial "Granai del Popolo" in Army area, this Division prepared a draft proposal for submission to the S.S.O. 8th Army A.M.G., for a new and simplified form of the "Granai del Popolo".

3) This Division was told to submit the proposal to the Head of the Agricultural Sub-Commission in Rome.

4) This was done at the meeting in Rome on 30th November, and after a discussion with the Ispettorato of Forlì and Ravenna Provinces, the head of the Agricultural Sub-Commission agreed that the scheme was sound and could be put into effect.

5) On return to this HQ, this Division was notified that an expert would arrive from H.Q., A.C. Food Sub-Commission to study the position.

6) This officer Lt. BERTI arrived this HQ on or about December 10, 1944, and did a tour of Ravenna and Forlì Provinces with S.S.O. 8th Army A.M.G., S.S.O. Region Emilia, and the head of this Division.

7) After 3 days he left for Rome, with, so great was the hurry, a pencilled draft of the scheme, and with a promise to the Division that a reply would be received in the course of a few days as to the agreement in principle or not of the Food Sub-Commission.

8) As no reply was received, this Division continued to finish the draft for the S.C.A.C. 8th Army A.M.G.'s approval.

9) This was submitted on December 24, 1944.

10) December 25, 1944 the scheme was finished.

11) December 27, 1944 the S.S.O. sent a signal to H.Q., A.C. explaining the salient points of the scheme, and asking for H.Q., A.C. permission to commence it.

1612

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- 4) This was done at the meeting in Rome on 30th November, and after a discussion with the Inspectorate of Forlì and Ravenna Provinces, the head of the Agricultural Sub-Commission agreed that the scheme was sound and could be put into effect.
- 5) On return to this HQ, this Division was notified that an expert would arrive from H.Q., A.C. Food Sub-Commission to study the position.
- 6) This officer Lt. BERIZZI arrived this HQ on or about December 10, 1944, and did a tour of Ravenna and Forlì Provinces with S.S.O. 8th Army A.M.G., S.S.O. Region Emilia, and the head of this Division.
- 7) After 3 days he left for Rome, with, so great was the hurry, a pencilled draft of the scheme, and with a promise to the Division that a reply would be received in the course of a few days as to the agreement in principle or not of the Food Sub-Commission.
- 8) As no reply was received, this Division continued to finish the draft for the S.C.A.O. 8th Army A.M.G.'s approval.
- 9) This was submitted on December 24, 1944.
- 10) December 25, 1944 the scheme was finished.
- 11) December 27, 1944 the S.S.O. sent a signal to H.Q., A.C. **6739** explaining the salient points of the scheme, and asking for H.Q., A.C. permission to commence it the 6th of January 1945.
- 12) This Division Meanwhile had visited all Corps H.Q. with the Corps Liaison Officer, and prepared with the AFM the road network necessary for advising the Consorzio Agrario on the working of the scheme.
- 13) The complete scheme had been discussed and agreed with Italian Agencies concerned.
- 14) On the first of January, 1945, a signal was received at this H.Q. from H.Q., A.C., saying that the minister was preparing his own decree for northern Italy, and this H.Q. should await the arrival of this decree which was promised for the 5th of January 1945. It was stated that the decree will be in line with the proposal of our A.M.G. order, but we should base prefects decrees on the minister's decree.

10/17

15) The following officers were involved in the preparation of the "Grarai del Popolo" scheme, copy attached in English and Italian.

- 1) S.C.A.O. 8th Army A.M.G.
- 2) Lt. Col. Martley O.C. 8th Army A.M.G. Admin H.Q.
- 3) S.S.O. 8th Army A.M.G.
- 4) S.S.O. Region Emilia
- 5) S. legal officer 8th Army A.M.G.
- 6) 3 officers Agric. Division
- 7) 3 Corps Liaison officers and A.P.M.'s

16) It is suggested, that all this work, and the transport involved, and also the time of Italian officials, could have been saved if this H.Q. had been kept informed of intention at A.C., H.Q.

A.P. Hough

A.P. HOUGH

Major

Agricultural Officer

1614

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

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saved if this H.Q. had been kept informed of intention at A.C., H.Q.

A. R. Hough

A. R. HOUGH

Major

Agricultural Officer

6738

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
EIGHTH ARMY

ORDER

DECLARATION WHEAT AND BARLEY IN THE POSSESSION OF PRODUCERS

WHEREAS in view of the difficulties caused by war damage and by normal farming practice it is deemed advisable to simplify the procedure for the collection and delivery of grain produced in 1944, and not delivered to the People's Granaries or to the Magazzini Fiducarii, and

WHEREAS I am convinced that all farmers understand their duty to feed the people of Italy in this hour of need,
NOW THEREFORE, I, C. BEESON, Group Captain, Senior Civil Affairs Officer, Allied Military Government, Eighth Army, hereby order as follows:

Article 1

DECLARATIONS

(a) All producers will within 14 days of the date of the posting of this Order deliver to the Communal Committee a declaration in duplicate observing:

- 1) Name of the producer and exact location of the grain.
- 2) The quantity of wheat and barley in their possession after seed and family retentions are subtracted under the provisions of General Order No. 26.
- 3) The number and class of persons for whom the retentions are made.
- 4) The quality of the grain graded into the following categories:
 - (a) Excellent
 - (b) Good
 - (c) Medium
 - (d) Ruined
- 5) An estimate of the "peso specifico" of the grain.

(b) On receipt of the declaration the Communal Committee will consider it and may inspect the farms of persons making the declaration to verify the same.
(c) The Communal Committee will forward one copy of the declaration to the Consorzio Agrario.

(d) In Communes where no Communal Committee has been formed the producer will deliver the declaration to the Sindaco or his representative, who will perform all of the above duties of the Communal Committee in that commune.
(e) When a Communal Committee is formed after declarations have been filed with the Sindaco or his representative, the Communal Committee will review all such declarations.

Article 2

CONSORZIO AGRARIO

1. On receipt of a copy of the declaration, the Consorzio Agrario in consultation with the responsible A.M.G. officer will divide the producers into two categories:

A and B as follows:

Category "A"

a) Producers in areas where because of shortage of warehouse space or the military use of the roads delivery to the Consorzio is impossible, the grain held by the producers will be blocked on the producers' farms.

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1. On receipt of a copy of the declaration, the Consorzio Agrario in consultation with the responsible A.M.G. officer will divide the producers into two categories:

A and B as follows:

Category "A"

- a) Producers in areas where because of shortage of warehouse space or the military use of the roads delivery to the Consorzio is impossible, the grain held by the producers will be blocked on the producers' farms.
 - 1) Where the grain is over the "peso specifico" of 50 and not too wet to be used for alimentation, the Consorzio Agrario will inspect the grain, and enter into an agreement with the producer whereby 50% of the value of the grain is payable to the producer forthwith and the balance when the grain is called in to the Consorzio.
 - 2) When the grain is below the "peso specifico" of 50 or too wet for alimentation, the Consorzio Agrario will give the producer a certificate of rejection in writing, stating the reason for such rejection, and the quantity rejected. The Consorzio Agrario will retain a duplicate copy of such rejections.

The producer shall be free to sell or dispose of such grain in any manner subject only to the following provisions:

- 1) That the certificate of rejection given by the Consorzio Agrario is endorsed by the Communal Committee of Agriculture, or in Communes where this committee is not yet formed by the Sindaco. In fractions in which an order limiting travel to 10 kilometres is in force, such

confirmation may be given by the "Delegate Comunale".

- 2) That notwithstanding the possession of a rejection certificate no farmer may deal in, or sell, any grain of specific gravity exceeding 50.
- 3) No farmer may transport grain above peso specifico 50 without a "bolletino di Accompagnamento" issued by the Consorzio Agrario.

Category "B"

Producers in areas where the grain will be taken to the Consorzio in the normal manner.

- 1) The Consorzio Agrario must pay immediately when the grain is presented.
- 2) The Consorzio may refuse to accept grain below "peso specifico" 50, or when the grain is too wet for storage.
- 3) When the grain is too wet for storage the Consorzio Agrario will give the producer a release in writing, and the producer may use the grain as he sees fit, under the same conditions as in Category A para 2.
- 4) When the producer knows that his grain is completely ruined he may request the Consorzio to inspect the grain on his farm and the Consorzio may release it under the same conditions as in Category A para 2.

2. Producers will enquire at the nearest Consorzio Agrario, or grain store, within fourteen days from the date of the posting of this order to ascertain in which category they have been placed.

3. The Consorzio Agrario may authorize farmer cereal experts to inspect grain on their behalf.

Article 3

ARBITRATION

All matters of dispute will be settled by arbitration before the Communal Committee.

Article 4

PENALTIES

Any person failing to conform to the provisions of this Order, or otherwise violating any of the provisions thereof shall, upon conviction by an Allied Military Court, be liable to punishment by imprisonment or fine, or both, as the Court may determine.

Article 5

EFFECTIVE DATE

This Order will become operative in each commune, or part thereof, within Eighth Army territory on the date of its first publication therein, provided that the provisions of this Order do NOT apply to areas in which travel is restricted to 3 kms or less.

give the producer a release in writing, and the producer may use the grain as he sees fit, under the same conditions as in Category A para 2.

4.) When the producer knows that his grain is completely ruined he may request the Consorzio to inspect the grain on his farm and the Consorzio may release it under the same conditions as in Category A para 2.

2. Producers will enquire at the nearest Consorzio Agrario, or grain store, within fourteen days from the date of the posting of this order to ascertain in which category they have been placed.

3. The Consorzio Agrario may authorize farmer cereal experts to inspect grain on their behalf.

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EFFECTIVE DATE

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6736

GOVERNO MILITARE ALLEATO

OTTAVA ARMATA

ORDINANZA

Dichiarazione delle partite di grano e orzo presso i produttori.

In considerazione delle difficoltà causate dai danni di guerra e dal disturbo della normale coltivazione, si ritiene opportuno di semplificare la procedura per il conferimento e trasporto del grano e orzo, non ancora consegnati al "Graino del Popolo" o ai magazzini fiduciari.

Confido nella collaborazione patriottica di tutti i produttori che comprenderanno il loro dovere di alimentare il popolo italiano in questo periodo di necessità; LA CONSIDERAZIONE DI CIO' IO C.E. BENSON, UFFICIALE COMANDANTE IL GRUPPO CAPO DEL GOVERNO MILITARE ALLEATO OTTAVA ARMATA, DISPONGO COME APPRESSO:

DICHIARAZIONE

ARTICOLO 1

- a) Tutti i produttori devono entro 14 giorni dalla pubblicazione della presente ordinanza, notificare in duplice copia al Comitato Comunale dell'Agricoltura:
- 1) indicazione del nome e cognome ed inoltre la località esatta ove trovasi tuttora il grano
 - 2) la quantità di grano e orzo rimasta presso i produttori, detratto quanto eccorrente per il consumo familiare e le semine, a norma dell'ordinanza Generale A.A.G. N. 26,
 - 3) il numero e le categorie delle persone da cui i prodotti sono tratti,
 - 4) la quantità dei prodotti nelle seguenti categorie:
 - a - ottimo
 - b - buono
 - c - medio
 - d - rovinato
 - 5) peso specifico approssimativo del grano.
- b) Ricevuta la dichiarazione il Comitato Comunale dell'Agricoltura deve esaminarla e qualora lo ritenga necessario, può visitare la...

poio italiano in questo periodo di necessità; IN CONSIDERAZIONE DI CIO' IO C.E. DENSON, UFFICIALE COMANDANTE IL GRUPPO CAPO DEL GOVERNO MILITARE ALLIATO OTTAVA ARMATA, DISPONGO COME APPRESSO:

DICHIARAZIONE

ARTICOLO 1

a) Tutti i produttori devono entro 14 giorni dalla pubblicazione della presente ordinanza, notificare in duplice copia al Comitato Comunale dell'Agricoltura:

- 1) indicazione del nome e cognome ed inoltre la località esatte ove trovassi tuttora il grano
- 2) la quantità di grano e orzo rimasta presso i produttori, detratta quanto occorrente per il consumo familiare e le semine, a norma dell'ordinanza Generale A.S.G. N.26,
- 3) il numero e le categorie delle persone da cui i prodotti sono stati tenuti,
- 4) la quantità dei prodotti nelle seguenti categorie :
 - a - ottimo
 - b - buono
 - c - medio
 - d - rovinato

5) peso specifico approssimativo del grano.

b) Ricevuta la dichiarazione il Comitato Comunale dell'Agricoltura deve esaminarla e qualora lo ritenga necessario, può visitare le aziende per verificarne l'esattezza.

c) Il Comitato Comunale dell'Agricoltura deve presentare una delle due copie ricevute al Censorio Agrario. 673

d) Nei Comuni dove il Comitato Comunale dell'Agricoltura non sia ancora costituito, il produttore deve presentare la dichiarazione al Sindaco o al suo rappresentante, cui incombono tutti i doveri del Comitato Comunale dell'Agricoltura.

e) Il Comitato Comunale dell'Agricoltura alla sua costituzione, riprenderà in esame tutte le dichiarazioni precedentemente notificate al Sindaco.

ARTICOLO 2

IL CONSORZIO AGRARIO
PROVINCIALE

Il Consorzio Agrario, ricevute le dichiarazioni, in accordo con gli Uffici responsabili dell'A.A.C. deve classificare i produttori in due categorie A e B

In tale categoria sono inclusi i produttori delle zone dove non sia possibile conferire i prodotti, sia per le strade bloccate, per uso militare, sia per mancanza di magazzini:

i suddetti prodotti quindi si riterranno bloccati presso i produttori.

- 1) Quando il peso specifico del grano sia superiore a 50 e la troppa umidità non lo renda inadatto all'alimentazione. Il Consorzio Agrario deve ispezionare il grano presso l'azienda e stendere un contratto relativo con il produttore.

Il Consorzio Agrario deve pagare alla firma del contratto il cinquanta per cento del prezzo stabilito e il rimanente cinquanta per cento quando il grano verrà consegnato ai magazzini.

- 2) Quando il peso specifico sia inferiore a cinquanta e lo si ritenga troppo umido per alimentazione il Consorzio Agrario deve rilasciare al produttore un certificato di vincolo in cui siano specificati: 1)-la causa dello vincolo- 2)-la quantità vincolata.

Il Consorzio Agrario deve trattenere copia di tali certificati di vincolo.

All'atto dello vincolo il produttore è libero di disporre del grano a suo piacere, però ottemperando alle condizioni seguenti:

- 1) Il certificato di vincolo deve essere compilato e controfirmato dal Comitato Comunale dell'Agricoltura. O nei Comuni privi di tale Comitato, dal Sindaco.

Nelle frazioni in cui gli spostamenti siano limitati a 10 Km., il Delegato Comunale è autorizzato a esercitare tale funzione.

- 2) Il possessore di un certificato di vincolo non autorizza

produttori.

1) Quando il peso specifico del grano sia superiore a 50 e la troppa umidità non lo renda inadatto all'alimentazione.

Il Consorzio Agrario deve ispezionare il grano presso l'azienda e stendere un contratto relativo con il produttore.

Il Consorzio Agrario deve pagare alla firma del contratto il cinquanta per cento del prezzo stabilito e il rimanente cinquanta per cento quando il grano sarà consegnato ai magazzini.

2) Quando il peso specifico sia inferiore a cinquanta e lo si ritenga troppo umido per alimentazione il Consorzio Agrario deve rilasciare al produttore un certificato di vincolo in cui siano specificati: 1)-la causa dello vincolo- 2)-la quantità svincolata.

Il Consorzio Agrario deve far tenere copia di tali certificati di vincolo.

All'atto dello svincolo il produttore è libero di disporre del grano a suo piacere, però ottenendo alle condizioni seguenti:

1) Il certificato di vincolo deve essere compilato e controfirmato dal Comitato Comunale dell'Agricoltura. O nel Comuni privi di tale Comitato, dal Sindaco.

Nelle frazioni in cui gli spostamenti siano limitati a 10 Km., il Delegato Comunale è autorizzato a esercitare tale funzione.

2) Il possessore di un certificato di vincolo non autorizza un produttore a vendere o trattare grano con peso specifico superiore a 50.

3) Nessun produttore può trasportare grano di peso **67,41** superiore a 50 senza il relativo bollettino di accompagnamento rilasciato dal Consorzio Agrario.

Categoria B

In tale categoria saranno inclusi i produttori che possono conferire i prodotti secondo la procedura normale e cioè con il bollettino di conferimento.

- 3 -

- 1) All'atto del conferimento il Consorzio Agrario deve pagare il prezzo.
- 2) Quando il peso specifico del grano sia inferiore a 50 ep-pure sia troppo unico per venire immagazzinato, il Consorzio Agrario deve vincolarlo a norma del 2° Articolo della Categoria A.
- 3) Qualora un produttore ritenga rovinato il proprio grano, esso è in diritto di domandare la ispezione al Consorzio Agrario, giusta la Categoria A.
Entro 14 giorni i produttori dovranno informarsi, presso il più vicino magazzino o Ufficio del Consorzio Agrario, a quale categoria siano stati assegnati.
Il Consorzio Agrario può incaricare produttori esperti in cerealicoltura per aiutare nell'ispezione del grano.

3- ARBITRAGGIO

Per qualsiasi controversia l'arbitraggio sarà deferito al Comitato Comunale dell'Agricoltura.

4- PENALITÀ

Chiunque non si conformi alla presente ordinanza, o ne violi comunque alcuna delle norme, sarà passibile, su giudizio del Tribunale Militare Alleato, di reclusione e multa o di entrambe.

5- ENTRATA IN VIGORE

Questa ordinanza entrerà in vigore in ogni Comune o Frazione inclusi nel Territorio dell'8^a Armata, alla data della sua prima pubblicazione, tenuto conto che le disposizioni della presente ordinanza NON vanno applicate ai territori in cui gli spostamenti siano limitati a 1 Km.

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

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6731

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

Phone 478183

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
Establishment Section

Ref/106/Est

NEF/mrd
21 February 1945

Dear Bowman:

This is for your information. I don't feel that any further action needs to be taken in the matter, unless you so desire.

NORMAN E. FISKE
Colonel
Deputy Executive Commissioner

Encl: 2

Cable No. 9090, 31 Dec. 44
Routing & Work Sheet

6730

162

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

COPY

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
ECONOMIC SECTION

ROUTING AND WORK SHEET

SUBJECT: Complaint by 8 Army Rear (AMG) of inconvenience caused by HQ, AC failure to keep lower formations informed

No	Date	To	Remarks	From
1	10/2/45	Agr. S/C	<u>1</u> The attached papers were handed to Col. Fiske, V.P. Estab. Section by Emilia Region on his recent visit there. <u>2</u> It would appear that you did not advise 8 Army Rear that their proposal would be unnecessary in view of a decree you had asked the Italian Government to issue. <u>3</u> Your comments, please s/ C.W. Atkins, Capt.	Econ. Section
2	15/2/45	Econ. Sec.	<u>1.</u> Maj. Hough was told on Sun Dec 3 at 12:30 P.M. that we would try to get a decree out of the Ministry as quickly as possible involving changes suggested in General Order #26 proposed by Hough and others attending conference. In line with discussions with Col. Legg, Dr. Bergami, Harlan Cleveland, a proposal was made to the Ministry who further modified ideas and on Jan 1, we replied to Hough, signal of Dec. 27 as stated and sent him a tentative preliminary copy of proposed decree for his guidance in Army area - suggesting it might be better to use it than make another change later. On Dec. 3 it was also indicated that Major Hough could & should go ahead with his collection work for grain according	Agr. S/C

(over)

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1627

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COPY

SCAO 8TH ARMY AMG RPT 15 ARMY GROUP FOR CIVIL AFFAIRS
SECTION RPT AMG 5th ARMY RPT AMG EMILIA REGION

9090

31 DEC 44

ROUTINE

IN CLEAR

PARA ONE PD REF YOUR SLANT TWO ONE NINE FIVE PD RECOMMEND
YOUR PROPOSED PLAN NOT BE EVOKED AS NEW MINISTERIAL DECREE
HAS BEEN PREPARED COVERING CEREAL AMASSING UNDER NORTHERN
CONDITIONS PD ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS WILL BE SENT YOU BEFORE
FIFTH JANUARY PD

PAREN TO SCAO EIGHTH ARMY AMG RPT FIFTEENTH ARMY GROUP FOR
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION RPT AMG FIFTH ARMY RPT AMG EMILIA
REGION FROM HQ ALCOM SIGNED STONE PAREN

PARA TWO PD DECREE WILL NOT HAVE BEEN PASSED BY COUNCIL OF
MINISTERS BUT CAN BE USED AS BASIS FOR PREFECTS TO ISSUE
PROVINCIAL DECREES IN LINE WITH FORTHCOMING MINISTERIAL
DECREE WHICH IS GENERALLY IN LINE WITH YOUR PROPOSAL PD

COPY. Agriculture SubCommission
ECONOMIC SECTION

672

7

Copy No. 8

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

APC 394

Office of the Chief Commissioner

Ref: 4507/T9/COS.

12 December 1944.

SUBJECT: Food Ration - ITALY.

TO : Supreme Allied Commander,
Allied Forces Headquarters.

1. On receipt of copy of COS telegram PAR 465 and of the notification of the instructions which I shall shortly receive with regard to the food situation in SICILY, I called a meeting of my Vice Presidents and the French and Russian officers of the Commission in order to consider the overall food situation in this country. Colonel Butcherworth representing G-5 was also present.

2. The meeting was unanimous in deciding that this Commission cannot recede from its recommendations made since last May that the basis of the feeding of this population should be a 300 gram bread ration. This is the minimum subsistence ration if we are to prevent disease and unrest. Indeed it has been recommended to the War Department as much by the President of the United States, a recommendation which is regarded as a premise in this country. I realize that you have supported this view in the strongest possible manner and I am most grateful for the support which you have given in this matter.

3. I would add that General de Gaulle, the French representative, strongly supported this policy and urged that every step should be taken to produce more shipping with the suggestion that neutral ships and even Italian warships should be used to carry the food necessary. The Russian representative, General Surlapov, supported his colleagues in this statement. The meeting was also impressed by the fact that the ration in GERMANY was based on approximately 400 grams for 85% of the population, that in SWITZERLAND, according to General de Gaulle, it is now 350 and may rise to 400 grams; and that in the rest of NW. EUROPE it is probably approximately 300 grams. These facts, if true, could not be long hidden from the Italian Government and the Italian people and must inevitably cause resentment against the Allies owing to the great differences in the treatment accorded to this country.

4. My advisers also stressed the urgent necessity in any case of establishing parity all over presently liberated ITALY. The present disparity is having serious effects in the territory and GERMANY, and the introduction of a 300 gram ration in Central ITALY is regarded as a promise which we cannot fail to implement by the Allied Nations.

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1. On receipt of copy of CGS telegram FAR 465 and of the notification of the instructions which I shall shortly receive with regard to the food situation in SICILY, I called a meeting of my Vice Presidents and the Dutch and Russian officers of the Commission in order to consider the overall food situation in this country. Colonel Bunkerworth representing G-3 was also present.

2. The meeting was unanimous in deciding that this Commission cannot recede from its recommendations made some time last May that the basis of the feeding of this population should be a 300 gram bread ration. This is the minimum subsistence ration if we are to prevent disease and unrest. Instead it has been recommended to the War Department as such by the President of the United States, a recommendation which is regarded as a promise in this country. I realize that you have supported this view in the strongest possible manner and I am most grateful for the support which you have given in this matter.

3. I would add that General de Savin, the French representative, warmly supported this policy and urged that every step should be taken to produce more shipments with the suggestion that neutral ships and even Italian warships should be used to carry the food necessary. The Russian representative, General Susloparov, supported his colleagues in this statement. The meeting was then impressed by the fact that the ration in GERMANY was based on approximately 400 grams for 65% of the population; that in SWITZERLAND, according to General de Savin, it is now 550 and may rise to 450 grams; and that in the rest of M.E. EUROPE it is probably approximately 300 grams. These facts, it was felt, could not be long hidden from the Italian Government and the Italian people and must inevitably cause resentment against the Allies owing to the great difference in the treatment accorded to this country.

4. My advisors also stressed the urgent necessity in any case of establishing parity all over presently liberated ITALY. The present disparity is having serious effects in the territory and ROME, and the introduction of a 300 gram ration in Central ITALY is regarded as a promise made and certain to be implemented by the Allied nations.

5. It was agreed, however, that whatever ration scale was approved by the CGS it was vital that shipping should be guaranteed to implement **672** million. It is impossible to plan the feeding of a population of 25 million people (later 45 million) on a level which only just avoids starvation, with a plan which, as past experience has shown, may be upset from week to week by cuts in shipping.

6. If this would not be guaranteed on a 300 gram basis the shipping must reluctantly agreed that it would be better to devise a plan which would be exempt from alteration - or which would allow for such reserves as would cover future cuts.

7. I directed, therefore, the attention of the meeting to various plans which had been prepared by my Economic Section and I decided, with their unanimous concurrence, to recommend to you that if it is impossible to implement throughout Italy, including eventually presently German-occupied Italy, a basic ration of 300 grams, accounting for local resources known and anticipated, we should fix, as an interim alternative, a lower basic ration which should be equalized throughout the territory.

8. Judging from the shipping programme now before us, in order to establish parity of ration throughout the territory and at the same time plan for a reasonable supply of food for Northern Italy with the resources and the transportation at our disposal, it would be necessary to reduce GABINIA, SICILY and Southern ITALY from 300 grams to 250 grams and to reduce Central Italy from 200 grams to 250 grams. This would enable the Commission to establish an interim ration of 115 grams in Northern Italy on the basis of the ration which could be furnished by resources found available. An interim ration could be furnished by any local resources found available. An interim ration could be furnished by any local resources found available. An interim ration could be furnished by any local resources found available.

9. I therefore recommend that if the 300 gram ration cannot be implemented, that this alternative be adopted as the next best solution.

10. I cannot conceal from you the serious situation which must be promoted against the recommendation which I am about to make. The political reaction where the ration must be cut, and in Central Italy where the ration will not attain to that impliedly provided by the Allied Governments, must be grave. The Italian Government and people undoubtedly regard the fulfillment of the 300 gram ration backed by the message of the President and Prime Minister as a pledge which will not be broken. We must expect miseries arising from malnutrition, a decrease in morale leading to an increase in crime and prostitution, a acceleration in inflation and the activities of the black market, disorders and the food riots which the Prime Minister, during his visit here, directed must be avoided. I would, however, rather face these admittedly serious difficulties with the knowledge that such a plan for feeding the population could be guaranteed and that the present disaster between North and South would disappear. The present uncertainty makes it virtually impossible to carry out a proper distribution of food and is most deleterious to the morale of the people.

11. Since my decision which I do not implement the 300 gram ration is a reversal of the President's expressed wish and the implications of the Joint statement of the President and the Prime Minister at QUINCY, I recommend that if decision is made to equalize the ration at 250, the reasons therefor should be communicated to the Italian Government in a joint statement to be made by the Allied Governments. Such a statement could be based on purely military reasons. It is imperative that it should be made without delay.

12. I attach a draft telegram which you may wish to send to the Government with a draft statement which might be communicated to the Italian Government and published in the press.

13. I have included in para 8 because I strongly recommend that the ration be treated on a parity with the rest of Italy.

STONY

2. I therefore recommend that if the 300 gram ration cannot be implemented, that this alternative be adopted as the first best solution.

10. I cannot conceal from you the worst situation which must be presented against the recommendation which I am forced to make. The political reactions when the ration must be cut, and in Central Italy where the ration will not be cut, that impliedly provided by the Allied Governments, must be grave. The Italian Government and people undoubtedly regard the fulfillment of the 300 gram ration backed by the measure of the President and Prime Minister as a pledge which will not be broken. We must expect disease arising from malnutrition, a decrease in morale leading to an increase in crime and prostitution, a acceleration in inflation and the activities of the black market, disorders and the food riots which the Prime Minister, during his visit here, directed must be avoided. I would, however, rather face these admittedly serious difficulties with the knowledge that such a plan for feeding the population could be guaranteed and that the present disparity between North and South would disappear. The present uncertainty makes it virtually impossible to carry out a proper distribution of food and is most dilutionary to the morale of the people.

11. Since any decision which does not implement the 300 gram ration is a reversal of the President's expressed wish and the implications of the Joint statement of the President and the Prime Minister made at Quirina, I recommend that if decision is made to surplus the ration at 250, the reasons therefor should be communicated to the Italian Government in a joint statement to be made by the Allied Governments. Such a statement could be based on purely military reasons. It is imperative that it should be made without delay.

12. I attach a draft telegram which you may wish to send to the OSS together with a draft statement which might be communicated to the Italian Government and published in the press.

13. I have included in para 8 because I strongly recommend that the Island be treated on a parity with the rest of Italy. I need not repeat the arguments against too severe penalization of the whole Sicilian nation holders and I would only ask that the serious difficulties described above should be increased by a definitely more serious position which must arise in Sicily were not to receive similar treatment to the rest of the country.

Copy to: Sir Noel Charles.
Mr. Ambassador Kirk.
HQ. AAI
G-5 Sec, AFHQ
DOCS, Econ Sec
DOCS, CA Sec
DOCS, Asst Sec
VP, Pol Sec (2)
"A" File.

CLAUDE W. STONE
Commandant, USMC
Chief Commissioner.

DRAFT TELEGRAM.

TOP SECRET

TO: CCS

FROM: SACRED

Your SAN 465 noted.

Whatever decision may be reached regarding the bread ration for ITALY, I must ask that a firm shipping programme be laid down to implement this ration. I cannot ask the Italian Government nor the Allied Commission to work on a plan which will almost certainly be upset from month to month by cuts in shipping.

If such a guarantee cannot be given for the 300 gram ration, then I would rather work on a basic ration for all ITALY which can be met by shipping at the theatre disposal with a reasonable degree of certainty. From the shipping programme now before me, taking into account the necessity of stockpiling for the North, I can see no prospect of establishing an equalised ration at more than 250 grams of bread. Such a decision would entail reducing the present basic ration in Southern ITALY, SARDINIA and SICILY (see also my), and of producing an impact ration for Northern ITALY on liberation of 115 grams January 1st which would rise to 250 as distribution became possible.

Disease and unrest would increase: we should have repercussions among the population and possible disorder for there is no doubt that the Italian Government and people regard the implementation of the 300 gram ration as a promise. But I would rather face reactions to a firm if irregular decision than the growing discontent which is arising now owing to lack of certainty and lack of parity between the areas North and South of the GARIGLIANO.

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I cannot ask the Italian Government nor the Allied Commission to work on a plan which will almost certainly be upset from month to month by cuts in shipping.

If such a guarantee cannot be given for the 300 gram ration, then I would rather work on a basic ration for all ITALY which can be met by shipping at the theatre disposal with a reasonable degree of certainty. From the shipping programme now before me, taking into account the necessity of stockpiling for the North, I can see no prospect of establishing an equalised ration at more than 250 grams of bread. Such a decision would entail reducing the present basic ration in Southern ITALY, SARDEGNA and SICILY (see also my), and of producing an impact ration for Northern ITALY on liberation of 115 grams January 1st which would rise to 250 as distribution became possible.

Disease and unrest would increase; we should have repercussions among the population and possible disorder for there is no doubt that the Italian Government and people regard the implementation of the 300 gram ration as a promise. But I would rather face reactions to a firm if unpopular decision than the growing discontent which is arising now owing to lack of certainty and lack of parity between the areas North and South of the GARIBOLDI.

However, since the decision to reduce the overall ration is a reversal of the President's expressed wish and the implications of the President's ~~672~~ Minister's joint declaration as well as the Prime Minister's instructions when here that food disorders were at all costs to be prevented, I recommend that the decision to reduce pursuant to your PM 465 and the reasons therefor be communicated to the Italian Government in a joint statement to be made by the Allied Governments. This should be done without delay. It should be published and should be so worded as to show that decision has had to be taken for operational reasons only.

1634

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

JOINT STATEMENTS ALLIED GOVERNMENTS.

The mounting intensity and approaching climax of the war against Germany on the Western Front and against Japan in the Pacific are now making the utmost demand upon the United Nations' shipping reserves. The Combined Chiefs of Staff at Washington, in view of the considerations of global military necessity, have drastically curtailed all shipping allotments other than operational to all theatres of war, including the Italian.

As a direct consequence thereof, and in order to use to the fullest extent all the available local resources of Italy in furtherance of the common fight against the enemy and for the liberation of the remainder of Italy in the North, the Allied Governments have an equalization of the basic bread ration throughout Liberated Italy at 250 grams per head, effective January 1.

The reduction in shipping means, that, until hostilities cease in Europe, imported wheat from Allied countries must be used most carefully not only to provide a basic ration for Liberated Italy but to build up adequate stockpiles of food for the North, whose inhabitants will thus be dependent upon the sacrifice and foresight of their brothers in Liberated Italy that they do not go hungry when the Allied and Italian Armies finally drive the German invaders beyond the Alps.

The new ration, in effect, is an increase for the inhabitants of Liberated Italy above the Garigliano River, who have been receiving only 200 grams since liberation, while it reduces to 250 grams the 300 gram ration of Southern Italy, Sicily and Sardinia, territories untouched by war for more than a year, whose countryside has enjoyed a bumper harvest, even in comparison with pre-war years.

The Allied Governments have imported into Italy more than 1,000,000 tons of foodstuffs for the civilian population alone since the liberation of Italy began on July 10, 1943, at a high cost in ships and men from enemy action on the seas. The policy of the Allied Governments has been steadily to promote a 300 gram ration universally throughout Italy as soon as possible. The policy now has to be set temporarily aside for military reasons of the most urgent nature: namely, that the war against Germany is fast approaching its decisive climax and will require every ship that can be spared from the Western Hemisphere to bring guns and ammunition to the great ports only recently freed and being prepared for operation in North-Western Europe. Likewise, the battle against Japan has called forth an unprecedented strain on even the vast resources of the United States in the areas of the Pacific where the distances that ships must travel from their loading bases are still immense.

The Allied Governments are marshalling their utmost strength for the approaching decisive battles of the struggle against Germany and Japan. High battle casualties have forced the Government of the United States to call men for the army who hitherto have not been needed, and every resource is being applied to the common task. In Britain, nearly two thirds of the whole population has been ceaselessly engaged in the war effort for more than five years under conditions of bombardment, privation and sacrifice. The Italian people are now asked to contribute their share to the United Nations' coming victory by utilizing every ounce of locally grown food, and by remembering that every ton saved in the South of Italy will be that much of a life-saving help to their fellow Italian citizens in the North.

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

Col. Fiske

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
Office of the Chief Commissioner
APO 394

10 December 1944

You are requested to attend a meeting in the Chief Commissioner's Office at 1030 hours, Monday, December 11th, to discuss the food situation in the Italian theatre of war.

J. A. Quayle
J. A. QUAYLE
Major, R. A.
Staff Officer to CC

DISTRIBUTION:

Chief of Staff
DCOS, Economic Section
DCOS, Civil Affairs Section
VPs, Political Section
DCOS, Establishments Section
DCCAO

Russian Representative
French Representative
CSO, Economic Section
Director, Food & -Commission

6723

TOP SECRET.

MEMORANDUM FOR CHIEF COMMISSIONER'S MEETING
ON FOOD RATIONS.

1. For months the Allied Commission with the help of the Supreme Allied Commander and backed by assurances of assistance from the heads of the United States and United Kingdom Governments, has been trying to establish a 300 gram ration throughout ITALY. The issue of this ration, which is considered by the Commission to be the minimum subsistence ration for normal adults, was accepted, unwillingly, by the Combined Chiefs of Staff in May at the initiation of the Supreme Allied Commander and has since that date remained the basic ration in SICILY and the mainland of ITALY south of the GARIBOLDI. It has not been established North of that line in spite of every effort made by the Commission backed by the strongest recommendations of the SCAC's armies, the Regional Commissioners and by the Commanding General, Fifth Army, and direct evidence that (a) the 200 gram ration is inadequate; (b) the disparity between North and South is strongly resented. At a recent meeting the Regional Commissioners of LIGURIA, LAZIO and PISAPIA urged that planning should continue on the basis of the 300 gram ration in Northern Italy.
2. The statements made by the President and Prime Minister, and the President's message to the War Department, have raised hopes in the Allied Command and have been regarded as assurance by the Italian Government and population that a 300 gram ration will be instituted throughout Italy and that wheat will be imported in sufficient quantities to make this possible - always taking into account the employment of local resources.
3. The Director of the Food Sub-Commission has reported that in his recent

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unwillingly, by the Combined Chiefs of Staff in May at the institution of the Supreme Allied Commander and has since that date remained the basic ration in SARDINIA, SICILY and the mainland of ITALY south of the GARIBOLDI. It has not been established North of that line in spite of every effort made by the Commission backed by the strongest recommendations of the SCAG's Armies, the Regional Commissioners and by the Commanding General, Fifth Army, and direct evidence that (a) the 200 gram ration is inadequate; (b) the disparity between North and South is strongly resented. At a recent meeting the Regional Commissioners of LIGURIA, LOMBARDY and PIEMONTE urged that planning should continue on the basis of the 300 gram ration in Northern Italy.

2. The statements made by the President and Prime Minister, and the President's message to the War Department, have raised hopes in the Allied Commission and have been regarded as assurances by the Italian Government and population that a 300 gram ration will be instituted throughout Italy and that wheat will be imported in sufficient quantities to make this possible - always taking into account the employment of local resources.

3. The Director of the Food Sub-Commission has reported that in his recent visit to U.S.A. and U.K. "agreement was reached with respect to the establishment of a 300 gram bread ration for presently occupied Italy south of RIMINI-6722 and that formal approval was only a matter of procedure". In fact the supply of 167,000 tons (January through June 1945) for this area was approved subject to shipping - and Colonel Legg makes the comment that such a programme would have to accept deficits in the light of shipping difficulties. The seriousness of the shipping situation has been experienced recently and is fully confirmed by a telegram from Combined Chiefs of Staff which, while making appreciation of the problems in Italy including that of the bread ration, calls attention to the acute shipping situation which is compelling all theatres to accept deficits both as regards

-2-

operational needs and civilian supplies. The message continues that while this matter is under urgent consideration by both Governments, the bread ration in Italy should be established or maintained only at such a standard as can be supported within shipping allotted to the theatre.

This telegram was received simultaneously with advice that the shipping programme for January had been considerably reduced.

4. In view of past experience, of the telegram quoted above, and of other current advice, it appears extremely doubtful whether, even if the supplies necessary to maintain a 500 gram ration were approved, the shipping will ever be made available.

5. The present situation is as follows:

- (a) SARDINIA is on c 300 gram ration.
- (b) SICILY as from today will be 200 grams (SACRED's decision).
- (c) S. ITALY (up to GARIGLIANO) is on 300 grams.
- (d) CENTRAL ITALY (between GARIGLIANO and RIMINI-PISA Line is on 200 grams).
- (e) Planning for Kesselring's Italy is on 200 grams.

N.B. 300 gram ration = 200 grams bread daily plus 550 grams pasta weekly.
200 " " = 200 " " 150 "

As regards (b) we await the Combined Chiefs of Staff's decision to import wheat from January through June - otherwise the ration may have to be further reduced and depend entirely on wheat ordered.

As regards (e) it is very doubtful if transportation can be made available to maintain 200 grams, even if that is reached, for many months after liberation.

6. It is clear that if shipping is to be cut then the ration will have to be cut. We cannot continue to ask the Italian Government nor I.M.G. to live from hand to mouth without reserves and without sufficient stockpiles for future operations.

(In view of what the Supreme Allied Commander has recommended on the

available.

5. The present situation is as follows:

- (a) SARDINIA is on a 300 gram ration.
- (b) SICILY as from today will be 200 grams (SACRED's decision).
- (c) S. ITALY (up to CAROLIAND) is on 300 grams.
- (d) CENTRAL ITALY (between CAROLIAND and RIMINI-PISA Line is on 200 grams).
- (e) Planning for Kesselring's Italy is on 200 grams.

N.B. 300 gram ration = 200 grams bread daily plus 550 grams pasta weekly.
200 " " = 200 " " 150

As regards (b) we await the Combined Chiefs of Staff's decision to import wheat from January through June - otherwise the ration may have to be further reduced and depend entirely on wheat consumed.

As regards (c) it is very doubtful if transportation can be made available to maintain 200 grams, even if that is reached, for many months after liberation.

6. It is clear that if shipping is to be cut then the ration will have to be cut. We cannot continue to ask the Italian Government nor A.M.G. to live from hand to mouth without reserves and without sufficient stockpiles for future operations.

(In view of what the Supreme Allied Commander has recommended on the Allied Commission's behalf, in view of the opinion of the Allied Commission expressed in the Chief Commissioner's memorandum 4897/CSS of 21 October "Food Ration ⁶⁷² in Italy", we must place neither the Allied Commission nor SACRED in the position of withdrawing one inch from recommendations repeatedly made but facts must be faced and advice must be submitted to SACRED to meet the realities of the situation).

7. A reduction in the ration is therefore not only necessary but may be forced upon us. The obvious places to make this reduction are S. ITALY and SARDINIA. The reduction has been forced upon us in SICILY: we cannot reduce in the North but must rather increase. We should aspire to parity.

8. The disadvantages of such a reduction are obvious: we must expect disorder: resentment towards the Allies and the new Italian Government: adverse criticisms in the U.S.A. and U.K.: reduction in output: increase in disease.

We cannot prevent the least bad consequences: wise publicity may help to minimise the first three.

9. The advantages of establishing parity in feeding throughout Italy are considerable and will be more so as we liberate the Northern territories.

10. (a) DCCS Economic Section will advise us to the basic ration which should be established in all ITALY and the ISLANDS.

(b) Civil Affairs Section will advise on the medical and public safety repercussions to such a decision.

(c) Political Section will advise on the position of the new Government if such an announcement was made at the outset of its term of office.

(d) Public Relations Officer will advise on the best presentation of the reduction (and increase) to the public both Italian and Allied.

(e) Chief of Staff will advise on the presentation of the Allied Commission's case to SACRED.

MS Enc

Brigadier,
Chief of Staff.

11 Dec. 1944.
MSL/JG.

be established in all ITALY and the ISLANDS.

- (b) Civil Affairs Section will advise on the medical and public safety repercussions to such a decision.
- (c) Political Section will advise on the position of the new Government if such an announcement was made at the outset of its term of office.
- (d) Public Relations Officer will advise on the best presentation of the reduction (and increase) to the public both Italian and Allied.
- (e) Chief of Staff will advise on the presentation of the Allied Commission's case to SACRED.

11. Dec. 1944.
HSL/JG.

MS Enc
Brigadier,
Chief of Staff.

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WAR/IS

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Agriculture Sub-Commission
APO 394

Tel: 262

AGR/ 72.1

20 September 1944.

SUBJECT : Fruit and Vegetable Supply for Rome.

TO : Economic Section - (attention Executive Officer and Vice President).

1. The overall purpose of this Memorandum is to contribute ideas, which may, or may not, be helpful in development of forward plans for the movement of perishable and semi-perishable foods, from producing to consuming centres. These ideas are being presented in writing as a result of a Conference of the Rome Food Sub-Committee, held in Colonel Legge's Office, on 18th September, 1944. We believe that observations and recommendations contained herein can, and should be made applicable, as far as possible, to all of Italy, for both perishable and semi-perishable foods.

2. Considerable interchange of commodities, both from the point of view of food value, and transfer from one area to another always was considered as part of normal operations. However, two factors render unpredictable, with any degree of accuracy, the availability of perishable and semi-perishable foods under current conditions, regardless of whether or not the crop is normal, or below or above normal.

3. Commodities which are relatively perishable, are subject to hoarding, either for subsequent consumption by the local population to supplement limited issue of rationed foods, or by producer or speculator in anticipation of an increase in market prices during winter or out-of-season periods. Under present conditions, the supply of potatoes and onions, for example, are now affected in this way. The supply of apples and nuts will, in our opinion, be similarly affected in the near future.

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

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2. Considerable interchange of commodities, both from the point of view of food value, and transfer from one area to another always was considered as part of normal operations. However, two factors render unpredictable, with any degree of accuracy, the availability of perishable and semi-perishable foods under current conditions, regardless of whether or not the crop is normal, or below or above normal.

3. Commodities which are relatively perishable, are subject to hoarding, either for subsequent consumption by the local population to supplement limited issue of rationed foods, or by producer or speculator in anticipation of an increase in market prices during winter or out-of-season periods. Under present conditions, the supply of potatoes and onions, for example are now affected in this way. The supply of apples and nuts will, in our opinion, be similarly affected in the near future.

4. A second unpredictable factor under present conditions, is that commodities in relatively heavy demand by ⁶⁷ military, as well as by the civil population, or for export, are unduly

influenced by competitive buying in the absence of a national control price policy. At present, we have no national control of price policies; variations exist between Regions and Provinces. Recent action in Sicily with regard to fish supply and prices, represents a typical example: (Our letter reference ACR/504.2 of 18th September, 1944). Zone variations stimulate hoarding against higher prices in all areas, not only in Italy, but in other countries as well. The supply of apples, potatoes, onions, lemons and eggs are high, at least in part because of Army buying through dealers on forward contracts; the fact that the Army is presumably purchasing surpluses, does not offset the fact that the Army is willing to pay high prices to guarantee regular deliveries at certain points. It is anticipated that this situation will specifically result in the case of surplus fruits during the coming winter months.

5. Speculative buying of high profit items, particularly by truckers operating from deficient consumption centres, restricts the supply available for normal commerce. This practice encourages each farmer to hoard his crops against the day the speculator will arrive on his farm and pay more than the farmer could get by delivering his produce to the Consorzio, or other normal delivery centres. Furthermore, the high profit possible through speculative buying, very materially increases truck and schooner transportation costs, where the transportation unit is privately operating for large potential profits; this encourages overcharging and illicit use of transportation for carrying merchandise for re-sale by the driver. This latter situation, is seriously limiting the movement of potatoes from Avezzano. The former situation is limiting the supply for normal buying in the Naples area and in Sicily with regard to fish and lemons.

6. With specific reference to the Avezzano potatoes problem undisciplined movement of the crop has developed a "Seller's Market"; the farmers are holding potatoes for a higher price. Production estimates vary all the way from 60,000 to 100,000 tons. Production is therefore more than adequate to provide 23,000 tons for seed in Southern Italy, plus possibly more than can be transported from the Fucino Lake area for food. In the opinion of this Sub-Commission, therefore, there is little justification for not insisting upon a minimum of 23,000 tons being made available for

certain points. It is anticipated that this situation will specifically result in the case of surplus fruits during the coming winter months.

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Although production of potatoes in the Avezzano area

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is large, it is inadequate to cover demands of all claimants, presently operating more or less independently of each other. These claimants include not only Rome, the Army, various deficit areas in both Regions V and IV, which always depend upon potatoes from the Fucino Lake area, but also the Vatican. To effect most equitable distribution of the 60,000 or more tons produced, it is recommended that the following be given consideration in the formulation and execution of detailed program of action.

a. Delegate full responsibility and authority for allocating estimated supplies to the Italian Government, with close supervision by proper A.C.C. Authorities. Although the Italian Government did not attempt to control fruits and vegetables until recent years, they have had several years experience from a national point of view: Italian Organizations were established, and must be made to function efficiently under A.C.C. supervision. The Italian Government, and not A.C.C., is in our opinion the proper Agency to assume responsibility for allocating limited supplies; Food Sub-Commission would of course work very closely with the proper Italian Governmental units in making this allocation, to provide adequate assurance that Allied objectives and Italian objectives were made mutual.

b. Adequate responsibility and authority must be delegated to the Italian Government to handle transportation, policing, prices and all other related factors and conditions which will assure full compliance with allocations made. With specific reference to potatoes in the Avezano area, special authorization will either have to be granted to the Italian Government to operate in A.M.G. territory involved, or Region V R.C. and staff must be made to assume full responsibility and authority to carry out the plans of the Italian Government agreed upon at National Headquarters. Also policing and supervisory problems are difficult, if not impossible in part, in view of the Army purchase program, and the official and semi-official permits granted in the absence of a clear and strong action program, with full responsibility and authority delegated to one agency. Illicit traffic must be minimized until the present crop of potatoes is fairly well along in maturity to force the farmer (if no other means of enforcement are possible) to dispose of his crop as

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C. Because of present Authorities under which Prefects and Sindacato operate, controls will not be possible without the full cooperation of the Ministry of Interior down through the Sindacato. Unless responsibility and authority are delegated to the Italian Government, it is doubtful that effective policies and procedures can be executed.

7. Under conditions such as are described above, neither the Agriculture Sub-Commission, nor A.C.C., nor the RCOs and their staffs, can determine realistic availability of potatoes or any other crop. Although extremely seasonal perishable crops, such as grapes, are predictable, the demand is insufficient to avoid some spoilage on the farm. The Italian Governmental officials are similarly handicapped for lack of authority, transport, communication, etc., but even more seriously because of military and economic forces with which Italian officials are unfamiliar.

8. A unified set of policies and procedures executed through the Italian Government under the supervision of A.C.C. must be devised to counteract ~~the present~~ the present influences which are having a tendency to cause spoilage of valuable food. Without unified policies and procedures, hoarding will continue, and the inflationary market will put the price of food crops above the reach of the average individual. Although this Sub-Commission does not pretend to understand all concrete steps that must be taken, the following specific recommendations are offered for consideration:

a) Pricing and allocation of resources must be established on a national scale as rapidly as possible. Rome and other deficient areas must be considered as part of the national pattern in the allocation from surplus areas. The Italian National Government has always assumed responsibility for that function. Although this function is unpopular, there does not appear to be any reasonable motive why the Italian Government cannot establish a larger and more efficient technical staff than is available through this HQ, particularly when the limited number of officers in this HQ would be available for full time supervisory work. Under present circumstances our time is disastrously divided.

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- b) Military and other preferential buying in any surplus area must be eliminated or reduced to a minimum and under any circumstances controlled to eliminate buying pressure, thereby encouraging farmers to release crops at national

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regulated prices.

- c) The application of national limitations on the profit permitted in fruit and vegetable sales is a most important factor to assure making commodities available to consumers at reasonable prices. A Decree limiting profit may be necessary. Authority which Chief High Commissioners and Prefects, as well as various military units now enjoy, must be curtailed or eliminated. If dealers are required to limit their "mark up" to a certain percentage, incentive to pay extreme prices would be eliminated and the low income consumer group would be assured a larger portion of whatever crops are available.
- d) Transportation is another very important factor. Complete controls over truck, rail and ship movements are essential. It is assumed that the Transportation Sub-Commission has developed or is developing adequate controls within limitations of availability.

W.A. HARTMAN
Lt. Col.
Director.

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