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Reports of Presidency of Council of Ministers

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may 1945

of Presidency of Council of Ministers Meetings

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PRESIDENCY OF THE  
COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

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TO : Col. J. CAMPBELL  
Director of the Sub-Commission for  
Italian Prisoners of War.  
W.M.D. A.C.

ROME

Herewith attached and forwarded to you is the report of the meeting held in this office on the 20th of May 1945, for the organization of the reception of the Italian Veterans arriving from Germany.

Head of the Presidential Office.

Signed FLORES

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Minutes of the Meeting at the Presidency of the Council.

29/V/1945

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The Commission insisted that the Allied Authorities should be requested once more urgently for the permission, which up till now was denied, of sending some It. R.Cross representatives to the It. soldiers in Germany.

Col.Campbell, who was present, has assured his help and will sponsar the request with H.G. Shaef when he goes to Paris.

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It was agreed to be opportune to interest the Allies in order to obtain:

- That the It. Authorities should obtain part of the 4.000 motor vehicles existing at Ghedi (Brescia), which are of German origin, as well as the necessary assignment of petrol to run them with.

These means would be used for the transportation of the Veterans from the lodging centers to their homes.

*John*

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COMMISSION FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF THE SERVICES FOR  
REPATRIATION

Report on the meeting of May 29th 1945.

President of the Commission H.E. Dr. Ferdinando FLORES,  
head of the Presidential Office.

Members. Director of Public Health High Commissioner  
adjoined for the Veterans.

The Head of the Autonomous Office for War Veterans and  
repatriated P.O.W.

The Secretary General for the H.C. for P.W.

The Secretary General of the It.Red Cross.

The Director of the E.N.A.C.

Engineer Visentini of the E.N.D.S.I.

A civil servant for the Ministry of the Interior

A civil servant for the General Director of the  
Civil Administration.

A Civil servant of the State Accountancy Office.

A Civil servant of the Ministry of Industry.

A Civil servant of the Ministry of Transport.

A delegate from occupied Italy.

A delegate from the High Commissioner for War refugees.

A delegate from the High Commissariat of Alimentation.

A delegate from the U.N.R.R.A.

At this meeting were present:

Col. Jack Campbell, Director of the Sub-Commission  
for I.C. P.O.W. and War Material Disposal.

The Military Chaplain Don Luigi Pasu, who was returned  
from the prison camp of Wtezenhof. in these days.

This meeting was called with the aim of proceeding to an  
ulterior examination on the Various questions concerning,  
the problem of the repatriation of prisoners and internees  
and the necessary organization for their reception and  
their transportation.

- 2 -

In the course of this meeting the following subjects were discussed:

1) Liason with the organizations instituted in the North by the local C.N.L.

the organization that is being developed in the North by the initiative of the local C.N.L. for the reception of Veterans arriving particularly the Sanitary organizations in the Northern Provinces, will take care of the question concerning the buildings that can be put at their disposal and the necessary materials.

2) Transport.

In the field of transport, there has arisen certain difficulties of Military character, owing to the situation in the Venezia Giulia. The state of influenza is now being carried on by railroad convoys from Florence and Forli' to the South, with transport by motor vehicles from the North to these railway centers. Transport by railway can accommodate 7,000 veterans per day, with a monthly medium of 200 thousand veterans from the Central Provinces to the Southern Provinces.

The Allied Commission was asked to increase the number of trains for this specified urgency: to authorize the proceeding by transit to Rome to evade the long steps and the crowding of the local stations: to assure the continuity of the railway services.

Regarding the need of motor transportation, the A.C. was asked to put 200 trucks at our disposal for the transportation of the Veterans from the North to the Railroad Centers of Florence and Forli': the A.C. also is requested to assure an assignment of benzine for these trucks and also to the E.N.A.C. who has need of more benzine for the present, due to the services required by them.

It was agreed upon, by the Ministry of War, the Ministry of Transport with the Commissariat for refugees, that this question was to be thoroughly examined to find a solution of the problem of the indispensable cooperation between the Motor transport by road and the transport by rail-way.



- 3 -

### 3. Sanitary organization.

A very grave question for the veterans is the question of sanitary assistance.

The measures already taken have been to protect the public health, by presuming that these repatriations may constitute the contamination of the country, by the bringing in of dangerous germs. (Attention Circular from the Ministry of the Interior, Direc. Public Health No. 20300. 2.A.C.34/1228 dated the 5th of May 1945, directed to the Prefects.

It is very urgent to solve the problem of the hospital organization: to ascertain exactly what hospitals can be put at the disposal of these individuals. Above all the quantity of beds that are available, to affront with efficiency any emergency that may arrive, particularly for those who are repatriated from Germany, the Balkans and French North Africa.

### 4. Subdivision of Competences.

All the organizations for the reception of the Veterans in the country are headed by the Ministry of War, that provides for the reception, the transport of the ex. P.O.W. at the moment of their repatriation over the frontiers: the transportation of the Civilian internees is conducted by the H.C. for refugees.

The two organizations work together with the Sub-Commission for Italian Prisoners of War and War Materials Disposal.

The High Commissariat takes care of the veterans during the phase of reception, transportation and sorting in Italy. A marginal activity of assistance. It would however be opportune that the Ministry of War and the High Commissioner for refugees would agree in a concrete form, of cooperation outside of the usual bureaucratic form, which in the field of assistance the High Commissioner for refugees is obliged to render, as according to the Basic regulation of the institute (art.3 - paragraph A) of the law 110 dated 1/3/1945).

It is therefore agreed from now that only the Ministry of War will provide for the furnishing and distribution of clothes to the Military Veterans, and that is, relative to the organizations already joined by said Ministry. The disposal of the reserves and their assignment and distribution, which will be effectuated at the transit centers

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- 4 -

inside the limits, by the reserves to those who are most needed, providing the Veterans with those articles of clothing for which they have the most need.

To the Veterans who arrive directly to their homes and to the patriots, the distribution of clothes will be done by the High Commissioner for Veterans, also on the basis of absolute necessity.

5. Assignment of Reserves to the High Commissioner for Veterans.

The Commission in consideration of the necessity to provide financial means for the assistance of the Veterans, have formed in the Provinces, on the basis of instructions received from the High Commissioner for Veterans (with circular No. 529 dated the 15th April to the Prefects) proposes that an immediate assignment (be put at their disposal of the High Commissioner) of reserves to the above mentioned Committees, instituted for the assistance of the Veterans who arrive at their destination. The first reserve of 80 millions to be taken from the Ministry of War.

It is thought opportune to regulate the financing of the above mentioned Provincial Committees, to assure the High Commissioner for refugees of the necessary means for the assistance to be given in a subsidiary form in occasion of the repatriation of Military personnel ex P.O.W. and of the internees, the treasury department and the High Commissioner should examine together the financial needs to be taken into consideration.

6. Vote of the Commissioner for the repatriation from Germany of the Italian Prisoners of War.

The Commissioner, through a letter regarding a report from the Ambassador Carandini, of the intention that has been manifested by the American Military Authorities to employ the It. ex. Prisoners of War in Germany, as workers in the fields of Germany, has given arise to a vote, that this idea will not be given any consideration, as it would wound our sentiments of National Dignity, and retard the return to their countries of a million Italians who have already suffered great hardship from this war.

The Commissioner in the hopes that the repatriation of the It. Ex. Prisoners of War in Germany will be intensified, calls particular attention of the Allied Authorities, that priority <sup>should</sup> be given to the 3,000 deported political Italian prisoners, interned in the Camp of Dachau and Matnausen.



Rome 19th May 1945

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PRESIDENCY OF THE  
COUNCIL OF MINISTERS  
TO MAJOR PARTRIDGE

TO: ALLIED COMMISSION

ROME

Herewith attached and forwarded to you is a copy of the report of the reunion held in the Cabinet of this Presidency on the 15th of May, relative to the reception and the sorting out of all the POW who return from Germany.

In this reunion, in which you participated, it was put in evidence the urgent need of providing for transport in order to relieve the congestion of the Northern Zone, by sending the veterans to their destinations in the Southern Center of Italy.

The minimum number of vehicles to perform this work of transfer is 200 Trucks. I would very much appreciate if you would inform the competent Allied Authorities of the request of the Italian Government and to examine the possibility of putting at the disposal of the Government this number of Motor vehicles, a number to be considered as absolutely indispensable due to the importance of this question.

I send you my thanks and my kindest regards.

/s/ FIORI

F. J. M.

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Presidency of the Council of Ministers

Committee for the organization of Services and assistance to the  
Repatriated P.O.W.

Reunion of the 15th. of May 1945

On the 15th of May 1945, a meeting was held in this presidency presided by the Prefect Br. Ferdinando Flores, in which were united the representatives of the Ministry of the Interior, in the persons of the General Director of Public Health, The Director of the Superior Institute of Public Health, and representatives of the Minister and the General representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of War, Treasury Department, Ministry of Industry and Commerce and the Ministry of occupied Italy: a representatives for the High Commissioner for War Veterans, the General Secretary of the Italian Red Cross, a representative from the High Commission for Alimentation, a representative for the High Commission for Refugees and a representative of the U.N.R.R.A,

Major Partridge from the Allied Commission was present at this reunion as an observer.

The E.N.A.C. sent no representative.

The object of this reunion was to discuss the organization of the services for the reception of the War Veterans from Germany and for the perfecting of said organization.

The president of the Commission asked General Mannerini, and the lawyer ONEPO, to furnish their reports on the situation that they had investigated in the North where masses of prisoners had arrived before the blocking of the Brenner frontier.

According to General Mannerini and Mr. Oneto, the organizations in the North are sufficient to offront the present situation.

In the region of Genoa, Savana, Bordighera, Cuneo, Susa, Aosta, Chiasso, Como, Varese and lecco nucleus for the reception of these individuals are in full efficiency, as Milan there is a lodging Center very well organized; two at Verona: other Lodging Centers are at Treviso, Udine, and Padova: a series of of transit Camps have been established at Modena, Reggio Emilia and Bologna; in more Camps have been organized at Rimini, Riccione, Florence, Arezzo, Pisa, Lucca, Rosignano, Assis; Ortana and Roma.

What is most important is to procure transport for these people, who must be sent from the North down, to relieve the congestion up North. The question that is most preoccuping is the ways and means to move them, by rail or by transporting them with motor vehicles, by road. To superate this difficulty it is necessary to request the Allied Authorities to put at our disposal, 200 motor vehicles and at the same time to interest the E.N.A.C. in said request.

The Sanitary problem was examined. General Mannerini said that a Sanitary



Belt has been drawn on this side of the Brenner. For that which regards the situation in Bologna, Mr. Oneta<sup>o</sup> It had not been possible to control the reports brought forward before by the Red Cross, due to the confusion produced by a large number of German prisoners. Notwithstanding all this, the physical condition of the Veterans who up to now have arrived in Italy is on the whole, good.

The following information was given by General Mannerini; it is the intention of the National Institute of Social Welfare to receive in their sanatoriums the T.B.C. cases. The institute can put at their disposal 10,000 beds in Lombardy, on the other hand in Liguria they have Very limited space.

The two questions that are very urgent are, the disinfection and transport - these two questions must have priority on all others. For the disinfection we must have a sufficient quantity of the d.d.t. powder.

The most important aspects of the sanitary question is that which regards the control of the influx across the Alpine frontier, especially the Tarvisio frontier.

Relative this, orders have been given to the Sanitary officers in the districts on this frontier, to exercise a particular sanitary vigilance, for an undetermined period, of all those individuals arriving from Germany.

The rationing question was also discussed. The representative of the High Commissariat for Alimentation said that this question was being examined by said High Commissariat and the Allied Sub-Commission.

For that which regards the matter of clothes for the Veterans, we renew our request to the representative of the Ministry of Industry as to their possibilities in this field. The deficiency in this matter was again underlined and must have a prompt solution. At the conclusion a decision was taken to take prompt action on all the problems discussed during the reunion.

Although the contribution and co-operation of the Allies in this very delicate and important sector is highly valued, it is however necessary that the various administrations face each problem singularly according to their competence to obtain the best results and work together to assure in the best way, the reception, recovery and the sorting out in Italy of those Veterans who are in need of assistance and cure. It would be opportune that the Ministry of the Interior would give disposals to the local Authorities, the prefects of the provinces who are under Italian Administration, to form organization on the outskirts of the Provincial centers of reception, to encourage the initiative of giving assistance to the Veterans in the places where they arrive.

s/s The President of the Commission

FLORES



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