

ACC 10000/120/5781

Q/1/8 STOCKS IN DEPOTS LOCAL RESOURCES FOR

AP - DEC 1945

STOCKS IN DEPOTS LOCAL RESOURCES

Folio 101-116

Dec 1945

4228
4252

116

Subject: RECTIFICATION ENTRY FOR FOODSTUFF

from: Mil. Commissariato Direct. - Bolzano

15 Dec 45

Pertained

to

S T

4252

SUBJECT:- Tomato Paste - Ex British Sources.

Ministry of War.

Copy to:- ALL MIA LO's.
DST, AFHQ (your AFHQ/32/33/ST6(c) of
25 Aug 45 refers).

Land Forces Sub Comm. AC.
(M.M.I.A.).
ST/127

27 Aug 45.

1. A quantity of Tomato Paste (300 tons) to be received from British sources, packed in lacquered blackplate, 16 pound cans (4 cans per case) will have a warranty of four months from date of packing.

2. The following markings will appear on cases:-

(a) On one side of case:

Tomato Paste
I.A.
CIRIO
Packed Aug 45
N.W. 64 lbs.
AFST/123

(b) On the other side:

Concentrate di
Pomodoro
32%
I.A.

No markings appear on the tins except that at one end the word "CIRIO" appears.

3. It is requested that you publicize this data to all commands in order that Tomato Paste packed in accordance with above may receive priority of issue from your depots.

4. Another quantity (250 tons) of Tomato Paste will be in barrels of approximately 50 kilograms. The warranty period for Tomato Paste packed in accordance with the above will be twelve (12) months.

5. Supplies of Tomato Paste will be received in releases, normally, GENOA, MESTRE, ANCONA and RAI (our ST/182 of 31 July 45 and your letter 14515/S/1 of 11 Aug 45 refer).

6. Please furnish this HQ with a copy of your instructions by 2 Sept. 45.

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(a) On one side of case:

Tomato Paste
I.A.
CIRIO
Packed Aug 45
N.W. 64 lbs.
AFST/123

(b) On the other side:

Concentrato di
Pomodoro
32%
I.A.

No markings appear on the tins except that at one end the word "CIRIO" appears.

3. It is requested that you publicize this data to all commands in order that Tomato Paste packed in accordance with above may receive priority of issue from your depots.
4. Another quantity (250 tons) of Tomato Paste will be in barrels of approximately 50 kilograms. The warranty period for Tomato Paste packed in accordance with the above will be twelve (12) months.
5. Supplies of Tomato Paste will be received in releases, normally, GENOVA, MESTRE, ANCONA and BARI (our SE/132 of 31 July 45 and your letter 14615/S/1 of 11 Aug 45 refer).
6. Please furnish this HQ with a copy of your instructions by 2 Sept. 45.

KRY/gmc

INTERNAL:-

'Q'

ADST, Land Forces Sub Com. AC. (MIA).
for Lt. Col. RASC.

K Robert Huber

4231

SUBJECT:- Supply Queries.

FILE

Land Forces Sub Comm. AC.
(M.N.I.A.).
ST/208

MMIA LO N.W. ITALY.

COPY to:- ST MMIA LO NW ITALY, GENOA.

3 AUG 45.

Reference Appendix 'D', your G/31 of 28 July 45.

1. Up to date ration scale for Italian Armed Forces is attached. It is anticipated that Vegetables, Dehydrated will be deleted from this scale in the near future.
2. Italian Civil Labor employed by the Italian Armed Forces are allowed midshift meals. See our letter AQ/2-4, of 26 Sept 44, copy of which is attached. Modifying letter Q/1-39 of 8 June 45, attached.
3. Army Forms 1690 need not be submitted by 42 B.S.D. to MMIA for rations issued in bulk to Italian Depots. Charge against Italian Government is made on the basis of MMIA Forms ST/3, being submitted by you. See para 2 our ST/182 of 26 July.

F. Robert Lelshaupt
Lt. Col. RASO.
ADST, Land Forces Sub Comm. AC. (MMIA).

KRM/1940

INTERNAL:- ST/182
'Q'

4249

AUTHORIZED RATION SCALE - ITALIAN ARMED FORCES

a. ALLIED PROVIDED ITEM.

PER MAN PER DAY

- FLOUR 15 oz.
- VEGETABLES, DRIED 2 oz.
- MEAT, PRESERVED or FISH, PRESERVED 3 oz.
- CHEESE 1 oz.
- SUGAR 1 oz.
- MACARONI 3 oz.
- + RICE 1 oz.
- VEGETABLES, DRYED/MAILED 1 oz.
- CATSUP or TOMATO PASTE 1 oz.
- COFFEE 1/2 oz.
- PEPPER 1/2 oz.
- 1/200 oz.

+ If Rice is not available 1 oz. of macaroni or Flour may be issued in lieu.

b. ITALIAN PROVIDED ITEM.

- FRUIT, FRESH 4 oz.
- VEGETABLES, FRESH 8 oz.
- OLIVE OIL 1 oz.
- NUTS SHELLLED 1 1/2 oz.
- or NUTS UNSHELLLED 3 oz.
- SALT 2 1/2 gr.
- WINE 1/2 litre
- MATCHES 40 singles matches weekly per man.

NOTE:-

Additional items of soap and cigarettes are supplied by the Italian Government, though they are not included in the official authorized ration.

50 PER MAN PER WEEK (REF 1 AUG 45)

a. CIGARETTES:

~~5 per man per day, 5 additional cigarettes are authorized for (a) all troops forward Fifth and Eighth Army Rear Boundaries; (b) Fimoli, Grevena, Legnano, Belgere and Mantova Groups; (c) Ossano Combat Group, Rete, Centre.~~

b. SOAP

- : - 300 grams per man per month all troops forward Fifth and Eighth Army Rear Boundaries.
- 250 grams per man per month for all troops behind Fifth and Eighth Army Rear Boundaries.
- 200 grams per mule or horse per month.

COFFEE
PEPPER

1/2 oz.
1/2 oz.
1/200 oz.

+ If Rice is not available 1 oz. of Macaroni or Flour may be issued in lieu.

b. ITALIAN PROVIDED ITNNI.

FRUIT, FRESH
VEGETABLES, FRESH
OLIVE OIL
NUTS SHELLLED
or NUTS UNSHELLLED
SALT
WINE
MATCHES

4 oz.
8 oz.
1 oz.
1 1/2 oz.
3 oz.
24 gr.
1/2 litre
40 singles matches
weekly per man.

=====

NOTE:-

Additional items of soap and cigarettes are supplied by the Italian Government, though they are not included in the official authorized ration.

50 PER MAN PER WEEK (WET 1 AUG 45)

a. CIGARETTES:

~~5 per man per day, 5 additional cigarettes are authorized for (a) all troops forward Fifth and Eighth Army Rear Boundaries; (b) Trindli, Cassano, Legnano, Polgore and Montevia Groups; (c) Cesano Combat Group, R&B, Centre.~~

b. SOAP

- : - 300 grams per man per month all troops forward Fifth and Eighth Army Rear Boundaries.
- 250 grams per man per month for all troops behind Fifth and Eighth Army Rear Boundaries.
- 200 grams per mule or horse per month.

4250

COPY

SUBJECT:- Supplementary Food Rations for Heavy Workers
(Mid-Shift Meal).

MILITARY MISSION ITALIAN ARMY
ROME

AG/2-4

26 Sept 1944.

TO : War Ministry.

1. Authority has been received for the issue of mid-shift meal to Italian civilians performing heavy labor for the benefit of the Italian Armed Forces, or by contractors, and for industries who in turn are employed 100% for the Italian Armed Forces. The employing agency will contact the Regional Supply Officer of Allied Control Commission in the region which the labor is being performed, and make arrangements to draw the components of the mid-shift meal from the food depots of Allied Control Commission. Your request for the components of the mid-shift meal will bear the signature of approval, by representative of MMIA before it is presented to the Regional Supply Officer of the Allied Control Commission. The mid-shift meal will consist of the following:-

Bread	- 1/3 pound
Fresh Vegetables-	6 ounces
Dehyd soup	- 0.8 ounces

2. A charge of 7 lire per serving will be made on the following basis:

1/3 pound of bread	- 2 lire
6 ounces of fresh veg	- 4 lire
0.8 ounces of dehyd soup	- 1 lire

No deviation from the complete 7 lire meal will be made.

3. The soup and vegetables will be served hot, and the preparation thereof, including distribution of bread in the stated quantity will be the responsibility of the employing unit. Employees will be required to furnish their own containers and will consume the food at the site of employment. Care will be taken to avoid waste or serving an amount in excess of that authorized.

4. Office employees are not entitled to mid-shift meals or supplemental ration card.

5. It is necessary that the issue of mid-shift meal be strictly controlled to ensure that:

- Only bona-fide laborers receive the food.
- Distribution of food is on the proper scale.
- Food leakages do not exist.

Page Two: (Cont'd)

6. A deduction of 7 lire per serving will be made from each employee's salary for the mid-shift meal.

7. You will submit the following information to this office by the 10th of each month, covering the previous month, showing the following:

- a. Name of employing unit.
- b. Location of employing unit.
- c. Number of persons entitled to mid-shift meal.
- d. Number of meals served.
- e. Amounts deducted from the employee's salary.

8. Please send this office a copy of your instructions covering this subject.

/s/ TOMMY T. MOSE, Major
For Major General
MMIA

Dist.:-

ALL MMIA IO's - 2
Food Sub Commission - 10

4247

COPY

SUBJECT:- Mid-Shift Meal.LAND FORCES SUB COMMISSION
A.C. (M. M. I. A.) ROME
Q/1-89

8 June 1945.

TO : Direzione Gen. Commissariato
Ministry of War

Ref your letter 11111/S/1 dated 2 June 45.

1. You are advised that you are no longer required to obtain the signature of approval by representatives of MMIA on the requests for the components of the mid-shift meal.
2. A charge of 7 lire per serving will continue to be deducted from the salaries of the persons receiving the mid-shift meal, on the following basis:-

Bread	- 3 lire
Fresh Vegetables	- 3 lire
Soup	- 1 lire

3. Also you are no longer required to furnish this office a report as previously asked for in para 7 of our letter AQ/2-4, dated 26 Sept. 1944.

/s/ TOMMY T. ROSS, Lt. Col.
For Major General
M. M. I. A.Copy to: MMIA LO NAPLES
MMIA LO FIFTH ARMY
MMIA LO SICILY
MMIA LO SARDINIA
MMIA LO 54 AREA
ST Sec. MMIA

4245

COPY OF SIGNAL (ST/144)

30 JULY 45

FROM : AFHQ :

TO : HQ BRITISH TROOPS AUSTRIA
13 CORPS
DISTONE
DISTWO
DISTTHREE
42 B.S.D.
ROME AREA
13 CRASC (SUP UNITS)
14 CRASC (SUP UNITS)
22 CRASC (SUP UNITS)

INFO : MMIA

C 8141 UNCLASSIFIED. FROM S & T.

EFFECTIVE FORTHWITH ISSUE OF DEHYDRATED VEGETABLES TO ITALIAN
MILITARY WILL BE TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED. NO ALTERNATIVES TO
THIS COMMODITY WILL BE ISSUED.

Ref 110
4245

COPY SIGNAL

1/8

DATE TIME

July 31 1515

R 111

FROM : AMIQ

TO : FIFTH ARMY-ATLANTIC BASE COMMAND-
AAF/ATC- AAFSC/LTC

INFO : PERSOUTH-111A

REF : C8128

UNCLASSIFIED

DEHYDRATED VEGETABLES, DEHYDRATED FROM ITALIAN MILITARY RATION SCALE REFERENCE
AMENDMENT NUMBER TWENTY TO QM TECHNICAL BULLETIN NUMBER FOURACTION COPY : 0/1
COPY TO: AT

4244

see 110

57 have been a copy

MESSAGE FORM

FROM: MMIA

TO : AFHQ

4-464

Date - Time
July 24 1115 B

CONFIDENTIAL

WAR MINISTRY REQUESTS THAT ISSUE OF DEHYDRATED VEGETABLES ON ALLIED PORTION OF RATION SCALE BE TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED FOR REASON THAT ITALIAN TROOPS WILL NOT EAT THEM WHILE FRESH VEGETABLES ARE AVAILABLE AND CONTINUED ISSUE TO TROOPS RESULTS IN OVERSTOCKAGE AND BLACK MARKET OPERATIONS (.) OUR INVESTIGATION CONFIRMS THIS (.) NO REPEAT NO REQUESTS WILL BE MADE BY ITALIANS FOR ANY SUBSTITUTES FROM ALLIED SOURCES AS LOCALLY PROCURED FRESH VEGETABLES ARE AVAILABLE FROM ITALIAN SOURCES (.) RECOMMEND ISSUES BE STOPPED AND NO FURTHER STOCKS BE TURNED OVER TO ITALIANS FOR TIME BEING

INTERNAL

ST SECTION

PRECEDENCE IMPORTANTAUTHENTICATION per 111

4243

INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM
LAND FORCES SUB COMMISSION
A.C. (MMIA)

FILE NO: Q/1/8-a

DATE: 3 July 1945

SUBJECT:

TO : Food Sub Commission, AC

Reference to your letter 72-1/89/FOOD dated 21 June 45.

We are attaching hereto copy of translation of letter addressed to Italian Territorial Headquarters, copy to this office for information, covering the subject of the purchase of Local Purchase Items on the Italian Ration Scale.

J. T. R.
TOMMY T. ROSE, Lt. Col.
for Major General
M. M. I. A.

TTR/ri

1 Incl: M. of W. Ltr. 12488/S/1 dtd. 27 June 45.

4641

COPY
of
TRANSLATION

FROM: Ministry of War

Ref: 12488/S/1

TO : MMIA

27 June 1945

SUBJECT: Purchase of Food Stuffs

According to the present policy, fresh vegetables and fruit and sometimes also wine (when not available at military depots) and items needed to improve the soldiers' mess, are purchased directly by the various separate HQ's, with the exception of some Garrison HQ, where local purchasing contracts are made for all the units under command.

This policy very often causes differences between the quantity and quality of supplies purchased for the various units and at the same time impoverishes the markets for the civil population.

In order to eliminate or reduce these inconveniencies at least as far as ITI-ITI units are concerned, HQs to whom this letter is addressed will issue the following instructions:

1. In the Garrisons where there is a Commissariat Unit, this unit will arrange for the provision of the necessary supplies, on agreement with the local Authorities i/c of the civilian food supplies, and will settle the types of food stuffs to be purchased and will decide what markets to buy from and what price to pay: Wherever possible suitable contracts will be arranged.

2. In places where there is no Commissariat Unit the Garrison HQ will appoint a Garrison unit to take action *to do*

- 2 -

purchase foodstuffs in local markets for all local units through normal contracts.

Where this is not possible, the Garrison HQs will appoint an officer to whom the necessary demands from Units concerned will be addressed) who in agreement with the local authorities i/c civilian feeding will decide what to purchase (pricing priority to items most easily obtained) and the markets from which such items can be obtained and the maximum prices that will be paid.

In carrying out his job this officer will insure as far as possible a fair distribution of food stuffs among all units.

The a/m arrangements are applicable only to ITI-ITI units who draw supplies from Iti deposit with the exclusion of those who are supplied from Allied Depots.

Difficulties which may arise in the carrying out of this system should be brought to the notice of this Ministry.

Sgd. PELLIGRA

4240

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
Food Sub-Commission

Ref. 72-1/89/FOOD

SUBJECT: Control of Purchases of foodstuffs
by the Italian Armed Forces

TO : M.M.I.A. (Attn. Lt. Col. Rose)

107
VRAC/1g

21 June 1945

May this office be informed, please, if the circular mentioned
in 72-1/86/FOOD dated 6 June 1945 has been issued by the Ministry of War.

103
W.J. LEGG

Colonel

Director, Food Sub-Commission

see 102
4239

106

1/2

11700/s/1

SUBJECT:- Dried Carrots

We have been informed of the reluctance of some units and formations to draw the allowance of dehydrated carrots owing to their unpopularity with the troops.

In pointing out again the necessity of taking every possible care in the preparation of this foodstuff of great nutritive and vitamin value, it is pointed out that units and formations are obliged to draw all foodstuffs comprising the ration, including dehydrated carrots, also in order to avoid the accumulation of great stocks of such foodstuff at the distribution depots.

HQ's addressed will issue strict orders to this effect.

(sgd) Basile
Inspector General

We have been informed of the reluctance of some units and formations to draw the allowance of dehydrated carrots owing to their unpopularity with the troops.

In pointing out again the necessity of taking every possible care in the preparation of this foodstuff of great nutritive and vitamin value, it is pointed out that units and formations are obliged to draw all foodstuffs comprising the ration, including dehydrated carrots, also in order to avoid the accumulation of great stocks of such foodstuff at the distribution depots.

HQ's addressed will issue strict orders to this effect.

(sgd) Basile
Inspector General

1438

105

SUBJECT: Provision of Tomato Paste for the
Italian Armed Forces

LAND FORCES SUB COMMISSION
A.C. (M. M. I. A.) R O M E
Q/1/8-9
14 June 1945

TO : Q Maint AFHQ

- 104
1. Reference your AFHQ/2554/1/Q(Maint) of 9 June 1945.
 2. Following conversations ADST MMIA and S & T AFHQ on 14 June 1945, it appears that provision of tomato paste as an Italian responsibility is not practicable, and that supply should continue as at present through S and T.

R.T.M. Wareham
R.T.M. WAREHAM, Major
for Major General
M. M. I. A.

RTMW/r1
Copy to: ST

4234

L. Forney 8/4
 2003
 ARMED FORCE HEADQUARTERS

AFHQ/2554/1/4(Maint).

9 Jun 45.

118
 SUBJECT: Provision of Tomato Paste
 for the Italian Armed Forces.

TO :- M.M.I.A. *Q/11/6*

1. At present the provision of Tomato Paste for part of the Italian Armed Forces is an S & T responsibility.
2. It has been suggested that as ITALY is one of the largest Tomato growing countries in the world, the provision of this commodity should become an Italian responsibility with effect from the commencement of the Tomato season in the middle of July.
3. May we have your comments?

ECC/FCB.

HEADQUARTERS
 10 JUN 1945
A. C.

Inclllo with
 E.C. COLVILLE, Major,
 for Major-General,
 D.O.L.C.
4236

FILE
HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
Food Sub-Commission

103
VRAC/lg

6 June 1945

Ref. 72-1/86/FOOD

SUBJECT: Control of purchase of foodstuffs
by the Italian Armed Forces

TO : M.M.I.A. (Attn. Lt.Col. Rose)

102 7/6
1. Reference 9277/S/1 dated 3-5-45 from the Ministry of War addressed to MMIA and confirming conversation of to-day's date (Lt.Col. Rose-Maj.Cowper speaking) the proposed circular drawn up by the Minister of War appears to be exactly what is wanted.

2. May hastening action be taken, please, with the Minister of War to the end that this circular should be issued without delay.

W. J. Legg
W.J. LEGG
Colonel

Director, Food Sub-Commission

see 107
4233

COPY
of
TRANSLATION102
Ref. No. 9277/S/1

Date: 3-5-45

FROM: Ministry of War

TO : MMIA (*****)

SUBJECT:

MEMO

In accordance with verbal agreements made between Lt. Col. Rose and Col. Legg of the Food Sub Commission, I have drafted the attached circular which rules the purchase of food articles from the market by units of the Italian Army.

In the event you agree with the procedure contained in the circular, I shall be grateful if you inform me so that I can inform me so that I can inform S.E. Minister.

Sgd. PELLIGRA

From: Ministry of War

TO : Addressees omitted

SUBJECT: Ruling for the purchase of food articles from the markets.

As it may be noted, in accordance with the present procedure, the purchase of Fresh Vegetables, Fresh Fruit and at times of wine (when-ever it is not available in Mil. Depots) as well as all food articles required for the improvement of meals, is made directly by units (with the exception of several Garrison units which have a proper branch getting their supply in bulk each unit gets its own requirements.

In the conditions in which the Country is at present, such procedure often ends by causing inequalities in supply of various units and also causes food shortages for the civilian population.

With a view to eliminating as much as possible inconveniences mentioned above and working out a procedure to be followed, as is also desired by MMIA, we order that the purchase of food articles mentioned above, be carried out in accordance with the following procedure:

A. Combat Groups and Auxillary Divisions BR-ITI and US-ITI.

The whole or part of the meal improvement allowance will be put at disposal of the Allied unit supplying the Italian units, which will spend it and distributed the corresponding quantities of foodstuff to these units.

The amount of money to be paid will be fixed in agreement between the Allied HQ concerned and the HQ of the Large Unit.

It is understood that this procedure applies only to articles

COPY
of
TRANSLATION

FROM: Ministry of War

Ref. No.

TO : MMIA (for info)

Date:

SUBJECT:

purchased with the money allowance for meal improvement because the other articles of food to be bought from the market are already supplied directly by Allied Depots.

B BR-ITI and US-ITI units not part of a Division or any other Italian unit ITI-ITI which eventually gets its rations from an Allied Depot.

The Italian Unit officer i/c supplies will make the purchase after having made agreements with the Allied Supply Unit as to the kind and quantity of articles to be purchased, where these articles could be found and the price to be paid for them allow of fair distribution of food articles to all units and in the meantime, prevent a shortage of food for the civilian population.

C ITI-ITI units which get its ration from Italian Depots

1. In Garrisons where there is a Comm. Branch, the Comm. Branch will make directly the necessary arrangement to supply units with food articles they require. This will be done in agreement with the local authorities dealing with food for the civilian population adopting the procedure detailed below.

Where possible a regular procedure will be made out:

2. In areas where there is not Comm. Branch, a unit of the Garrison in question will be detailed by the Garrison HQ to proceed with the purchase of food articles from the local markets for all the units of that area.

In the event of this not being possible, the Garrison HQ will detail an officer (to whom the requests of units will be forwarded) who, in agreement with the local authorities dealing with the food for the civilian population, will determine the articles of food to be purchased from markets at reasonable prices.

In carrying out his duties, the officer will aim, as much as possible at distributing fairly these supplies to all units in order to avoid the depletion of the markets.

The present instructions will come into force with effect from

Any difficulty which might arrive in the carrying out of instructions issued in the present circular will be reported to this office through Regional HQs and Large Units HQs.

Sgd. The Minister.

*advised m/w by phone
not to publish as written
but may publish para 11 & 12*

*Gen Pelligre informed at 1200.
Will send Col FISICARO with
draft of new circ. -*

for info

col call 15th Febre -

*Gen Pelligre will send draft
of circular based on para 2, 3, 4.
23/6 45 1800 hrs for.*

COPY
of
TRANSLATION

FROM: Ministry of War

TO : MMIA (for**nfb)

Ref. No. 8672/S/1

191

Date: 23-4-45

SUBJECT: Purchase of foodstuffs from the Trade.

This is in reply to letter Q/2/8-6 of March 9, 1945.

We enclose copy of a report received from Col. Negrani.

In view of the explanations offered by the aforementioned officer, it seems to us that, in so far as the request to Mr. Tucci is concerned, one should exclude any intention other than that of supplying the mess of the Italian Mission, due to the need of discharging its special obligations as a representative with respect to the officers of the higher Allied HQ.

Sgd. PELLIGRA

(R)

4231

SECRETTranslationS. M. R. E.
IMM - HQ 15TH ARMY GROUP CMF

No. 6673/D. 4

April 4, 1945

Subject: Purchase of foodstuffs from the trade.
To: Ministry of War

This is in reply to your letter No. 6522/S of March 26TH last.

Ever since it was organized, this Mission was considered a guest of this Army Group H.Q.

Perhaps this explains why - since it is not rationed by Italian organizations - no Italian military authority ever sent to it any circulars concerning prohibitions decreed by your Ministry in respect of the purchase - even if for military requirements - of controlled foodstuffs.

But the Mission, precisely because it is a guest, had - ever since its first contacts with Allied authorities - obligations as a representative towards British and American officers who bestowed sundry courtesies upon the Mission as a whole and upon its members individually.

In view of the limited number of officers (4 or 5) and the correspondingly limited number of food rations, it would have been impossible to entertain anybody without an adequate supplement of foodstuffs, even if only small.

The S. M. itself did - in keeping with these views - help the Mission at the beginning by means of concessions from time to time.

But, when it followed the Allied H.Q. North, it was forced to meet its requirements without

4230

(2)

any outside help, by drawing upon the budget sum of 4,000 Lire per month, allotted by the Ministry for entertainment purposes.

The Officers' mess, therefore, entered a critical period because an active exchange of invitations with Allied messes was taking place at that time and it was not possible to make a dead stop and turn back.

All officers made heavy personal contributions in order to keep up the friendly relations engendered by the exchange of courtesies; they did so for a period of several months.

Being worried about these outlays by the officers and, on the other hand, not considering it dignified to resort to purchases in the black market, I directed that inquiries be made concerning a way to procure the principal items of the Italian diet (flour, olive oil and wine).

I was told that a few months before the H.Q. of the 210TH Division, then in serious trouble because of a shortage of olive oil for the troops, had made purchases in the (open) market where it was also buying its wine.

Having questioned producer Tucci in the matter, he asserted that military personnel could buy foodstuffs at "am-masso" (crop collection) prices against surrender of a statement to the effect that the products purchased would be used for military messes or (field) kitchens; thus originated the purchase which was reported to your Ministry.

I wish to reiterate that no instructions were ever received by this Mission direct from your Ministry or through S.M.R.E., to the effect that the purchase of such foodstuffs for military purposes is prohibited.

This Mission will now discontinue all purchases of controlled products and will confine those purchases to wine.

4229

(3)

I must, however, point out that this Mission will thereby face serious difficulties, and I accordingly kindly request that your Ministry authorize the monthly purchase of such minimum amount of food as it seems possible, since a modest sum of money cannot suffice to fulfill the duties of hospitality.

May I ask that your Ministry forward to this Mission a copy of the instructions governing the purchase from the trade of supplementary food items for Officers' and EM's messes, in order that further unpleasant misunderstandings may be avoided.

Signed: Giorgio Negroni.
Colonel
Head of Mission

Well

~~XX~~

4.5.28

10 1 2 9