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USS 117130

1951

Medium -

Supply

Sept. 43 - Dec. 43

SECRETHEADQUARTERS
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
APO 512
Information Sub-Commission

16802

14 Dec. '43

SUBJECT: Impending Suspension of "Sicilia Liberata."

TO: C of S

1. Mr. Eugene Warner, in charge of press and radio in Palermo for PWB, informs this Sub-Commission that the Sicilia Liberata has newsprint and ink supplies for only "two or three more days."
2. Industry and Commerce Sub-Commission notified this Sub-Commission on December 8, 1943 that some 425,000 pounds of newsprint was aboard the PH 53 "Richard Montgomery," due to arrive at Palermo "about the end of November", but this ship is overdue and no further information concerning it is available.
3. Newsprint and ink stocks are available at Algiers, according to Mr. Warner.
4. This Sub-Commission has explored possibilities of getting shipping space for 100 tons of newsprint and ink in order to carry the newspaper along temporarily. It has contacted the Shipping Sub-Commission, U.S. War Shipping Board representative, and even the liaison agent for the British Ministry of War Transport, with the idea of obtaining space in either a Sicilian schooner or a British or American freighter. Nothing is available.
5. Unless paper and ink arrive quickly the Palermo newspaper will have to cease publication. It is the only authorized paper in this immediate area and has been of great value, as a medium for AMG announcements and as a civilian morale-builder.

EDWARD B. SMITH
Captain, GMP

435

SECRET

18802

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
APO 512
Information Sub-Commission

5 December 1943

SUBJECT: Newspaper

TO: PWS (Att. Mr. Warner)

1. The Industry and Commerce Sub-Commission, AFM, sends us an extract from the ship's manifest of the SS SS, "Richard Montgomery," due to arrive in Palermo on the end of November:

Manifest No.	Marking	Amount	Description	Weight lbs.
633/1611-1020	9120-2-38-1-100	794 rolls	Newspaper	425012

2. Communication from Industry and Commerce Sub-Commission is dated 4 December 1943, and it is added in that communication that "Exact date of arrival (is) not known."

WALTER W. JOHNSON
Major, Spec. PWS, AFM
Acting Director
Information Sub-Commission

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
INDUSTRY ECONOMIC SUB-COMMISSION
APO 512

CJH/MDG

AMG/5499/ES

4 December 1943

SUBJECT: Imports, Region I

TO : HQ, Region I
Public Relations Officer
Information Sub-Commission
Public Health Sub-Commission

1. The following is an extract from the ship's manifest of the RM 53, "Richard Montgomery", due to arrive at Palermo at the end of November:

Manifest No.	Marking	Amount	Description	Weight Lbs.
638/1011-1020	MECO-B-14-W-100	794 rolls.	Newsprint.	425112
803	1428-M-MEE-IV-	7 boxes	Proflavin DI	1015
804	"	6 "	Atropine Sulphate	312
968	"	3 "	"	156
966	"	11 "	Proflavin di hydrochloride	1562
808	"	11 "	Glyceryl Trinitrate	601
809/813/814	"	11 "	Atropine Sulphate	312
802	"	48 "	Atabrine Tablets	2,600

2. Exact date of arrival not known.

By command of Brigadier General McSHERRY:

W. P. EVANS *W. P. Evans*
Colonel,
Acting Director, Industry
and Commerce Sub-Commission.

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
APO 512
Information Sub-Commission

23 Nov 43

18830

SUBJECT: NEWSPRINT

1. Telephone conversation this date between Captain G. W. COSGROVE, OC PWB SICILY, and Major T. L. BULLOCK, A/Deputy Director INF S-C.
2. Captain COSGROVE has asked PWB AFHQ to give full details of present and future shipments of newsprint to Sicily.
3. When this information arrives, a Conference of interested parties will be called by Captain COSGROVE.

Robert W. Desmond
for ROBERT W. DESMOND
Major Spec Res AUS
A/Director Inf S-C

433

18830

Newsprint

S.S.A.O. Catania

63
7005/PR

25 October 3

1. Reference your CAT/118 23 October 1943.
2. Assurance has been given by AFHQ that newsprint will be supplied this theatre, and it is reported that a shipment is now on the way. This will be distributed to the three authorized Sicilian newspapers as soon as it arrives.

CR
Jr
CHARLES N. STOFFORD
Colonel, G.S.C.
Chief Staff Officer

Note

CP
PRO

18830 ~~SECRET~~ 62
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
PROVINCE OF CATANIA

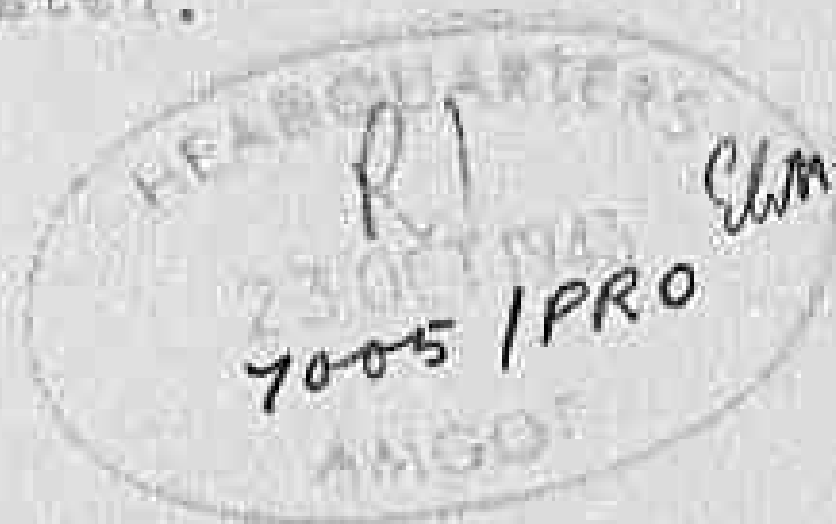
OFFICE OF THE
SENIOR CIVIL AFFAIRS OFFICER

To:- ANGOT H.Q.
PALERMO.

Our Ref:- CAT/118

SUBJECT:- Newsprint.

I enclose copy of a letter which I have received from P.W.A. relative to newsprint for the "Corriere di Sicilia". I consider it necessary in a town of this size that this paper should continue to be published and I therefore hope that newsprint will be supplied from out-side sources before the present stocks are exhausted.



J. Weller

Catania.
21 Oct 43.
Encl:

Lt. Col.
S.C.A.O.

Copy to: I. W.A. Catania.



~~SECRET~~
Subject: Newsprint

To : Civilian Supply

18830
AMCOT/7002/FR

18 Oct

1. The attached letter has been received from T.W.P. requesting that AMCOT order 20 tons of newsprint monthly for Sicily to begin with, and monthly increases as the situation opens up.
2. It is understood that AFHQ has earmarked 150 tons of newsprint weekly for this theatre. (The source of this information is Major Todd of HCS.)
3. In view of the urgent need of paper it is requested that 20 tons of newsprint monthly be called forward, beginning at the earliest possible date.

Charles Poore
Captain, AUS
Public Relations Officer

130

18830

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
Psychological Warfare Branch (Sicily)

-:-:-:-:-

October 18, 1943

TO: PRO, A.M.G.O.T.

SUBJECT: Newsprint needs

- 1 - Minimum newsprint needs of Sicily are placed at 20 tons monthly rising by a further 10 tons every month until 70 tons comes in monthly. It must be emphasized that these are minimum needs and that immediate action to secure paper is necessary.
- 2 - The immediate demand for 20 tons is based on the following estimates:

a. For "Sicilia Liberata", printing 40,000 half-sheet, 2-page issues.	15	tons
b. For "Giornale di Sicilia" printing 25,000 half-sheet, 2-page issues	9,1/2	"
		Total. 24,1/2 tons
- 3 - It will be seen that the first month's entry of paper does not satisfy minimum needs, but must be helped out by our scanty reserves.
- 4 - Of the second month's of 30 tons, the surplus, must be devoted to building up a reserve, without which continuous operations cannot be guaranteed.
- 5 - The third month's supply of 40 tons will be completely consumed by increasing the size of the two papers to four pages thrice weekly, and increasing the circulation of the "Carriere di Sicilia" to 40,000. Both of these are urgent needs.
- 6 - Ten tons should be earmarked for Messina, where an important population center needs attention. This cares for the fourth month's supply of 50 tons.
- 7 - A number of smaller provincial sheets have sprung up and have been authorized to continue on a limited scale at the urgent request of local A.M.G.O.T. CAO's. These need small but regular supplies.

- 2 -

- 8 - Our pretensions of bringing freedom of the press are farcical unless we make it possible within reasonable limits for free papers to be founded and produced. A "free press" but nothing to print it on is the worst possible advertiment for the soundness of the democracies' case.
- 9 - Adequate quantities of printer's ink should also be provided. This can be put at $\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 tons monthly.
- 10 - The above needs do not take into account Stars and Stripes, the various Army papers, nor the needs of the military for leaflets nor of the civil authorities for proclamations, etc.



John Longone
C.O., P.W.B., Sicily *Capt.*

1, Via Giostra
Palermo

JMM/CS

628

10830
Allied Force Headquarters
Psychological Warfare Branch
Catania Unit

61
October 19, 1943

To: S.O.A.O., Catania

Subject: Paper supply for Corriere di Sicilia

1. I am informed by Mr. Hamilton Smith of P.W.B., A.F.H.Q., who is on a special mission concerned with paper supply, that an arrangement has been made by A.M.G.O.T. and military authorities under which supplies of newsprint for newspapers in Sicily will be provided by A.M.G.O.T.
2. In order that the requirements of the Corriere di Sicilia may be taken into account by the appropriate A.M.G.O.T. authority in furnishing newsprint to Sicilian newspapers, I am giving you now the following data concerning its newsprint consumption and needs.
3. Present newsprint consumption is 5 rolls per week, or approximately 22.5 rolls per month. This amount permits a circulation of 25,000, which is inadequate to meet local demand, six days each week, with a single page issue on four days and a double page issue on two days. The number of pages printed in the week is the same as that printed by the Sicilia Liberata of Palermo, but the circulation is smaller.
4. Prior to being cut down in size and circulation because of paper shortage, the Corriere di Sicilia had a circulation of 50,000 and published a double page paper six days a week. If restored to its earlier form and circulation, its consumption of newsprint would be 15 rolls per week, or approximately 67.5 rolls per month.
5. As of today, the Corriere di Sicilia has on hand 30 rolls of newsprint, 85 cm. in width and about 280 Kgr; in weight per roll. This stock is sufficient to permit publication at the present circulation and size for a maximum of six weeks, provided none of this paper is withdrawn for leaflets.
6. It is understood that some newsprint rolls half the normal width of 85cm. may be available. These could be utilized by the Corriere di Sicilia.

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H. Livingston Hartley
Lieut., U.S.N.R.
O.C.

627

C O P YALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
Psychological Warfare Branch

-:-:-:-

29 September 1943

Roll
SUBJECT: Newsprint Stock

TO: Colonel A.J. McCrystal, INC, AFHQ

Pursuant to Mr. C.D. Jackson's memoranda to you concerning the 8th Army publication in Sicily, "8th Army News", and his general statements relating to the newsprint roll stock situation, he has requested that I inform you of all our participation and arrangements pertaining to roll newsprint stock supply in both North Africa and forward areas.

1. On September 13th Colonel Hazeltine directed a memorandum to General McClure advising of PWB's participation in this problem, and of all arrangements between sections, agencies, and PWB, that had been entered into at that time.

2. Our purpose of bringing these organizations together was three-fold:

a. First, we were naturally interested in assuring that PWB leaflet demands would be met by available raw stock.

b. We were interested in endeavoring to alleviate the present crisis of newsprint stock insofar as PWB could participate in its solution.

c. We felt it most advisable to endeavor to reach an understanding with all agencies and sections concerned with raw roll stock in that duplication of requests may be eliminated, long range planning may be had by all with each agency or section assuming its own responsibility, and that G-4 and SOS may have a coordinated and composite picture of both present and future needs of PWB and agencies operating in a kindred field.

3. As result of a final conference that was attended by the various civilian agencies that participate in the NAEB program, and Stars and Stripes, Allied Military Government, Mr. Sturges (O.E.W.) representing civilian agencies to take over forward areas, and PWB, certain specific understanding were mutually assumed or agreed upon.

a. NAEB naturally assumed full responsibility for supply of newsprint to North African enterprises, and as such the present newsprint stock shortage insofar as the French newspapers were con-

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cerned became their most immediate concern. They, of course, have and will make all arrangements for procurement and shipping.

b. Stars and Stripes, demonstrating an excellent attitude of cooperation, advised that they had a surplus on hand which they would make available to NAEB for the French press providing same would be repaid ~~to the end of~~ the first week of October.

c. AMG assumed responsibility for the supply of all newsprint for all local newspapers operating in forward liberated areas, even though PWB would be exercising an actual editorial guidance of such rehabilitated newspapers in Sicily, Italy, or elsewhere.

d. PWB was in turn responsible for supplying its branch with all paper necessary for its leaflet operations against the enemy, and its rights to full military priority for such purposes were unquestioned.

e. Both PWB and AMG were in complete agreement for a future program of the closest cooperation in their kindred fields, and PWB offered to make all surpluses now being procured or on order in the States available for AMG's use.

4. Subsequent to this general conference of early September, the following arrangements have been effected:

a. PWB has petitioned for and received a full military priority from G-4 and SOS for the long range supply of 120 tons of raw paper stock plus 4 tons printers ink to arrive in the Mediterranean area each month.

b. To fill an obvious immediate shortage which would occur prior to receipt of the monthly supply, G-4 decreed an emergency and recommended that SOS immediately make available cargo space for 115 tons of paper raw stock and 4 tons of printers ink. Cable confirmation of this has been received.

c. OWI has secured from the Treasury Department special permission to directly procure paper stock on the open market, and Washington having previously been advised that PWB's responsibility also embraced supplying paper stock to newspapers in liberated areas, had assumed a program of procurement which now markedly exceeds PWB's requirements. To efficiently aid AMG and to relieve a surplus, PWB has cabled OWI in New York requesting them to make available to AMG all surpluses now procured or on order of 87, 1/2 centimeter roll paper stock.

d. Brig. Gen. Holmes of MGS then requested AGWAR to communicate with OWI to effect the above arrangements.

6. AGWAR has cabled to MGS advising that by October 2nd they can make available 284 tons of 87, 1/2 centimeter newsprint, and thereafter 150 tons of same can be made available every five days (we assume this is F.O.B. New York).

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7. The Office of Lend Lease Administration has also effected arrangements with OWI to take over part of the procurement program of OWI and will make available 2,400 tons of newsprint for newspapers in liberated areas in this theater. This supply program should permit the Civilian Agencies to make available sufficient newsprint to keep newspapers supplied after AMG moves on and Civilian Agencies take over.

8. Relative to the current situation regarding newsprint supply in North Africa, we have been advised that NAEB has just received 120 tons of roll stock in the past few days from the States, and approximately 40 tons has been received from Cairo. NAEB advises that the receipt of these shipments will alleviate the present crisis in North Africa and the papers should be able to carry on until the first large shipment is received from the States and a steady supply becomes available.

9. We have been advised by our representatives in Sicily that the present demands of the two newspapers now in operation at Catania and Palermo, and at their present circulation, will require newsprint in the amount of 20 tons per month. There is on hand at Catania and Palermo sufficient newsprint, if not wasted, to keep these papers in operation at their present circulation for a limited period which certainly should extend to receipt of this first shipment of 284 tons available October 2nd from the States via AMG's Arrangements. The steady flow of 150 tons each five days, or 900 tons per month, would be of course more than ample to supply Sicily and papers that may be reopened in Italy for some time to come.

10. PWB, however, is greatly concerned with the present available raw stock now located at Catania. We are receiving requests for newsprint for leaflets from Bari and Brindisi, have already taken steps to meet these requests, and all arrangements for shipping sixteen tons have been effected. The roll stock now in Catania is 87 1/2 centimeter in width which is exact size for Italian roll presses. We must rely upon at least a part of what 87, 1/2 centimeter newsprint is on hand at Catania if we are going to meet the demands of the military for leaflets until our 87, 1/2 centimeter stock arrives. We are sending a special representative to Catania to endeavor to amicably work out arrangements for meeting military demands from units in Italy and Sicily for leaflets, and to further do all possible to ~~continue~~ continue the Sicilian newspapers at the present basis.

11. After viewing the copy of the 8th Army news of September 23d in which four tabloid pages are used, it is obvious that Mr. Jackson's criticism of this paper waste is most well founded, and if the 8th Army is no longer in Sicily, and if this paper is no longer being forwarded to the mainland, unquestionably the printing of this paper should be discontinued as it will definitely effect the raw

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paper stock supply now in Sicily. However, if this paper is reaching the troops and is vital to troop morale, at least during this period of critical shortage it would only be logical to assume that the paper could be reduced to one sheet tabloid size, printed on both sides.

12. We ^{who} ~~are~~ are concerned with supplying paper stock for leaflets in PWB sincerely hope that during this critical period of shortage activities of all sections may be continued without vitally impairing any present program. However, we do wish to point out that we must always be mindful of the fact that our program of leaflets to be used against the enemy is a tactical military instrumentality and paper stock for leaflet printing must be available to meet all such military demands. Hence we must safeguard this supply and if necessary be permitted to exercise that priority which AFHQ so established for us, if lesser demands threaten to disrupt our program.

HMA/fgg

H. M. ADAMS
Adm. Officer PWB

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AMGCT/7009/PR

AMGCT HEADQUARTERS
Public Relations Office

19 Sept 43

Subject: Paper Stock for the Sicilian Press

To : Civilian Supply Division

1. The size of newprint paper employed by the local presses is: 87 1/2 centimeters width and 7 1/2 centimeters inside diameter of center of roll, weight 50/54 grams per square meter. (This is standard size for all Italy.)
2. It is estimated by the proprietors and by officials of PWB that, even with drastically reduced circulation, present paper stocks will not last more than a month.
3. Representations to this effect have repeatedly been made by the CGAC to MBS and by PWB to INC at AFHQ.
4. It is again urgently requested that paper to the amount of at least 200 tons, and 1/2 ton of printers ink, be ordered. (The proprietors put their needs at 1500 tons a year, plus 2 tons of ink.)
5. In the event that Amgot decides to publish revised textbooks for all the schools here, a considerable quantity of paper will be required for that alone.

/s/ Charles Poere
/t/ Charles PoereCapt., Public Relations
OfficerCOPY P/A
PRO

AMCOT HEADQUARTERS

AMCOT/7005/ER

PALERMO

21 September 1943

As you probably know, there are now two papers published in Sicily; the "Sicilia Liberata" in Palermo, and the "Corriere di Sicilia" in Catania. These papers have had a considerable success and an experiment has been tried, notably in the case of the "Sicilia Liberata", to allow a free rein on criticism of AMCOT. This freedom to criticize has been well used but, up to date, not abused. The "Sicilia Liberata" publishes 50,000 copies, but is running short of paper. As you will know, a request was put in for 200 tons of newsprint for the Sicilian papers.

I have to-day seen, through the instrumentality of Mr. Mineffe, P.W.B., and in charge of Press and similar matters in Palermo, a telegram from RWB Tunis, dated 1st August, criticising in somewhat violent terms the publication of the "Corriere di Sicilia" in as large an edition as 50,000. The telegram goes on to state that the request for 200 tons of newsprint is regarded as "fantastic" and that such stocks of newsprint as there are in Sicily are to be conserved, since no more is available, by cutting the "Sicilia Liberata" to 20,000 copies immediately. This will have to be done, and one or two more local papers, notably in Syracuse and Catanzaretta, which really are handbills rather than papers, will have to suspend publication.

I regard this as a great pity and, indeed, as a retrograde step. The institution of a Free Press in Sicily over which Allied control amounted only to slight supervision was one of the principal tasks which I had set myself. It is, moreover, consistent with the directions received from the Combined Chiefs of Staff. It always has been my understanding that adequate provision had been made, if on a modest scale, for newsprint in occupied territories. I am shocked to hear that a demand for 200 tons should be described by anyone as fantastic. I should like to know that you had knowledge of this policy before the telegram was sent. I should like to hear from you that the decision to cut down publication in order to conserve stocks will be reversed, and that Sicily will obtain her newsprint to carry on as heretofore.

Not only will the decision in question cause much ill feeling locally, but will, I fear, be interpreted in many quarters, and not only in Sicily, as a contradiction to the avowed policy of restoring the freedom of the Press. You obviously cannot have a Free Press if there is no paper to print on.

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Brigadier-General J. Holmes,
M.C.S.,
A.F.W.C.

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