Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

10000/129/232

P.R.B. A.C. APO

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A.C.

Oct. 19

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A.C. Weekly Bulletin Vol. 1

Oct. 1944 - Apr. 1945

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

PRB/WB5c/EHD 2 April 1945.

AC ITALIAN BULLETIN NO.52
16 Mar.45 to 2 Apr.45

1. Political

The principal business of the Council meeting on the 28th was to set up the long-awaited Consulta (Advisory Assembly). As planned the Consulta will have 320 members divided as follows: 180 chosen "by the most important parties", 70 by the syndical organizations and 70 from among old anti-Fascist senators and ex-deputati. These will be divided among various commissions and will give their opinion - when asked - on legal measures and general problems". The commissions correspond roughly to the ministries; they are eight in number, as follows: Foreign Affairs, Public and Administrative Affairs, Justice, Education and Fine Arts, National Defence, Finance and Treasury, Agriculture and Alimentation, Industry and Commerce, Labor and Welfare, Reconstruction, including Public Works and Communications. The creation of the Consulta was hailed enthusiastically by the government parties (except by the Communists whose approval was temperate; they felt all representation should be confined to the parties of the C.L.N.) but the Left had many reservations. AVANTI finds the move comes late "as usual" and ITALIA LIBERA objects to the "commission" principle, arguing that what emerges is not an advisory council at all but simply a number of groups of "experts" that the government may convoke or ignore as it chooses. The Action Party organ indeed calls the new institution "corporative" - no longer a flattering adjective in Italy. Parties out of the C.L.N. are of course waiting to see how much - if any representation they will have; for ITALIA NUOVA (Democrat) Leftists skepticism has already been sufficient to draw forth some words of praise for the scheme.

The government announced during the week that Italian diplomats would soon leave to take up their posts in South America... Otherwise the week has been relatively quiet on the political front. Perhaps because it was Easter Week, perhaps because, like everyone else, the Italians have their eyes fixed on rapidly moving developments in Germany.

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The principal business of the Council meeting on the 25th was to set up the long-awaited Consulta (Advisory Assembly). As planned the Consulta will have 200 members divided as follows: 150 chosen "by the most important parties", 70 by the syndical organizations and 70 from among old anti-Fascist senators and ex-deputati. These will be divided among various commissions and will give their opinion - when asked - on legal measures and general problems". The commissions correspond roughly to the Ministries; they are eight in number, as follows: Foreign Affairs, Public and Administrative Affairs, Justice, Education and Fine Arts, National Defence, Finance and Treasury, Agriculture and Alimentation, Industry and Commerce, Labor and Welfare, Reconstruction, including Public Works and Communications. The creation of the Consulta was hailed enthusiastically by the government parties (except by the Communists whose approval was tempered; they felt all representation should be confined to the parties of the C.L.N.) but the Left had many reservations. AVANTI finds the move comes late "as usual" and ITALIA LIBERA objects to the "commission" principle, arguing that what emerges is not an advisory council at all but simply a number of groups of "experts" that the government may convoke or ignore as it chooses. The Action Party organ indeed calls the new institution "corporative" - no longer a flattering adjective in Italy. Parties out of the C.L.N. are of course waiting to see how much - if any representation they will have; for ITALIA NUOVA (Democrat) Leftists skepticism has already been sufficient to draw forth some words of praise for the scheme.

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2. The Economic Front

The biggest economic news of the week was getting the joint program for first-aid to Italian economy off the ground. The Chief Commissioner tendered his congratulations to the Economic Section for their "monumental work" and mentioned Brigadier General Edward H. McKinley, Deputy Vice-President (who inspected the Category A part with a fine-tooth comb), Mr. Harlan Cleveland,

/ Executive

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Executive Director (who put in three-weeks' of day-and-night grind of job) and vice president A.C.Antolini, who supervised the job. Mr.Cleveland took the Category B part with him to Washington last week while the Category A section went to AFHQ at Caserta for transmission to the Combined Chiefs of Staff. As the first complete supply program drawn up for Italy since the fall of Fascism, the plans represent three months' work by both the Italian Government and the Allied Commission. The Category A part includes all items classed as a military responsibility and which are provided to allay disease and unrest where it might prejudice military operations. Such items include food, medical supplies, some transport and clothing, etc. These supplies are paid for out of regular appropriation of the British and American Governments. The Category B part of the program covers the basic items needed for a start toward economic rehabilitation and apply to the whole range of the Italian economy from basic industries, electric power, transport to a certain amount of consumer goods and including the minimum materials and products commonly needed for general manufacturing schedule. Cost of the Category B program will be assumed by the Italian Government from credits in excess of $100,000,000 provided by the U.S. (mostly from troop pay exclusive of money spent in PX's and sent home) and from further funds to be made available by the British. As everyone knows, when the goods asked for (assuming the requisitions are approved, in the main) will arrive, depends entirely on the industrial market and the availability of shipping,which is getting tighter and tighter in this direction.

What will undoubtedly be an important agency was created March 20 in the shape of an Advisory Anti-inflation Board to make reports to the Chief Commissioner on measures and policies which should be recommended to the Italian Government for immediate action to check and control the existing tendencies towards inflation. It is noted that since the issue of the Anti-Inflation Committee report about a year ago, the situation has grown worse. Particular attention in anti-inflation considerations will be given to the bearing of such advice on problems of military production and procurement. Chairman of the Board will be the Vice President of the Economic Section. Other members will be the Vice President of the Civil Affairs Section, the Joint Directors of the Finance Sub-Commission, and the Director of the Labor Sub-Commission. Advisors who will be invited as needed will be the Treasury attaches of the British and American Embassies Mr.K.D. Stauffer is secretary.

Activities in the economic line also filled the sit-
reps from the field as well as HQ.; Truck arrivals this week -

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What will undoubtedly be an important agency was created March 30 in the shape of an Advisory Anti-inflation Board to make reports to the Chief Commissioner on measures and policies which should be recommended to the Italian Government for immediate action to check and control the existing tendencies towards inflation. It is noted that since the issue of the Anti-Inflation Committee report about a year ago, the situation has grown worse. Particular attention in anti-inflation considerations will be given to the bearing of such advice on problems of military production and procurement. Chairman of the Board will be the Vice President of the Economic Section. Other members will be the Vice President of the Civil Affairs Section, the Joint Directors of the Finance Sub-Commission, and the Director of the Labor Sub-Commission. Advisors who will be invited as needed will be the Treasury attaches of the British and American Embassies Mr.K.E. Stauffer is secretary.

Activities in the economic line also filled the sitreps from the field as well as HQ.: Truck arrivals this week - 216; total this year - 1,034; promised consignment - 1,700... Marche-Umbria Region reports that transport cost of moving 4,300 schoolbooks from Rome to Macerata was 23,000 lire, an eyebrow raising fact which prompted the Chief Commissioner to order the charge investigated... The War Material Disposal and Italian Prisoners of War Sub-Commission received 7,550 tons of salvage material last in February, including aluminum, ferrous and heavy metals, old canvas and derelict vehicles... The Public Works and Utilities and Agriculture Sub-Commissions are

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happy to report that 82 per cent of the flooded Pontine Marshes have now been reclaimed and that planting is proceeding on much of the drained land... Hazards of the fishing industry off Tuscany - floating mines which sank three boats off Ercole Giannutri. .. Exports made records last week when 4,587 tons valued at 135 million lire went to the U.K. (lemons), France (mercury and bergamot oil), the U.S. (salt), Malta (wine, salt and oranges) and to the Middle East (citric acid)... The Granai del Popolo now reads at 11,003,505 qtl and the olive oil collection at 400,079 qtl... Increased allocation of power for civilian use is making possible increased industrial production in fertilizer and textile items... Approximately 400 tons of 4,000 tons of heavy engineering equipment requisitioned a year ago by Public Works and Utilities S/C has arrived, including trailers, cargo trucks air compressor, asphalt kettles, mixing plant and crushing and screening plants... The AC Priorities Board has allocated 320,000 available blankets as follows: 182,717 to the Public Health S/C, 91,359 to Displaced Persons and Repatriation S/C, and 42,044 to Public Safety S/C.

3. ELBA

Major T.L. Bullock, DDPW (Field) sends the following report after a visit to Elba.

Both the immediate and long-term problems of Elba are economic, says Major Harold V.Reilly (A) who has administered the historic island since last December, almost as an independent entity under Livorno Province and Toscana Region. There are two schools of thought among the islanders. The Christian Democrats say the ancient mines have had their day and the people must look to the land and the sea for a living. The Communists, a vocal minority of less than 1,000 in a population of 30,500, claim the mining industry must be revived even if the state has to operate it at a loss. There are variations on this theme, of course, though the people of Elba do not seem particularly sensitive to political currents on the mainland. But the iron mines which were once the springboard of Etruscan power and later gave Rome her dominance in the world have dwindled in importance and ILVA, the greatest corporation on the island, is reluctant to rebuild its war-smashed plants. For several years past they are said to have been run at a loss under pressure from the Fascist government. Transport, industry and mining combined have never given a living to more than 20 per cent of the people, 65 per cent of whom live off the land. The wine industry, with 50 million seed plants and a value of 1½ billion lire, is of great importance. Elba wines are fine and rich and could be exported for high prices. Fishing will become again a major factor in

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ed by Germans and civilians. The French landed at Marina di Campo on the south side in mid-June 1944 and threw the Germans out after a battle which swept through one-third of the island. Elba remained under stern French rule, with AMG in an advisory capacity, until 11 December 1944, and it was not until December 20 that Toscana Region formally took over. In the last three months there have been great changes. Elba is divided by old custom into 3 communes but for purposes of feeding, schools, public health and public welfare, AMG is administering it on an island basis and has recommended the appointment of a resident Vice Prefect. Local administrations are running well. SIFRAL has a capably staffed and efficient branch in Elba and the Italian officials have been held wholly responsible since 15 January for indenting for, financing, transporting and distributing all civilian basic foodstuffs, though AMG helps get supplies to the quayside in Piombino, nearest mainland port. The CAO says SIFRAL in Livorno overcharges fantastically for transport to Piombino and leakages in transport are serious, so unrationed foods are not being imported in any quantity. There is considerable undernourishment in the two main port towns and clothing and shoes are badly needed, and though the Red Cross has distributed one ton of clothes, nearly 3000 people are still in need. Fresh meat is available only for institutions and fish will be in short supply until the Navy relaxes its ban on night fishing. The nearby islands of Capraia and Pianosa have been connected to Elba by phone over old Morse circuits and there is military telephone communication with the mainland. Mined and demolished harbors are being cleared, 10 sunken ships have been raised and are being refitted in a local shipyard, small boats run regularly to Piombino in good weather, though travel to the mainland is limited to 10 persons a day beyond Piombino. Shops are open and doing some business. Banks have been in operation since last August. Large amounts of French currency in 500 and 1000 franc notes, some issued by the Germans, have all been redeemed by France, easing a situation which for some Elbans was serious. Two electrical power plants are running on Diesel oil left in a German submarine base, yielding 350 kilowatts for domestic lighting, milling and light mining. Roads have been resurfaced with stone and earth. Bridges are intact. The civilian transport situation is good though bus fares are high because operators have had to buy tires in the black market; the rate of 2 lire a kilometre is still lower than on the mainland. Mainland refugees have all left the island and the only refugees now are residents of Portoferraio living in the country because their homes were destroyed in the blitzes which levelled 40 per cent of the town. Water systems are back to normal. Drainage sewers in

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break of scabies which reached nearly 5,000 cases, but Major Reilly improvised ointment from machine grease, grappa and sulphur until a more conventional salve could be brought from the mainland. Extra soap is now available for sale on doctors' certificates and the epidemic is breaking up. Medical supplies have been received for the Portoferraio hospital and the only desperate need are rubber surgical gloves and an operator for the X-ray machines. Bedding is scarce and the four ambulances on the island are immobilised for lack of tires. Serious accidents have been caused to children playing with "Red Devil" grenades and fishermen dismantling shells to get explosives for illegal fishing. Elba is not rated as one of the Italian malerial areas, but the situation would be considered bad by American or British standards and control measures are being carried out by the local Genio Civile under instructions from AMG which are now being supplemented by the Italian government. There is practically no typhoid but tuberculosis is serious because of bad living habits. There were four cases of diphteria around Christmas time. Bread which sold all winter for 3 lire, is now 15 lire and all ration scales and rationed food prices have been raised to mainland levels. The assistenza rate is 9 lire a day and wages have been ordered up to national standards. There is one exception: the mines, under pressaure, are employing labor to produce ore at twice the old wage scale, which is still below the set rate, but there is no outlet for the ore and if standard wages are enforced either the mines will close or the Italian government must pay the difference AMG has put an export duty of 5 lire a litre on Elba wines and is blocking a percentage of the crop for island consumption at controlled prices. The levy is earmarked for public welfare and the proceeds are distributed by a committee of the 8 sindaci. Prices of fish, vegetables and milk are also controlled. Rains this week have improved the prospects for a good crop but 300 tons of sulphur are needed for the vineyards. Garden seeds were imported last December. Some farmers moved their vineyards up to the hills and put in gardens on the lower levels. The social democrats are campaigning to persuade the people to extend this practice. Political parties are allowed to operate headquarters if they pay rent; they may solicit members and hold social and welfare gatherings, but all manifestos, pamphlets and political meetings are banned. The CAC thinks that in an election with the women voting, the Social Democrats would win. A committee of ex-partisans has been set up to examine claims for partisan certificates and it is anticipated that the number who can show they actually risked their lives opposing the Germans will be about 75.

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A. Odds and Ends.

5th Army AMG reports that 1,000,000 seedling trees are being planted in Forli and Ravenna and that 800 mines were lifted at Forli in two days.... School of Military Government graduates from Charlottesville may be interested to know that 50 of the 130 members of the third class have been promoted: one to brigadier general, seven to colonel, 25 to lieutenant colonel, and 26 to major.... The RC of Emilia Region and 5th Army AMG staff members are attending the April 1st inauguration of the Captains-Regent of the Republic of San Marino (founded 301 A.D.).

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... 300 Jewish emigrants embarked for Palestine last week while 200 Greeks, Arabs, Maltese, and others, went to Tripolitania and Cyrenaica, all under auspices of the Displaced Persons and Repatriation Sub-Commission ... 3,000 of the 3,500 repatriated Italian soldiers of the Garibaldi Division will be sent to Viterbo for regrouping and training... A new and definite list of appointments of provincial commissioners, superseding all previous appointments, has been issued by the Establishment Section.... Italians under 5th Army A.M.G. Fine Arts direction are recovering precious gems valued at millions of pounds sterling from the bomb debris of The Banco Nazionale at Ancona.... U.S.promotions are still coming through, the latest bring one to colonel - Robert H. Thompson; five to lieutenant colonel - John T.Clarke, Leon W. McCardle, Vinal S.Ranton, Glenn E. Riddell and Rowland F. Rushmore; and six to major.... Good luck to all.... Civilian postal service is to be started for parts of Pistoia and Lucca Provinces by April 9.... Epuration of Italian state officials in the higher grades (not counting the prefects reported on last week) has resulted in nearly 1,000 investigations, 300 trials and 100 dismissals to date, the Civil Affairs Section reports....

5. Amendment:

In Weekly Bulletin No.49 for 9 March paragraph 2 on page 2 should be amended to read as follows:

Mr. Tommy Hopkinson, British Political Advisor, emphasized that the policy of AC in the North should be to absorb so far as possible into the military government administration the local authorities set up by the Committee of National Liberation during the German occupation.

6. Compliments

Somehow our sentimentalism - or time-sense whichever it is - will not permit us to let this week's Bulletin go out without some expression of pleasure and modest satisfaction, muffled a little by secret surprise, that we have rounded out the year. With more punctuality than you would think possible if you were behind the scenes, we have sent our weekly message out to our little world. We aren't asking for compliments; we are soldiers (of a sort) and it is our simple duty. None the less, there is a sense of accomplishment and an even deeper sense of amazed gratitude that our customers have put up with it so long. Perhaps now,

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through, the greatest being one to colonel - Robert E. Thompson; five to lieutenant colonel - John W.Clarke, Leon V. McCardle, Vinal G.Benton, Glenn I. Riddell and Rowland J. Rushmore; and six to major.... Good luck to all.... Civilian postal service is to be started for parts of Pistoia and Lucca Provinces by April 1.... Expurgation Italian state officials in the higher grades (not counting the prefects reported on last week) has resulted in nearly 1,000 investigations, 300 trials and 100 dismissals to date, the Civil Affairs Section reports....

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We remember the first Bulletin: a minuscule two page affair, the work of one man alone; we hope you remember it too, shyly, timidly edging its way onto your desk. Since then the world has moved faster, the Commission has become more articulate, and we have been privileged to convey more and more information to our friends within the circle. We have even found people telling us what to put in as well as what to keep out. Since in the nature of things the Bulletin is made up at the last minute, and

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since it is also classified as SECRET the weekly preparation of it has been as nice a combination of frenzy and circumspection as you could wish for. Still all in all it's been fun; we only hope you've enjoyed it as much as we have. But we won't be misunderstood when we say we don't really want to have it run another year. Nor you either, we suspect.

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED CO ISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

R&R/[illegible]/PRB 25 March 1945

AC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO. 51
10 Mar to 25 Mar 45

1. Political

The delicate task of fusing Italy's two armies - the partisans and the regulars - was attacked at the Council meeting on the 15th. The problem was of course to give the partisans recognition (politically vital to any government) and to keep alive their military valuable enthusiasm without detriment to or adulteration of the regular army which, however much discredited after the Armistice in the eyes of the more radical parties, has still the monopoly of technical and professional skill. The fusion was arranged on the basis of temporary enrollment of the partisans with recognition of ranks up to Lt.Col. It seems to be a solution acceptable to all; even Sertorius, ITALIA NUOVA's able military expert, expressed satisfaction with the arrangement. Somewhat later in the week Scoccimarro, Minister for Occupied Italy, stated in an interview that camps for feeding, clothing and reorganising the partisans had been set up, a special camp for partisan women being in preparation. He said rather expecting help from the North it would be more likely that the liberated areas would need aid from the government and he looked to the C.L.N. to mobilize the working masses immediately after liberation. He further claimed for Italy the right to try German prisoners of war for war crimes committed in Italy.

The government has been somewhat harassed during the week by repercussions of the affair in Caulonia (Calabria) some two weeks ago. Accounts of the origin and development of the episode vary but it is clear that for a time at least the Communists took over the town and replaced the normal authorities. There were two casualties; a priest and the secretary of a local C.D. group. RISORGIMENTO LIBERALE, IL POPOLO, and ITALIA NUOVA have again raised the cry of "red domination of the South" - and pressed the government for action. The Press Office of the

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The second meeting of the Council during the [illegible] (March 21) was high-lighted by the report of Bergami, High Commis-

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sioner for Food, who told the Council and the country that the wheat situation is in hand until the next harvest; the population will have its 200 grams of bread and 80 grams of pasta. The High Commissioner spoke again on the need of controlling prices and protecting the citizens against speculation. At this meeting the Council also approved a decree to keep existent agrarian contracts in force till the end of the war. On the subject of the black market Lizzadri wrote (in IL LAVORO) in rather strong terms; it was idle for the government to raid a few street vendors, he asserted, either it should show it means business and go after the profiteers who are in back of the black market or the people may be expected to take the law into their own hands. The C.G.I.L. followed this lead with its motion of the 22d asking for more governmental energy in this matter and for greater power to the Italian people, adding as well that railways, telephones and public utilities should be nationalized.

Turning to the international scene the long waited appointment of Italy's ambassador to France was made during the week, the post going to Saragat, Socialist leader, and ex stranger to France where he spent thirteen years as an anti-Fascist exile.

The Quintieri-Mattioli mission gave its report which was acclaimed by most of the press, not so much for any real concessions that had been won as from the encouraging tone of American interest in Italy. AVANTI pointed out that nothing had really been obtained in the delicate matter of the Ar-lire and found the optimism created by the report was "exaggerated" but optimism there is, nonetheless... All parties have been campaigning for some kind of a seat at San Francisco where, it is objected, even Turkey can go though she has fired no shot in the war. In this context the Pope's speach of a week ago has won general approval, insisting as it does on the rights of small nations and on the need of doing away with selfish nationalism.

The speech of the venerable Orlando calling for national unity did not evoke such unanimous approval; "national solidarity is a fine thing", said UNITA, "as long as it doesn't mean whitewashing those who were guilty of Fascism" - and other Leftist papers followed the same line.... Perhaps under international items should be noted the departure of one of Italy's more celebrated guests; Kesselring left during the week for more important business at home. Italians only wish he had taken his friends with him.

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2. Organizational Changes

As promised by the New Deal for Italy, headquarters and staffs of the Southern, Sicily and Sardinia Regions - all Italian Government territory - are being abolished. Lazio-Umbria Region headquarters at Rome and Abruzzi-Marche Region headquarters at Aquila are likewise undergoing a change in dropping off representation in the Italian Government provinces under their present jurisdiction. The Southern Italy and Island changes are taking place April 1 and the new Umbria-Marche Region, with headquarters at Perugia, probably, will come into being on April 1. The new

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region will have its four military government provinces in the Marche plus Terni and Umbria from the former Lazio-Umbria Region. The Regional Commissioner will be Col.C.M.[illegible]. Pronch, present head of Abruzzi-Marche (B). Col.Charles Poletti (A), from his RC post at Lazio-Umbria, goes to planning for his RC post in Lombardia making his staff headquarters at Siena. Brigadier J.K. Dunlop (B) leaves Southern Region to intensify his planning for Venezia Region, where he is RC. He is winding up his Naples sojourn with a quick tour of calls on the Italian Prefects in his bailiwick and a farewell press conference with Italian journalists March 23. Col. J.R.C. Pennycuick (B), RC of Sardinia, will take up the post of AFC Commissioner in Naples still controlled by the Allied Commission. Liaison officers will be stationed at Catania and Palermo in Sicily, in Rome with the Rome Allied Area Command and at Bari on the mainland and at Cagliari in Sardinia, where such duties will probably be handled by a representative of the Land Forces Sub-Commission. Regional Executive officers also will henceforth be known as Deputy Regional Commissioners.

3. The Economic Front

The Economic Section seems to be keeping about a dozen balls in the air these days. Intensive work is being done, tidying up presentation of the joint program for first-aid to Italian rehabilitation, with Brigadier General Edward E. McKinley (A), Deputy Vice President and Dr. Harlan Cleveland, Executive Director, as well as a battery of AFHQ G-4 and G-5 experts landing their touches. General McKinley; Mr.Cleveland; Mr. [illegible].S. Vaughan, director, Industry Sub-Commission; Major J. [illegible]. Merritt, Agriculture Sub-Commission, are all going to Washington shortly to be on hand if the Combined Chiefs of Staff want to ask questions. The program is being shipped into technical shape in such a way that military responsibilities for Category A requirements are clear-cut, which should help speed approval, it is hoped.

The export outlook is also occupying considerable space in the AC economic agenda. The Italian Government is going ahead with various projects while the AC gives its opinion and something definite ought to emerge before long. There are possible deals in the air concerning import of frozen meats from the Argentine, the repayment of 10,000 tons of wheat from Spain as well as barter suggestions in which Italian cement and wine would be swapped for Yugoslav prunes and salt. Speaking of exports, this past week was an outstanding one, 100 million lire worth

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Derequisitioning of industrial premises is progressing, 11 plants having been freed from military control the last 6 weeks with further requests on file to return to civilian ownership an olive oil extracting plant at Bari and a fertilizer plant at Taranto among others.... 386 more 1½-ton trucks have arrived, bringing to 818 the deliveries to date on the 1,700-trucks promised last Fall... A special perishable fruit train from Southern Italy to Rome has been started, running well as to schedule and so eliminating previous high wastage figures... Power allocations

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for April are expected to include larger proportions for civilian use... The olive oil collection reads 370,600 qtl as of 19 March; olive oil control officers in Southern Region, however, will remain on duty until April 15 (notwithstanding the general withdrawal) which should help bring in as much oil as possible until the last minute... Remittences to Italian relatives from Americans from 1 of June to the end of February amounted to $ 10,830,000 while similar payments in the same period from England amounted to 130,000 pounds... The Granai del Popolo now stands at 10,003,315 qtl... The first chlorine factory to be re-activated in Liberated Italy (capacity: 45 tons a month) started production this last week in Rome... Sixteen gas plants have resumed operations in recent months and 9 others will do so shortly, according to the Public Works and Utilities Sub-Commission.

4. Voice from SHAEF

One of the most interesting tales brought by a visitor to AC Hq. recently has been that of an American officer who has returned for duty in this theater after having been originally in Sicily and then in SHAEF on German planning. He is Major Aldo L.Raffe, who devised the original schede personale in Sicily for separating the Fascist goats from the sheep and has been working on a similar job for the Nazi problem. He has come back to take up a post in North Italy when we get there. The Italian experience has been invaluable in planning for Germany, Major Raffe said, the German Fragebogen or questionnaire being modelled strictly on the Italian AMG one and the general lines of purification of the body politic following profiting by the Italian experience. In brief, the German epuration proposes to clean out immediately all Germans on the normal "black lists" and all those who were either political leaders or held any sort of important civil office, since the thorough Teutons have completely infiltrated the German civil service with Nazi Party members. In addition, since Nazi Party requirements are much more strict than eligibility for joining the Fascist Party, there are expected to be many more ardent Nazis than there have been ardent Fascists. The CIC will close down Nazi Party offices and arrest leaders and war criminals. AMG exclusively will clean out Nazis from the public administration. The business of finding the "real" Nazis among those who say that they were simply members of the party is again complicated, as in Italy, the major reports, by the fact that most of the Germans so far encountered proclaim that they "have never been Nazis" just as the Italians announced that they had never been Fascists". Perhaps, at the moment, Find-

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court procedure which to a people used to totalitarian Peoples Courts for the last several years, is something quite incomprehensible. In general, Major Raffa says, the AMG problems are the very same as those met in Italy - public health and sanitation and food transport, complicated by the fact that German towns captured to date have suffered much greater destruction than most of those in Italy.

5. Allied Properties

Lieut.Col. E.C.King (A) of the Property Control Division of the Finance Sub-Commission has just completed tidying the picture of Allied properties taken under the protection of the Allied Commission in Liberated Italy. No estimate of the total value of these properties can be made at this time, Col.King remarks, except to say that an "immense" value is indicated. Allied bank accounts alone sequestrated by Istcambi on behalf of the Italian Treasury when Italy was against us amounted to one billion 435 million lire, of which 819 million was American, 295 million British, 280 million French and 41 million in other Allied accounts. Up to the end of February, with more properties being steadily taken over in Tuscany, the Property Controllers has assumed charge of 5,494 items, the bulk to that date in Southern Region. These included 4,529 American, 345 British, 494 French, 20 Russian, 86 Greek, 15 Yugoslav, 28 Brazilian, 189 other Allies, 131 Italian statal or parastatal accounts and six German. As many as 3,995 items had been returned to their owners or legal representatives. Those were broken down as follows: 268 in real estate (villas, farms, buildings); 34 in industrial and commercial entities (plants, shops and banks); 3,560 in securities and miscellaneous objects of value, and 131 Italian statal and parastatal properties, usually Fascist. British real estate generally has been more valuable than that held by Americans. North Italy is expected to show the greatest list of Allied properties, both industrially in Milan and habitations in the resort districts, 2,500 real estate items and 500 industrial and commercial items being already listed. In addition, the Property Control Division is holding some 115 million lire, for the Psychological Warfare Branch (PWB) Film Section, the result of proceeds of the distribution of British and American films in Italy.

6. Odds and Ends

Brigadier Maurice S. Lush (B) is on a month's leave in England. Col.Norman E. Disko (A) is acting Executive Commissioner.

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Brigadier Maurice S. Lush (B) is on a month's leave in England; Col. Norman E.Fiske (A) is acting Executive Commissioner, in the meanwhile... While under constant enemy observation on the edges of Mount Belvedere, Italian civilians mobilized by Capt. Jack Garcia (A), AMG officer in the area, built an excellent military road from Lizzano to Silla, 5th Army AMG reports... A temporary Allied-Italian Film Board to facilitate the revival of an epurated Italian film industry has been finally formed... The Local Government Sub-Commission announces that all 98 prefectural officials in Italian Government territory have now been epurated, 34 having been sent to trial, six having been dismissed and 18 others having received minor punishment... The Public Relations

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Branch is arranging for the weekly showing of documentary films held by PWB to Allied Commission officers... Lieut.Col. Frank L. Toscani (A), 5th Army AFC economics and supply head is now back from leave in the States... Some more U.S. promotions have come through: To Colonel - Clarence R. Birchett; to Lieutenant Colonel - Charles D.Birt, Paul Gardner, William E. McBratney, Paul D.Shriver and Carleton V. Washburne; plus four new Majors: to all, congratulations... The Communications Sub-Commission has turned over four more Rome-Naples telephone circuits to the Italian Government... Buona Pasqua and watch out for the pesci d'aprile!

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

R&S/MB50/TAB

16 March 1945.

AC ITALY BULLETIN NO. 50
10 Mar to 13 Mar 45

1. Political

The long drawn out trials of Roatta, Suvich et al came to an anti-climactic end on the 12th when sentence of death was passed on Anfuso (once Ambassador to Berlin) and life imprisonment to Roatta. Suvich and Jacomoni were given 24 years. The sense of anti-climax was due partly to the fact that the two principal figures are not present (Anfuso reputedly in Berlin and Roatta still at large, reported variously as in Dongasi, Florence and in Kesselring's Italy) and partly to a rather vague feeling that the trials had not been handled efficiently. Spano, in UNITA', thundered that the present law had been proven inadequate; a few years, he said, should suffice to condemn "fascist scoundrels." RICCARDO LONG remarked in a more legalistic vein that the existent law is bad in that it fails to conciliate political and legal criteria and that the trials just concluded had grouped together too many accused and too many charges. THE TIMES complained that the sentences - except for Anfuso - were either too heavy or too light; if Suvich was indeed sufficiently guilty to deserve a 24 years sentence he might well have been given life; if he was not a bit criminal than who are the minor penalties for? As remarked in last week's Bulletin the trials have been more noteworthy for their tendential effects than in themselves. The latest indirect product of the affair was the government's statement, at a press conference on the 13th, that it intended to enforce firmly the regulations for sending "socially dangerous elements" to labor camps and for removing from official posts all who once held political charges in the Fascist party, no matter what their present affiliations may be. Nonetheless there is much discontent with the machinery of epuration and Chicco last week delivered himself of what ITALIA NUOVA unsympathetically called "one of the usual Jeremiads", pointing out the difficulties in carrying out the task expeditiously; citizens are afraid to sign their denunciations, he said, and employees who reported on their superiors are terrorized. Meanwhile some progress may be noted: the properties of Bocchini (Fascist head of the police) and Guillaume (...

The long drawn out trials of Pontta, Suvich et al came to an anti-climactic end on the 18th when sentence of death was passed on Anfuso (once ambassador to Berlin) and life imprisonment to Pontta. Suvich and Jacomoni were given 24 years. The sense of anti-climax was due partly to the fact that the two principal figures are not present (Anfuso reputedly in Berlin and Pontta still at large, reported variously as in Bonassi, Florence and in Pescarlin's Italy) and partly to a rather vague feeling that the trials had not been handled efficiently. Spano, in UNITA', thundered that the present law had been proven inadequate; a few years, he said, should suffice to condemn "fascist scoundrels." PIETRO NENNI remarked in a more legalistic vein that the present law is bad in that it fails to conciliate political and legal criteria and that the trials just concluded had grouped together too many accused and too many charges. THE TIMES complained that the sentences - except for Anfuso - were either too severe or too light; if Suvich was indeed sufficiently guilty to deserve a 24 years sentence he might well have been given life; if he was not a big criminal then who are the minor penalties for? As remarked in last week's Bulletin the trials have been more noteworthy for their tendential effects than in themselves. The latest indirect product of the affair was the government's statement, at a press conference on the 13th, that it intended to enforce firmly the regulations for sending "socially dangerous elements" to labor camps and for removing from official posts all who once held political charges in the Fascist party, no matter what their present affiliations may be. Nonetheless there is much discontent with the machinery of epuration and CHIOCO last week deliver ed himself of what ITALIA LIBERA unsympathetically called "one of the usual Jeremiads", pointing out the difficulties in carrying out the task expeditiously; citizens are afraid to sign their denunciations, he said, and employees who reported on their superiors are terrorized. Meanwhile some progress may be noted: the properties of Bocchini (Fascist head of the police) and Grollalanza (once minister of Public Works in the old regime) have been confiscated, and Chiavolini, erstwhile private secretary to the erst while duce, has been arrested.

The Council's meeting on the 14th was particularly important for the sanctioning of a national loan "for intensification of the war effort" and emergency expenses. Bonds are to go on sale on April 1st, and in this project the government has had a good press, even the recalcitrant ITALIA LIBERA coming to its aid whit an article urging all Italians to get in back of the government and buy. IL CORRIERE also reported that the Solidarity

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Fund was going well and predicted that 5 million lire would be collected within three months. A further cheering note was the return of the Pattiali-Quintieri financial mission from Washington; their report has not been made public but Tarchiani announced in Washington that Italy had been granted 1 5 million dollars in credit for purchases in America. In a related sphere the signing of the agreement between UNRRA and the government should be noted; Italy is to get supplies and services to the amount of 50 million dollars for relief purposes. The first 5,000 tons of supplies are to arrive this month.

Bonomi made a visit to the front and came back impressed by the "new spirit" and the friendly collaboration between Italians and Allies. Another happy symbol of this collaboration was the "inauguration" of the new Cassino. The first houses were ready and tenanted on Thursday when the ceremony took place. The Ambassadors of the United States, England, Russia and France were present as well as three Italian Ministers (including Bonomi) and a number of other dignitaries. IL POPOLO saw in the rebirth of Cassino a symbol of the new Italy which is rising from the past and ITALIA LIBERA, ordinarily no friend of the government, wrote lyrycally of the occasion and of the "victory of life over death" which it symbolized.

Political life - in the party power partisan sense - has continued active throughout the week. The Action Party is ever vigorous in its attacks on the government; ITALIA LIBERA of the 16th carried a number of resolutions of the party's central committee, calling for a Consultiva, more power to the C.L.N. and more efficacious epuration and proclaiming that the Bonomi government was incapable of "creating proper conditions for the renewal of democracy." The Communists have been under fire from both the Christian Democrats and the Liberals for (among other things) the pronouncement that Communism and Anti-fascism are one and the same. Trieste slipped briefly in the headlines again when Tarchiani was quoted as saying in Washington that the "italianità" of the Adriatic port was beyond discussion. IL GIORNALE D'ITALIA, which speaks for the government, approved the sentiment, manifesting admiration for Tito, the heroic liberator of his country, but adding that questions of frontiers must be settled in a spirit of reason and not in one of inflamed nationalism.

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Political life - in the narrower partisan sense - has continued active throughout the week. The Action Party is ever vigorous in its attacks on the government; ITALIA LIBERA of the 15th carried a number of resolutions of the party's central committee, calling for a Consultiva, more power to the C.L.N. and more efficacious epuration and proclaiming that the Bonomi government was incapable of "creating proper conditions for the renewal of democracy." The Communists have been under fire from both the Christian Democrats and the Liberals for (among other things) the pronouncement that Communism and Anti-fascism are one and the same. Trieste slipped briefly in the headlines again when Tarchiani was quoted as saying in Washington that the "italianità" of the Adriatic port was beyond discussion. IL GIORNALE D'ITALIA, which speaks for the government, approved the sentiment, manifesting admiration for Tito, the heroic liberator of his country, but adding that questions of frontiers must be settled in a spirit of reason and not in one of inflamed nationalism.

Recently there has been a tendency on the part of papers of all parties and individuals to ask the government for some preliminary notice of measures under consideration. Even IL POPOLO, normally not given to harassing the government, has written an open letter to Bonomi on this subject. This may be worthy of note as indicating the need of some kind of parliament - or perhaps simply of better press relations.

2. AMG with the Armies

Typical of the communes liberated by Fifth Army this Spring after a cruel winter just within the German lines is the

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tiny group of settlements grouped around and above G'GGIO O'T'NO. The main village lies up a winding country road three kilometres west of Route 7. To reach it you climb more than a thousand feet in two miles. Normal population of the entire communes is only 6,500 souls of whom 5,200 are still sheltered in partly ruined buildings, sharing what cover they can find with 1,300 refugees from other places. Over the hamlet rise the twin peaks of Monte Belvedere and Monte Torraccia. G'GGIO O'T'NO is in bad shape. One third of its buildings have been completely destroyed; of our post offices in the commune, two are shattered and one has been hit. It will cost six million lire to restore smashed public works alone. Water works, sewers and electrical installations are gone. The peasants hid their grain because the partisans told them it was the thing to do. The grain ration up to the end of May was distributed to 4,700 persons and there is said to be more concealed in various corners of the commune. There is a shortage of meat and fats; only one-third of the livestock is left alive. Fifth Army A G has brought in fodder to save that remnant, as well as garden seed, oxygen, tobacco, and fuel for mills and vehicles. Financially the commune is bankrupt, though it was once self-supporting. No taxes have been collected since last August when 150,000 lire were levied. There is an overdraft of 70,000 lire at the local Credito Romagnolo. Many records have disappeared; the tax rolls must be revised; local officials say it will take until June to finish the job. In the meanwhile, to supplement preliminary financing done some weeks ago, A G has advanced a further 2,000,000 lire, more than a million of which will be spent in the next two months restoring essential public services. The rest will cover normal budget requirements, pensions and State payroll of 42,000 lire a month. At the junction of the G'GGIO O'T'NO road with Route 67 Italian civilians under the direction of combat engineers have built a stone memorial to Fifth Army troops who died to free the Commune.

3. Pisa Comes to Life

Pisa is coming to life again after its many ordeals last fall and winter, reports Maj. T. L. Bullock, our PRO with 15th Army Group. But it will be a long time before the city returns to normal, says the Provincial Commissioner, Lt. Col. T.T.J. Walters (B). It will take a year to get roads, bridges and essential public works completed, though they are off to a good start. The city is about 60 per cent destroyed or badly damaged.

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destroyed; of our post offices in the commune, two are shattered and one has been hit. It will cost six million lire to restore smashed public works alone. Water works, sewers and electrical installations are gone. The peasants hid their grain because the partisans told them it was the thing to do. The grain ration up to the end of May was distributed to 4,700 persons and there is said to be more concealed in various corners of the commune. There is a shortage of meat and fats; only one-third of the livestock is left alive. Fifth Army A G has brought in fodder to save that remnant, as well as garden seed, oxygen, tobacco, and fuel for mills and vehicles. Financially the commune is bankrupt, though it was once self-supporting. No taxes have been collected since last August when 150,000 lire were levied. There is an overdraft of 70,000 lire at the local Credito Romagnolo. Many records have disappeared; the tax rolls must be revised; local officials say it will take until June to finish the job. In the meanwhile, to supplement preliminary financing done some weeks ago, A G has advanced a further 2,500,000 lire, more than a million of which will be spent in the next two months restore essential public services. The rest will cover normal budget requirements, pensions and State payroll of 12,000 lire a month. At the junction of the [illegible] road with Route 67 Italian civilians under the direction of combat engineers have built a stone memorial to Fifth Army troops who died to free the Commune.

3. Pisa Comes to Life

Pisa is coming to life again after its many ordeals last fall and winter, reports Maj. T. L. Bullock, our PRO with 15th Army Group. But it will be a long time before the city returns to normal, says the Provincial Commissioner, Lt. Col. T.J. Waltons (B). It will take a year to get roads, bridges and essential public works completed, though they are off to a good start. The city is about 60 per cent destroyed or badly damaged, particularly on the south bank of the Arno. German shelling continued for 14 days after the Commissioner entered on 3 September. Both the Cathedral and the Leaning Tower were hit by small calibre shells. The famous Campo Santo suffered terrible damage to frescoes and sculptures when shelling set fire to the lead roof and molten metal poured into the quadrangle. Fifth Army engineers have built a temporary roof to prevent further damage. Pisa's troubles were aggravated by a flood which broke retaining w and spread alon the streets to depths which varied between two and

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five feet. Four hours after the flood began the Lucca Gate became impassable. Bakeries were drowned out and nearly 50 tons of army biscuit had to be brought in and distributed in Army "ducks." The water did not go down for three days and the sea of mud which remained behind is still being cleared away. Flood prevention works, undertaken with Army help, have now been completed. Fortunately a good cesspit sewage system withstood the flood and there has been very little typhoid. Health is good. An outbreak of scabies has been controlled. Hospitals are working very well in Pisa, as well as in Pontadera and Volterra and some supplementary items of diet are available for patients. Food is scarce in the towns of Pisa Province but the ration scales of bread and pasta are being maintained. The province reports a good grain amassing; vegetables are available in quantities but prices are high. Civilian transport could help relieve local shortages if batteries and tires were obtainable. When sufficient lignite is available, it is hoped to reopen the light railway line from Pisa to Cascina and Pontedera. Work animals are in very short supply. In the City of Pisa water is on again in the mains and leaks are being fixed. Some electricity is going to essential offices and mills and a little is left over for olive pressing and industry. When more power is available several plants in the Arno Valley will reopen. Industry is reviving slowly. The salt monopoly plant at Volterra is working well and an alabaster industry there has enjoyed a boom from sales of souvenirs to troops. Schools are open throughout the province except in Pontedera, many of them in teachers' houses; attendance is high and text books have been operated by the Italian authorities. The Italian courts began to function early and AMG courts, while they are busy, are not overworked. Eight young Italians were sentenced to one year each by an AMG court for cutting the hair of an Italian girl who went out with Allied soldiers. The Prefect is giving satisfaction to AMG officials, but there are only three CAOs in the province to administer 38 communes. While the Provincial Commissioner believes the bulk of the people are Christian Democrats, he says the Communists have the best organization. Taxes are coming in well, the Italian administration is functioning satisfactorily and bank deposits are up. Five small papers, two of them published by the Church, are appearing regularly under AMG supervision.

4. Travel Agency

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It came as a surprise to us, and probably will to others, that the AC HQ. Dispatch Office moved approximately 25,000 persons through its facilities during the past month. The office, which functions under the Hq. Commandant, is run by Major W.J. Birch (B), assisted by Lieut. W.L. White (A), and in addition to running the motor pool, providing transport for out-of- town trips and local visits, has moved personnel by sea, rail and air to countries all over the globe. For example, 245 passengers, mail, urgent medical supplies, luggage, seed and tools were moved by the Courier Section. Every night 350 female employees of AC HQ. are taken home by car.

/HQ

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HQ officers and staff, totalling 5,524 passengers during the month, made 233 taxi trips a day. By rail to places up and down Italy - speaking of rail, there is now a sleeping car service to Rimini - 52 persons were dispatched. Another 88 went by air to cities in Italy, Sicily and Sardinia as well as to the States, U.K. India and Cairo. Sea lanes were used by 14 to get to Madrid, South America and Tangiers. Diplomats were escorted to points of depart Trips by officers out of town amounted to 114, trips within the Ro area to 520, local trips to 1,348. In addition, the American maintenance unit, also supervised by the Dispatch Office, took car of 1,712 jobs. Major Birch and his staff rate a brace of bouquets at least, for the care, planning and dispatch, with which one of the most vital services of AC is rendered.

5. Odds and Ends.

Congratulations to Lieut. Col Robert B. Tenspace (), 5th Army AAG finance officer, for his award of the Legion of Merit.... Eight more American promotions have come through in the last few weeks; two to First Lieutenant, one to Captain, one to Major, one to Lieutenant Colonel and three to Full Colonel, the last lucky three being Colonels Floyd D. Thomas, Russel A. Snook and John B. Thornhill..... A temporary (we hope) freeze is on, however, for No U.S. promotions..... The census protected by the Economic Section last Summer has been finally published: 1,000 copies are in proces of being distributed of the 153-page, "preliminary" statistical abstract of 28 provinces of Liberated Italy, which, incidentally, shows that four out of ten industrial plants on this side of the line have suffered sufficient war damage to be out of production.. The approximately 75 U.S. combat officers who are now in process of being indoctrinated into AAC background in a series of courses will be earmarked for future use but returned to their units in the meantime..... A political strike in Sardinia the first week in March caused an estimate loss of 5,000 tons of coal production.... 1,000 tons of pyrites have been exported from Piombino and 300 from Civitavecchia to Sardinia for the superphosphate plant making fertilizer; this is the first such shipment from the Italia mainland..... Mr. H.E.A. Wade, British Treasury representative, has been visiting HQ to discuss financial matters..... Mr. E.E. Hunt, head of the Italian Section of the U.S. Foreign Economic Administration, likewise has been a visitor, particularly inspecti the joint program for Italian first-aid rehabilitation, which is

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/The Italian

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The Italian Army Order of Battle - though its WE is 350,000 - now stands at 342,250, including a CC.RR. strength of 53,000, of whom only 47,207 are being used for normal police duties..... Some 23,000 are in administrative units 47,000 slated for combat 135,000 being used in service units..... U.S. inquiries have been received for accordions from the Marche Region..... 25 million lire worth of straw hats and braid are being offered for export to the U. ..... 47 tons of Persian cocoons have been imported for the Calabria silk mills..... Italian troops in the line will now received a cognac ration of three centiliters per man, the rate of issue being at the discretion of unit commanders..... Major Lionel Tiglen (B), former director of the Public Relations Branch, has left for England..... Mr. T. Stewart Brown, new director of the Branch, has just made his first trip into forward areas, promoting bigger and better public relations from the PWB field staffs, all of whom he found highly cooperative, he reports.... Cement production for civilian use now amounts to 4,000 tons a month..... A Consultative Committee representing the supervisory staff, employers and workers has been formed at the Terni Co. (electricity, chemicals, steel and cement) to examine technical and administrative problems, the Labor Sub-Commission reports..... AFHQ is now considering an AC proposal to form a limited number of reconnaissance companies from fabrists to serve with Italian units in combat areas..... The olive oil collection at this date is 351,714 qtl..... Mr. A.G. Antolini (A) is back at his job as Acting Vice President of the Economic Section; Brigadier General Edward B. McKinley is a Deputy Vice President..... All 15 universities in Liberated Italy are open and functioning.... The Agriculture Sub-Commission is currently scratching its head over the supply of sheep and goats to Indian troops, to whom only male animals are acceptable, though our people are trying to offer ewes, first guaranteeing that the females in question will be non-pregnant..... The Granci del Popolo of 1944, now practically written off, stands at 92 per cent of the target or 10,754 qtl..... 610 Italians were returned from Rome and the North to Sicily and the South by the Displaced Persons and Repatriation Sub-Commission this past week..... Felicitations are also in order for the SCAC, 5th Army AMG, who is now Air Commodore G.D. Benson.... Although the Political Section was abolished as of March 1, the American and British Embassies will furnish PW, with two political advisers: PWB Minister H.L. d'A. Hopkinson and Mr. T.C. Bowling, Second Secretary of the U.S. Embassy..... Visiting officers from the field will be glad to learn that, after many complaints about lack of

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being a month..... Ap licants for the job please line up at the left.....

T.G. BERGIN
Major, AUS
DDPR.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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T.G. BERGIN
Major, AUS
DDER.

4327

March 9, 1945

[redacted]

ALLIED COMMISSION

WEEKLY BULLETIN

PUBLISHED BY PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH, HEADQUARTERS, ALLIED COMMISSION, APO 394 - VOL. I, No. 49

POLITICAL

The outstanding event of the week, both from the point of view of political effect and sheer spectacular interest, was the escape of General Roatta from custody of the Carabinieri and his subsequent disappearance into the blue. Roatta is in process of being tried along with Suvich, Jacomoni et al. for crimes against the Italian state. The trial which has dragged on for some time is approaching the final stage and the verdict has been awaited with some impatience. Only a few days ago the Pubblico Ministero asked that the ex-Chief of Staff be given a thirty years sentence and the General has further achieved a rather unenviable international prominence, for Tito's government has asked to try him for war crimes allegedly committed in Jugoslavia. On the night of March 4th, taking advantage of what seems to have been rather lax guard, he simply vanished from the Virgilio hospital where he was under detention. The next day the government, harassed by agitation from the Left, Action and Socialist parties leading the hue and cry, issued a communiqué offering a million lire reward for his capture and announced that the head of the Carabinieri had been removed. This was by no means the end of the matter. On the afternoon of the sixth an indignation meeting was held in the square of the Colosseum and, after speeches by various Leftist leaders, moved on to the Quirinale, where an attempt was made to storm the palace. Bombs were thrown — some say by the Carabinieri or the police, others say by members of the crowd — and the Carabinieri fired. One of the crowd was killed and a number (18 is the last figure we have heard) was wounded. The demonstrators then proceeded to the Viminale where a delegation forced its way with insistence if not violence into the presence of Molè and Bonomi. They asked for immediate resignation of the government. Bonomi refused to resign out of hand, stating that he could not desert his post and that he was responsible to the Council, which was a coalition, but promised to take the suggestion under consideration at the Council meeting the following day. The membership of the delegation is interesting from the political point of view. It was made up of representatives of the Action Party, the Socialists and Communists, the Unione Donne Italiane, a partisan, a pair of "invalidi di guerra" and General Azzi, himself a storm center not so long ago (see *Weekly Bulletin*, No. 39, for 30 Dec. 1944).

The papers of the seventh were full of speculation on the government's possible course of action and indeed on its duration. However, the communiqué which followed the meeting of the afternoon of the seventh relieved all fears of another crisis. It stated that "after a lengthy discussion which clarified the attitude of the parties forming the government, the Council concluded that there is no reason to break the coalition". It added further that Roatta had been transferred from Regina Coeli to the hospital on order of the court and not, as had been rumored, through intervention of political or military elements. It stated that no bombs had been [illegible] and that [illegible] for

Alto Commissariato for Sanctions against Fascism and it was stated that immediate measures would be taken for internment or incarceration of "socially dangerous elements of the previous regime". Meanwhile, the papers are full of speculation about Roatta's accomplices (it is generally conceded he could not have managed his escape unaided) and his present whereabouts. His wife is quoted as saying she believes he has committed suicide and he has been variously reported as on his way to Florence, "in a neutral country", or hiding in the Vatican. *Italia Nuova* reported on the 7th that he had asked to have his trial continued *a huis clos* for he was about to make "sensational revelations" but this was denied the following day.

Other events of the week pale before such a dramatic (some say "farcical" and some say "tragic") event. But the meetings of the Liberal and Christian Democrat party directorates should be noted. Noteworthy in the Liberal meeting were the satisfaction of Casati with the answer to the call-up and the reasonably optimistic report of Soleri on the Treasury; he refuses to be downcast, because he sees the future of Italy's financial life bound up with the Allies, in whom he expressed faith and confidence. The final manifesto at the end of the meeting stressed the Liberal belief in private initiative and urged limitation of government intervention while admitting the urgent need of social reform. It also recommended speedy convening of an Advisory Assembly. The Christian Democrats among other things looked to a gradual transfer of political power to the masses, stressing that the process should not be accompanied by violence, and urged that for the moment reconstruction should be the first political priority. In this they expect help from the Allies both in imports of raw materials and equipment and in repatriation of prisoners.

REGIONAL COMMISSIONERS' CONFERENCE

The first Regional Commissioners' Conference since last August was held this week (March 8-9) in Rome, with full attendance of all the dignitaries from the field and the resident ones at Headquarters, including the Acting President who met the Commissioners en masse for the first time and in the evening of the first day's meeting entertained the lot at a cocktail party. Unfortunately, the Chief Commissioner, being ill and confined to bed, was unable to attend. Closed to the press and without the requirement of reading reports, the meeting was devoted principally to an explanation by Mr. Macmillan of the Allied Commission's role vis-à-vis the Italian Government as a consequence of the new status for Italy and to discussion of plans for operations in the North. As was to be expected, economic problems and technical details of their handling occupied the largest part of the agenda. A chronological record of the conference follows, somewhat abbreviated by the necessity of meeting our first printing deadline.

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Mr. Macmillan pointed out that the New Deal for Italy was simply a natural development of AC policies as they have been worked out since the Armistice rather than anything drastically novel. He said AC objectives are still: (1) to facilitate military operations; (2) to assist in the immediate rehabilitation of the civilian population as fast as possible; (3) and to prepare for transfer of territory and administrative functions to the Italians. He stressed that the continuity of policy from the initial AMG phase to the turnover stage was of the greatest importance and should be kept in mind in all field operations. He predicted that the new populations of the

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North would have an invigorating effect on the AMG-AC operations. He added that, should hostilities cease, their ending probably would have to be arbitrarily fixed by the Combined Chiefs of Staff, and that there would be no collapse of AC functions but rather an immediate intensification (excluding the temporary festivities) and a continuation of activity as long as the military in any force were still stationed in Italy.

Brigadier Maurice S. Lush, the Executive Commissioner, opened the business by mentioning the withdrawal from the South, where regional headquarters will be abolished by April 1 and officers withdrawn as fast as possible except for approximately 66. These will be stationed as follows: Two in Sardinia to look after the mines; seven in Sicily; 24 in Italian Government territory (supply, transportation and financial) and 33 in the AMG Commune of Naples, whose status will continue the same for a few more months. The Executive Commissioner insisted that relations between AC and the Italian Government concerning Italian territory problems be restricted to a high level, that is, between Ministers and Directors, in order to insure that no idea of control is still in evidence. He said there will be a policy of close follow-up of Army AMG's by the AMG regional teams and that the bulk of the officers are naturally being assigned to the Northern regions, headquarters maintaining a staff of 379 of the total of 1,335 officers allotted to AC. Sixty U. S. officers are coming to AC from combat units. (The first of these are even now getting indoctrinated.) There will be no forward headquarters of AC, although it might be necessary to appoint another DCCAO for Northwest Italy, should the DCCAO with 15th Army Group move in another direction. Military authorities have also promised to give NW Italy AMG operations a high priority on material assistance.

Mr. Henry Hopkinson, British Political Advisor, emphasized that the policy of AC in the North should be to recognize the local authorities set up by the Committee of National Liberation, which as pledged itself to co-operate with AMG and to have the Patriots disband and surrender their arms. Stability of government is the prime objective and to that end every effort will be made to make the national Italian Government more representative by inclusion of Northern representatives through the proper channels of negotiation. The Italian Government will try to make contacts as early as possible. Colonel Charles Poletti (A), who whill be RC of Lombardy, made the point that there should be a minimum of Rome-imposed administrators and Brigadier J. K. Dunlop (B), whose future region is Venezia, also insisted that local consultation and local appointments be kept in hands of AMG people on the spot.

The question of implementation of Italian Government decrees in AMG territory was raised by Col. W. E. Behrens (B), Deputy Chief Legal Adviser, who remarked that 5th Army AMG usually accepts most such decrees while 8th Army AMG does not. He pointed out that where the decrees are not implemented, it imposes a considerable problem on handover of territory to the Italians in that a new and heavy body of law comes into effect, which complicates administration and impedes a smooth transition.

Col. W. J. Legg (B), Director of the Food Sub-Commission, explained the new procedures on the price of bread and pasta, the main point of which lies in the fact that the price of these items will vary from place to place, as, for example, 15.5 lire for bread in Lecce, 16.5 in Bari and 18 in Rome, the price being fixed by Sepral. Effective date of the new prices in Southern Italy will be March 12, the 15th in Sardinia and 16th in Sicily. The question of these prices in the North was ticklish. Ger-

one, said that barter had come to Italy to stay for a while. It would be more sensible to set up channels to control the barter rather than try to stop it, he added. (The present system of inter-provincial trade is based on the procedure of declaring surpluses and distributing them to deficiency areas at AC Hq. direction).

Commander J. J. Lawler (A), joint director of the Finance S/C, outlined the new plans of the Italian Government on Finance. A Committee of Economy will examine the State administration and re-organise or eliminate departments set up under Fascism which are no longer necessary. Another proposal was for the formation of local Tax Committees. This would create within each Province a local committee made up of local business men rather than officials. They will co-ordinate State revenues within their area. The Allied Commission favours this idea. State support was proposed to increase the number of food co-operatives and to form local Ente for that purpose. No decree has yet been made, but it was planned to control millers and all food processors. Violation of the decree would lead to the complete confiscation of the property of offenders. There will be two new Bond issues. One will be a small issue and will open on April 25th, issued at par. The final bond issue will probably be for 100 million at 3, 3 ½ and 4 % and for this there will be extremely complicated conditions. It will be issued at par and there will be various guarantee clauses. Commander Lawler asked AMG officers to keep an eye on any attempt of local officials to give a purely local interpretation to any decrees issued.

Mr. William Henry Braine (B), Director of the Labor Sub-Commission, gave one of the most interesting and lucid expositions. He outlined the policy for labor in AMG territory. The keynote would be encouragement of accredited organisations, and a sympathetic approach on the part of AMG. He pointed out that the deportation of agitators would serve no useful purpose since the agitators would merely be removed into another region. Although criticized in the past, the Labor Offices in the North will be supported by the Confederation General of Italian Labour and the employers' organisations, particularly in connection with wage agreements. To avoid unrest it is to the interest of AMG to encourage the appearance on the scene of representatives from the CGIL and the workers' organisations. It is hoped they will give advice and guidance on local conditions so that the national economy will not be upset. The impression is that wages and prices are considerably lower in the North and that for some time there will be a sufficient margin to meet the upward trend and yet keep within the level applying here. On the question of wage negotiations, the policy of the CGIL and the employers'organisations is to provide a new basic wage structure. This will be coupled with a sliding scale and cost of living bonus. The CGIL is the workers' organisation and AC policy is to recognise it. The CGIL will hold an extraordinary general conference as soon as possible after liberation of the North so that the area can have full representation. With regard to the Internal Commissions or Workers' Committees the policy of the CGIL and the employers' organisations is not to allow these to negotiate on wages and conditions. The Fascists have been giving these groups rather more leeway in management problems in hopes of scurrying favor. AC policy is to set up the Armed Forces Wage Scale a little above the normal rates. AMG RC's will naturally be responsible for permits for labor leaders to travel to the North.

Major Ralph Temple (A), of the Local Government Sub-Commission, reported the current preparation of electoral lists and the desirability of holding local elections in AMG territory once it was safe to do so, a condition it would be up to the regional commissioner to decide. Brigadier G. R. Upjohn, vice president for the Civil Affairs

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be no collapse of AC functions but rather an immediate intensification (excluding the temporary festivities) and a continuation of activity as long as the military in any force were still stationed in Italy.

Brigadier Maurice S. Lush, the Executive Commissioner, opened the business by mentioning the withdrawal from the South, where regional headquarters will be abolished by April 1 and officers withdrawn as fast as possible except for approximately 66. These will be stationed as follows: Two in Sardinia to look after the mines; seven in Sicily; 24 in Italian Government territory (supply, transportation and financial) and 33 in the AMG Commune of Naples, whose status will continue the same for a few more months. The Executive Commissioner insisted that relations between AC and the Italian Government concerning Italian territory problems be restricted to a high level, that is, between Ministers and Directors, in order to insure that no idea of control is still in evidence. He said there will be a policy of close follow-up of Army AMG's by the AMG regional teams and that the bulk of the officers are naturally being assigned to the Northern regions, headquarters maintaining a staff of 370 of the total of 1,335 officers allotted to AC. Sixty U. S. officers are coming to AC from combat units. (The first of these are even now getting indoctrinated.) There will be no forward headquarters of AC, although it might be necessary to appoint another DCCAO for Northwest Italy, should the DCCAO with 15th Army Group move in another direction. Military authorities have also promised to give NW Italy AMG operations a high priority on material assistance.

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The last item on the agenda was public relations upon which Mr. G. Stewart Brown, Director of the Public Relations Branch, told of his plans to combat previous criticism of AC by more and fuller information as to achievements, especially by more worthwhile stories from the field. The perennial question of control over PWB news announcements when the North opens up was also discussed. As Mr. Macmillan remarked, should hostilities cease, PWB will no longer have a mission, which is to direct propaganda to the enemy. It would then be particularly desirable to have closest coordination between news to the Italians by PWB and approval thereof by AMG, which is responsible for conditions in those territories.

THE ADRIATIC SIDE

Things are definitely on the up-grade on the Adriatic side of central Italy, reports Abruzzi-Marche region. The inhabitants are setting to with a will to even out supplies of essentials among the various provinces, some of which have surpluses of commodities found deficient in others. Ancona, for instance, in return for textiles from Florence, is to provide breeding cattle and alcohol, which, for better or for worse, is said to be against the best principles of the Food Sub-Commission. With the bread ration now at 300 grams imports for Pescara province have gone up to 1,400 tons a month, Chieti 2,000 tons and Aquila 2,035 tons, which has put a great strain on transport.

Wheat collections have reached 255,345 tons, or 114 % of the target figure. Shortage of sacks has been hampering exports from Macerata, but 3,100 tons have already been moved by motor transport and 102 tons went by rail only last week from Ortona to Lecce. Olive oil amassed now totals 6,002 quintals, 14 % of the goal aimed at. Several prosecutions under way against non-complying big producers are expected to ginger up the campaign. Producers are complaining that potato growers, who now get more than double the price they used to for their crop, are being unduly favoured. Road-blocks in Ascoli and Macerata Provinces brought in 51,000 eggs, 4 tons of flour and pasta and 18 tons of olive oil.

Vatican-operated communal soup kitchens to the number of 74 are being set up in the devastated Abruzzi to cater for the immediate needs of 47,000 persons and ultimately for 94,000. Italians, however, are still chary of soup and an Allied supply officer drily remarks: "You can lead people to a bread line but cannot get them to eat green pea soup; they prefer pasta to vitamins".

In Macerata 29 small industries are back in operation again and another 25 being repaired. Mine-clearance in the provinces of Chieti and Pescara has so far accounted for more than a quarter of a million mines and a second training course has begun in the Abruzzi. Morale among troops employed is high.

American films are much in demand and proving very popular in the provinces of the Abruzzi, where they easily outdistance all other forms of entertainment.

ODDS AND ENDS

Collections of pressed olive oil now stand at 325,281 quintals or 34 per cent. of the goal. — The Granai del Popolo of 1944 (on the point of passing into history while plans are being made for the 1945 Granai) now stands at 10,884,736 quintals or 92 per cent. of the target. — Imported British seed potatoes are now flowing to the regions, 800 tons having gone to Tuscany, 100 tons to Apulia and the rest to Campania. — Exported to the U. K. in the last week were 4,514 tons lemons, 725 tons bitter oranges, 237 ¼ tons wine, 140 tons tartaric acid and 85 tons citric acid. — Ancona is getting some warehouse space to meet its shortage; after repairs space will be available for 22,000 tons (covered) and 8,000 tons (open storage). — The sulphuric acid plant at Castellina Chianti is going into operation to supply the alum plant at Salpa, which alum is required in army map paper production. — Another flat-glass factory has started near Arezzo and a calcium carbide plant at Papigno, which latter has materials for 2,400 tons of carbide at the rate of 20 tons a day manufacture. — Industry Sub-Commission has got five more key plants derequisitioned and are trying to free 32 more, including a tannin extract factory and a wood impregnating plant; among the important factories returned to civilian use are an agricultural machinery plant at Ostia, a railway rolling stock plant near Naples, an olive oil refinery at Caserta, the Stucky Flour Mills at Bari and also a tobacco warehouse at Zagarolo. — Although he is now with Civil Affairs in France, congratulations nevertheless to Capt. Murray Richards (A) for being awarded the Bronze Star for "Meritorious achievement" in Italy when he was with AMG. — Mr. M. H. Taylor, director of the Transportation Sub-Commission, has left for the States by way of London to plug AC transportation problems and search for more civilian personnel in his field. — Public Relations Branch is conducting a party of Allied correspondents to the Cassino memorial services and rebuilding inspection March 15. — Major Evan Talbot (B) has been named Chief Staff Officer to the Executive Commissioner, succeeding Col. G. W. I. Shipp, who has been recalled to the Colonial Service. — 375 refugees from Lucca and Chiaravalle arrived in Rome during the week. — Italian police agencies, thanks to the Public Safety Sub-Commission and the AC Priorities Board, have now received nearly 20,000 items of clothing, including shoes, from Allied sources. — U. S. personnel of AC in the Rome area may now study a variety of subjects, including languages, at government expense in their leisure time at an Information and Education Center just set up. — A Motor Transport Group, operating under AC direction as an integral unit comparable to a region, has been established, consisting of the 1st Truck Bn. and the 2nd and 3rd Truck Bns. (now in process of organization), all to be commanded by Col. J. J. Carnes (A).

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

RPB/WEAB/PRB 4 March 1945.

AC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO. 48
11 Feb to 4 Mar. 45

1. Political

"The Allies", according to the vigilous staff of AVANTI, "have given Italy the hot and cold shower treatment - which may not always be the best thing for a convalescent." Specifically AVANTI had in mind the new directive for Italy (see last week's Bulletin) and the statement of U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau in the roles of dessin caldo and fredda respectively. Leaders and articles throughout the week have been dedicated to either or both of these manifestations of allied policy and to their relationship to each other and (if any) to the Malta conference. Press reaction to the directive was predictably interesting; in general it might be described as one of tempered enthusiasm. The warmest appreciation came from IL POPOLO DI ROMA (to be expected since it is the government's mouthpiece) and from IL GIORNO which saw in the move "a personal success of Bonomi" and did not forget to thank Admiral Stone and his officers. Even indeed all papers recognized that the new status does represent a step forward. Yet there was a rather strong obbligato of discontent; even L'UNITA' DEL POPOLO, which also speaks for the government, reported that "parity status" was not yet forthcoming. UNITA was very lukewarm in its approval, and felt that Italy has not yet been given a chance to offer her full contribution to the war effort. Carocciolo, writing in the Action party's ITALIA LIBERA, said hopeful for a policy of "great gestures" from the Allies rather than one of petty concessions. And Nenni in AVANTI said that the move was good only four months too late and added in one of his now celebrated "post-scripts" that this would be the proper time to turn over Umbria, the Marches and Tuscany to the Italian government.

On the same day that the papers carried the text of the new status for Italy they printed as well the statement of Secretary Morgenthau to the effect that the U.S. has not pledged itself to re-absorb occupation currency after the war but that in the case of Italy this responsibility had been accepted by the Italian government under the armistice clauses. This was indeed a cold shower - not only to AVANTI. [illegible] was particularly bitter and said the concessions granted in the new status order were totally negli-

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/war effort

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war effort in his report on the Malta conference. And Roosevelt's frank statement that America must participate in the foundation of a new world order was also applauded by all parties. Further good news in the field of international relations came on the 2d of March with the announcement that French-Italian relations are to be resumed. True the special status allowed Italians in Tunisia by the 1935 agreement is done away but it is hoped that with a new start and a true spirit of collaboration between the nations this matter will cease to be a cause of irritation. The appointment of Count de Quaroni as Ambassador was welcomed; rumour has it that Sforza will be chosen as Italian Ambassador to Paris.

Dealing strictly with internal affairs the Council meeting on the 27th decided to increase pay of State employees by 50 and family allowances by 100 . The ratio followed the recommendation which the CGIL had earlier in the week persuaded the General Confederation of Italian industry to accept. There has been much comment in the press on the futility of fighting the rising price level with these dangerous tactics but in this emergency the government has hardly any alternative.

Sicily was in the news again as the new Consulta convened in Palermo. Bonomi sent a message in which he called the machinery of the High Commissioner and the Consulta "an experiment" and said he hoped their work would have his guidance. The President of the Council had been expected to go himself and IT DID WHOW thought it a great mistake that he had not done so. And VOCE REPUBBLICANA was merciless in its criticism of the whole scheme; "an imposition from above and not a spontaneous growth from below it is destined to failure" it said of the Consulta, adding that if the members were honest then the first act would be to resign.

2. Who's Who [illegible]

Military government operations on the stratosphere levels of AFHQ may be a long way from officers and men in the field but it may be enlightening to explain the organization and list the key personnel of an echelon which to many of us has been only a name.

Head of the staff section of less than 30 is Brigadier General Charles [illegible]. Spofford, GSC, who holds the title of Assistant Chief of Staff, G-3, and who was one of the very first men in A.F.H.Q. His deputy is Brigadier B.H. Vann (E). Under these officers are two main divisions and a sprinkling of special divisions. They are as follows:

[illegible] AND SUPPLY - Chief, Col. James T. Butterworth (A)

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ECONOMIC WARFARE SECTION - Chief: Col. James E. Butterworth (A)
Requirements and Requisitions - Major Reginald V. Grady (A)
Commerce and Movements Liaison - Lieut. Col. A.J. Gleim (B)
PLANS AND OPERATIONS - Chief: Lieut. Col. W. S. Jackling (B).
Deputy: Col. A. Murray Mitchell (A).
Italian Section - Lieut. Col. Trevor B. Jackman (B).
Austrian Section - Lieut. Col. R.R. Nicholl (B).
Balkan Section - Col. W.S. Hebert (B).

/ CIVIL

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CHIEF PUBLIC LAWYER - Col. Franklin T. Raymond, Jr. (').
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER - Colonel Frank A. Southard (').
CHIEF, REVENUE [illegible] - Lieut. Comdr. Samuel D. Weiss. /buch(
PUBLIC RELATIONS - Major Lloyd H. Waldman (').
ECONOMIC ADVISER - Major Norman S. Seagrave (').

3. Power

Here is an item that speaks for itself. The Public Works & Utilities Sub-Commission will take the bouquets.

Region	Prewar Power Capacity	Capacity Found On Allied Entrance	Present Capacity (as of 31 Dec '45)
Central Italy	1,[illegible] Kw	45,000	203,000
Southern Italy	350,[illegible]	156,000	262,000
Sicily	91,673	45,000	54,000
Sardinia	36,000	36,000	96,000
TOTALS	1,[illegible]	282,000	625,000

4. Army Requisitioning

As every military government student knows, an army has the right to requisition the goods and chattels of a population it is fighting among in the interests of its military effort, and needless to add, the British and American Armies in Italy have, as their right taken what they needed. With peace (we trust and pray) not too far off, the question of tidying up the requisition picture is coming to the fore and new and more liberal rules are reported by Brigadier A. Crawley-Smith, joint director of the Finance Sub-Commission, to be under consideration by AFHQ which will permit much more rapid payment for goods on the spot under the criterion that the Army may pay spot cash for those goods and services which it deems necessary to keep in continuous production for benefit of the war effort. In short, if one takes away all the production of a factory without paying for it the factory, which may be making it the useful to the war, will necessarily close down because it will have no money with which to buy more raw material or support its labor costs to continue making the same product allegedly necessary to the military.

The whole matter of military requisitions, in the history of which 10 and 4 G figure as only other military units, starts, of course, with the first days of the Sicilian invasion when the army

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Region	Under Control Capacity	Capacity Could On Allied Entrance	Present Capacity (as of 31 Mar '45)
Central Italy	1,[illegible]	[illegible]5,000	203,000
Southern Italy	[illegible]70,[illegible]	156,000	262,000
Sicily	61,673	45,000	64,000
Sardinia	56,000	[illegible]5,000	96,000
TOTAL	1,[illegible]3[illegible],[illegible]	2[illegible]17,0[illegible]	625,000

4. Army Requisitioning

As every military government should not know, an army has the right to requisition the goods and chattels of a population it is fighting among in the interests of its military effort, and needless to add, the British and American armies in Italy have, as their right taken what they needed. With peace (we trust and pray) not too far off, the question of tidying up the requisition picture is coming to the fore and new and more liberal rules are reported by Brigadier A. Crawfurd-Smith, joint director of the Finance Sub-Commission, to be under consideration by AFHQ which will permit much more rapid payment for goods on the spot under the criterion that the army may pay spot cash for those goods and services which it deems necessary to keep in continuous production for benefit of the war effort. In short, if one takes away all the production of a factory without paying for it the factory, which may be making items useful to the war, will necessarily close down because it will have no money with which to buy raw material or support its labor costs to continue making the same product allegedly necessary to the military.

The whole matter of military requisitions, in the history of which AMG and G-5 figure as only other military units, starts, of course, with the first days of the Sicilian invasion when the army began taking what it wanted and giving out slips of paper indicating that the person from whom the property was requisitioned would eventually get paid by some proper authority. Not a few of the slips of paper in those early days, it is reported, bore signatures purporting to be "F.D. Roosevelt" and "Winston Churchill." There were also signatures of "Thank You" and "In God We Trust." In any event, the authority, under terms of the Armistice, would naturally be the Italian Government, who, in terms of its own sovereignty over its own people, would decide the rate and scale of payments. The problem of

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goods and services amounts to around 1.2 billion lire.

At any rate, as our Finance people explain it, until at least January 2, 1945, the vast majority of unpaid requisitions (Island Base Section, for example, is asking where to send their packing cases full of unpaid requisitions) were American. Peninsular Base Section as another example, had 30 million lire in unpaid requisitions three months ago. Much of the American claims, however, have been met or being met under the liberalization of the payment provisions recently authorized by the War Department. Italians, in view of the former virtual non-payment policy, were found to be concealing their goods rather than sell. Even lately the forward areas reported that merchants of Bologna are hoarding and hiding goods. For the record, the other main Allied requisitioning authorities in Italy, in addition to those already mentioned, have been the 5th and 8th Armies, Rome Allied Area Command and Adriatic Base Depot.

The reasons why the American payment policy appeared less open-handed at first may well be understood in light of the fact that U.S. expenses are directly chargeable to definite War Department appropriations granted by Congress and that it seemed to fiscal officers in the early days that the account was in danger of being overdrawn beyond anticipations. The order went out from fiscal officers to withhold officers on the American side in this theater to make as few payment as possible since, under the Armistice, it was the Italians who had to foot the bill, not the Allied U.S. The situation, which was [illegible] to a snafu, was unsnarled by General McNarney's January memorandum so that now U.S. procurement officers report that they are fast regaining their popularity with the Italians. In line with prospect of the even further liberalized policy of spot payment, the AC's Finance Sub-Commission has also arranged for all military requisition files to be sent on bl to the Comando Genio Militare of the Italian War Ministry who will have the task of sorting out the claims of their fellow Italian citizens for goods taken ranging from accordions and grand pianos to iron girders and a host of industrial products, not to mention divers motor cars. In the meantime, when in the cases where the army does not, for some reason or other pay on the spot for goods it requisitio AC will take it upon itself to recommend to the Italian Government that in the country's interest the claim be paid at once when it appears that it is vital to continued production for essential civili needs. What, of course, would have been ideal would have been a lira account whereby the Allied military could have drawn from the Italian Government the sums necessary to meet bills for immediate payment. The absence of provision in the Italian budget, already rather

/astronomical

payment has been handled differently by the British and by the Ameri The British have had more clearly defined requisitioning procedures and have kept extremely careful records in a central register. Also they have been allowed much more discretion from the start in paying for goods or services required, whereas the Americans were for a considerable time quite restricted by cogent War Department rules from employing as liberal policy, except insofar as certain items such as vegetables and direct services (that is, labor) were concerned. That the amounts involved are considerable can be seen at a glance when one recalls that the average reasonably spent sum by the armies on goods and services amounts to around 1.2 billion lire.

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astronomical, for such financing, particularly, the absence of adequat accounting machinery and general political considerations, has made that impossible except, strangely enough, in the case of the Italian Navy, where the departmental budget is prepared to meet certain exper and has done so whenever they were incurred on the part of the Allies in using Italian marine facilities. The entire question naturally is a post-war problem: for the Italians to decide politically and with an eye out for inflation, how much of the claims shall be paid to its citizens if at all in many cases; for the Allies, how much to charge the Italians in occupation costs, decisions which are tied up on the highest levels with factors of Italian hopes for membership in the United Nations, the value of the currency and plans for econor reconstruction.

5. Odds and Ends

There are now more than 4,000 Boy Scouts in the two Italian Scout organizations re-established in Italy with the help of the Education Sub-Commission..... Greeting to "Emilia Way", new house organ of Emilia Region, which is keeping the Region's officers and men informed of what the other fellow is doing.... Beginning with th next issue, the MG Weekly Bulletin will be printed... All MG. sub-commissions must immediately cut their officer staffs to the manpowe ceilings set for them and send all other officers back to the field. A 25 per cent reduction in Italian civilian personnel, with prospect of a later cut up to 50 per cent has also been ordered... Rear Admir Guy L. Warren (B) has been named Chief of the Navy Sub-Commission, succeeding Rear Admiral C.B. Morgan, former chief, who will continue as Flag Officer at Taranto.... 100,000 yearling pigs are available f export from Abruzzi Province for fattening elsewhere... Olive Oil collections, as of 27 February, amount to 2[illegible],934 qtl or 33 per cent of the goal... Frost is spoiling pressed olive oil in some areas.... 10,000 qtl of wheat have been declared unfit for human consumption in Pesaro Province after rotting because of lack of transport and weatherproof warehousing... 45 qtl of a 93-qtl shipment of caustic soda has disappeared from a train en route from Bari to Ortona; the missing lot is said to be worth three million lire on the black mark PWB ceased furnishing news to Italian newspapers and radio stations in Italian Government territory on March 5, also closing down its four remaining dailies in Palermo, Catania, Bari and Naples which ar being returned to private control...110,000 eggs have been collected at Siena for sale at 7 lire each (in Rome eggs sell from 24 to 35 li each)... Incidents continue to come in from AMG areas of slightly strained relations between the civilian population (males)and Allied troops over attentions paid to (and reciprocated by) the local

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authorised callers, including diplomats, top AC officials, Italian Ministers and Allied correspondents.... 2,000 persons have been vaccinated in Treviso Province where typhoid cases number 132... Forlì now has a water system which should soon provide 100,000 gallons a day.... Tyres and drainage pumps are being increasingly restored in the 8th Army area where the Germans had taken full advantage of flooding the cut-up terrain... Schools in the area are also using glass from picture frames to replace windows.... 240 more trucks from the U.S. have arrived as part of the 1,700 promised shipment; also eight tons of truck spare parts.... The Granai del Popolo currently reads at 10,700,200 qtl or 91 per cent of the target of 11,600,000 qtl... Capt. John L. Hay (?), spearhead CAO with the 10th Mountain Division, which took Mount Belvedere, reports that the newly liberated area includes four small fractions of communes, but not a single civilian, all the population having been evacuated from front line areas some time ago.... Brigadier Maurice B. Lush, the Executive Commissioner, following a trip to Emilia Region, reports a particul interesting item about sugar: 300,000 tons of sugar beet was alleged wasted from last year's crop because of destruction of factories; on processing factory at Cesena could be re-activated; it would take 4,000 tons of coal, much of it imported, to make 7,000 to 8,000 tons of sugar; it is essential to fix the price of sugar beet immediately to meet spring sowing needs.... Following complaints from Army AC's about loose travel controls into forward areas, Executive Memorandum No. 77 laying down the rules for such movement is being revised, wit the end in view that the Public Safety Sub-Commission will be the one and ultimate rear authority for screening and clearing with the Army elements....

F. S. BERGIN,
Major, AUS,
SCAO.

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

R26/7147/PRB

25 February 1945.

AC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO.47
18 Feb to 25 Feb 45.

1. Political

Problems of food and finance continue to take first place both in the government's program and the interest of the people. Following on the deliberations of the interministerial committee (see last week's Bulletin) which took place on the 15th the Council, meeting next day, gave its whole attention to the matter and drafted some concrete measures. The political price of bread was definitely abolished and other measures to protect the unhappy treasury included the institution of a special committee to reduce state expenses by pruning non-essential items from the budget, and setting up of a national Solidarity Fund to which, the government hopes, many voluntary contributions will be made. Some revenue tax increases were planned and local committees (elective) are to be empowered to aid the treasury in estimating incomes. Again it was stated that the goods of high ranking Fascists would be confiscated and the war excess profits taxes already in force were extended to farmers - a class previously exempt. On the other side in order to compensate the poorer classes for the increase in the price of bread it was stated that "opportune increases" in the pay of state employees would be granted with effect from Feb.15; similar increases are to be granted workers in private industries with the details to be worked out between the unions and the employers. The pay of the troops is to be doubled. On the score of control it was announced, as the interministerial committee had suggested, that cooperatives and communal kitchens would be set up and encouraged and the Food Commissariat was given broad power in control of markets and supplies. The special price control committees alluded to in last week's Bulletin were also sanctioned by the Council.

Press reaction to all this was a little guarded. Almost unanimously the press approves the governments good intention and line of action (though there is still some carping at

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Press reaction to all this was a little guarded. Almost unanimously the press approves the governments good intention and line of action (though there is still some carping at increase of controls from the private initiative dichards) but what the press and public alike are waiting for is, quite simply, results. One thing is clear to the man in the street; bread (i.e. legally obtained bread) is going to cost more money (an estimated 16 lire instead of 5 per kilo) and almost everything else is expensive and irregular in supply. The government on the 23d decreed a special "carogano" indemnity of 93 lire which goes a long way to lessen the burden but perhaps the best news of all was the increase of the ration. A joint release of AC and the government was issued on the 21st stating that the bread ration, ef-

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fective March 1st, for Liberated Italy would be 300 grams or its equivalent (200 grams of bread daily and 550 of pasta weekly). This announcement too was received with gratitude but, perhaps surprisingly, without too much enthusiasm. Even L'EPOCA which spoke most warmly of the sacrifice the Allies had made added that "bread is not enough; Italy must also be allowed to fight" and IL POPOLO repeating the statement "bread is not enough" added the less idealistic comment: "We should like something to eat with it." Symptomatic of the general feeling on the food question is the press reaction to the recent raids on black market centers. They have been going on for a week and at first were almost universally applauded. However, the last few days have seen a change of tone and there has been an outcry that such raids should be accompanied - or better, preceded - by larger distribution of foodstuffs from legitimate channels. "Let us not destroy the mercato nero before we have a mercato bianco" protested ITALIA NUOVA and papers of all parties have taken up the same cry.

The political "color" of the week was supplied rather more than adequately by the contortions of the government in dealing with the paper shortage and the AVANTI vs Navy engagement. The Italian Press Commission, faced with the situation described in last week's Bulletin, decreed (on the 19th) the suppression of six recently licensed dailies. This led on the following day to indignant articles not only from the victims but from some of their unscathed confreres as well, all arguing that the action was arbitrary and the Commission had exceeded its rights and that in any case the sacrifice should have been equally apportioned among all dailies. Before indignation could reach the boiling point however, Bonomi announced that the suspensions were revoked and the newsprint would be forthcoming. Just where it will come from is still a little obscure but at any rate the flurry has subsided leaving, it must be said, some dents in the prestige of the Press Commission (the six injured editors have decided to withdraw from the Association of newspaper editors and set up their own organization) and also in that of Libonati, Undersecretary for the Press. The AVANTI incident stems from an article in its pages rather roughly and, in the opinion of the Navy, inaccurately criticising the service. On Monday some fifty indignant sailors occupied the office of the AVANTI, cut off the telephone and argued passionately with the editors that an apology was in order. No harm was done, nothing was broken but AVANTI the next day reported the affair with indignation and UNITA, VOCE REPUBBLICANA and ITALIA LIBERA took up the cry of "neo-squadrismo". On the 22d a mass meeting was held by various elements sympathetic to AVANTI and a demonstra-

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Tarchiani left for Washington at the end of the week, preceded by Sforza's blessing, radioed to the United States. ITALIA NUOVA added its invariably critical note by observing that

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the Action Party would be represented in Washington but who would represent Italy? Two cheering items to conclude the political summary: the Giornata del Soldato e del Partigiano, celebrated on the 19th, was a great success, with speeches by Bonomi, Casati and Scoccimarro; Allied observers found the crowds in the Piazza del Popolo impressive in their enthusiasm. And response to the call-up in Sardinia is reported as exceeding expectations, drawing words of praise from our own Major General I. Browning, Director of the Land Forces Sub-Commission. Apparently when the Italians talk of wanting to participate in the war effort they really mean it.

2. Italy Reaches Third Base

As Mr.Harold Macmillan, acting President of the Allied Commission, told a press conference of Allied correspondents Saturday at the Grand Hotel, Italy has now reached the "penultimate stage in the evolutionary process which began 18 months ago on a golden September afternoon when the Armistice terms were signed in a Sicilian olive grove." Mr.Macmillan informed the correspondents that he and the Chief Commissioner had just visited Prime Minister Bonomi to advise him of a new status for Italy, consisting principally in a general relaxation of all controls (the rights of the Allies under the Armistice being held in reserve in matters of day-to-day administration) and the role of the Allied Commission vis-a-vis the Italian Government being henceforth one of the consultation and advice, although the Commission will continue exercising its functions of organising military government operations and planning for military government in areas still under Nazi control.

The directive from the Combined Chiefs of Staff outlining the new position covers political, administrative and economic aspects. Further directions as to finance will follow. The Political Section of the AC will be abolished and political advice obtained from the British and American embassies. The Italian Government is permitted to have direct relations with foreign diplomatic representatives accredited to the Quirinal and may appoint ambassadors to all Allied and neutral countries. The AC will naturally be kept informed of general negotiations with outside powers. The AC will no longer have to approve all decrees and other legislation enacted by the Italian Government for Italian Government territory, (which included Sicily, Sardinia and the peninsula south of the Northern boundaries of Viterbo, Rieti and Teramo Provinces.) Likewise, all Italian Govern-

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/ The staff 4310

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The staff of the AC should primarily occupy itself with consultation and advice to the Italian Government at high levels, that is, generally speaking, directors to ministers. Certain sub-commissions will exercise their advisory functions only when requested by the Italians in respect to Italian Government territory. These sub-commissions include Education; Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives; Local Government; Labor, and Legal. The AC should be progressively civilianized except in regards to the Service S/Cs and except to the extent work is done in regards to AC operations.

As a prerequisite to increased economic assistance, the Italian Government is being advised that it must formulate effective economic controls and secure maximum production and equitable distribution of local resources. For the duration of military operations, the Allies will provide those quantities of food, fuel, clothing, medical, sanitary and other essential supplies necessary to prevent disease and unrest prejudicial to military operations. The Allies will also provide supplies such as fertilizer, raw materials, machinery and equipment whose provision will help reduce imports of essential civilian supplies; further, supplies for restoration of power and transport as will aid the Italian military effort. The date of termination of combined military responsibility for providing these supplies will be decided by the Combined Chiefs of Staff on AC's recommendation. The AC will assist the Italian Government to prepare a supply program for rehabilitation, supplies for which will be in addition to supplies provided under military responsibility. Final o.k. on such programs will be decided by the Combined Liberated Areas Committee in Washington. Requisitions should go forward at once so that such supplies may be dispatched as soon as shipping becomes available. On this last point, the joint program of planning started a few months ago is now in the stage of last-minute preparation to be sent to Washington.

3. Olive Oil Warms Up

With weekly collections now in the neighborhood of 30,000 quintals, the drive to get as much as possible of Italy's olive oil harvest into the Ollari del Popolo goes on. Agriculture Sub-Commission reports that progress is "generally satisfactory", total collections up to February 19 amounting to 264,773 quintals or 28 per cent of the target figure of 800,000 quintals. Of this total Southern Region amassings accounted for 210,912 quintals, Toscana Region 23,324 quintals, Lazio-Umbria 17,519 quintals, Sicily 5,696 quintals, Abruzzi-Marche 4,772 quintals and Sardinia 2,352 quintals. Italian specialists con-

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3. Olive Oil Warms Up

With weekly collections now in the neighborhood of 30,000 quintals, the drive to get as much as possible of Italy's olive oil harvest into the Olleari del Popolo goes on. Agriculture Sub-Commission reports that progress is "generally satisfactory", total collections up to February 10 amounting to 264,770 quintals or 23 per cent of the target figure of 800,000 quintals. Of this total Southern Region amassings accounted for 210,912 quintals, Toscana Region 23,324 quintals, Lazio-Umbria 17,915 quintals, Sicily 6,396 quintals, Abruzzi-Marche 4,770 quintals and Sardinia 2,352 quintals. Italian specialists concentrating on the drive have by now, with the help of Allied officers on loan from the Allied Commission, covered a "considerable portion" of their territory in most of the chief olive oil producing provinces. At the end of November 1944 only 3,338 quintals were in the Olleari: December brought in a further 6,017 quintals, but it was not until the drive got under way early this year that the figures really began to show promise, 10,912 quintals being added to the total in January and another 5,430 quintals in the first half of February. Although in past

/ seasons

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seasons the collection has always shown a big decline in March compared with January and February, it is expected that this year, due to the late harvest the present collection rate will be maintained until later in the year. The low-range Plan "C" total of 246,500 quintals as a goal was passed a week ago and if the present rate continues the more hopeful Plan "B" total of 404,000 quintals as a target should be passed by the end of March. The Allied Commission naturally is aiming at the optimum target of Plan "A" - 800,000 quintals.

Evasion of the olive oil amassing decrees is, as expected, considerable, and as once with the Grenni del Regolo, there are anguished cries of lack of transport for the Italian law enforcement officials. In Trasimeno, for instance, one small Jolilla car is all that UPSEA and the Carabinieri have between them to cover the whole province. Then, roads to many of the communes have been impassable and the inhabitants have not even seen an Italian official in months.

Results in Cosenza and Catanzaro are described as "encouraging", but Reggio Calabria has had the poorest crop for 30 years. Road-blocks on a 24-hour basis are operating in Reggio. Questura control squads carry out spot-checks on civilian trains entering and leaving Calabria. At Gioia Tauro in Reggio, a thriving source of the "borse nere", a ten-day blitz to clean up the district is being carried out by a large force of CC.RR. Rome Province, it is reported, is a good example of "everybody for himself". Many producers have had their olives pressed and taken away the oil. There are not nearly enough CC.RR., Tivoli, for one, having only 10 when at least 35 are needed. There are no road-blocks. A 90minute spot-check on the Rome-Tivoli road a few days ago yielded 1.37 quintals of oil - 70 liters from a horse and cart, 42 liters from a light truck, 20 liters from one bus and 6 from another, 10 liters from each of two bicycles and 8 from a third. At Montelibretti, where three steel drums containing 5.46 quintals were seized, 240,000 lire was said to have been paid for the shipment. In such circumstances producers have no worries about the disposal of their crop. The roads from Rome are often thronged with bicycles, carts and trucks, the riders of which are all ready to pay anything from 300 to 400 lire a liter for the oil. The price paid by the Oleari is 50 lire a liter. Producers claim costs of production are 80 lire a liter.

Toscana, where the crop has been good (but seasonally is late) and where potential production is high, has a problem

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Toscana, where the crop has been good (but seasonally is late) and where potential production is high, has a problem of a different sort. Growers are chary of bringing in their crops when the Fascist Government still owes them over 22 million lire in subsidies promised on the last occ, when they were told they would get 10 lire a kilo.

Apart from the collections of pressed oil nearly 1,125,000 quintals of sansa have been handed over to the sansa oil plants since the beginning of the year, which should yield, after processing, another 40,000 quintals of edible oil.

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4. Odds and Ends

Fish from Lampedusa is finally arriving at Naples... First shipment of oranges to U.K. this season has been made this past week... The Italian Government will take over responsibility for allocation of POL in Lazio and Abruzzi March 1... The Italians will also take over the administration of the distribution of food in Italian-Government territory this coming week... The AC will implement the new price of bread and pasta in AMG territory as soon as it is fixed by the Italian Government, following the announcement of the 300-gram ration... Allied wage scales will also be raised accordingly... Four tugs and six barges are to run on the Fiumicino-Rome Canal... The Nera Montoro plant at Terni has been re-activated for a daily production of approximately four tons of ammonia... Industry Sub-Commission has succeeded in de-requisitioning the Ilva Steel Works at San Giovanni Valdarno and the cotton-weaving plant of the Manifatture Cotoniere Meridionale at Angri, to which will be added 100 looms from the damaged plant at Naples, said looms being capable of producing 100,000 meters of cotton cloth a month... Coal production in Sardinia is improving, 9,379 tons being produced last week and steps being taken to increase the labor force by exempting miners from the call-up... Speaking of Sardinia, the call-up was so successful that 13,000 men responded instead of an anticipated 10,000 for the period closing February 18, the improvement being laid to the new mobilization system, improved family allowances and generally better administration... Ancona and Rimini are now receiving a limited amount of power from the Central Italy grid... Four per cent of the meat animals slaughtered in Ascoli and Macerata Provinces has been earmarked for Rome... Major Carleton W.Washburne (A) has been appointed Director of the Education Sub-Commission.. The AC will definitely lose at least 100 PW, of which a third at least will go from NG... The next Regional Commissioner's Conference will be held in Rome March 8, will be closed to the press and will hear plans and policy discussions led by the Acting President and Chief Commissioner... Orders will shortly be issued to abolish the Southern and Island regions by April 1... The correct figure as to CC.RR. strength is 54,971, the Public Safety Sub-Commission reports after a review of the rolls... Col.A.L.Young (B), deputy director of the Public Safety S/C, is leaving the AC to return to his civil duties as Chief Constable of Hertfordshire... The ration of the Italian Army has been increased to 3,700 calories a day... The Granai del Popolo now stands at 10,525,[illegible] qtl or 91 per cent of the target... Congratulations to the following GR who have been mentioned in dispatches: SSI L.Yarom and T.Clarke,

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Major, AUS
DDPR.

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

Ref: PRB/PRB AC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO. 46 February 1945.
11 Feb to 17 Feb 45.

1. Political.

It cannot be said that Italian reaction to the Yalta conference was happy, at least to judge by the press. Hopes were running high that some reference might be made to Italy in the now historic Crimea communique and the papers on the 10th had all carried the statement (usually in bold face or italics) that Bonomi had sent to the "Tre Grandi" a plea for allied status, some changes in the financial clauses of the armistic and readjustment in the status of prisoners of war. (Four days later, however, the Press Bureau of the government denied that allied status had been asked for.) The publication of this appeal at a time when everyone knew the conference was in session seemed to imply some hope of its being granted and consequently to find Italy passed over in silence in the communique which came from Yalta was a bitter blow. Jacchia, to be sure, writing in the GIORNALE DEL MATTINO (Government) assured his readers that Italy must have been discussed at the conference but evidently the Big Three has decided the time was not ripe for announcing their decisions and meanwhile Italians must wait and hope. AVANTI too took it with resignation, pointing out that this was another instalment in Italy's payment for the crimes of Fascism. But most commentary was not so patient in tone. ITALIA NUOVA (Monarchist) and VOCE REPUBBLICANA found themselves for once in agreement; to both this "ignoring" of Italy seemed a measure of the incompetence of the Bonomi government. Jacchia too, in IL POPOLO (the organ of the Christian Democrat Party of which De Gasperi, Foreign Minister, is the leader) expressed dissatisfaction that Italy "was not even mentioned" and similar reaction came from the Independent Catholic QUOTIDIANO.

It is clear from the press that some kind word for Italy would have given the government a boost in prestige as well as improving the morale of the country. However, the San Francisco meeting is not far off and already towards the end of the week editorial eyes were looking to the future rather than the past. Yalta aside, there have been some cheering items in the international field: Italian Labor representatives have been invited to the Labor Conference in London though whether as delegates or observers IL LAVORO (CGIL organ) does not yet know. And it was announced that beginning in May large quantities of raw materials will be sent by the Allies into Italy and that further an interministerial committee is working out plans with AC for resumption of trade with Switzerland - a possible source of supply for equipment for Italian manufacturing plants.

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On the home front the joint Socialist-Communist, declaration is worthy of note. Their program, published on the 10th, reminds the workers first of all of their duty to carry on the fight against Fascism. It then asks the Allies for more autonomy. The abolition of the political price of bread is accepted but it must be accompanied, says the manifesto, by confiscation of the patrimonies of all "who have enriched themselves through Fascism, war or black market trading." The program also calls for a national convention of the C.L.N. and for the formation of a "consultiva" (advisory assembly). On the tactical side the parties announced that they would work together in the administrative elections with

common programs and candidates in common, this last arrangement however not to exclude agreements with other parties. Just how this complicated arrangement will work out is hard to say.

The Roatta trial is still going on and has thrown off two tangents which have been more provocative of discussion than the trial itself. The Leftist parties have been infuriated by the spectacle of certain witnesses summoned to the trial who, they claim, are members of the OVRA, still secure, serene - and in the employ of the state. The government denied that these witnesses were members of the OVRA whereupon the cry went up: the government must know who is, and if so the names should be published and the individuals put on trial. The Action party has been particularly ardent in this campaign and recently the CGIL has also joined the chorus, formally requesting the government to tell what it knows. The other tangent is the international one: Roatta, among others, has been asked for by Yugoslavia, being on the list of war criminals that Tito has marked down for trial. This brings up the delicate matter of whether Italy can be allowed to try her own war criminals if there is also competition from other nations. National pride and the sheer logic of the situation - for this is now an anti-Fascist Italy - are on one side of the debate but UNITA (for obvious reasons) and VOCE REPUBBLICANA (on the lines of its general mistrust in what it calls the Savoyard government) have indicated that they are for handing such people over to Tito. It seems possible that the matter will be turned over to the United Nations Crimes Commission, sitting in London, for adjudication. Meanwhile, the business of epuration moved on a step with the setting up of the Central Commission. Bonomi spoke on the occasion and emphasized what has always been his line in this matter: epuration must strike those who had important charges and were blindly subservient to the regime, but for the lower ranks justice must be tempered with mercy. Above all the operation must be carried out with justice and legality.

The week has also seen a good deal of agitation and discussion revolving around the high cost of living. We have noted the Socialist Communist manifesto which used the return to the economic price of bread as a basis for demands for increases for the workers. Naturally IL LAVORO and other elements in the press and the public have taken up the cry. The week has seen the typographers and theatre employees threaten to go on strike and teachers are reported to be on the verge of one. The "maestranze" (skilled workers unions) and sindacati held a meeting on the ninth and warned that, sympathetic as they are to the government's difficulties, they cannot wait for ever, for people

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To implement these intentions special "committees of the people" with representation from the C.L.N., the unions, the women's organizations and the police, are to be formed to fight the black market and control the restaurants. It is understood that the days of the "di lusso" restaurants are numbered and bread mills and pasta factories are to be strictly controlled.

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Yet the problem remains more fundamental; Lucci, an able analyst and the government's bitterest critic, wrote in ITALIA NUOVA that all measures of control and all attempts to bring salaries in line with mounting prices are vain unless production and distribution are improved. Yet, in spite of his sneers at the government, his only solution for the moment is "selling" the United States "the only nation that can help us", on the necessity of coming to the rescue now (particularly with transport) rather than a little later when rescue will be a much more difficult operation. How much of this week's intensified agitation on the high cost of living reflects an accelerated raise in prices and how much is political reaction to the return to the 4 mil price of bread is hard to say. But the papers today carry the story from the Italo-American PROGRESSO (New York) that AC is sitting on top of a volcano."

2. Newsprint Squall.

Freedom of the press, Italian editorials have been saying of late, must be paid for; but by whom was not mentioned except by a few writers who thanked the Allied for granting Liberated Italy this democratic boon and more especially for importing newsprint from the United States where it is in acute short supply. The editorials were touched off by the blowup in Naples where no newspapers were published Thursday for the reason (Naples editors alleged) that there was no newsprint, all of it (they added) being used Rome's 28 authorized daily newspapers (of which 15 at last count are actually published and are bought and scanned six times a week by the Public Relations Branch's Daily Digest of the Rome Press Section), not to mention 102 (correct) authorize weeklies and one tri-weekly publication. The Naples editors set up such a howl that the chairman of the Italian Press Commission and head of the Italian Government Press Bureau, Signor Rossini, traveled posthaste to Naples to investigate the affair only to find the Neapolitans somewhat hostile, whereupon he came back to Rome, leaving in his trail cries against Rome echoing in the Naples papers and a threat of an editoral delegation to complain against the Italian Press Commission.

The background, according to the Commerce Sub-Commission (which imports the newsprint) and the Allied Publications Board, which, since late November, has exercised a rather loose supervision over the Italian Press Commission, is as follows: The AC in 1944 had requisitioned 600 tons a month or 7,200 tons for the year, of which 2,670 tons never arrived. In fact, there have been no imports since November and none are expected until next month. In view of the then prospective tight situation, therefore, a freeze on further allocations of newsprint was ordered in September and a reserve built up which will last a couple

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This, it was eventually discovered, led to some dubious practices and PWB investigators reported widespread black market activity in imported paper, 30 per cent allegedly disappearing into the black market, including stocks of PWB itself and those of the army owned papers. Newsprint from the U. S. was sold by the Allies to authorized recipients for $175 a ton. The reports said that it was being exchanged for black market local paper in a ratio which provided the papers with considerably more stock for the copies they printed above their original APB authorization. Prices for the imported stock were said to be as high as $2,000 a ton. How much of the 420 tons of imported newsprint allotted to Rome that went under the counter no one could or would say.

Provincial papers, as in Naples (which has seven authorized dailies and 11 weeklies) and Florence (which has two dailies and six weeklies) began complaining that they were suffering because of the preferential political treatment afforded the Roman dailies. One result followed. AC pressure turned the distributing agency to the Banca Nazionale del Lavoro. APB authorities insist there is newsprint in Naples and that the Naples squall is a political strike against the free-handed policies of the Press Commission. Roman papers have been apologizing to their provincial brethren of the pen, avering that it was a breakdown of transport to Naples which deprived that city of paper. To sum up, the situation has reached such a pass that the Allied Commission is asking the Allied Publications Board to ask the Italian Government to take action in the matter by making final recommendations as to what imported paper it needs for Liberated Italy and the North in order that the AC might submit a revised 1945 requisition to AFHQ. The original requisition was for 1,000 tons a month which would be a drop in the bucket if the same rate of publication were continued.

Whether the Government will recommend cutting the number of copies of each paper or rescinding the licenses of some dailies is yet to be seen; the decision is delicate and in essence political; in general the "established" papers (UNITA most firmly) favor cutting down the number of dailies now circulating in the capital; in general the newer papers argue that freedom of the press means quite simply freedom to print - which brings us back to our leading sentence. Meanwhile, the brief period of luxury in which all Roman papers were entitled to one four page issue a week has come to an end - an indication perhaps that the second alternative will be followed.

3. The Italian Fleet.

After fifteen months of protracted negotiations with the Spanish government, the Regia Marina Italiana has received a

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ton. Prices for the imported stock were said to be as high as $2,000 a ton. How much of the 420 tons of imported newsprint allotted to Rome have went under the counter no one could or would say.

Provincial papers, as in Naples (which has seven authorized dailies and 11 weeklies) and Florence (which has two dailies and six weeklies) began complaining that they were suffering because of the preferential political treatment afforded the Roman dailies. One result followed. AC pressure turned the distributing agency to the Banca Nazionale del Lavoro. AMG authorities insist there is newsprint in Naples and that the Naples squall is a political strike against the free-handed policies of the Press Commission. Roman papers have been apologizing to their provincial brethren of the pen, averring that it was a breakdown of transport to Naples which deprived that city of paper. To sum up, the situation has reached such a pass that the Allied Commission is asking the Allied Publications Board to ask the Italian Government to take action in the matter by making final recommendations as to what imported paper it needs for Liberated Italy and the North in order that the AC might submit a revised 1945 requisition to AFHQ. The original requisition was for 1,000 tons a month which would be a drop in the bucket if the same rate of publication were continued.

Whether the Government will recommend cutting the number of copies of each paper or rescinding the licenses of some dailies is yet to be seen; the decision is delicate and in essence political; in general the "established" papers (UNITA most firmly) favor cutting down the number of dailies now circulating in the capital; in general the newer papers argue that freedom of the press means quite simply freedom to print - which brings us back to our leading sentence. Meanwhile, the brief period of luxury in which all Roman papers were entitled to one four page issue a week has come to an end - an indication perhaps that the second alternative will be followed.

3. The Italian Fleet.

After fifteen months of protracted negotiations with the Spanish government, the Regia Marina Italiana has received a welcome reinforcement by the return from Spanish waters of the light cruiser "Attilio Regolo", four destroyers and some small craft, reports the Navy Sub-Commission. The ships put into the Balearics after the Armistice in September 1943 instead of proceeding with the rest of the fleet to Malta - some because they carried survivors of the battleship "Roma", sunk by German bombers west of Sardinia, others alleging shortage of fuel. The Minister of Marine called off his expected visit of Taranto to

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welcome them in person, either because he found himself unable to get away from the Ministry or because it occurred to him that the conduct of the commanding officers had yet to be inquired into.

Since the Armistice the Royal Italian fleet has "co-operated to the fullest possible extent" with the Allied authorities, as Rear-Admiral C. E. Morgan (B), head of the Navy Sub-Commission put it - subject, of course, to the limitations imposed on the fleet at the surrender and the ability of the Allies and the Italian Government to provide facilities for refitting, dock and repair. Of the five battleships, all in reserve, the two most modern - the "Italia" and the "Vittorio Veneto" - are interned in the Bitter Lakes of the Suez Canal. The one-third of the ships' complements kept aboard are allowed daily periods of recreation in the desert and received their Christmas mail by destroyer. Two of the older ships, which are at Taranto and Siracusa, occasionally go to sea for gunnery training of recruits. The fleet's six cruisers and eight destroyers are kept constantly at work and have performed effective service in transporting men and materials at high speeds between Mediterranean ports, running harder in the Allied cause than ever they did for the Axis. Some idea of the extent of the relief thus afforded to Allied shipping can be gained when we realise that up to the end of 1944 the Italian Navy had carried 210,000 Allied personnel, moved 57,000 tons of stores, escorted 1,170 convoys - including 9,300 ships - and steamed a total of 1,500,000 miles. The lightness of design and the lack of spare parts are beginning to tell on these ships, however. Of the torpedo boats and corvettes, some 40 in all, approximately two-thirds are used in convoy and escort work. The fleet is encouraged to sweep its own minefields, though Allied shipping proceeds only through waters previously swept by Allied minesweepers. Mussolini's Italy once proudly boasted large numbers of submarines, but now there are only about a dozen in any way fit for service. These remaining, however, perform useful work on special operations or serve as "clockwork mice", i.e. targets for Allied destroyers in training. Naval officers and men in many cases have shown commendable enterprise and individual bravery in special operations against the Axis. Up at the front the San Marco Battalion, roughly corresponding to one of our marine battalions, is composed of Italian naval officers and men.

In general, the morale of officers and crews has been good. The men get more sea time than ever before and welcome any kind of active work to take their minds off the state of their country and of their families. With the traditional "pazienza" of the Italian contadino, the crews are docile enough, happy to be employed, fed and clothed, and they have tackled with a good

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food situation is good. A Benthamite reform which equalized the rations for combat and non-combat personnel was received with great satisfaction by the latter, who got a considerable increase, and with the grudging acquiescence of the former, who lost a little by the change. The overall strength of the Navy is 79,000 and the numbers are kept down by discharging reserves and time-expired men in favor of young volunteers.

But the Regia Marina's greatest asset and by far its most important contribution to the Allied war effort has been the shipbuilding and repair facilities provided by its dockyards and harbor installations, especially at Taranto and Naples. To date more than 2,000 repairs, refits and overhauls have been carried out to Allie and Italian vessels and there have been over 1,000 dockings. The dockyards employ more than 35,000 Italian workmen, of whom some 14,000 are at Taranto, 14,000 at Naples, 3,000 at Palermo and 3,000 at Leghorn. Many of the repair units operate almost entirely under Italian direction, with a minimum of Allied supervision. The fact that some 150 Allied vessels are handled each month in Italian dockyards means there is no need for these ships to return to home waters for repair - a big relief to Allied shipping resources and one much appreciated at the time of the landings in France, not to mention the saving to Allied manpower in the Italian manning of port and harbor installations.

4. Odds and Ends.

Congratulations to the following British officers who have been mentioned in dispatches in "recognition of distinguished services in Italy": Brigadiers G.R.Upjohn and A.P. Grafftey-Smith (to whom also felicitations on his promotion); Col. W.J. Legg; Lieut. Cols. C.R.Briggs, J.H.Giffen and D.G.H.Hartley-Smith; Majors P.E. Coxhead, J.A.Balfour, C.P.S.Goldson, H.B.S.Hoddinott and D.D.McColm and Captains G. J.Campbell, J.B.Black, J.A.Kellett, R.C.L.Limbert and A.G.Mack...The Information Division of the Public Relations Branch has put out a handsome "Desk Guide to Italy" which should be percolating to field offices soon...No. 1 District in Southern Italy estimates that 70 % of all Bailey bridges still up in that area can be removed soon as a result of completion of permanent structures, for which the Public Works & Utilities Sub-Commission takes a bow.. Speaking of bridges, there will be enough damaged ones to repair up forward, 600 bridges being down in Pesaro Province and 350 in Forli Province...The Pirelli rubber reclaiming factory at Torrespaccata has begun operations and already has produced 3,000 kilos of reclaimed rubber, Industry Sub-Commission reports...The Rome gas works will now be able to produce gas at full pressure for seven hours a day, thanks to permission granted for increased consumption of coal up to 300 tons a day...More industrial news: The Oschiri plant of the Societa Elettrica Sarda in Sardinia has started production of ammonium sulphate; the Ulisse Crocchi plant at Torrentieri (near Siena) has begun production of carbon bisulphide for olive oil refining and soap manufacture; anent soap, allocation of the product for military use has now ceased and the full production reserved for civilians; the Officine Meccaniche e Fonderie plant at Terni is making olive oil presses...Nomenclature: The title of Chief of Staff at HQ. has been abolished and that of Executive Commissioner resumed; vice presidents of sections will be known simply as

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the post...The Economic Section, incidentally, is out to stir up the salvage question in the hope of getting some scrap for industry and other agencies, old tin cans, for example, making a good substitute for tiles on new houses, in the experience of our Public Works officers....Full control of Naples schools and higher educational institutions has been turned back to the Italian Government, including 6,000 teachers, 156,012 pupils in nearly 600 schools....January exports of Italian products surpasses those of any previous month and totaled 19,992 tons, representing a value of 155 million lire....Plans are being made to activate six sugar mills having a production of 20,000 tons of sugar and 6,000 of molasses.....In 1944, Naples Reports, 58 of the 65 dogs impounded had rabies....The Economic Section brain trusts and the Italian Government interministerial committee will discuss the question of prices at their next weekly meeting, 22 February, especially farm prices which are considered the key to the Italian price structure.....The Carabinieri now stands at 60,054, but there are only 45,719 effectives....5th Army AMG reports that several large caches of arms of Italian, German and Allied make have been found around Pistoia, apparently hidden away by Patriots....20,000 pigs are expected to be slaughtered also in the 5th Army area and 200 tons of salt already received for curing....The Italian Government will be invited to send representatives, at need, to sit with AC delegates at pertinent meetings of the Allied Forces Local Resources Board....The Granai del Popolo currently reads 10,755,115 qtl or 90% of the 11,600,000 qtl goal...Abruzzi-Marche Region Industries are on the up-grade despite occasional power shortages, the following enterprises being in operation: Wool-spinning plant at Aquila; cement and lime works at Bomba; various brick factories; maiolica plant at Torano; shoe factory at Chieti; Montecatini chemical plant at Bussi; leather tannery and foundry at Tolentino; paper mills at Picenco and Fabriano; silk mills at Ancona; match factory at Jesi, with largest production in Liberated Italy; lignite mines at Scopito and Bussi; asphalt mine at Scafa, and sulphur mines at Pertigara and Capernardi....The olive oil collections are now 435,329 qtl. or 24% of the target figure, despite perennial shortage of transport for control officers.....By providing needed solvents and truckage to refineries, it is also expected to extract 40,000 qtl of edible live oil from the sansa or pressed olive residue which usually goes into soap making..... Typhus of a line which were last showing up around Florence are now making appearance around Bari and Brindisi.....

We regret to announce the death of Col. M. B. King, Regional Public Health Officer for Piemonte Region. Col. King was killed in a motor accident near Caserta.

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5. Announcement.

Mr. C. Stewart Brown, former vice chairman in charge of public relations for the American Red Cross, has been appointed

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5. Announcement.

Mr. G. Stewart Brown, former vice chairman in charge of public relations for the American Red Cross, has been appointed Director of the Public Relations Branch, succeeding Major Lionel Fielden (B), who is going home on leave to England. Prior to the war Mr. Brown was United Press correspondent in Rome and other European capitals.

T. G. BERGIN,
Major AUS,
D.DPR.

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

R2G/PB45/PRB

10 February 1945

AC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO.45

30 Jan to 10 Feb 45.

1. Political

The Council, meeting on the 7th, tackled, as predicted last week, the thorny question of the political price of bread and, "after exhaustive discussion", decided to abolish the political price "as soon as possible" since it had become " an intolerable burden to the state" (Quotes from the official communiqué.) The Council also expressed its unanimous conviction that the needy classes must be compensated for the effect of this action and instructed the competent ministries to prepare concrete suggestions so that the "necessary operation of bringing the price of bread up to its real cost might have the character of an act of national solidarity." Press reaction to this decision was very mixed. Lucci, in ITALIA NUOVA thought it laudable but late and feared there might be too much delay in working out the compensation measures. Approval also came from the Liberals and from IL POPOLO DI ROMA but of course the parties of "the masses" were anything but pleased. L'ELOCA (a new daily of Socialist sympathies) said nothing else could have been expected from the present government "which follows a policy far from favorable" to the poorer classes and predicted gloomily that other food prices would go up too. Nenni, in AVANTI, said this was another example of beginning at the wrong end; just as in the matter of epuration the big names were spared and the little fellows attacked, so here it is the poorer classes that must make the sacrifices. Lizzadri had already given his opinion before the fact; writing in IL LAVORO a day before the decision was made public he argued that the price should not be abolished until the ration could be increased and that it would be a good idea to raise salaries to meet the additional cost of bread anyway. A cool and objective appraisal of the economic effects - as apart from the political - of the Council's decision appeared in IL GLOBO. Here the action was approved but the writer remarked that the relief it will give the state

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It seems likely that the tactics of the workers' parties, instead of fighting the return to the real price of bread will be to press for more increases in salaries. The matter was

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indeed discussed at the first meeting of the CGIL Executive Committee which took place on the 2nd. The Camera del Lavoro followed with an order of the day on the 7th asking employers and public administrations to increase immediately salaries of all workers and employees. UNITA and LAVORO joined the chorus, both suggesting that the state should proceed more vigorously with confiscation of funds of those "who have benefitte by Fascist corruption" and LAVORO (De Vittorio speaking) declaring "we will not be frightened by the specter of inflation".

The government made a statement on prisoners of war on the 6th. The official statistics state that there are 340,000 in British hands, 110,000 held by the Americans and 35,000 by the French. 670,000 soldiers and "several hundred thousand" civilians are detained in Germany and are not given the proper status of war prisoners as Germany does not recognize the Bonomi government. The statement added that accurate figures on prisoners held by the Russians are unobtainable. The government's report was objective, not to say purely statistical in tone, and for this it was taken to task by ITALIA NUOVA which feels that the government should press for repatriation of prisoners detained by the United Nations and urge them to compel Germany to give recognized status and better treatment to those in German hands. Sforza, too, writing in IL GIORNALE DEL MATTINO said that one of the most "urgent and painful problems" is that of Italian prisoners in the hands of the Allies. Half a million families ask themselves, e said, "why the government doesn't think about this" and the soldiers who want to fight for the Allies are puzzled by the parad xical detention of their comrades. It was announced that Carandini will take up negotiations on this subject with the British authorities (the matter has been up to now in the hands of the Swiss Embassy in London). The news release carrying this information added the piquant item that a delicate aspect of the matter of the Italian POW's in England was their popularity with the British girls and consequent resentment on the part of the local swains. This should simplify the matter of repatriation, we would think.

The second meeting of the Council this week took place on the 8th. A new Commissariat for Veterans was set up. This will deal not only with veterans but also civilians in the areas to be liberated and, through the partisan organizations, will also be concerned with assistance for the patriots, said IL GIORNALE DEL MATTINO. Gasparotto was named Alto Commissario. At

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Italian point of view, good. Much publicity has been given to Marcantonio's intention to ask the House to make Italy a full-fledged Ally. Bonomi's statement that the armistice "does not prejudice Italy's future" also provided a cheering note, reinforced as it was by the declaration of U.S. Acting Secretary of State Grew that "there is no article in the armistice concerning future territorial arrangements." Italians have heard similar reassurances before but coming at a time when they are sure their fate is being debated, these are regarded as particularly significant.

2. Confusion twice confounded

The following by way of sequel to the Salvarezza affair as set forth two weeks ago in our Bulletin (No.43 for 28 Jan.) The dramatic not to say histrionic disappearance of Salvarezza on the day before he was to give his press conference and "tell all" led of course to the wildest speculations in the press. The delay of a week in finding him allowed time for the most colorful rumors about his whereabouts to arise and have free circulation. He was said to be across the lines, out of Italy, or worse protected in his hide-out by some benevolent or terrified pezzo grosso. "Quant' e bello Salvarezza che si fugge tuttavia" sang the wags. However, on Sunday the 4th he was run down and arrested by one Tenente Cavaccini working for a special group of police under the direction of Berlinguer, Associate High Commissioner for punishment of Fascist crimes. The circumstances of his arrest were as picturesque as could be desired. After an attempt to locate him in one house - with exchange of shots between the police and the terrified tenants- had failed he was run down in another, located in the middle class quarter of Monte Verde, caught all unsuspecting while sitting in the kitchen engaged in the innocent task of mending a cigarette-lighter. In his possession were found two revolvers, one of German make, a German "carte d'identité" and various documents in the German language. His secretary, an Egyptian named Arcadipane and said to have spent two years in Germany, was also arrested. Both were hailed off to Regina Coeli and Salvarezza was submitte to a thorough grilling, from which however nothing has yet emerged for public consumption. A few days later the father of the gobbo - who started all this - was stabbed, though not fatally. The haze has by no means lifted. As yet the compromising documents (but compromising to whome?)have not come to light, nor has Sal- [illegible] been brought into direct contact with any leading [illegible] Ministry of Justice.

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2. Confusion twice confounded

The following by way of sequel to the Salvarezza affair as set forth two weeks ago in our Bulletin (No.43 for 28 Jan.) The dramatic not to say histricnic disappearance of Salvarezza on the day before he was to give his press conference and "tell all" led of course to the wildest speculations in the press. The delay of a week in finding him allowed time for the most colorful rumors about his whereabouts to arise and have free circulation. He was said to be across the lines, out of Italy, or worse protected in his hide-out by some benevolent or terrified pezzo grosso. "Quant' e bello Salvarezza che si fugge tuttavia" sang the wags. However, on Sunday the 4th he was run down and arrested by one Tenente Cavaccini working for a special group of police under the direction of Berlinguer, Associate High Commissioner for punishment of Fascist crimes. The circumstances of his arrest were as picturesque as could be desired. After an attempt to locate him in one house - with exchange of shots between the police and the terrified tenants- had failed he was run down in another, located in the middle class quarter of Monte Verde, caught all unsuspecting while sitting in the kitchen engaged in the innocent task of mending a cigarette-lighter. In his possession were found two revolvers, one of German make, a German "carte d'identité" and various documents in the German language. His secretary, an Egyptian named Arcadipane and said to have spent two years in Germany, was also arrested. Both were hailed off to Regina Coeli and Salvarezza was submitte to a thorough grilling, from which however nothing has yet emerged for public consumption. A few days later the father of the gobbo - who started all this - was stabbed, though not fatally. The haze has by no means lifted. As yet the compromising documents (but compromising to whome?)have not come to light, nor has Salvarezza's name been brought into direct contact with any leading personality in the political scene. Tupini, Minister of Justice, did however state for public consumption that "if there were grea names back of Salvarezza they would be punished; justice would take its course", thereby suggesting to the Press that there mig be some fire under all the smoke. The leftist papers have taken up the cry; why was Salvarezza arrested by the special unit of police assigned to the High Commissioner? why was he grilled by a special prosecutor before being turned over to a magistrate? And VOCE REPUBBLICANA hinted strongly that the Questore of Rome may have had reasons for his reluctance in the pursuit of the fugitive; was not the questore the same man who was once

/ Questore

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Questore of the Royal Household? From that the s ep was easy (for VOCE REPUBBLICANA) to monarchist implication in the plot (whatever it is). Some color was lent these suspicions by Salvarezza's own statement, quoted in AVANTI, that he was sure Roatta (whom he described as a military genius) would be saved by Badoglio and that he himself was a devout monarchist though uncertain as to whether the next King would be Humbert II or Victor Emanuel IV. The monarchist ITALIA NUOVA which was at first the most insistent for investigation in the affair has contented itself with cataloguing the "common crimes" of the accused and reminding AVANTI that the gobbo held memebership in the Socialist party. And as for us, gentle reader, we promise that we shall return to the subject only when we have more facts.

3. The Black Market

This hoary subject, on which probably every AC officer feels he's an expert, is currently coming in for some fresh and constructive investigation in the Economic Section. Major F.... Tooby (B) is analyzing the situation at the request of AFHQ and while, as he says, there will be nothing revolutionary in his eventual disclosures, the memorandum he is now preparing will at least have the merit of tying up a lot of loose ends. The basic facts, in this preview, may be outlined as follows: (1) The Italians are receiving only about 800 calories of food on their official ration, whereas the absolute minimum subsistence requirement is 1,600 calories: ergo, they have to try to make up this deficiency in some fashion; (2) There is a shortage of consumer goods and Italy has always had to import wheat, the total amount of which is not covered by Allied imports large as they are; (3) The presence of Allied troops in the country, with their organic stocks o supplies, becomes a source to replace in some measure regular imports. The factors of lack of transport and its effective control and the slow development of a police force big and strong enough to enforce controls are, of course, also contributing elements. It can be said, further, that the black market is mainly a civilian market, that is, the amount of Allied goods in it is not as large as popularly supposed. Actual pilferage goes on from Allied depots but on a miniscule scale. The real drain of military supplies, including food, clothes, etc., comes naturally from the personal and casual dribble of such goods from military individuals to Italian individuals, and since most of it is consumed or used by the recipient, little of this actually gets into the black market. The criminal side

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of misappropriation and illegal sale involving conspiracy between the civilian and military to obtain goods or services, usually use of MT transport. The main military items figuring in the deals were food, clothing (including blankets) and petrol, though there were cases where deals were turned for a case of nails or transporting civilian furniture. Carrying of grain and olive oil are examples - which have now become familiar - of the abuse of military transport.

The black market, in its larger sense, may be called a free market, that is, controlled only by the law of supply and demand, to which it responds mercurially, especially when official food sources are able at times to glut the market with a product at a price competitive to the black market one, such as happened when potatoes were flooding Naples through official channels last year. The major fact at the moment is the mere existence of the black market and the effect it is having on the population that may not have enough cash to meet its rocketing prices. The following table gives an idea of what a family of five had to spend in 1938 to reach its more or less normal diet of 2,200 calories each, and what it would have to spend now for the equivalent diet (if it could be found) and what percentage of that sum would have to be spent in the black market to obtain such a diet:

City	1938	Now	Black Market percentage
Florence	426 lire	9,342 lire	95
Rome	448 "	11,192 "	96
Naples	394 "	9,270 "	96
Bari	337 "	4,798 "	90
Palermo	364 "	5,477 "	94
Cagliari	409 "	5,341 "	91

Revelatory also is the another table which shows the percentage breakdown of the average weekly expense for food by urban families in Liberated Italy:

Region	Ration card	Black Market	Home-Grown
Lazio	1.51	93.45	5.04
Abruzzi	4.41	65.86	29.73
Campania	3.45	90.14	6.41
Puglie	10.11	83.49	6.40
Calabria	6.52	83.18	10.30

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Sicilia	3.14	92.26	4.60
Sardegna	7.58	58.14	34.28
Average	4.34	88.68	6.98

Manual workers who get supplementary rations patronize the black market less than other classes, spending only 84.06 per cent there for food. The "other" class, (mostly white-collar workers who have even less to spend) spend 93.59 per cent. These last without doubt feel most tragically the effects of the vicious

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price spiral. For example, bread in Rome used to cost 1.85 lire a kilo in 1938. Now it costs from 30 to 120 lire a kilo on the black market, depending on how white the bread is. Pasta which used to cost 2.7 lire now costs 220 if white and 200 if dark. Olive oil in 1938 was 7.68 lire a liter but now is 450 to 500 lire. Cheese cost from 13.60; now costs 200 to 650. Meat used to be 9.67 a kilo and is now 500 to 600 a kilo. Where it will all end, Major Tooby will report to us when he is through investigating.

4. Note on the Call-Up

The Italian military call-up has been meeting with readier response of late and present enrollments give cause for keen satisfaction, the Land Forces Sub-Commission reports. Whereas several months ago the response to anticipated enrollments was only approximately 25 per cent, it is now nearer 60 per cent, an improvement attributed to the intensified campaign put on by the Italian authorities. It is of interest to learn that the call-up in Sicily (with its attendant disturbances) was not a call up but a recall, that is a call for registered persons who were illegally absent. Phase 1 of this recall for the Classes of 1922-1924 started 15 December and ended 7 January. The Italians anticipated an enrollment of 8,000. Answering the call were 4,983, of whom 2,623 reported in December and 2,360 in January. Phase 2 of the recall for the Classes of 1918-1921 started 3 January and is still continuing. In January, 4,555 responded and 453, as of last report this month, a total of 5,008 for this phase. Anticipated, according to the Italian military estimates, were 12,000. The Allied officers of the Land Forces Sub-Commission, however, have consistently and realistically cut those anticipations in half. Thus, the 9,538 men who answered the two Sicilian recalls to date amount to about half of the 20,000 the Italian staff had first estimated. Recruitment at the Patriot enlistment centers has also jumped considerably, although volunteers other than Patriots are also accepted at these posts. Such recruitment was 2,586 in January, 432 in December, 375 in November and 553 in October. Lastly, General deSevin, French representative to the Allied Commission, has been asked to inform the AC as to the manner in which the Maquis and FFI in France were absorbed into the French Army.

5. Odds and Ends

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5. Odds and Ends

Establishment Section is having its hands full these days, getting housekeeping arrangements for the North ready for any contingency: Full teams must be on hand; Mg. attachments reduced; with the eventual plan looking to officers of Southern Region, Sicily and Sardinia, being more or less transplanted in a body to Venezia Region, Lazio-Umbria Region staff to Lombardy, Abruzzi-Marche to Piemonte and Tuscany to Liguria... The Public Health Sub-Commission is arranging the transfer of 600 tons of rock salt from Sicily for use in making chlorine and purifying water against possible typhoid threats... Colonel Nelson M.

/ Montfort

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Montfort (A), who is Deputy Chief Civil Affairs Officer, 15th Army Group, now has the additional duties of assistant chief of staff, G-5, for 15th Army Group... Being on guard against possible use of V1 and V2 rockets by the Germans against future liberated areas in the North, the Public Safety Sub-Commission held a national conference on civil defense arrangements in Rome this past week... Sardinia, which once was crammed full of Italian soldiers - close to 200,000 - now has only 4,000 effectives on duty there... Nearly 100,000 new elementary school books are being sent from Florence to Rimini and Forli for schools in the forward 8th Army areas... Brigadier G.R. Upjohn (B), vice president of the Civil Affairs Section, reports, after a visit to the Littorio Hospital, largest in Rome, that considerable progress has been made: in bringing the hospital up to modern medical standards: "Wards are bright, airy and clean; no overcrowding; absolutely first-class radio; large reserve of tinned meat, but patients do not like it; large reserve of bandages and soap but short of rubber gloves and catgut; kitchen excellent and well-run but food gets to patients stone-cold"... 62 Italian prisoners-of-war escaped from French prison camps in North Africa and have arrived safely in Italy: Question: Are they free or aren't they? ... Maj.Gen. A.I. Kislenk is the new Soviet Russian representative to the Allied Commission, replacing Maj.Gen. Susloparov who has been assigned to head a mission to France... Former Vice President of the Economic Section, Brigadier General William O'Dwyer, is now in civil life as executive director of the U.S. War Refugees Board... Colonel Charles Poletti is back on the job as Regional Commissioner of Lazio-Umbria Region after two months in the States where he welcomed a glass of milk, was continually struck by the plenitude of electricity and steam heat and participated in the Anglo-American conferences concerning future operations in Italy: the Colonel who came back the morning of Feb. 6 had not been in Rome two hours before Italians began leaving messages at his hotel, learning of his arrival before most of his fellow officers... A total of only 4,300 tons of imported seed potatoes will be available for the 1945 planting season, a fifth of original estimates... Another glass plant has started at Empoli in Tuscany; it makes 1,000 sq.m. of hand-blown glass a day... Completion of the Terni-Chiusi 120,000-Volt power line will provide a second source of power for Florence, which last week was tied into the Central Italy electrical grid system... Olive oil collections up to 31 January amounted to 203,880 qtl of pressed oil... The Granai del Popolo is now 90 per cent of the 11,600,000 qtl goal or 10,674,002 qtl...

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Brigadier J K Dunlop, Regional Commissioner of Southern Region,
reports that after welcoming the delegates to the labor congress
at Naples, he playfully cautioned them about returning each of
the ., 00 blankets they had been issued for sleeping: when the
blankets were finally turned in, there were 1,204... Local Go-
vernment Sub-Commission is having headaches getting Italian offi-
cials selected for AMG provinces to go to their posts: one turns
up sick, another can't leave his family; one official so assigned
went into hiding in Rome and four months passed before his ab-

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sence was discovered... Two trains were held up and robbed in Sicily the last of January... We Hang Our Heads in Shame Dept.: In last week's Bulletin the piece on the Roatta trial mentioned that one Col. Emanuelle had been sent abroad with 2½ million lire to outbid the Ethiopians in armament buying; his funds were actually 50 million lire: a sizeable error.

T. G. BERGIN,
Major, AUS
D/Director,
Public Relations.

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

R26/WB44/PRB

4 February 1945

AC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO.44

29 Jan to 4 Feb 45.

1. Political

This week may go down in history as the week in which the women of Italy were given the right to vote. There had been a campaign in the summer in which the various parties through their leaders and their newspapers had expressed their approval of this demonstration of modern democracy and Bonomi had expressed himself as favorably inclined on the occasion of a visit paid him by representatives of the Unione Donne Italiane. However, the matter has somewhat lapsed until the talk of preparation of the new electorial lists (which are to be ready by April 10, it is understood) had brought it to the fore again. Spurred on by an incipient new press campaign and, no doubt by the example of the other democracies at whose side Italy is now fighting, the Council took action and, at the meeting of 30 Jan, gave women the right to vote under the same conditions and restrictions as men. ITALIA NUOVA found the announcement of the important measure "bureaucratically arid" but it covered the ground adequately even specifying that the names of female voters should appear in the first electoral lists now under preparation. The press hailed it with rather subdued enthusiasm since all the big ammunition had already been used in getting the campaign under way. AVANTI, UNITA and VOCE REPUBBLICANA seemed to think the women would vote well because they had shown they were capable of being good irregular soldiers, AVANTI referring to the partisans and Facciardi in VOCE REPUBBLICANA recalling the heroic deeds of the women in Spain. RISORGIMENTO LIBERALE thought the women would vote with their men and the new measure would make no difference in election results and ITALIA NUOVA looked to a better world with women's "well-known sense of justice" now politically functional. Just how the ladies will vote is a much debated question; some think their religious tendencies will swell the ranks of the Christian Democrats, others think that Communists

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The press gave rather more attention to financial matters than to women suffrage. At the weekly press conference of the Presidenza it was announced that the government has asked for an equivalent of all AM-lire issued in Italy. Something has been done in this direction by the United States which recently credited five billion lire to the Italians against money spent by American soldiers in this theatre but the press, notably ITALIA NUOVA, has pointed out that this is unsufficient and in any case no word has

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come from London though Churchill has stated that three quarters of the troops in the theatre are British. ITALIA NUOVA, as might have been expected, applauded the government's new stand and urged them to stand firm and speak frankly to the Allies; "it is impossible to describe Italy as a free country or to hope for the beginnings of democracy as long as Italians must bear the full cost of an army of occupation at the same time as they are obliged to suffer numerous requisitions of their goods and their producing plants." Hope on this score is running fairly high, partly because of the government's stronger attitude which, it is argued, indicates a knowledge of Allied sympathy partly because great things for Italy are expected from the Big Three conference. The remarks of Harry Hopkins on the Italian situation, his statement to Eleanor Packard of the U.P. that the American public was not satisfied with the situation in Italy, intensified this optimism. Another financial matter that reappeared during the week is the political price of bread. Obviously the overburdened treasury would be much healthier if the price of bread were allowed to be "real" or "economic" and there have been frequent allusions to the possibility of doing away with this form of subsidy. But it may not be easy; it is not called a "political" price for nothing and AVANTI at least did not take kindly to the rumors of change, pointing out that even the discussion of the matter had sent the black market price of bread up from 90 to 110 lire a kilo.

The CGIL held its convention at Naples during the week. Bonomi sent his good wished at the beginning of the session, urging the delegates to remember that "unions and parties are different things with different functions" and counselling them to keep their syndacal operations "above parties". The deliberations, followed with attention and approval by AVANTI, UNITA and IL POPOLO, representing the parties entrenched, and with skepticism by ITALIA LIBERA (the Action party being frozen out of leadership) came to an end with Lizzadri's speech calling for solution of the unemployment problem and a betterment of the standard of living of agriculturer workers. The Congress passed several resolutions the most noteble being to the effect that "new contracts must attempt to extend to all industries worker participation in the management" and "the Congress deplores the slowness with which reconstruction is proceeding because of lack of organic national planning", recommending that such planning should have in view the general interests of the country and not "the private interests of certain plutocratic groups" and, of course, urging "nationalization of private economic monopolies and key industries." The three members of the "segretaria gene-

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Two other items of the Council meeting may be noted. General Ronco was named Chief of Staff and the Stato Maggiore passed under control of the War Department. And Bonomi announced that 322 functionaries of the first four grades of the "state hierarchy" had been epurated, including a number of generals and admirals. The work of epuration in the higher brackets, he said, is very nearly concluded and in a short time the functions of the state may be carried on in "full tranquility and with restored prestige."

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Tarchiani, off for Washington, told the press that he felt the important part of his mission was to convince the United States that Italy should have allied status. A few days earlier he had given an interview in which he expressed his conviction that the American people did not hate the Italians but regarded them more as victims of Fascism than exponents of it. Questioned about Italian emigration to America, a subject of burning interest to Italians, he said the subject was delicate and had to be approached with care. This is a matter we shall no doubt hear more of in the future.

2. AMG with the Armies

Notwithstanding the fact - or perhaps because of the fact - that the Eighth Army front has been almost static for many weeks, normal living conditions are being re-established behind the lines at phenomenal rate. This is due to a new relationship between AMG Eighth Army and the staff of Emilia Region, proposed last November by Group Captain Benson and supported wholeheartedly by Col.Bowman, Emilia Regional Commissioner. The two organizations have closed together as a team, the one supplementing the other, under command of SCAO Eighth Army. There has been no sinking of their identity, but the co-operation and good will between them have been complete. Administrative head of the Region side, in the temporary merger, is Lieut.Col. Hartley, Regional Executive Officer, who acts as S.C.I (2) AMG Eighth Army with Lieut. Col. Benton-Jones S.O.I, commanding officer of AMG Eighth Army Rear HQ. On paper, the plan of operation looks complicated. In practice, because the give-and-take has been so cordial all along the line, front-line AMG officers are operating with a much greater consideration than ever before for long term civilian requirements, and Regional officers have developed a keen appreciation of military necessity in framing their initial policies. All the schools are functioning already as far forward as Corps boundary lines, and some have been opened even within Corps areas. Prices and wages are being adjusted toward levels prevailing in Southern Italy. The needs of farmers are being met on an extended scale. Drainage of the flooded areas near Cervia has already begun, and pumping stations will be in operation as far north as Ravenna by the end of February. Civilian transport has been reorganised, and machine shops are repairing or cannibalizing vehicles in Forli and in Ravenna. In Rimini, local engineers and architects have drawn up a basic plan for the reconstruction of their shattered city, the plan has been approved by AMG and by the Italian Government and 325 men are at work clearing away debris in conformity with the planners' intentions. Italian courts are functioning in Ravenna and

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tools has not been fixed and ~~necessary~~ material has not been released. The property control officer is having difficulty in Forli because the provincial records have been destroyed. Carabinieri uniforms are not coming forward as quickly as had been hoped; AMG has allocated transport for their delivery, but the clothing is not forthcoming at the other end.

In other parts of the area, Faenza was bombed 23 January but not badly. Bagnacavello is still under artillery fire but evacuation is proceeding. In fact, civilians have been evacuated along all the front lines. A raid made on the headquarters of the Communist and Christian Democrat parties at Rimini disclosed nothing more than a clandestine mail service between Rome, Rimini and Forli communes. Typhoid has cleared up in the San Marino-Rimini area. Three brick works at Cesena are making a total of 850,000 bricks monthly while production of 500,000 bricks has started at Meldola. Spare parts for farm tractors have been found at Ravenna, enough to supply a greater part of Italy. 600 tons of old flour were sent to Rome recently by rail. An issue of lard in place of olive oil was made in Faenza and Ravenna. Food supplies for three months were sent into 14 mountain communes likely to be isolated by the winter. Timber felling has commenced in the Pineta di Classe, 70 per cent being slated for fuel and the rest for construction work. Livestock is depleted, though less than expected - cattle being 32 per cent below 1941 levels, pigs 13 per cent, horses 24 per cent and sheep 37 per cent. School supplies for 1,000 pupils were found at Forli.

In the Fifth Army zone where operations are likewise stagnant, work of rehabilitation is progressing at the same time as the Fifth Army AMG is looking toward its future role in North Italy. Refugees are coming through the lines since the Germans stopped food supplies in the Apuania area, 200 persons a day being sent South through the Lucca center. Few Patriots have come through, however. Crime is under control, although a triple murder (believed political) occurred at Lucca and a double one (attributed to an old family feud) at Lestra a Signa while at Borgo San Lorenzo there has been a mild outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease. The arrival of five 25-kw. generators has also enabled several projects to start which had been held up because of lack of power.

3. Labor

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A new voice is making itself heard in the economic councils of AC these days in the person of Mr. William Henry Braine, who has been newly appointed as director of the Labor Sub-Commission. A senior official of the British Ministry of Labor for the last 25 years, Mr. Braine has already been hitting the mark among his confreres by reason of his extremely lucid explanations and his know-how of the Italian labor scene. He also holds the post of labor attache to the British Embassy and has been in Rome since last September, since which time he has developed many contacts. After the basic (but more or less technical) job of insuring an adequate supply of labor for the Allied forces, Mr. Braine considers that the big problem facing his Sub-Commission is how to help instill into Italian labor leadership a responsible sense of democ-

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ratic industrial relations without any shadow of attempting to impose such a manner of solution. In any event, Mr.Braine is making all sorts of literature available and many of the young Italian labor leaders (with almost no experience behind them but tremendous energy and good-will) are seeing for the first time such standard publications as the "Industrial Relations Handbook" of the Ministry of Labor and the Ministry's "Gazette", which may give them an idea of how to approach their complicated jobs with less rhetoric and more facts. Mr.Braine recognizes that the employers must be organized for industry's benefit since an agreement entered into with a union will be worthless if the employing group is not truly representative of industry. Speaking of employers and employees, the question of internal commissions, as the Italians term the works committees set up in some factories, is coming in for serious study in the planning, for in North Italy the Fascist Republicans have been encouraging workers to take a greater share in the management of industrial plants in the hope of buying their support. Internal commissions, however, had a history long before Fascism in Italy and from all appearances, the last has not been heard of them, especially when we get to Milan.

4. The Travels of Colonel Fiske

Colonel Norman E.Fiske, Deputy Chief of Staff and vice president of the Establishment Section, who probably gets about more than any other two people in HQ., recently returned to Rome after a trip to Paris (and then he was off again to the 5th and 8th Army fronts to present some Bronze Stars) with some interesting anecdotes - and what will interest American officers particularly - some hints about the future. The Colonel accompanied General McNarney, Deputy Supreme Commander of the Mediterranean Theater, in what was to be a mission to London to discuss Austrian planning. Bad weather grounded their plane in Southern France and so they travelled to Paris in a Wagon-lit, which, Col.Fiske says, was just as fancy as in the old days. With bad flying weather continuing, the London officers of SHEAF came to Paris instead, so four days of conferences passed in the French capital where it was bitter cold and where the demoiselles of the Folies Bergere went through their antics sneezing and coughing in the all-together while the audience sat huddled in greatcoats and winter underwear sympathizing no end. Paris still seems the Paris of old as far as the Colonel could tell from his hotel windows, though friends reported that a good meal of Parisian cuisine would now cost you $25 (in Rome a similar repast for

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of the officer.

5. Italian Sky Fighters

The reputation of Signor Mussolini's Regia Aeronautica, in spite of its experience in Ethiopia, Spain, the Middle East, Eritrea, North Africa, its brief adventure in the skies over London and the interest and enthusiasm shown for it by the ever ebullient Duce, has always been a little obscure. Its collapse, therefore, was not entirely unexpected but before it finally expired it left in Liberated Italy 31,000 trained men, 108 fighters, 57 bombers and 53 seaplanes. Unfortunately, for one reason or another, over seventy-five per cent of these machines were unserviceable. This, then, was the material at the disposal of the Air Forces Sub-Commission of the Allied Commission when it first started to create, from this very embryonic organism, the new Italian Air Force. The first act of the Sub-Commission was to transfer approximately ten thousand technicians, engineers and fitters to the Allied Air Forces. Shortage of material rendered them useless to the I.A.F. The remainder were absorbed into the I.A.F. and the problem of finding planes and equipment for them was attacked with vigour. During these early days the gallantry of the Italian aviators, flying their obsolete and unserviceable machines was almost unbelievable. Day after day they flew to Yugo-Slavia with supplies and in many cases with the knowledge that their worn-out machines could never make the return journey. From occupied territory anxious to join the IAF they turned up in anything they could find, old fighters carrying as many as three and four men, packed like sardines in a tin, sitting on the knees of the pilots and crash-landing their pitifully out-of-date machines in the sea or on the landing grounds of Liberated Italy. By June 1944, conditions had improved beyond recognition. Scouting parties of experts were sent to North Africa and the Middle East find spares and replacement parts and soon a valuable flow of material started to arrive in Italy. The invasion of Northwest Europe opened a new field of potential supplies and a similar group was sent to France and Belgium searching for parts. They, too, were successful. The strength of the I.A.F. was now growing and included one squadron of Spitfires, two squadrons of Airacobras and two squadrons of Baltimores, a total of eighty Allied planes. Improvisation in the workshops was carried out and parts from obsolete Allied aircraft were modified and adapted for use on Italian machines. In the meantime the I.A.F. had become operational and operationally effective. Sorties over Yugo-Slavia took place daily and many hundreds of tons of supplies were dropped to Marshall Tito's forces. Attacks were made

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received from Marshall Tito himself.

6. Volcanic Verdict

A detailed and challenging report on Sicily's recent disturbances has been made by Lt.Colonel Howard of the MFHA and Major Manley of the PWB, who were in Sicily from January 7th onwards. The report has been sent to the Regional Commissioner whose reactions we shall doubtless obtain. It comes down extremely heavily on the Italian Army, the CCRR, and the local Italian administration. Main causes of the riot are listed as "failure of the civilian authorities to foresee... violence; disgraceful and sometimes cowardly conduct of the Carabinieri; inefficiency of the Italian units employed". The report states that "generally speaking most of the operations carried out by Italian Army units large and small violated all the known principles of war: punctuality was noticeably absent from all operations: reinforcement and supply columns never once arrived on time during the whole course of operations". It adds that "CCRR have lost much of their prestige, were inefficient and were not prepared to put up a fight when attacked."

Whether these harsh and somewhat sweeping criticisms are justified, even in their own report, may perhaps be questioned. Perhaps we should remember that it is an Anglo-Saxon report. The Italian Army and the CCRR did, in fact, quell the riots without Allied intervention being necessary. The report pays a tribute to Lt. Mariani "whose able and courageous defence of the ammunition dump at Vittoria undoubtedly... saved a dangerous situation in the Province from becoming critical." It also notes that some troops who were disarmed by the rebels in the early stages "in accordance with orders did not have their weapons loaded." And of the 200 conscripts on board a train which was stopped by the rebels hand grenades, not one tried to use the opportunity to desert. So there may have been some sheep among the Howard-Manley goats.

In assessing the background and causes of the disturbances the authors (after stating categorically that "Sicilians are very individualistic and selfish people who have little team or public spirit... corruption and deceit are rife in all classes) have the following points which we quote cum grano salis:

"A.M.G. administration raised the peoples hopes to expect a new era of honest and efficient administration. They were soon dismayed to find that many former Italian officials were still in office and could not understand, firstly, why they had been re-

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"A.M.G. administration raised the peoples hopes to expect a new era of honest and efficient administration. They were soon dismayed to find that many former Italian officials were still in office and could not understand, firstly, why they had been retained and secondly, why many officials were still open to bribery and corruption.

The public administration without A.M.G. behind it began to lose the respect and confidence of the people and was the target for much criticism much of which was incorrect or unfair.

The separatists claimed at different times to have the support of either Great Britain or the U.S.A. and began a new intensive political campaign together with criticism of the Italian Government."

/The authors

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The authors of the report assume that between 300 and 800 "rebels" armed with machineguns, rifles and hand-grenades are still at large: and "isolated acts of violence" are therefore likely to occur. In this presumption they seem to be correct: Major Manley's latest report tells of an attack on a CCRR patrol at Sciacca on January 15, in which one Carabinieri was killed and one wounded, while on the same day at Delia an armed band stole over a thousand quintals of grain, twenty of which the Carabinieri had recovered by the 20th. On January 16 grain was stolen at Gibbesi where a large armed band raided a lonely farmhouse. Armed robberies occured on the road between Vallendolno and Vallelunga on January 21. Major Manley states that there is "great poverty, and the people have never in their lives known such prohibitive prices or economic distress. "Fascist revival", he adds, " is on the upgrade: fascist slogans on walls in all provinces." Altogether a gay little island, most suitable for turismo, summer holidays, and the blessings of peace, according to Major Manley.

7. Trial scene

This week the attention of the Roman press was still focussed on the Roatta-Suvich trial, in which Roatta, Suvich, Jacomoni, the mysterious Captain Petragnani, and the dark and sinister-looking Colonel Emanuelle produced some spicy pieces of information on Italian back-alley diplomacy. Particularly mentioned were the pre-Greek invasion intrigues for which Jacomoni, former "viceroy" of Albania denied any responsibility. Jacomoni, suffering, according to his doctors, from facial neuralgia, spoke almost inaudibly for four hours and told the court a long story of personal probity, honesty and innocence. "Mussolini and Ciano" he said, "were responsible for the decision to invade Greece and the reason for the invasion was to offset the effect of the occupation of Rumania." Jacomoni said that the first he knew of the plot was on being summoned to Rome on October 14th, where he attended a secret meeting at the Palazzo Venezia in the company of Ciano, Badoglio, Roatta, Soddu and the Duce himself. The invasion was planned for October 28th and Epirus had to fall within two weeks in order that the campaign should be under control before the rains came. To find a pretext for war, Mussolini suggested a fake attack on the Italian consulate and the suggestion was carried out. Jacomoni's protestation of innocence and his assertion of his peaceloving propensities were spiked by the judge who, reading from the minutes of the meeting, quoted Jacomoni as saying "the Albanians are delighted at the prospect of war against Greece." Rather mournfully Jacomoni informed the court that fifteen days after the campaign had started Mussolini held another meeting to discuss the impending disasters facing

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Suvich also indulged in a hymn of innocence and protested that he was a strong supporter of collective security and of the League of Nations where, he said, "I was popular". He insisted that he was a mere figurehead and denied any responsibility in the murder of King Alexander of Yugoslavia. He also denied that he had had any knowledge of the existence of the Croat

/ terrorists

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terrorists in Italy. He confessed that a Foreign Office official was entrusted with the running of the Croat terrorist camp but, he said, "I did not know anything." He further qualified the statement by adding, " I did not want to know anything." Speaking of his past career Suvich denied that the purpose of his pact with Laval was to allow Italy a free hand in Ethiopia. "Laval", said Suvich, "was only interested in the Djibuti-Addis Abeba railway. If you want to expand to Abyssinia go on", said Laval, "but leave the railway to me."

The star accused and witness was Col. Sante Emanuelle, who is facing 16 charges of supporting Fascist crimes. The Colonel is well known as a purger of anti-fascists. Emanuelle said that he sent 3 officers abroad with 2½ million lire to buy up all the arms they could over the heads of the Ethiopian agents and thus prevent the supply of arms to the Negus. Emanuelle confessed to sending the instructions for the murder of Roselli to an espionage organisation in Turin where a luxurious spy set-up existed running brothels, bars, cabarets and night clubs in addition to its purely professional activities.

The trial now continues with an almost interminable string of witnesses.. Correspondents who have already sat through one or two of these trials are beginning to wonder whether this raking up of the hazy past in so much detail is worth the time spent and the cables sent on the subject. And Berlinguer, Associate High Commissioner for Epuration, remarked that at the present rate he would still be holding these trials when he was 85 - unless he had himself been arrested by then.

8. Odds and Ends

The olive oil campaign if beginning to show results, collections having passed the 200,000 qtl mark... 200 tons of hides, 1,000,000 sheep and goat skins and approximately 15,000 qtl of wool are available in Sardinia... Abruzzi-Marche Region reports that, up to 31 Dec., 153,867 mines, 600 unexploded bombs and 800 tons of abandoned ammunition have been removed from the Provinces of Chieti, Pescara and Teramo, and that 160 Italiens have been killed and 405 seriously wounded by mines since the Allied occupation... Lieut. Col.J.D. Scholtz (A), executive officer of the Abruzzi-Marche Region, will succeed Lieut. Col. John D. Ames (A) as Acting Regional Commissioner Lazio-Umbria until Colonel Poletti returns; Col.Ames is going back to civil life to take care of his newspaper publishing business in Chicago: we are all sorry to see him go... All American officers in AC are getting new AGO car[illegible] ... Kirby has been visiting HQ.; he is ...

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The trial now continues with an almost interminable string of witnesses. Correspondents who have already sat through one or two of these trials are beginning to wonder whether this raking up of the hazy past in so much detail is worth the time spent and the cables sent on the subject. And Berlinguer, Associate High Commissioner for Epuration, remarked that at the present rate he would still be holding these trials when he was 85 - unless he had himself been arrested by then.

8. Odds and Ends

The olive oil campaign if beginning to show results, collections having passed the 200,000 qtl mark... 200 tons of hides, 1,000,000 sheep and goat skins and approximately 15,000 qtl of wool are available in Sardinia... Abruzzi-Marche Region reports that, up to 31 Dec., 152,867 mines, 600 unexploded bombs and 600 tons of abandoned ammunition have been removed from the Provinces of Chieti, Pescara and Teramo, and that 130 Italians have been killed and 405 seriously wounded by mines since the Allied occupation... Lieut. Col. J.D. Scholtz (A), executive officer of the Abruzzi-Marche Region, will succeed Lieut. Col. John D. Ames (A) as Acting Regional Commissioner Lazio-Umbria until Colonel Polotti returns; Col.Ames is going back to civil life to take care of his newspaper publishing business in Chicago: we are all sorry to see him go... All American officers in AC are getting new AGO cards... Brigadier General E.G.Mc Kinley has been visiting HQ.; he is to act as economic liaison between AC and G-5... The staff of Emilia Region is proud of Pvt.Martin A.Watkins (A) who recently won the MTOUSA theater-wide essay contest on ""What Shall Be Done with Japan?"... In Sicily a quintal of wheat is selling at 9,000 to 13,000 lire... Ancona is feeling great relief with the final arrival of a 750-ton salt ship... U.S. felt manufacturers have asked the Commerce Sub-Commission to look into the possibilities of resuming the export of Italian human hair (an industry centered in Sicily which in 1939 exported more than 30,000 kilos of processed as unprocessed human hair valued nearly 2,000,000 lire) useful in making felt, wigs, hairnets and surgical sutures... Con-

/gratulations 4296

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gratulations to Lazio-Umbria Staff Sergeant Daniel C. LeTobvre who is being awarded the Silver Star 8 February for gallantry in action with the Fifth Army last fall... Felicitations also to six 8th Army A'G American officers who have been awarded the Bronze Star; First Lieut. William A.Lessa, Col. Charles J.Parinacci, Maj. John [illegible] Cicala, Maj. James C.Grizzard, Major Steve Mavis And Capt. Edmund L.Torcullini... The Granai del Popolo now stands at 10,419,371 qtl or 90 per cent of the 11,600,000 qtl target... Only 500 Italian officials are available to fill about 1,200 posts, the Local Government Sub-Commission reports... Civitavecchia, wrecked by the Germans, will be back almost to pre-war standards by late Spring: 1,000 tons a day are being unloaded now... 37 UNRRA personnel are abroad, working in Southern Italy displaced persons' camps; AC hoping to withdraw all officers there by April 1 ... Lieut.Col. G.E.Rhodes (E), deputy director of the Public Works and Utilities Sub-Commission, is leaving AC to return to England, good luck to him in his very responsible appointment in Berlin... The UC Priorities Board, playing Solomon, this week juggled 38,000 requests for 2,500 tires by allocating more than half to the regions, small allotments being made for olive oil control, Italian State Railways, public works, etc.

Envoi

At the end of 44 Bulletins (would you believe it?) the undersigned bids farewell to readers, with grateful thanks for many appreciative comments. Under his learned staff the Bulletin will continue as usual, or better than usual, until the Brave New World without Bulletins arrives.

LIONEL FIELDS/
Major,
Public Relations Director.

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

R/26/WB43/PRB 28 January 1945

AC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO. 43
22 Jan to 28 Jan 45

1. Political

Addio, mia bella, addio,
L'armata se ne va
Se non partissi anch'io
Sarebbe una viltà!

Il sacco è preparato,
Sull'omero mi sta,
Son uomo e son soldato,
Viva la libertà.

(Soldiers' Song)

The revitalized war effort, symbolized the recent call to arms, and its various political tangents have formed the main theme of the week. The press having swallowed Churchill's words with indignation, injury or resignation, according to their temper and political color, have presented more or less of a united front, agreeing that for reasons of national prestige, decency or simply self-preservation an Italian war effort is necessary, regardless of how much or how little the new Italy is appreciated in London or elsewhere. "The shadow of the war we fought for Mussolini and for the Germans must be shaken off," wrote Jacchia in the GIORNALE DEL MATTINO, " and this is good enough reason for FIGHTING even if Churchill and Eden will not utter one single word on the increasing cordiality of England towards Italy." De Gasperi made an appeal to Italian youth, pointing out that this was a time for discipline and not debate, and later in the week speaking at Salerno, recommended the example of the English people as worthy of imitation. Casati also addressed the recruits and urged them by their enthusiasm and good will to restore to Italy "her austerity and honesty", adding, as a practical footnote, that those who are to be called up may be assured that their families will be taken care of. There were two meetings of youth organizations during the week in which the younger elements of the Communists, Socialists, Christian Democrats and the Sinistra Cristiana expressed their enthusiasm for the war. The absence of the other parties, we suspect, hardly indicates less enthusiasm for the war effort but rather less well-organized youth groups. Certainly their press has been equally ardent, RISORGIMENTO LIBERALE even proclaiming that if the young men hesitated the old and middle aged would fill up the ranks. And Omodeo, leading member of the Action

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Two new government agencies found their first public expression during the week. Bergami, new Commissario of the new Commissa-

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riato per l'Alimentazione (Food Commissariat) held a press conference on the 23d. He announced that one "Direzione General" would take the place of the two divisions of "alimentazione" and rationing. He promised to facilitate the organization of cooperatives and group kitchens, and to encourage interregional exchanges and cooperation with UNRRA. On plans for supply of non-rationed goods the High Commissioner announced the following program: securing from the Allies permission to get food from foreign markets, persuading the producing population to accept the principle of the same prices for exports as for local sale, and providing food at lowest possible prices to people with low fixed incomes. Scoccimarro, the new Minister for the New Ministry of Occupied Italy; also spoke to the press, [illegible] rth estate for their cooperation in "mobilizing public opinion in favor of the partisans of the North". He announced that the 18th of February would be set aside as a "day of national solidarity" dedicated to patriots, soldiers sailors and aviators. He said that preparations must be made for the fusion of the partisans with the regular army; this would indicate national unity in the material as well as in the spiritual sense. A Strong army thus created might easily induce' the Allies to call on Italy to participate in the invasion of Germany. He concluded by saying that his Ministry was above party politics and said that he and his Liberal sottosegretario, Medici Tornaquinci, worked together as if they belonged to the same party, a statement which called forth, according to the GIORNALE DEL MATTINO, the "eager confirmation" of the sottosegretariato himself.

The campaign, initiated last week, to call a national convention of the C.L.N. lagged a little this week. There was one good presentation of the case; Francesco Fancello wrote in ITALIA LIBERA that the C.L.N. is the only authentic and readily available "political current of national revival" and that there is certainly need of some kind of national body since the government in Rome, by force of circumstances, lives in a sort of vaccum. ITALIA NUOVA snapped back sharply and, suspecting the six parties of wanting to make the C.L.N. a national Assemblea Consultiva (which indeed is not improbably their intention), said that on the two major issues of the day, reconstruction and the war effort, no party or group of parties had a monopoly and anyway the C.L.N. has no raison d'etre in Liberated Italy.

Some not entirely unexpected sparks were struck off the Roman press by the announcement that the Press Commission had authorized 13 more dailies. (4 have been weeklies, the rest are nuovissimi). AVANTI remarked sardonically that Rome had now more newspapers than Paris or London and would at last claim "one world's championship".

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Some not entirely unexpected sparks were struck off the Roman press by the announcement that the Press Commission had authorized 13 more dailies. (4 have been weeklies, the rest are nuovissimi). AVANTI remarked sardonically that Rome had now more newspapers than Paris or London and could at last claim "one world's championship". L'UNITA' took it more seriously and waxed indignant over the fact that a city without light or food in plenty should have this plethora of newspapers, and suspected (inevitably) a reactionary plot. ITALIA NUOVA contented itself with noting ominously "for the record" the names of the members of the Press Commission which had given the authorizations. Only RISORGIMENTO LIBERALE, faithful to the old liberal cult of free trade and free competition, seemed to think it a good thing. As for us, gentle, reader, we shall watch them and try to tell you what the fledgelings are like. The recent new ones are the GIORNALE DEL MATTINO which speak for the government and serves a useful purpose, and LAVORO, the daily of the CGIL, out less than

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a week, which has had some good articles by Lizzadri and others as well as rather full information on labor problems.

The Council met on the 24th and heard De Gasperi express his satisfaction over the clarification of Churchill's speech which he said would cut the ground from under speculations in various quarters made on certain phrases of the speech, taken out of context. The "precisazione" which came from Downing St. on the 23d reads (in part) as follows:

The Prime Minister is quoted as saying "We do not need Italy" whereas what he actually said was: "We say once and for all that we have no political combinations in Europe or elsewhere in respect of which we need Italy as a party..."

These words relate to the suggestion which has been widely made that Great Britain was embarking on a system of "power politics" in Europe, and especially in the Mediterranean.

They in no way supersede or modify the Prime Minister's statement last August about Italy..nor do they imply that Italy now or in the future should be excluded from an honorable role in the European political system.

Otherwise the Council concerned itself with routine administrative matters, the only noteworthy action being the suppression of the Ente della Stampa, a press governing body established in Fascist days and out of tune with democratic practice. ITALIA NUOVA reported dissension again brewing among the four parties - but that may well be wishful thinking; there have been no open indications of it. During the week Bosri, lately returned from exile in Switzerland, (was named secretary of the Commissariato for Sanctions against Fascism.) Since he was a founder of the Action party the appointment gave ITALIA NUOVA the opportunity for mischievous quotation of Dante's line:

L'ombra usa (di Sforza) è tornata,che era dipartite..

(Lo,the shadow hath returned of him who hath departed)

Much space in the press has been given to following up the threads of the "gobbo" case. (See last week's Bulletin).The various articles and "revelations" hint at a background of conspiracy and corruption, evoking a world that is made up of equal parts of E. Phillips Oppenheim and Edgar Wallace. The trail of gobbo leads somewhat uncertainly to the Headquarters of the Unione Proletaria which was raided by the Carabinieri on Friday. We give you same further details in Section 3 of this Bulletin.

Correction: We stated last week that Tarchiani, newly appointed ambassador to Washington, had held the post of [illegible] without Portfolio in the second Badoglio cabinet. Actually

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Correction: We stated last week that Parchiani, newly appointed ambassador to Washington, had held the post of Minister without Portfolio in the second Badoglio cabinet. Actually he was Minister of Public Works. This comes of reading RISORGIMENTO LIBERALE instead of our own Bulletin: see Weekly Bulletin No.3 for April 22, 1944 where we had it right.

2. Odds & Ends from Florence

Enemy radio stations made quite a fuss recently about an alleged typhus epidemic in Prato, Florence Province, said to be the worst in history. The Provincial Medical Officer of Florence

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(Italian) has just issued an official report on infectious diseases in the Province since 1939, and this report is being given wide radio and newspaper publicity in the area. There has not been a single case of typhus in the Provinie in the last four years. The only infectious disease which has not decreased since the Allied occupation is typhoid fever, and the spread of typhoid is directly due to the systematic destruction and pollution of water system, sewer systems and wells of the retreating German forces. Here are a few comparatice figures which show how effectively Allied measures are checking the rate of disease among Italians:

	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944
Measles (Cases)	1941	492	5267	794	1820	240
Scarlet fever	431	503	673	773	503	106
Chicken pox	674	561	786	675	661	200
Typhoid fever	227	180	322	390	313	950
Paratyphoid	125	196	170	166	118	100
Dysentery	17	20	67	23	22	3
Diphtheria	516	458	299	713	900	582
Whooping cough	247	536	513	564	336	87

Civilian motor vehicles in and around Florence are being fueled in steadily growing numbers by natural gas (Metano) which is carried in metal cylinders fixed on passenger cars and trucks. The compressed gas is derived from wells 33 miles away with a daily yield of 20,000 cubic metres. By the end of January 50 trucks will have been converted to burn Metano, and conversion will continue at the rate of 50 vehicles a fortnight thereafter. Metano-burning civilian vehicles are issued ten times as much fuel as petrol-burning cars. When AMG took over one of the garages in Florence in the early days of occupation, it was found to be the terminus of the pipe-line leading to the wells. Surveys showed the enemy had made 25 breaks in the line as they fell back. Repairs took three months to complete, and were carried out by S.A. Idrocarburi Nazionale under AMG Fifth Army direction. Some of the gas now being piped into Florence will be used as domestic fuel.

3. Confusion

"Everybody is in it - police Chiefs, generals, officials, prefects, and doubtless many more". Thus spoke L'UNITA' this Saturday, referring to the rumours following on the "gobbo" case. L'UNITA' indeed, in this editorial, argued that what ITALIA NUOVA called "political banditry" was the result of the "multiplication of parties and multiplication of newspapers" both engineered, according to l'UNITA' by the"obscure forces of reaction" in an attempt to confuse the public mind and pave the way for a new Fascism. What the Communist party's solution would be, l'UNITA' did not specify; but confusion is certainly the right word both in

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Albania) are numerous and diverse, ranging from terrorist activities which include the assassination of King Alexander of Yugo-Slavia to "having exposed Italy to war risks; turned the SIM over to the Germans and transformed it into a politically subversive instrument; indulged in political espionage, denounced anti-fascists; arranged the assassination of the Rosselli brothers by bribing French Cagoulards with one hundred Beretta rifles; organized shipwrecks, fires, railroad disasters; spread epidemics by bacteriological methods;" and so on.

It looks as if the trial might be a long one.

Meanwhile, out of the political mud stirred up somewhat unexpectedly by the shooting of the hunchback there emerged this week the strange figure of Umberto Salvarezza, head of the Unione Proletaria party. Salvarezza, whose career included the post of secretary to the Liberian delegation to the League of Nations as well as numerous prison sentences in various countries for blackmail, forgery and theft, made headlines in the Rome press through the week, and vanished without a trace on Saturday after having announced a "press conference" for Sunday morning, at which he was to reveal the contents of documents which he claimed to hold incriminating highly placed individuals. From the jumble of conflicting facts available not much can yet be discerned with accuracy, but newspaper reports make it clear that the Unione Proletaria was organized on a basis of blackmail and collected considerable sums from ex-fascists. Salvarezza, it seems, got into trouble with the Germans, who burned his feet for anti-Nazism, and put him into Reginal Coeli where he was when we arrived. Making himself out to be a patriot he started out with a newspaper alleged, falsely, to have been in clandestine circulation before the Allies arrived. With this and his "party" he could doubtless protect ex-fascists who were willing to pay for faked receipts of payment to the patriots before the Allies arrived. At the same time Salvarezza managed, it seems, to run "La Frusta", a clandestine Fascist paper, copies of which were found, along with five machine-guns and a case of hand grenades in the Unione Proletaria building when it was finally raided by the Carabinieri on Friday - and when a warrant for Salvarezza's arrest was issued by the High Commission for Epuration, and Salvarezza vanished into the underworld. The point around which the interest of the Rome press has mainly circled is the incriminating documents which he claimed to possess. It has been suggested that the Gobbo when shot was on his way to obtain such documents by blackmail, and that Salvarezza tipped off the Carabinieri. L'UNITA' even alleged that the Gobbo was killed not by the Carabinieri but shots fired from the Unione Proletaria. We have probably not heard the last of this peculiar case.

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4. Tobacco

Observers in prewar Italy frequently stated that if Fascism was subjected to a series of straine, it would go up in smoke. That it did this is to the credit of the observer's perspicacity but what is surprising is the knowledge that before Fascism disappeared in smoke it practically lived on it. Tobacco in Italy was, and today still is, a state monopoly and the largest of all the monopolies controlled by the Italian Government. It contributed in revenue approximately 17% of the total taxation collected and 90% of that contributed by all

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the monopolies, and in the year 1942-43 the estimated hand-over to the treasury amounted to 4816 million lire. The method of collecting this money was simple. The entire revenue of the industry was handed over to the state which subestracted twenty per cent and gave it back to the industry for administrative expenses. In its happier days the industry directly employed 270,000 people in the growing, processing and packing departments and indirectly many others in transportation, warhousing and distribution. The German army in its retreat for one reason or another, possibly as a result of a distrate for Italian cigarettes, destroyed practically all the machinery and factories coming within its grasp. The effect of this was that 14% of the cigarette making machines and 20% of the tobacco cutting machines were completely destroyed. The industry was virtually crippled, the Italian Treasury deprived of an important source of revenue and Italy's seven and a half million male and legal smokers (only males over the age of 17 are entitled to buy) left without cigarettes. For many reasons it became necessary t rehabilitate the industry. The Italians needed cigarettes and the treasury needed money. Money was loaned to the industry by the Industry Sub-Commission of the Allied Commission to buy and replace machinery. Materials, suchas unobtainable and unimprovisable parts an cigarettes papers, unobtainable south of the Pisa-Rimini line, were brought from the United States. Staff for the industry was found and brought to the factories. The Military authorities who had requisitioned tobacco factories and plants were persuaded to derequisition. Transport was obtained, fuel and electrical power made available, and slowly the industry began to breath. Results, so far, have been that production has reached surprising figures and monthly, the tobacco plants turn out, for Liberated Italy, 131,500 Kgms of cigars, 79,835 kgms of cut tobacco and 373,500 kgms of cigarettes. This means 373,500,000 cigarettes are produced monthly. So much for the pure production results of the programme. The sale of tobacco now helps to fill the coffers of the treasury to a considerable extent. The gross monopoly revenue for the five months July to November 1944 was 1,019 million lire. The six months July to December 1944 will produce approximately 1420 million lire and seventy-five to eighty per cent of this will be paid into the treasury. This will amount to more than 20% of the total revenues. The raising of prices of tobacco, which came into force at the beginning of the year is expected to push government receipts up above a 50% increase. Altogether an encouraging example of reconstruction.

3. <u>Shall Italy trade with neutrals?</u>

The Economic Section staff and the inter-ministerial committee

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factories coming within its grasp. The effect of this was that 1[illegible] of the cigarette making machines and 20% of the tobacco cutting machines were completely destroyed. The industry was virtually crippled, the Italian Treasury deprived of an important source of revenue and Italy's seven and a half million male and legal smokers (only males over the age of 17 are entitled to buy) left without cigarettes. For many reasons it became necessary to rehabilitate the industry. The Italians needed cigarettes and the treasury needed money. Money was loaned to the industry by the Industry Sub-Commission of the Allied Commission to buy and replace machinery. Materials, suchas unobtainable and unimprovisable parts and cigarettes papers, unobtainable south of the Pisa-Rimini line, were brought from the United States. Staff for the industry was found and brought to the factories. The Military authorities who had requisitioned tobacco factories and plants were persuaded to derequisition. Transport was obtained, fuel and electrical power made available, and slowly the industry began to breath. Results, so far, have been that production has reached surprising figures and monthly, the tobacco plants turn out, for Liberated Italy, 131,500 Kgms of cigars, 79,835 kgms of cut tobacco and 373,500 kgms of cigarettes. This means 373,500,000 cigarettes are produced monthly. So much for the pure production results of the programme. The sale of tobacco now helps to fill the coffers of the treasury to a considerable extent. The gross monopoly revenue for the five months July to November 1944 was 1,019 million lire. The six months July to December 1944 will produce approximately 1420 million lire and seventy-five to eighty per cent of this will be paid into the treasury. This will amount to more than 20% of the total revenues. The raising of prices of tobacco, which came into force at the beginning of the year is expected to push government receipts up above a 50% increase. Altogether an encouraging example of reconstruction.

5. Shall Italy trade with neutrals?

The Economic Section staff and the inter-ministerial committee of Italian ministers tackled this problem at last week's regular meeting between AC experts and the Italian Government, when the Italians expressed a desire to get back into the swin of world trade and AC officers had to tell them regretfully that the middle C in ACC had not yet been fully muted as far as foreign trade was concerned, so that all Italian proposals for such trade would have to go through the AC screen. The Italians say that they would like to get ball bearing and machine parts for electrical equipment from Switzerland (much of the Italian hydroelectric plant is Swiss-made). Sweden has wood pulp for Italian paper, besides already having offered to rehabilitate with technicians and material the Southern

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Italian telephone system. Spain has an Italian tire making plant. The Argentines, in a report that is really no more than a strong rumor, are supposed, through the medium of "syndicate of Argentine financiers", to have offered to provide meat, ships and funds in a deal with the Commune of Rome. It is not known what Rome would have offered in exchange except a hearty appetite. The Italians were told to draw up programs for neutral trade, outlining what they propose to import, listing what existing frozen assets were available and suggesting what exports they could provide. The AC would then screen the proposals on the basis of their general soundness, making sure such exports did not interfere with the Italian war effort or civilian economy, verifying whether or not the exports were not acquired by the U.S. or U.K., and keeping in mind the tenets of economic warfare as applied to neutral countries. After this examination and if an o.k., were gained, the Italians would be free to start concrete negotiations with the neutral countries through regular diplomatic channels, though all deals would have to be consummated on a government-to-government basis. The Allies hold the key to the neutrals' position in the question through the issue of navicerts or permits for ships to ply Allied-controlled waters. The French now want to begin trading with Italy, their first request being for perfume oils. The U.S. and U.K. to date have been getting all wine fruit, perfume oils, wine and odd lots of minerals. The French, of course, as reported some time ago, have already bought Italian products for French consumption without authorization through local resources channels, a procedure which has been under review by AFHQ. Similar representations have now been made concerning Yugoslav purchases near Avellino where grain, vegetables and machinery has been purchased without AC authority for export. The Italians would also like to bring in goods from Lybia and Eritrea, particularly tuna fish and leather.

6. Odd and Ends

The Grano del Popolo stands, as of 27 January, at 10,383,780 qtl. or 89% of the 11,600,000 qtl. goal..Olive oil collected by the same date amounts to 174,896 qtl. of the 800,000 qtl. target, which will be distributed as follows: 375,600 qtl. in a general issue; 84,000 qtl. to special and supplementary classes; 41,390 qtl. to the Italian Army; 12,000 qtl. to devastated areas, and (all of the foregoing being for Liberated Italy) 294,720 qtl. into a stockpile for the North... G-4 (A) of A.F.H.Q. has tentatively promised the Commerce Sub - Commission about 10,000 old uniform for distribution to heavy outdoor workers of the armed forces.... Shipped to the U.S. during the week were 51,000 kilos of argols (wine yets), 15,000 kilos of tartaric acid and 1,500

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of Rome, the city has a full month's grain supply in stock... The Education Sub-Commission reports release of school supplies to the Italians from two sources: 1,600 reams of writing paper and 1,750 gross of chalk from the British and 11,520 penholders and 279,216 pen points from the Americans... SORRY: We were a little to positive in describing an UNRRA item last week ament the purely tentative arrival of 19,000 tons of UNRRA goods concerning which Transportation Sub-Commission was merely "contemplating" plans since the entire matter is as yet unconfirmed... The U.S. Promotion Board points with pride to the fact that, since December 25, there have been 98 American promotions in AC, 79 in the field and 19 at HQ.: still more advancements are to be announced later this week.

(sgd) Lionel Fielden

LIONEL FIELDEN
Major, Director,
Public Relations.

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

R26/WB42/PRB

21 January 1945.

AC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO.42
14 Jan 45 to 21 Jan 45

1. Political

On the 13th the government's mobilization decree, calling the classes of 1914 through 1924 to arms was published and posted. The government, at one of the regular press conferences, put the case mildly enough, explaining that the call was made in order to equalize the contribution of men from the various regions and to replace the older classes with younger recruits. But the press sensed that the moment meant - and should mean - more than that. Sforza was quoted as saying that this was the moment for Italian youth to show the strength of its desire to contribute to the rehabilitation of Italy and in general all parties urged not merely compliance but enthusiastic response to the call to arms. A large section of the press found the time again opportune for bringing up the matter of changing Italy's status. "The Allies," write Enzo Selvaggi in ITALIA NUOVA, "must now recognize that rights and duties exist on both sides", going on to say that a situation like that in Greece must be avoided and concluding with the frank statement that Italians want abolition of the armistice clauses, guarantee of their frontiers and a full alliance. QUOTIDIANO on the same theme remarked that an armed Italy with a victory to its credit will be assured of having a voice in the formation of the new Europe. Climaxing this line of thought the C.L.N. addressed a message to Roosevelt, Stalin, Churchill and De Gaulle asking to be allowed "a strong national army, capable of taking its place at the side of the Allies." The anti-monarchist papers of course found it also a good moment to insist on Army reform; ITALIA LIBERA affirmed that there should be no connection between the new army dedicated to the victory of democracy and the old one, "condemned, as it had been, to failure in an ignominious war", and VOCE REPUBBLICANA assured its readers that the youth of Italy was anxious to fight for the country but not for the King. In the University of Rome the students held a meeting on the 18th to express their enthusiasm for the new army and their willingness to serve in it. They too asked for alliance instead of co-belligerency and carried banners reading "La guerra, si; ma non ad occhi chiusi." (War, yes; but not blindfolded).

This tide of adolescent effervescence, as might have been expected, undergraduates being what they are, broke its bounds and poured

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This tide of adolescent effervescence, as might have been expected, undergraduates being what they are, broke its bounds and poured over to the Viminale where the Council of Ministers was in session. Bonomi was coaxed to the balcony and made a short speech, urging the young men (according to IL GIORNALE DEL MATTINO) "to be ready to sacrifice themselves for the ressurection of their country" and then returned to the business of the meeting which was indeed not alien to the matter of the students' demonstration, dealing largely with the army and international matters. As predicted a few weeks ago measures were passed to improve the lot of soldiers and their families. The Patriots were included in the family subsidies. The principle of employment to veterans was also laid down. De Gasperi, reporting on international affairs, said that the C.L.N. message (mentioned above) had been transmitted to the Allied leaders. He also

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announced the formal recognition by Italy of the Chung King government and declared null and void the Fascist "Vienna accord" of 1940, replacing it by a declaration of the "necessity of friendly cooperation between Italy and the Balkan-Danubian nations." He further informed the Council that negotiations are going on in Washington between Italian financial experts and competent American authorities on the financial clauses of the armistice. Perhaps the headline item in foreign affairs department was the announcement of the appointment of Alberto Tarchiani as Ambassador to the United States. Tarchiani (born 1885) is a real anti-fascist; once editor of the "Corriere della Sera" of Milan, he went into exile in 1926 and in Paris became associated with Rosselli, Lussu and Cianca in the publication of "Giustizia e Libertà". He traveled widely in his years of exile and is well-known abroad. He served in the last Badoglio government as Minister without Portfolio. Incidentally he is a member of the Action party and his appointment may somewhat console that sensitive group for their sense of injury over "L'affaire Sforza".

Two speeches abroad made for rather sombre reflection in Italy this week. Rightly or wrongly, Churchill's declaration in the House of Commons, that "England does not need Italy as a partner" dampened any hopes of a conciliatory spirit in that quarter, and his statement that British arms are playing the main role in the Italian campaign was interpreted by Italian papers to mean that "Tory England" would have the dominant policy on the peninsula. Nenni remarked, more in sorrow than in anger, that Churchill doesn't understand the new Italian democracy and warned that an unsympathetic British policy might well drive Italy into what Churchill calls "Trotskyism" or back into exasperated nationalism. The French Foreign Minister speaking on the question of Tunisia, pointed out that it was not France that had torn up the Convention of 1896 (which had given preferred status to Italian residents in Tunisia and which was abrogated by Mussolini), and while France recognized that there was now a new regime in Italy, and one worthy of French sympathy, negotiations would have to be carried on with the recognition that the terms of the Convention were a dead letter. Italy is paying dearly for Mussolini's gangster-like diplomacy but perhaps nowhere more dearly than in the delicate field of Franco-Italian Relations.

Einaudi was formally installed as Governor of the Bank of Italy on the 2nd in the presence of Bonomi, Admiral Stone and other personages. He and Soleri both made brief speeches, the latter expressing moderate optimism on Italy's financial future and looking to the winding up of the Fascist nationalistic money policy and a return to "free exchange and open and plurilateral agreements." Einaudi and he both spoke of counting heavily on Allied understand-

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In the field of anti-Fascist sanctions, announcement was made of the appointment of four Vice Alti Commissari Aggiunti, a new office and, one would think, an indication that the process is to be speeded up since these officials do not replace the existing Commissari but assist them. Grieco, too, taking over from Scoccimarro in the field of administrative epuration, stated his intention of carrying on his work along the lines laid down by his predecessor. Nevertheless the charge persists in left-wing papers that the de-

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perture of Sforza and Scoccimarro means a slackening of epurative zeal. On the other hand it may simply mean a more objective and legal approach to the business.

Meanwhile the Roman press has been full of discussion of the imminent trials of Suvich (ex-Minister of Foreign Affairs) and Roatta (ex-chief of Staff), which are slated to begin next week, and the defense lawyer, one Cassinelli, famous for his forensic furberia, has created a certain amount of consternation mixed with hilarity by calling an imposing list of defense witnesses including such names as Badoglio, General Franco and our own Generals Mason McFarlane and Max Taylor, and Mr. Macmillan. Aided by that device and the inevitable illness of Roatta (for Caruso set a fashion in those matters) it is charged that he has been hoping to postpone the trial. Latest development however is that Cassinelli has himself been disbarred (epuration at work) and the trial will go on without him - and without, at least, some of his witnesses.

Correction

It has been pointed out to is that the three billion lire mentioned in the government decree of last week were allotted for repairs to public works and not buildings as we had it. True enough and it makes a difference. Scusi tanto.

2. Italia Combatte

The call to arms, which last week provoked widespread disorders in Sicily, was greeted this week by an enthusiastic display on the part of Roman students - possibly fired by the C.L.N. declaration of 17 January - who (as reported under Political) drew a balcony speech from Bonomy. Indeed throughout the week the Roman press has been agitating for a greater Italian share of belligerosity. No doubt they argue that if the war comes to a sudden end it will be nice for Italy to have a large army, and much less dangerous for those who join it. Nevertheless there would seem to be a growing feeling in liberated Italy that a larger Italian army be an indispensable factor in the liberation and administration of Northern Italy. The Land Forces Sub-Commission of the AC, also known as the Military Mission to the Italian Army (in which latter role it is not under the control of the AC) presided over by Major-General Langley Browning, has for some considerable time been occupied in rebuilding the Italian Army to the extent to which Allied resources and intentions permit. In August 1944 there were 20,000 Italian Combat troops (C.I.L.) in the line, and it was decided by AFHQ that the ceiling for the Italian Army should be set at 313,000; (of this, 83,000 were to be US-ITI, furnished with American

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In August the Supreme Allied Commander asked the Combined Chiefs of Staff to authorize the issue from England or Africa of 3 British

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Divisions worth of equipment for the Italians: with this he intended to form 6 "Combat Groups" each 9000 strong. At the same time General Browning asked Allied authorities to stop dipping into Italian Army reserves for any odd job that they wanted done, since Italian troops were required to assist the war effort directly and also suggested that patriot bands should not be incorporated into the Italian Army as units: pointing out that this could not be done under the fixed ceiling (which represented an 18% cut in the Army strength) but agreeing to take individual Patriot volunteers, though each volunteer would oust a soldier from the Army.

As a result of the permission to form the six new groups to be known as FRIULI, CREMONA, LEGNANO, FOLGORE, MANTOVA and PICENO, GHL. found plenty of work on its hands. It had, as General Browning put it, "the largest old clothes and old boots business in the world" (400,000 pairs of old boots) and was "well established in the foodstuffs and grocery business". The whole of Italy - including the North - was organized into military regions, districts and depots so as to provide an organized overall control by the Ministry of War. Ration scales had to be devised and revised. Equipment and its wastage had to be worked out item by item. Bids had to be made for quantities of leather, thread and nails. A large system of repair and manufacture - mainly at Naples and Bari - had to be set up, Italian manufacture thus providing, for instance, 17,000 towels and 10,000 wool jackets - but only 62 overcoats - and repairing 123,000 caps and 12,000 blankets. A repatriation camp was started at Taranto in November for Italian soldiers returning from Greece and the Balkans, and 23,367 officers and ORs had passed through it by January.

Meanwhile the organization and training of the six combat groups went ahead under British instructors. In November the FRIULI and CREMONA Groups, fully equipped, passed through Rome on their way North. The Legnano & FOLGORE are expected to be ready for action by the end of February. The MANTOVA will probably be ready by the end of March. The PICENO will act as a reinforcement group. Such are the beginnings of the new Italian Army.

But it must be added that 48,000 men are still required to complete the ceiling - owing to war weariness (some Italian soldiers have now been fighting for 8 years) widespread desertion, overlenient exemption laws, and lack of enthusiasm to enlist. The calls-up in Rome and Lazio - target 14,000 - resulted in 3,700, and in Abruzzi - target 6000 - in 2000. We know what happened in Sicily. Calls-up are pending in Sardinia and Umbria. The Roman Press and party leaders nevertheless continue to stress Italy's desire to

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or World Cup: a soldier from the Army.

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3. The Gobbo of Quarticciolo

Early this past week a maresciallo of Carabinieri shot and killed Giuseppe Albano, alias 'Il Gobbo' (The Hunchback), 19-year old boy leader of Rome's most formidable gang and two days later, January 18, over 1000 Carabinieri, Italian infantrymen and Questura henchmen successfully rounded up the main elements of his leaderless

henchmen whose operations have ranged from Beniamino Gigli's villa in the Saleria district to the headquarters of a political party in Trastevere and whose crimes have included car stealing, extortion and murder.

Police investigations concerning the death of a Carabiniere and the fatal shooting of a British corporal had already led to the poor Quarticciolo and Gordiano districts where in the slum dwellings of the former and in the ancient catacombs that extend for miles under the latter the gang was known to be hiding with considerable stores of arms, ammunition and stolen property. There remained only the execution of carefully laid plans for a general cleanup of the area when Il Gobbo was killed and four members of his gang were captured. On January 16 three of the gangsters were apprehended by Carabinieri near Beniamino Gigli's villa where, it is believed, they had gone on a blackmailing mission. On the same day, across the Tiber in the Trastevere district two boys, one a five-foot hunchback with brown hair and eyes and, witnesses say, the face of an angel, were approached by three Carabinieri. Carabinieri fashion, they attempted to take Il Gobbo into custody without using their weapons when suddenly Angel-Face Gobbo whirled around, fired several times in quick succession with his Berretta pistol, and raced across Via Fernove before one of the two wounded Carabinieri, a maresciallo, took careful aim with a pistol and killed the gang leader in the doorway of the party headquarters of the Unione Proletaria. His accomplice, wounded in the gun-fight, was captured.

At 4:30 AM January 18, Lt. Col. Bruto D. Bersonetti of the CC. RR., having flung a dragnet employing 670 Carabinieri, 220 Italian infantrymen and 120 Questura agents over the adjoining Quarticciolo and Gordiano districts, began sytematically to comb the area. At a cost of one civilian death and four children wounded, one seriously, (when gang members attacked with hand grenades) the day-long search netted 74 draft dodgers, 5 desertors from Italian army Units, 11 car thieves, 35 arrests for unlawful possession of weapons, 16 taken into custody for armed rebellion, 141 persons detained for public safety reasons, the capture of one allied deserter and 22 members of the Albano gang, including the notorious Archangel, alias 'Er Cipolletta' (The small onion), who was killed. Property seized included the following interesting items: 18 rifles, 12 revolvers, 1 German machine-gun, a military telephone exchange, 10 gas masks, a military automobile, 40 pounds of explosives, 3500 projectiles of various calibres and an assortment of 46 swords, daggers and bayonettes.

Since Il Gobbo was killed on the doorsteps of the Unione Proletaria headquarters the press has injected a strong political

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only the execution of carefully laid plans for a general cleanup of the area when Il Gobbo was killed and four members of his gang were captured. On January 16 three of the gangsters were apprehended by Carabinieri near Beniamino Gigli's villa where, it is believed, they had gone on a blackmailing mission. On the same day, across the Tiber in the Trastevere district two boys, one a five-foot hunchback with brown hair and eyes and, witnesses say, the face of an angel, were approached by three Carabinieri. Carabinieri fashion, they attempted to take Il Gobbo into custody without using their weapons when suddenly Angel-Face Gobbo whirled around, fired several times in quick succession with his Berretta pistol, and raced across Via Fornovo before one of the two wounded Carabinieri, a maresciallo, took careful aim with a pistol and killed the gang leader in the doorway of the party headquarters of the Unione Proletaria. His accomplice, wounded in the gun-fight, was captured.

At 4:30 AM January 18, Lt. Col. Bruto E. Bersonetti of the CC. RR., having flung a dragnet employing 670 Carabinieri, 220 Italian infantrymen and 120 Questura agents over the adjoining Quarticciolo and Gordiano districts, began sytematically to comb the area. At a cost of one civilian death and four children wounded, one seriously, (when gang members attacked with hand grenades) the day-long search netted 74 draft dodgers, 9 deserters from Italian army Units, 11 car thieves, 35 arrests for unlawful possession of weapons, 16 taken into custody for armed rebellion, 141 persons detained for public safety reasons, the capture of one allied deserter and 22 members of the Albano gang, including the notorious Archangel, alias 'Er Cipolletto' (The small onion), who was killed. Property seized included the following interesting items: 18 rifles, 12 revolvers, 1 German machine-gun, a military telephone exchange, 10 gas masks, a military automobile, 40 pounds of explosives, 3500 projectiles of various calibres and an assortment of 46 swords, daggers and bayonettes.

Since Il Gobbo was killed on the doorsteps of the Unione Proletaria headquarters the press has injected a strong political flavor into the affair, seasoned on one side by AVANTI which claims Albano innocent of political connections and spiced on the other hand by UNITA' which alleges that the hunchback was the agent of sinister elements within the Unione Proletaria. A well informed source traces this schism in the UNITA'-AVANTI political front to the fact that at the time of the Allied occupation of Rome Albano cancelled his membership of the Communist party and joined the Socialists.

4. The course of Epuration

In a reports on the activities of the Assistant High Commis-

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sion for Epuration from 15 August to 31 December 1944 the former Assistant High Commissioner (Scoccimarro) describes the task of the legislator to rehabilitate the public administration "in a spirit of wide human understanding". At the close of the year the organization of the Commission ranged from a general and a special secretariat through 16 offices of investigation (one for each ministry one for the government dependent or controlled bodies, one for the province and commune of Rome and one for the professional lists in the province of Rome), offices for the provinces, for commissions of first instance, for suspensions and for appeals, down to an information office, technical services and a police office. In 41 of the provinces of Liberated Italy were delegates appointed on designation of the local CLN in conjunction with the prefect - men chosen for the immaculacy of their non-Fascism. One hundred and twenty-five commissions of first instance were functioning, with a further 44 about to be appointed for Avellino, Benevento, Macerata, Matera, Puglia, Potenza, Rieti and Salerno. Finally, there was a Central Commission, with its own work and organization, which dealt with appeals lodged against the findings of the commissions of first instance.

In the period covered by the report commissions of first instance concluded 3,588 proceedings, deciding on 597 dismissals, 1,461 "lesser sanctions" and 1,530 acquittals. The Assistant High Commissioner, to whom the decisions were conveyed, presented 227 appeals to the Central Commission. A further 2,910 suspensions, mainly for lower officials, were effected on the initiative of the various administrations, but in many cases the suspensions were revoked by the Assistant High Commissioner, concentrating rather on getting the big fish into his net. This was partly because the suspensions had been made under Allied ordinances not consistent with the July decree "Sanctions against Fascism" and partly because he did not wish to clutter up the works with a mass of cases involving unnecessarily prolonged sufferings or discomfort for the smaller fry unjustified by the immediate exigencies envisaged in the decree. Of more than 16,000 cases deferred for epuration trial the Commissioner was responsible for 5,164, the central and local administrations 11,384. In conformity with the general policy to hit at the higher grades and to be indulgent where possible in the law, more than 60% of the deformenze were in the top four grades, middle grades contributed only 20% and the lower grades only 1%. By 30 November, the date decided upon, the High Commissariat had concluded its investigations in all ministries except Education, Interior and Grace and Justice, where special circumstances made a clean sheet impossible. Cases not concluded were either withdrawn or are still under investigation.

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Although "unyielding to reprehensible weakness or to corrupting influences" the Assistant High Commissioner issued general directives from time to time, opposing excessive rigidity and extremism. The spirit of the law was always to prevail over the letter. Many factors were to be taken into careful consideration. For instance, the repentant Fascist and the good official were not to be removed out of hand as a result of hasty judgment, because the law was designed as a means of moral rehabilitation, not as a measure of political persecution. The aim was to "remove the irreconcilables". As a general rule greater clemency was recommended for the lower grades, especially where dismissal would involve the ruin of families.

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Effective epuration of the higher grades would, it was argued, effect such a sound cure in the administration that minor dishonesties would find it hard to breathe in the healthy atmosphere created. It was hardly likely that the ardent "squadrista", "antemarcia" or "marcia su Roma" could have remained with faith and mentality unimpaired without considerable advancement! And such a title as "squadrista" might have been more nominal than indicative of intransigent fascism. Even continued allegiance to the republican fascist govt., where the loyalty was due primarily to avoid loss of employment, family hardship or starvation, was to be judged with full regard to all extenuating circumstances and sanctions, if unavoidable, were to be of the smallest degree. Loss of pension in particular was to be avoided, except in the most flagrant cases in peculation or collaboration. Nor was suspension during proceedings to have any bearing on the decisions of the commissions.

By such means it was the desire and hope of the High Commissariat to carry out the task of epuration by "Tempering the necessary severity with wholesome criteria of impartiality and indulgence and by showing a sense of juridical and political understanding".

5. Economic Front

LANDED COSTS - H.H. Beaken, price economist, has received the first sizeable batch of consolidated advices on the landed cost of goods being imported into Italy, a piece of information keenly sought after, and in view of the growing import of essential materials, urgently needed. Definition of the cost of these goods is the first step toward a sensible attitude towards Italian prices in relation to world prices, Mr. Beaken explains. Complete lists of landed costs should be available within about three weeks, after which they will be published in the form of Italian equivalents. For example, the landed cost of 100 lbs. of wheat is $4.68. For the Italian equivalent read our next issue.

PRIORITIES BOARD - The Hq Priorities Board, set up to decide what should be given to whom first, has met, organized itself, is working out procedures and has got far enough along to tackle its first problem, that of salvaged clothing, or "rags" as Col Evans, director of the Commerce Sub-Commission puts it. The board consists of Col Densmore, acting vice president of the Economic Section, as chairman; Mr. Harland Cleveland, executive director, Economic Sect; Col R.R. Cripps, chief staff officer of the Civil Affairs Sect., and Col G.W.I. Shipp, chief staff officer to the Chief of Staff. Priority claims are filed with sub-commissions which have materials or services to allocate. The Board then sits in judgment, with interested sub-commissions in attendance. The allocating sub-commissions ask the Board to decide to whom they should give their goods when the

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forces which have civilian labor ask for allotments of clothing. Poser:Who should get it before whom? Available now for distribution 14,500 items.Awaiting processing are 80000 lbs.of wool clothing, 140000 lbs.of cotton and 61000 lbs.of mixed,besides 15000 pieces of uniforms. The decision arrived at was to distribute available clothing on a pro rata basis to agencies of the armed forces for employees doing heavy work in exposed places.

OLIVE OIL CAMPAIGN - The Agriculture Sub-Commission is getting close to the frying stage itself from the heat being generated by the officers assigned to the campaign. Short training courses are being given at headquarters to the recruits. Explicit instructions on what Allied officers may and may not do in Italian Govt.territory to help the Italians are being worked out. Regional Commissioners in AMG territory are to be asked,exhorted and finally instructed to make a good showing and set a good example for the AMG side of the collection.Of the 800,000 qtl target, 170,000 are to be collected in AMG areas, notably Tuscany. To date the collections for entire Liberated Italy, as of 15 January,were 147,308 qtl, compared with 489, 583 qtl collected by the same date two years ago. Transportation Sub-Commission is pitching in with some good coordination, being ready to provide 50 to 100 trucks for the second pressing of the olives. Incidentally, of the 60 officers assigned to the drive,41 will be used in the Southern Region and 19 in AMG areas.Lastly,there is the question of whether the Italians are holding back on olive oil for fear the Allied Armies will take it all. Agriculture officers report this as a real fear in the villages. It has been requested that AC put out a statement saying that none of the olive oilwill go to Allied troops. But can it? Especially when one thinks of all the officers' messes and dinner salads over which AC has no control.

REQUISITIONING - The AC won the other day what the Industry Sub-Commission(active agent in the case)modestly will not term a victory but a hopeful sign for the future. Peninsular Base Section wrote into HQ asking about the possibility of requisitioning the machine works of the Solvay caustic soda plant at Posignano,essential to Italian economy. AC immediately contacted AFHQ and got a ruling that the key plant was not to be touched. What most gratifies the economic people is that, at long last, it will at least have a voice in ruling as to the utilization of industrial premises and even hopes to get plants derequisitioned through the newly-formed Industrial Coordination Committee of AFHQ.

EXPORTS - Permission previously granted by AFHQ to AC to handle matters of exports directly with London and Washington has now been confirmed by messages from those capitals.

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CENTRAL POWER - A notable step forward in the electrical power reconstruction of Central Italy took place late Saturday, 20 Jan., when a long-cherished plan of the Public Works and Utilities Sub-Commission was put into effect amid not inconsiderable fanfare not to mention social tea and cakes and how-do-you-do's. The event was the establishment of a central control system for electrical generating facilities whereby surplus energy can be transferred to points more urgently needed, a more steady supply to essential installations made possible as well as the regulation of the up-to-now rather erratic frequencies and voltages. The new system will operate at a

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frequency of 45 cycles. Col L.A. Jenny (A), director of the sub-commissariat, who, incidentally, has just won his eagles, for which congratulations, gives full marks for the achievement to Lieut.Col. W.M. Lapper (B), his electrical expert who has had many years' experience on the Central Electricity Board of England. The centralization of control in such a tightly-knit hydro-electric economy as Italy has been long over-due and is a radical innovation in Italian practice. The linking of all the smaller systems into one grid system was celebrated at headquarters with speeches by Col. Jenny and Minister of Public Works Ruini who cut a pretty red ribbon and then spoke into the telephone giving the first order for linking up the systems. Afterwards some score of guests, both Italian and Allied, drank tea, sipped vermouth and ate fancy little cake-handed around by bustling white-coated waiters from the Grand Hotel. One fine sweet had a fancy superstructure in the shape of a turbine. (Let it be added that the description of the sweet regretably comes from visual, not oral, experience, because we were too busy to stay for the festivities).

6. A Horrified Tale from Marina Palmense

Marina Palmense, which (you may or may not know) is not far from Pescara, was impertinently desecrated, so it appears, by what the Germans probably called a Commando raid on January 10. The raid, as Major Jackson, Provincial Public Safety Officer, remarks achieved nothing; but the incidental details, as reported by the local CCRR, are so lurid that we think some of them might please detection-minded readers. Here is an extract:

"There seems to be no doubt of the fact that the signals noted at the highest point of the fraction of Torre di Palma were made by a German spy. In fact, in the course of the investigations carried out, it was discovered that on the 2d or 3d of this month about 1100 hours, an individual disguised as a pilgrim, of medium-robust stature with reddish hair and beard, with a reddish complexion, with retund face, age apparently 40 to 45 years, wearing a civilian cap of a dark red color with a visor, with a faded dark red overcoat, ragged and carrying a stick, was seen going around the fraction and paying attention to the points which overlooked the beach. An adolescent boy, sensing that he might be a spy, asked him, "Do you speak German?" and he acted as if he would hit the boy with the stick, showing evidently that he well understood what the boy meant. He spent about half an hour in the inhabited part of the fraction, then the pilgrim went toward the beach, where he was lost to view. 1287

"Yesterday, the 10th, at about 1100 hours, the same self-styled pilgrim was seen to go past on the road that leads from the Adriatic

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"Yesterday, the 10th, at about 1100 hours, the same self-styled pilgrim was seen to go past on the road that leads from the Adriatic national road to the fraction of Capodarco, in the direction of that town, with a sack on his shoulder. Following this, according to orders received, a search was immediately begun for the criminal, but up to now it has been without result. At the same time, neighboring stations were notified so that they could provide for similar searches in their territory unless higher command provides otherwise."

So now you know who to look for - unless higher command provides otherwise.

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7. The Nice Art of Rebutting Criticism

Enterprising Allied newspaper correspondents are apt to cable to the world some of the acid comments of the Italian Press, and visiting MPs and Congressmen also swallow them eagerly. AC PRO is supposed to mitigate such evils as best he can. Here is an example:

On December 18 the RICOSTRUZIONE of Rome published a particularly violent article describing in harrowing terms the plight of Foggia. The article conveyed the impression that Foggia, having been thoroughly bombarded and fought over, was being systematically looted and despoiled by the Allied Air Forces. Not knowing the correct answer we sent this article, for information, to the Southern Regional Commissioner, whose interesting reply is worth quoting. He wrote, in part:

"The article is like every similar article dealing with a devastated city. It is exaggerated, but not to a degree which could justify our claiming that it was distorted. It is perfectly true that a very great deal of the available accomodation, which remains intact in Foggia, is occupied by Allied units. It is also perfectly true that buildings are being used for Allied Clubs. It is further perfectly true that a good deal of materials, bricks, stone, etc., have been taken out of the city of Foggia to be used in the construction of huts, flooring of tents etc. in the camps and aerodromes of the American Air Force. The maintenance of a reasonable balance between troop requirements and the needs of the civil population becomes one of our greatest preoccupations. While there is no doubt that the standard accomodation demanded by the Air Force is high, I am not prepared to sit in judgment upon it. The young officers of the Air Force are engaged in hazardous combat work and deserve reasonable comfort, when they are not flying. There are two real answers to the article. The first is the general one that you cannot embark upon a major modern war without running risk of bringing misery to your own population. The second and more particular one is that the best way in which the Allies can help Italy is to bring the war to an end as rapidly as possible. One of the most potent instruments towards an early close of the war is an Allied Air Force operation from its bases in Foggia Province."

This seemed very sensible, although of course it would do nothing to assuage the millions of armchair humanitarians back home who, after reading extracts from RICOSTRUZIONE, blame AC and AFHQ. A little later we had a letter equally interesting, from Lieut. Colonel H.W. Bright, Zone Commissioner of Foggia, to whom Brigadier Dunlop had forwarded the article. He wrote, in part:

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"The Article was written by the Director of the Polygraphia in Rome - a close friend of the Sindaco SBANO of the same Political Party - Democratic Labor. SBANO was a "small" lawyer in Foggia before becoming Sindaco, and by virtue of this appointment has materially increased his practice. He is, moreover, an ambitious man and an aspiring politician. Most of his time, therefore, is spent either in the Law Courts or in writing or inspiring newspaper articles of the type mentioned. Nor does he confine himself to one paper, vide various articles in attached "RICOSTRUZIONE DAUNA", and other papers in the Province. The theme throughout is the same, i.e.

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the self-glorification of SBANO so that he may be acceptable to the people of Foggia, probably during the coming Elections".

"Much of the article is true, as you so rightly say. I do feel that after 15 months occupation more consideration should be given to this bombed city by the Italian Government. Foggia Province has received little or no consideration by the Italian Government for its great work in grain producing during the last harvest. No allotment of clothing has been made to either its agricultural labourers, its salt workers, its charcoal workers, its woodcutters and its street cleaners. No railway facilities exist linking its important towns with the capital and with connections to Lucera, where both the Prefettura, Hq Allied Commission, Appeal Court, Alimentation etc., offices are located. Its bus services, such as they are, are rapidly deteriorating for lack of spare parts and tyres. As I have said in my report for last month, the requisitioning in Foggia requires independent enquiry. Lists of requisitioned property have been asked for and have been refused by the Town Major who appears to be intolerant of any Italian making any request no matter how reasonable, particularly in connection with his property. I should, therefore, be grateful to you for any action you can take to provide some of the needs of Foggia, and remedy some of its justifiable complaints, most of which were, I believe, brought to the notice of H.E. The Minister of Public Works by Italian officials on his visit to Foggia yesterday."

Brigadier Dunlop writes in this connection that he is doing what he can "to secure better rail communication between Foggia and Lucera and to help in other ways the admittedly difficult situation at Foggia".

Foggia is only one problem. But, gentle reader, if you were us with those facts in your possession, and were expected to erase the effects of the RICOSTRUZIONE article, how would you do it? Its a nice parlour game for the long winter evenings at CHIANCIANO and MONTECATINI.

8. Odds and Ends

Col.E.B.Mayne, 5th Army ANG chief of staff, is back with us after a leave in his native South Africa..Four trucks with food for snowbound Castel del Sangro in the Abruzzi have been battling the impassable roads for nine days to get into the town while Italian-flown planes of the MAAF finally succeded in dropping 10 tons of flour a few days ago.. The Transportation Sub-Commission has just received a thorough over-hauling at the hands of the director, Mr Merritt H. Taylor (A), and newly joined Deputy

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Transportation S/C is making preparations to store the goods in its warehouses until the UNRRA organization is prepared to take over such physical details.. Mr John Rayner will head PWB 15th Army Group and Mr George Idman PWB in AC Italy during the liquidation of the latter in the re-organization of PWB now going on.. The glass industry is looking up, though not fast enough to put glass into all schools and hospitals needing it during this winter: still, the Solarra works at Rome now goes into immediate production of 15,000 sq.m. monthly and at Col di Val d'Elsa near enough soda ash has been allocated for a production of 12,000 sq.m... Automobile parts, another critical shortage item, got a boost this week when Industry S/C succeeded in derequisitioning all but 16 of 130 machines in the ARCO plant in Rome, machines necessary for the manufacture of interchangeable spare parts.. 35,000 greatcoast idle, infested and almost rotting have been discovered in a Naples warehouse: steps to disinfest them and put them to use are being taken by the Public Health S/C and the War Materials Disposal and Prisoners of War S/C.. Two moves were taken this week to get further better mutual acquaintance between regional commissioners and Headquarters sub-commissions: Space and seats are being provided at Hq. for visiting RC's and directors and deputy directors have been instructed to visit every region within the next two months.. 70 head of cattle, the first instalment of livestock from Sardinia, have arrived at Civitavecchia for re-stocking of the Lazio-Umbria region.. 77 boxes of silk worm seeds arrived at Naples by air from the Middle East, of which 47 badly damaged boxes were saved by fast emergency repair work by the airport staff, so officials in charge of silk cocoon production can heave a sigh of relief this time, remembering a series of such misadventures previously.. The new match production at the Saffa plant in Naples has now reached 70,000 packets a day, with a ceiling of 200,000 aimed at; but lack of power for the Jesi match factory threatens to disrupt the nation wide match distribution program..

9. Quote from an Esteemed Contemporary.

"Lush: anything softer than stone."

- from R. H. Macy's Glossary of Unfamiliar Words and Phrases in Advertising as quoted in TIME, American news magazine, Dec. 11,1944.

(sgd) Lionel Fielden

LIONEL FIELDEN,
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Public Relations.

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED CO'MISSION
AFO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

R26/PR41/PRB 13 January 1945.

AC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 41

7 Jan 45 to 13 Jan 45

1. Political

On the eve of Epiphany (Twelfth Night) all good little Italian children go to bed with happy conviction that the Benevolent Befana will visit them during the night and bring some little present for them. The Council of Ministers, meeting on the 5th, took over the Befana role very handsomely and allotted five billion lire for a housing program, surely one of the most practical and essential measures to their credit. It might more correctly be called a shelter program since it was stressed that the funds were to go to urgent repairs rather than to new construction (that must await a more fitting time for nationwide planning) for the idea is to reduce as soon as possible the number of "senza tetto". Of the five billions set aside three are for repairs to public buildings and two for private ones. It was stated that the Ministries of Public Works and Industry have notified AC of their needs in the way of raw materials, transportation and coal. Special committees have been formed in all communes to deal with the problems of the shelterless, thus assuring that the matter will be approached from a local as well as a national point of view. Also posters are to be put up everywhere explaining the machinery of the law so that the average simple householder will know where and how to put in his claim. Still playing the part of the Good Fairy the Council also approved measures to improve the lot of the fighting soldiers, raising their food allowance and doubling their cigarette ration, sanctioned decrees raising the pay of functionaries of the judiciary and prepared to examine with benevolence the possibility of larger subsidies to needy soldiers' families.

Sforza's letter of resignation from his High Commissionership of Sanctions against Fascism was read at the meeting. He gave statistics on the work done under his administration, which he surveyed with moderate satisfaction, and expressed the belief that the process would be carried out much more rapidly

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to give to this work - nor, indeed, is he the right man. Grieco a member of the Communist party and only recently returned from Tunisia was named to Scoccimarro's old post, Alto Commissario Aggiunto per L'epurazione. Another recently returned exile in the news was Gasperotto who came back from Switzerland at the time of the government crisis a month ago. He was named to head the Air Ministry, succeeding Scioloja who has resigned for reasons of health.

Rossini, Capo dell'Ufficio Stampa della Presidenza - i.e. Chief of the governments Public Relations Office, gave another press conference on the 9th. He stated that the government was pleased with Macmillan's declaration that the Allied plan for Italy looked toward progressive restitution of responsibility for political and administrative life. He further affirmed that the Italian government had nothing against the publication of the armistice clauses nor could the government understand, "in the sphere of its competence" what were the military reasons for delaying the publication to which President Roosevelt had referred. And he admitted that there was serious disorder in Sicily. This,he said,was caused by rumours circulating to the effect that Italy was going to be sacrificed for the benefit of other countries. Sicily has indeed been in the headlines all week and the island of fire has cast a more lurid glow than ever over the political horizon. Details may be found elsewhere in our Bulletin; the simple fact is that the young men are resisting the call to arms, either because they have been infected with separatism as some claim or are unwilling to fight for the King (as the Leftists claim) or are simply tired of war. At any rate resistance has gone so far as to produce the paradoxical spectacle, notably in Ragusa, of men fighting in order not to fight.

An event of higher political importance than routine administrative matters or party manoeuvring was forecast in a press release of Jan 7. The release quoted the Chief Commissioner as announcing that "Rome will enjoy the first free interchange of news in over 20 years on Jan 15th when domestic and world news agencies such as the Associated Press, International News Service, Reuters and United Press will begin the distribution of news directly to the Roman newspapers". This means, as the communique went on to state, that "world news agencies will be free to sell news to any individual Italian newspaper, and the newspapers in turn will be free to buy any world or domestic news ser-

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Two illustrious personages were invalids this week. The King was reported as in "condizioni preoccupanti" - the supplement of ITALIA LIBERA on Monday suggested that he might be dead and was promptly confiscated. And Badoglio was also reported

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ill - how seriously no one will tell us.

On the 9th there was a meeting of a special Interministerial Committee, headed by Cronchi, to tackle the business of "disciplining prices and fighting the black market". In bocca al lupo!

2. The Armies

No last minute news is available from the Armies, but Fifth Army AMG reports that december was "the most uneventful month since last winter". The village of Barga in Lucca province changed hands twice in the space of a few days, being the first commune since the landing at Salerno to be lost after the setting up of Allied military government. It is back now in Allied hands but not before the Republican Fascist radio had put out a message of grateful thanks to AMG for a ten-day stock of civilian food the enemy found in the village. In Florence agitation continues against the prefect and at the end of the month the Provincial Commissioner and the city SCAO had to administer a sharp rebuke to the Committee of Liberation for attempting to interfere with the administration. Static conditions at the front have accentuated a general feeling of frustration among the population. The Communists are easily the best organized party and the political fray has now been joined by an underground group of extreme Anarchists, not unconnected, it is thought, with the various recent crimes of violence. Relations with Allied troops are good, marred only by complaints of misconduct on the part of American colored troops on the coast. Much discontent is evident over the scarcity and high price of food but the freezing cold weather has made fuel loom even larger in the public mind. The shortage is due entirely to lack of transport. An olive oil ration distributed in nearly all the communes ceused general satisfaction, but opinion is reserved on future prospects. With the new year begins the supply of cigarettes to the civilian population - previously they had gone only to patriots.

The work of the Carabinieri comes in for special praise and the reserve waiting to go north has proved extremely useful during the lull in military operations. In Florence there were several cases of serious crime, including the theft of Allied property and attempted bribery of the military police. A band of Patriots broke jail in Pistoia to liberate a prisoner held for wrongful possession of arms: the liberators are now in jail, but the ex-prisoner is still free. The arrest of 11 ex-partisans

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Remarkable increase in forged currency is reported, 90 counterfeit 1,000 lire notes having been discovered in Florence and some 30 elsewhere. It is suspected that the notes enter through the port of Livorno. Health in general is good, except for Prato where a typhoid epidemic hospitalized 10 of the population. Over 3,500 refugees were evacuated during the month, nearly all to Southern Italy. In Lucca there was a run on the banks, fortunately not too serious, by a population over-sensitive to war rumours.

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3. Guerra Siciliana

Sicily, since January 3, has been having a little war of its own. We all know by now that the causes of war are extremely difficult, not to say dangerous, to analyze: far be it from us to make the attempt.

But perhaps it may be said that one BIANCATO made a flaming Fascist speech at Grigento on January 7 and that Major J.F. Manuel, in an extremely interesting report on Public Safety in Sicily during December, analyzed Sicilian protests against the call-up as follows:

(a) As Italy had not been declared and Ally and was presumedly regarded as a conquered people, for what was she fighting?
(b) Why were the Armistice Terms not published?
(c) What were the conditions of service, equipment, etc., (one rumour stated that recruits were to be sent to fight JAPAN).
(d) Why had the call-up been made immediately prior to the Christmas and New Year festivities?
(e) Why serve while brothers and other relatives were still over-seas in P.O.W. Camps?
(f) Why leave families to starve in present difficult economic conditions?
(g) Why should those with Separatist and/or Republican sentiments fight in the Italian Army?

It was reported on January 7 that conditions were serious in the towns of Vittorio, Comiso and Modica, that 100 Italian soldiers had been disarmed by the populace, that further troops had been despatched and that unconfirmed reports indicated 4 Italian soldiers and 8 CCRR were killed. After this a positive hail of conflicting reports about conflicts began to come in from various authorities. Judging as best we can from these, we gather that reinforcements of 200 Italian troops arrived at Ragusa (where the call-up had been postponed until order was restored) from Syracuse on January 8 sustaining casualties of 1 killed, 18 injured and 3 missing, 3 rioters also being killed. The 16th Artillery Regiment attacked at Comiso, which was now firmly held (and the approaches mined) by 1000 rioters. By the 9th General Ponce had restored order in Ragusa, but the Artillery unit had got lost, stolen or strayed somewhere, and Colonel Leonardi was stated to be out looking for it in "the only available tank". Meanwhile both MAAF and AC had got hotted up about the use of Italian airplanes, one S.M. 79 having been moved to Catania without reference [illegible] for some mysterious reason, re-

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(a) As Italy had not been declared enemy she was presumably regarded as a conquered people, for what was she fighting?
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last man, having presumably swallowed the Artillery unit and tank and possibly Colonel Leonardo as well of whom no more had been heard by us. But on the 11th came, we must confess, something of an anti-climax, when we learnt that "General Brisotto's troops entered Cosiso at 1200 hours. Population showed no reaction at all to entry of troops". This P/R report adds "Although order now restored main towns Ragusa province, practically no rebels or arms captured. These will remain a potential danger..." And District HQ remarks laconically "Anticipate this action will terminate disturbances but further disorders are likely to occur".

In these somewhat confusing skirmishes the Allies were, needless to say, strictly non-belligerent and non-interventionist. (We could wish that communications did not share this detachment). Last time that Sicily was having its fun, we understood on the best authority that Catania had now no AC officers and said so, unguardedly, in this Bulletin. Which brought us a prompt and just protest from Lt.Colonel Walker, who informs us that he, as Provincial Commissioner, with an Executive Officer, Supplies officer and an Import Division officer, are all at Catania. We apologize. A picture postcard from the island would not come amiss.

4. -And Sardinia

In Europe's seventh largest island, Sardinia, 1943 came to a close with a gradually returning normality symbolized by the departure from Cagliari on December 30 of the steamer "Abbazia" to resume regular service with Naples on the mainland. The return of the ship, which is plying on a bi-monthly basis and can carry up to 300 passengers and a cargo of 1,000 tons, is awaited among others by between 50 and 60 time-expired prisoners from the penal colonies, due for repatriation to their home communes in liberated Italy. Shipping activity in December was brisk, reports the Regional Commissioner, Colonel J.A.C. Pennycuick, and 5,800 tons of imported wheat and 7,200 tons of barley were unloaded at the wharves. 750 tons of rock phosphate and 292 quintals of white bean seed also came in and the arrival of 70 tons of tobacco ensured a whole two months' cigar smoking (rationed) for the islanders. Exports for the year came to over 280,000 tons, more than a quarter of a million of which consisted of coal for the mainland. The total coal production was 375,000 and it is estimated that by using means at present in sight, and additional miners unfortunately not quite yet in sight, the monthly production could be raised from 40,000 to 70,000 tons. After coal the chief exports were salt (10,465 tons), fireclay (2,000 tons), lead (2,561 tons), paint pigment (2,000 tons), magnesium sulphate

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The long spell of dry weather before the heavy rains broke on Christmas Day was most beneficial to winter cultivation. Wheat collections for the year totalled 273,589 quintals, barley 29,936 quintals and the olive oil crop is reported to be excep-

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tionally good. Meat prices are reasonably low, lamb being available at less than 60 lire a kilo - and no black market. Surplus cattle, horses and sheep are to replenish depleted herds on the mainland. With repairs continuing to schools and other buildings, road contruction going on, work progressing on drainage schemes and on the hydro-electric installation at Flumendosa, the island is getting back more of its pre-war appearance. In Cagliari alone 900,000 lire has been spent on the clearance of war debris. The city now enjoys extended gas and electric lighting facilities and there is street lighting once more in all the main towns.

Tradition, however, in the shape of the island's unenviable reputation for organized brigandage and casual robberies, dies hard, and was kept alive in December by an increase in the number of murders to 11 and armed robberies to 36 (compared with a monthly average of 5 and 25 respectively). Against this resurgence of irresponsibility emerges the rock-like figure of the prefect of Nuoro, "unhurt and unperturbed", after his office and dining room windows had been sprayed with bullets from an automatic weapon. And in the north of Cagliari province the shepherds' vendetta was carried one vicious stage further when a whole flock of 315 sheep was wantonly slaughtered on December 21. Nevertheless the Regional Commissioner was able to report the month as "reasonably quiet".

5. Olive Oil Campaign Starts

The olive oil campaign which was getting slowed down to a walk by reason of hoarding and black market operations is getting a shot in the arm this week as a result of a decision taken to help the Italian Government with AC personnel and plans, but at the same time making it crystal-clear that the responsibility for efficient collections in Italian Government territory belongs to none other that the Italian Government. Mr.Leland G. Allbaugh (A), director of the Agriculture Sub-Commission; his olive oil grain trustee and field men, Maj.J.R.T. Crawford (B), and Maj. G.T.Duncan (D), respectively, and sundry Italian officials met at Naples this week to lay detailed plans which will shortly be sent to the field. Sixty teams, in which Allied officers will participate with Italian officials and police who will total about 400, will be sent throughout Liberated Italy into the olive oil areas (except Sicily, by the way) to insure that collections are made. (There will be modifications in procedure, of course, in AC territory). Italian Government road blocks will be manned 24 hours a day, trains will be searched, records of olive oil

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Italian Government territory they must only advise and supervise but not take part in actual seizures or executive action. Arrests (except of Allied personnel carrying oil on military vehicles) will be carried out by Italians, especially action against black market rings who are believed to be holding considerable quantities of oil for future sales. Special Italian agents, armed with letters of authority from Prime Minister Bonomi, also will impress on Italian prefects the necessity of drastic action. Let us hope for the best.

5. PWB Moves On

The Psychological Warfare Branch, whose tentacles of radio, film, press and leaflet propaganda have been spreading more and more widely through Northern Italy and the Balkans is now withdrawing some of them from Liberated Italy in conformity with the general policy of allowing Italians to run their own house. In recent months there have been a good many discussions about the functions, present and future, of the PWB. To put the matter in a nutshell, it may be said that propaganda backed by force, if too long continued, may develop into a monopoly of controlled opinion which has little in common with democracy. In the course of its varied activities the PWB has naturally built up large staffs of Italians and - what is perhaps more important - "invisible" assets in training of personnel, circulation of newspapers, methods of distribution, and channels of information, besides visible assets, now difficult to remove, such as the materials used to repair radio transmitters and printing presses. The vexing question is how such assets can be transferred to other ownership without creating, on the one hand, another monopoly of a purely Italian kind, and, on the other, chaos and confusion in the world of news. On January 15 PWB Italian Theatre Headquarters ceases to exist, and PWB will be divided into two separate units - PWB AF Army Group, and PWB AC Italy, the latter extending over Liberated Italy up to the Rear Army Control Line and being only "a liquidation operation". In other words PWB will now withdraw its activities fairly rapidly from Liberated Italy. On the same day, January 15, the news agencies of the United Nations will be permitted to sell their news direct to the Rome newspapers. Italian news agencies will also be allowed to operate, the AC taking care, as far as it can, to prevent the growth of any monopolistic screening agency such as STEFANI was. For the time being the PWB will continue to supply news to the provinces, until recommendations for its channels of distribution (a knotty point when communications are as poor as they are to-day) have been made

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ing point about the shift in ownership or control of all such projects and propaganda weapons is that no one has yet discovered a method which is not either arbitrary or plutocratic. In other words, a newspaper or radio station can be handed to a Government or a deserving group, which is an arbitrary action, or allowed to find the highest bidder, which is a plutocratic solution. Short of breaking things up altogether, there seems to be no solution which could be called strictly democratic.

7. Odds and Ends.

Lieut.Col. F.Craig (B) has left coordinating the devastated areas headquarters relief staff and taken on the directorship of the Patriots Branch... Mrs. Susanna Agnelli, a relative of the Fiat family, has donated the Public Health Sub-Commission five brand-new ambulances, complete with drivers and English-speaking nurses, to serve in the Fifth Army AMG area...The first regularly scheduled civilian passenger train between Rome and Naples will leave Rome the morning of January 22 as the start of what is hoped will be a thrice-weekly timetable... Another first will be the navigation by regular shipping of the River Tiber within a few days when a schooner will traverse the channel for the first time since 1939 to bring coal to Rome's gas works from Gaeta, while shortly thereafter barges and tugs with coal from Civitavecchia will begin operating up the river... The Public Works and Utilities Sub-Commission reports good progress along the housing front: Meetings between the AC and the Italians have resulted in new decrees and appropriations of funds, which are now being followed by the appointment of citizens committees in all communes to help expedite handling of repair work under supervision of the Genio Civile, while at the same time plants making building materials are being re-activated... Vaccination teams in Naples have inoculated 20,419 persons against smallpox. ...Heavy snows made all roads in the Abruzzi-Marche impassable this week while in Sicily a landslide near Porto Empedocle interrupted rail communications... Historical Footnote: The New York Times asked this Branch to ascertain whether the Mayor of Sulmona, near Aquila, would accept for his town a bust of Carlo Tresca, anti-Fascist Italian who was assassinated in New York some years ago reportedly by Fascist gunmen, to which query Colonel French, Abruzzi-Marche regional commissioner (who kindly allowed himself to be impressed into service as a reporter), replied that the Mayor would be most happy to accept a bust and would also arrange a celebration, but could he be told who was Tresca... Colonel French, incidentally, has just arranged to feed Castel Del Sangro, town of 5,000 isolated by snow, from the air through this HQ... The Granai del Popolo now stands at 10,240,000

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a course of classes orientation, beginning about February 1, on
orders of [illegible]... British OR's will probably have a similar
course in the near future, according to present intentions... The
American promotion logjam was broken this week with 67 promotions:
33 from Captain to Major, 11 from Major to Lieutenant Colonel and
one Lieutenant Colonel to Colonel, the word continuing that some
further promotions will be announced within a couple of weeks...
Brigadier Upjohn, vice president of the Civil Affairs Section, on
January 12 presented Mr. S.F.Keeny, chief of the UNRRA Mission,
to Prime Minister Bonomi, making the occasion the first official
contact between the civilian agency and the Italian Government...
Limited service enlisted men numbering about 300 will replace an
equal number of general service men on the AC American strength,
the transfers taking place in groups of 20 or 30 and allowing time
for the replacements to be properly trained in the jobs they take
over... Mr.Macmillan, Acting President has been meeting directors
of sub-commissions at Hq., getting briefed on the general picture.
.. Commerce Sub-Commission reports Italian holders of real goods
increasingly loath to part with their stuff for lire in view of
the fact replacement of their stocks is quite uncertain at this
stage of the game... First steps toward reconstruction of the
port of Civitavecchia (so that tonnages up to 3,000 tons a day
can be handled) have been taken, with fine cooperation from PBS
and AFHQ. AC engineers report... The Carabinieri are finally at
their ceiling strength of 55,000, but the Public Safety Sub-Com-
mission wants the ceiling increased to 65,000, since of the paper
strength; 8,000 actually are non-effective and another 2,500 are
doing "I" Ital duties for the Italian Army... France has asked for
permission to send commercial visitors to Italy, joining the list
of American, British, Swiss and Swedish firms who have asked for
the same thing... Lieut.Col. Pollock (E) has left the somewhat
hectic life of supervising the Roman police to take up the Austri-
an planning at AFHQ... Southern Region is reorganizing its head-
quarters on the pattern of AC Hq. with Civil Affairs, Economic
and Establishment Sections... The Land Forces Sub-Commission has
asked for the repatriation of 31,000 technician PW's to help com-
plete reorganization of the Italian Army... We fully appreciate
how cold it must be in the field, especially up in the mountains,
but you ought to be in AC Hq., where the heating system has bro-
ken down completely, where business has to be conducted in coats
and while walking briskly up and down our cubicles and where it
is hoped that conversion of coal furnaces to fuel oil might get
us some heat eventually (time not specified)... A permanent North-
west Italy planning committee will be set up at Hq., with Colonels
Marshall and Teasey as co-chairmen... Despite the intensive coo-
perative efforts of the Education Sub-Commission on elementary text-
books, it remained for the eagle eye of the Czechoslovak repres-

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British service enlisted men numbering about [illegible] equal number of general service men on the AC American strength, the transfers taking place in groups of 20 or 30 and allowing time for the replacements to be properly trained in the jobs they take over... Mr. Macmillan, Acting President has been meeting directors of sub-commissions at Hq., getting briefed on the general picture... Commerce Sub-Commission reports Italian holders of real goods increasingly loath to part with their stuff for lire in view of the fact replacement of their stocks is quite uncertain at this stage of the game... First steps toward reconstruction of the port of Civitavecchia (so that tonnages up to 3,000 tons a day can be handled) have been taken, with fine cooperation from PBS and AFHQ, AC engineers report... The Carabinieri are finely at their ceiling strength of 55,000, but the Public Safety Sub-Commission wants the ceiling increased to 65,000, since of the paper strength; 5,000 actually are non-effective and another 2,500 are doing MP Ital duties for the Italian Army... France has asked for permission to send commercial visitors to Italy, joining the list of American, British, Swiss and Swedish firms who have asked for the same thing... Lieut.Col. Pollock (M) has left the somewhat hectic life of supervising the Roman police to take up the Austrian planning at AFHQ... Southern Region is reorganising its headquarters on the pattern of AC Hq. with Civil Affairs, Economic and Establishment Sections... The Land Forces Sub-Commission has asked for the repatriation of 31,000 technician PW's to help complete the reorganisation of the Italian Army... We fully appreciate how cold it must be in the field, especially up in the mountains, but you ought to be in AC Hq., where the heating system has broken down completely, where business has to be conducted in coats and while walking briskly up and down our cubicles and where it is hoped that conversion of coal furnaces to fuel oil might get us some heat eventually (time not specified)... A permanent Northwest Italy planning committee will be set up at Hq., with Colonels Marshall and Veasey as co-chairmen... Despite the intensive educative efforts of the Education Sub-Commission on elementary textbooks, it remained for the eagle eye of the Czechoslovak representative in Rome to discover that the fifth grade geography still described (in six lines) "Slovacchia" as established in 1939: (corrections in mid-printing are being made)... The Chief Commissioner has been visiting 5th Army Group... General Mares, who commands No.1 District with whom AC/A"G has a lot to do in forward planning, also is in charge of Algiers, Marseilles, Corsica, Sardinia, etc., etc., an AFHQ memo informs us.

LIONEL FIELDEN Major,
Public Relations Director

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

R2S/WBeC/PRB 6 January 1945.

AC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO. 40
31 Dec 44 to 6 Jan 45

1. Political

Politics, it may be said, resembles at times nothing so much as a lusty bouillabaisse. Various ingredients including all varieties of fish and some seasonings that one would never dream of tasting by themselves, are thrown into the pot and one has to rely on the experience of the cook and a little on fate for what the combination will taste like. Sometimes too certain ingredients will float to the top in the course of the simmering and remain until displaced by other buoyant elements or until thrust back by the vigilant fork of the chef. The Azzi case was bubbling merrily on the surface of our Roman bouillabaisse last week only to be firmly buried by the action of the Council which sternly admonished the Army that this was a time for strict discipline and not reformist caprices. The "Azzi scandal" as it was described by Nenni, thus became the Azzi anti-climax, leaving only AVANTI muttering discontent at the outcome, and the innocent spectator somewhat puzzled at the schizophrenia of the Communists whose UNITA' had backed Azzi to the limit but whose representative in the Government must bear their share of responsibility in supporting his removal.

At the same meeting (on 30 December) the President was pleased to announce reception of a message from the CLNAI (Comitato di Liberazione Nazionale dell'Alta Italia) affirming its unity with the Government in the fight for reconstruction. This group has been recognised by the Italian Govt as the "representative organism of all anti-Fascist parties in occupied territories," but Bonomi was careful to point out that the Allies have accorded the CLNAI no political recognition whatever, though they have agreed on military measures. Other actions of the Council were largely routine; noteworthy is the draft of a law to give pensioners (this long neglected category) the subsidy benefits already extended to other classes.

Epuration which has so long given a predominant flavor to our bouillabaisse, continued to simmer. Ciarca wrote a long and well-reasoned article in ITALIA LIBERA on the thesis that epuration is in essence a political and not a bureaucratic affair and that the substitution of a "magistrate" for Sforza would be a calamity. It may be that this point has been taken, for in AVANTI of Jan the 5th, after announcement of Sforza's formal

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ing out that all parties and Bonomi have agreed in principle on woman suffrage but no one has yet inviated the necessary legislation. However, there are some indications that definitive action may be taken before long.

Nenni's speech on the 31st was on the whole moderate in tone; his main point being that Italy is now divided between those "reactionaries" - a minority in his opinion - who look back to Giolitti, and the great mass of Italian workers who are looking forward. It was the retrospective slant of the Govt he felt, which made it impossible for the people to follow it. More to the immediate point was the statement issued by Mr. Mac Millan, Acting President of the A.C., to the Allied Press on Wednesday. He made it perfectly clear that A.C. has recommended that Italy be granted all possible liberty in internal affairs consistent with the successful prosecution of the war. In the economic field all will be done for her that can be - here again within the limitations imposed by the necessities of fighting a global war. But he stressed the point that all the Allies might do, could and should be nothing compared to what Italy must do for herself. On Thursday the statement of Stettinius reinforced Mr. Macmillan's declaration of the desire of the Allies to help Italy. Nothing has yet been said about changing Italy's status from cobelligerency to full alliance - although RICOSTRUZIONE bobbed up again with the old appeal this week.

2. Mr. Harold Macmillan.

The Acting President of the Allied Commission, who is also Resident Minister at Allied Force Headquarters - a post which involves juggling with all the political balls of the Mediterranean Theatre - is leading a strenuous life these days. He arrived in Rome via Caserta on Saturday, having flown from Greece that day, spent four days and nights of almost continuous discussion of the affairs of the Commission - including two lunches and a cocktail party for the Press, which had been complaining of his "elusiveness" - and returned to Caserta late on Wednesday night, bound for Greece next day, and hoping to return to Rome on Thursday. Thereafter - if no other part of his diocese boils up - he intends to divide his week between Caserta and Rome. During his brief visit this week he managed to convey an invigorating sense of impending action to implement the declarations about A.C. policy which have been wafted to us, from time to time, from Higher Spheres in other lands. The proposals for the Commission's future which Mr. Macmillan took to London early in December, which were accepted by the British Cabinet and then taken on to Washington by Mr. Richard Law when Mr. Macmillan was called at short notice to Greece, aim at defining more exactly the general policy of, as Mr. Macmillan puts it, "muting the middle C." Under his proposals the Italian Government would enjoy, in semi- [illegible] to its jurisdiction, much greater political

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demands from Allied countries such as France, Belgium, Holland, and Greece, Italy could scarcely expect more than a low place on the priority supply list. But its claims, Mr. Macmillan added, were being and would be pressed.

3. Tendencies of the Liberated?

Major Bullock, who has been roving around up north with an eye on developments other than operational, sends us the following comments - which, he cautions, are those of a newspaper man from the Dominions who does not speak the language and is somewhat at sea in judging between realities and appearances in this complicated country." :

"In very forward communities, like Faenza, Russi and Bagnacavallo, which are still under fire and some aerial bombardment, no political activity is evident. In places like Cesena and Forli, where military needs tend to interfere a great deal with civilian life and where the conduct of our troops sometimes leaves much to be desired, there is tension. This whole area around Mussolini's birthplace looks as if it may have been a strong centre of Fascism.

In Forli, last Sunday morning, there was a mass demonstration of about 2000 women in front of the Municipio and Prefettura which succeeded in preventing the military authorities from requisitioning eleven streets of buildings required for operational purposes. The military finally contented themselves with one street and half a dozen other scattered houses. Merchants flatly tell Allied personnel, even officers, that they won't sell them anything. One Allied unit borrowed about 50 chairs and a dozen tables from various civilians for their Christmas celebrations and returned them all smashed; this has got around and is doing no good. There are 1200 unemployed men in Forli between the ages of 18 and 60, yet when 100 were needed on Tuesday of this week to clear streets, the Sindaco had to go out into the rural parts of the Commune to get them. Hordes of idle, able-bodied young fellows crowd the streets all day long. The city's water and sewer systems would be operating now if the men would work, but they will not. The head of the local "Alimentazione" ran a statement in the PWB newspaper, "Libera Voce", suggesting that the privately-owned food shops should be pooled and run as a communal organization. The local merchants may interpret this as official AMG policy and resent it.

Major John Steele, CAO in Forli, is having the same trouble we have been meeting ever since we entered Florence with able-bodied young men who will not work. Apparently Fascism kept hordes of youths in para-military and "Studenti" organizations, paying them pittances for food and smokes, vino and three-lire prostitutes. These fellows have never worked and do not intend to do so. Early on in Forli, AMG ran into one of their rackets, a "Labor Union" which tried to prevent the local brickworks from re-opening unless they paid a scale of wages dictated by the "Camera" and turned

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"somewhat at sea in judging between realities and appearances in this complicated country." :

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My impression, which is only an impression as yet and which may not be confirmed as I learn more, is that the people around here still listen to Axis broadcasts and tend to believe their versions of political news, while they listen to us for operational news. I have noticed that even AMG's Italian employees speak of the BBC as "Radio Londra" and will repeat German and Republican Italian versions of our "promises" to the Italian people."

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4. Voice from the Abruzzi.

Although leftist voices have recently been raised to complain of political interference from the pulpit; the chief grouse of the inhabitants of the Abruzzi-Marche Region is undoubtedly their bread ration. The regional executive officer, Lt. Col. J. D. Scholtz (A), in an end-of-the-year report, describes the situation as "fantastic." Much of the region is mountainous, much again, especially in the Abruzzi, has been devastated by war, but there is no lack of rich valleys with good agricultural land, so that whereas Pesaro Province in the extreme north is deficient, in other provinces, such as Macerata, there is a big surplus of grain. The wheat collections for 1944 for the whole of the region totalled 235,195 tons, over 12,000 tons more than the target figure. Large amounts of the surplus grain were sent to other parts of Italy, no less than 14,000 tons going to help feed Rome. Meanwhile the population, itself living on a 300-gram ration, wistfully watches its surplus grain disappearing over the mountains on its way to "deficient" parts of Italy such as the Southern Region, where the bread ration is half as much again. After grain, at least in national interest, the chief crop for 1944 was potatoes. 6,505 tons of the big harvest of the Fucino basin were distributed, Rome getting 3,255 tons for food and another 1,255 tons for seed. In fact, potatoes offer such advantages to the farmer in comparison with grain that unless the Italian Government steps in pretty quickly with strict control measures it seems likely that very large areas will be planted with potatoes in 1945. Teramo is the most well-behaved province for olive oil collection. In all the other provinces more olive oil is confiscated at the road blocks than carried in at the official collection points.

In six months over 600 engineering projects were carried out. 132 bridges were completely reconstructed, 32 more partially reconstructed and 95 temporary wooden structures erected. Road works numbered 164, including diversions, temporary passages and retaining walls. 43 public buildings were repaired and debris removed from 62 sites. Projects on waterworks and sewer lines came to 20. Six power lines were repaired and power stations producing a total of 7,020 KW put into working condition. The Bomba cement plant was reactivated and throughout the region smaller industries are gradually coming to life again, notably the Jesi match factory and the Miliani paper mills at Fiovaco and Fabriano. The region, it is hoped, will shortly produce enough soap for its own needs. From July to December the regional warehouse at the Ortona railhead handled nearly 3,000 tons of AMG supplies. Rock salt imports amounted to some 2,500 tons. Transport in general had its good and its bad sides. A central clearing house handled civilian and military needs, some 300 AO/AMG trucks operating from seven pools. 75 bus lines were [illegible]. On the other hand spare parts are badly needed to get

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much again, especially in the Abruzzi, has been devastated by war, but there is no lack of rich valleys with good agricultural land, so that whereas Pescara Province in the extreme north is deficient, in other provinces, such as Macerata, there is a big surplus of grain. The wheat collections for 1944 for the whole of the region totalled 233,195 tons, over 12,000 tons more than the target figure. Large amounts of the surplus grain were sent to other parts of Italy, no less than 14,000 tons going to help feed Rome. Meanwhile the population, itself living on a 200-gram ration, wistfully watches its surplus grain disappearing over the mountains on its way to "deficient" parts of Italy such as the Southern Region, where the bread ration is half as much again. After grain, at least in national interest, the chief crop for 1944 was potatoes. 6,905 tons of the big harvest of the Fucino basin were distributed, Rome getting 3,255 tons for food and another 1,255 tons for seed. In fact, potatoes offer such advantages to the farmer in comparison with grain that unless the Italian Government steps in pretty quickly with strict control measures it seems likely that very large areas will be planted with potatoes in 1945. Teramo is the most well-behaved province for olive oil collection. In all the other provinces more olive oil is confiscated at the road blocks than passed in at the official collection points.

In six months over 500 engineering projects were carried out. 132 bridges were completely reconstructed, 32 more partially reconstructed and 86 temporary wooden structures erected. Road works numbered 164, including diversions, temporary passages and retaining walls. 45 public buildings were repaired and debris removed from 52 sites. Projects on waterworks and sewer lines came to 20. Six power lines were repaired and power stations producing a total of 7,520 KW put into working condition. The Bomba cement plant was reactivated and throughout the region smaller industries are gradually coming to life again, notably the Jesi match factory and the Miliani paper mills at Fiorano and Fabriano. The region, it is hoped, will shortly produce enough soap for its own needs. From July to December the regional warehouse at the Ortona railhead handled nearly 3,000 tons of AMG supplies. Rock salt imports amounted to some 2,500 tons. Transport in general had its good and its bad sides. A central clearing house handled civilian and military needs, some 500 AC/AMG trucks operating from seven pools. 75 bus lines were licensed. On the other hand spare parts are badly needed to get the region's allotment of captured Italian vehicles going again. The schooner traffic on the Adriatic coast, too, is disappointing.

Schools at the close of the year found nearly 300,000 students enrolled, including 22,987 in the kindergartens, 232,981 in the elementary schools, 34,929 in the secondary schools and 4,032 in the universities. Regional financial officers prepared budgets for state or parastatal agencies in each province and for 80% of the region's 705 communes. Inhabitants of that part of the Abruzzi just north of last winter's battle-line received 3,000,000 lire compensation for assistance given to Allied soldiers when the territory was under German occupation. Allied military courts tried 8,000 cases, bringing the accused to book within a few days of their alleged offences.

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Perhaps now that the Carabinieri are at full strength and their morale improved by recent arrivals of clothing, stronger measures will be taken to combat the black market which first centred round wheat, then concentrated on potatoes and is now focussed on olive oil. At Ancona, the chief port, there is a well equipped fire-fighting service and in general Army firemen and Italian brigades are co-operating well. Some 80 tons of medical supplies and between 300 and 400 tons of clothing were distributed to the population, particular attention being given to the devastated areas of the Abruzzi, where the excellent work put in by the Red Cross gets special commendation.

5. Sorry.

We must apologize for a misleading sentence in Bulletin 38 (Item 3: Little by Little) which said that "19 of Sardinia's 45 schools were functioning." Actually, of course, Sardinia has many more schools, there being over 800 in the province of Nuoro alone. What we intended to, and didn't, convey was that of 33 elementary schools visited by the education officer 19 were found by him to be functioning.

6. Transport - controlled and uncontrolled.

Approximately 1,600 privately owned passenger-carrying small trucks and motor tricycles in Rome are grossing in the neighborhood of 6,000,000 lire daily for their operators who use fuel primarily from black market sources, according to the motor transportation division of the Lazio-Umbria Region headquarters. A recently created consultative commission sitting under the chairmanship of Giovanni Persico, Prefect of Rome, and including representatives from the old Railway and Autobus Agency of Rome (A.T.A.G.), the new Camion Owners Union (U.E.S.A.P.) and other interested parties, thinks the approximately 300,000 clients now served daily by this means of transport can get more and better rides cheaper and safer with fewer vehicles and is meeting this week to draft proposals for a vastly improved service.

A decree aimed to encourage local owners to take their vehicles to transportationless communes in the region provides that after January 10 only a fixed number, probably about 300 passenger-carrying private vehicles, each licensed and legally entitled to a gas ration, will be permitted to circulate in Rome. But even a reduction by 80 percent of the Camion Union's strength does not greatly lessen its voice. The problems which brought the commission into being still remain. It still must decide how individual private operators can be persuaded to adhere to fixed timetables when the normal practice is not to start the vehicle unless it is overloaded, how to convince them that fixed routes and stops are better than ranging over the city at will

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given to the devastated areas of the Abruzzi, where the excellent work put in by the Red Cross gets special commendation.

8. Sorry.

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9. Transport - controlled and uncontrolled.

Approximately 1,800 privately owned passenger-carrying small trucks and motor tricycles in Rome are grossing in the neighborhood of 6,000,000 lire daily for their operators who use fuel primarily from black market sources, according to the motor transportation division of the Lazio-Umbria Region headquarters. A recently created consultative commission sitting under the chairmanship of Giovanni Persico, Prefect of Rome, and including representatives from the old Railway and Autobus Agency of Rome (A.F.A.C.), the new Camion Owners Union (U.P.S.A.P.) and other interested parties, thinks the approximately 300,000 clients now served daily by this means of transport can get more and better rides cheaper and safer with fewer vehicles and is meeting this week to draft proposals for a greatly improved service.

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The stake of the owners in their passenger-carrying small trucks and motor tricycles, many of which have been refashioned from private automobiles and motorcycles by converting shops which

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specialize in the business, is represented in the chart below which is a sampling of passenger loads actually carried by automobiles now in service and the mileage traveled per liter.

The fuel is almost invariably obtained on the black market at prices which range from 30 to 90 lire, the average being about 60. The fares charged customers range from 10 lire for short rides to 25 lire for the longer distances, with the average about 20.

MAKE	PASSENGERS	KILOMETERS PER LITER	P/KM/LITER
Augusta	7	7	49
Bailila	6	7	56
Ford	10	6-8	60
Fiat 508	10	6	60
SPA	12	4-5	48
Ansaldo	12	5	60
Artena	14	4-6	56
Bianchi	14	6	84
Astura	16	4	64
Diamta	16	3	48
Motor Tricycle	8	13	104
" "	10	12	120
" "	12	11	132
" "	14	12	168

A sample of the kind of service Romans may reasonably anticipate in the near future is shown in the chart below which contains some of the routes and timetable recommendations for the city of Rome as proposed by the A.T.A.G.:

ROUTE	LENGTH (KM)	PERSONS (DAILY)	VEHICLES&SCHEDULES 6-9:00AM Veh	6-9:00AM Frequency MIN.	9:30AM on Veh	9:30AM on Frequency MIN.
V.le Parioli - Via Veneto	3.2	6,500	10	2½	7	3½
Esquilino - Stazione Tuscolana	3.2	10,500	22	1½	15	1½
P.le Flaminio - P.le Clodio	2.3	5,500	12	2	8	3
Colosseo - Piazza Cavour	3.1	15,500	20	1½	13	1½
S.M.Maggiore - Piazz Cavour	4.2	11,000	20	1½	13	2
Termini - Piazza Cavour	3.4	12,000	20	1½	13	2½
P.le Ponte M.-Tomba di Nerone	4.8	2,000	4	6	2	16
S. Trastevere-Borg. Ducad'Aosta	6.0	4,000	10	3½	6	5½

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Balilla	8	7	56
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S. Trastevere-Borg. Ducal'Acqua	6.0	4,000	10	3½	6	5½

It has been estimated that the cumulative amo wearing out at the rate of 10 to 15 vehicles a month for lack of materials for proper maintainance and upkeep, but a reservoir of 1,500 vehicles should (if control can be successfully exercised) guarantee their service to the community for some time to come.

7. Odds and Ends.

Revised Electrical Note: Central Italy before the Allies arrived had 1,190,000 kw., of which Rome had 115,000; the Allies found 87,000 in Central Italy, of which 30,000 were in Rome; at present Central Italy has 105,000 kw., of which Rome gets

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50,000 to 80,000 ... The British Navy wants to recruit 24 Italian divers for work in the Far East and would like to hire 2,000 other workers for the same area; AC is suggesting that some of the unemployed technicians in Italian Eritrea or India be employed ... The Italian spot census taken under direction of the Economic Section, the first such census since 1936, is now in the hands of the printers and will be available for study within two weeks, it is hoped ... A Priorities Board has been set up at HQ. to handle AC's intramural competition for supplies and shipping, while transportation needs will be plotted in advance by schedules which Economic sub-commissions will fill out monthly, designating metric tonnage and specific destinations .. The British Military Mission in Ornavasso has been asking AC help to recruit five nuns for its African welfare establishments ... The Granai del Popolo now totals 10,084,438 qtl. of 87 per cent of the 11,600,000 qtl. target ... The Italian government has formally asked the AC for 100 officers and 100 EM/OR and necessary transport to help in the olive oil amassing campaign, which is almost entirely in Italian Government territory and which to date has collected 101,547 qtl. (compared with last year's comparable figure of 365,610 qtl.), to which request the AC is considering the dispatching of about 60 or 80 officers with strong words to the Italian Govt insisting on their (I.G's) responsibility ... A labor camp for 2,000 Patriots is being established at Livorno...The new prison ration scale is 50 grams of bread and 80 grams of pasta daily and 100 grams of meat a week...AFHQ has authorized the creation of mobile detachments of Carabinieri, two of which will probably be sent to Sicily...The Allied Screening Agency which pays off Italians who have helped escaped British prisoners of war has had 14,000 claims of which it has settled 2,000...2,500 tons of sugar arrived at Civitavecchia on New Year's Eve for Rome and the North...Somolo in various parts are closing or about to close because of the cold weather and lack of glass...Elba was finally taken over ... Tuscan Region 20 December...A contract to supply 300,000 fishing corks to the Balkans has been placed...One unit of the Piano della Rocca power plant, with a capacity of 14,000 kw., has been restored this week but actual electricity produced amounts to only 2,000 kw. owing to the shortage of water, the reservoirs being still in enemy hands...With the approval of AC, the Italian government has fixed the landed cost of imported coal at 2,000 lire per ton and Sardinian coal at 1,650 lire per ton.. Litho has been bid for to burn 20 million bricks in the Rome area as part of the general housing program...British decorations announced this week include a CB for Brigadier Lush, OBE for Colonel Hancock and MBE for W/O A.R.A. Pickon, who, be it noted, opened to run the AC's Message Centre from November 1943 to

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6. Quote from an Esteemed Contemporary.

"In a general order issued by Rome Allied Area Command, the following locations, buildings and areas have been placed 'off limits' to Allied military personnel: 1. All houses of prostitution; 2. All public baths; 3. All civilian restaurants; 4. The establishment operated at Via Carlo Alberto 4; 5. The distillery located at Via Alfredo Rocco 156; 6. The royal estate of Castel Porziano; 7. Wine shops and bars in Nettuno and Anzio. The first three restrictions do not apply to war correspondents."--Stars and Stripes, 7 January 1945.

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

R26/WB39/PRB

30 December 1944.

AC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO. 36
24 Dec 44 to 30 Dec 44

1. Political.

Following the Bonomi line, announced some time ago, of putting first things first, the Council, meeting on the twenty-third, attacked only severely practical and urgent matters. The budget, proposed by the Ministry of the Treasury for the whole present financial administration was approved. The agreement worked out between the CGIL and various categories of employers for the payment of the "13th month" gratifica to workers (an old Italian tradition calls for double pay for December) was also sanctioned and made obligatory. The Council said that money set aside for reconstruction will do much to relieve unemployment, but against the prospect of additional unemployed as repatriation of prisoners of war gets under way, the Ministry of Public Works was instructed to prepare an emergency program. The Commissario for Food was asked to keep in mind the demands made by the CGIL, State employees were given a special Christmas bonus and finally the Council, while preparing a final plan for the pensionati - who have so far been excluded from indemnity legislation - decreed that part payments should be given them beginning Jan 1st. Having thus brightened the Christmas season for a large section of the population, the Council adjourned until the 30th.

The political stage then remained dark until the Press conference for foreign journalists given on the 27th by the Public Relations Office of the Presidenza. It was announced by the head of the Office that the Italian government was happy to have resumed diplomatic relations with Belgium and to have "reactivated" them with Roumania. Most problems that impede resumption of relations with France have been solved, he said, and the government is hopeful of speedily settling the few that remain. (Incidentally Bonomi told the Times representative that all his ministers were Francophile and that De Gasperi, the new Foreign Minister, considered reconciliation with France "his first objective"). It was stated that the war effort was and would continue to be the first concern of the government; pressing internal problems could be summed up under the headings: epuration, food, reconstruction. In the delicate matter of epuration announcement was made that Sforza wished to resign his post as High Commissioner; [illegible] could be chosen to

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first about his plans; Italians can wait. This is not the first time ITALIA NUOVA has reproved Bonomi for his expansiveness to the foreign press (see Bulletin No. 19, Aug. 13), a matter on which this journal seems particularly sensitive. AVANTI was untroubled by this faux pass - if such it be - but, expressing its regret at Sforza's resignation, predicted that epuration would now come to a standstill.

During the week there has been much discussion of "l'affaire Azzi". Azzi is a general who fought against the Germans with vigour and alacrity after the armistice. Having served in Albania with the Partisans he was appointed commander of the military region Lazio-Umbria-Abruzzi. He had ideas of a strongly Republican tinge and surgested (in an article in ITALIA LIBERA, Dec 24th) that the Army be called Nazionale instead of Regio, that the formula of the oath of allegiance be changed and that various other steps be taken to democratize the service. Subsequent to making these outspoken comments he was put on inactive service. In the course of the week almost every paper in Rome has discussed his case; some returning frequently to the charge. ITALIA NUOVA, POPOLO and RICOSTRUZIONE have defended his removal; UNITA, VOCE REPUBBLICANA, ITALIA LIBERA and AVANTI have stridily clamored that he has been wronged. IL PO (which has no party affiliation) admired "his initiative" but found it a little out of place. AVANTI made the point that while his removal may have been inevitable and even desired by the officer himself, it seemed a pity that such a good man should have to go while generals with far different records remained. "Il caso Azzi" said Nenni, has now become "lo scandolo Azzi". Friday's ITALIA LIBERA contained a letter from the general himself, pleading that he had no idea of under-mining discipline but retracting nothing he had said and pointing with pride to his forty years service and recent accomplishments as evidence of his devotion to his country. On the same day AVANTI challenged the Ministry of War to publish a communique on the case. It may be that a first class cause celebre is in the making.

De Gasperi made his first speech as Foreign Minister, following the lines laid down by Bonomi in his instructions to the Foreign Office last July (See Bulletin No. 17, 30 July); i.e. urging a return to the traditional, pre-fascist foreign policy of Italy. Scelmi's exposition of the financial situation brought ITALIA NUOVA and AVANTI together again; they both found it too Pollyanna-like in tone and agreed that an appeal to faith and confidence was not a good substitute for practical remedies for Italy's financial condition. The Pope's Christmas speech was of necessity general in terms and of course is not strictly speaking a matter of Italian politics at all. But anything emanating from the Vatican is subject to careful scrutiny and analysis these days. Comment from the Roman press was in general favorable. The Pope's definition of democracy while not entirely clear did draw a distinction between "people" and "masses" [illegible] moderate counties. He also defended - as the

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2. [illegible] with the Armies.

AMG entered Faenza on 18 Dec just in time to relieve some 6000 citizens, hiding in cellars in the town, from starvation. There was no flour left and the people were grinding grain in coffee mills. The water and sewer systems were out of commission and there was no electricity. At least 20 per cent of the town was been completely destroyed, and it is estimated that 40 per cent of the buildings in the commune are ruined beyond repair. Every tower in Faenza which might have served as an observation point was demolished by the Germans, including the towers of every church and the one on the post office building. The Bishop of Faenza, nearly 80 years of age, was killed by a shell fragment 7 December in his room in a convent some five kilometers outside the town. A memorial service was held in the Duomo on 25 December attended by AMG officials. Destruction is particularly heavy in the neighborhood of the railway station and along both banks of the Lamone River where Route 9 runs in from Forli. Citizens have begun to return in small numbers from hiding places in surrounding villages, but most of the townspeople sheltering in cellars are still in hiding, and the number of sick and wounded among them is still unknown. An emergency hospital with 100 beds is being organized. Dysteria serum has been sent for to ward off a threatening outbreak. Sick and wounded from a hospital which the Germans used as a machine-gun post are being transported to the AMG hospital in military ambulances. A refugee centre has been organized and between 700 and 800 from nearby hamlets will be accommodated in it. The town is still under shell fire from the German lines, but there has been no mortar fire since Dec. 21. Very few dead and wounded civilians were found in the streets when the Allies arrived.

Exhibits from the famous Museum of Ceramics were removed for safekeeping some time ago to two private houses. One of them has been knocked flat and the priceless examples of early Faience which it contained are buried in the rubble. The other house is intact. The Army is co-operating with AMG to see that the rubble in the ruined house is not touched until experts can begin salvage operations.

The food situation in the Commune of Faenza is not bad. At least 20,000 quintali are reported stored in different places, though some of the grain is wet. There is storage space for about 7,000 quintali in the town and AMG has brought in supplies. There seem to be adequate supplies of vegetables on farms near Faenza, but importation cannot be allowed for a few days for security reasons. The electrical flour mills are all out of commission and water mills cannot operate just yet because canal walls have been smashed, but it is hoped that two will be running shortly. Water mains were fed through a gravity feed system 35 kilometers long. The pipes have been broken in several places. The Royal Engineers are installing water pumps along the Lamone and water [illegible] reservoir has been

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Doctors, nurses, technicians from the waterworks and electrical services as well as municipal employees are being allowed back into Faenza as fast as they appear. The banks have adequate funds on hand, between one and two million lire having been found in the vaults of one branch alone. The electrical transformer station was not blown up and most of the equipment was hidden by officials with the help of partisans. The smaller transformers on poles have all been smashed, however. The fire station is in ruins, but one pump and truck and other pieces of

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equipment have survived the battle. Acute shortages will be relieved from Ravenna, where the fine services are intact. One lone carabinieri was found on duty when AMG arrived, with some finemen, two members of the guardia municipale and several questura officials. Fifty-two carabinieri came in on 22 Dec. The jail was smashed to rubble.

A Sindaco, a Vice-sindaco and a Giunta, nominated by the CLN and described unofficially by the Acting Bishop as useful and trustworthy citizens, have been appointed. The Sindaco is a man who held the position before the Fascist regime came into power. Capt. Pallotti, the CAO, says: "The CLN seem a substantial lot. There is no party wrangling among them. The town was peaceful when we came in. There were none of the usual bands of partisans walking around with arms and red kerchiefs. The civilians have turned in their arms to the Carabinieri and the partisans at the Caserma. This seems better than to have them disarmed by us. The clergy helped greatly to keep things under control before we arrived."

There are no ceramics factories as such in Faenza. The traditional art is carried on by families who hand on their skill and knowledge from generation to generation. Most of their work is done to order. Faenza had a furniture factory which employed 150 hands. The machines are gone and the buildings are partially wrecked. There was one silk mill which is also without machines and partly smashed.

3. Retrospect.

1944 has been a memorable year in history with the taking of Rome and the long-awaited second front to say nothing of a Presidential election and various developments of military and political nature which will provide future historians with material for volumes. But in one way it has been like any other year; it was a long year to look forward to and now that it has passed the times seems to have been very short. Memories are of course highly personal yet it may well be that those of the writer - who has never been anything but a Headquarters Benny (base wallah, if you will) will be shared by many of our family. We remember that a year ago we were in Santa Cesarea; it was sunny and there was actually bathing available for those who had a day off. It was cold in the hotel though (some things are apparently unchangeable), and we remember still with a shudder the long ride twice a day from Santa Cesarea to Brindisi and back. The night ride was particularly grim what with the cold, the confinement in the crowded cars and the hazard from unlighted wagons passed on the road. As for Brindisi itself we used to wonder why anyone had ever come to the town and from the moment of our arrival gossip used to play with the idea of an early move. It came and with it a cleavage in our family. Some of us learned to know Salerno

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amount of time themselves. A chosen few among us will remember 1944 for the hysterical joy of welcome given us on our entry into Rome - even a night spent on the ground in the Villa Borghese was a small price to pay. And for all of us there will be satisfaction in recalling the warmth of the Roman summer - with all too infrequent excursions to Fregene and Ostia - and the sense of victory on the way and contact again with the life of a capital and a city unmarred by war. Winter comes again now and we shall again be cold and cough and sneeze, and it is a long way from where most of us would like to be, but in retrospect 1944 has had its points. We haven't solved all our problems; some of them will grow greater with time and even from the humble - or lower echelon - point of view the headaches are still with us and the aspirin is running out. But we have come a long way together since the gloomy days of the International and some of it has been pleasant. There is a proverb in this country: Buona compagnia mezza la via. One could wish 1945 may shorten the way but however long it may be we can only be grateful for the company. E a tutti buon capo d'anno!

4. Civil and Ends.

Work on the damaged areas is showing some progress, Lieut. Col. F. Craig, HQ. coordinating officer on the problem, cautiously reports: The number of roofless has been reduced to 200,000; 170,000 sq. m. of canvas has been distributed, also 700 tons of clothing; a special ration scale, with a base issue of 200 grams of bread and 60 grams of pasta or flour daily is in effect; mine clearing squads have removed 65,000 mines; 50 per cent of the bridges to isolated communes have been repaired; one G. T. company provides exclusive transport for the areas; Mr. Solomon, an American housing expert, has been touring the areas, giving expert advice on repairs; 4,000 blankets have been distributed, and supplies of cement have been obtained ... Southern Region has set up an entire organization for the repair and dyeing of ex-enemy clothing, initial output to be 2,000 garments a day ... Sugar beet plants are being surveyed in Southern and Central Italy ... The Finance Sub-Commission reports that the current Italian budget shows total estimated expenditures at 75 billion lire and estimated receipts at 13 billion, while Italian officials were officially informed for the first time that the aggregate amount of AM lire outstanding as of 31 October was approximately 44 billion ... Flashes from the Electrical Front: The 6,500 kw. generating unit at Ceprano, which was recently repaired, developed a short circuit and damage resulting will take three months to repair; at Cervara, a 1,500 kw. unit was restored after five months' work ... Discussions are afoot concerning the desirability of amalgamating the three northern regions of Liguria, Lombardy and Piemonte into one superregion, with strong sub-commission representation, and perhaps modelled organization-wise after Hq. (that is, into Economic, Civil Affairs and Establishment Sections, etc.) in order to deal broadly with quickly with the heavy political-industrial problems anticipated to date to the

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cent of the target figure of 11,600,000 qtl. or 10,068,501 qtl. collected, as of 26 December ... Refugee Comings-and-Goings: 1,200 Italians left Rome for towns in Calabria and Puglie while 730 Italians came into Rome on a train from northern areas, of whom 614 were Romans ... Six Members of Parliament will grace the AC with a visit shortly ... A first consignment of 700 sacks of parcels for Italians from the U.S.A. arrived in Naples 26 December while another 900 sacks are arriving January 1 ... Efficiency reports are now to be returned on all American officers, irrespective of rank (as in the past, when only field grade officers got the once-over) and on a new numerical calculation, Superior counting, roughly, for 7, Excellent for 6, and Very Satisfactory for 5 ... Both AC HQ, the regions and the Army AHG's did themselves proud with hospitality on Christmas, acting as Santa Claus to any number of children, poor people and unfortunates ... During the week an attempt was made to steal the elephant from the Rome zoo ... And the inhabitants of Itri want to take up a collection to build a monument to their most famous citizen, the bandit Fra Diavolo ... We don't know what it means but that's 1944 for you ... Happy New Year.

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

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HE.D;U.RTERS ..LLIED COMMISSION
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R26/WB38/PRB

23 December 1944

AC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO. 38
17 Dec 44 to 23 Dec 44

1. Political.

The tension created by the long crisis may be said to have abated. The Action Party, in ITALIA LIBER., has had one or two articles during the past week explaining why it could not have accepted a share in the Govt, and AVANTI has continued to mutter that Bonomi must be watched but in general the situation has been accepted by all parties which are looking now to the future rather than sulking - or exulting as the case might be - over the past. Sforza, having refused the post of Ambassador in Washington, was the object of a special commendatory communique issued by the Council; it was to be regretted that a man of his capacities should "for the moment" feel it his duty to refuse out of delicacy so important an assignment, but the Council hoped that he would be available in the future for the service of his Country. For the Leftist appetite for epuration has not been dulled by recent events, but even if the flattering words of the Council were merely a "consolation prize" as AVANTI called them, the gesture was symbolic of the conciliatory attitude of Bonomi towards the missing brethren. Indeed he went further and at the opening of the Council meeting (on the 20th) took occasion to point out the importance of the C.L.N. It may be that the spectacle of the unhappy lot of Greece has had a sobering effect on Italian public opinion; certainly the papers have been full of articles on Greece and there has been a tendency to look upon it as the best test case of what the future may be. "The Allies seem to forget they belong on the Liberal side " said RISORGIMENTO LIBERALE, " and if they are to go back to a policy of Westphalian understanding rather than follow the Atlantic Charter, then the Nazi-Fascists will have won the war". Much space has been given too to the Polish situation and against the wide background of international malaise the difficulties of the C.L.N. and the new Govt. have been seen in proper perspective.

The Council met twice on Wednesday. At the morning meeting Bonomi stated his decision to have election lists prepared and the papers advertised the prospect of "administrative" (i.e. Communal

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The Council met twice on Wednesday. At the morning meeting Bonomi stated his decision to have election lists prepared and the papers advertised the prospect of "administrative" (i.e. Communal and Provincial) elections next Spring. In the meanwhile Togliatti, De Gasperi, Brosio and Ruini (one from each of the four parties) were directed to make concrete proposals for setting up some kind of advisory body which will allow the "direct expression of the living forces of the Nation to collaborate with the Govt". (For the recent crisis has clearly revealed the need of some kind of parliament; Sprigge (Reuter) pointed out that the crisis was unique in that normally a Govt loses the confidence of the Chamber over some

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specific plan of legislation and resigns, but in this case the Govt resigned and the causes of its resignation were still being discussed a week later). The Council then approved the creation of an inter-ministerial committee to coordinate the work of economic reconstructi increased the powers of the High Commissioners of Sicily and Sardinia who are to be aided by local "consulte", and granted more funds to these islands for rehabilitation and improvements. The "aspiration to regional autonomy" expressed through the "consulte" are to be encouraged but, in case there should be any misunderstanding, the Council issued a clear-cut statement of its intention to deal firmly with separatism. The afternoon meeting delegated wide powers to the Commissariato per l'Alimentazione and sanctioned other draft decrees for relief of refugees and the homeless, and found time to pass a measure aimed at "facilitating weddings between Italians and Americans".

The anti-separatism declaration was of course aimed at Sicily. This fiery island, once described by our geography teacher as "the ball which id being kicked by the Italian boot", has been bouncing back repeatedly and vigorously for some time . The disturbances in Catania on the 14th (see last week's Bulletin, No.37) resulted in the resignation of the sindaco and the Giunta Communale, the application of a six o'clock curfew and the inevitable flood of commentary in the press. The Leftist press sees in it another episode in the seperatist campaign, instigated by landowners and reactionaries, ITALIA NUOVA views it as criminal violence pure and simple, and RISORGIMENTO LIBERALE remarked that Sicilian students obviously didn't want to be called up and ought to be thoroughly ashamed of themselves and that was all there was to it. All papers, for different reasons, agreed that it was time the Govt showed its teeth,which probably explain the baring of the Council's fangs last Wednesday.

The trial of Pentimalli and Del Tetto ran through the week. These are the Generals accused of having surrended Naples to the Germans without a struggle. The case was followed intently by the press which is keen to sense possible dramatic ramifications. Two attempts by the defense to have the case shifted to a military tribunal failed.

The prosecution asked the death penality but the verdict, which came on Friday was twenty years imprisonment, which made a strange contrast, as pointed cut by ITALIA LIBERA, to the 30 years given on the same day to Cornelia Tanzi, ex-mistress of Mussolini, accused only of incidental and petty "acts of collaboration" with the Nazis.

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Nenni, back from London were he was accorded an "ovation" according to AVANTI ("a Fascist word" taunted IL QUOTIDIANO) seemed rather sobered by the spectacle of a Country submitting cheerfully to the most rigid discipline in order to win the war. However he reported progress and "flattering promises" in his campaign to make Italy's position better understood and to obtain for Italians a larger control over internal matters. Bonomi speaking on Sunday called for unity and greater war effort. On the same day Mussolini spoke at Milan but, as RISORGIMENTO LIBERALE remarked, with a sort

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of wistful pity, "he can only make us laugh now", Appropriately enough the text was reproduced in CANTACHIARO (humorous weekly) but UNITA' and ITALIA NUOVA refused to see the joke. The former hinted at "underhand propaganda" and both organs (Extreme Left and Extreme Right occasionally have these happy meetings) were incensed at the waste of paper - tightly rationed as it is. Perhaps they have a point - there are better uses for paper.

2. On and off the rails.

Civilian traffic carried by the railways is looking up. The freight amounted in the month of November to 303,034 tons, including 121,756 tons of foodstuffs, 31,722 tons of fuel and 21,221 tons of seed fertilizer . In Sicily a large fruit movement programme was fitted into existing train schedules and export was brisk. Cagliari movements included 1,000 tons of D.I.D. supplies, 800 tons of cheese and 1,000 tons of pigment, all for export. On 8 November a violent cyclone blew a train of five cars and engine clean off the rails in the Tirso-Chilivanni section of the Sardinian Ferrovie Complementari, killing one and injuring fifteen. Bari Division accepted bids for taking 5,880 tons of wine in approximately equal quantities to Naples and to Ortona. The same division moved 403 tons of olive oil. The amount of olive oil moved illegally is not disclosed, but on one occasion when the Bari-Naples train was searched for contraband 10 tons were found secreted on the bodies and in the baggage of travellers. Naples movements were attractively varied. Besides the more usual commodities, 6,000,000 lire in currency was taken to Bari, two cars of women and children from the Italian Embassy in Ankara were conveyed on the final stage of their journey to Rome and theatrical parties were moved, with who knows what trappings, to Bari, Taranto and Sicily. Pontecagnano's bad reputation for pilfering has lost the town its right to a daily call by the Naples-Reggio passengers train.

Speaking of pilfering, large-scale disappearances of Allied property from railway cars by organized gangs are reported by the Naples Division of the Military Rail Service and steps are being taken in conjunction with Public Safety, Southern Region, to provide police protection at the most difficult control points. Activities, it is said, are on such a scale that the Allied war effort is being impaired. The stretch of rail between San Giovanni and Salerno appears to offer particular attractions to the thieves. At Frattamaggiore the Capo Stazione complains that he and his staff have been held up by an armed band on more than one occasion. In Naples it is known that at least four organized gangs have been working in cooperation with railroad employees to line their

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course be nameless) a gang of 20 thieves were surprised by a vigilant RTO as they were pilfering grain intended for the local military. They promptly opened fire and the RTO just as promptly replied, but the gang managed to make off with a haul of 69 sacks of grain.

One night an Italian clerk in the rail division with a taste for excitement decided to conduct an investigation of his own and with commendable determination carried out a lone reconnaissance in a Naples railway yard, beginning at 9 o'clock and staying out till 3 the following morning. At 11 his patience was rewarded when 11 members of the "Guardia Merci" emerged stealthily from the shadow and by wriggling through a hole 2 ft by 1 ft in certain of the brake vans effected an entrance into loaded rail cars. Sacks and cases were promptly handed out and the spoils divided there and then among the gang. The hi-jackers, it is evident, bear all the marks of specialized stealers, including a corps d'elite of railwaymen whose knowledge of local conditions proves invaluable in spotting likely wagons, judiciously switching points and pulling out 2 or 3 cars to more suitable positions. The cars, once selected, are hooked on to an engine and after what appears to be a harmless shunting operation - three railway yards in particular have bad names in this respect - are pulled up in selected spots futher along the line. One favourite location for brisk illicit trade is a stretch of line conveniently situated where two adjoining roads facilitate access to black market runners and where a group of badly battered buildings makes observation difficult. Here a score or so of dealers gather to buy whatever plunder the night brings. Cars are emptied, labels destroyed, and moved far away from the scene. Some weeks ago the thieves had a field day, tapping a veritable gold mine in the shape of a car full of silk. A truck full of sugar provided another valuable haul. Five warehouses are known to exist for handling the stolen goods. The amateur investigator who reports this, ends, after deploring the syberitic tendencies of some of the guards, by assuring his chief that, given time to develop his prowes as a sleuth, he could "manage to find out the names of some of the people concerned in these affairs."

3. Little by Little.

Almost a million elementary school textbooks have been run off the presses in Italy since the Allies first landed in Sicily. Relying solely on Italian materials and newsprint from the PWB, the Education Sub-Commission was able to eke out a modest 250,000 textbooks in the Spring of 1944, but with the arrival late this year of 18,920 pounds of glue, 15½ tons of ink and over 400 tons of paper from the United States approximately 700,000 textbooks have been prepared and issued, a step toward the Sub-Commission's 3,500,000

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/ The job

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The job of rewriting elementary school textbooks which are the only schoolbooks ever to reach hands of 85 percent of Italian school children was, for the newly established Elementary Textbook Commitee composed of Italian teachers like rediscovering the world. Joyfully they replaced avanguardisti and sons of the wolf which figured largely in simple arithmetic problems with the easier-to-handle pears and apples, and decided that pure science provided better examples of uniform motion than Italian soldiers doing the passo-romano (German goose-step) which they deleted. In some areas where new textbooks have not yet arrived the fervor of the teacher reformers carries them to unforseen ends. Recently, in Sardinia, an education officer was greeted by one school head who proudly showed him an old primer in which I for IMPERO had been changed to I for INGHILTERRA. Nineteen of Sardinia's forty-three schools are functioning, but attendance is cut down partly by problems of clothin and footwear, partly by lack of transport, and partly because older pupils are being used for work on the farms.

In the end the Fascist series of texts for the five elementary school classes was rewritten in 10 books of plain facts. Since the Fascists found it impossible to make Homer, Ovid and Virgil into protagonists of Mussolini, and algebra, geometry, physics and chemistry didn't yield to Fascist persuasion, only 759 secondary school textbooks (in addition to schoolbooks on Fascism) had to be either expurgated or destroyed and 4,117 may still be freely used. Regional education officers report satisfactory progress in eliminating Fascist personnel from the teaching staffs and supervisory posts in school over which they have jurisdiction. One officer notes the fact that in seven out of his eight provinces the post of High Commissioner for Epuration was held by a Communist. "All in all" he observes "there are trends of political infiltration into a rather susceptible and easy target."

The greatest problem in reopening schools in the regions, including Italian government territory, is getting undamaged school buildings out of the hands of the requisitioning authorities. In Rome the RAAC and local military commanders when requested reduced the number of Allied occupied schools to about one half and Italian military units made an even greater reduction in the number of buildings they occupied, but the prefect and sindaco, who are the sole authorities for removing civilians and repairing and cleaning school buildings have so far made no progress. The following chart shows the trend of the derequisitioning events in Rome between 20 October (when the Education Sub-Commission broadcast an appeal to Allied and Italian authorities to hand the schools back to the school children) and 1 December:

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	OCCUPIED		RTN'D TO USE
	20 Oct	1 Dec	
Elementary			
Allies	18	10	8
Italian Forces	8	1	7
Italian Civilian Authorities	20	20	0
Refugees, etc.	43	43	0
Italian Political Parties	12	12	0

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/Occupied

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	OCCUPIED 20 Oct	OCCUPIED 1 Dec	RTN'D TO USE
Needing Repairs, etc.	59	59	0
School Children	49	64	15
Secondary			
Allies	16	6	10
Italian Forces	5	3	2
Civilian Authorities	1	1	0
Refugees, etc.	13	13	0
Political Parties	5	4	1
Needing Repairs, etc.	33	33	0
School Children	52	65	13

In contrast to the situation in Rome, schools are beginning to function in a large number of buildings in the Naples area, and in other parts of Lazio-Umbria. In the northern provinces of Grosseto, Arezzo, Lucca, Pistoia, Siena and in Florence province south of the Arno a large percentage of the schools are open, but in some cases lack of accomodation prevents large attendances. In recently liberated Emilia plans are being perfected for the opening of schools in Forlì and Ravenna. Despite realistic student aid measures, such as the plan to serve pupils hot lunches daily, it is unfortunately probable that many Italian schools, opened and operated at such effort and expense, will have to be closed down during the coldest part of the winter for lack of glass window panes.

4. Odds and Ends.

Col. Densmore, chief staff officer of the Economic Section, is officiating as acting deputy chief of staff and vice president of the Section in the absence of Mr. Antolini.... Oh Well Department: 23,000 cases of citrus fruit arrived in good condition at Civitavecchia from Sicily and 1,500 cases promptly disappeared en route from the port to Rome.... Sardinia is to contribute 300 horses, 500 head of cattle and 2,000 sheep to livestock-ravaged areas in the Lazio-Umbria Region.... 254,000 boxes of lemon have been shipped to U.K. this season already.... Italian coasters and schooners are slowly coming back into their own, 22,000 tons being carried last month... AMG violations apparently center in the busiest ports, Livorno now outranking Naples, according to the latest reports, which show 1,780 cases for November in Toscana Region with 187 acquitals while Southern Region, which includes Naples, had only 1,003 cases but undoubtedly as a result of a long and tested experience, saw fit to acquit only 34.... The Displaced Persons and Repatriation Sub Commission has been getting request for individual repatriation

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/Unit

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Unit is now operating 10 dusting stations in Naples as a safeguard against any possible re-appearance of the epidemic of last year... Electrical Ups-and-Downs: Gained - 3,500 kw. generating capacity restored at Acquoria hydro-plant; Lost - 4,500 kw. through breakdowns at Terni and Larderello... Current Grenai del Popolo totals: 9,938,036 qtl. or 86 per cent. of the 11,600,000 qtl. goal... Olive oil collections to date are 50,728 qtl. which, according to Agriculture S/C experts, is a pretty bad show, definitely... Major Robert Doe, the AC's former secretary-general, is back at headquarters from a northern region as AC liaison officer with UNRRA and the Economic Section's administrative officer... The inter-ministeri reconstruction committee of the Italian Government and staff officers of the Economic Section are now holding weekly pow-wows every thursday afternoon at the Grand Hotel, taking their hair down over mutual problems... Military authorities are now approaching the Industry Sub-Commission, asking for AC views before proceeding to requisition factory buildings, a hopeful sign... Lieut. Col. John D. Ames, acting regional commissioner of Lazio-Umbria Region, is pulling a Poletti Christmas Eve by making a radio broadcast to his Romans in Italian (but not, as he adds, without a strong Chicago accent)... Rome coal needs for essential military and civilia consumers now amount to 2,,00 tons a day, mostly Italian coal, of which 200 tons a day are used for Allied military installations, 300 tons for the railways which haul the coal and the rest for essential civilian users such as public utilities, hospitals, paste factories, bakeries, cement works and key industries... You may have three guess as to why "Centochiaro" disappeared this week on the day of its publi cation... Carabinieri did a smart job this week at Tor Marancia, round up a gang which had been giving trouble in the district and getting a haul which included 3 machine guns, 52 sticks of dynamite, 34 rifle and some more... On Friday night at the Bernini cinema in Rome printe leaflets were showered on the audience bearing the quotation from Rundstedt's proclamation "The hour has struck..." (made at the beginning of the present German offensive) and, of course,"Heil Hitler!" and "Viva il Duce!"... Rome will not after all be all lit up at Christmas, any extra electric power being consumed by an extension of tram services up to 3 a.m. to cope with crowds attending midnight mass at St. Peters... and so, may we wish to our superiors a Dignified Christmas, to our equals a Well-Provided Christmas, and to all others a (censored) Christmas.

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major
Public Relations Director.

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
A P O 3 9 4
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

R26/W337/PRB 16 December 1944.

AC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO. 37
11 Dec to 16 Dec 44.

1. Political.

With the nomination of the Undersecretaries at the first meeting of the new cabinet on Thursday the government was able to present its complete line-up. It will be useful to append here the entire list for it will indicate graphically the system of two-party ministries and will give a clear idea of the relative strength of the parties:

	Cabinet Ministers	Undersecretaries of State
PRESIDENCY	Bonomi (I) (1)	Spataro (CD)
VICE PRESIDENCIES	Togliatti (C)	
	Rodino (CD)	
WITHOUT PORTFOLIO	Brosio (L)	
AGRICULTURE	Gullo (C)	Segni (CD)
AIR	Sciaioja (LD)	Gen. Pellegrini (I)
EDUCATION	Arangio Ruiz (L)	Mattarella (CD)
FINANCE	Pesenti (C)	Gabriele (L)
FOREIGN AFFAIRS	De Gasperi (CD)	Reale (C)
INDUSTRY, COMMERCE, LABOR	Gronchi (CD)	Fiore (C) (2) Paresce (LD) (3)
INTERIOR	Bonomi (I)	Molè (LD)
JUSTICE	Tupini (CD)	Veroni (LD)
NAVY	Adm. De Courten (I)	Bassano (LD) Montalbano (C) (4)
OCCUPIED ITALY	Scoccimarro (C)	Medici Tornaquinci (L)
COMMUNICATIONS (PTT)	Cevolotto (LD)	Fano (I)
PUBLIC WORKS	Ruini (LD)	Cassiani (CD)
TRANSPORTATION (RR)	Cerabona (LD)	Rizzo (L)
TREASURY	Soleri (L)	Scoca (CD)
WAR	Casati (L) (5)	Palermo (C)
PRESS, THEATRE AND TOURISM	(6)	Libonati (L) Morelli (L)

(1) Abbreviations: (C) Communist; (CD) Christian Democrat; (L) Liberal; (LD) Labor Democrat; (I) Independent.
(2) Undersecretary for Industry and Commerce.
(3) Undersecretary for Labor.
(4) Undersecretary for Merchant Marine.
(5) Liberal and not Independent as we reported last week. Culpa nostra.
(6) Formerly "Press and Information" and to be liquidated.

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The list of Undersecretaries was ready some time before Thursday but Bonomi chose to follow the old pre-Fascist tradition of putting their formal nomination on the agenda of the first cabinet meeting. This took place after the oath taken by the ministers in the presence of the Luogotenente. The formula of the oath was the same as that agreed upon in June (see Weekly Bulletin No. 12 for June 25), the ministers binding themselves "to exercise their functions in the supreme interest of the nation" and not to commit any acts prejudicial to the institutional question until the convocation of the Constituente. After the ceremony Bonomi made a short speech

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(AVANTI, losing no time in going into opposition, called it a "sermoncino") in which he stressed the obligation to respect the truce on the institutional question and reminded the ministers that they had all seen the armistice terms and must consider themselves bound by them. These terms he described as "hard" but he added that they have recently been more kindly interpreted since diplomatic relations between Italy and the Allies have been resumed. This was largely due, he said, "to the tact and spirit of understanding of Admiral Stone, Chief of the Allied Commission, who has brought into his relations with democratic Italy a spirit of friendship and wise cooperation for which we are deeply grateful and which we shall never forget."

The first meeting of the Council, in addition to ratifying the list of undersecretaries, set up a Commissariato Generale dell' Alimentazione (Food Commissariat) to be directly under the President of the Council. Gino Bergami, a Liberal and former Undersecretary for Agriculture, was named Commissario. The Council then discussed food problems, "with special attention to Sicily" and subsequently adjourned. The next meeting is scheduled for the 20th.

Press reaction to the new government has been about what might have been expected. RISORGIMENTO LIBERALE surveyes the crisis with serenity, even the opposition parties had played their roles well, wrote De Feo, and if the crisis had frankly lasted too long its very length at least indicates that it was an honest crisis and not a political farce with a ready-made "solution" prepared in advance. ITALIA NUOVA grumbled that we now have a dictatorship of four parties instead of six and later added sourly that in personnel and office costs this would be the most expensive government the new Italy has yet had. Saragat, in AVANTI, called attention to the prevalently Rightist character of the cabinet; the Communists had been excluded from the key ministries of Foreign Affairs, War and Interior. (This is only partially true, they do not have a minister in any of those branches to be sure, but the Undersecretaries of War and Foreign Affairs are both Communists). Saragat added shrewdly that the Communists just because they were the one Leftist party represented might very possibly have an importance out of proportion to their numbers in the new government.

Looking back on the crisis and its solution it may be fairly admitted that many criticisms could be made. However, the world of politics is not the world of the ideal. Doubtless there are many groups and many party leaders who are not entirely happy about the present government. Obviously no one knows how well it will work for no one knows what trials it may yet have to face. But it can be said too that the crisis was met in a democratic fashion: there was open and honest disagreement, sincere negotiation and a final solution which has been at least temporarily ac-

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2. Congratulations.

We should like to voice the congratulations of the Commission to Admiral Stone on his promotion. This comes at a particularly happy moment, since the Chief Commissioner had no easy time in playing, as Bonomi put it, the part of "wise collaborator" in the protracted government crisis - with the thought of disturbed Greece and Belgium not far from his mind. The tribute spontaneously given to him by Bonomi at the first cabinet meeting must, we feel, have been almost as pleasing to him as the promotion which followed.

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3. AMG with the Armies.

The City of Florence is counting the days until railhead comes up for relief from a desperate fuel shortage. In the first four months after the Germans withdrew from the south of the city only one kilo of charcoal per person was distributed and the total lignite issue was only seven kilos. Some black market supplies have been sold at high prices, but AMG officials confess they have no idea how the people have done their cooking. Vegetables are in short supply. Sugar for November has not been distributed There is no fuel in the orphanages and there has not been enough food. Public soup kitchens are serving 4,000 meals a day. Garbage collections are still unsatisfactory though farmers have helped by hauling away refuse for fertilizer. Otherwise conditions in the Tuscan capital are improving steadily. Production of shoes will have totalled 50,000 pairs by Christmas. All-wool woremen's socks are being made at a rate of 500 dozen pairs a day. Ten million bricks a month are coming from the kilns for industrial and civilian use. Manual labor is being imported from Pistoia to relieve a local shortage. By the end of November 2,000 civilian phones will been connected and the total number in use by the end of the year will be 5,000. There is some improvement in the electrical supply and it is hoped that production of gas will be resumed by the end of the year. AMG vehicles are doing three hours runs a day from Siena but the civilian rate of haulage is disappointing. Two new mills in the northern end of Siena provided will add seven tons a day to the flour supply for Florence. The City A.M.G. is operating a pool of 24 hired civilian vehicles. Clearing of rubble and demolitions is in the hands of the Genio Civile and is going well. The Council of Administration of Florence University has been dissolved and the Rector is nominating a new one. Sixteen Jewish teachers have been reinstated.

Children attending schools at the end of November numbered 18,600 in the elementary grades, with 605 in the kindergartens and 7,400 in secondary schools. Courses for Canadians at the University in Italian literature, history, language, art and politics have been so popular that extension courses may be offered to British and American troops. There has been a little trouble with troops: five civilians were assaulted by drunken soldiers, one shot in the wrist. Refugees are in good health and spirits. The peak figure in the Florence centre in recent weeks was 4,555. Out of a total of 16,016 handled in three months only 47 were hospital cases. Following a recent cinema show the refugees put on a variety show they had organized and rehearsed themselves without telling the authorities. It has been described as "very good and funny." The Tuscans seem to be learning to laugh again. Unfortunately the partisan situation, while policy is still in a state of flux, is not so encouraging. There has been a lull in political activity in Florence since the beginning of the Italian Cabinet crisis but quiet political meetings go on, the Communists showing the best organization and greatest initiative.

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bage collections are still unsatisfactory though farmers have helped by hauling away refuse for fertilizer. Otherwise conditions in the Tuscan capital are improving steadily. Production of shoes will have totalled 50,000 pairs by Christmas. All-wool woremen's socks are being made at a rate of 600 dozen pairs a day. Ten million bricks a month are coming from the kilns for industrial and civilian use. Manual labor is being imported from Pistoia to relieve a local shortage. By the end of November 2,600 civilian phones had been connected and the total number in use by the end of the year will be 5,000. There is some improvement in the electrical supply and it is hoped that production of gas will be resumed by the end of the year. AMG vehicles are doing three wheat runs a day from Siena but the civilian rate of haulage is disappointing. Two new mills in the northern end of Siena province will add seven tons a day to the flour supply for Florence. The City A.M.G. is operating a pool of 24 hired civilian vehicles. The clearing of rubble and demolitions is in the hands of the Genio Civile and is going well. The Council of Administration of Florence University has been dissolved and the Rector is nominating a new one. Sixteen Jewish teachers have been reinstated.

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Conditions on the Eighth Army front are much as they were last winter in the Abruzzi-Molise area. Mud, floods, and demolitions make travel difficult. Diversions are insecure. The only likely way to reach where one wants to go is in a jeep and that is cold, wet, dirty business. Gum boots, trench coats and warm clothing are recommended. Most billets are unheated, many lack doors, windows, bits of roof. A CAO working in the hills near San Marino got around for weeks with a mule train and visited some of his villages on foot. The Forli team are under [illegible] constant shell fire. Last Sunday night the Luftwaffe had a go at

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them and blew in their doors and windows, pitting walls and furniture with broken glass. The Church of S. Sagio was hit during vespers. Known civilian dead at 1600 hrs Wednesday was 26, with others still being dug out and 50 wounded in hospitals. Though all the shops in Forli are still closed, some industries are starting up. Two brickworks are producing for the army and some green tiles for roofing are being baked at the same time. Stoves were found in three factories and frozen by AMG. Four big shoe plants are ready to start up as soon as electricity is available and one of them is turning out 300 pairs a day by hand. A large tannery will operate eventually. Troops, scrounging wood where they find it, burned shoe patterns in one factory. Ravenna is almost an island, with sheets of water and seas of ooze reaching out in all directions. The city of Theodoric is not a thing of beauty like Siena. It looks like any other war-battered Italian town. The CLN is reported to be able and energetic and the Vice Prefect and Sindaco appointed on its recommendation are both said to be very good; but there was rather surprise in AMG circles when the Committee tried to put in their own bank manager. The partisans executed three Fascists before AMG arrived. The damaged prefettura was thoroughly looted by the absconding Prefect. Some of the furniture has been found in a nearby town but the silver, linen and pictures appear to be gone for good. Ravenna Province has wheat for export and 600 tons of salt in stock but the salt works were badly smashed by the Germans. Some anxiety is also being caused by lavish promises made to partisan leaders in the area without prior consultation with AMG Eighth Army. But all is not gloom. Group Captain Benson is having great fun with two of his Very Senior Officers who took an Extremely Distinguished Guest from AC duck hunting and returned with a kill of two decoys.

4. Economics

Mr. Antolini, acting vice president of the Economic Section, this week received an urgent summons from Washington. At the official request of the Italian Government his departure was delayed for a few days until the inter-ministerial rehabilitation committee of the new cabinet could be briefed on what the AC considered the most pressing economic problems. At a dinner meeting with the Italian ministers, Mr. Antolini gave the following list of priorities for the Italians' economic operations as viewed by AC sub-commissions: Food: Distribution in Italian Government territory should be taken over as soon as possible from AC; Labor: The position of Italian labor officers should be legalized union Italian law; Public Works: Italian administrations of public works organizations should be clarified and simplified; Industry: Expert technical personnel was needed in Italian departments to handle complex data required in reconstruction plans; Transportation: Full support and enactment of the EmAC decrees providing for central control of all Italian transport; Agriculture:

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5. Sicily again.

Sicily is again in the news, this time with disturbances in Catania where on Thursday morning, 14 December, a crowd estimated at 500 and led by students went to the Italian military district headquarters to protest against the recent call-up of men for military duty. A hand grenade was thrown by persons unknown, one person was killed and one injured among the demonstrators, according to a report from the Commander of the CCRR. Police then dispersed the crowd which broke up into small groups and wandered over the town, stopping military trucks and burning several. Demonstrators also occupied the provincial call-up office which they tried to burn. Other buildings damaged were the offices of the Young People's Association, the Corriere di Sicilia Building and the Palace of Justice. In the afternoon, the town hall was attacked, furniture and files flung out the windows and the building set ablaze. The city had not quieted down at last report. (There are now no AC officers at Catania: and only 32 in the whole of Sicily).

More trouble was brewing, it was feared, in other parts of Sicily on the food question. Brigadier Cann, the regional commissioner, reported to AC Hq. that the situation was grave. The report was caused the diversion of a cereal ship to Sicily.

6. From the Abruzzi.

"I regard" - says Colonel French, in a lively report for November on the Abruzzi-Ancona Region - "the sending of seed potatoes to Rome with great suspicion. I feel they will be used for food as soon as they arrive." (Civil restaurants are off limits these days but we shall tell Colonel French if we get some new potatoes in the mess.) "Political agitation", Colonel French states "can be traced to the shortage of certain foodstuffs, the wholesale requisitioning of property by the Army, the inefficiency of the Italian administration and, in the case of Aquila, a feeling that whatever the disturbance the promoters thereof can get the better of the CCRR." The report (in what is now almost traditional fashion) has some hard things to say about transport; between Ortona and Iesi - over 180 miles - there are no railways, and the problem of stockpiling in devastated areas and moving 250,000 tons of amassed grain out of the Region to deficient Regions is one of transport. Colonel French thinks that, with present transport, half the grain will still be in the warehouses when the next harvest comes round. "The need for transport in this Region" he claims, "is not a parochial but a national one." There are now many troops "resting" in the Region, a matter which is also giving Colonel French a headache over prices and accommodation (warehouses for instance, needed for amassing are being taken over by troops). Deliveries of olive-oil and potatoes are still below schedule: Macerata had [illegible] an increase in wages in Ancona

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In spite of these little worries, Colonel French reports "a fairly quiet month politically: police functioning better; no serious crimes: general health good, even in the devastated areas."

7. Epuration

Despite the recent government crisis which resulted in the retirement of the High Commissioner, Count Carlo Sforza, and the appointment of his deputy, Mauro Scoccimarro, to the new position of Minister for Occupied Italy, the branch of the government concerned with defascising Italy is gathering rather than losing steam. The reason is that the various legal procedures instituted and courts constituted by the 70 decrees published since July 1943 by which the government intends to cleanse itself of Fascism have been joined into a smoothly functioning administrative machine only comparatively recently. This complex machinery for epuration - so large that it requires 160 tribunals and so painstaking that one (though not typical) case involving a high official resulted in 52 court sittings and 1800 pages of testimony, charts and photographs - is now pushing ahead with the work of finding and discharging Fascists from the government ministeries and trying and sentencing those guilty of Fascist crimes. By the end of last month all suspect senior officials (down to Grade IV incl) in eight of the government's 15 ministries had been tried and either dismissed or suspended and it is confidently expected that at the present rate epuration of senior officials will be completed in all the government ministries before the New Year. This week Italian Army Generals Riccardo Pentimalli and Ettore Del Tetto appeared before the High Court of Justice to be tried for failing to defend Naples against the Germans.

Over 1200 persons accused of Fascist crimes have been investigated to date and in only five cases have the defendants been released for lack of evidence. On the whole AC Sub-Commissions report a fair amount of satisfaction with the way Italians are conducting the immense and difficult job. If some Sub-Commissions have chafed at the lapse of time before the appearance of concrete results, other Sub-Commissions frankly state that they have been benefited by the meticulous precision with which they Ministerial Commissions with which they deal and the courts did their work which, while time-consuming, definitely saved many valuable senior officials, who would have been lost if epuration had taken on the character of a witch hunt. In any event, epuration as a system for rebuilding the government of Italy and purging the national life of the evils and crimes of Fascism is a going concern, a comforting fact which bodes no good for the Fascist Republicans when its probing fingers begin to reach into northern Italy.

8. Odds and Ends.

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Five U. S. officers who have applied for release from military service have received orders for 21-day furloughs in the United States on the way to Fort Ord, Calif .... General service enlisted men on the American strength are being replaced by limited service personnel .... Lastest figures on the collection of olive oil are 44,151 quintals, of which two thirds come from the Bari area ... The Granai del Popolo now stands at 9,875,011

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quintals or 85% of 11,600,000 qtl. target .... 25,000 cases of citrus fruit from Sicily are to arrive at Civitavecchia in coasters .... 38 civilian prisoners escaped from the Campobasso jail last week....The second shipment of rock phosphate has arrived at the Montecatini chemical plant near Naples and fertilizer is beginning to be distributed in the Abruzzi-Marche Region .... Postal service to Ancona will open 18 December ... Fiumicino will be ready to serve as a coal port for barges shortly ... Lieut. Col. G. E. Rhodes of Public Works S/C has just returned from a two-weeks' leave in London ... The Economic Section is in favor of stricter military censorship in the interest of controlling loose expression of Italian opinion detrimental to the war effort ..... The shipping scarcity is causing re-adjustment of the UNRRA program, which is in process of being cut back to handle only medical supplies and displaced persons until ships can be found for the main tonnage plates for mothers and children .... AG Hq. now has radio telephone service to New York and Washington but conversations have as many restrictions as a porcupine has quills ... Col. Coves is transferring his services to AFHQ where he will dip into Austrian planning; Col. Page will replace him as Executive Officer ... A Temporary Film Board, similar to the Allied Publications Board for control of newspapers, has been authorized by AFHQ on the recommendation of AG, to sort out some of the complications of the Fascist cinema world ... The chronic complaints about lack of transport are now changing to complaints about lack of tires for the little transport there is .... Tuscan rains have hit hard at the vegetable crops of Grosseto and Arezzo ... Management and workers at Prato textile plants have agreed to work night shifts in order to avoid power drains at peak consumption periods ... Manufacture of paraffined paper panels in light metal frames has started at Colleferro to meet the acute glass shortage ... A bituminous felt roofing plant at the same place also has begun operating .... Between 100,000 and 150,000 qtl. of firewood are available in Sardinia for those with ships to come and get it ... 22 tons of vegetable seeds have been bought and 25 more tons will be purchased for the Balkans.

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

R&S/WB56/PRB 10 December 1944

AC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO. 36.
4 Dec to 10 Dec 44

1. Political

The two weeks old crisis came to an end on Thursday when Bonomi officially accepted the charge of forming a new ministry. It was another forty-eight hours before the list of ministers could be submitted for AC approval. "A long labor," remarked an Italian official, "let us hope it will be a healthy child." The list of ministers (still not final and subject to possible revision) follows:

- President and Minister of Interior	- Bonomi	NO PARTY
- Vice Presidents without Portfolio	- Togliatti	COMMUNIST
	Di Rofino	CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT
- Minister without Portfolio	- Brosio	LIBERAL
- Foreign Affairs	- De Gasperi	CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT
- Justice	- Tupini	CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT
- Instruction	- Arangio Ruiz	LIBERAL
- Finance	- Pesenti	COMMUNIST
- Treasury	- Soleri	LIBERAL
- Public Works	- Ruini	LABOR DEMOCRAT
- Industry, Commerce and Labor	- Gronchi	CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT
- Agriculture	- Gullo	COMMUNIST
- RR Transport	- Cerabona	LABOR DEMOCRAT
- Post and Telegraph	- Cevelotto	LABOR DEMOCRAT
- Aviation	- Sciaioia	LABOR DEMOCRAT
- Navy	- De Courten	NO PARTY
- War	- Casati	NO PARTY
- Occupied Italy	- Scoccimarro	COMMUNIST

The list of undersecretaries is still in preparation.

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Some readjustments in what we might call the ministerial T/O will be noted. There are now only three members without portfolio in the cabinet, the Socialist and Action parties no longer being represented and the Labor Democrats presumably content with Bonomi, who, though now an independent, has old ties with the party. Communications has been divided into two ministries, perhaps for political as well as technical reasons, and a new ministry of "terre invase" has been created to plan for dealing with problems of Northern Italy as soon as the day of liberation comes - possibly too to

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gat Scoccimarro out of the epuration business. As regards the new ministerial line-up seven members are carried over from thelast cabinet without change of position, though Cerabona, as noted, has lost half his kingdom. Three others, De Gasperi, Togliatti, and Ruini, are still with us, though in different roles. Pesenti and Scialoia, new ministers of Finance and Air respectively, were under-secretaries in the previous government and Aramnio-Ruiz was minister of justice in the last Badoglio cabinet. The only real new-comers are Brosio (secretary of the Liberal party and previously mentioned as a successor to Caramandi) and Cevelotto (Secretary of the Labor Democrat party). Significant is the appointment of De Gasperi as Foreign Minister. In the past this function had been assumed by the President of the Council. Its importance is indicated not only by the repercussions of the "crisi lampo" but also by the fact that De Gasperi chose it in preference to a Vice-Presidency which he had been invited to accept.

The publication of the new list climaxed a week of feverish political negotiation. Throughout the week Bonomi had been making every effort to break up the Leftist alliance. His obvious target was the Communist party which from the beginning had been much more conciliatory than the Socialist or Action parties. The Left was concerned principally with holding the line and trying to bring the question under jurisdiction of the C.L.N., hoping eventually to win the Christian Democrats over. On Monday Bonomi offered Togliatti, Nenni and De Gasperi the posts of Vice-President of the Council. Nenni was at first alone in refusing and it seemed as if the crisis might have been settled by Wednesday but at the last minute Togliatti refused to go along. On their side the Left parties suggested the candidacy of De Gasperi who firmly refused. The stalemate seemed likely to continue indefinitely; Soleri was quoted as hoping for a solution "by Christmas" and the older generation was recalling that Bonomi had had similar difficulties in the pre-Fascist era when it had taken him 14 days to form a government which lasted less than a week. However on Thursday a final appeal won the Communists over. Togliatti, emerging from a conference with Bonomi said that "new facts had been presented" and he felt he could approve the governmental program and collaborate with Bonomi. He added, when questioned, that this did not mean a end of the pact with the Socialists; that the latter were aware of his decision and indeed approved of it. The Socialists, given a last chance, stood by their guns and the new government was formed on the basis of four of the six parties. It was at 8:05 P. M. Thursday evening that Bonomi said "Ci siamo" and departed for the Quirinale to accept AVANTI called "investiture" from the Luogotenente.

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The long range effects of the crisis are hard to estimate
at this time. It puts two strong parties - Socialists and Re-
publicans - in opposition, as well as the Action Party which may
be small numerically but is still dynamic and articulate. It
gives the government a predominantly conservative tinge. And
it has certainly weakened the position of the C.L.N. What this
will add up to only time will tell. As of to-day certain results
stand out very clearly. It has been a personal triumph for Bonomi
who stood firm under two weeks of stress and tension - aside
from the numerous conferences and discussions with party leaders,
he received a number of anonymous letters and threatening tele-
phone calls. The Communists have achieved a tactical triumph:

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they are in the government and, with their alliance with the Socialists outside, will undoubtedly received a good deal of consideration. In the next emergency - which they can probably create themselves if it suits them - they will be in an excellent bargaining position. Further, in the first open test it may be noted that the Christian Democrats did not "follow the parties of the masses" but, though trying desperately to compromise, went along with the conservatives. And, since Bonomi has this time formed his government under the direct charge of the Luogotenente, it may be said that the legal position of the monarchy is somewhat strengthened. However we have not heard the last word on these matters; Nenni wrote, with some reason, that the basic questions have been avoided but not solved.. An international aspect of the crisis which no one could have foreseen was the open disagreement between the United States and Britain over the Sforza case. Both Stettinius and Eden (the latter subsequently backed by Churchill) re-stated their positions during the week, neither yielding any ground. It is to be hoped that this will clear the air and make harmony easier to achieve before we take our chairs at the peace conference. The statement of Halifax speaking of an "understanding" with Stettinius on international matters seems to promise this.

2. AMG with the armies.

Ravenna was entered on December 5 and found, except for slight bomb damage, surprisingly intact and normal. There are 20,000 people in the town, few refugees, a smooth administration, and "much less disorganization than usual". The only monuments seriously damaged are the churches of S. Apollinare in Classe and S. Giovanni Evangelista. The Palace of Theodoric, the tomb of Dante, the Mausoleum of Galla Placidia, the Orthodox and Arian Baptistries and S. Vitale are reported undamaged, while there is only slight damage to others such as the Cathedral, S. Francesco and S. Apollinare Nuovo. This is a particularly pleasing report in view of the German radio declaration of September 12 which stated that "all the historic buildings and cultural monuments of Ravenna have been destroyed by Anglo-American bombardments".

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3. Olive Oil.

Lack of olive oil, about which the population systematically (and with reason) complains, bids fair to be a continuing situation if the olive oil collection program does not show some improvement in the near future. The present tentative target is 1,500,000 qtl. by 31 March. To date, with reports about three weeks behind, there have been only 14,000 qtl. collected as far as Hq. knows, though unverified reports indicate another 20,000. Divergent views about the 6000-lire a quintal fixed price of the oil, the virtual stoppage of administrative machinery in many places because of lack of central Italian Government direction

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[illegible] measure, that the basic questions have been avoided but not solved. An international aspect of the crisis which no one could have foreseen was the open disagreement between the United States and Britain over the Sforza case. Both Stettinius and Eden (the latter subsequently backed by Churchill) re-stated their positions during the week, neither yielding any ground. It is to be hoped that this will clear the air and make harmony easier to achieve before we take our chairs at the peace conference. The statement of Halifax speaking of an "understanding" with Stettinius on international matters seems to promise that.

2. AMG with the armies.

Ravenna was entered on December 5 and found, except for slight bomb damage, surprisingly intact and normal. There are 80,000 people in the town, few refugees, a smooth administration, and "much less disorganization than usual". The only monuments seriously damaged are the churches of S. Apollinare in Classe and S. Giovanni Evangelista. The Palace of Theodoric, the tomb of Dante, the Mausoleum of Galla Placidia, the Orthodox and Arian Baptistries and S. Vitale are reported undamaged, while there is only slight damage to others such as the Cathedral, S. Francesco and S. Apollinare Nuovo. This is a particularly pleasing report in view of the German radio declaration of September 12 which stated that "all the historic buildings and cultural monuments of Ravenna have been destroyed by Anglo-American bombardments".

4264

3. Olive Oil.

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4. Southern Region looks ahead.

On Tuesday Brigadier Dunlop unfolded some interesting ideas on the future of Southern Region to the Chief of Staff's meeting. His main point was that circumstances had combined to form the Region into a distinct block of 8,000,000 people, who had been cut off from the rest of Italy for seven months, who were to some extent still cut off by the belt of devastated areas, who had been the first to get back to Italian jurisdiction, and who incidentally corresponded roughly to the old kingdom of Naples. The Brigadier thought that Southern Region was thus politically adapted to go ahead with a rehabilitation programme of its own, especially as the hydroelectric supply was now fairly adequate, railways in good working order apart from a shortage of rolling stock, and road transport capable of improvement if certain decisions were taken: he thought, for instance that the 400 AC trucks now roaming Southern Region with Italian drivers might be handed over or sold to the Italians since we had no real control over them. He felt too that AC staff could and should be reduced, leaving a total of 60 officers, mainly in the centres of Naples, Bari and Foggia, with outpost provincial officers at Catanzaro and Taranto. He was aiming to get all persons in order for further delegations of responsibility on January 1st and also by that date to get Italian civilian employees of AC re-employed, since their continued connection with the Allies might go against them. Brigadier Lush raised his eyebrows over this unco-belligerent idea, but admitted that there might be something in it. Brigadier Dunlop also pressed strongly for strong and decisive measures to improve transit accomodation, and Major Fiorlen raised the point, in this connection, that the Italian Government badly wants its hotels to be restored to their proprietors who will look after them better, it thinks, than anyone else even if they have to remain in Allied occupation. Brigadier Dunlop felt that it was not yet time to hand over Naples Commune fully to Italian administration but that the day-to-day administration of the city should be placed in Italian hands. The Brigadier also urged the immediate cancellation of all controls of olive-oil. Southern Region, he said, produced 65% of the olive-oil of Italy, and there was plenty of it; but the fixed price of L.60 was absurdly low, the present Black Market price being L. 400. He could do nothing, he said, to enforce such a fixed price "with 6 British boys out of convalescent homes against nine million angry Italians." Questioned, the Brigadier admitted that the temptation to hoard olive-oil (some Italians thinking that it will keep better than the lira) was a price factor in the situation: nevertheless, the point that control was somewhat unreal was well taken by the meeting. Lastly Brigadier Dunlop pleaded for the retreading of old military tyres in this country: no less than 68,000 tons of them, he said, had been exported to U. S. when

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5. Vox populi et vox mercantum.

Lively discussions developed both at the Chief of Staff and the Economic Section meetings this week on two subjects touching the Brave New World which we all see so clearly emerging nowadays. First came the problem of whether Italian municipal elections should or should not be encouraged and permitted: second the question of whether eager neutrals should be allowed to rehabilitate Italy and thus capture her markets while other people

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are still fighting wars. Argument on both points was fast and furious. At the Chief of Staff's meeting Colonels Fiske, Montfort, Campbell and Cripps were against municipal elections; Colonels Spicer and Henderson, with Mr. Antolini and Mr. Cleveland were for them, the Political Section maintened a discreet reserve and Brigadier Lush said that he would consult Regional Commissioners on the point. The general feeling was that municipal elections were highly desirable but that this was perhaps not the time to hold them. Later in the same morning the Economic Section discussed the same point and a unanimous vote in favour was registered. Civil Affairs Section debated the issue involved, such as registration, transport and law and order; general feeling of the meeting was against, with Public Safety leading.

On the question of the resumption of commerce between Italy and neutrals - arising chiefly from the monopoly of Swedish telephone equipment (and contracts) in Southern Italy, and a Swedish offer to come in at once and rehabilitate Italy's telephone system - opinions were again divided. They ranged from the one extreme view that "there was no earthly reason why the Swedes should be permitted to retain their interests at all since they have done nothing to protect them" to the other extreme view that "AC was a trustee of the Italian government and should welcome rehabilitation whatever the source". More moderate opinion was worried as to how far Allied taxpayers would welcome the idea of allowing neutrals to reap profits of war while our own manufacturers were still unable to compete.

Since differences of opinion, no doubt democratically healthy, should perhaps suggest caution in condemning the divergencies of the harassed government of Italy.

6. Gone with the wind.

Best story of the month comes from Sardinia whence Colonel Pennycuick reports that "we received a report that a train had been blown over by the wind but did not credit it at the time. A visit to the site showed, however, that ... the engine and two trucks had fallen off the track at a curved embankment and were lying upside-down on the inside of the curve, that is, on the opposite side to the position they would have taken up had the accident been due to excessive speed going round the corner." Other news from Sardinia includes the departure of the American troops of the Allied garrison, the formation (of course) of a political party of Autonomous Sardinia, and the dropping of some more enemy agents, including an American made radio, by parachute. The American radio was captured instantly but the agents, it seems, are still at large. Sardinia has just about enough grain to supply until mid-December: collections for the Granai del Popolo [illegible] announced that Presi-

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Pennycuick may be quoted -"There is no Regional Engineer and the Italian Engineer, Sign. Buttini, has been absent in Rome almost the entire month. He was called home for a monthly meeting at HQ. AC and has not returned."

c. Private Safety Inc.

A tiny piece of white paper neatly folded and tucked into the grill work of an iron gate in front of a private residence is our first clue to the presence in Rome of a large and, by its own admission, efficient private detective agency. Contemptuous of even superstition (its headquarters is located at No. 13 Via della Vite), the Istituto Vigilanza dell'Urbe guarantees its clients protection against robbery by sending agents equipped with a small caliber pistol and uniforms like metropolitani, complete with shiny black belt and boots, to patrol in the vicinity of any given address throughout the night hours. The agency is prepared to keep intruders out of private residences for prices ranging from 30 lire to 150 lire a month, depending upon the number of times each night the client wants his property visited. It will watch markets and food stores for prices ranging from 150 lire to 500 lire a month while the charge to jewelry stores reaches as high as 1000 lire, but small shops and businesses can get protection for as little as 30 lire. Before the Allied occupation minimum fees for guarding premises in the above categories were: homes, eight lire; food shops, 100 lire; jewelry stores, 75 lire, and small shops, three to five lire. The Istituto's working personnel is comprised of four captains and 160 operators, all war veterans who are disdainful of epuration: almost to a man they are veterans of World War I, ex-carabinieri, finance guards or partisans, the Fascist soldier veterans from Africa and Spain having turned to less arduous and more lucrative post-war duties. Despite the present boom in police work as a profession, (the number of Istituto's clients has risen from 10,000 at the moment of the Allied occupation to 12,000 today) it is still hard to meet today's expenses, according to Col. Clementi, the Director. The booklet from which each detective tears out a little white slip of paper to inform a client that his property has been protected now costs 20 times as much as before the war.

c. Odds and Ends.

Naval authorities have approved a fishing schooner transport service of fresh fish from Sardinia to the mainland ..... Present effective generating capacity of electricity in Central [illegible] from 97,330 kw., a 35 per cent. increase in the last [illegible] to the U.K. from Sicily

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B. Odds and Ends.

Naval authorities have approved a fishing schooner transport service of fresh fish from Sardinia to the mainland ..... Present effective generating capacity of electricity in Central Italy is now 87,650 kw., a 35 per cent. increase in the last month .... Two shiploads of lemons went to the U.K. from Sicily last week ... Brigadier Parkinson, director of the Public Health Sub-Commission, will be acting vice president and deputy chief of staff of the Civil Affairs Section in the absence of Brigadier Upjohn in London ... The Granai del Popolo now stands at 9,817,893 qtl. or 88 per cent. of the 11,000,000 qtl. goal ... A central coordinating office for the noting and control of black market activities may be set up in the Economic Section, the project being discussed, coincidentally, just as a succession of small food riots swept several Roman pizzas this last week .....

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations
Director.

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

RSG/MB35/PRB 3 December 1944.

AC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 35

27 Nov to 3 Dec 44

1. Political.

The crisis, which began last Sunday with the resignation of the Bonomi ministry, has continued all week. The party organs have been full of "orders of the day", charges, counter-charges, speculation and partisan commentary. The week of suspense ends in anti-climax as the new government is yet to be formed and it is still uncertain who will head it. In the absence of a proper dramatic denouement which events are unwilling to supply it will be useful perhaps to record the developments in the crisis in chronological order.

The origin of the disintegration of the Bonomi government is not quite clear. It has been known for some time that the leftist parties wanted stronger representation in the Cabinet and presumably had been pressing Bonomi. On the other hand AVANTI declared on Tuesday that the Liberals were to blame inasmuch as they were anxious to return to the old pre-Fascist Italy rather than accept the Socialist orientation towards the future. However true the charge may be, it was the first open statement from the Left to the effect that the Liberals were the obstacle to unity. This charge was maintained during the week and, it need hardly be said, refuted by the Liberals. On Tuesday, too, ITALIA LIBERA (Action) came out in the open and affirmed that Sforza was the man indicated for the Foreign Affairs portfolio. Later in the same day the Action Party went further and declared it would not collaborate in any government which would not assign the post to Sforza. By this time the British "veto" against him was made known and he resigned his chairmanship over the deliberations of the six parties consultations which had been entrusted to him the first day of the crisis. We then had, as AVANTI put it, two crises; "la crisi Bonomi" and "la crisi Sforza". On Wednesday the Socialist Party joined the Action group in protesting against the treatment accorded Sforza and (furthermore) stated its unwillingness to serve under Bonomi. The Communists, though speaking mildly and urging Italians not to forget their debt to the Allies, indicated their solidarity with the Socialists and maintained that Bonomi had not followed the democratic program laid down by the C.L.N. Bonomi wrote a letter to Nenni saying that he considered the C.L.N. the expression of the most important political currents in the country - but not the only

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By Thursday the cleavage between Left and Right had deepened. The Communist, Socialist and Action parties were resolved not to accept Bonomi, ITALIA LIBERA going as far as to say that he had put himself outside the pale by handing his resignation to the Luogotenente rather than to the C.L.N. and AVANTI observing sadly that he had now only two alternatives; either to fight democracy or to retire. None the less the other parties - Christian Democrats, Liberals and Labor Democrats - were willing to accept him. At this time too there was talk of Ruini as an alternative; the Left would follow him and the others promised support if Bonomi should fail, the Liberals being particularly insistent that the latter be given a chance to try. This is substantially the position as the week closes. Bonomi is still trying and, as seen by ITALIA NUOVA (the conservative-monarchist organ whose adherents have had an exciting week with the prospect of participation in the government before them) the alternatives are as follows: 1. Bonomi may form a government based on the three parties which will accept him and reinforced by others outside the six party group, 2. He may form a so-called cabinet of technicians, at least theoretically non-political, 3. He may give up the attempt and a government more closely linked with the CLN and presumably more to the Left may come in.

The six party coalition was not alone in showing lack of cohesion under pressure of circumstances; Anglo-Saxon unity also yielded somewhat under the strain. After England's disapproval of Sforza had been well aired in the Press a statement came from Stettinius indicating that the United States had nothing against him. ("A victory for us," cried AVANTI.) Eden, speaking Friday in the House of Commons, objected to the use of the word "veto" to describe England's attitude but reaffirmed the British thesis that Sforza who, Eden claimed, had not kept his promise to the British government to support the King and Badoglio and who had indeed worked against Bonomi as well, was hardly the man to be made Foreign Minister at this time. Eden also added pointedly that Italy was not an ally but a co-belligerent and at the moment a base of Allied military operations. Italians did not like the tone of his remarks at all. They could find however some consolation in Alexander's words of praise for Italian units he had visited...On Friday the Cremona division, clad in British uniforms, passed through Rome. The crowd followed them with placid enthusiasm. Even a determined group of adolescents whom we saw baiting the Carabinieri while chanting "Repubblica, Repubblica" like a college yell, took time off to applaud as the trucks rolled by. The man in the street seems heartily behind the war effort, as nearly as we can judge, and- if the truth must be told - relatively indifferent to the political crisis. Indeed even Nenni is reported to have said that the crisis was of major concern only to a few politicians and a score of journalists. He probably overstated the case (and ITALIA NUOVA did not overlook the opportunity to deplore his "cynicism") but he may not have been far wrong.

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The confirmation by the Senate of Alexander Kirk as Ambassador to Italy was also imminent this week. He, as well as the British Ambassador and Commodore Stone, has had a busy week of conferences with the Luogotenente and various political leaders.

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2. AMG with the Armies.

The latest report from Fifth Army AMG - which takes us only up to November 23, while Eighth Army AMG has no report since November 14 - strikes a more optimistic note than usual. Whether this is due to encouraging new facts or to a change in editorship we cannot say. (Colonel Mayne has gone to South Africa on leave). But it is certainly good news that the total grain collection for Tuscany is 92% of the estimated figure, and equal, in spite of battle scars, to that of 1943. The estimate for olive oil production in Pisa, Lucca, Pistoia and Florence is between 90,000 and 100,000 quintals, and a sufficient number of small mills can be put into operation to deal with the crop. In general except where floods or mines still hinder operations winter planting is going ahead well. Mine-clearance is also making progress in spite of equipment and transport shortages and 5th Army AMG reports that in Florence Province there has been great initiative, and local areas have been largely cleared with the help of trained UNRA personnel. Civilian squads have started work in Pisa and Lucca, Pisa city is nearly clear, and a school of instruction has been started at Pistoia. A new centre has been opened at Lucca for Partisans pending their absorption in employment on road maintenance, and other such centres will be opened where and when necessary. On supply and transport 5th Army AMG remains pessimistic as usual and as circumstances no doubt justify - there are no means of moving the fuel which is so badly needed in the large towns, despite the fact that an abundance of lignite is available in local areas; the non-implementation of the "promised" 300 gram bread ration continues to give trouble, and the word HUNGRY is appearing in English on the walls of Florence, while Proto's wall-notices read "Is this Liberty?" and "Out of the frying pan into the fire."

The CCLN have still not reconciled themselves to the prefect, whose morale, reported going up in our issue of Nov. 10, is now reported going down.

3. Getting Food the Bacon.

Colonel W. J. Berg, Director, Food Sub-Commission, is back at AC after what started to be a two-week trip to Washington and London last September. And judging by the happy relief in the Economic Section, Col. Berg's trip was highly productive, both as to maintenance of getting implementation for a 300-gram ration for Italy, and for an extremely desirable by-product, better understanding of AC's problems in the world-straddling headquarters across the seas. The gist of the Colonel's report on his activities is as follows: 1. The 300 gram ration has now been accepted as the basis of all further subsistence planning for Liberated Italy. 2. Arrival of supplies for the increasing ration will depend on the allocation of the necessary shipping, which has already been

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The CTLN have still not reconciled themselves to the prefect, whose morale, reported going up in our issue of Nov. 10, is now reported going down.

3. Getting Back the Bacon.

Colonel W. J. Lee, Director, Food Sub-Commission, is back at AC after what started to be a two-week trip to Washington and London last September. And judging by the happy relief in the Economic Section, Col. Lee's trip was highly productive, both as to its main aim of getting implementation for a 300-gram ration for Italy, and for an extremely desirable by-product, better understanding of AC's problems in the world-straddling headquarters across the seas. The gist of the Colonel's report on his activities is as follows: 1. The 300 gram ration has now been accepted as the basis of all further subsistence planning for Liberated Italy. 2. Arrival of supplies for the increasing ration will depend on the allocation of the necessary shipping, which has already been programed. The necessities are now being worked out with AFHQ at Caserta. The program agreed upon by both the Americans in Washington and the British in London runs from January to June, 1945. Colonel Lee's missionary work took him through the maze of Washington agencies. Among those consulted who had to give their approval before the program received top blessing - the Colonel pointing out that working naturally would have resulted from his efforts had it not been for the fine personal cooperation of all the officers and officials he dealt with - were the following:

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Civil Affairs Division, International Division of Army Service Forces, Office of the Quartermaster General, Civil Affairs Committee of the Combined Chiefs of Staff, State Department, Foreign Economic Administration, Department of Agriculture, the British Embassy in the U. S., and the British War Office and Ministry of Supply in London. One result of Colonel Legg's rounds, gathering support from every quarter, was the discovery of 3,000,000 bags of Cuban pulses or dried beans of the 1942 crop which were found available.

The following brief table in tons gives an indication of the extent of the agreements reached, the high point of which is that 107,000 tons of wheat/flour a month are now earmarked for all Italy.

	August AFHQ Estimates	AC Mission Estimates	Now Accepted	Net Results Tons	Percent Increase.
Wheat	600,000	1,302,000(a)	642,000(b)	42,000	7
Dried Vegetables	None	156,670(a)	68,440(b)	68,440	all
Sugar	18,000	81,660(a)	38,260(b)	19,260	102
Milk	9,660	23,970	23,970	14,310	148
Meat	None	20,160	20,160	20,160	all
Fats	18,000	18,000	18,000	------	---

(a) Subject to adjustment according to operational plans, available shipping and stocks found in North Italy.
(b) For Liberated Italy, with surplus stockpile for North.

4. Displaced Persons.

An enlightening summary of one of the major problems following in the wake of war was given the other day before the Allied Advisory Council for Italy by Colonel C. B. Findlay, director of AFHQ's Displaced Persons and Repatriation Sub-Commission. Here are some points from his address.

"There are at present in Liberated Italy some 23,000 displaced persons. Of these 9,000 live in camps and 14,000 are living in private residences. These 14,000 are entitled to certain financial allowances from the Italian Government and also, in many cases, to allowances from the countries to which they belong. The nationals of the United Nations are also entitled to rations on a more generous scale than the ordinary Italian civilian ration. The Sub-Commission administers and pays these allowances and distributes the ration cards for the additional rations.

"With the freeing of France and the Balkans a further problem has arisen. There are in Southern France 200,000 Italians, [illegible] forced labor, to be returned to

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Sugar	18,000	31,680(a)	38,260(b)	19,260	102
Milk	9,660	23,970	23,970	14,310	148
Meat	None	20,160	20,160	20,160	all
Fats	15,000	15,000	15,000	------	---

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"With the freeing of France and the Balkans a further problem has arisen. There are in Southern France 200,000 Italians, partially refugees, partially forced labor, to be returned to Italy. There is in the Balkans, a large number of soldiers who formerly belonged to the Italian Army and of civilians who resided or worked in Albania or Greece. The Commission has the personnel and the machinery to plan and deal with the reception of such persons and it has therefore been made responsible for the repatriation of Italians (other than prisoners of war) to

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Italy and of other nationals from Italy. In this connection the term "repatriation" is used loosely to cover the return of persons to their normal place of residence, though not their country of origin and the settling of the stateless or persecuted in their new homes.

"The following figures indicate scope of the problem:

	Dealt with	To be dealt with in N. Italy (est).	Total
Italy War Refugees to-date	141,000	200,000	341,000
Displaced Persons repatriated	81,500		81,500
Displaced Persons in Liberated Italy	25,500	50,000	75,500
			448,000

"Estimate of Repatriations to be affected:

To Italy:	From Enemy Countries	320,000
	From France	200,000
	From former Italian Divisions	600,000
		1,180,000
From Italy:	Czechs and Poles	5,000
	Yugoslavs	5,000
	Germany	25,000
	Other Nations	5,000
	Stateless	5,000
		45,000

"These figures also indicate one of the problems to be faced: REPATRIATION. Over one million Italians have to be returned to Italy. It is for the Commission to provide the necessary machinery to receive them but when this should take place is a matter of high policy involving both political and economic questions as well as transport. Planning cannot be taken to any advanced stage until a key plan on this subject has been received. Any staff plans will be dependent also on the plans of the staff responsible in the dispatching countries, with whom the plans will have to be co-ordinated.

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"The question as to whether the frontier shall be closed to prevent unorganised self-repatriation with the possibility of dislocation of labour, transport and supplies, and the importation of typhus or other diseases by hordes of returning refugees is also one of high policy. Here again the planning of staging camps and transportation cannot proceed until the routes by and rates and times at which repatriation will be allowed are known. Such plans will also have to be co-ordinated with the despatching countries.

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Displaced Persons in Liberated Italy	25,500	50,000	75,500
			446,000

"Estimate of Repatriations to be affected:

To Italy:	From Enemy Countries	580,000
	From France	200,000
	From former Italian Divisions	400,000
		1,180,000

From Italy:	Czechs and Poles	5,000
	Yugoslavs	5,000
	Germany	25,000
	Other Nations	5,000
	Stateless	9,000
		49,000

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"The second major problem is CLOTHING. An attempt is being made to obtain salvage clothing from the Armies and repair scheme are being set up to deal with such salvage as may be obtained. The scale of the problem can be grasped when it is said that 100,000 blankets and 75,000 boots are required at once for present urgent needs and other items on the same scale.

"Many of the ex-Italian soldiers to be repatriated from overseas are invalids and in rags. They will have to be received

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in hospitals and whether Land Forces Sub-Commission or Displaced Persons are responsible, they will require clothes to go home in. It is no answer to say that that is a responsibility of the Italian Government unless that Government is in a position to find clothes on that scale. At present it is not.

"Lastly there is the problem which is the problem of the whole AC; insufficiency of TRANSPORT - the problem of providing further transport is urgent and acute.

5. Odds and Ends.

UNRRA which has been wanting to start business as soon as possible in Italy by borrowing AC supplies has been persuaded first, to follow through on their requisitions; second, to check if and when shipping is available, and third, only then to borrow from AC up to 2,000 tons of goods, to be re-paid when their own supplies arrive ... U. S. Congressmen from the House Military Affairs Committee will visit Italy and the AC shortly to see things at first hand...Field Marshal Alexander will review 2,000 Carabinieri in Rome in the near future...The Public Relations Branch is having sent to every American officer, enlisted man and civilian in AC/AMG a biographical form to fill out for a news article in each man's hometown newspaper, in accordance with standard U. S. Army PRO practice, so please fill out your form and return it to your adjutant as soon as possible after receipt...Macerata Province reports that 30,000 hectares of maize is ready for collection as soon as warehouse space becomes available...Lieut. Col. Vorley, who has been dealing with civil affairs in Burma, was been a recent visitor to AC, looking particularly into Displaced Persons and Repatriation activities...Maj. John Boettiger, formerly with the 5th Army AMG and now with the Civil Affairs Division, U.S. War Department, is current visitor to Hq... Story without Comment: 1. Before the May campaign, there was an estimated 662,000 kw. of electricity in Central Italy from Cassino to Pisa-Rimini; 2. The Allies, on their arrival, found 45,000 kw. left; 3. Today the kilowatt capacity is 84,000...Possibly the only [illegible] operated traffic signal in Italy is flashing those days in Naples...The Granai del Popolo, as of latest reports, [illegible] 6,736,397 qtl. or 84% of the 11,600,000 qtl. target. The Libyan potato program has begun with the first shipment of 500 tons of seed potatoes from Gravano to Calabria and Sicily...The Arsia lignite mine, largest surface lignite mine in central Italy, began operations on a limited scale last week... The first coal-laden ship to dock at Civitavecchia arrived there while repairs to the dock were being finished, so unloading and repairs were completed together...Approximately 325 tons of imported paraffin wax has been stolen from an Italian-guarded depot at Naples, disrupting the supply so badly that allocation of candles for public use will be discontinued after the middle of [illegible] operation plant at Cerrano has added 5,500

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LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major, Public Relations Dir.

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

PR6/7134/PRB 26 November 1944.

AC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 34

20 Nov to 26 Nov 44

1. Political

After ten days of political manoeuvre in which rumour, always apt to gallop in Rome, was given full rein, Bonomi tendered the resignation of himself and his ministers to the Lieutenant-General at noon on Sunday. Among other consequences of this action is the lateness of the Bulletin this week, our delphic oracle having been upset by this last minute climax.

The steps leading to the resignation are somewhat obscure and at best we can only give you rumour as it trickled from the Palazzo to the Press. There were two main rumour trends - one, current earlier in the week, that the leftist parties wanted stronger representation in the Govt, and were anxious to weed out the "weak sisters" whom they professed to find representing the more moderate parties. Their idea would have been not only to give stronger representation to the "masses" but also to work more closely with the C.L.N. The other school of rumour was based on the alleged attempt of Bonomi to gather about him a Cabinet of technicians. According to Italia Nuova, which, as cautious as your reporter, carefully labelled its own account pure rumour - Bonomi went to Naples and attempted to persuade Orlando, Croce and de Nicola to join the Govt. The three elder statesmen are said to have made the condition that the six party principle should be abandoned and a new Govt formed of able men regardless of party affiliation. When this condition was submitted to the Ministers without portfolio - so the story runs - they refused. This story is not improbable. Tempo stated on 24th Nov that "only a Govt of technicians could gain the approval of De Nicola and other parliamentarians" and on the same day there was an indignant blast from Avanti against the attempt of the "reaction to exclude the communists from the Govt" by forming a Cabinet of technicians. It was clear - rumour and chiacchiere aside - that something had to be done to reestablish the balance when Carrandini left the [illegible] in such a delicate machinery

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At the moment there is no government. Yesterday the Lord Lieutenant in accordance with parliamentary tradition conferred with Orlando, President of the Chamber, and Della Torretta, President of the Senate, and with "other political leaders" as well. A communique is expected sometime within the next forty-

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eight hours. Rumor has it that Bonomi feels sure he will be again called upon and indeed any alternative seems unlikely. The leftist parties have made it clear that they will have no truck with "reaction" however it may label itself - an article by Togliatti in the Corriere di Roma leaves no doubt on that score - and it is hardly probable that the moderate parties would accept communist or socialist leadership. However, as the saying goes nowadays in Rome, "tutto è possibile".

Proceeding from the unknown to the known; the council met on the 22nd and drew up a plan for Sardinia similar to that outlined for Sicily (see Bulletin for 20th Oct.). There is to be a Sardinian Council and a Sardinian Bank and the State is to give a million lire for industrial and agricultural development. The Council also approved of a program for coordination and control of radio and a decree for "revision of films" (which looks very suspicious to Avanti to whom "revisione" means "censura" and nothing else). It was stated too that before abandoning the "political price" of bread, Bonomi would consult the C.G.I.L. and some means of protecting the very poor from the additional burden would be worked out.

The abolition of the General Staff, decreed two weeks ago, was followed this week by the arrest of General Roatta and two of his assistants. The trial of Pantinelli and Del Tutto has been again postponed - this time till the 4th of Dec. The press is vigilant but patient. The papers have been concerned most of the week with the plight of the patriots; they have pointed out that the fighters in the north cannot simply go home and wait for spring as the Allies seem to want; Tempo suggested they be given the provisional status of belligerants and sent to France for winter training, and Unita recommended that they be given rights to subsidies and pensions like any other branch of the Army.

Carandini's first speech in London also called attention to the heroism of the patriots. As quoted in the Observer he stressed too the seriousness and responsibility of the six party coalition and stated it was his purpose to make England acquainted with the material and moral problems of Italy. Otherwise the week had little of interest in the field of foreign affairs; formal exchange of ambassadors took place between Italy and Russia, Kostylev, already named by Moscow, was accepted by the Italians and Quaroni became Italian ambassador to Russia. De

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3. Mission

One of the most interesting incidents that have occurred recently on the economic side of Italy and one which in fact looks forward into the post-war period, is the current visit here of the all-American Culbertson Mission, headed by Lieut.Col. William S. Culbertson, who carries the personal rank of ambassador. (He was the former U.S. Minister to Rumania and U.S. Ambassador to Chile). With him are six others, five of whom are American business

nessmen and four of whom are members of the United States Commercial Company, an adjunct of the American Foreign Economic Administration, which has been engaged in economic warfare against the Axis through pre-emptive buying of goods and raw materials in all neutral countries.

For example, one of the nations in which buying and bidding was hot and heavy and at exorbitant prices between Germany and the Allies was naturally Turkey. Mr Van Lear Woodward, a member of the Mission who is also vice president of the U.S.C.C. and in private life a member of the big New York importing and exporting firm of Mahar & Co., was one of the original agents for many of the Turkish purchases. Since July, the Mission has surveyed the scene in North Africa and in the Middle East. While in the latter place, Mr. Woodward looked over the U.S. stockpiles in Turkey which, now that the pressure has eased off, are to be sold, if possible, at the price best calculated to make the least dent on the poor taxpayer's pocket. Certain wares, thus, have been offered to the Italians through AC and discussions are being held as to how best to do this, a problem obviously of payment. There can be no question of sale at the original buying price but mostly of covering charges and transportation. Offered are several commodities that can be put to effective use immediately in this shortage stricken country, as for example, woollen and cotton rags for textile mills, which before the war used the selfsame Turkish products.

Other items include asbestos, blue poppy seed, casings, castorail seed, catgut, new cotton clippings, old cotton rags, cotton waste, gallnuts, hazelnutoil soap, hempseed, linseed, linseed cake, linseed oil, gum tragacenth, gum tragaanton, rapeseed, sesameseed, soy beans, sunflowerseed, woollen rags, airdried sheepskins, drysalted sheepskins, airdried lambskins, drysalted goatskins, pickled sheepskins, valex.

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The Mission whose sole function is exploratory, with no authority to make any commitments, has been investigating the industrial capacity of Italy, the possibilities of import and export trade and the currency exchange position. Both the Mission and the Economic Section have been full of mutual compliments on their relationship, the Mission being frankly impressed with the alert awareness of problems by AC and the Economic Section being heartened by the crisp, factual approach of the Mission whose members, as businessmen, are considering only what is practical and feasible in returning trade to private channels as soon as

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/ Other

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Other members of the mission are Mr John L.Gillis, vice president of Johnson & Johnson, Inc., medical supply house; Mr. Victor Bowman, executive vice president of the American Steel Export Co.; Mr. Richard C.Thompson, manager of the Export Division of the Electric Auto-Lite Co., Mr. William Triandafilidor, retired importer, and Mr. Henry Fox, chief of the Division of Commercial Treaties of the U.S. State Department.

3. Vanguard of a new Italian Army

On Friday the 24th a first contingent of the six Italian "groups" now being re-equipped and reorganized passed through Rome on its way north. This passage of a small contingent - 700 vehicles in all - was a more or less minor event, partly owing to AAI's desire to keep publicity to a minimum until the new groups have distinguished themselves in battle and partly also to the fact that the march-past which had been proposed was changed at the last moment into the mere passing of troop-carrying vehicles of every varied shape and size. Nevertheless the Roman citizenry, encouraged by the Committee of Liberation, decided to turn out and line the streets in large numbers, and the Lieutenant-General, appearing in Rome in public for the first time since our entry, took the salute. He seemed nervous - as indeed he well might be in view of prevailing polemics - when he stepped on to the dais, but he received a good round of applause, though there were a few whistles. A group of young monarchists gave him an ovation when he re-entered his car at the end of the ceremony. About the sincerity of the Roman welcome to this first detachment of democratic Italian troops there was no doubt at all: the enthusiasm and goodwill of the crowds was reminiscent, as a Reuters correspondent remarked, of Roman scenes in early June.

Of the six new Italian groups, roughly equal in number to three allied divisions, two are now virtually ready - having been re-equipped and trained in the astonishingly short space of four months - and a start has been made with the training and equipment of the remainder. Both training and equipment, including guns, rifles and ammunition, are British, as rations will also be. Major-General Browning who, as GOC, "FIA, has supervised the reorganisation of the Italian Army, says that the rank and file are of first-rate quality. "Give me two years with British officers and NCOs," says General Browning, "and we'd have an army as good as any in Europe".

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On Friday the 24th a first contingent of the six Italian "groups" now being re-equipped and reorganized passed through Rome on its way north. This passage of a small contingent - 700 vehicles in all - was a more or less minor event, partly owing to AAI's desire to keep publicity to a minimum until the new groups have distinguished themselves in battle and partly also to the fact that the march-past which had been proposed was changed at the last moment into the mere passing of troop-carrying vehicles of every varied shape and size. Nevertheless the Roman citizenry, encouraged by the Committee of Liberation, decided to turn out and line the streets in large numbers, and the Lieutenant-General, appearing in Rome in public for the first time since our entry, took the salute. He seemed nervous - as indeed he well might be in view of prevailing polemics - when he stepped on to the dais, but he received a good round of applause, though there were a few whistles. A group of young monarchists gave him an ovation when he re-entered his car at the end of the ceremony. About the sincerity of the Roman welcome to this first detachment of democratic Italian troops there was no doubt at all: the enthusiasm and goodwill of the crowds was reminiscent, as a Reuters correspondent remarked, of Roman scenes in early June.

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Perhaps the dominant note of Friday's parade was spontaneity. No orders to come out and cheer, no cut-and-dried propaganda, few police - in fact, a Roman holiday.

1. The High Command

Mr. MacMillan, Acting President of the A.C., is now in London, for discussion concerning future operations of the Commission, and will shortly proceed to Washington where he will be met by General Stafford of G-5. On the agenda, besides

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the general policy of the economic rehabilitation of Italy, are: Position of UNRRA, which now operates through the AC but which says it must enter into negotiations with the Italian Government before it can consummate technical delivery of supplies here; clarification of Categories A (immediate requirements to avoid disease and unrest) and Category B (longer-term first aid goods) in the material help being planned for Italy, and civilianization of the AC. On this latter point, Brigadier Lush who recently returned from London, reported that a few British civilian appointments on a permanent basis may be soon forthcoming. Mr.Macmillan was also asked by the Economic Section to settle a disturbing report that the 1,700 3-ton trucks asked for by AC will be 1½-ton trucks, a development which would literally cut in half the present requisition for this urgently needed transport.

5. Sicilia Liberata

It is probably fair to say that Sicily is both better and worse off than the Italian mainland and that conditions there are more serious in some respects and considerably easier in others than they have been reported. The gravest "situation" is the definite shortage of food for sale. There are several reasons why the ammasi did not work satisfactorily this year, why less than half the estimated stocks were brought in. But the main one seems to be that the Sicilians have made up their minds that the lira is going to dissolve into thin air as soon as the war ends in Europe and there is a concerted rush for "staple goods" which make prices and regulations meaningless. No spending by Allied troops exists in Sicily to keep prices at an artificial level. You can walk the length of Via dalle Liberta and Maqueda in Palermo and you will not see a single allied uniform or vehicle. You can stand for a quarter of an hour in the square outside the Cathedral in Catania and only civilians will pass by. But prices are higher in the shops than they have ever been in Naples or Rome, higher than they were last fall, higher than they were this spring. Merchants do not care whether they sell or not. Here are some sample prices jotted down at random in both Palermo and Catania: Shoes sell for four, six, eight and ten thousand lire a pair; cloth caps for boys 550; white sewing thread 300 a spool; locally made toothpaste 100 a tube; cheap black cotton socks 150 a pair; men's cotton shirts 1300 to 1700; men's suitings 2000 to 3500 a metre and rough thick cloth for overcoats 2700 to 3500; a cheap furcoat which looks like dogskin with the hair left on is priced at 25,00 lire. Cigarettes bring 100 to 200 lire a pack

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proper money into bricks and mortar at any price. Public works, however, are [illegible] much of a standstill and church repairs are going very slowly. Most of the bridges have been rebuilt and the railways are all running but road work is in arrears and if any more railway rolling stock is drained off to the mainland the few industries trying to operate will be crippled. The scheme for control plan is said to be bogged down in red tape and working very badly. Forged permits to cross the Straits of Messina have sold for as much as 100,000 lire.

Men who ought to know pooh-pooh the idea that the Mafia has been revived as an organized movement, though they say there may be a rapprochement between lesser politicians and local criminal groups. What has happened, they say, is that the Allies in attempting to eliminate fascism in an Island where it never really existed except in the schools so weakened the machinery of law enforcement that the Sicilians have returned to their traditional custom of ignoring the law and enforcing their own ideas of justice. Isolated bandit gangs are being broken up, but the prisons are clogged. There are 12,000 persons awaiting trial in Sicily, 1931 of them in close arrest. Red tape and bribery on the lower levels of Italian administration are reported as flourishing as ever. All A/C-appointed prefects but two have been sacked. There is no question of holding elections for local posts. An attempt by the local Giunta of Catania to interfere in the election of a University Rector was blocked.

Schools have not yet opened this year because of an epidemic of small-pox in Palermo (23 cases on Thursday of this week) and for lack of text-books. The high pressure educational reforms launched last year are disappearing. Teachers are said to be as fascist as ever. Increasing confusion and political juggling with inspectors in the state schools is expected to result ultimately in the Church taking over practically all Sicilian education. Soup kitchens are running in Palermo and Catania and there is talk of giving one free meal a day in schools after the New Year.

The Regional Commissioner complains that the High Commissioner, Aldisio, is playing politics and cannot be found for days at a time. When he can be persuaded to discuss administrative problems, he often fails to act.

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Public Safety officials are sharply critical of reports on the political situation turned in by military security personnel. They say sensational and unverified rumours are reported as fact. Lurid tales are picked up from professional informers. Lt.Col. Enock says: "I do not believe there is any definite plan or any organization to make trouble this winter, though if the food situation becomes very bad there may be impromptu trouble which will go far".

Sicily is sunny and warm these days and there are millions of flies. The country seems shabbier than it did a few months ago. The rains are late this fall, the electric networks are operating fitfully and the farmers are worried about the spring crops.

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There will be no amassed grain left for distribution [illegible] of September. The peace ration for the fourth week in September was distributed only in the week beginning 11 November. Trouble will not freeze in Sicily this winter but there will be hunger.

6. Rieti - Rail Romance

We are not even sure if it has a bell, but Train Number 3310 as it chugs and puffs its way up the mountainside from Rieti to Antrodoco and back again makes those who have an ear for sound think of Adano. Then, some months ago, AFHQ 5th Army's Major Crippen entered Rieti, he found railwaymen sitting among their burnt out stock and damaged sheds and track with a sad look in their eyes. Not a railwayman himself, he soon had organised gangs of workers feverishly tearing up, salvaging and relaying track, removing mines and debris from tunnels, rebuilding stations and overhauling a small locomotive and a massive Wagon Lits restaurant car left by the Germans, until 32 kilometers of railroadworthy track stretched through the mountains from Rieti to Antrodoco and Train Number 3310 was ready. On its inaugural run every dignitary for miles around vied for the honor of standing on the footplates, while the huge Wagon Lits coach was crammed with tired cyclists and gaily dressed peasant women. Once a shortage of fuel threatened a crisis, but Transportation Sub-Commission decided not to frown on the little landlocked train even if it did not make a connection with any other line and the Military Railroad Service is not averse to a little romance in its life. Either, so Train Number 3310 got its coal. Today, as the small engine and the big restaurant car carry all manner of goods and persons on a once daily roundtrip schedule between Rieti and Antrodoco, men and women in the fields look up and wave, and consult their watches. According to the Major the people of Rieti have gotten their railroad back, and a great deal more.

7. Pre-view

Final tabulations are on the eve of completion of a census which may well be considered the first authoritative census taken in Italy for years and probably the first to show in detail the effects of modern war on a country which has served as a battlefield in the bitter fighting between the Nazis and the Allies. The census or Censimenti per la Ricostruzione Nazionale was ordered last August by the Economic Section. Photographic copies of the first preliminary report are expected to be ready the first part of the coming month.

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The census has covered 10 compartments, i.e. all provinces from Perugia southward, including the island of Sicily and Sardinia. It included five types of information:

A demographic census covering the entire resident and present population, and laying particular emphasis upon the enumeration of war prisoners, persons transferred to forced labor in

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Prisoners of War, Internees, Unemployed, and other groups displaced or disorganized as a result of war.

An agricultural census covering all farms and enumerating, in addition to usual agricultural information, the extent of war damage to farm buildings, lands, and equipment.

An industrial census covering all firms employing 10 or more persons and counting particularly the extent of war damage to plants and equipment and the extent of German theft of industrial equipment and raw materials.

A transportation survey covering motor transport and the merchant marine.

A survey of living conditions covering food, clothing, housing, health, and public services.

The figures produced may throw some light upon the conditions that await us in areas not yet occupied. The census will include, for example, a "coefficient of war damage" for every commune in Italy suffering damage. The coefficient, the ratio of the number of residential rooms destroyed to the number existing prior to the war may, when compared with army records of land manoeuvers and of bomb tonnages dropped, provide a useful index of damage that may be expected to be found elsewhere.

Partial provincial figures of house destruction available include:

Province	Rooms in destroyed habitations	Rooms in damaged habitations	Rooms not occupied owing to damage	Rooms damaged but occupied
Naples	36,857	33,626	22,733	10,893
Salerno	10,713	6,042	3,755	3,087
Lecce	2	5	2	3
Taranto	435	150	141	18
Catania	12,121	9,109	5,474	3,635
Agrigento	2,359	1,062	635	427
Bari	157	346	244	102
Littoria	37,172	9,368	2,634	7,934
Frosinone	2,875	4,582	2,453	2,129

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Province	Rooms in destroyed habitations	Rooms in damaged habitations	Rooms not occupied owing to damage	Rooms damaged but occupi
Foggia	36,857	33,420	22,733	10,695
Salerno	10,713	6,842	3,795	3,047
Lecce	2	5	2	3
Taranto	425	159	141	18
Catania	13,121	9,159	5,474	3,685
Agrigento	2,359	1,062	635	427
Bari	197	346	244	102
Littoria	27,178	9,560	2,634	7,934
Frosinone	2,975	4,592	3,463	2,129
Benevento	4,702	2,092	1,512	580

Chiefly, of course, the census has been designed to help in the making of plans for Italy's future. The preliminary report will contain details on the existence and condition of machinery classified by 2,000 types. Similarly, the details on unemployment, on the animal population, on schools, hospitals, etc. should help fill in blanks in present operational knowledge. Finally, the emphasis upon war damage and German theft should provid. one

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of the most detailed bills of charges that any country will have ready for presentation at the Congress.

The census has been taken by the Istituto Centrale di Statistica under the continuous supervision of Lieut. L.E.Hicks, of the United States Coast Guard, a member of the staff of the Economic Section. The enumeration work was done by the communal authorities with the help of some 10,000 extra employees taken on for the purpose and under the supervision of 210 inspectors trained in Rome and dispatched to the field. The tabulating work is being done by hand by approximately 2,000 clerks - a circumstance necessitated by the fact that the Istituto's tabulating machinery is amongst that taken by the Germans.

2. Note from Predappio

Predappio, birthplace of Mussolini, was recently occupied by Polish troops. A contributor, no less than the Provincial Commissioner of Forli, describes the place as follows:

"The town is overshadowed by the Duce's castle, Rocca delle Caminate, where he was wont to retire in solitude and take decisions which, it was said, would bear on the future history of the world. The castle now looks down on the passage of those troops which have brought about the downfall of its lord and of the regime he installed.

"In spite of the battle, the town of Predappio is still in fairly good order and the buildings are in their newly-built aspect. The Duce caused a new town to be built on the site of his little village birthplace. Fascist emblems are to be seen everywhere. In the main square the high "Littor tower" of a bright red colour, still bears its fasces carved in white marble and the effect of the setting sun shining on it is quite pleasing. There are very few civilians in the streets, but Polish troops everywhere.

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"The avenue leading up to the Duce's birthplace, once so well cared for, is evidence, in its present unkempt state, that pilgrimages had ceased long ago. The house itself is almost untouched with the exception of a bomb which slightly damaged a ceiling on the top floor. All the furniture has gone, except two iron bedsteads and some notices with the inscription "Visitors are requested not to write on the walls". It occurs [illegible] visitors who did not obey the injunction, may be

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"After much difficulty, the caretaker, a Polish

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citizens who are about, they have all the same to tell, nobody had anything to do with Mussolini and they are glad to have seen and, they hope, to have heard, the last of him. It is a fact that the Allied troops have been well received and that the residents have given them a good welcome and that their attitude is the most collaborative. We leave Procaccio, wondering how much reliance can be placed on the Duce's fellow citizens, and feeling that they certainly are most ungrateful for all the embellishments and improvements which the liberality of their one philanthropic townsman so lavishly expended on them."

3. Odds and Ends.

Senior Commander Stones, of the War Office Civil Affairs Branch, is visiting sub-commissions at headquarters to get first hand experience of AC operations.... Lieut.Col. Craig has been named coordinating officer for the devastated regions.... A suggestion has been made to repatriate 1,000 Italians from the Commonwealth, a project opposed by AC at this time.... As many as 3,000 refugees harbored in Sicily have been repatriated to their mainland homes.... Unemployment is rising in the Benevento-Foggia Region, which, it is feared, may be a harbinger of the near future in other parts.... Most collections as of reports received by 25 November stand at 3,714,102 qtl. or 34 per cent. of the 10,500,000 qtl. target Figure. Grain in the forward areas is being spoiled by the rains, as, for instance, at Arezzo, where the warehouse leaked, so in some areas the damp crop is being issued in lieu of bread on the 200-gram ration cards.... Two woollen companies have commenced work at Prato and a further 13 are ready to go as soon as power is available.... Several requests for de-requisitioning of industrial premises will be presented to the first meeting of the Industrial Coordination Committee of the Allied Local Resources Board on December 1.... The first fruit ship of the season is now loading in Sicily for export to the U.K..... Ration scales for food and petrol in the Republic of San Marino will be the same as in Liberated Italy.... The general issue of dehydrated soup and vegetables will be suspended December 1, except in army areas, because of uncertainty over future imports.... An acute shortage of freight cars is hampering the movement of wheat from surplus to deficiency areas, particularly, the Rome area....

LIONEL THELEN, Major,
Public Relations Director.

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

19 November 1944

AC/26/WB33/PRB

AC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 33

13 Nov to 19 Nov 44

1. Political

Coccio rotto dura più di quello sano - "a cracked pot lasts longer than a sound one" - says a Tuscan proverb, applied this week by IL TEMPO to the Bonomi Government, which was also described by an Allied correspondent as being in its "chronic state of crisis." Such opinions echoed a general feeling that the Government could not fall because it was already on the ground: in other words, with no electoral machinery and no clear opposition there is nothing to take its place. The crisis, however chronic, certainly went deeper than usual, intensified partly by immediate causes such as the Lieutenant-General's interview, the rift between the Government and the Tuscan C.L.N., and the "slow down" order to the partisans of the north: and partly also by remoter causes such as the Palermo affray and the general question of Sicily, dissatisfaction at the slow progress of epuration, and last but not least, disillusionment over a misunderstanding which translated Roosevelt's "asking" for a ration of 300 grammes into a promise of instant fulfilment. But perhaps the greatest single factor of uneasiness was the apparent deferment of victory until the spring, and the consequent necessity for the present Government of partly liberated Italy to act.

Between November 11 and November 18 all six parties issued orders of the day. These party declarations, largely composed of pious resolutions not altogether new, seemed, if not to indicate a government fall at least to suggest a reshuffle. The Communists and Christian Democrats (as reported in our last Bulletin) led off on the 11th: on the same day the Liberals issued an order of the day which, though limited to the Sicilian issue, indicated clear sympathy with the idea of greater regional autonomy. The Action Party and Socialists made resolutions on the 17th: on the 18th the Labour Democrats brought up the tail. Common to all these manifestos were the ideas of grave discontent and government weakness: methods of dealing with these maladies were diverse and vague. The Communists put their emphasis on a greater war effort, more power to partisans and C.L.N., local elections, less Allied control, and a Republic: the [illegible] along this line by

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Italy today, stating that 7 million Italians were homeless or displaced, 90% of Italy's motor transport, merchant marine, herds and forests were destroyed, 80% of her railways and electric undertakings out of commission, one third of her roads ruined and 13,000 bridges demolished. Reasoning from these figures that Italy's social and economic structure was imperilled, that far lower standers of living were inevitable, and that immense sacrifices were entailed from the people, the Christian Democrats called on the Government to publish all such facts and figures, and to demand the birth of unity, so to speak, out of tragedy. The manifesto of the Action Party amounted to little more than an admonishment to the Government to "get together" with the C.L.N.; that of the Labour Democrats echoed the Christian Democrat warning against agitation and disorder and reaffirmed the "truce" on the institutional question; but added, somewhat naively, that they reserved the right to "persuade" other parties about the necessity of agreeing upon a democratic Republic.

Thus far the parties. The Government, at its meeting on Wednesday and Thursday, "heard" the reports of Aldisio and Pinna, High Commissioners of Sicily and Sardinia respectively. Sad stories of both islands were told: and perhaps these peripheral worries were a not altogether unwelcome diversion to the Roman cabinet. Another diversion, growing rapidly stronger as the week closed, was caused by General Alexander's instructions given on November 13 to thepatriots in the north, which spoke of "a slowing down of the tempo of battle" and a "cessation for the time being of large-scale organized activity." This focussed attention, perhaps fortunately, on the plight of Northern Italy, and on this at least the Italian Press could unite in calling for a greater war effort and every sacrifice by Italians in liberated territory for their brothers in the north. It is good to report in this connection that Rome will next week see the first march-past of newly-equipped Italian troops on their way to the front.

An uneasy week politically, with much exasperation over the unfulfilled or incorrectly reported "request" (the Italian "chiedere" may be translated "ask" or "demand") of Roosevelt for a 300 gramme ration. And Churchill's Friday statement that "the war would go on for some time", following Roosevelt's Thursday "victory in sight", did not add to the general gaiety.

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Eighth Army AMG's report for the first half of November gives a picture which is a good deal less black than might, in such a fought-over area, have been anticipated. Damage seems to be comparatively slight in almost all the recently captured areas such as Fredaniz

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10^ getting 400 grammes of bread daily at a price of 3.30 per kilo. Normal water supplies have of course been damaged everywhere in the area but wells are plentiful and repairs proceeding smoothly. There are few refugees and health seems good, except for a small incidence of diphtheria in Predappio and an outbreak of typhoid which has put San Marino out of bounds to troops.

Fifth Army A.G also sends a more or less "all-quiet" report. Some 2,000 refugees have been evacuated to the south, among them "a man purporting to be the Bishop of Benghazi." The partisans being held in the center at Florence have been found employment en bloc with an army formation which has made provision for their housing in a Labour Camp: and everyone, it appears, is pleased. The Roosevelt 300-gramme declaration has had the same effect as elsewhere - "the population are asking how soon it will become effective... applications are also being received from private undertakings for some of the promised 1,700 trucks."

Florentine politics continue lively. On November 10th 150 women congregated outside the Prefettura with banners bearing the slogans:

"Milk for our children!"
"Away with the Fascist Prefect!"
"Long live the Allies!"
"We want Epuration!"

It appeared that the second and the fourth were the keywords, the ladies asserting that they preferred privation to Paterno In fact, the demonstartion might perhaps have been considered as politically staged, and not the innocent T.C.L.N. been away in Rome on that day. During the week a visit from the Soviet Labour Delegates was expected, but they were unexpectedly detained in Rome.

3. Wails from the Siena Woods

Army SCAOs and Regional Commissioners met in Conference with AC Headquarters chiefs and officers of the Civil Affairs Section, AAI, in Siena on Friday. With key Commission personnel away, elections in the United States distracting the minds of many officers, foul weather in Italy and roads and bridges washed out, five weeks had flitted since the last Conference. Many things can change in AC/ACC circles in five weeks and several new faces were introduced. But the old difficulties remain, and they were thoroughly aired at Friday's meeting which lasted until mid-afternoon. The Conference opened on an ominous note. Col.Fiske, substituting as Chairman for Brigadier [illegible] and busy in Rome, announced

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The food situation, forced into the open by President Roosevelt's request that the bread ration in Italy should be 300 grammes and by a third demonstration in Florence because that quantity is not yet being issued in the Tuscan capital, came in for frank discussion.

/ Mr Antolini

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Mr Antolini led the chorus with the statement that "we are practically bankrupt." He said a 300 grammes ration could and would be issued if the Commission discounted a theoretical stockpile of 800,000 tons of grain in what the meeting called "Kesselring's Italy." But issue on that scale would deplete those stocks, if they exist. To make matters worse the CCLN is pressing for a scale of 350 grammes for workers. November and December imports of wheat were cut back considerably below expectations. There was only one ray of hope: Mr Tittoni was leaving shortly for London and Washington and was being briefed with the facts for the attention of both Govts. The message to the President will be, in effect, that if 800,000 tons of grain are not found in Northern Italy "we are out of business".

American opinion was instanced by a demand that if Mr Roosevelt could shake anything out of his sleeve, it was time for him to shake. A British comment was that if anything could undermine our prestige, this sanction by the highest authority for a thing we could not do was surely the way to effect it. The Presidential request has been taken as a pledge in Florence and elsewhere and is a current topic of discussion among Italians. The Florentines, according to Col. Haynes, view it in three different ways. Some say it was an election trick, others say the "Fascist" Prefect has the grain locked up, others believe it will come true. Meanwhile, over in Aquila, food stores were broken into five times last Saturday night and the Prefect of Teramo fled to Rome to escape a threatened riot. The bread crisis is aggravated by the fact that stocks of supplementary foods are dwindling and no fresh supplies are in sight in any appreciable quantities. The score: dehydrated vegetables will run out in two weeks; soup in mid-January; P & V about 1st February. Amassing of oil is being taken over by the Italian government and if it works there will be an issue of 400 grammes a month. Mr Antolini drew a laugh when he announced that UNRRA had come into Italy with $50,000,000 in credits and no thing else but a request to borrow AC stocks of food, transport and medical supplies to start UNRRA distribution.

Mr Hopkinson, British Minister in the Rome Embassy, informed the Conference that Mr Caccia had been sent to Greece by Foreign Secretary Eden to act as co-ordinator of a joint Anglo-American Commission established in that stricken country. The situation in Greece is chaotic from lack of food and the collapse of the drachma. It is not sure that Mr Caccia will return to AC. Reviewing the political situation, Mr Hopkinson made it quite clear that as far as Britain and the United States are concerned Italy is still a co-belligerent. Italian pressure for full Allied status is expected to increase when the Italians are invited to join in the war against Japan. The official British view that Italian colonies should not be returned will

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/"fixed".

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"Aimed". D.C. Christian Democrats by implication have criticized the Left for attacks on the government and carabinieri and seem to be crystallizing on the Right rather than the Left. But nobody appears to want a disruption of the government because no group wants to bear the burden of this winter alone and all want to sit in when the machinery for determining the constitutional question is being organized.

There was free discussion of many difficult problems. The carabinieri are not liked in the Communist province of Grosseto but were reported to have turned the corner in Rome as a result of their strong handling of gangs in the Eternal City. Complete outfits for all the carabinieri in service in Italy are stocked in Naples and Bari and will be moved forward by rail for distribution. Activities of the Patriots Branch were praised and damned. Political meetings in Army areas are banned and very strong representations have been made to the Prime Minister of Italy about ministerial trips into forward districts. Col. Gibson of A/I attended the Conference and listened to pleas for moving the rear Army boundary north of Florence and Pisa. He explained the security risks involved and reminded the Conference that there is still a German Embassy in the Vatican. Brigadier Upjohn said that though there have been diplomatic flurries because members of the Yugoslav mission have been arrested and convicted for entering Army areas such arrests are to continue until the issue has been settled. A debate on the feasibility of moving the three Region HQs now in Chianciano to Rome disclosed that there are 90 vehicles there. Bidding for those cars between Mr Antolini and Commissioners of active Regions was brisk. In the meanwhile there appears to be some prospect of alleviating the shortage of transport by adopting the FWB method of hiring rather than requisitioning civilian cars. No relief is in sight for the shortage of tires and tubes, the retreading scheme has been only partly successful but some stocks of spare parts have been found and there is a chance that batteries will be available within a reasonable time. The Republic of San Marino wants food, supplies, POL and vehicles as well as permission to send to Bari for stocks of oil and wine already bought and paid for. After a brisk exchange of opinions between W/C Beer and Mr Antolini, with some umpiring from the sidelines, Gp Capt. Benson's distribution of a year's supply of grain in Pesaro and Ancona provinces was reluctantly approved and authority given for a similar distribution in Forli. Col. Marshall wanted to experiment with free trade when he enters Piemonte; Col. Boyce said: "Free trade was tried in King's Italy last year. We all held our breaths. But it made no difference at all." A/C Eighth Army pressed for American promotions and Piemonte was anxious to promote British subalterns brought in from Ack-Ack Regiments.

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Granai del Popolo

The 1st harvest collections as of 18 November stood at 9,408,649 quintals or 81 per cent of the AC target figure of 11,600,000 quintals for Liberated Italy. The reports from the field lag about 10 days to two weeks. For purposes of comparison, on 31 October, 1942, collections were 93 per cent of that year's goal. The recent torrential fall rains in forward areas have helped further cut down the expected returns since the wheat there was largely stacked in the open and 30

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to 50 per cent may now be considered as lost. In the Marche-Abruzzi Region farmers are reported feeding grain to hogs and cattle. Three areas - Campagnia, Lazio-Umbria and Tuscany - have, however, exceeded expectations to date. Calabria and Sicily, of course, still trail. Sicily, with a reduced goal of 2,000,000 qtls., has brought in a little more than 1,200,000. The collection is not even expected by many to reach 1,500,000 qtl. by the end of the year, although sundry devices are being tried out. This now brings to the fore the question of feeding Sicily through imported wheat and the Agriculture and Food Sub-Commissions have been addressing their attention to this problem recently. From preliminary studies it appears that Sicily in years of average wheat production imported 900,000 qtl. a year. The Sicilian food situation is further aggravated by the fact that production of dried horse beans (fava), a staple of Sicilian diet, is almost half what it used to be due to the shortage of phosphate fertilizers. Using the figure of 1,500,000 qtls as theoretically delivered to the collection centers by the end of the year, the AC agriculture experts estimate, roughly, that Sicily will need 1,650,000 qtl. of imported wheat for January 1 to July 31, 1945, while the food specialists give their estimate for the same period as 1,925,000 qtl.

5. Turnover

As every manjack in the Economic Section knows, the pressure has been on increasingly in recent months to turn over more and more operational responsibility for administration to the Italian Government. If anything, this turnover pace will increase, topside reports indicate. The Public Works and Utilities Sub-Commission took a large step in this direction this week. Henceforth, all civil projects, regardless of cost but providing they involve no critical materials, may be carried out by the Genio Civile without reference to AC. In the Industry Sub-Commission, arrangements have finally been agreed to by AFHQ to turn back operation of Sardinian coal mines to the Italians. Southern Region's October report has a good list of activities transferred back to natives, many of which, of course, are on a national scale and thus reflect turnovers in other regions. For example:

"Distribution of drugs was taken over by civilian authorities; two cement works and two brick works were handed back to their owners; the control of certain minor industries, such as soap, was taken over by the Italian authorities; repairs to power stations and the operation of public utilities were largely handed over to the Genio Civile; agricultural supplies have been handed back to the Consorzio Agrario; military highways have become the responsibility of Italian road engineers; the ports of Castellammare and Torre Annunziata were taken over from the military authorities and Gretano from AC; the Ports and

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6. Neapolitan Notes

To one returning to Naples after four months absence two changes are apparent. The city is growing progressively cleaner and

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there are evidences that it is gradually going back to the Neapolitans. A good deal of debris and rubble has been removed and the absence of a motor pool in front of the Municipio and of the stacks of material in the square before the Prefettura give an air of tidiness and spaciousness. True the Via Roma is what it always was and indeed the mixture of uniforms has received a new ingredient - one encounters the Brazil shoulder patch fairly frequently - but the majority of the throng is now predominantly civilian. From the AC point of view there are minor changes that loom large. The Excelsior opulence is now available to the visitors and Southern Region has set up its mess in the celebrated Gi'Teresa, although the cooking has suffered some change since the old days since it is now based on army rations.

AC problems in Naples are the standard bag of headaches with a few local variations. The Naples zone is still a PW temporary, of course, and the busy port needs constant policing. Further, of the many deserters estimated to be at large between Rome and Calabria, it is fair to assume that many are concealed in the alleyways of Naples. Yet, according to the Zone Commissioner, there is surprisingly little crime. Pilfering of army trucks goes on but on a decreasing scale. There has recently been an order put out over the Bandoco's signature forbidding Neapolitans to shelter in their homes or hotels any member of the Allied Forces; it is expected that this will dry up the source of supply of some of the black market centers. As officially food would seem not to be a serious matter at the moment, even the food stalls of Santa Lucia (one of the poorer quarters) are well stocked with almost every kind of foodstuff. Prices are not low but at least lower than Rome. Naples is naturally regarded as a supply center in the matter of flour and the Zone Commissioner's efforts to build up sufficient reserve of pane, pasta and farina to take care of possible calls from the North or local emergencies, are continuous and strenuous. Naples province itself consumes 370 tons of flour a day. The rationing of olive oil is causing some discontent since at the moment some communes are getting it and others must do without. Public health, we are informed, is good. There have been one or two small-pox flurries in the small towns in the province but prompt action including mass vaccination has averted any danger of an epidemic. Welfare will always have its troubles in Naples but the orphanage is now running well and efficiently. There are 5,000 boy scouts in the province and the movement is growing. There is still a great shortage of footwear and blankets. Education is in good shape as the second school year after liberation begins. Of elementary schools 68 in Naples province and 90 in the provinces of Avellino and Benevento are open [illegible] unhappily, many schools are still

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Politics go merrily on, indeed at a livelier pace than ever. The Zone Commissioner, who was scolded by "Avanti" for not accepting the candidate recommended by the local C.L.N. for Sindaco, is actually on the best of terms with the party leaders and it is expected that soon a solution acceptable to all will be reached. Meanwhile the Commissario is doing a good job. Incidentally, the Zone Commissioner, who was approached by the "partito rivoluzionario" for permission to

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publish "Soldiers Lease", achieved a triumph for Federation when he persuaded them to become the "partito riformista."

In spite of the persistence of problems of supply and reconstruction and in spite of the presence of the military the war seems very far from Naples - even further than from unscarred Rome where the political repercussions of the fighting are so immediately felt. The days of tenseness and the nights of sleeping in the ricoveri are over and the Neapolitan is pretty much himself again. Some troops have been in Naples a year and more now and the inevitable has happened; there have been a number of marriages between Allied soldiers (including officers) and nubili Napolitane. There have been an even greater number of thwarted matrimonial attempts since the authorities investigate such projects thoroughly. Statistics are, however, delicate and should be regarded as highly secret - and we suspect would be at best inaccurate.

7. Ends and Ends

Grosseto province reports , among local government matters, that the Comune of Monte Argentario is quiet but perhaps has taken on an air of sanctity since Signor Silvio Costa, who lives there,recently declared its independence as a "Principality of Peace" in preparation for the imminent arrival of the Saviour.... Possible manufacture of small arms and shells in liberated Italy for the war effort has been investigated recently by Allied specialists from abroad. ... Salvaged machinery of the Italian Government match monopoly at the destroyed Sutignano plant which produced normally 11 billion matches a year may be moved to Pisa as a new production site.... The 130 tons of American cotton recently received - plus 400 tons of Sicilian cotton is being made into bed and personal linen, sewing thread for civilians and some into underwear and stockings for the Italian Army.... A survey of the north Tuscany textile belt shows 30 per cent. of the plants undamaged, 20 per cent. capable of short term repairs, 20 per cent. capable of long term repairs, and 30 per cent. totally destroyed.... On the basis of a 300-gram ration of olive oil a month, it is estimated that there will be a deficit of approximately 35,000 tons in the current olive oil amassing program, despite the intensive efforts of the eight harvest control officers now on the spot in the Southern Region.... On the heels of a 15,000 ton distribution of nitrogen fertilizers in Southern Region, bonus-type issue of imported fertilizers to farmers in Sicily is being planned on the basis of the grain harvest legal retentions and deliveries. .. Use of supplies as bonuses in control of collections is also being applied to the fishing industry where villages will have

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(including officers) and nubili Napolitane. There have been an even greater number of thwarted matrimonial attempts since the authorities investigate such projects thoroughly. Statistics are, however, delicate and should be regarded as highly secret - and we suspect would be at best inaccurate.

7. Odds and Ends

Grosseto province reports , among local government matters, that the Comune of Monte Argentario is quiet but perhaps has taken on an air of sanctity since Signor Silvio Costa, who lives there, recently declared its independence as a "Principality of Peace" in preparation for the imminent arrival of the Saviour.... Possible manufacture of small arms and shells in liberated Italy for the war effort has been investigated recently by Allied specialists from abroad. ... Salvaged machinery of the Italian Government match monopoly at the destroyed Sutignano plant which produced normally 11 billion matches a year may be moved to Pisa as a new production site.... The 130 tons of American cotton recently received - plus 400 tons of Sicilian cotton is being made into bed and personal linen, sewing thread for civilians and some into underwear and stockings for the Italian Army.... A survey of the north Tuscany textile belt shows 30 per cent. of the plants undamaged, 20 per cent. capable of short term repairs, 20 per cent. capable of long term repairs, and 30 per cent. totally destroyed.... On the basis of a 200-gram ration of olive oil a month, it is estimated that there will be a deficit of approximately 35,000 tons in the current olive oil amassing program, despite the intensive efforts of the eight harvest control officers now on the spot in the Southern Region.... On the heels of a 15,000 ton distribution of nitrogen fertilizers in Southern Region, bonus-type issue of imported fertilizers to farmers in Sicily is being planned on the basis of the grain harvest legal retentions and deliveries. ... Use of supplies as bonuses in control of collections is also being applied to the fishing industry where villages will have collection centers for fish and distribution centers for nafta, benzine, kerosene and oil for the boats and the night fishing lamps.... Two steps toward increased coordination of inter-related Economic Section activities have been taken in the establishment of a Priorities and Movements Division, with Mr Merritt H.Taylor, American civilian as head, and a Supply and Resources Division under Mr Harlan Cleveland, the Section's Executive Director... 700 Yugoslavs have been repatriated to their homeland this month... Plans are afoot to recruit ,000 Carabinieri a month for emergency war duty from volunteers for enlistment in the Italian Army.... The study of German will

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no longer be compulsory in Italian schools, the Education Sub-Commis-
sion reports.... Noting an almost complete stoppage of the flow of
imported foodstuffs other than wheat, the Food Sub-Commission esti-
mates that present stocks of dehydrated soup, canned meat and dried
vegetables will be eaten up entirely by January..... The first sugar
ship to reach Italy since May arrived late in October....To keep up
the present bread-pasta ration scale on the Italian mainland, 12,000
tons of grain are required monthly, of which, at the moment, one third
arrives by sea and two-thirds comes from locally produced grain....
22 bales and 12 cases of silk, totalling 2,700 kilograms were stolen
last month in transit from Reggio Calabria to Naples, the value of
the silk being estimated at approximately 4 million lire at control-
led prices and perhaps ten times that much at black market prices....
24,831 pairs of repaired shoes were allocated by the Commerce Sub-
Commission during October while on the last day of the month the S/C
had available for allocation in repaired clothing: 7,115 blouses,
6,855 pairs of trousers and 110 greatcoats.... Experimentation in
the production of a new type of match made of cardboard and paraffin
is expected to increase the production of the Caffa match factory at
Naples from 80 million matches a month to 5 billion in a short time. ..
...Three million cigarettes from Rome and another 3,500,000 British
Trumpeter cigarettes have been shipped to Florence to meet the acute
tobacco shortage in that city....Italian exports amounted to 1,636
tons of various products, valued at about 90 million lire, during
October.... Re-activation, now under way at the large Solvay chemi-
cal plant at Rosignano, is expected to eliminate completely all im-
ports of caustic soda and sodium carbonate for Italy.... Statistics
for venereal disease among British troops in Italy shows that more
than 50 per cent. contracted infection in Rome, Pub Health reports..
... Total number of Patriots recruited into the Italian Army as of
31 October were 307.... More than 90,000 persons have now viewed The
Palazzo Venezia exhibition of great paintings in Rome.... Of 7,000
Italians arriving in the Rome refugee camps, 5,000 have been repat-
riated to their home communes.... The Displaced Persons and Repat-
riation Sub-Commission is currently arranging the repatriation of
416 Greeks for Tripoli and Cyrenaica, 21 French-Italians for French
North Africa, 20 Czechs for the United Kingdom (to join the Czech
Forces), 25 Latin American ecclesiastics for South American count-
ries; 200 Jews for Palestine and 50 other Catholic clerics for
countries all over the world.... A Sardinian shepherds' vendetta
has resulted in the slaughter of some 800 sheep.... A note from
Lt.Col. Dickie, former deputy director of the Agriculture Sub-Com-
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Lt.Col. Dickie, former deputy director of the Agriculture Sub-Com-
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are similar to those in Italy - destruction, disruption of communi-
cations, neglected land, lack of draft animals, of seed and of fer-
tiliser, but we feel we have made a good beginning and if party
antagonisms, not verbal only, can be calmed, then our progress
will be greatly quickened."... Overheard from a British sergeants
at a sergeant's dance "I don't know what all this Fascism was about
but it seems to have been very popular".

LIONEL FIELDEN, Major,
Public Relations Director.

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

R26/WB32/PRB 12 Nov 1944

AC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 32

6 Nov to 12 Nov 44

1. Political

The symphony of the week opened, like Tchaikowsky's Fifth, with three trumpets. Hardly had the echoes of Bonomi and Orlando, recalling the happier days of Vittorio Veneto, died away, then the voice of the Lieutenant General, deftly muted by the New York Times, was heard in the land. Other more distant trumpets sounded. Stalin spoke on Tuesday, Churchill on Thursday: the finale of the Fourth-Term Election Symphony came from Washington. Among lesser Italian trumpets were the deep note of Croce, Christian-Democrat and Communist arias, and the continuing obbligato of the C.L.N.

The "audience" accorded by the Lieutenant General to Herbert Matthews, although it contained, as AVANTI pointed out, " a hundred reservations", undoubtedly hotted up the political pace. It was implied, if not exactly stated, that the Prince favoured a plebiscite, rather than a Constituent Assembly, to decide the institutional question, that he felt there might be some distinction between popular feeling and party attitudes, and that "the monarchy was moving to the Left." The Government next day issued a communique which, while not criticizing (as AVANTI tried to make out) the Prince's action, re-affirmed the representative character of the six parties and the Government's pledge for a Constituent Assembly. The Press seized upon the bones of contention thus provided. Lucifero in ITALIA NUOVA professe to discover mutual agreement between Bonomi, Orlando and the Prince t give a new twist to Italian policy, an attitude which brought the wra of the Left on his head with dark hints about "residui fascisti" - a much-used phrase this week. Benedetto Croce, in a weighty defence of fence-sitting by Liberals, went back to Mazzini for proof that neithe monarchies nor republics were per se the guardians of liberty, and that forms of government were the reflections of their times and not the results of propaganda. For Liberals to take sides before the question had "matured" would be unstatesmanlike. VOCE REPUBBLICANA and ITALIA LIBERA found this unacceptable, Lussu maintaining that the Liberals were moving to the Right, and, presumably, thus meeting the monarchy more than half way. It was clear, on the whole, that the Left was decidedly nervous about the institutional question.

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Under these circumstances, the shooting by a P.S. agent of a Communist who was scribbling anti-monarchic slogans on a wall in Via Ravenna on Tuesday was considerably played up. Nobody knows exactly what happened: it seems that the P.S. agents approached the scribblers in the twilight, asked for their papers, were refused, and in the ensuing scuffle one of the agents fired his revolver, fatally wounding a young Communist, Mesiti. The incident was ballooned by the Leftist press into a catastrophic crime, scribbling being termed by them "patriotic"; this resulted in processions laying floral tributes at the foot of the scribble, and a crowd of five thousand (sur-

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veyed by Colonel Pollock) attending the funeral on Friday. IL QUOTIDIANO remarked tersely on Thursday that shooting by police agents was not unknown in Moscow, and on Saturday the Christian Democrat party issued an order of the day condemning "certain sections of the Press" - a cap which AVANTI, in a spirited defence, assumed to fit itself. In the midst of this hubbub UNITA observed that a free press was fine .... but there were limits.

Meanwhile the Tuscan Committee of Liberation came to Rome from Florence and presented to Bonomi on Thursday a demand that prefects be chosen from, or by, the C.L.N. The continuing Paterno' dispute in Florence is clearly only a reflection of the growing struggle for power by the C.L.N., not always in accord with the Rome Government. The Press of course accorded full prominence to the C.L.N. visit, AVANTI repeating its familiar war-cry of "All powers to the C.L.N." On Friday Bonomi, according to ITALIA NUOVA, addressed a letter to the Ministers without portfolio asking for better discipline in the Party press, and suggesting that the mass meeting called for Sunday in Piazza Navona to celebrate the 27th anniversary of the Russian revolution be transferred to a less open place. It was accordingly moved to the Palatine Stadium where Togliatti and Nenni were due to speak. (The Sunday morning estimate of attendance was 14,000). On Saturday the Communist Party launched a manifesto calling for (a) a decisive lessening of Allied control (b) swift measures of epuration (about which Scoccimarro gave a long and extremely outspoken interview on Friday) (c) local government elections at once (d) greater powers for the C.L.N. and (e) an increased war effort. It also set the Party aim definitely as for a "democratic Republic". A wary attitude was taken towards the formation of a Constituent Assembly, which might, according to the manifesto, include reactionary elements unless the ground were first cleared by local government elections. Last but not least was a pungent comment to the effect that the failure to incorporate Patriot bands into the Army might result in growing illfeeling against the Allies among the better elements of the Italian population.

The Council meeting on Wednesday seemed a little academic in contrast with these current events. Fascist unions, already suppressed by the Allies, were formally dissolved: Bergami, formerly Under-Secretary for Agriculture, became Under-Secretary for Food, a new post: Mancini, in a long report on Public Works, gave astronomical figures of reconstruction, including 1,200 million lire for roads and bridges and 233 millions for Vesuvius.

Last trumpet-note of the week was a high C - that C which, according to AVANTI, has been dropped in nomenclature but not yet in action.

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2. Changes

The following announcement was made from London and Washington on November 10:

"As already announced, the President of the United States and the Prime Minister of Great Britain recently reviewed the situation in Italy and agreed on a general policy to meet the many economic and other difficulties of that country.

"In order to facilitate task, they have agreed that the Right

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Honorable Harold MacMillan, MP, British Resident Minister at Allied Force Headquarters, Mediterranean, should, in addition to his present post, become the responsible head of the Allied Commission. In order to effect this, General Wilson will delegate to Mr MacMillan his functions as President of the Commission.

"Commodore Stone of the United States Navy, at present Acting Chief Commissioner, will be appointed Chief Commissioner. Mr MacMilla as Acting President will be specially charged with the duty of supervising development of new measures, together with any change in structure of the Commission necessary to carry them out."

We have at present no further details about these AC birthday honours, about which rumour has been busy for some time. They clearly foreshadow changes, about which we hope to write next week.

3. Roumanian AC

Colonel E.H. Greer, who has been for three years Military Attache in Moscow and is now on the Roumanian Control Commission, visited the AC in Rome this week. He tells us that the Roumanian AC consists at present of 25 British officers, about 180 OR and roughly a similar number of Russians. The American contingent has not yet arrived. The Commission is divided into Army, Navy, Air, Economic and Transport sub-commissions. The President ex-officio is Marshal Malinowski, and the two Commissioners - who sit side by side at the head of the conference table - are General Vinogradoff and Air Vice Marshal Stevenson. The Russians, says Colonel Greer, are very moderate in their control, and the Roumanians not at all unhappy, though relations for the moment are still somewhat formal. Official functions are not attended by Russians or British unless both are invited. Outside official doings, pleasant party-giving is not at all excluded: the country is full of food and wine, and a "pre-war Ritz" meal in Bucharest costs 1,500 lei - about four shillings, or less than a dollar at the present rate of exchange. 23-year-old King Michael and the Queen-Mother, Helen, continue the dynastic tradition and the Roumanian Government functions - with an extra C still in commission, no doubt. Bucharest has, Colonel Greer says, been very heavily damaged, particularly by the unopposed 3-day bombing of the capital by the Germans after the coup d'etat.

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4. Relief to Devastated Areas

Lieut Colonel A.D. Denham-Carter, executive officer for the provinces in Lazio-Umbria Region, who was brought into AC Hq to lay out a program for aid to the devastated areas and is now returning to his Region to help put measures into effect on the ground, has some revealing facts about the situation. Two teams are now working [illegible] Region, and other officers will be assigned to

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ed, first, because there are so few places they can be taken to; second, because of lack of equipment and transport for such a mammoth operation; third, and most important, because they do not want to leave their homes or what is left of their homes, only 150, for example, having agreed to leave shattered Fresinone. They are now living in smashed houses, shacks made of rubble, caves and even dugouts and, of course, are doubling up with friends or relatives lucky enough to have homes still in one piece. There are also a few fortunates with tents. Water is no problem, except for Itri, where a water-cart still delivers a ration of one liter of water a day. The American relief committee for Italy and the Red Cross are cooperating to provide clothing, which is also lacking.

Food, naturally, is the top worry. The area has no local resources at all, resources which are the usual means at present of supplementing the limited AC ration officially distributed. The mined fields have made it impossible to plant crops, even for late harvest, not to mention the impossibility of repairing power lines and bridges with mines about. Soup kitchens may be started later but at present only children in schools are getting lunches. There is also an attempt being made to give an increased ration, even though a special ruling has already made available to the area the supplementary foods now given only to urban communities over 50,000 population. This means that for the four winter "danger" months there should be provided 10,800 tons of bread, 3,600 tons of pasta, 1,800 tons of sugar, 3,600 tons of milk, 3,600 tons of dried vegetables, 3,600 tons of dehydrated soup, 2,160 tons of cheese and meat and a regular ration of soap and salt. Transport of food to the area rather than transport in the area is the problem. The tough job in the distribution of food in the devastated areas will be to the isolated mountain hamlets where rains, snow, bad side-roads and blown bridges keep the residents in their homes the winter long. Public health is generally good, but medical supplies for the isolated places must be provided before the hamlets become inaccessible. Ambulances are also scarce but a Friends Unit may lend a hand to meet this lack. Blankets are acutely needed - 50,000 of them. Attempts are being made to obtain several thousands from the British Graves Registration Service. The British wrap their dead in a blanket before burial. It is proposed to substitute another form of shroud and use the blankets for the Italian destitute.

While regional public works engineers are set to make priority repairs on houses and bridges where possible, emergency repair of houses is being planned with canvas. Some 30,000 square meters are now available and more sought. Until tiles and cement are found, the canvas will at least make some houses weatherproof for the time being. The [illegible] started by the Italian Government will not make

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mediate appropriation of funds and to cut all red tape in getting aid to these dwellers in some of the war's most ravaged sites.

5. More changes

Mr. A.G. Antolini has resigned his position as Executive Director of the Economic Section and will return to Washington. He will continue in his capacity as Acting Vice President until he departs within a few weeks. Brigadier General William O'Dwyer, Vice-President of the Section, will not return to the AC. Mr Harlan Cleveland succeeds Mr Antolini as Executive Director. The vice presidenc of the Section will be filled by an American civilian shortly. That is the topside economic news of the week. We regret Mr Antolini's imminent departure and voice our appreciation for his fine cooperation in helping us to get out the news, both internally to the AC in headquarters and field, and to the general Allied and Italian publics.

6. Fifth Army AMG

Oncoming winter, floods, shortage of transport, unsatisfactory supplies of food and fuel, and unemployment all go to make up a situation in which, Fifth Army AMG in its report for October points out, "public morale is far from high, largely owing to the present inferiority of physical living conditions as compared with those under the Germans. While the people are in general friendly to the Allies, empty bellies and economic distress are submitting this new friendship to a pretty severe test." There have been food demonstrations in Florence, Pistoia and Pisa: and the last had a severe flood on November 2. However, Fifth Army AMG reported on November 6 an improvement in morale resulting from the prospect of better food rationing. Civilian movement is still a problem and Fifth Army AMG complains of " a laxity in the enforcement of the Rear Army checkline by Allied Police" and also the indifference shown to regulations by "Allied officers including Allied Commission officers in Rome."

Notwithstanding prohibition of ministerial visits to Florenc (and a new headache caused by a sudden desire of the Soviet Labour delegates to go there) political sparring between the Prefect and the C.L.N. continues. The Prefect, however, in spite of anonymous leaflets, is stated to be "much happier and has gone to Rome to fetch his wife and family." The C.L.N. also went, as reported under Political. Fifth Army AMG observes that "the Florentines, with their strong traditional contempt for the Romans, regard themselves as allied to the Committees in the cities of Northern Italy rather than to the Rome Committee out of which the present Government was formed It is, perhaps, a pointer to what lies ahead.

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7. Patriots

The Italians have finally tackled the Patriot problem on their own but are bidding to run away with the ball in some respects. At a recent meeting of the Italian National Patriot Committee (INPC), the Italians cast some doubt on the advisability of issuing any more of the certificates signed by General Alexander to the Patriots as conclusive proof of their services. It was courteously pointed out

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out that refusals to recognize the Allied certificate might give rise to certain difficulties. The INPC also proposed that provincial branches of the Central Committee of National Liberation be entrusted to take over general supervision, in conjunction with local Italian military commanders, of making a new and final roll of Patriots. The new classes would be: (1) Patriots who have fought, (2) Patriots who have aided the war of liberation by means other than fighting, and (3) Families of fallen Patriots. The INPC added that it wanted to start up branch offices shortly in Naples, Aquila, Perugia, Ancona and Florence. It further proposed to establish special civil employment agencies attached to the offices of Regional Commissioners of northern Regions to assist Patriots in their rehabilitation. It is obvious that nothing of the latter sort can function in AMG territory except by or under the authority of the AMG. In addition, families of wounded or dead Patriots are also to get a break: they will receive indemnities and allowances equal to those of the regular Italian Army in similar circumstances.

3. Odds and Ends

The next forward meeting at Siena will be held 17 November at 10 a.m. .... The Swedes have asked to come into Italy to rehabilitate telephone services in Southern Italy under a pre-war contract they had with the Italian Government, a request which has been politely referred to Washington and London ..... The Fighter Wing of the Italian Air Force, which now has Aircobras and Spitfires, had a record day October 31 when it made 54 sorties, the Air Sub-Commission proudly relates ..... Approximately 3,700 Italian soldiers who were among the thousands trapped in Greece by the Italian Armistice are being returned to Italy in the first shipment of the kind .... Notes from Colonel Temperley's report for October - Italian provincial authorities are functioning with reasonable ability, although "a good deal of bribery and corruption springs up the moment any activity is handed over, but not in sufficient dimensions to interfere with operations" ..... The 200,000 tons of last years's wine in Puglie has shrunk to 80,000 by devious means .... When the word spread in Bari Province that AC Olive Oil Control Officers were arriving, the price of oil dropped from 200 lire a liter to 100 lire on the black market ..... In addition to the furore created in the Rome press, Prince Umberto's interview with the correspondent of the "New York Times" drew the following from the Italian Fascist radio: "In the morning, one of the many American correspondents who pass their time drinking in the various bars of Via Veneto, generally looks about for something to cable to his paper. When there is nothing to cable, the American correspondent either invents something or creates something by means of an interview. You know American journalists, the screen has made them very popular. The bearing of

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LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APC 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

R26/WB31/PRB 5 November 1944

AC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 31
30 Oct to 5 Nov 44

1. Political.

Some weeks ago there was talk of changing the government and replacing it by a Leftist Front. In view of the past week's activities it seems very unlikely that such a move will be necessary. For the government, though made up of radicals and moderates in equal numbers and headed by a prime minister who certainly cannot be called a revolutionary, is nevertheless, under the pressure of circumstances, gradually moving to the Left. This week, under the prodding of the CGIL, Bonomi issued a statement saying that the two problems of aiding workers to meet high living costs and redistribution of land would have to be solved "without delay". This to begin distribution of land to the peasants by November 5. ITALIA NUOVA - as was to be expected - pointed out that action may have come too late to be useful, and suggested that some one should have given Bonomi a Farmers Almanac. However, the action does show the government's desire to get on with what, only a few weeks ago, was regarded as part of the Leftist program.

The CGIL conference with Gullo and Gronchi on the 30th also pressed for restoration of the workers' "supplemento pane" (additional bread ration) and the re-establishment of the "mense Aziendali" (co-operative restaurants run by firms employing a large number of workers). Back of these requests was the threat of a general strike. Gullo and Gronchi promised their best efforts and the following day a meeting was held, presided over by Bonomi and attended by the key ministers, the three secretaries of the CGIL and AC representatives, which recognized "the legitimacy of the workers' claims" and promised speedy action. There was no strike but instead another victory chalked up by the CGIL and "the parties of the masses." Incidentally, according to the estimate of RISORGIMENTO LIBERALE the mense aziendali will take care of 95,000 workers.

Another strike was averted when Region IV, besought by Rossini, Director of the Italian Press, promised to supply transport to typographers who are getting more and more afraid to walk home in the dark - not without reason, perhaps, since there have been recently some cases of thuggery in Roman streets. The carabinieri have been doing their best. General Orlando's

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The week was enlivened by the visit of Eden who passed through Rome on Monday (with what memories, we wonder?) pausing to have lunch with Bonomi and Carandini at the British Embassy.

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Although he issued no statement his visit was celebrated by the Roman Press which, in chorus, expressed its regret for the things said about him in the old days and praised his wisdom and judgment which time has now vindicated. LaGuardia's speech, assuring Italians of continued aid from the Allies was another bright spot. This morning's papers carried the report of President Roosevelt's order to the war department to apply the 300 gram bread ration to all of Italy. The announcement came to late for press commentary but we may be sure it will not be unfavorable.

Epuration, as Scoccimarro admitted when taken to task by RISORGIMENTO LIBERALE, is frankly proceeding too slowly. In the opinion of the High Commissioner the machinery was too clumsy and he himself had not been given enough power. The government is not unaware of this situation. A recent decree calls for action within a 30 day time limit on higher officials in the various ministries. Meanwhile, during the week, 23 more senators were epurated (including Baistrocchi, undersecretary for war in the days of the Abyssinian venture), the trials of two more generals were looming up (though no date has yet been fixed for the long overdue cases of Del Tetto and Pentimalli), and on Wednesday the courts confiscated theholdings of Mussolini, Ciano and "i Petacci". This last measure seems also somewhat delayed but, as the saying is, meglio tradi che mai.

2. Trade follows the Flag.

The freedom of trades union delegates to visit Italy is doubtless one of the freedoms not inscribed on lira notes, though it may fall under any one of the four headings. American and British labor delegates have come and seen and reported bluntly on the situation: Russian labor delegates toured Southern Italy during October and returned to Rome this week. It seems that they were received with especial enthusiasm in the smaller centres such as Lucera, San Severo, Serracapriola, Manfredonia, Cerignola and so on. In these places a crowd was generally waiting, sometimes with a ban, invariably with Soviet flags: and the singing of "Bandiera Rossa" was the order of the day, Red shirts, red symbols of all sorts and Soviet labor badges were in great evidence. There were even squads - not of course squadristi - of women's and juvenile sections. Comedy raises its pretty head with a story, for which we don't vouch at all, although it has appeared in print, that at San Severo the delegates, having been "hoisted" by the crowd and carried round in triumph, found, when they got down, that their shoes were missing. The Camera del Lavoro posted a notice asking for the return of these proletarian but expensive articles, with what result history doesn't say. To pass from the tovarish to the institutional, the Monarchists held a neat little demonstration on Saturday outside the Quirino Theatre in Rome, where Orlando had been speaking on the occasion of the anniversary of Italy's last armistice but one. A good number of young people showered green and yellow leaflets among the crowd bearing the inscription "Who saved Italy from Fascism? The Corps of Liberation?

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3. Another view of France.

General de Sevin, lately back from France, sends us some notes to add to the report given in last week's Bulletin. He writes to us as follows: "Many undamaged factories and mines are

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still to be found in France. The machine-tools are still numerous. But the revival of the industrial and economic system is impossible so long as the railways have not been reactivated. There are no bridges left, neither on the Seine, nor on the Loire or the Durance or the Rhone (except one). The mines and factories can only work 2 or 3 days a week. 1,500 locomotives are actually in service (against 15,000 before the war), 3,000 others are in repair. Rolling stock is very limited. Food products cannot get around, so living conditions are very difficult and expensive in towns. Happiness is so great among French people for having recovered freedom, that they accept such conditions without complaining. Young people are very enthusiastic. Thousands of young men on foot and without weapons, have left the Provinces or Paris for the Frontline, asking to be immediately incorporated either in the British, American or French Army. It has not been found possible to give those young men either weapons or uniforms, and the units send them gradually back to the rear where they wait anxiously for the means of fighting."

4. Supplies on the way.

Several familiar faces have returned in the Economic Section: Col. Jenny, director of the Public Works and Utilities Sub-Commission, from Washington; Col. Adams, director of the Transportation Sub-Commission, back from London; and Mr. S. M. Keeny, head of the UNRRA Mission (who, although not tied up directly with the Economic Section, is working closely with AC). Col. Jenny reported that the Army had approved a total of 40,000 kw. worth of power equipment, 25,000 kw. in one lot and small units making up the remainder. Civilian agencies had promised another 20,000 kw. Col. Jenny also broke the logjam holding back 4,000 tons of engineering equipment requisitioned by AC several months ago. Col. Adams had been attending the first conference of the European Internal Transport Agency as an observer, laying the groundwork for the consideration of Italian claims to transportation in the post-war picture. UNRRA, according to Mr. Keeny, will work in closest harmony with AC and will move slowly and carefully to build up its organization. Medical personnel is now on the way to take over some of the Displaced Persons and Repatriation Sub-Commission camps for Yugoslavs in Southern Italy by the first of the year. UNRRA relief goods will probably not begin arriving until February.

Mr. Antolini, head of the Economic Section, gave the news November 3 to a special Italian Government committee of a possible $150,000,000 worth of Allied credits that might become available for orders of specific materials in the line of first aid goods for the Italian economy. The reaction, needless to say, among the Italians was one of keen joy and uninhibited

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Mr. Antolini, head of the Economic Section, gave the news November 3 to a special Italian Government committee of a possible $450,000,000 worth of Allied credits that might become available for orders of specific materials in the line of first aid goods for the Italian economy. The reaction, needless to say, among the Italians was one of keen joy and uninhibited scratching of pencilled estimates, one minister figuring at once that he could use $600,000,000 to re-build the destroyed hydro-electric system of Italy. His bright hopes - need it be added - got a quick short circuit.

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Detailed plans to hand over operational responsibility for all distribution of foods in Italian Government territory to the Italian administration also advanced this week. The Italian

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Government, at this reading, expects to go into the market as the largest single purchaser of unrationed commodities, outbidding the black market, which it will sell to consumer distributors at subsidized prices. At the same time it plans to raise the price of bread to 8 lire and that of pasta to 15, using the saving on the bread subsidy to help finance its market buying. Speaking of food, it is of interest that the announced shipments of 99,000 tons of wheat in November and 101,000 tons in December now actually are 67,000 in November and 93,000 in December.

5. Rising Wages.

Col. Smith, Acting Director, who is chairman of the labor and wages control committee of the Allied Local Resources Board, has presented for approval to AFHQ the recommendations of a special sub-committee (1) to raise the pay of civilian employees for the armed forces to a line equal to the recent October 31 wage increases authorized by the Italian Government and (2) to go beyond that in order to maintain the preferential position of the Allied Forces in the labor market, which latter end would be achieved by paying an extra 5 lire a day. Thus, the average rate of common labor in Liberated Italy paid by the armies, which in Rome was 65 lire a day in June and 95 lire a day after October 1, (when a general army increase went into effect) would then be 100 lire a day. Dockyard workers had been evidencing some discontent over the Allied lag behind the Italian increases.

6. AMG's with the Armies.

Difficult conditions are anticipated this winter in the shaggy country east of Route 65 between Florence and Bologna, where an AMG Eighth Army Corps team is operating under AMG Fifth Army command. Lt. Col. Donald Smith, the Corps AMG LO who handled the Cassino area last May and June, says that about 50% of the crop will be salvaged. The peasants cut and stacked their grain but left it unthreshed until after the Germans pulled out so it would not be carried away, by which time about half had gone bad. Milling, however, will be no problem since there are many water mills in the area and water these days is in anything but short supply. Health is quite good, with a few cases of typhoid. The steep valleys fill with snow in winter and communication is difficult. Emergency mul and jeep tracks across the mountains in an easterly direction from Route 65 have already been surveyed. Battle damage varies from "not bad" to "almost like Cassino." In Firenzuola not a single building remains more than half standing and the communal administration has been moved to nearby Cornacchiaia (normal population about 8000). S. Godenzo is also flat and its communal administration is operating from Sampavello. Marradi and Palazzu olo are in fairly good shape though there, as practically everywhere else north of Lake Trasimeno, the Ger-

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people on a large scale. Major Russell, administering the commune of Dicomano, reports that the Partisans there are threatening to " take care of " 64 citizens whom they call Fascists once AMG has pulled out. The story is that four are to be shot, several of the remaining sixty badly beaten up and the rest "made to keep quiet." Two bands of Partisans have come down into Col. Smith's area from behind the German lines for no apparent reason except to live off the people and get away from the combat zone. The gangs numbered 162 and 160, respectively, when they arrived. All are armed cocky, exigent. The second half of their brigade was to come also, they say, but the guide was shot by the Germans.

A fur merchant in Arezzo sold a coat the other day for 20,000 lire in 500 lire notes raised from Allied Military fifties. The fraud was not detected until several days later, when he went to the bank to deposit funds. Yet the forgeries were very crude, the blue background having been roughly daubed with green ink. Army field cashiers say nobody familiar with the Allied Military currency could have been deceived.

The play, "A Bell for Adano" opened on Broadway in New York on Monday night. Lt. Col. Toscani, the Major Joppolo of the book on which the play is based, is shrinking from considerable spot light at headquarters of AMG Fifth Army. Mrs. Toscani is sick of the whole thing. She is having to received shoals of press people asking all sorts of questions. The colonel's jeep, however, still jauntily advertises the book in lettering which is anything but reticent.

7. Odds and Ends.

Lieut. Col. Thomas E. Lane, 5th Army AMG labor officer, was recently awarded the Legion of Merit: congratulations....Brigadier Lush has gone to London for a short trip....The olive oil harvest has started at Bari...Mr. Harold Caccia, British vice president of thePolitical Section, has left the AC in a rush assignment to Greece, his place being taken by Mr. Henry Hopkinson of the British Embassy....Refugees numbering 3,000 a week are arriving in Rome from the evacuated areas around Ancona. ..The AC is keeping a sharp eye on 10,000 Italians in Southern France whom AFHQ has been talking of bringing home but who are not wanted here by AC at exactly this time because of the shortage of accomodations....Brig. Dunlop is succeeding Colonel Temperley as Southern Region RC while Colonel Gevers moves up in charge of Venezia Region....The Granai del Popolo figures, as of November 4, are 9,004,226 qtl, or 78% of the 11,600,000qtl collection forecast...The infant mortality rate in Rome is 88.9 for September, the lowest since January and lower than the corresponding month of 1943 when the rate was 96.9.. A sampling survey in four provimes by the Transportation Sub-Commission indicates that, on the basis of vehicles registered in 1942, 66% are missing today and of 3-ton trucks (the real load-carriers) 54½% are missing....Lieut. Col. Bonham-Carter has been appointed coordinating officer for the special team of officers assigned to help in the devastated areas, where the greatest need of the moment is for blankets....The second civilian to become

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as to cars in their possession that got wrecked - 6 - 6 - 6.... Transfer of responsibility for Italian prisoners of war to the Army Sub-Commission from the War Materials Disposal and Italian Prisoners of War Sub-Commission is under consideration....Col. Young, deputy director, Public Safety Sub-Commission, addressed Roman editors the other day urging greater understanding of and co-operation with the Italian police who, as every newspaper reader knows, have been coming in for some heavy body-blows of late....An acute shortage of salt has developed at Salerno because of lack of rail cars....Naples also is having a severe shortage of ambulances...In the last two weeks 73 km. of high tension transmission lines have been repaired, making available an extra 3,160 kw. of power....The Corps of Agents of Public Security has been re-named the National Police Guard....Robberies by Allied deserters and Italians dressed in Allied uniforms are increasing in the Lazio-Umbria Region while in Southern Region, a gang of Canadian deserters is keeping the police busy....The civil telegraph has opened from Aquila to Teramo, Ascoli, Chieti, and Rieti and will do so to Pescara this coming week....Story (unverified) from Rome - a thug with a revolver accosted an elderly Italian and demanded his money. No money. Watch? No watch. Shoes, then? Sorry, only threadbare slippers. "Poor devil!" said the thug. "Come and have a drink, then." And gave him a thousand-lire note. (genuine).

8. Envoi.

"C" FEVER
(With apologies to John Masefield).

We must go down to one "C" again
For the other 'C' must die:
And all that's left is the hardship
With no star to steer her by.
For without control,
The ship will roil,
Despite the crew a-trying.
But we'll hear "What a mess!"
From the C.G.S.
Through CASERTA cry.....ing. (A.P.G.S. 27 Oct 44).

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

PRB/R26/WB30

29 October 1944.

AC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 30
17 Oct to 23 Oct 44

1. Political

The past week has been a very lively one in the sphere of international relations. Action began in London where, on the 25th, it was announced that direct relations "have been established" between England and Italy. Sir Noel Charles was given the personal rank of ambassador and His Majesty's government expressed its satisfaction with the appointment of Count Carandini as Italian representative in England. (Carandini, it will be recalled, is a Liberal and Croce's successor in the Bonomi government; see ACC Weekly Bulletin No. 17, July 30). Russia also acted immediately, appointing Kostylev Soviet ambassador and the following day Stettinius announced in Washington that, after consultation with other American republics it had been agreed to resume diplomatic relations with the Italian government. The Senate is to be asked to approve the nomination of Alexander Kirk, now U.S. representative on the Allied Advisory Council, as Ambassador. The statement of Stettinius made it quite clear that this did not signify any change in the status of co-belligerency but he did add that it was the policy of the United States to give back to Italy control of her internal affairs as soon as possible. These good intentions are symbolized by dropping the middle C out of our well-known initials...Bonomi, as was to be expected, made much of these developments; Italy, he said, had been released from her isolation and for the rest he trusted the sense of justice of the United Nations which would be certain to appreciate the need for making Italy an Ally. AMGOT remarked rather sourly that all this was well enough but the position was still far from clear; the armistice terms are still secret, the status of Italy remains ambiguous and it would be good to know once and for all whether the large armies in Italy are liberators or occupying forces. Points no doubt well taken, which should not however detract in the least from Bonomi's legitimate sense of satisfaction.

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In an interview given to Sprigge (Reuters) on the 26th Bonomi said that Italy should leave fundamental political and social problems for the moment and concentrate on the present "tragic situation". One matter that will not wait and could accurately be defined either as an aspect of the "tragic situation" or a fundamental problem is the Sicilian question. This the Council of Ministers, meeting on the 27th, attacked with energy. The result of their consideration was the preparation of necessary decrees to set up the following machinery: a "Consulta" to be added to the Alto Commissariato - the Consulta to be made up of 24 members representing various interests on the island; further industrial development to be furthered by special funds and "modifications" in the institution for colonizing the Latifundia. The land question was studied but in accordance with the Bonomi policy there are to be no radical reforms at the moment. It may easily be imagined however that the agrarian question will take up most of the time of the Consulta, which is, if the Consulta is what it should be, just where the matter can most

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profitably be studied. The latifundia problem is by no means confined to Sicily, as readers of the Bulletin will have observed, and earlier in the week the Prime Minister found it advisable to send a circular to the prefects outlining the measures for agrarian reform (see Bulletin No. 27 for 8 Oct.), stressing the restricted and emergency nature of these measures and urging that above all the law should be observed and no violence tolerated. ITALIA NUOVA drawing a satirical picture of a typical bureaucrat, complete with top-hat and umbrella, trying to explain to a group of aroused peasants that the law didn't mean what they though it did, ridiculed the attempt of Bonomi to keep the peace. However, there have been no cases of violence reported this week and perhaps the circular has had something to do with it.

The trial of Pentimalli and Del Tetto, the two generals held responsible for surrendering Naples to the Germans, has been postponed, giving ITALIA NUOVA the opportunity to hint at a plot to conceal the guilt of the higher-ups. And UNITA' has carried a series of articles devoted to the Roman aristocracy and proving, at least to the satisfaction of UNITA', that they are a bad lot. Perhaps next week we can tell you who is to be ambassador to Washington. Sforza's name is bandied about to the exclusion of all others but there is no official report as yet. And perhaps next week we can tell you who will take Casardi's place in the cabinet. Vedremo.

2. All with the armies

Fifth Army AMG drew no encouraging picture in its report of October 14-21. Food, particularly in Pisa and Pistoia, is scarce, and the scarcity is producing inevitable results. In Pisa a black market is developing rapidly, mostly through purchase or barter by Brazilians and American coloured troops. Brazilians, for example - though such dealings aren't limited to Brazilians - are said to buy grapes (price 20 lire a kilo) for 20 cigarettes a kilo; the 20 cigarettes then being sold by the Italian buyer for 50 lire. In Pistoia there was a food demonstration on October 16, and resentment is growing against the paucity of the 100 gram ration as compared with 300 in the more fortunate south. In Florence the food situation remains bad and the fuel situation worse: "civilian transport is in a deplorable shape and will soon be off the road unless tyres are provided". Altogether a somewhat sorry state of affairs, with winter coming on: and Fifth Army AMG, speaking of Pistoia, adds tersely that "morale in the Province is low and the people only fairly sympathetic to the Allies".

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2. A.M.G. with the armies

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No recent report has been received from 8th Army A.M.G.

3. A Note from Florence

Lt.-Col. Grained Prefect of Florence Giulio Paterno deftly spiced the political stew between himself and the Tuscan Committee of National Liberation last week when he presented the local allied military government with his first epuration decrees which almost without exception contained the statement: "With the concurrence of the C.T.L.N.". When allied government officials, patiently playing their part, pointed out that the C.T.L.N. sanction would have to be removed from the decrees because the Committee was not a government body, the C.T.L.N. kept judiciously quiet...Hardly had the Regional Commissioners,

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[illegible] staff breathed a concerted sigh of relief at the thorough-going manner (or so it was thought) in which the issue had been handled at the last Siena conference, than the problem of Italian cabinet ministers playing politics in forward areas raised its persistent head again this week. On Saturday (Oct. 21) a special messenger arrived in Florence from Rome with the news, disquieting to the Liberal wing of the PDNL, that Minister-without-Portfolio Carandini would not be able to address them here the following day owing to the fact he had been unable to leave Rome; then came Monday and the news, disquieting to local military government officials, that Minister of Commerce and Industry Gronchi had already arrived in Tuscany and, allowing only for short stop-over for speeches, was making for Florence where he was scheduled to address a meeting of Christian Democrats the following Wednesday. In the nick of time, and allied officer intercepted Minister Gronchi at Figline and in Florence on Wednesday a meeting at which Gronchi was present was held in Lt.Col. Michie's office. Neither Dr.Paterno, Florence's prefect, nor Col. Spicer AC's Chief of Local Government Sub-Commission, who was in Florence for the day, were present...Even the cheerful rumor that Carandini had been nominated ambassador to the Court of St. James failed to console the Treasurer of Florence's Liberal Party who was glum all week long; warned only one day in advance of the scheduled meeting that their principal guest would not be present he had made extensive preparations for a sumptuous reception and dinner afterwards (at today's prices!).

4. Sniping in Sardinia

The workers of Sardinia have, it seems, taken their reduced ration - which brings them into line with the rest of Italy, fairly well. A spot of trouble come from the 300 workers at the coal distillation plant at S. Antioco, who discovered that, since they were not technically miners, they would not get the "A" supplementary ration; and went on strike accordingly. However, a concession in the form of dehydrated soup and vegetables, coupled with a rough house for the Secretary of the Syndicate, restored them, apparently to work and good-humour. Sardinia seems to share some of Sicily's difficulties over grain-amassing, the prisons are full and the authorities have been to add to the fifteen thousand cases pending. Yet the grain fails to arrive. The High Commissioner has been speechifying energetically and, no doubt, eloquently; more to the point perhaps, he has devised a scheme of taking around to the most grainless district a small force of Carabinieri, who "clean their rifles and sharpen their weapons rather ostentatiously while the people are reminded that although the date for the grain collection is past, no punishment will be given to anyone bringing it in volunterily even now."

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5. Symptoms of Hope?

The Economic Section these last weeks has been holding nightly meetings preparing orders and justifications for a program of limited aid to Italy requested by two envoys of the Combined Chiefs of Staff, Mr.Maris (B) and Mr. Mitchell (A). The program, breaks down requirements into two categories: A - goods to alleviate disease and unrest for reasons of military necessity; B - longer term first-aid goods. Under the former go all food, transport and medical supplies needs. Such materials are at present paid for out of regular civil affairs military appropriations set up for the purpose. The second category comprises materials of essential industries such as power, textiles, cement, fertilizers, etc.

Other signs of economic stirring may be noted in the fact that two Italian Government officials will shortly go to Washington for financial talks, accompanied by a representative of the Finance Sub-Commission, and it has been suggested that the Italian Government would accept an invitation to attend the International Chamber of Commerce convention at Atlantic City, N.J. early in November. As with the materials orders of the Italian Government, so, with these projected trips, the AC still acts as screener, since no word has yet come as to loosening of actual controls. Another indication is the report that Italy will be permitted shortly to have communications through cable and radio with the outside world.

On the food front, while waiting for word on the AC request to raise the ration throughout Liberated Italy to 300 grams, the Economic Section has decided to issue a 300-gram extra ration of flour or pasta north of the Guariglaino River, effective November 5. This would amount to a 25-gram daily increase.

6. Neighbouring countries

The D.C.O.S. and V^e Est. Sect. (Colonel Fiske, in case you don't remember the latest initials) has recently returned from a rapid but comprehensive tour which took him first to a spot near Dijon, where his plane was grounded, and thence by car to the 6th Army Group, then up into Belgium and Back to Versailles and Paris. He covered a good deal of country and was struck by the negligible damage, compared to this country, and the speed with which France is getting back to normal. Livestock abounds, railways are in full operation, even prices, in the country, are reasonable. Paris of course has luxury prices of its own, but its markets are well stocked. No troops are allowed in the city except on official business, which of course

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From Greece, through correspondents arriving back in Italy, come not altogether dissimilar stories; little or no emaciation, at least in the south, plenty of livestock, little destruction, and - as things go in wartime - cheerful people. Currency is a worry, the drachma having run into unaccountable billions. It is said (unreliably) that exchange rates were based at the start on the price of a shave, which was 15,000,000 drachmas estimated equivalent, sixpence. An American correspondent told us "By the time that I had changed a two dollar bill and an Egyptian pound, I found that the equivalent in drachma was worth one cigarette".

7. Odds and Ends

The Grunei del Popolo, as of 28 October, had 8,886,888 qtl. in its bins out of the 11,600,000 qtl. collection forecast...The Allied Commission now has 21 ATS officers, of whom 14 have been sent in pairs to regions and 7 assigned to Headquarters.... Congratulations to the following Allied Commission American officers all attached to the 8th Army AMG on having been awarded the Bronze Star, for as the citations read, "meritorious service with the Allied Armies in Italy in support of combat operations": Lieut. William A.Lessa, Lieut. Albert L. Bernard, Capt. Edmund E. Torchelli, Major, Fred O. Mavis, Major James C. Grizzard, Major John A.Steel, Colonel Charles J. Farinacci.....A trek back north is in progress under ACC auspices, the Displaced Persons and Repatriation Sub-Commission having asked for train transportation for 11,745 refugees in Sicily and Southern Region to be moved back to Central Italy where they are needed to cultivate their farms...About 17 Rome elementary schools are open now (one out of ten), the others being closed, in the words of the Education Sub-Commission,because the buildings are (1) Occupied by our troops; (2) Occupied by Italian troops; (3) Occupied by refugees; (4) Occupied by lice, disinfectant being nil; (5) damaged".... All Italian Public Safety organizationswill have their rations increased from the heavy worker scale to the Italian Army scale as of November 1.... Regional Commissioners have been instructed to support properly appointed Provincial Prefects to the full, even when these Italian officials are under attack by the local Committee of National Liberation, who have been rather waspish of late....Teams of officers are to be formed to work on rehabilitation programs in the devastated areas....Italian voice at a Florentine football match after the Italian had scored their fifth successive goal over a scoreless allied team: "Let them score a couple of goals-- then maybe they'll give us better armistice terms."....This week the ACC became, officially. the AC.

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8. Anniversary

The ACC or AC will be a year old on November 10 and, since this seems a good opportunity of summing up its publishable activities for the benefit of the doubting Thomases of the Press, Public Relations Branch has been attempting to compile a short readable outline of the Commission's varied career. The job

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has proved a great deal more difficult than we anticipated, accurate records of early days are hard to come by, busy sub-commissions have found it difficult to hunt up detailed figures, and the intertwined and sometimes delicate threads of operations, politics, supplies and organization have not lent themselves easily to the making of readable rope. The outline does, however, provide the frame work of a more detailed history which we should like to write before the AC becomes the C or merely O. We therefore take this opportunity of asking all who are interested and have stories to tell, particularly about our early days, to send us any material, humorous, tragic, or simply banal, to fill the gaps which will doubtless be perceived, by many when our outline sees the light on November 10.

(sgd) Lionel Fielden

LIONEL FIELDEN
Major, Director
Public Relations.

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PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

PRB/R26/WE29

22 October 1944

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 29
15 Oct to 22 Oct 44

1. Political

The most dramatic political event of the week was Thursday's riot in Palermo which we deal with under a separate heading. It came just in time for the meeting of the Council of Ministers on the following day. The forenoon meeting was given over to hearing Aldisio's report, considering "appropriate measures for normalizing the situation". At the end of the session Aldisio left by plane for Palermo, charged by the ministers to carry out a complete investigation of the affair.... In the afternoon session the council, as promised, ratified the measures for the workers' subsidy as outlined in the last week's Bulletin. Further measures were authorized for the "economic betterment" of state employees, and a draft decree to ease credit for industrial enterprises concerned with reconstruction. Epuration in the field of journalism was the object of special attention. A committee is to be named by the Minister of Justice on the advice of the Undersecretary of Press and Information. Meanwhile Armando Rossini has been made "director general of the Italian press".

The workers' subsidy may well be regarded as a victory for the Leftist parties and the CGIL who began agitation for it on Aug 9. Victory has been so long delayed however as to be greeted more with ungracious acceptance than exultation, especially since there have been repeated hints from the government that the "political" price of bread may have to be abandoned. Indeed while the manifesto of harmony of Sept.28 is still honored by all parties it is obvious that the restriction implied in it is somewhat chafing to the Left. Nenni came out with an article in AVANTI on the 15th in which he reiterated the three fundamental and essential steps in the true democratization of Italy: the founding of the Republic, solution of the agrarian problem and industrial socialization. He added, for the benefit of those who like to hide behind the allies, that all these were Italian problems; "dollars, sterling, and the Tory caprices of Churchill have nothing to do with them". He was supported by La Malfa of the Action party

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And the monarchists, not represented in the government but by no means extinct, will tell you frankly (though not for publication) that the longer the institutional question is left in abeyance the stronger the position of the King becomes. In such a situation it is only natural for the Socialists to reassert their revolutionary program. The Communists, who are of the same opinion, have taken the

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line of urging citizens to "look to the North" where, according to them, revolutionary elemnets are much stronger, and of giving further strength to the local committees of liberation as more dynamic and representative of the people than the government is. Since the monarchist ITALIA NUOVA has been urging dissolution of the C.L.N. there is probably some truth in the Communist argument.

The week produced rather more than its share of violence. The carabinieri broke up a display of anti-monarchical propaganda in the offices of the Republican Party at Grosseto. Unquestionably the carabinieri used violence but, as ITALIA NUOVA pointed out, unquestionably the anti-monarchical display was provocative. Just how far one can go in attacking the head of the state is a matter more for tradition than legislation and in Italy the tradition is not clear enough to make such incidents avoidable. In the Marsica Region of the Abruzzi the carabinieri were alleged to have fired on the peasant who were moving into uncultivated land... Palermo provided theclimax

All quiet on the international front. Dewey's statement that America has not done enough for Italy was given some prominence. And Bacciardi, in VOCE REPUBBLICANA, called the policy of Roosevelt "Machiavellian".... No more talk of colonies, no declaration of war on Japan, no ambassadors to Washington or London .... There is in the air a feeling of suspense, of waiting - for Nov. 7,possibly?

2. AMG with the Armies.

Reports over the past two or three weeks from both 5th and 8th Army AMG's indicate a good many difficulties and frustrations, natural consequences of heavy fighting in bad weather, and limited advances. As an example, here is a part of a report from SCAO II Corps:

"The A.M.G. work in these communes has not been as satisfactor or thorough as desired, due to the fact that all of the towns have been badly damaged and are uninhabitable, and the people who are scattered throughout the fractions are usually inaccessible owing to the lack of or bad conditions of the roads.... The commune of Loiano is 95% destroyed; there is no water and no habitable buildings are left."

Food supplies in Pisa, Pistoia and Florence are still unsatisfactory, and some food rioting occurred in the first two. "In no commune north of the Arno" states 5th Army AMG "is there any appreciable amount of grain in the threshi. 40% of the grain is

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The carabinieri broke up a display of anti-monarchical propaganda in the offices of the Republican Party at Grosseto. Unquestionably the carabinieri used violence but, as ITALIA NUOVA pointed out, unquestionably the anti-monarchical display was provocative. Just how far one can go in attacking the head of the state is a matter more for tradition than legislation and in Italy the tradition is not clear enough to make such incidents avoidable. In the Marsica Region of the Abruzzi the carabinieri were alleged to have fired on the peasant who were moving into uncultivated land... Palermo provided the climax

All quiet on the international front. Dewey's statement that America has not done enough for Italy was given some prominence. And Facciardi, in VOCE REPUBBLICANA, called the policy of Roosevelt "Machiavellian".... No more talk of colonies, no declaration of war on Japan, no ambassadors to Washington or London .... There is in the air a feeling of suspense, of waiting - for Nov. 7, possibly?

2. AMG with the Armies.

Reports over the past two or three weeks from both 5th and 8th Army AMG's indicate a good many difficulties and frustrations, natural consequences of heavy fighting in bad weather, and limited advances. As an example, here is a part of a report from SCAO II Corps:

"The A.M.G. work in these communes has not been as satisfactory or thorough as desired, due to the fact that all of the towns have been badly damaged and are uninhabitable, and the people who are scattered throughout the fractions are usually inaccessible owing to the lack of or bad conditions of the roads.... The commune of Loiano is 95 destroyed; there is no water and no habitable buildings are left."

Food supplies in Pisa, Pistoia and Florence are still unsatisfactory, and some food rioting occurred in the first two. "In no commune north of the Arno" states 5th Army AMG "is there any appreciable amount of grain in the Armassi. 40% of the grain is still in the fields unthreshed and much of it is sprouting". Under these circumstances there is naturally much apprehension about the winter.

Better news is that the SNI munitions factory in the commune of Empoli, which can employ up to 8000 people, has been found only slightly damaged: that there are abundant chestnuts to help out the grain supply: and that the inhabitants of Pisa are still lively enough to have a current jest - "with a Scotsman as Provincial Supply Officer, we naturally have to tighten our belts".

Eighth Army AMG also stresses devastation and difficulties of communication in mountainous country. CAO's with both armies are, it seems, having very considerable and lengthy practice in mule-riding with peasants as guides. The communes of San Archangel

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and Corleone are heavily damaged and their re-population presents the usual difficulties. The almost inaccessible mountain communes (such as San Teo) are however reported "in fair shape: no shortage of food or essentials."

3. Disorder in Palermo.

On the morning of October 19 a demonstration occured in Palermo in the course of which the Italian military were called out and opened fire on the crowd, killing (as far as is known at present) 16 and wounding 104, 38 only of whom were hospital cases. At the time of writing news from Palermo is scanty and somewhat contradictory, but the following facts seem clear.

The demonstration was a result of growing irritation against the high prices of food: it was not any shortage of food, but the fact that there was abundant food to be seen at prices far above the average wage-earners' purchasing power, which was at the root of the trouble. Some shops were looted and a crowd - apparently not violent - collected in front of the Prefettura. The officials of the Prefettura called out the military and a truckload of 40 arrived. What happened then is not yet clear: the Italian military authorities state that someone in the crowd threw a hand grenade which injured nine soldiers. Other reports say that the hand grenade was thrown by the military and fell short. Certain it is the troops then reacted with rifles and hand grenades; and the crowd dispersed. Feeling, however, continued to run high and on the 20th a crowd of 1000 attacked the Italian Guard at the U.S. Naval Base with stones: the guard replied with hand grenades and rifles but on this occasion it seems that there were "no serious casualties". Italian Guards on British installations were replaced by British unit personnel and the U.S. Navy took similar action. 70 Sub Area concludes its report by a suggestion that further incidents may occur at the funeral of the victims of the first riot.

Aldisio, the High Commissioner for Sicily, met the Acting Chief Commissioner at ACC HQ on the 19th to discuss measures of Public Safety in Sicily. It was then agreed that no more carabinieri were to be withdrawn - Brigadier Carr had already drawn attention to the danger - unless replaced by Italian troops. It is hoped to send back to the [illegible] recently moved to Calabria.

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Aldisio held a press conference in Rome at very short notice on the morning of the 20th and told Allied correspondents among other startling things, that the situation in Sicily was due to the Allies belief in separatist propaganda (and perhaps by implication their approval of separatism) which insisted that Sicily could be and should be self-supporting. The island, said Aldisio, had had to import grain for the last four years; and had now only two months grain in stock. The population he implied (and this cry of distress was cabled by many across the seas) would be starving by December 15.

The position as outlined by Aldisio is a very long way from the declared plans of the ACC. The argument that Sicily has imported in the past is of doubtful validity: Sicily has in fact always ex-

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changed some of the hard grain which she grows in exchange for the soft grain of the mainland. Brigadier Carr, in his report of October 17, states cautiously that "in the opinion of this HQ the Island produced sufficient grain to feed the population possibly till the next harvest but at least to within a month or two of it". He goes on to show the difficulties of an accurate forecast "in the absence of any reliable statistics .... or frank information". Citing the case of Trapani, the province with the worst record of amassing, he shows tha the original target figure of 300,000 quintals was reached on the bas of 65,000 cultivated hectares yielding 9.9 quintals per hectare, givi a total of 643,000 quintals: from this was subtracted 85,000 for seed retention and 161,000 for food retention, bringing down the "amassabl total to 399,000 - leaving the wide margin of 99,000, the target figu was set at 300,000. The provincial authorities - who have never ques tioned the figure of 65,000 hectares cultivated - later objected that the yield averaged only 7 quintals per hectare, giving a total of 455,000. But they claimed no less than 360,000 quintals for seed and food retention, leaving an "amassable" total of only 95,000 quintals. Of these in fact only 58,000 quintals have been amassed. The fact remains that the authorities do not deny that 455,000 quintals have bee produced.

If the Trapani instance is indicative of the general amassing situation in Sicily, as it appears to be, there can be little doubt that the actual amount amassed (1,294,781 quintals on Oct 13) is only a fraction - perhaps not more than 15% - of the total production, and that the vast bulk of grain produced is being hoarded. Allisio's cry of distress, echoed by correspondents across the Atlantic, seems litt justified.

In the meantime Mr.Antolini is collecting some hard - extremely hard - facts about Sicily as a counterblast to any suggestion that food for the North should be diverted to the gaping jaws of Uncle Sadus

4. Calories.

A strong memorandum is being prepared for higher authority on the necessity of maintaining a 300-gram ration in Italy and of raising the ration to that figure in places where it is lower. The ACC view is that the 300-gram ration is the irreducible minimum and that any reduction below that figure (except for short periods in operational areas) would be disastrous to the health of the nation. The

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The League of Nations Health Committee in 1936 recommended that 2,400 calories a day should be the calorific intake of a man or woman living in a temperate climate and not engaged in manual labor. If the person is doing moderate muscular work he should get 3,000 calories a day. U.S. Army medical manuals prescribe that a soldier

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marching on level or undulating ground should get approximately 3,000 calories a day. Italian prison inmates are receiving a double sugar ration - 8.3 grams a day but cases of malnutrition have nevertheless been occuring, pointing up the inadequacy of the ration. The usual story is that the population makes up its diet deficiencies by buying on the black market. However, when there is little supply of the necessary items on the black market or people have no money to buy at the high prices there quoted, they simply do not get enough to protect their health. At the same time, while the black market is the only other source of supply, legally the authorities are committed to take measures to combat it. The ration increase to 300 grams in Naples was immediately reflected in a drop in black market prices. Thus, even to allow the population to purchase the extra needed foodstuffs in the black market, the ration should be kept to 300 grams and thus help control prices. Otherwise, prices will be so high this winter that poorer people will not get enough to eat, with the obvious consequences of further destitution by selling of clothing and furniture for money and, especially of prostitution which increases the V.D. among the troops.

What continuance of these conditions will mean in the way of social unrest and threat to military security is anyone's guess. The intertwined question of proper ration-black market control also has a positive effect on the amassing program, farmers hoarding their wheat to sell at fantastic prices to illegal speculators. Politically, the matter is also full of dynamite. If failure to provide adequate food persists, discontent this winter may well lead to riots and the fall of the Italian Government. We are receiving sympathetic help in high quarters in presenting this case.

5. Odds and Ends.

130 tons of American cotton has arrived at Naples to be made into cloth by Italian textile mills for essential civilian use.... Col. Temperley, Regional Commissioner of Southern Region, is being posted to England; he will certainly be missed, particularly by PRB whose informative friend he ever was.... The Granai del Popplo, as of October 21, had received 8,759,172 quintals of grain or 75 per cent of 11,600,000 qtl. target.... Speaking of wheat, the Bulletin in a recent number stated that 1,000,000 to 4,000,000 quintals of grain were expected to be found in the Northern regions, which was in error. The actual estimates of wheat amassing in the northern areas range

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/ UNRRA

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UNRRA and ACC.... The Economic Section is distressed over a report that 8th Army AMG has made a distribution of 100 kilos of grain a person (enough to last a year on the present ration scale), a procedure (which if true) regarded as extremely unsound.... Marlan Cleveland, American civilian, has arrived to be an economic advisor to the ACC from the Foreign Economic Administration where he was in charge of occupational studies of the Italian economy.... Col. McCarthy, Director of Patriots Branch, becomes a Brigadier and goes to Eritrea.. Congratulations.

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

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PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

15 October 1944.

PRB/R&I/W...3

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO. 28
8 Oct to 15 Oct 44

1. Political.

One of the political reviews now running in Rome contains a sketch in which Christopher Columbus presents himself to the ACC and finds that no one seems to remember his name. His allusion to his three caravelle is mistaken for just another request for Caramello. Whereupon he sings a pathetic song on the fragility of human memory. The little scene is symptomatic of feeling of Italians these days: the sense of not being appreciated is very strong. During the past week there has been some lifting of the clouds. Mr. Roosevelt did remember Columbus day and celebrated it not only by a speech but by a statement that Italy would be credited (in dollars) with an amount up to that represented by AM lire issued to pay American troops in Italy. The scope of the statement is still a little obscure and it has been announced that further study will be necessary before it can be known exactly what is meant but, as pointed out by Vittorio Marone, in Ricostruzione it does seem to indicate some clarification of the Allied financial policy - the obscurity of which has blanketed the sum of optimism for many thoughtful Italians, including the Treasury Minister Soleri - and its political effect is definitely invigorating. Further, according to a government statement, Sir Noel Charles informed Bonomi that it is not true that Eden said Italy's colonies were irrevocably lost to her. This seems to have been a purely formal denial, since the implication of the conversation in the House leaves little doubt of the present attitude of the British Government but it has nonetheless made Italians feel better. (Since the whole matter has been the subject of lively discussion for a week we append the record of what was actually said on this point.) The British Ambassador also said that rumors of Allied support of Sicilian separatism were without any basis of truth. Yet the feeling remains that there is much to be done. Bonomi in his Columbus day speech, said that while admittedly "one could not expect to emerge from a shameful situation without paying a heavy price" . . . Italy now feels that this price has been paid and the country "is now worthy of taking its place among the free democracies." Croce was even more vigorous, asking for revocation of the armistice clauses and stating that Italy "observed with bitterness" the contrast between her long period of expiation and the treatment Roumania has received at the hands of the Russians. And Gonella, spokesman for the Christian Democrats wrote in the same vein: "July 25th Sept. 8th, Oct. 13 (war declared on Germany) but a date is still missing - that is the date that will mark the full alliance of Italy with the United Nations"..

The nomination of Gallarati-Scotti as minister to Madrid brought to the fore again the old debate as to whether diplomats should be career men (defended by the Right) or chosen from the ranks of honest and intelligent citizens not previously connected with the Foreign Office (strutly maintained by the Leftist parties who have been regarding Palazzo Chigi balefully for some time). It also set tongues wagging in speculation as to who would get the posts at Washington [illegible] Prunas in London. The latter

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In the field of home affairs the most important act of the week was the final step in preparing the measures for workers subsidies. The Council of Ministers gave its approval on Wednesday and details were announced at the end of a conference between Grandi, the CGIL and employers' groups which took place on Friday. The basic subsidy is 33 lire a day, to be paid to heads of families (residing in Rome, Naples or Florence) whose monthly income is less than 3600. Smaller sums are assigned to those with higher incomes, women "not heads of families" and children under 18. The basic rate is to be 20 lire in smaller communes and in the country. There is also a "quota supplementare" of 5 lire a day added to the "assegni familiari." Perhaps the part of the communique [illegible] with most interest was the concluding paragraph in which it is stated that the measure will take effect immediately and will be ratified by the Council of Ministers at their next meeting.

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The trial of Azzolini dragged on most of the week, beginning Monday and ending Saturday when the ex-Director of the Bank of Italy was given a thirty year sentence. In contrast to the Caruso trial the proceedings were "unemotional and staid", in the words of Hammond (Reuters) who added that the only color was provided by the uniforms of the Carabinieri. Azzolini was well defended and if the trial itself was full of technical detail and hence unsensational, it may lead to more exciting developments. For at one point the defense counsel had to be called to order for suggesting - even though "sabbassando la voce" that Azzolini was merely an unfortunate instrument and that others much higher up might be "responsible for our troubles."

Life among the parties has been harmonious - at least on the surface. It is perhaps worth noting that the "Fronte Monarchico Giovanile Cavour" has emerged and has plastered the town with manifestini. VOCE REPUBBLICANA dedicated a column of stern and sorrowful admonishment to these "misguided" young men but no one else seems to have noticed them.

What was actually said.

Since repercussions about what Mr. Eden did or didn't say about the Italian colonies may well continue, we give below the words used on the two occasions on which the subject was discussed:

(1). Question: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether, in view of publication of Ministry of Information pamphlet "The first to be Freed," recording that slavery in its worst form was practised by the Italian Government in Italian colony of Somalia and maladministration, involving neglect of sanitation, public health, water supply, education, maintenance of public order which obtained in Eritrea and Somalia, imprisonment for years without trial and under bad conditions of persons guilty of no crime known to the laws of civilized countries, he will assure the house that H. M. Government is opposed to the return of colonies to Italy and that their declaration that the Italian Empire in Africa is irrevocably lost will be strictly adhered to.

Answer: Yes, Sir.

(2). Mr. Hyad: Asked the secretary of State for foreign Affairs whether his attention has been drawn to the demonstrations which took place in the ex-Italian colony of Eritrea in January and February of this year in favor of reunion of this territory with Ethiopia and whether in fulfillment of the promise made in RAF leaflets dropped in Eritrea the Government will now declare its intention that the principles of the Atlantic Charter shall govern any decisions concerning the future administration of these African territories now liberated from Italian rule and the occupants given full and free opportunity of indicating their desires in this connection?

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Answer: Yes, Sir.

(2). Mr. Hynd: Asked the secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether his attention has been drawn to the demonstrations which took place in the ex-Italian colony of Eritrea in January and February of this year in favor of reunion of this territory with Ethiopia and whether in fulfilment of the promise made in R.A.F leaflets dropped in Eritrea the Government will now declare its intention that the principles of the Atlantic Charter shall govern any decisions concerning the future administration of these African territories now liberated from Italian rule and the occupants given full and free opportunity of indicating their desires in this connection?

Mr. Law: I am aware that interest of the kind indicated by the honorable member has been evinced in certain quarters in Eritrea; as regards the second part of the question, the future of Eritrea must await consideration by the United Nations at the conclusion of peace.

Mr. Astor: Has not the Foreign Secretary said that in no circumstances is Italy going to get her colonies back and would there not be widespread opposition to the re-establishment of Italy on our communications through the Red Sea?

Mr. Law: Certainly the Foreign Secretary said that in the hearing of most of us in this House.

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Mr. Hynd: Has not the right honorable gentleman misread the second part of my question which asks, not whether the United Nations shall come to any ex parte decision but whether the principles of the Atlantic Charter shall be applied to these territories?

Mr. Law: No, Sir, I did not misread the question. I would point out that we are not the sole signatories of the Atlantic Charter; the United Nations as a whole are signatories; it is a matter for the United Nations as a whole and not for us alone.

Mr. Ivor Thomas: Is my right honorable friend aware that the Union of Eritrea and Abyssinia has not existed since the shadowy days of the 16th century and will he do his best to save the Emperor of Ethiopia from his friends in this country?

2. AMG with the Armies.

Eighth Army AMG's September report is a good deal concerned - as Fifth Army AMG almost always is - with potential problems of the coming winter. Destruction of bridges has been very considerable and "if large areas are not to be isolated when Bailey bridges are withdrawn....the construction program will be heavy." Refugees have not so far presented a serious problem, says the report, but "if we stay in this area ... there will be a problem of considerable magnitude." (Since the report was written evacuation of refugees on a large scale has begun.) Unemployment is large in the manufacturing areas of Arezzo, and won't improve until power is available. Lack of warehouse accommodation is a great handicap to harvesting, and both harvesting and ploughing have been held up by operations. Eighth Army AMG persists that it has found "very few partisans and none who could be described as organized bands," but comes near to Fifth Army AMG's point of view with the statement that "the future organization for dealing with partisans.... in the North is untidy and...disturbing in planning ahead. Eighth Army AMG has much praise for the assistance given by committees of liberation in nearly all towns taken over. A stockpile of 1,700 tons of flour has now been built up. In the areas behind the Rear Army Control Line curfew has been abolished - though we still have it, oddly enough, in Rome.

3. Broad Issues at Siena.

The problem of Italian cabinet ministers playing politics in forward areas was realistically tackled at the Siena meeting of Regional Commissioners, SCACs of Armies and Headquarters staff on Thursday. It was decided that no Italian minister would be allowed to enter Army areas and might go into AMG areas only with permission from the Regional Commissioners. There had been friction in Florence between the Prefect sent in by the Government and the Florence C.L.N. Both the Prefect and theHead of the Committee went to Rome to see the Government and both came back with the impression that their side had the backing of the ministers. The issue was further confused by the visits of two members of the Cabinet to Florence. The Prime Minister on his first visit spent most of his time with the C.L.N. and gave only a few minutes to the Prefect, whose name he did not know. Togliatti appeared in the Tuscan capital, ostensibly on Government business, and he, also spent most of his time with the Committee when he was not out making speeches at large meetings. The issue gave rise to a debate on democracy versus bureaucracy. ACC/AMG's support of the Prefects was condemned by [illegible] "his" government's Prefects. Mr. Cascia refused

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days of the 16th each by the Wire Re-
Ethiopia from his friends in this country?

2. AMG with the Armies.

Eighth Army AMG's September report is a good deal concerned - as Fifth Army AMG almost always is - with potential problems of the coming winter. Destruction of bridges has been very considerable and "if large areas are not to be isolated when Bailey bridges are withdrawn....the construction program will be heavy." Refugees have not so far presented a serious problem, says the report, but "if we stay in this area ... there will be a problem of considerable magnitude." (Since the report was written evacuation of refugees on a large scale has begun.) Unemployment is large in the manufacturing areas of Arezzo, and won't improve until power is available. Lack of warehouse accommodation is a great handicap to armies-ing, and both harvesting and ploughing have been held up by operations. Eighth Army AMG persists that it has found "very few partisans and none who could be described as organized bands," but comes near to Fifth Army AMG's point of view with the statement that "the future organization for dealing with partisans.... in the North is untidy and...disturbing in planning ahead. Eighth Army AMG has much praise for the assistance given by committees of liberation in nearly all towns taken over. A stockpile of 1,700 tons of flour has now been built up. In the areas behind the Rear Army Control Line curfew has been established - though we still have it, oddly enough, in Rome.

3. Broad Issues at Siena.

The problem of Italian cabinet ministers playing politics in forward areas was realistically tackled at the Siena meeting of Regional Commissioners, SCAC of Armies and Headquarters staff on Thursday. It was decided that no Italian minister would be allowed to enter Army areas and might go into AMG areas only with permission from the Regional Commissioners. There had been friction in Florence between the Prefect sent in by the Government and the Florence C.L.N. Both the Prefect and thehead of the Committee went to Rome to see the Government and both came back with the impression that their side had the backing of the ministers. The issue was further confused by the visits of two members of the Cabinet to Florence. The Prime Minister on his first visit spent most of his time with the C.L.N. and gave only a few minutes to the Prefect, whose name he did not know. Togliatti appeared in the Tuscan capital, ostensibly on Government business, and he, also spent most of his time with the Committee when he was not out making speeches at large meetings. The issue gave rise to a debate on democracy versus bureaucracy. ACC/AMG's support of the Prefects was commented by some. Colonel Sykes defended "his" government's Prefects. Mr. Caccia refused to be shocked by the spectacle of politicians behaving like politicians. It was thought by Caccia though it might be a good idea to jail ministers found wandering around the front areas without permission. This had happened in Ancona. Mr. Caccia held there might be repercussions if a man like Togliatti were jugged, but that some others might disappear and it would never be noticed. It was decided that Government officials on official business would be allowed in forward areas with the sanction of the SCAC or Regional Commissioner concerned. Representatives of foreign missions, who have created quite a problem in Florence, are to be arrested without hesitation if they are caught in Army areas without permission. Some Yugoslav representatives are in jail now in Florence for selling gold coin on the black Market.

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The thorny question of Patriots came up once again for discussion and Mr. Caccia announced that publicity on Patriot activities would now be definitely played down, particularly behind the Allied lines. Broadcasts to the north would be of a strictly operational character. The policy which seems to be emerging is that the limelight which has been turned on the Patriots should now be more directed towards the Italian Army. The disarming of Patriots - a matter which is causing great concern since large numbers are known to be in possession of arms - was also discussed, but the meeting could not do more than insist that, from the point of view of law and order, it was a matter which must be pursued with the utmost vigor.

Mr. Antolini announced that wheat imports for November and December would be 100,000 tons a month, and that level would probably be maintained until the end of June. Some 369,000 tons had been amassed. The estimated stocks in the North were 870,000 tons. Equalised this would give a ration of 235 grammes. If we set the ration at 235 grammes it would affect the commencement of mill and also have an effect on getting in the rest of the wheat crop. AFHQ was particularly concerned with the implications of a reduced ration scale in view of the President's statement on increased help for Italy. There would be no cut-back in the ration scale until further information came from the Combined Chiefs of Staff and/or the President. We must get the maximum use out of local products. Chestnut flour was a possibility. Mr. Caccia warned the meeting that there had been trouble in Florence over the ration being only 200 grammes when it is 300 in the South. There were enough supplementary imported foods to feed all Italy for about four months using the present scale of issue.

Mr. Antolini wanted to know what the meeting thought of the idea of controlling only absolutely basic foods, grains, fats and milk products. The people who would starve this winter were the poor, not the middle classes or the rich. Would removal of restrictions and controls get food to the poor? That was the issue. Consideration was being given to mass purchase of food by barter, salt for potatoes for instance. Brig. Lush said the Allied forces were now debarred from buying resources not locally surplus. Civilian common labor employed by the Allied forces was now being paid 85 lire instead of 65 lire. The Italy Local Resources Board was working very hard on the whole problem of food and industry. Mr. Antolini asked for the views of Army SCAOs and Regional Commissioners on the removal of restrictions on sales of food as well as on the ration scale for bread.

4. And a Follow-Up.

Upon his return from Siena, Mr. Antolini promptly dispatched an urgent call to four key Italian Ministers- Gullo (Agriculture), Cerabona (Communications), Gasparri (Commerce and Industry) and Berganti (Undersecretary of Agriculture) - to a meeting on Tuesday, October 17, to last until an action program is settled. The agenda includes rationing (what limited classes should have priority for over and above the bread ration-for example, children, refugees, heavy workers; barter; review of distribution restrictions and controls (with a view to eliminating most of them) movement of supplies from surplus to deficiency areas, and review of fishing restrictions. Meanwhile, the Economic Section also has

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Mr. Antolini announced that wheat imports for November and December would be 400,000 tons a month, and that level would probably be maintained until the end of June. Some 869,000 tons had been amassed. The estimated stocks in the North were 8 0,000 tons. Equalized this would give a ration of 335 grammes. If we set the ration at 235 grammes it would effect the amount of oil and also have an effect on getting in the rest of the wheat crop. AFHQ was gravely concerned with the implications of a reduced ration scale in view of the President's statement on increased help for Italy. There would be no cut-back in the ration scale until further information came from the Combined Chiefs of Staff and/or the President. We must get the maximum use out of local products. Chestnut flour was a possibility. Mr. Caccia Dominioni the meeting that there had been trouble in Florence over the ration being only 200 grammes when it is 300 in the South. There were enough supplementary imported foods to feed all Italy for about four months using the present scale of issue.

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Col. Poletti, in a reply, admitted that conditions were bad enough in Frosinon and Littoria but dissented from the implication that such conditions were general in Southern Italy. He said that there was one six-day delay in delivering bread in Frosinone, traced to the fact that certain scheduled schooner arrivals at Naples, source of supply, had been held up. Further, the Taylor observer failed to take into account the over all factors which are naturally re-acting on the local situations, including the September 1st ruling stopping distribution of rations in addition to bread to the general population in cities under 50,000 because of shortage of certain imported items.

5. On Guard against Typhus.

Dr. Floyd W. Markham, Rockefeller Foundation typhus control specialist of the Public Health Sub-Commission, has completed arrangements for a series of demonstrations and conferences on typhus prevention measures, to be held starting October 15 at Naples, Bari, Taranto, Catanzaro, Catania and Palermo and later Rome and Chieti. Representatives of the Italian health authorities in surrounding provinces will attend the meetings to be instructed on the dusting technique of typhus control whereby potential victims are sprayed with DDT powder that kills the typhus-carrying lice. On-the-spot demonstrations will be held in local prisons. Each provincial representative will be given a dustgun and 10-lb. can of DDT powder to take away with him for emergency use. ACC has enough powder on hand to dust 500,000 persons.

The Public Health Sub-Commission is simply taking no chances with any recurrence of a typhus outbreak such as occurred last year in which, from January1, 1943 to June 1, 1944, there were 429 recorded deaths among 2,020 cases in Naples and vicinity. The large scale dusting program carried out by our Allied public health officers - 3,265,786 dustings were given - was the effective factor in controlling the epidemic, according to an exhaustive and somewhat depressing study just carried out by the sub-commission.

6. The Young Idea.

One hundred boys and onehundred girls under 16 years of age, orphans of the Italian storm, are now established in buildings (found by the Cardinal Archbishop) in Naples, with a first endowment of two million lire, raised by subscription, and a public drive in prospect on October 28 to raise more funds and spread the idea. The initiative for this move came chiefly from Lt. Col. H. E. Simson, Naples Provincial Commissioner, who, as he says, could not continue to tolerate "the young boys in rags and tatters, uncared for, starving and homeless" in the streets of Naples. The scheme is arousing much enthusiasm and public support, and "these young waifs and strays are being collected from the streets, taken care of by volunteers seeking no remuneration, given a home, food, schooling and being taught crafts." Col. Simson is hoping one of these days to get for this orphanage the Costanzo Ciano college at Bagnoli which the Army has so far refused to give up. The idea seems to be one which might well, with some Allied initiative

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7. Mine Clearance.

One of the greatest single hazards to the reconstruction of certain sectors of the Italian economy is obviously the problem of mines. Col. R. R. Cripps, chief staff officer of the Civil Affairs Section, has been tackling this hard nut of late in his spare time from other duties, and steam, it is believed, is being built up for some effective action soon. Reports of mine fields laid by the Germans and by our own armies are now being collated from AFHQ, AAI and PBS and a factual picture of the problem will soon be outlined for the first time. Suffice it to say at the moment that where the Germans succeed in holding us for any length of time, there mine fields will be found. The area between the Hitler and Gustav lines

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of last winter, in the Anzio bridgehead, around Pisa and Livorno, all likely landing beaches but the West Coast especially, the Pescara sector, and currently, of course, the Gothic Line, all have extensive minefields which are a constant peril to normal activity. The mines must run into millions, although exact figures are non-existent. In one commune in Chieti Province, an AGC officer estimated there were 150,000. After mapping the location of the mined areas, the next big step is that of removing them quickly to restore use of the area.

Under spurring by Col. Cripps, 30 Italian Army soldiers were trained by British engineers at Capua in the latest methods, and these 30 are to be used as the nucleus of a training program in five schools where they will teach mine removal to 1,500 civilians. One school of 300 students is now in session at Pisa. The students will graduate October 22 and be put to work at once in the Pisa area. Other schools are planned for Chieti, Spoleto, Viterbo and Capua. Eventually, a headquarters staff of 110 and 15 groups of 100 will be available to regional commissioners in AMG territory and to prefects in Italian government territory to remove mines on assignment. Priorities in AMG areas will be fixed by the RC's or SCAC's of the armies and in other areas by the prefects. Top priority goes to communications - electric cable lines, bridges and pipe lines. Next comes agriculture, many fields being virtually impossible to use for crops because of the heavy infestation of mines.

Mine removal personnel at present consists only of two Italian Army "pioneer" companies who were theoretically trained by two companies of mine experts of the operational Italian Army forces. These latter have been called away and the second-best companies left behind are not as efficient as might be. They are presently working in Gaeta after a tour in Pesaro and Chieti. Some work has been let out to private contractors but financial considerations prohibit extensive use of this method, it having been estimated that it would cost 400,000,000 lire to clear Lazio Region alone. One Italian private team of an officer (who had a detector of his own) and seven men reportedly cleared Rieti Province of 1,000 mines at a charge of 6000 lire a month for the officer and 190 lire a day for each man. The team was then transferred to Frosinone Province, an especially nasty job, but quit after one man was killed & 2 wounded by mine explosions. How many persons get killed or injured weekly by the hidden mines no one knows, though one estimated had placed it at 200 a week at one time. The casualties in the private mine clearing team occurred on meeting the German wooden shoe mine which does not respond to the ordinary mine detector.

The question of detectors, of course, is the one big stumbling block to a successful program. The best and latest military mine detectors are not only limited to army use but are on the definitely secret weapon list, and so AGC to date has been refused permission to borrow or copy them. The solution seems to be to get the Italians to use their own type, (though it is nowhere near as efficient as that of the Allies) or to get them to invent a new one. Then, the matter of materials for manufacture arises; since first-class instruments of this sort used critical materials which would have to be imported and only if Allied authorities in London and Washington were willing to release such scarce metals or parts. Lazio Region, through the wit of Lieut. Col. Bonham-Carter, got hold of 12 detectors of a sort which they have lent their Italian Army team. Otherwise, the only recourse will have to be the old prodding method, slow and rather dangerous, considering the fancy bedevilments the Nazis like to dress their

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A Grim Task Concluded.

As is known, 335 Italians were massacred as a reprisal measure by the Germans in the Ardeatine Caves near Rome on March 24, 1944. After the shooting, the Germans blew up the place with mines, presumable to prevent disinterment and recognition - or perhaps merely to save themselves trouble. Colonel Poletti decided, in the early days of Rome's liberation, to appoint a Committee to make a report on the whole matter (as has been done) and to supervise the exhumation and reburial of the victims. Few grimmer tasks - in the middle of a Roman summer-can have come anybody's way. Practically all the skulls had become separated from the skeletons and all the bodies were in advanced state of decompostion. The civilian labor

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employed proved useless in moving the debris of the tunnels, and Rome firemen had to be called in to do the job. Colonel Pollock in his report says "Not one in a million would have faced this task, but they worked hard in good spirits ... each body was dealt with separately in exactly the same manner as in a case of murder, with the same care and microscopic examination. The victims had all been killed by revolver shots in the base of the skull. The hands of the victims were tied behind their backs with rope." Although the only known list was that of fifty names from the Caruso document, 313 bodies were identified out of the 335. Much credit goes to Professor Ascarelli, the pathologist, from who, says Colonel Pollock, "I have learnt a lot for my police work at home." And much credit is certainly due to the firemen who, on meagre pay and rations, retrived from the bodies among other valuables, three diamonds (loose in the pocket of a victim) worth more than a million lire.

9. Ends and Ends.

After some beetle-browed discussion by the Great on the introduction of an ACC shoulder flash - white and green - it was decided to dispense with this idea ... A slow down in American civilian recruitment for the Economic Section has been called until British civilian strength is greater ... Col John W. Chapman, Director, Public Safety Sub-Commission, is taking energetic steps to meet the Carabinieri shortage: AFHQ has been asked to authorize the temporary transfer of 5,000 picked and equipped Italian troops to the Carabinieri to make up for 5,000 CC.RR slated for the industrial North; a new ceiling increase from 65,000 (at present) to 85,000 and possibly, 70,000 has been requested; and the re-patriation of 1,000 CC.RR now prisoners of war in North Africa has been proposed ... Sir Frank Brock, Inspector of Constabulary in England and Wales, is visiting Italy, inspecting the work of police officers on duty with military government forces ... The Allied Forces Local Resources Board is being informed that French purchases of automobiles, typewriters, mattresses, minerals, tools and cutlery in Italy for shipment to France have amounted to 94,000,000 lire ... Historical Note: In February, 1944, the Requisitions Division filed application for tires, batteries and spare parts to activate 4,000 Italian trucks which could be put on the road, (and which can still be put on the road) ... Present conditions in Sicily have our economic, political and legal officers at HQ convinced that, far from pulling out altogether, more personnel for the time being is needed down there, to deal with Sicilians in particular ... A meeting of the prefects of Frosinone, Littoria, Rascara, Chieti, Aquila and Campobasso will be held next Monday to consider measures to avoid distress in the devastated areas during the winter ... Agricultural Sub-Commission is losing Lieut. Col. Hartman, director, to the Belgians, and Lieut. Col. Dickie, deputy director, to SHAEF ... When nobody at ACC Hq. seems to know where to send some visitor, he usually winds up in the Liaison Section to the Chief of Staff's Office, where Lieut. Col. Enoch Brown and Capt. The Earl of Renfurly are currently acting as masters of ceremonies on protocol, as general agents on unusual or housekeeping requests by diplomats, as official ACC contact men between the French and Russian generals assigned to the ACC, and lastly, as trail-blazers in settling a host of matters for which no set procedure exists between the military authorities and the Vatican, neutral representatives and all United Nations' legations not sitting on the Allied Advisory Council ... The latest Grand del Regno figures, received as of 14 Oct, show 8,604,373 qtl in the bins, or 75% of the 11,600,000 qtl collect-

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been assigned to observe the work of the ACC sub-commissions, according to latest arrangements ... Colonel Temperley of Southern Region has started an Odds and Ends paragraph in his monthly report; if Regional Commissioners take the style of this Bulletin to heart, reports should be gayer ... Here are some of the borrowed Odds (given you not without a twinge of jealousy): Danger of landslides in the deposits of new ash on Vesuvicus has been reduced by building erosion walls ... Foggia road blocks in September impounded 21 military vehicles, mostly French and Italian, engaged in the black market ... Road block investigations after one stoppage of trucks has resulted in arrest of 45 Italians, charges being prepared against another 100, recovery of 1000 barrels of olive oil and discovery of 10 illicit distilleries ... 25 murders were committed in the Region during the month, the figure being considered a normal quota for this part of the world ... In Brindisi 55 persons committed suicide ... Salerno farmers, having received back their shotguns, now scrape lead off signal cables to make shot ....

10. Quote from Esteemed Contemporary.

"The Allied Control Commission will drop the work "control" from its title, though doubtless not the reality in so far as control may still be required." The Times, 27 September 1944.

LIONEL FIELDEN, Major
Director
Public Relations Branch.

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PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

PRB/G26/WB27

8 October 1944

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 27

1. Political

The past week has not been an easy one for Italians alert - as most of them are - for a kind word from Washington or London. It is true that President Roosevelt's detailed announcement of supplies and equipment (including 1,700 trucks) to help the country to its feet made good reading and brought forth enthusiastic thanks, the OSSERVATORE ROMANO remarking with pleasure that the "promises to Italy" were now being fulfilled. But, satisfaction being in essence much less lasting than anxiety, the press has given most of its attention to the statements of Churchill, Cranborne and Eden in Parliament. The first two, taken together, for Cranborne merely echoed Churchill when he spoke of looking toward broadening the base of the Government when the North is conquered, managed to give the impression that English policy favors the monarchy and intends to see that the right people get into the government in order to assure the political welfare of Casa Savoia. Some rather harsh things were said in the Leftist press: VOCE REPUBBLICANA thought it well to inform the world that Italy "would choose a government to please herself and not other nations" and Spano wrote in UNITA' that there was one question to put to the nations fighting for democracy, absurd as it may seem: "do they really have faith in the people?" The rumor of British intervention in Italian affairs reached such a point that it had to be categorically denied that Badoglio had been named ambassador to England. All this was hard enough to bear but Eden's statement that Italy's colonies were "irrevocably" lost to her was another and harder blow. Here the press reaction was perhaps a little paradoxical; Nenni in AVANTI took it almost with satisfaction, saying that the Socialists had always opposed imperialism though adding that it was equally good Socialist doctrine that all colonies should be under international management with raw materials and markets open to all nations. Stronger expressions of unhappiness came from ITALIA NUOVA, which had expressed no disapproval of England's alleged concern for the monarchy, but felt bound to point out that Italian colonies existed a long time before Fascism and that there seems no good moral principle on which to base their surrender. RISORGIMENTO LIBERALE remarked on the inconsistency of asking Italy to fight Japan while at the same time stripping her of her possessions and ITALIA LIBERA in effect asked Mr Eden: how can you do this to us fellow democrats? An announcement was made that Bonomi had asked the British Ambassador for clarification of what

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OSSERVATORE ROMANO remarking with pleasure that [illegible]
Italy" are now being fulfilled. But, satisfaction being in essence much less lasting than anxiety, the press has given most of its attention to the statements of Churchill, Cranborne and Eden in Parliament. The first two, taken together, for Cranborne merely echoed Churchill when he spoke of looking toward broadening the base of the Government when the North is conquered, managed to give the impression that English policy favors the monarchy and intends to see that the right people get into the government in order to assure the political welfare of Casa Savoia. Some rather harsh things were said in the Leftist press: VOCE REPUBBLICANA thought it well to inform the world that Italy "would choose a government to please herself and not other nations" and Spano wrote in UNITA' that there was one question to put to the nations fighting for democracy, absurd as it may seem: "do they really have faith in the people?" The rumor of British intervention in Italian affairs reached such a point that it had to be categorically denied that Badoglio had been named ambassador to England. All this was hard enough to bear but Eden's statement that Italy's colonies were "irrevocably" lost to her was another and harder blow. Here the press reaction was perhaps a little paradoxical; Nenni in AVANTI took it almost with satisfaction, saying that the Socialists had always opposed imperialism though adding that it was equally good Socialist doctrine that all colonies should be under international management with raw materials and markets open to all nations. Stronger expressions of unhappiness came from ITALIA NUOVA, which had expressed no disapproval of England's alleged concern for the monarchy, but felt bound to point out that Italian colonies existed a long time before Fascism and that there seems no good moral principle on which to base their surrender. RISORGIMENTO LIBERALE remarked on the inconsistency of asking Italy to fight Japan while at the same time stripping her of possessions and ITALIA LIBERA in effect asked Mr Eden: how can you do this to us fellow democrats? An announcement was made that Tomomi had asked the British Ambassador for clarification of what Eden meant (for the hope dies hard that he had only Ethiopia in mind) but as yet not further illumination has come...The discussion of war with Japan has also gone on briskly; at this point all parties are united in holding that allied status and possibly "other concessions" should be offered Italy as a reward for her participation.

The discussion of these various aspects of foreign affairs leaves one with two definite impressions. The first that, making allowance for occasional party eccentricities, on matters of foreign policy all articulate Italian think much alike. The second that there is growing and spreading rapidly a feeling that

Italy is being treated with special injustice. This feeling may be sensed not only in the comments on the Japanese war and the colonies but also in articles on subjects such as relief and the allied financial policy. IL POPOLO this morning carried a poignant lament that the Italian lira was getting worse treatment than the mark, to say nothing of the favored franc. The prevalent point of view seems to be that Italians have expiated for whatever sins Fascism committed, they have already suffered more than their share - especially since Fascism was forced on them anyway - and that they are now being made the victims of reprisals for crimes not their own. It is alas, not unlike that "no-one-want-to-understand-us" psychology of 1919 - if anyone still remembers those days. Verbum sap, or, shall we say: geve cenem?

The meeting of the Council on Friday took up two very fundamental matters. There was a long report by Giglioli, Minister of Finance, prefaced by the statement that a revision of the Italian tax structure necessitated by years of Fascist control could not be undertaken at this time but that emergency measures were necessary to insure the maximum efficiency and the greatest yield from taxes already in effect. The modifications suggested (and approved by the Council) were also designed to shift the burden somewhat from lower to higher income groups. Although AVANTI, as might be expected, found the new measures inadequate, it seems fair to say, judging from other press comment and from the remarks of our own AFHQ experts, that they represent a step in the right direction. The other matter was even more delicate, if possible. For gingerly and timidly and with many reservations the Council approached the thorny question of the expropriation of large holdings of land. UNITA' has been urging the contadini to move in on uncultivated land and this has led to a number of awkward situations over the past month, particularly in Latium where some of the most aristocratic Roman families have large estates. It was laid down that through properly organized and recognized peasants' cooperatives uncultivated lands or lands which were "relatively uncultivated" in relation to their quality or the agricultural conditions of the area could be turned over to the peasants. The surrender of the land is to be carefully controlled by a board in which all parties, peasant, landowner and state are represented and by the terms of the decree the length of the concession cannot be more than four years. "Cannot even be considered as the first step toward agrarian reform", cries UNITA'. But it is, though.

2. AMG with the Armies

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2. AMG with the Armies

"With the break in the weather already here," says Fifth Army AMG, "it is difficult not to be gloomy about the future." Long-range shelling of Pistoia continued until Sept 27; of Pisa until Sep 28; of Lucca until Sep 29. In the central area, in the path of the main advance, communes are very heavily damaged and their chief centres completely destroyed: on the west there is less destruction but considerable displacement of population. Food is just sufficient for day-to-day consumption but no stocks are being built up. Partisans are "everywhere organized by and affiliated to the local political committees"; those who have fought well give least trouble but "the far larger numbers of hangers-on.. are using the recognition given them by the Allies as a cloak for political organization," . Firth Army AMG adds (a bit scurly?): This rebirth of political life is welcomed."

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Except for food, conditions in Florence City are improving. Repairs and clearance of debris have progressed well and there is now electric power for essential needs. "Considerable political activity" is noted, and the town has been visited by the Prince of Piedmont, Dino Phillipson, and Togliatti. Meetings to great popularity-bidders are being limited to 200 with "admission by invitation only."

At Pisa the large hole in the roof of the Cathedral has been mended by Army engineers and repairs to the Camposanto are in progress; in the latter the destruction of some of the frescoes has revealed the original monochrome cartoons beneath the plaster, compensating to some extent for the loss.

Except for a short statement on much-damaged Rimini, the only report received from 8th Army AFHQ this week concerns the Republic of San Marino, which is standing very firmly on the dignity of its neutrality. It asks that its territory be evacuated by Allied troops at the earliest possible moment and that houses, dwellings, and goods be returned to their owners. Requisitioning of R.E. stores and "normal billeting rules" were permitted by Vth Corps, which may - legally - be a violation of international law, although no operational commander in present circumstances could be expected to prevent his troops from getting shelter and the San Marino authorities are not unaware of this overriding necessity while the front line is so close. There are a good many other complications. San Marino would like (though it has not officially claimed) compensation for bombing, requisitioning and war damage, but the bill cannot be paid in AMG lire. The possible presence of enemy agents in San Marino territory is another question which the Allies cannot afford to ignore: they have taken necessary steps with the tacit acquiescence of the Republic. Says AMG 8th Army: "it is no use pretending that with the presence of troops engaged in active operations in the Republic there will not be incidents." Incidents, bombs, armies notwithstanding, San Marino held the usual elections of its constitutional rulers on Sep 24: Theodore Lonfernino and Professor Sussy Valli were elected Captains Regent.

3. Transfer of Territory

The Advisory Council have recommended to the Supreme Allied Commander that on Oct 16 the provinces of Teramo, Aquila, Pescara, Chieti, Viterbo and Rieti should be handed back to the jurisdiction of the Italian Government. The transfer of these provinces

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The Advisory Council have recommended to the Supreme Allied Commander that on Oct 16 the provinces of Teramo, Aquila, Pescara, Chieti, Viterbo and Rieti should be handed back to the jurisdiction of the Italian Government. The transfer of these provinces would complete the handover of the Lazio and Abruzzi regions. The provinces in question include a population of about 1,700,000 and an area of 17,000 square km.

The restoration of Teramo, Aquila, Pescara and Chieti was requested by the Italian Government in August on the ground that the people had shown themselves predominently anti-Fascist and anti-German and had been in great part liberated by the Italian Corps of Liberation and by intense patriot activity. The ACC, in recommending the transfer to the Advisory Council, suggested the addition of Chieti and Viterbo in order to conform with the new boundary of AFHQ administration in Italy fixed on Sep 10. The ACC added that damage in these provinces had not been as great as

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elsewhere, that public works were well in hand and that the hand-over would enable us "to withdraw at once a small number of officers badly needed in the North."

4. From the Abruzzi-Marche Region

The picture given by Colonel French in his September report is of interest in view of the imminent transfer of these territories to the Italian Government. The main cause of the population seems to be the 200-gram ration, since these provinces are grain-producing and are now irritable aware that the ration in ACC territory is 300 grams; moreover, under the Germans they had a nominal 380. Secondary causes are lack of salt, price of potatoes, and continued difficulty of mine-clearance. The potato crop has been so much publicized, it seems, that farmers in Aquila and Avezzano are sniffing at the official price of 6 lire per kilogram (a nice new measure which we cannot resist quoting from Colonel French's report) when 8 or 9 lire can be obtained in the Salerno-Naples area. As to mine-clearance the fact that in one commune alone there are 150,000 mines, while the whole area has only seven detectors, gives the measure of this distressing problem, with which we intend to deal more fully in our next Bulletin. These matters apart, Colonel French gives high marks to the Italian civil administration and population, who are "definitely pro-Ally" and cooperative. The olive harvest promises to be good: the region is "practically free from serious crime" (in spite of a lack of boots for the police): health is good and there have been no epidemics. Italian courts are functioning satisfactorily: even the Black Market "does not appear to be serious", schools, despite an absence of text books, opened on Oct 1. Refugees, officially speaking, have ceased to exist, none having been received from the forward areas and those in refugee camps having been dispersed, but the Italian Army unfortunately continues to carry hundred of civilians from the South in defiance of regulations. The question of housing in devastated areas is, as elsewhere, a matter for some apprehension. "An early promulgation of policy is necessary," writes Col. French, "but it is now so late that great suffering must be experienced by many people this winter."

5. Waiting for the Green Light.

The Economic Section currently is, as Mr Antolini, head of the section put it, in an in-between-and-betwixt stage, waiting for clarification of policies on higher levels and operational

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ing and are now irritable aware that the ration in ACC territory is 300 grams; moreover, under the Germans they had a nominal 380. Secondary grievances are lack of salt, price of potatoes, and continued difficulty of mine-clearance. The potato cry has been so much publicized, it seems, that farmers in Aquile and Avezzano are sniffing at the official price of 5 lire per kilogram (a nice new measure which we cannot resist quoting from Colonel French's report) when 8 or 9 lire can be obtained in the Interna-Naples area. As to mine-clearance the fact that in one commune alone there are 150,000 mines, while the whole area has only seven detectors, gives the measure of this distressing problem, with which we intend to deal more fully in our next Bulletin. These things apart, Colonel French gives high marks to the Italian ..ivil Administration and population, who are "definitely pro-..lly" and co-operative. The olive harvest promises to be good: the region is "practically free from serious crime" (in spite of a lack of boots for the police): health is good and there have been no epidemics. Italian courts are functioning satisfactorily: even the Black Market "does not appear to be serious", schools, despite an absence of text books, opened on Oct 1. Refugees, officially speaking, have ceased to exist, none having been received from the forward areas and those in refugee camps having been dispersed, but the Italian Army unfortunately continues to carry hundred of civilians from the South in defiance of regulations. The question of housing in devastated areas is, as elsewhere, a matter for some apprehension. "An early promulgation of policy is necessary," writes Col. French, "but it is now so late that great suffering must be experienced by many people this winter."

5. Waiting for the Free Light.

The Economic Section currently is, as Mr Antolini, head of the section put it, in an in-between-and-betwixt stage, waiting for clarification of policies on higher levels and operational directives to suit. All anyone knows at the moment is what one reads in the newspapers. UNRRA is coming over but exactly when, no one knows. ACC Economic sub-commissions feel rather strongly that UNRRA had better come equipped with its own organic transport, since competition for the woefully limited transport of ACC in Italy would be disastrous. The question of whether UNRRA goods will be distributed free, with some subsidy from the Italian Government, or at a minimum cost, also is still undecided. American relief goods, it might be added, coming through private sources will be definitely issued gratis through the Vatican, Italian Red Cross and Italian Government, with ACC acting in a purely advisory capacity.

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The ACC representatives now in Washington are apparently producing some results, judging by the latest dispatches which promise Italy 1,700 new trucks and 150,000 tons of wheat and flour. As our headquarters experts point out, however, the granting of 150,000 tons depends strictly on the time factor: 150,000 tons for what period? It will make all the differences in the world between raising, lowering or maintaining the basic ration. The ACC men in Washington at the moment include Brigadier-General O'Dwyer, Vice President of the Economic Section; Lieut-Colonel Jenny, Director, and Lieut-Colonel Lapper, head of the Electrical Section, of the Public Works and Utilities Sub-Commission; Colonel Legg, Director, and Major Tolman economist, of the Food Sub-Commission, and Captain Kamarck, Economic Section staff officer. Two other Economic Section men are in London attending the initial session of the European Internal Transportation Organization which is looking into maximum utilization of transportation in the immediate post-war period. Colonel Adams, Director of the Transportation Sub-Commission, and his expert, Mr Tony Villa, are representing ACC views as to Italian requirements. Di Raimondo also went as an expert adviser from the Italian Government standpoint.

In the meantime, the special inter-ministerial committee of the Italian Government has turned over to Mr Bonomi its own plan and idea of what Italy needs to rehabilitate its devastated economy. In addition, specific Italian pressures to take over more operational responsibilities are increasing in some ministries while others are frankly apprehensive of the burden, particularly of food and transport, the two hottest potatoes in the ACC control. In turn, the Italians have passed to ACC an extremely scorching issue of expropriation of land, a decree which the Economic Section is presently examining with kid-gloves and about which more later. In turning over controls to the Italians, the Industry Sub-Commission has gone so far as to request that Commissari be appointed to run the superphosphate nitrogenous fertilizer (basic for agriculture), paper and soap industries. Speaking of soap, ACC now is operating a plant at Bari which is producing 300 tons a month for the British Army.

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In fact, whatever industry is left in Italy of any value is in the hands of the military who employ between 200,000 and 300,000 workers in machine shops, cement and brick factories and steel mills. These latter are minuscule compared with production [illegible] but the latest to

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In fact, whatever industry is left in Italy of any value is in the hands of the military who employ between 200,000 and 300,000 workers in machine shops, cement and brick factories and steel mills. These latter are minuscule compared with production once home in Allied countries, of course, but the latest to resume operation at Terni is pouring 100 tons of steel a day for Bailey bridges. It will take six to nine months before production could benefit the civilian economy and only if the military has no further use for it. Work is now imminent in clearing the devastation of the wreckage caused by the cascade bombing of the Allied air forces on the steel plants at Piombino where on one mill 500 bombs fell in over-lapping patterns within three and a half minutes. Even to get the site cleared and the salvage separated is a task of mammoth proportions, according to Capt. T.C. Elliott of the Industry S/C, who is supervising the job.

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First iron "bottles" for oxygen are needed to provide the fuel for the acetylene torches. Capt. Elliot has oxygen up his sleeve despite the fact oxygen has an A-1 military priority. In the re-building of Italy where blow torches and cement will be the chief ingredients, it is also heartening to record that AGO has laid its hands on a 7,000-ton capacity cement plant near Tivoli. It is practically new and luckily untouched. Arrangements for power, coal and sacks are well under way.

6. Promotion

Announcement is made of the promotion of the Acting Chief Commissioner of the Allied Control Commission to the rank of Commodore, United States Naval Reserve, effective 30 September 1944.

7. Light on Public Health

In a field where newspaper reporters and lay observers are often apt to grasp the most spectacular statistics with the maximum of misconprehension, it is fitting to place on record a little of the work of the quit specialists of the Public Health Sub-Commission. In a country famed through history as the classic home of malaria, the AGO has operated so effectively that not only has the disease been kept in check despite flooding of the Pontine Marshes, a disrupted Italian public health service and the tragic lack of transport and supplies in the midst of intensive military operations, but actual decreases have been registered in many places in the malaria rate. In Sardinia, notably, where malaria is practically endemic, the 1943 cases reported from January to July were 4,065. This year in the same period there were 1,852. In region IV where the Germans scientifically flooded the lowlands, 20,749 cases were reported in 1944 up to the end of August, but only one death resulted. The distribution of 9,000,000 atabrine tablets to Italian health authorities was one factor in keeping down the possible death rate and malaria potential. Another 7,000,000 atabrine tablets are stockpiled for use on call. Col. Russell, who has now left Italy, deserves the highest praise for his outstanding work in this field.

As far as medical supplies are concerned, Public Health officers are relieved that a shipment of 600 tons just arrived. Already made available to the Italians before have been 775,000 units of insulin, 16,000 pounds of ether, 8,000,000 sulfa tablets and 60,000 ounces of sulfa powders, and nearly 15,000 quinine ampules imported from America, among a host of items. Of the 8,000 kilograms of quinine found by the Fifth Army at Salme di Volterra, 4,270 kgs. were returned back for Italian use, including that of the Italian [illegible] sent to the U.S. for processing

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While on the subject of public health, it might interest readers of the recent scareheads about infant mortality and tuberculosis rates to glance at the account that follows paraphrased from the Public Health sub-commission's September report:

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In the absence of proper notification to the health authorities of the existence of tuberculosis, the only reliable criterion is the death rate. The rate for Rome, for example, of tuberculosis deaths per 10,000 of the population is 29.2 in 1918, 12.17 in 1938, 19.63 in 1941 and 24.23 in 1944 (to date).

In the question of infant mortality, again using Rome as an instance, the health authorities explain that the rate is figured out on the formula of number of deaths of infants under one year of age times 1,000 over the figure of the number of registered live births in any given period. The rate then is as follows for the first eight months of the year compared: 119.1 in 1918, 84.6 in 1938, 92.6 in 1943 and 113.4 in 1944. In May of this year the rate in Rome was 153.9, in June 189.2, in July 221.3 and in August 148.7, the latter figure being directly laid to the supply of tinned milk made available by AMG.

8. Epuration

The report made by Brigadier Upjohn to the Advisory Council contains the clearest picture yet given on the process of cleaning up Fascists. By the decree of 27 July 1944 epuration was divided into four main categories, viz:

(a) Punishment of Fascist crimes;
(b) Purging of the administration;
(c) Disposal of profits made by Fascists;
(d) Confiscation of Fascist property.

The first, in charge of M.M. Berlinguer, provides for the trial and punishment up to the death penalty, of high-ranking members of Fascism. Among such was Grasso, and is Azzolini (former Director of the Bank of Italy, who come up for trial on Oct 9 for handing over the Bank's gold to the Germans) and are also Generals Pentimalli and Del Fatto, who will be tried in Rome on Oct 23 for collaboration with the Germans and for not having defended the city of Naples. On Oct 22 Soprano, ex-prefect of Naples, will be tried in that city on a similar charge. 86 more such persons are under arrest and awaiting trial, including Suvich, former under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs. 111 more, former members of the Special Tribunal for the Defence of the State, will shortly be arrested and placed on trial. A further 600 denunciations have been sent out and are now being investigated. In addition the High Court of Justice will shortly sit to consider the records of the conduct of members of the Senate.

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Category 2 is in charge of H.E. Scoccimarro and deals mainly with the dismissal of officials guilty of Fascist bias, incompetence corruption and collaboration with the Germans since Sept.8. It is proposed to form 128 Commissions to judge these cases: 61 are already functioning. 6,051 cases are under consideration and 3,471 have already been referred to the Commissions. In addition, Commissions will be set up in each province to purge organisations which depend entirely from the prefect.

Category 3 is in charge of H.E. Cimjolani and is concerned with the collection and disposal of the profits of Fascists. In Rome alone measures for the sequestration of the property of 20

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persons - amounting t 3 billions of lire - have already been taken. In Naples the sequestrated property of the five brothers Piscitelli amounts to nearly 3½ million lire, and sequestration measures have been taken against 915 persons.

Category 4, in charge of R.E. Stengoni, deals with the collection and disposal of Fascist organizations and societies. In Rome alone cash to the value of 269,000 lire and other movable property to the value of 6 million lire have been taken over.

In these matters it certainly seems that the Italian Government is getting into its stride.

9. Red Stars on the Horizon

Authority has been given by the combined Chiefs of Staff for the attachment of eight Russian officers to the ACC in the capacity of observers only. They will form part of the staff of the Soviet Representative to the ACC, Major-General Ivan Susloparov. It seems that they will be attached to the Economic Section, Civil Affairs Section, Air Sub-Commission, Army Sub-Commission and War Materials Disposal and Italian Prisoners-of-War Sub-Commission. They will see files and generally scrutinize the work of their particular Sections. One of them, we understand, speaks English.

10. Correction

The War Materials Disposal and Italian Prisoners-of-War Sub-Commission will continue to be an independent Sub-Commission and not be amalgamated with any other, contrary to reports published in last week's PIB Bulletin (for which we hang our head in shame). The change occurred because the sub-commission, as expressed by Lieut-Colonel J.A. Campbell, Director, is now getting more and more work to do, the policy of repatriation of Italian prisoners-of-war being loosened to some extent and a flow of salvage war material beginning to come in. Now landing from North Africa are 2,000 Italian POWs, which include 1,500 able-bodied men, the first contingent of this classification to be freed. Further, military units have just turned over to the sub-commission 10,000 vehicles in disrepair for salvage.

11. Odd and Ends

Fine Arts S/C discloses that the Germans have been kind enough to remove 98 cases of world-famed sculptures (among other removals) from the caches around Florence, including Donatello's St George and his David, and Michelangelo's Bacchus, so that (the German radio says) the priceless art objects might be "saved" from being "stolen by the American Art Jews"...The Granai del Popolo figures as of reports reaching headquarters Oct 7 now stand at 8,223,988 quintals or 70 per cent of the 11,600,000 qtl. forecast for the collection [illegible] to include grain harvested under Fascist

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Authority has been given by the combined Chiefs of Staff for the attachment of eight Russian officers to the ACC in the capacity of observers only. They will form part of the staff of the Soviet Representative to the ACC, Major-General Ivan Susloparov. It seems that they will be attached to the Economic Section, Civil Affairs Section, Air Sub-Commission, Army Sub-Commission and War Materials Disposal and Italian Prisoners-of-War Sub-Commission. They will see files and generally scrutinize the work of their particular Sections One of the , we understand, speaks English.

10. Correction

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truck to take the load to the pier where a ship was to take the forms and a special crew to Sicily; at the last minute, the truck came and rushed off to the port, only to see the ship majestically pulling away in the harbor. Epilogue: The forms and Lieutenant J.E. Hicks their harnessed owner, finally got to Sicily by road via Reggio Calabria...Col Fotheringill of the Displaced Persons and Repatriation Sub-Commission reports that studies are under way to bring back Italians in Southern France, Spain and Switzerland to Naples where they will be screened and then dispersed...The Local Government (formerly Interior) Sub-Commission has finally persuaded the Italian Ministry of the Interior to appoint outstanding private individuals with national reputations wherever possible instead of career men, to the posts of prefects in important Northern provinces and to support the top men with especially competent vice-prefects to keep the administrative machinery on an even keel...The Public Safety Sub-Commission is disposed to cheering this week after a notable discussion with the Army-Sub-Commission: The PCIA has agreed to outfit the Carabinieri up to its present ceiling of 43,000 with whatever is necessary so that each man will have a serviceable uniform, overcoat, two blankets or a comforter, pullover, two pairs of socks, two pairs of pants, shirt and boots...

12. Reminder

Will our readers be kind enough to remember that the PWB Weekly Bulletin they are reading is a secret document and should receive the security handling as required?

(sgd) Lionel Fielden

LIONEL FIELDEN
Major, Director,
Public Relations.

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PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

PRB/R26/TB:S

1 October 1944.

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 26
25 Sep to 1 Oct 1944

1. Political

The papers of the 27th made good reading for Romans. For one thing the Council of Ministers, meeting the day before, had reasserted the solidarity of the six-party government and issued a communique notable for clarity and firmness. The parties, it said, are to postpone the solution of major political problems, resolve their differences within the government, bring their press in line with this principle, maintain the impartial authority of the state and defeat all attempts of reactionaries to return to power. This was hailed by all parties - even by the critics of the Government, with the exception of "Voce Republicana" which refuses to admit anything can work in a country that still harbours Casa Savoia - as a sensible and necessary step. Things had been drifting along toward a dangerous cleavage and the recent squabbles among the parties have not done the government any good at home or abroad. It is harder to say whose is the victory. "Voce Republicana" of course asserted that the action was "forced on the parties of the Left by Bonomi and the conservative elements"; but Togliatti and Nenni both protested that some such resolution was what they were hoping for all the time and that the agitation of recent weeks had served its purpose in making the government aware of the dangers of reaction. It is fair to regard the motion as a victory of common sense and a recognition of the fact, in the words of "Il Popolo", that the Italian people is very tired of "living dangerously" and finds no appeal in the promise of "permanent agitation".

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The government statement, newsworthy as it was, had to share the spotlight with the Roosevelt-Churchill declaration on Italy which also made its appearance on the front page of the papers of the 27th. This statement looks toward giving the Italian government more autonomy, beginning by the sending of representatives to London and Washington and cancellation of the word Control from ACC. (We haven't had any orders yet so may be forgiven if we carry on with the two C's for a while). Civilian technicians are to be sent over to help in reconstruction [illegible]

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anything said about the prisoners of war, a lacuna deplored by several journals of varying political color. The prospect of war with Japan brought out some very interesting reactions; it was surveyed with some diffidence by the Christian Democrats, Communists and Socialists who seemed to feel that there is enough going on at home without turning East to look for trouble. Indeed all parties were of the opinion thatif Italy is to participate it would be only fair to make her a full ally and regularize the POW situation first. "Risorgimento Liberale" however recalled the diplomatic success of Cavour whose intervention in the Crimea (of much less concern to Piedmont than the Japanese are to modern Italy) gave him a place at the councils of the great and subsequently led to the making of the nation. "Italia Nuova" suggested a declaration of war immediately and Visconte Venosta, Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, in a press conference on Thursday indicated the government was quite ready for it. Taking it all in all the Allied Statement was well received; to Italians it is a starting point for the goals they are working towards..... Churchill's speech in the Commons however has set them to thinking again; there was no indication of any further autonomy, rather the contrary indeed in thereference to the Carretta lynching and the need of maintaining law and order through Allied authorities if necessary. His recognition of the temper of the Italian people was applauded but it was felt he might have been somewhat less fulsome in his praise of the Marshal and the Lord Lieutenant and found room for a kind word for Bonomi.

There were other development on the international front. The Greek Minister of Information gave a press conference in which he said hoped for good relations with Italy provided of course the Italians gave up their "imperialistic ambitions". He assumed that the Dodecanese would be "restored" to Greece and that in the matter of relief and aid from the Allies Greece had earned a certain priority. Many Italians hope for a plebiscite in the Dodecanese rather than outright surrender and almost all feel that Italy has suffered enough by now to yield no no-one in priority of need so the last two points were not too well received. However, a very sincere article by Manlio Lupinacci in "Risorgimento Liberale" indicated some hope for good relations: he admitted that the Greeks have every reason to hate Italians but hate is an expensive and futile basis for foreign policy and Greece and Italy need each other. Similar views were expressed in "Italia Libera". Among other international items: the government (appropriately enough on the eve of St Wenceslaus of Prague) declared the Munich pact null and void, the Russian Labor delegates arrived in Rome and it is reported that coffee is on its way from Brazil

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The second meeting of the Council of Minister this week was chiefly noteworthy for the report of Soleri, Minister of the Treasury. The detailed breakdown of Italy's labyrinthine finances and the honesty with which the hard facts were faced com and admiration. We cite some figures, not being quite sure what they prove: the deficit for 1943-44 is 150 billion lire, the public debt (only a guess since Soleri admitted there are too many unknown factors) roughly 953 billion lire. We also made a guess at the

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amount of Allied Military lire in circulation but Finance Sub-Commission won't tell us how good or how bad it is.

2. AMG with the Armies

In Florence last week four persons were killed and 3[illegible] wounded by mines and booby-traps in the city. Feeding of the city is practically on a "day-to-day basis", all efforts to build up stockpiles having failed through lack of transport. "The situation," says Fifth Army AMG, "may at any time become critical." The same report states that "large numbers of troops are on leave in the city." Viareggio, it appears, is in poor case: the CAO reports that "this is the first commune in my experience that seems to be really hungry: there is no local production of foodstuffs." Supplies in general are causing concern and Fifth Army AMG points out that " the assumption that considerable local supplies of food would be found is proving false. The Germans are living on the land while the effects of war and the breakdown in administration have lost a large part of the harvest."

Fifth Army AMG has some criticism of the Partisans and the Vatican. The latter, it seems, is showing "considerable laxity in the observance of movement regulations." As to the former "the present Allied policy may produce results somewhat different from those envisaged..... the Partisans have become one of the prize bones for which Italian politicians are scrapping." It is noted that Colonel Sansone, in two months of operations, has collected only 200 volunteers from the provinces of Siena, Pisa, Livorno and South Florence. In Florence city two weeks work produced 8 volunteers out of 3,000 Partisans. Colonel Sansone attributes this to "the boycotting of the Royalist Army by the Communists." On the other hand it is "reliably reported" that individual partisans are being offered financial inducement to join the Communist party.

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3. Pruning at Headquarters

As a result of the recommendations of the Manpower and Reorganisation Committee nearly 200 officers and EM/OR become available for field assignment and Headquarters functions become streamlined as operational responsibility is shifted to Italian agencies ready to take them over. Total MG staff will

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Establishment and Political. A forward echelon of ACC HQ will be established at AAI HQ to administer to the emergency operational needs of the Armies but is not to be regarded as a forward Headquarters, orders still normally coming from ACC HQ through the channel of the Chief of Staff. Mr Antolini, in the absence of Brigadier-General O'Dwyer, will continue as acting Vice-President and Deputy Chief of Staff of the Economic Section. Brigadier Upjohn will be Vice-President and Deputy Chief of Staff of the Civil Affairs Section (renamed from Administrative). Colonel Viske will be Deputy Chief of Staff and Vice-President of the Establishment Section. Mr Caccia and Mr Schott will be Vice-President but not Deputy Chiefs of Staff. Colonel Monfort will be Deputy Chief Civil Affairs Officer at AAI HQ in charge of the forward field coordinating echelon.

4. Session at Siena

With the fall of Bologna looming before them, Regional Commissioners and SCAOs of the Armies, together with HQ staff, met at Siena this week in an atmosphere of intense airing of difficulties and mutual exchange of on-the-spot solutions which again, in the opinion of most participants, proved the value of these exchange of problems. The meeting started off with echoes of politics as the Executive Commissioner wryly announced that the Allied Control Commission had not yet been officially informed that it was now the Allied Commission, and Mr Caccia again reported that the Italian Government had again survived a series of crises and urged full support to its functionaries as representing the most tolerable government we can have under present circumstances. The acute question of moving personnel in and out of regions and the Armies while the northern regions are being formed and planned for provoked some almost acrimonious debat Colonel Kirkwood grieving that he had now suffered raiding of personnel from two ends - first when he was forming Region VIII (when he tried to get back borrowed men from the Armies) and now (when, as a more or less developed region) he is being raided by more forward regions. Colonel Marshall of Piemonte Region came forward finally with a compromise solution which was generally accepted that only Provincial Commissioners and heads of specialist divisions need to report in person when called from present posts and that all other personnel re-assigned to northern regions should do so at this time by letter, awaiting operational

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making Patriots good citizens and keeping law and order, for better or worse, had to be balanced against the political situation in which Patriots were now exploited so as not to embarass the larger question of support for the Government. It was agreed that PWB had perhaps gone too far through PWB publicity in stressing Patriot achievements, and representations would be made. Colonel Hues from the big city of Rome faced the combined attack of most Regional Commissioners who declared against what they termed the continued disparity of Rome. Particularly Region V's Major Scholtz said his Region faced food demonstration because of lack of food, oil, salt and the fact that, although some of the provinces there had grain surpluses they only had a 200-gram bread ration whereas other Regions to which their grain was shipped had 300- gram rations. Speaking very modestly, Colonel Hues stuck to his queries of who did what and how and got agreements to enter Regions with his own trucks to take wheat from surplus areas to and wood from Rieti. Mr Antolini of the Economic Section admitted he had bad news again. He had just made a tour of the Fifth and Eighth Army areas in preparing for forward food supplies and stated frankly that every day's delay in the advance of the armies was just so much breathing space to rush supplies forward. The supply question was officially crucial for the North where a 100-gram ration is now planned because of the reported cutdown in November anticipated imports from 100,000 to 32,000 tons. If so, Mr Antolini said, we might have to cut down the basic ration throughout Italy unless Colonel Long of the Food Sub-Commission, now in Washington, succeeded in changing the minds of the Combined Chiefs of Staff. In the meantime, Mr Antolini continued, there is for the moment practically no wheat in the Mediterranean basis on which to draw in an emergency. There was also no sugar programmed and milk imports had been cut. Brigadier Upjohn then spoke of administrative problems of prefects (there are 11 in a pool for forward regions), Carabinieri (additions are expected from former prisoners of war) and the usual bad news about lack of de-mining squads. Satisfied that no matter how bad things look, there was the determination and the potentiality to work things out, the meeting broke up early to the air to the Recuperative values of Tuscan wine and Colonel Kirkwood's hospitality.

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The road back to Italy for thousands upon thousands of Italians now stranded in enemy areas will lead through some of the

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The road back to Italy for thousands upon thousands of Italians now stranded in enemy areas will lead through some of the 10 or 20 or (who knows?) maybe 30 camps that Colonel C.F. Findlay, Director of the newly-amalgamated Displaced Persons and Repatriation Sub-Commission, is contemplating. Now in process of investigating the scope of his future responsibilities, Colonel Findlay says he is only sure of one thing: It will be a whopper of a task. There may be 500,000 Italians under forced labor in Germany, perhaps 100,000 in the Balkans. Austria, across the border from Italy, is known to be the cross-roads of Europe for displaced persons and entry into Italy from Central Europe will be a problem to handle.

/ Italians

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Italians will be used to handle Italian refugees coming home but Allied personnel will still take care of Allied nationals. In the meantime, the Colonel is looking hopefully to November 1 when UNRRA plans to take over four of his Southern Italy camps and two hospitals, partly for Yugoslavs, and begins to implement with cash, supplies and personnel some of the commitments made at Quebec.

6. Police and prisons

For a considerable time now, as most of us known, two problems - the overcrowding of prisons and the morale of Italian police - have worried all those who have an eye on the future. There has been much, sometimes scandalous, congestion in prisons, due mainly to three factors - the number of arrests made - sometimes hurriedly - of suspect Fascists or collaborators by our intelligence services; the wave of petty offences against Allied orders, e.g. being in possession of Allied property, being out after curfew, selling in the black market, hoarding grain, etc; and last but not least, the slow turning of the wheels of Italian justice, which results in prisoners serving terms without trial. Such a state of affairs naturally reacts against the police: but the police problem is complicated by the Fascist and Monarchist associations of Carabinieri, Questurini and Agenti di Publica Sicurezza. These forces are conscious of their uneasy past and the Italian press does not fail to remind them of it daily. They are also conscious that real power is not in their hands: the other evening in Rome a GI lifted the rifle off a Guardia di Finanza as a souvenir: the Guardia di Finanza had to pay 8,000 lire - six months pay. Should he have fought the GI? A nice question. Apart from these troubles the police are undoubtedly suffering severely from low pay and rations - matters which are being remedied.

The riot which began in Regina Coeli prison on September 27 extended itself until the evening of September 28. The brief facts are as follows. The overcrowding and restlessness of the prisoners had been for some time a matter of anxiety. Since August 15 meetings had been held in an endeavour to get rid of outstanding or trivial cases. (Among those were two seamstresses who had served for three months without trial, the accusation against them being solely that they had been found on June 5 stitching German uniforms.) Colonel Pollock and the Governor of the Prison were both strongly in favour of letting such cases out on bail. But so difficult was it, apparently, to sort out matters between G-2, CIC, SCI, FSS, OSS and the Italian legal authorities themselves that virtually not one was. This was the prelude to

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On the night of September 26 some prisoners got on to the roof and fired it. In the general commotion Carabinieri opened fire, killing one prisoner and wounding six. Feeling against the Carabinieri ran high: 20 of the guards deserted: the prisoners were out of the cells, many of which had no locks: even the gates to the central rotunda - to quote Colonel Pollock's report - "could not be locked properly because the prisoners themselves

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could slip the lock with a piece of wood."

At this point Colonel Pollock and Major Coxhead in their own magic way (a magic used untiringly day and night in Rome these days) restored order. A meeting was once again called to discuss the removal of prisoners, but ended in smoke. At this meeting the Questore said quite plainly that his metropolitani were demoralized and no reliance could be placed on them to preserve order or hold the prisoners. Trouble brewed up again in the afternoon: the prisoners said freely that they were going to break out and, in Colonel Pollock's words "the situation was extremely grave: we were faced with a distinct possibility of a complete prison break and... the whole or part of the prison being burnt to the ground."

At 7.30 p.m. Colonel Poletti walked unconcernedly into the prison and made a speech in each of the three riotous "branches". The prisoners crowded closely round him, and hung over the seven tiers above - a dramatic spectacle in the dim light of the prison. Starting amidst hissing and shouting, Poletti in the end got applaus and certainly his presence quieted things down for the moment. Later Pollock and Coxhead got the prisoners to form committees to ventilate their grievances.

On Monday morning 200 were sent to Viterbo prison (in RASC vehicles) and another 200 were moved to another wing of Regina Coeli. These moves occasioned further disorder and rioting and some small fires were started. Eventually the prisoners were persuaded to move by one of their number, a Communist named Devilacqua. There for the time the matter rests.

It is obvious that Regina Coeli is only a reflection of present and possibly future conditions elsewhere in Italy. Colonel Pollock in his report recommends a thorough purge of prison guards, a ban on prison overcrowding, a dismissal of those who have served long sentences without trial for trivial offences, better food, pay and backing for the police, and a speed-up of Italian courts.

No doubt everyone will agree. But whether police who obeyed Fascism can be reinstalled in popular esteem, whether the number of arrests - 30 a day go into Regina Coeli alone - can be cut down under present conditions, whether Italian courts can be made to work harder - these are tough nuts to crack. They have not to be cracked, and no doubt they will be. A phrase in Colonel Pollock's report is worth quoting: "It is all very well to say that it is the responsibility of the Italians

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On Monday morning 200 were sent to Viterbo prison (in RAMP vehicles) and another 145 were moved to another wing of Regina Coeli. These moves occasioned further disorder and rioting and some small fires were started. Eventually the prisoners were persuaded to move by one of their number, a Communist named Novilecque. There for the time the matter rests.

It is obvious that Regina Coeli is only a reflection of present and possibly future conditions elsewhere in Italy. Colonel Pollock in his report recommends a thorough purge of prison wards, a ban on prison overcrowding, a dismissal of those who have served long sentences without trial for trivial offences, better food, pay and backing for the police, and a speed-up of Italian courts.

No doubt everyone will agree. But whether police who obeyed Fascism can be reinstalled in popular esteem, whether the number of arrests - 50 a day go into Regina Coeli alone - can be cut down under present conditions, whether Italian courts can be made to work harder - these are tough nuts to crack. They have got to be cracked, and no doubt they will be. A phrase in Colonel Pollock's report is worth quoting: "It is all very well to say that it is the responsibility of the Italian Government, but if things had gone badly it would be a reflection on us because the Italian people..... whatever is said to the contrary, look to us for help, guidance and support." 1225

This point of view seems to be held by Mr Churchill who stated in the House of Commons on Thursday that cases such as the Carretta lynching were "the responsibility not only of the Italian Government but also of the Allied Military authorities." On the next day we are told - through the press - that we are the "Allied Commission" without the "control". Which gives food for thought.

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7. Granai del Popolo

The Agriculture Sub-Commission, looking over the wheat harvest campaign on emassing with its ups and downs and discouragements, has made up its mind to pronounce it "good" and a "qualified success, considering the tremendous difficulties encountered." As of figures received from the field by September 30, the total collections amounted to 7,015,153 quintals or 67 per cent of the 11,300,000 quintals most recently estimated that will be amassed. The previous target figure, based on Regional Commissioner's local campaign, had been 13,045,175 quintals. With collections late in the northern regions because of transport (as usual) difficulties it is expected that the percentage should rise to 70-75 per cent when the September 30 field reports are in. The harvest collections compare favourably with Fascist years, when one remembers the fact that the Allied-sponsored Granai del Popolo operated in the immediate rear of intensive operations. In the same area of Liberated Italy, collections ran from, roughly, 12,000,000 quintals in 1942 to 17,000,000 in the peace-time years of 1936-1939. Of interest also are three facts: Total crop produced was estimated at 23,345,740 quintals; food retentions will amount to 11,477,000 quintals and seed retentions to 3,000,000 quintals. The amassed wheat will go to about 18,000,000 ration card holders in Liberated Italy among a population of some 24,000,000. Some farmers will get ration cards because they do not raise enough wheat to take care of themselves for the entire year. The latest figures are:

Region	Average Date of Reports	Collected at latest Report	Collection Forecast	Percentage collected of Forecast	Percentage collected Sep 30 1943
I(Sicilia)	21 Sep	1,187,573	2,000,000	56	37
South-ern (Calabria Lucania, Puglie, Campania, Campobasso)	23 Sep	2,820,433	3,950,000	71	38
IV(Lazio-Umbria)	15 Sep	1,308,830	1,600,000	86	81
V(Abruzzi-Marche)	21 Sep	1,241,027	2,250,000	55	34
VI(Sard-	15 Sep	226,700	300,000	75	35

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Region	Average Date of Reports	Collected at Latest Report	Collection Forecast	Percentage collected of Forecast	Percentage collected Sep 30 1943
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South-ern (Calabria Lucania, Puglie, Campania, Campobasso)	23 Sep	2,020,433	3,250,000	71	38
IV(Lazio-Umbria)	15 Sep	1,300,830	1,600,000	86	81
V(Abruzzi-Marche)	21 Sep	1,248,021	2,250,000	55	64
VI(Sardinia)	15 Sep	226,700	300,000	75	85
VIII (Tuscany)	15 Sep	1,004,351	1,500,000	67	92
Total		7,815,053	11,300,000	67	60

8. Odds and Ends

The only Public Works and Utilities officer of the AMG in Sardinia

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Sardinia is being withdrawn as an experiment of turning over complete field responsibility to the Italians; if successful, similar withdrawals of specialists will occur in Sicily..... Naples area bank deposits rose from 5,000,000,000 lire in January to [illegible],000,000,000 lire last month..... Down in Calabria the village of Castrovillari proclaimed itself a republic the other day, but the new regime collapsed hurriedly with the appointment of a new sindaco..... At least there will be no amassing of the almond crop this year, the Agriculture Sub-Commission has decided in its wisdom..... Military units have turned back four more factories to the ACC for the use of Italians: A cement factory, with a capacity of 300 tons a month at Taranto, and one with 500 tons a month at Barletta; a tile factory with production of 2,500 cubic meters a week at Benevento, and a brick factory making 250,000 bricks a week at Lucera..... Epilogue: The happy news was recently published here that Rome was to have about 1,000 tons of onions from Malta: 700 tons did arrive - all spoiled..... Odyssey from the tales of the Displaced Persons and Repatriation Sub-Commission: Approximately 1,500 French from Lance-Lorraine were conscripted into the German Army, taken prisoners by the Russians on the Eastern Front; released upon intervention of General De Gaulle; started on the road to repatriation through Persia, and now have been marooned for some time in Bari, Southern Italy..... Three UNRRA personnel on duty at ACC HQ - Guido Nadzo, A.L. Boriari and Vlad Matey - do not know whether to call themselves a rearguard or vanguard; they helped frame the report which resulted in UNRRA decision at Quebec to help Italy with $50,000,000 worth of aid for medical supplies, refugees and children and pregnant mothers, but now await words as to when to get into action..... After six weeks drought a bottle of whiskey per officer was issued at HQ. One officer (nameless) dropped his bottle on the marble floor of the hall. Believed to be going on well in hospital after a period of unconsciousness.... Travel advt; ACC personnel who wish to cross the peninsula during inclement weather in a hurry may avail themselves of the air courier service operated by the Italian Air Force (whose couriers have flown over 200 sorties a month the last five months quite without incident, the Air Force Sub-Commission hastily adds)....

9. Quote from esteemed Contemporary

The airborne troop position was stated by a British staff officer to be "quite satisfactory, but not wholly so".

UNION JACK, Sep 26.

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Italians: A cement factory, with a capacity of 200 tons a month at Taranto, and one with 500 tons a month at Barletta; a tile factory with production of 2,500 cubic metres a week at Benevento, and a brick factory making 250,000 bricks a week at Lucera.... Epilogue: The happy news was recently published here that Rome was to have about 1,000 tons of onions from Malta: 700 tons did arrive - all spoiled..... Odyssey from the tales of the Displaced Persons and Repatriation Sub-Commission: Approximately 1,500 French from Alsace-Lorraine were conscripted into the German Army, taken prisoners by the Russians on the Eastern Front; released upon intervention of General de Gaulle; started on the road to repatriation through Persia, and now have been marooned for some time in Po thorn Italy..... Three UNRRA personnel on duty at ACC HQ - Guido Nadzo, A.C. Peroiri and Vlad Matay - do not know whether to call themselves a rearguard or vanguard; they helped frame the report which results in UNRRA's decision at Quebec to help Italy with $50,000,000 worth of aid for medical supplies, refugees and children and pregnant others, but now await words as to when to get into action..... After six weeks drought a bottle of whiskey per officer was issued at HQ. One officer (nameless) dropped his bottle on the marble floor of the hall. Believed to be going on well in hospital after a period of unconsciousness.... Travel advt; ACC personnel who wish to cross the peninsula during inclement weather in a hurry may avail themselves of the air courier service operated by the Italian Air Force (whose couriers have flown over 200 sorties a month the last five months quite without incident, the Air Force Sub-Commission hastily adds)....

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UNION JACK, Sep 25.

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LIONEL WILLIAMS,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

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